



# 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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## Public Lands Are For All Americans

**Birds and people depend on our shared spaces**

**By David Yarnold, President, National Audubon Society**

[The current administration's assault on our treasured public lands prompted me to search the National Audubon perspective on this issue. I thought the following article on America's national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and other protected lands was well done and timely. Andy Stepniewski]

Some places are so special—because of their value, because of their beauty, because of their history, because of the wildlife they sustain—that they truly belong to all of us. We call these places national parks, wildlife refuges, monuments, state parks, wildlife management areas, and county and city parks and preserves. Each of them, including the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, which has been in the news a lot, is held in trust for the benefit and enjoyment of all Americans, and on behalf of the birds and wildlife with whom we share this great world.

Here at Audubon, we know that birds depend on public lands. Public lands are nurseries and wintering grounds and

buffet sites during migration for millions upon millions of birds who couldn't survive without them.

We also know how deeply our members and supporters value public land. We value public lands because we know they provide homes for the birds we love, and we value public lands for the opportunities they give us to enjoy birds and spend time in nature, which restores us and brings us joy.

This idea runs deep in Audubon's DNA. We worked with Republican President Teddy Roosevelt to establish America's first National Wildlife Refuge at Pelican Island, Florida, in 1903. Roosevelt went on to establish hundreds of public lands, including Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, which he created with the support of an early Audubon group that became today's Audubon Society of Portland, one of our largest and most active local chapters.

America's public lands are America's treasure. The public employees and volunteers who care for them do a great service to all of us—and to the birds who cannot vote and depend on us for their protection. Our public lands are part of what makes me proud to be an American, and I know that vast majorities of Americans from every conceivable political stripe feel the same way.

When you next visit a refuge, park, or other public land near your home, please celebrate that you have the opportunity and freedom to do so, and don't forget to thank the dedicated staff and volunteers who protect and manage the land and make your visit possible.

And what do the birds think about public lands? Well, from the trumpeting of Sandhill Crane swarms in the winter to the trilling of colorful warblers in the spring, I like to think America's birds are saying "thank you."



*The Yakima Valley Audubon Society meets on the fourth Thursday of January, February, March, April, May, August, September, and October at 7pm at the Yakima Area Arboretum, located at 1401 Arboretum Drive, Yakima, WA. Guests are welcome at these meetings. The Annual Meeting of the Society is held the first Thursday of December at 6pm. The Board of Directors meets each month except December at 7pm at locations announced in the Calliope Crier. Members may attend Board meetings; however, please notify the host because of possible space restrictions.*

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



**MEMBERSHIP**  
**JOY MCKINNEY**

**Welcome new members!**

Judith Bennett, Sunnyside  
Nicholas Mejia, Mabton  
Antonia (Toni) Soto, Grandview

**Thank you for renewing your membership!**

**Naches:** John and Peggy Euteneier  
**Seattle:** Teri Martine, Jennifer Kaufmann  
**Union Gap:** Lawrence Martin  
**Yakima:** William Sable, Bill Drenguis, Bob and Carrie  
Chicken, Karen Ireland, Don Sattler, Ben Dover,  
Susan Talbott, Becky Drew, Renee Navarette  
**Zillah:** Eugene Miliczky



**THIS MONTH'S**  
**YVAS CALENDAR**

- Aug 8** **Board Meeting and Dinner– Pizza and Potluck.** Denny Granstrand and Chris Reid's house at 2011 S. 47th Ave., Yakima (453-2500). Guests are welcome but please call Denny to say you will be there.
- Aug 24** **Audubon Chapter Meeting** at the Yakima Area Arboretum at **7:00 pm. A great program should entertain and excite us!**

View an expanded July newsletter on the YVAS website at: <http://www.yakimaudubon.org>



**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**  
**KERRY TURLEY**

While talking to my son this week the subject turned to my “obsession” with bird-watching came up (I had just completed a successful twitch, with Andy Stepniewski, of the Red-necked Stint that had been spotted at Crockett Lake on Whidbey Island). I tried to explain that 500 miles round trip was not that far to go to see such a rare bird, that it was actually pretty normal. He chuckled and asked me; so, Dad, just how much do you have invested in this non-obsession of yours? Oh, I only have a couple pairs of bino's, a pretty good spotting scope, maybe a dozen or so field guides, not a lot to the more serious birder, I said.

As he walked away laughing I had the epiphany, that moment of realization, that a simple hobby had grown into something more serious. “I was a birder” and in the tradition of addiction recovery programs I must stand up and say “I am a birder.”

You don't think it can happen to you, but isn't that how it is with all addictions? I just wanted to know what that one bird was sitting bird in the top of the tree. So I ran to the library and checked out a field guide and tried to remember all the markings and colors of the bird. Was it an American goldfinch? Maybe it's a Bullock's oriole. Wow... there are a lot of birds in this book. I'm familiar with a few—robins and pigeons, and sparrows.

At some point I realized that a lot of those birds in the field guide never showed up at my feeder and before I knew it I was planning field trips for my days off and my car was a mess from all the back roads I'd been traveling. This year, just maybe, I'll plan a trip to a destination known for its birds, perhaps California or Texas or southern Arizona.

So I confess, “I am a birder.” An addiction from which I hope to never recover.

## Total Solar Eclipse on August 21

### To be visible across the entire United States

The United States will experience a total solar eclipse on August 21. The area of totality, when the moon totally blocks the sun, will travel from the coast of Oregon across the U.S. to South Carolina. It will be viewed by many millions of people. A partial solar eclipse will be visible throughout the entire continental U.S.

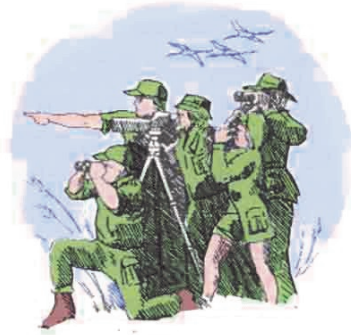
The area of totality will hit the Oregon coast at about Depoe Bay at about 10:00 a.m., travel through Oregon and go into Idaho just north of Weiser. There is an eclipse festival in Madras in eastern Oregon. They are expecting 100,000 people. They are also expecting massive traffic jams. If you go down that way, go early!

For viewing the eclipse, be sure to use proper eyewear. Regular sunglasses will not provide enough protection. It is possible to get serious eye damage from viewing the eclipse with improper eyewear. You can order disposable eclipse glasses on-line for around \$5. Be sure to order soon to make sure they aren't sold out. Have fun!



## FIELD TRIPS SCOTT DOWNES

**Aug 14 (Monday) — Yakima Valley Shorebirds** — This trip will be targeting shore birds around Yakima county. Exact location is subject to change depending on conditions, although we will likely either bird around Wenas Lake or the lower valley. This trip will go into the mid afternoon, maybe later if conditions are good. We will meet at 8:00 am, meeting place will be determined as soon as the location is. Please email me at [magicman32@rocketmail.com](mailto:magicman32@rocketmail.com) in advance if you are interested in the trip and I will pass along updates on the location once I decide where we'll be birding. Make sure to bring lunch and water, boots may be helpful for walking through mud.



**Sept 9 (Saturday) — Washtucna and Surrounding Vagrant Traps** — Washtucna and surrounding areas have hosted a multitude vagrant birds from eastern North America over the years. This trip will give participants a good chance to see rare birds! We will be visiting Washtucna, Kahlotus, Hooper, Lyon's Ferry, and several other Snake River parks, which are all known vagrant traps. This will be an all day trip, so make sure to bring a lunch and dress for warm weather. We will be meeting at the Granger Arco at 6:45 am, I would like to be leaving by 7:00 am. If you are interested in going on this trip please email me at [magicman32@rocketmail.com](mailto:magicman32@rocketmail.com) in advance. [Editor's Note: On Sept. 9, 2008, there was a Variegated Flycatcher at Winddust Park, which is just a ways south of where Eric will be leading the group, which shows there are nice rarities out there to be found. This was the first sighting of this species for Washington and only the fourth sighting for North America].

## EPA proposes to withdraw Clean Water Act restrictions for Pebble Mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed

### *90-day public comment period*

(July 11, 2017) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to withdraw its July 2014 Clean Water Act Proposed Determination that would, if finalized, have imposed restrictions on the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the potential "Pebble Mine" in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. EPA is seeking public comment on whether to withdraw the Proposed Determination.

EPA is consulting on the proposed withdrawal with federally-recognized tribal governments of the Bristol Bay region and with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Regional and Village Corporations with lands in the Bristol Bay watershed. The public comment and tribal consultation process allows EPA to hear from the public before final decisions are made. After the close of the public comment and tribal consultation process, the EPA will decide whether to issue a final withdrawal of the 2014 Proposed Determination. EPA is also requesting public comment on whether the EPA Administrator should review and reconsider a final withdrawal decision, if such a decision is made.

#### **Public Comment Information**

Public comments on EPA's proposals must be received on or before 90 days from the date of publication of the Federal Register Notice. Comments may be emailed to: [ow-docket@epa.gov](mailto:ow-docket@epa.gov) with docket number EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369 in the email subject line.

For more information, including the pre-publication Federal Register Notice announcing this public comment period, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/bristolbay>.

#### **Background**

In 2014, EPA's Region 10 completed a multi-year effort to assess the Bristol Bay watershed, and then issued a Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination to restrict discharges of dredge or fill material into the watershed from mining the Pebble deposit. Section 404 is the part of the Clean Water Act that governs the permit evaluation process for actions that discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. EPA agreed to initiate a process to propose to withdraw the Proposed Determination as part of a May 11, 2017 settlement agreement with the Pebble Limited Partnership, whose subsidiaries own the mineral claims to the Pebble deposit. The agreement provides Pebble additional time to apply for a Clean Water Act 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before EPA moves any further with its Clean Water Act Section 404(c) review.

## Yakima County's second Indigo Bunting found along Audubon Road in the Wenas on June 10

**Editor's Note: These are Richard Repp's reflections about another wonderful bird sighting in Yakima County. This is copied from an e-mail that Richard sent to BirdYak.**

In the event there may be a few Yakkers (shorthand for members of BirdYak) that do not fall into the category one of YVAS former presidents described as "kamikaze birders" (read super intense about viewing birds, hearing birds, reading about birds), but have an interest in what is being seen in the Yakima area, I thought I would go out on a limb with a bit more info on the lingering Indigo Bunting. First a disclaimer: because of my weight and age, going out on a limb has been fraught with disaster for me personally in the past. If I had better sense, I'd avoid limbs altogether as even my own seem to creak in the slightest breeze or movement. But once in awhile, I get brave because a branch appears as sound as any in a mature healthy oak tree.



**Indigo Bunting**  
Photo by Jeff Bixler

I suppose I spend more time reading bird lists and postings than most Yakkers. I tripped over a couple of things that may be of interest to those wondering if the Indigo's reported constant vocalizations were a case of singing the blues or more in the purported realm of rock singers who boast of attracting scads of partners willing to step beyond listening and dancing.

Another spoiler alert: some of the following may fall into the most salacious reading one would expect to encounter on Bird-

Yak.

I was looking in the Explore Data section of eBird and found a couple of notes on the lists of eBirders reporting the Indigo.

One recent list stated, "Actively chasing a female Lazuli Bunting around, attempting to court her (maybe we'll get a hybrid brood!)."

An earlier list was a bit more revealing, "Continuing male at first yellow gate on Audubon Rd. Singing on and off, copulated three times with a female LAZB! Female appeared whitish underneath with no contrasting white throat so presumed LAZB attempted hybridization!"



### Indigo Bunting getting frisky with a female Lazuli Bunting in the Wenas

Remains to be seen if our Indigo has created a seasonal pairing or if he a libidinous gigolo or a player.

While Jason Fidorra is rightfully thanked for reporting the Indigo in many posts, it appears that he was traveling with two other birders - Frank Stetler and Ivar Husa. So kudos to those two also for helping to bring so much blue into BirdYak content.

Thanks also to Scott for the initial heads up and to Denny for the quick follow up to confirm the bird was sticking around.

And there are many photos included in eBird lists submitted. Here (I hope) is a link to the eBird Explore Data location that will allow you to access submitted lists. Simply scroll down towards the bottom and click on "map" beside the entry for Indigo Bunting. Feel free to review any of the 300+ species include on the list.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/barchart?byr=1900&eyr=2017&bmo=1&emo=12&r=US-WA-077>

Richard Repp  
Wenas Wanderer

**Another Editor's Note:** The first Indigo Bunting to be seen in Yakima County was found by Valerie Ramirez visiting her feeder at her house on Fair Ave. in Yakima, across the street from the Sun Dome. She got good photos of this incredible bird and identified it with the help of a Reader's Digest book on the birds of North America. It was a fantastic sighting and identification by a beginning birder!

### Yakima Valley Audubon Society Membership

Join/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  
 Yakima Valley Audubon Society Life Membership .....\$ 500.00 per household

New Member \_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_ (please check one)

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

\_\_\_\_ I do not want to receive any solicitations or communications from NAS (please check if applicable)

\_\_\_\_ I prefer to read the Crier online and not receive my copy by mail (please check if applicable)

Please make any corrections to your contact information as needed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**If you have any membership questions, contact Joy McKinney at [joycatbird@gmail.com](mailto:joycatbird@gmail.com) or 698-4110.**

### **2017 YAKIMA VALLEY AUDUBON OFFICERS AND BOARD**

President	Kerry Turley ( <a href="mailto:kdturley@gmail.com">kdturley@gmail.com</a> )	840-0980	Membership	Joy McKinney ( <a href="mailto:joycatbird@gmail.com">joycatbird@gmail.com</a> )	698-4110
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	Reneé Navarrete ( <a href="mailto:renee@digitalcardboard.com">renee@digitalcardboard.com</a> )	654-9646	Publicity	Vacant	
			Social	Vacant	
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Bluebird Trail	Richard Repp ( <a href="mailto:bbirder247@aol.com">bbirder247@aol.com</a> )	965-1134	Toppenish CBC	Eric Heisey ( <a href="mailto:magicman32@rocketmail.com">magicman32@rocketmail.com</a> )	
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Field Trips	Scott Downes ( <a href="mailto:downess@charter.net">downess@charter.net</a> )	469-7807	YVAS Facebook	( <a href="http://www.facebook.com/yakimaaudubon/?fref=ts">http://www.facebook.com/yakimaaudubon/?fref=ts</a> )	

## Shorebirds you might see on the Aug. 19 Field Trip



Stilt Sandpiper (if we get lucky!)



American Avocet



Red-necked Phalarope



Pectoral Sandpiper

## *Coming Attractions:*

Aug 19 Yakima Valley Shorebird Field Trip

Aug 24 YVAS Chapter Meeting

Sept 14 Washtucna, etc, Rarity Field Trip