



June 2010
Volume XLV
Number 10

the curlew

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Special Interest Articles:

- Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network Update
- Farm tour JUNE 24 th at Greenwood Resources

Individual Highlights:

- President's Message 7
- Junior Audubon Report 7
- Birding tip of the Month 4

Chapter Picnic – Good Food, Good Friends and Good Fun!

**June Chapter PICNIC
- Public Welcome
Tuesday, June 22, 2010
6 - 9 pm
South Leslie Groves
Park, Shelter 2
Richland, Washington**

Directions: Turn East off George Washington Way on Newcomer Ave, then North on Harris Ave., then

East again on Park St. There we are!

People are asked to bring a main dish and either a dessert or salad.

As in past years no liquor permit was obtained, so non alcoholic beverages only, please.

Bring your own plates, silverware, etc.

The public is invited to attend. Come and bring a friend to share the good time and learn what LCBAS has accomplished this past year. Those attending do not have to be Audubon members to join the fun.

The Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network Update

The Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network has been meeting monthly for the past couple of years with its Steering Committee which includes planning staff or other representatives from Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, West Richland, Benton City, Benton County, Franklin County, and Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, as well as representatives from Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau,

Tapteal Greenway, Ice Age Floods Institute, Friends of Badger, Native Plant Society, Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance, Fun Fit and Over Fifty, and LCBAS.

We have been working on a vision and plan for a regional network of natural and developed open spaces and trails based in part on input from the public workshops and questionnaire from over a year ago.

Continued on page 2

RROSN Update *continued*



"We have been working on a vision and plan for a regional network of natural and developed open spaces and trails."

A Jurisdictional Council (JC) has been formed that is made up of elected officials representing the five local cities and both counties. The Steering Committee has been meeting with the JC since January to present each chapter of the proposed plan and to get their feedback. The feedback has been very useful in helping to refine the plan which makes recommendations to the jurisdictions regarding open space preservation and trail linkages. The final draft of the plan should be available in the next few months. The goal is to submit the final plan to the jurisdictions for adoption.

One of the areas that the RROSN has been interested in preserving includes the large open space region south of Hover Road to Wallula Gap, including Hover Peak. This site encompasses large expanses of native shrub steppe as well as an area that will be included in the National Ice Age Floods Trail. Kennewick General Hospital is planning to surplus 6900 acres in this Hover area. The Board of the RROSN presented a letter to KGH and hopes to be involved in the discussion about the fate of this property.

For more information, contact Debbie Berkowitz (375-4740).



Open invitation to tour GreenWood Resources Tree Farm

If you've ever driven on I-84 through Boardman, Oregon, you would have noticed about five miles of trees that stretch back away from the highway. This is the Boardman Tree Farm – 26,000 acres of hybrid poplar trees managed by GreenWood Resources. The trees are managed for timber, pulp, and increasingly biomass to be converted into biofuels and bioenergy. In addition to environmental stewardship policies within the company, GWR tree farms are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified, which holds the company to be socially and environmentally responsible.

"Being connected to the local community is important to us."

Being connected to the local community is important to us, and in particular to local groups like the Audubon Society who may have personal interests in the unique environment of the farm. This is an open invitation to folks who would like to come tour the farm and ask farm managers any questions they may have about farm operations, wildlife, FSC certification, etc. We also invite anyone who may have an interest in joining GWR's Community Advisory Committee, which is comprised of individuals representing local, regional, and national business, environmental, and governmental interests. **We will hold a farm tour 1-3pm on Thursday, June 24th. Please email meagan.nuss@gwrglobal.com for more information and to confirm your spot (limit 8-12 people). We look forward to meeting you!**



Black-headed grosbeak pictured above

McNary Environmental Education Center Second Saturday Event!

Making Things Using Natural Materials

What can you do with sticks, leaves, cattails, rocks or milkweed pods? Craft a nature home for small creatures, make a toy or even weave a tiny raft to float on the wetland. We'll show you how. Bring your imagination and your family to the Education Center at McNary National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, July 10th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It's free!

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.

Bateman Island Bird Walk:

With Lisa Hill

Report from June 5, 2010

It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood for the June Bateman Island walk. The warm and sunny weather was a much-welcomed break from the recent rains. A good crowd of about 35 people including a Girl Scout troop and their parents took advantage of the great weather and we tallied up a whopping 52 species for the day. No rarities, but good numbers of our regular breeding birds.

Lots of CLIFF SWALLOWS and a few BARN, TREE, NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED, and BANK SWALLOWS. Male BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS were singing everywhere and we counted 22 along with nine BULLOCK'S ORIOLES. Males of both species display bold black, orange and yellow plumage. Other colorful songbirds included YELLOW WARBLER, WILSON'S WARBLER, and TOWNSEND'S WARBLER. The more elusive, less colorful species were WARBLING VIREO, CASSIN'S VIREO, and MARSH WREN.

There aren't many ducks or other water birds this time of year, but two CLARK'S GREBES and four WESTERN GREBES displaying head-bobbing mating behavior were off the causeway and out on the delta. A murder of crows harassed three GREAT HORNED OWLS in the locust grove. AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS, FORSTER'S TERNS, GREAT BLUE HERON and GREAT EGRET could be seen with a spotting scope on the delta.

Bateman Bird Walks take a summer break for July and August, but it's still a great time to explore the island on your own. We will resume the walks on Saturday, September 4 at 8am. We meet in the parking lot of Wye Park near the causeway entrance to the island. Birders of all experience levels are very welcome.

Birding tip of the Month

Timing is important; discover which season birds are in the area. Some are summer breeders, others are only here during the winter, and many only migrate through.

Malheur Refuge Field Trip Report

with Barbara Clarke

On Friday May 14, nineteen LCBAS members and friends made their way to the Malheur Wildlife Refuge outside of Burns, Oregon. We gathered at the Malheur Field Station in the "E" Dorm. As we arrived we were greeted by the hooting of a **Great Horn Owl** nesting between transformers not far from the dorm.

The weather was good for our full day of birding on Saturday. We split up and visited the Refuge Headquarters, the Central Patrol Road, Buena Vista Overlook and met at Page Springs for lunch. In the afternoon, we birded Page Springs, French Glen and the P Ranch.

We gathered back at the dorm for a Spaghetti Dinner and went over our bird list. Together we saw over 150 bird species. We finished the evening with a movie, "Bear Walker." The next morning after packing and cleaning the dorm we visited the Headquarters again for **hummingbirds, warblers**, nesting **Great Horned Owls** and a surprise **Great-tailed Grackle**.

Everyone had a great time and there were lots of laughs and camaraderie. Highlights of some of the birds we saw include the following:

- Nesting **Golden Eagle**
- Courtship displays by **Short-eared Owls**
- **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** stepping out of the marsh to see who that "big bird" was calling them
- **Lewis Woodpeckers** in the middle of the desert
- **Yellow Warblers** everywhere along the Central Patrol Road
- **Lazuli Bunting** at Page Springs along with resident **House Wrens**
- An **American Bittern** running across the road below Buena Vista overlook
- A **Great Horn Owl** sitting in the Fire Watch tower at Headquarters
- **Western Tanager** and **Bullocks Oriole** in the same

tree outside the dorm

- A **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** at Headquarters along with **Calliope, Black-chinned** and **Rufous**
- Many **White-faced Ibis, Franklin Gulls, Yellow-headed Black Birds** and **Wilson Phalarope**
- And many more, what was lacking was the hordes of mosquito that will be at Malheur for the summer

Thank you to everyone that has contributed to help make "The Curlew" a great newsletter over the past 10 months! I could not do this without your excellent articles and information!

Heidi Newsome, editor

Check out our website:

<http://lcbas.org>

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5 Star Birding Cruise

Barbara Clarke, Far Away Field Trips

The Caribbean Birding Cruise **is officially full**. If you are interested in being on the waiting list, please, let me know. Thanks to all of you who signed up.

So what is next for the Far Away Travelers? Janene Lufft of Follow That Bird Travel Company went with us on the Malheur Field trip. Janene loved meeting all of you and seeing some old friends from our Australian trips. She discussed putting together an itinerary for a **New Zealand Trip** in 2012. My bucket list includes seeing a Kiwi. She says we are a "lovely" group. So we will wait and see what 2012 will bring. Watch for more information.

Junior Audubon News

Junior Audubon members joined the International Migratory Bird Day celebration, May 9, at McNary Environmental Education Center for games and a bird walk. They got to see birds being banded by Nancy LaFramboise, try out banding on plastic bird leg, play the Great Migration Game, learn about bird communication, and see a Virginia Rail run past the duck blind.

Our after school meeting was attended by sixteen Junior Audubon members. They worked on activities in the Jr. Birder booklets and watched a short part of "First Flight." Some had time to take the bird quiz. Duncan Paul earned his second pin by identifying birds. Taylor Bookwalter, Mauricio Flores, Blake Brooks, and Ryker Buttars earned their first pin by identifying 10 birds from photos. Congratulations.

This program wouldn't work without our faithful volunteers. A huge thank you to Marilyn Hayes. Barbara and Tom Clarke, Murrel and Jack Dawson, and Chris Simonen, and for being there for nearly every event this year. Thank you to Nancy LaFramboise, Jeanne Bates, Charlotte Reep and Cathy Smith for your help with Junior Audubon. We had a great year!

President's Message *with President Ed Rykiel*

Thank You One and All!

These 2 years have been such a good time for me – shucks folks, I'm speechless (almost).

Your support, your talent, your spirit have made my time as president both easy and pleasant. Whatever we have accomplished in that time is your handiwork. I am so proud of you.

I know that new President Robin Priddy, new Vice-President Ray Johnson, new Treasurer Katie Harris, unsung hero Secretary Debbie Berkowitz, and all the Volunteers who make LCBAS go will continue to enjoy your support.

You cannot know how grateful I am for the opportunity you gave me.
Best regards and great birding,
Ed

Audubon Education

Dr. Rod Coler is a celebrity at Hawthorne's Dual Language classes. He made his annual visit with part of his insect collection in May. The students learned how insects are collected and saw the many types of grasshoppers, beetles, and beautiful butterflies in his collection.

LCBAS volunteers, Murrel and Jack Dawson, Marilyn Hayes, and Dr. Rod Coler helped enthusiastic K-1 students find birds, insects, plants, and learn about the Kennewick Man on the Audubon Nature Trail during a field trip May 27th. When Marilyn told us to look for bullfrogs, Jeremiah said, "My nickname is 'Bullfrog.' " Amazingly, just then a bullfrog popped up out of the pond and sang for him. It even took a hop toward him. Jayden and Lucy reported being tickled by a dragonfly that Dr. Coler caught in his butterfly net for them to see up close.

What wonderful experiences these young naturalists had with LCBAS volunteers.

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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**.

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** and send to LCBAS (new members only).

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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