



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Volume 44, Number 9

November 2019

Program

Ridgefield Habitat Projects

Alex Chmielewski

**Tuesday, November 5th
Social 6:30pm, Program 7pm**

The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex is currently undergoing a lot of changes, as anyone who has been to Ridgefield NWR or Steigerwald Lake NWR will have noticed. Alex Chmielewski, Ridgefield's Refuge Biologist, will present information on some the projects in progress or nearing completion. Alex has been with USFW for just over 20 years, working on the wildlife and habitat programs for the Ridgefield complex for the past 10 years.

New access infrastructure at Ridgefield includes a new bridge to the River "S" Auto Tour Route and a new pedestrian walkway and trail to the Carty Unit.

Habitat wise, the removal of several hundred Doug-fir trees from a mixed oak-conifer woodland is completed. The restoration of the understory to restore oak woodland habitat in Ridgefield's Carty Unit has begun. The Refuge and partners are continuing work on the oak woodland and re-aligning the Oaks to Wetlands Trail.

Preparations have begun to start the Steigerwald Lake Re-Connection Project to re-establish a direct hydrological connection between Gibbons Creek, Steigerwald Lake and the Columbia River, affecting about 850 acres of flood-plain habitat and re-aligning portions of the Steigerwald Lake Art Trail and Columbia River Levee Trail.

[West Park Community Room at 610 Esther St.](#)

****The west side lot has been closed for construction purposes. A south lot was opened and is accessible from the Esther Street entrance. Of course, street parking is free after 6pm.**



VAS Field Trips

Wahkiakum County Birding

Saturday, November 9th

Meeting location: [Salmon Creek Park & Ride](#)

Meeting time: 7:30am

Leaders: *Randy Hill & Cindy McCormack*

Contact: *Randy 360-975-2573 or Re_hill@q.com*

Join us on a all-day fall exploration of some of the birding sites in Wahkiakum County. This small and under-birded county have some great places to visit. Likely stops include areas near Cathlamet, such as Puget Island, Julia Butler Hansen NWR, as well as the road from Rosburg to Altoona, which should give us some great views across Grays Bay on the Columbia River.

We will carpool. Be sure to pay your driver (recommend \$0.25/mile divided by passengers)

This trip's stops will be eBirded. Trip for novice to expert birders. All are welcome!

Contact Randy Hill at 360-975-2573 or Re_hill@q.com

New! Monthly Bird Walks

First Day of the Month



These walks are intended for those wanting to enjoy the wildlife along the way and those wanting to learn or improve identification skills by sight and/or sound. These walks will be eBirded.

November: Marine Park

Meet at the [lot on the west border](#) of Marine Park at 9:30am. We will check the water at the park's boat launch and other overlooks as we head towards Wintler Park. Mostly paved trail with some beach walking likely. We can also stop and check the feeders at the Water Resource Center on the return trip. (approx. 3 miles round trip)

For more information, contact Cindy at nwbirder@gmail.com



Vancouver Audubon Society

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Website | vancouveraudubon.org

Facebook | [@VancouverAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/VancouverAudubon)

Chartered December 18, 1975

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The Columbia Flyway is published monthly September through June.

Vancouver Audubon Board Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month August through May in various locations (announced in newsletter).

Membership meetings and programs are held on the first Tuesday of the month September through June.

Program meetings are held at the [West Park Community Room at 610 Esther St.](#) (just across the street from the west end of Esther Short Park, or kitty-corner from City Hall). Parking lot can be accessed from Esther Street. There is an entrance at either side of the building.

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



Vancouver Audubon Society Membership & Donation Form

Membership dues support education, speaker programs, newsletter, and conservation projects.

_____ I wish to become a member/renew membership to Vancouver Audubon for \$20/year.

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

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

**Membership Renewal
date:
September 1st**

Please include this form and make check payable to and send to:

Vancouver Audubon, P.O. Box 1966, Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

For more information:

George Mayfield 360-360-687-0360 (membership)

VAS will not share your information with any other organization.

VAS is a non-profit organization under US IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ (req'd for newsletter) For additional

information on membership to National Audubon (Chapter # **Y13**) , got to <http://www.audubon.org/>

Birds Are Telling Us It's Time To Take Action On Climate Change

Over the last five years, Audubon has used the latest climate models and more than 140 million bird records—including data collected from bird lovers like you—to assemble [*Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink*](#), a new, ground-breaking report forecasting the survival of North American birds through the end of the century in extraordinary detail.

Our science shows that 65% of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change. Even common birds like the American Robin, Northern Flicker, and even our Black-capped Chickadee, will experience declining populations and radically different ranges in the near future.

In Clark County, 30 species are considered highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including species often seen in our backyards: Red-breasted Sapsucker, Rufous Hummingbird, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-crowned Sparrow.

But as the threat of climate change grows, so does Audubon's work.

This report not only illustrates how our warming planet

will impact the birds we all love but also shows us that if we act, there is still time to create a brighter future for birds and people. And we already have a lot of the tools we need to reduce the effects of global warming.

The report includes a first-of-its-kind zip code-based climate tool: [Audubon's Birds and Climate Visualizer](#), which shows you how climate change will impact local birds and your community—and ways you can help.



Right now, Congress is considering a bill—The Better Energy Storage Technology (BEST) Act of 2019—that would help jumpstart the development of important technology to keep our electric grid resilient and reliable as we phase out fossil fuels and make way for clean, renewable energy sources. You can help by asking your members of Congress to cosponsor the BEST Act to invest in a cleaner tomorrow.

Read the report to learn what birds have been telling us for years: it is time to act. [Click here to read the report.](#)

See page 8 for more materials on bird decline.

Audubon Council of Washington's 2019 Meeting in Vancouver

Vancouver Audubon Society was the host chapter for this year's Audubon Council of Washington meeting on September 27-29. VAS participants included Susan Saul and Sam Neuffer, who served on the ACOW planning committee. Arden Hagen gave the welcome; Joan Durgin and Bonnie Bingle provided snacks, and Cindy McCormack and Sam Neuffer led field trips for the participants.

The meeting began with Leadership Network Day on September 27. Participants learned about Tahoma Audubon's efforts to build diverse partnerships in its community, including "Birds of a Feather for People of Color," "Coffee with the Birds" and most innovative of all, "Yoga with the Birds" through a partnership with a yoga studio. We also got updates on Audubon Washington's conservation priorities, including goals for the 2020 legislative session. Maria Ruth, Black Hills Audubon, spoke about her experiences working with industry and agencies to address the needs of birds in renewable energy projects across the state.

The focus of September 28 was Achieving Success When We Are 100% Committed. Cindy Flanagan, Rainier Audubon, received the Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award. Everyone noted that Helen Engle was always 100% committed to conservation, hence the theme for day.

Dr. Jill Deppe, senior director of National Audubon Society's migratory bird initiatives, gave us a preview of the forthcoming climate report, "Survival by Degrees: 389 Species on the Brink" and preparing for its release. [See related article above]

We then celebrated Audubon chapter successes, including changing the dialogue around climate by passing 100% Clean Energy in the 2019 state legislature; the fundraising campaign to build the Dungeness River Audubon Center near Sequim; the Sagebrush Songbird Survey to fill data gaps with science and help Audubon comment on energy

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siting proposals; and the power of grassroots to stop fossil fuel transport proposals.

We learned about building the Audubon of the future, including the National Audubon Society convention to be held in Tacoma on July 15-19, 2021, and encouragement to start planning for it at the chapter level. Chapters can host field trips before or after the convention.

Gustavo Figueroa, campus chapter program manager for National Audubon, updated us on the success in creating Audubon chapters on college campuses around the country. The focus has been on reaching diverse communities, such as historically black colleges and those with high Latinx populations. Currently, there are 84 campus chapters.

We finished up the meeting with concurrent sessions to discuss on-the-ground applications of the new climate report in statewide climate campaigns, bolstering community engagement with our chapters, incorporating the findings in our local communication strategies, and using it as an impetus for new campus chapter programs.

By Susan Saul

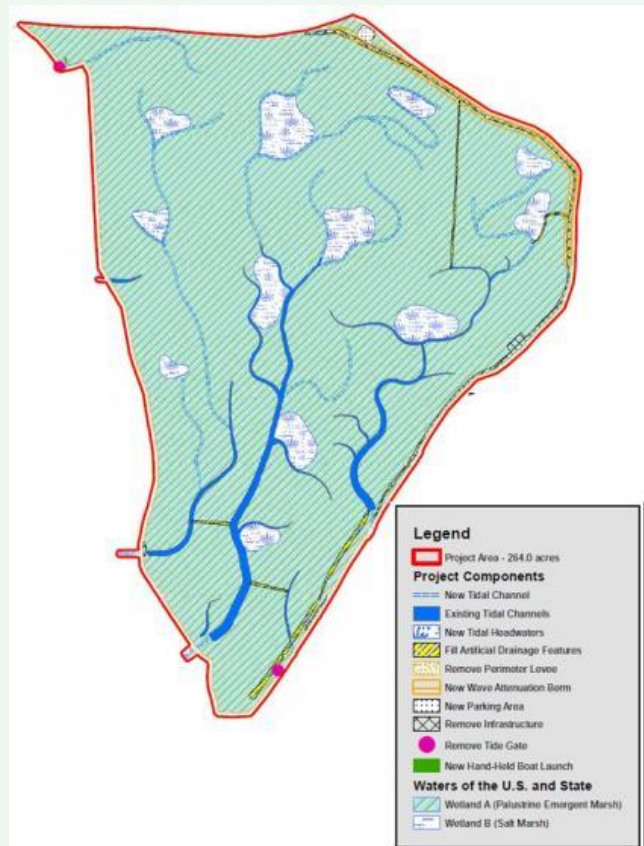
Leque Island Restoration Project Nears Completion

Editor's note: This location may be a bit of a drive, but this restoration would be worthwhile to follow, especially since we will soon have a similar work done out at Steigerwald (although not a salt marsh!) and the Skagit Flats are an amazing birding destination.

Leque Island, located west of Stanwood between Port Susan and Skagit bays, was once entirely salt marsh before it was diked and farmed. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) began acquiring properties on Leque Island in 1974, and currently owns the entirety of the island. The [Leque Island Unit](#) is part of the [Skagit Wildlife Area](#).

Beginning in July 2019, WDFW and partners began constructing the Leque Island Estuary Restoration Project. Removing over 2.4 miles of levee will restore 250 acres of tidal marsh habitat in the Stillaguamish River watershed where 85 percent of historic tidal marsh has been displaced. Estuaries are important for juvenile Chinook salmon as they transition from fresh to salt water, as well as shorebirds, waterfowl, and a host of other species in the area. Because Puget Sound's southern resident killer whales rely upon Chinook salmon for food, the project is also closely aligned with orca recovery efforts.

In addition to habitat restoration benefits, a 0.7-mile wave protection berm will be constructed to protect the City of Stanwood. This berm will also serve as an elevated walking trail that will allow people to continue to enjoy the property. A new small boat launch will allow hand-carry boats to put in on the west side of the project area for paddling access in the new tidal channels. WDFW has also partnered with the City of Stanwood to build a new larger boat



launch for motorized boats slightly upriver near the Hamilton Smokestack in 2020.

Project construction began in July 2019. At that time, the site was closed to recreational users. The site will reopen after the wave protection berm is built and the perimeter

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Sept. 15, Ken Knittle had 2 **SWAINSON'S THRUSHES** eating Sapphire Berries and a Slate-colored **FOX SPARROW** in their Hazel Dell yard. The sparrow might have been a nearby nester as most of our winter birds are of the sub-species called Sooty Fox Sparrow. There are five Fox Sparrow sub-species in the United States that may be split into separate species and all of them have been seen in Washington.

Michele Maani photographed a **BLACK PHOEBE** at Vancouver Lake Park, near the restrooms and playground. These lovely flycatchers are fairly recent arrivals in Washington State, the first one seen in Clark County was in 1997 and was the second record for the state, they now nest in Clark County.

Sept. 21, Four hours spent by Jim Danzenbaker checking for Turkey Vulture migration at the north end of Woodland Bottoms, produced the following results: 253 **TURKEY VULTURES** (largest kettle was 44), 3 **PEREGRINE FALCONS**, 7 **NORTHERN HARRIERS**, At least 6 **RED-TAILED HAWKS**, 3 **OSPREY**, 1 **COOPER'S HAWK** and 3 **BALD EAGLES**. He found an amazing number of migrating **VAUX'S SWIFTS** at this location, he conservatively estimated a total of 1,352 but figured that for every swift seen, 3 or 4 more got by without being counted as he looked away from the swifts to look at the vultures. That would bring the total to around 4000-5200.

Sept. 25, A flock of 12 **CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS** about 3 miles west of Larch Mountain were found by Jim Danzenbaker, these are birds usually found at high elevations where they feed on the seeds of Whitebark Pine. The other surprise was an immature **GOLDEN EAGLE** that rose up from the valley with a flock of Turkey Vultures, a bird he had been looking for in Clark County for 15 years.



Green-tailed Towhee
Photo by Jen Sanford

Sept. 26, 24 **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** flew over the Ridgefield home of Bob Flores. These arctic nesting geese are our earliest returning winter waterfowl, most of them continue further south to winter in California

Cindy McCormack, Les Carlson and I did some birding in Skamania County starting at our place on Mt. Pleasant where Cindy's excellent hearing detected an **AMERICAN PIPIT** circling our clearing, a new species for our yard list. Below Cape Horn we found a flock of sparrows that included two **CHIPPING SPARROWS**. At the St. Cloud Recreation Area, we observed a steady stream of **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS** and **VAUX'S SWIFTS** flying downstream over the river, we estimated that over 5,000 swallows, 1,500 swifts plus 3 **MERLIN** and 700 **AMERICAN ROBINS** passed by in just over an hour. At Rock Creek Pond in Stevenson our best findings were 2 **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE**, 18 **TURKEY VULTURES** and an **AMERICAN DIPPER**.

Sept. 28, Jim Danzenbaker ventured up to Larch Mountain, Clark County (again) and, among other things, counted 278 **VARIED THRUSHES** flying through in about 2.5 hours. Later that day, he had about 255 **TURKEY VULTURES** fly through the northern end of Woodland Bottoms, Cowlitz County including one flock of 167.

Oct. 1, Jim Danzenbaker and Cindy McCormack visited Larch Mtn. an experienced an extravaganza of passerine migration. Someone opened the floodgates and the **VARIED THRUSHES**, **AMERICAN ROBINS**, and **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** flowed through. The count for **VARIED THRUSH** was 1,697 which was eclipsed Jim's previous daily high count on Larch Mountain of 375. **AMERICAN ROBIN** numbers totaled 3,873 and **YELLOW-RUMPS** clocked in at 235. Over a

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45-minute period, birds were flowing along a ridgeline at a rate of 150+ per minute!

Oct. 4, Les Carlson was birding on Strawberry Island below Bonneville Dam where he found a **NORTHERN SHRIKE**, a Code 5 bird (rare) and a new edition to his Skamania County list.

Oct. 5, Susan and I stopped at the St. Cloud Recreation Area in Skamania County and found a **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** flycatching in the orchard.

Oct. 7, Jen Sanford found a **GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE** in east Vancouver, moving around between blackberry and hawthorn bushes west of the intersection of NE 147th Ave and NE 59th St. She quickly got the word out and six other birders were able to see it. This is only the second record of this species in Clark County, the only Washington breeding population is in the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla.

Oct. 9, A **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** was seen by Lyn Topinka at her Vancouver feeders. These birds are uncommon winter visitors from east of the Rocky Mountains.

On Larch Mtn, Jim Danzenbaker detected a **NORTHERN-PYGMY OWL**, **NORTHERN SHRIKE** and a **LAPLAND LONGSPUR**.

Oct. 12, A male **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** as photographed at Marine Park by Cindy McCormack, this was a new species for the county in 2019.

Oct. 14, Ray Korpi found and photographed a **COMMON POORWILL** on the Clark College campus, this is only the second one of these birds I have heard of in Clark County and the other one was a roadkill.

A hike on the Cape Horn Trail in Skamania County by Robert and Kenneth Vanderkamp produced a list of 33 species including 2 **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWLS** and 110 **STELLER'S JAYS**.

Oct. 16, Ken Knittle watched a young **COOPER'S HAWK** catch a Starling at his home in Hazel Dell, hopefully this hawk will continue to take these introduced birds as prey.

Oct. 17, 2 **RED-NECKED GREBES** were found by Jen Sanford close to the boat ramp at Marine Park in Vancouver.

Oct. 18, An early **SHORT-EARED OWL** was spotted by Debbie Meader near the Steigerwald Lake NWR parking lot off of Highway 14. They were a nesting species there 35 years ago and hopefully will return as a resident species after the restoration project.

The earlier reported **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** was seen in mid-channel just upstream from the I-5 bridge by Randy Hill.



Wintering waterfowl are continuing to arrive as this column is being written and a visit to the Vancouver Lake lowlands or the Ridgefield NWR should allow you too see many species of geese and ducks although some of the male ducks still might be in eclipse plumage. With the closures for bridge construction to the Ridgefield Auto Tour route be sure to check to see if it is open before going. Looking through the flocks of geese and ducks for any that look different than the others will often reward you with a surprise like a Brant, Ross's Goose, Emperor Goose or a species from Asia like Eurasian Wigeon. The Columbia River waterfront around the I-5 bridge and upstream is an excellent area to observe diving ducks including the scoters which are normally found on saltwater. This is a very good spot to find grebes and loons.

The 2019 County Cumulative bird lists as of mid-October, was at 231 species reported from Clark County and 190 from Skamania County, to see the complete list for all 39 counties go to: <http://wabirder.com/bartel.html> Please check out the Vancouver Audubon Afield facebook group site where you can see recent sightings and post your photos, field trip reports, questions and sightings at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/290490018269847/>

By Wilson Cady

Annual Budget Review and Proposal

Below is the proposed budget for 2020 with comparisons to 2019 budget and 2018 actual numbers. At the December 3rd membership meeting, we will vote on the adoption of this budget. Comments and questions will be welcome at the meeting or contact Treasurer Joan @ jdur-gin1@hotmail.com or President Arden @ iambakerman@comcast.net with any questions before the Dec 3rd.

Vancouver Audubon Budget

	2018	2019	2020
	Actual	Budget	Proposed Budget
Operating Fund			
Revenue			
Bank Interest	\$ 9	\$ 10	\$ 10
Refreshment Fund	38	25	25
Memberships	1,430	2,000	1,600
Donations	1,225	1,500	1,500
Doris Troxel Trust (Use on education)	686	400	600
Audubon Adventures	50		300
Fundraising:			
Birding Trip		1,150	
Backyard Bird Shop	522	450	600
National Audubon Society	1,786	1,785	1,785
Store and yard sales	95	100	
Community Foundation	7,806	7,500	7,000
Refunds	230		
Total Revenue	\$ 13,877	\$ 14,920	\$ 13,420
Expenses			
Administration:			
Postage		25	275
Printing			200
Software	94	50	50
PO Box Rental	102	110	125
Wa State Non-profit filing fee	10	10	10
Refreshments for mtgs	58	80	100
Conservation:			
Conferences/Comm mtgs	85	500	750
Donations:			
Audubon Washington	2,000	2,000	2,000
PDX Wildlife Care Center		250	250
Intertwine Alliance		250	250
Dues/Memberships:			
Columbia Land Trust	100	100	100
Wa Environmental Council	100	100	100
Friends of the Columbia Gorge		100	100
Nature Conservancy	100	100	100
Columbia Springs	100	100	100
Newsletter:			
Printing	1,170	1,300	
Postage	745	800	
Bulk mail permit	225	235	
Outreach:			
Audubon Adventures			600
Home and Garden Show			100
Friends of the Gorge	5,000		
Grants	2,000	7,500	7,000
Programs:			
Speaker travel	200	700	1,000
Website	107	110	110
Rent	399	400	
Misc	100	100	100
Total Expenses	12,695	14,920	13,420
Net Income	\$ 1,182	\$ -	\$ -

(Leque Island, continued from page 4)

dikes are removed, likely in mid-November.

The perimeter dikes on the island have repeatedly failed during high tide and storm events, most recently in 2016. Each breached section of dike was temporarily repaired until a long-term solution could be found. Removing all or some of the dikes was determined to be the best solution.

To help with decision-making on project design moving forward, WDFW and partners engaged local stakeholders and formed a committee of outdoor recreationists, local jurisdictions, tribal representatives, and farmers to guide the process beginning in 2013. In the end, the committee ranked the full restoration design higher than the partial and no restoration alternatives. WDFW selected that design alternative to move forward for engineering and construction.

The remaining dikes were removed and channels connected to the bay and river on Monday 10/14. The first high tide flooded the site in the afternoon and evening. The Everett Herald put together a nice video with some beautiful aerial footage: <https://vimeo.com/366614933>

Info and graphic gathered from WDFW website

2019-2020 Annual Christmas Bird Count Sauvie Island/Vancouver/Ridgefield December 2019

We are in the midst of planning our Sauvie Island-Ridgefield-Vancouver Lake Bottoms Christmas Bird count this year. Because of the bridge construction to the River S unit and beyond, scheduling is complicated with trying to avoid hunting on both sides of the river and making sure we have access. It's looking like Sunday, Dec 15th will be our day with a backup date of Sunday, Dec 29th. As soon as we confirm, we will put out the dates on social media. Meanwhile, if you want to be part of the count this year, contact Susan Setterberg at smsetterberg@yahoo.com or 360 980 0884. We will get you on the email list for notification when everything is set.

Volunteer Opportunities

VAS Program Chair

Help! We need your talents and ideas as a new volunteer to take over the position as program chair! We hope you would like to take an active part in our group and help plan and organize the wonderful presentations we all enjoy. Please contact Arden or any member of the board if you are interested for more information! Arden Hagen: 360-892-8872 or iambakerman@comcast.net

Ridgefield/Vancouver/Sauvie CBC

December date TBA

Date to be announced, see pg. 7 for info. Participate in a citizen science project—the annual Christmas Bird Count! Contact Susan Setterberg at smsetterberg@yahoo.com or call 360-980-0884.

Field Trip Leaders

Interested in sharing your knowledge and enjoyment of birds, animals, plants or other nature activities?

Contact Arden Hagen: 360-892-8872 or
iambakerman@comcast.net

Gone Green with the VAS Newsletter!

VAS has transitioned to an all-digital newsletter format this fall. To continue receiving a VAS newsletter, be sure we have your correct email address. An e-newsletter saves paper, printing and mailing costs. Since our printed edition numbers had fallen so low, the publisher would no longer set the press for them. Digitally, you can enjoy the newsletter in full color and easily follow hyperlinks!

E-mail George at gomayf@comcast.net to have the PDF version of *The Columbia Flyway* sent to you.

PDF version also available on the website:

vancouveraudubon.org

Scientific American:

Silent Skies: Billions of North American Birds Have Vanished. by
Jim Daley

Washington Post:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/09/19/north-america-has-lost-billion-birds-years/?wpisrc>

North America has lost 3 billion birds in 50 years. By Karin Brul-
liard

NY Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/19/science/bird-populations-america-canada.html>

Birds Are Vanishing From North America: The number of birds in the United States and Canada has declined by 3 billion, or 29 percent, over the past half-century, scientists find. by Carl Zimmer

Thank you for your leadership, Gail Gatton!

Audubon Washington honors Gail Gatton, our Vice President and Executive Director, who retired on Sep 1st, 2019.

Over the last 14 years, Gail Gatton has taken Audubon to new heights in Washington, first as the founding director of the Seward Park Audubon Center and then as the state director who galvanized our incredible statewide chapter network into a powerful bipartisan voice for birds.

"Gail's leadership transformed Audubon's work in Washington. She built Seward Park from the ground up and made it a model of inclusivity where everyone feels welcome and invested in our work," said **David Yarnold, President and CEO of the National Audubon Society**. "Gail resuscitated a struggling state office and with laser-like focus she set our sights on winning a state-wide 100% clean energy policy – that bill's passage this spring is a well-earned capstone to her career as a conservation advocate. Thank you Gail for all your work on behalf of birds, conservation, and Audubon."

As Chair of the Audubon Washington Board of Directors, I'm incredibly proud of the work we have done with Gail's guidance. Together under her leadership, we

Stopped the use of pesticides in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, an area of hemispheric importance for migrating shorebirds. We continue to work with decision-makers and the local community to identify solutions for a sustainable shellfish industry.

Stepped out and supported policies to address climate change,

both at the ballot and in the legislature, culminating with legislation passed this year to put Washington on a path to 100% clean electricity.

Introduced tens of thousands of youth and adults to birds and what they tell us about the health of our environment.

Completed a multi-year volunteer survey of songbirds in eastern Washington that covered a million acres of public and private lands, and provided information that will be critical for siting of renewable energy in this sagebrush landscape.

Engaged a network that is 35,000 strong and 25 local chapters deep in taking actions to protect birds and their habitats, from speaking up at hearings, writing letters to the editor, restoring habitat values, and contacting elected officials.

Thanks to Gail, Audubon Staff, and our grassroots supporters, these victories have propelled Audubon Washington as a leader for bird conservation, and we are excited to carry on the work of protecting birds and the places they need, today and in the future.

We have begun the search for the next leader of Audubon in Washington. In the interim, Charley Wilkinson, our talented development director, will take the reins guiding our work in the state.

With gratitude, Doug Santoni, Board Chair

NWR Updates

Ridgefield NWR "S" Unit

Public access improvement: River S Bridge Replacement

Additional Closure on River "S" for Oct/Nov

The River 'S' Unit/AutoTour of the Refuge will be closed to ALL PUBLIC ACCESS Sunday - Friday, through November 2019 (except Nov 10th) due to the inability to provide safe access across the Lake River bridge. A professional flagger will be provided to assist with crossing on Saturdays only, except for Sunday, November 10th, when the unit will be open in honor of Veteran's Day. We apologize for this construction closure and look forward to opening fully on weekends in December.

Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit

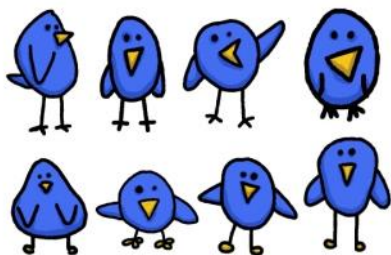
Carty Unit/Refuge Office - Detour on Main Ave

A detour to the Carty Unit is in place through December 2019. To access the Refuge, please follow temporary orange construction detour signs placed in town. Look for signs off of Pioneer directing you north on Reimen Road (just east of 9th Ave).

Habitat Improvement: Oak Release

The Carty Unit's Oaks to Wetlands Trail will be closed beyond the big oak overlook (where the nature pave ends) Thursdays through October to manage invasive species in the newly opened area.

Check Refuge2020.info to get the most recent information about the many wildlife habitat and public access improvements to be completed or underway by 2020.



Vancouver Audubon is on Facebook!

Follow our page [@VancouverAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/VancouverAudubon) to get up-to-date announcements, news, and events from Vancouver Audubon! We also added a group page—you can find the group by just selecting the button "Visit Group" under our page banner. Join the group to share your nature photos and experiences, or to even get ID help!



Field Trip Report

Rarity Search and Late Fall Arrivals

October 13, 2019

As a late addition to the VAS field trip list, seven of us left the Salmon Creek Park and Ride under cloud cover in a search for rarities and recent fall arrivals. A “scouting trip” the day before with a group from Black Hills Audubon helped establish a route. Our first stop was at the Salmon Creek trail where Wood Ducks and other waterfowl (no swans yet) started our list. Down the road, the Burnt Bridge Creek access produced a Eurasian Wigeon. On to Fruit Valley Park, where forest species (2 nuthatches, 2 chickadees, Brown Creeper) augmented reliable feeders that made viewing Anna’s Hummingbird and Lesser Goldfinch quite easy. More waterfowl at the Fruit Valley WTP included a Canvasback and large numbers of Ruddy Ducks. At the end of LaFrambois Road we had a view of Vancouver Lake where low water prevailed, with distant views of pelicans, egrets, 3 species of grebes, Greater Yellowlegs and Sandhill Cranes in addition to the loads of waterfowl that found refuge from the opening of the waterfowl hunt season.

Sunday morning going through downtown Vancouver

should be easy, but became complicated; a 5K/10K run for Breast Cancer Awareness delayed us three times getting to parking along the river upstream of the I-5 bridge. None of the recent rarities showed there or at Marine or Wintler Park, although our gull numbers increased significantly. The group decided to try for the Green-tailed Towhee found a week earlier east of I-205. Bird activity was low during our search there as well, so off we went to the Woodland Bottoms to try the expansive pastures for recent raptor activity. While the recent Ferruginous Hawk appearance didn’t materialize for us, the numbers of Northern Harrier and Red-tailed Hawk continued in the “phenomenal” range. Our drive along Caples Road included more than 500 Sandhill Cranes in two flocks before we finished our tour along the Lewis River with a Cooper’s Hawk.

No rarities but good weather, good company, a good day to be out.

Randy Hill

Wild Adventures, Wild Birds! 21st Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

January 22 - 26, 2020
Chico, CA

Birders and nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend the [21st Annual Snow Goose Festival](#) of the Pacific Flyway, one of the premier birding events in California. This action-packed 5-day event celebrates the millions of waterfowl and thousands of raptors that migrate along the Pacific Flyway and call the Northern Sacramento Valley their home during the winter months. This is one of the least explored and most amazingly diverse areas of California, with habitats that include rivers and wetlands, sweeping plains and grasslands, rolling foothills, sheltered canyons, and mountain peaks. The festival also gives our local community an opportunity to rediscover the abundant treasures the North State has to offer all year round, from wholesome foods and delectable wines to inspirational artists and gifted musicians.

Attendees can choose from over 70 field trips and workshops that are sure to appeal to a wide variety of interests and ability levels. In addition to numerous bird-watching field trips to see waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds, you might choose to take a guided tour of a nature preserve, visit a local vineyard, or hike the scenic Sutter Buttes in search of lofty views and resident wildlife.

Our workshops offer something for everyone! Learn about nature photography, bird carving, how to record nature sounds, how to identify those backyard birds, and much more. Free nature activities and live raptors demonstrations are offered for youth, and there are armchair adventures for all.



INJURED WILDLIFE: WHAT TO DO?

Injured Wildlife Hotline: 503-292-0304

The nearest wildlife care and rehabilitation center is operated by Portland Audubon. Here are some general guidelines from their [Wildlife Care Center](#):



1. Prioritize your safety

Wild animals, even weak or injured wild animals, can be unpredictable.

- Wild animals sometimes carry diseases that can affect people. Wear gloves and wash your hands after handling any wild animals. **DO NOT handle bats directly.**
- Some animals can and will defend themselves with teeth, talons, or claws. Be particularly cautious of adult mammals and raptors of all species.

Be aware of your surroundings, and avoid putting yourself at risk from hazards like busy roads, ledges, water, etc.

2. Safely contain the animal

- Find a secure container that will comfortably fit the animal. Cardboard boxes, pet carriers, or even paper grocery bags with the tops folded over can be appropriate.
- Line the container with absorbent material like an old towel or a t-shirt. **DO NOT use straw, hay, or shavings.**
- Approach the animal cautiously if you feel safe doing so.
- Get the animal into the container. There are several methods that can work:
- Throw a towel over the animal so it can't see you. Wear gloves, pick the animal up gently, and place in the container.
- Set the container down beside the animal with the opening toward the animal. Gently use a broom or similar tool to push or herd the animal into the box.
- Set the container down over the animal. Slide a stiff board or piece of cardboard under both the animal and box. Pick up the whole contraption and either slowly turn the container over and secure it, or secure the board to the bottom of the container.

3. Keep the animal calm and secure until you can take it to the Wildlife Care Center

- **Do not handle the animal** any more than necessary to contain it – this is for your protection as well as for the animal's well being. Wild animals are terrified of humans. They may fight back, try to flee, or freeze. Many people mistake the "freeze" behavior for tolerance or enjoyment of contact, when in reality it is a fear response. Limiting contact will reduce stress on the animal.
- **Keep the animal in a warm, dark, and quiet space.** Keep them away from children and pets.
- **Many animals benefit from a heating pad** set on low under half their enclosure, or a sock filled with dry rice and microwaved for 2-3 minutes.
- **Do not feed the animal.**
- **Be cautious when choosing to leave water.** Many wild animals do not drink standing water, and attempting to help them drink can result in pneumonia. In addition, if an animal spills its water and gets wet, it could get cold and may die. If in doubt, it is better not to leave water.

Bring the animal to the Wildlife Care Center as soon as you can. If you can't bring it to the center during our open hours, or you believe the animal is in critical condition and needs immediate attention after hours, the Wildlife Care Center has a partnership with the [24 hour Emergency Veterinary Hospital Dove Lewis](#). To get in touch with them, call (503) 228-7281.

If you are unable to transport to the care center, try calling Arden 360-635-1828 (c) or 360-892-8872(h). If he is available to transport a bird, 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.

The Wildlife Care Center admits native wild patients and operates its Injured Wildlife Hotline from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., 365 days a year.

Upcoming Events

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29 Board Mtg	30	31		

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Bird Walk	2
3	4	5 Program	6	7	8	9 Field Trip
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Board Mtg	27	28	29	30

Sept. 29th: Board Meeting hosted by George & Cindy Mayfield

Nov. 1st: Bird Walk, Marine Park in Vancouver, 9:30am

Nov. 5th: Monthly Meeting & Program: Alex Chmielewski, Ridgefield NWR Biologist, 6:30 pm Social, 7pm Program, Westpark Community Center, 610 Esther St., Vancouver

Nov. 9th: Field Trip, Wahkiakum County Birding, 7:30am at Salmon Creek Park & Ride

Nov. 26th: Board Meeting hosted by Joan Durgin

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A big THANK YOU to Vancouver's Backyard Bird Shop for their donations and support!



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