

## SWAN'S NOTABLE SIGHTINGS

### Spring arrivals are everywhere:

March 2: Rich Siegrist reported the first **Rufous Hummingbird** return. The Findleys have had a **Northern Bobwhite** recently. Introduced in the early 20th Century, they were common into the late 1940s and then died out. They pop up now and again as escapees from various hatching on local farms and yards.

March 7: Richard Rogers reports **swallows** of uncertain species over his place.

March 9: Margie Morgan reports the first **Violet-green Swallows** of the season over the co-housing community.

March 14: Joy Nelsen had **OC Warblers**.

March 22: Gary Shugart saw a **Thayer's Gull** at the Tahlequah Dock on a field trip; one was also across the other side at Pt. Defiance. Brenda Sestrap had pugetensis **White-crowned Sparrows**. (Mar 24: I heard them overhead at 12:30pm.) Bob Hawkins had a report from Anita Halsted that three **Osprey** were overhead at Dockton. (Apr 6: Joy saw an Osprey at the golf course nest. Apr 9: I saw the 188th cell tower birds. Has anyone seen them on the cell tower just north of the Harbor School yet this year?)

March 24: Bob Hawkins saw a **Hermit Thrush** in his yard. They start moving through noticeably usually in April but might be coming now.

March 25: Sue Trevathan saw a **Mourning Dove** on the new Land Trust property along Judd Creek.

April 1: Rich Siegrist reported the first **Tree Swallows** this spring today at his place. This is late but arrival dates for them are all over March and early April. Emma Amiad has a **Saw-whet Owl** calling at her place. I saw **Savannah Sparrows** at KVI Beach as well as about 40 **Brant**. That's the biggest group I've seen this year. Usually we have groups in the 100-300 range in March and early April with a slow build-up in January and February. This year it's been small groups of 2-3 to 10. **Yellow-rumps** are noticeably moving through. I've seen and received reports of only **Audubon's** so far, but there should be Myrtle's as well.

April 2: There was at least one **Marsh Wren** singing at Mukai Pond and I also got a good look. On my run from Ellisport I saw or heard about 45 species in a half hour, nothing rare, but numbers are up with everything beginning to sing. I heard a **Fox Sparrow** singing from the slope underneath Steve Caldwell's house and also heard one earlier at my house. (April 19: I had a Fox Sparrow, which is probably a migrant; they should be gone within the next few days.)

April 9: Joy Nelsen saw and heard a **Swainson's Thrush** at Pt. Robinson, where Larry Huggins had several of these as well as the first spring **Wilson's Warbler**. Joy has seen a

**Northern Harrier** twice over the last week or so on Maury Island. Sue Trevathan has the first report of **C. Yellowthroat**

singing in Paradise Valley.

April 12: Susan Bublitz had a single **Purple Martin** below their house on Tramp Harbor. Alan Huggins had a small flock of **Evening Grosbeaks**; I've also heard a few. Rich Siegrist had **Barn Swallows** today. Has anyone seen them earlier? He also still has a **snipe** along his driveway.

April 13: Richard and Susan Rogers found a **meadowlark** at Pt. Robinson this morning. Joy may have heard one at her house nearby. Also, I have a **Varied Thrush** still singing in the morning. Does anyone else? With a wetter spring it might be that they would stay and nest.

April 14: I saw **Rough-winged Swallows** at the Monument Rd. pond today. Have they been seen by anyone earlier? Joy Nelsen heard a **Warbling Vireo** at Fisher's Pond and she reports a **Ps Flycatcher** at Dockton Park. The Findlay's had two **Caspian Terns** in their yard near the Burton Marina.

April 15: The Findlay's had a **Lincoln's Sparrow** in their yard near the Burton Marina. April 15: Gary Shugart spotted at least 2000 migrating **Bonaparte's Gulls** off Tahlequah. About this time each year we see 2000-5000 birds at Tahlequah or along Quartermaster Harbor at Burton.

April 16: I heard a probable **Black-throated Grey Warbler** at my house but was unable to take the time to get a visual.

April 19: I had two very light-colored **Song Sparrows** that I keep trying to turn into some other Sparrow species because they are so atypically light colored.

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## Marmots on the Move

Posted on *Tweeters*

It's possible that the marmot arrived in Western Washington by accident. We have received both hoary and yellow-bellied marmots at PAWS that stowed away in the engine blocks of vehicles. We just received a phone call this weekend about another yellow-bellied stow-away that is currently hiding in an engine in Redmond. At any rate, this seems to be a fairly common occurrence so if you are parked in marmot country, you might want to check under the hood before continuing on your way.

Kevin Mack, Naturalist, PAWS Wildlife Rehab Center, 425-787-2500 ext. 854, P.O. Box 1037, Lynnwood WA 98046

**Newly Fledged Birders Thank Vashon Chapter's  
Education Committee and Volunteers  
for the 4th-Grade Education Program 2008.**

3/25/08

Dear Audubon,

Thank you so much for your time and help. My class enjoyed learning about birds so much. It was a real sensation to be with you and thank you for lending the binoculars.

It was so much fun to go to KVI beach and look through the binoculars. I had so much fun walking around and looking at wild birds at sea and on land. I thought it was so cool that everything appeared bigger in the binoculars. I could see so much more wildlife. It was AWESOME!

Thanks again for all your time and help. We all enjoyed the trip a lot and we all enjoyed your help.

Thanks so much

Barn owl



I think birds are really cool now.



Fourth-grader Hannah VanDusen admires the work of fellow 4<sup>th</sup> graders' art posters made in teachers Mary Heath and Jan Smith classes in an artist-in-the-schools' project led by Sandra Noel, local artist and graphic designer.

Dear Audubon society,

Thank you for coming to our school and showing us the bird slides.

I had a great time at the beach and use the scopes and seeing birds like the golden eye I just learn was a bird.

Thank you for your time and help with the scopes.