



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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OCTOBER PROGRAM

BILL DRENGUIS

Africa – As Captured by Jim Christensen



We seldom invite speakers back after just a year. It is rare to even get requests to repeat a speaker in such a short time frame. However, due to exceptional demand, Jim Christensen will return to talk about his trips to Africa at our October chapter meeting.

This is not merely a repeat of the presentation he gave last year. If you were there, you know that it will be a lot of fun to hear about his further exploits. Once again, Jim will not be talking about just birds (did I say "just" birds?). There will be plenty of commentary about his encounters with the larger critters and the kaleidoscope of the entire African experience.

Of course, he will be sharing powerful photographs that were taken on these trips.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. Besides being a world traveler, all-around naturalist and a great birder, Jim is also an outstanding artist. He has an amazing collection of pen and ink drawings of the wildlife that he did encounter. Last year, at our request, he brought some of his art work and it sold out. He has agreed to bring more of his images that will be for sale after the meeting.



It will be worth going to the meeting just to view his drawings. He really captures the essence of each subject! The art work will be available for purchase and will range from \$15 to \$30.

Come to the Yakima Area Arboretum on October 27, at 7:00 pm to see this program.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

KERRY TURLEY

Bird Feeding Myths Exposed

With the first chill in the air after a hot summer, thoughts of feeding the birds come to mind for all backyard bird lovers. We visit our favorite store and stock up on sunflower seeds, suet, and a host of other foods for a bird's dinner. As we engage in this ever growing hobby, we should all be aware of certain bird feeding myths that seem to linger year after year. Let us get to the truth of these myths, so we can all sleep at night knowing we have not harmed our fine feathered friends.

Myth #1-

Once we start feeding the birds in the winter, we should not stop, even for a short period of time. If you forget to fill your feeder for a few days, birds remain hungry and don't forget to

eat. They will simply find another source, such as your next door neighbor's feeder or the home a few blocks away. Birds will not linger for days at your empty feeder, but will check back periodically to assess any new food supply. I hope you feel more at ease, but please continue to fill those feeders. Readily available food sources help birds during long hard winters.

Myth #2-

Suet isn't a suitable summer food. While homemade suet products and un-rendered suet straight from the butcher melt easily, as well turn rancid quickly, there are commercial "no melt" suet products for use in the summer.

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

Welcome New Audubon Members

Yakima: James and Mary Stephenson

Thank you for renewing your membership

Leavenworth: Bob and April Adamson

Selah: Joan Matson, Mary Vance Strate, Bee Faith

Yakima: Denny Granstrand, Lucy Stevens, Mike Finney, DeAnn Afualo, James and Mary Stephenson, William Bucknam, Joyce Dennison, Jim and Jackie Hertel, Mary Lou Rodzilsky, Richard Repp



MEMBERSHIP

JOY MCKINNEY

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

Fire and Flood – snipped from September Rolling Stone Magazine

Southern California was ready to burn. El Niño rains that topped off reservoirs in the north of the state barely drizzled down south, leaving the region in a worst-in-centuries drought. By June, tree die-off in state forests, accelerated by bark beetles feasting on dry pines, had more than doubled from 2015, topping 66 million. Record heat – 122 degrees in Palm Springs – recalibrated the extreme fire conditions by midsummer. So when sparks hit the ground in August, fires across the state literally exploded.

In Louisiana, an unnamed superstorm – a windless hurricane – dumped up to 30 inches of rain, inundating more than 60,000 homes. A "weather autopsy" led by scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration linked the superstorm to climate change.

It may seem far-fetched that global warming is producing both megafires and superstorms. But climate scientists say the same thermodynamics are driving both disasters. Simply put, a hotter atmosphere demands more water. In the drought-prone West, it sucks soils, shrubs and trees bone-dry – setting the stage for fire. A 2015 Columbia University study found California's drought was up to 25 percent more severe due to global warming.

As the world has warmed, extreme rain events have spiked in the Southeast, making a mockery of traditional storm-risk metrics. The Louisiana superstorm was the second "one-in-1,000-year" rainfall event to hit the state this year alone.

Save the Date! Aldo Leopold Film at YVC

October 25, 2016 7:00pm Kendall Hall Auditorium
Film Viewing and Panel Discussion; *Green Fire*

Green Fire was produced in partnership between the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the Center for Humans and Nature, and the US Forest Service. The film explores Leopold's personal journey of observation and understanding, and reveals how his ideas resonate with people across the entire American landscape, from inner cities to the most remote wild lands. The

film challenges viewers to contemplate their own relationship with the land. *Green Fire* is the first feature documentary about Aldo Leopold's life and contemporary legacy. It features commentary from conservation leaders including scientists, ranchers, scholars and three of Aldo Leopold's children.

For more information about YVC Reads: 509.574.4802 / kzontek@yvcc.edu.

Youth Environment Summit

The Yakima County Public Services' Solid Waste Division is sponsoring their fifth annual Youth Environmental Summit on November 9th at the Yakima Convention Center. This day-long conference will be attended by 3-500 junior and senior high school students from around the county. It provides an opportunity for these students to learn about environmental issues that affect their homes, schools, communities, and how they can make a difference.

The 2016 Youth Environmental Summit will feature Jen Rustemeyer, an award winning producer of the documentary "Just Eat It" and Andy Keller, environmental activist and founder of the reusable bag company, ChicoBag. (Further info available on both programs online at -

www.chicobag.com/t-about-us-or
www.foodwastemovie.com/).

As well as a school panel presentation about what local students have accomplished, students will also be participating in hands-on events and there is collaboration time for students from different schools. Where Yakima Audubon comes in, is as one of the environmental exhibitors. We, along with other local organizations, will have display booths that students will visit during their breaks. Our display will include last year's successful display highlighting threats to seabirds and Osprey from plastic. We also hope to highlight Yakima Audubon's environmental advocacy in issues such as snags.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ellen Stepniewski: steppie@nwinform.net or 509-731-6805.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife seeks comments on draft status reviews for Woodland Caribou, Pond Turtles, and Sandhill Cranes.

A news release by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is requesting public comment on three rare Washington species.

From their statement "The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) periodically reviews the status of protected species in the state to determine whether each species warrants its current listing or deserves to be reclassified or delisted. The public can comment through Dec. 23 on the listing recommendations and periodic status reports for woodland caribou, western pond turtles and sandhill cranes. The draft reviews for all three species are available online at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/endangered/status_review/."

WDFW staff members are tentatively scheduled to discuss the reviews and recommendations with the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission at its January 2017 meeting. The commission is a citizen panel appointed by the governor to set policy for WDFW. For meeting dates and times, check the commission webpage at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/>.

In the far northeast corner of Washington, a remnant herd of woodland caribou barely hangs on. These "mountain" caribou are different from other populations of woodland caribou, a species of mostly tied to the low-lying boreal forests of Canada from Newfoundland west to British Columbia, because they dwell in mountains with a deep winter snow pack and subsist mainly on arboreal lichens in winter. I have been privileged to observe a number of these magnificent animals on several occasions in the Canadian Rockies alpine zone, in both Jasper National Park and Mt. Robson Provincial Park. Each time I saw these magnificent animals, I was elated and stood in awe as the herd trotted along the mountain slopes, their large, rounded hooves, clacking with each step. These woodland caribou are distinct from the "Barren Ground" form, the well-known subspecies that still occurs in huge herds north of the tree line on the arctic tundra in Alaska and Canada.

Washington's herd has been listed as an endangered species in the state since 1982. This South Selkirk caribou herd was once considered abundant, possibly numbering in the hundreds in the late 1800s, but decreased to an estimated 25-100 animals between 1925 and the mid-1980s. Since then, this isolated subpopulation has declined precipitously from 46 to 12 caribou between 2009 and 2016. "Threats to these caribou include high levels of predation, collisions with vehicles on highways, human disturbance in the form of backcountry winter recreation, and climate change."



One of my initial interests in the natural world as a teenager was the study of turtles. Among many other species, I became acquainted with the western pond turtle, one of



only two freshwater turtle species in Washington, which was once common from western Washington south to Baja California. In our state, it was common in Puget Sound and into the Columbia River Gorge. Indeed, on field trips to the Columbia River Gorge, Yakima Auduboners have seen these turtles basking on logs in pretty Balch Lake, one of the important recovery areas, just west of Lyle. By 1994, the statewide population had declined to an estimated 150 turtles. "The recovery of this species is challenging because pond turtles grow at a slow rate and have a delayed sexual maturity. Threats in Washington to western pond turtles include habitat loss, predation and competition with other species, especially the non-native American bullfrog. Shell disease also has emerged as a major concern. In recent years, the species' population has increased to an estimated total of 800 to 1,000 turtles statewide due to various recovery actions, including reintroductions of turtles. Despite this progress, the statewide population remains below the state's recovery goal and is still reliant on programs, such as rearing young turtles in captivity, to supplement the population."

When local birders and naturalists think of Sandhill Cranes, they might wonder why this species is on the list of rare species, because of the several tens of thousands that occur around Othello in spring. It turns out there are three distinct subspecies of Sandhill Cranes that occur in Washington. The small "Lesser" Sandhill Crane is the form that migrates through eastern Washington, particularly Othello during the spring migration. The much larger "Greater" Sandhill Crane is the only type that breeds in Washington. The "Canadian" is the third, another large race that nests in British Columbia. Since being listed as endangered species by the state in 1981, the "Greater" subspecies has recovered from near extirpation due to commercial hunting and habitat loss. Evidently, no pairs nested in Washington for 30 years, beginning in the late 1940s. Through intensive protection of the bird and its habitat, Greater Sandhill Cranes have increased since the late 1970s. In 2015, the breeding season population in Washington totaled 89 birds, including 33 pairs. Yakima Audubon visited Conboy NWR this spring west of Glenwood, an important site in the recovery of this form in Washington. While cranes have benefited from management actions, the species' breeding population in Washington is still quite small and essential habitats remain under threat.





FIELD TRIPS

SCOTT DOWNES

Lower Grand Coulee - November 6 (Sunday) - Early fall often finds hordes of waterfowl on the Columbia River and the Lower Grand Coulee. The uplands have migrating raptors. We'll start with a stop at Vantage to scope waterbirds, then travel to the lower Grand Coulee starting with Soap Lake all the way to Dry Falls. We'll likely return via the uplands of the Columbia Plateau where we'll keep a look out for raptors. In addition to the numerous waterfowl and other birds on this trip, the scenery of the lower Grand Coulee is worth the trip alone. **Field trip will leave Yakima at 7:00 am.** Expect a full day, returning to Yakima between 5 and 6:00 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 the Columbia or in the lower Grand Coulee. Scope is helpful, but not required to attend. We'll be carpooling. **Contact leader Scott Downes for meeting location, downess@charter.net.**

Thursday Morning Bird Walk - October 27, November 3, 10 and 17 - Meet the group at the Poppoff Trail/ Jewett Pathway parking lot at the east end of Valley Mall Blvd., at the north side of the easternmost roundabout at 8:30. This walk is offers a great chance to check out a diverse habitat area in Yakima with local birders. There is a small change this year for the Poppoff walks. There is a commitment to have a leader for the first Thursday of the month (November 3rd for this newsletter), but the remaining walks will be group led. Group led is whoever shows up at the meeting time, start the walk, don't wait for a designated leader. **Contact Karen Zook if you have questions – gadzooks7@charter.net**

Wenas Mammoth Group Open House

In 2005, while constructing a private road on a hillside overlooking the Wenas Valley, the left front leg (humerus) bone of a mammoth was uncovered. Finds of isolated mammoth bones are common on the Columbia Plateau; however, these remains are from the Missoula Flood deposits. The Wenas Mammoth is somewhat unusual because it is well preserved and the elevation is well above the Missoula Flood deposits.

During the summer months from 2005 to 2010, Central Washington University (CWU) conducted field schools for scientific investigation of the mammoth bones. The investigation, called the Wenas Creek Mammoth Project, used methods from paleontology, archaeology and geography. The goal of the project was careful scientific recovery of bones and associated artifacts, while placing the finds into an appropriate context of physical geography. CWU is currently inspecting and cataloging what was collected.

On Saturday, October 8th, the Wenas Mammoth Foundation (presenters at September's chapter meeting) had an onsite open

house at the South Wenas Road "dig" where a Columbian Mammoth was unearthed in 2005. YVAS was one of several conservation minded groups that were present. (I tried to point out that it was too late to conserve the Mammoth, but this fell on stone deaf ears).

Representatives from Central Washington University presented lectures on a variety of related topics. Attendees also had the opportunity to peruse a wealth of displays and information at booths on the dig grounds.

YVAS brought the button making machine which, as usual, was a huge success. While the kids lined up to make bird button to wear, the adults were able look over our display. Every one had a great time and learned a lot about our local natural history.

Big thanks to Karen and Joe Zook and Ellen Stepniewski who assisted me in making this a very successful event.

Both of the photos below were taken by Karen Zook.

— Bill Drenguis and the Wenas Mammoth Group —



Mammoth sculpture near the entrance.



Joe (l) and Bill (r) keep in step!

YVAS field trip to Rimrock Lake on Oct. 5 finds a new species for the Yakima County list—Long-tailed Jaeger!

Despite less than ideal weather, we had a good trip and an interesting day. We started our trip at the Heritage Marker along HWY 12. We had to walk a bit, but we had nice looks at gulls, Western grebes, Surf Scoters and 26 Bald eagles. Gulls can be challenging to ID - especially juvenile gulls - so went spent a bit of time looking at them from different angles. While we were looking at gulls (and cracking puns), we were also getting a good soaking. It rained pretty well the entire first couple of hours we spent there. I could literally wring the water out of my hat. Good thing I brought a spare.

We were getting ready to wrap up and move to our next stop, when a dark brown rather gull shaped bird flew over our heads. We looked up and saw what appeared to be a jaeger! The problem was that it didn't stop. It flew east and disappeared. After a brief discussion, we decided to head down to Horseshoe Cove and see if we could find it.

Once we arrived at Horseshoe Cove, most of us were distracted by a Hairy woodpecker working hard on a pine cone. Joe, however, headed over to look for our possible Jaeger, and he found it. Unfortunately it flew away again! We walked out to a small hill to see if we could relocate it. We found more Scoters and a few more grebes, but no Jaeger. The rain had let up somewhat, but most of us decided we should move on. Thankfully, that was not the case with Kevin. Some folks were already at the cars, and the rest of us were heading back that way, when he turned and said, "Jaeger!"

This time, we all saw it and we all had great looks. Cameras left in the cars because of the rain were retrieved and photos were taken. It was definitely a Jaeger. It would fly around a bit, land (on both land and in water) and sit a bit, then take off again. We made some calls to get the word out, and then watched it until it disappeared again.

We initially identified the bird as a Parasitic Jaeger. Even though Parasitic is rare here, it is the Jaeger species most likely to be seen here on an inland mountain lake, it appeared to have the field marks of Parasitic, and a Parasitic was spotted at the same location two years ago. So, I entered it into eBird as Parasitic, using my photos taken as documentation. Well, the bird caught the eye of a couple of eBird reviewers, including Brad Waggoner, who thought it looked more like a Long-tailed Jaeger. After providing more of my photos and photos taken by Mike Roper, several very knowledgeable and respected birders and reviewers also looked at the bird, and they agreed with Brad. Here are a few of the comments made by reviewers:

"I don't see any suggestion of the warmer colors typical of juvenile PAJA, and various pix show reasonably well various of the important features of LTJA: overall color tone, tail length (particularly compared to wing length), body shape

(chesty, with center of gravity fairly far forward), round head, short bill, and the difficult-to-assess-primary-shafts feature." Tony Leukering.

"Features that I think are consistent with identification as to Long-tailed start with Tony's noted two features of cold coloration and overall long tail in relationship to the wings. Though I wouldn't call it "gray", nor did they in the field as they specifically were noting it as "brown", it does not show any sign of warm buffy coloration as would likely be noted in a juvenile Parasitic. While I tend to want to add the bumped-out protruding central tail feathers as a Long-tailed feature as well from the one flight shot, comments as to "pointed" tail tips and the sitting shots may contradict my assessment of the "bump". The head



Long-tailed Jaeger
Photo by Karen Zook

looks nice cutsie round and consistent with L-t, and not angular as in Parasitic." Brad Waggoner.

"The sixth photo in this new series very clearly shows rounded central rectrices, which I'm pretty sure I could see as well in some of the earlier photos.... I'm convinced this bird is a Long-tailed Jaeger." Bill Tweit.

Brad also added that Jaeger ID involving birds of any age class is exceptionally difficult and perhaps most challenging with juvenile individuals. This Rimrock jaeger nicely captures the difficulty of this identification!

So, we had a Yakima County first sighting of a Long-tailed Jaeger! A life bird for me, and I am guessing for others on the trip as well. A pelagic bird without the seasickness!

After that excitement, we moved on to the Tieton Marsh. We nibbled on our lunches and looked for birds. There were not many ducks left on the pond there, but we found some high flying raptors, Western bluebirds, White-headed and Hairy woodpeckers and a Red-breasted sapsucker, along with some other forest birds.

Clear Lake was next. As we were driving to the Boat Launch, Joe and I were kind enough to flush a Ruffed Grouse along the side of the road. We did not see it, but the two cars behind us did. At Clear Lake, we added several other species to our trip list: Chestnut-backed chickadees, Pacific wren, Fox sparrow, Varied and Hermit thrushes, Barrow's Goldeneye, Green-winged teal, and American Wigeon (to name a few). We also added two Osprey and seven American Dippers at the spillway. At one of the viewpoints, we noticed an odd looking bird swimming with the Canada Geese. We trained scopes on it: a Greater White-fronted Goose - another nice surprise for our trip.

Suffice it to say, it was a really great trip!

— Karen Zook —

Vredenburg Bluebird Nest Box Trail

As the human population and activities in North America expanded, bluebird populations plummeted due to shortage of natural cavities for nesting, pesticides and competition from introduced house sparrows and starlings, against which the bluebird cannot successfully compete.

To counter declining populations, bluebird trails became 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.

A box by box recap of the 2016 nesting season can be found on pages 7 and 8. Additional information on the trail appears on page 9.

— Richard Repp —

Kinneys help relocate Sage Grouse to YTC

YVAS board member Scott Downs alerted me that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife was looking for volunteers to help with a Sage Grouse relocation project. It sounded interesting so my wife, Eileen, and I volunteered to help with the project which involved driving captured Nevada Sage Grouse hens from Nevada to the Yakima Training Center (YTC).

We joined a group of 10 wildlife biologists in Winnemucca, Nevada. With approval from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the biologists went out "in the boonies" in an attempt to capture the grouse in the middle of the night. The first night they successfully captured four hens, and had them loaded into our car by 6 a.m.

To minimize stress on the birds, Eileen and I accompanied by CWU professor Ali Scoville immediately headed for Yakima and arrived at the YTC at 4 p.m. We met Colin Leingang, the Wildlife Program Manager for the YTC, and his assistant Lisa Weigel who escorted us out to the release site.

In the next two days an additional 14 hens were also transported and released. The combined 18 grouse were the third release of a three-year phased project. Ten Idaho hens were released in the spring of 2014 and 8 Idaho hens were released in the spring of 2015. The project is part of the 2004 Washington State Sage Grouse Recovery Plan. The success of the project is dependent on the translocated birds surviving, breeding with YTC resident birds, and with surviving offspring being recruited into the population to successfully breed in the future.

Colin said, "This all takes several seasons to occur which delays our ability to determine success." Colin hopes to provide a more detailed update of this project at one of our future

chapter meetings, and offer our members a field trip to a Sage Grouse lek next spring.

Eileen and I can only hope our efforts can help to increase the genetic diversity of this isolated population of this endangered bird on the YTC.



Sage Grouse close-up
Photo by Dan Kinney



A Sage Grouse flies as (left to right) Dr. Ali Scoville, Eileen Kinney, Colin Leingang, and Lisa Weigel watch.

Photo by Dan Kinney

— Dan Kinney —

2016 VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Eg	Fl	PT
1	Harold Vredenburg	W	4	4	2020
2	Jeanne Crawford Memorial	W	5	0	2017
		TRES	4	4	2017
3	Tanager Nevue-Cushing	W	12	12	2016
4	Steven & Marcia Shotwell	W	8	6	2016
5	Sparrow Nevue-Cushing	W	10	9	2016
6	Don Peterson Memorial	TRES	6	0	2016
		W	5	2	2016
7	Nita Coleman	W	6	6	2015
8	K. Lucas & M. Giovanini	W	11	9	2015
9	Sandie Deighton	wren	X	X	2017
10	Joe & Alberta McGuire	W	9	9	2017
11	Steven & Marcia Shotwell	wren	X	X	2016
12	Russell Shelden Memorial	W	9	0	2015
13	Karen & Joseph Zook	W	5	4	2016
13A	Elwood P. Suggins	W	12	10	2015
14	Friedenson Family	W	11	6	2017
15	Joy McKinney	W	10	8	2017
16	Rachel Bold	wren	X	X	2016
17	Michael West	W	9	8	2017
18	Nita Coleman	wren	X	X	2016
19	Janna & Steven Hayes	W	9	4	2016
20	Elwood P. Suggins	W	5	2	2015
21	Pete & Pam Neumann	W	11	0	2016
22	Brian T. & Aleeza M.	W	5	3	2016
22A	Robert English	W	7	6	2016
23	Karen Zook	W	6	6	2016
24	Virginia Gill	W	6	5	2016
25	Don Peterson Memorial	W	5	4	2016
26	Arlene Wood Memorial	W	7	3	PMBD
27	Kay Marsh Memorial	W	5	5	2030
28	Sherry Morris	W	5	5	2016
29	Donna Zimmerschied	W	6	5	2016
30	Betty & Greg Neumann	W	8	1	2016
31	Donna Zimmerschied	W	9	1	2016
32	Larry & Doris Robinson	W	10	10	PMBD
33	Stan & Lori Isley	W	5	3	2016
34	Sarah Burke	W	9	4	2017

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Eg	Fl	PT
35	Joe & Alberta McGuire	W	1	0	2017
36	Larry Robinson	W	9	8	2016
37	Alice Presson	W	6	3	2016
38	Charlotte Pfeiffer Memorial	W	8	3	2016
39	Maia Mittlestaedt	W	7	5	2016
39A	Joan Gilman	W	9	0	2016
40	Gertrude Repp Memorial	W	6	6	2035
41	Joan Gilman	W	5	2	2016
42	Lavina Doty	W	5	1	2016
43	Maia Mittlestaedt	W	5	0	2016
44	Dorothy Munroe	W	9	5	2017
45	Jerry & M. A. Ruthruff	W	10	8	2016
46	Nature Artists Garden Club	W	4	1	2015
47	Irene Gilman Memorial	W	1	0	2016
48	Tomas Sawyer	W	8	3	2016
49	Ellen Stevenson Family	W	9	8	2016
50	Tom Mansfield	W	10	4	2033
51	Ron Sell	W	0	0	2017
52	Linda Knutson	W	7	3	2017
53	Megan & Steven Pooler	W	6	5	2017
54	Jerry & Margaret Turner	W	6	6	2016
55	Martha Taylor	W	9	8	2018
56	Denny Granstrand	W	8	6	2017
57	William & Kelley Strange	W	6	4	2016
58	Karen & Joseph Zook	W	8	4	2016
59	Denny Granstrand	W	8	6	2017
60	Megan & Steven Pooler	W	10	9	2017
61	John Meyer Memorial	W	8	4	2017
62	Martha Anderson	W	8	7	2016
63	Tom Wilson	W	5	5	2016
64	Mike & Carolyn Wood	W	6	5	2016
65	Lucky Hall	W	8	0	2016
66	Carol Phillips	W	9	6	2016
67	William & Kelley Strange	W	9	8	2016
68	Ruth Knoke Memorial	W	11	9	2017
69	Janet White	W	5	3	2016
70	Irene Gilman Memorial	W	5	5	2016

2015 VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL REPORT CONT.

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Eg	Fl	PT
71	Helen Stuckey	W	5	3	2017
72	Nancy Born	W	7	6	2016
73	Chris Sorenson	W	9	6	2016
74	Hannah Born	W	10	6	2016
75	Ryleigh Hayes	W	10	0	2016
76	Margaret Morris	W	10	9	2017
77	Shannon O'Malley	W	9	8	2016
78	Conner O'Malley	wren	X	X	2016
79	Toppenish Garden Club	W	9	8	2016
80	Adam Newhouse	TRES	6	0	2025
81	Hunter Headley	W	10	10	2017
82	Ariana Faith	W	10	9	2016
83	Toppenish Garden Club	W	11	3	2016
84	Cailin O'Malley	chip	X	X	2016
85	Bettie Soden Memorial	M	4	4	2018
		W	5	5	
86	June Rayner Memorial	W	0	0	2016
87	Oliver Deighton	W	3	0	2017
88	Marie Brangwin	W	2	0	2016
89	Peter Sorenson	M	5	0	2016
90	Bill & Edith Ryan	W	6	2	2016
90A	Sandra Bowman	W	10	0	2016
91	Patrick Burke	W	0	0	2017
92	Les Burke	M	6	6	2017
93	P. Kevin Gilman Memorial	W	12	0	2016
94	John & Sally English	wren	X	X	2016
95	Joyce Meyer	M	5	5	2017
96	Charlotte Deighton	W	5	4	2017
96A	Ewell & Rosemary Jones	W	9	5	2016
97	Alwin Berger Memorial	W	10	5	2016
98	McCrone Family	W	11	10	2017
99	Ken & Laurie Knittle	W	5	5	2033
100	Susie Lattomus	W	5	5	2016
101	Amy Sinden	W	0	0	2017
102	Jean Chott	W	11	3	2026
103	Bob & April Adamson	W	7	1	2017
104	Richard Repp	M	10	8	2016
105	Jim Ehret	W	12	10	2016
106	Joan Miler	M	5	5	2025

Box	Sponsor	Sp	Eg	Fl	PT
107	Joan Miler	M	5	5	2025
108	Raleigh Watts	n/u	X	X	2017
109	Andy & Ellen Stepniewski	W	5	3	2016
110	Martha Fleming	M	9	8	2016
111	Martha Fleming	M	9	8	2016
112	Dotty Armstrong	M	10	10	2016
113	Lavina Doty	M	4	3	2016
114	P. Kevin Gilman Memorial	W	0	0	2016
114A	Justine Repp-Faith	M	9	6	2016
115	Vera Backstrom	W	6	4	2016
116	Dorothy Munroe	W	9	7	2017
117	John & Ann Brangwin	W	8	3	2016
118	Don Knoke Memorial	n/u	X	X	2017
119	Jack Whitnall	W	3	0	PMBD
120	Apple Blossom Garden Club	W	0	0	2017
121	Andy & Ellen Stepniewski	W	2	0	2016
122	Lavina Doty	W	5	0	2016
123	Alice Nevue	n/u	X	X	2016
123A	Jeff Kozma	W	4	0	2016
124	Mt. Clemen Garden Club	M	10	9	2017
125	Virginia Vredenburg	M	7	5	2020
	TOTAL FLEDGED				542
	Western Bluebird				460
	Mountain Bluebird				82
	Other Species				4

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

Key

Sp = species Eg = eggs Fl = Fledged PT= paid thru

M = Mountain Bluebird W = Western Bluebird

TRES = Tree Swallow wren = House Wren

MOCH = Mountain Chickadee chip = chipmunk

WBNU = White-breasted Nuthatch n/u = not used

PMBD = Proclaimed Memorial by
Board of Directors

Vredenburg Bluebird Trail Nest Box Sponsors

Sponsors – please check the Paid Thru column in the trail recap on pages 6 & 7. If 2016 is listed in this column for your box, your sponsorship expires on December 31, 2016. 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 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 (115 of the 132 boxes) 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 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. If you would like to be included, use my new email contact (changed from last year) info above to have your name (or the name of person you sponsor a box for) added to this list.

— Richard Repp —

Thank you Vredenburg Monitors!

A hearty thank you is extended to all the volunteer monitors who gathered data during the nesting season: Joe and Karen Zook, the Brad's Blues Team (headed by Nancy Jo and Hannah Born), Martha Fleming, Liz Angland, Jan & Judy Gano, and Jerry Turner. Additionally, birding enthusiasts attending the Washington Audubon Memorial Day Wenas Campout assisted with the monitoring. Campers participating this year: Courtney, Doug & Brooke Schurman (Seattle), Joan Michaels (Seattle), Beth Thompson (Arlington), Jeff Borsenik (Bellingham), Lee Rentz (Shelton), Victor Romano (North Bend) and Ann & Rick Cotton (Vancouver).

This year's total of 542 fledged bluebirds tied for the fifth highest production in the trail's 35 year history. It was well above the average fledge rate of 478 bluebirds from the most recent ten years. Mountain Bluebirds accounted for 82 of the grand total, the most since 2007's 91.

Tree Swallows were the only other tracked species fledging young this year, chipping in one clutch of four. Only three boxes were completely ignored this year and bluebirds initiated nests in 125 of the trail's 132 nest boxes...a pretty impressive total.

But in a way, one could view this as the year that got away. We had twenty boxes that fledged only four young out of the 116 eggs bluebirds laid in those nests. Had half of those eggs gone on to fledge, we would have been knocking on the magic door of 600!! Maybe next year?

— Richard Repp —

Vredenburg Fledged Bluebirds 1982-2015				
	WEBL	MOBL	BB sp	BB tot
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
TOTAL	10894	3474	231	14599
WEBL = Western Bluebird MOBL = Mountain Bluebird BB sp = Bluebird, Species unknown				

Election of officers at the October Chapter Meeting



This year, an even-numbered year, it's time to elect our chapter's President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. Vera Backstrom and Karen Zook, our current secretary and treasurer (respectively) have agreed to run for re-election.

However, we currently have no candidates for President-Elect. Further nominations will be taken at the October general meeting for all three positions. Elections will be held by show of hands.

Silent Auction - First Call



priced, well, bargains.

However, we need items to auction. Think of your talents and/or resources. How about sponsoring a dinner or brunch in your garden? Maybe you could offer a weekend at your vacation cabin. Do you have a special skill/hobby to create unique artifacts? Use your imagination to come up with the item to put everyone in absolute awe. Otherwise, bird related items are always very popular.

On December 1st, we will be holding the annual YVAS Christmas Auction at the Yakima Area Arboretum. There will be a silent auction for the larger items as well as the popular bargain table for low-

As auction proceeds go directly to fund YVAS education and conservation activities, an evening of festive bidding is essential for our success. It helps to have the items on display when the first members arrive. To make this happen, I am willing to pick up your donations in prior to Nov 29th. To arrange for a pick up, you can reach me at 965 - 5808 or email me at (bdrenguis@gmail.com). Ellen Stepniewski will also assist in gathering items prior to auction night from donors residing in the lower valley. If you can't reach me, please call Ellen at 877-6639 or email her at (steppie@nwinform.net). As a third option, you can drop your items off at the reception desk of the North Star Lodge, 808 N 39th Ave, PROVIDED you tag or label your item "Vera" to ensure that it is directed to YVAS secretary Vera Backstrom.

Please help make this one of the most successful auctions ever!

— Bill Drenguis —

It's time to study Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks These two difficult to separate species will be in your yard soon!



Adult Cooper's Hawk

Here are three websites that can give you good tips on how to identify and separate Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk:

1) Project FeederWatch:
<http://feederwatch.org/learn/tricky-bird-ids/coopers-hawk-and-sharp-shinned-hawk/>

2) National Audubon:
<http://www.audubon.org/news/a-beginners-guide-identifying-coopers-and-sharp-shinned-hawks>

3) eBird:
<http://ebird.org/content/nj/news/identifying-backyard-accipiters-by-pete-dunne/>



Adult Sharp-shinned Hawk

Yakima Valley Audubon Society Membership

Join (or renew my annual membership to) the Yakima Valley Audubon Society to receive 10 issues of the Calliope Crier and all chapter benefits. National Audubon membership and Audubon Magazine are not included.

Yakima Valley Audubon Society Membership.....\$ 25.00 per household
 YVAS Senior (62+) ____ OR Student Membership ____ (please check one).....\$ 15.00 per household
 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 or 698-4110.

2016 YAKIMA VALLEY AUDUBON OFFICERS AND BOARD

President	Kerry Turley (kdturley@gmail.com)	837-6930	Membership	Joy McKinney (joycatbird@gmail.com)	698-4110
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	Denny Granstrand (dgranstrand@gmail.com)	453-2500	Bird Rehabilitator	Connie Hughes (owlbirdlady@gmail.com)	457-5661
	Bob Chicken (robertchicken@msn.com)	457-2014	Bird Reports	Denny Granstrand (dgranstrand@gmail.com)	453-2500
	Reneé Navarrete (renee@digitalcardboard.com)	654-9646	Important Bird Areas	Vacant	
Standing (Voting) Committee Chairs:			Publicity	Vacant	
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Bluebird Trail	Richard Repp (bbirder247@aol.com)	965-1134	Volunteer Rec.	Vacant	
Conservation	Andy Stepniewski (steppie@nwinfo.net)	877-6639	Webmaster	Denny Granstrand (dgranstrand@gmail.com)	453-2500
Education	Ellen Stepniewski (steppie@nwinfo.net)	877-6639	Website	www.yakimaaudubon.org	
Field Trips	Scott Downes (downess@charter.net)	469-7807	Toppenish CBC	Andy Stepniewski (steppie@nwinfo.net)	877-6639
			Yakima Valley CBC	Denny Granstrand (dgranstrand@gmail.com)	453-2500
			YVAS Email	(birds@yakimaaudubon.org)	
			YVAS Facebook	(http://www.facebook.com/yakimaaudubon/?fref=ts)	

**More photos of the Long-tailed Jaeger found at
Rimrock Lake on the Oct. 5 YVAS field trip**

All photos by Karen Zook



This first record of a Long-tailed Jaeger in Yakima County was well-documented by the quick camera work of Karen Zook. Ten years ago, when few people were carrying digital cameras, this incredible bird would have been misidentified. It was only through the close examination of Karen's photos that the ID was confirmed.



Coming Attractions:

Thursday Poppoff Walks:

Oct 27, Nov 3, 10 and 17

Lower Grand Coulee - Nov 6