

# 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 34, Number 1

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

January 2005

## AUDUBON CALENDAR

- Jan 27 Chapter Meeting at 7:00 pm** at the Yakima Area Arboretum.  
**Feb 8 Board Meeting** at Bill Drenguis's house, 7708 Poplarview Way (965-5808).

### Field Trips

- Jan 29 Horse Heaven Hills** — meet leader Andy Stepniewski at the IHOP at the Valley Mall **8 a.m.** for this all-day trip searching for winter birds.  
**Feb 26 McNary NWR and other Tri-Cities hotspots** — meet leader Bill Drenguis at the IHOP at the Valley Mall at **8:00 a.m.** for this all-day trip featuring waterfowl, raptors and winter sparrows.

## Silent Auction a Huge Success!!

The 8th Audubon Silent Auction was a lot of fun this year. Donors brought in some amazing items; notably quilt hangings from both Virginia Vredenburgh and Debie Brown and many of the highly sought after handmade cedar bird feeders and nest boxes from Larry Robinson. Ron Sell and Linda Knudsen donated dinner in their large and beautiful gardens and Don Chesebro donated many books from his library when he and Carlene moved away from the area. Other donors were generous with homemade jams and jellies, books, art objects, photographs, and a myriad of other wonderful items. I would like to thank Jeanne Crawford for her continuing enthusiastic assistance in setting out the auction items and helping with the figuring up afterwards as well as my husband, Bob, who is always there to help.

Thank you donors: Debie Brown, Susie Lattomus, Agnes Badgley, Larry Robinson, Virginia Vredenburgh, Ron Sell and Linda Knudsen, Jeanne Crawford, Bob Mittelstaedt, Kay Marsh, Mac Knight, Al Allaway, Don Chesebro, Janet and Bruce Eder, Donna Homer, Denny Granstrand, and Elizabeth Bohn. And thanks also to bidders: Gunter Hadersberger, Bill Drenguis, Susie Lattomus, Ron Sell and Linda Knudsen, Vera Backstrom, Bob and Maia Mittelstaedt, Larry and Doris Robinson, Mac and Merri Knight, Bob Wahl, Alice Nevue, Richard Repp, Dan Kinney, John Hebert, Denny Granstrand, M. Gilmartin, Andy and Ellen Stepniewski, Elizabeth Bohn, and Grace Anderson. This year, with auction proceeds as well as the proceeds from auctioning off the wine, Yakima Valley Audubon received \$1,511.30 from the Silent Auction!

## JANUARY PROGRAM

### Bird Banding Study On The Lower Walla Walla River With Howard Browers

Howard Browers will be presenting the results of four seasons of operating a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) station on the Lower Walla Walla River. MAPS involves the use of mist nets to capture and band songbirds during the breeding season from late May to early August. Nearly 700 birds have been banded since the station began operation in May 2001.

Howard is a Wildlife Biologist for the Mid-Columbia River Refuges Complex. They manage five refuges in southeast Washington and northeast Oregon: Umatilla, McNary, Toppenish, Cold Springs, and McKay Creek. He is also currently serving as the Acting Refuge Manager at Toppenish Refuge.

## What's inside the Crier this month...

President's Report	2
New and Renewing Members	2
Bring On Those Cookies!	2
A Special Thanks	2
Washington Audubon's 2005 Legislative Priorities	3
Priorities For A Healthy Washington	3
Proposed Tieton River Park	3
Field Trips	4
Bird Sightings	4, 5
Feds Keep Sage Grouse Off Endangered Species List	5
Christmas Count Wrap-up	6, 7
Profile — Bob and Leslie Wahl	8
Membership Application	9

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Happy New Year! A new year brings new opportunities to us who love birds and their world. What better way to reacquaint yourself with the beauty of our landscape and its amazing diversity of birds than to go afield on YVAS fieldtrips!

What could you expect to see if you come on these trips? While no one person could possibly attend all outings, the more you attend, the more you'll see. Last year, Yakima Auduboners observed an impressive 251 species on officially sanctioned field trips! Debbie Brown tallied the trip lists from all YVAS outings and this is what the total came to. I was quite surprised to learn the number was this high.

But, after reflecting on the number of trips we had and their varied locations, I guess I shouldn't have been surprised. After all, we visited the Wetside in February where we saw lots of seabirds on marine waters of Puget Sound marine birds, not to mention the diverse array of waterfowl and raptors on the Skagit and Samish Flats. Of course there were lots and lots of trips focusing on our home turf in the Dryside, a completely different landscape.

Saturday January 8, a group of us met at Larry and Doris Robinson's home in The Nile to organize field trips for 2005. We spent the morning scheduling trips in their warm and cozy home amidst a winter wonderland. We think we put together a roster for 2005 as interesting and varied as 2004.

What's on tap for 2005? Many of the scheduled trips will be to familiar areas such as Toppenish NWR and the Lower Yakima Valley, the Wenas, Yakima Canyon, or the nearby Cascades. Frequent short trips to the Poppoff Trail on the Greenway are planned starting in Spring. These are a repeat of the last year's popular "shorts." More distant expeditions are planned, too. A trip will go to McNary NWR and Tri Cities venues, havens for birdlife, in February. In March you can sample the shrub-steppe and riverine habitats at Wahluke Slope and White Bluffs in the new Hanford Reach National Monument. The spectacular Columbia River Gorge, a repeat trip, is slated for April. Unusual birds for Washington such as Acorn Woodpecker and Lesser Goldfinch, will be targeted.

The Walla Walla area hummingbird spectacular, in May, is a repeat of last years hugely successful outing. Evening Spotted Owl viewing in June is offered again, an amazing experience. We hope to offer a combined birding class, field trip, and picnic at the Green Ranch in the Wenas, in June, an area of exceptional biodiversity. Later in June, you can admire and study butterflies in the lower Cascades. This trip starts at a very civilized 9 AM, an unusual starting time for our usual trips. Butterflies like warm sunshine before flitting about. A July trip to the slopes of Mt. Adams to sample some interesting country and birds in a beautiful setting. Another new trip will be viewing of spawning Bull Trout, a threatened species, near Rimrock Lake in September.

So, check your Crier for field trip listings; we would love to see you on some of these outings!

— Andy Stepniewski —

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

### Welcome new YVAS Members:

Seattle: Michael Fleming  
Yakima: Rosalie Armstrong, Ray & Susan Paoella

### Thank You for renewing your YVAS Membership:

Cowiche: Roy Hallstrom  
Grandview: Myra Dorsey  
Richland: Connie Estep  
Selah: Beverly Olson, Sandy Staples, Ken Taylor  
Sunnyside: Kerry Turley  
Wapato: Fred Erickson  
Yakima: Barbara Alseth, June Anderson, John Aylmer, Diane Bornfleth, Don Bosler, Beth Dannhardt, Richard De Zarn, Mike Finney, Stan & Lori Isley, Gail Larson, Dan Kinney, Pete Krier, Jeff & Cindy Kozma, Susie Lattomus, Margaret Morris, Michael Murphy, Walter Nelson, Jenifer K. Parsons, Erlene Reber, James Riley, Mike Roper, George & Delila Roulston, Leni Skarin, Melinda Stanojevic, Ellen & Andy Stepniewski, J. Ken Tolonen, Mrs. George Thayer, George Vlahakis, Jr., Robert Zaremba

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

— Bob Wahl —

## Bring On Those Cookies!

Due to our overstuffed condition at the Dec. potluck, only two signed up to bring cookies for January: Mary Pooler and Edith Ryan. Please bring three dozen cookies each. If someone else wants to bring cookies (we usually have three volunteers), feel free. Be prepared to sign up for the coming months, as we don't have many volunteers lined up yet.

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Christmas potluck and auction a success. We have an abundance of good cooks and artistic table decorators among us.

— Connie Hughes —

## The Christmas Banquet And Silent Auction Is Successful Thanks To Two Hard-working People

It is difficult to imagine what the Christmas Banquet and Silent Auction would be like if it weren't for the hard work of Connie Hughes and Maia Mittelstaedt.

Both Connie and Maia work very hard on their parts of the evening — Connie coordinating the decorations and food, and Maia putting together the Silent Auction.

The members of the Board of Directors of YVAS expresses their heart-felt thanks to Connie and Maia for making the evening work out so well and flow so smoothly.

**CONSERVATION****Audubon Washington's 2005  
Legislative Priorities**

In June the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee selected the following legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

**Aggregate/gravel mining**

We are proposing improvements to current gravel mining laws to protect riparian and wetland bird habitat, as well as clean water supply. Audubon supports the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) budget requests to improve its surface mine program. We are also negotiating with DNR over industry-sponsored revisions to the Surface Mine Reclamation Law.

**Wetlands**

We are supporting the DNR proposal for a pilot mitigation bank on state-owned aquatic lands to restore degraded wetland and shorebird habitat. This project must ensure no net loss of wetlands. With help from Wetnet, our wetlands advisory committee, Audubon is negotiating language on the bill, which we supported with changes in 2004.

**Forests**

We are supporting legislation and regulations that promote sustainable forestry, and habitat protections for at-risk bird species like the Northern Spotted Owl. Audubon and other environmental organizations are exploring potential legislation to establish a pilot project for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of state forests and legislation to protect existing old growth habitat on state lands.

**Growth Management Act (GMA)**

We will allow NO ROLLBACKS of existing GMA protections and are supporting legislative proposal crafted by the "GMA Work Group," an environmentalist and industry coalition, designed to improve the efficiencies and environmental protections within the GMA.

**Operating Budget**

Advocate for funding for programs that protect and monitor wildlife and their habitat.

**Capital Budget**

Advocate for funding for Environmental Learning Centers and for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

**Priorities for a Healthy  
Washington**

Listed below are the statewide environmental communities' legislative priorities for the 2005 legislative session, which Audubon will track and support.

**Clean Air/Clean Cars**

New technology allows cars to be cleaner, more fuel-efficient and less polluting. Requiring that all new cars sold in Washington after 2008 meet stronger emission standards will result in a significant reduction in cancer-causing air pollution, lower fuel costs, and reduced dependence on fossil fuels.

**Green Buildings**

State buildings and schools should be safe for our workers, healthy for our children and support our environment. That means using non-toxic materials and designing buildings to be water and energy efficient.

**Sounds Solutions**

"Saving Hood Canal and Protecting Puget Sound" Puget Sound is in trouble. Much of it fails to meet basic clean water standards. And there is a "dead zone" in Hood Canal. Better land-use regulations around shorelines and funding for clean water projects like community septic systems can help preserve these natural treasures.

**Banning Toxic Flame Retardants**

Dangerous levels of PBDEs, tox flame-retardants, have been discovered in Washington State mothers' breast milk at levels 20-40 times higher than European and Japanese women. Toxic flame-retardants have been linked to memory and learning impairments in infants. PBDEs are used in upholstery, mattresses, and electronics and have been banned in Europe.

**Proposed Tieton River Park**

A whitewater river park on the Tieton River is being proposed by the Yakima Kayak Club, which is intended to not only provide recreational opportunities for local kayakers and tourists, but also to increase awareness and understanding of the local river environment. This type of facility is designed to mimic natural features of rivers using native rock that can be used by kayakers and canoeists. The other intended benefit is to improve fish habitat by providing resting areas.

Although this is not a Yakima Audubon project, it shares the goals of Audubon in improving habitat and providing local access for observing wildlife and enjoying nature. Also, many members of the Yakima Kayak Club are also Audubon members.

You may help in the planning for this whitewater park by sending tax deductible donations to: Y.V.V.C.B Whitewater Park, P.O. Box 718, Yakima WA 98907. To learn more about the planning for the Yakima Whitewater Park see the Yakima Kayak Club at: [www.yakimakayak.org](http://www.yakimakayak.org)



## LOCAL FIELD TRIPS

Please call the leader before the trip to let him/her know you are interested in going. That way, if plans need to be changed, he/she can call you. Also, if no one calls, the leader will know to cancel the field trip and won't be sitting around at the meeting place all alone! Be sure to wear clothing appropriate for the weather and take lunch, snacks and beverages. Also please make a contribution to the driver for gas when you carpool. Contribution should be 15 cents per mile divided by number of people in car, including the driver.



**Jan 29 Horse Heaven Hills** — Subject to cancellation in case of seriously inclement weather. Join leader Andy Stepniewski for a tour of a winter wonderland holding promises of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs amid large flocks of Horned Larks and the ever-elusive Gyrfalcon. Other highlights will be Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls and other raptors. Meet at the IHOP on Valley Mall Blvd at **8:00 a.m.**

**Feb 26 McNary NWR and other Tri-Cities Hotspots** — Meet leader Bill Dreguis at the Valley Mall IHOP at **8:00 a.m.** and carpool to McNary NWR and nearby hotspots in the Tri-Cities area. There should be tons of waterfowl including opportunities to compare Canada and Cackling Geese, raptors, and plenty of winter sparrows. There might even be a rarity to chase. This trip should produce a big list.

## BIRD SIGHTINGS



Although winter and its snow were late arriving, it has now blanketed most of Yakima County and does not appear anxious to abandon us any time soon. Preceding the snow was an irruption in mid-November of Mountain Chickadees moving from their normal conifer habitats to the state's lowlands. Lending credence to the theory that the epicenter of Yakima County birding activity is the Parker Heights resi-

dence of one Andrew Stepniewski, our first lowland report of a Mountain Chickadee originated from that location.

George and Susan Vlahakis, in northwest Yakima, had a pair of Mountain Chickadees arrive in their yard by late November that were still being seen in January. The same is true for a single bird tracked by Louise Repp near Fisher Park Golf Course. Frank Paganelli reported that several lingered for



**Red Crossbill**

weeks halfway between Harrah and Wapato. Denny Grandstrand zeroed in on several in the company of Red-breasted Nuthatches, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and a half-dozen Red Crossbills while searching through the West Hills Cemetery on Dec 5. Four Mountain Chickadees were tallied during the Yakima CBC at the Terrace Heights feeders of Mike and Alice Roper.

In the Kittitas Valley, Bill and Deborah Essman's yard has hosted not only Mountain

Sparrow. They are not alone in watching the robust activity their multiple feeders attract as a Northern Shrike, a Northern Goshawk, and a Prairie Falcon have also dropped in for lunch. Rough-legged Hawks are plentiful in their rural neighborhood but their favorite raptor is a Cooper's Hawk that Bill has nicknamed Alice. I must be older as I would have picked Gary for his heroic role in High Noon but, perhaps, shock-rock is more fitting for a Cooper.

In the Nile Valley, the abundant berries on the bushes and trees of Larry and Doris Robinson proved magnetic to a dozen Bohemian Waxwings. Kerry Turley turned a lone Bohemian at the Yakima Arboretum that both Denny and John Hebert scurried down to certify.

True to form, the valley's epicenter shook a lone Bohemian from a flock of 200 Cedar Waxwings nipping berries from Andy and Ellen's juniper tree. Also present in their yard on that pre-snow day were a couple Hermit Thrush, two Red-breasted Nuthatches,



assorted Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Brown Creeper.

In the heart of Yakima on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Scott Downes has blended seed and water attractions that have drawn a female Cassin's Finch, a Hermit Thrush, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Fox Sparrow and a lone Common Redpoll. Scott was also able to direct a number of eager birders to a friend's house in Selah Heights that featured a diminutive Northern Saw-whet Owl day roosting in a conifer.

Non-resident birds taking up residence in the valley include a Blue Jay that has spent two months at the Grandview home of

(Bird Sightings continued on page 5)

## Feds to Keep Sage Grouse Off Endangered Species List

Federal officials have decided not to add the greater sage grouse to the endangered species list, U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard said Thursday.

The decision has been expected since November, when a team of biologists announced that the chunky grouse was not at risk of extinction in the next 40 to 100 years.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton is scheduled to make the announcement today at the Western Business Roundtable meeting in Phoenix, an Allard aide said. The senator learned of the decision during a phone call with an unnamed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staffer.

The decision will cheer Western officials and business leaders, who argued that granting the grouse federal protection would disrupt energy, grazing and other activities on public lands in 11 states.

A Fish and Wildlife Service official in Denver said the agency would now shift resources to support ongoing state and private grouse habitat conservation efforts.

"This may be the end of the endangered species listing process, but it's the start of the conservation process," said spokeswoman Diane Katzenberger.

"Local conservation plans are mostly window dressing and are insufficient to save the grouse," responded Mark Salvo, director of the Sagebrush Sea Campaign, a coalition of environmental groups that petitioned to have the bird listed.

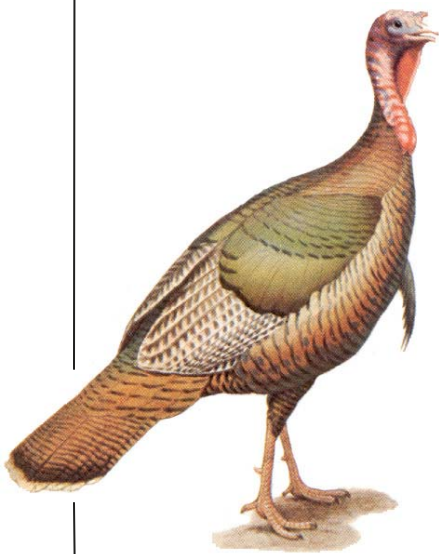
Described by some as the spotted owl of the inland West, sage grouse numbers declined from an estimated 1.1 million in 1800 to about 500,000 today largely because of the loss of its sagebrush habitat.

### Bird Sightings (continued from page 4)

Ray and Betty Minnich while an immature Anna's Hummingbird has been patronizing a heated nectar feeder provided by Abel Marichalar near the east end of the Cowiche Canyon Trail.

Merlins have apparently taken a liking to the Terrace Heights area. On 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Diane Conrad has a Merlin competing with a Cooper's Hawk for the attention of Mourning Doves. Nestled below the slopes of Yakima Ridge, Jeff Kozma caught a Merlin assessing the sudden lack of feeder birds in his neighborhood. On the road, Jeff eked out a Great Egret flying from the Yakima River near the Valley Mall exit on I-82. Five White-headed Woodpeckers working woefully wounded wood of the Mud Lake fire near Mt. Cleman reminded Jeff of the plight this species faces with its rapidly shrinking habitat.

Several other members chose to spend some time wandering the woods in the past month. Denny and his wife, Chris, took a drive up Bethel Ridge Road from its intersection with Highway 12. Snow prevented them from reaching their intended destination, Cash Prairie, but they did enjoy the 35 Wild Turkeys they found ambling along the road. Looping along the Nile Road on the other side of the ridge, John Hebert plied four Pine Grosbeaks from the treetops. Andy and Ellen duplicated his effort with four of the same on Tieton Road flanking Rimrock Lake for the fifth sighting of this normally scarce species in the past few months.



The arctic blast of the Horse Heaven Hills proved irresistible to the truly hardy once the snow fell. Andy and Ellen gloved up to sort four Snow

Buntings from 3,000 Horned Larks near Naught Road. They were surprised to find a Loggerhead Shrike, normally a lover of more temperate winter climate, hobnobbing the snowy fields with the more expected cousin, the Northern Shrike.

Kerry also took the plunge and found a Short-eared Owl in addition to a Snow Bunting amongst the larks. Two weeks later, John, on a lark, took a snowy road less traveled and latched onto four Lapland Longspurs.

Last month's column ended with John a mere ten birds short of setting a record of 256 species in Yakima County in one calendar year. Tenacious as he was, he was stuck at 253 species with five days remaining in the year. He had all our regular winter birds checked off...he needed three remarkable finds. Working a tip from Steve Seibert who had seen a Snowy Owl on the Yakima Training Center days earlier, John relocated the owl just off Hog Ranch Butte road. The next day, he was due south of this location dangling on the county's southern border on the Horse Heaven Hills where he scored a Gyrfalcon. He was snowed out the following day and then spent a day searching for a Swamp Sparrow. Debie Brown had a glimpse of on the Toppenish CBC along Pumphouse Road. No luck. On the last day of the year, he decided to go to the well one more time. In Yakima County, the well is Priest Rapids Lake. I doubt if any other place in Yakima County has yielded more rarities. With just hours of daylight remaining, the dam burst and a Mew Gull emerged...just the second county sighting of this species for number 256 for a new record. Long live the King!

Please e-mail with your bird sightings at Rich712@aol.com or phone me at 965-1134.



*Short-eared Owl*

— Richard Repp —

## Mild Winter Weather Brings Some Surprising Birds To The Yakima Valley and Toppenish NWR Christmas Bird Counts

Results from the Yakima Valley and Toppenish Christmas Bird Counts reveal lots of birds lingered in South Central Washington, probably because of the mild weather we've experienced thus far this winter. Both counts recorded fewer than usual numbers and types of diving ducks; these birds no doubt were still to the north in Canada at count time. Other birds recorded that reveal mild conditions include both American Bitterns and Soras, Say's Phoebe, and several sparrows. Both counts, too, found Mountain Chickadees in record numbers and perhaps more than usual numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, another mountain species. This chickadee, which typically resides year-round in the forests of the Cascade east slopes, descended to the Yakima Valley in record numbers. Seven were observed in Yakima, 10 on the Toppenish count. This species fled the mountain forests throughout the Pacific Northwest this fall; the reasons for this exodus are not well known, but a shortage of food might be one reason.

Both counts also recorded the Mallard-sized Cackling Goose, a pint-sized Canada Goose. This was formerly classified as a race of Canada Goose, but was elevated to full species status this year. Thus, it is now "countable."

The Yakima Valley count, held on December 18, had 26 participants plus four feeder watchers. This effort tallied 88 species; this ties the record set in 1998. A total of 18,501 birds were counted, about average for the past 20 years.



**Northern Saw-Whet Owl**  
Photo by Denny Granstrand

Three new species were seen for the first time on this count. Cackling Goose was the first. Two others, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Anna's Hummingbird, wandered from their usual haunts west of the Cascade crest. The sapsucker, a type of woodpecker, was found at a house at the top of Garretson's Grade. The hummingbird has been frequenting a feeder in Cowiche Canyon. Other unusual species seen included a Western Grebe on Buchanan Lake, a Short-eared Owl at Konnowac Pass, a White-throated Sparrow on the Poppoff Trail on the Yakima Area Greenway, seven Purple Finches near the Elk's Golf Course in Selah, and five Common Redpolls, a wanderer from the arctic. Delighting observers was a cute Northern Saw-whet Owl sleeping quietly in a dense evergreen.

An interesting phenomenon merits mentioning. The newly formed Buchanan Lake is proving to be a winter roost site for waterfowl. These birds seek safe havens from predators to sleep at night. Buchanan Lake's size (77 acres) apparently provides a secure spot for waterfowl such as Canada Geese, Common Goldeneye, Buffleheads, and Hooded Mergansers. These birds feed elsewhere during the day and settle on the lake to sleep towards dark.

The December 19 Toppenish count had 19 participants. They found 87 species and 27,566 individual birds. The average (since 1983) has been 78 species and 20,430 birds, so this year tallied above average numbers. Mild weather prior to the count no doubt helped some species that usually migrate south to linger. Notable species in this category were three each of American Bitterns and Soras, marsh species, a flock of dun-colored Dunlins, a shorebird, a Say's Phoebe (a hardy flycatcher), 110 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and seed eaters such as Savannah and Lincoln's Sparrows. The last two species typically migrate south to avoid snow, as this hinders their ability to find seeds. Birds from the far north of Canada and Alaska were also noted, including a lone Bohemian Waxwing and several American Tree Sparrows.

Most astonishing in Toppenish were crows, 3,071 were counted. This is nearly three times the previous record. Clouds of American Crows going to roost, large enough to blacken the late afternoon sky have been reported in Toppenish this fall. Mild weather and an abundant food supply, probably in agricultural fields or on lawns, might explain this explosion of crows.

A combined total of 104 species were found on the two counts. The all-time total species count for the Yakima CBC is 143, with Toppenish totaling 142. The Yakima count, though, has run 35 years, while the Toppenish count just completed its 22nd year.

## 2004 Christmas Bird Count Results

	Topp	Yakima		Topp	Yakima
PIED-BILLED GREBE	5	7	COMMON RAVEN	44	75
WESTERN GREBE		1	BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	60	189
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	1	3	<b>MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE</b>	<b>10H</b>	<b>7H</b>
<b>AMERICAN BITTERN</b>	<b>3H</b>		RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	7	9
GREAT BLUE HERON	46	47	BROWN CREEPER		3
MUTE SWAN		2	ROCK WREN	4	CW
SNOW GOOSE		CW	CANYON WREN	13	
CANADA GOOSE	939	609	BEWICK'S WREN	8	<b>49H</b>
<b>CAACKLING GOOSE</b>	<b>3N</b>	<b>5N</b>	WINTER WREN	1	2
WOOD DUCK	5	184	MARSH WREN	19	9
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	51	96	AMERICAN DIPPER		3
MALLARD	3378	875	GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	7	30
NORTHERN PINTAIL	703	10	RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	44	47
NORTHERN SHOVELER	60	12	TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE	1	1
GADWALL	2	8	HERMIT THRUSH		<b>10H</b>
AMERICAN WIGEON	150	206	AMERICAN ROBIN	438	444
RING-NECKED DUCK	1L	20L	VARIED THRUSH	7	22
LESSER SCAUP	1L		<b>BOHEMIAN WAXWING</b>	<b>1</b>	
COMMON GOLDENEYE		93	CEDAR WAXWING	350	87
BUFFLEHEAD		9	LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	1	
HOODED MERGANSER		58	NORTHERN SHRIKE	11	5
COMMON MERGANSER	6	103	EUROPEAN STARLING	5802	6735
BALD EAGLE	2	14	ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	8	
NORTHERN HARRIER	65	12	YEL.-RU. ("MYRTLE") WARBLER	<b>60H</b>	
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	6	10	YEL.-RU. ("AUDUBON'S") WARBLER	51	45
COOPER'S HAWK	12	8	SPOTTED TOWHEE	16	41
ACCIPTER SP.		4	AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	2	
RED-TAILED HAWK	156	82	SAVANNAH SPARROW	<b>17 H</b>	
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	2	1	FOX SPARROW	2	8
GOLDEN EAGLE		1	SONG SPARROW	216	183
AMERICAN KESTREL	119	78	LINCOLN'S SPARROW	<b>28 H</b>	4
MERLIN	5	8	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW		1
PRAIRIE FALCON	6	2	GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW	27	33
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	21	4	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	1058	858
CALIFORNIA QUAIL	182	1026	SPARROW, SP.	50	
VIRGINIA RAIL	<b>5 H</b>	11	DARK-EYED (SLATE-COLORED) JUNCO	3	
<b>SORA</b>	<b>3H</b>		DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCO	723	870
AMERICAN COOT	6	23	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	1895	309
KILLDEER	8	2	WESTERN MEADOWLARK	51	
<b>GREATER YELLOWLEGS</b>		<b>1</b>	BREWER'S BLACKBIRD	3053	88
DUNLIN	10		BLACKBIRD, SP.	600	
WILSON'S SNIPE	2	2	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	1	
ROCK PIGEON	770	515	PURPLE FINCH	7	
MOURNING DOVE	503	185	HOUSE FINCH	994	1261
BARN OWL	4	3	<b>COMMON REDPOLL</b>		<b>5</b>
WESTERN SCREECH-OWL	3	4	PINE SISKIN	7	101
GREAT HORNED OWL	9	7	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	298	479
SHORT-EARED OWL	2	1	EVENING GROSBEEK		15
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL		1	HOUSE SPARROW	686	838
BELTED KINGFISHER	19	24			
<b>RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER</b>		<b>1N</b>	<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>27569</b>	<b>18501</b>
DOWNY WOODPECKER	10	50	<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>
HAIRY WOODPECKER	2			<b>+ 2 FORMS</b>	
NO. (RED-SHAFTED) FLICKER	145	177			
<b>ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD</b>		<b>1N</b>	N — New species for the count		
<b>SAY'S PHOEBE</b>	<b>1</b>		H — All-time high for individuals of that species		
HORNED LARK	55	34	L — Very low number of individuals of that species as compared to other years		
STELLER'S JAY		5	CW — Seen count week (three days before the count or three days after) but not count day		
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE	705	810			
AMERICAN CROW	<b>3071H</b>	56			

## PROFILES

(Editor's note: This is the eighth in the series of Profiles about currently active Audubon members. Previous ones: Repp, Kinney, Robinsons, Granstrand, Hebert, Brown and Turley.)

# Conservation Heads The Wahls Agenda

Although birding is probably the major interest of most of Yakima Valley Audubon Society members, it's conservation that draws the energies of Leslie and Bob Wahl.

Together they share the passion and devote their time, skills and enthusiasm to that aspect of National Audubon's three-pronged mission. (The third is environmental education.)

Which is why Leslie, when she was president in 2002 and 2003, led the chapter to accept a land trust gift of 70 undeveloped acres in Moxee from the Hoeger family. The chapter subsequently purchased an adjoining five acres.

Backed by surveys, of birds by Andy Stepniewski and of plants by Phelps Freeborn and Cathy Reed, the Wahls see the Hoeger Project as a necessary conservation "investment in the future", perhaps to be used cooperatively by Audubon, school groups and the Native Plant Society and similar organizations.

As for birding, "bird and wildlife observation are part of our enjoyment of the outdoors," Leslie says. But they keep only life lists, gathered as they camp and visit wildlife refuges on their vacation travels.

Right now, on the Audubon roster, you'll find Leslie listed as past president, chairman of volunteer recognition and chairman of the nominating committee. She presents conservation updates at the board's monthly meetings.

Bob has been membership chairman for four years and for several years managed the now-lapsed sales table.

Their contributions over the past decade have been numerous.

Leslie, back in 1994, "had time to do something new and different" and was looking for just the right activity when Dan Kinney invited her to participate in a birdathon. She joined Audubon and soon was the chapter's education chairman.

Then Bob, whom she met while kayaking, says he "got involved because Leslie was" and since their marriage five years ago they have shared this major common interest.

The Wahls make a point of attending the semi-annual ACOW (Audubon Councils of Washington) conferences. They see participation as very important for the chapter as well as a personal benefit and delight.

"These meetings fill a special social need for us," they say. "We meet with other birders and those concerned with the environment. We've made many friends over the years and it's always good to renew acquaintances.

"The speakers are inspiring and we learn about issues facing other chapters," Leslie says. During her presidency of the local chapter, she master-minded the 2002 ACOW

conference held in Yakima.

As membership chairman Bob deals with the changes which National Audubon makes in its relationships with local chapters.

"We have about 300 members through National right now," Bob reports, and "our local roster is growing past the 130 mark."

Local chapters will become financially independent, he explains, adding that "Yakima Audubon will be able to do that because of our income from memberships, extremely successful birdathons, and the Christmas banquet auction."

Leslie and Bob also spearheaded the sales of the first edition of Andy Stepniewski's "The Birds of Yakima County, Washington". They stored hundreds of books in their basement, carried them to local and out of town outlets, kept the financial records for the sales and worked on the overall promotional campaign for the guides.

Leslie sees volunteers as "the lifeblood of Audubon, as of any non-profit organization" and knows they will be needed for the success of the Hoeger project. The land needs to be cleaned up, perhaps some trails outlined, some habitat restoration begun.

And she acknowledges the volunteers who are perhaps below the radar in the local chapter: the cookie bakers, the bluebird house cleaners, those who staff the booths at such events as Arborfest and Nile Valley Days.

Bob, an architect with Brockway Oper Raab Architecture, and Leslie, an insurance adjuster with Pemco, anticipate their professional retirements in about five years, and are thinking ahead to what they will concentrate in and for the community.

Both are sharing in the creation of an area environmental, educational foundation and Leslie has just been elected to the vice-chairmanship of the 14<sup>th</sup> legislative district Democratic committee.

They enjoy various hobbies together: restoration of their older home, ("always something to be done," Bob says), haunting yard sales for books, looking at antiques and searching for retro Russel Wright pottery. They camp, hike, bird, read and, of course, kayak.

They both acknowledge enthusiastically the importance of Audubon: "It's the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country. And it's the only grassroots organization that has local chapters with active members who can give voice to issues of local concern."

— Jeanne Crawford —

Use the following form for membership in the Yakima Valley Audubon Society. A separate membership is required for the National Audubon Society. Please use the form sent to you for renewal of your National Audubon Society membership. Current membership will be honored until their expiration date. At the time of the renewal of your National Audubon Society membership you will need to send in a membership to the Yakima Valley Audubon Society in order to continue to receive the *Calliope Crier* and other local membership benefits.

**YVAS MEMBERSHIP**

Join or renew your annual membership to the Yakima Valley Audubon Society to receive ten issues of the *Calliope Crier* and all chapter membership benefits. National Audubon membership and *Audubon Magazine* are not included with your YVAS membership.

Yakima Valley Audubon Membership ..... \$25  
 Yakima Valley Audubon Senior (62+)/Student Membership .....\$15

I do not wish to receive any solicitation or communications from NAS (please check if applicable)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **Yakima Valley Audubon Society**

First time members can use the following form for an introductory membership that includes membership in **both** the Yakima Valley Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society. You will be assigned to your local chapter when you join National Audubon. Please use this form so that Yakima Valley Audubon will receive the full first year dues. After the first year, a separate membership renewal will be required for the Yakima Valley Audubon Society or for you to continue to receive the *Calliope Crier*. After the first year, you will need to use the renewal form sent to you by the National Audubon Society to renew your membership with the National Audubon Society.

**INTRODUCTORY NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

New members receive membership in the National Audubon Society and the Yakima Valley Audubon Society for the first year with a combined introductory membership. You will receive ten issues of the *Calliope Crier* and four issues of *Audubon magazine*.

Introductory Membership .....\$20  
 Introductory Senior (62+)/Student Rate .....\$15

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **National Audubon Society**

Y09-7XCH

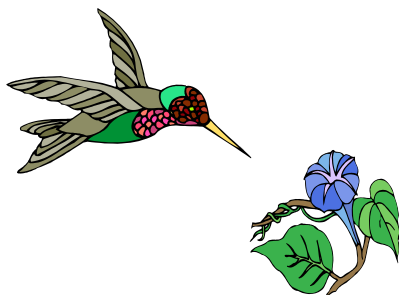
Send the form and your check to : YVAS Membership  
 P.O. Box 2823  
 Yakima, WA 98907-2823

If you have any questions, please call Bob Wahl at 452-9183.

**Yakima Valley Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 2823**  
**Yakima, WA 98907**

**Non-profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Yakima, WA**  
**Permit No. 38**

*Return Service Requested*



*Check your label—  
has your membership expired?*

 printed on 50% post-consumer recycled paper

The Yakima Valley Audubon Society meets on the fourth Thursday of January, February, March, April, May, August, September, and October at 7 pm at the Yakima Area Arboretum, located at 1401 Arboretum Drive, Yakima, WA. Guests are welcome at these meetings. The Annual Meeting of the Society is held the first Thursday of December at 6 pm. The Board of Directors meets each month **except** December at 7 pm at locations announced in the *Calliope Crier*. Members may attend Board meetings; however, please notify the host because of possible space restrictions.

**2004 YAKIMA VALLEY AUDUBON OFFICERS AND BOARD**

President	Andy Stepniewski (steppie@nwinfo.net)	877-6639	Publicity	Jeanne Crawford	966-8608
Vice President	John Hebert (jhebert8235@charter.net)	965-8235	Social/ Bird Rehabilitator	Connie Hughes (CHbirdlady@msn.com)	457-5661
Secretary	Vera Backstrom (mw_327@msn.com)	653-1174	Volunteer Recognition	Leslie Wahl (rewahl@televar.com)	452-9183
Treasurer	Ellen Stepniewski (steppie@nwinfo.net)	877-6639	Special Committees:		
Directors:	Bill Drenguis (DRENGUIS@aol.com)	965-5808	Audubon Refuge Keeper	Gunter Hadersberger (gunterr@bentonrea.com)	837-6909
	David Hartwig (hartwigwest@msn.com)	453-4099	Bird Reports	Richard Repp (Rich712@aolcom)	965-1134
	Richard Repp (Rich712@aolcom)	965-1134	Bluebird Trail	Bettie Soden (sponsorship records)	453-8185
Past-president	Leslie Wahl (rewahl@televar.com)	452-9183		Richard Repp (trail maintenance)	965-1134
Committee Chairpersons:			Courtesy	vacant	
Birdathon	Dan Kinney (insur3@charter.net)	452-3260	Important Bird Areas	John Hebert (jhebert@nwinfo.net)	965-8235
Conservation	open		Nominating Committee:	Jean Chott	965-4067
Crier Editor	Denny Granstrand (dgranstrand@charter.net)	453-2500		Leslie Wahl (Chair)	452-9183
Education	open		Toppenish CBC	Andy Stepniewski (steppie@nwinfo.net)	877-6639
Field Trips	Larry Robinson (laris430@yahoo.com)	658-2918	Yakima Valley CBC	Denny Granstrand (dgranstrand@charter.net)	453-2500
Membership	Bob Wahl (rewahl@televar.com)	452-9183	Webmaster	Mac Knight (mac_knight@charter.net)	457-6410
Program	Mac Knight (mac_knight@charter.net)	457-641	Website	www.yakimaaudubon.org	
			Yakima Valley Audubon Voice Mail		248-1963