

# the curlew

February 2009

Volume XLIV Number 6

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

## Bateman Island bird walk

*with Lisa Hill*

As is the norm for a bird walk in mid-January on Bateman Island, the total number of birds was fairly low, but we still tallied 43 species in about three hours. The weather was better than expected and 15 birders of varied skill levels covered most of the island. It was good to welcome a few long-time LCBAS members who haven't been on a Bateman bird walk in quite a while.

The first sightings of water and wading birds are guaranteed on either side of the causeway. Among the numerous AMERICAN COOTS, a single female LESSER SCAUP and female HOODED MERGANSER were found along with AMERICAN WIGEON, COMMON GOLD-EYED, COMMON MERGANSER, BUFFLEHEAD, two HORNED GREBES, GADWALL, RUDDY DUCK, PIED-BILLED GREBE and GREAT BLUE HERON. On the return trip over the causeway, a BELTED KINGFISHER loudly chattered away.

The interior of the island did not offer much to look at, but a few BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES twittered, and a handful of WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, SONG SPARROWS, and DARK-EYED JUNCOS gave some quick views. NORTHERN FLICKERS were plentiful though. The Black Locust grove was quiet, but two GREAT HORNED OWLS, who will be nesting soon, were spotted.

Additional water birds were added to the list from the north side of the island; three COMMON LOONS, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, NORTHERN PINTAIL, and a CACKLING GOOSE. Raptors were limited to two BALD EAGLES (one adult, one immature), RED-TAILED HAWK, and NORTHERN HARRIER. A few birds we expected to find, but missed out on, were Yellow-rumped Warbler, Bewick's Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, and Spotted Towhee.

**The February Bateman Island Bird Walk will be on Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.** We meet in the parking lot of Wye Park above the causeway to the island. Experienced and beginning birders are all welcome. You are encouraged to bring binoculars.

## Membership Meeting Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 pm

Kennewick First Lutheran Church, corner of  
Yelm Street and Highway 395 in Kennewick

## The Program:

### A Trail Through Time Ice Age Floods National Geographic Trail

Presented by Gary Kleinknecht  
Kamiakin High School teacher  
and president of the  
Ice Age Floods Institute

Immensely powerful, cataclysmic Ice Age Floods swept across the Pacific Northwest during recent geologic time. Come to this meeting and learn about the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, which will be a system of travel routes linking significant sites and interpretive facilities across the region, and the Ice Age Floods Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to the authoritative presentation of the fascinating but little-known story of the floods.

The program will begin around 7:30 pm after a brief meeting and social break. Members are encouraged to bring snacks to share on a chilly winter evening. For more information go to [www.lcbas.org](http://www.lcbas.org).

**AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT: To conserve and restore ecosystems, focusing on birds and wildlife, for the benefit of humanity and Earth's biological diversity. Audubon educates adults and children about the environment, advocates responsible public policy and legislation for natural resources, and conducts science-based projects using birds as indicators of health of the natural world.**

## Board Briefs – Jan. 13, 2009 Board Meeting

from Debbie Berkowitz—Secretary

Junior Audubon's first meeting is on Jan. 15 at Cherie's school; each child will get a Mike Denny bird book, a bingo game, and a pine cone kit. The second meeting is on Jan. 24 at the Bateman Island Marina in Columbia Park to look at ducks through a spotting scope. The third meeting on Feb. 14 will coincide with the Backyard Bird Count (Feb. 13 - 16). We need to buy a tripod and binoculars for Junior Audubon. We are also looking into the possibility of scholarships for Junior Audubon. Rick requested that letters be sent to The Bureau of Reclamation in support of their recommended no action alternative for Black Rock dam, but questioning their assumptions. The Costa Rica field trip is on for early April. The Boy Scout completed his project at the Audubon Nature Trail. The Board discussed the March membership meeting which will be held at McNary Environmental Education Center; we will be able to see the taxidermy display and have a chance to socialize. The Board will review the panels for the kiosk at Badger Mountain; we need a high resolution version of our Curlew logo. About 50 people saw 109 species at the Christmas Bird Count; we are considering using the Grange in Pasco again next year as headquarters for the count and for the potluck. We discussed our strategy for doing a bird count so we don't count the same birds over and over again. The Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network survey is still available at the LCBAS website. The next public workshops will be on Feb. 5 and 12. We discussed the State Birding Trail map and some of the issues. LCBAS is hosting the Ice Age Flood talk at the Mid-Columbia library on Jan. 15. We discussed continuing the coffee fundraiser. We discussed having a conservation page on our website. The idea of adopting Bateman Island was brought up. **The next Board meeting is on Feb. 10 at Debbie Berkowitz' house, 544 Franklin St, Richland (near Saint St.). All are welcome to attend.**

### Call for Conservation Volunteers

If conservation is one of your priorities and you have a few hours a month to contribute your talent to the cause, please contact Rick Leumont (leumont@owt.com). We have a lot of potential items on the table and Rick can use your help.

### Help for Injured Raptors:

If you find an injured raptor in the Tri-Cities or surrounding area you can call a local volunteer for advice. Injured raptors are usually transported to Blue Mountain Wildlife in Pendleton, Oregon for treatment and rehabilitation.

Who to call: Michelle Caron.....(509)366-0888  
Marilyn Hayes.....(509)521-4648  
Suzanne Baird.....(509)460-2434  
Blue Mountain Wildlife..(541)278-0215

For more information see Lower Columbia Basin Audubon website and click on the [Help for Injured Birds](#) link.

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website: <http://lcbas.org>

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# Bird Sightings - December—2008

Bill LaFramboise - ([billnanl@verizon.net](mailto:billnanl@verizon.net))

(See the LCBAS webpage for directions to locations cited in this column)

There was a Greater White-fronted Goose at the Potholes Reservoir on 12/04 (RH). The 2 Greater White-fronted Geese that were at Groves Park since last month were observed again on 12/05 (BW) and on 12/13 (BW). There were 75 Snow Geese at Bateman Island on 12/10 (LU) and there were 2 Tundra Swans at Two Rivers Park on 12/13 (DR).

Rare but annual in the Columbia Basin, a Long-tailed Duck was at Para Ponds near Othello on 12/04 (RH). The high count of Common Goldeneye was 50 at Ice Harbor Dam on 12/20 (M&MD) and the high count of Hooded Mergansers was 40 at Wanapum Dam on 12/08 (RH). There have been some relatively large numbers of Common Mergansers in the Columbia Basin. There were 365 at Wanapum Dam on 12/08 (RH) and there were 401 at Ice Harbor Dam on 12/20 (M&MD). Rare but annual in the Lower Columbia Basin, there were 2 Red-breasted Mergansers at the Yakima Delta on 12/05 (NL) and 1 was there on 12/06 (mob). There were up to 4 Red-breasted Mergansers observed at Yakima Delta over the next several days (mob). The high count of Ruddy Ducks was 148 at Wanapum Dam on 12/08 (RH).

Rare but annual in the Columbia Basin, a Pacific Loon was at Bateman Island on 12/06 (mob). There were 3 Common Loons at the White Bluffs Boat Launch on 12/05 (HN, JA, KA, JonL, JorL) and there were 2 at Bateman Island on 12/06 (mob).

There were 3 Horned Grebes at the White Bluffs Boat Launch on 12/05 (HN, JA, KA, JonL, JorL). There were 3 Western Grebes at Bateman Island on 12/06 (mob) and 1 was at Bateman Island Marina on 12/31 (NL). The high count of American White Pelicans was 41 at Ice Harbor Dam on 12/20 (M&MD). Great Egret sightings included 4 at Ringold on 12/03 (HN, KA, DJe) and 1 at the Yakima Delta on 12/09 (BW). That species is rare during winter. There were 2 Black-crowned Night-Herons at the Yakima Delta on 12/08 (NL).

The high count of Bald Eagles was 54 at Two Rivers HMU on 12/28 (M&MD). A Northern Goshawk was in West Richland on 12/13 (KrM, KeM) and 1 was at Johnson Park on 12/25 (LH, LU). Both were adult birds. That species is uncommon during winter with

adult birds being especially rare. A Rough-legged Hawk was at Ringold on 12/04 (HN, KA, NL) and 1 was at the White Bluffs Boat Launch on 12/05 (HN, JA, KA, JonL, JorL). A Golden Eagle was at Ringold on 12/11 (JA) and 1 was at McNary Dam on 12/13 (DR, KBu).

A Merlin was at the Yakima Delta on 12/05 (NL, KBu), 1 was at Two Rivers Park on 10/08 (NL), and 1 was in Kennewick on 12/17 (RL, CL). A Peregrine Falcon was at Bateman Island on 12/06 (mob) and a Prairie Falcon was along Taylor Flats Road in Franklin County on 12/04 (HN, KA, NL).

There were 55 Sandhill Cranes at the Potholes on 12/04 (RH). That species is rare after mid-October.

Uncommon during winter, a Killdeer was at the Yakima Delta on 12/05 (NL). Spotted Sandpipers continued to be observed at Ice Harbor Dam. There were 3 there on 12/20 (M&MD). That species is rare during winter. Uncommon during winter, there were 17 Least Sandpipers at the Yakima Delta on 12/08 (NL). There were 15 Dunlin Yakima Delta on 12/05 (NL, KB) and 12 were at Wanapum Dam on 12/08 (RH). A Wilson's Snipe was at Bateman Island on 12/06 (mob).

A Western Screech-Owl was at Othello 12/06 on 12/06 (RH). Locally rare, a Snowy Owl was in Finley on 12/16 (fide KKe). Uncommon during late fall and winter, a Burrowing Owl was at in West Richland on 12/14 (BC, TC) and again on 12/16 (BC, TC). Rare but with increasing occurrence, the Anna's Hummingbird that was at Canyon Terrace since October was present until 12/24 (KC, JCr, BL, NL). Unfortunately, it may not have survived the severe cold weather that followed.

A Northern Shrike was at the White Bluffs Boat Launch on 12/05 (HN, JA, KA, JonL, JorL). There were 3 Barn Swallows at the McNary Dam Nature Trail on 12/13 (DR, KBu). That species is rare after the end of October.

There were 2 Townsend's Solitaires the McNary Dam Nature Trail on 12/13 (DR, KBu). A Hermit Thrush was at Two Rivers Park on 12/08 (NL) and 1 was at Johnson Park on 12/08 (LH, LU). Varied Thrush sightings included 1 at Two Rivers Park on 12/08 (NL), 3 at Johnson Park on 12/08 (LH, LU), and 2 at the McNary Dam Nature Trail on 12/13

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

(DR, KBu). Rare during winter, there were 2 American Pipits at Nelson Island on 12/20 (JA).

Numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers continue to be below normal this winter in the Tri-Cities. The high count was 20 in North Richland on 12/19 (CSi).

Uncommon during winter, an American Tree Sparrow was along Haney Road in Kennewick on 12/29 (DR, KBu). A Fox Sparrow was at McNary NWR on 12/18 (HN) and there were 2 on 12/23 (HN). Lincoln's Sparrow sightings included 1 at Willowbrook Heights on 12/15 (LHi), 1 at Moses Lake on 12/23 (DS), and 1 at Willowbrook Heights on 12/31 (LHi, NL). Rare but nearly annual during winter, a Swamp Sparrow was at the McNary Dam Nature Trail on 12/13 (SM, DI). There were several sightings of Harris's Sparrows. Two were at the McNary Dam Nature Trail on 12/13 (DR, KBu), 1 was along Haney Road in Kennewick on 12/16 (DR, KBu) and again on 12/21 (DR, KBu), 1 adult was at Willowbrook Heights on 12/20 (LHi), and up to 2 were at Canyon Terrace the entire month (BL, NL). That species is uncommon during winter. There were 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows at the McNary Dam Nature Trail on 12/13 (DR, KBu).

Locally uncommon to rare during fall and winter, there were 2 Lapland Longspurs at Lower Monumental Dam on 12/20 (M&MD). There were 80 Tricolored Blackbirds at the Para Feedlots near Othello on 12/27 (RH). Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Red Mountain on 12/25 (HB).

There were 2 Purple Finches and 1 Cassin's Finch at Moses Lake on 12/23 (DS). Both are rare during winter in the Lower Columbia Basin. There have been several sightings of Pine Siskins throughout the month (mob). The high count was 30 at Two Rivers Park on 12/08 (NL).

### ***Birds of the Month***

Both of this month's Birds of Month are common migrants but are rare during winter.

Dennis Rockwell and Kevin Burke found a female/immature Wilson's Warbler at Two Rivers Park on 12/13. Wilson's Warblers are one of the most abundant spring and fall migrants and breed in the nearby foothills. However, are very rare during winter. I am aware of only one other Lower Columbia sighting after the end of November.

Susan Wierenga found a Western Tanager feeding on grapes in Prosser on 12/01. Western Tanagers are common spring and fall migrants and breed in mixed and coniferous forests throughout Washington. They are very rare during winter. I am aware of only two other sightings after early October.

### ***Observers***

**JA** Jane Abel, **KA** Keith Abel, **KBu** Kevin Burke, **HB** Howard Browsers, **BC** Barb Clarke, **TC** Tom Clarke, **JCr** Jim Criddle, **KC** Kathy Criddle, **M&MD** Mike and MerryLynn Denny, **LH** Lisa Hill, **RH** Randy Hill, **LHi** Lauren Hirsch, **DI** David Irons, **DJe** Deb Jennings, **KKe** Kris Keating, **BL** Bill LaFramboise, **NL** Nancy LaFramboise, **CL** Carole Louderback, **RL** Ron Loud-erback, **JonL** Jon Lucas, **JorL** Jordene Lucas, **KrM** Kristin McCullough, **KeM** Ken KcCullough, **SM** Steve Mlodinow, **HN** Heidi Newsome, **DR** Dennis Rockwell, **DS** Doug Schonewald, **CSi** Chris Simonen, **LU** Larry Umthun, **SWi** Susan Wierenga, **BW** Bob Woodley



Wilson's Warbler  
Photo courtesy of  
Greg Lavaty  
&  
Seattle Audubon BirdWeb

Western Tanager  
Photo Courtesy of  
Greg Lavaty  
&  
Seattle Audubon BirdWeb



## **Costa Rica Birding in Paradise March 27-April 6, 2009**

LCBAS has the great opportunity for a Far Away Field Trip to Costa Rica. Our very first Far Away Field Trip almost 20 years ago was to Costa Rica. Costa Rica is an amazing country and continues as one of the hottest birding spots in the world. We are working with Ocoee Adventure Travel who has put together a great trip for us. The cost is \$1,950.00 based on double occupancy and covers all land costs for the ten days. I have done some checking and this is a great price. Air fare from the states is not included. Visit the Lower Columbia Basin Web page for further information and I will have brochures and registration forms at the meeting. We need 12 participants to fill the trip. We need to have reservations firmed up by the end of January so don't wait too long to decide to join this trip. If you have questions, feel free to call me, Barbara Clarke at 509-588-3362.

## **New Home for LCBAS Taxidermy**

Audubon volunteers cleaned and moved 101 bird mounts to the beautiful new display cases in the new education building at McNary Wildlife Center. Nancy LaFramboise, Cherie Baudrand, Marilyn Hayes, Murrel and Jack Dawson, Chris Simonen worked a Saturday in August carefully cleaning dusty birds. Dave McDonald, formally of Fish and Wildlife Department, built eight wonderful display cases that fill two walls in the education room. Nancy organized the birds in logical groups, and Cherie arranged them. With Nancy's expertise and Fish and Wildlife monies we have new museum labels on the birds. Neil Ossthun built a Wood Duck box for the display. Thank you to Columbia Grain and Feed Seed Sale Program and member support for the money to pay for new taxidermy. We have a museum like collection. Nancy uses the mounts in her informative classroom presentations. The taxidermy is also used for community displays and for education at McNary.

## **Members you can be our best recruiters**

Do you know someone who might enjoy receiving the Curlew? We mail several FREE copies to potential members.

Give their name and snailmail or email address to  
**Jeanne Bates (509)947-4501**  
[jeaneb@jeannembates.com](mailto:jeaneb@jeannembates.com)

## **The Long and the Short of It - Two Paths to Our Website**

If you have ever struggled to type [www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org](http://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org) into the address field on you internet page, we have an alternative. Now you can type [www.lcbas.org](http://www.lcbas.org) into the address (URL) field at the top of the browser window. Both addresses lead to the same website, so use the path that is most convenient for you. Information about upcoming meetings and activities (like the Christmas Bird Count) can be found on the website any time you need them. If you have difficulty finding our website on the internet, don't hesitate to ask for help. For guidance or to make suggestions about the website, please contact Katie Harris at 783-1030 or email her at : [kharris3b@charter.net](mailto:kharris3b@charter.net) .

## **AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION 2009 REGIONAL CONFERENCE — MINOT, ND JUNE 14-19, 2009**

If Upland Sandpiper, Sprague's Pipit, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur are not on your life list, you need to join us in Minot! Not only does North Dakota offer the sweeping prairies we all think of, but there are wonderful prairie wetlands, mature oak woodlands, rugged badlands, and montane forests with pines and aspen. With the diverse ecosystems all within a short distance from Minot, we knew the answer to the age-old question: Why not Minot? Keep the dates of 14-19 June 2009 open to enjoy the beauty of the prairie and the bounty of birds it holds.

For full details contact Dennis Rockwell.

# Olympic BirdFest 2009

## *Come Bird With Us.*

### Sequim, Washington, April 3-5, 2009

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2009 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 3-5, 2009.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, and Pygmy owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours; and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online (<http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>), or calling for a brochure.

**Also this year!** Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 5-7, 2009. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get program information and registration forms online at: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>.

Or contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076, E-mail us at [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org),

Or write to us at: Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382

## Christmas Bird Count of January 3, 2009

*from Dana Ward*

The 2008 Christmas Bird Count was an overwhelming success. We counted 109 species during the count day with the most abundant native species being the Canada goose at 7,409 individuals. Last year's CBC the most abundant bird was the American coot. This year we had 4,157 American coots compared to last year's total of 7,722 individuals. Mallards were the 3<sup>rd</sup> most abundant species at 3,336 individuals, American wigeon were 4<sup>th</sup> at 1,945 and surprisingly Horned larks were 5<sup>th</sup> at 1,531. There were over 60 participants that signed in for the count this year which is an excellent turnout. Some avid counters did some owling, but most were daylight observers. We had several good out-of town birders help us in the count which we greatly appreciate. The weather cooperated fairly well for a winter day in January with temperatures between 15 degrees and 27 degrees for most of the day. Winds were calm to light. A trace of snow did fall in the early morning hours in some parts of the circle but most of the day was fairly sunny.

Three bird species considered rare for the CBC were sighted during the day. They were a Lapland Longspur seen by Ray Johnson, Snowy owl seen by Chris Simonen and a Gyrfalcon seen by Mike and MerryLynn Denny. Other uncommon birds for the Christmas Count were a Golden eagle, Lesser black-backed gull, Western gull, Red-throated loon, and a Purple finch.

We did set some new LCBAS records for the numbers of individual species sighted. For instance we observed 65 Bald eagles this count, breaking the old record of 48 birds noted in 2007. We saw 139 Red-tailed hawks this year compared to an all time high of 115 last year. We also counted 66 Northern harriers compared to a high of 65 in 1985. Our participants counted 50 Ruddy Ducks breaking the old record of 18 in 1972. It was also a good count day for Red-breasted nuthatches with 31 sighted beating the previous record of 21 in 2005.

Observers did well in getting sightings of water fowl. All typical duck species for the count area were seen during the count day although only 16 Wood ducks and 17 Canvasbacks were located. We did well for raptors, but we did miss two species that we have had in the past a Peregrine falcon and Burrowing owl. We made up for it with the Snowy owl and the Gyrfalcon. Sparrows cooperated fairly well with 1,353 White-crowns and 304 Song sparrows leading the effort. We had one each for American tree sparrow, and White-throated sparrow. We also had a few more Savannah, Golden-crown, and Lincoln Sparrows this year as compared to previous years. For warblers we counted two species. One Orange-crowned and 97 Yellow-rumps were tallied. Other birds were noted by their complete absence or represented by just one individual during the count day. Yellow-headed black bird and Burrowing owl were not seen. Only one each of the following was sighted, Great egret, Killdeer, Ruby-crown kinglet and Short-eared owl. The bitter cold weather in December was probably a factor in these and other species lower count numbers.

**I want to thank all those people that counted, great job!** I want to especially thank the team leaders, Barb and Tom (Pasco), Dennis (Kennewick) and Ray (Richland) who helped to organize the count areas and also those that put in the extra effort to make the dinner a success. I also want to specifically thank Phil for M.C.ing the event – excellent work. Also thanks to Jack and Murrell for “hosting” the dinner and all the little things that make the event a success. I am looking forward to next year's count which we may hold at the Grange in Pasco for the entire day. I hope we can make the Grange bird count central with snacks, warm drinks and soups. Hope you can make it.

## Help Migratory Birds and LCBAS With Coffee Purchase

LCBAS will be selling **Grounds for Change** coffee as a fund raiser at our membership meeting in February. Bolivia medium, Agate Pass med-dark, Café Femenino dark, and Decaf Blend. will sell for **\$9.50** for each 12 oz. bag. Each flavor is available as beans or ground. If you didn't order at the January meeting, you can still email Cherie at [cbaudrand@charter.net](mailto:cbaudrand@charter.net) with your order before February 15th. Pick up your coffee at the February meeting. Sorry, no deliveries.

**Grounds for Change** is a family owned and operated coffee roasting business located in the Pacific Northwest (Poulsbo, WA). They roast 100% Fair Trade, Organic coffee, and it is ground in small batches to ensure that we receive the freshest coffee possible.

### Why Shade Grown Coffee?

Coffee is a shade-loving shrub and naturally-occurring varieties can only be cultivated under a canopy of shade trees. What we now refer to as "shade grown coffee" was the only way coffee was cultivated until 25 years ago, when new full-sun hybrids were developed that produced substantially higher yields for coffee farmers and allowed the creation of massive agribusiness-style plantations, which were not economically viable prior to this time. The increased yields of full-sun coffee come at the expense of the environment, the flavor of the coffee itself, and of migratory bird populations. (from Seattle Audubon's Coffee + Birds)

The plight of migratory birds is frequently identified with shade grown coffee because shade grown coffee farms are small ecosystems, second only to tropical rainforests in terms of biodiversity. These farms act as an oasis for over 150 species of migratory birds whose populations have declined 50% in just the last 25 years, primarily due to habitat destruction caused by full-sun coffee plantations, which have 95% fewer bird species than their shaded counterparts. The more shade grown coffee is demanded by consumers, the more economic incentive there is for farmers to replant shade trees and slow the destruction caused by full-sun coffee. By purchasing shade grown coffee, you send a message to coffee farmers that there is economic viability in returning to traditional methods of coffee cultivation and you also send a message to coffee retailers that you are willing to pay a little more for a superior product that is much less damaging to the environment and migratory birds. Experts agree that the flavor of shade grown coffee is superior to that of full-sun coffee and that it is significantly less bitter. Shade grown coffee shrubs mature more slowly and produce fewer coffee cherries so the flavor is more concentrated and mellowed in the resulting harvest. (from Grounds for Change website)

## Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network Public Workshops

The Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network of the Mid-Columbia invites you to Public Workshops Phase Two. The Workshops will be held at 6:30 PM on February 5 in the Richland City Council Chambers (505 Swift Blvd) and February 12 at the Benton PUD in Kennewick (2721 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., off Hwy 395). The results of Phase One (from the first public workshops and the survey) will be presented, we will ask for validation and prioritization of Phase One information, and we will collect public input for writing the draft Open Space Plan.

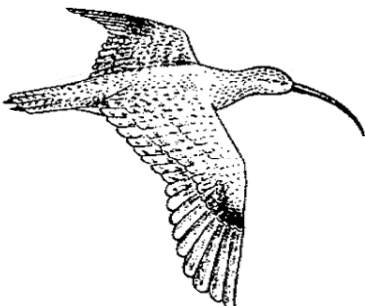
In 2008, the Taptal Greenway Association, with support from local government and non-profit organizations, received a grant from the National Park Service through their Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program to facilitate regional open space planning. The resulting Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network of the Mid-Columbia Region (RROS) is a partnership of organizations and governmental agencies representing a broad spectrum of entities who advocate coordination of regional open space planning. The goals of the Ridges to Rivers Regional Open Space Plan are to preserve, promote, and increase enjoyment of the unique natural and other open spaces that are important to the region's communities and that draw new families, visitors, and sustainable businesses to this area.

For more information on Ridges to Rivers (or to fill out the survey) go to [www.lcbas.org](http://www.lcbas.org) or contact Debbie Berkowitz at 375-4740.

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$20. for annual membership dues or

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*For any of the options above check the appropriate boxes, clip the form and mail it with your check(s) to:*

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