



# 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 46 Number 09

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

October 2017



## OCTOBER PROGRAM

BILL DRENGUIS

## Yakama Nation Salmon Recovery Efforts in our area with Dave Fast

We are lucky this month to have Dave Fast as our speaker. Dave has a PhD in Fisheries from the University of Washington and is the senior research scientist for the Yakama Nation. Dave will be able to give us an overview on salmon and habitat recovery programs in our area.

Adult sockeye transported from Priest Rapids Dam in July are spawning above Lake Cle Elum. Sockeye change from ocean rearing colors of blue back to a bright green head and red body when they are spawning. The vibrant color of the sockeye and large number have biologists enthusiastic to share the success of the innovative program. The Yakama Nation is in its fourth year of reintroduction work that includes transporting sockeye into the lake, monitoring populations, spawning surveys, and developing strategies to maintain the Yakima Basin stock. The number that spawns has increased each year

as the tribe negotiated an agreement to take up to three percent of overall run size.

Yakama tribal elders describe the value of sockeye to the people as a winter sustenance food to carry people until new spring food arrives. Sockeye also had a high trade value. Tribal members prize the sockeye for its rich flavor. "We hope to one day have a sockeye season in the Yakima Basin," said Virgil Lewis of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council.

Come join us at 7:00 pm at the Arboretum on October 26. All are welcome.



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

KERRY TURLEY

After living in this area for forty-four years, I can almost become complacent about the fantastic natural wonder that is out there for enjoyment and study. Almost! Walking out onto the deck the other day, looking at the top of Horse Heaven Hills, seeing the sharp-shinned hawk keeping an eye on the feeder and hearing the songs of the returning white-crowned sparrows jolted me back in to the realization that this is where I want to be! These opportunities are what drive birders and wildlife enthusiasts to explore the outdoors, hoping to catch a glimpse of the rare or the secretive.

Our chapter offers opportunities for all of us to experience and share our discoveries in the natural world. I am continually impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of our members who organize and lead field trips, compile species lists, inform us of local issues, and volunteer for a variety of tasks that enrich the chapter and educate the public.

Andy and Ellen Stepniewski recently led a field trip to the

Sunrise area and as I write this, Scott Downes is planning the next field trip to the Columbia River, Denny Granstrand is hard at work on the Calliope Crier, and he and Eric Heisey are putting together this year's Christmas Bird Counts.

So many of you have seized opportunities to improve and expand our chapter! But opportunities still exist and I would like to list a few of them:

1. Become a board member. Currently we have two vacancies on the board and we usually have a vacancy or two come up during the year.
2. Organize and lead a field trip. Field trips are one of our chapter's core activities and a fun way to practice your skills, meet new people, and explore our beautiful region. We will be scheduling our 2018 field trips in January, so contact Scott Downes if you have an idea.
3. Come to our general meetings at Yakima Arboretum. Our meetings are always educational as well as social. Meet other nature enthusiasts and share your own discoveries!

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



## MEMBERSHIP

JOY MCKINNEY



## THIS MONTH'S YVAS CALENDAR

**Welcome New Member!**  
Steve Moore, Ellensburg

**Thank you for renewing your membership!**

**Naches:** Thomas Thrush

**Richland:** Connie Estep

**Selah:** Joan Matson

- Oct 26** **YVAS Chapter Meeting** at the Yakima Area Arboretum at **7:00 pm**. A great program will entertain and excite us!
- Nov 14** **Board Meeting** — Dan Kinney's house at 207 Santa Rosa Dr., at **7:00 pm**.

## Election YVAS Officers at October Chapter Meeting

At the October chapter meeting we will be having an election of officers, as specified by the YVAS bylaws. At the October Board of Directors Meeting, several people volunteered to run for open offices. Here is the current slate of candidates for positions to be filled this year:

President: Bill Drenguis  
Vice President: Reneé Navarrete  
Director: Bob Chicken  
Director: Phil Fischer  
Director: Denny Granstrand  
Director: Ken Tolonen



The board continues looking for enthusiastic people who can bring new ideas to the chapter. We are a tight-knit group who make the board meetings quite enjoyable and, frequently, quite a bit of fun. If you are interested in joining the board, or would just like more information, please contact Kerry Turley or any other board member.

YVAS bylaws allow nominations from the floor at our October chapter meeting for any elective office provided the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

## Annual Christmas Silent Auction — First Call

Thursday December 7th is the date we all have been waiting for. Yes, it's the return of the Audubon Christmas Auction™ (tm)! Oh, we will have an amazing potluck and a surprise speaker. However the highlight will once again be the Audubon Christmas Auction (tm). We need to start collecting auction items and your donated treasures are welcomed and needed. Bird related items seem the most popular.

In the last few years we have had an increase in members donating hosted dinners and even fishing trips. These are much appreciated by the chapter and by the members who purchase them. It's also a great chance to show off your garden/bird sanctuary. Large items are sold in the silent auction. We will also have a "bargain table" for smaller items like books.

The Audubon Christmas Auction™ is the second largest fundraiser for the chapter. We have been able to earmark all the proceeds for education and conservation.

So please contact Bill Drenguis™ at 965-5808 or [bdrenguis@gmail.com](mailto:bdrenguis@gmail.com). I can pick up items before the auction. It helps to get the items early so they can be labeled. See you at the Audubon Christmas Auction™. Does anyone know how to apply for a trademark?

### Big Bird, Little Bird

The size difference is obvious. But what do these two feathered friends have in common?

Answer: One bird symbolizes PBS where six of every seven dollars in their budget comes from private donors. The Calliope Hummingbird is the logo for YVAS where the generosity of our members drives our budget.

Please donate auction items AND bid often!





## Water, Wind & Fire Tour: Saving our Farms, Forests, and Fish while Strengthening the Economy

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) and Audubon Washington volunteers supported by other local groups in the region are conducting the *Water, Wind & Fire Tour* – a 12-city tour around Washington state and the Idaho panhandle to engage citizens and community leaders in a conversation about the impacts of our changing climate, new energy ideas, and economic policies that mitigate climate and financial risk.

CCL & Audubon volunteers will visit Toppenish and Yakima on Thursday, Nov 2 and speak about warming temperatures, their impact on Washington and Idaho citizens, and how we can move past partisanship to address the challenges of plentiful and affordable energy, a growing economy with lots of good jobs, and managing risk as a result of climate change.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a grassroots advocacy organization with over 340 chapters across the U.S. that generates political will to manage climate change risk. The group is non-partisan and works with members of Congress from both political parties to find and promote policy solutions to allow the market to find the most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions without growing government.

Audubon science confirms that climate change is the number one threat to birds. Using this non-partisan avian messenger, Audubon's unparalleled grassroots network is taking action to reduce carbon pollution, promote renewable energy, and protect the places on the ground that birds need today and in the future. Audubon Washington is a field office of the National Audubon Society.

**WHAT:** Presentation/Conversation – “Water, Wind & Fire Tour: Saving our Farms, Forests & Fish While Strengthening the Economy”

**WHO:**

Dr. Steve Ghan, Climate Scientist, former Editor of the *Journal of Geophysical Research – Atmospheres*, Richland Citizens' Climate Lobby Group Leader.

John Sandvig, Aerospace Engineer & Business Executive, Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer and member of the CCL “Conservative Caucus”

Jennifer Syrowitz, Audubon Washington, Chapter Conservation Manager

**WHEN:** Thursday, Nov 2 @ 12:00pm, Eagle Seelatsee Auditorium, 281-417 Fort R, Toppenish

**WHEN:** Thursday, Nov 2 @ 6:30pm, Yakima Area Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Dr, Yakima

**INFO:** <http://tinyurl.com/waterwindfiretour>

**CONTACT:** Sara Cate, 509-961-2762, sarairenecate@gmail.com





## FIELD TRIPS SCOTT DOWNES

**Vantage, November 12 (Sunday).** Scott Downes and Eric Heisey. Vantage and the Columbia River are the focus of this trip. We'll travel through the Yakima Canyon and Vantage Highway on route to Vantage and keep an eye out for raptors. Late fall can be impressive at Vantage for waterfowl numbers in the hundreds to thousands and often unusual diving ducks or loons are seen at this time of year including scoters, possibly long-tailed duck and Pacific loon plus sometimes a good collection of gulls. The parks along the river also usually host a nice variety of wintering passerines. Field trip will leave Yakima at 7:00 am. Expect a return to Yakima around 5:00 pm. Bring lunch, water and dress for varied weather conditions. We could get nice weather near 60 degrees or it could be near freezing at Vantage. A spotting scope is helpful, but not required to attend. We'll be carpooling, we'll stop at several places that need a Discover Pass so drivers should plan on having one. Contact leader Scott Downes for meeting location — [downess@charter.net](mailto:downess@charter.net).

## Ptarmigans elude us again but the cold didn't!

Though forecast to be cold and snowy in the mountains, nine hardy Yakima Auduboners met early on September 30 for the 2-hour drive up to Sunrise in Mt. Rainier National Park. Our target was White-tailed Ptarmigan on the alpine slopes above



**The wind was blowing and cold at Sunrise, as the group hunkered at the visitor's center**

Sunrise. On the way we stopped at Chinook Pass for a brief break. Looking skyward we noted five Band-tailed Pigeons, a rarity in Yakima County. These pigeons dashed about the high cliffs and slopes high above the pass before clouds boiled over the pass and obscured our views.

Heading towards Sunrise, the clouds parted for a bit and we had gorgeous views of the mountain, shining brilliantly with new snow. At the Sunrise Visitor Center (6400 feet elevation), we were met with the a blustery cold wind. The temperature was not much above freezing and it snowed briefly. We poked around the visitor center finding lots of Golden-crowned Sparrows, along with a couple White-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. As few of us had winter clothes for the hike upwards from Sunrise, we elected to head down mountain. On the way, we stopped at Sunrise Point and took a half-mile walk west back towards Sunrise on the trail. Amid pretty subalpine openings, we studied vegetation beside the trail. An adult Northern Goshawk perched ahead of us momentarily, and flew off after a bit. This magnificent raptor is rare in the park, perhaps most expected in the fall migration, as they head south along the alpine ridges. We then headed down to Ohanapecosh, in the tall trees, and had a nice lunch. Afterwards, we scanned the beautiful stream below the bridge there for a dipper but managed only a Hairy Woodpecker working a fallen log.



**American Dipper searching for salmon eggs**  
Photo by Ellen Stepniewski

We then headed homeward via White Pass where we took a short walk around the north side of Leech Lake. Though cloudy and a little gloomy, we noted a few birds including Westside species like Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Golden-crowned Kinglet, A couple of Barrows Goldeneye's swam and dove in the placid waters, the only water-birds we noted.

Our final stop was at Clear Lake where we marveled at the many Kokanee Salmon spawning in the creek below the dam, a cool wildlife spectacle! American Dippers were busy snatching eggs in the clear waters, a seasonal buffet for these marvelous birds, John Muir's favorite bird.

## Vredenburg Bluebird Nest Box Trail has successful 2017!

As the human population and activities (habitat alteration & destruction) in North America expanded, bluebird populations plummeted due to the resulting shortage of natural cavities for nesting, pesticide use and perhaps most importantly, by importing two European species of birds to North America, the House Sparrow and the European Starling.

Between 1850 and the late 1870s, House Sparrows were brought over by well-meaning immigrants partly because they believed the introduction would help curb pests around farms and partly because they were a familiar reminder of the "homeland".

By the 1880s, the introduction was deemed a mistake as evidence mounted that native bird populations were being displaced. The first House Sparrows reached eastern Washington in the early 1900s. W. L. Dawson, an early ornithologist, wrote in his 1903 book, "The Birds of Ohio: *"Without question the most deplorable event in the history of American ornithology was the introduction of the English Sparrow."*

The current population of House Sparrows in North America is just under 100 million birds.

A total of one hundred Starlings were introduced in New York City's Central Park in 1890 and 1891 by a society dedicated to bringing all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare to the new world. By 1950 starlings could be found coast to coast, north past Hudson Bay and south into Mexico.

Their North American numbers today top 200 million. Starlings and House Sparrows are fierce competitors for nest cavities and often force bluebirds and other native species away from possible nesting sites.

Scientists and citizens became concerned as bluebird populations plummeted across North America. Looking for ways to help, it was soon discovered that bluebirds would readily accept man-made nest boxes. And by limiting **the size of the entrance hole**, Starlings (but not House Sparrows) could be blocked. House Sparrows shadow humans; by placing nest boxes **away** from homes, threats from HOSP decrease.

To counter declining populations, bluebird trails became



**Mountain Bluebird at nest box**



**Mountain Bluebird with more food for the kids**

popular and are a source of great pleasure and satisfaction to those involved. A bluebird trail consists of a number of nesting boxes spaced approximately 100 yards or more apart and so located that they can be conveniently monitored by going from box to box by car, bicycle or on foot.

A bluebird trail may consist of only a few nesting boxes on one's own property or of hundreds of boxes spread over a distance of many miles. Bluebird population has increased dramatically along the routes of virtually all bluebird trails in appropriate habitat that have been operated for a number of years.

In 1982, YVAS members put up 57 nest boxes in the Wenas area. The trail was expanded over the years and now has 132 nest boxes along a 14 mile stretch of North Wenas Road between Audubon Road and Durr Road. In 1994, the trail was named in honor of Virginia and Harold Vredenburg to recognize their years of tireless devotion to help bluebirds flourish in Yakima County. YVAS members continue to monitor the boxes weekly throughout each breeding season. Sponsorship of individual boxes has been a hallmark of the trail since its inception.

This year, a total of 491 bluebirds fledged from the Vredenburg nest boxes, slightly better than the average fledge rate of 478 from the most recent ten years. Mountain Bluebirds accounted for 63 of the total which was down slightly from last year's 82.

Also fledging from the boxes this year were seven Mountain Chickadees and four Tree Swallows. A clutch of five White-breasted Nuthatches failed just days prior to fledging.

In addition to the Vredenburg Bluebird Trail, YVAS members tend to five other bluebird trails in the Yakima area. Be sure to check out the [online](#)

[version](#) of this Crier to see recaps, history and photos from these trails.

A box by box recap of the 2017 Vredenburg nesting season can be found on pages 6 and 7. Additional information on the trail appears on page 8.

— Richard Repp —



## 2017 VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Eg	Fl	PT
1	Harold Vredenburg	W	0	0	2020
2	Jeanne Crawford Memorial	W	5	4	2017
3	Tanager Nevue-Cushing	W	11	8	2019
4	Steven & Marcia Shotwell	W	1	0	2018
5	Sparrow Nevue-Cushing	W	5	0	2019
6	Don Peterson Memorial	W	10	8	2018
7	Karen Ireland	W	6	4	2018
8	Betty & Carolyn Lagergren	W	10	9	2018
9	Sandie Deighton	W	5	5	2017
10	Joe & Alberta McGuire	W	8	0	2017
11	Steven & Marcia Shotwell	W	7	5	2018
12	Schurman Family	W	6	4	2017
13	Karen & Joseph Zook	W	10	4	2019
13A	Phil Fischer	W	5	0	2018
14	Friedenson Family	W	6	5	2017
15	Joy McKinney	W	6	5	2017
16	Rachel Bold	W	6	5	2018
17	Michael West	W	6	2	2017
18	Betty & Carolyn Lagergren	W	9	3	2018
19	Janna & Steven Hayes	W	10	4	2017
20	Elwood P. Suggins	W	2	0	2016
21	Pete & Pam Neumann	W	5	0	2018
22	Brian T. & Aseeza M.	W	0	0	2019
22A	Robert English	W	6	4	2017
23	Karen Zook	MOCH	8	7	2019
24	Virginia Gill	W	5	2	2018
25	Don Peterson Memorial	W	8	5	2018
26	Arlene Wood Memorial	W	9	5	PMBD
27	Kay Marsh Memorial	W	5	0	2030
28	Sherry Morris	W	5	5	2017
29	Donna Zimmerschied	W	10	4	2017
30	Betty & Greg Neumann	W	5	5	2018
31	Donna Zimmerschied	W	4	3	2017
32	Larry & Doris Robinson	W	6	6	PMBD
33	Stan & Lori Isley	W	7	5	2017
34	Sarah Burke	W	7	5	2017
35	Joe & Alberta McGuire	WBNU	5	0	2017
36	Larry Robinson	W	6	6	2021

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Eg	Fl	PT
37	Alice Presson	W	6	6	2017
38	Charlotte Pfeiffer Memorial	W	6	6	2017
39	Maia Mittlestaedt	W	6	2	2019
39A	Joan Gilman	W	6	5	2017
40	Gertrude Repp Memorial	W	6	2	2035
41	Joan Gilman	W	5	4	2017
42	available	W	5	5	
43	Teresa Lorenz	wren	x	x	2018
44	Dorothy Munroe	W	6	5	2017
45	Jerry & M. A. Ruthruff	W	12	10	2018
46	Women's Cent. Garden Club	W	4	0	2017
47	Irene Gilman Memorial	W	6	6	2017
48	Tomas Sawyer	W	2	0	2019
49	Ellen Stevenson Family	W	6	6	2016
50	Tom Mansfield	W	1	0	2033
51	Ron Sell	W	0	0	2017
52	Linda Knutson	W	5	5	2017
53	Megan & Steven Pooler	W	6	6	2017
54	Jerry & Maragret Turner	W	5	5	2018
55	Martha Taylor	W	5	3	2018
56	Denny Granstrand	wren	x	x	2017
57	William & Kelley Strange	W	11	10	2016
58	Karen & Joseph Zook	W	9	4	2019
59	Denny Granstrand	W	5	5	2017
60	Megan & Steven Pooler	W	6	6	2017
61	John Meyer Memorial	W	12	6	2017
62	Martha Anderson	W	5	5	2016
63	Tom Wilson	W	6	6	2018
64	Mike & Carolyn Wood	W	6	6	2018
64*	*Second species in nest	TRES	6	4	
65	Lucky Hall	W	6	6	2019
66	Carol Phillips	W	7	0	2021
67	William & Kelley Strange	W	6	6	2016
68	Ruth Knoke Memorial	W	10	7	2017
69	Janet White	W	8	0	2021
70	Irene Gilman Memorial	W	4	4	2017
71	Helen Stuckey	W	6	6	2017
72	Nancy Born	W	9	8	2017



## Thank you, Vredenburg Monitors!

Once again, YVAS has been blessed with committed volunteer monitors who gathered data during the nesting season: Joe and Karen Zook, the Brad's Blues Team (Nancy Jo & Hannah Born, Leslie Sawyer, Linda Summer), Martha Fleming, Liz Angland, Vera Backstrom, Dotty Armstrong, and Vicky Jones. Additionally, birding enthusiasts attending the Washington Audubon Memorial Day Wenas Campout assisted with the monitoring. Campers participating this year: Courtnay, Doug & Brooke Schurman (Seattle), Lee Rentz (Shelton), Bob & Arlene Fay (Yakima), Riley Hoyle-Dodon (Lacey), Elizabeth Peelor (Olympia), Mary McCallum (Olympia), and Ann & Rick Cotton (Vancouver).

These volunteers ensured that each of the trail's 132 nest boxes was inspected weekly throughout the breeding season and pertinent information on the nests' contents was dutifully recorded. Their efforts enabled us to compile the detailed information presented in the Vredenburg Bluebird Trail Report elsewhere in this Crier. Again, THANK YOU MONITORS!!

— Richard Repp —

## Vredenburg Bluebird Trail Nest Box Sponsors

Sponsors – please check the Paid Thru (PT) column in the trail recap on pages 6 & 7. If 2017 is listed in this column for your box, your sponsorship expires on December 31, 2017. Please consider this your first cue to remit your renewal. Reminders will be sent to sponsors that have not been renewed by Dec 31.

Mail your check (payable to YVAS) to:

YVAS  
P O BOX 2823  
Yakima, WA 98907

To avoid confusion, please enclose a note indicating your box number(s) and the number of years you are paying for. An email address or phone number will allow us to quickly resolve any payment questions. All of the sponsors' names in bold text on pages 6 & 7 have elected to pay the Mountain Bluebird rate of ten dollars per year. The option to renew at other variable rates is limited to sponsors of record in 2010. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 509-965-1134 or email me at: [bbirder247@gmail.com](mailto:bbirder247@gmail.com)

In the upcoming nesting season, I hope to send *email* progress reports on the activity along the Vredenburg Trail to sponsors for whom we have *email* addresses. If you would like to be included, use my email contact info above to have your name (or the name of person you sponsor a box for) added to this list.

– Richard Repp –

*Because the bluebird is beautiful and readily accepts the help of humans, and, because people love to nurture beautiful animals, especially those that are endearing, a strong natural bond is easily forged between man and the bluebird at the nest box. In many cases, that relationship not only lasts a lifetime but also grows into a greater awareness of the plight of all wild animals and the plant kingdom on which all animals depend.*

— Gary Springer —

North American Bluebird Society Director, 2005

<b>Vredenburg Fledged Bluebirds 1982-2017</b>				
	<b>WEBL</b>	<b>MOBL</b>	<b>BB sp</b>	<b>BB tot</b>
1982	72	54		126
1983	125	66		191
1984	144	133		277
1985	115	82	17	214
1986	259	150		409
1987	299	209		508
1988	311	151		462
1989	319	148		467
1990	304	118		422
1991	204	87		291
1992	211	147		358
1993	267	125		392
1994	310	167		477
1995	258	128		386
1996	319	152		471
1997	413	120		533
1998	347	141	62	550
1999	276	118	7	401
2000	383	115	44	542
2001	347	105	6	458
2002	315	81	59	455
2003	283	93	19	395
2004	332	90	17	439
2005	320	16		336
2006	235	66		301
2007	334	91		425
2008	518	51		569
2009	504	74		578
2010	344	34		378
2011	369	52		421
2012	311	57		368
2013	406	78		484
2014	514	39		553
2015	366	54		420
2016	460	82		542
2017	428	63		491
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10434</b>	<b>3392</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>15090</b>
WEBL = Western Bluebird MOBL = Mountain Bluebird BBsp = Bluebird Species				



## Cleman Mountain Bluebird Trail 2017

Our little Bluebird trail did well this year, despite a slower start than in years past. We have 35 boxes that we regularly monitor, plus three auxiliary boxes. The totals given are from the 35 boxes, as the others are not monitored as often. This trail is located in the Wenas Wildlife Area on the northwest flanks of Cleman Mountain and is accessed off North Wenas Road at the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife gate just west of Hardy Canyon. The boxes are along green dot roads that wind seven miles from Newland Road to Jones Road. Each winter the Cleman Mountain unit of this wildlife area is closed to all public access for the protection of wintering elk. The closure begins upon initiation of supplemental feeding, typically in early to mid-December, and reopens May 1.

Our "Bluebird Year" starts in May, as this area is inaccessible until May 1 due to the yearly elk closure. We started the year off with 39 eggs, 12 nestlings and eight dead chicks.

By the end of the season, the trail had fledged 134 Western Bluebirds, five Mountain Bluebirds, five Mountain Chickadees (a first for us), approx. 15 Tree Swallows and about a dozen House Wrens.

Only 30 of our boxes were used this year, so that averages 5.7 fledged per box. Some of the boxes were used twice, and a couple of boxes were used by one species, then another moved in later. One of the boxes had to be moved as the tree it was mounted on fell down over the winter. Bluebirds immediately moved in and laid seven eggs. That is the most eggs



**Western Bluebird on Cleman Mountain**



**Lorquin's Admiral and Coronis Fritillary butterflies On Cleman Mountain**

we have seen in one of these boxes. All seven of the chicks fledged. We ended the year with a total of twelve dead birds, two of which were Tree Swallow chicks eaten by a snake that we found in the box. The snake in the box was another first for us. We suspect that a cold patch of weather in the spring was the cause of death of the eight dead we found in May. Overall, the mortality rate seemed fairly low this season.

Outside of the nest boxes, the area is just a great place to be. There are so many birds and so much life up there! We have found two nesting pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers, and there are dozens of species who spend the spring and summer in the area, including Vesper, Brewer's, Lark and Chipping Sparrows; Common Poorwills, Common Night-

hawks, Lazuli Buntings, Pacific slope, Dusky and Gray flycatchers; Western Tanagers, Black-headed Gros-

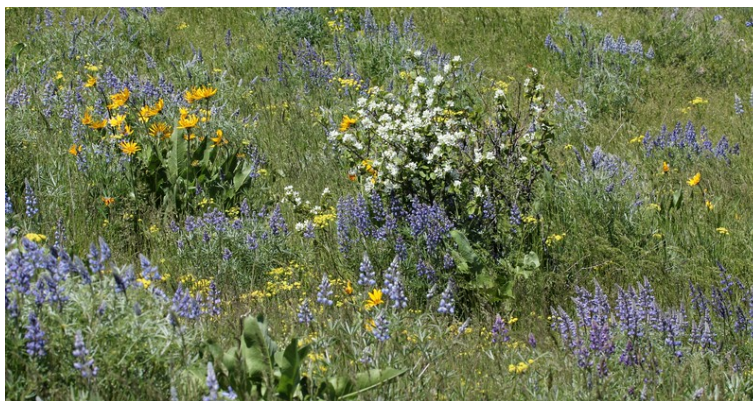
beaks, White-headed woodpecker, Bullock's Orioles, Yellow-breasted Chats, five or six species of warblers - and the list goes on. The wildflowers and butterflies are plentiful as well. The road to get



**Tree Swallows resting near their nest box**

up there is rugged, but it is a beautiful and (mostly) quiet place.

We cleaned out our boxes on September 26 and said good bye for the year. I'm already looking forward to spring, when the cycle starts again.



**Wildflowers on Cleman Mountain**

— Joe and Karen Zook —  
Photos by Karen Zook

## In Memory of Kelly Kindelspire

Longtime YVAS member Kelly Kindelspire passed away on October 10, 2017 at the age of 75.

Unless he was traveling with family, Kelly was a regular at our monthly chapter meetings.

Though Kelly politely declined various leadership positions on the YVAS Board of Directors, he did not shy away from volunteering his talents to numerous projects. Kelly was an excellent birder (though always willing to learn more to improve his skills) and was an annual participant on the annual Yakima Christmas Bird Count as well as a cheerful presence at the recap dinner.

Kelly assisted greatly with the multi-year Lewis's Woodpecker Survey YVAS conducted for the Washington State Parks System at Fort Simcoe. He was stalwart on the YVAS multi-year field project in conjunction with the Yakama Nation in the Bobolink breeding survey on Lateral C. Dressed in his chest waders, he was willing to slog through one of the more difficult fields on the west side of Lateral C where the grass could be over one's head and the water could be over your boot-tops. He participated in almost all of the weekly surveys ... a huge help in getting each survey done in a timely fashion. To help assure we were doing meaningful work that would yield valid conclusion+ns, Kelly participated in the yearly pre-season strategy sessions.

An accomplished woodworker, ornate objects from his lathe were a hit at our Silent Auction. That same cheerful generosity provided a dish at the Christmas Banquet.

Kelly was one of the first, it not the first, Yakima area birder to use eBird for his sightings...a system many area birders now rely on immensely.

Recounts of his Spring RV trips to the Dakotas in which he and his wife Colleen did a bit of birding were punctuated with color and humor. He had a lot of enthusiasm for birding, having also made multiple trips to Malheur NWR.

Our local Master Gardeners was another organization that benefited from Kelly's unselfish sharing, prompting one fellow member to remark, "What an asset he was to our program, volunteering in the community and also teaching the public and us ...we loved his boisterous laughter."

Given the breadth of his activities away from the lime-light, it is understandable that Kelly did not have time to devote to a more active role in our YVAS Board. His unique talent for melding into the camaraderie of so many organizations and hobbies has added strength and joy to the fabric of each.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his family, friends and loved ones.

— YVAS Board Members —

## Christmas Bird Counts

**Toppenish NWR — Dec. 16 Eric Heisey ([magicman32@rocketmail.com](mailto:magicman32@rocketmail.com))**

**Yakima Valley — Dec. 30 Denny Granstrand ([dgranstrand@gmail.com](mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com))**

With the Christmas Bird Count season looming on the horizon, it is time to mark your calendar for the 2017 Toppenish NWR and Yakima Valley CBCs. A CBC is a day of great fun to spend with friends, old or new, and enjoy the splendor of a winter's day birding in our beautiful, if sometimes cold and snowy, county.

The Toppenish NWR Christmas Bird Count, now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year, is set for **Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** at the Branding Iron Restaurant in Toppenish (junction of US-97 & SR-22). You will be assigned to a team to cover a specific portion of a 15-mile diameter circle in the Lower Valley. If you're interested, or would just like more information, please e-mail Eric Heisey at [magicman32@rocketmail.com](mailto:magicman32@rocketmail.com).

Birders used to meet on cold mornings at Sportsman's State Park for the start of the Yakima Valley Christmas Bird Count for many years. We finally smartened up. We now meet for breakfast at the Old Town Station Restaurant at the northwest corner of S. 1st St. and Valley Mall Blvd. on **Dec. 30 at 7:00 am** and then separate into birding teams for a wonderful day of birding.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count nationwide (and beyond) is the longest running citizen science wildlife survey in the history of the world. And we can all say that we were there and contributed. And we need your help, too. No experience is necessary. Everyone can make a contribution! (Basic birding knowledge, binoculars and warm clothes will help.)

***Toppenish NWR CBC compilation dinner is at Debie and Ron Brown's house  
Yakima Valley CBC compilation dinner is at Andy and Ellen Stepniewski's house***





*Bringing back the birds*

## **American Bird Conservancy Asks California to Ban Neonic Use on Public Lands**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy (ABC), the nonprofit environmental law organization Earthjustice has petitioned the California Fish and Game Commission to adopt a statewide prohibition on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on wildlife habitat under its jurisdiction. “We need to be sure that these lands remain safe havens for birds and other wildlife,” said Cynthia Palmer, ABC’s Director of Pesticides Science and Regulation.

Neonics are a relatively new class of chemicals with the potential to derail California’s efforts to safeguard its unique ecosystems. Neonics are deadly to pollinators and other wildlife, including birds. For example, a single seed coated with these pesticides is enough to kill a songbird, and exposure to just one-tenth of a coated seed per day during the egg-laying season is enough to impair reproduction. Even tiny doses can cause birds to lose coordination and the ability to fly. Neonics are also lethal to many of the terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates — including butterflies, bees, earthworms, and mayflies — that are critical food sources for birds and other wildlife.

**TAKE ACTION:** <https://abcbirds.org/action/petition-neonics>

## **NRDC Challenges Neonic Pesticide Registrations for Violating ESA**

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has asked a federal court to vacate the registrations of nearly one hundred products containing three widely-used neonics—acetamiprid, dinotefuran, and imidacloprid—until the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency complies with its legal obligations under the Endangered Species Act. Bees, butterflies, birds and insects across the nation are being harmed by neonic pesticides that the EPA allowed on the market unlawfully.

“EPA ignored endangered bees, butterflies, and birds when it approved the widespread use of neonics. Massive pollinator die-offs across the country show that these pesticides cause serious harm to wildlife. It’s time for EPA to do its job and make sure our most vulnerable species are protected from the products it approves,” said Rebecca Riley, a senior attorney with NRDC.

## **Scientists Say No Room for Double, Neonics are Killing Birds and Bees**

A group of international scientists recently met in Ottawa to try to convince Canadian parliamentarians there is no longer any doubt that common agricultural pesticides are proving toxic to ordinary honey-bees. In fact, says Jean-Marc Bonmatin of the French National Centre for Scientific Research, neonicotinoid pesticides kill a lot more than just bees, posing a deadly risk to frogs, common birds, fish, and earthworms. The scientists represent a task force on pesticides within the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which in 2015 released a comprehensive review of more than 1,100 peer-reviewed research studies on neonicotinoids.

## **Bill Would Make New Federal Buildings Bird-Friendly**

The U.S. Senate will have an opportunity to act to make all new federal buildings safer for birds. This week, Sen. Cory A. Booker (D-NJ) introduced the Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act (S. 1920) — the first time such a bill has been introduced in the Senate. ABC thanks Sen. Booker and Reps. Quigley and Griffith for encouraging the federal government to lead by example in addressing one of the biggest human-caused threats to birds. As many as a billion birds a year are killed in the United States when they collide with glass on all kinds of structures, from skyscrapers and office buildings to homes and bus shelters.

**TAKE ACTION:** <https://abcbirds.org/action/petition-bird-safe-buildings>

— Steve Holmer —  
American Bird Conservancy



**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
Secretary	Vera Backstrom ( <a href="mailto:vback47@gmail.com">vback47@gmail.com</a> )	731-2103	Newsletter Editor	Elizabeth Bohn ( <a href="mailto:elizabethannbohn@yahoo.com">elizabethannbohn@yahoo.com</a> )	901-1886
Treasurer	Karen Zook ( <a href="mailto:gadzooks7@charter.net">gadzooks7@charter.net</a> )	225-9494	Programs	Bill Drenguis ( <a href="mailto:bdrenguis@gmail.com">bdrenguis@gmail.com</a> )	965-5808
Directors:	Bob Chicken ( <a href="mailto:robertchicken@msn.com">robertchicken@msn.com</a> )	457-2014	Fund Raising	Dan Kinney ( <a href="mailto:insur3@gmail.com">insur3@gmail.com</a> )	452-3260
	Phil Fischer ( <a href="mailto:pcfischer@gmail.com">pcfischer@gmail.com</a> )	731-0211			
	Denny Granstrand ( <a href="mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com">dgranstrand@gmail.com</a> )	952-2550	<b>Special Committees:</b>		
	Reneé Navarrete ( <a href="mailto:renee@digitalcardboard.com">renee@digitalcardboard.com</a> )	654-9646	Bird Rehabilitator	Connie Hughes ( <a href="mailto:owlbirdlady@gmail.com">owlbirdlady@gmail.com</a> )	457-5661
	Ken Tolonen ( <a href="mailto:8rivard@gmail.com">8rivard@gmail.com</a> )	965-4584	Bird Reports	Denny Granstrand ( <a href="mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com">dgranstrand@gmail.com</a> )	952-2550
			Important Bird Areas	Vacant	
			Publicity	Vacant	
			Social	Vacant	
			Volunteer Rec.	Vacant	
<b>Standing (Voting) Committee Chairs:</b>			Webmaster	Reneé Navarrete ( <a href="mailto:renee@digitalcardboard.com">renee@digitalcardboard.com</a> )	654-9646
Refuge Keeper	Kerry Turley ( <a href="mailto:kdturley@gmail.com">kdturley@gmail.com</a> )	840-0980	Website	www.yakimaaudubon.org	
Bluebird Trail	Richard Repp ( <a href="mailto:bbirder247@aol.com">bbirder247@aol.com</a> )	945-3833	Toppenish CBC	Eric Heisey ( <a href="mailto:magicman32@rocketmail.com">magicman32@rocketmail.com</a> )	
Conservation	Andy Stepniewski ( <a href="mailto:steppie@nwinfo.net">steppie@nwinfo.net</a> )	949-7404	Yakima Valley CBC	Denny Granstrand ( <a href="mailto:dgranstrand@gmail.com">dgranstrand@gmail.com</a> )	952-2550
Education	Ellen Stepniewski ( <a href="mailto:steppie@nwinfo.net">steppie@nwinfo.net</a> )	731-6805	YVAS Email	( <a href="mailto:birds@yakimaaudubon.org">birds@yakimaaudubon.org</a> )	
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> )	

# The bird feeding stations at the Yakima Arboretum and Poppoff Trail are open and are attracting birds

Here are some of the birds you might see:



White-throated Sparrow



Black-capped Chickadee



Harris's Sparrow



Fox Sparrow



Spotted Towhee

## COMING ATTRACTIONS . . .

***Oct 26 YVAS Chapter Meeting at the Yakima Arboretum at 7:00 pm***

***Nov 11 Vantage Field Trip***

***Dec 7 YVAS Christmas Banquet and Silent Auction***

***Dec 16 Toppenish NWR Christmas Bird Count***

***Dec 30 Yakima Valley Christmas Bird Count***