



September – October 2024

Volume 53, Issue 7

*Yakima Valley Audubon Society presents:*

## **Wildlife Connectivity: I-90 and Statewide**

Thursday, September 26, 7:00 – 8:30 PM,

Yakima Area Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Drive, Yakima.

*This program will only be available in-person. It will not be recorded.*

Join Mark Norman and Scott Downes as we look at both statewide connectivity efforts and more locally at the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East project. We will watch *Wild Ways* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUAwVXqal-E>, a film produced by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Conservation Northwest showing why wildlife connectivity is important to our state. Following that, we will watch a second film entitled *Critter Crossings* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf5nMLrlgW4> that showcases the work being conducted on I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East and was produced by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Both films were produced by Ted Grudowski an award-winning video producer. Following the films, we will share some interesting videos of wildlife crossing I-90 and some crossing statistics.

Mark Norman works for WSDOT and is the lead biologist for the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East project. Scott Downes works for WDFW as a Habitat Biologist and has been part of the I-90 team and also part of the WDFW team working on the Washington State Habitat Connectivity Action Plan. Together the presenters hope to show the amazing work on wildlife connectivity in Washington State. Join us and bring all your questions on wildlife connectivity!

**NOTE: The event will be in-person only and not available on Zoom.**



## Board Elections – YVAS needs you!

Our annual elections are this October. We are pleased to announce that Rich Mathieu and Deborah Severtson-Coffin are continuing their positions as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Please give them a shout out for their continued support!

*We are also in urgent need of new volunteers to fill key Board positions!* We endeavor to keep the monthly Board meetings short, focused, supportive, and productive. New members always bring fresh ideas and perspectives, and we would love to have you join the team!

If interested, email Sarah Shippen at [ses1440@outlook.com](mailto:ses1440@outlook.com) and we can set up a time to answer any of your questions. Below is a brief description of the open positions and the main responsibilities of each.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- publish an online, bimonthly newsletter, *Calliope Crier*, for the members of the local Society from appropriate content submitted by members
- prepare periodic email announcements and communications to the membership.
- Position requires a computer, internet access, and basic understanding of word processing software.

### CONSERVATION

- To keep informed and be enthusiastic on conservation issues, particularly concerning birds and their habitat.
- Attend periodic online sessions with Washington Audubon about timely issues.
- Forward information on these issues to the Board, the newsletter editor, the webmaster, and the general membership and suggest to the Society appropriate responses to conservation issues.

### EDUCATION

- Coordinate and participate in environmental education programs, projects, and activities for chapter members, schools, and the general public.
- For the last few years, this position has been responsible for two education activities: organizing volunteers for the YVAS Arborfest booth and coordinating with the Yakima Area Arboretum to present a class available to the community about birding or other related topic



*Magenta Paintbrush at  
Chinook Pass, Photo:  
Sarah Shippen*

## Membership - Joy McKinney

### Welcome new members!

Julie Schillreff, Yakima

Donna Zimmerschied, Gig Harbor

### Thanks for renewing your membership!

Jeff Kozma, Kathleen Ross, Jan & Judy Gano, Karen Ireland, John Tolonen, Jennifer Kaufman, Karen and Joe Zook, Joyce Swart, Marcia Shotwell, Kim Zrust, Betty Peterson, Delila Roulston, Dan Kinney, Carolyn Comeau & Jim Leier, Patrick Kinney, Lucy and Jeff Stevens, Mike Hoge, Marie Bastin, Ralph Woodall Jr., Sara Montgomery

## Upcoming Field Trips - Kerry Turley and Bill Drenguis

### Spruce Grouse Trip to Conrad Meadows

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, all day  
 Leader: Kerry Turley

Join us in search of the elusive Spruce Grouse (subspecies franklinii) and other montane species. Located adjacent to the Goat Rocks Wilderness, Conrad Meadows 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](mailto:kdturley@gmail.com) or 509-840-0980.

## Upcoming Events

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Thursday, September 26, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, 2024 | <i>September Program: Wildlife Connectivity: I-90 and Statewide, Scott Downes and Mark Norman.</i> For more information, <a href="#">click here</a> .                                       |
| Saturday, September 28 2024, all day         | Field Trip: <b>Conrad Meadows Spruce Grouse Hunt.</b> Leader: Kerry Turley, <a href="mailto:kdturley@gmail.com">kdturley@gmail.com</a> . For more information, <a href="#">click here</a> . |
| Saturday, October 12, 9-11 AM                | Field Trip: <b>Second Saturday Bird Walk. Poppoff Trail.</b> Sarah Shippen and Gene Miliczky. For more information, <a href="#">click here</a> .  |
| Thursday, October 24, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, 2024   | <i>October Program: The Birds and Plants of the Columbia Shrub-steppe, Andy Stepniewski.</i> For more information, <a href="#">click here</a> .   |



## Field Trip Reports

### Second Saturday Bird Walk, Poppoff Trail Saturday, September 14, 2024

It was a beautiful, cool fall morning when twelve members of YVAS headed off to check out the Poppoff Trail. We were immediately greeted by numerous White-crowned Sparrows and Yellow-rumped warblers in the Russian Olive at the trail head. As we emerged onto the lawn by the first pond, more than 60 California Quail scurried for cover. An auspicious beginning to a very busy birding day! Other highlights were Cooper’s Hawk, Western Tanager, and Wood ducks, but there was continuous and lively activity along the entire trail to Billy’s Pond. There we saw about 18 American Wigeon, more Wood ducks and a Pied-billed Grebe. We finished our two hour walk with 31 species.

~Sarah Shippen



Western Tanager, photo: Ross Bornfleth



Osprey, photo: Ross Bornfleth

| Species           | Count | Species                | Count |
|-------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Canada Goose      | 12    | California Scrub-jay   | 4     |
| Wood Duck         | 35    | Black-billed Magpie    | 1     |
| American Wigeon   | 18    | Common Raven           | 3     |
| Mallard           | 21    | Black-capped Chickadee | 6     |
| Green-winged Teal | 3     | Violet-green Swallow   | 1     |
| Common Merganser  | 4     | Bewick’s Wren          | 2     |
| California Quail  | 60    | American Robin         | 17    |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 1     | Cedar Waxwing          | 18    |
| Rock Pigeon       | 5     | House Finch            | 6     |
| Mourning Dove     | 1     | American Goldfinch     | 1     |
| Great Blue Heron  | 2     | White-crowned Sparrow  | 8     |
| Osprey            | 1     | Song Sparrow           | 1     |
| Cooper’s Hawk     | 1     | Red-winged Blackbird   | 2     |
| Belted Kingfisher | 2     | Yellow-rumped Warbler  | 6     |
| Downy Woodpecker  | 3     | Western Tanager        | 3     |
| Northern Flicker  | 5     |                        |       |

## Meet Your Board

|                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| President                  | Sarah Shippen                |
| Secretary                  | Deborah Severtson-Coffin     |
| Treasurer                  | Rich Mathieu                 |
| Field Trips Chair          | Kerry Turley & Bill Drenguis |
| Director/Programs          | Sandra Hulteen               |
| Membership Chair           | Joy McKinney                 |
| Toppenish Refuge Volunteer | Kerry Turley                 |
| Director                   | Bill Drenguis                |
| Bluebird Trail             | Karen Zook                   |
| Website Administrator      | Mary Lane                    |

### For More Information:

Visit our website: <https://yakimaaudubon.org/>

To Join:

[https://yakimaaudubon.org/assets/pdf/yvas\\_membership\\_form.pdf](https://yakimaaudubon.org/assets/pdf/yvas_membership_form.pdf)

### To Contact YVAS

YVAS Information: [info@yakimaaudubon.org](mailto:info@yakimaaudubon.org)

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