



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

July 2016



JULY PROGRAM BILL DRENGUIS

PROGRAM??

Reminder – there will **NOT BE** a Chapter Meeting in July, as is our custom. The next meeting will occur on August 25 and will feature a program given by Blue Mountain Wildlife, a rescue, rehabilitation and education organization based in Pendleton, Oregon.



MEMBERSHIP JOY MCKINNEY

Welcome New YVAS Members!

Yakima: Ben Dover, Jean St. George, Becky Drew

Thank you for renewing your YVAS Membership!

Naches: Doris Robinson
Seattle: Melinda Stanojevic, Jennifer Kauffman
Selah: Jerry Turner, Connie Buckley, Beverly Olson
Sunnyside: Kerry Turley, Donna Homer,
Union Gap: Lawrence Martin
Yakima: Beth Akin, Greg and Elizabeth Bohn,
G'Ann Duncan, Jan and Judy Gano,
Connie Hughes, Karen Ireland,
Susie Lattomus, Susan Paolella, Don Sattler,
Steve and Grace Shaul, George and Susan Vlahakis,
Karen and Joe Zook

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



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN KERRY TURLEY

The YVAS open houses on Sunday at the Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge's visitors' center have ended for the season. In addition, the point counts conducted by me and additional YVAS volunteers are complete and the data submitted to the agency. Breathing a sigh of relief, I can now concentrate on more recreational birding. While July and August may be the start of the dog days of summer, to me it means migration. Sometimes it seems the skies are filled with more birds in August than at any other time of year. Adult birds have been actively raising young all spring and summer, so by August the number of birds increases dramatically with all these newly fledged youngsters.

Now it would be misleading for me to say that August marks the beginning of the fall migration season, because in reality the migration varies as different species leave their respective breeding grounds at the end of their breeding season. We've already noticed an increase in Rufous Hummingbird sightings and also a few reports of returning shorebirds.

It would also be misleading to say that August birding is the most comfortable time of year, temperature wise, to bird. The beauty of where we live is that it is not that far to higher elevations where spring is just beginning in August and the air is crisp, the skies are bright and the birds are plentiful.

So don't let the dog days of summer get you down - accept the challenge of fledgling identification and struggle with shorebird plumage. Head for the hills to not only beat the heat, but to refresh the soul and recharge the batteries. Celebrate the abundant birds that crowd our skies, fill our eyes with wonder and put a youthful bounce in our step. Whenever possible, pass on the beauty of our wonderful pastime by taking a young person with you. The fate of our feathered friends will be in the hands of future generations.

Night-Herons – Poppoff Persistence Pays Off

Yes, we saw Black-crowned Night-Herons - two of them...a first for the Poppoff bird walk. We were walking back from the "Eagles Watch" trail on July 7th, when we noticed Elizabeth Bohn at the edge of the lake pointing excitedly toward the other side. She'd seen something interesting, but it had flown off before she could get a good look. She told Joe Zook, who faithfully totes his trusty spotting scope on these walks, where to look. Dr. Joe scoped it - an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron! It was sitting on a stump hunting - which amounted to hanging over the water, patiently waiting for a fish to come into view. We all had great looks as it stayed put for quite some time. As we were getting ready to move on, we noticed another heron sized bird had appeared. It was a juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron. We had great looks at it, too. Definitely the two were the "birds of the day." Great spotting, Elizabeth!

Apparently patience paid off for the Night heron, as when we were walking back past the lake, we had scope views of the adult trying to figure out how to swallow a good sized fish it had caught.

We tallied 37 species, including fledglings of several species: Black-headed grosbeak, Gray catbird, Brown-headed cowbird, Black-capped chickadee, Cedar waxwing, Downy woodpecker, American robin, Northern rough-winged swallow and juvenile American white pelicans. We found a Yellow warbler still on her nest, and saw a Mourning dove carry-



Black-crowned Night-Heron
Photo by Jan Gano

ing nesting material. The place was definitely hopping with birds today.

In his Essential Field Guide Companion, noted birder Pete Dunne describes the Black-crowned Night Heron as a stocky, thickset heron distinguished by mostly nocturnal habits, sedentary behavior, and malevolent red or orange eye. With its slouching upright stance and dead drawn down to its shoulders, the bird seems like a thug hanging out on a street corner. The Black-crowned Night-Heron does a lot by moving very little. While mostly, but not wholly nocturnal, this night-heron

commonly roosts communally during the day. Leaving at dusk, often in globular flocks, it flies to aquatic habitats to forage alone, primarily by standing upright or crouching over a strategic fishing hole, waiting for prey to pass. In flight, with head drawn back, looks overall stocky and solid, supported by broad, short, rounded, distinctly down curved wings---looks like a milk jug on wings. Only the feet (not the legs) extend beyond the tail, enhancing the overall stocky appearance. Flight is plodding and graceless, but smooth, not jerky-this is a simple meat-and-potatoes flier going from point A to point B.

The juvenile has been spotted several times since the walk in the same general area. If you are free on Thursday mornings, consider joining one of these Poppoff walks...who knows what will lurk around the next corner?

— Karen Zook —

Yakima Voluntary Stewardship Program

In March I was asked, and I agreed, to sit on the Yakima Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) workgroup on behalf of Yakima Valley Audubon. The VSP workgroup is an alternative pathway to addressing how agriculture interacts with critical areas, instead of regulating agriculture through a traditional Critical Areas Ordinance. Yakima County opted into this program and we are in the process of establishing the workgroup that will develop their work plan. VSP provides an alternative approach to address our state's Growth Management Act requirements. The program uses a watershed-based, collaborative stewardship planning process, and relies on incentive-based practices for protecting critical areas, promoting viable agriculture, and encouraging cooperation among diverse stakeholders.

In 2007, the State Legislature tasked the William D. Ruckelshaus Center with facilitating a "common ground" solution that would ensure productive agriculture in our state,

protect critical areas, and resolve long-standing controversies related to the Growth Management Act.

Following a three-year collaborative process involving state and local governments, tribes, the agricultural community, and environmental interests, the Ruckelshaus Center presented the framework for the VSP. The Legislature created VSP within the State Conservation Commission in 2011 (RCW 36.70A.705). In 2015 they provided funding that allowed all 27 counties that opted-in to VSP to move forward with the program.

I encourage you to take a few minutes and visit the Yakima VSP website at: <http://www.yakimacounty.us/1657/Voluntary-Stewardship-Program-VSP> and please let me know of any concerns you may have regarding growth management in Yakima County.

— Kerry Turley —



FIELD TRIPS
SCOTT DOWNES

August 20 (Saturday)- Columbia Basin Shorebirds. We'll head east out into the basin and search sites, including Othello, Potholes Reservoir, and "County Line Ponds" for migrant shorebirds and other water birds. Mid-August is a wonderful time to capture shorebird migration through the basin, both for numbers and diversity we may get close to 15 species of shorebirds for the day. We'll also search the areas around the potholes for grebes, terns and other waterbirds. Full day. Field trip will leave Yakima at **6:30 am**. Expect a return to Yakima by **5:00 pm**. Bring lunch, plenty of water and dress for varied weather conditions; likely will be hot and sunny. Scope is helpful, but not required to attend. We'll be carpooling. **Contact leader Scott Downes for meeting location, downess@charter.net.**

July 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18 and 25- Thursday Morning Bird Walks. 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 easternmost roundabout at **7:30**. This walk is a great chance to check out a diverse habitat area in Yakima with local birders. There is a small change this year for Poppoff walks. There is a commitment to have a leader for the first Thursday of the month (August 4th for this newsletter), but the remaining walks will be group led. Group led is whoever shows up at the meeting time, start the walk, don't wait for a designated leader. **Contact Karen Zook if you have questions – gadzooks7@charter.net**

Bethel Ridge Field Trip - Woodpecker Bonanza



Hairy Woodpecker
Photo by Karen Zook

On June 4, seven of us enjoyed a beautiful day on Bethel Ridge and were very successful finding woodpeckers, the family of birds at the top of the "find" song; Sooty grouse (which was list for this outing. Dozens of other species of birds and mammals use abandoned cavities created by Woodpeckers, clearly underscoring their unique value to habitats where they occur.

We saw seven species of woodpeckers starting with Lewis's Woodpeckers nesting in a tree close to the meeting place, and ending with the American

Three-toed Woodpecker.

Non-woodpecker species seen included Olive-sided Flycatcher singing it's "quick, three beer" song; Hammond's and Pacific slope Flycatchers; five species of warblers (including Townsend's and MacGillivray's); both Western and Mountain bluebirds; an Evening Grosbeak and a Veery, singing it's most beautiful song.

A 45 total species were found on this trip to one of the county's favored birding locations.



Williamson's Sapsucker
Photo by Karen Zook

--- Karen Zook --

Department of Fish and Wildlife Restricts Target-shooting on the Wenas Wildlife Area

Target shooting restriction in the Wenas Wildlife Area continues to be controversial. In June, I attended a meeting in Selah where concerned citizens aired their concerns over proposed restrictions on target shooting this summer. From the Department of Fish and Wildlife news release on June 1 this year: "Cindi Confer Morris, manager of the WDFW wildlife area, said bullets have sparked more than a dozen fires at Wenas in recent years, including one that torched 9,000 acres. In response, the department has restricted target shooting every summer since 2012, and closed the wildlife area to all shooting in 2014 and 2015 due to extreme fire danger. Unfortunately, we could be facing severe fire conditions again this summer. The vegetation grew like crazy in early spring, and now it's drying out and curing in the warm weather that has followed. Starting June 1, the Washington Department of

Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will restrict target-shooting hours in the Wenas Wildlife Area southwest of Ellensburg to help reduce the risk of wildfires. The restriction, which will be in effect through Sept. 30, will limit target shooting to the hours between sunrise and 10 a.m., when the risk of starting a wildfire is less severe. WDFW adopted the rule in cooperation with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which owns lands within the 114,150-acre wildlife area. In April, WDFW held public meetings in Ellensburg and Selah to discuss target-shooting options for the Wenas Wildlife Area. The department's preferred alternative would permanently restrict target shooting to two designated sites to reduce the risk of wildfire, increase public safety and protect wildlife habitat."

Target-shooting (continued on page 4)

Target Shooting (continued from page 3)

However, various user groups have resisted these restrictions on target shooting, including gun-rights advocates who fear losing their rights to shoot on wildlife areas. Most user groups, though, seemed to agree with the Department restrictions are needed to ensure public safety of non-shooters such as horseback riders, hikers, and off-road vehicle enthusiasts. As an advocate for habitat protection, I stated Yakima Valley Audubon Society has concerns over the ever-diminishing extent of shrub-steppe habitat in the Columbia Basin. The Wenas Wildlife Area protects large expanses of quality shrub-steppe habitat in the Roza Creek watershed, along Umtanum Ridge, and elsewhere. This habitat hosts reptiles, mammals, and birds tied to quality shrub-steppe. Greater Sage-Grouse, a WA State Threatened species, are documented to have

flown west from the Yakima Training Center to sagebrush habitat in Roza Creek. It is possible a satellite population may become established on this part of the Wenas Wildlife Area. At least four WA State Candidate bird species occur on the wildlife area: Burrowing Owl, White-headed Woodpecker, Sage Thrasher, and Sagebrush Sparrow. At least three WA State Candidate mammals occur here, too: both Black-tailed and White-tailed Jackrabbits, and Washington Ground Squirrel.

Both Kerry Turley and I will participate in another meeting with the Department of Fish and Wildlife July 18, to discuss further Yakima Audubon's concerns over habitat and shooting issues on the Wenas Wildlife Area. I will report on the results of this meeting in a future Crier article.

— Andy Stepniewski —

Irresponsible target shooting leaves a mess!



Even worse, fires resulting from shooting may convert healthy habitat to a blackened landscape!



Photos were pulled from the Internet

White Pass Highway Birds and Natural History June 25, 2016

Nine Yakima Valley Auduboners headed up the White Pass Highway, a route with an impressive diversity of birds on account of the mosaic of habitats. This 34-mile stretch of highway climbs from semi-arid and warm shrub-steppe habitats at Oak Creek west up through various forested zones to the snowy and cold subalpine forests on the Cascade crest at White Pass. This region is famous for its woodpecker diversity, not exceeded anywhere else in North America.

The primary reason for the rich diversity of habitats and therefore birds is the rain shadow effect, pronounced along the east slopes of the Cascades. Pacific storms dump the bulk of their moisture on the west slopes of the Cascade Range, thus annual precipitation decreases dramatically from White Pass on the crest, where about 65 inches falls annually to almost desert-like conditions about Yakima at the base of the mountains, where only about 8 inches occurs. An exceptionally varied mosaic of vegetation communities occurs along this transect which provides habitats for a varied bird fauna. It may come as a surprise to some, but diversity of birds in the warm months on the eastern slopes of the Cascades is considerably greater than on the west slopes. This is because the White Pass Highway east of the Cascade crest has many of the habitats that are found on the windward west slopes, and each of these "spill over" the crest, even in a minor way, plus this route has a series of dry forest zones and treeless shrub-steppe unique to the leeward slopes.

Above the Oak Creek Wildlife Area feeding station on south-facing slopes we made our first stop within the **Shrub-steppe Zone**, a disjunct extension of the Great Basin desert, a huge ecoregion between the Cascade-Sierra and Rocky Mountains. We looked at big sagebrush, the dominant shrub and others such as both gray and green rabbitbrush. The steppe component here, the native bunchgrasses such as bluebunch wheatgrass have, unfortunately, disappeared before an onslaught of weedy invasives, no doubt the result of the huge winter elk feeding program. Scattered bitterbrush hint this site is transitional to the Cascade east slope Ponderosa Pine Zone. We walked a few yards to another prominent shrub-steppe community. Rigid sagebrush replaces big sagebrush in this community, which is renowned for its spring wildflower display, probably at its peak here the middle of May. We managed to get good scope studies of several species of the shrub-steppe that are more habitat generalists: Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, the handsome Lark Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark. Descending through the cliffs to the feeding station, we stopped to study Rock Wrens, a common summer resident on talus slopes and cliffs.



Lark Sparrow on a sagebrush bush

At headquarters we admired a beautiful Bullock's Oriole, a great example of a Neotropical species.

Along the Tieton River a short mile west from the Oak Creek Headquarters, we stopped by a cliff with nesting White-throated Swifts, and Cliff and Violet-green Swallows. We watched a Lewis's Woodpecker feeding its nearly grown young peering from its nest hole in a stately Oregon White Oak. In the willow-dominated **Riparian Zone** below the highway, we added several species of birds wedded to this lush community including Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Song Sparrow. To cap off our birding here, a Common Merganser shot like an arrow upstream overhead.

Our next stop was farther along the Tieton River in Bear Canyon. Precipitation has increased to at least 14 inches, and we had entered the **Ponderosa Pine Zone**, the classic "dry forest" forest of western North America. We hiked up through a dry woodland of Oregon White Oaks, Ponderosa Pines, and Douglas-firs to base of the imposing cliffs. An interesting shrub layer, including beaked hazelnut (I mistakenly call this shrub an alder. Thanks Jan for correcting me.), Douglas maple, ocean spray, and a species of deerbrush. Birdwise, it was exceptionally quiet. It appeared some of the common breeding species here such as Nashville Warbler had finished singing, evidence of a very early year. We did note a distant calling Ash-throated Flycatcher, here near the northern limits of its breeding range. Other birds included both Rock and Canyon Wrens, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and a singing Western Tanager.

Terrie went off the trail a couple yards and surprised a Pacific Rattlesnake, coiled in the shade and rattling its tail in alarm. We all gathered at a safe distance to admire and photograph this beautiful serpent. An obvious lump along its body suggested a recent hearty meal. This creature was at just a bit over 2,000 feet elevation, which is near the upper limits for the species in Washington.

Farther up the White Pass Highway, still in the Ponderosa Pine Zone, we turned south on Tieton Road, crossed the river and stopped at another area of wetlands where

we had Willow Flycatchers "fitz-bewing," and a quiet *Empidonax* that was likely a Dusky Flycatcher. We also noted two "Eastern" birds, species whose main distribution lies east of the Rocky Mountains, and are near the western limits in this area: a Veery mainly calling "vee-ur," but singing softly, too, and a handsome Gray Catbird which posed nicely atop red-osier dogwood thickets. A variety of other birds wedded to riparian habitat were here, too: Warbling

(Continued on page 6)

White Pass Highway continued from page 5

Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Off in the dry forest, a Western Tanager sang its hoarse song, rather robin-like.

At the Tieton State Airport Marsh, a pretty **Wetland Zone**, we scanned the marsh, pond, and aspen groves. We added a number of waterbirds to our list here, especially waterfowl: Gadwall, and Mallard and Ring-necked Ducks-both with ducklings. A tiny "black" rail chick was poking about on the surface of floating mats of pond vegetation, giving us an identification challenge. Field guides don't cover this age well, so we settled on Virginia Rail as the adult, which kept mostly in the cattails, was seldom more than a few feet away. A Sora called at one point so either could have been possible. Other waterbirds were Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper (with young). Flitting over the wetland were Tree and Barn Swallows, and Red-winged Blackbirds. In the sedges and rushes at the edge of the wetland, Tierra dashed after a fleeing garter snake and held the serpent, which quickly became quite docile, for a photo op. Tierra certainly has a knack for finding snakes! Overhead, we noted Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, and an adult Bald Eagle. Cassin's Vireo, Western Tanager, and Cassin's Finch sang from the dry forest on the steep slopes above the marsh. Finally, we heard a "Puget" White-crowned Sparrow singing from the edges of the runway, a "spill-over" bird from western Washington.

We then looped around the aspen grove in Peninsula Campground, finding a Red-naped Sapsucker nest, obvious by the young begging loudly from within their nest cavity. Other birds in this copse included: Western Wood-Pewee, Cedar Waxwing, MacGillivray's and Yellow Warblers, and both Chipping and Song Sparrows.

Steve invited us to have lunch on the deck at his cabin at Bear Cove, in the **Interior Douglas-fir Zone**. A lovely stand of these trees and grand firs towered above us. An Osprey wheeled in the sky, a Steller's Jay called, and Rufous Hummingbirds warred at the feeder. In the firs, we heard Western Wood-Pewee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, and Pine Siskin. We did manage to see some of the birds here, noting Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet (nice views!), and Yellow-rumped Audubon's Warbler.

Only about eight miles to the west of Bear Cove lies Clear



Western Tanager
Photo by George Vlahakis

Lake. Precipitation has increased significantly and now we were in the **Mixed-conifer Zone**, well known for its impressive diversity of conifers. William O Douglas drew attention to this diversity around Bumping Lake and here at Clear Lake we see similar diversity. Jan mentioned that he has inventoried the forest near the North Fork Tieton River bridge and been very impressed with the diversity of conifers he had found there: pines (ponderosa, lodgepole, and western white), Douglas-fir, true firs (grand, subalpine and a few Pacific silver), cedars (Alaska yellow and western red), hemlocks (mountain and western), western larch, and Engelmann spruce. We first birded Clear Creek

below the dam where we watched a couple American Dippers, one a juvenile being fed by its parent. A Bald Eagle and Osprey flew overhead and Townsend's Warbler sang in a fir, and a Yellow Warbler from thickets of alders. On the shores of Clear Lake at the northwest end of the lake we tallied waterfowl including Canada Geese, American Wigeon (hen and three ducklings), Ring-necked Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneyes. In the forest, a Hammond's Flycatcher sang and Pine Siskins called overhead.

At White Pass, we visited the campground and cross-country warming hut. Here we were in the **Subalpine Zone**, a cold and snowy forest with abundant precipitation (50 to 75 inches), including a most impressive 250 to 400 inches of snow. Tree species include subalpine fir, mountain hemlock, and Alaska yellow cedar, with occasional Engelmann spruce. Tree growth becomes stunted with gain in elevation and openings with huckleberries or beautiful meadows appear. We



Barrow's Goldeneye
Photo by Denny Granstrand

started at Leech Lake where we spotted Ring-necked Ducks, an Osprey, and at least three Olive-sided Flycatchers. We were quite certain one was a just fledged juvenile, with obvious downy tufts. This seemed a very early date for a fledgling, since the species doesn't usually arrive here until the first week of May. We noted several Red-breasted Sapsuckers in the cottonwoods by the lakeside and these were making aerial forays up the slopes north of the campground. Tierra climbed the slope and related she heard nestlings calling from their cavity, one of the few breeding records of this species for Yakima County.

— Andy Stepniowski —

Yakima Valley Audubon Society Membership

Join or Renew my annual membership to the Yakima Valley Audubon Society to receive 10 issues of the Calliope Crier and all chapter benefits. National Audubon membership and Audubon Magazine are not included.

Yakima Valley Audubon Membership\$ 25.00 per household
 Yakima Valley Audubon Senior (62+) OR Student Membership\$ 15.00 per household
 (please circle which apply)
 Yakima Valley Audubon Society Life Membership\$ 500.00 per household

New Member Renewing Member (Please check one)

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Please make any corrections to your contact information as needed.

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Please return this form and your check payable to: YVAS Membership
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*** If you have any questions on membership, please call Joy McKinney at 698-4110**

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COMEAU/LEIER RANCH – June 11, 2016

Twelve Auduboners met for this special trip to the Comeau/Leier Ranch, 440-acres of beautiful lower Cascade east slope landscape alongside Wenas Creek. We were guests of Carolyn Comeau and Jim Leier. After meeting at their lovely home near the end of the pavement on North Wenas Road, we toured the ranch with Carolyn. The day was cool and breezy and these conditions no doubt kept some birds nervous and hidden.

In the home's yard, many birds sang and called. Among the members of the cast: Western Kingbird, House Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Bullock's Oriole, and finches. It turns out all three species of Washington *Carpodacus* finches were in the plantings in the yard: Purple, Cassin's, and House.

Next we hiked across fields where we roused a Vesper Sparrow, a grassland species common across North America. Overhead a Red-tailed Hawk screamed, protesting loudly at our presence. Carolyn mentioned two young had just fledged from their nest, perhaps a quarter mile to the west. Unfortunately, a third had fallen to the ground and perished.

We entered the extensive riparian habitat for which this ranch is renown, with tall cottonwoods, aspen, with a vigorous shrub and herb layer and soon added species tied to this community: drumming Ruffed Grouse, Veery (singing and calling), Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Farther on, there were both Cassin's and Warbling Vireos singing but these kept hidden. At Carolyn's beautifully maintained 1956 camping trailer, we took

a break while a Gray Catbird posed nicely, sang and called.

Climbing a bit into a draw where tall Ponderosa Pines prompted me to question their height. Jan Gano had the answer and soon paced off the distance to one fine specimen. With his clinometers, he judged the height at 98 feet! In the pines, we added Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Chipping Sparrow. The sparrow posed nicely for photos. Ellen Stepniewski spotted a Cooper's Hawk up the draw, but it escaped most of us.

We then ventured out to the dwarf shrub-steppe, where plants such as Three-tip Sagebrush and at least three species of buckwheat's caught our attention. We were pleased to use a plant app to key out the tallest one (*Erigena elate*). I also noticed Idaho Fescue in a mini-bowl, possibly an indicator of late snow-lie here. Added late winter moisture is attractive to both the sagebrush and the fescue. Birds were harder to pin down but we added a singing Western Meadowlark and a very flighty Brewer's Sparrow. Turkey Vultures floated lazily overhead, eyeing our nearly stationary group for a possible moribund soul.

We then returned to Carolyn and Jim's home and had our lunch on their deck, accompanied with delicious "Three Berry Pie" generously provided by our hosts.

Thank You Carolyn and Jim! And thank you for your wonderful stewardship of this very fine landscape, encompassing all the special habitat elements that make the lower east slopes of the Cascades and the Wenas Creek region such a hotspot of biodiversity.

---Andy Stepniewski---