



Calliope Crier

The Yakima Valley Audubon Society is people dedicated to the enjoyment and preservation of the natural world. Through birding, education and conservation activities in our community, we raise awareness and promote the cause of global environmental protection.

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

May 2014



MAY PROGRAM **BILL DRENGUIS**

Pronghorn Antelope reintroduction on the Yakima Reservation with Jim Stephenson

In January of 2011 ninety-nine pronghorn antelope were released on to the Yakama Reservation. These are the first pronghorns to occupy reservation rangelands in over 100 years. After six years of work the efforts of the Yakama Nation Wildlife, Vegetation and Range Programs finally came to fruition. The first step in this long process began in 2005 with pronghorn habitat analysis for the rangelands of the Yakama Reservation. This analysis, funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, indicated that there was suitable habitat throughout the shrub-steppe portion of the reservation, with the best habitat in the eastern portion of the East Satus area.

This month's speaker is Jim Stephenson, a large animal biologist for the Yakama Nation. He has been deeply involved with the reintroduction of thaw pronghorn. He will talk about the "How and Why" of this undertaking. Its been

three years now, how are they doing now? As you can see from the picture, Jim has been working with bighorn sheep as well as wild horses found on the Yakama reservation.



**Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 22, at 7:00 pm to see
this presentation at the Yakima Area Arboretum**



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN **ANDY STEPNIIEWSKI**

Spring Yakima Valley Audubon activities continue at a brisk pace.

The Education Committee has been especially busy. Karen Zook and April Adamson earned our gratitude for organizing and conducting the Arborfest event at the Yakima Area Arboretum on April 12. Read and see more about the event in a separate article in this Crier.

The Birding Basics, with 40 students, is winding down. Three lectures and three field trips have been completed. Since my last message in March, the class, on April 16, heard

Jeff Kozma present a really nice "Gardening and Birds" lecture inspiring students to bring birds to their yard, in my opinion, the easiest way for most of us to learn about and appreciate birds. I then presented "Birds and Plants of the Shrub-steppe." Finally, "A recap of Birds seen on the Fieldtrips" was given by Denny Granstrand. This lecture was followed by a fieldtrip to shrub-steppe near Toppenish and then a diversion along Pumphouse and Lateral C Roads to observe waterbirds, including boatloads of Black-necked Stilts. The remaining lecture "Woodpeckers and Mountain Birds" by Jeff Kozma will be May 28, followed by a fieldtrip by Jeff to the mountains on May 31. Many thanks to all who helped with this class, especially the presenters: Denny Granstrand, Jeff Kozma, Luke Safford, Andy Stepniiewski, and Karen Zook.

President's Column (continued on page 2)

Visit the Yakima Valley Audubon Society's website at: <http://www.yakimaaudubon.org>

President's Column (continued from page 1)

Migratory Bird Day at Toppenish NWR on May 10 was a great way to celebrate the spring show of birds there. Refuge personnel were on hand to show banding technique. Hay rides around refuge pools normally closed to the public were as popular as ever, filled with showy waterbirds. Live raptors from Raptor House were as popular, as ever, too.

Lastly on Education, see Ellen's article in this newsletter announcing "Kiddin' Around," an event at the Yakima Area Arboretum. That event is set for June 8 and once again we'll be organizing "Going for a bird hunt." Ellen is organizing this event and REALLY needs volunteers to help with this.

Regarding YVAS involvement with Toppenish NWR, Kerry Turley and I received the MOU proposing a collaborative agreement with the refuge. This agreement has been presented to the YVAS board and is under discussion.

Fieldtrips. The Wenas Campout, bringing together birders and naturalists over the Memorial Day Weekend is a good way to sample the incredible diversity of birds in south-central Washington in May. The campout hosts a lot of fieldtrips, both driving and walking tours. Not only are birds featured but you can take flower walks, monitor our bluebird boxes, and even view the night stars. The evening campfires features a sing-along and a speaker. If you have never been to the Wenas Campout, consider going this year, even if only for a day! Speaking of the Wenas, Richard Repp will lead a trip to Hardy Canyon in the lower Wenas Creek region on June 7, one of the birdiest single spots in our region. Remember, too, the weekly Poppoff Trail fieldtrip continues. Check this newsletter for meeting times at the east end of Valley Mall Boulevard.

Regarding conservation, the YVAS board will be addressing the WA State Parks resource issues and concerns I raised

several months ago. YVAS is being asked to participate in guiding state parks to more effectively safeguard the resources in Sportsman and Fort Simcoe State Parks.

I mentioned the continuing Bobolink study last month, now in "Year 5" of this collaborative effort by the Yakama Nation and YVAS to restore the tiny population of Bobolinks, to the wet pasture habitat along Lateral C. Jan Gano spearheads the YVAS study and he will present the project at the Saturday evening banquet at the upcoming June conference of the Washington Ornithological Society. Congratulations and good luck Jan!

May boasts the very highest bird diversity of any month in the Yakima region. This is the time of year when almost every day brings new arriving species from the south and there are still lingering winter and spring visitors. That is why Yakima Valley Audubon has its annual Birdathon, scheduled for May 17. Ten teams of YVAS birders will have canvassed the many habitats in Yakima County, from the Columbia River west to the Cascade crest, and amassed a super list of birds, proving the region's biodiversity once again. How can you help in this effort? Even if you're not one of the birders you can help by donating to YVAS on this fundraiser, the ONLY time each year the chapter comes to you with a request for a donation, to be spent on chapter conservation, education, and birding activities. Please donate to YVAS!

Make plans to attend the YVAS chapter meeting May 22 at the Yakima Area Arboretum featuring a program on "Reintroduction of the Pronghorn Antelope to the Yakama Nation," by tribal biologist Jim Stephenson. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the return of the American West's "most fleet of foot."



MEMBERSHIP
DEBIE BROWN

Thank you for renewing your Membership!

Seattle: Rick & Anne Matsen, Melinda Stanojevic
Selah: Jerry Turner, Gus & Mary Pooler
Yakima: Charles Crandall, Earl & Dorothy Derry, Lee & Edith Hunsperger, Lamont McLachlan, Loretta Olson, Nellie Jane Ridley, Bill & Edith Ryan, Susan Paolella, Gary & Susan Slagle



THIS MONTH'S YVAS
CALENDAR

- May 22** **Audubon Chapter Meeting** at the Yakima Area Arboretum at **7:00 pm.**
- May 23-26** **Wenas Campout.** See the field trip section for more details.
- June 7** **Hardy Canyon in the Wenas.** See the field trip section for more details.
- June 10** **Board Meeting** at Vera Backstom's house (9770 US Highway 12) at 7:00 pm.
- June 21** **Mt. Adams Specialties.** See the field trip section for more details.

As a special request, is the post on the April 17 Pokes walking tour of the Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge.

Pokies Probe Pumphouse Ponds

Thursday, April 17, six YVAS members accompanied the Cascadian's Pokies on their annual tour of the Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge (TNWR).

The walk was kick-started for cuteness by two Great Horned Owlets sitting in their nest close to the Visitors' Center. An adult was visible in a nearby tree. The walk focused on two ponds along the nature trail just northwest of the center where Black-necked Stilt, Northern Shovelers, Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and a lone Redhead posed for nice scope views.

In all, over forty species were tallied on the walk, testimony to both migration and quality habitat on the refuge.

Thanks are due to Karen & Joe Zook, Debie Brown, Jan Gano, and Mike Roper for packing scopes and sharing their birding expertise with the Pokies. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the scope views that transferred the twinkle in the birds' eyes into the eyes of the viewers!

We really appreciated the cooperation of Refuge Manager Rich Albers and assistant Robert Luna for opening the Visitors' Center and making us feel welcome.

After a brief on grounds picnic lunch, the group headed down Pumphouse Road to the flooded field just past milepost 3 where Black-necked Stilt have been cavorting in huge numbers. Mixed in with the ducks were eight Dunlin and counts of Stilt ranged from 114 to 124.

Despite the off and on mist, it was an enjoyable day and a testimony to the habitat as all of the eBirders on the walk managed to add species to their individual year lists! Don't overlook the fact that you can sample the birds and wildlife along the refuge's two-mile Nature Trail which is open daily. The trail starts at the parking lot near the wooden kiosk visible from Hwy 97 and winds back to loop past the pond northwest of the Visitors' Center and into some shrub-steppe.

— Richard Repp —

Arborfest 2014

The theme for Arborfest 2014 was "A Walk in the Woods." Our display board featured birds that one might find on a walk in the woods. We also had our great new banner featuring the wing spans of many different species of birds. Kids and adults alike were having fun measuring their "wing spans" against those of various hawks and other birds.



The YVAS booth at Arborfest.
(Left - right: Judy Gano, Jan Gano, Ken Tolonen, April Adamson, and Justine Repp-Faith)

The weather was most cooperative this year - sunny skies and very light winds. The nice weather brought lots of people out to enjoy the festival. Our booth had kids lined up most of the day, patiently waiting to have their beautifully and creatively colored birds made into a button that they could wear around the festival grounds. We made literally hundreds of buttons! I think that the YVAS booth was one of the most popular booths at Arborfest this year.

One great addition to our booth this year were Fun Fact cards designed by April Adamson. April made a card for each bird that we featured for the buttons. The cards had the name of the bird with an interesting fact about the bird on the back. These cards stimulated a lot of conversation between the kids and their parents, and also between the kids, adults and YVAS volunteers. I cannot count the number of times I heard someone say "I didn't know that!". It was fun having conversations with people and sharing facts and stories about birds.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the YVAS booth such a success this year: April Adamson, Jan and Judy Gano, Richard Repp, Justine Repp-Faith, Ken Tolonen and Joe Zook. Thanks also to Bob from the Yakima Area Arboretum, who found us some metal fence posts that we could use to put up the banner. It was a great day!

- Karen Zook -



FIELD TRIPS
LUKE SAFFORD

May 23-26

Wenas Campout -- For over 40 years, Auduboners from across the state have gathered in the Wenas to watch birds, hike, and admire the flower show. What makes the Wenas so special to naturalists? It has to do with its position at the lower edge of the Ponderosa Pine Zone as it interfingers with the upper Shrub-steppe Zone. An amazing array of flora and fauna occurs here. Visit the Wenas website for more

Field Trips (continued from page 4)

Field Trips (continued from page 3)

information. There are lots of fieldtrips and hikes that are offered during this three-day Memorial Day weekend. For more details, visit www.wenascampout.org.

June 5, 12, 19, 26

Thursday Morning Birdwalk – June 5—8:30am; New Time Begins June 12th at 7:30am! Meet the group at the Poppoff Trail/Jewett Pathway parking lot at the east end of Valley Mall Blvd., at the north side of the eastern most roundabout. Join us for leisurely birding and good company! Contact Luke if you have any questions at luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com.

June 7

Hardy Canyon in the Wenas-- One of the premier birding walks in the Wenas. We will find many of the nesting species in the Wenas and maybe chase rarities found during the Wenas Campout. Contact leader Richard Repp (965-1134 or email: rich712@aol.com) to say you are going and to get the location and time to meet the group.

June 21

Mount Adams Specialties – The area around the south-slopes of Mount Adams is an underbirded area of the state that deserves to be explored. Andy Stepniewski will lead us in looking for species more known to be “west-side” birds, such as Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Hermit and Black-throated Warblers. Join Andy and others for this all day trip by contacting him at (steppie@nwinfo.net or 877-6639) to say you are going and to get the location and time to meet the group.

Early Morning on the Slough

This slough, quiet except for kingfisher calls and muskrat splash, seems ancient, though just feet away from a highway. I carry a tub of cracked corn as I have for years each morning. The scuff of my feet on the path scatters the California quail. Two mallard males, princely and silent, float near, muffled morning light bouncing green off their necks.

They shift their direction slightly away from me, concentric circles of their paddling opening the water. Then smooth. They will wait patiently to eat until I am gone.

Yesterday, three Canada geese ruled the slough with their huge bird bodies.

On top of their svelte necks, their heads bobbed forward like Indian dancers.

Even flying around the slough, they made their own music. And right this minute, a wood duck, sails over the beaver dam.

With his primary colors, bold black and white outlines, he looks more like a Mondrian art piece than a duck.

When he and his mate have babies, they will have them in a tree.

Could I be lucky enough to see the newly-hatched ducklings, (puffballs, really) leap into the air to join their mother for a swimming lesson?

As I ponder this, I am so still that a mama mallard does not see me and troops her brood onto the beach of cracked corn.

The babies root around for breakfast. Murmured quacking fills the air like sunlight.

They are so close, one could hop on my lap by mistake.

I don't want to scare them, but I can barely keep a quack from flying out of my mouth.

- *Dotty Armstrong* -

YELF Events



Yakama Nation 159th Treaty Day Commemoration
 Celebrating
 Traditional Arts & Dancing
 "Tachastah dan jaxwastan Nuchem Kwanaw"

June 4 8am - YN Warriors Flag Raising Ceremony
 10am - Yakama Nation Treaty Day Parade
 12noon - Salmon Bake
 8am-3pm - Cultural Center 34th Anniversary
 100 Years of Lewis & Clark, 150 Years of Washington State
 Proceeds & Vendor opportunities at Cultural Center Auditorium Office & Gift Shop

June 4-5 Treaty Day Pow Wow • 8:00am - 4:00pm • White Swan, WA
 Yakama, Lemhi & Grand Entry of Day
 Traditional, modern & Grand Entry of Day
 Yakama, Lemhi & Grand Entry of Day
 Yakama Nation Treaty Day Commemoration P.O. Box 1000, Toppenish, WA 99086
 Email: info@yakamaworld.com

June 4-5 All-Indian Championship Rodeo
 8:00am - 10:00pm • White Swan, WA
 Yakama, Lemhi & Grand Entry of Day
 Yakama Nation Treaty Day Commemoration P.O. Box 1000, Toppenish, WA 99086
 Email: info@yakamaworld.com

June 4-5 Mens Softball Tournament
 10:00am - 4:00pm • Toppenish, WA • Frank Rappaport 304-930-0447

June 7 & 8 Womens Softball Tournament
 10:00am - 4:00pm • Toppenish, WA • Frank Rappaport 304-930-0447

June 7 & 8 Golf Tournament
 8am - 4pm • Toppenish, WA • Toppenish Suburban Club 891-1100

June 7 10am - White Swan Community Parade
 White Swan, WA • Toppenish, WA 99086

www.yakamaworld-fish.gov • www.yakamamuseum.com



THE GREAT SALISH SEA CONCERT
Dana Lyons
 Ken Bevis to open
7 PM Thursday May 29th

Unitarian Universal Fellowship
 225 N. 2nd Street, Yakima

Dana Lyons is best known for his comedy songs (including Cows With Guns), beautiful ballads, and stories from his travels around the world. Listen to Dana's tunes at www.cowswithguns.com

**!Children's Concert!
 4 PM Wednesday May 28th**
 Bring your kids and enjoy silly songs and sing-a-longs with Dana Lyons!

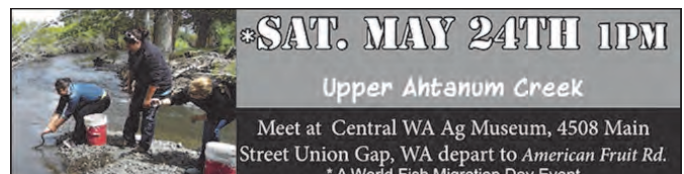
May 28th Concert: \$5 Donation
 May 29th Concert: \$10 Donation

Saturday, May 24 - 1:00 p.m. World Fish Migration Day - Asum (Eel-like Lamprey). Meet at Central WA Ag. Museum - 4508 Main St. - Union Gap

Wednesday, May 28 - 4:00 p.m. Dana Lyon Concert for Kids - Unitarian Universal Fellowship - 225 N. 2nd St - Yakima

Thursday, May 29 - 7:00 p.m. - Dana Lyon Concert - Ken Bevis to open - Unitarian Universal Fellowship - 225 N. 2nd St. - Yakima

Friday, June 6 - Sunday, June 8 - Yakama Nation 159th Treaty Day Commemoration - Toppenish & White Swan



***SAT. MAY 24TH 1PM**
 Upper Ahtanum Creek

Meet at Central WA Ag Museum, 4508 Main Street Union Gap, WA depart to American Fruit Rd.
 *A World Fish Migration Day Event



BIRD SIGHTINGS

DENNY GRANSTRAND

Once again the birds that have been hanging out at our feeders all winter have, for the most part, headed off to the forest or northern areas to find mates and nest, while the species that migrated south last fall are returning.

I am glad to see the White-crowned Sparrows leave my neighborhood. Early in May I reseeded the bare areas of my lawn, only to watch the White-crowned Sparrows eat all of the new grass seeds. Maybe the second seeding will be more successful with fewer seed-eaters around.

Debie Brown got May off to a great start when she saw a Bullock's Oriole in her yard on Konnowac Pass, then heard two Common Poorwills calling in the evening.



Bullock's Oriole
Photo by Mike Roper

Also on May 2, Karen and Joe Zook toured the Highway 12 corridor with their first stop along Oak Creek. There they found one Red-naped Sapsucker, a Western Wood-Pewee, a Cassin's Vireo and a Warbling Vireo. At Windy Point a displaying Rufous Hummingbird entertained them. Shortly after they saw a male Harlequin Duck in the river and had a Nashville Warbler overhead. A few Barrow's Goldeneyes were on Clear Lake, while two Ospreys were cruising over the lake. Several Chestnut-backed Chickadees were in a tree near the boat launch. The highlight of the day was a Black-throated Gray Warbler, a new county bird for them, in the Day Use area.

Tuck Russell had a three hummingbird day at his feeders on Ahtanum Ridge on May 3—Black-chinned, Calliope and Rufous Hummers somehow managed to cooperate as they visited the feeders.

At the Hause Creek Campground on May 4, Scott Downes found a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a MacGillivray's Warbler and three Purple Finches. Red-breasted Sapsuckers are uncommon in Yakima County. We see a lot more hybrid Red-breasted X Red-naped Sapsuckers in this area.

Mike Roper had been hearing Western Tanagers in his



Red-breasted Sapsucker
Photo by Denny Granstrand

yard for a couple of days but on May 4 he finally got a view of a beautiful male. The huge migrating wave of Western Tanagers can't be far behind. For a brief period during the height of their migration, it seems like the only birds in the trees in Yakima are Western Tanagers.

Richard Repp, or as he calls himself when he is counting migrating swifts at Johnson's Glass on S. 1st St. in Yakima: "Rich not so swift", has been conducting Vaux's Swift counts as they drop into the large chimney for the night. He counted nearly 300 individuals on several evenings in early May. Here is an excerpt from an e-mail that Richard sent to Bird-Yak on May 4:

I went to the new big Sibley to obtain the rendition of a Vaux's call, as I have never heard one. Sometimes field guides dish up something other than pretty pictures/paintings of birds. In his introduction to the Swifts, Family Apodidae, Sibley comments: "Entirely aerial insectivores, they are seen only in flight, perching only at nesting or roosting sites on concealed vertical walls in cliff crevices, hollow trees, and chimneys. Normally forage at high altitude for tiny insects and spiders . . ." WHAT was that last part? And you thought you had a hard time putting food on the table? Try hunting spiders at high altitudes. Now that is worth a smile. For swifts to survive, there must be thousands of spiders plying the air waves hundreds of meters above us. And, prey tell, what are these spiders

(Bird Sightings continued on page 6)

Bird Sightings continued from page 5

doing up there? Migrating? Or are they competing with the swifts, praying to beat the birds to those tiny insects? Either way, the spiders must be hang-gliding from their webs, which they use both for locomotion and to trap their in-flight meal. Who knew . . . well, other than David Sibley.

For much of this past winter the real action in the Yakima area was the Costco Pond in Union Gap. Now that other hot-spot of in-city birding is getting some action. On May 8, I found a Solitary Sandpiper searching the water's edge for tasty morsels.

Migratory Bird Day at the Toppenish NWR produced lots of great sightings. Waterfowl were a big attraction on these rides, including good looks at colorful ducks such as Cinnamon Teal and Northern Shovelers. Shorebirds were another attraction, too with lots of showy Black-necked Stilts and a sprinkling of other colorful waders such as American Avocets, Long-billed Dowitchers, and Wilson's Phalaropes. American Bitterns, usually quite elusive, were seen on several of these rides. Other showy spring birds noted by most included American White Pelicans and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. A downy Great Horned Owl juvenile perched obligingly in a shrub willow by the edge of the Wetland Trail, affording super scope views for almost everyone! On one hay ride a Peregrine Falcon soared right over head, always a thrill-



Female Wilson's Phalarope
Photo by Denny Granstrand

ing sighting.

John Hebert and Kevin Lucas headed down Hwy 97 Saturday afternoon and found a Lesser Goldfinch in a spot where it appeared they nested last year. Afterwards, thanks to Kevin's superb hearing, they found a pair of Bushtits being harassed by three hungry juveniles.

YVAS Field Trip has a great time at Snow Mountain



The field trippers in the photo. From left to right: Richard Repp, Diane Bornfleth, Ross Bornfleth, Joe, Bill Drenguis, Karen Zook, and Karen Ramey.
Photo taken by Jan Gano.

Ten of us trekked through Snow Mountain on May 3rd. Despite breezy conditions that kept some of the birds down, we saw 40 species. I think all of us added a year bird or two. In the canyon, notable sightings were Western Tanager, a fe-

male Lazuli Bunting, Nashville Warbler, and Loggerhead Shrike. The bunting gave us all a chance to practice our ID skills. After some head scratching, looking at our digital photos and checking the field guide we finally figured it out. I think we are all used to seeing the males in their bright blue plumage (and singing), and this female looked totally different!

Up along the Wildflower Trail, highlights were Horned Larks, Vesper sparrow and two Western Kingbirds.

Next, we walked along the canal where we spotted a Wilson's warbler, and down toward the pond, we added an Orange-crowned warbler, Warbling vireo and Hammond's flycatcher.

There were plenty of House wrens, Robins and Yellow-rumped warblers throughout our trip, too.

White-crowned sparrows were still present, but not in the numbers that Joe and I saw last Tuesday. One notable absence was the Lewis's woodpecker. We would normally expect to see one or two, but there were none showing themselves during our trip.

It was a very nice morning at Snow Mountain.

Ashland, Oregon's Mountain Bird Festival: May 30th, May 31st, and June 1st

The first-ever Mountain Bird Festival is coming! Klamath Bird Observatory will host this community conservation event this spring in Ashland, Oregon, in partnership with the **City of Ashland**, the **Ashland Chamber of Commerce**, **ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum**, and many others organizations. If you're visiting from out of town, lodging can be provided by our generous hotel sponsors: **Lithia Springs Hotel**, **Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites**, and **Ashland Bed & Breakfast Network**.

The Mountain Bird Festival combines a celebration of the region's spectacular mountain birds with the stewardship ethic needed to ensure thriving landscapes for humans and wildlife. Every citizen who participates in this festival acts as a significant steward of the science that drives conservation. Read more here about the conservation impacts of the Mountain Bird Festival.

The Mountain Bird Festival offers guided bird walks, keynote presentations, fine art galleries, cocktail parties, music, local foods, and a feel-good community atmosphere. We will have half-day and full day field trips both Saturday and Sunday (specialty mountain bird species are listed below). For non-birders Ashland provides a variety of activities. There are



over a dozen boutique wineries within a half hour's drive. The downtown has many interesting shops and galleries. There are brew-pubs, book stores, coffee shops, boutiques, movie theatres and a variety of specialty shops. Also, Ashland is home to the widely acclaimed Oregon Shakespeare Festival with afternoon and evening plays all three days of the festival. Be sure and get your tickets well in advance.

Some of our target birds are: Red-head, Common Merganser, Mountain Quail, nesting Sandhill Cranes, nesting Osprey, Ferruginous Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, dancing Western and Clark's Grebes, Wilson's Snipe, Black Terns, Great Gray Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Vaux's Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, Prairie Falcon, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Mountain Chickadee, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lazuli Bunting.

For more information, go to the following link:

<http://www.klamathbird.org/education/mountainbird>

2014 YAKIMA VALLEY AUDUBON OFFICERS AND BOARD

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	April Adamson (read2learn@aol.com)	248-6944	Bluebird Trail	Richard Repp (rich712@aol.com)	965-1134
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Audubon Refuge Keeper	Kerry Turley (kdturley@embarqmail.com)	837-6930	Social	Vacant	
Bluebird Trail	Richard Repp (rich712@aol.com)	965-1134	Volunteer Recognition	Vacant	
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Education	Ellen Stepniewski (steppie@nwinfo.net)	877-6639	Website	www.yakimaaudubon.org	
Field Trips	Luke Safford (luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com)	833-6081	Toppenish NWR CBC	Luke Safford (luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com)	833-6081
	Jan Gano (gano12@earthlink.net)	966-4539	Yakima Valley CBC	Denny Granstrand (dgranstrand@gmail.com)	453-2500
			YVAS Email	(birds@yakimaaudubon.org)	

How to See a Rare Bird in Yakima County

On May 16 (the day before YVAS's annual Birdathon, no less) two birds rarely seen in the county popped up in the lower valley. The first, a Northern Waterthrush, was found by Andy Stepniewski and Eric Heisey at the Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge. The second, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, was discovered in White Swan by Sarah and Linda King. Andy and Eric volunteered to do point counts at TNWR in a structured scientific effort on a closed portion of the refuge. Sarah and Linda hung a feeder visible from their kitchen window at home. As the old saying goes, there's



more than one way to skin a cat...but please note that no cats were harmed in either birding effort. A little bird (actually a wannabe Osprey) told me the Waterthrush was Yakima County life bird #300 for Andy.

Coming Attractions:

1. Chapter Meeting - May 22
2. Wenas Campout - May 23-26
3. Hardy Canyon field trip - June 7
4. Mt. Adams field trip - June 21