



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

November 2018

Calendar

- ◻ **Tuesday, Oct. 30, 6:30pm: VAS Board Meeting.** Hosted by George & Cindy Mayfield. 24315 NE 59th Ave., Battle Ground, 360-687-0360
- ◯ **Tuesday, Nov. 6, 7:00pm: Vancouver Audubon's General Meeting and Program.** Genealogy Society, 717 Grand Blvd (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver.
- ◯ **Saturday, Nov. 10: Field Trip to WA Coast.** Contact Randy Hill to register.
- ◻ **Tuesday, Nov. 27, 6:30pm: VAS Board Meeting.** Hosted by Arden & Sherry Hagen. 2203 SE 135th Ave., Vancouver, 360-892-8872

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PROGRAM

Preservation of White Oaks at Washougal & Lacamas Prairie Natural Areas

Tuesday, November 6th, 7pm.

Speaker: Carlo Abbruzzese, Natural Areas Manager, Washington DNR

Natural Areas protect some of Washington's most unique ecosystems. Carlo will be our guest presenter to discuss two local natural areas, the Lacamas Prairie and the Washougal Oaks. Washougal Oaks NA protects the largest remaining high quality Garry oak (Oregon white oak) woodland in western Washington, as well as rare plants, a stream corridor, and fish and wildlife habitat. The site is representative of the native oak woodlands that were once relatively common in the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley regions, but are now exceptionally rare, and home to the Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis aculeata*). Lacamas Prairie NA preserves a prairie remnant occurs in a native valley landscape mosaic with Oregon white oak woodland and Oregon ash wetland forest. This program should provide some wonderful insight into these beautiful ecosystems!



FIELD TRIP

Coastal SW Washington exploration

Leader: Randy Hill; 360-975-2573
When: November 10, Saturday
Time: 7:30 AM departure
Meet at: Salmon Creek Park & Ride
 134th St. (Tenney St) & 10th Ave.

Meet at the Salmon Creek Park-and-Ride for 07:30 carpool departure. Expect a full day of birding in the middle of a holiday weekend, so you can sleep in the next morning.

Expected destination is Long Beach Peninsula with stops at Julia Butler Hansen NWR and several other spots on the Columbia River, Pacific coastline, and Willapa Bay. Waterfowl, loons, grebes, waders, shorebirds, songbirds, raptors ... a little of everything. Maybe even chase after a rarity with short notice; diversions sometimes happen. Cancellation/reschedule if high winds or heavy rain in the forecast. Contact Randy by phone or by email: re_hill at q dot com.



We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.

Vancouver Audubon

Vancouver Audubon at BirdFest

Vancouver Audubon has been a long-time supporter of Birdfest. Besides leading bird walks and, this year, helping with the Photography Workshops, they have always helped with a scoping station. So, a big heartfelt thank you from the Friends of RNWR for all the Vancouver Audubon members who staffed the station to help our visitors use the scopes and see the birds. They answered many questions about birds, birding and optics. Participants included: Sam Neuffer, James Lanz & Kate Ketcham for the Saturday Bird Walk; George Mayfield and Arden Hagan assisting with the Photo Workshops; and at the scoping station we had George Mayfield, Michelle Maani, Syble Crow, Joan Durgin, Bob Rowe, Barbara Bloomfield and Randy Hill. Thank you all.

It is always fun to have a new view of the Ridgefield NWR. For Birdfest, we had our scoping station set up inside the Hunt Gate along the River S unit. This



spot affords us a great view of the hunt zone, looking west toward Bachelor Island. Weather was a factor this year. Saturday was very windy. Although my weather app said winds up to 9 mph, my guess was up to 25 mph at times and almost constant. That made for some interesting birds blowing by or riding the winds from time to time. Sunday was very different. It was calm and that was lucky as it rained all day long, fortunately not hard. Interestingly, on Saturday, our adult Bald Eagles were perched on a bare snag on the western horizon when we arrived but flew out very early and were not seen again except for one exceptional low flyby later in the day. By contrast, for our rainy Sunday, two adult Bald Eagles perched the whole day on the snag for excellent scope viewing.

It seems like many of our winter visitors were a little slow in arriving. We didn't see any swans and the duck numbers and species from our view point were down from previous years. Crane sightings were a bit better on Saturday than Sunday, with a few foraging in the wetlands. A nice

treat on Saturday morning was a hunting Rough-legged Hawk. Probably the most unusual sighting was late on Sunday. We could see a Turkey Vulture perched on a Kiwa Trail tree that had some odd white spots. When we finally got a good view, it looked like there was a crown of white feathers circling the head where the feathers meet the bare skin. None of us has ever seen this before in such a strange leucistic configuration. We ended up with 30 species plus some unidentified gulls and an accipiter fly by. Probably the most exciting bird of the weekend was spotted by Arden during the Photo Workshop on Saturday on the Carty Unit. He found a Black-necked Stilt. Good one, Arden.

Here are our sightings for the two days:

Cackling Goose	Killdeer
Canada Goose	Wilson's Snipe
American Wigeon	California Gull
Mallard	Gull species
Northern Shoveler	Mourning Dove
Northern Pintail	Belted Kingfisher
Green-winged Teal	Downy Woodpecker
Ring-necked Duck	Northern Flicker
Pied-billed Grebe	California Scrub-Jay
American White Pelican	American Crow
Great Blue Heron	Tree Swallow
Great Egret	Violet-green Swallow
Turkey Vulture	Barn Swallow
Bald Eagle	Black-capped Chickadee
Northern Harrier	American Robin
Accipiter species	European Starling
Red-shouldered Hawk	Song Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	White-crowned Sparrow
Rough-legged Hawk	Red-winged Blackbird
American Coot	House Finch
Sandhill Crane	

By Susan Setterberg



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Urge Congress to Reauthorize LWCF

America's most important conservation and recreation program --the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) --which has saved places in every state and nearly every county in the U.S., expired on September 30, 2018. Congress failed to reauthorize LWCF.

LWCF uses federal royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling to fund conservation and public recreation projects around the country.

LWCF has invested more than \$675 million over the past five decades to protect Washington's iconic outdoor places, create access for hiking, birding, hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities, and build close-to-home parks. From urban parks to wildlife habitat to wilderness areas, LWCF has protected places like Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks, Mount St Helens National Monument, the Pacific Crest Trail, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, national wildlife refuges, and state and local parks like Burnt Bridge Creek, Frenchman's Bar and Fallen Leaf Lake.

On October 2, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed Senator Maria Cantwell's Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act that would permanently reauthorize the LWCF and would provide \$900 million in dedicated funding annually in perpetuity. It passed with strong bipartisan support, 16-7.

S. 569 has 46 cosponsors, including Senator Burr (R-NC) and 13 of members the Energy and

Natural Resources Committee including every Democratic Senator — as well as Senators Alexander (R-TN), Daines (R- MT), and Gardner (R-CO). Senator Patty Murray also is a cosponsor.

The House LWCF bill will not get any action until after the election because the House is in recess for the campaign season. There are differences between the Senate and House bills, so once they pass both chambers a conference bill to negotiate the differences is likely the final product late this year.

We need to ensure final passage of the LWCF bill before the end of this Congressional session. We need to thank the bill's Congressional supporters and urge the uncommitted to support this bill. On the House side, 8 of our 10 Washington representatives have co-sponsored the companion LWCF reauthorization bill – only Reps. Dan Newhouse and Jaime Herrera Beutler have not signed on yet. We need to try for 100% Washington delegation support for LWCF!

Senator Maria Cantwell
www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email
Phone: (360) 696-7838

Senator Patty Murray
www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme
Phone: (360) 696-7797

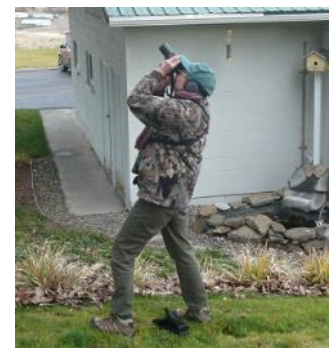
Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler
www.herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/
Phone: (360) 695-6292

By Susan Saul

Audubon's 119th Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of community science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada, and many countries in the Western Hemisphere go out over a 24-hour period on one calendar day to count birds.

Watch for upcoming announcement for the Vancouver/Sauvie Island Christmas Bird Count date—volunteers of all birding levels are needed. You can sign up for an entire or partial day, or even a home feeder count! **Please contact Susan Setterberg, area compiler, for more information at smsetterberg@yahoo.com.**



Sept. 8, We had a **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** and a **MERLIN** in our yard east of Washougal.

Sept. 10, Luke Hanes found a **BLACK PHOEBE** at the Ridgefield NWR, a species he had kept missing in Clark County.

A visit to Frenchmen's park by Bob Flores produced some migrants with 1 **YELLOW WARBLER**, 36 **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS** and 1 **WILSON'S WARBLER**.

I photographed an immature male **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** at our feeders, they are rare in Washington after the first week in September.

Sept. 13, Bob Flores reported the first fall **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** at his Ridgefield home, these sparrows nest in Canada and Alaska.

Sept. 14, This was the best day for migrants that we had this fall at our place in the Columbia River Gorge with 7 **CASSIN'S VIREOS**, 1 **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, 6 **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS**, 8 **TOWNSEND'S WARBLERS**, 12 **HERMIT WARBLERS**, 3 **WILSON'S WARBLERS** and 10 **WESTERN TANAGERS**.

Sept. 18, In Hazel Dell, Les Carlson reported his first 3 **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** of the winter.

Sept. 19, In Vancouver, Jack Burkman had a very late **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** at their feeders.

The first **EARED GREBE** of the year was spotted by Cindy McCormack and Randy Hill while they were doing maintenance on the Purple Martin colonies at the Ridgefield NWR.



Sept. 22, A very early report of a **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** at the Ridgefield NWR was confirmed by Susan Setterberg, this species breeds above the Arctic Circle where they feed on lemmings. The number of lemmings crashed this summer affecting the nest success of jaegers, Sabine's Gulls and other rodent eating species, with the lack of this critical prey species we might see an influx of Rough-legged Hawks as well as Snowy Owls this winter.

Sept. 23, Les Carlson, Jim Danzenbaker, Randy Hill and I did a day of birding in Skamania and Klickitat Counties, while we didn't keep a list we did see several nice birds, 15 **WHITE-FRONTED GEESE**, 1 **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLY-CATCHER** and 1 **CASSIN'S VIREO** at St. Cloud Ranch, 2 **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** at Franz Lake, a **RED-NECKED GREBE** at the mouth of the Wind River and in Klickitat County **LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS** were plentiful around Balch Road where we also had a calling **ACORN WOODPECKER**.

Sept. 24, Jim Danzenbaker did a raptor watch from the north end of Woodland Bottoms in Cowlitz County and counted 272 **TURKEY VULTURES**, 1 **OSPREY**, 5 **SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS**, 2 **COOPER'S HAWKS**, 10 **RED-TAILED HAWKS**, 4 **AMERICAN KESTRELS** and the first **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** ever reported from that county.

He also noted 75 **STELLER'S JAYS** and about 275 **VAUX'S SWIFTS** passing overhead in the approximately four hours he was there.

Susan and I were taking a break after stacking firewood when she pointed out a large raptor cruising south, through our binoculars we noted it had very long and thin wings that came to a point. As it passed overhead we could see that the tail was white with no terminal band and the wings were held in a shallow "V" and had a dark leading edge with white primaries, a classic looking **FERRUGINOUS HAWK** and a new species for Skamania County.

Sept. 25, Another lingering **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** and his first of fall **VARIED THRUSH** were reported from Bob Flores' Ridgefield yard.

Sept. 26, Jim Danzenbaker was very surprised to see another migrant immature **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** from his hawk/vulture observation spot at the northern end of Woodland Bottoms, Cowlitz County, now one needs to be seen in Clark County.

A **PARASITIC JAEGER** was found on the Tidewater Cove jetty by Jen Sanford.

Sept. 29, At Marine Park, Jen Sandford spotted a female **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** and the first **SURF SCOTER** of the winter, scoters are usually found on saltwater but a few are seen locally every winter by people who carefully scan the flocks of waterfowl.

Sept. 30, Jim Danzenbaker spent another five hours at the north end of Woodland Bottoms, Cowlitz County in search of migrating vultures and raptors. Regardless of the less than favorable migration weather, the vultures didn't disappoint him with 743 counted including 350 counted in just 45 minutes Other raptors seen were 1 **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK**, and 1 **PEREGRINE FALCON** along with what he suspected were the resident **RED-TAILED HAWKS**.

Oct. 3, Bob Flores found 84 **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** and 46 **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** at Vancouver Lake across from the flushing channel.

Jen Sanford and Jacob Durrent photographed a **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** in a flock of 5 bluebirds on Larch Mountain.

Oct. 4, While birding just south of Paradise Point Park, a **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** was heard by Jim Danzenbaker.

Oct. 5, 10 **SURF SCOTERS** were found at Marine park by Jim Danzenbaker.

Oct. 6, A **BLACK-NECKED STILT** was found by Arden Hagen at the Ridgefield Carty Unit during BirdFest. This was the only report of this desert dwelling shorebird species in Clark County this year.

Oct. 11, While driving up to Larch Mountain early in the morning to do some birding Jim Danzenbaker found a **COMMON POORWILL**, a species that I know of only one prior record from Clark County and that one was a roadkill

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Vancouver Audubon

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from at least 30 years ago. He went back up in the evening with Bob Flores and Handy Hill and relocated the bird in the same area.

In the afternoon Randy Hill found an amazing 53 **SURF SCOTERS** in the Columbia River at Marine Park.

A lingering **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** was in our bird bath.

Oct. 12, The **COMMON POORWILL** was seen again by Cindy McCormack, John Bishop, and Jim Danzenbaker at 6:35AM this morning in the same location on Larch Mountain. Cindy also heard a **CASSIN'S FINCH** calling as it flew over near here.

We were surprised to have four **LESSER GOLDFINCHES** in our bird bath as we have only about six prior records here.

Oct. 13, At Frenchmen's Bar Park, a **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** was found by Cindy McCormack, I only know of one other record from Clark County.

And there was a report of a **NORTHERN SHRIKE** from the Steigerwald Lake NWR.

This was one of the slowest fall migrations that we have noted at our place in western Skamania County in the over forty years that we have been observing it here. We had only a couple of days with multiple warbler and vireos species and those did not involve very many individual birds. Western Tanagers visited our Cascara trees for their fruit in much lower numbers than usual but when the European Mountain Ash berries ripened we were inundated by flocks of hundreds of American Robins for a week but there were very few Swainson's or Hermit Thrushes in these flocks. Two birds from the desert southwest were found on the Olympic Peninsula, the state's first Painted Redstart was found at Neah Bay and the 2nd Phainopepla for Washington was in Sequim. This is the time of the year when waterfowl arrive in our region from the far north and among the flocks of ducks and geese that nest in the Arctic there are always a few stragglers that wandered across the Bering Strait from Asia. Some of these Eurasian birds are annual and seen in good numbers like Eurasian Wigeon and the "Common" Green-winged Teal, this sub-species can be told by having a white horizontal line over the wing rather than the white vertical line in front of the wing on the North American variety. Even if only one in ten thousand waterfowl is a rare bird that means there could easily be four to six rarities in the Vancouver Lake and Ridgefield NWR every winter but finding them means spending time playing "Where's Waldo?" while looking through the flocks and from the recent rash of sightings we should be on the lookout for anything this winter. As of October 1st, 227 species had been reported from Clark County in 2018 and 184 species have been reported from Skamania County. To see the lists, which are updated every two months, and compare with past year's lists go to:

http://wabirder.com/county_yearlist.html

VAS Budget will be voted on at the General Meeting on Dec 4th by the voting membership

Operating: 2018 Budget vs. 2019 Budget

<u>REVENUE</u>	2018 Budget	2019 Budget
Bank Interest	25.00	10.00
Refreshments	15.00	15.00
Memberships*	800.00	2,200.00
Donations	1,300.00	1,700.00
Backyard Bird Shop		400.00
CFSWW—Disbursement		6,500.00
Doris Troxel Trust**		400.00
Audubon Adventures	1,000.00	
Fundraising Trips	3,200.00	1,500.00
National Audubon Society	1,785.00	1,785.00
Store Sales	300.00	300.00
Retained earnings	1,500.00	
TOTAL INCOME	9,925.00	14,810.00
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
Postage	80.00	40.00
Supplies	150.00	125.00
PO Box 1966 Rental	82.00	94.00
WA non-profit Corp. Filing Fee	10.00	10.00
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u>	80.00	80.00
<u>CONSERVATION</u> Meetings	600.00	500.00
<u>DONATIONS</u>		
Audubon Washington	2000.00	2,000.00
PDX Wildlife Care Center	250.00	250.00
Intertwine Alliance	250.00	250.00
Friends of Columbia Gorge***		5,000.00
Unidentified Needs	615.00	500.00
<u>DUES/MEMBERSHIPS</u>		
Columbia Land Trust	100.00	100.00
WA. Environmental Council	100.00	100.00
Friends of Columbia Gorge	100.00	100.00
Nature Conservancy	100.00	100.00
Columbia Springs	100.00	100.00
<u>NEWSLETTER</u>		
Supplies	50.00	50.00
Printing	2,100.00	1,800.00
Postage	600.00	600.00
Bulk Mail Permit	215.00	227.00
<u>OUTREACH</u>		
Audubon Adventures - VAS	1,000.00	400.00
Audubon Adventures supplies	25.00	
Home and Garden Show	150.00	70.00
<u>PROGRAMS</u>		
Speaker Travel	700.00	700.00
<u>PUBLICITY</u>		
(Web page, search engine)	108.00	108.00
<u>RENT</u>	360.00	375.00
<u>MISC</u>		50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,925.00	13,729.00
NET INCOME	\$(0.00)	\$1,081.00

* Membership dues increase to \$20 starting Sept. 2018

** Restricted Funds (Education) will be used for Audubon Adventures or similar activity

*** Steigerwald NWR Expansion Land Purchase

Bequest Funds* 2018 vs. 2019 Budget

<u>REVENUE</u>	2018 Budget	2019 Budget
Community Foundation Earnings	10,000.00	10,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00
<u>BEQUEST EXPENSES</u>		
Misc Grants	6,500.00	7,500.00
Community foundation Fees	2,400.00	2,400.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,400.00	8,900.00
NET INCOME	\$100.00	\$1,100.00

* The earnings from the Bequest funds are used for Grants in which VAS supports others organizations to help complete their environmental projects.

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.

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November 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 \$20/year.

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

Membership Renewal date:
September 1st
every year

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

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

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

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Vancouver Audubon, P.O. Box 1966, Vancouver, WA 98668-1966
For more Info Call: George Mayfield 360-687-0360 (membership)

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

Go Green with the VAS Newsletter

If you would rather have a paperless VAS Newsletter then you can email Cindy at nwbirder@gmail.com to receive a "PDF" copy of The Columbia Flyway in color sent to you. Include the email address that you wish to have it sent to.

The PDF form is also available on line at: www.vancouveraudubon.org

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