



# 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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## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

BILL DRENGUIS

### No bones about it... that was one big bone!



Let's take a break from birds at the next chapter meeting and think about something bigger. Now think of something even bigger! At 13 to 14 feet tall, we are talking about the biggest creatures in central Washington in the last 10,000 years. African elephants stand 10 to 13 feet tall. A visitor from the age of the mega-fauna was unearthed in the Wenas in 2005.

Our presenters, Bronwyn and Doug Mayo, are from the Wenas Mammoth Foundation. I already have my list of questions: How big is it? How did you find it? Really, how big is

it? How did you know what it was? That big? A fossil or something else? What is going to happen to it? Did it really wander around the Yakima Valley? Was it a Woolly Mammoth or something bigger? Is it really that big?

An internet search reveals that modern elephants consume between 200 to 600 pounds of food each day and produce 310 to 400 pounds of dung per day. As mammoths were much larger than elephants, consider what the daily dung drop must have been!

The foundation does an excellent job of presenting the science behind this discovery, so it will be a great program. It is also a great warm up for the Wenas Mammoth Foundation's open house at the actual dig site on Oct. 8th from 9-3. Check out their web site for a map and further details.

(<http://www.wenasmammoth.com/projects.html>).

**CAUTION - September has FIVE Thursdays this year. Our meeting is on the Fourth Thursday. Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 22, at 7:00 to see this presentation at the Yakima Area Arboretum**

## Vaux's Swifts Can Mesmerize

Vaux's Swifts are currently in their southbound migration. According to the birds of North America Online, "migrating swifts start to gather at a roost up to an hour before dusk and circle in large flocks in the vicinity of the tree or chimney. As dusk approaches, the numbers of swifts increase and the birds fly in smaller circles in a horizontal plane above the roost. Just prior to entering the roost, swifts start circling the roost in a vertical plane and feign entries into the tree (chimney), as through practicing their approach. When the swifts finally enter, they literally fall from the sky and enter in large groups."

Locally in the late 1990s, YVAS members became aware of a roost chimney at the historic Sawyer Mansion. Then in 2010, the Yakima Herald's chimney was found to be an active site but numbers dwindled in 2012. On September 5, 2013,

Lori Isley observed hundreds of swifts diving into the Johnson's Auto Glass chimney. The following year, Triumph Treatment popped up as another alternate roost site.

A review of eBird data indicates that swifts have utilized these roosts beginning in late August and continue into early October. Numbers seem to peak in mid-September and dwindle to mere dozens in October. On September 9, this year, 500+ were tallied going into the Triumph stack.

If you have never witnessed this phenomenon, pick a nice evening and head downtown with the kids. The swifts will tease you with their seeming indecision, but eventually they funnel in faster than your eyes can count. The dilemma is which chimney to view. Checking BirdYak or eBird posts should alert you to the most likely spot.

--- Richard Repp --

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



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### KERRY TURLEY

Are you new to birding? If you are new to Audubon and/or birding, WELCOME!!! You have come to the right place. The Yakima Valley Audubon Society offers many different bird walks, fieldtrips and related events throughout the year, and we invite you to leave your intimidation behind and join in with some of the more experienced birders in our chapter. Also plan to attend one of our chapter meetings such as the one coming up at the Yakima Area Arboretum on September 22. The program info is on page one. No charge and all are welcome regardless of membership.

You will find that birders love teaching and love sharing their knowledge of birds. People won't care if you know how to ID one bird or 600. The knowledge that you can gain from being around other bird-watchers is far greater than just looking at any field guide and a lot more fun.

Some might call birding a hobby, but it's so much more than that to me. There's nothing else on this earth that compares to birds. For me birding never gets old, even when I'm looking for the same species season after season. It's a way for me to slow down, relax and experience nature.

On a conservation note: I am looking forward to attending the Audubon Council Meeting of Washington (ACOW) in Wenatchee on Oct 8th. This is our annual state-wide meeting where members from all Audubon Chapters in Washington State gather together for a weekend of information sharing, action opportunities, and fellowship.

The theme of this year's meeting is the management of public lands and how the Audubon network can successfully engage in planning and management decisions to build resilient ecosystems that benefit birds and other wildlife. If you are interested in attending, more information is available at:

<http://wa.audubon.org/events/audubon-council-washington>

Or contact the Washington Audubon Chapter Conservation Manager Jen Syrowitz at: ([jsyrowitz@audubon.org](mailto:jsyrowitz@audubon.org)).

**Yakima:** Susan and Larry LaRiviere

**Welcome New Members!**



**MEMBERSHIP**  
**JOY MCKINNEY**

**Thank you for renewing your YVAS Membership!**

**Selah:** Joan Matson, Mary Vance Strate

**Yakima:** Denny Granstrand, Mike Finney, Horst Loechelt, Leslie McClure, Jane Mortimer, Betty Peterson, Mike and Alice Roper, George and Delia Roulston, Helen Testerman,

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

## Wildfire and Wildlife

*--Adapted from a September 6 National Wildlife Federation article by Lauren Anderson--*

While wildfires are a naturally occurring disturbance on the landscape, wildlife and ecosystems can suffer as a result of intense and large-scale wildfires. The following are examples of how severe wildfires can harm wildlife:

1. There is increased risk of erosion and runoff as plants and their associated root systems are damaged by wildfire. Without stabilizing vegetation to hold the soil in place, rain can wash the soil into waterways, thus polluting and damaging the streams, rivers, and lakes on which fish depend.
2. Wildfire can release large quantities of stored carbon into the atmosphere from burned vegetation, further exacerbating the impacts of climate change. California alone has lost as much as 69 million metric tons of stored carbon between 2001 and 2010 due to wildfires.
3. Severe wildfires can burn away all vegetation and destroy native seedbanks, promoting the spread of invasive and exotic plant species which tend to have negative impacts on native wildlife.

Over the years, the National Forest Service (NFS) has had to dedicate more funds to fighting wildfires, taking the needed money from other programs. This has resulted in a 15%

spending reduction in the NFS's Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness programs, threatening outdoor recreation economies and placing associated jobs at risk.

The lack of funding, which should have been used to maintain roads, trails, and other facilities, has had a direct impact on outdoor recreation opportunities such as hunting and fishing. The National Forest Service currently has a deferred maintenance backlog of over \$5.1 billion. Many of the projects have been waiting on funds for 30 to 50 years.

As wildfires grow more severe due to a rapidly changing climate, we can expect more spending that should be used to increase access to outdoor recreation to instead be funneled toward firefighting emergencies. The National Forest Service projects that fire suppression will cost as much as \$1.8 billion by 2025.

As the threat of wildfires grow in the U.S., the need to fight climate change becomes even clearer. **It is critical that congress take action to prevent the loss of natural resources and reduce the impacts of climate change through national climate policy.**

## BLM to Sterilize Mustangs for first time to slow growth

*Adapted, in part, from a June 26, 2016 article in the Washington Times by Scott Sonner.*

South-central Washington naturalists have witnessed an explosion in the numbers of wild horses on the Yakima Indian Reservation. According to one estimate, their numbers have grown from about 2,000 to over 11,000 over the past decade in a landscape that range management science suggests has a carrying capacity of only a couple thousand. Damage to the shrub-steppe and riparian ecosystems is readily apparent to those driving US-97 south from Toppenish. The Yakama Nation has tackled the issue but is apparently divided over what measures to take to control numbers of

horses. The Yakima Valley Audubon Society had its most emotionally-charged meeting ever a few years back when this issue was the focus of a chapter program. At the Question and Answer session after Jim Stephenson, Yakama Nation wildlife biologist, presented an excellent and factual presentation on the issue, horse advocates present became emotional at the suggestion of control measures. After perhaps 15 minutes of ever-heightening emotion and anger, the discussion had to be terminated on advice of a member who suggested to the President "you've got to end this now..." as hyperbole was rapidly replacing reasonable discourse.

It has become increasingly clear the horse issue is a National one that has no easy solution. At an emotional congressional hearing in June, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Deputy Director Steve Ellis outlined the challenges facing the agency that has been struggling for more than 20 years with what has become a \$1 billion problem. Ellis related there are an estimated 67,000 wild horses and burros on federal land (mostly BLM) in 10 states which is over 2.5 times more than the range can support. He said all the government corrals and leased pastures are full with 47,000 horses that cost taxpayers about \$50,000 per head over the course of their lifetime.

One proposed strategy to solve the horse problem is to euthanize and sell for slaughter the animals overflowing in holding pens so as to clear the way for more roundups. This approach has met with extreme resistance from Animal Rights Groups. A Congressional representative, Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyoming, stated a law adopted in 1971 protecting mustangs allows for their destruction if they go unadopted. On the other hand, starting in 2012, Congress has required horse purchasers to sign documents promising not to resell them for slaughter. The BLM opposes lifting this restriction. Rep. Tom McClintock, chairman of the House Natural Resources subcommittee on public lands, objected to those against euthanizing mustangs but seem fine with them dying an excruciating death due to starvation, dehydration and dis-



**In this July 13, 2008 BLM photo a livestock helicopter pilot rounds up wild horses from the Fox & Lake Herd Management Area from the range in Washoe County, Nev., near the town on Empire, Nev.**

ease, a not unusual scenario for the Yakama Nation herd, particularly in winter. Congressman McClintock stated death is the fate many horses face if Congress doesn't intervene.

The BLM's current plan is to sterilize wild horses on federal rangelands to slow and hopefully reverse the growth of herds. Even this plan has been condemned by mustang advocates across the West. At the June hearing in Congress, J.J. Goicoechea, the Nevada Department of Agriculture's veterinarian and longtime rancher, urged the gathering of "as close to 100 percent of horses as we can" in overpopu-

lated herds for surgical sterilization before returning some to the range. "Those of us who truly make a living caring for animals...have a moral obligation to manage populations in balance with natural resources." Rep. Bruce Westerman, R-Arkansas, replied "thousands of domesticated animals are spayed and neutered every day." "I've got a new puppy and he's got his day coming soon." A loud protest by Edita Birnkran, campaign director for Friends of Animals ensued. "They are wild animals. They are not cats and dogs," she shouted as McClintock banged the gavel and called for Capitol Police. "The solution is getting welfare ranchers off of our public lands, which have been turned into feedlots."

Ellis said the agency's plan includes use of temporary contraceptive vaccines as well as sterilization. "We feel that before we can implement a spay-neuter program on the range, we've got to do the research to make sure we can do it efficiently and safely," he said. "It is going to take a little time to do that." Rep. Rod Bishop, R-Utah, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, chimed in saying it's high time to have "that real tough conversation about something more permanent."

Ginger Kathrens, founder of The Cloud Foundation based in Colorado Springs, Colorado and member of the BLM's wild horse advisory committee insists most Americans want to see mustangs "roam freely on their native home ranges." She said "Castration, sterilization and long-term confinement of horses in holding facilities ... is unnecessary, cruel, unhealthy and fiscally irresponsible."

With the controversy and acrimony displayed in the June Congressional hearings, I might predict continued inaction on the part of our federal government on the very real horse problem here in the American West. More locally, one hopes the Yakama Nation can implement measures to address the plight of starving horses and the continuing depredation of valued habitat on their lands.

--- Andy Stepniewski ---



## FIELD TRIPS SCOTT DOWNES

**Rimrock Lake and Clear Lake field trip. Date, Weekday in late September or early October TBD.** Joe and Karen Zook will lead a trip to the shores of Rimrock and Clear lakes. Date and time to be announced. This trip will be on a weekday sometime at the end of September or beginning of October. Please check BirdYak and/or YVAS Facebook for the date. You may also email us later in September for more info - email address is gadzooks7@charter.net.

We will be looking for gulls, grebes, ducks, possibly loons, and other water birds and will also check our favorite spots for dippers. Bald eagles are often present at Rimrock this time of year. We don't want to leave out the forest birds: Chestnut-backed chickadees, woodpeckers, Brown creepers, kinglets, thrushes and maybe some late migrating warblers and/or raptors are possible. In past years, Surf and White-winged Scoters have been seen at Rimrock and Clear lakes, along with some unusual gulls. Fall is a great time of year for these mountain lakes, and you never know what we might find.

We will also explore the Tieton Airport Marsh area, and time permitting, we will check out some of the small lakes near White Pass. This will be all day. Bring snacks, water, lunch and insect repellent. Dress for cool yet changeable weather. Layers are best, and you may need a pair of lightweight gloves. Wear sturdy footwear for walking the shore of Rimrock.

### **September 22, 29 and October 6, 13 and 20 - Thursday Morning Bird Walk.**

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. The meeting time will shift to 8:30 on September 22. 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 (October 6th 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.**

## **Putting a Price on Carbon – Why Audubon Washington Supports I-732**

**By: Gail Gatton, Executive Director, Audubon Washington**

We know climate change is the number one threat to birds and here in Washington, we have an opportunity to do something about it. On your election ballot this fall will be Initiative 732 – a tax on the consumption of fossil fuels that is balanced with reductions in the state sales tax for consumers and the business and occupation (B&O) tax for manufacturers. We could be the first state in the nation to implement a tax on carbon pollution and lead the way to a clean energy future.

### *What is Initiative 732?*

Initiative 732 works in this way:

- **Tax pollution, not people.** I-732 imposes a significant (\$25/ton) tax on carbon emissions. This tax rises every year, to a maximum of \$100/ton (in 2016 dollars) after 40 years. It is the most aggressive carbon pricing policy in the world and signals to the nation that it is possible to have meaningful climate policy that will reduce carbon emissions.
- **Pay less at the cash register.** I-732 will reduce the state sales tax by one percentage point, putting hundreds of dollars a year back into the pockets of each household in Washington.
- **Fund an Earned Income Tax Credit for working families.** I-732 funds the Working Families Tax Rebate to pro-

vide up to \$1,500 a year for 460,000 low-income households. It is the most progressive change to the Washington tax code since 1977.

- **Reduce the Business & Occupation tax on manufacturing.** I-732 will keep living-wage jobs in Washington by effectively eliminating the Business and Occupation Tax on manufacturing.

### *Why does Audubon Washington support Initiative 732?*

Audubon Washington believes Initiative 732 provides swift and effective action to reduce carbon pollution. Throughout history, birds have been indicators of human and environmental health. Canaries were used in coal mines to detect fatal carbon monoxide and make sure the mines were safe for humans. Eagles were among the first to let us know the detrimental effects of DDT. Now it is time to pay attention to how birds are responding to a shifting climate.

Audubon science shows that climate change is the number one threat to North American birds, including 189 species at risk here in Washington. Birds have specific sets of environmental requirements governed by climate and, during the past 50 years, more than 60 percent of wintering North American bird species have shifted their winter ranges northward. Soon, they may have nowhere left to go.

*Putting a price on Carbon (continued on page 5)*

### *Putting a Price on Carbon (continued from page 4)*

As advocates for birds, there are two things we can do today to protect birds from the threat of global warming: 1) protect the places on the ground that birds need now and in the future to be resilient in a warming world, and 2) prevent additional warming by reducing carbon emissions.

A tax on carbon emissions is a proven method to reduce the carbon pollution causing climate change. By putting a price on the sale or use of certain fossil fuels and fossil-fuel generated electricity, I-732 will promote the use of clean, renewable energy sources, effectively reducing the amount of carbon pollution emitted in the state.

Some have expressed concern regarding the potential for I-732 to cause a deficit in the state's budget. A recent analysis by the Sightline Institute, a highly respected sustainability research institute, concludes that I-732 is within 1% of being revenue-neutral and that "as time goes on, the legislature could honor the will of the voters to keep it neutral."

Others are concerned that a revenue-neutral carbon tax will not do enough to address the needs of those disproportionately affected by effects of climate change, including low-income working families and communities of color. In our opinion, one of the best things we can do to avert the worst impacts of climate change is to reduce carbon pollution as quickly as possible. The futures of birds and of people in a warming world are intertwined. Protecting clean air, water, and habitats that allow birds to thrive means that people can thrive in a healthy environment, too.

*How did Audubon Washington come to support Initiative 732?*

Audubon Washington, with our chapter network, spent more than a year exploring the carbon tax initiative, striving to really understand the pros and cons of being the first state to enact a carbon tax. We surveyed our Audubon membership to get a sense of what individuals were thinking about the carbon tax. We delved into the specifics at every spring regional meeting with leadership from all chapters. Our board did a deep dive during its annual strategic planning retreat and an ad hoc committee took all of this information and developed our position.

As someone who started the process convinced that I-732 wasn't good enough and that there would be a better option in the future, the thoughtful comments and insightfulness of our chapters and members convinced me otherwise. People who care about birds truly understand the urgency of the situation. Over and over, we heard the same refrain: We must do something *now* about climate change. Ultimately, this urgency led me to embrace the great opportunity offered by I-732: vote to put a price on carbon pollution and take action now that will benefit birds and people.

While this initiative will not complete all the work that needs to be done, I-732 will help move Washington forward as a leader on enacting the solutions that birds and other wildlife need to have a chance in a warming world. When birds thrive, we all thrive. Let's take action now for future generations of people and birds.

Ready to take action? Please visit <http://wa.audubon.org/732> or contact Gail Gatton at [ggatton@audubon.org](mailto:ggatton@audubon.org).

## **WESTPORT TO CAPE FLATTERY AUGUST 26-30 2016**

Yakima Audubon and guests headed over to the Washington coast to participate in a Westport pelagic, hit the usual shorebird sites, and explore up the coast to Cape Flattery. We were: Bill Drenguis, Eric Heisey, Brian Pendleton, Darchelle Whorley, Annika Willett, and Ellen Stepniewski and myself.

Before meeting the group in Westport, Ellen and I stopped in the Capitol State Forest southwest of Olympia. Ascending C-line Rd. in the Grays Harbor County portion we searched for Hermit and Black-throated Gray Warblers, both of which were a big challenge. Eventually, we blundered into a Black-throated Gray. The woods really become quiet by late August!



**Snowy Plover**  
Photo by Ellen Stepniewski

Teaming with Eric and Annika, we explored Grayland Beach, noting 13 Snowy Plovers huddled in and near vehicle tracks in the sand just north of the Grays Harbor County line.

We hit Bottle Beach well before high tide and had pretty good shorebirding, with 10 species, including a lone Red Knot. The most conspicuous waders were Black-bellied Plovers and Short-billed Dowitchers. Both turnstones were present on the mud, a usual substrate for Ruddy Turnstone, but unusual for the Black, usually a "rockpiper." The big wildlife spectacle here was that of a steady stream of Sooty Shearwaters, 108,000! We estimated the number passing by each second, then minutes. Obviously, there could have been far fewer if

*Westport to Cape Flattery (continued from page 5)*

the birds were just circling in the bay, however they flowed by steadily over the entire time of observation.

Towards early evening we walked out Float 21 in Westport to a view of the rocks in front of the Coast Guard Station. A single Bar-tailed Godwit, a rarity from western Alaska or perhaps Eurasia, was our best bird here, which we photographed tucked in among the hundreds of Marbled Godwits.

The entire group headed out of Westport on our pelagic boat trip on the Monte Carlo promptly at 6am. There was some fog and drizzle going out and then cloudy for much of the morning, then weather turned partly sunny. The wind using the Beaufort scale was from 1 to 3 and back to 2 coming in which made for swells of eight feet or more and a "bumpy ride" going out but nicer coming in. Mammals in Westport included a barking California Sea Lion and 12 blond Steller's Sea Lions. Spotters for the trip were Bruce LaBar, Gene Revelas and Jim Danzenbaker. Boat personnel and spotters were Phil and Chris Anderson. Inshore in the dim very early morning light, a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was an unusual sighting, usually noted close to shore in really foul weather in late fall.

In offshore waters off Westport, from about 7 to 10:30am, Red Phalaropes were the big news, 1225 in all, a very high count, in a huge flock on the water. Most spotters had never seen anything like these numbers. Evidently, we had intersected the peak southbound migration of this high Arctic breeder. In this zone, we ran into many thousands of Sooty and several thousand Pink-footed Shearwaters, a spectacle, indeed, and Black-footed Albatross and jaegers were notably scarce, though. Eric got us on to a couple Short-tailed Shearwaters, which posed nicely in the water off the Monte Carlo for everyone to study. Mammals included 14 Dall's Porpoises and 16 Pacific white-sided Dolphins.

At the mouth of Grays Canyon in about 2000 feet of water, we stopped in the swells to chum. Few birds came in save storm petrels, including a few Leach's, a relatively uncommon sighting at this season as most of this species are farther offshore in deeper, warmer waters. Albatrosses and jaegers continued scarce, however. Sabine's Gulls and Arctic Terns, were well seen, though. A Tufted Puffin sat on the water so all had a look at it. On our way back to Westport still in offshore waters, we lingered near two shrimp boats, hoping for something unusual. Here we lingered for awhile. Mammals seen were seven Humpback Whales, and one Harbor Porpoise. We also slowed to view two Pacific Sunfish, swimming languidly near the surface.

Near the end of the jetty, we again saw Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels. Along the wave-swept jetty, we slowed to view Wandering Tattlers, a "rockpiper." Some on board got on to a Surfbird, another shorebird that is wedded to rocky shores. We detoured a bit to scan through the 500 or so Marbled Godwits for the Bar-tailed without success in the boat basin by the coast guard site. One Steller's and several California Sea Lions were in the boat basin.

After the pelagic trip recap on the boat, the Yakima contingent headed off to Midway Beach to search for shorebirds

such as Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The trail across marsh was almost dry almost dry, so we had easy going on our trek. We traipsed south along the sedge flats bordering the deflation plain pond, flushing Pectoral Sandpipers. Some noted an American Bittern.

Our last stop for the day was at Tokeland where we birded briefly at the 7th St. viewpoint. Here is where a Red-throated Loon was lying on the sand. There were lots of Caspian Terns on the sandbar here, too. Next we hit the marina where a nice collection of Willets roosted quietly at the base of the boat ramp. We missed their showy side (only in flight). A Peregrine Falcon with prey in its talons was being hazed by Caspian Terns. Overhead a few Purple Martins called. Off in Willapa Bay, thousands of Sooty Shearwaters put on a stunning show, a scene we shared with non-birding passersby.

Before dawn we blasted off to Ocean Shores, starting at the Pt. Brown Jetty. Rockpipers were few but Eric noted lots of Red-necked Phalaropes while scoping waters off the end of the jetty.

We shifted to the Oyhut Wildlife Area, approaching the salt marsh from just north of the sewage treatment plant. We birded this area for several hours, finding two Peregrine Falcons, one an adult anatum. The other was a very dark immature Peale's, which we watched hovering above and eventually snatching a phalarope or Sanderling. Notable in the bay here was an impressive concentration of Red-throated Loons, about 45! Eric spotted a couple Black-legged Kittiwakes far out in the bay, our only ones for the trip. In the shorebird clan, we relocated the American Golden-Plover Eric and Annika had found 26 August. Here we also tallied our only Baird's Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs of the trip.

Heading north along the coast, Eric wanted to visit Griffiths-Priday State Park, where a Buff-breasted Sandpiper had been spotted last year. This was a great site, featuring a wide deflation plain and lagoon. We added Whimbrel and Bonaparte's Gull to our trip list. Darchelle mentioned an interest in the Olympic rain forest, so we detoured two miles to Lake Quinalt for an hour. We briefly walked the nature trail and marveled at the height and girth of some of the giant Douglas-fir, Sitka Spruce, and Western Hemlocks here. Birds were few in the old growth forest but we added Common Merganser on the lake.

At Kalaloch on the Olympic National Park coastal strip, we were so overtaken by the area's rugged beauty we decided to stay here for the night! Moving between the Beach #4 overlook (just north of the "Big Cedar Tree" and the closest overlook of Destruction Island) and Kalaloch, we spotted quite a collection of birds, but our target, Manx Shearwater, eluded us. In fact, shearwaters of any description were nowhere to be seen. Sea Otters, however, were plentiful and we spent time admiring these beasts on their backs, with their paddle-shaped feet poking vertically above the waters surface. Cute! Not far offshore here, too were four Gray Whales, working the waters near kelp beds.

The final two days of this costal adventure can be found on the YVAS Facebook page.

--- 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 Society Membership.....\$ 25.00 per household  
 YVAS Senior (62+) \_\_\_\_ OR Student Membership \_\_\_\_ (please check one).....\$ 15.00 per household  
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New Member \_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_ (please check one)

In addition to my membership payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, my check includes an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this form and your check payable to: YVAS Membership  
 P.O. Box 2823  
 Yakima, WA 98907

**\* If you have any questions on membership, please call Joy McKinney at 698-4110**

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## Satus Wildlife Area Open House

On September 10 the Yakama Nation hosted an open house at the Satus Wildlife Area to kick off their new Wildlife Viewing Program. This program will allow access (with a permit) to selected closed areas on Nation lands for bird watchers, nature lovers and hikers. In addition to the Satus, other properties in the program currently include the Zimmerman's (Xapnish) and Campbell Road restoration areas. These areas will be closed during hunting season but should provide excellent birding in the spring and summer. An annual pass will be available for \$20; \$5 day permits will be available at entry points for each area.

A total of 143 species have been reported from the Satus Wildlife Area, mostly compiled by YVAS member John Hebert during surveys completed with the blessing of the Nation over several years. By comparison, 148 species (371 eBird reports) have been logged at the bird rich Wenas Campground and 159 species have been tallied at the Poppoff Trail (1142 eBird reports). Both of these latter areas have been censused many multiples of the number of surveys at the Satus; given time and exposure, it will be exciting to learn what will be seen at these "new" birding areas.

YVAS is planning on Nation personnel presenting a chapter program to expound on this new opportunity – hopefully prior to spring migration! Stay tuned.



**An open gate beckons visitors.**



**Lots to see - Kerry Turley points as Renée Navarrete looks other way.**



**Editor Elizabeth Bohn joins Renée and Kerry viewing Gray Catbird.**



**Richard Repp negotiates a trail through birdie habitat.**