

Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY *A chapter of the National Audubon Society*



Volume 48 Number 6

September 2023

vancouveraudubon.org



From the VAS Board

by **Cindy McCormack, President**

We are very excited to be getting back into the swing of things after our summer hiatus--we hope that you have been able to enjoy the summer season one way or another! During the next two months we should continue to see the summer residents disappear to the south for wintering in more hospitable and resource-filled (hopefully!) climates and welcome our winter visitors back from their high elevation or northern breeding grounds. The migratory period is truly an exceptional time to be out birding—the bird numbers and species can change quickly and, if we are lucky, we might find a surprise visitor!

As migration ramps up and the weather cools, we tend to have more group birding activities. We are also happy to have Ken Pitts and Beth Lichter partnering with Vancouver Audubon on their bimonthly bird outings! Are you interested in attending or participating in any of our events? Bird outings, programs, and other events are posted to the website as soon as the information becomes available, then we try to share this information to the Vancouver Audubon Facebook page and as a blog post. To receive announcements for these events, you can subscribe to the blog, follow the Facebook page, or request to be added to the new text group (using GroupMe). We hope that the new text group will provide an instant way to contact everyone in the group regarding upcoming field trips, especially late notice trips! If you would like to be added to our GroupMe group, contact me (vas@vancouveraudubon.org) with your contact information, including mobile phone number. I recommend adding the free app to your mobile device for the most reliable messaging.

We had two great community events this last spring. The Young Birders Club ran a very popular activity table at a local Earth Day celebration—kudos to Jackson Wolfe for all his hard work there! The Clark County PUD held a wildly popular Pollinator Festival this summer and Don Rose was able to take the lead on organizing the materials with very little notice for our first tabling event in quite some time. We are hoping to participate in more events in the future.

It's that time of year! September is the traditional time to renew your support of Vancouver Audubon, which can easily be done through the website (<https://vancouveraudubon.org/membership/>) using the button currently labeled "Donation". This simply links to our PayPal site. You do not need a PayPal account to use this option, simply select the white button "Donate with debit or credit card" rather than the yellow PayPal button.

**Membership
Renewal Date:
September 1st!**

We are trying a new service (Constant Contact) that will allow us to easily mark your renewal date so that we can send reminders AND so your renewal date will correspond to a full year after your initial joining date. It also helps us keep our contact list organized, current and emails out our newsletter and any Vancouver Audubon announcements. If all goes well, we hope to continue to use this feature in the coming years.

(Continued on page 2)

From the VAS Board

Last spring, we sadly bid goodbye to Jared Strawderman, a truly exceptional part of Vancouver Audubon. He brought wonderful ideas, instigated great and thought-provoking discussions, and stepped in whenever needed. His hard work and persistence have resulted in a budding Young Birder's program, which we hope will still grow and flourish in his absence. Fortunately, we have already found someone willing fill the void Jared has left--I hope you will all join me in welcoming Tom Tinsley to our board! He has agreed to take on the role of vice-president until the next election (this coming spring). He is already proving to be a valuable addition to the board.

We are looking forward to some great programs this fall--we hope to see you there!

Good birding, Cindy

Notes From the **Young Birders' Club**

News & Updates

The YBC is planning some big events for this year. After the success at the Earth Day event last year, we will be continuing our tabling/outreach programs and use of build-your-own-birdhouse kits. We are also planning monthly game nights at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Multi-Purpose Room. Join us for games, dinner, and fun!

This year we will be continuing our monthly bird walks and Zoom meetings, and are working on joint projects with local schools and the CASEE center in Brush Prairie. Our goal is to give presentations to classes and grow interest in our young birders. Stay tuned as we develop our programs and solidify dates and events. We are excited for this season, and hope that you will be, too!

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas for our club, please feel free to share them with youngbirders@vancouveraudubon.org. For additional information, updates, and a comprehensive calendar, visit our website at www.vancouveraudubon.org/young-birders-club/. As always, tell your friends about us, and happy birding!

Jackson and Katie, YBC Leads

Important Upcoming Events

- Young At Heart Monthly Game Night — TBD
- Monthly Bird Walk — September 9th, 7am @ Frenchman's Bar
- Monthly Zoom Meeting — September 20th @ 6pm
- World Migratory Bird Day — October 14th



**Vancouver Audubon Society is a non-profit organization
under US IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).**

PO Box 1966 | Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

Website | vancouveraudubon.org

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

Chartered December 18, 1975

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

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. Membership meetings and programs are held on the first Tuesday of the month, September through June (except January).

THE COLUMBIA FLYWAY is the monthly newsletter of the Vancouver Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Publication deadline is the 20th of the preceding month unless otherwise posted.

Species Spotlight

AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS AT SHILLAPOO

Photos and text by Beth Marlin Lichter



American White Pelicans fishing together at Shillapoo Lake Wildlife Area

At the end of January 2023, continuing into early spring, on any morning (except for the exceptionally stormy ones), no matter how frigid the temps, an intrepid group of wildlife enthusiasts and photographers could be found lined up along the dike at the northern end of Shillapoo Wildlife Area waiting for Short-eared Owls to take flight and commence vole hunting. I had just begun shooting photos with a Canon R5 mirrorless camera and got my first photos of birds in flight there—the Shorties flying over the dike.

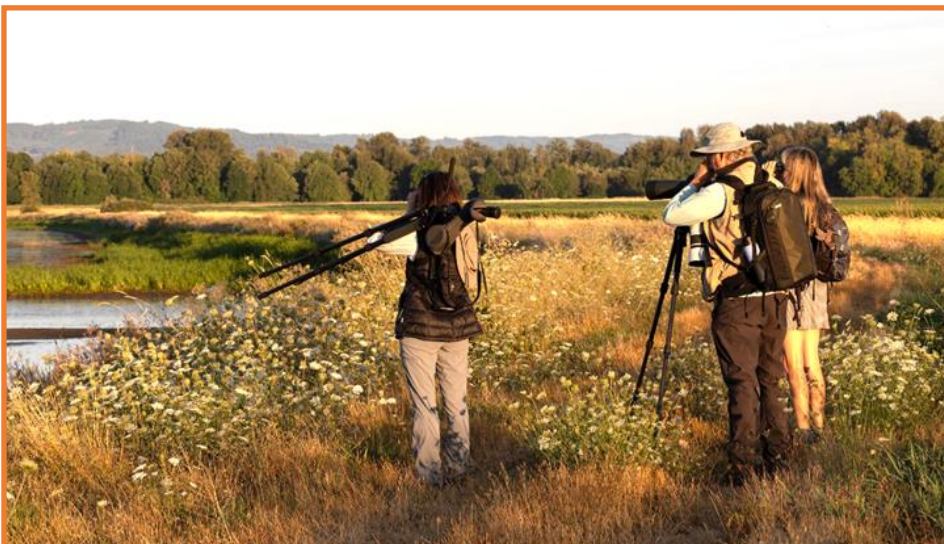
Fast forward to August 12th, peak of summer and here I am again, up on the dike, birding with Cindy McCormack, Karen Pickering and Ken Pitts, observing a fleet of American White Pelicans fishing together. We counted 67 of them. These high-soaring water birds have a wingspan of about 9 feet, second only, in North America, to the California Condor in that respect. With their pouched bills, they scoop up fish from shallow waters. Out at Shillapoo right now there seems to be a prodigious number of tadpoles, an excellent food source for White Pelicans.

On my bucket list: Go back for shots of Bitterns, White Pelicans, Egrets and Great Blue Herons in flight. What else is going on at Shillapoo? It happens to be one of the top local hot spots for migrating shorebirds. Amongst the flocks of Least and Western Sand-

(Continued on page 5)



Short-eared Owl in flight at Shillapoo



Left to right: Cindy McCormack, Ken Pitts, Karen Pickering at dawn at Shillapoo Lake Wildlife Area

pipers, Semipalmated, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers have also been seen here recently, as well as Phalaropes and Curlews.

In total, Cindy McCormack's submitted eBird checklist for our August 12th walk at Shillapoo included sightings of 59 species... outstanding! Cindy's List: <https://ebird.org/pnw/checklist/S147099233>

Editor's note: Our new Vice-President, Tom Tinsley, and Program Chair Don Rose, will be leading a field trip to Shillapoo on September 12 in the hopes of seeing some of the great diversity of birds at Shillapoo. We hope you can come join us.



American White Pelicans at dawn at Shillapoo Wildlife Area

WDFW Seeks Comment on Status Review for Northern Spotted Owl; Extirpation in Washington Possible in Next Decade— Comments due by October 29, 2023

by Susan Saul

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has initiated a status review of the Northern Spotted Owl that includes a recommendation to keep the owl on the state's endangered species list. The public comment period is open from Aug. 1 through Oct. 29.



Barred Owl

Photo by Mick Thompson

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission listed the owl as a state endangered species in 1988 and it was federally listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 1990.

Spotted Owls have very large home ranges (thousands of acres) and use mature and old coniferous forest for nesting, roosting, and foraging; loss of habitat due to timber harvest was the primary reason for its Endangered Species Act listing. Protections on federal (Northwest Forest Plan) and nonfederal lands (Forest Practices Rules) have reduced the amount of habitat loss due to timber harvest.

In the last four decades, nearly all documented Spotted Owl territories were in the Cascade Range and the Olympic Peninsula. The species no longer occurs in the Puget Lowlands and the species is functionally extirpated in southwestern Washington. Within the Cascade Mountains Range, the density of Spotted Owls is generally higher in the south and becomes sparse north of Lake Chelan and the Skagit River.

Population monitoring at three demography study areas in Washington indicate an ongoing downward trend for the

last three decades. The decline has made the population critically imperiled, having declined by up to 80-90 percent in some predominantly federal landscapes in Washington. "Since the species' state listing, the likelihood of northern spotted owls becoming extinct in Washington has only increased," said Taylor Cotten, WDFW conservation assessment section manager.

The Spotted Owl is now rare throughout Washington. About 1,200 territories have been documented in Washington and trend data suggests that fewer than 25 percent of these territories remain occupied. Factors affecting the Spotted Owl's continued existence include competition with Barred Owls, fire risk in dry forests, adequacy of regulatory protections, climate change, environmental contaminants, hybridization with Barred Owls, genetic variation, disease, predation, and demographic isolation.

Monitoring in demography study areas indicates that Spotted Owl abundance has declined to very low numbers, and it seems almost certain that effective recovery will require both Barred Owl management (removal) and augmentation of the Spotted Owl population, the latter likely involving captive breeding and release, or possibly translocation.

Despite regulation of impacts to habitat, competition with Barred Owls has critically imperiled Spotted Owls in Washington, and functional extirpation has likely occurred in some landscapes, like Southwest Washington, that were occupied by Spotted Owls only two decades ago. Without management



Northern Spotted Owl Photo by USFWS

(Continued on page 7)

that effectively addresses the negative consequences of competitive interactions with Barred Owls it is likely the Spotted Owl could become functionally extirpated in Washington in the next decade.

The draft periodic status review for the northern spotted owl is now available on WDFW's website.

You can submit written comments via email (tandepubliccom@dfw.wa.gov) or by postal mail to Taylor Cotten, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 43141, Olympia, WA 98504-3200.

Vancouver Lake Management Plan Fails to Recognize Area's Importance to Birds

by Susan Saul

Vancouver Lake and its surrounding lowlands are one of thousands of places worldwide recognized for their importance to birds with the designation of Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). Vancouver Lake and Lowlands received the designation in 2001.

This network of sites is vital to the long-term viability of bird populations, and is also important for other forms of wildlife. IBAs form an integrated chain of sites to support those birds who travel through them on their yearly migrations, providing safe habitats to rest and feed.

When Clark County hired a contractor last year to develop a Vancouver Lake Management Plan (VLMP), Vancouver Audubon provided information on the area's IBA status. It was shocking to read the draft VLMP and not see any acknowledgment of the importance of this place to birds. The plan was heavily weighted towards the desires of the rowing and sailing communities for a body of water that meets their recreation needs. The plan even contained a goal to increase public access along the south and east shores of the lake and increase motorized boating recreation; both actions would be detrimental to birds due to disturbance.

The draft plan does not recognize that the lake and surrounding wetlands and farm fields host thousands of migrating and wintering geese and ducks, shorebirds and several thousand sandhill cranes. Vancouver Lake's shoreline and island provide feeding and night roost areas for shorebirds, sandhill cranes, gulls and American white pelicans. During the day, the lake provides a safe place for cranes to drink, rest and feed. The lake has a significant western grebe population while osprey nest along the shoreline and feed in the lake. Based on eBird checklists, approximately 200 species are using Vancouver Lake and the Lowlands.

Birding is a significant activity at Vancouver Lake and the lowlands that is not recognized as providing an economic impact, while rowing and sailing competitions are called out in the VLMP for their economic contributions to the community. On eBird, Vancouver Lake has generated 896

checklists since 2009 while the Vancouver Lake Lowlands has 486 checklists from the past 20 years. Some of those checklists were generated by birders visiting from outside the local area who also spent money in the local economy.

The draft plan focused on technical review of alternatives to control aquatic invasive species and harmful algal blooms (HABs) using chemical and mechanical methods and the costs involved. It recommends annual chemical herbicide applications for noxious weed control of Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife and yellow flag iris. For HABs, the plan recommends flushing channel enlargement, ongoing wastewater and stormwater treatment to reduce nutrient loading in the lake, annual water stripping of phosphorus using alum treatments, and beach algaecide treatments for short-term control. The average annual cost of aquatic invasive species management is estimated to be about \$55,000, while the average annual cost of HAB management would be \$2 million.

Vancouver Audubon looks forward to a revised and improved VLMP that reflects a balanced, realistic approach to the lake's many resources and values. Vancouver Audubon encourages the long-term goal of natural lake management rather than reliance on annual applications of chemical treatments.



Birding at Shillapoo Lake

Photo by Don Rose

VAS Bird Walks & Field Trips

Please visit the [VAS website](#) for field trip details and requirements.

Friday, September 1 First-of-Month Bird Walk

Leader: Cindy McCormack
Meeting time: 6:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: [Ridgefield NWR—Carty Unit \(28908 NW Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA\) lower parking lot.](#)
(There is a small entrance fee, or you can use your Inter-agency Pass, NWR pass, or Duck Stamp.)
Register: vas@vancouveraudubon.org

We will walk the Carty Lake and Oaks-to-Wetlands trails. For those that wish to join later, text Cindy for location of the group, please include intended arrival time in your registration email and request contact info if needed.

Other Bird Walks

East Burnt Bridge Creek Trail

Saturday, September 2, 2023
Time: 8:00-10:00am
Leader: Ken Pitts

Meeting Location: parking lot of N Devine Rd south of E 18th Street (45.6335613,-122.6169922)
Register: kenpitts@gmail.com

Steigerwald NWR

Saturday, September 16, 2023
Time: 8:00-11:00am
Leader: Ken Pitts

Meeting Location: Steigerwald Lake NWR parking lot off SR-14, east of Washougal
Register: kenpitts@gmail.com

The walk is about a 3.5 mile out and back hike at a 1 A classification for speed and slope (relatively slow and flat terrain.) It is geared for beginning to intermediate level birders. Binoculars and spotting scopes are available for participants to use during the walk.

Check the [website](#) often for information on field trips. Alternatively, you can place yourself on an email list for **short-notice field trips**. Randy Hill is soliciting for members who want to be notified when a field trip opportunity arises on short notice. If you want to be on this list, contact Randy Hill at re_hill@q.com.

Fall Migration Monitoring

Leader: Jim Danzenbaker
Meeting Location, Date, Departure time: TBD
Register: Sign up for short-notice group texting*

Jim Danzenbaker has a special interest in migrating birds during fall migration. He has specific locations where raptor migration and songbird migration funnel through corridors from mid-August to mid-October. On the Yacolt Burn State Forest an area designated as 'Migration Corner', where the L-1520 gate and the Mountain View 4X4 Trailhead (45.6901337,-122.2979832) occupy a gap between north-south ridges offer a freeway for birds heading south toward the Columbia River and south, where winter conditions provide more food than their summer nesting grounds can offer. His counts have started and will continue until about September 10. About then he switches down slope to a Lower Larch site near the L-1410 gate; that site has very limited parking but can go as late as October 20. His raptor migration site is in Cowlitz County, at the far north end of the Woodland Bottoms, on the north Dike Road (45.941389,-122.779660) where I-5 passes nearby. This location offers a broad view north as raptors approach and pass east over the foothills as well as along the Columbia River corridor, with some circling that linger over the bottoms for extended views.

Since migration counts follow weather patterns that favor movement, Jim determines his locations within a few days of the visits. Passerine migration viewing typically begins around sunrise and last for varying periods of 2-4 hours depending on wind and temperature. Raptor migration tends to be mid-morning to afternoon and from the last 10 days of September through the first 10 days of October.

If you have interest in these migration counts, please sign up for short-notice alerts.

Additional bird walks can be found at Steigerwald and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuges. More information about the walks can be found on associated websites linked below:

Ridgefield NWR: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield/visit-us/activities/ranger-led-programs>

Steigerwald NWR: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/steigerwald-lake/visit-us/activities/ranger-led-programs>

Additional Field Trips and Upcoming Events

Northern Harrier at Shillapoo Lake



Vancouver Lowlands—Shillapoo Lake

Leaders: Tom Tinsley and Don Rose

Meeting location: [Shillapoo Lake NE access](#)

Register: Tom Tinsley (tom.tinsley61@gmail.com) and Don Rose (meetings@vancouveraudubon.org)

Target species are a wide variety of waterfowl, waders, migrating shorebirds, raptors and songbirds. This period could produce interesting migrant waterbirds, terns, and songbirds that visit one of a very few managed emergent freshwater marshes in Clark County.

Itinerary: Meet at 07:30 at the [Shillapoo Wildlife Area](#) access trail opposite the north trail to Vancouver Lake, about a mile north of the flushing channel on NW Erwin O Reiger Memorial Hwy (SR-501 ext). Trip will end before noon. Spotting scopes highly encouraged, and bring Discover Pass if you have one.

Limit of 6 cars, 12 total participants.

Trip travel type expectations: Pace: 1 Terrain: A. A flat walk along the unpaved dike trail

September 9-10 **Puget Sound Bird Fest**, Edmonds, WA. Sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon Society. More information and Registration [Here](#).

September 22-24 **Wings Over Willapa Festival**, Long Beach Peninsula, WA. Sponsored by Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. More information and Registration [Here](#).

This multi-day bird festival in one of the richest bird destinations in North America happens in the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and sites on Washington's Long Beach Peninsula. The Festival has something for nature lovers of all ages and skill.

Events include expert-led bird walks and programs ranging from wildlife tracking to birding with technology. Other highlights include a guided tour to Long Island to an old-growth cedar grove, hand-building with clay to create your own bowl or mug, and a special Nature Play Day on Saturday for children and families.

September 29-October 1

Together For Birds -Audubon Council of Washington 2023

Seattle, WA. Sponsored by Audubon of Washington.

You are invited to a weekend of networking, conservation and workshops at the Seattle Mountaineers!

More information and Registration [Here](#).

Bird Fest and Bluegrass Festival

by Susan Setterberg

Have you ever attended BirdFest and Bluegrass, or wanted to? Are you willing to volunteer some time? You can help with BirdFest and Bluegrass 2023! Expertise is not required, just a deep desire to share the birding experience. The event will be entirely in person, with a variety of activities happening on the River S Auto Tour and Carty Unit. One of the events being offered is spotting scope viewing. Vancouver Audubon has partnered with the Friends of RNWR for many years for this popular event. The BirdFest Committee is again seeking Vancouver Audubon's assistance at the scoping station, which will be set up at the River S Contact Station. Visitors will enjoy learning about birds and optics. It is a great opportunity for Vancouver Audubon to promote birding and its programs. We are hoping for a good showing of raptors and migrant species including cranes and swans throughout the day.

The event will run from 10 to 3, Saturday, October 7th. Do an hour or do five; then spend some time enjoying other BirdFest events and the Bluegrass music in town. To sign up, contact Susan Setterberg at smsetterberg@yahoo.com or Cindy McCormack at vas@vancouveraudubon.org. Bring your binoculars and spotting scopes (if you have one and are ok with sharing). We will have extra scopes available. The Birdfest committee will arrange to have masks and hand sanitizer on hand. Feel free to bring snacks and your liquid of choice if you plan to stay a while. Contact Station volunteers will be around to answer questions about the Refuge in general and packets about the Refuge and the Event will be on hand. An early response is greatly appreciated.

For more information about BirdFest and Bluegrass go to www.Ridgefieldfriends.org. And don't forget there is a photo contest for pictures taken on the Refuge. Submissions are due by September 10th. Prizes for winners come from Pro Photo Supply!



Event—Letters and Lagers

Wednesday, September 6th 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Heathen Brewing's Feral Public House

1109 Washington St., Vancouver

Drop by and learn why the Green River north of Mount St. Helens deserves designation as an Outstanding Resource Water in Washington State and take action by submitting comments in support of this designation. Sponsored by the Green River Valley Alliance (Vancouver Audubon is an Alliance member).



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl

Photo by Becky Boley, Fotofest 2022



American Bittern
Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge
Photo by Jackson Wolfe



Young Birder's Club



FREE for ages 10-18



2 to 3 meetings monthly,
in the field and online



Learn from bird experts



**Bird watching walks, art
programs, research, and
habitat restoration**



SCAN ME

Join us at our next meeting!

See our website for schedule

vancouveraudubon.org/young-birders-club

youngbirders@vancouveraudubon.org

Many of the birds in this report are returning migrants and not necessarily rare birds, but if you are curious about the abundance of any species you can find a checklist with rarity codes for each of the 39 counties at Checklists on

www.wabirder.com

You can view the status of any bird through the seasons on the eBird bar charts which are helpful for seeing when migrant birds are due to return or leave. Here is the link to Clark County's bar chart.

[Bar Charts - eBird Pacific Northwest](#)

Ash-throated Flycatcher—Morris Finkelstein/Audubon Photography Awards



June 22, an **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (5)** was spotted by Tom Tinsley on the L1500 Road in Dole Valley between Larch and Silver Star Mountains. This was an unexpected find of a bird that is associated with oak forests in the Gorge and eastern Washington.

June 25, Marilyn Kircus found a **ROCK WREN (4)** at the Carson National Fish Hatchery on the Wind River. Another supposedly east of the Cascade species that can be found on rocky outcrops and other suitable habitat.

July 4, a **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (3)** seen by Jim Danzenbaker at the River S Unit of the Ridgefield NWR was the first reported in Clark County this year.

July 13, Susan Saul picked out the first **BANK SWALLOW (4)** of the year for Skamania County at June Lake on Mt. Saint Helens, where they nest in the bluffs of packed volcanic ash.

July 22, the third Skamania County record of a **BLACK PHOEBE (5)** was found by Ross-Barnes-Rickett at Naked Falls, a popular swimming hole on the Washougal River.

Aug. 3, 2 **LONG-BILLED CURLEWS (4)** were spotted by John Davis at Shillapoo Lake in the Vancouver Lake lowlands. We get very few of these large shorebirds that nest in grasslands east of the Cascade Mountains in Clark County.

Aug. 3, Jim Danzenbaker also had a good assortment of shorebirds at Shillapoo Lake finding **22 KILLDEER**, **5 SEMIPALMATED PLOVER**, **14 LONG-BILLED DOW-ITCHER**, **7 GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, **3 LESSER YELLOWLEGS**, **18 LEAST SANDPIPER**, **2 WESTERN SANDPIPER**, **2 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** and a **WILSON'S SNIPE**.

Aug. 8, Cindy McCormack, Les Carlson and I birded in Skamania County finding very little of interest until we reached the higher elevations on the 8040 Road north of Trout Lake. This is an area of mixed fir and Ponderosa Pine forest on the south side of Mt. Adams with patches of burnt trees populated by birds of the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains. Here we found **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKERS (4)**, **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS**, **CASSIN'S VIREOS**, **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES**, **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER**, **CANADA JAY**, **EVENING GROSBEAKS**, **RED CROSSBILL** and a couple of mixed flocks that contained at least eight species of warblers feeding begging youngsters and nearly a hundred birds in each flock.

Aug. 14, Jim Danzenbaker visited Migration Corner on Larch Mountain where he says that the east wind concentrated the migrants passing through a gap on the mountain, counting 231 individual warblers of 8 species counted but that was probably low. His highlights included: **108 TOWNSEND'S WARBLER**, **3 NASHVILLE WARBLER**, and **43 RED-BREASTED NUT-**

(Continued on page 13)

HATCH. He said that this is the most he has ever seen in one place in Clark County and 30 **WESTERN TANAGER** including one flock of 12 birds.

We were still getting snow in early April at the 1,000' and above. This late Spring prevented many species from nesting until the snow was gone and enough insects hatched to support them as well as any nestlings. At our place in the Columbia Gorge six miles east of Washougal this was the quietest summer we have experienced in fifty years. We saw few flycatchers, vireos and warblers until mid-August when a few mixed flocks began to appear that contained juvenile birds. In our area, fall migration begins about the Fourth of July with the arrival of the first southbound shorebirds from their Arctic nesting grounds.

Some of our local nesting birds like vireos and warblers will gather with other birds in mixed flocks that move through the forests and can be located by listening for the sound of the chickadees and the begging youngsters. Here are some ways that you can follow the migration online.

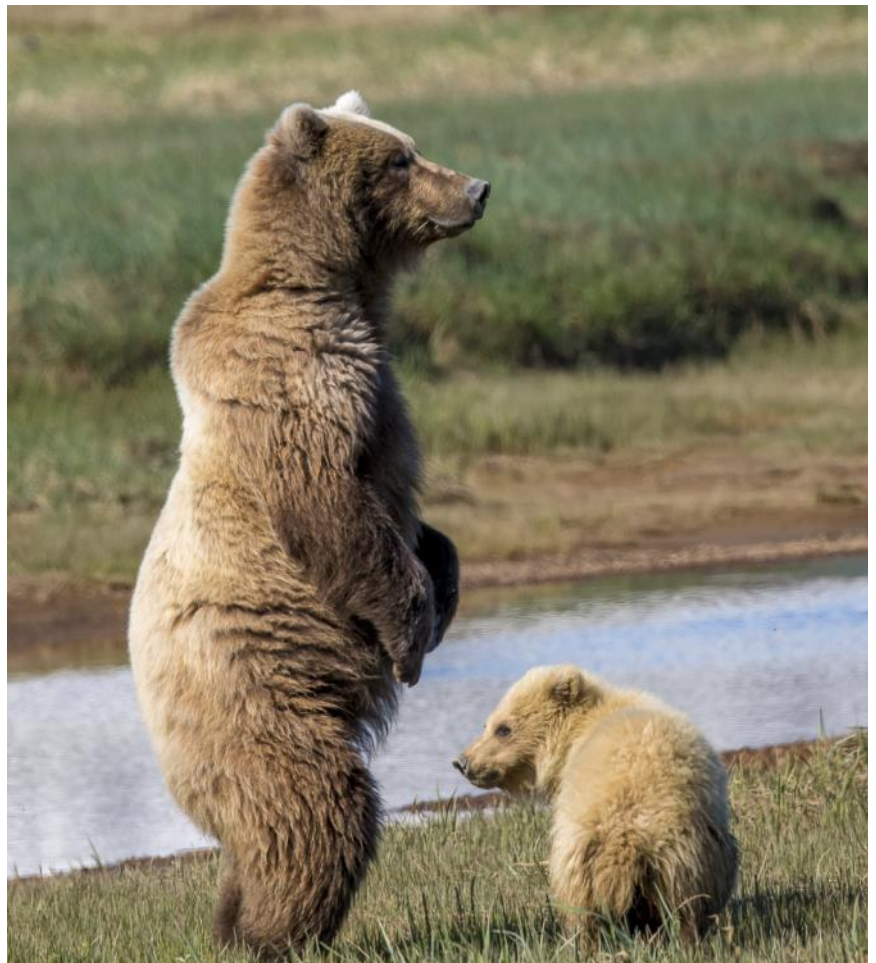
You don't need to sign up to [eBird](#) to view the sightings reports or other data posted there, just go to their site, click on [Explore](#) and put in the county you are interested in. Click on [Recent Sightings](#) and see what other people are reporting or at the top of the county page. Click on [All Years](#) and then on [Bar Charts](#) and you will get a chart that shows when each species is usually here. *eBird Pacific Northwest* - Discover a new world of birding.

A very interesting site to follow is [Birdcast](#), which tracks the radar images of birds in migration. Most migrants move at night starting at about dusk, so if you put in the date of the day before you plan to go birding you will have an estimate of how many birds passed over your county overnight, how high they were flying and at what speed and in which direction. <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/>

I recommend going to Washington Birder and downloading a bird checklist for your county. Each of the 39 counties in Washington has a checklist available that includes an abundance code for each species in that county. Washington Birder (wabirder.com)

Please continue to send me your sightings or enter them into [eBird](#) for use in this column and the year list project of compiling all of the species seen in each county by anyone this year. I would also appreciate any photos of any Code 3 and higher birds for use in this column.

As of August 15th, the 2023 Washington County Cumulative Year List Project has tallied 218 species seen in Clark County for the year, and in Skamania County the list is now at 186. These lists of all the birds reported in each county are updated every two months and can be seen at Washington Birder (wabirder.com)



Alaskan Brown Bear with her cub—Photo by Craig Wallace,

Fotofest 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 2023						
					Sept 1 Bird Walk— Carty Unit	2 Bird Walk— E. Burnt Bridge Ck
3	4	5 Program— Zambezi	6 Letters and Lagers	7	8	9 YBC Bird Walk— Frenchman's Bar
10 Puget Sound Bird Fest Edmonds, WA	11	12 Field Trip— Shillapoo	13	14	15	16 Bird Walk— Steigerwald NWR
17	18	19	20 YBC Zoom Meeting—6 pm	21	22 Wings Over Willapa - Long Beach, WA	23 Wings Over Willapa - Long Beach, WA
24 Wings Over Willapa - Long Beach, WA	25	26	27	28	29 ACOW - Seattle, WA	30 ACOW - Se- attle, WA

Sept 1 (Friday): First-of-Month-Bird Walk, Carty Unit

Sept 2 (Saturday): Bird walk at East Burnt Bridge Creek

Sept 5 (Tuesday): Live Program—Zambezi Wildlife

Sept 6 (Wednesday): Letters and Lagers

September 9-10: Puget Sound Bird Fest - Edmonds, WA

September 9 (Saturday): YBC Bird Walk at Frenchman's Bar

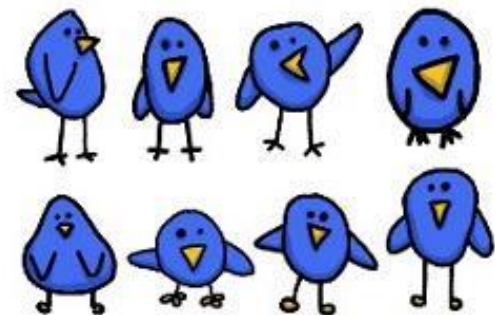
Sept 12 (Tuesday): Field Trip—Shillapoo Lake

Sept 16 (Saturday): Bird Walk at Steigerwald NWR

Sept 20 (Wednesday): Youth Birding Club Zoom Meeting

Sept 22-24: Wings Over Willapa—Long Beach, WA

Sept 29—Oct 1: Audubon Council of Washington, Seattle, WA



Farewell for
now to our
many migrato-
ry species. We
look forward
to seeing you
next spring!

*Adult male
Tree Swallow*



backyardbirdshop.com



8101 NE Parkway
Vancouver, WA 98662
(360) 253-5771