

Columbia Flyway

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



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vancouveraudubon.org



From the VAS Board

by Don Rose, Newsletter and Programs

The Board has been revitalized recently with fresh energy from President Cindy McCormack and new Vice-President Tom Tinsley. We are still in the molting stage and hoping to further morph the chapter into a powerful force for local bird conservation and education. We have had some great accomplishments in the last year with climate friendly policies at the city and state levels, land being conserved, and important bird habitat highlighted for protection from development. Board members are all stepping up to help complete tasks on this all-volunteer Board, but there is always more to be done. We need someone to help us increase outreach to the local community, both through creating a presence at events and through getting materials to local schools, other organizations, and public places. Our website was upgraded a couple of years ago, but we need someone willing to keep it up to date with fresh timely information. Contact any one on the Board if you have an interest in helping in any way possible.

Three members of Vancouver Audubon Board attended the Audubon Conservation of Washington weekend in Seattle last month. We were able to get a resolution passed by 25 chapters in the state of Washington to recognize Vancouver Lake as an important bird habitat (see story by Susan Saul). We heard our next month's speaker give an excellent presentation, which verified that she is someone you will want to hear on November 7. There was a presentation about the direction that National Audubon and its member chapters hope to pursue in the next five years for the conservation of birds (see Susan Saul's other story). We learned about work being done by Washington Audubon on the legislative front, conservation work in the Puget Sound and sagebrush shrub-steppe of eastern Washington.

Vancouver Audubon will be supporting a petition to the State of Washington put together by Blue Mountain Audubon to list the Burrowing Owl as Sensitive or Threatened. A technical document compiled by Blue Mountain demonstrates many factors that warrant the listing.

Make sure to come to our live program December 5. It will be our annual member photo sharing event - Fotofest 2023. We have many fine experienced and budding photographers in the group and last year's submissions made that very clear. Send your submissions to meetings@vancouveraudubon.org by November 15. More info in Programs.



Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Photo by Don Rose

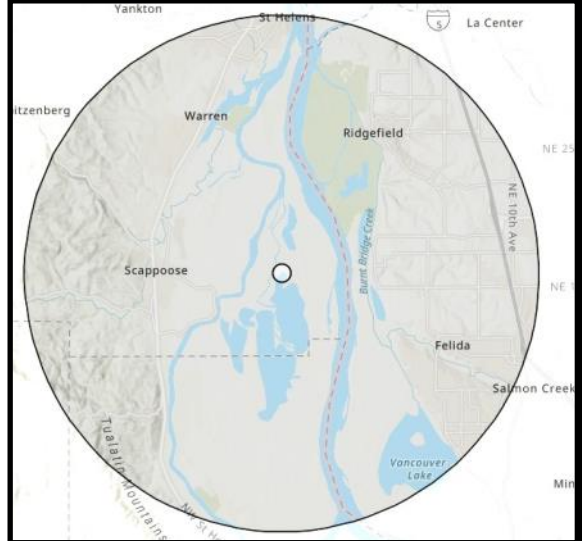
Four members of the Board toured the newsroom at The Columbian with family owner Will Campbell. The tour was a fascinating look into how news is produced, including a look at Linotype machines and the printing machine the newspaper has used continuously since 1955. The tour was to express gratitude for Vancouver Audubon's fundraising efforts to help fund community journalism for The Columbian. Our efforts helped The Columbian to assign a reporter full time to environmental issues.

Our Young Birders Club is still in its fledgling stage. If you know a budding young naturalist, have them contact youngbirders@vancouveraudubon.org. The future of birds will be in the hands of our future generations, and it is critical to teach youth, and people from many different backgrounds to see, hear, and recognize the natural world around them. Please join us on our first of the month bird walks and learn bird habits and identification clues from the lively Cindy McCormack. They are suitable for all age and skill levels.

2023 Christmas Bird Count

It is that time of year again. Time to make your holiday lists for gifts, gather all your favorite cookie recipes and contact your team members for the 2023-24 Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year's Sauvie Island/RidgefieldNWR/Vancouver Lake Bottoms count will be Sunday, December 31 st . A great way to get those last minute additions to your annual bird list for 2023.

All you need to do now is put the count day on your calendar and contact me at smsetterberg@yahoo.com. What I need to know is who is part of your team, everyone's email address, and if you want to repeat count in the area you have counted before or have some special request (time constraints, drive only, etc.). As always, feeder counters are welcome if you don't wish to go out in the elements that day and you have a feeder to watch within the circle boundaries. Count areas expand and contract with the number of teams/counters we have so I can be flexible with assignments. If you are new to the CBC and want to give it a try, I can find a team for you. Most of the teams on the Washington side of the circle have VAS members on them so it is easy to work with someone you might have seen on one of the VAS trips. If you like getting up early and want to count on Sauvie Island this year, there are plenty of teams happy to take on another counter over there.



Need more information on the history and procedures for the CBC? Go to the Audubon website at: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>. If you want to look at previous years' results, we are designated as the ORSI circle for Oregon Sauvie Island, which is the official name. Get your name on the list for this year's count early. Again, contact Susan at smsetterberg@yahoo.com. Early response is greatly appreciated. Details for team assignments and reporting requirements will be mailed out about the first week in December.

Young Birders' Club

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



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

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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.

Proposed 2023/2024 Budget

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenue			
Amazon Smile	\$6	\$10	
Bank interest	29	100	310
Refreshment donations		25	
Memberships	1,648	1,615	2,200
Donations	1,408	1,500	1,700
Doris Troxel Trust	3,840	500	3,000
Backyard Bird Shop	200	200	200
Nat'l Audubon Society	1,786	1,785	1,785
Bequest	87,139		
In memory of	467		
GiveMore24/Give Big	1,230		1,030
Comm Foundation Draw-down	10,000	5,300	10,000
Total Revenue	\$107,753	\$11,035	\$20,225
Expenses			
Supplies	862	100	1,350
Membership software			300
PO Box fee	198	210	225
Non-profit filing fee	30	40	30
Refreshments		60	50
Mtg. room rental	50	400	500
Audubon Washington	2,000	3,000	3,000
PDX Wildlife Care Center	500	1,000	1,000
Young Birders Club		250	
Insurance	1,624	1,675	1,700
Community Journalism	10,000	2,000	5,000
Give More 24 fee	100		100
Columbia Land Trust		200	200
WA Environmental Council	100	200	200
Friends of Columbia Gorge	100	200	200
Nature Conservancy	100	200	200
Columbia Springs	100	200	200
Postage	36	30	25
Grants	87,100		5,000
Speaker travel		250	250
Volunteer travel	793	300	400
Website	219	120	120
Zoom fee	596	600	175
Total Expenses	\$104,508	\$11,035	\$20,225

This is Vancouver Audubon Society's proposed budget for the coming year, compared with this year and the previous year. We are required to share the annual budget with members. If you have questions, email: treasurer@vancouveraudubon.org. We will ask for a vote to approve the budget at our December meeting.

Annual Dues Going Up in 2024

The Board voted at its meeting in September to raise annual rates to \$30 per year beginning on January 1, 2024. The Board hopes to use the money to increase outreach to the community and to schools, among other plans. The \$30 fee will cover an individual or members of a family in a single household. The fee will be due annually 12 months after the initial date of your membership. Annual renewal date will be tracked in our membership database.



*Streak-backed Oriole in Mexico
Fotofest 2022 Photo by Becky Boley*

VAS Programs

The next meeting is November 7 and is ZOOM only. Members will receive an invitation to the ZOOM. Please register to attend.

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm - Social time to share bird sightings, stories, and upcoming events

7:00 pm – 8:15 pm - Program

Programs are held the first Tuesday of the month except Jan, July, & August. All are welcome, we hope you will join us!

Contact Don Rose for more information or to get a Zoom link: meetings@vancouveraudubon.org.

Please send all topic, speaker, and program suggestions and requests to Don Rose.

Upcoming Programs

November 7, 2023—ZOOM Rebecca Heisman, *"Flight Paths: Untold Stories from the History of Bird Migration Research"*

Rebecca's first book, [FLIGHT PATHS](#), tells the epic scientific story of *how* we know what we know about bird migration. She has worked with many organizations, including the Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Wilson Ornithological Society, and the American Ornithological Society. Don't miss this very entertaining collection of stories on the history of our understanding of bird migration.

December 5, 2023—IN PERSON FOTOFEST 2023

A show of member-only photographs from the current year, concentrating mostly on birds, but could be landscapes or other wildlife. I encourage members to submit your favorite pictures taken in 2023 (Jan. 1 to present) from anywhere you have been in the world (including your backyard). Please submit your photos to meetings@vancouveraudubon.org by November 15 to be included. I will collect the photos into a slideshow to be presented at this live meeting, and each photographer will present their pictures with a few words about the shot/story/location behind them. If you don't want to present your own photos, provide me the information and I will gladly give the rundown. Number of photos per person will depend on the total number submitted and the number of participants. Photos will be used in future newsletters.

No Meeting in January. Have a great holiday season.

Exhibit in Washington

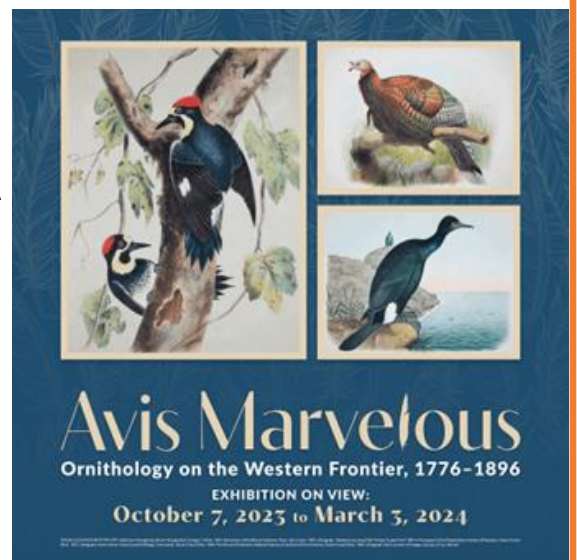
Avis Marvelous: Ornithology on the Western Frontier, 1776-1896

AGES: All ages

WHERE: Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402

TICKETS: Purchase tickets [online](#) or at the museum. Admission is free for members!

ACCESSIBILITY: Mobility accessible, wheelchairs available at admissions, elevator access in building.



National Audubon Adopts Flight Plan to Guide Next 5 Years

by Susan Saul

The National Audubon Society has identified three forces that impact its mission to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow.

- hemispheric approach to bird conservation
- climate change
- equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging organizational values

The recently adopted "Flight Plan" is a 5-year strategic plan to create a future where birds thrive across the Americas because Audubon and its partners are a powerful, diverse, and ever-growing force for conservation. A force that orients National Audubon and its 450 chapters and 74 campus chapters towards halting, and ultimately reversing, the precipitous decline of bird populations. We know that when we create conditions for birds to thrive, we create conditions for people and the planet to thrive, too.

Vancouver Audubon will have a role to play in achieving the Flight Plan's milestones:

- habitat conservation
- climate action
- government action for birds and the planet
- community building to create the most powerful flock in the Americas

National Audubon is offering a series of deep dive webinars into each of the milestones and it recently published the "Natural Climate Solutions Report." [www.audubon.org/conservation/climate/naturalsolutions]

In the report, National Audubon focused on one of the most powerful tools in the climate toolkit: the natural ability of ecosystems to store carbon. By keeping more carbon in the ground and capturing it in plants, we can reduce carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. The researchers looked at forests, grasslands, aridlands, coastal and interior wetlands, tundra, and urban and suburban ecosystems. In each, they found significant overlap between important bird habitat and areas of high carbon value. The bottom line: what's good for birds is also good for climate change mitigation.

At the state level, Audubon Washington will be leading our 2024 legislative agenda to advocate for funding generated by the state's 2021 Climate Commitment Act to be directed to natural climate solutions and climate resilience. Audubon Advocacy Days, a chance for chapter members to talk to their state legislators, will be held on December 4-8, 2023. I hope you sign up to participate and make a difference.

Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee Adopts Vancouver Lake Resolution

by Susan Saul

At its annual meeting on September 29, 2023, the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC) discussed and adopted a resolution regarding conservation of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the state and Vancouver Lake in particular. The WSACC is composed of the conservation chairs of the 25 independent Audubon chapters in Washington. WSACC was formally chartered in 2001 to coordinate and prioritize legislative lobbying and other policy efforts by the Audubon flock to protect habitat for birds and other wildlife through conservation action. The WSACC goal is to create a powerful, cohesive voice for "One Audubon" conservation priorities of statewide and regional significance.

Fourteen of 25 chapters in the state had delegates present and voting in favor of this Vancouver Lake resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee reiterates its support for protecting and conserving all IBAs in Washington state, including the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, and that any Vancouver Lake management plans recognize Vancouver Lake as essential habitat for bird conservation.

VAS Bird Walks & Field Trips

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

Wednesday, November 1

First-of-Month Bird Walk—Salmon Creek Greenway and Klineline Pond

Bird Walks are meant to be a casual, local morning of birding. They are a great time to enjoy birds with others, find new areas to visit, work on bird identification by sight and sound, or to practice your [eBird](#) app with help when needed. These walks are usually easy to join or depart at any time during the morning, no commitment to participate in the entire walk if you have limited time.

Meeting time: 8:00am

Leader: Cindy McCormack

Register: Cindy at vas@vancouveraudubon.org

Meeting Location: Meet in the Klineline parking lot or catch up with us along the trail. There is a parking fee at the regional park with can be paid at the entrance kiosk or use your Clark County regional parks annual pass. Free parking is available at the softball fields, if you wish to park there and walk over to Klineline pond to meet us (we will pass by this lot on the way back).

We will walk the short loop at Klineline Pond to check for waterfowl before heading up the Salmon Creek Greenway, taking the short loop past turtle pond and around the field. We will look for a variety of our feathered winter residents to enjoy. Hope to see you there!



Wood Duck pair Photo by Don Rose

Vancouver Audubon Field Trip—Sunday & Monday, November 12-13 Wahkiakum County with optional extension to Pacific County

Leader: Randy Hill

Meeting Time and Location: 7:00 am—Salmon Creek Park and Ride

Register: Re_hill@q.com or call or text 360-975-2573

Itinerary: We will head north to Longview and travel west on SR-4 with stops at Puget Island, Julia Butler Hansen NWR, and Grays Bay around to Altoona. One day attendees will turn around and head home from here. Those continuing the next day in Pacific County will continue west on SR-4 toward Long Beach with some additional birding before lodging (those continuing the second day in Pacific County need to sign up by 10/29 for additional arrangements and instruction since lodging and overnight carpool parking will be involved). The second day of birding will include a variety of stops that could include Nahcotta, Oysterville, Leadbetter Point SP, Cape Disappointment SP, Ilwaco Marina and Chinook Valley. Trip will likely go to at least mid-afternoon before a return home. Spotting scopes encouraged and radios if you have them. Limit of 5 cars but TBD with one or two day option, 10 total participants.

Target species: Resident and migrating species in a wide variety of marsh, riparian, ag/pasture, mixed forest, open river, and (in Pacific County) estuary, coastal bay, sandy beach, open ocean.

Safety is a primary concern for Vancouver Audubon, and we ask anyone who is feeling unwell or who has had contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay at home until the risk for infection has passed.

All field trips, unless otherwise indicated, require pre-registration. Vancouver Audubon expects all registrants to attend, so please contact the leader with any cancellations. Late arrivals affect all participants and might have to catch up at another location. Some trips may have a wait-list, so please be considerate and contact the leader if you have to miss the trip for any reason.

This field trip includes driving and carpooling will be required as much as possible. Carpooling will be arranged at the designated meeting location. Non-drivers are asked to pay drivers \$0.30/mile divided by the number of passengers in the vehicle. The leader will keep track of mileage and let drivers and participants know the total for the field trip.

The trip is mostly driving to viewing spots or along routes with short walks on varied terrain.

Field Trip—Saturday, November 11

Catherine Creek Trailhead and Day Use Area

Leaders: Ken Pitts & Beth Marlin Lichter

Limit of 15 Participants

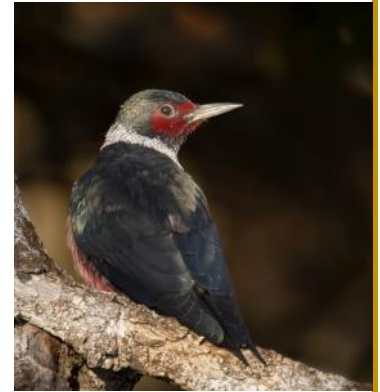
Meeting location: [Steigerwald Lake NWR](#) parking lot—Departure at 7:30 am

Register: kenp@vancouveraudubon.org or text (951) 733-8312

This trip will be focused on photography, but patient birders are also welcome. Target species include Lewis and Acorn Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadees, Bluebirds, Western Meadowlarks, Varied and Hermit Thrushes, and the possibilities of a Golden Eagle and Northern Goshawk.

Itinerary: We will carpool via SR14 to [Catherine Creek Trailhead](#) parking (54 miles, 1hr 7min). We will walk the lower trail south of SR14 and then hike about a mile up the trail on the north side to observe an Acorn Woodpecker granary. It will be about 3 miles total walking. Trekking poles are recommended. Bring your wildlife camera and lens, or join us with binoculars and a cell phone (95% of cameras sold).

This location is highly affected by The Gorge winds, and we will not go if winds are predicted to be above 15 mph. If conditions are adverse at Catherine Creek, we will stay and do our walk at Steigerwald Lake NWR. We will watch the weather and then communicate Friday November 10th. Please include a cell phone number when you register so we can communicate quickly if plans change (adverse weather in both places).



Lewis Woodpecker
Photo by Ken Pitts

THE HUMMINGBIRDS OF PRUNE HILL

Written by Beth Marlin Lichter

Photos by Debbie Meader



A hummingbird named Flash and Mystic Spires Salvia



Miss Penelope challenges a female Rufous Hummingbird occupying a favorite perch

Debbie Meader has lived atop Prune Hill in Camas, Washington for 33 years on a bluff above the Columbia River at the intersection of the North/South and East/West major bird migration routes. She has been developing a garden particularly suited to hummingbirds on her property, subject to the iconic updraft of winds that blow through the Columbia River Gorge and blessed with beautiful afternoon light for taking photos.

Nine years ago, Debbie put up a hummingbird feeder and a male Anna's Hummingbird she named Flash arrived. He continued to be a regular visitor to the backyard for eight years and inspired Debbie to create a rich habitat that he and his kind would thrive in.

In May 2023 Debbie planted eighty annual and perennial flowers for the birds, consisting of Black & Blue Salvia, Amistad Salvia, Hot Lips Salvia, Cardinal Flowers, Lobelia, Penstemon, Bee Balm, *Salvia Greggii*, Mystic Spire Salvia, Lantana, Firecracker Upright Fuchsia and Pineapple Sage, purchased from multiple sources in four-inch pots.

There are 6 hanging fuchsia baskets on the main deck for about half the year. In the backyard there are also 3 bird-baths with fountains plus a waterfall, seed feeders and a suet feeder. Although a wide variety of birds visit, Debbie has most delighted in the comings and goings of the resident Anna's Hummingbirds (*Calypte anna*) and migrating Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*).

Miss Penelope is a female Anna's Hummingbird who has been coming to the garden for the past 6 years. If she arrives and Debbie or her husband John are outside, Pe-



A female Anna's Hummingbird sipping from a cardinal flower

and use more than one feeder if necessary.

Debbie mixes a solution of 1 cup white granulated sugar with 4 cups of boiling water for her feeders and can't stress enough the importance of maintaining clean, sanitary feeding stations. Her rule of thumb is to clean the feeders every three days when it is between 70-84 degrees, every two days when it is 85-87 degrees, and every day when the temperature climbs to 88 degrees and above.

The reward for working so diligently in her garden? The birds she first named for ID purposes keep returning. Offspring are led there and shown the ropes. Personalities emerge. One bird favors a specific color of flower over another, and they all will fight off a usurper who attempts to steal an ideal perch.

Tiny but mighty, each hummingbird has individual characteristics regarding color, markings, and behavior. A joy to observe on a daily basis, Debbie

nelope will come and hover in front of them, like saying hello, before going about her business. She does the same in front of the dogs...very habituated to their gentle presence. Debbie believes that two other visiting female Anna's Hummingbirds are Penelope's offspring, Miss Phoebe, about 2 years old, and Miss Phoenix, 1 year old.

They all have their favorite perches, feeders and flowers and are fierce competitors for food sources. With four hummingbird feeders in the summer and six heated feeders through the winter, there's enough room for everyone, even if 75 Anna's Hummingbirds (including males) show up in the yard daily like they did last winter. Too many birds at one feeder begets combat. Hummingbirds like their space and will use weapons such as their long sharp beaks to defend their territory. It's advisable to give them some space



Juvenile female Anna's Hummingbird on favorite perch grabs intruder's beak



Debbie Meader on Prune Hill

Photo by John Meader

gets the ultimate bang for her buck using her Nikon Z9 camera to capture the birds feeding, bathing, defending and resting. With a backyard that slopes down to the street below, she has multiple angles to work from along with a cornucopia of flowers, feeders, and fountains. Welcome to Hummingbird Paradise.

Shooting with her Nikon Z9 camera, handheld for maneuverability, Debbie's favorite lenses are a Nikkor 500mm f/5.6 Prime Lens and Nikkor 800mm f/6.3 Prime Lens. Click on the [Debbie Meader Flickr Page](#) to see her catalog of work including generations of hummers thriving in the backyard.

For information and paraphernalia regarding feeding and protecting hummingbirds, visit a local [Backyard Bird Shop](#).



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

For any unusual birds in this report, I use the following rarity codes which are used on the state checklist as well as on each of the 39 county checklists available at:

www.wabirder.com

- (1) Common,
- (2) Uncommon
- (3) Harder to find, usually seen annually,
- (4) Rare, 5+ records,
- (5) Fewer than 5 records

Sept. 13, a **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER** was spotted at the Larch Mountain Trailhead by Wendy Shoemaker, they are a Code 5 bird in Clark County. This is another of the east of the Cascades species that has dispersed from their normal range due to the failure of the Ponderosa Pine cone crop.

Sept. 15, at the Vancouver Lake Regional Park, Otto Mayer spotted a 1st winter plumage **FRANKLIN'S GULL** (5) and at Blurock Landing he saw a **SWAINSON'S HAWK** (4) heading south across the Columbia River.

Sept. 15, on the Killen Creek Trail, on the north side of Mt. Adams, Conor Scotland found a male **SPRUCE GROUSE** (4) roughly a mile below the Pacific Crest Trail junction. This small corner of Skamania County is great for high elevation species not found in the rest of our area.

Sept. 16, Eric Peterson, Anne Peterson, Don Rose, Stella Walk and Ken Pitts birded at the Steigerwald Lake NWR where they encountered and photographed 3 **WILSON'S PHALAROPES** (3) in adult non-breeding plumage,

Sept. 16, Drew Kelly spotted a continuing but late to migrate **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** (3) along the Vancouver Lake Park-North Trail where he said it has been present since early July.

Sept. 16, Tim Mayer saw 4 **MOUNTAIN QUAIL** (5) standing in the road in Glenwood, Klickitat County, he stated that they were not California Quail which he sees very often.

Sept. 16, Cheryl Stewart heard and then spotted a **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT** (3) at the Horseshoe Bend Ranch in Klickitat, County describing it as a medium sized swift with white on the belly.

Sept. 16, while birding at the Bingen Pond, Klickitat, CJ Flick picked out a **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** (5) by dark, solid cap (crown) and dark, solid and contrasting central rectrices when seen in flight in comparison to the similar sized **WESTERN SANDPIPERS** (3) there. Also present was a **LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (4) that was foraging in the short, grassy areas of the mudflats where it disappeared frequently.

Sept. 16, Jim Danzenbaker ventured up to Migration Corner, which is on the extreme eastern edge of Clark County

not expecting much as the northeast wind of the last two days had subsided overnight. The northeast/east wind is the mechanism that allows for the funneling of birds through this area with sometimes incredible results. His first shocker was in the form of two orange eyes that were on the road when I was about a third of a mile west of Migration Corner - a **COMMON POORWILL** (5). He saw it flying revealing the short round wings that lacked any white and just a bit of white on the tail of this relative of a night-hawk. This was only Jim's second sighting in Clark County and there are less than 5 records overall. As he had anticipated, Migration Corner was quite slow compared to the two previous mornings. He sat in his chair hoping that something would happen, it did but not what he was anticipating when a woodpecker flew in that he thought looked a bit small for a flicker. He managed to see it in the scope and noted the barring above and below and the white rump, a **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER** (5), luckily, he was able to get a couple of photos of this a new addition to the Clark County bird list. Also seen were 3 **HERMIT WARBLERS** and a **CASSIN'S FINCH**. The Williamson's Sapsucker was a species that I have been expecting a report of for the five decades I have compiled this report and the only habitat in Clark County that suits them is on Larch and Silver Star Mountains. In the fall, as the sap in the high



Yellow-breasted Chat Megumi Aita /Audubon Photography Awards

(Continued on page 16)

elevation trees begins to freeze, these woodpeckers migrate **south along mountain ranges, and usually winter at higher elevations, as far south as west-central Mexico.**

Sept. 17, the last **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** reported from Klickitat County this fall was a female photographed by Mary-Lane Baker at her feeder west of Goldendale. In Skamania County the female Rufous Hummingbird was at our feeder on Sept. 7th and the last one reported on eBird for Clark County was seen by Ken Pitts on Sept. 12th while he was birding on the Salmon Creek Trail, anyone have any later sightings than these?

Sept. 17, Linnaea and Charlie Wright were camping at South Fork Spring Creek, in northern Skamania County where they photographed a female **SPRUCE GROUSE** and saw 4 **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL** (4), this is another high elevation species.

Sept. 18, continuing their visit to northern Skamania County, Linnaea and Charlie Wright had a quick flyby of a **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** (3) at the Killen Creek Campground. Later, along the road to nearby Horseshoe Lake they saw an adult male **SPRUCE GROUSE** eating pine needles up in a tree and then noted a group of 5 more foraging on the road edge.

Sept. 19, Eric and Anne Peterson photographed another **PARASITIC JAEGER** (5), this one was attacking a gull in the middle of Columbia River at Frenchman's Bar Park. These relatives of terns and gull nest along the Arctic shoreline and a few migrate south overland in the trough between the Cascade and Rocky Mountains and then follow the Columbia River to the ocean.

Sept. 20, another overland migrant from the arctic was an adult male **SURF SCOTER** (3) seen by Jim Danzenbaker and Thomas Tinsley at Frenchman's Bar Regional Park. Look for them in the rafts of diving ducks all on the Columbia River.

Sept. 21, John Willis photographed a **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** (3) while hiking in the Indian Heaven Wilderness Area of Skamania County,

Sept. 22, Chris Nixon reported seeing a **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** (5) from the Salmon Creek Greenway Trail. He said that the bird was kettling with a **RED-TAILED HAWK** and a **TURKEY VULTURE**. It

Seemed to only have a little more than half the wingspan of the accompanying Red-tailed Hawk and had just the outer tips of the wings black. These small relatives of the Red-tailed Hawk nest in the forest east and north of the Great Plains.

Sept. 22, on Troh Lane, at the Conboy NWR in Klickitat County, Cheryl Stewart heard 2 **RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS** (4) that were calling for over a 1/2 hour and a **WESTERN KINGBIRD** that was still hanging around on

highway near the lakeside. At the nearby Glenwood Mill Pond, she saw a **GRAY FLYCATCHER** dipping its tail both of these birds were late migrants.

Sept. 22, Tim Brennan found an **AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** (3) and 2 **PINE GROSBEAK** (4) at the Killen Creek Trail, both were the first of those species seen in Skamania County this year.

Sept. 24, at the Vancouver Lake Flushing Channel east end, Thomas Tinsley spotted and photographed an **AMERICAN AVOCET** (5) in its black and white winter plumage.



American Avocet Kristine Colburn /Audubon Photography Awards

Sep 28, Cindy McCormack was at the Vancouver Lake Flushing Channel when she heard the distinct "chew" call of a late **PURPLE MARTIN** that was flying high overhead with other swallows. Often when I hear the call of these birds it amazes me how loud they sound for how high up they are.

Sept. 29, a Taiga subspecies of **MERLIN** (3) that nests in the northern forests from Alaska to Newfoundland was reported by Brent Angelo on top of his neighbor's pine tree at his home in Orchards. As it was sitting there four crows headed right for it triggering a fierce chase.

Sept. 29, Jim Danzenbaker says that he likes "spectacle birding" like seeing lots of something doing interesting things, like migrating. He enjoyed that type of experience at the north end of the Woodland Bottoms (exit 22 off I-5 in Cowlitz County) after the end of a weeklong bout of inclement weather that had been backing up the migration of Turkey Vultures. His highlights were 1,390 **TURKEY VULTURES**, 10 **OSPREY**, 244 **BAND-TAILED PIGEON** and loads of migrating **AMERICAN ROBINS** and **VARIED THRUSHES**.

Sept. 29, Samuel Holman visited Maryhill State Park in Klickitat County where he spotted 2 late migrants **WEST-**

(Continued on page 12)

ERN TANAGERS, and around the small pond there he heard repeated metallic chip calls that led him to an early vagrant **SWAMP SPARROW** (4) identified by its rufous wings, gray face, white throat, rufous cap and buffy-gray underparts. These sparrows nest in the northeast quarter of the country but are seen locally nearly every winter.

Sept. 30, Les Carlson located an **AMERICAN AVOCET** at Shillapoo Lake, probably the same bird that had been at Vancouver Lake earlier.

Oct. 1, we had a late migrant **WILSON'S WARBLER** in our bird bath.

Oct. 4, in the Vancouver Lake lowlands, Cindy McCormack spotted a **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** in with some migrating **TURKEY VULTURES**. She described it as a small buteo with quick, stiff wing beats (when not soaring), a short tail, broad wings that were slightly tapered at the outer primaries, the underwing was pale with black wing tips and dark trailing border and lacking the dark patagial mark of a Red-tailed Hawk. It was joined by a **RED-TAILED HAWK** that was about twice its size before a second Broad-winged Hawk joined the circling kettle before streaming to the southeast with the Turkey Vultures.

Oct. 6, Mark Lundgren reported seeing and photographing a male **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER** (3) near Trout Lake in Klickitat County.

Oct. 9, John Davis found the first 2 **SNOW GEESE** (4) of the year in Skamania County as an immature and an adult flew over him while he was birding on Strawberry Island.

Oct. 12, a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** (4) was photographed by John Davis at the Home Valley Park in Skamania County.

Oct. 14, this year's first report of a **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** in Skamania County was one photographed by Bernedette Peters in her yard at Skamania Landing. Some of these tiny owls migrate both to lower elevations as well as farther south each fall but are very difficult to spot as they usually roost in thick conifers.

Oct. 17, Jim Danzenbaker reported a first year **HEERMANN'S GULL** at Marine Park, Vancouver, Clark County roughly half way between the I-5 and I-205 bridges, this is another first Clark County record

This fall's migration had some interesting days, we had some very high numbers passing over such as on Sept. 28th when 1,627,900 birds were detected by radar crossing Clark County and an amazing 3,472,500 birds flew over Skamania County and 3,453,600 crossed Klickitat County. The nightly radar count of migrating birds can be seen at: <https://birdcast.info/> The Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Clark's Nutcrackers and other birds that feed on the seeds of Ponderosa Pines will continue to be reported after dispersing from their normal range after the failure of that cone crop. Waterfowl began arriving in large numbers in early October and there are always a few unusual species that arrive with them, some may be strays from Eurasia or species that usually don't winter this far south and a careful search through flocks of waterfowl Plein what I call playing "Where's Waldo" may turn up some surprises. 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 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 October 15th, the 2023 Washington County Cumulative Year List Project has tallied 234 species seen in Clark County for the year and in Skamania County the list is now at 195. These lists of all the birds reported in each county are updated every two months and can be seen at [Washington Birder \(wabirder.com\)](http://WashingtonBirder(wabirder.com))

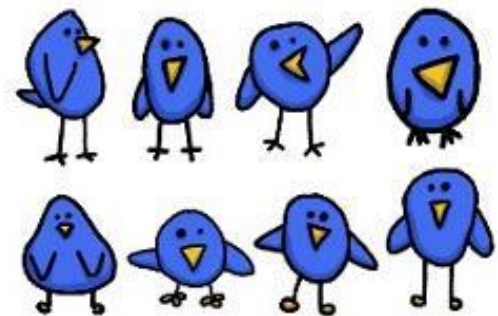


Northern Saw-Whet Owl

Gary Zeng/Audubon Photography Awards

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 2023						
			Nov 1 Bird Walk— Salmon Creek Greenway	2	3	4
5	6	7 Program— Rebecca Heisman	8	9	10	11 Field Trip— Catherine Ck Day Use Area
12 Field Trip—Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties	13	14	15 YBC Zoom Meeting—6 pm	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Nov 1 (Wednesday): First-of-Month-Bird Walk, Salmon Creek
Nov 7 (Tuesday): Monthly Program—ZOOM
Nov 11 (Saturday): Field Trip to Catherine Creek
Nov 12-13 (Sun/Mon): Field Trip to Wahkiakum/Pacific Counties
Nov 23 (Thursday): Remember to honor that Turkey



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