



# 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.

Volume 43, Number 06

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

July 2014

## Woodpeckers Need Our Help

Many of you know that the forested mountains of Yakima County provide some of the best opportunities for viewing woodpeckers in the Northwest. They also provide some of the best opportunities for research on rare species like white-headed and black-backed woodpeckers. Would you like to join an effort to better understand the lives of these important birds?

We are studying these woodpeckers in an attempt to provide for better long-term conservation and sustainable population management. Did you know that no one has attempted to track the lives of woodpeckers from birth through adolescence, and into adulthood? Where do our Yakima woodpeckers come from, and where do young woodpeckers go after fledging? Did you know that no one has monitored woodpecker nests with video footage to observe species interactions during the nesting season? What sorts of visitors do woodpeckers have at their nests, and how do parents respond?

We are looking for help with these projects. No prior experience is necessary.



We need people willing to drive the mountain roads this fall and listen for radio-signals from young woodpeckers. You can have the joy of birding some of the best high elevation migration routes this autumn, while assisting us in tracking young woodpeckers. We can provide all of the necessary equipment (except a car!) and clear-instructions for this simple process.

For those who prefer birding from the comfort of your living room, we need help reviewing >50 hours of video footage and >50,000 still-photos of nest activities from this summer. We are anxious to hear from those who may have suggestions for improving our video and photography for next year.

This research is part of a collaborative effort involving citizen scientists, University of Idaho, and U.S. Forest Service. We need your help and no effort is too small – whether you can contribute an hour of your time, or weeks! **Please contact Philip Fischer (pcfischer@gmail.com; 509-731-0211) or Teresa Lorenz (lore5748@vandals.uidaho.edu; 509-731-5226).**

- Teresa Lorenz -



### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN ANDY STEPNIIEWSKI

Your chapter's busy spring is winding down and a short summer break begins!

The Education Committee's Birding Basics Class, with 40 students, finished its lectures on May 28 with three presentations: "Woodpeckers and Mountain Birds" by Jeff Kozma, "Neotropical Migrants" by Andy Stepniewski, and "Other

Mountain Birds" was covered by Luke Safford. The last fieldtrip was led by Jeff and we headed up the Bethel Ridge Road. Jeff shared a most impressive nine species of woodpeckers, including the American Three-toed Woodpecker, the most uncommon of the locally occurring woodpeckers. My heartfelt thanks to those who presented lectures this spring: Denny Granstrand, Jeff Kozma, Luke Safford, Andy Stepniewski, and Karen Zook. Thanks are also due to April

*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)*

Adamson, Susan Paoella, and Ken Tolenon, who assisted Ellen Stepniewski with organization of the class.

"Kiddin' Around," an event hosted by the Yakima Area Arboretum was June 8 and once again we organized "Going for a bird hunt." Ellen spearheaded this event and had lots of help. Appreciation and thanks are due to: Karen Zook, Kerry Turley, Rich Repp, Denny Granstrand, April Adamson, Andy Stepniewski, Jan and Judy Gano, Susan Paoella, Dotty Armstrong, Vera Backstrom, and Elizabeth Bohn.

Bluebirds. This year is shaping up to be a great year for the bluebirds! Richard Repp, Chair of the Bluebird Committee, reported on July 1 the mid-season count was 358 fledged bluebirds to date, 338 Westerns and 20 Mountains. Richard predicts that with continued warm weather, the total might reach 500, clearly surpassing 440, the 10-year average. Again, my thanks to all who have monitored the bluebird trail, Yakima Valley Audubon's longest running project. Since its inception, this "trail" has fledged over 14000 baby bluebirds!

Toppenish NWR surveys. Kerry Turley and I have completed point count surveys at Toppenish NWR. In 2013, we each completed one survey. This year, the refuge biologists ramped up the protocol and called for three surveys of each point (!). We were assisted by Ellen Stepniewski and Eric Heisey.

Regarding our chapter's collaborative agreement (MOU) with the refuge, I have signed this and Refuge Keeper Kerry Turley has sent it on to Rich Albers, Refuge Manager. So, we are now waiting to sit down with Rich to begin implementing the MOU.

Speaking of surveys, as mentioned in my previous column, YVAS partnered with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in surveys of shrub-steppe songbirds on two of our local wildlife areas. Teresa Lorenz directed these point counts. Three sites were surveyed on Oak Creek, by Debie Brown, Scott Downes, and Michele Gilbert. Six sites were censused on the Wenas Wildlife Area by John Hebert, Kevin Lucas, and Teresa Lorenz. Thanks to all of you for your hard work on these surveys. You may recall a large fire recently swept through portions of the Wenas Wildlife Area. Fortunately, none of the survey sites were affected by this fire.

Fieldtrips. The Hardy Canyon fieldtrip on June 7, led by Richard Repp, found many of the colorful Neotropical migrants the Wenas is famous for including Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock's Orioles, and Lazuli Buntings. Participants tackled the pesky flycatchers, too, in the not-so-colorful songbird category, such as Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Western Wood-Pewee. I led a trip to Mt. Adams on June 21 to the re-

mote southwest corner of Yakima County. In these impressive "Wetside" forests of Douglas-fir and Vine Maple, we were successful in finding species characteristic of the coastal slope: Red-breasted Sapsucker, and Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warblers. The weekly Poppoff Trail fieldtrips continues. Check this newsletter for meeting times at the east end of Valley Mall Boulevard, in the parking lot next to the eastern-most roundabout. June added Ash-throated Flycatcher to the Poppoff checklist to this, the Poppoff database, the birdiest spot in Yakima.

Jan Gano, spearheading our Bobolink study gave an informative talk at the Washington Ornithological Conference Annual Dinner June 14. Jan chronicled the steady decline of this disjunct colony, from about 100 birds in the early 1990s to only two males seen so far this summer. No females have been noted at all this season. The Bobolink crew this year included Jan, Kevin Lucas, and Karen and Joe Zook.

Hoeger Preserve. As stewards of this property we are responsible for maintaining the site free of noxious weeds, especially Scotch thistle. Jan Gano, Dan Kinney, and Richard Repp removed 70 pounds of thistles from the property. All noted sore limbs after this grueling effort. Our sincere thanks for your efforts here!

Though July and August are the "Dog Days of Summer" in Yakima, the Cascades are refreshingly cool so a drive or hike to higher elevations is a sure way to beat the heat and enjoy the views, wildflower display, and birds in the Cascades. Proven sites guaranteed to please include Chinook Pass (both the Naches Peak and Sheep Lake Trails), Bear Creek Mountain, or Burnt Mtn. west from Cash Prairie.

Yakima Valley Audubon's annual fundraiser and Birdathon was held May 17. Luke Safford organized 10 teams with 20 birders who canvassed the many habitats in Yakima County, from the Columbia River west to the Cascade crest, and amassed an impressive list of 192 species, not a record but certainly once again attesting to the region's rich biodiversity. Dan Kinney, YVAS Finance Chairman spearheaded the fundraising part of the Birdathon, sending out letters requesting donations to fund chapter programs focusing on conservation, education, and birding activities. These results are preliminary, but it appears the YVAS Birdathon brought in \$2065. A huge Thank You! to all who donated to the fundraising, the only occasion each year YVAS approaches you to donate money.

Board news. The YVAS board is proposing adding several at large board members, from three to five directors, and creating another standing committee: Environmental Science Committee.



## MEMBERSHIP

### DEBIE BROWN

#### Welcome New YVAS Members!

**Naches:** Philip Fischer  
**Yakima:** Barbara Lee  
**Zillah:** Eugene Miliczky

#### Thank you for renewing your Membership!

**Selah:** Lynne Alvord, Connie Buckley  
**Yakima:** Donna Drury, Jan & Judy Gano,  
 John Hebert, Connie Huges, Don Sattler,  
 George & Susan Vlahakis, Lyle Whiteman

*Please note that the above membership renewals are for Yakima Valley Audubon membership. Renewals to National Audubon are separate and are not listed here.*



## THIS MONTH'S YVAS

### CALENDAR

- Aug 10** Board Meeting and Pizza at Denny Granstrand's house (2011 S. 47th Ave., 453-2500) at 7:00 pm.
- July 31, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28** Thursday Morning Birdwalk -7:30am
- August 17** Chinook Pass, Sheep Lake, Sourdough Gap
- August 23** Lower Valley Shorebirds
- August 28** Chapter Meeting Yakima Arboretum, 7:00 pm
- Sept 6** Yakima River near Granger
- Sept 10** Wenas Lake for Shorebirds

## Thistle Be Gone! Hoeger Hillside - Battle of the Little Big Thorn

Yakima Valley Audubon's Hoeger Preserve northeast of Moxee is alive. And well, it has some weeds. Back in April we received notice from the Yakima County Noxious Weed Board that a sizable patch of Scotch Thistle had been reported on the preserve. We were advised of the dire consequences we faced if we failed to eradicate this nasty weed. And it is a very noxious weed. Scotch Thistle is the thistle you might see around lowland parts of the valley that has very broad coarse leaves and numerous large seed heads. It can grow quite tall and is very conspicuous. It is a biennial and usually matures and produces seed in it's second year. If conditions are right, a first year plant might sprout, go dormant from drought in early summer, then receive a good dose of water in the form of rain and grow to maturity all in the same year. Once established in an area, Scotch Thistle can be difficult to eradicate as seeds are said to stay viable in the soil for up to 20 years.

Scotch Thistle has been an ongoing issue on the Preserve and annual eradication efforts have been made since the property was acquired. It is pretty much in check although there have been occasional "flare-ups." It is imperative that new plants that sprout are dealt with before they produce seeds. Fortunately, severing the plant stem from the crown of the roots with a shovel is fairly easy when the plants are in the young succulent stage. Fortunately, this thistle will not resput from the roots.

We informed the weed board that our intention is to be good stewards of this land and that we would take care of the



**Jan Gano engages Scotch Thistle in hand-to-hand combat.**  
 Photo By Dan Kinney

thistle. A visit was made on April 10 and a small but dense patch on the far eastern border of the preserve was located and eradicated. A few additional scattered young second year plants were also dealt with. For good measure, a second visit was made May 10. Bill Drenguis and I did a thorough search and destroy mission across the entire 75 acres. We decapitated and dug out several more plants. For good measure, a third visit was made June 25. More maturing plants were located and dug out. At this time, the plants were taller and more readily visible but they were also nearing maturity with seed heads well formed but not yet throwing seed. The seed heads were removed and taken from the property and the plants cut down.

At the end of the June 25<sup>th</sup> mission, a heavy patch of nearly mature thistle was located on adjacent land right at the property line. These plants were so ripe that a few of them had one or two seed heads that were beginning to open. This location was

upwind of most of the preserve and threatened to seed the preserve for years to come. A pre-emptive strike was made. Dan Kinney, Richard Repp and I went to the site on June 28<sup>th</sup> and removed approximately 70 pounds of seed heads. Unfortunately this location was on the only steep slope on the claim. It was physically demanding work resulting in stiff and sore muscles.

The seed heads collected were bundled and placed in the garbage. No recycling for noxious weed seeds.

As stewards of the Preserve, it is important that we continue to monitor and eradicate Scotch Thistle plants that appear. Over time, we will get a handle on this noxious weed.

— Jan Gano —



## FIELD TRIPS

### LUKE SAFFORD

- July 31, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Morning Birdwalk –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](mailto:luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com).
- August 17 Chinook Pass, Sheep Lake, Sourdough Gap** – A 2-mile easy hike to Sheep Lake is great for migrating hawks, eagles, and falcons. Songbirds such as sparrows and finches (Pine Grosbeak is possible) flit in the trailside thickets. An optional extension 1 mile farther to Pickhandle Gap for rosy finches and more raptors. Great for Mountain Goat viewing too. Fall colors can be superb! We will return by mid-afternoon. Contact leader Andy Stepniewski ([steppie@nwinfo.net](mailto:steppie@nwinfo.net) or 877-6639) to say you are going and to get the location and time to meet the group.
- August 23 Lower Valley Shorebirds** – Join Lower Valley resident, Eric Heisey, during prime shorebird migration. We will visit ponds near Granger looking dowitchers, sandpipers, stilts, and plovers. Meeting time is still to be determined and contact Eric for more details at [magicman32@rocketmail.com](mailto:magicman32@rocketmail.com).
- Sept 6 Yakima River near Granger** – Fall migration for many species of birds is in full swing at this time and the tract of land below Eric Heisey's house is excellent habitat for passing passerines. Join Eric and others for an easy hike along the Yakima River bottoms near Granger. Special emphasis will be on identifying birds by their call notes and could serve as a great trip for birders who are seeking a new challenge in honing their ID skills. Contact Eric for trip details at [magicman32@rocketmail.com](mailto:magicman32@rocketmail.com).
- Sept 10 Wenas Lake for Shorebirds** – Wenas Lake frequently hosts good numbers of migrating shorebirds in late summer and early fall. Numerous first sightings for Yakima County have occurred here. We will traipse out onto the mudflats for shorebird viewing, then head to the riparian area upstream from the lake searching for migrating species. Rubber boots are almost necessary. Richard Repp is trip leader and we will meet at 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bi-Mart at 5:00 pm.
- Sept 27 Bear Creek Mountain Trail** – Will this be the year we find the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan in Yakima County? Join us on this intense hike into the heart of the Cascades. Plan on an all day hike and contact trip leaders Denny Grandstrand ([dgranstrand@gmail.com](mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com) or 453-2500) or Luke Safford ([luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com](mailto:luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com) or 833-6081) for more information.
- Sept 27 Bear Creek Mountain Trail** – Will this be the year we find the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan in Yakima County? Join us on this intense hike into the heart of the Cascades. Plan on an all day hike and contact trip leaders Denny Grandstrand ([dgranstrand@gmail.com](mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com) or 453-2500) or Luke Safford ([luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com](mailto:luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com) or 833-6081) for more information.

## Yes, Audubon Went Kiddin' For Birds again

Thanks to all the Audubon volunteers and Colleen Adams-Shuppe of the Arboretum for their supreme effort and help with the Kiddin' Around bird hunt on June 8th. Once again, Audubon volunteers "hid" the life-size, anatomically correct models and photos of birds at stations around the Arboretum. With the aid of a map, "field guide" to those birds, and checklist, kids and their families hiked around, searching for and identifying these "birds". There were also "real live" birds that put in an appearance for the families to identify and observe. Two hummingbirds performed at the bird blind.

Though there weren't crowds of people, those who did come, seemed to be VERY interested and it was easier to engage each small group. One family said this was their third time at the Kiddin' Around bird walk. Another family had just been to the migratory bird day at Toppenish. There were at least about 40 kids plus their parents.

Helping on the project were April Adamson, Denny Grandstrand, Dotty Armstrong, Ellen and Andy Stepniewski, Elizabeth Bohn, Karen Zook, Kerry Turley, Jan and Judy Gano, Rich Repp, Susan Paoella, and Vera Backstrom, as well as Colleen and Bob from the Arboretum.

"It was a good day."



## Yakima County's Remote but Vibrant Corner

-Adapted from a BirdYak post by Andy Stepniewski-

On June 21, twelve intrepid YVAS field trippers headed to the southwest slopes of Mt. Adams, tucked into the southwest corner of our fair county, leaving at the rather early hour of 5 am.

With a stop in Goldendale at McDonalds, we didn't arrive back in Yakima County on the south side of Mt. Adams until after 8:30 am. We birded the various forest roads in this low elevation (2,700-3,500 foot elevation) forest habitat for a good five hours. The weather was near-perfect: warm, with little or no wind, and a light overcast to help keep down most glare at midday.

We easily found our first target, Hermit Warbler, very early on in the morning, in mature second growth Douglas-fir forests with a vigorous understory of Vine Maple, a most beautiful forest, indeed.

Our second target, Black-throated Gray Warbler, took a bit more work but eventually Joe Zook put us on to an adult male atop a tall



L - R: Andy Stepniewski, Jan Gano, and Loretta Olson.  
Stop. Look. Listen.  
Photo by Karen Zook

snag, a bird he got in his scope. Everyone had fantastic views of this striking gem!

We spent a lot of our time trying to find a Hutton's Vireo, a species noted a year ago a few miles to the north, with no luck. We did encounter tons of Warbling Vireos, maybe 20 in all. This drab vireo was noted singing at every stop, throughout our visit on the mountain, in all habitats.

Woodpeckers were part of the show, too. A Williamson's Sapsucker nest was found, with both adults making frequent feeding forays. We noted perhaps two pairs of Red-breasted Sapsuckers, a Black-backed Woodpecker in a burn, and heard and saw Pileated Woodpeckers.

Empidonax flycatchers proved interesting here. Surprisingly we found no Pacific-slope Flycatchers. Deep fir forests had Hammond's Flycatchers, as expected. Regenerating clear-cuts with bushy Vine Maple or shrubby thickets had Dusky Flycatchers.



### BIRD SIGHTINGS DENNY GRANSTRAND

Ellen Stepniewski had an interesting sighting on about June 26. She was on a hike up Rattlesnake Ridge behind their house when she saw a juvenile Common Nighthawk, still with downy feathers on its head and probably not yet able to fly. Technically, it was not yet fledged. The first Common Nighthawks to be seen in Yakima County this year were reported to eBird on May 31. According to "The Birder's Handbook", they incubate their eggs for 19 days and the young ones fledge in 21 days. That seems like getting at it pretty quick—setting up a territory, attracting a mate, laying eggs and incubating them to produce a close-to-full-size young one in only 26 days.

We tend to think of the birds that nest in our area as "our birds". Most of the species that nest in Yakima County spend much more of the year in their wintering areas. Common Nighthawks are only in Yakima County for three months or so. The rest of the year they are migrating, either north or south, or spending the winter in South America.

Many of the species that nest in North America have the same life cycle—nesting in North America and wintering in Central or South America. These are the Neotropical migrants.



Common Nighthawk  
Photo from National Audubon

That is why it is just as important to work to preserve the natural habitats in areas far to the south of us, as well as natural areas in Washington State.

Scott Downes was exploring the North Fork of the Ahtanum on July 16 when he found a male Spruce Grouse along the same road where he found one last year. Spruce Grouse are the least numerous of the "chicken" species in Yakima County, and one of the most sought-after. Scott also spotted a Northern Goshawk as it flew out of the trees and disappeared over the ridge.

California Gulls are moving through the Yakima area. Richard Repp saw about 40 of them on Buchanan Lake on July 7, most of them adults with four or five juveniles mixed in. I saw 15 or so in the northeast corner of Buchanan Lake when returning from a WOS field trip on June 16. Kevin Lucas has seen several groups from about

40 individuals to 200 on Buchanan Lake recently. On July 16 Greg Bohn discovered two dozen gulls at the Terrace Heights Landfill. California and Ring-billed visited the landfill for many years. They traveled from their breeding colony on an island near Desert Aire to feed at the landfill. They would then fly back to the island to feed their chicks. A few years ago a transfer station was built at the landfill. People dump their loads in the transfer station, it is truck up to the dumping site and immediately covered with dirt. That process eliminated the gulls food source. There are now very few gull nesting along Priest Rapids Lake near Desert Aire.

## This Ancient Bird Had the Largest Wingspan Ever



An extinct species of bird just discovered may have had the largest wingspan ever. The animal lived 25 million years ago and was found buried at an airport.

Picture this: an ancient bird with a 24-foot wingspan soaring over the ocean. "Daniel Ksepka, curator of science at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, just identified a new species of bird: pelagornis sandersi. He said it was an animal that loved soaring over the water, kind of like a modern-day albatross. "Sandersi is in honor of Al Sanders. He was the curator at the Charleston Museum. He's actually the person who collected this fossil," Ksepka said.

That fossil was uncovered during renovations to the Charleston airport in the 1980s. It was cataloged and put in storage at the Charleston Museum alongside thousands of other specimens until 2010, when Ksepka came to visit. "I did not know that this giant bird was lurking in the collections, so it was kind of stunning to see it," Ksepka said. "I laid down next to it and just one of the four wing bones was longer than my whole arm. I knew we had something special down there."

Ksepka took bone measurements and fed that data into a computer program that estimates wingspan and weight. What the simulations bounced back were this: sandersi's wings were the largest of any bird to have ever flown. Ksepka published his results in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"I think it's a hugely important finding," said Daniel Field, paleontologist at Yale University who wasn't involved with the study. Field works on equations used to calculate the size of extinct birds. "The most remarkable thing about pelagornis sandersi is that its wingspan vastly exceeded that of any living flying birds," he said, "It was almost twice that of the largest living albatrosses which, in the modern world, have the largest wingspans."

Albatrosses aren't the closest modern relative of this ancient bird. Ksepka said that title belongs to chickens and ducks. "We're talking about two of the kind of most mundane familiar birds that you see on a farm or at the park or on your dinner table," he said, "and they are the relatives of the largest bird that ever flew."

Going forward, Ksepka's said he hopes to puzzle out how this bird evolved and whether or not its massive size may have caused it to go extinct.

## Bird Sightings continued from page 5



**Black-chinned Hummingbird on it nest in Central Park in Sunnyside**  
Photo by Nicholas Mejia

Nicholas Mejia and his family, who live in Mabton, visited Central Park in Sunnyside recently. Here is Nicholas's e-mail to BirdYak about their experience: "We headed to a quiet place in the middle of the park. I had been taking photos of plants and insects. Then one of my siblings spotted a hummingbird flying near what looked like a bunch of debris on a branch. It landed in the debris, which was actually a nest. After a few minutes another hummingbird came and chased the original out of the nest. I thought the original hummer might be a youngster. If it was a youngster, it had very good "wings". I got photos of a Black-chinned Hummingbird in its nest. I thought this might be rare to find a nest since Andy's book states that he hadn't seen a nest all his life."

It is a rare find, indeed. After Andy's book, "The Birds of Yakima County, Washington" was published, he led a field trip to Gary Green's ranch in the Wenas. One of the people on that trip found a Black-chinned Hummingbird nest. That is the only hummingbird nest I have ever seen.

— Denny Granstrand —

### Come with us to bird Grays Harbor County Oct. 3-5

Join YVAS in Grays Harbor County Oct. 3-5 as we explore the ocean beaches, mud flats and wide open ocean waters (on a boat, of course) to enjoy the shorebird and pelagic migration. We will be going out with Westport Seabirds on Oct. 4 so you will need to contact them (360-268-9141) to reserve your spot on the boat. The cost is \$145 per person. Contact Denny Granstrand (453-2500) for more information.

## Vredenburg Bluebirds Face the Heat

The Vredenburg Bluebird Trail is a string of 132 nest boxes stretching 14 miles along North Wenas Road between its intersections with Audubon and Durr Roads. The first 57 boxes were placed in the Wenas area in 1982 by YVAS members and since its inception over 13,000 bluebirds have fledged from this trail. Each week during the nesting season, YVAS volunteers monitor the trail's boxes to document activity. In 1995, the trail was named in honor of Virginia and Harold Vredenburg for their years of tireless dedication to the project.

As of July 10, a total of 379 Western Bluebirds and 20 Mountain Bluebirds had fledged from the trail's boxes. Remaining in the nests were 132 eggs and 73 nestlings indicating that many bluebirds are producing second clutches. While they may lay eggs as late as the second week of July, it is likely that few, if any, eggs will be added this year.

The challenge now will be bringing those remaining eggs and nestlings through the fledging process in the extremely hot weather that has settled in on Yakima County and is predicted to remain for days, if not weeks. Twice this past week, the highs have been in triple digits with no real relief in sight. We were fortunate to have dry and rather moderate conditions to this point in the nesting season.

The monitor sheets we use divide the trail into four pages or sections with 33 boxes on each sheet. The first section of the trail has been the most successful with a fledge total of 126 Western Bluebirds so far. When you consider this section

currently holds 49 eggs and 18 nestlings, this could be a monstrous year for this section if the adults can bring their clutches home! It is rare for any section to exceed 160 fledges in a year.

It has been a rather off year for other species using the nest boxes this year. Tree Swallows managed to fledge two young from an upper trail box but, other than the pesky House Wrens, the only other box hosting a non-bluebird species held White-breasted Nuthatches. Unfortunately, that effort failed after advancing to six eggs but not beyond.

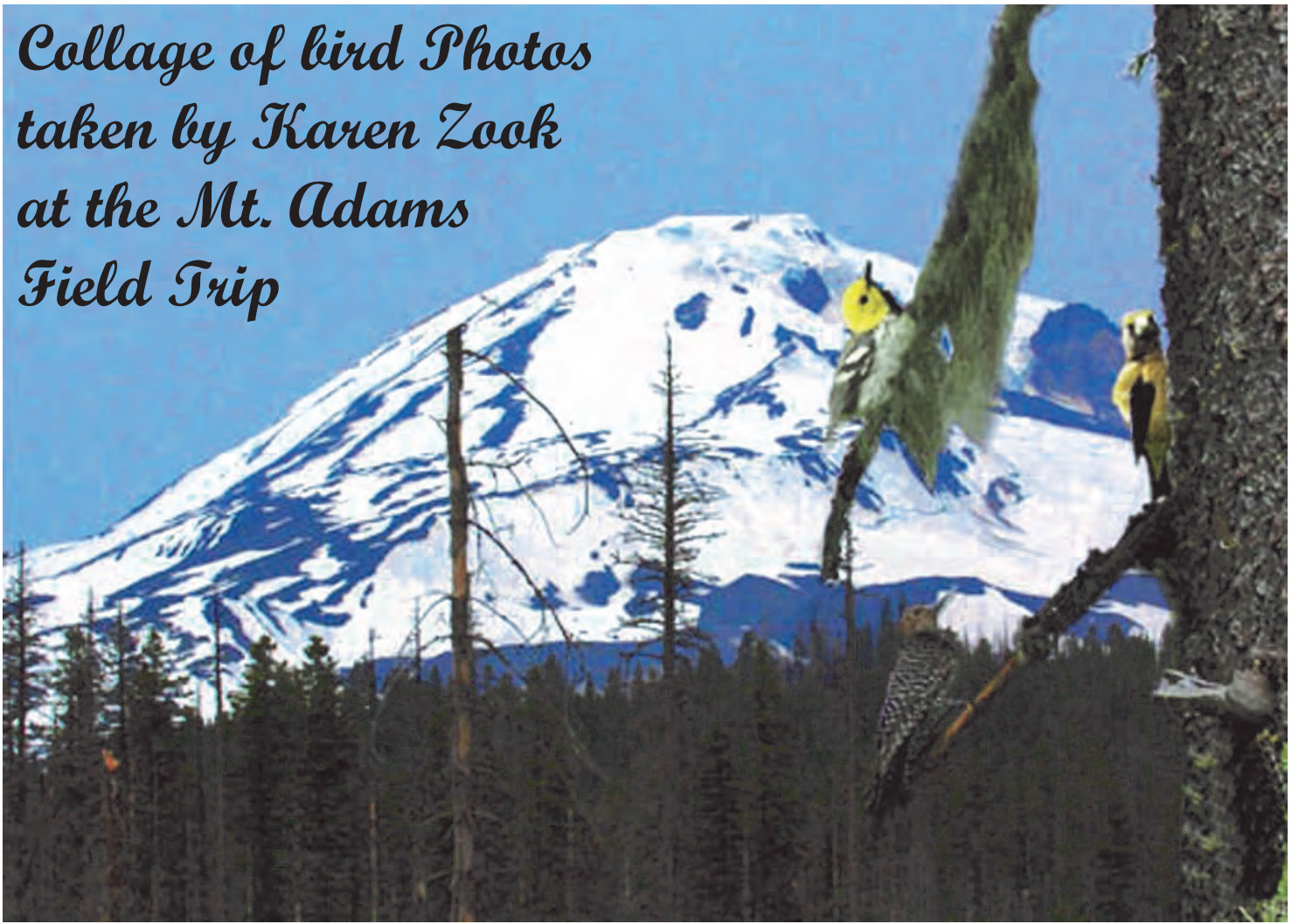


— Richard Repp —

### 2014 YAKIMA VALLEY AUDUBON OFFICERS AND BOARD

President	Andy Stepniewski ( <a href="mailto:steppie@nwinfo.net">steppie@nwinfo.net</a> )	877-6639	Fund Raising	Dan Kinney ( <a href="mailto:insur3@charter.net">insur3@charter.net</a> )	452-3260
Vice President	vacant		Membership	Debie Brown ( <a href="mailto:sturnella@aol.com">sturnella@aol.com</a> )	248-3878
Past-president	Denny Granstrand ( <a href="mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com">dgranstrand@gmail.com</a> )	453-2500	Newsletter Editor	Elizabeth Bohn ( <a href="mailto:elizabethannbohn@yahoo.com">elizabethannbohn@yahoo.com</a> )	901-1886
Secretary	Vera Backstrom ( <a href="mailto:vback47@gmail.com">vback47@gmail.com</a> )	731-2103	Programs	Bill Drenguis ( <a href="mailto:bdrenguis@gmail.com">bdrenguis@gmail.com</a> )	965-5808
Treasurer	Karen Zook ( <a href="mailto:gadzooks7@charter.net">gadzooks7@charter.net</a> )	225-9494	<b>Special Committees:</b>		
Directors:	Ken Tolonen ( <a href="mailto:7rivard@gmail.com">7rivard@gmail.com</a> )	965-4584	Bird Rehabilitator	Connie Hughes ( <a href="mailto:owlbirdlady@q.com">owlbirdlady@q.com</a> )	457-5661
	Joy McKinney ( <a href="mailto:joycatbird@gmail.com">joycatbird@gmail.com</a> )	698-4110	Bird Reports	Denny Granstrand ( <a href="mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com">dgranstrand@gmail.com</a> )	453-2500
	April Adamson ( <a href="mailto:read2learn@aol.com">read2learn@aol.com</a> )	248-6944	Bluebird Trail	Richard Repp ( <a href="mailto:rich712@aol.com">rich712@aol.com</a> )	965-1134
<b>Standing (Voting) Committee Chairs:</b>			Important Bird Areas	John Hebert ( <a href="mailto:hejohn1126@msn.com">hejohn1126@msn.com</a> )	965-8235
Audubon Hoeger Preserve	Jan Gano ( <a href="mailto:gano12@earthlink.net">gano12@earthlink.net</a> )	966-4539	Publicity	Vacant	
Audubon Refuge Keeper	Kerry Turley ( <a href="mailto:kdturley@embarqmail.com">kdturley@embarqmail.com</a> )	837-6930	Social	Vacant	
Bluebird Trail	Richard Repp ( <a href="mailto:rich712@aol.com">rich712@aol.com</a> )	965-1134	Volunteer Recognition	Vacant	
Conservation	Greg Bohn ( <a href="mailto:gsanpdro@charter.net">gsanpdro@charter.net</a> )	901-1882	Webmaster	John Hebert ( <a href="mailto:hejohn1126@msn.com">hejohn1126@msn.com</a> )	965-8235
Education	Ellen Stepniewski ( <a href="mailto:steppie@nwinfo.net">steppie@nwinfo.net</a> )	877-6639	Website	www.yakimaaudubon.org	
Field Trips	Luke Safford ( <a href="mailto:luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com">luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com</a> )	833-6081	Toppenish NWR CBC	Luke Safford ( <a href="mailto:luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com">luke@terraceheightsbaptist.com</a> )	833-6081
			Yakima Valley CBC	Denny Granstrand ( <a href="mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com">dgranstrand@gmail.com</a> )	453-2500
			YVAS Email	( <a href="mailto:birds@yakimaaudubon.org">birds@yakimaaudubon.org</a> )	

*Collage of bird Photos  
taken by Karen Zook  
at the Mt. Adams  
Field Trip*



## Coming Attractions:

1. Chapter Meeting - Aug 28
2. Thursday Morning Bird Walks - 7:30 am
3. Chinook Pass - Aug 17
4. Lower Valley Shorebirds - Aug 23