



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

September 2014

Calendar

***Tuesday, **Sept. 2**, 6:45 PM: Free Birding Class before the regular meeting ***

***Tuesday, **Sept 2**, 7:30 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Tuesday, **Sept. 30**, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Arden & Sherry Hagen's, 2203 SE 135th Ave., Vancouver 360-892-8872

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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PROGRAM: Birding Oregon

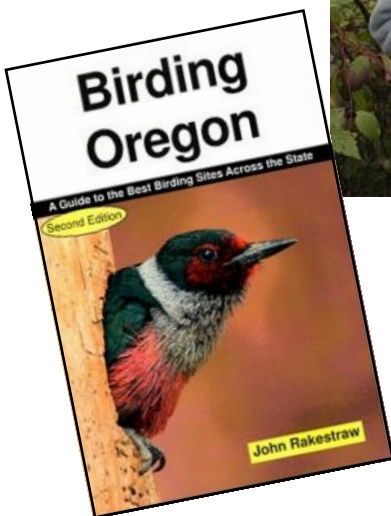
a travelogue of regions and habitats of Oregon

By John Rakestraw

We live on the border between two great birding states. This program will focus on opportunities we have that we may not have considered. John Rakestraw is the author of **BIRDING OREGON** and he has just released an updated version. He is a frequent contributor to *Bird Watching*, *Northwest Travel*, *Kansas!*



Magazine, and others. John teaches classes for Audubon Society of Portland and works for Backyard Bird Shops.



FIELD TRIP Shorebirds! Bottle Beach & Grays Harbor

Leader: Eric Bjorkman, 360-695-3116

When: September 6, Saturday

Time: 7:00 AM

Meet at: Salmon Creek Park & Ride at 134th St. (Tenney St) & 10th Ave.

If you are driving, bring your **Discovery Pass**.

Dress for any weather, bring lunch, snacks & water, and don't forget your binoculars

This month Eric Bjorkman will lead Vancouver Audubon's field trip to Bottle Beach and other Grays Harbor County hot spots. High tide at Bottle Beach near Westport, WA will be at 11:49 am, so we'll need to leave Vancouver bright and early to arrive in time for optimal viewing (about two hours before high tide. If you have a **two-way FRS radio**, please bring it along so we'll have continuous contact with all vehicles.

We'll be visiting at the peak of shorebird migration and should see many of the usual suspects. The neat thing about fall migration is that there is a higher likelihood that something unusual will show up while we're there. If you plan to join us, please call **Eric at (360) 695-3116** to confirm.



Whimbrel

We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.

They Still Want to Get Rid of Conservation Lands

They are two of the county commissioners. At the request of the commissioners, county staff has been going through an inventory of all the real estate the county owns. Most of the parcels, such as land leftover after road construction, are not of interest to us. But some of the land was obtained, through various programs, for purposes of open space and habitat conservation. From the viewpoint of the two commissioners, the problem is that these lands are undeveloped, they are not being used. ("Unutilized" was the term they used.) They can't seem to get their minds around the idea that some lands are valuable just being there, even if humans are not directly using them.

The commissioners had a work session early in August in which the staff presented their progress so far in evaluating county owned lands. And, one of the categories of lands being evaluated is legacy lands. Eight parcels will be evaluated further, pending direction from the board. But most of the discussion was on the general subject of legacy lands and the ease (or not) of getting rid of them. The staff person had to explain several times that it would not be fast or easy to sell legacy lands. For those lands purchased with the help of state grants (through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program), it would be even more difficult. For every parcel of land the county sold, the county would have to buy other land of equal conservation value. The county would lose money. The director of Environmental Services, Don Benton, asked if the county could sell these grant lands and give the money back to state. This is how eager those people are to get rid of conservation land. Staff said the county could not.

I talked to the staff person afterwards. One of the parcels of the legacy lands to be further reviewed, is on the Vancouver Lake shoreline. It looked to me that it was on the east side of the lake. Two parcels are near Sherwood Creek and are considered urban open space. One parcel is near La Center, near Paradise State Park, across the river, and is called Paradise Bluffs. And four parcels are near Mud Lake and are being considered for trade for land with better conservation values. If any of you know these lands and think that the county should continue to own them, let the commissioners and the county staff know. I can let you know who to contact. I also have the tax numbers for those parcels of land so they can be identified.

Washington Fish and Wildlife Game Management Plan

Lead Bullets


Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) held an open house in Vancouver this summer to get public comments on their game (I don't care for that term) management. One of the issues was lead ammunition, which Audubon is concerned about. As we learned at one of our meetings this year from the manager of the Oregon Zoo condor program, lead ammunition is one of the biggest barriers to successful introduction of condors back into the wild. One big lead poisoning problem we have in Washington concerns swans. The gist of my comment is that WDFW should do what it can to reduce the use of lead ammunition.

When One Listed Species Eats Another Listed Species

No, I don't mean sea lions and salmon. In talking to the WDFW staff, I learned that a problem is developing in the northeast corner of our state. It seems that the gray wolf, which is beginning to move into Washington, have developed a liking for the Selkirk or woodland caribou. The WDFW hasn't developed a policy yet. In Idaho, there are those who do not want to see the caribou protected. Snow mobiles are much more important.

Stupid Bridge Proposal

Commissioner Madore's bridge is really not an Audubon issue (except that any construction project can disrupt wildlife habitat), but I can't resist an editorial comment. I went to the event that introduced the bridge idea to the public, and it was the weirdest government event I have ever gone to. It wasn't an open house -- there were no stations nor staff to ask questions of. It wasn't a hearing -- the only people permitted to ask questions, let alone speak their opinions, were a few elected officials. It wasn't a work session -- there was no county staff to explain issues to the commissioners. It was an infomercial in which the public was treated to a lot of pictures of pretty bridges. The elected officials were permitted to ask questions. When Representative Stonier asked where the money (\$860 million) was going to from, Commissioner Madore began to hold forth. I left.

Gretchen Starke 

The Summer season is over and the migration had already begun when this column was written in early August. There were some pretty interesting sightings but I will only mention the more unusual birds and recent migrants not early or late arriving species.

May 30. David Lowe found a male **INDIGO BUNTING** at the Steigerwald Lake NWR, this bird remained for about a week and was enjoyed by many visitors.

Aug. 6. 3 **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS** were reported by Jim Danzenbaker from the Ridgefield NWR Auto Tour Route. He also found **5 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS** on the growing mudflats.

Eric Bjorkman, George Mayfield and I spent the day birding in Skamania County and among the 74 species seen we enjoyed finding 12 **BLACK SWIFTS** and 6 **HARLEQUIN DUCKS**.

Aug. 8. The shorebird numbers at Rest Lake, Ridgefield NWR, seen by Jim Danzenbaker, continues to grow with **10 KILLDEER**, **2 SEMIPALMATED PLOVER**, **1 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER**, **50 LEAST SANDPIPER**, **108 WESTERN SANDPIPER**, **51 GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, **12 LESSER YELLOWLEGS**, **147 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** and **3 WILSON'S SNIPE**.

We had two **BROWN CREEPERS** among the migrant warblers and flycatchers at our place in Skamania County, these were the first sighting of this species here in over ten years.

Aug. 10. Migrants seen in the Battle Ground yard of Jim Danzenbaker were **5 WARBLING VIREO**, **YELLOW WARBLER**, **2 WILSON'S WARBLER**, **1 COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**, **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**, **3 WESTERN TANAGER**, **7-9 BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**, (at least 6-8 young of the year), **1 LAZULI BUNTING**, 1 (flying over), **3-4 WILLOW FLY-CATCHER** (presumably the local breeders) and he heard several **EVENING GROSBEAKS** flying over.

The main focus of birding until the waterfowl begin arriving in October will be the migrant species that are heading south for the winter. This includes the flycatchers, warblers, tanagers and other insect and fruit eating species along with the continuing movement of shorebirds that started passing through in early July. Please watch for anything unusual among the flocks of migrants and report them to me, Arden and Sherry Hagen or Eric and Tammy Bjorkman as soon as possible. So far there have been 209 species reported from Clark County in 2014 and 168 species reported as seen in Skamania County.



Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com



Photo by Sherry Hagen (Ocean Shores, WA)

Watch for the migration of shorebirds this fall. Would you know this shore bird if you saw it?

Hint: This is a rare species but this one was found among Least & Western Sandpipers and other shorebirds at the Ocean Shores sewage lagoons in 2005. **Answer on the last page.**

Vancouver Audubon

The Backyard & Beyond...

Papuan New Guinea: Part 1

Arden & I took off for foreign grounds in July for 3 weeks to Papua New Guinea. Everyone asked, "Isn't it going to be hot?" Well it was their winter or whatever that means down there for usually those places have the "rainy season" and the "dry or less rainy season". We were in the lowlands at first it got warm but never awful. Next we went to the highlands where it was down right cold at night and in the mornings They even had mattress warmers on the beds but no heat in the rooms. It would warm up for a few hours in the late morning then start cooling off again in early afternoon. On the coast near Port Moresby it was cooled by the ocean. So much for hot weather.

A bird watching tour to Papua New Guinea is consider one of the hardest in the world (the conditions, the land and seeing the birds). This trip was on Arden's bucket list. We've probably all seen David Attenborough's documentary on the Bird's of Paradise and how beautiful and interesting these birds are. Most of them live in PNG so you have to go there to see them. Arden wanted to see these beautiful birds. I considered not going for awhile knowing it would probably be a hard trip to see birds, let along photograph them. And might rain a lot. I really didn't know the half of it. Rain was the least of the problems although we did have some.

First, let me tell you, you DO NOT see the Birds-of-Paradise the way David Attenborough showed them on his documentary. The birds are seen far away and/or at the tops of trees. They are shy and fly if they see you too close. Remember all those great shots in the movie. They took great time to build blinds, usually high in trees and patience to get those clips to show us a few seconds of private moments of these birds. We did get to watch the Greater Bird-of-Paradise display at their famous lek (used in the movie) high in the tops of huge trees. We watched as the males displayed for females, disappear and then return trying to entice one female to cooperate. We kept watching this one male but we watched with branches between us and the birds because **their** tree was on the other side of the viewing area. They have been using the tree for a very long time and everyone wants to keep from interfering. Even us. I had been video taping them and stopped. Then the female came in and he got very excited and my finger just could not find the Video button to record it so I just watched as he quickly finished his dance and mated. Then we all left the site. Wow!!! It was amazing even if it was high up in the top of a huge tree with branches in the way.

PNG is basically a "4th" world country outside of the capital city. It has a 1000 languages for all the tribes that live there although English is spoken by those in public positions. Birding is very difficult and the birds are very shy

from years of being shot at for their feathers, etc. The trees are high and forests are thick. The trails, well, many just don't live up to what we call trails. We climbed over moss laden downed trees mixed with mossy branches and rocks just to get to the next exact type of "trail", and all on a slope!!! Careful where you step. One miss and down you go.

Oh yea, foot wear was usually rubber boots because of the mud. Mud, Mud, Mud!!! It was thick, it was deep, it was everywhere. We rode a boat up the Fly River into smaller rivers to a lodge. Sounds romantic or at least modernly fun. Think otherwise. First we were all taken aback at how small the boat was to get us all in it for a several hour ride up the river but we did make it. We birded on the way as best you can when the trees are the size of small skyscrapers and the birds were on top of them and flew off it you got close with the boat. When we got to the 'lodge' area we had to get out of the boat. This was quite the ordeal. There was the boatman and our local guide to help each of us out onto a small make shift mud/stick dock (yikes) without falling into the water or sinking into the mud.

One by one we got out and hiked up to our home for the night, Kwatu Lodge. We had to take off our boots before climbing the weirdest stairs (a board slanted steeply with 4x4 boards nailed to it as steps). You had to figure your own way to maneuver this thing so as not to hurt your feet. I figured a way but there was a large gap between two of the boards. A bit scary in the middle of the night when you are going down with a flash light, to put your boots on to make your way to the "pit toilet". I made a couple trips and was glad we only stayed there one night. The rooms only have a curtain on them for privacy and walls are see through as the boards are not straight cut. We learned that these buildings have to be replaced every 5 years as the wood rots. Every time we went birding we had to go through the loading and unloading on the boat. We got a routine down but it always took time. I was last in and first out.

Imagine staying in the cheapest motel you might stay in somewhere USA.. We stayed in a motel in the lowlands that Nick said they charged \$200 to us birders. No wonder the trip is so expensive and not that comfortable. In the highlands we stayed at the Ambua Lodge which was quite nice. They were little thatched roof huts and a nice lodge to eat & meet in. Many large fruiting trees amongst the huts provided great places for the birds to come to feed and for us to view them (up high). The Jungle Boo-book owl hunted from a branch above our hut at night.

The Kumul Lodge near Mt. Hagen (Yea! Mt Hagen!!!) had some problems like no hot water at times, no electricity at times but they had a feeder platform and that finally brought birds down to us for viewing and photographs.

[To be continued]

Vancouver Audubon

ANSWER to picture question of page 3:

This Temmink's Stint was found by Patrick Sullivan, one of Washington's top young birder's who just noticed something different about this bird in 2005. He studied it rather than passing it off as "just another Least Sandpiper".

A bench at the entrance to Bottle Beach is dedicated in memory of Patrick.

GO PAPERLESS / VAS Newsletter

Email Sherry Hagen at littlebirder@comcast.net to receive a "PDF" copy of The Columbia Flyway in color sent to you. Include the email address that you wish to have it sent to.

The PDF form is also available on line at:

www.vancouveraudubon.org

Welcome New Members: Tina Alexander • Rebecca Anderson • Bruce Arbuckle • Rod Ashmore • Linda Ayler • Carolyn Bean • Nancy Berry • Leslie Birr • Shirley Brannon • Thomas Brannon • Patricia Brent • Shar & Tim Brown • Elsie Chan • Wayne Chandler • Yvonne Coble • Clark College • Bill Cook • Jeanie Cook & Mike • Betsy Cope • Chris Culter • Glenna Dumford • Bruce Eavey • Carol Egan • Eloise Garant • Samten Gorab • Judy Gordon • Denise Goss • Shirley & Griffin • Marty Hale • Carolyn Hanley • Linda Kaastad • Connie Kingrey • Ken Knittle • J. Lancaster • William & Laura Strite • Lindy Le Coq • Sandra Lee • Teddy & Lee Stewart • Janice & Bill Link • Jerrold Long • Dorothy Lunsford • Mary Madsen • Rita Mahaffa • Marylou Mansfield • Deborah McCullum • Gary McLaughlin McLaughlin • Carol McLeod • Barbara Meyer • Monte Miller • Dan Ortiz • Muriel Owens • Fred Paveglio • Kathy Perrin • Karen Pickering • Alice Powell • Karen Rankine • Judy Richards • Donald Rinne • Dina Roberts • Karen Scott • Eric Torgerson • Jan Truttman • Barbara Walton • Anna Wiancko • Janet Wiger • Alice Williams • Thomas Wyman • Teakum Young • Nancy Zacha

New Transfer Members: Elias & Wendy Dickerman • Carol Grindeland • Michelle Maani • Johnny McDaniel • Adeline Mongeau • Ted Shultz • Harlan Wadley

INJURED BIRDS: WHAT TO DO?

We have no Bird Rehabilitators in the Vancouver Area that we know of. So what should you do if you find yourself in this situation?

Many Birds that hit a window just need some time to rest to get "their wind back" before taking off again.



Try putting them in a box with plenty of air for an hour or more until you hear movement then take them outdoors and test if they are ready to fly off.

1. Call the **Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center** for information:

503-292-0304

5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland OR

2. Call Arden or Sherry Hagen for information: 360-892-8872

If they are available and a bird requires transport to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then the volunteers suggest they receive a gas mileage compensation and a small donation to the Care Center for the care of the bird at the time of pick up.

3. There is 24 hr **Animals Hospital called DoveLewis** in downtown Portland that will take the bird overnight if the Portland Audubon Wildlife is closed.

1945 NW Pettygrove 503-228-7281

4. Please do not call other Board Members since they are unable to help at this time.

In the meantime....

Keep the bird in a box with small air holes.

You might offer water via a dropper, and if necessary watered down puppy chow to supply nutrients.



BACKWARD BIRD SHOP

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Vancouver Audubon
believes in the wisdom
of nature's design and
promotes this through
education, involvement,
stewardship, enjoyment
and advocacy.*



September 2014

THE COLUMBIA FLYWAY is the monthly newsletter of the Vancouver Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Publication **deadline** is at the board meeting each month.

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