

Columbia Flyway

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



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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO WEAKEN BIRD PROTECTIONS

By Susan Saul

On April 11, 2025, the Department of the Interior revoked a key policy under the 107-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act that protects birds from avoidable deaths caused by large-scale and industrial activities, such as oil spills. These protections from “incidental take” have been successfully implemented for more than a century and have saved millions of birds. This law is vital for the conservation of more than 1,000 species of birds, especially as populations have declined by 3 billion birds since 1970 across North America.

At the same time, according to the National Audubon Society, birding creates an annual \$279 billion economic impact. It is a pastime enjoyed by 96 million Americans who invest in birding gear, feeders, bird food and travel to view birds.

“As America’s birds continue to face significant declines, now is the time to strengthen their protections,” said Marshall Johnson, chief conservation officer for the National Audubon Society. “There are practical solutions that uphold the Migratory Bird Treaty Act while also delivering the long-overdue regulatory clarity that industry needs. Audubon is committed to working with decision-makers on reforms that ensure our nation’s birds receive the lasting protections they need to thrive.”

MEANWHILE...

On April 16, 2025, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration published a proposal to shrink the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by redefining one word.

Regulations written for the landmark law in 1975 define “harm” to protected species as including “significant habitat modification or degradation.” The second Trump administration has proposed to redefine what it means to “harm” federally protected species, leaving out harm to habitat — even though habitat destruction is the main extinction driver for species across the United States. *(continued on next page)*



What happened to Bald Eagles, Osprey, and other raptor species more than 50 years ago is perhaps the best example of the importance of keeping the term ‘harm’ in the ESA. Eagles were not directly harmed by the application of DDT, an insecticide widely used for pest control in the mid-20th century. But they were certainly impacted when they ate fish which were poisoned by DDT, which then interfered with their ability to produce durable eggs and successfully raise offspring. The populations of Ospreys, Eagles, and other raptors plummeted. The banning of DDT is a success story in the recovery of Bald Eagles and other raptors.

The word “harm” has long been interpreted to mean not just the direct killing of a species, but also severe harm to their environment. Building a dam, for example, might make it impossible for salmon in a river to survive.

In 1995 the Supreme Court upheld that interpretation, ruling against property owners who had claimed that while the law prohibited them from killing protected wildlife outright, it should not prevent activities like logging that would indirectly endanger plants and animals.

“Weakening the definition of harm would cut the heart out of the Endangered Species Act and be a death sentence for plants and animals on the brink of extinction,” Noah Greenwald, co-director of endangered species at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement.

“Despite the fact that the Endangered Species Act is America’s single greatest tool to prevent species extinction, has a 99% success rate and is supported across party lines and the country by 95% of the electorate, the Trump administration is hellbent on destroying it to further line the pockets of industry. The vast majority of imperiled wildlife listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA are there because of loss of habitat.”

The move is part of a plan by President Trump to increase drilling, logging and development and to eliminate regulations that slow the issuance of permits. Administration officials said that species should be protected only from intentional killing or injury, like through hunting or trapping.

YOU CAN ACT NOW

The proposal to change the definition of “harm” is open for public comment for 30 days. Comments must be received by 9 pm PDT on **May 19, 2025**.

You can read the proposal and use the comment form at this website:

www.regulations.gov/document/FWS-HQ-ES-2025-0034-0001

Have you renewed your membership? Are you interested in joining our group? Help protect birds and their habitat in southwest Washington by donating or volunteering to help birds locally. Visit our [website](#) to complete a secure transaction using your credit/debit card or PayPal account and/or look for opportunities to volunteer. Annual dues are \$30 for local membership. You can donate an additional amount as well. Welcome!



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

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The Big Timber Give-Away: More Logging in National Forests

Our federal forests belong to us all, but the Trump administration seeks to sell them to the timber industry

The Trump administration has issued a sweeping executive order that prioritizes industrial logging over the health of America's forests. This directive seeks "to fully exploit" our public forest lands for timber production. Paired with a second order that falsely frames increased timber production as a matter of national and economic security, the timber production order is, in reality, an unprecedented assault on science-based decision-making, environmental protections, wildlife, and the communities that depend on these forests for clean drinking water. This is a manufactured crisis designed to justify stripping away environmental safeguards. This isn't about national security, but corporate profit.

The orders instruct federal agencies to eliminate any policy—whether a regulation, legal settlement, or guideline—that creates an undefined "undue burden" on timber production. This vague and dangerous language provides a blank check for industry to push for the elimination of any rule standing in the way of profit-driven logging.

These orders are part of a broader campaign to undermine public lands and environmental science. By systematically dismantling safeguards and fast-tracking logging projects while at the same time purging resource specialists, wildlife biologists and other federal workers from agencies, Trump is taking steps towards his goal of gutting hard-won protections and handing our public lands over to industry to exploit without accountability.

What Happened to Multiple Use?

These orders mark a dangerous turning point in federal forest policy. The requirement that multiple uses are balanced on public lands has been replaced with one that prioritizes logging over conservation, climate resilience, biodiversity and recreation. By rolling back environmental safeguards and pushing for increased timber extraction under a false national security pretense, the administration is setting a reckless precedent that could cause irreversible harm.

Old-growth and mature trees and forests provide homes for wildlife, filter drinking water, provide recreational opportunities and absorb and store carbon, helping us to fight climate change. If we cut them down, we will lose all those benefits, cause species to go extinct, worsen the existing climate crisis and make communities more susceptible to wildfires.

This is not just about logging. It is about whether our public lands remain protected for the benefit of all—or become just another asset to be looted by powerful industries.

You Can Speak Out

You can oppose increased logging in our federal forests and weakening of our environmental protections. Tell your members of Congress to oppose Trump's reckless logging order before it causes irreversible harm to our forests, wildlife, and communities. Ask them to refuse to fund Trump's attack on our public lands!

[Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez](#)
[Representative Dan Newhouse](#)

[Senator Patty Murray](#)
[Senator Maria Cantwell](#)



Marbled Murrelets are one of many species dependent on old-growth forest. Photo by Stacy Hoffman/Audubon Photography Awards

Southwest Regional Chapters Meeting Report

By Susan Saul

Audubon Washington's staff hold annual meetings with the 25 chapters in the state, divided into five regions. The Southwest Region is composed of Vancouver, Tahoma, Black Hills (recently renamed South Sound Bird Alliance), Grays Harbor and Willapa Hills. The Southwest Regional Meeting was held on April 17, 2025 in Chehalis. Four of the five chapters in the region had representatives in attendance. Tom Tinsley and Susan Saul represented Vancouver Audubon.

The goals of the meeting were to create and deepen collaborative relationships and to exchange information on state and chapter conservation priorities.

We received a legislative update from Eric Schneider, on loan from the National Audubon Society to fill in behind Adam Maxwell, State Policy Director, who has left Audubon Washington. Eric reported that nine Action Alerts generated 7,000 messages to state legislators and sign ups to the advocacy list increased by six percent. Legislative priorities that advanced included: electric transmission policy, kelp marine forest, recycling reform, clean fuels and sewage spill right to know.

South Sound Bird Alliance (SSBA) will try again next legislative session to pass a wildlife connectivity corridors bill.

We discussed the National Audubon (NAS) approach to changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act (see articles elsewhere in this newsletter). The chapters requested leadership from NAS with action alerts, talking points, and suggestions regarding how to personalize comments.

In a regional exchange, each chapter presented highlights:

- Grays Harbor reported that the proposal to convert Westport Light State Park to a golf course still is moving ahead. The City of Westport has released a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) with a May 23, 2025, comment deadline. The DEIS has failed to address impacts to birds, habitat, wetlands and public recreation.
- SSBA has created a Spanish-language version of its website, as well as a Spanish-language bird guide. They offer a \$5,000 scholarship for Evergreen State College for a student with a conservation focus; the college administers the scholarship. They installed a Motus* tower on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land and transferred responsibility to the state for maintenance and insurance.
- Tahoma Bird Alliance has hired a fundraiser.
- Vancouver highlighted its 50th anniversary, the Steigerwald youth photo contest, research into installing a Motus* tower to track bird migrations, and its work towards bird-friendly policies for local government-owned buildings.
- We also learned a new term – *ornithotherapy*: engaging with birds and nature to reduce anxiety.

**Motus is an international research community working together to study the movement and behavior of birds, bats, and insects. These animals carry miniaturized tags that transmit information to stations placed across the landscape. This powerful conservation tool transforms how we understand and protect biodiversity.*

GET INVOLVED! Bill Tracker: WA 2025 Legislative Session

Weekly updates and actions to support the passage of priority bills for birds

Track the progress of Audubon Washington's priority bills below during the Washington State 2025 legislative session.

Step 1: Join Audubon Washington's [ACTION NETWORK](#) to receive weekly legislative update emails in your inbox with the key action that we need that week to pass this agenda.

Step 2: Learn about our [2025 legislative priorities](#).

Step 3: Support bills by clicking "Take Action" in the "Status" column. Audubon Washington will update the column weekly throughout the legislative session with the most impactful action you can take to support that bill.

50th Anniversary of Vancouver Audubon Society: Celebrating Sherry and Arden Hagen

By Beth Marlin Lichter

Sherry and Arden Hagen married in 1967 and started birding as a hobby in 1979. Their accomplishments over decades, as community leaders, volunteers, educators and stewards of the land, are prodigious.

Arden was born in North Dakota but moved to Spokane, Washington when he was five and at the age of thirteen his folks bought a farm where his interest in birds took shape. There was a good climbing tree there, a Crabapple which the robins called home. Arden regularly clambered up to peer into nests, observing the life cycle from egg-laying to hatching, feeding, and fledging. Interest piqued.

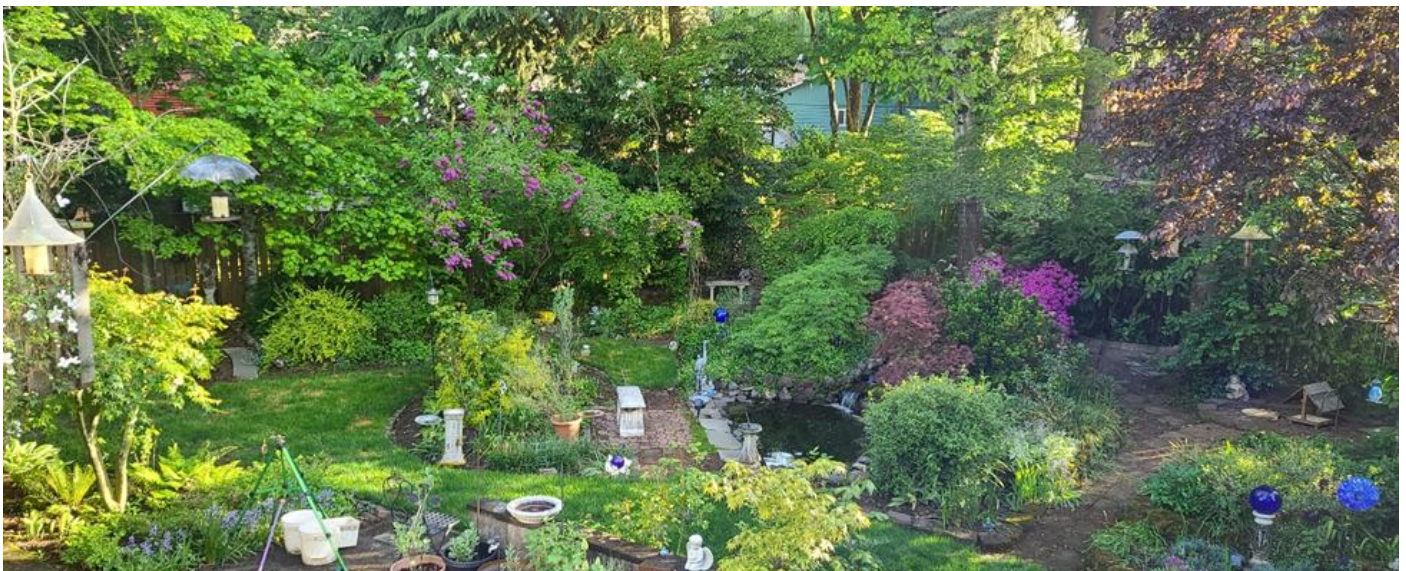
Sherry's parents had a farm in the Spokane Valley where her mother doted on three favorite species of birds: House Wrens, Western Bluebirds and Calliope Hummingbirds. Her dad built nest boxes for the wrens and bluebirds. Joy was in the air when the Calliope Hummingbirds arrived each spring, having migrated north from Mexico.

Thus, the stage was set for a lifetime partnership of birding when the Hagens bought their house in Vancouver, Washington in the spring of 1977. Before the construction of their neighborhood, there was nothing but forest and farmland between them and Camas. Wildlife habitat was being continually erased by urban growth and population increase. Upon moving into their new home, they found Barn Owls in their yard and heard Olive-sided Flycatchers coming through on their spring migration to the mountains. That does not happen anymore.

The Hagens realized the importance of their location on the Pacific Flyway and in 1979 they officially embraced the hobby of birding. Their first bird guide was a book given to them by Sherry's mother. The transformation of their yard began from one tree and some weeds into a welcoming habitat for the birds. They tore out lawn, planted trees and bushes, put up feeders and developed a water feature.

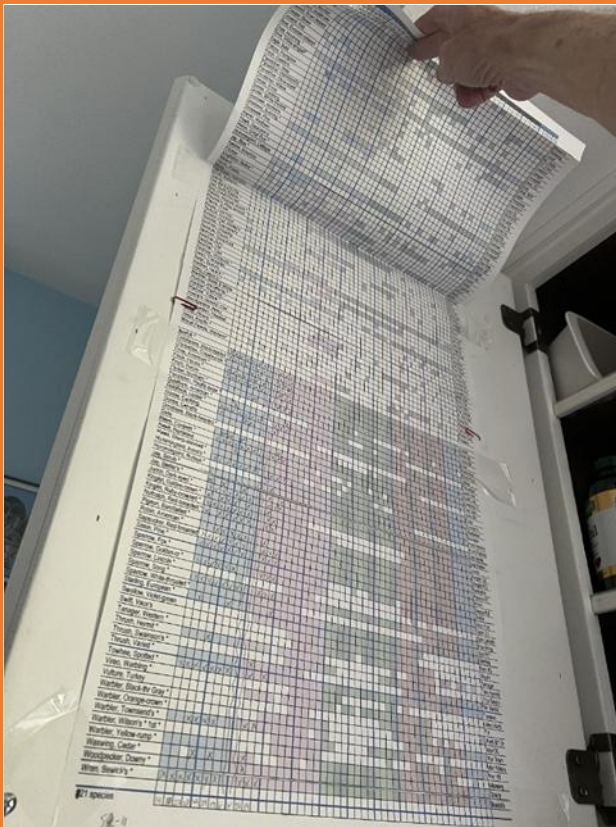


Sherry and Arden Hagen Photo by Sherry Hagen



The Hagen Backyard

Photo by Sherry Hagen



The Kitchen Cupboard Chart Photo by Beth Marlin Lichter

Inside a kitchen cabinet there's a chart that Sherry has been working on for 25 years, keeping track of weekly sightings of birds coming to the yard. In her notebook she has documentation of all the visiting species and number of times they have been observed. One can see the changes over time, the increase in certain species and decrease in others.

I asked this question of Arden, "Have you personally experienced a decrease in bird populations over the past four decades or so? And has this affected you?" His response was, "Yes, it's not like it used to be."

The Hagens became members of Vancouver Audubon Society in 1985, after learning from a friend that there was a local branch. In 1987 Sherry joined the board. She took on the job of Newsletter Editor and continued to perform that function for thirty years. Sherry was asked to teach a birding class before regular meetings. That lasted 20 years until her voice gave out. The classes were enjoyed by many. Arden joined the board in '89 and became Field Trip Chairman, a position he also held for nearly three decades. Together they did Birdathon fundraising and led trips to Arizona, Texas, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Central Oregon and the Okanogan Valley. Internationally, they took a group to Ecuador. In addition to their individual ongoing spheres of responsibility within VAS, Arden also served four times as President. The last tenure was between 2018 and 2020, the year he retired from the board.

There are still more instances throughout the years of projects revolving around their passion for protecting the birds and education. Arden was the chapter liaison to the Clark County Home and Garden Show for many years, responsible for permits, parking passes, booth volunteers, set-up and take-down. He provided the materials and spent time in the booth with the volunteers as well.

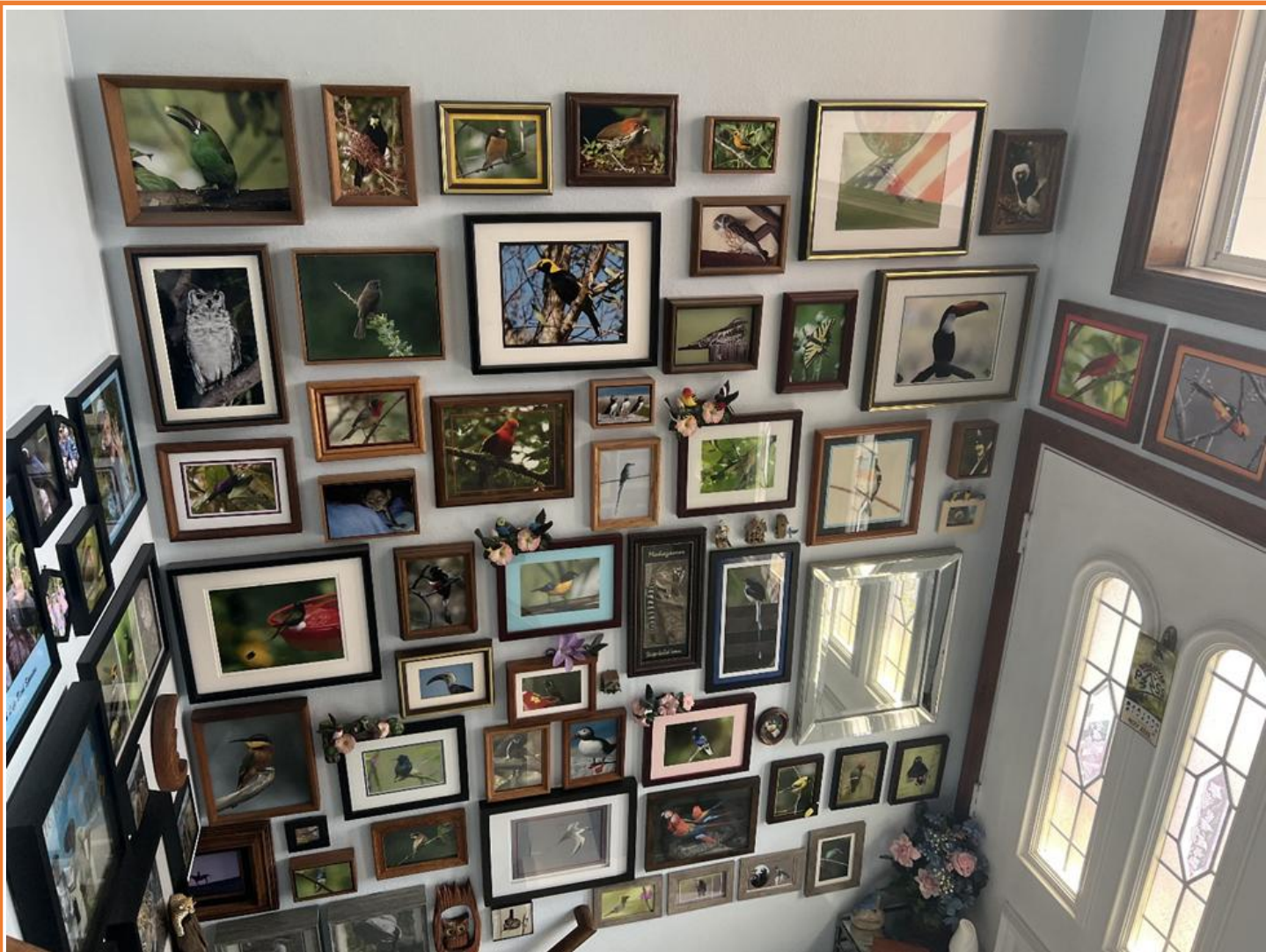
Sherry and Arden have been foundational with their elevated level of volunteerism, over a long period of time, in establishing a reputation of excellence within the organization. It is, after all, completely volunteer-run and exists because people care. People like the Hagens.

Personally, they are on a mission to see as many of the 10,800 species of birds as they can, traveling far and wide. They are both at 5,000. Sherry has photographed 3,941 species. Among the 20,000 members of the American Birding Association, she is 5th in the world for photographed species. Only 3 people are above 5,000, 1 person above 4,000 and of the top 15 photographers, she is the only female. Next trip is to Mongolia where they hope to find the Snow Leopards. As a follow-up to most countries they travel to, the Hagens come back to Vancouver Audubon with a special program about their experience.

I asked Arden to tell me about a favorite field trip they led. "We took an Audubon group to Florida and The Everglades. We were at the end of the road in the parking lot, about to look for the very elusive Mangrove Cuckoo. It's an endangered species so playing a recording is against ABA recommendations. I gathered the group at the trailhead and played the call so



Sherry's favorite bird is the Velvet-purple Coronet. Photo by Sherry Hagen



The Hagen house, adorned with Sherry's photographs from around the world.

Photo by Beth Marlin Lichter

they would know what to listen for as we walked the trail. To my surprise, one responded just 100 yards down the trail! We located it, watched and photographed for 20 minutes and left before it did. It was a lifer for all of us and it's the only one I've ever found."

Arden thinks the most beautiful bird he's seen is the Resplendent Quetzal, his personal mascot is the Three-wattled Bellbird, and the most iconic species is the [Ribbon-tailed Astrapia](#).

At home in Vancouver, because the Hagens have created such a rich habitat, they get lots of birds coming through for a bath and something to drink during migration, such as tanagers, flycatchers, waxwings and crossbills. Imagine looking out your window and finding a Pygmy Owl in the water feature!

About the Pacific Northwest's opportunities for birding, Arden has this to say, "We've got the Pacific Flyway, Steigerwald, Ridgefield, Vancouver Lake, lowlands, all kinds of places in Portland, mountains not too far, seashore not too far. Talk about diversity, you have all kinds of great places to go without having to go too far. One hundred miles in any direction is great for birding. We're really lucky here."

On behalf of Vancouver Audubon Society, the board, members, and everyone who has had the pleasure of participating in a VAS event or entity of your creation, I say thank you Sherry and Arden Hagen for years of dedicated service. Sounds like you have experienced lots of joy, in addition to spreading it, along the way. May your world adventures be filled with wonder and lifers and please come back to share stories with us.

VAS Program

Tuesday, May 7, 2025

Audubon Wenas Campout—Speaker Carol Kohler

Carol Kohler has attended the Wenas Campout every year since 1999. She will present a look at the beginnings of the Wenas Campout through the present day. Learn who the founding members were and how the campout has evolved over the years. Find out what the campout is like today and the many activities that are offered. From birdwatching, to hiking, wildflower trips, nature sketching classes, musical afternoons, and more, there is something for everyone and everyone is welcome.

Carol has been a member of Vancouver Audubon for more than 30 years. Born and raised in Vancouver, she has lived in Clark County her whole life. She loves birdwatching and feeding birds at her home.

Birds



Blooms



Bugs



Tuesday, June 3, 2025

The Three B's of the Backyard: Birds, Bees, and Bats—Speaker Brandon Burger, Backyard Bird Shop Vancouver

Brandon Burger is a wildlife enthusiast and lifelong conservationist with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Eastern Washington University, focusing on mammalogy, botany, and ornithology. He has worked at Backyard Bird Shop for 10 years.

MEETING LOCATION:

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

Vancouver, WA

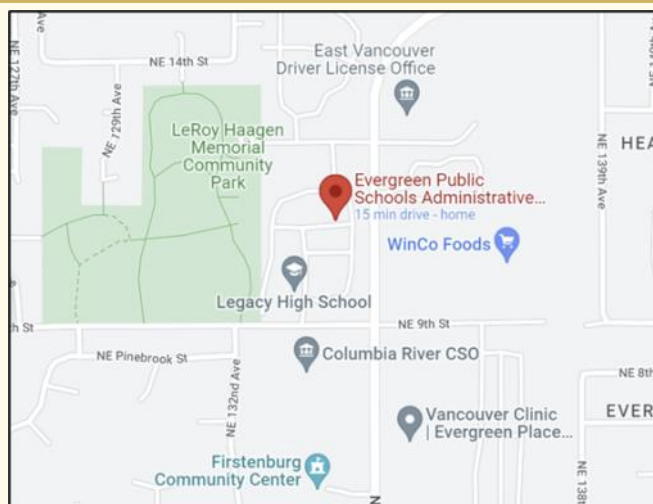
6:30 pm – 6:45 pm - Social time, share bird sightings.

6:45 pm – 7:00 pm - Announcements

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 Jackson@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).

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.

Thursday, May 1 First-of-Month Bird Walk Lacamas Lake

Meeting time: 7:30 am

Leader: Cindy McCormack

Register: Cindy at vas@vancouveraudubon.org

Meeting Location: [Round Lake Trail Parking](#)

It's time for some spring migrants! This trail can be excellent for migrating warblers, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, and grosbeaks. Some of the beautiful wildflowers should still be in bloom. We will plan on walking the loop if conditions allow—this trail is mostly packed dirt, with some areas of exposed rock.

Hiking boots are recommended. Dress for the weather. Restroom should be available near the trailhead.



Camas Lily field above Round Lake
Photo by Don Rose

Saturday, April 26 Skamania County

Meeting time: 7:30 am

Leader: Cindy McCormack

Register: Cindy at vas@vancouveraudubon.org

Meeting Location: [Sam Walker Trailhead, Skamania Landing](#)

We will plan on starting at Sam Walker Day Use Area and hiking the loop trail through a variety of habitats, looking for resident and migratory birds. Accessible trail. Vault toilet available at the trailhead parking. For those interested, we can continue on to Beacon Rock State Park day use area to take the River to Rock trail up to Ridell Pond. Discover Pass required for each vehicle.

Naturalist led bird walks at Ridgefield NWR

Birding with Robert Vanderkamp—Saturday May 10th, 8 am.

Upcoming walks meet at the [Carty Unit of the Refuge](#) and are limited to 10 people. These generally last two to three hours but you are welcome to stay as long or short as works for you. Walks are free but the \$3 refuge daily fee does apply. For more information about the fee and rules of the refuge [click here](#).

Birding with Ron Escano - Saturday May 3rd, 8 am

Ron has years of experience guiding local birding groups. Whether you are new to birding, are looking to sharpen your skills, or just hope to find a group to bird with, Ron is a great person to spend a morning with. His pace is relaxed, but thorough, making sure everyone has seen or heard each species. Ron will help new birders focus on key identification points to build their bird knowledge while sorting through the nuances of sparrow calls for more advanced birders.

VAS Bird Walks & Field Trips

Bird Walk—Saturday, May 10, 2025

Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway East—Devine Road



Barred Owl Photo: Ken Pitts

Meeting time: 7:00 a.m.

Leaders: Ken Pitts & Cheri Gavin

Register: Ken at kenp@vancouveraudubon.org

Meeting location: [Burnt Bridge Creek parking area](#) (45.633208, -122.614053)

Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway offers a rich habitat for birds and observation of them. A great place to be on World Migratory Bird Day. We will walk from the parking area toward the south and east for a 2.5 mile out and back. This is a level 1 A B walk with mostly paved pathways, but we plan to do some walking through unpaved grass, dirt, and wood chips. There are restrooms available at the trailhead and ample parking space in the parking lot. Approach from Devine Road and turn east into the parking lot and trailhead.

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 uncooperative weather.

September 20-22 Westport Pelagic Trip Weekend.

There are still 4 spaces available for VAS Board and VAS current members on the 9/21 pelagic trip, scheduled through me for approval via Westport Seabirds. The 9/20 going to Westport and 9/22 returning from Westport are independent, meaning you don't require a space on the boat. Contact Randy Hill at fieldtrips@vancouveraudubon.org.

Upcoming Bird Festivals in Washington

Interested in exploring new areas for birds and possibly making some new friends in the process? Washington State has many opportunities to attend bird festivals each month, both east and west of the Cascade Range. Here are some to choose from in the near future.

May

[Wings Over Whidbey Festival](#)

[Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest](#)

[World Migratory Bird Day](#)

[Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest](#)



For a full list of Bird Festivals throughout the year go to [Audubon Washington Bird Festivals](#).

Black Turnstone in Westport, WA Photo: Jackson Wolfe, Fotofest 2024

Submission Deadline for Youth Photography Contest May 31st

By Ken Pitts

Vancouver Audubon (VAS) sponsored Youth Photography Contest is nearing its submission deadline for photos taken at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The last day for youth 8 – 18 years of age to enter up to five photos in four different categories is May 31, 2025.

Advertising has gone out to families in the Vancouver, Evergreen, Camas, and Washougal school districts. Results have been measured by the increased views of the VAS webpage that houses the [rules](#), [how to submit](#), and gives suggestions as to [what the judges are looking for](#) using last year's winning photos.

Youth have already submitted over 30 photos and there is still over a month to go, so encourage

young people you know to get out to Steigerwald,

take some shots (even on a smartphone), and get a chance to win some of the \$1,800 in cash prizes generously offered by [Columbia Credit Union](#) and Vancouver Audubon.

Link to [Youth Photo Contest poster](#) for sharing on social media.



3rd Place in Plants, Animals, & Fungi category 2023

Photo Credit: Logan Sell

Public Engagement—Volunteer Opportunities

By Becky Boley

Vancouver Audubon will be at two upcoming events. We will host a table and visit with attendees to inform them about who Vancouver Audubon is, what we do and share information about regional birding, bird habitat and conservation efforts. We also offer a few activities at these events, which can include building a birdhouse, coloring a bird picture, and making bookmarks with bird stamps and/or stickers.

We'd love to see you at any of these events as an attendee or volunteer! Volunteer commitments are generally 2 hours – and we're happy to accommodate your schedule for shorter or longer times! Event times are listed, but we also have set-up and take down to do, which is usually 30-45 minutes before and after the event.

If you're interested in volunteering with us at any of these events (or want to receive email about other volunteer opportunities), please email Tom Tinsley at ttinsley@vancouveraudubon.org and he will add your name to our list and can address any questions.

As of publication: We have 6 volunteers for the Fishing Festival and 7 volunteers for the Pollinator Festival. We would like at least 9-10 people so we can spread out volunteer responsibilities.

Date	Event	Where	Event Time	# volunteers
May 17, 2025	Kids Fishing Festival	Columbia Springs	8a – 2p	9-10
June 21, 2025	Vancouver Pollinator Festival	Marshall Community Center Park	9a – 3p	9-10
July 26, 2025	Nature Days	Columbia Springs	10a – 1p	3-4

Destruction and Recovery in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Story and Photos By Don Rose

This is a story of abandonment, natural recovery, and the value of greenspace within a large city. I had the joy of visiting a natural area named Costanera Sur Ecological Reserve (Reserve) recently. The Reserve is located in Argentina on the central shore of Buenos Aires city along the Río de la Plata, one of the widest rivers in the world. The foundations of the Reserve are the product of accumulated rubble that was deposited by the city during Argentina's last dictatorship (1976–1983), mainly with the purpose of creating a landfill in the river for expansion of the city and construction of a new municipal Administrative Centre. However, the Administrative Centre was never built, and the rubble was colonized by all sorts of flora and fauna coming down the river over several years. After the dictatorship ended, local groups and residents recognized the area's value as a natural area and in 1986 the zone was designated as a "National Park and Ecological Reserve." It was declared a Ramsar site in 2005 for its worldwide importance as a wetland, an incredible story of wetland recovery.



Streaked Flycatcher with Cicada dinner



Harris Hawks were quite common within the Reserve

With its 865 acres, the Ecological Reserve is the largest green area in the City of Buenos Aires and one of the favorite places for residents and visitors to walk, cycle, jog, hike or spend the day with the family during the weekend. It is also great for birdwatching, which is the reason I ended up there while my wife and I were visiting her relatives in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires. Experts from all over the world come to the Ecological Reserve to look for more than 360 documented species that have been found there. Over the last 2 years, I have visited this site 5 times (all in the southern hemisphere summer months of January and February) and identified 88 species of birds, many of which were new to me.

The Reserve has been developed with restrooms, a picnic area on the shore, and over 7 miles of trails, including boardwalks traversing out into the swampy areas with good views of birds. There are also views of the skyscrapers of Puerto Madero just outside the reserve, a metropolis on its doorstep. It was eerie to find there was a chorus of Cicadas while I was there, which birds like the Streaked Flycatcher loved. The trails are well used by joggers and bikers, but it is still easy to find solitude on the boardwalks. In summer, the area stays relatively comfortable with breezes coming in off the river. A very pleasant place to spend some time.



A juvenile Wattled Jacana uses its large feet to stay afloat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 2025 Events Calendar						
				1 Bird Walk— Lacamas Lake	2	3
4	5	6 Program Mtg Wenas Campout	7	8	9	10 Bird Walk— Burnt Bridge Creek
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Volunteer Columbia Springs
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 VAS Board Meeting	28	29	30	31



Sandhill Crane Photo by Carolyn Hopper, Fotofest 2024

May 2025 – Donate to Birdathon!

On behalf of all birds and wildlife, Backyard Bird Shop continues their tradition of collecting and matching up to \$2000 of Birdathon donations in all their shops during the month of May. Donations made and matched in their Vancouver store will support Vancouver Audubon Society. Drop in to their store at 8101 NE Parkway Dr., Vancouver, WA 98662 to double your donation in support of Vancouver Audubon Society.

