



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

September 2017

Calendar

*****Tuesday, Sept. 5 , 7:00 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting** at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

*****Tuesday, Sept. 26 , 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Susan Setterberg**
2207 S Sauk Way Ridgefield 98642 360-980-0884

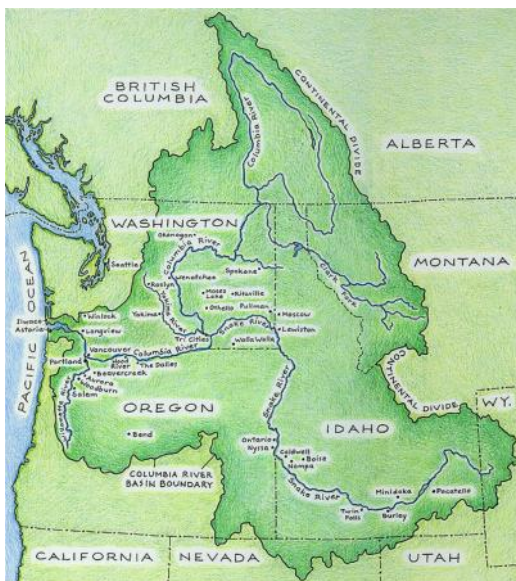
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PROGRAM: The Columbia River- Source to Sea

Speaker: Peter Marbach, photographer

The Columbia River flows for over 1200 miles, born free in the cradle of the Rocky Mountains in British Columbia. From its humble beginnings from a tiny spring you can straddle, to a two mile wide confluence with the Pacific Ocean, the river flowed for thousands of years in a natural state of astounding beauty. In this program, photographer Peter Marbach shares his decade-long odyssey and passion to document the entire river, from source to sea, and share his commitment to educating the public about the Columbia River Treaty and the restoration of salmon runs back to Canada.

Marbach continues the journey and hopes to eventually produce a fine art photo essay book. His prior book is focused on the Columbia River Gorge. He will offer copies for sale as well as his new 2018 Columbia River Gorge Calendar.



FIELD TRIP

Westport & Bottle Beach, WA



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: Sept. 16, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

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

We will be looking for shorebirds, passerines and rarities. This is an all day trip so bring lunch. Bring a **DISCOVERY PASS** if you will be driving a vehicle.

We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.

******* It is important that you sign up with an email address or phone number in order to be contacted in case of a late cancellation of the trip. Otherwise you may show up and no one is at the meeting place.**

**Renew
this Month**

See next page...

Vancouver Audubon



**Renew
this Month**

Keep your
Membership
to VAS
and the
Newsletter
coming

Dues are Due

Ridgefield NWR BirdFest will be the first full weekend in October. As usual, there is an opportunity to sign up for Crane Tours. The trips are offered before dawn and at dusk. Refuge staff lead the trips to the roosting spot which is on the Roth section in the south part of the refuge, a place not usually open to the public. It is quite a site to see 500 to 1000 Sandhill Cranes lift off in the morning or settle in to roost in the evenings. On Friday evening, there will be a showing of the film, *Love Thy Nature*, at the Liberty Theater. The keynote address on Saturday is the new program, *The Turkey Vulture; Love at Second Sight*. Celebrating our bird of the year, it promises to be very informative and entertaining. For more information about this event and how to sign up for special programs, go to www.ridgefieldfriends.org.

Volunteer opportunities at BirdFest: Vancouver Audubon has long been a supporter of BirdFest by guiding bird walks and staffing scope stations on the refuge during BirdFest. If you are interested in helping for either activity on Saturday or Sunday, contact Susan Setterberg at smsetterberg@yahoo.com. We like to have two people guiding the bird walk and staffing scope station at all times. Most people attending these activities are new to birding and wildlife viewing so deep birding expertise is not required.

Vancouver Audubon also has an indoor table at the BirdFest Marketplace to inform visitors about club membership and its activities. If you are interested in a two-hour Saturday or Sunday shift, please contact Bonnie Bingle at audubonnie@comcast.net.

GO PAPERLESS with the VAS Newsletter

If you would rather have a paperless VAS Newsletter then you can 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

It is that time of year. Annual membership dues are due again. You can use the sign-up/renewal sheet at the end of the newsletter to mail in your renewal, or print the membership form from the internet. Or, you can bring a check or cash to the September meeting to renew. Susan will be collecting dues at the door. For newer members who joined after March of this year, your new membership is good through this next year. (But for the few who didn't get around to paying last year's dues until March, you get to pay again!) Your membership dues support our programs and newsletter publication. We appreciate the generosity of many of our members who add donations to their membership renewals. Along with our fund-raising activities, these funds support local efforts to expand trails, provide educational opportunities for children and preserve sensitive environmental areas.



Successful Summer Fund Raising

A big shout out to **Backyard Bird Shop** for promoting Vancouver Audubon in their store with a fund raiser. BBS presented VAS with a \$400 check in June which was from a percentage of their sales on a June Saturday coupled with a matching grant from the store. Be sure to say thank you to Todd and the staff next time you drop by for seed or feeders.

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

A bit of history: The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) was established in the late 1980s. The WWRP purchases land for wildlife habitat and recreation purposes. (Later, farmland was added as an additional purpose.) At approximately the same time, former governors Dan Evans and Mike Lowry formed the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, a group of citizens who support the WWRP by lobbying and other citizen action.

The legislature is supposed to appropriate funding for the WWRP out of the capital budget. Local governments and certain nonprofit groups apply for grants to fund projects. Which projects are funded in each category is decided by committees of experts in recreation and wildlife needs. The projects are ranked according to specific criteria. How many projects are funded depends on how much money the legislature appropriates for the program. This has worked well until this year.

The legislature did have difficult problems to deal with, to be sure. They did not deal with them well. After three overtime special sessions (each special session is limited), the legislature was still bogged down over a specific property rights issue. So, on July 20, the legislature went home. Without passing a capital budget. Among the proposed projects that will not even be considered (unless the governor calls the legislature back into session) is the Lacamas Prairie Oak and Wet Prairie Restoration.

Hanford Reach

For awhile, it appeared that the Hanford Reach might be in jeopardy. The Hanford Reach of the Columbia flows by Hanford. Yes, that Hanford. In addition to the atomic leftovers of World Two, Hanford is known for the fall chinook salmon that spawn in the reach. The Hanford Reach is the last reach of the Columbia above Bonneville where the salmon -- big, strong fish -- spawn. I have seen fall chinook heading upriver at the Bonneville Dam fish viewing windows. Salmon four feet long and deep through the body.

Among the first things the Trump administration did was to take the national monuments that Obama designated and put them on a hit list to be further studied. That included the Hanford Reach. Apparently, Trump does not like national monuments -- can't drill for oil or build dams in them. And Obama designated these monuments at the last minute, just before he left office, apparently a grave sin. Never mind that obtaining this protection for the Hanford Reach required a lot of hard work by the local citizens.

Audubon Washington opposed removing the monu-

ment designation from the Hanford Reach (I should think so!!) and called on Audubon members to comment on this issue. Having seen the Hanford Reach, I very much opposed the Trump administration move. Apparently, a lot of other people also opposed removing the protection from the Hanford Reach and told Interior Secretary Zinke so. The result was that Zinke removed the Hanford Reach from the hit list.

Follow Up

In the last Flyway last spring, I included advisories from Audubon Washington. One was a request to contact Ivanka Trump to advocate keeping the U.S. in the Paris climate agreement. Well, Trump took us out of the Paris climate agreement. No surprise, actually. But, still, disappointing. Many states (including Washington), however, are acting on their own, doing whatever they can to lessen the impact of climate change.

I was sent a document that illustrated further how ill prepared this administration was to actually govern. At the Energy Department, people were prepared with briefing books and other information, waiting for the Trump team to come and be shown the ropes. The first day, no one showed up. The next day, the DOE people were wondering if the Trump team would call them. Two weeks later, the DOE people read in the paper that Trump had created a small "landing team." This was led by one "Thomas Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance, which, upon inspection, proved to be a Washington, D.C., propaganda machine funded with millions of dollars from ExxonMobil and Koch Industries."¹ Yikes!

¹By Michael Lewis, Vanity Fair, July 2017

Gretchen Starke 

Welcome New Members: Kate Barnes • Bonnie Bisceglia • Donna Blakely • Diana Colom C/O Brenda Colom • Audrey Cunningham • Vincetta Garvey • Kevin Gordon • Bonnie Hankins • Amy Jensen • Michelle Keating • Lindy Lecoq • Pztricia A Lenzen • Cheryl Moulton • Aimee Owens • Jerri Price • Marjie Roddick • Pamela Shull • Phyllis Sines • Linda Starr • Cynthia Strausbaugh • Adriana Thomas • Aimee Woodard

MAY 14, Kevin Black found a **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** at the Steigerwald Lake NWR, there are only a couple of records of this species from Clark County.



Randy Hill led a WOS field trip to eastern Clark County, Larch Mountain on Road L-1500 under rainy skies, but retreated down from the primary area due to a little breeze but mostly the massive snowflakes! There was a bright spot on the way up when Stefan Schlick's pygmy owl toots immediately brought in a competitor, a live **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL** that attracted a variety of antagonists including one brief look at the spread tail of an **AMERICAN REDSTART**, among a variety of warblers.



June 3, the influx of **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** into Skamania County continued when Bernadette Price reported a small flock at Skamania Landing. This group stayed around for at least a week.

June 6 -11th, Les Carlson and I birded the San Diego area and did a pelagic boat trip along the Mexican border. Les added ten new birds to his lifelist and I added three, some of our better sightings were **YELLOW-FOOTED GULL**, **SCRIPP'S MURRELET**, **CRAVERI'S MURRELET**, **BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER**, **BLACK STORM-PETREL**, **ASHY STORM-PETREL**, **RIDGEWAY'S RAIL**, **GRAY VIREO**, **BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW**, **BELL'S SPARROW** and **SCALY-BREADED MUNIA**.

June 8, Georgia Gerrior found a **FRANKLIN'S GULL** in the Vancouver Lake lowlands, this is a gull that nests east of the Cascades and is rare in western Washington.

June 9, John Bishop was able to confirm a **HOODED WARBLER** in his yard near NE 72nd Ave and NE 119th St. This is a bird that nests near in hardwood forests east of the Mississippi River and this was the first record in Clark County.

June 10, Randy Hill had a **LARK SPARROW** on the Washougal Dike Trail, near the east end of the seasonal gate on the Steigerwald Lake NWR. This is a bird that is associated with dry rocky hillsides in the Columbia Gorge and east of the Cascades.

June 14, Russ Koppendrayer found a **EASTERN KINGBIRD** working the fence line at the eastern end of the dike trail at Steigerwald NWR, Jim Danzenbacher spotted it again in the afternoon.

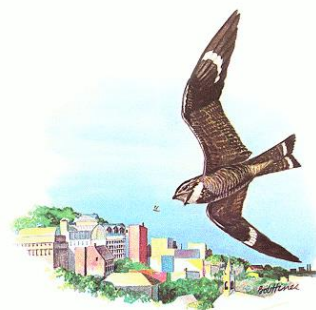
June 15, I saw another flock of 20 **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** on Franz Lake in Skamania County.

June 18, A **NORTHERN NIGHTHAWK** was flying over the Battle Ground yard of Jim Danzenbacher, his first sighting in Clark County.

June 20, A singing **RED-EYED VIREO** continued Jim Danzenbacher's string of 8 consecutive years for this species being in his yard in Battle Ground.

June 21, An **AMERICAN REDSTART** was banded by Cathy Flick at the St. Cloud Recreation Area in Skamania County.

June 25, Elaine and Randy Hill made a run up to the Cold Creek Campground on Larch Mountain and found 3 **COMMON NIGHT-HAWKS** and heard a **GRAY JAY**, two species that are difficult to locate in Clark County.



Vancouver Audubon

June 29, Gary Wiles and Randy Hill watched a pair of **EASTERN KINGBIRDS** using the fence near the fish ladder at Steigerwald Lake NWR. There are nesting records from the Sandy River Delta and the Ridgefield NWR, other than that they are very rarely reported in western Washington.

July 17, The fourth **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** in eleven years flew through Bob Flores' Battle Ground area yard.

July 20, Randy Hill and Cindy McCormack found **CHIPPING SPARROWS** and **YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS** calling at the Pierce NWR, next to Beacon Rock in Skamania County. This refuge is not open to the general public except on led tours and by volunteers doing restoration or census work there.



A **RED BISHOP**, an African species kept as a cage bird was spotted on Salmon Creek. There were three reports this summer of these birds in the Vancouver area, they have become an established breeding species in California.

By mid August mixed flocks of post breeding migrants were beginning to move through our area. Shorebirds have been harder to find this year due to the continuing high water level of the Columbia River covering the mudflats and sandbars. Places like Rest Lake on the Ridgefield NWR and the other ponds away from the river are the best spots to check for these birds as they are not as affected by the high water from the late snow melt. By September the Rufous Hummingbirds and most species of swallows will have moved out of here. Our wintering waterfowl will not arrive in numbers until early October but there will still be plentiful opportunities to find migrant birds such as vireos, warblers and others in mixed flocks. One of the easier ways to find these flocks is to listen for the chickadees that may be traveling with them. Please report your

sightings this fall for inclusion in this column and the 2017 Cumulative County List Project. By the end of July people had reported seeing 215 species of birds in Clark County and 178 species in Skamania County. If you do find an unusual or unknown bird please contact Arden and Sherry Hagen and me as soon as possible.

Wilson Cady, 360-835-5947
gorgebirds@juno.com

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. If not then....



1. Call the **Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center** for information: 503-292-0304
5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland OR
2. Call Arden 360-635-2333 (cell) or 360-892-8872 (home) If he is available to transport a bird to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then you will be asked to donate a gas mileage compensation and a small donation for 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

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.



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VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

September 2017

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.

VANCOUVER AUDUBON ** MEMBERSHIP & DONATION COUPON

Membership dues support speaker programs, Flyway production and conservation projects.

_____ I wish to become a member/renew membership to Vancouver Audubon for \$10/year.

_____ I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donation of \$ _____

_____ I wish only to support Vancouver Audubon with a donations of \$ _____

_____ I prefer to receive the VAS Flyway by printed copy _____ by email _____ [PDF]

Membership Renewal date:
September 1st
every year

VAS will not share your information with any other organization. However, we may send out a limited number of time sensitive news items we feel are important to club membership.

Chapter Code: Y13

Please include this coupon and make check payable to and send to:
Vancouver Audubon, P.O. Box 1966, Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

For more Info Call:
George Mayfield 360-687-0360 (membership)
Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116 (VAS President)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

For additional information on membership to National Audubon, got to <http://www.audubon.org/>

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