



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

March 2013

Calendar

***BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, Mar. 5, 6:45 PM before the meeting.

***Tuesday, Mar. 5, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, Mar. 4, 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:

Bird Friendly Buildings

by Bob Sallinger

Conservation Director, Portland Audubon Society

Not only do we need to be aware of human caused avian mortality from habitat destruction, automobiles, pet outdoor cats, wind turbine blades, and natural causes from weather and storms, but we are learning that urban buildings cause significant numbers of deaths. Birds can get confused by the reflections they perceive from the glass and attach the reflection, thus causing fatal collisions. What can be done about this in building design and mitigation efforts? Portland Audubon Society has some ideas and has begun to market them.

Bob will also give his take on the Port of Portland's move to develop the western end of Hayden Island, a move Bob has been energetic about opposing so that the habitat can be preserved.

Bob directed the Bird Rescue Center at Portland Audubon for several years.

He has also gained notoriety for climbing down under Portland's bridges across the Willamette to band Peregrine Falcon chicks in their nests. He has been a long time Audubon employee and has spoken to VAS before.



Too many reflective windows?



FIELD TRIP

Ocean Shores, WA



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: Mar. 23, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: 134th St. Park & Ride in Salmon Creek

NOTE: The 134th St. Park & Ride has been relocated near Fred Meyers on 134th west of the old location closer to the I-5 and I-205 merge. Watch for the signs to the Park & Ride.

This will be an all day field trip looking for shorebirds, sea-birds, waterfowl & passerines. Bring lunch, snacks and clothing for the weather at the time.

INJURED BIRDS: WHAT TO DO?

Many of our Board Members receive many calls **especially** during Breeding Season on injured birds or baby birds that seem to be abandoned. 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?

1. Call the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center for information:
503-292-0304
5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland OR
2. Call Arden or Sherry Hagen for information: 360-892-8872
If they are available and a bird requires transport to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then the volunteers suggest they receive a gas mileage compensation and a small donation to the Care Center for the care of the bird at the time of pick up.
3. Please do not call other Board Members since they are unable to help at this time.

Treasurer's Report – Joan Durgin

Revenue for December 2012: **\$3,064.88**

Expenses for December 2012: **\$2,095.01**

Revenue for January 2013: **\$1,552.81**

Expenses for January 2013: **\$2,635.01**

Membership – George Mayfield

26 new members

315 newsletters

Old Business

Audubon Adventures Update:

Currently our chapter is sponsoring 53 kits. We have 10 returning and 43 new classrooms participating in the program.

Audubon's national convention: Will be held this year at Skamania Lodge from July 12 -15

Tammy Bjorkman, VAS Secretary

wanted to do a story but only on Arden & my Big Year New Record for the state. Both these articles came out on my birthday in January and were displayed on their webpages also. Our 15 minutes of fame.

When we heard there was a Red-flanked Bluetail in New Westminister, BC, we just had to make the trip. A LIFE BIRD for both of us. It was a successful trip. This little Asian bird is another rarity off course. But for the Washingtonians seeking a Big Year in 2013, this bird is in Canada. While we were at Queens Park in BC, the local TV station was there with a cameraman and a reporter. They interviewed us and politely photographed us up close. Some people from Washington knew who we were by the newspaper articles that had just come out. The cameraman told us what channel their coverage would be on that night. We then headed to Vancouver Island, BC. When I turned on the TV, there we were on the news with the little Bluetail. What another 15 seconds of fame?

We had taken a Barred Owl to Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center in late November. It had just been sitting in a tree quietly in downtown Vancouver letting pedestrians watch and take photos. When it decided to fly... wham! Right into a window and then around the corner and into the side of a building. We easily picked it up out of the center of the street and took it for treatment. I was called in early February that it was finally ready to be released and we all chose Vancouver Lake Park in the trees to the north. I called the Columbian to see if they wanted to cover the story and they send out a reporter and camera person. Tammy & Eric Bjorkman were there too. Yes we were all mentioned in the Sunday paper again.... Another 15 seconds.....

At the February VAS Meeting, along with the Bjorkmans we presented our Big Year for around 97 people at the General Meeting. Everyone seemed to enjoy the program & we were presented with Hand carved bird statues by Nancy Ellifrit with plaques for our accomplishments. A cake & juice party followed. Wow was all that a big surprise. Everyone made us feel special that night. Thanks.

An Ovenbird was reported in November at a home in NE Portland, another rarity to our part of the world. We were busy with our Big Year and really didn't have or take time to go see it. Finally in February we decided to try for it. We got there and NBC KGW TV crew was there covering this little ground warbler attracting so much attention. We were interviewed and they left without seeing the bird but I spotted the Ovenbird, got photos and video. I asked them if they would like to use my video and they jumped at the chance since they hadn't gotten any. Again we were on TV. My brother-in-law in Spokane said he even saw us up there. Our 15 minutes stretched..... is it now over?

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺

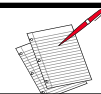
Outdoor Cats: Single Greatest Source of Human-Caused Mortality for Birds and Mammals, Says New Study

A new peer-reviewed study authored by scientists from two of the world's leading science and wildlife organizations – the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – has found that bird and mammal mortality caused by outdoor cats is much higher than has been widely reported, with annual bird mortality now estimated to be 1.4 to 3.7 billion and mammal mortality likely 6.9 – 20.7 billion individuals.

The study, which offers the most comprehensive analysis of information on the issue of outdoor cat predation, was published in the online research journal Nature Communications and is based on a review of more than 90 previous studies. The study was authored by Dr. Peter Marra and Scott Loss, research scientists at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and by Tom Will from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Birds. It is available at http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/pdf/Loss_et_al_2013.pdf.

The Backyard & Beyond...

Now that the Washington Big Year Fund Raiser Competition is over what do I have to write about? As most of you know, the 4 of us were covered in a story in The Columbian, our local newspaper. We were interviewed & photographed. Then the Seattle Times called me & they too



Can We Keep Our Parks?

For any level of government, when money gets tight, guess what gets cut the most? That's right, parks! Local governments can't slash police, slash cut fire protection. But, "frills" such as parks can handle the cuts. Thanks to voter-approved tax limitations that limited the amount of money the city and county can collect, and then the whammy of the recession that limited the amount of money that might be available, period, the revenue for the Clark Vancouver Parks and Recreational Department has gone down, down.

There is no director, only an acting director. Other staff has been reduced. Hours of operation have been reduced and programs have been eliminated. The county has put the development of new parks on hold. Maintenance has been sketchy. Decisions on which programs are retained or not are determined by revenue, not by mission. But has demand for services from the Parks and Recreation Department gone down? Nope, they've gone up.

Currently, the Vancouver Clark Parks and Recreation Department is a combination of the city and county departments -- sort of. It operates under an inter-local agreement in which the Department is located in Vancouver and Clark County contracts for service. Vancouver owns parks and Clark County owns parks. With money so low and the parks department struggling, the city has contracted with a consultant, GreenPlay, to look at the situation and make recommendations.

I attended the commissioners' workshop at which the GreenPlay recommendations were presented to the county commissioners and the members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. The long term recommendation was to create a parks and recreation special district with its own elected board to run the parks.

My first reaction was consternation. Can the voters handle another set of candidates for elected office? The evidence is that the present slate of candidates is too much for some voters, else why did so many not vote in offices other than president, senator, governor and member of congress? On the other hand, if a parks district had its own tax base, parks wouldn't have to compete with police and fire protection. But, that could throw another kink into the complicated business of how the total tax base is allocated among all taxing jurisdictions.

Points brought out in the discussion included the following. People don't care if a park is owned by the city or by the county. Parks are important for attracting business to the county.

The only real waste is in accounting -- the staff needs to keep track of which jurisdiction, city or county, they are working for at the moment. The advisory commission said a couple of times that there really is no dollar waste in the department, but it seemed to me the commissioners did not hear that. Volunteers cannot be counted on for sustained maintenance. Volunteers can be used for an en-

hancement project -- tree planting comes to mind -- but not on a regular basis.

Our newest commissioner obsessed over the parking fees. He wants to do away with them. Last year, the parking fees netted \$300,000 -- not a huge amount, but not peanuts, either. He gave no suggestion on what revenue source might replace that money.

What does this all mean for birds and Audubon? The future for Audubon depends on people getting hooked on observing birds and this starts with what is going on in their back yards. Birds need a place to live, to shop for groceries, to rear their young in a safe place, to hide from enemies. In short, habitat. For birds to show up in the backyards, they need habitat in the community and parks provide a lot of that, especially parks that have some natural vegetation. The future of Audubon and of birds also depends on children -- children who are connected to nature. Again, the need for parks.

Parks in Clark County are in jeopardy. As I see it, the immediate risks are from two ongoing issues: the discussion of eliminating parking fees that would further reduce revenue and the lands inventory that could make it tempting and easy to get rid of some county parks. We need to speak up in support of parks (including supporting revenue for parks) to our elected officials -- Clark County commissioners and city council members. We also need to keep track of what is going on.

The 2013 Legislative Session Begins

Actually, it began a month ago and lots of bills attacking environmental protection have been introduced. One bill on climate change, HB 1169, caught my eye. It would prohibit the Department of Ecology, or any other state agency, "from implementing a cap and trade system, regulating motor vehicle fuel economy, or otherwise addressing greenhouse gas emissions without direct and specific legislative authority to conduct the activity." Talk about step backwards. This thing is called the "Washington state energy freedom act." It is a house bill and has been referred to the Environment Committee. Liz Pike, the 18th District, is the ranking minority member of the committee. Those in the 18th District (north county and Camas and Washougal) take note. Liz's phone number in Olympia is (360) 786-7812 and the hot line number is 1-899-562-6000.

Gretchen Starke



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Members: Vito Alessi • Marty Bielman • Evelyn Birkner • William & Katherine Bishop • Axine Brown • Marvin Calhoun • Mildred Connelly • Aletha Criss • L. Fritz • Cynthia & Gary Dietderich • Ronnie Goldrick • Barbara Hedges • Constance Jones • Gail Kent • Rita Mahaffa • Vannessa McClelland • Patsy Musson • Patricia Rose • Steve Schoen • James Scott • Lois Settlemyer • Linda Starr • Janet Traweek • Olivia Walker

Transfers: Carolyn Koehn • Patricia Rose

WATERFOWL

24	Greater White-fronted Goose
14	Snow Goose
2	Ross's Goose
23,970	Cackling Goose
7,308	Canada Goose
13	Trumpeter Swan (6/64)
1,334	Tundra Swan
5	Unidentified Swan
1	Wood Duck
512	Gadwall
2	Eurasian Wigeon
1,253	American Wigeon
1,640	Mallard
2	Cinnamon Teal
567	Northern Shoveler
2,020	Northern Pintail
380	Green-winged Teal
250	Canvasback
3	Redhead
458	Ring-necked Duck
17	Greater Scaup
486	Lesser Scaup
123	Bufflehead
11	Common Goldeneye
39	Hooded Merganser
52	Common Merganser
1,073	Ruddy Duck

LOONS, GREBES

7	Red-throated Loon (0/6)
1	Pacific Loon (0/1)
2	Common Loon
84	Pied-billed Grebe (22/42)
41	Western Grebe (1/6)

PELICANS, HERONS, IBIS

101	Double-crested Cormorant
2	American Bittern
102	Great Blue Heron
105	Great Egret

RAPTORS

40	Bald Eagle
39	Northern Harrier
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk
3	Cooper's Hawk
10	Red-shouldered Hawk
114	Red-tailed Hawk
1	Golden Eagle
27	American Kestrel
8	Peregrine Falcon

RAILS, CRANES

1	Virginia Rail
2,325	American Coot
1,088	Sandhill Crane

SHOREBIRDS

3	Killdeer
2	Greater Yellowlegs

250	Dunlin
24	Long-billed Dowitcher
6	Wilson's Snipe

GULLS

1	Mew Gull
10	Ring-billed Gull
8	Herring Gull
201	Glaucous-winged Gull
17	Unidentified Gull

DOVES, PIGEONS

326	Rock Pigeon
54	Eurasian Collared-Dove
139	Mourning Dove

OWLS

10	Barn Owl
1	Western Screech-Owl
11	Great Horned Owl
1	Barred Owl
9	Short-eared Owl

HUMMINGBIRDS

6	Anna's Hummingbird
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KINGFISHER

8	Belted Kingfisher
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WOODPECKERS

11	Red-breasted Sapsucker
22	Downy Woodpecker
1	Hairy Woodpecker
70	Northern Flicker
9	Pileated Woodpecker

FLYCATCHERS

2	Black Phoebe
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SHRIKES

3	Northern Shrike
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CORVIDS

27	Steller's Jay
134	Western Scrub-Jay
61	American Crow
16	Common Raven

CHICKADEES, BUSHTITS

242	Black-capped Chickadee
7	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
256	Bushtit

NUTHATCHES, CREEPER

15	Red-breasted Nuthatch
10	White-breasted Nuthatch
9	Brown Creeper

WRENS

39	Bewick's Wren
1	House Wren
16	Pacific Wren
30	Marsh Wren

KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS

122	Golden-crowned Kinglet
189	Ruby-crowned Kinglet

THRUSHES

1	Hermit Thrush
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160	American Robin
79	Varied Thrush

STARLING

1993	European Starling
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PIPITS

113	American Pipit
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WAXWINGS

2	Cedar Waxwing
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WARBLERS

2	Orange-crowned Warbler
1	Yellow Warbler
27	Yellow-rumped Warbler

SPARROWS

121	Spotted Towhee
1	Savannah Sparrow
49	Fox Sparrow
513	Song Sparrow
13	Lincoln's Sparrow (0/8)
92	White-crowned Sparrow
407	Golden-crowned Sparrow
348	Dark-eyed Junco

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES

190	Red-winged Blackbird
49	Western Meadowlark
156	Brewer's Blackbird

FINCHES, WEAVER FINCH

5	Purple Finch
97	House Finch
16	Red Crossbill
17	Pine Siskin
12	American Goldfinch
4	Evening Grosbeak
16	House Sparrow

Totals: 119 species

WA side: 36 participants,

Hours by foot: 166 hours

Distance by foot: 82.6 miles

Hours by driving: 69.25 hours

Distance by driving: 143.8 miles

Eric Anderson; Bonnie Bingle;
Eric Bjorkman; Tammy Bjorkman;
Wilson Cady; Les Carlson; Scott Carpenter;
Bob Carson; Carol Carson; Ales Chmielewski;
Joan Durgin; Dan Friesz; Susan Fuller; Craig
Gabriel; Justus Gabriel; Arden Hagen; Randy
Hill; Al Larrabee; Cindy Mayfield; George May-
field; Tom McConathy; Dan Nelson, Nathan
Nenadic; Roger Phillips; Ruth Phillips; Bronson
Potter; Jeannie Reaves; Jeff Reaves; Robin
Rose; Bob Rowe; Jeff Swilk; Bob Taylor; Lyn
topinka; Janet Traweck; Jane Van Dyke; Barry
Woodruff



Jan. 12, Ken Knittle and I, had 1 SHORT-EARED OWL on Fitzgerald Road, in Skamania County. As these were the first ones ever reported from Skamania County, many birders came to search for them at this location.

Jan. 14, A drake TUFTED DUCK, in full breeding plumage, was found, by Stuart Johnston, upstream from Maryhill State Park, in Klickitat County. Tufted Ducks are a rare winter visitor from Eurasia, that are usually found with Ring-necked Ducks and scaup when here.

Jan. 15, Alan Richards observed two SHORT-EARED OWLS at Fitzgerald Rd.

Arden and Sherry Hagen traveled to Queens Park in New Westminister, BC, and were successful in finding the RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL, another very rare bird from Asia that showed up this winter.

A SNOW GOOSE and a ROSS'S GOOSE were seen by Randy Hill, among large flocks of CANADA and CACKLING GEESE on Bachelor Island, west of the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR.

Jan. 18, Eric & Tammy joined the dozens of birders in New Westminister, BC to see the RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL, they followed up this sighting with a nearby BRAMBLING, an Eurasian finch.

Susan and I made a three day trip to the Olympic Peninsula to find a THICK-BILLED MURRE that was reported from Port Angeles. This murre is rare on the Pacific coast away from their Alaskan breeding grounds. We also enjoyed seeing LONG-TAILED DUCK, HARLEQUIN DUCK and the great scenery.

Jan. 19, Carol and Don Kohler also traveled north to see both the RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL and BRAMBLING. On this trip they also saw about 20 SNOWY OWLS on Boundary Bay. And on Fir Island they located a GYRFALCON and several SHORT EARED OWLS.

Matt Bartels was out birding in Skamania County, and came across a SWAMP SPARROW near Stevenson, the first record of this East Coast sparrow in Skamania County.

Jan.21, Lyn Topinka found the continuing drake TUFTED DUCK, on the slough next to Round , at Lacamas County Park, they also saw a SPOTTED SANDPIPER on the shoreline of Lacamas Lake.

Jan. 25, Les Carlson, Russ Koppendrayer and I ran another Skamania County Big Day coming up with a total of 69 species to set a new record. Our best birds for the day were TRUMPETER SWAN, EURASIAN WIGEON, RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, WILSON'S SNIPE, SHORT-EARED OWL, NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL, and WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.

Jan. 26, The SHORT-EARED OWL on Fitzgerald Rd. was photographed by Lyn and Gene Topinka. It was their first sighting of this species in Washington.

Steve and Sybil Kohl took the 300 mile jaunt up to New

Westminster, BC , to see the RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL.

Jan. 27, Don and Carol Kohler went to Port Angeles and added the THICK-BILLED MURRE that is wintering at Ediz Hook there to their life lists.

A gorgeous light gray MERLIN perched on our feeders, this bird appeared to be a "Prairie" subspecies.

Feb. 1, The THICK-BILLED MURRE was still at Ediz Hook area in Port Angeles, when Arden and Sherry Hagen searched for it.

Feb. 3, The TUFTED DUCK was at Fallen Leaf Lake Park, across the road from Lacamas Lake Park, according to Carol Kohler.

A MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE was coming Glenn and Marianne Teague's feeders, one of several reported from Clark County this winter. These are a species associated with high elevations in the Cascades as well as the forests of eastern Washington (two different subspecies) and are rare in this county.

The injured BARRED OWL, that Arden and Sherry Hagen captured in downtown Vancouver last fall, was released after rehabilitation, at Vancouver Lake Park.

As of the end of the first week of February, 122 species of birds have been reported from Clark County in 2013, while Skamania County has had 83 tallied this year. To check the 2013 Cumulative County Bird List for any county in Washington, go to

http://www.wabirder.com/county_yearlist.html

The Rufous Hummingbirds should be back by the start of March, although there had already been a couple of reports in early February. Among the earliest signs of Spring will be the movement of wintering waterfowl and raptors as they start their move back North. The first species returning in the Spring will include Turkey Vultures, Tree Swallows, Say's Phoebe and Western Bluebirds, a good way to search for these birds would be to take a drive to the Catherine Creek Preserve in Klickitat County. Even if there are few birds the wildflowers are worth the visit.

Please continue to send me your sightings for inclusion in this column. *Wilson Cady* gorgebirds@juno.com



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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.



March 2013

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.

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*** This will **not** include *The Columbia Flyway* ***

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Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116

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