



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

April 2018

Calendar

***Tuesday, Apr. 3, 7:00 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

🏠 Tuesday, Mar. 27, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Bonnie Bingle
8705 NE 51st Ave. Vancouver 360-576-0330

🏠 Tuesday, Apr. 24, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Eric & Tammy
Bjorkman, 4110 NE 54th Ave., Vancouver 360-695-3116

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

PROGRAM:

Classic Hikes in Washington

Speaker: Craig Romano

Award Winning Author and Outdoor Writer, Craig Romano will present on Classic Hiking opportunities in our state.

He is author or co-author of 20 books. Bring your questions about areas to hike and imagine being on the trail and exploring alternative places to go birding.



FIELD TRIP

Ridgefield NWR "Work Party" (and closed to the public areas of the refuge)

Leader: Randy Hill, 360-576-5007

When: April 21, Saturday

Time: 7:45 AM

Meet at: River "S" contact station at the beginning of the tour route



After meeting at the stations, we will depart in government vehicles to visit Purple Martin nest areas, put up gourds for the nesting season, look for banded birds and get an education about the Western Purple Martin recovery project.

There will be very little work involved but participation requires a signature on a group Volunteer Services Agreement for the day and to ride in a government vehicle. Limit of 12 individuals. Highlights of the day will be access to closed areas of the refuge on Bachelor Island and down to the Ridgeport Dairy Unit during a very good period for spring migrants.

It is important that you sign up with an email address or phone number in order to be contacted in case of a late cancelation of the trip. Otherwise you may show up and no one is at the meeting place.

Vancouver Audubon Election of Officers are coming soon *Nominations from the floor will be accepted.*

The following people have agreed to run for positions on the board.

President:	Arden Hagen
Vice President:	Sam Neuffer
Treasurer:	Joan Durgin
Secretary:	Carol Kohler

Feb. 12, The first of the year (FOY) **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** was seen by at Steigerwald Lake by Rick Detroye.

We had a FOY **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** eating crabapples in our yard in Skamania County.

Feb. 13, A **GLAUCOUS GULL** was found by Randy Hill in the Vancouver Lake lowlands near the recycling center on Old Lower River Road. This large all white gull is from the Arctic and is a rare visitor this far south.

Feb. 14, Randy Hill found **BLACK PHOEBE**, Red **FOX SPARROW**, and **HARRIS'S SPARROW** at Vancouver Lake Park.

Feb. 20, Another FOY was a flock of about ten **WESTERN BLUEBIRDS** were found by Steven Clark along the Washougal Dike at Steigerwald Lake.

Feb. 21, Cindy McCormick and Les Carlson had a nice day of birding in the Vancouver Lowlands finding a total of 86 species for the day. They started out in the morning at 21 degrees and with two target birds for Les, a **GLAUCOUS GULL** and **WESTERN SCREECH OWL** and they came surprisingly easy. Other nice finds were the continuing **SNOWY EGRET**, **PEREGRINE FALCON** and **MERLIN** along with a flock of 250 **CEDAR WAXWINGS** and seeing several thousand **SNOW GEESE** in the air is always a treat.

Feb. 24, Tammy and Eric Bjorkman drove to Grayland in Gray's Harbor County where there was a dead sea lion on the beach with about ten **BALD EAGLES** hanging around and feeding on it. While it was too early for shorebird migration which peaks in April, they did see three **SNOWY PLOVERS**, a state endangered species.

Steven Clark and Sherrie Kearney spotted a **TURKEY VULTURE** from Highway 14 near the 205 Bridge on Saturday. The next morning, they had their first male **RING-NECKED PHEASANT** in their Washougal backyard near Steigerwald Lake, where there has been a small population of these birds since the 1970's.

Feb. 26, A single **BAND-TAILED PIGEON** showed up at our feeders despite our having about a foot of snow on the ground, this is about the average return date for our place.

March 4-5, Randy Hill led a Washington Ornithological Society (WOS) field trip on Friday afternoon and Saturday. Nine birders gathered for the Woodland Bottoms venue, featuring the skilled leadership of Russ Koppendrayer, touring a well-planned route with strategic access points to the Columbia River. Guild Road produced 1,200 **SNOW GEESE** and the first of four **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS**. In addition to wintering **SANDHILL CRANES**, a few other highlights included a continuing **BLACK PHOEBE** at the north Dike Road pump station, and a total of four

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS in separate locations on the Columbia River. Saturday was even better. Eleven birders enjoyed the co-leadership of the current and immediate-past WOS Presidents, Cindy McCormack and Jim Danzenbaker. With stops at Salmon Creek, Fruit Valley Park, Old Lower River Road, Vancouver Lake, Frenchman's Bar, the end of Lower River Road (including a special access opportunity to Post Office Lake), and a few stops along the Vancouver waterfront ending in Wintler Park, they enjoyed a cumulative 101 species. That would qualify as a new big day record for Clark County for the month of March and would equal the total set last month on February 9. A few highlights include 23 species of waterfowl without a visit Ridgefield NWR, a very active group of songbirds at Fruit Valley Park with **TOWNSEND'S WARBLERS** foraging on the ground, a continuing **WESTERN SCREECH OWL**, the continuing **SNOWY EGRET** at the end of Lower River Road, a sub-adult **GLAUCOUS GULL** with other gulls floating down the Columbia River tending a sea lion "on bait," 320 **CEDAR WAXWINGS** in two trees over berry bushes, and the usual mundane **SNOW GEESE** and **SANDHILL CRANES**. A \$25 individual or \$30 for a family membership to WOS allows you to go one four of these field trips a year that are led by experienced birders and held all over the state. <http://wos.org/>

March 4, Susan and I drove up and over Dalles Mountain Road looking for wildflowers of which there were very few, but we did find 2 **GOLDEN EAGLES**, 1 **MERLIN** and a **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE**.

March 5, Near sunset, Barbara Smoody observed a **STARLING** murmuration near I-5 and I-205 in north Vancouver. Viewing was limited due to fencing after construction of the 139th overpass, but you can get some views from the Park and Ride lot, or at the access to Mountain View Veterinary Clinic on NE 16th Ave. I got a second call about a week later from another person who had spotted the flying swarm of Starlings there.

March 6, The first **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** reported from Clark County was a male Jack Burkman photographed at his feeders in Vancouver. He also noted that the **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS** at his place were gathering nesting materials, it always amazes me how early these little birds start nesting.

March 6, My FOY **TURKEY VULTURE** was flying over Lady Island in Camas.

March 9, I saw 2 **TURKEY VULTURES** at the Fisher Rock Quarry and 1 at 4th Plain and 205.

March 10, Les Carlson and I spent the afternoon trying without luck to find a couple of birds that had been reported from Skamania County. We did see 4 **WESTERN BLUEBIRDS** at Strawberry Island below Bonneville Dam

Vancouver Audubon

where we also saw 3 **TURKEY VULTURES**. At Rock Creek pond in Stevenson we encountered a flock of **TREE SWALLOWS**, all three species were the FOY for Skamania County.

March 11, More **WESTERN BLUEBIRDS** flew by Jim Danzenbaker while he was birding on Larch Mountain, there must have been a push of migrants this weekend.

Susan and I went back to Strawberry Island at Bonneville Dam and found Lyn and Gene Topinka looking at the **WESTERN BLUEBIRDS**, a **SAY'S PHOEBE** and 5 **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS**. Lyn and Gene found two more phoebes on the island near the juvenile fish facility by the boat ramp.

At least 2 more **SAY'S PHOEBES** were found at the Steigerwald Lake NWR by Benjamin Byerly, obviously there was a push of these phoebes and bluebirds through the area over the weekend.

March 12, A female **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** was found by Jared Strawderman near the Steigerwald Lake NWR office field perched on a post near the oak plantings. A much more uncommon visitor in Clark County than Western Bluebirds.

At the Steigerwald Lake NWR, Cindy McCormack saw 3 **SAY'S PHOEBES**, **TREE**, **VIOLET-GREEN** and **BARN SWALLOWS**, and 2 **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS**.

Both the **SNOWY EGRET** at the end of Lower River Road and the **SWAMP SPARROW** at the Ridgefield NWR continued to be seen through this reporting period. The migration will really become evident in April with the return of the vireos, warblers, swifts, Purple Martins, swallows and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. By the end of the month Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeak and the flycatchers will be here too.

The 2018 Cumulative County List of birds reported in Clark County as of March 1 was at 146 (158 in 2017) and Skamania County was only up to 84 (88 in 2017). Apparently few people like to bird in the snow and cold winds in the Gorge during winter. The lists for all 39 counties can be seen at: http://www.wabirder.com/county_yearlist.html

Wilson Cady

Welcome New Members: Aldon Arquette • James Baird • Gerda Benda • David Bowden • Donelda Denney • Paul Downs • Diana Gijsselaers • Annabel Hatch • Mike Hiner • Karl Holschuh • Susan Nickerson • Lynda Paige • Dina Roberts • Robert Taylor • Roseann Thomsen • Janis Walker • Linda Wilson

**“Like birds?
Like scenic river canyons?”**

**Yakima River Canyon 2018 Bird Fest,
May 11-13**

Come join us for a weekend of field trips, workshops (avian illustration, photography, native plants for birds), a river raft trip, falconry demonstrations, keynote speaker John Marzluff from the UW (corvid and urban bird specialist) banquet, silent auction, and good company with other folks who also share your passion. In and around Ellensburg, WA. Don't miss the **Yakima River Canyon 2018 Bird Fest, May 11-13**, in and around Ellensburg, WA and Kittitas County. Visit the website www.ycic.org for schedule and registration information.”

Olympic Birdfest, April 13-15, 2018.

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: nature guide/photographer Claudio Vidal. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2018. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon.

Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 16-17, 2018: two days exploring north-west coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.



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VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

April 2018

THE COLUMBIA FLYWAY is the monthly newsletter of the Vancouver Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Publication deadline is at the board meeting each month.

VANCOUVER AUDUBON ** MEMBERSHIP & DONATION COUPON

Membership dues support speaker programs, Flyway production and conservation projects.

_____ I wish to become a member/renew membership to Vancouver Audubon for \$10/year.

_____ I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donation of \$ _____

_____ I wish only to support Vancouver Audubon with a donations of \$ _____

_____ I prefer to receive the VAS Flyway by printed copy _____ by email _____ [PDF]

Membership Renewal date:
September 1st
every year

VAS will not share your information with any other organization. However, we may send out a limited number of time sensitive news items we feel are important to club membership.

Chapter Code: Y13

Please include this coupon and make check payable to and send to:
Vancouver Audubon, P.O. Box 1966, Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

For more Info Call:
George Mayfield 360-687-0360 (membership)
Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116 (VAS President)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

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For additional information on membership to National Audubon, got to <http://www.audubon.org/>

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