



April 2010  
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# the curlew

## Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

### Special Interest Articles:

- Bird Art Alert page 6!
- Barn Owl boot camp!
- International Migratory bird day!

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## Hey Mate! Come see the wonderful birds from Northern Australia Trip

**Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.  
Kennewick First Lutheran Church,  
corner of Yelm and Highway 395**

Join the Far Away Field Trip Group for the April 27 program. The travel group will report on the September 2008 trip to Northern Australia, Darwin to Broome, including Kakadu. They will tell you of their travels from Darwin in tropical northern Australia on the Timor Sea

to Broome on Roebuck Bay on the Indian Ocean. The Northern Territory is where the majority of the Aboriginal people live and it is hot, tropical or dry and rocky like a lot of the area around here. They will show and tell you about their travels through Katherine, Kununurra, Turkey Creek and Fitzroy Crossing. You will see some of the 200+ amazing birds they saw in areas like tropical Kakadu and drying ponds like Mary's Pond. Come and see the tent

accommodations at Fitzroy Crossing and the birds at Parry's Lagoon. The final destination was the wonderful Bird Observatory at Broome. Broome is Australia's first and now the only remaining bird observatory in the country. These beaches at Roebuck Bay were covered with thousands of migrating shore birds. This area is one of the four top migratory stops in the world. The group will tell you about fresh water and salt water crocodiles,  
**Continued on page 5**

## BARN OWL BOOT CAMP! BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

Richland Community Center - Activity Room, Howard Amon Park  
Saturday, April 24th  
1 - 3 pm  
The purpose of the event will be to prepare BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE'S Benton City center for "baby

season." It will be a baby shower with a twist. The goal is to raise 80% of the funds needed to feed baby raptors cared for at the Benton City center during the summer months (\$5,000). (Last summer more than 10,000 mice and 400 rats were fed at the BC center at a cost of nearly



\$6,000!) Each summer nearly 100 baby raptors are raised at the Benton City center. Typically 60-plus are barn owls. Other species include



## Barn Owl boot camp *continued*

**continued on page 2** long-eared owls, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks and American kestrels. Baby raptors grow from hatchlings weighing less than an ounce to young adults weighing one-two pounds in a matter of weeks, consuming huge quantities of food, primarily rodents, in the process.

The method used to care for the raptors is "hacking." It is a process that simulates the care of their parents, and allows young raptors to be raised by people without becoming imprinted on or

habituated to people. Blue Mountain Wildlife's primary facility is located in Pendleton, OR. The Benton City center was established in 2006 to accommodate the growing number of wildlife being admitted for care from the Tri-City area, approximately half of BMW's total admissions (350-400 annually). Typically 50-60-plus are baby barn owls whose nests were destroyed when a haystack was

moved.

The Benton City center has two main purposes. It is a hack site where young raptors can be raised and released. It is also a triage center where injured wildlife, primarily raptors, can be given immediate first aid and their condition evaluated by trained wildlife rehabilitators. Those needing medical care are transferred to the Pendleton center. Come out and support BMW!

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*"Baby raptors grow from hatchlings weighing less than an ounce to young adults weighing one-two pounds in a matter of weeks."*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *with President Ed Rykiel*

### LCBAS Needs YOU!

LCBAS is an all volunteer corporation. Without our dedicated volunteers, nothing happens! We are blessed to have an outstanding cadre of members who make the whole process of running an Audubon chapter go. Please take the time to thank our officers, committee chairs, and volunteers for the many unpaid hours they devote to us and our causes.

Now we are entering the LCBAS election season. At the May monthly meeting, we will elect our next set of officers and committee chairs for the new year beginning on July 1. We are

lucky to have talented leaders in our chapter, but talented volunteers are needed as well. If you don't think you have any talents to contribute, we can use unskilled labor too!

I urge you to consider running for an officer or committee chair position. But even more, I hope you will find that you can devote a few hours a month to being a volunteer on one our committees or special activities. Serving as a volunteer committee member, you may find that would like to be one of our leaders too. LCBAS welcomes you to volunteer in any capacity you choose.




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*"If you don't think you have any talents to contribute, we can use unskilled labor too!"*

## Officers needed.

The LCBAS has a good group of officers that will continue in their roles, but there will be some vacancies. We want to thank those officers that have served and are now taking a rest as an officer. The following positions are open and the Nominating Committee is looking for nominations.

Vice President  
Treasurer  
Membership

If you are interested or know someone that might like to be an officer please contact Dana Ward at 545-0627.

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*"Please consider helping out LCBAS, volunteer with us! The pay isn't great but the rewards are priceless!!."*

### **McNary Environmental Education Center Second Saturday Event!**

Come join us at McNary National Wildlife Refuge for a celebration of International Migratory bird day. We will be observing and counting birds, hosting a bird walk and playing bird games. For more details on this nation-wide event, go to [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org) on Saturday, May 8 th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It's Free! Questions? Call the Friends office (509) 546-8352

**How to get there:** The Education Center is located off Highway 12 near Burbank. From Tri-Cities take Highway I-182 East/Highway 12 East to Burbank. Turn left onto Humorist Rd. at second stoplight after the Snake River Bridge. Turn left onto Lake Rd. Look for Education Center on the left.

## Junior Audubon Report *with Cherie Baudrand*

Fourteen children, their families. and eight Audubon volunteers attended the First Day of Spring Celebration at the new beautiful McNary Environmental Education Center. We learned about the White-crowned Sparrow Banding Program from Nancy LaFramboise. We looked at ducks from the duck blind, and searched for the smallest, largest, most colorful, and favorite birds in the taxidermy room. Members looked at birding activities and conservation challenges in the Jr. Birder booklets. They plan to complete most of them this year in order to earn a patch.

For the grand finale, Lynn and Bob Tompkins from

Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation Center presented a program with four of their education birds. We saw how Sage, the Great-horned Owl, can turn her head around because her eyes don't move, and her asymmetrical ear placement and silent flight help her hunt at night. Lynn was surprised that our first and second graders knew the words, "nocturnal, diurnal, and crepuscular." Do you know those words? We got to see how Ula, the gorgeous Golden Eagle, can now fly to Lynn's arm on signal. Thank you Lynn for the wonderful work you do. It was an exciting way to start spring.

The next event is an Earth Day bird walk on

Bateman Island on Saturday, April 17th. We'll meet at Wye park. The time will be announced. We will have an after school meeting in April also.

Coming up on May 9th is International Migratory Bird Day. We will meet in Columbia Park by the playground across from the Audubon Nature Trail to play the Great Migratory Bird Game and take a bird walk on the trail.

Comments from children on our bird walks like, "This is the best day of my life!" and "I've been looking forward to this my whole life!" make this program very worthwhile.

### **Birding tip of the Month**

*Find the bird with your eyes and then bring the binoculars up. If you don't see the bird, lower the binos – search with your eyes – there's more field of view that way.*

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## Bird Sightings – March 2010

Angela Harding - ([gela.harding43@gmail.com](mailto:gela.harding43@gmail.com))

Hello Curlew Readers! I hope you are having a wonderful spring so far, I know March was a great month for sightings, lets hope April will be just as good.  
Enjoy & happy birding!  
Angela

*"I know March was a great month for sightings, lets hope April will be just as good.."*

1. Bateman Island, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Kathy C. & Nancy L see next page for report!
2. Columbia Park Golf Course, March 5<sup>th</sup>, Ron & Carole Louderback. 3 Common Loons out in the river. Also still have the flock of Gadwall in the field behind their home in Kennewick.
3. Island near the end of Columbia River Road. March 5<sup>th</sup>, Nancy L. 200 Gulls. May nest on the island, hasn't happened for a couple years. Will keep us all posted!
4. South end of Road 76 in Pasco at the Columbia River. March 5<sup>th</sup>, Dana. NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD.
5. House at the east corner of Rd 76 at the Columbia River (south of Court Street). March 6<sup>th</sup>, Nancy L. Found Northern Mockingbird singing in a maple tree.
6. Hanson Loop Rd and Humorist Rd, Burbank, WA. March 6<sup>th</sup>, Derting's & Denny's. 2000 Snow Geese & 1000 or so White Fronted Geese.
7. NW end of Scootney Reservoir in Franklin Co. WA., March 5<sup>th</sup>, Ron & Carole Louderback. Found hundreds of Sandhill Cranes in the evening. South of Hermiston, OR. Stanfield Meadows Road. March 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 Common Snipe. South side of Emert Rd. remains a flock of 80 or so Sandhill Cranes.
8. McNary NWR. March 6<sup>th</sup>, Jerry Nichols. Found and photographed a Blue Morph Snow Goose.
9. The pond across Lake Road from McNary NWR HQ. March 7<sup>th</sup>, Nancy L. & Bonnie D. At least 2000 Snow Geese, thousands of Canada & Cackling Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese. Grand total of the four species around 7,000 to 10,000.
10. Yakima Delta, March 13<sup>th</sup>, Bob & Charlie Woodley. 3 G. Yellowlegs and 44 Dunlin. First Tree & Cliff Swallows of the year. McNary NWR, March 13<sup>th</sup>. 2000 Snow Geese, 1000 White-fronted Geese. 3 pair of Red-breasted mergansers, first Ruddy ducks of the year, and an attempt by a pair of W. Grebes to do their prenuptial "dance" over the water. NW corner of the Kahlotus overpass, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Burrowing Owl.
11. Keene and South Highlands ponds, Richland, WA. March 15<sup>th</sup>, Mike Guthrie. A couple Yellow-headed Blackbirds.
12. Gill & Bibi's backyard (the end of Perkins Rd. Finley), March 14<sup>th</sup>, Bibi Henjum. A group of 10 Cedar Waxwings come through and stay about a day every year about this time.
13. Badger Mountain trail head on Shockley road, March 16<sup>th</sup>, Heidi Newsome. Pair of Say's Phoebe's. West Richland, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Long-billed curlew calling, seen flying over. Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, March 18<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile Golden Eagle.
14. Yakima Delta, March 19<sup>th</sup>, Bob Woodley. American Avocet, the first for the year.
15. Benton City near the trailhead south of the shooting range on SR225, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Joel Tinsley. First LB Curlew of the year.
16. Bateman Island, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Kathy C. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6 cedar Waxwings, lots of Yellow-rump Warblers, 2 dark-eyed Juncos and 2 White-crowned Sparrows. Great Horned Owl. A Clark's Grebe, "Bob W's" American Avocet and tons of Tree Swallows with a couple Violet-green Swallows.

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continued from Page 1:

freshies and salties and the difference according to the local people. **Everything you saw on the Crocodile Hunter is true.**

Our meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. with a brief business meeting and a bird identification segment featuring Nancy LaFramboise. Following the business meeting those in attendance enjoy a brief social time with cookies and coffee. The speaker usually begins around 7:45 p.m.

## Columbia Park West Master Plan

The consultant's **FINAL PRESENTATION** of the Columbia Park West Master Plan will take place on **Thursday, May 6, 2010**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. - place is yet to be determined.

## Beginning Birding Class

LCBAS is offering a beginning birding class in partnership with the Kennewick Parks & recreation on April 30 from 6:30 to 9 PM at the Kamiakin High School Library. Field trip will joining the Saturday May 1 st Bateman Island Bird Walk.

Check out our website: <http://lcbas.org>

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## Bateman Island Bird Walk:

With *Kathy Criddle*

Report from March 6, 2010

Bateman Island was a great place to be on the first Saturday of March. Twenty-two curious people showed up on the sunny but cold day. The first sightings were not birds but a couple of playful River Otter weaving in and around the water next to the causeway on the west side. Turning to the birds we found a Clark's Grebe with it's orange-red yellow bill diving for food beside it's cousin, the Western Grebe with it's greenish yellow bill. Looking over them, we spotted Common Merganser, a pair of Wood Ducks and several very white domestic (barn yard) geese along with the usual Mallards, Coots, American Wigeons and some Bufflehead.

Walking the pathways on the island we saw or heard Northern Flickers, Red-winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, Mourning Dove, Black-capped Chickadee, and Buick's Wren. A few lucky people saw a Downey Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee and a Ruby Crowned Kinglet. Out on the water or mud, highlights we were able to scope, included Dunlin, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Pied-billed, Horned and Eared Grebe, and a couple of Common Loons. There were several gull species including two juvenile Glaucous-winged gulls and a Herring gull. Several people heard and saw a Raven. Northern Harriers were flying overhead and later we scoped a Bald Eagle on the Franklin County side of the river.

A female Belted Kingfisher announced her presence at the end of the walk and gave a great show diving into the water headfirst and then returning to her spot to preen on a branch overhanging the water. Nancy L. scoped the gulls and capped the day by finding a very late staying Western Gull. This bird is a rare find even in winter so it was great to see it in March. All in all we saw an amazing 51 species for the morning. The next Bateman Island walk will be **May 1 at 8 am starting at Wye Park off Columbia Park Trail**. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Binoculars are recommended and there will be several pair available to borrow.

## Tri-cities Earth Month Calendar -

Lots of Activities for All to Enjoy – Check it out at:

<http://www.earthmonthmc.org/>

and

<http://www.earthmonthmc.org/event>

## Wildlands Walk

**When** Sat, May 1, 9am – 1pm

**Where** Claybell Park, Richland, WA ([map](#))

**Description** Interpretive guided walk through the Amon Creek Preserve and Amon Basin. Two mile walk, no pets, bring your own water, meet at Claybell park. We will use this date to springboard the PR campaign and take the project public. Following that day one action item is to generate letters to the editor in support of the project but with a twist. We want people to speak about what they intend to give to support project success-will they volunteer to lead nature walks, help with restoration and plant watering, clean ups, illegal vehicle patrol, teach in the field classes, birding walks. How many hours-days-weeks....The point is to show that this truly is a community project. In turn we will use these in our grant presentations and the jurisdictions hear the voices. Depending on how all my city council meetings go we may need the same tact towards the council. Stay tuned. All of this stressing the central park theme for the tri-cities.

## Save Amon Basin Information!

438 living units, two roads and two bridges are planned for the only remaining critical habitat buffer surviving in Amon Basin. Without this 125 acre buffer for Amon Creek Natural Preserve one of the most unique natural areas in our urban area will be severely impacted forever.

Your generosity completed the first two Amon Basin Community Projects. You set aside the West Fork of Amon Creek as a Natural Preserve, establishing a natural wildlife corridor sharing trails and open space with beaver, river otter, 100 bird species, jackrabbits, badger and coyotes. This will be our last chance to ensure this legacy survives. Amon Basin Central Park and Preserve is at great risk: please come to its rescue! Consider a tax deductible donation!

<http://tapteal.org/pages/centralpark.html>

## ALERT: Lisa Hill Watercolorist - Bird Art Coming SOON!

LCBAS members will be able to pre-order matted prints and boxes of notecards featuring 4 original watercolor paintings of **Burrowing Owl, Bullock' s Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, and of course, Long-billed Curlew**, at the April 27 monthly meeting. These prints will be available through LCBAS during the month of May, and will be mailed to purchasers upon order if required. Prices during the May promotion include a 15% discount from Lisa' s regular prices.

Prints will be available in 3 sizes, 5" x7" (matted 8" x10" ) - \$17.00 + \$3.00 shipping, 8" x10" (matted 11" x14" ) - \$29.00 + \$4.00 shipping, and 11" x14" (matted 16" x20" ) - \$42.00 + \$8.00 shipping, and will be signed by the artist.

Boxes of 8 3.5" x5" notecards at \$10.00 + \$3.00 shipping will be available **EXCLUSIVELY** to LCBAS members during May.

Lisa' s original paintings will sell for \$550.00 and will be available **EXCLUSIVELY** during May to the LCBAS members who want to own the original art.

**More to come. Stay tuned to [lcbas.org](http://lcbas.org)!**

## Continued from page 4

17. Canyon Trail summit of Badger Mountain, March 24<sup>th</sup>, Charles & Angela Harding. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds, first sighting.
18. Walla Walla River delta, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Heidi N, Kathy C. & Jane A. 2 American Avocets, lots of Dunlin, and one lone Eurasian Widgeon in with lots of American Widgeon. McNary NWR, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Several flocks of White-fronted Geese, one last Snow Goose (in with the Canada geese) on Whitcomb Island, Nesting Red-tailed Hawk @ McNary NWR and another Red-tailed in nest on Whitcomb Island.
19. McNary slough on the Refuge, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Heidi Newsome. A group of American White Pelicans all sporting full breeding bills with big knobs on the bill.
20. Yakima Delta, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Bob Woodley. American avocet population has grown to 4, at least 60 Dunlin, 1 G. Yellowlegs mixed w/ 20 Killdeer. New arrival for the year, a single Caspian tern amongst Ring-billed gulls. Two Western and one Clark's Grebes.
21. 5th and GW Way, just south of PNNL, Richland, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Cathy. 2 Curlews.
22. Leslie Groves Park, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Rich Barchet. 1 European Wigeon in among about 30 American wigeons, 20 or so Mallards, 30 Scaup, and about 50 Coots near the N. end of Nelson Island. Clover Island, March 27<sup>th</sup>. One American Avocet in the small pond to the south of the dike along with a few Mallards. In the trees by the pond, Song sparrows, House Finches and a pair American Goldfinches in summer yellow. The Columbia provided a view of many Coots and Scaup, a few American Wigeons, several Buffleheads, a Common Loon, a few Double-crested Cormorants, at least 3 Pied-billed Grebes, a Horned Grebe, Canada Goose, and many Ring-billed gulls.
23. McNary NWR, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Nancy L. Osprey have returned to the nesting platform and 3 male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were groaning their unique song. Yakima River Delta, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Nancy L. 2 of the American Avocets, 54 Dunlin and a Greater Yellowlegs. 3 Caspian Terns were on the far mud bar. Tree and Violet-green Swallows were also present. McNary NWR, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Cliff Swallows and 1 Tundra Swan on HQ pond.
24. Snively Rd, corn field across from the Barker Ranch headquarters. March 29<sup>th</sup>, Bob Derting. An estimated 220 to 250 Sandhill Cranes were observed.
25. A field off Harrington Road, about six miles north of the fire station, W.Richland, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Kris Keating. Small flock of 50 or so Sandhill Cranes.
26. Wahluke Pond wasteway on the Wahluke unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument. March 30<sup>th</sup>, Heidi Newsome. Long-eared Owl.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE WENAS CAMPOUT May 28-31, 2010

**For decades Audubon families  
have been camping over Memorial  
Day weekend at the Wenas Creek  
Campground.**

[www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org)

Officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, it's located SW of Ellensburg, in an "Important Bird Area" and has been assured of protective status. The free, "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

There are wonderful field trips scheduled, and there will be an old-fashioned campfire in our "approved" fire-pit device each evening. We have a program item or two, singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Please visit the Wenas Website, beautifully done by Webmaster Michael Hobbs. You'll see Hazel Wolf's familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout: [www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org).

There're checklists of birds, and wildflowers, outline of field trips and program, directions to the campground, and lots of photos. For people who don't "do websites," contact me and I'll send you printed information.

Bring friends & family, and join us at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend for as many days and/or nights as you want to stay - May 28-31, 2010. See you there, Helen Engle, [hengle@inet.com](mailto:hengle@inet.com), 253-564-3112.



## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY –

### What is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)?

IMBD celebrates and brings attention to one of the most important and spectacular events in the Americas - bird migration. Bird Day is celebrated in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

### Why Celebrate Migratory Birds?

Public awareness and concern are crucial components of migratory bird conservation. Citizens who are enthusiastic about birds, informed about threats, and empowered to become involved in addressing those threats, can make a tremendous contribution to maintaining healthy bird populations. By modeling what can be done and involving people, their interest and involvement in stewardship can grow. One of the most successful vehicles for public education on migratory birds is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). Across the Americas Bird Day events are providing great ways for people to get involved.

### When is IMBD celebrated in the United States and Canada?

The official date for IMBD in the U.S. and Canada is the second Saturday in May each year. We recognize, however, that this isn't always the best time for you or the birds. For participants to the south, migratory birds may have already passed through. And to the north, this date may be too early. We encourage you to host a program, event, or festival when birds are present and when it best suits your schedule. Today, IMBD programs, events, and festivals are held year-round.

### What is an IMBD event, program, or festival?

An IMBD event provides the public an opportunity to learn about birds and their



conservation. The purpose is that organizers will not only share the amazing world of birds with their students, members, and visitors, but will also leave them with tangible, practical ways to take part in bird conservation. IMBD events vary from morning bird walks, to classroom programs, public presentations, bird counts, one-day events, and multi-day festivals. **Who hosts IMBD programs, events, and festivals?** You name it! IMBD is hosted by many different groups, and often, events and programs are hosted by multiple partners. Locally, LCBAS is hosting a program for junior Audubon and McNary Environmental Education Center is hosting a second Saturday event for IMBD – come check it out!

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY – T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER!

The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon is offering a fundraiser, beautiful hunter green, **organic cotton**, short sleeved t-shirts featuring this years IMBD art celebrating “The Power of Partnerships”. **Pictured above!** The t-shirt features beautiful art on both the front and the back, the front has Peregrine falcon, Whooping crane, burrowing owl and ruby-throated hummingbird. The back features Atlantic puffin, American Redstart, White-crowned pigeon and Wood thrush! We are offering these shirts for \$15 each. We will place the order after the April monthly meeting and hope that the shirts arrive for the May monthly meeting! Please bring your \$15 to the April meeting and contact Heidi Newsome regarding what size you would like. If you can't make the April monthly meeting contact Heidi at [heidi\\_newsome@yahoo.com](mailto:heidi_newsome@yahoo.com) with your size and she can arrange for payment at a later date. If you ordered at the March meeting, don't forget to bring your \$\$ to the April meeting!



# Results from the 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count

## Count records more than 600 bird species across the continent

April 6, 2010--The 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) results are in and it was a record-breaking year for participation. During the four-day event in February, more than 97,200 bird checklists were submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteer bird watchers from across the United States and Canada. From reports of rare species to large-scale tracking of bird movements, the GBBC provides insight into the lives of bird populations.

The GBBC is a joint project of the [National Audubon Society](#) and the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) with Canadian partner [Bird Studies Canada](#). It is open to bird watchers of all ages. The results provided a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. "There's simply no better way to collect information about all these birds so quickly across such a large range," said Janis Dickinson, Citizen Science director at the Cornell Lab.

For example, this year, participants recorded more American Robins than any other bird species—primarily because of a massive roost in St. Petersburg, Florida. Participants reported 1,450,058 robins in Saint Petersburg alone. For perspective, the entire rest of the continent tallied 400,321 robins. Reports such as these help document hotspots for robins and year-to-year changes in their movements across the continent.

At the other extreme, one of the most dramatic results from this year's count was the absence of other bird species, including winter finches such as Pine Siskins and redpolls. Pine Siskins moved south in such great numbers last year that they burst onto the GBBC Top-10 list of most numerous birds for the first time ever. Over time, the GBBC has captured dramatic swings in the numbers of these species reported from year to year. These fluctuations may be influenced by the birds' food supply and

reproductive success far to the north. This year, they presumably didn't need to travel as far south to find enough food.

Results from this year's GBBC also documented the continuing expansion of an introduced species across the continent. A dozen years ago, the Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported in 9 states during the GBBC. This year more than 14,000 doves were reported in 39 states and provinces.

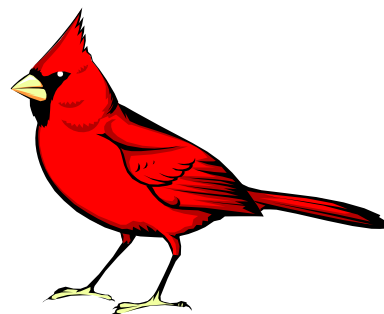
Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers reported compared to years past. Although the number of states reporting the species was down from 25 in 2009 to 20 this year, the number of individuals reported increased nearly four-fold, from 22,431 to 84,585. Whether this is a result of warmer temperatures and earlier migration is not yet clear.

"GBBC data become more and more valuable with each passing year," said Dick Cannings, program director for Bird Studies Canada. "Over time we'll be better able to see significant changes that may occur in the numbers and distributions of birds which may be tied to climate change, habitat loss, disease, or other factors."

## The next Great Backyard Bird Count is February 18-21, 2011.

### Top 10 birds reported on the most checklists in the 2010 GBBC:

- 1) Northern Cardinal
- 2) Dark-eyed Junco
- 3) Mourning Dove
- 4) Downy Woodpecker
- 5) Blue Jay
- 6) American Goldfinch
- 7) Tufted Titmouse
- 8) House Finch
- 9) American Crow
- 10) Black-capped Chickadee



**The Curlew**

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon  
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Richland WA 99352

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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**.

**LCBAS 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 send renewals for NAS to LCBAS.

*For any of the local 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**

**Name**.....

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