



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

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Administration Doubles Down on Bird-Killer Policy

100-year-old bipartisan conservation law in the cross-hairs

"The Trump Administration's Bird Killer Department, formerly known as the Department of the Interior, just gets crueler and more craven every day," said David Yarnold, president and CEO of the National Audubon Society. "They are doubling down despite the fact that America did not elect this administration to kill birds."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has announced a proposed rule that eliminates the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's (MBTA) prohibition on the killing or "taking" of migratory birds from industrial activities, such as birds flying into uncovered oil pits, powerlines or other predictable and avoidable killing—also known as "incidental take."

"For decades, both Republican and Democratic administrations have relied on the MBTA as the primary tool for protecting birds in this country. This mean-spirited rule is pure politics and birds will pay the price," said Yarnold.

This policy change has been denounced by 17 former Interior Department officials from administrations on both sides of the aisle and 500 organizations that are dedicated to conserving wildlife. The announcement comes at a time when a recent report in *Science* documented that North America has lost 3 billion birds since 1970, and a 2019 Audubon report found that two-thirds of North America's birds are threatened by climate change.

Under the Trump administration's revised interpretation, the MBTA's protections apply only to activities that purposefully kill birds, exempting all industrial hazards from enforcement. Any "incidental" death—no matter how inevitable, avoidable or devastating the impact on birds—becomes immune from enforcement under the law.

For decades, the FWS has worked with industry to advance common sense precautions like covering oil waste pits so birds don't mistake them for safe ponds; insulating small sections of power lines so raptors don't get electrocuted; siting wind farms away from bird migration routes and habitats. The law has also provided accountability and recovery after oil spills like the Deepwater Horizon. BP

paid a \$100 million MBTA fine for the death of an estimated one million birds, which is restoring habitat for birds impacted by the spill. Under this new policy, oil companies will be off the hook for any bird deaths under the law.

Facts about industrial causes of bird mortality in the United States:



Power lines: Up to 64 million birds per year (Source: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0101565>)

Communication towers: Up to 7 million birds per year (Source: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0034025>)

Oil waste pits: 500,000 to 1 million birds per year (Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16988870>)

Oil spills: The 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill is estimated to have killed more than 1 million birds (<http://www.audubon.org/news/more-one-million-birds-died-during-deepwater-horizon-disaster>)

Click [here](#) to submit a public comment to tell the FWS that you strongly oppose gutting the MBTA to give industries a free pass for bird deaths. Comments are due by March 19, 2020. https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/_g3AwivRA0CnotOktjzvPQ2

By Susan Saul



Due to room scheduling conflicts, March's meeting has been changed to the 2nd Tuesday! The meeting will be held at the usual location at the Westpark Community Room (610 Esther St) on Tuesday, MARCH 10TH.



Vancouver Audubon Society

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The Columbia Flyway is published monthly September through June (except January).

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 (except January).

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.

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NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

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

Program

Show & Tell

Tuesday, March 10th

Social 6:30pm, Program 7pm

Due to a conflict in scheduling our meeting room, our March meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday instead of the 1st Tuesday.



Come enjoy some fabulous pictures and stories! Share your travels, special sightings, or other outdoor adventures!

For those interested in sharing, please bring no more than 20 photos on a flash drive (PowerPoint or just some saved photos, they both work) and plan to spend 10 minutes or less sharing.

If you would like to get on the program's presentation schedule to share your adventures or special story, contact Arden to sign up:

iambakerman@comcast.net.

Meeting & Program Location

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.*

Field Trip

Columbia Gorge

Saturday, March 28th

Where: Port of Camas/Washougal

When: 7:30am

Contact: *Cindy McCormack*

nwbirder@gmail.com

Let's check out some of the bird hotspots along the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge. We will head east from the parking area at the Port of Camas/Washougal and look for late wintering, resident, and early migrant birds in Skamania and/or Klickitat Counties. Locations may vary based on wind and weather.

Target birds may include shrikes, American Dipper, Lewis's Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, bluebirds, and Canyon Wren. This might be a good time for migrating arid-land species, such as Sagebrush Sparrows.

This will be an all-day adventure unless the weather decides otherwise. Contact Cindy at nwbirder@gmail.com if you want to participate or if you have any questions.

We will carpool, so please remember to pay your driver. (\$0.10/mile for each passenger is an easy calculation and a fair guideline).

Dress for the weather, be prepared for inclement weather! Bring lunch, water, snacks, and don't forget your binoculars!



Monthly Bird Walks: 1st Day of the Month

These casual 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. You can join or leave anytime. These walks will be eBirded.

March 1st

Klineline Pond & Salmon Creek

Meet at the [Klineline Pond](#) parking lot* at 8am. We will walk around the pond portion of the park first, then head up the Salmon Creek Greenway Trail.

April 1st

Steigerwald NWR

Let's hope April Fool's Day is good to us! We will walk the trail and look for some great birds! Meet at the Steigerwald parking lot at 8am.

For more information, contact Cindy at nwbirder@gmail.com or 509-939-4448

**Klineline Pond parking area requires a [Regional Park Pass](#) or a parking fee. Some carpooling may be arranged—contact Cindy if interested.*

Proposals for the Lewis and Clark Regional Trail

Benefits and Concerns

In 2016, a National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program grant was awarded to Clark County to provide the support needed to guide stakeholder discussions, concept trail design, map planning and town connections for a 50-mile regional trail that will link the southeast corner of Clark County to the northwest corner and beyond, following the Columbia River. The results of this work will be published in a concept report on the proposed Lewis and Clark Regional Trail, which is due out this spring.

Goals for the trail include providing recreational opportunities, improving public health, boosting economic development, supporting alternative transportation on and providing a quality outdoor experience for residents and visitors. The vision includes components that share the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, history of the land, viewpoints, rest areas, connection to local communities and more.

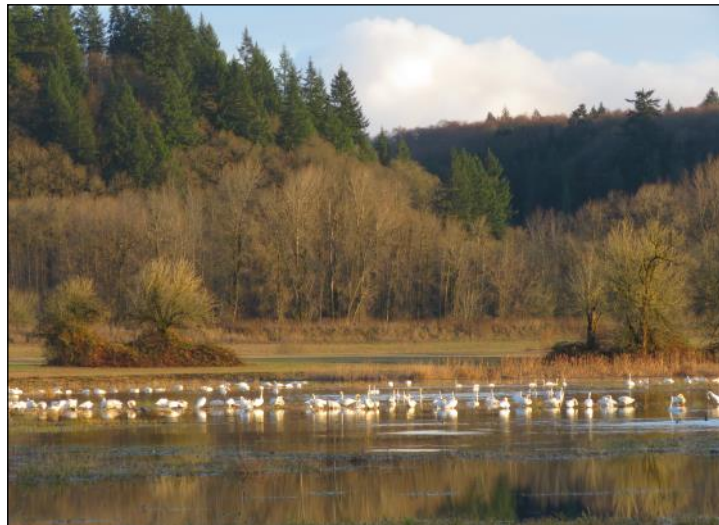
I attended several stakeholder discussions over the last couple years as a representative of the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (RNWR) where we poured over maps and made numerous suggestions for trail alignments that would bring benefits to intended users. Although I am very supportive of having such a trail, I have deep concerns about proposed placement of some of the trail segments through our Refuges and adjoining state preserves. If you were at the February VAS meeting presented by Daren Hauswald of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), you heard his concern about proposed alignments of the trail which could come up through Shillapoo Wildlife

Area and into the southern closed sections of RNWR.

Punching a 10-foot-wide trail through sensitive and currently closed refuge areas to accommodate activities such as biking, skating, dog walking on a leash, and jogging would be very destructive and incompatible with the wintering waterfowl and cranes and nesting summer species that live there. As Daren said in his talk, the impact is not limited to a 10-foot-wide trail; effects on wildlife feeding and nesting extends many feet to each side of such a trail. There was extensive discussion at the Stakeholders meetings about routes through and around the state lands and the Refuge. No decision, or final recommendation, could be reached on these areas. However, the report does list two proposals which come north from Vancouver Lake Bottoms through the Shillapoo WA and RNWR. A third and better alternative would bridge over and along the east side of Lake River, connecting to paths to move upland north of Flume Creek into Ridgefield city, thereby staying off the Refuge and Shillapoo. Arguably the route through the Refuge on the old 501 right of way is the cheapest alternative and favored by some. We also proposed

that this segment of the trail could be a water trail from Vancouver Lake area up to Ridgefield. That trail already exists, and with a little work, could possibly be accommodated with a southern launch area so visitors could have access in an appropriate way and create little to no additional impact on the wildlife in Shillapoo or the Refuge. Both the Refuge and WDFW are opposed to any trail going through either the state lands or the Refuge. Some private property owners who would be affected are also opposed to the alignments going

(Continued on page 7)



This photo was taken from the west side of the auto tour as you approach the trail to the blind. Beyond the swans there are some trees and beyond that is water, which is part of Long Lake. In the distance is the dike before Lake River. One of the proposed alternatives would bring the 10' wide path up along the side of Long Lake and through these wetlands. Photo by S. Setterberg

With the mild weather that we had, there was little movement of the wintering birds. The earlier reported loons, **RED-NECKED GREBES** and diving ducks continued to be seen along the Vancouver waterfront. I received very few reports of any out of the place birds or feeder reports for this column.



Siberian Accentor photo by John Bishop

Feb. 6: While I didn't get many bird reports but there was a lot of excitement locally when Russ Koppendrayer found a **SIBERIAN ACCENTOR** in the Woodland Bottoms in Cowlitz County. This is only the third one ever seen in Washington, the last one was in 1991. There are only a couple of other records in North America and hundreds of birders from at least eighteen states have come to see this bird.

Feb. 8: At the end of Lower River Road in the Vancouver Lake lowlands, Jim Danzenbaker spotted 8 **TREE SWALLOWS** and 6 **BARN SWALLOWS**. These are the vanguards of the birds that will congregate over warmer lowland feeding areas like lakes and marshes, recovering from their long northward flight before moving to their nesting territories.

Feb. 14: Robert Vanderkamp birded along the mountain bike trail on Bell's Mountain where he found a **SOOTY GROUSE** and a **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL**. This is an under-reported area that probably needs more exploring.

Feb. 15: In Hazel Dell, Les Carlson continued to see a **MERLIN** that is wintering in his neighborhood and had an **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** coming to his suet feeder. The warbler probably spent the winter here as their average arrival date in the Portland-Vancouver area is March 19th.

Feb.16: An adult **NORTHERN SHRIKE** was seen by Michelle Maani at the Ridgefield NWR. These birds have been in a decline for decades and finding one is now a treat.

Feb.17: Jim Danzenbaker checked Yacolt and found 2 **MONK PARAKEETS**, there has been a feral flock of

these birds there for over twenty years. They used to nest on the power poles in town and the PUD tried to exterminate them until the residents blocked that and erected nesting colonies on poles just for them.

Feb. 19: Cindy McCormack photographed a female **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** sitting on a nest, so be careful while doing any spring pruning.

ing.

A single **BAND-TAILED PIGEON**, our usual first spring migrant, was at our feeder. This is about the average date for them to arrive here. The next birds I will be watching for here are Turkey Vultures, Rufous Hummingbirds and Tree Swallows. There has already been one report of a Turkey Vulture in Vancouver.

Feb.20: The **SNOWY EGRET** at the end of Lower River Road continues to be reported, mainly by birders who are picking up this Washington state rarity while in the area chasing the continuing **SIBERIAN ACCENTOR**.

So far in 2020, the number of birds that have been reported from Clark County is at 145 and in Skamania County 96 species have been seen. Please send me your sightings for this column or post them in the [Vancouver Audubon Afield Facebook site](#). Who will report the first Rufous Hummingbird for Clark County in 2020?



Siberian Accentor photo by John Bishop

By Wilson Cady

Not So Mundane

A movement caught my eye on the chilly January day. The glimpse had come from under the leafless branches of some willows and cottonwoods. A small pond was tucked in this thicket at Magnuson Park. I froze but could see nothing until I slowly crouched down. There, floating on the water, was a football-sized mass of feathers, tan along the waterline and blacker above. It had two black eyes that glared at me from a smallish head, probably pondering if I was friend or foe. A tiny Pied-billed Grebe drifted less than 20 feet from me.

Typically, they slink away, so I decided to settle here and see what it would do. These grebes are permanent residents in the Puget Trough, but over much of the United States, they are migratory. People seldom see them flying because they travel at night and rarely fly to escape a disturbance. Usually, Pied-bills dive and swim away, often undetected. People on birding outings will often comment, "Oh, it's just a grebe," wanting, I presume, to see something more colorful, bigger, less mundane.

Their distribution is fascinating with breeding populations in both North and South America. Although a few are in Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and Central America, generally, a big geographic gap exists between those groups on each continent.

For North America, the animation of [weekly abundance data](#) from eBird showed that in January, Pied-bills were concentrated in Florida and along the Southeast coastal plains and across into Texas and Northeastern Mexico. Lots were also in the central valley of California and then a few here in Puget Sound. Some were scattered elsewhere, especially Central Mexico and near the Gulf of California. By March, birds had moved into the Great Plains and by late April had extended into the Canadian prairies, Central Washington, and British Columbia. Their numbers in the Southeast had plummeted by April, but those in central California remained pretty constant.

In South America, the migration was in the opposite direction. In late January, lots were in Northeastern Brazil and then scattered to northern Argentina. As the year progressed, they migrated south to breed from Southern Bra-



Pied-billed Grebe photo by Thomas Bancroft

zil into Central Argentina. A few were also in Chile, Equator, and Columbia. Of all the grebe species in the Western Hemisphere, Pied-bills have the most extensive distribution.

The one in Magnuson Park slowly turned a complete circle while keeping one eye on me. Water droplets were beaded on its back and sides. The feathers seemed slicked down but waterproof. The bill still had the black ring mid-way out and the bluish-white base. Usually, they lose that band, and the bill becomes more yellowish-brown in the non-breeding season. Perhaps, its breeding hormones were still flowing here in January.

It radiated a sense of pride, confidence. In Celtic mythology, the grebe guards the spirit world and helps humans find beauty where they otherwise might not. The contours of its body, the S-shape of its neck, tautness of its muscles all projected splendor. Suddenly, the grebe just sank out of sight, hardly making a ripple. No dive, it just dropped as if it was a rock gently placed on the surface. The bird must have compressed its body feathers, squeezing out the trapped air, and tightened its chest muscles to make its air sacks smaller, decreasing its buoyancy. I shook my head as I got back to my feet. Birds are so marvelous.



Pied-billed Grebe photo by Thomas Bancroft

By Thomas Bancroft

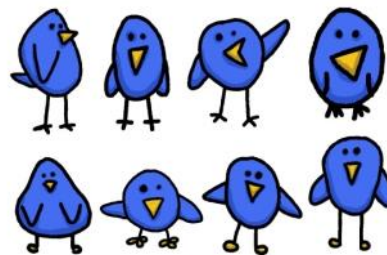
The map mentioned in Tom's article is shown on the next page.

through their land. As we know, this sometimes is not enough.

Our wildlife refuges are home to the animals that live there. We have the privilege of visiting their home and must be good guests by respecting and protecting their needs. The development of a trail that brings people **to** the Refuge but **not through** the Refuge is the best alternative. A Lewis and Clark Trail that brings visitors to the entry points of the Refuge where they can appropriately walk or drive the Fish and Wildlife Service's planned access points is best. Visitors can continue to enjoy the refuge but in a manner that is designed to be compatible with the wildlife living there.

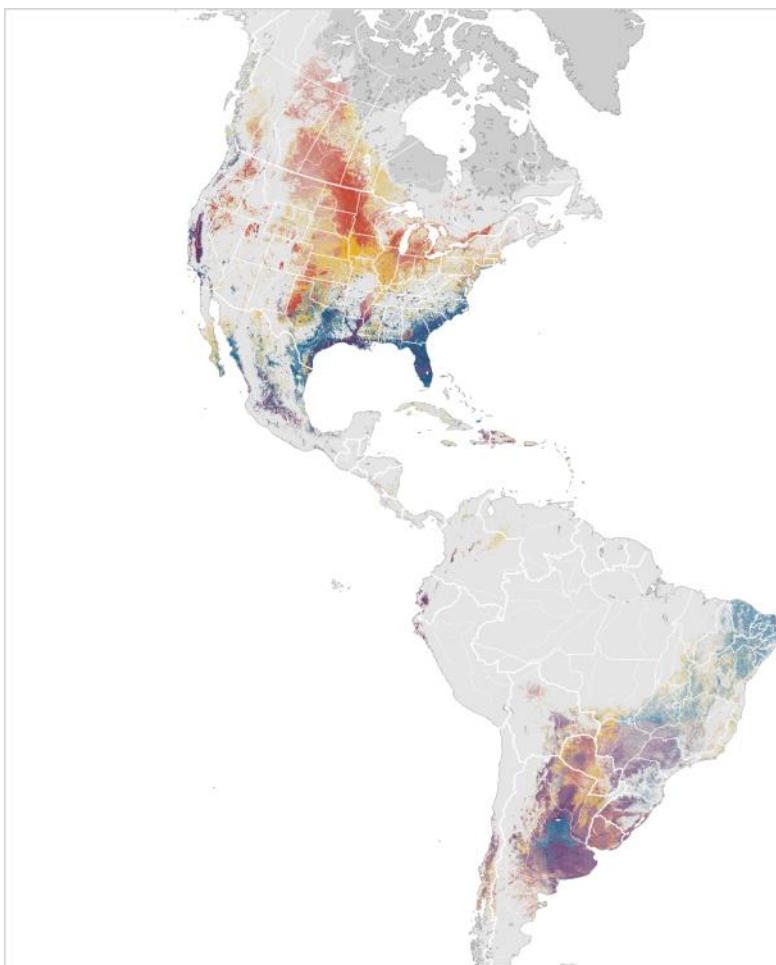
What do we do about this? The report is being issued by the Parks and Lands Division of Clark County Public Works. It will be important to watch for the final issue of the report. It's over 90 pages in draft. At some point, there will be decisions on final alignments and funding. There are a lot of players with the cities and ports providing for some portions of the trail using this document as guidance. It will be a long time in development, so we need to keep an eye on progress to make sure the trail development preserves and respects the special places we have in Clark County.

By Susan Setterberg



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!



Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

Abundance

This map depicts the seasonally-averaged estimated relative abundance, defined as the expected count on an eBird Traveling Count starting at the optimal time of day with the optimal search duration and distance that maximizes detection of that species in a region.

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Year-round

Breeding season May 31 - Jun 28

Non-breeding season Dec 21 - Feb 15

Pre-breeding migratory season Feb 22 - May 24

Post-breeding migratory season Jul 6 - Dec 14

0 0.44 33.18

Note: Seasonal ranges overlap and are stacked in the order above; view full range in season maps.

SEASONS TIMELINE



Modeled area (0 abundance)
No prediction

eBird data from 2014-2018. Estimated for 2018.

Fink, D., T. Auer, A. Johnston, M. Strimas-Mackey, O. Robinson, S. Ligocki, B. Petersen, M. Iliff, and S. Kelling. eBird

Bird ID Challenge

Let's make use of those partial or poor photos or just birds that can be a challenge to ID! If there are identifiable features in the photo, submit your photo for our next challenge.

Uncertain about identification or if photo has enough info? Don't hesitate to send it in for discussion and review.

Of course, if you wish to share your good photos with your fellow VAS members, you are welcome to submit them for publishing. Send questions, comments, and submissions to [Cindy](mailto:Cindy@nwbirder@gmail.com) at nwbirder@gmail.com.

This month's challenge is a 2-for-1! We are taking a trip to the coast here. There are more than rocks and barnacles in this picture! Identification and discussion will be in next month's newsletter.



Can you identify these birds?

February's Bird ID Challenge Answer

Well, this bird looks zeroed in on the camera in this shot! While it's not a picture of a portion of a bird, it is a genus that can be difficult to identify to species, especially if you only get a brief look as one zooms by on the tail of another bird!

Not only that, there can be a great deal of variability and overlap on some field marks, so let's go over what we have for this bird.

Habitat is urban, as the metal railing and concrete might indicate.

First, of course, we can narrow it down to some kind of raptor. The sharp, hooked bill gives that away (not to mention the impressive talons!). The railing it's sitting on is 2" in diameter, so those aren't particularly petite feet, but not exactly the massive foot of an eagle.

While you might get an impression of facial disks and forward-facing eyes in this picture, but it is just the positioning of the head. The eyes are not large enough for an owl, nor are there any facial disks, which would also rule out both owl and Northern Harrier.

So, we have a brown and white raptor with vertical streaks on the breast and a yellow eye. If you look closely under the railing, you will also note the tail continues past the bottom of the photo's edge, indicating a rather long tail in proportion to the body. The bird's right-most tail feather is showing completely (left-most tail feather showing in the photo). It appears to be slightly shorter than next feathers in the tail, shows a rather broad white tip below a brown stripe, and a bit of an angled outer edge. This bird likely



has a rounded-looking brown-and-white striped long tail with a noticeable white terminal band. It looks like we can also infer a shorter wing, as one of the outer primaries is sitting on the railing next to the bird's left foot. Our other large raptors, such as Red-tailed Hawks, would have primaries extending down closer to the end of the tail.

The typical urban-dwelling hawks we see with long tails and short, rounded wings could be either a Sharp-shinned Hawk or Cooper's Hawk. These *Accipiters* (or "bird-hawks") are the raptors you might typically see checking out the visitors at your feeders. The brown and white version would be an immature, as the adults are deep gray on the uppers with reddish barring on the underside and a deep red eye.

Now, you can just call this an *Accipiter* and leave it at that, since they can be notoriously difficult to tell apart. Often, you just get a quick view and one blasts through the yard. They are very agile, turn sharply and quickly in pursuit of prey into the trees. (The reason for the long tail and short, rounded wings!). Not only that, you must look for multiple field marks, as they can be quite variable. Never rely on one field mark (for example, tail shape) to identify this bird to species. If in doubt, call it *Accipiter* spp. This is quite common, even eBird has an entry for "Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk"!

A few things to look for to differentiate between a **perched immature** Cooper's (COHA) and a Sharp-shinned

(Continued on page 9)

(SSHA):

Head/eye: SSHA have a smaller head, so the eye appears to be large (taking up more area of the head). COHA have relatively larger head, so the eye appears smaller and appears set more forward on a bird you can see in profile.

Underside streaking: SSHA tend to have courser, more blurred brown streaking, often against a slight buffy background. Their streaking usually extends a bit further into the abdomen than a Cooper's. COHA have crisp dark brown streaking, usually very narrow, against a very white background.

Tail terminal band: This can be difficult to assess in some more worn tail feathers. SSHA have a very narrow white terminal band, while COHA have a wider white terminal band.

Tail shape: This can also be deceiving if the bird is molting, wet, or with wear. SSHA usually have a very square-ended tail. They also appear narrower, especially at the base, and are relatively shorter than a Cooper's. Caution should be used, as SSHA can sometimes show a rounded tail. A COHA has a more rounded appearance to the tail, especially with the slight angle the outer tail feathers have at the tip. Because of this, it is rare for a COHA to appear to have a square-ended tail. Their tails are relatively longer and wider.

Head shape: SSHA have a smaller, rounder head, with smaller bill. The forehead is usually at an apparent angle upward off the bill. The COHA forehead angle stays somewhat consistent with the angle of the bill, giving it a more flat-topped look. They also tend to have a squared-off peak at the back of the head, giving it an even more flat-topped look.

Head patterns: Both birds can have a pale supercilium (the line above the eye), but it tends to be broader and more obvious in the SSHA.

SSHA crowns are usually uniform in coloration, while a COHA often has more variation in crown coloration. COHA may have a face with a rich rufous color tinge not usually seen in a SSHA.

So, what do we see on this *Accipiter* in the quiz photo's pose? We can see the tail appears to be rounded. The streaking is very crisp, although some are very wide at the feather tips. The breast background appears very white, the feet appear proportionately large, and the eyes appear

to be small in relation to the head size. Using these factors, I would lean towards Cooper's Hawk.

Did you notice that I ignored bird size? SSHAs average much smaller, but as the females are significantly larger than the males, they can overlap into the size of a male COHA. However, saying that and knowing that the railing is 2" in diameter, we could safely say this is a larger *Accipiter*. (SSHA average size is about the size of a jay, while the COHA average size is about the size of an American Crow.)

I've included an alternate picture of the same bird (see left), where you can better see some other characteristics that help us identify this bird as an immature Cooper's Hawk.

These birds can be challenging but lots of fun to figure out. Practice on your neighborhood birds when they are staring intently at your feeder birds. If you have a picture, you can get help on identification on our group Facebook

page, Vancouver Audubon Afield.

Identification in flight would be another entire article...

By Cindy McCormack

Keep Up With the Action: Sign Up for Weekly Legislative Updates

Track bills in the Washington Legislature by signing up for Audubon Washington's Weekly Legislative Updates. This year is a short session expected to end in March so bills will have to move quickly to make it to the Governor's desk for signature. Sign up at: <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/JGKjksVTUKMSr4BoP2Nvw2>

NWR Updates

Ridgefield NWR "S" Unit

Public access improvement: River "S" Bridge Replacement

The River 'S' Unit/AutoTour of the Refuge is still closed to ALL PUBLIC ACCESS Monday - Friday until the bridge construction projects finalizes in the spring of 2020.

During construction, access to the River S Unit will be limited to Saturdays and Sundays only. This includes both vehicle traffic and pedestrians during all hours.

Construction has replaced the existing single-lane bridge that previously provided access to the unit. The new bridge is two lanes wide and crosses over both the railroad tracks and the river. Keeping the unit closed is necessary even during this last phase of construction as there is limited space for crews to operate equipment while interfacing with the railroad and public traffic.

Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit

Carty Unit/Refuge Office - Detour on Main Ave

The Carty Unit at 28908 NW Main Ave is open for regular daylight hours. No more detours required!

Volunteer Opportunities

Spring 2020 Klickitat County North American Migration Count

Save the date! Saturday, May 9th

Take part in a long-running migration count in Klickitat County. For a history of the Spring results, visit: <http://birdingwashington.info/Klickitat/SpringNAMC.htm>

Spring 2019 (last year) results: <http://birdingwashington.info/Klickitat/Spring2019>

Contact Bob Hansen if you are interested:
bobhansen@gorge.net

Purple Martin Band Reading



Our Purple Martins scouts should start arriving in late March and early April! Do you have a spotting scope and some patience? We could use help reading the leg bands on returning birds. Contact [Randy Hill](#) or [Cindy McCormack](#) if you are interested or have questions.

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**
 2. **Safely contain the animal**
 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 Bird/Nature Festivals and Events

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

Mar 20-22, 2020

<https://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

Wings over Water

Northwest Birding Festival

March 20-22, 2020

<https://www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com/>

Olympic BirdFest

April 16-21, 2020

<https://olympicbirdfest.org/>

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

April 24-26, 2020

<http://shorebirdfestival.com/>

Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest

May 8-10, 2020

<https://www.ycic.org/yakima-river-canyon-bird-fest>

Leavenworth Spring Birdfest

May 14-17, 2020

<http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org/>

Wenas Audubon Campout

May 22-25, 2020

<https://wenasaudubon.org/>

Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds

Sept 11-13, 2020

<http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com/>

Wings Over Willapa Festival

Sept 24-27, 2020

<https://wingsoverwillapa.org/>

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

Website News

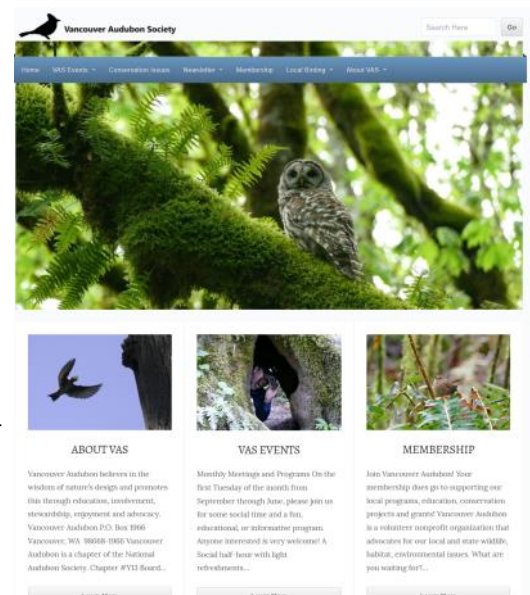
VAS has a new website! While it is still a work in progress, we would love to hear from you what you would like to see or find on the site.

Our new site has an SSL certificate for security and will soon have a payment portal for memberships and donations.

We will also be adding a blog section, so you will be able to subscribe for updates, announcements, and current news. This will be especially helpful for those that don't use the social media platforms.

Contact Cindy at nwbird-er@gmail.com with comments, questions or suggestions.

Having trouble viewing the new site? Try refreshing your browser.



Upcoming Events

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25 Board Mtg	26	27	28 Field trip	29 FT (full)

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bird Walk	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Meeting & Program	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Field Trip
29	30	31 Board Mtg	Apr 1 Bird Walk			

Feb. 25th: Board Meeting hosted by Sam Neuffer, 6:30pm

Feb. 28th-29th: Woodland Bottoms Field Trip, Clark County Field Trip (WOS/VAS combined trip)

Mar. 1st: Bird Walk, Kline Pond, 8:00am

Mar. 10th: Monthly Program and Meeting

Mar. 28th: Field Trip, Columbia Gorge, 7:30am

Mar. 31st: Board Meeting hosted by Don Rose

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



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