



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

September 2018

## Calendar

\*\*\*Tuesday, Sept. 4, 7:00 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

🏠 Wednesday, Aug. 29, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Carol Kohler  
1827 NW Benton St., Camas 360-600-6590

🏠 Tuesday, Sept. 25, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Joan Durgin  
1548 NE 5th Ave., Camas 360-834-5621

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## PROGRAM:

### Population Trends for North American Birds from the Christmas Bird Count

Speaker: Nicole Michel, PhD  
Senior Quantitative Ecologist, NAS

Birds are experiencing a variety of threats, and in order to identify and reduce these threats and conserve bird populations requires knowledge of population trends over long time scales across North America.

Nicole will speak about the trends after 52 years of data analysis. Citizen Science efforts such as the CBC will be needed going forward to understand and predict how birds respond to climate and land cover change, giving us the information needed to take actions to conserve bird diversity for generations to come.

Nicole Michel recently moved back to Vancouver, WA, her hometown. Nicole joined NAS in December 2015, where she is responsible for developing metrics to track bird response to Audubon's conservation actions, and analyzing bird abundance, distribution, and habitat relationships. As a field biologist, she has travel to many places in the world for her research.

**Renew  
this Month**

## FIELD TRIP

### Bonney Butte Hawk Watch

Leader: Joan Durgin, 360-513-3986

When: Sept. 22, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: The southeast corner of the Fred Meyer parking lot at 11325 SE Mill Plain and SE Chkalov. **We will car-pool (pay your driver for gas)** for about 1hr 45 minutes to the east side of Mt Hood. The last 4 miles of the road is in poor condition and requires a **high clearance vehicle**.

A 1/2 mile trail will take us to the top of the butte where Hawk Watch International employees are surveying and recording each raptor that is flying over on their fall migration. They will help identify the hawks and share the migration data they have collected. There are large boulders to sit on but you can also bring your own folding chair. **Bring water and a lunch.** Then on the return trip we can stop at the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum in Government Camp where the Bonney Butte Hawk Migration Festival is being held that day to see live raptors up close and talk to raptor experts. We should be back to your cars around 4:00.

**If there is heavy rain that morning** the trip is cancelled because very few raptors will be migrating over the Butte.

>>>>>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

## The Columbian Flyway Renewal Notice



The month of September is time to renew your Columbia Flyway subscription.

**NOTE: New price of \$20**

### Its time to renew!

September is the time to renew your subscription to Vancouver Audubon's *Columbia Flyway* newsletter. The cost to renew is **\$20**.

Renewing your subscription will ensure you continue to receive all nine newsletters delivered to your home for another year. Or, if you prefer you can sign up to get the newsletter via email.

You decide which method works best for you!

Send in your renewal today and keep up to date on meetings and programs, upcoming field trips, conservation concerns, and recent birding activity, along with many other topics.

### Thank you for your interest and support!

Questions regarding your renewal?  
Call George Mayfield at (360) 687-0360 or email him at [gomayf@comcast.net](mailto:gomayf@comcast.net)

**Welcome New Members:** The new members are: John Boynton • Julian Elliot • John Goldfinch • Margaret Grant • Sandra Hazard • Monika House • Ann Humes • Ken Imse • R Kirkpatrick • Virginia Lensing • Judith Lundeen • Steve Malone • Eileen Sharon Marks • Harlan Nelson • Nancy Ruland • Diane Swain • Rhonda Thompson

**Transferred Members:** Susan Shane • Robert Vanderkamp

## Volunteers Needed

**Program Director:** After several years of providing us with great programs every month, Bob Rowe has decided to step down at the end of the year. We need someone to fill his position before the New Year starts and we need a February 2019 program.

**Newspaper / Website Editor:** Since the mid 1980's, Sherry Hagen has produced the Flyway Newsletter starting with type & paste to computer layout. She also took on the duties of keeping our website up to date when the internet got into full swing.

She's tired and would like to step down and let someone else have the fun.

If you would like to step up and fill any of these spots contact President Arden Hagen 360-892-8872  
[iambakerman@comcast.net](mailto:iambakerman@comcast.net)



(360) 253-5771

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The Vancouver store of the Backyard Bird Shop donated **\$521.82** to our chapter for their Birdathon fundraiser in May.

The Backyard Bird Shop matched all customer donations.  
We appreciate their support!

## VAS Supports WWRP

Vancouver Audubon Society has signed on in support of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's (WWRP) \$130 million request to the Legislature for the 2019-2021 biennium. If we don't protect Washington's most precious lands now, we jeopardize the places that define our communities and improve our lives—our natural landscapes, parks, farms, and forests. That's why we are asking for \$130 million for WWRP. This year, over 120 different local, state, tribal, and non-profit groups from across the state submitted 273 applications for funding in the next biennium—a 12 percent increase!

For nearly 30 years, the WWRP has been our state's premier tool for habitat conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. The program has played a significant role in our state's landscape and quality of life, investing over \$1.4 billion into state and local parks, trails, wildlife habitat, working lands, and more. It is nationally recognized for its fair, objective, and independent funding process. Past projects funded in Clark County include the East Fork Lewis River Greenway, Lucia Falls Park and Frenchman's Bar Park.

Robust funding for the WWRP is more important than ever as our state's population growth has accelerated in recent years. Some of the Northwest's most iconic plant and animal species are in rapid decline due to habitat loss and fragmentation, declining water quality, and ecosystem degradation. Investing in the WWRP also invests in our economy and fuels job growth. The WWRP helps support 201,000 outdoor recreation jobs in our state—more than the information technology sector or the aerospace industry. You can learn more and sign on as an individual at:

[wildliferecreation.org/wwrc-requests-130m-for-wwrp-in-next-biennium/](http://wildliferecreation.org/wwrc-requests-130m-for-wwrp-in-next-biennium/)

Susan Saul



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## Lincoln's Sparrow

by Thomas Bancroft

The crisp morning air, maybe in the low 40s, gave the June morning freshness as I hiked along the trail by Lower Tiffany Lake. Tall living Lodgepole pines and Engelmann spruce dotted the shoreline while straight skeletons of burnt trees rose above sapling pines and spruce on the slope above the trail. I had not heard an airplane or car motor since my buddy and I left Winthrop early on the previous day to head north into the Okanogan National Forest. This lake was more than an hour drive from any human habitation and quite a ways back from the nearest dirt road. The sun had not yet crested Rock Mountain to the east and the water, flat as glass, reflected the granite ridge on the west side. A bird sang, and my first thought was House Wren, but then I paused to look back and forth across this area, mumbling, "Not the right habitat, too high in altitude and the wrong plant community."

The song was bubbly, a jumble of trills, often husky in nature, lower in pitch, then going up, before coming back down. It was a musical song that seemed to have gurgles, trills, and buzzes. After ten minutes of searching, I found the bird sitting about eight feet up on an Engelmann spruce that grew right along the lake's bank.



A small plump sparrow with crisp streaks, a gray face and buff wash across the breast, and when it moved, its unmarked white belly flashed briefly. A Lincoln's Sparrow was defending its territory with a beautiful song and sitting

prominently in plain sight. I had only seen this species outside of the breeding season when they tend to be secretive, skulking through thick brush often by themselves or with just a few other sparrows. The last time I saw one; it appeared at the edge of a brier patch for only a second before disappearing back into the thicket.

I found half dozen more along the eastern shore of Tiffany Lake. All of them were in the narrow boggy strip between the trail and the lake. They like wet areas with a thick cover of bushes and small trees. In 1833, John James Audubon discovered this species in Labrador and named it after his traveling buddy, Thomas Lincoln. This bird nests in montane forests of the Cascades and the Rocky Mountains and throughout the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska. Unlike the Song Sparrow, their song repertoire varies little across their range. Humans in the United States seem to have a more diverse dialect than these guys."

It has been a long and hot summer that limited bird and birding activity after we started out in early summer with some very good sightings. As fall approaches we are starting to get some early migration with swallow, swifts, hummingbirds and shorebirds arriving. This is a good time to watch for out of place migrants and birds that breed north of Washington. With the wild Bitter Cherries, Cascara and Mountain Ash ripening you can spend a considerable amount of time just watching the feeding frenzy in groves of these plants. So far 220 species have been reported from Clark County in 2018 and 178 from Skamania County.

**May 25**, Jim Danzenbaker spotted a **FORSTER'S TERN** on Vancouver Lake, they are a Code 5 bird in Clark County. Rarity codes run from 1 for a common species like crows and Robins to 5 for birds with less than five records in the county, you can see the Clark County list by clicking Checklists at: [wabirder.com/](http://wabirder.com/)



**PARTE'S GULLS**, a minimum of 4 **CLARK'S GREBES**, and a **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER**.



Randy a black and white bird he had glimpsed in a blackberry patch, they tracked it down, and he eventually got photos of a Code 5 **BLACK-THROATED SPARROW** on Bachelor Island, a restricted access area of the refuge.

When Randy Hill went to track down the tern Jim had found he spotted few other notables there including about 20

**BONA-PARTE'S GULLS**, a minimum of 4 **CLARK'S GREBES**, and a **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER**. None of these were the best bird of the day, while at Ridgefield NWR tracking banded Purple Martins, Russ Smith described to

**May 28**, Jim Danzenbaker had another Code 5 bird in the green space behind his Battle Ground back deck with a singing male **AMERICAN RED-START**.



**July 22**, An **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** that was reported from the Steigerwald Lake NWR was a new Clark County bird for Les Carlson.

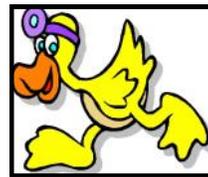
**July 31**, A **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** at a pond on the Orchard hills Golf Course was Eric Bjorkman's 200th Clark County bird.

**Aug. 1**, An immature **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** was a surprise visitor to Ken Knittle's Hazel Dell backyard bringing his yard list up to 102 species.

### INJURED BIRDS: WHAT TO DO?

We have no Bird Rehabilitators in the Vancouver Area that we know of. So what should you do if you find yourself in this situation?

Many Birds that hit a window just need some time to rest to get "their wind back" before taking off again. Try putting them in a box with plenty of air for an hour or more until you hear movement then take them outdoors and test if they are ready to fly off. If not then....



1. Call the **Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center** for information: 503-292-0304  
5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland OR
2. Call Arden 360-635-2333 (cell) or 360-892-8872 (home)
3. If he is available to transport a bird to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then you will be asked to donate a gas mileage compensation and a small donation for the Care Center for the care of the bird at the time of pick up.
3. There is 24 hr **Animals Hospital called DoveLewis** in downtown Portland that will take the bird overnight if the Portland Audubon Wildlife is closed.  
1945 NW Pettygrove 503-228-7281

#### In the meantime....

Keep the bird in a box with small air holes.  
You might offer water via a dropper, and if necessary watered down puppy chow to supply nutrients.

# Vancouver Audubon

## The Backyard & Beyond...

Have you gone on any birding trips this summer so far? Arden and I took a short trip to Montana and North Dakota in June searching for 2 birds in particular. One would be a lifer and one I didn't have a photo of (lifer photo).

We were in search of LECONTE'S SPARROW for a lifer and a BAIRD'S SPARROW photo.

Before we left the Spokane Valley, we stopped at the Urgent Care and I was diagnosed with a viral sinus and lung infection with low oxygen level. We picked up the prescribed inhaler and headed out on our low effort journey. I slept a lot and drank a couple of Taco Bell Freezes for my throat.

Driving across Montana was ...long...but it was still early enough in the season and the landscape was a beautiful green. We drove north of Livingston and stopped at a couple places. We found breeding plumage McCOWN'S LONGSPURS.

Next morning we stopped at War Horse NWR where we found an UPLAND SANDPIPER with young ones she was protecting. We stopped so I could take photos and she came after me. Eventually she flew to a fence post and posed.



Then it was off to the NE corner of Montana. On the way we spotted breeding CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPURS.

At Medicine Lake NWR we found GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS up close to the car.

Photo op. And a family of MARBLED GODWIT were on the road in front of us and they didn't want to give it up...so click click...more photos.

We made our way to the spot where the refuge manager said the **BAIRD'S SPARROWS** have been seen and before long we had one next to the car. Wow. I was a happy photographer.

No luck on the LeConte's Sparrow. So we crossed over into North Dakota and spent the night in Williston. Next morning we tried several NWR's like Lost Woods, Salyer and Arrowhead. Still no luck on our life sparrow. And I could not stay awake in the car.

Next day we went to Chase Lake NWR, Horsehead WMA, and Audubon NWR. Somewhere I picked up a tick that I think did not like the IcyHot on my shoulder (surgery pain). It was trying to get away. We walked 1/2 mile trail that drained me with oxygen level below 90%.



We crossed back into Montana then the next morning we spotted a SHORT-EARED OWL sitting on a fence post in the early morning. We stopped at Glacier NP where we had been told that

there were LeConte's Sparrows and Yellow Rail at this particular meadow. Lots of Wilson's Snipe but not the others. Next morning we went back, still no luck then later in the park we ran into a couple who said those birds hadn't been seen there for a few years. So we headed back to Spokane. I was happy with some new photos.

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding 😊

**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.*

**September 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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)

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