

Columbia Flyway

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



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World Migratory Bird Day Event

by Becky Boley

When: Saturday, October 12, 2024; 9am - 2pm

Where: McConnell Park, 918 NW 25th Ave, Battle Ground, WA

Vancouver Audubon Society is hosting an event in celebration of World Migratory Bird Day to recognize and bring attention to the important and spectacular feat of bird migration. It's also an opportunity to learn about the conservation needs that support bird migration: clean and available water sources, insects and habitats. Joining us will be WA Native Plant Society (Suksdorfia Chapter), Dark Sky Washington, and the Battle Ground Lions Club.

Our day will include bird walks, games such as The Migration Game, where you are the bird facing obstacles trying to reach your destination, and Nature Bingo where you try to find 23 things in your surroundings to fill out your card. Enter your completed Bingo card to enter a drawing for a prize. We will also have other interactive activities such as binocular use, bird spotting with scopes, nest box building, and making cone feeders.

This is a family friendly event, with food, games, prizes, and more! There's no cost to attend and no registration necessary. All ages are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Volunteers Needed: If you or someone you know would like to help with this event, please contact Becky Boley at communityoutreach@vancouveraudubon.org. No birding experience necessary!



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.

Peak Migration is Now

by Don Rose

As I write this on September 17, more than 15 million birds flew across Washington state on the previous night and there are red alerts for high migration on September 17, 18, and 19. Peak migration will continue through the middle of October.

Take the Pledge to help Save Energy, Save Birds and See Stars! Do an audit of your home lighting and follow best practices:

- Turn off your outdoor lights when you're not using them.
- Make sure outside lights aim down and are well-shielded so that they don't create light trespass or glare.
- Install motion sensors on your outside lights so that they're only on when needed.
- When converting outdoor lights to LED, choose warm bulbs (3,000 Kelvins or under).
- During migration seasons, draw your blinds or curtains to reduce light spill.

For more information, visit [Lights Out](#) at Bird Alliance of Oregon.

There are some great online resources to track bird migration in real time. Cornell Lab's [BirdCast](#) program shows night-time migration patterns in near-real time, based on radar measurements. The [Migration Dashboard](#) shows the estimated number of birds flying over a particular county in the lower 48 U.S. states on any night. The National Audubon Society's [Bird Migration Explorer](#) combines data from actual tracked birds and eBird information in an informative mapping tool. You can track which species pass through our area and where they are going or coming from.

September is the time for most members to renew your VAS membership! Vancouver Audubon relies on your support! We are entirely a volunteer-run organization, providing a voice for birds and habitat in southwest Washington, promoting nature through education, involvement, stewardship, appreciation, and advocacy.

Visit our [website](#) to complete a secure transaction using your credit/debit card or PayPal account. Annual dues are \$30 for local membership. You can donate an additional amount as well.

The amount of money we receive annually from National Audubon is dependent on the number of members we have locally. Membership in National Audubon does not cover membership at the local level. If you enjoy visits to Steigerwald Lake or Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuges, Vancouver Lake, Frenchman's Bar, or many of the other green spaces in southwest Washington, a membership or donation to Vancouver Audubon will help ensure these places can be enjoyed both by birds and by people who enjoy watching birds in the future. Thank you for your support.

Take the National Audubon Pledge to Vote: <https://act.audubon.org/a/ibirdivote>

Join bird lovers across the country and **PLEDGE TO VOTE** in the 2024 election. In addition to the much talked about federal races, there are state and local elections this year that will have an impact on what happens next: on the future of our communities, habitats, and the birds we love.

The decision makers that will take office will have an important influence on the ways that laws are written and enacted at every single level of government.

The best way to protect birds and the places they need is to make sure that you vote this year on or before Election Day on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for candidates and policies that support birds and bird habitat.

Birds can't vote, but you can.



VAS Programs

October 1, 2024 -- Mystery night. Come hang out with fellow birders and discover what the program will be. Refreshments will be provided by Joan Durgin.

November 5, 2024 -- To Be Determined

December 3, 2024—Fotofest 2024. Members share their best photos of the year.

MEETING LOCATION:

[Evergreen Public Schools Administration](#)
[13413 NE LeRoy Haagen Memorial Drive](#)

Vancouver, WA

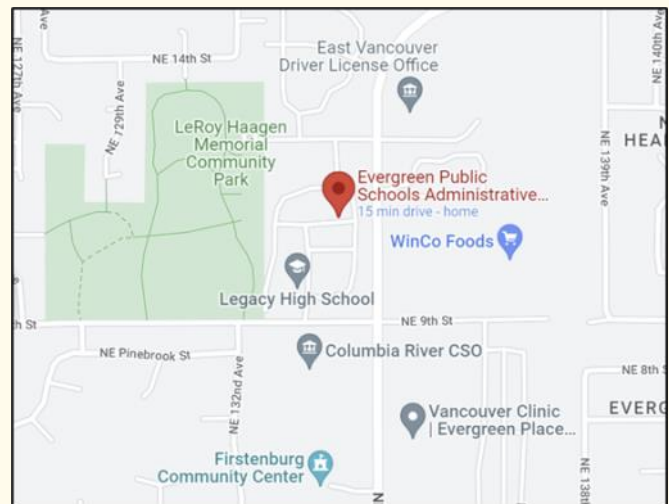
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm - Social time to share bird sightings, stories, and upcoming events

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 Jackson Wolfe for more information at meetings@vancouveraudubon.org. Have ideas for a speaker? Please send all topic, speaker, and program suggestions and requests to Jackson.

Enter the parking lot on the LeRoy Haagen Memorial Drive side. (If you navigate to LeRoy Haagen Park, your Google Maps should take you to the correct road).



Vancouver Audubon Advocates for Bird-Friendly Green Building Policy

By Susan Saul

Vancouver Audubon representatives have been participating in public workshops to provide input into the City of Vancouver's work to develop a Green Building Policy.

The City is creating the Green Building Policy to help implement its Climate Action Framework. The goals of the policy are to (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, (2) reduce carbon emissions through buildings' life cycles, (3) create climate resilience, and (4) protect ecological and natural systems. The city will use a mix of building codes and incentives to implement the policy for developing new buildings and upgrading 34 existing municipal buildings.

Vancouver Audubon is particularly interested in seeing the city achieve goal 4 through the use of bird-friendly glass and dark sky lighting in building design, habitat protection in new developments, preservation of mature trees, use of native and climate-resilient plants in landscaping, and soil management for carbon sequestration.

City staff will hold a workshop with the City Council this fall to review the Green Building Policy. If the City Council approves, staff will write building codes to be adopted at a city council meeting.

AMENDING THE NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN OFFERS BOTH CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Draft EIS expected on October 11, 2024

For 30 years, the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) has directed management in national forests in western Washington, Oregon, and northern California. A compromise adopted in 1994, the NWFP aimed to protect and restore old-growth forests and healthy stream habitat for federally listed threatened species, such as the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and salmon, while still facilitating logging on public lands. Governing 24.5 million acres, it is the world's largest ecosystem management plan.

Despite its origins in addressing threatened species habitat, the NWFP has always been bigger than just the spotted owl. The NWFP has become a model for science-based, landscape-scale ecosystem management. It has led to great progress in restoring some of the damage done by four decades of unsustainable logging and road building – protecting drinking water, keeping other wildlife off the endangered species list, restoring salmon runs with generous stream buffers to protect water quality and habitat, stabilizing the climate, and improving quality of life which is the foundation of the growing regional economy.

At the same time, the NWFP left a million acres of mature and old-growth forest open for logging. It also has been the subject of relentless attacks to weaken its core provisions.

The NWFP also placed high expectations on timber production from these public lands. The U.S. Forest Service exploits loopholes to allow logging of old forests even within reserves. Logging and road building are allowed in many ecologically critical areas, including municipal watersheds, unroaded areas, and complex young forests recovering from fire.

Now, the Forest Service is amending the NWFP.

Why Amend the NWFP?

Many things have changed since the NWFP was approved.

- We know a lot more today about the role older forests play in sequestering and storing carbon, and in providing vital habitat for wildlife. The NWFP reduced logging so much that northwest forests switched from being a source of carbon emissions to becoming a net sink of carbon. In addition to the carbon benefits, mature and old-growth forests also offer stable climate refugia for wildlife that are trying to contend with extremes of climate change.
- On April 22, 2022, President Biden issued Executive Order 14072 declaring a policy to conserve mature and old-growth forests on federal land and to manage forests to retain and enhance carbon storage.
- The barred owl, originally from eastern North America, has invaded the entire range of the northern spotted owl, and now competes with spotted owls for food and territory. Biologists tell us that we need to protect more old forest habitat to increase the chances that these two owl species can co-exist.
- The timber industry now relies mostly on small second-growth logs from private lands and the broader economy has changed and diversified. The regional economy has added far more jobs than were lost due to federal logging restrictions when the northern spotted owl was federally-listed as a threatened species in 1990. The future of the regional economy depends now on maintaining our unique quality of life rather than logging our last mature and old-growth forests.

(Continued on page 5)

- Climate-driven drought, weather extremes, and the effects of decades of fire exclusion and suppression has led to more severe wildfires that threaten communities and the natural role of fire in forests.

New research has confirmed the important role that mature and old-growth forests play in helping to stabilize water flows, and also shows that these forests are more resistant and resilient to wildfire compared to logged forests.

With the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, it is imperative to improve protections for all remaining mature and old-growth forests and close any loopholes that allow logging in ecologically sensitive areas. Any NWFP amendments must make the plan stronger and more responsive to the reality of our changing climate.

The Forest Service has set an ambitious timeline to complete the amendment process by the end of 2024. The amendment process was formally initiated in December 2023 with a “Notice of Intent” to address fire resistance and resilience, climate change, protecting mature and old-growth ecosystems, supporting and protecting communities close to national forest lands, and incorporating indigenous knowledge to achieve forest management goals.

The Forest Service expects to release a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on October 11, 2024, for a 90-day public comment period. Your voice is important to protect our old-growth forests and imperiled wildlife.

Notes From Young Birders’ Club

News&Updates

By Katie Warner and
Jackson Wolfe

YBC is offering a volunteer internship for high schoolers during the 2024/25 school year. If you or someone you know is between ages 14 and 18 and would like to build valuable work experience in conservation, customer service, and marketing, send them our way. Inquiries will be received through the Young Birders’ email below.

We are excited to begin another fun year of birding, games, and volunteering with young birders! See our upcoming events below. Please [contact us](#) to sign up for any of these events!

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas for our club, please feel free to share them with youngbirders@vancouveraudubon.org. As always, tell your friends about us, and happy birding!

Important Upcoming Events and Dates

Wednesday, October 16th—YBC Monthly Zoom Meeting, 6p

Saturday, October 12th—Outreach Event & Bird Walks, Games, Volunteering Opp. @ 9a-2p, Location: McConnell Community Park, Battleground, WA

Audubon Council of Washington Oct 4-6

Speaking of Young Birders, our own Jackson Wolfe and Katie Warner will be on a panel at the upcoming ACOW meeting discussing youth engagement. Susan Saul also will be attending and representing Vancouver Audubon Society in discussions regarding any new statewide conservation resolutions. ACOW is hosted by Audubon Washington.

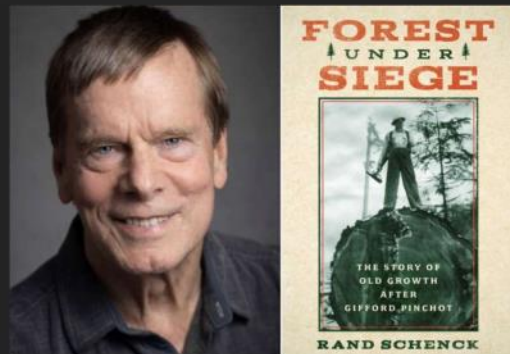
Upcoming events

Members of Vancouver Audubon are invited to a book lecture hosted by the Washington Native Plant Society.

The Suksdorfia Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society presents a Book Lecture and our Annual Meeting

October 16th
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Clark College
Hanna Hall Room 120

Presentation by Rand Schenck on his recent book *Forest Under Siege: The Story of Old Growth after Gifford Pinchot*. The book examines 100 years of forestry in our national forests through the primary lens of what happened in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. A brief business meeting at 6:45 pm. To register, email suksdorfia@wnps.org.



25th Anniversary Ridgefield Birdfest and Bluegrass Festival

The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge will be fee-free on Saturday, October 5th for the 25th Anniversary BirdFest & Bluegrass Festival! Seasonal Trails, including the Kiwa Trail and Carty Lake Trail, will be open! [BirdFest & Bluegrass](#) is an event put on by the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the City of Ridgefield to celebrate the Refuge, the community, and everything nature has to offer.



Sandhill Crane

Photo by Don Rose

Vancouver Audubon will have volunteers manning scopes during this event in Ridgefield again this year, likely between the hours of 7:30 am and 2:00 pm. Let Randy Hill (re_hill@q.com) know your interest in helping.





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



American Bittern
Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge
Photo by Jackson Wolfe

Please visit the [VAS website](#) for up-to-date field trip details and requirements. Interested in getting field trip announcements in your inbox or as a text? Send a message to vas@vancouveraudubon.org to be added to those lists. Please specify if you prefer email, text through GroupMe, or both.

Tuesday, October 1 First-of-Month Bird Walk Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge

Meeting time: 7:30am

Leader: Cindy McCormack

Register: Cindy at
vas@vancouveraudubon.org

Meeting Location: Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge parking lot off Highway 14

We will plan on walking the Mountain View Trail to the dike trail to Redtail Lake to look for waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and any migrants and winter resident arrivals.



Common Yellowthroat

Photo: Katie Warner, Fotofest 2023

Wednesday, September 25 Field trip to Woodland Bottoms

Meeting time: Leave by 7:15 am

Leader: Randy Hill

Register: Randy at randy.hill.98642@gmail.com; phone/text 360-975-2573)

Meeting Location: Salmon Creek Park Ride to carpool and leave by 07:15. A second meeting point further north (Ridgefield Park and Ride or in Woodland) can be arranged for those living north of Salmon Creek or if needing to return early.

Woodland Bottoms for waterfowl, raptors, cranes, gulls, songbirds and whatever. This will be mostly driving and stopping on dike roads or pullouts, or walking very short distances along the Lewis and Columbia Rivers. Possible addition of Kalama River, and/or a raptor migration count at the Dike Road Extension location.

Expected return time early afternoon, or later if additions. Bring a spotting scope (radios if you have them), and snacks or lunch.

Limit 10 plus leader(s) in 4-5 vehicles.



Spotted Towhee

Photo by Ken Pitts, Fotofest 2023

VAS Bird Walks & Field Trips

Additional Field Trip Opportunities

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Carty Unit bird walk – Check the website and sign up at: [Naturalist-led Walks - Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge \(ridgefieldfriends.org\)](https://ridgefieldfriends.org)

9/25

Woodland Bottoms and Kalama River – Randy Hill

Potential Short-notice Field Trips (sign up on notification list)

Vancouver Lowlands – options include NW Lower River Road pool, Vancouver Lake, Shillapoo Lake, Frenchman's Bar Park, and end of Lower River Road.

Migration Corner – Yacolt Burn State Forest at L-1510/L-1520.

Woodland Bottoms—Vulture and raptor migration counts near NE end of Dike Road Extension.

Trip Summary—Grays Harbor with Pelagic trip

By Randy Hill

The 2024 Westport Pelagic mid-week trip launched with seven determined birders in three vehicles Tuesday morning from Clark County, headed to Grays Harbor County. The trip was engineered to get to and on the ocean for a coastal visit that several had never experienced. The date was selected in part because Cindy McCormack was a spotter on the pelagic excursion, and one of few dates when enough space was available to accommodate a group where spaces would be reserved until June to ensure recruitment. It included three days independent of each other for participants with limited time or partial scheduling conflicts. Sign-ups eventually included other Audubon chapters in Washington.

Day one (getting there) included stops at the Hoquiam water treatment plant (WTP), Ocean Shores jetty, Ocean Shores WTP, Damon Point access, and eventually around to Westport. The bay side of the north jetty developed a huge flow of Sooty Shearwaters coming into the bay, with an estimated 30,000 in less than a half hour! Ebird report: [VAS to Westport - eBird Trip Report](#)

Day two included four more participants. We had a 6:30 am departure from the Westport Marina as it was getting light, a relatively moderate ride out to the open ocean where heavy overcast to light fog prevailed on the trip out toward the edge of the sea canyon, where upwelling brings food to the surface to “feed the birds” in numbers. Not to mention the marine mammals and big fish like Mola mola. With few fishing/shrimping boats out, chumming was the option, and it is always effective in attracting target species from distance such as albatross, shearwaters, storm petrels, gulls, and jaegers/skuas; and as always, it worked. Lots of photo ops! The skies cleared by noon, and it turned out to be a gorgeous day, with more of most species on the way back to the harbor. Four of our group departed for home, and we did a little birding close by before dinner. Collective Ebird report: [VAS Westport Pelagic and Westport](#).

On day 3, six of us headed south to Grayland Beach State Park to search for Snowy Plovers, and we scored good views of 23 birds! A stop at North Cove produced mostly gulls in the lagoon. Graveyard Spit and the Tokeland marina on an incoming tide had plenty of big shorebirds that included Willet, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, and one Bar-tailed Godwit. That was essentially our last birding location before heading to Raymond, SR-6, and I-5 back home to Clark County. Ebird report: [VAS Homebound from Westport - eBird Trip Report](#).

The trip reports are a combination of different sources, might exclude species that I did not see, and it is worth looking at the individual lists for the day. As an example, the 9/18 trip report has three separate reports of Marbled Godwit at the same location, so the day total is 3X the actual number of birds there.

In closing, I expect to continue this 3-day trip into the foreseeable future, maybe in spring or earlier summer for variety.

Saturday, October 26

Bird Walk at Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway

Meeting time: 8:00 am

Leaders: Ken Pitts, Cheri Gavin

Register: Ken at kenp@vancouveraudubon.org.

Meeting Location: [Burnt Bridge Creek parking area](#) (45°40'24.0"N 122°41'24.5"W)

Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway offers great views of ponds near the beginning, has a gorgeous, paved pathway through mixed deciduous and conifer forest, and offers abundant edge habitat with meadow grasses and shrubs. We will walk from the parking area east and take a three-mile partial loop (1.5 out and back) through the varied habitats of the greenway. This is a level 1 A B walk with mostly paved pathways, but with an optional off pavement segment of dirt, gravel and wood chips. There is a portable ADA-compliant restroom available at the trailhead that will be open.

There is ample parking space along the north side of NW Bernie Drive. Approach Bernie from NW Fruit Valley Rd. Drive uphill on Bernie until you find a street to comfortably do a U-turn and then park near the end on the north side next to the greenway.

If you would like to be included on text updates, be sure to give Ken your SmartPhone number when you register by email at kenp@vancouveraudubon.org. This will facilitate immediate updates for cancellations due to illness or stormy weather.



Short-eared Owl in flight

Compiled photo by Ken Pitts, Fotofest 2023

Wilson Cady's Afield

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

Aug. 13, On Strawberry Island, Skamania County, John Davis found 2 **RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS** (4) perched in a snag near the bench overlooking the side channel on the south side of the loop trail, this species is occasionally seen at this time of year, but this was the first time he had seen two together. He also saw 2 **EASTERN KINGBIRDS** (5) along this trail.



*Hudsonian Godwit, Cheyenne Bottoms, Cheyenne county, Kansas
David Seidensticker/Audubon Photography Awards*

Aug. 16, In the Vancouver Lake lowlands, Randy Hill spotted 2 **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS** (3) at the NW Lower River Rd pool and another one at the Vancouver Lake Flushing Channel east end and then a third one at Vancouver Lake Regional Park. Their short straight tubular black bill, black legs, gray tone to their back and the lack of a rufous shoulder patch help to separate them from the very similar Western and least Sandpipers.

Aug. 15, 5 **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** (3), all females or juveniles, were seen at the Little White Salmon River Fish Hatchery by John Ries. These colorful ducks breed on rushing mountain streams and winter on saltwater, this spot is the easiest place to see one in our area.

Aug. 16, Elena Wiesenthal was at the St. Cloud Wayside in Skamania County when 5 **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** (4) flew over heading west down the Columbia River.

Aug. 16, in Klickitat County, a juvenile **GREEN HERON** (4) that was flushed from deep cover by a dog walker was spotted at the Bingen Pond by K.C. Anderson.

Aug. 16, Robert Vanderkamp was walking the Vancouver Lake Park--North Trail when an **AMERICAN PIPIT** (1) in nonbreeding plumage landed on the shore near a flock of **LEAST SANDPIPERS** (1).

Aug. 18, the first **HUDSONIAN GODWIT** (5) ever reported from Clark County was found in the NW Lower River Rd pool by Jim Danzenbaker. These are a large brownish wader with a long slightly upturned bicolored bill, pink with a dark tip and a line through the eye. They have an unremarkable dull grayish back with black and white in the wings when seen in flight and a black tail with a white base. These are a species that is normally found migrating through the Central Flyway east of the Rocky Mountains.

Aug. 18, John Bishop found 13 **HORNED LARKS** (3) on the Pumice Plain at Mt. Saint Helens where they are a known breeder. These would be a different subspecies than the endangered "Streaked Horned Lark that nests on the islands and low areas along the Columbia River in our area.

Aug. 18, 3 **DUSKY FLYCATCHERS** (4) were reported by Dave Baker from the Ridgefield NWR-River 'S' Unit. He said that he was heard giving a sharp 'wick' call. The other two were silent but he did get a photo of one of them.

Aug. 19, an early **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** (1) was seen briefly without binoculars from 10 yards away by Jackson Belden at the NW Lower River Rd pool in the Vancouver Lake lowlands. These sparrows nest in the mountains from British Columbia through the Yukon into Alaska and winter along the West Coast.

Aug. 20, Maiya McAuliffe found a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** along the Conboy Lake NWR--BZ Glenwood Highway in Klickitat County.

Aug. 22, one **RED-NECKED GREBE** (3) was reported by Jim Danzenbaker and Les Carlson in Vancouver Lake near the Flushing Channel's east end.

Aug. 22, Jim Danzenbaker and Les Carlson reported that the **HUDSONIAN GODWIT** (5) was continuing in the far left

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corner of the NW Lower River Rd pool, Many birders from all over managed to add this bird to their life, state or county lists.

Aug. 23, Tim Vogan exploring the Ridgefield NWR Auto Tour Route when he found a **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** (3) perched near the end of the ash grove in a snag along the slough. They can be very difficult to spot but I have found them there by looking for the white-wash on the bushes below their roost trees.

Aug. 28, Susan alerted me to a flock of swallows and swifts including 4 **BLACK SWIFTS** (4) over our field on the ridge we live on six miles east of Washougal. These all-dark swifts were larger than the **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS** (1) and **VAUX'S SWIFTS** (1) they were flying with. Their flight included many periods of gliding and they flared their tails on turns which Vaux's Swifts don't do. These swifts are annual here this time of the year as they follow the ridgeline that we live on down from the Cascades to the Willamette Valley.

Aug. 29, Samuel Holman found a **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** (3) flying between snags in a clearcut along the Wind River Road near Carson, Skamania County.

Aug. 30, a **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** (4) was seen on the L-1500 Road in Clark County and another four along with a **DUSKY FLYCATCHER** were found at the Mountain View 4x4 Trailhead (Migration Corner on Larch Mountain by Jim Danzenbaker, Robert Lockett, Darlene Betat, Skip Russell and David Irons. They also had 3 **CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS** (5) and a **NASHVILLE WARBLER** (3) which is a regular fall migrant here that was initially identified by its distinctive chip.

Aug. 30, Don Rose, Becky Boley and Sue Rosenbaum were birding at the Steigerwald Lake NWR, where they found a **WESTERN KINGBIRD** (3) which are unusual there in the fall migration.

Aug. 31, at Doug's Beach State Park in Klickitat County, CJ FLICK saw a silent **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** (2) behind blackberry canes inside a deciduous tree. This is a new bird species for Doug's Beach according to eBird and was documented by a photograph by Stewart Fletcher.

Sept. 1, a **MERLIN** (3) was the highlight on the VAS first day of the month bird walk at Vancouver Lake Regional Park led by Cindy McCormack with participants, Mary Kinney, Lynne Heidsiek, Karen Pickering, Cheri Gavin, Becky Boley, Don Rose, Jeremy Walk, Stella Walk, Sue Rosenbaum and Susan Saul. They watched this small falcon with

its Peregrine-like flight and build, densely dark-streaked breast, black tail with thin white stripes attempted a predation of **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (2) which appeared to be unsuccessful and then chased/harassed by an **AMERICAN KESTREL** (1) which is only slightly smaller than a Merlin.

Sept. 1, the first **RED-NECKED GREBE** (3) that I have heard of inside the Steigerwald Lake NWR instead of on the Columbia River was spotted by David Fullenberg diving in Gibbons Creek.

Sept. 2, one **HORNED LARK** (4) was found by Amanda Sauer at the Steigerwald Lake NWR, this was most likely one of the endangered Streaked Horned Larks that nest in the lowlands of western Washington.

Sept. 4, near the Salt Creek Trail north of Trout Lake but in Skamania County, Conner England had a single flyover of a **BLACK SWIFT** (4) calling with repeated clear notes similar to those of a Red Crossbill.



Lewis's Woodpecker

Karen Prisby/Audubon Photography Awards

Sept. 4, while Karen Howe was walking out the Steigerwald Lake NWR levee, one juvenile **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** (3) flew from the south and landed in the willow thicket near the first large pond. Another juvenile flew in from the same direction a few minutes later. She got a very good look at both, smallish herons with classic heron-shaped neck and head (not bittern-shaped) with heavy yellow bills, streaky brown and gray bodies. I believe that these may have been a new addition to the refuge checklist.

Sept. 4, Gregory Johnson saw a **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** (4) on top of a snag on the ridge at the Larch Mountain View 4x4 Trailhead (Migration Corner).

Sept. 4, Mike Clarke found another **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** (4) this one along the Northwest Erwin O Reiger Me-

(Continued on page 13)

morial Highway in the Vancouver Lake lowlands.

Sept. 4, Cindy McCormack located a **DUSKY FLYCATCHER** (4) at the Pleasant Valley Community Park.

Sept. 5, 2 **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKERS** (4) 1 male and 1 female that were foraging separately along the NF8040 Road in Skamania County, north of Trout Lake by Conner England.

Sept. 5, Ryan McLaughlin had 2 **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKERS** (4) fly over him on the NF8040 Road, Skamania County.

Sept. 7, at Frenchman's Bar Regional Park, Robert Flores photographed a **RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER** (4) What it does show is a sapsucker with a white supercilium that eliminates red-breasted. What is not shown in the photo but was seen was a small red patch on the head at the back of the head at the supercilium. Also seen was a red cap/throat and some yellow on the belly area. This species is usually found east of the Cascades.

Sept. 6, another new for Clark County bird, a **MAGNOLIA WARBLER** (5) was seen at the Mountain View 4x4 Trail-head (Migration Corner). During a strong "morning flight" of various western warblers passing through low planted Douglas-fir trees, David Irons spotted a Setophaga warbler that did not match the hundreds of **Townsend's** (1), **Hermits** (2), and **Black-throated Gray Warblers** (1) that they were experiencing. It was in plain view about 40 feet away about 5-6 feet up in a 20 ft tall Douglas Fir. He only had it in view for maybe 5-7 seconds and then lost track of it while trying to get 7-8 other birders on the bird. Like all of the birds coming through, it kept moving and disappeared into a dense area of shrubs and young Douglas-firs. We could not relocate it. As soon as he got a clear view, perhaps 3-4 seconds into the observation, he recognized the bird to be a Magnolia Warbler, a species he has seen hundreds of times. Of the expected warblers that he was seeing, only a Townsend's might superficially resemble a Magnolia Warbler. On this bird the face pattern was too plain and the head was too gray overall for a Townsend's. As noted above, the wing bars were narrow and crisp and thinner than they are on a typical Townsend's. Though this observation was short in duration, he has no doubt this was a Magnolia Warbler, likely a young male based on the date and its appearance.

Sept. 7, Samuel Holman was birding in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest on the NF091 Road in the Tire Junction area in Skamania County when he heard 2 **AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS** (3) drumming from Lodge.

Sept. 8, John Davis had a **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** (3) fly over his yard in Stevenson, Skamania County, pole Pines and some sort of fir mix.

Sept. 9, an **ACORN WOODPECKER** (5) was an unexpected addition to Cindy McCormack's Pleasant Valley yard list.

Sept. 9, (3) Susan Saul and Paul Slichter saw 3 **COMMON GOLDENEYE** (1) diving in Junction Lake along the East Crater Trail in Skamania County. Although common here in the winter these ducks rarely nest in Washington and may have been early migrants

Sept. 10, Samuel Holman heard the distinct twittering calls of a **BLACK SWIFT** (4) near Council Bluff while on the NF 2334 Road, Skamania County. He then checked the area along the NF2334 Road near Council Lake where he saw an **AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** (3).

Sept. 11, Mike Clarke spotted 2 **HORNED GREBE** (2) from the Vancouver-Columbia River Boardwalk.

Sept. 11, Zovi Welge heard a **COMMON NIGHTHAWK** (3) in the Bagley neighborhood, they have become quite uncommon in Clark County as well as the rest of western Washington.

Sept. 13, Susan Saul and Paul Slichter were hiking the Placid Lake Trail in the Gifford Pinchot Indian Heaven Wilderness when they found A **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** (3), Vancouver Audubon participated in preserving this area in the mid-1980's.

Sept. 14, the continuing **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** (3) at the Steigerwald Lake NWR, was reported by Travis Brown.

The wintering waterfowl will soon be arriving from their northern breeding grounds but many of these birds will still be in eclipse plumage looking much like females and more difficult to identify until they molt into their winter plumage.

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. Since the last newsletter was published in August, 4 bird species have been added to the Clark County list for the 2024 Washington County Cumulative Year List Project raising it to 223 for the year and in Skamania County 2 birds were added to that list bringing it to 190. These lists of all of the birds reported in each county are updated every two months and can be seen at [Washington Birder \(wabirder.com\)](http://WashingtonBirder.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 2024 Events Calendar						
		1 Bird Walk— Steigerwald Program Mtg	2	3	4	5 Volunteer at Bluegrass & Birdfest
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Volunteer at World Mi- gratory Bird Day
13 The Big Sit	14	15	16 YBC Zoom Meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Bird Walk— Burnt Bridge Creek
27	28	29 VAS Board Meeting	30	31		

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 8101 NE Parkway
 Vancouver, WA 98662