



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 33, Number 9

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

October 2004

AUDUBON CALENDAR

- Oct 28** Chapter Meeting at **7:00 pm** at the Yakima Area Arboretum.
- Nov 9** Board Meeting at Denny Granstrand's (453-2500), 2011 S. 47th Ave., Yakima, at **7:00 pm**.
- Field Trips**
- Oct 27** Wednesday Morning Birdwalk — meet the group at the Poppoff Nature Trail parking lot at the east end of Valley Mall Blvd. at **8:00 am**.
- Nov 13** Grandview Sewage Treatment Plant — meet the group at **8:00 am** at the Valley Mall IHOP, then meet leader Gunter Hadersberger at the mini-mart just off I-82 exit #72 in Grandview at **8:45**.
- Dec 18** Yakima Valley Christmas Bird Count — meet the group at Yakima Sportsman's State Park at **7:00 am**. Contact Denny Granstrand (453-2500 or dgranstrand@charter.net) for more info.
- Dec 19** Toppenish NWR Christmas Bird Count — meet the group at the Branding Iron Restaurant in Toppenish for breakfast at **7:00 am**. Contact Andy Stepniewski (877-6639 or steppie@nwinfo.net) for more info.

OTHER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

- Dec 2** **Christmas Banquet and Silent Auction** — at the Yakima Area Arboretum — see next month's Crier for more details.

What's inside the Crier this month...

President's Report	2
New and Renewing Members	2
Chapter By-laws Revision and Chapter Election	2
Conservation News	3
Field Trips	4
Bird Sightings	4
Bluebird Trail Wrap-up	5
Bluebird Trail Statistics	6, 7
Profile — Debie Brown	8
Membership Application	9

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Some Historical Perspectives About Hanford Waste Generation and Contamination with Roy Gephart

Roy Gephart has 30 years of earth science and project management experience within the hazardous waste industry. This includes 13 years with Hanford contractors and the last 17 years with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He is an award-winning author of two books and 50 technical papers about Hanford. His second book "*Hanford: A Conversation about Nuclear Waste and Cleanup*" was published last year.

Roy is involved in many regional science education activities including public lectures; renovation of the Rattlesnake Mountain Observatory; and working with the news media on environmental issues. Roy writes a science column for the Tri-City Herald.

9TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

It's getting to be that time again – Holiday potluck and silent auction! Last year the auction brought in \$953.50. Let's beat that this year and try to pass the record set in 2001 of \$1,062.50!

When you have items you wish to contribute to this year's auction, please contact me (evenings, home 697-8144; cell phone 307-4939). Proceeds from the auction go to support our chapter.

As you're out and about, and especially if you're visiting a bird-y store, think about what you could donate to the auction. Services are another wonderful idea – food or even meals, weeding and pruning, guided bird walks are all well received. Use your imagination and have fun with this auction (but *please* no white elephants)!

Let me know as soon as possible what it is you're donating for the auction and whether or not you'd like a minimum bid and how much that would be. You can bring the items with you to the Arboretum on Thursday, December 2 between 5 and 5:30 (bidding begins at 6 pm and we need to have everything set up beforehand) or arrange to get them to me ahead of time.

— Maia Middlestat —

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



With the sale of Boise Cascade lands in South Central Washington this year, which includes wildlife-rich areas in the Wenas Creek area, the Yakima Valley Audubon Society is asking the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to consider acquiring several parcels that are particularly valuable in that they harbor lots of biodiversity. These areas are in the Wenas Creek basin. They are lands near the dry

Ponderosa Pine forest/shrub-steppe margin that, for 35 years, have attracted hundreds of naturalists and birders each year from across the state and country to the area to experience the areas forest flora and fauna. Indeed, an annual Memorial Day weekend camp each year attracts several hundred Auduboners to experience the areas remarkable bird and flower show.

Data collected over these years reveal that some of Washington's highest diversity of breeding birds, mammals, and reptiles and amphibians occur in this zone. The area is important habitat for a large number of colorful, interesting, or uncommon bird species closely associated with the Ponderosa Pine/Shrub-steppe margin and associated riparian areas, including Flammulated and Western Screech-Owls, Common Poorwill, Vaux's Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Least, Dusky, Gray, and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Cassin's Vireo, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Veery, Nashville and MacGillivray's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Bullock's Oriole and Cassin's Finch, among many others. The Washington Native Plant Society has documented a very rich flora in this area, too, with more than 300 species known.

All parcels are in T16N R 16E The Wenas camp area is in Section 3 and is the core of this area. It is the most important parcel, harboring all the varied habitat types for which the area is famed: Ponderosa Pine, pine and seral shrublands, shrub-steppe, lithosols, and riparian communities along Wenas Creek. Access to the area is on a primitive road that passes through another Boise parcel, the north half of Section 11. Section 9, Nearby is an area known as "Dripping Vat" (Section 9) which boasts a small, but important grove of old-growth Ponderosa Pine.

The Yakima Valley Audubon Society and the Washington State Audubon Society encourage the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to explore the possibility of acquiring these three parcels and adding them to the Wenas Wildlife Area. By acquiring these parcels, important elements of biodiversity along the lower Cascade Mountains east slope would be protected.

I would like to acknowledge the help of Helen Engle and Ken Bevis on this issue. Ken is a YVAS member and Habitat Biologist with the WDFW who deals with Boise on management of their lands. Helen is a long-time Washington Audubon conservationist who has spearheaded action on numerous issues over the past 25 years or so.

(continued at bottom of next column)

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Thank Your for renewing your YVAS Membership

Naches: Norris Faringer, E. Gilliam
Selah: Norb and Helen John
Sunnyside: Maynard Huenfeld
Yakima: LaVonne Benner, Jan Brydsen

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 —

CHAPTER BYLAWS REVISION

A vote to amend the Chapter's Bylaws will take place at the October 28 meeting. Members interested in the proposed amendments may access three documents via links posted on the YVAS Website at: <http://www.yakimaaudubon.org>

If you use a bookmark to access the website, you may have to click the "refresh" or "reload" button to enable you to view the updated web page. The links are NOT listed under YVAS Links on the left side of the web page. You need to scroll down three paragraphs below the Calliope Hummingbird photograph. Under "Important Notice," you will find a short explanation and three links.

Questions may be directed to Richard Repp at Rich&12@aol.com or by phone at 965-1134.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

At the October chapter meeting YVAS members will have the opportunity to vote to fill three board positions. The offices and candidates are:

President-Elect--- Vacant, no candidate at present
Secretary----- Vera Backstrom
Treasurer----- Ellen Stepniewski

Last month's Crier, in error, also listed the position of Vice President as due for election this year. John Hebert was elected to this office in October 2003 to serve a two-year term; therefore, the office of Vice President is not on this year's ballot.

Nominations for the three offices listed above may be accepted from the floor at the October meeting. However, the nominees must have agreed to serve if elected.

Ken strongly suggests that ownership of these parcels wind up with WDFW, as these areas are adjacent to the Wenas Wildlife Area and the agency has managed lands for years in the area.

The Wenas Creek region is in our backyard; thus, we are the "local chapter" among many interested in this region. YVAS is therefore taking a keen interest in the Wenas issue. I'll keep you updated on progress on this issue and our involvement in efforts to secure this critical area for conservation purposes and enjoyment of the visiting birders and naturalists.

— Andy Stepniewski —

CONSERVATION

Russian Participation Validates Kyoto Protocol

With the Russian government finally agreeing to sign on, the Kyoto Protocol on Global Warming will likely go into effect next year, despite lack of participation by the United States. The as-yet unimplemented 1997 United Nations treaty regulates the emissions of greenhouse gases by signatory nations.

As per its original charter, the Kyoto Protocol's emissions caps are only binding if adopted by countries representing at least 55 percent of the developed world's greenhouse gas emissions. Either Russia or the U.S. (or both) needed to agree to the terms of the treaty in order for it to take effect at all. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who pushed for adoption of the treaty last spring but faced internal opposition, announced his country's support for the plan last week. "This is a huge success for the international fight against

climate change," said Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission. "Putin has sent a strong signal of his commitment and sense of responsibility."

Meanwhile, President Bush continues to oppose signing onto the treaty out of concern about effects on the American economy. Furthermore, the Bush administration has stated that it believes the treaty terms to be unfair, as they require industrialized nations to curb emissions but do not place similar curbs on fast-developing countries like China and India. Instead of signing on, the White House is pushing for voluntary emissions and research into ways to sequester carbon. According to the Kyoto Protocol itself, the U.S. is responsible for 36 percent of global emissions of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas largely responsible for human-induced global warming.

White House Backs Down on Montana Drilling Debate

For now, environmentalists have declared victory in a campaign to prevent natural gas drilling along a hotly contested 100-mile stretch of Montana's Rocky Mountain Front south of Glacier National Park. Last week, the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) suspended work on an environmental impact study for the Front's Blackleaf region, where a Canadian company has applied for a gas-drilling lease.

The Rocky Mountain Front is known for its wide array of wildlife—including grizzly bear, elk and bighorn sheep—as well as for its natural beauty. But meanwhile, the Bush administration has singled out the region as one of the country's most promising domestic sources of natural gas—despite a 1997 moratorium on drilling there.

The issue came to a head recently when Canadian firm StarTeck Energy announced plans to begin drilling at Blackleaf based on a lease that predated the 1997 moratorium. BLM, which administers the area for the federal government, quickly

got to work on an environmental impact study (EIS) to generate recommendations regarding how to drill most responsibly.

But last week's unexpected decision to cancel the EIS—which effectively acknowledges the outstanding wildlife and natural values of the land—comes as a pleasant surprise to environmentalists who had been outraged that the Bush administration was allowing drilling plans to move forward there. The conservation community in the region is now hard at work drafting legislation that would provide Congress with the means of granting permanent protection from development and resource extraction in the Front.

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Andre Heinz Speaks Out For Kerry's Environmental Proposals

In a recent press interview, Andre Heinz, the leading spokesperson on environmental issues for the Kerry campaign, talks about the potential impact of his step-dad's environmental proposals if voters elect to dump Bush this November. Heinz, the middle son of Theresa Heinz Kerry and the late Sen. John Heinz (R-PA), is a self-proclaimed student of industrial ecology, having worked directly with environmental visionaries like architect William McDonough and author Paul Hawken. Prior to joining the Kerry campaign, Heinz doled out advice to government entities and corporations on behalf of the Natural Step, a sustainability consulting firm with a global clientele.

"It's exciting to try to represent the really progressive and, I think, farsighted ideas that you find in the proposals of the

Kerry-Edwards platform, such as the plan for 20 percent renewable electricity by the year 2020 and aggressive proposals for becoming oil independent in the short term," Heinz says. "That alone is amazing—not to mention reengaging the world with the Kyoto Protocol, and protecting our wild areas, our forests, and our fisheries," he adds.

Heinz goes on to say that Kerry—if he gets elected and can carry out his 2020 renewable electricity plan while becoming independent of imported oil—has an opportunity to transform the economy via the development of clean technologies while addressing concerns about national security and climate change. Heinz also believes that by developing and exporting new clean technologies, the U.S. can help developing nations "materialize" by leapfrogging "dirty industrial cycles."

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.



- Oct 27 Wednesday Morning Birdwalk** — Meet the group at the regular place at the parking lot for the Poppoff Trail at the east end of the Valley Mall Blvd. at **8:00 am** for a leisurely tour of a nearby birding area.
- Dec 18 Yakima Valley Christmas Bird Count** — Meet the group at the fireplace at Sportsman's State Park at **7:00 am**. Contact compiler Denny Granstrand for more information at 453-2500 or dgranstrand@charter.net .
- Dec 19 Toppenish NWR Christmas Bird Count** — Meet the group for breakfast (how come Andy always gets to do the really fun stuff?) at **7:00 am** at the Branding Iron Restaurant in Toppenish. Contact Andy Stepniewski at 877-6639 or stepie@nwinfo.net for more information.

BIRD SIGHTINGS



The morning air is cool. Leaves are starting to change color. The sun rises after the alarm clock goes off. Birds seem to be moving about in flocks rather than individually. For those who love to bird, another season is just another reason.

Avian species from the county's montane zone are appearing in lower elevation yards to the delight of homeowners. The Nile Valley home of Larry and Doris Robinson is located not only on the edge of the high elevation breeders' habitat but in the neck of the funnel for their movement to winter food sources in the valleys below. Although they have no view of the growing multitude of Chickadees, Towhees, Siskins, and Juncos, the seed bins sequestered in the Robinsons' garage know something is up as they discuss their "empty" feeling. "Larry is feeding me well," the black-oil sunflower bin intoned to the millet barrel, "but it just seems to go right through me!"

As noted by Larry and Doris, where their prey goes, accipiters must follow. A young Cooper's Hawk chased American Robins enjoying Mt. Ash berries at the home of George and Susan Vlahakis without success. Near Grandview, two young Sharp-shinned Hawks, closely shadowed by a tuxedo clad (Black-billed Magpie) referee, duked it out on Phyllis Ingram's grass ring over an unseen prize.

At home enjoying paternity leave (welcome, Rylan James), Jeff Kozma, albeit through bleary eyes, added Spotted Towhee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and American Pipit to his yard list. Perhaps I shouldn't discount the first time father's heightened auditory awareness as a contributing factor for these recent additions.

Other yard lists have expanded as well. In West Valley, Joyce Lucas' Italian plumb tree sprouted a pair of Townsend's Solitaires. At the dry east end of Mieras Road in East Valley, Scott Ray dusted off a Fox Sparrow, a breeder from damper environs. Northeast of Ellensburg, eight Steller's Jays hazing

the unknown at Deborah Essman's residence became yard bird number 88. While they were not new yard birds, the first two Varied Thrushes of fall upped Mr. Downes', Scott that is, mood at his central Yakima home.

A rather unusual visitor to the lowlands has been turning up at numerous such locations throughout the state this year. Mountain Chickadees normally winter in conifers surviving on seeds



Varied Thrush



Mountain Chickadee

dubbed as "cosmic!" for the basic shrub-steppe surroundings of her private oasis. On Sept 15, three maritime Red-breasted Mergansers wowed Debie with a 15-minute synchronized swimming and diving routine at her deck side pond. Her post to BirdYak even evoked a response from Norway.

Bird Sightings continued on page 5

SINGING BLUES SIGNAL 2004's SUFFICIENCY ON THE VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL

Once again, spring and summer were alive with the songs of bluebirds thanking one and all for the nest boxes of the Vredenburg Bluebird Trail along North Wenas Road. Elsewhere in this Crier, you will find the complete results on 2004's nesting success. Arriving at these totals would not have been possible without the dedication and efforts of our volunteer monitors. Kudos to the following people who helped monitor this year: Gus and Mary Pooper, Vera Vackstrom, Linda McGolthorn, Don and Ruth Knoke, Sherry Morris, Jeanne Crawford, Mel Crawford, Nancy Osborne, Laurence Price, Mary Saylor, Wilson Cady (with friends Crag and Suzanna), Hilary Barnes (with the Orland family), Effie Skinner Cupa Dagdagan, Wanda and Harry Mitchell, Don Chesebro, Carlene Moberg, Linda McIntyre, Alice Nevue, Bill Nevue, Doris and Larry Robinson, Leslie and Bob Wahl, Mac and Merri Knight, and, in spirit, Bill and Edith Ryan — Bluebirders Emeritus.

A special tip of the hat must go the valiant efforts of a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches who lost two consecutive clutches of eggs while battling House Wrens for possession of

Box 17. Ironically, a pair of Western Bluebirds built a nest atop the Wren's last effort and succeeded in fledging four young. Long-haul truckers are known for blue jeans and double clutching while passing. Bluebirds are also proving adept at double clutching while passing on blue genes. Western Bluebirds had two clutches of eggs in Box 81 and were perfect in fledging ten young from ten eggs. Up the road at Box 105, Mountain Bluebirds went them one better with eleven fledglings from eleven eggs. Box 114, sponsored by Virginia Gillman, topped both by combining the efforts of both species. Mountain Bluebirds first fledged six of six and were followed by Westerns who also fledged six of six giving Box 114 a perfect dozen.

As you review the 2004 report, you will notice that eleven boxes currently do not have sponsors. For a mere five dollars a year per box, sponsorships are a worthy bargain. But don't delay as this opportunity may be brief. Contact Bettie Soden at 453-8185 or Bettiej82@aol.com by e-mail.

— Richard Repp —

Bird Sightings continued from page 4

John Hebert's humble quest to challenge the Yakima County big-year record of 255 species Stepniewski set in 2000 continues to move upwards. While scrambling around searching for Common Terns others were reporting (seemly hourly), John stumbled upon a single Sanderling scooting along Satus Wildlife Recreation Area mud. The only previous county



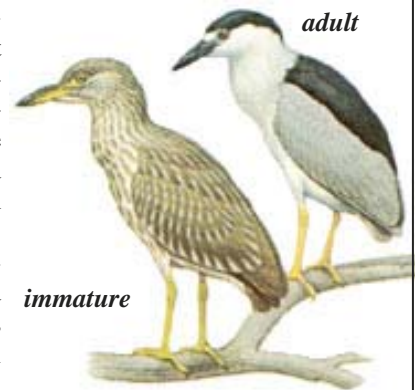
Blue Jay

sighting of this species was in 1978 at Wenas Lake. Two days later, Denny Granstrand zipped by Buchanan Lake on his way to the Sanderling site and used his cell phone to alert John of two Common Terns roosting on a buoy. A trip to Chinook Pass' Bear Gap on October 1 produced a Pine Grosbeak to bring John's total to 239. Two

species that would perk up John's list are Blue Jay and Anna's Hummingbird. The Jays breed in Alberta and are being seen eastern Washington. Any hummingbird in Yakima County at this time of year would likely be an Anna's. On Sept 18, Kerry Turley birded the area from Granger to the Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge. Waterfowl numbers are increasing at the TNWR observation pond. A late Dusky Flycatcher was also in the area as well as flocks of both Barn and Tree Swallows, probably massing for migration. Kerry has also been censusing Yakama Nation properties for biologist Tracy Hames. Among 52 species tallied on Sept 27 were several Greater White-fronted Geese. Andy and Ellen made an evening visit after work to Nation property across from the Sunnyside Wildlife Recreation Area and declared it to be a veritable avian zoo as they tallied 31 species in their 45-minute

visit. Of interest among the shorebirds and waders, were one Great Egret, ten Black-crowned Night Herons, three Greater Yellowlegs, twenty Lesser Yellowlegs, and one hundred Long-billed Dowitchers. At sunset 7,500 European Starlings and 3,000 Red-winged Blackbirds swarmed in for a night roost.

Scouting the high lakes, John tapped a Red-breasted Sapsucker at Leech Lake and discovered the spawning Kookanee salmon at the mouth of Clear Creek had attracted 30 Western Grebes, 50 assorted Gulls, and 250 Common Mergansers. He also weaned four Lesser Yellowlegs and a single Pectoral Sandpiper from the lean pickings at Wenas Lake recently. Work



Black-crowned Night Herons

has taken Denny to the lower valley where he inspected nine Greater Yellowlegs, one Lesser Yellowlegs and five Long-billed Dowitchers at the Grandview Waste Water Treatment Plant. Along Jensen Road, 90 Killdeer surrounded 20 Ring-necked Pheasants and 80 Killdeer entertained 60 American Pipits at the flooded field on Old Goldendale Road.

Remember to keep your eyes and ears alert for reports of hummers (the good ones with wings) and Blue Jays. John has climbed to a lonely point where the air is thin. A helpful nudge should prime him for a run at winter rarities.

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

— Richard Repp —

2004 VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL REPORT

Box	Sponsor	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Paid thru	Box	Sponsor	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Paid thru
1	Virginia Vredenburg	W	4	4	2020	36	Larry Robinson	W	4	0	2004
2	Nancy Osborn	wren			2004	37	Cathy LeCompte	W	9	4	2004
3	Katherine Beck	W	6	3	2003	38	Charlotte Pfiesser	W	6	4	2005
4	Steven & Marcia Shotwell	W	5	5	2005	39	Maia Kelly	W	10	6	2003
5	Abigail Beck	W	7	4	2003	39a	Betsy Martin	W	5	4	2004
6	Betty Peterson	W	6	0	2004	40	Gertrude Repp	W	10	5	2005
7	Helen Russell	W	3	0	2004	41	Joan Gillman	W	6	0	2004
8	L. R. Putman	chipmunk			2003	42	Lavina Doty	W	5	0	2004
9	Bob Wahl	W	6	4	2004	43	Maia Kelly	W	6	0	2003
10	J. & A. McGuire	W	9	4	2003	44	Available	W	5	0	
11	Steven & Marcia Shotwell	W	9	8	2005	45	J. & M. Ruthruff	W	5	3	2005
12	Nina Shelden	W	12	0	2004	46	Nature Artists Garden Club	W	6	5	2004
13	L. R. Putman	W	12	0	2003	47	Joan Gillman	W	6	4	2004
13a	David & Becki Hartwig	W	4	3	2004	48	J. Ferguson & G. Gross	W	6	2	2005
14	Helen Doornink		6	5	2002	49	Cathy LeCompte	BB	4	3	2004
15	L. R. Putman	Wren			2003	50	Cathy LeCompte	Wren			2004
16	Rachel Bold	Wren			2005	51	Ron Sell	W	5	5	2004
17	Mel Crawford	W	4	4	2004	52	Linda Knutson	W	4	1	2004
18	Mary Jo Heacox	W	6	6	2004	53	Megan Pooler	BB	5	5	2004
19	L. R. Putman	W	7	2	2003	54	Available	W	11	4	
20	Available	W	10	8		55	Available	Wren			
21	Pete & Pam Neumann	W	6	5	2005	56	Mary Jo Heacox	W	10	9	2004
22	Leslie Wahl	W	3	0	2004	57	Available	W	6	0	
22a	Betsy Martin	wren			2004	58	J. Ferguson & G. Gross	W	4	0	2005
23	John Ainsworth	W	1	0	2004	59	Yakima Garden Club	W	4	4	2005
24	Virginia Gill	W	5	4	2004	60	Steven Pooler	W	5	5	2004
25	Betty Peterson	W	5	5	2004	61	John Meyer Memorial	W	11	6	2005
26	Arlene Wood	W	7	4	2004	62	Martha Anderson	M	6	5	2004
27	Amy McQuade	W	2	2	2004	63	Tom C. Wilson	W	7	3	2004
28	Cathy LeCompte	W	6	5	2004	64	Mike & Carolyn Wood	W	10	4	2004
29	Donna Zimmerschied	W	3	0	2004	65	Lucky Hall	W	12	4	2003
30	Betty & Greg Neumann	W	5	3	2005						
31	Donna Zimmerschied	chipmunk									
32	Larry Robinson	W	6	1	2004						
33	L. R. Putman	W	9	5	2003						
34	Amy McQuade	W	0	0	2004						
35	J. & A. McGuire	W	4	3	2003						

2004 VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL REPORT (CONT'D)

Box	Sponsor	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Paid thru	Box	Sponsor	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Paid thru
66	Carol Phillips	TS	2	0	2004	99	Herb & Lois Roberts Memorial	W	6	3	2004
67	Available	Wren				100	Available	M	4	0	
68	Ruth Knoke	BB	5	3	2004	101	Amy Sinden	W	6	3	2004
69	Janet White	wren				102	Jean Chott	W	6	5	2004
70	Available	W	6	6		103	Mary Ellen Silver	W	9	4	2004
71	Bob & Helen Stuckey	BB	7	6	2005	104	Available	M	12	0	
72	Available	W	6	5		105	Janice Link	M	11	11	2006
73	Bettie Soden	chipmunk			2004	106	Joan Miler	W	6	5	2004
74	Hannah Born	M	12	5	2004	107	Joan Miler	TS	4	0	2004
75	Available	W	9	4		108	Raleigh Watts	W	9	5	2004
76	Queen of Spades Garden Club	Wren			2004	109	Andy & Ellen Stepniewski	W	5	4	2004
77	Shannon O'Malley	W	12	5	2004	110	Betsy Martin	W	6	5	2004
78	Conner O'Malley	W	10	6	2004	111	Betsy Martin	M	7	5	2004
79	Toppenish Garden Club	W	6	6	2003	112	Jeremy Madden	M	10	7	2004
80	Adam Newhouse	W	10	9	2004	113	Lavina Doty	M	6	4	
81	Gene Derig	W	10	10	2004	114	Virginia Gillman	M W	6 6	6 6	2004
82	W.V. Wells	chipmunk			2004	114a	Justine Repp-Faith	M	9	8	2004
83	Toppenish Garden Club	W	6	4	2003	115	Savanah Madden	M W	6 4	6 2	2004
84	Cailin O'Malley	W	6	0	2004	116	Dorothy Munroe	W	5	5	2004
85	Julianne Jensen	M	9	9	2004	117	Kimberly Steiner	M	5	2	2004
86	Toppenish Garden Club	W	5	4	2003	118	Noel Knoke	TS	3	2	2004
87	Jena Jenson	W	7	2	2004	119	Jack Whitnall	W M	6 3	5 3	2020
88	Bettie Soden	M	12	2	2004	119a	Ariana Faith	M	6	5	2004
89	Bettie Soden	W	6	3	2004	120	Apple Valley Garden Club	house sparrow			
89a	Sandra Bowman	chipmunk			2004	121	Andy & Ellen Stepniewski	W	6	0	2004
90	Bill & Edith Ryan	W M	3 5	3 4	2005	122	Lavina Doty	house sparrow			2004
91	Patrick Burke	W	7	4	2005	123	Lavina Doty	M	6	6	2004
92	Leslie Burke	W	6	5	2005	124	Mt. Clemen Garden Club	M	8	3	2004
93	Paul & Brenda	W	11	7	2003	125	Virginia Vredenburgh	M W	4 7	0 4	2020
94	Kathryn Monahan	W	8	7	2003		TOTAL			441	
95	Sara Johnson	BB	4	0	2003		TOTAL WESTERN			332	
96	Kay Marsh	W	16	4	2005		TOTAL MOUNTAIN			90	
96a	Rosemary Jones	W	5	4	2006		TOTAL BLUEBIRD			17	
97	Alwin Burger Memorial	W	3	2	2004						
98	P. Fitzpatrick	W	10	5	2004						

PROFILES

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

Debie Brown — Queen Of The Washington Yard-listers

Debie and Ron Brown live on a grassy rise in the midst of their 15 acres of field, pasture and home just about at the crest of Konnowac Pass. Their view stretches for miles across the valley toward Yakima Ridge and Moxee.

A yard list includes birds you can see from your yard – not necessarily in it – which may be one reason that Debie's ongoing yard list has the second highest ranking in Washington State.

"Actually, almost all the birds have been in my yard. We're in a natural flyway, we have a pond, and I can quilt and watch for birds at the same time from my studio windows," Debie adds.

Her yard list is 168, topped by the 226 of a birder in lives at Point-No-Point in Kitsap County. "He has all the salt water," Debie grins. "That's a big advantage."

Her newest yard birds are a red-breasted merganser and a red crossbill. Like the other hard-core Auduboners, Debie keeps other lists: life – 356, state – 322, county – 255, Kitsap County – 152, (where they formerly lived and where she began counting) and now Montana where their son Ron Jr. lives.

"I'd watch birds even if I didn't keep lists," Debie says.

Her life list, 355 at the end of 2003, almost jumped three in late September when she and friends hiked the Wonderland Trail for three days, from Fryingpan Creek to Box Canyon.

Urged by Andy to look for what is becoming the elusive ptarmigan for Yakima Audubon members and thinking she had seen one, she hopefully added that, a boreal chickadee and white-winged crossbill to her list when she came home.

But then she checked her bird books and called to say that the maybe-ptarmigan was a blue grouse and that the boreal chickadee wasn't a sure thing. Add just one: now 356.

"I was with hikers, not birders," she recalls, "or I might have seen more birds. Stopping to see birds wasn't what they wanted to do."

"I've been birding forever," Debie says. She's always a faithful Christmas Bird Count counter and Ron is, too, although someone is known to have said that "Ron comes along for the

ride."

Debie has also been sewing and quilting "all my life" and about ten years ago started her professional quilting business, A Common Thread. Quilters bring her their finished tops and with a specialized machine she finishes them with batting and back.

Her own quilts reflect her love of birds. You'll find short-eared and long-eared owls in corners of the ones that hang on her walls and another tiny owl in a quilt head for a late September "Innovations", a conference of machine quilters in Tacoma.

A large barn owl centers a Hunter's Star quilt she has made and bird houses are featured in a smaller group quilt. Cardinals and kinglets nest in some of her smaller quilts, although "fabric designers don't always make good birds" she says.

Debie and Ron have lived on Meadowlark Lane (named by her: "there are always meadowlarks out here") since the 1980's when they bought the property "after finding the pond when we dug through the weeds." They lived in the garage for seven years before completing and moving into the house.

There are lots of windows in all the rooms, and, Ron says, "Debie doesn't go out of the house without her binoculars."

The Browns raise cattle and Ron is a professional trucker in Eastern Washington. He also contributes to the bird ambiance. His hobby is the finding and restoration of very old gasoline pumps and most of them fill a basement activity room.

But a 1920 Atlantic Richfield pump, with gasoline at 17 cents, fills a living room corner, rising to the ceiling. It sparkles with the company's symbol: an American eagle.

"I also mess around with metal, take a bunch of junk and try to make it look like something," he says. He's pretty good at it, too. In the front yard bird-feeding area, right at the head of the pond, is one of his sculptures, a blue heron, that greets visitors as they come into the driveway of this birders' home.

— Jeanne Crawford —

Walk The Tieton With Us On October 23

It's Autumn in the spectacular Tieton River Canyon. Why not come out and enjoy the great colors and fresh air with friends?!

Betsy Bloomfield and Lee Trivetter will be leading a walk along the river on Saturday, October 23rd. Betsy is the South Central Washington Program manager for The Nature Conservancy. Lee is a Cascadian, an accomplished photographer, and a Tieton River nature Trail pioneer who knows well the allure of this special place in the Fall.

The Nature Conservancy and its partners have made great strides this past year in the effort to preserve the Tieton River Canyon. More than one third of the 10,000 acres targeted for conservation have already been protected! We are hopeful that we can keep up the momentum in the coming year. Ultimately

we hope to knit together a contiguous landscape of habitat that people will continue to enjoy for generations.

Thank you for your help. We know that this project wouldn't be a success without people donating money and letting their elected officials know how they feel. You have made a real difference, and we hope you continue to be a partner in this effort.

For details about the 23rd, or to sign up, please e-mail jcompton@TNC.ORG. For more information about the Tieton River Canyon project, visit TNC website at nature.org/Washington.

Hope to see you on the 23rd.

Jeff Compton
Friends of Our Natural Heritage Coordinator
The Nature Conservancy

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 452-9281.

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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.

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