

the curlew

March 2009

Volume XLIV Number 7

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Bateman Island Bird Walk

with Lisa Hill

In an unusual turn of the tables, the participants of the Bateman Island bird walk far outnumbered the total bird species seen. A whopping 47 people, of all birding skill levels, braved the chilly air to search out the slim pickings of 33 bird species. A small group of cub scouts and their dads thoroughly enjoyed their morning, learning some basic birding skills and welcoming the opportunity to view several birds through a scope thanks to Keith A. There were oohs and aahs over the adult BALD EAGLE, GREAT BLUE HERON, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, RUDDY DUCK and COMMON MERGANSER. The biggest thrill for everybody, not just the scouts, was observing a pair of GREAT HORNED OWLS perched one on each side of a Black Locust trunk. The owls watched us with interest, but showed no signs of being disturbed and placidly posed for some great scope views.

The best find of the day was a male LONG-TAILED DUCK in flight seen by a single birder with previous experience observing this bird. This duck is a rare winter visitor to this area and would have been a life bird for nearly everyone on the walk.

Out on the north end of the island, a HORNED GREBE and an EARED GREBE, somewhat difficult to distinguish one from the other, floated along side by side. It was a great opportunity to view both birds in close proximity; comparing bill shape and plumage. In addition to the numerous GULLS and AMERICAN COOTS out on the delta, there were other water birds seen in various spots of open water around the island; WESTERN GREBE, BUFFLEHEAD, GADWALL, AMERICAN WIGEON, and COMMON GOLDENEYE.

Very few songbirds were seen or heard, mostly BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES, but also a few WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, SONG SPARROW, AMERICAN GOLDFINCH and BEWICK'S WREN. The last group to cross back over the causeway counted the final specie, a female BELTED KINGFISHER. A few furry critters, River Otter, Raccoon, and Skunk, rounded out the day's sights.

The March Bateman Island Bird Walk will be on Saturday, the 7th 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, March 24, 7:00 pm

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

An Evening of Bird Tales - Tall and Otherwise

That's My Story and I'm Sticking to It

Come one, come all to a once-a-year special meeting of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. You are invited to gather with local birders of all skill levels swapping stories about birds and the natural world. Talk to other birders about how we got started birding. Enjoy the festive atmosphere of an ice cream social and welcome Spring back to our area. Come participate in the social side of your Audubon Society Chapter.

The social will begin after a short business meeting. Spread the word to other LCBAS members, Let's all turn out for an evening of fun conversation and story swapping featuring such themes as -

Words for Birds

Beginners, Intermediates, and Gurus, Oh My!

The Bird I'll Always Remember

True Confessions of the Birders

Great Moments in Birding

Which Bird Book Is Best for Me

Tell Me About Bird Banding

Whether you are a member, or are new to birding, or just want to find out what Audubon is all about, join us for an entertaining evening of fun.

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 from the Feb. 10, 2009 Board Meeting

by Debbie Berkowitz, Sec.

The comment period has been closed on Black Rock; Rick sent a letter for the chapter supporting the no action alternative but expressing our concerns as mentioned in his conservation column. The Jr. Audubon event, "Going Ducky" was very successful with 35 attendees and 10 LCBAS volunteers; kids and parents were excited and interested. The next Jr. Audubon event is the Big Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 14 at Columbia Park. LCBAS will have a table at the Sandhill Crane Festival in March; Jr. Audubon will be invited to attend as well. Membership brochures have been distributed to libraries, welcome centers, and colleges. The Audubon Nature Trail will be one of the beneficiaries of Sharefest volunteers this year. The Tri-City Herald article appeared to generate an exceptionally large turnout at the 1st Saturday birdwalk this month. There is a burrowing owl on the WDFW cam. The March membership meeting will be a "true confession of birders" ice cream social. The public is invited to see the social side of LCBAS. **The next Board meeting is on Mar. 10 at 6:30 PM at the Hanford Reach Visitor's Center Office, 710 GWW Suite BB, north of NE corner of GWW and Lee (note change of location). All are welcome to attend.**

President's Message

I don't write a President's Message unless something more or less serious comes up that I would like you to consider. This is such an occasion. It has come to my attention that we are not eating enough cookies at our monthly meetings. There is little doubt that this kind of conservation is causing problems for the US economy and very likely will result in fewer rare bird species being observed in our area. If Irrational Street (formerly known as Wall Street) gets wind of this frugality, full panic further exacerbating our economic woes is most likely to ensue. Cookie conservation is not the answer to these trying times. Please do your part for LCBAS and our economy. Eat more cookies at our monthly meetings!

Ed Rykiel
President, LCBAS 2008-2009

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.

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society P. O. Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352

website: <http://lcbas.org>

President	Ed Rykiel.....(509)627-1113 <i>E-mail: ecodoc59@yahoo.com</i>
Vice President	Rod Coler.....(509)783-4664 <i>E-mail: rodcoler@verizon.net</i>
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz.....(509)375-4740 <i>E-mail: cdandrb@charter.net</i>
Treasurer	Lucie Fritz.....(509)946-9134 <i>E-mail: LucieF@aol.com</i>
First Past President	Rod Coler.....(509)783-4664 <i>E-mail: rodcoler@verizon.net</i>
Audubon Adventures	Jack Dawson.....(509)551-9920 <i>E-mail: jmdawson@clearwire.net</i>
Audubon Refuge Keepers	Greg Greger.....(509)943-3951 <i>E-mail: mgreg1@verizon.net</i>
Bateman Island Bird Walk	Lisa Hill.....(509)943-2244 <i>E-mail: tiarella@charter.net</i>
Bird Sightings	Bill LaFramboise.....(509)627-3695 <i>E-mail: billnanl@verizon.net</i>
Book Sales	Kathy Criddle.....(509)628-9869 <i>E-mail: jkcridle@verizon.net</i>
Burrowing Owls	Charlotte Reep.....(509)547-9087 <i>E-mail: cmreep@charter.net</i>
Christmas Bird Count	Dana Ward.....(509)545-0627 <i>E-mail: dana_c_ward@rl.gov</i>
Conservation	Rick Leaumont.....(509)545-6115 <i>E-mail: leaumont@owt.com</i>
Editor	Dennis Rockwell.....(509)582-6462 <i>E-mail: dennisrockwell@verizon.net</i>
Education	Cherie Baudrand.....(509)735-3334 <i>E-mail: cbaudrand@charter.net</i>
Field Trips - international	Barbara Clarke.....(509)588-3362 <i>E-mail: barbaraclarke@verizon.net</i>
Field Trips - local	Dennis Rockwell.....(509)582-6462 <i>E-mail: dennisrockwell@verizon.net</i>
Fund Raising	Charlotte Reep.....(509)547-9087 <i>E-mail: cmreep@charter.net</i>
Historian	Carole Byrd.....(509)371-0789 <i>E-mail: carole_byrd@yahoo.com</i>
Hospitality	Murrel Dawson.....(509)551-9920 <i>E-mail: jmdawson@clearwire.net</i>
LCBIRDS on the web	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LCBirds/ <i>E-mail: LCBirds-owner@yahoogroups.com</i>
Membership	Jeanne Bates.....(509)947-4501 <i>E-mail: jeanneb@jeannembates.com</i>
Nature Trail	Tom Clarke.....(509)588-3362 <i>E-mail: thomasc@bentonrea.com</i>
Newsletter Mailing—postal	Jack Dawson.....(509)551-9920 <i>E-mail: jmdawson@clearwire.net</i>
Newsletter Mailing—internet	Richard Romanelli.....(509)627-0658 <i>E-mail: rroman@urx.com</i>
Programs	Cathy Smith.....(509)521-0860 <i>E-mail: durus123@yahoo.com</i>
Publicity	Marilyn Hayes.....(509)521-4648 <i>E-mail: mzbirds@verizon.net</i>
Webmaster	Katie Harris.....(509)783-1030 <i>E-mail: kharris3b@charter.net</i>
Webpage Photo Editor	Greg Greger.....(509)943-3951 <i>E-mail: mgreg1@verizon.net</i>

Bird Sightings - January 2008

Bill LaFramboise - (billnanl@verizon.net)

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

A Greater White-fronted Goose was at Groves Park on 01/01 (BL, NL) and again on 01/12 (BW). There were 21 Tundra Swans at the Hanson Loop Boat Launch 01/09 (BW), 24 were there on 01/10 (JBra), and 8 were there on 01/19 (M&MD). There were 10 Wood Ducks in Kennewick on 01/03 (DR) and 6 were at Chamna Nature Preserve on 01/11 (BL, NL). A Eurasian Wigeon was at Howard Amon Park on 01/03 (HN, KC, JBra), and again on 01/04 (NL), and on 01/09 (BL, NL). One was at Columbia Point on 01/03 (GMcW), 1 was at Groves Park on 01/12 (BW), and 1 was at Port Kelly on 01/19 (M&MD). There were some higher than expected numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers. There were 8 at Two Rivers HMU on 01/15 (M&MD), 11 were there on 01/19 (M&MD), and 1 was at Port Kelly on 01/19 (M&MD). That species is rare but annual in the Lower Columbia Basin.

The high count of Common Loons was 3 at Bateman Island on 01/10 (mob) and the high count of Horned Grebes was 7 at the Bateman Island Marina on 01/03 (BL). Rare but annual, a Red-necked Grebe was at Sacajawea Park on 01/01 (RJ). Uncommon in the Lower Columbia Basin, an Eared Grebe was in Pasco on 01/03 (mob) and 1 was at the Bateman Island Marina on 01/03 (BL). A Clark's Grebe was at Wallula Gap on 01/01 (M&MD). The high count of American White Pelicans was 14 at the Hanson Loop Boat Launch on 01/09 (BW). The high count of Great Blue Herons was 19 at Ringold on 01/15 (HN, DJe). Rare during winter, a Great Egret was along Haney Road in Kennewick on 01/03 (DR). There were several sightings of Black-crowned Night-Herons (mob).

The high count of Bald Eagles was 15 at Groves Park on 01/20 (JA, KA). Uncommon during winter, a Northern Goshawk was near Finley on 01/08 (NL, JorL, BDu) and 1 was at Port Kelly on 01/19 (M&MD). Rare during winter, a Ferruginous Hawk was near Touchet on 01/01 (M&MD). Perhaps the same bird was seen on 01/04 (M&MD) and 1 was at Washtucna on 01/24 (M&MD). The high count of Rough-legged Hawks was 4 in the Horse Heaven Hills on 01/13 (NL, LH, LU, KBu). There were several sightings of Golden Eagles. One was at Rancho Reata on 01/03 (KT, HG), 1 was along Midway Road on 01/04 (GMcW), 1 was at Ringold on 01/12 (HN, BH, KA) and again on 01/15 (HN, DJe), and 1 was along Route 261 in Franklin County on 01/16 (TMa, MHob, MFM). There were several sightings of Merlins (mob). Rare in the Lower Columbia Basin, a Gyrfalcon was near Taylor Flats Road in Pasco on 01/03 (M&MD). A Peregrine Falcon was at Sacajawea Park on 01/01 (RJ), 1 was at Touchet on 01/01 (M&MD), and 1 was at the Yakima Delta on 01/08 (NL) and again on 01/21 (NL). A Prairie Falcon was in the Horse Heaven Hills on 01/13

(NL, LH, LU, KBu) and 1 was along the Pasco-Kahlotus Highway on 01/19 (RH).

Uncommon during winter, a Killdeer was in Finley on 01/08 (NL, JorL, BDu). Also uncommon during winter, there were 4 Least Sandpipers at the Yakima Delta on 01/08 (NL). There were 8 Dunlin at the Walla Walla Delta on 01/19 (M&MD). The high count of Wilson's Snipe was 4 at Willowbrook on 01/03 (NL, LF, LHi). January was a good month for observing gulls in the Tri-Cities area. Rare during winter, a Bonaparte's Gull was at Sacajawea Park on 01/01 (RJ). There were several sightings of Mew Gulls. One was in Pasco on 01/03 (M&MD), 2 were at the Kennewick Sewage Ponds on 01/03 (DR), 4 were at Sacajawea Park on 01/03 (M&MD), 1 was at Two Rivers Park on 01/08 (NL, JorL, BDu), 1 was at Columbia Park on 01/20 (NL), and 1 was at the Walla Walla Delta on 01/19 (M&MD). That species is uncommon during winter in the Lower Columbia Basin.

Also uncommon during winter, a Thayer's Gull was at Groves Park on 01/01 (BL, NL) and again on 01/03 (HN, KC), 1 was in Sacajawea Park on 01/03 (M&MD), and 1 was at Port Kelly on (M&MD). Rare but annual for the last 9 years, a Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Groves Park on 01/01 (BL, NL) again on 01/03 (HN, KC). That old world species is increasing in numbers throughout North America. Rare inland, a Western Gull was in Sacajawea Park on 01/03 (M&MD). There were 2 Glaucous Gulls at Groves Park on 01/01 (BL, NL), 1 was there on 01/03 (HN, KC), and 1 was at Bateman Island on 01/03 (BL).

There were 20 Eurasian Collared-Doves at Washtucna on 01/20 (NL, LH, LU, JorL, BDu, KBu), 1 was at Rancho Reata on 01/24 (DeH, DaH), and 2 were in Burbank on 01/27 (NL). A Barn Owl was along Taylor Flats Road in Pasco on 01/15 (HN, DJe) and 1 was along Iowa Beef Road on 01/27 (NL). A Western Screech-Owl was at Johnson Park on 01/03 (BL, NL, LH, LU) and 1 was in Othello on 01/07 and 01/08 (RH). Locally rare, a Snowy Owl was near Taylor Flats Road in Pasco on 01/03 (CSi, FS). A Long-eared Owl was in Rancho Reata on 01/03 (KT, HG) and 12 were at a winter roost in Benton City on 01/26 (mob). A Short-eared Owl was in Othello on 01/03 (RH) and 1 was in Kennewick on 01/03 (PB, CBa). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was in Johnson Park on 01/03 (BL, NL, JH, LU), 1 was in Richland on 01/03 (RJ), and 1 was in Fishhook Park on 01/24 (M&MD).

There were several sightings of Northern Shrikes (mob). Rare, occurring less than annually, in the Lower Columbia Basin, a Steller's Jay was in Moses Lake on 01/09 (fide DS). The high count of Red-breasted Nuthatches was 7 in North Richland on 01/03 (NL, LF). Brown Creeper sightings included 1 at Two Rivers Park on 01/03 (DR), 1 at Howard Amon Park on 01/09 (BL, NL), and 1 at Two Rivers Park on 01/19 (mob). Bewick's Wren numbers appear to be below normal with only a handful of sightings (mob). There were 2 Winter Wrens at Windust Park on 01/20 (LH). The high count of Marsh Wrens was 6 at

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Willowbrook on 01/03 (NL, LF, LHi). The high count of Golden-crowned Kinglets was 8 Two Rivers Park on 01/19 (mob). Ruby-crowned Kinglet sightings included 1 at Meadow Springs on 01/03 (BL, DHa), 1 at Two Rivers Park on 01/03 (DR), and 1 at Chamna Nature Preserve on 01/11 (BL, NL). Townsend's Solitaire sightings included 1 in North Richland on 01/04 (BW), 1 at Windust Park on 01/20 (NL, LH, LU, JorL, BDu, KBu), 1 at Lyons Ferry on 01/24 (GShe), and 1 in North Richland on 01/26 (mob). The high count of Varied Thrushes was 10 at Johnson Park on 01/06 (LH, LU). There have been several sightings of Bohemian Waxwings (mob). The high count was 30 at Groves Park on 01/17 (NL, CBa, MHa, CSm). That species is locally uncommon during winter. The high count of Cedar Waxwings was 30 in North Richland on 01/03 (NL, LF). Numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers continue to be below normal this winter in the Tri-Cities. The high count was 10 at Chamna Nature Preserve on 01/11 (BL, NL).

Uncommon during winter, an American Tree Sparrow was at Chamna Nature Preserve on 01/03 (MiL, JA, KA), 6 were along Route 261 in Franklin County on 01/16 (TMa, MHob, MFM), and 4 were at Lyons Ferry on 01/24 (M&MD). Also uncommon during winter, a Savannah Sparrow was in Pasco on 01/03 (mob) and 1 was there on 01/05 (LH, LU). A Fox Sparrow was at Sacajawea Park on 01/03 (M&MD), and 2 were in Johnson Park on 01/06 (LH, LU). Lincoln's Sparrow sightings included 1 at Willowbrook on 01/03 (NL, LF, LHi) and 1 was at Willowbrook Heights on 01/03 (LHi). Rare but annual, a White-throated Sparrow was at Columbia Point on 01/03 (GMcW). There were 2 Harris's Sparrows at Canyon Terrace the entire month (BL, NL), 1 was at Willowbrook Heights on 01/03 (LHi), and 1 was along Haney Road on Kennewick on 01/05 (DR). That species is uncommon during winter. There were several sightings of Golden-crowned Sparrows (mob).

Locally uncommon to rare during fall and winter, there were 2 Lapland Longspurs along Route 26 in Adams County on 01/03 (RH) and 1 was at Hills West on 01/03 (RJ). There were 3 Snow Buntings near Connell on 01/03 (RL, CL) and 8 were along Route 26 in Adams County on 01/03 (RH). Tricolored Blackbirds continued at the Para Feedlots near Othello on 01/03 (RH) and 2 were at Iowa Beef on 01/15 (M&MD) and again on 01/19 (M&MD). There were 50 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches at the White Bluffs Overlook on 01/12 (HN, BH, KA) and 50 were there again on 01/16 (HN). A Purple Finch was in Richland on 01/01 (RJ) and up to 7 have been Johnson Park the entire month (mob). Rare in the Lower Columbia Basin, there were 7 Red Crossbills at Two Rivers Park on 01/22 (DR). 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 33 at Two Rivers Park on 01/03 (DR).

Birds of the Month

Dana Ward found a Barred Owl in a residential area of Pasco on 01/13. That is only the 7th record for the Lower Columbia Basin and the 4th for Franklin County. Barred Owls have been expanding their range from the east into the Pacific Northwest and south into California. They were first observed in Washington in 1965 and are now found in most forested areas of the Pacific Northwest and are displacing and hybridizing with resident Spotted Owls. However, they are non-migratory, and as result are very rare in the non-forested areas of the Lower Columbia Basin.

White-winged Crossbills have made an exciting and rare foray into the Lower Columbia Basin. Tom Mansfield, Michael Hobbs, and MaryFrances Mathis observed 15 at Lyons Ferry on 01/16. Randy Hill found 4 at Washtucna on 01/19. Those birds were observed on the following day by Nancy LaFramboise, Lisa Hill, Larry Umthun, Jordene Lucas, Bonnie Dunham, and Kevin Burke. One was found in Kennewick by Nancy LaFramboise on 01/21. They were first observed in North Richland by Laurie Ness on 01/26 with several additional sightings throughout early February reported by many individuals. White-winged Crossbills are birds of the boreal forest and make irruptions into more southern locations when cone crops are poor. The last Tri-Cities area sighting was in 1986 by Bob Woodley and Howard Ennor.

Observers

JA Jane Abel, **KA** Keith Abel, **PB** Phil Bartley, **CBa** Cherie Baudrand, **KBu** Kevin Burke, **JBra** Jennie Bradbury, **KC** Kathy Criddle, **M&MD** Mike and MerryLynn Denny, **BDu** Bonnie Dunham, **LF** Lucie Fritz, **HG** Helen Guerra, **DHa** Dan Haas, **MHa** Marilyn Hayes, **LH** Lisa Hill, **RH** Randy Hill, **LHi** Lauren Hirsch, **MHob** Michael Hobbs, **DeH** Debra Holland, **DaH** Dave Holland, **BH** Bev Hunter, **DJe** Deb Jennings, **RJ** Ray Johnson, **BL** Bill LaFramboise, **NL** Nancy LaFramboise, **MiL**, Mike Lilga, **CL** Carole Louderback, **RL** Ron Louderback, **JorL** Jordene Lucas, **TMa** Tom Mansfield, **MFM** MaryFrances Mathis, **GMcW** Guy McWethy, **LN** Laurie Ness, **HN** Heidi Newsome, **DR** Dennis Rockwell, **DS** Doug Schonewald, **GShe** Gina Sheridan, **CSi** Chris Simonen, **FS** Fred Simonen, **CSm** Cathy Smith, **KT** Kerry Turley, **LU** Larry Umthun, **BW** Bob Woodley

Volunteer Opportunity

LCBAS's local field trips subcommittee needs new blood. Would you like to be involved with planning and leading local field birding field trips?

Contact Dennis Rockwell at dennisrockwell@verizon.net or 509-727-8740 for additional information and encouragement.

Conservation Notes

with Rich Leumont

Black Rock

The comment period on the Final Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study has closed. The report covers Black Rock reservoir and several other water storage proposals. The preferred alternative was "No Action" which means the Black Rock project would not go forward. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has stated that the report will not be altered by comments received and the "No Action" alternative remains the preferred alternative. The next step is for the Regional Director of BOR to sign the Record of Decision. Proponents of Black Rock have requested that a record of decision not be issued. Apparently, some studies with recommendations for "NO Action" have not required a formal record of decision. We will be following up on this. My greatest concern is that some distorted economic argument could secure funding for Black Rock through the government's economic stimulus programs.

Crab Creek – no news?

We are not hearing any rumbles from the state or feds concerning the proposed Crab Creek dam project. It appears that enthusiasm for the project is slipping but one never knows. No news is good news but we will remain vigilant.

Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition

The legislature is considering authorizing an additional \$100 million dollars in bonds to protect wildlife habitat, provide access to shorelines, rivers and streams and outdoor recreation sites. The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition was formed in 1989 to urge the state to sell bonds and purchase real property essential to wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Funds from this program have protected some of the sites on Audubon's Birding Trails. To date the state has spent \$550 million involving 350,000 acres in Washington. The appropriation of \$100 million dollars during a time when property values are falling could provide a rare opportunity for the state to make those dollars go farther to protect some of its most endangered habitat.

AUDUBON Washington

has announced that Executive Director Nina Carter is resigning effective March 1st in order to accept an appointment by Governor Christine Gregoire to be a member and Administrative Chair of the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board. In her new position Ms. Carter will be making decisions about compliance with Washington's Growth Management Act and, in essence, be an administrative judge regarding land use laws in Washington.

Charlie Kahle has been named Interim Executive Director and Miguel Perez-Gibson will continue to lobby on behalf of Audubon during the 2009 Legislative session. Charlie and the Audubon Washington Board are now analyzing the organization's structure and developing recommendations for the next steps in conservation policy and Chapter relations.

Volunteer Opportunity

March 21, 2009 (Saturday)

Volunteers are needed to share LCBAS information at our display at the Sandhill Crane Festival on Saturday, March 21st in Othello. Interested folks please contact Jeanne Bates at janinatw@yahoo.com



Murrel and Jack Dawson and Junior Audubon member looking at ducks for the Great Backyard Bird Count (See page 7 article)

WASHINGTON BIRDING TRAIL EXPANDS TO WINE COUNTRY

Olympia — Visitors with binoculars bring dollars, conservation incentive to rural areas says Washington Audubon.

Under the watchful golden eyes of a live Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk, two species of bird regularly seen in south central Washington, the fifth and newest route of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, the Sun and Sage Loop, was unveiled in the state capital Feb. 19th. Audubon Washington claims that the trails and their birds attract visitors to primarily rural locations, which spurs economic development and gives residents increased incentive to safeguard natural areas around their communities and regions.

Audubon Washington Birding Trail Director Christi Norman says that birding “trails”, now offered in more than 30 states, are usually self-guided driving tours to places where birds are likely to be seen. Some states include water routes where visitors can paddle canoes or kayaks to see birds while others add biking or walking sections.

With 40+ million Americans describing themselves as interested in bird watching, developers of the Great Washington State Birding Trail hope to entice both local residents and out-of-state visitors to the Sun and Sage Loop which features more than 200 of Washington’s 346 annually recorded bird species.

Like the first four maps, the new route features original artwork by noted Washington wildlife painter Ed Newbold.

This varied landscape – sculpted by ice-age floods, weather, and human design – nurtures Pacific Flyway travelers and avian residents of sage hillside, wildflower meadow, and leafy forest. Hundreds of bird species – warbler to woodpecker, kinglet to kingfisher – thrive amid wide valleys, intimate canyons, and waterways large and small. During migration, hawks soar through mountain passes and shorebirds traverse river lowlands. Winter brings snow to high-country plateaus, and gathers water birds onto natural wetlands and lakes formed by the great dams on the Columbia River.

Here, irrigation channels and seasonal ponds transform desert into orchard and vineyard beneath lofty basalt cliffs. Discover abundant wildlife in protected places: Wild and Scenic rivers, national wildlife refuges, national, state, county and city parks, plus the natural and cultural history of the Yakama Nation. Here are myriad opportunities to bird by foot, by bike, and by boat – all in the heart of Washington’s wine country.

The Sun and Sage Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail was developed and funded by

Audubon Washington, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and individual contributors.

Together with its local chapters, Audubon Washington produced its first map of the birding trail in 2002, the Cascade Loop. The Coulee Corridor followed in 2003, Southwest Loop in 2005, and Olympic Loop in 2007. Two additional routes covering eastern Washington and the Puget Sound area will complete the birding trail by 2010. All maps contain information about habitat, bird species, access, and best seasons for birding. Audubon Washington says that signs marking birding trail sites will be installed in coming years.

.....on the local front

Tri-Cities — Sadly, some Audubon volunteers who contributed to the development of the Sun and Sage Loop were less than thrilled with the final result and no member of the LCBAS Birding Trail Committee accepted the invitation from Washington Audubon to be a part of the Feb. 19th unveiling in Olympia.

Some expressed disappointment with the map artist’s apparent lack of familiarity with this region’s landscapes, at least as demonstrated on this map, and holding Audubon Washington responsible for this deficiency.

As one volunteer commented, “Given the varied landscape of this area, as touted in Audubon Washington’s presentation of this map’s release, you’d have thought some of that landscape would have found it’s way into the painting.”

Another was heard to say, “I guess with about 60 birds represented in the map painting there wasn’t room for much of our unique landscape. And then no Black-billed Magpie? What could be more representative of the birds of our area than that? When we questioned it’s exclusion we were told it was perhaps considered too common. Yet the Coulee Corridor map painting has a Red-winged Blackbird and what could be more common than that? I just don’t understand.”

Dennis Rockwell, chairman of LCBAS’s Birding Trail Committee, expressed further disappointment with the lack of public acknowledgement for the efforts of individuals who were involved in the development of the Sun and Sage Loop map, stating, “On previous maps individuals who made major contributions of time and energy to the project’s development were granted acknowledgement by name, even if it was on the back page and in only a 6 point font. But not this time. Apparently Audubon Washington didn’t consider any of our efforts that significant.

Personally, I’ll be retiring in about 3 years and had always planned to devote much of my time after that to volunteering on behalf of the Audubon Society. After this experience I’m rethinking that plan.

Given that projects of this nature, including the two maps yet to come, wouldn’t be possible without the devotion of considerable time and energy on the part of such volunteers, Audubon Washington might do well to do a little rethinking of it’s own about the way they selectively demonstrate their appreciation for the efforts of those volunteers.”

Junior Audubon News

from Cherie Baudrand, Education Chair

I am excited to announce that LCBAS now has a Junior Audubon Club for students under 18 and their families. Plans for Junior Audubon were presented at a **beginning birding class** offered to students at Hawthorne Elementary School on January 15th. Twenty five, kindergarten through 3rd grade, students watched a slide show about The Great Backyard Bird Count and received a copy of the book, Birds: of the Inland Northwest and Rocky Mountains, a pinecone bird-feeding kit, and a Bird Bingo game. They chose a favorite duck from a Power Point presentation, and made a sketch of one of the carved wood birds purchased with Washington Audubon grant money.

The books, with a minor misprint, were donated by R.W. Morse Co. to Audubon groups in this region with the stipulation they go to children. Mike Denny is one of the authors. Thank you to Kathy Criddle for donating the shipping costs. The books are wonderful. A third grade student told me that he had looked at every bird in the book! He said his brother and sister wouldn't leave it on the bookshelf. Four first graders arrived at class the day after the meeting with their books in hand and big grins on their faces.

The second Junior Audubon event, "**Going Ducky**," was cancelled do to icy roads Saturday morning, January 22nd. The event was rescheduled January 31, at the Family Fishing Pond in Columbia Park. Ten Audubon volunteers brought spotting scopes and binoculars so Junior Audubon members could get good looks at the ducks they learned about in class. They were eager to spot their favorite, the Bufflehead. They looked up the ducks in their new books. There were 45 participants including fifteen Junior Audubon members and their families happily observing diving and dabbling ducks. The children received a binoculars lesson. We knew they learned to focus because they could describe details, like the red on the carved Downey Woodpecker placed on a tree trunk. We had a busy group of excited young birders.

Junior Audubon members were invited to attend **Kids Wood Duck Day** at McNary Education Center, February 6th. Jon, his dad, and I listened to an interesting talk about animal tracks, and got to see deer tracks, Red-winged Blackbirds, eagles and a muskrat nest on the nature walk. Jon helped glue, place screws, and use power tools, to make a Wood Duck box.

Junior Audubon members participated in the **Great Backyard Bird Count** on a chilly, but gorgeous, Valentine's Day. Eleven children and their parents joined eight Audubon volunteers to count in different areas of Columbia Park. They used their math skills to count 1180 birds of 24 species. Leighana, Kiara, and Emmaleena got to watch a pair of live, not wooden, Downey Woodpeckers on the Audubon Nature Trail. Maisha, Jayci, and Tiara counted 400 American Wigeon with Barb and Tom.

We met for heart-shaped pizza at Round Table Pizza afterwards to share and tally the counts. A Brown Creeper won the red heart on our list. It was found by Nancy, Chris, Porter, and Joey. After pizza, the children received a Jr. Birder booklet, an American Wigeon sticker, and a GBBC certificate. A huge thank you to our volunteers; Barbara and Tom Clarke, Murrel and Jack Dawson, Marilyn Hayes, Nancy LaFramboise, Chris Simonen, and Cathy Smith. Would you like to volunteer to help with an event? Contact me at cbaudrand@charter.net.

Thank you to Norm Fergeson for his generous donations of field guides and a spotting scope for Junior Audubon. Now we need a sturdy tri-pod. Do any of you have an extra tri-pod in the closet?

Junior Audubon members are invited to attend the **Othello Sandhill Crane Festival**, March 21st, and we are planning an event for **International Migratory Bird Day** in May.

Do you have a child or grandchild who would like to join? Just fill out a membership form and mark "student", or join as a family. Upcoming events will be announced on the website, www.lcbas.org.

Junior Audubon members must be accompanied by a parent or guardian on outings.



Barbara Clarke, and Junior Audubon members counting the pond for the Great Backyard Bird Count

Second Saturday Event

at the **McNary Wildlife Refuge's
Environmental Education Center**

311 Lake Rd, Burbank WA 99323

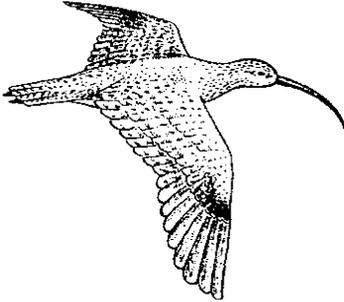
At 10 am on Saturday, March 14, a trek will be led to the bird hide for waterfowl identification from that area.

Note: The old Environmental building is being moved in preparation for cement work on paths and walkways.

The Curlew
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
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Audubon Membership Information

Please Note: Membership in National Audubon Society (NAS) and the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (LCBAS) are **separate memberships**.

Chapter Membership (includes a year's subscription [10 issues] to *The Curlew*)

- _____ \$20. for annual membership dues or
- _____ \$10. for full time students.

Please make check payable to **LCBAS**. I can help with an additional donation of \$_____

- _____ Send *The Curlew* to my email address listed below. All my dues will go towards supporting LCBAS in local education and conservation efforts.

- _____ I want to be on your Environmental Alert e-mail list to receive timely notices about issues/work parties. (Your e-mail address will not be shared.)

National Audubon Society Membership (includes annual subscription to *Audubon Magazine*)

- _____ \$20. for one year new membership in the NAS. (Renewal of NAS membership is currently \$35.)
- _____ \$15. for one year new senior or full time student membership in NAS.

Please make check payable to **National Audubon Society**. Please do not sent renewals to LCBAS.

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

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352

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