



# Audubon

## Audubon Council of Washington Annual Meeting 2019

### Leadership Network Day: Conservation, Policy and Engagement

**Friday, September 27, 2019**  
**2:30pm - 8:00pm**

Vancouver Water Resources Education Center  
4600 SE Columbia Way | Vancouver, WA 98661

### AGENDA

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
2:30 PM	<b>Engagement Session:</b> <i>Building diverse partnerships</i>	Tahoma Audubon with David Ringer, Chief Network Officer   National Audubon
3:30	BREAK	
3:45	<b>Conservation and Policy Session</b>  <i>Update on Audubon Washington Conservation Vision</i>  <i>Review of the political landscape and Audubon WA priorities for the upcoming 2020 legislative session</i>  <i>Washington's role in the federal agenda</i>	Charley Wilkinson, Interim Director Dr. Trina Bayard, Director of Bird Conservation Adam Maxwell, Campaigns Manager   Audubon Washington  Brynn Brady   Audubon Lobbyist
4:30	<b>Chapter Policy Resolutions</b>	Ben Silesky, Field Organizer   Audubon Washington
5:00	<b>Sharing Best Practices:</b> <i>Working with industry and agencies to address the needs of birds in renewable energy projects across the state</i>	Maria Ruth   Black Hills Audubon
6:00	DINNER BREAK	Blind Onion Pizza
6:30 PM	<b>Evening Program:</b> <i>Screech owl adaptations and hunting behavior</i>	Carlo Abbruzzese, Natural Areas Manager   WDNR
8:00	ADJOURN	



Audubon

# Audubon Council of Washington Annual Meeting 2019

Achieving Success: What it looks like when we're 100% committed

Saturday, September 28, 2019  
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Vancouver Water Resources Education Center  
4600 SE Columbia Way | Vancouver, WA 98661

## AGENDA

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
8:00 AM	<p><b>Concurrent Morning Walks:</b></p> <p><i>Bird walk along the Columbia River</i></p> <p><i>Wetlands walk around the Water Resources Center</i></p>	<p>Sam Neuffer, Vice President   Vancouver Audubon</p> <p>Rainy Rau   Water Resources Educator</p>
9:00	Registration and name tag pickup	
9:30	<p><b>Welcome:</b></p> <p><i>A Mighty Oak Has Fallen: Honoring Helen Engle</i></p> <p><i>Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award</i></p>	<p>Arden Hagen, President   Vancouver Audubon</p> <p>Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director   WDFW</p> <p>Charley Wilkinson</p>
10:00	<p><b>Audubon's Migratory Bird Initiative: Protecting birds across their full life cycle</b></p>	<p>Dr. Jill Deppe, Senior Director, Migratory Bird Initiative   National Audubon</p>
10:45	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00	<p><b>Celebrating our Successes: Wins for the Birds</b></p> <p><i>Changing the Dialogue Around Climate</i></p> <p><i>Filling Data Gaps with Volunteer Science</i></p> <p><i>Building Community Support for Education: Dungeness River Audubon Center</i></p> <p><i>The Power of Grassroots: Stopping Fossil Fuel Transport</i></p>	<p>Kirk Kirkland, Conservation Chair   Tahoma Audubon</p> <p>Christi Norman, Program Director   Audubon Washington</p> <p>Annette Hanson, Board Member   Dungeness River Audubon Center</p> <p>Arnie Martin, President   Grays Harbor Audubon, Larry Brandt, Conservation Chair   Willapa Hills Audubon, Susan Saul, Conservation Chair   Vancouver Audubon</p>

12:00	GROUP PHOTO and LUNCH	
1:00	<b>Building the Audubon of the Future:</b> <i>National Audubon Convention: Tacoma 2021</i>  <i>Overview of Audubon's Campus Chapter Program</i>	David Ringer, Chief Network Officer   National Audubon  Gustavo Figueroa, Campus Chapter Program Manager   National Audubon
2:00	BREAK	
2:15	<b>Survival by Degrees: 389 Species on the Brink</b> <i>Preparing for the release of Audubon's follow-up to the 2014 Birds &amp; Climate Report</i>	Dr. Trina Bayard and Charley Wilkinson
2:45	<b>Concurrent Peer Learning Sessions:</b> <i>Share your experience with birds and climate change in group discussions on climate campaigns, community engagement, and communications.</i>	Adam Maxwell Ben Silesky Teri Anderson, Chapter Network Manager   Audubon Washington
4:15	Wrap Up	Charley Wilkinson
4:30	ADJOURN & RECEPTION	

## POST-MEETING RECEPTION

Wine, beer & appetizers hosted by Audubon Washington  
Catered by [Simply Thyme](#)

Location: 4600 SE Columbia Way | Vancouver, WA 98661

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Jill Deppe – Jill is the Senior Director of Audubon's Migratory Bird Initiative. Jill has two decades of experience studying the migration ecology of birds to inform science-based conservation solutions, such as the protection and management of critical habitat, habitat restoration and ecotourism capacity building in Latin America. At Audubon, Jill leads efforts to synthesize spatial science from across the Western Hemisphere and full annual cycle. The Initiative's mission: use science to shape conservation actions at scale, engage bird enthusiasts and mobilize them to promote the safety of birds in their communities, and support bird- and environment-friendly public policy.

David J. Ringer – As Chief Network Officer, David oversees the health, vitality, capacity, diversity, and strength of Audubon's vast distributed network. That network includes hundreds of Audubon chapters, more than 40 Audubon nature centers, thousands of deeply committed advocates and volunteers, and a wide range of partner organizations. He leads Audubon's Bird-Friendly Communities program, which engages people in practical, joyful solutions to protect birds and special places and to make

communities healthier for people too. He is a leader in Audubon's equity, diversity, and inclusion work, and he oversees Audubon's public relations and communications team.

Gustavo Figueroa – Gustavo is the Student Outreach Associate for Audubon's Campus Chapter Program. He recently graduated from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin where he majored in Biology and Environmental Studies with a focus on International Policy. While at Lawrence, Gustavo was involved in social change efforts to improve his community and helped create student-run organizations that would provide a support system for other latinx students, and work together with science faculty to improve their EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion) efforts. With this experience he is helping the development of the Campus Chapter Program and meeting the goal of 150 campus chapters by the end of 2020.

Carlo Abbruzzese – Carlo will share stories of his research on Screech-Owl hunting behavior as well as seasonal work with Northern and Mexican spotted owls in Oregon, Washington and New Mexico. He will also give tips on how to identify the owls found in Southwest Washington by sight and sound. Abbruzzese is a Natural Areas Manager for the Washington Department of Natural Resources. He holds a B.A. in biology from Lewis & Clark College and an M.S. in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University, where studied the hunting behavior of Eastern Screech-owls.

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY:

### **Morning Bird Walk along the Columbia River outside the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center**

**Date:** Saturday, September 28th      **Time:** 8:00am- 9:00 am

**Meeting Location:** Vancouver Water Resources Education Center, [4600 SE Columbia Way|Vancouver, WA 98661](#)

**Leader:** Sam Neuffer, Vice President, Vancouver Audubon

**Details:** The Water Resources Education Center is caretaker to one of the metropolitan area's few remaining natural Columbia River riparian areas - nearly 50 acres of protected wetlands that represent some of the most significant and fragile natural resources within the region. Start your day with a walk through the riparian zone. Expected birds are flycatchers, warblers, woodpeckers, ducks, sparrows, finches, and birds of prey.

**25 participant maximum**

### **Morning Wetland Walk along the Columbia River outside the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center**

**Date:** Saturday, September 28th      **Time:** 8:00am- 9:00 am

**Meeting Location:** Vancouver Water Resources Education Center, [4600 SE Columbia Way|Vancouver, WA 98661](#)

**Leader:** Rainy Rau, Water Resources Educator

**Details:** Join us for a leisurely stroll in and around the wetlands. We will look for signs of animals and take a closer look at habitat.

**18 participant maximum**

SUNDAY:

### **Field trip to the Vancouver Lake Lowlands**

**Date:** Sunday, September 29th      **Time:** 7:00am-12:00pm

**Meeting Location:** Fort Vancouver-Officers Row, 1501 E. Evergreen Blvd, the first parking lot east of the traffic circle at Ft. Vancouver Way and East Evergreen Blvd. The lot is directly opposite the Eatery at the Grant House.

**Leader:** Cindy McCormack, Vancouver Audubon Society

**Details:**

Vancouver Lowlands: A diked remnant of the vast floodplain at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, west of Vancouver, the Vancouver Lowlands attract many of the same species as the adjacent Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge to the north. Birding can be excellent here from early fall through late spring, when wintering species congregate. This trip will concentrate on the hotspots of the area: Vancouver Lake, Shillapoo Wildlife Area, Frenchman's Bar, and possibly La Framboise/Fruit Valley access. In late September, we should still be able to find some late migrant passerines and shorebirds as well as the arriving massive flocks of wintering waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes.

Vancouver Lake: The influx of fresh water at the flushing channel attracts fish and the birds that feed on them. Loons, Western Grebes, and Double-crested Cormorants winter here. Occasionally a Red-necked or Clark's Grebe can be spotted among them. The park has ornamental trees and thick plantings of shrubs throughout the park attract migrant and wintering passerines. At the north end of the park is a deciduous forest trail that can be very productive.

Shillapoo Wildlife Area is excellent for wintering waterfowl when hunters are not present (season should not open until October). This area is also one of the go-to areas for shorebirds in Clark County. This area will be accessed from the end of Lower River Road and the east entry near the north trail at Vancouver Lake.

Frenchman's Bar Park has a short trail through the cottonwoods along the Columbia River, as well as views of parts of Crane's Landing. This site can be good for movements of migratory birds and vagrant species.

Dress for the weather, bring water, snacks, and a lunch. Don't forget your binoculars! Spotting scopes are useful, and one will be available for sharing.

**25 participant maximum**

### **Field trip to the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

**Date:** Sunday, September 29th **Time:** 8:00am-12:00pm

**Meeting Location:** Trailhead for the Gibbons Creek Art Trail

**Directions:** From Interstate 5 (both north and south) take Exit 1A WA-SR 14 East toward Camas. Continue onto WA-SR 14 East for 17.7 miles.

Take a right turn into the entrance just after mile marker 18.

Note: You will pass a sign announcing the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area sign on the right, before the entrance, which is signed and has a right turn pocket off of WA-SR 14.

Vault toilets are available at the parking area, which is the **trailhead for the Gibbons Creek Art Trail**.

The field trip will be walking from this trailhead on gravel paths.

**Leader:** Ken Pitts, Gorge Refuge Stewards

**Details:** 4 mile walk on flat, hard-packed gravel, no elevation gain.

Whether you are new to birding or have been watching them your whole life, Ken Pitts offers easy and interesting ways to learn about the amazing world of our feathered friends. Ken taught high school science for over 30 years before moving to Portland and changed his career slightly to working with Oregon Metro. As a Secondary Outreach Specialist he leads in classroom lessons on sustainability related topics like climate change, consumption, and recycling. He has been birding at Steigerwald for the past 6 years and has seen and photographed 177 of the 206 species of birds seen on the Refuge. As a volunteer for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the [Gorge Refuge Stewards](#), the Friends Group of the Refuge, Ken will also give an overview of the upcoming \$26 million dollar restoration project which will reconnect 960 acres of Columbia River floodplain enhancing both salmon and waterfowl habitat. The diversity of habitats including riparian woodlands, fields, wetlands, creeks, and lakes ensures you will see a variety of species during the morning. The most exciting birds to see at the Refuge are American Bitterns and Northern Harriers. To see the most recent sightings, visit the Refuge's ebird page: [https://ebird.org/region/USFWS\\_384?yr=all](https://ebird.org/region/USFWS_384?yr=all). **15 participant maximum**

ALL-WEEKEND ACTIVITIES: On your own or for your partner!

**The [Wings Over Willapa](#) bird festival on the Long Beach Peninsula**

**Dates: September 26-29**

**Details:** The Wings Over Willapa bird festival offers guided tours, workshops, art, presentations and events for all ages and skill levels.

**The [Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge](#)**

**Details:** There is a \$3.00 entrance fee for non-commercial vehicles. They only take cash or check - no debit/credit cards. Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge protects more than 5,200 acres of marshes, grasslands and woodlands, and offers our best chance at seeing sandhill cranes.