



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 48, Number 07

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

August 2019



AUGUST PROGRAM
PHIL FISCHER



The August presentation is by Columbia Riverkeeper's Simone Anter. Columbia Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. The talk will focus mostly on Riverkeeper's work in the past year with Yakama Nation's Environmental Restoration Waste Management Program to change the "vision" for the future of Hanford. Highlighting current pressing issues that that Riverkeeper engage on at Hanford as well as outreach efforts that have occurred. The presentation hopes to leave attendees with a sense that how we view the future of Hanford affects the cleanup today. More information on Columbia Riverkeeper can be found at: <https://www.columbiariverkeeper.org/>

Simone Anter serves as an associate attorney for Columbia Riverkeeper, where she works with the Yakama Nation to support increased public engagement in Hanford Nuclear Site cleanup. Her work also focuses on lending legal support to other Riverkeeper campaigns and Clean Water Act enforcement actions. Simone received her B.A. from the University of Oregon, where she double majored in Philosophy and Sociology, with a focus on the environment and people. In 2017, she earned her J.D. from the University of



**Simone Anter with
Columbia Riverkeeper**

California, Los Angeles, School of Law, where she earned a specialization in Critical Race Studies with a focus on tribal and federal Indian law and indigenous human rights. Simone is a descendant of the Pascua Yaqui and Jicarilla Apache.



Columbia Riverkeeper works to protect, restore and care for the Columbia River.

- ◆ We protect Columbia River communities and habitat from new threats, such as fossil fuel export terminals and intensive industrial development.
- ◆ We restore our right to clean water and healthy fish by reducing toxic pollution.
- ◆ We care for the river by providing hands-on opportunities for diverse communities to engage with their river.

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



MEMBERSHIP

JOY MCKINNEY

Welcome new member!
Yakima: Joyce Swart

Thanks for renewing your membership!

Naches: Doris Robinson, John and Peggy Euteneier

Seattle: Teri Martine

Selah: Marcia and Steve Shotwell

Yakima: Joe and Karen Zook, George and Delila Roulston, Lucy and Jeff Stevens, Kerry Hager, Joyce Hernandez, Lamont McLachlan, Becky Drew, Susan Talbott, Steve and Grace Shaul, Edith Ryan, Mike and Alice Roper, Terry and Sherri Dahlin, Carol Licht, Susie Lattomus, Agnes Rambeck

Zillah: Eugene Miliczky and Sarah Shippen (Thank you for renewing as life members!)



THIS MONTH'S YVAS CALENDAR

Aug 22 Chapter Meeting at the Yakima Area Arboretum, 7:00 pm
Sept 10 Board Meeting at Summitview Starbuck's 7:00 pm

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 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.

This is the last printed edition! The Crier is going online, ONLY!

As you may already know we are changing to an all-electronic newsletter. This has been a difficult decision as many members have mentioned they like have a paper Crier for easy reference. However, as a conservation organization, we are attempting to reduce our use of paper and save money. We will save over \$2500.00 per year, which is significant for Yakima Audubon. The money we save will be used to further our education and conservation work, and will allow us to keep our membership dues at the current levels. The online newsletter will have full color photos and will be printable, either in its entirety or as single pages. Just as we did with the printed version, it is our goal to post ten issues of the newsletter per year, approximately one week before each monthly program. An email will also be sent to Bird-Yak saying the Crier is on the YVAS website.

As a benefit to our members, we are planning to email each of you a link when the Crier is finished and posted online. We have found that many of our members have not yet shared their email addresses with us, and consequently we have extended the date for the online-only version from August until the September issue. This will give you an opportunity to update your email contact information.

We will only use the email addresses to communicate a link for the newsletter, and for other Yakima Audubon chapter information, such as program reminders or special events. We will NOT share your email contact information with any other organization.

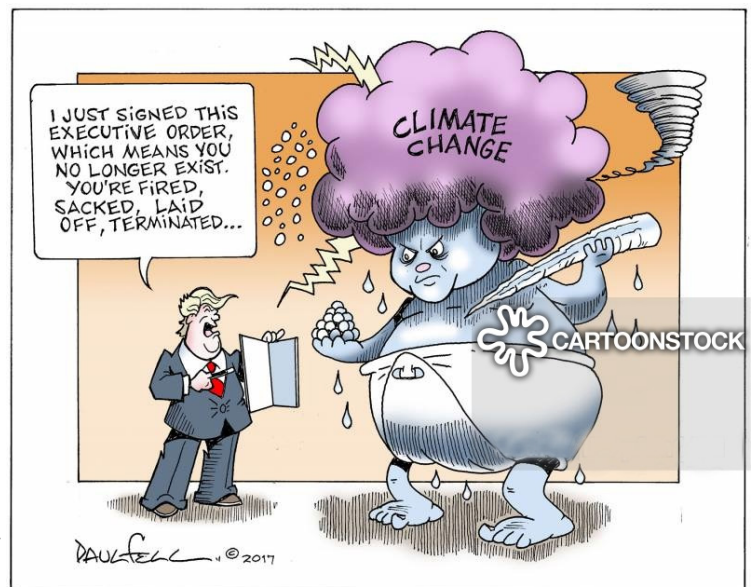
Please send your current email address to membership@yakimaaudubon.org. In the future, if your email changes, please send the new one to the same address.

If you are unable to access the internet and need to receive a paper newsletter, please notify us by mail. Our mailing address is YVAS, P.O. Box 2823, Yakima, WA, 98907 attn: newsletter.

Membership renewals will remain as they are now, with paper reminders mailed to you.

We appreciate your support as we transition to the electronic newsletter and welcome your feedback. If you have comments, you can email any of the board members or use the YVAS post office box.

— The YVAS Board of Directors —



**Trump Administration Wages War
 on Environmental Policy**



CONSERVATION
ANDY STEPNIEWSKI

Analysis Report Identifies Sagebrush Conservation Priorities

Fire and the spread of invasive plants are two of the most pressing challenges facing the sagebrush steppe throughout the Great Basin and Washington's Columbia Basin. A new report by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) provides a comprehensive assessment and strategies for dealing with fire and weedy invasives. These include options for conservation of sagebrush in the western United States. The report was produced by a multi-agency Wildfire and Invasive Species Working Group and updates a gap analysis report published five years ago. It includes an overview of remaining work to be accomplished, with recommendations for actions to improve the conservation and management of the sagebrush biome.

The report is titled "Wildfire and Invasive Plant Species in the Sagebrush Biome: Challenges that Hinder Current and Future Management and Protection – A Gap Report Update." It builds on work published in 2013 that summarized the policy, fiscal, and science challenges that land managers have encountered in conserving sagebrush, **especially regarding control and reduction of the invasive annual grass/fire cycle.**

"This Gap Report Update is the latest addition to the list of products developed by the multi-agency working group that are designed to help identify the conservation challenges, or gaps, associated with the fire and invasive threat to sagebrush and offer ideas to address those challenges," said Ken Mayer, WAFWA consultant and chairman of the working group. "The Gap Report Update identifies the five top challenges that need focused attention to address the pervasive invasive annual grass driven wildfire cycle that has gripped the western rangelands."

Researchers documented that the number one conservation issue facing the western sagebrush rangelands is the lack of resources necessary to stem the monumental invasive plant issue. This is at all levels of government. Specifically, the report states agencies at all levels are severely limited in their ability to deal with invasive plants. These include early detection and rapid response to control and manage of invasive plants, along with regulatory activities and associated native plant restoration operations. These problems are directly tied to the lack of common conservation priorities and consistent long-term dedicated funding for invasive plants.

The report identified five top priority gaps and 17 areas of concern that will help all agencies and organizations working on sagebrush conservation to better focus on the major challenges.

"The Gap Report Update has something for every level, public and private, to consider helping address the fire and invasive plant threat," said Virgil Moore, Director of Idaho



An area of healthy shrub-steppe

Department of Fish and Game and director liaison of WAFWA's Sagebrush Initiative. "We encourage the leaders of the agencies and organizations working on sagebrush conservation to review the recommendations in the report and determine if there are actions they can take directly to address the gaps. It will take a broad-based coalition working together to ensure healthy sagebrush ecosystems are available for generations to come."

Since its creation in 2013, WAFWA's Wildfire and Invasive Species Working Group has been working to identify fire and invasive plant management problems and develop tools and approaches that managers can use to address these pervasive issues. The initial gap report produced five years ago informed the 2015 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act status review of the Greater Sage-Grouse.

In 2015, citing unprecedented landscape-scale conservation efforts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that Greater Sage-Grouse did not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. The collaborative, science-based greater sage-grouse conservation effort, in which WAFWA plays a key role, is the largest land conservation effort in U.S. history.

Since 1922, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) has advanced conservation in western North America. Representing 24 western states and Canadian provinces, WAFWA's reach encompasses more than 40 percent of North America, including two-thirds of the United States. Drawing on the knowledge of scientists across the West, WAFWA is recognized as the expert source for information and analysis about western wildlife. WAFWA supports sound resource management and building partnerships at all levels to conserve wildlife for the use and benefit of all citizens, now and in the future.



FIELD TRIPS

SCOTT DOWNES



September 6 (Friday) — Sheep Lake, Yakima County

Ellen and Andy Stepniewski will be heading a Yakima Valley Audubon Society hike to Sheep Lake above Chinook Pass September 6 (Friday). We will meet at 7 am and return 4-ish in the afternoon. This hike is on a good trail (the Pacific Crest Trail), is 4.5 mile round-trip and involves a few hundred feet of elevation gain on the way in and again on the return. (Editor's Note: So, it is uphill both directions!) If some in the group are interested in an "extension," we may push on beyond the lake upwards to Sourdough Gap, which reaches the lower edge of the Alpine Zone. In addition to seeking out birds, we will also delve into the natural history of subalpine plant communities and their birds and mammals. The spectacular wildflower display for which this area is renown will be past its peak, instead Mountain Ash may be red with ripe fruits. Expect to see Clark's Nutcracker, Canada Jay, along with many migrating songbirds such as warblers, robins, and finches. We'll especially be targeting Pine Grosbeak, an uncommon boreal finch. White-winged Crossbill, an erratic visitor from Canada and Alaska may also be looked for. Raptors will be soaring south along the ridges, especially if winds are from the north. Mountain Goat and Hoary Marmot are a couple mammals we'll be on the lookout for. Bring food, water and appropriate clothing and footwear for September hiking in the mountains. To sign up and get meeting place, contact Andy Stepniewski at 509-949-7404 or orsteppie@nwinform.net.

September 8 (Sunday) — Potholes, Grant County

Scott Downes will lead a trip to the Potholes area of Grant County. The potholes area can be great for migrants in September including passerine, shorebirds, gulls and terns. We'll search Potholes State Park for passerine migrants, Potholes Reservoir for open water migrants such as Sabine's Gull, terns and maybe a Parasitic Jaeger. Shorebird spots around Potholes should turn up a good variety of shorebirds including possibly unusual species like Stilt Sandpiper. Driver's should have the Discover Pass. Scopes are helpful but not required. Bring food, water and clothes appropriate where the morning could be chilly and afternoon could hit mid to upper 80's. We'll leave Yakima at 6:30 am and return around 4-5:00 pm. To sign up and get the meeting place, please contact Scott at atdowness@charter.net

October 5 (Saturday) — Bird Banding at the Yakima Arboretum (backup date of October 12 in case of bad weather)

Jeff Kozma will lead a banding demonstration at the Yakima Arboretum.

Jeff will introduce participants to bird capture and banding using mist nets. The goal is to capture birds as they are migrating south through the Yakima Arboretum. Nets will be put up near the Yakima Arboretum Sparrow Patch feeding area to increase our chances of catching birds. YVAS members will get the sparrow patch up and running with food a few weeks before the banding date. Jeff will teach participants various aspects of bird banding including different mesh/net sizes and their uses, how to remove birds from nets, performing measurements on birds (e.g., weighing, wing chord, bill length, etc), how to age birds, banding codes, affixing bands to legs, etc. The best thing about capturing birds is you never know what might show up in your nets! Birds we captured last year included Spotted Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Song Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, etc. Dress appropriately for the weather and in layers as mornings can be cool before heating up during the day. A folding camp chair would be good unless you prefer to rough it on the ground. Bring a camera to capture close up images of birds. Also, bring food/snacks and beverage if you think you'll need them. Hand sanitizer would also be good to bring as birds like to poop! To sign up and get meeting place and time, contact Jeff Kozma at 509-225-3465 or jcr_5105@charter.net (e-mail preferred).

Shorebirds are showing up at Wenas Lake and Grandview STP

The fall shorebird migration has started in Central Washington. Good numbers of shorebirds are being seen at Wenas Lake and the Grandview Sewage Treatment Plant.

Scott and Sierra found a Semipalmated Plover (a rarity for Yakima County), 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 7 Solitary Sandpipers among 7 species of shorebirds at Wenas Lake on August 6. One Solitary Sandpiper was there when I visited on Aug. 10.

Kerry Turley stopped by Grandview on Aug. 8 and found 6 species of shorebirds, including 5 Black-necked Stilts and one Long-billed Dowitcher.



Solitary Sandpiper at Wenas Lake

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)

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.

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Coming Attractions:

Aug 22 Chapter Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Sept 6 Sheep Lake field trip

Sept 8 Potholes field trip

Mark your calendars for:

Oct 5 Bird Banding at the Yakima Area Arboretum