



Calliope Crier

Newsletter of the Yakima Valley Audubon Society

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 09

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

October 2019



OCTOBER PROGRAM

PHIL FISCHER

“Are Pikas stressed by highways? A discussion on wildlife, highways, and how the two meet.”

presented by
Thomas McIntyre

For his Master’s degree work at Central Washington University, Thomas McIntyre worked on the I-90 wildlife connectivity project. His thesis compared stress levels of pika's living along I-90 to pikas living in more natural habitats. Come and listen as Thomas explains what he observed.

Thomas McIntyre has been working as a wildlife biologist for the last seven years. He has worked on a remote arctic research project in Alaska, as a biological consultant on an Air Force base in California, on the Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara, and most recently finished a Master’s degree in Biology from Central Washington University. While there, his thesis was on stress hormone levels of American pikas along I-90 at Snoqualmie Pass. He is passionate about road ecology (the study of the interaction between roads and wildlife). He is looking forward to discussing the problems roads make for ecosystems and the newest solutions to revitalize the natural world around us.



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. We have candidates for Vice President (Renee Navarrete) and three Director positions (Scott Downes, Bob Chicken, Ken Tolonen). Currently we lack a candidate for President and two Director positions. 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.

Phil Fischer and Denny Granstrand are stepping down from their Director positions because they hold other voting positions on the board (Program Chair and Calliope Crier Editor, respectively) to allow other members to participate on the board as Directors.

Further information may be found on page 2 of the September Crier which is available at our website: https://yakimaaudubon.org/assets/pdf/newsletter/yvas_calliope_crier_2019_09.pdf

Your Photo on Calliope Crier's Masthead?!

You can see one of your photos used in the masthead on page 1 of the Calliope Crier. If you have a photo that you think would be good, please email it to me at dgranstrand@gmail.com. Here are the requirements:

1. It will be better to have a photo taken with a digital camera. Iphone photos don't crop very well, though I will try.
2. It must be bird or nature oriented: a nice nature scene, one bird or a flock of birds, etc. (Scenery photos should be, but don't necessarily have to be, from the Yakima County.) If the photo is of one bird, the bird in the original photo should be fairly small and close to the left or right side of the photo. (See the photo of an American Redstart in the masthead on page 1 of this Crier.)
3. The photo should be able to be cropped to 8 1/2 inches wide and 2 inches high. Please let me do the cropping. Email your photos to me full-size.
4. Photos that will not be used are pets (cats, dogs, chickens, goats, etc.), children and grandchildren (unless they are holding binoculars or looking through a spotting scope), your prize sports car, vineyards, orchards, etc. You will be credited in the Crier if your photo is used in the masthead.

— Denny Granstrand —

This Month's Masthead Photo

This month's masthead photo is my photo of an American Redstart that Andy Stepniewski and I found on October 9, 2019 at Conrad Meadows south of Rimrock Lake.

— Denny Granstrand —



Welcome new member!

Raelene Gold, Kenmore, WA

Thanks for renewing your membership!

Seattle: Martha Taylor

Selah: Cindi Confer Morris

Yakima: Renee and Jason Navarrete, Pat and Kathy Kinney, Susan Paoella, Mary Lou Rozdilsky, Kathy Hennessy, Ross and Diane Bornfleth, Robert and Leslie Wahl, Stan Belsher and Diana Bailey, Joyce Dennison, Eileen Gavin, Denny Granstrand



- Oct 24** YVAS Chapter Meeting at the Yakima Area Arboretum at **7:00 pm. A great program is scheduled!**
- Nov 12** Board Meeting at Starbucks on Summitview and 58th Ave at **7:00 pm.**
- Dec 5** Christmas Banquet and Silent Auction at the Yakima Area Arboretum

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.



CONSERVATION
ANDY STEPNIEWSKI

We've Lost Nearly 3 Billion Birds Since 1970

"Our results signal an urgent need...to avert continued biodiversity loss and potential collapse of the continental avifauna." From Science September 2019 .

Pretty shocking news came in the September Science article: "If you were alive in the year 1970, more than one in four birds in the U.S. and Canada has disappeared within your lifetime." The article details that wild bird populations in the continental U.S. and Canada have declined by almost 30% in the past 50 years.

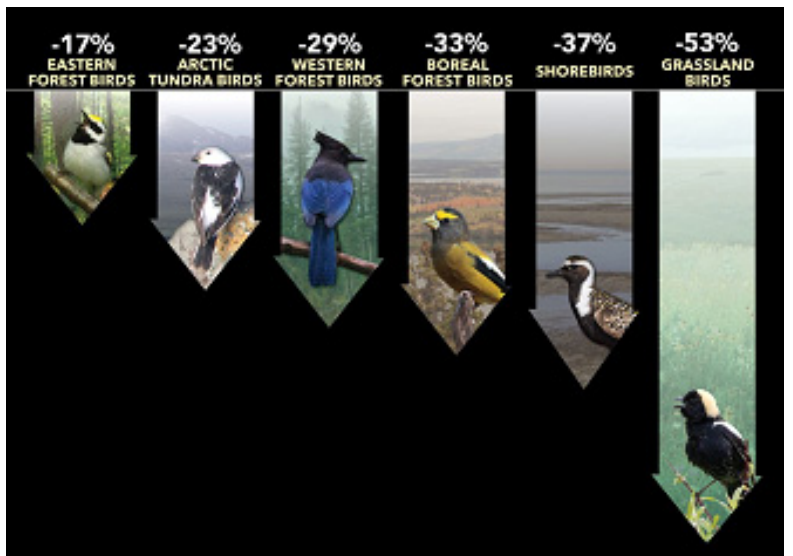
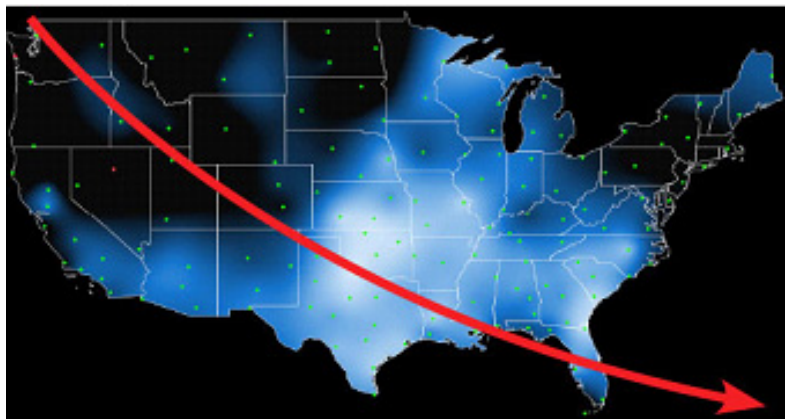
Lead author Ken Rosenberg, a Cornell Lab of Ornithology conservation scientist, led an international team of scientists from seven institutions said "we were astounded by this net loss across all birds on our continent, the loss of billions of birds." Results of their research was based on an analysis of population trends for 529 North American bird species. Theirs is the first study that quantifies the total decline in bird populations in the continental U.S. and Canada. They show a loss of 2.9 billion breeding adult birds and involves every biome.

The Science study brings to light a scale of loss unlike anything recorded in modern natural history. The authors cite the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon more than a century ago, that was but one species, mostly a species of eastern North America. This current research documents huge declines in more than 500 species all across the continent.

Rosenberg says "these bird losses are a strong signal that our human-altered landscapes are losing their ability to support birdlife," he said. "And that is an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment."

For part of their analysis, the authors employed radar results, an excellent tool to assess bird numbers. They utilized data from 140 NEXRAD weather stations scattered across the United States. Birds can easily be seen on radar, particularly in spring when migrating at night north in the spring. Cornell Lab aerocology expert Adrian Dokter conducted this research of the nighttime spring migration. He found the "bird biomass" flying overhead has decreased about 14% in just the decade since 2007 and the declines were steepest in eastern parts of the United States. This has significant implications for the numbers of birds that breed in boreal regions of Canada.

Besides results from long term studies of radar, population trends in this Science study come from decades of standardized bird-survey research.



(Conservation continued on page 5)



FIELD TRIPS

SCOTT DOWNES



Oct 19 (Saturday) — Conrad Meadows — Join us in the search of the elusive Spruce Grouse (subspecies franklinii) and other montane species. Conrad Meadows is located adjacent to the Goat Rocks Wilderness and is the largest subalpine meadow in the State of Washington. The meadows are at 4000' elevation, and the South Fork of the Tieton River meanders through it. The habitat includes lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann's spruce, and occasional mountain hemlock and, more importantly, patches of grouseberry (vaccinium scoparium), a very important indicator species for spruce grouse. This will be a full day trip, departing at 7:30 am and returning by 3:00 pm, and will involve fairly easy hiking of around three miles. Pack a lunch, water and snacks and dress for changing weather. For meeting location and to sign-up, please contact field trip leader Kerry Turley at kdturley@gmail.com or 509-840-0980.

Dec 14 (Saturday) — Toppenish NWR Christmas Bird Count — Eric Heisey is back as compiler for the 37th edition of the Toppenish Christmas Bird Count. Contact Eric (magicman32@rocketmail.com) to sign up or to get more information.

Dec 28 (Saturday) — Yakima Valley Christmas Bird Count — Contact Denny Granstrand (dgranstrand@gmail.com) to sign up for or get more information about the **50th** Yakima Christmas Bird Count.

Bird Banding Was a Great Success!

We had a great day for the YVAS Banding Demonstration hosted by Jeff Kozma, Yakima Nation TFW Wildlife Biologist, and volunteer banding assistant Kevin Lucas, on October 5th at the Yakima Arboretum Sparrow Patch feeding area. Eleven participants braved the chilly 7:30 start to be rewarded by a good day of banding! We actually recaptured our first migrant banded in 2018, an adult White-crowned Sparrow! We also recaptured one Black-capped Chickadee banded in 2018 and one we also recaptured on September 27th of this year. Our first bird of the day was a Fox Sparrow, which was also our first Fox Sparrow for the year. In total we caught 35 birds comprised of these eight species: 13 White-crowned Sparrows, 8 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 6 Black-capped Chickadees, 3 Dark-eyed Juncos (Oregon race), 2 Spotted Towhees, 1 Bewick's Wren, 1 Fox Sparrow, and 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch. Last year for this event we caught 18 individuals, this year being almost double that! Because we caught so many birds, everyone had a chance to release two or three birds each and Jeff was able to demonstrate how we remove birds from the nets, how to age birds as hatch-years (juveniles) or adults, and how to measure the culmen, leg, and wing of the birds we captured, as well as proper handling and banding techniques. Everyone seemed to have a great time! Thanks to Ellen Stepniewski and Mike Roper for volunteering to help and also to Joe Zook for alerting us to when birds had been captured in the mist nets. We look forward to doing this again next year.

— Jeff Kozma —

Photos: Upper—Jeff Kozma in the very delicate operation of banding a bird. Photo by Mike Roper.

Lower— Jeff measuring a Golden-crowned Sparrow. Photo by Karen Zook.



Conservation continued from page 3

Analysis of these surveys (such as the Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Counts, eBird, among others) represents the largest synthesis of long-term bird population studies ever assembled for an animal group, said Adam Smith, a study coauthor and biostatistician for Environment and Climate Change Canada. Adam states “it’s safe to say that in the natural world, birds are the best studied group of wildlife species. The data that exist for birds are just so incredible. With this study, we have finally managed to come up with a way to estimate the number of birds in North America, to get to a point where we trust the math. And it turns out, over less than a single human lifetime, we’ve lost almost a third of our birds.”

Further, their study shows not only a massive loss of birds, but also huge declines in every North American biome in the United States and Canada. Grasslands in particular, have taken the biggest hit, percentage-wise. This is possibly because of their great economic value as farmland, so the huge conversion of grasslands to agricultural lands has caused a decline of more than 50%, or more than 700 million birds. Forests, too, have lost one billion birds. Habitat loss and fragmentation (small tracts contain less biodiversity than larger chunks of habitat) is likely to be a driving factor in these declines, say the authors. The authors also point to agricultural intensification and development (urbanization) as reasons. Study coauthor and avian conservation scientist Arvind Panjabi at the Colorado-based Bird Conservancy of the Rockies states “I think this analysis shows that we’re eating away at the foundations of all of our major ecosystems on the continent,” said, “These numbers show that the world has changed a lot since 1970.”

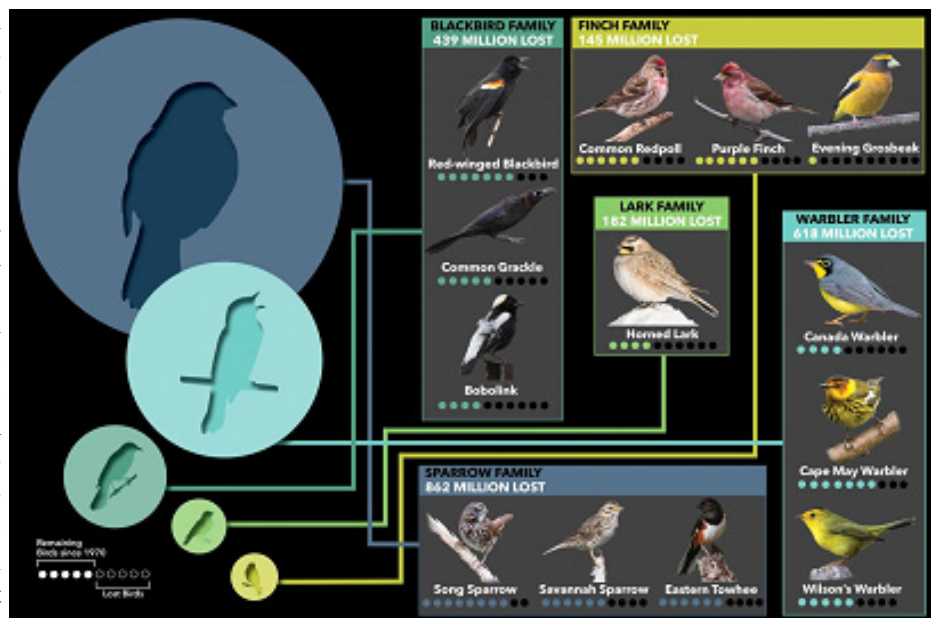
A radical shift in conservation strategy is called for, according to Adam Smith. “It’s really a wake-up call for the importance of moving beyond just a single species, endangered species conservation framework. “We rescued the Trumpeter Swan and the Peregrine Falcon, and we should be proud and happy about those successes. But we’re at a stage where, given these extreme declines in so many species, we need to move beyond that framework. These are systems and biomes in serious trouble. I think we need to approach conservation of these endangered systems at a much more holistic level.”

The study finds the loss of birdlife in the U.S. and Canada, 2.5 billion birds (90% of the total), comes from only

12 avian families. These include familiar groups such as warblers, sparrows, blackbirds, and finches.

The so-called common birds—the species that many people are familiar with and see every day—represent the greatest losses of birdlife. The study takes the Red-winged Blackbird, for example. It is still a very common bird, even an abundant species; the study estimates a population of more than 170 million red-wings today. However, there were 260 million just 50 years ago. This means a third of the entire population has been lost in half a century. The study concludes the Red-winged Blackbirds is a common bird species that is suffering severe, unsustainable losses.

Importantly, coauthor Peter Marra, director of the Georgetown Environment Initiative, points out “that’s



The circles show total losses within 5 common bird families. For representative species within each family, losses are shown using dots. Colored dots represent the proportion of population still living; black dots represent the proportion of lost birds since 1970.

what happened with the Passenger Pigeon, a bird that was really common and nobody thought could ever go extinct.” Thus, the cascading losses in common birds such as blackbirds has an echo in avian history.

The study’s lead author, Rosenberg, is very concerned about the loss of common birds “We’re squeezing the planet so hard, in terms of using resources and space. And now we’re reaching this tipping point.

“We’re squeezing out that last bit of space, the last common birds on the landscape are declining, and we’re losing hundreds of millions of birds.”

— Andy Stepniowski —

Adapted from the Science article and Living Bird

BLUES NEWS— In 2019, Vredenburg Trail Survives

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.

I first monitored one-half of the Vredenburg Trail in 1998 and was immediately hooked. Every year is different; every year has surprises, disappointments, and similarities. And every year, the weather has an impact.

The winter of 2018-2019 was mild by eastern Washington standards until February hit; then previously dry ground was coated with one snowfall after another with the residual accumulation on April 1st forcing a rare cancellation of our annual cleanout and inspection of the nest boxes.

By Memorial Day weekend when Audubon Campers monitor the boxes, nest box occupancy was high and monitors found that four Mountain Bluebirds had fledged from Box 110; additionally, six Western Bluebirds took wing from Box 123A. At that time, White-breasted Nuthatches occupied three boxes, a total of six nestlings in two and the other housing five eggs. As a side note, the Ryan Trail (now cared for by Pat Kinney) off Highway 410 hosted four early WBNU boxes while the Cleman Mountain Trail (Joe and Karen Zook) had its first ever – a banner year for the nuts.

Also early in the season, a box that contained four eggs the prior week was inhabited by a weasel. Perhaps coincidence, the box immediately below and the box adjacent immediately above this box suffered nestling predation one and two weeks prior to the minute mammal's discovery.



Weasel in Box 8 - Jan Gano edited a short video "Pop Goes the Weasel" that can be viewed on the YVAS Facebook page. Link to Facebook can be found on our website. Once there, scroll down to view the video of this snappy creature.

Overall, despite a promising early season, the trail was plagued by nest failures this year. Last year, I reported a total of 29 nestlings perished on the trail. This year monitors logged a total of 100 nestlings lost. The losses for each of the Trail's four section of 33 boxes each were: 33, 7, 26, and 34 respectively. The North American Bluebird Society's quarterly publication stated that bluebird trails across North America were not enjoying the success of most prior years. One suggested possibility was that insect populations are in severe decline with many species that have not become extinct are in danger of doing just that. Bluebirds feed their young almost exclusively insects in the early stages of development but may switch to fruits/berries (such as chokecherries) later in the season as ripening occurs. A continuing shortage of insects will impact many of our avian friends.

Our production for 2019 totaled 352 Western Bluebirds, 94 Mountain Bluebirds, nine White-breasted Nuthatches and a single Tree Swallow. The swallow, also an insectivore



These Mountain nestlings in Box 88 likely fledged on or about August 19...the last bluebirds of the season.

species, came from a mid-season clutch of six nestlings.

On the bright side, Mountain Bluebirds registered their highest fledge total since 2001. See pages 7 and 8 in this Crier.

Next year, we hope to incorporate twenty nest boxes on Durr Road into the Vredenburg Trail. Established years ago by Virginia Vredenburg and subsequently lovingly tended to by Gus and Mary Pooler, this string has produced Mountain Bluebirds almost exclusively. For example, 2019 recorded fifty Mountains and a single Western.

Just as in life, bluebird trails are filled with ups and downs. Though winter may be a drab season locally for bluebirds, we hope they are flourishing somewhere else on this planet. Come spring, I am sure our anticipation for the return of our friends will breathe fresh enthusiasm for our interaction once more. Perhaps this will be the year that more of you make time to embrace a joy that cannot be purchased.

— Richard Repp —

2019 VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL REPORT

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Egg	Flg	PAID THRU
1	Harold Vredenburg	W	8	4	PMBD
2	Jeanne Crawford Memorial	W	7	1	2019
3	Tanager Nevue-Cushing	W	5	3	2019
4	Steven & Marcia Shotwell	W	9	6	2020
5	Sparrow Nevue-Cushing	W	11	8	2019
6	Don Peterson Memorial	W	10	6	2019
7	Karen Ireland	W	5	0	2020
8	Betty & Carolyn Lagergren	W	4	0	2021
9	Sandie Deighton	W	15	4	2022
10	Joe & Alberta McGuire	wren	-	-	2020
11	Steven & Marcia Shotwell	W	9	4	2020
12	Schurman Family	unused	-	-	2019
13	Karen & Joseph Zook	W	6	5	2020
13.1	Phil Fischer	W	10	9	2020
14	Friedenson Family	W	9	5	2019
15	Joy McKinney	W	11	3	2019
16	Rachel Bold	W	6	6	2019
17	Michael West	W	5	0	2022
18	Betty & Carolyn Lagergren	W	4	0	2021
19	Janna & Steven Hayes	W	6	6	2019
20	Toppenish Garden Club	W	6	5	2020
21	Pete & Pam Neumann	W	6	4	2019
22	Brian T. & Aleeza M.	W	5	5	2020
22.1	Robert English	W	0	0	2019
23	Karen Zook	WBNU	5	3	2020
24	Virginia Gill	W	7	1	2020
25	Don Peterson Memorial	W	0	0	2019
26	Arlene Wood Memorial	W	1	0	PMBD
27	Kay Marsh Memorial	W	1	0	2030
28	Sherry Morris	W	4	2	2019
29	Donna Zimmerschied	W	4	1	2020
30	Betty & Greg Neumann	W	5	3	2019
31	Donna Zimmerschied	W	6	0	2020
32	Larry & Doris Robinson	W	6	2	PMBD
33	Stan & Lori Isley	W	5	5	2020
34	Sarah Burke	W	10	10	2019
35	Joe & Alberta McGuire	WBNU	5	5	2020
36	Larry Robinson	WBNU	3	1	2021

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Egg	Flg	PAID THRU
37	Alice Presson	wren	-	-	2019
38	Charlotte Pfeiffer Memorial	W	5	5	2019
39	Maia Mittlestaedt	W	4	4	2021
39.1	Joan Gilman	W	10	4	2019
40	Gertrude Repp Memorial	W	9	4	2035
41	Joan Gilman	wren	-	-	2019
42	Women's Cent Garden Club	W	3	0	2019
43	Teresa Lorenz	W	4	3	2020
44	Dorothy Munroe	W	5	3	2019
45	Jerry & M. A. Ruthruff	W	9	0	2018
46	Pocholo Martinez Memorial	W	6	6	2027
47	Irene Gilman Memorial	W	5	5	2019
48	Thomas Sawyer	W	6	5	2029
49	Ellen Stevenson Family	W	8	6	2019
50	Tom Mansfield	W	6	2	2033
51	Ron Sell	W	2	0	2019
52	Linda Knutson	W	5	2	2019
53	Megan & Steven Pooler	W	5	2	2018
54	Jerry & Margaret Turner	W	6	2	2021
55	Martha Taylor	W	6	4	2020
56	Denny Granstrand	W	5	3	2018
57	Schurman Family	W	5	5	2019
58	Karen & Joseph Zook	W	4	4	2020
59	Denny Granstrand	W	6	6	2018
60	Megan & Steven Pooler	W	1	0	2018
61	John Meyer Memorial	W	5	5	2022
62	Schurman Family	W	5	5	2019
63	Tom Wilson	W	8	5	2020
64	Mike & Carolyn Wood	W	6	4	2020
65	Lucky Hall	W	5	0	2021
66	Carol Phillips	W	6	3	2021
67	Schurman Family	W	7	7	2019
68	Ruth Knoke Memorial	W	6	3	2020
69	Janet White	W	6	4	2021
70	Irene Gilman Memorial	W	6	0	2019
71	Helen Stuckey	W	10	0	2019
72	Nancy Born	W	9	9	2023
73	Chris Sorenson	wren	—	—	2019

2019 VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL REPORT Cont

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Egg	Fl	PAID THRU	Box	Sponsor	Sp	Egg	Fl	PAID THRU
74	Hannah Born	W	6	5	2023	109	Andy & Ellen Stepniewski	TRES	6	1	2019
75	Ryleigh Hayes	W	10	9	2019	110	Martha Fleming	M	9	5	2019
76	Margaret Morris	W	3	3	2018	111	Martha Fleming	M	6	5	2019
77	Shannon O'Malley	W	11	11	2021	112	available	M	9	9	
78	Conner O'Malley	W	11	8	2021	113	Karen Ireland	W	5	0	2020
79	Scott Downes	W	12	4	2019	114	P. Kevin Gilman Memorial	M	10	9	2019
80	Adam Newhouse	W	10	9	2025	114	Justine Repp-Faith	M	4	3	2019
81	Hunter Headley	W	2	0	2019	115	available	M	7	3	
82	Ariana Faith	W	7	6	2019	116	Dorothy Munroe	W	5	0	2019
	2nd species in box	M	4	2		117	John & Ann Brangwin	M	6	6	2019
83	Ken Tolonen	W	7	0	2018	118	Don Knoke Memorial	W	6	3	2020
84	Cailin O'Malley	W	0	0	2021	119	Jack Whitnall	unused	—	—	PMBD
85	Bettie Soden	M	6	5	2018	120	Apple Blossom Garden Club	W	4	4	2019
	2nd species in box	W	4	4		121	Andy & Ellen Stepniewski	W	5	0	2019
86	June Rayner Memorial	M	10	5	2020	122	Toppenish Garden Club	unused	—	—	2020
87	Oliver Deighton	W	6	4	2022	123	Alice Nevue	W	4	2	2019
88	Marie Brangwin	M	3	2	2019	123.1	Jeff Kozma	W	10	10	
89	Peter Sorenson	M	5	0	2019	124	Mt. Clemen Garden Club	M	5	3	2019
90	Bill & Edith Ryan	W	4	4	PMBD	125	Virginia Vredenburgh	M	11	10	PMBD
90.1	Sandra Bowman	W	10	6	2020						
91	Patrick Burke	W	8	3	2019						
92	Les Burke	W	10	4	2019						
93	P. Kevin Gilman Memorial	W	6	2	2019		TOTAL FLEDGED			456	
94	John & Sally English	unused	—	—	2019		Western Bluebird			352	
95	Joyce Meyer	M	11	9	2022		Mountain Bluebird			94	
96	Charlotte Deighton	W	6	5	2022		Other Species			10	
96.1	Ewell & Rosemary Jones	W	5	5	2019						
97	Schurman Family	chip	—	—	2019						
98	McCrone Family	W	9	1	2019						
99	Ken & Laurie Knittle	W	6	3	2033						
100	Susie Lattomus	M	7	6							
101	Amy Sinden	M	5	5	2021						
102	Jean Chott	W	6	0	2026						
103	Bob & April Adamson	unused	—	—	2020						
104	Richard Repp	M	7	2	2019						
105	Jim Ehret	M	0	0	2019						
106	Joan Miler	W	10	9	2025						
107	Joan Miler	M	6	5	2025						
108	Raleigh Watts	M	5	0	2021						

KEY

- ◆ Sponsor's name in **BOLD TEXT** indicates payment at Mountain Bluebird Rate (\$10 per year)

Sp = species Egg = eggs Flg = Fledged

M = Mountain Bluebird W = Western Bluebird
 TRES = Tree Swallow wren = House Wren
 MOCH = Mountain Chickadee chip = Chipmunk
 WBNU = White Breasted Nuthatch
 PMBD = Proclaimed Memorial by
 Board of Directors

Vredenburg Fledged Bluebirds 1982-2019

	WEBL	MOBL	BB sp	BB total
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
2018	545	75		620
2019	352	94		446
TOTAL	12219	3706	231	16156

WEBL= Western Bluebird
 MOBL= Mountain Bluebird
 BB sp = bluebird species unknown

Thank you, Vredenburg Monitors!

Once again, YVAS has been blessed with committed volunteer monitors who gathered data during the nesting season. Helping this year: Joe and Karen Zook, the Brad's Blues Team (Nancy Jo & Hannah Born, Don, Adam,, Kristina, Ian and Hunter Newhouse). Additionally, birding enthusiasts attending the Washington Audubon Memorial Day Wenas Campout assisted with the monitoring. Campers participating this year: Courtenay, Doug & Brooke Schurman (Seattle), Elaine Chuauq (Seattle), Rich Mathieu (Yakima), Beth & Roger Thompson (Arlington), Lee Barnes (Seattle), 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 throughout this Crier.

—Richard Repp—

Vredenburg Bluebird Trail Nest Box Sponsors — Is it time to renew your box?

Sponsors – please check the **Paid Thru** column in the trail recap elsewhere in this Crier. If 2019 is listed in this column for your box, your sponsorship expires on December 31, 2019. Please consider this your first invitation to remit your renewal. Reminders will be sent to sponsors that have not been renewed by December 31.

Mail your check (payable to YVAS) to:

YVAS—Bluebirds
 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 Richard Repp at: bbirder247@gmail.com

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

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

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.

2019 YAKIMA VALLEY AUDUBON OFFICERS AND BOARD

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