

September 2009
Volume XLV
Number 1

the curlew



Special Interest Articles:

- Don't Forget: Membership meeting and Program September 22!
- Summer Bird Sightings pages 4 & 5
- SEED SALE order forms! Fill yours out today!

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Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Native Plants of the Columbia Basin

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Kennewick First Lutheran Church, corner of Yelm and Highway 395

Please join us on Tuesday evening for the kick off of the programs for the 2009-2010 Audubon year! All LCBAS members and the public are welcome.

Our first speaker is Steven Link who will present his talk, Native Plants of the Columbia Basin. Dr Link will also discuss invasive species, ecological restoration and xeriscaping for the home using native plants. Dr. Link has a PhD in Botany and has been in the Columbia Basin since 1985. He started the Columbia

Basin Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society and is the President of the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board. He is currently with Washington State University.

Our speaker usually begins around 7:45 p.m. **Please bring a treat to share** and to help make this first meeting a fun time to visit with friends and enjoy a tasty snack!

Bateman Island Bird Walk *with Lisa Hill*

It was great to get back to the regular Bateman Bird Walk schedule after a two-month break over summer. Fifteen birders enjoyed the pleasant weather and rounded up a list of 47 species. Water was very low at the Yakima Delta which attracted over a dozen GREAT EGRETS and several GREAT BLUE HERONS. Four GREATER YELLOWLEGS were close in to the causeway which

allowed good looks at their long, slightly-upturned bills. Large flocks of swallows cruised over the mud and shallow water, most being BARN SWALLOWS, but included several BANK SWALLOWS, CLIFF SWALLOWS, and one very late TREE SWALLOW. A BELTED KINGFISHER was on its usual perches near the causeway.

Small flocks of CEDAR WAXWINGS trilled from the treetops and DOWNY

WOODPECKERS called from several places on the island. The first of the winter season YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS have arrived. Other warblers included YELLOW WARBLER and ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. Some GRAY CATBIRDS meowed from the wild roses, but refused to show themselves. A very likely RED-EYED VIREO was found among the warblers.



"It was great to get back to the regular Bateman Bird Walk schedule after a two-month break over summer.."

Bateman Island Walk *Continued*

Birds scoped from the west shore of the island were quite distant, but some which were identified include many WESTERN SANDPIPERS, two CASPIAN TERNS, RUDDY DUCK, NORTHERN SHOVELER, WOOD DUCK, AMERICAN WIGEON, and AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. Raptors

completed the list with two OSPREY and one each SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, COOPER'S HAWK, and NORTHERN HARRIER.

Come join us!

The next Bateman Island Bird Walk is **Saturday, October 3, 2009**. We meet at 8:00am in the parking lot at Wye Park near the entrance to the island. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Binoculars are recommended.

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 see **Lower Columbia Basin Audubon website** and click on the **Help for Injured Birds link**.

Spring Migration at Malheur Wildlife Refuge

By Barbara Clarke



Join the Lower Columbia Basin Far Away Field Trip to Malheur Wildlife Refuge Friday, May 14, Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16, 2010. We will be visiting Malheur Wildlife Refuge during prime migration time. There are over 300 bird species listed for the Refuge. We will be staying in

the updated "E" Dorm at the Malheur Field Station. The cost of the Field Trip is \$90.00 per person based on double occupancy. The cost includes Friday and Saturday night lodging, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, lunches and Saturday evening Spaghetti Dinner and a movie. Cost does not include

transportation to and from Malheur. A brochure will be available at the September membership meeting. Space is limited so secure your place now. **Call Barbara Clarke at (509) 588-3362.**

Grand Opening for McNary National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center

When: Saturday October 10 9am to noon

What: Grand Opening for the beautiful new Environmental Education Center at McNary National Wildlife Refuge.

Come and see the extraordinary collection of taxidermy (bird and mammal mounts), and the hands-on Discovery Center inside the building. There will be many activities for children and adults outside put on by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuge, and partners including Audubon. Watch the newspapers for details! You may also call the Center at 546-8350.

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.

For Those Who Feed Our Feathered Friends

Once again, in connection with Columbia Grain & Feed, we will be hosting a Bird Seed Sale and Information Day. Mark your calendars for October 17. Place an order before October 5 (see form on page 7) and then pick it up on October 17. If you can't make it on the 17th, that's fine, just don't wait too long. Preordering insures you get the items you want. Based on your purchase amount, Columbia Grain & Feed will make a donation to the LCBAS Education Fund for taxidermy.

Columbia Grain & Feed is at 2001 W Lewis Street (corner of 20th and Lewis) in Pasco.

Event hours will be from 9 am until 2 pm. LCBAS members will be there to answer bird questions. Taxidermy will be on display. Questions? Call Nancy at 627-3695.

If you have any special requests for bird feeding supplies, note this on the order form. Challenge Karen to get what you want. She will make every effort to find it and to have a great price. Also feel free to tell us what you like or dislike about the event.

Last year we were very disappointed to learn that other seed outlets tried to make use of our sale. While they offered sale prices

REMEMBER THEY DID NOT DONATE TO OUR EDUCATION FUND!

Columbia Grain and Feed has been so generous for the past 8 years. Our taxidermy collection has grown (see related article) due to their commitment to our education program. Please support their generosity.

Do you know that anytime of the year when you make a purchase of bird feeding supplies Columbia Grain & Feed will make a donation? Just tell the clerk you want your purchase to support LCBAS.

Journey of Hope

Hope, a whimbrel carrying a satellite transmitter, has been observed foraging on Great Pond in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Great Pond is a Birdlife International Important Bird Area on the island of St. Croix known for White-crowned Pigeons, Green-throated Caribs, and Antillean Crested Hummingbirds. The site is a large pond fringed with black mangroves. Lisa Yntema has monitored the site for 5 years. She observed and photographed Hope on 20 August. Hope made landfall on St. Croix on the evening of 14 August after completing an extraordinary 100 hour, 5,720 kilometer (3,500 mile)

flight out over the open ocean. She left South Hampton Island in upper Hudson Bay on 10 August, flying south over Hudson Bay, crossed Canada and New England to emerge from the coast of Maine and out over the open Atlantic. She flew east beyond Bermuda before turning south and down to St. Croix. We expect Hope to stage for a period of 2-3 weeks before making her way down to the coast of South America for the winter. Hope is one of several birds that have been fitted with state of the art 9.5-gram, satellite transmitters in a

Collaborative effort by the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary – Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy to discover migratory routes that connect breeding and winter areas and to identify en route migratory staging areas that are critical to the conservation of this declining species.

Updated tracking maps may be viewed online.
<http://www.ccb-wm.org/programs/migration/WWhimbrel/whimbrel.htm>

"Hope made landfall on St. Croix on the evening of 14 August after completing an extraordinary 100 hour, 5,720 kilometer (3,500 mile) flight out over the open ocean."

Bird Sightings – Summer 2009

Kevin Burke - (wildburke@hotmail.com)

Bird Sightings Farewell

"We have had some great sightings over the summer and for the first bird sightings column I wanted to do a summer highlight reel."

After eleven years of being the Bird Sightings columnist I am retiring from that task. I will miss hearing from all of the people who made my column possible with their dedicated birding and reporting. It was a hard decision to make but I look forward to the extra time to bird. I hope to see you out there. I turn the column into the capable hands of Kevin Burke.

Bill LaFramboise

Bird Sightings Greetings

Greetings! I am your new Bird Sightings guy Kevin Burke!!! I just wanted to kick off my tenure as your bird sightings coordinator with a thank you. I appreciate the chance to take on this responsibility for the Lower Columbia Audubon Society. I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the folks that have posted on LC birds and e-mailed me directly their sightings from the summer. I hope that these sightings will continue to come in throughout the next year. My e-mail address is wildernessburke1@yahoo.com. This column is dependent on everyone getting out and birding to be successful. I encourage everyone continue to bird and record those sightings. We have had some great sightings over the summer and for the first bird sightings column I wanted to do a summer highlight reel. I have picked out what I think are some really good sightings for the summer months.

May:

1. May 1st: a Trumpeter Swan was seen at Horn Rapids by NL, BD, JL, and LH the swan stayed until May 20th.
2. May 1st: A Red-Naped Sapsucker was seen at the home of Laurie Ness by NL, JA, LU Red-Naped Sapsucker was also seen at Horn

Rapids park on May 9th by NL and BD

3. May 1st: A Mountain Bluebird was seen on ALE by a lot of folks
4. May 2nd: 3 Evening Grosbeaks were seen in a yard in Rancho Reata by TG
5. May 2nd: An Indigo Bunting was seen at the home of Regan Weeks and Scott Peterson
6. May 3rd: A Gray Flycatcher and Baird's Sandpiper were seen in WW county by MD&MLD
7. May 7th: A Vaux's Swift was seen at Horn Rapids park by JT
8. May 13th and 15th: Turkey Vultures were seen in Richland, West Richland and Columbia Point by BL and WH
9. May 14th: 2 Black-Bellied Plovers were seen at the WW Delta by MD&MLD
10. May 15th: an Olive-Sided Flycatcher was seen at W.E. Johnson park by a mob of folks
11. May 18th: 2 Red-Necked Phalaropes were seen on ALE by NL and ER, Red-Necked Phalaropes were also seen on May 28th at Patterson Slough by BL&NL
12. May 22nd: a Flammulated Owl was seen at Palouse Falls by MW, BT, and BLaBar
13. May 26th: a Western Scrub Jay was seen on Ward Gap road in Prosser by NL and also at Horn Rapids park on May 25th by CS and MH
14. May 30th: 3 White-Faced Ibis were seen at the WW Delta by MD&MLD

June:

1. June 2nd: 2 Clark's Nutcrackers were seen at the Lamb Weston Tech Center by JT this is a great bird locally with only a few other records!
2. June 7th: 2 Eurasian Collared Doves were seen at the home of Bob Woodley by BW
3. June 7th: A Northern Mockingbird was seen

Summer Bird Sightings *continued*

at Sacajawea State Park by LN

4. June 18th : A Marbled Godwit was seen at the WW Delta by NL,HN,JB,BG
5. June 19th : A Short-Eared Owl was seen on Rotha Road by NL and BL
6. June 20th : A Common Poorwill was seen on Rattlesnake Mtn. by MB
7. June 21st : A Black Throated Gray Warbler was seen at the home of TG in Rancho Reata
8. June 22nd : A high count of 19 Long-Billed Curlew were seen at the Umatilla Refuge McCormack Unit by a lot of folks
9. June 27th : A Rufous Hummingbird was in the yard of LH

JULY

1. July 10th : a Common Yellowthroat was seen at Two Rivers Park by NL,MB, and NFM
2. July 17th : A Clark's Grebe was seen near Johnson Island by JA
3. July 22nd : 75 Horned Larks were seen on Wooded Is. By JA
4. July 24th : A Baltimore Oriole was likely seen in Richland by PR this is a fabulous bird for this area!
5. July 24th : Grasshopper and Lark Sparrows were seen on Smith Canyon Rd. by RL
6. July 27th : A Juvenile Screech Owl was seen in North Richland by Mary L

August

1. August 3rd : A Long-Eared Owl was in Rancho Reata at the home of TR
2. August 6th : 11 Eared Grebes were at Wooded Is. Seen by JA
3. August 8th : Migration was officially declared in full swing by AF when he saw a Red-Breasted Nuthatch in his yard in North Richland
4. August 12th : Anna's, Black-Chinned, Rufous, and Calliope Hummingbirds were all in Lisa Hill's yard
5. August 15th : A Black Tern was seen on Bateman Island by a lot of folks and stayed for a few days

6. August 16th : A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at the Yakima River Delta by NL
7. August 20th : A Hairy Woodpecker was seen at W.E. Johnson park by NL and others
8. August 20th : A Western Tanager was spotted at the McNary office in Burbank by HB
9. August 24th : A Stilt Sandpiper was seen at Paterson Slough by GM
10. August 30th : A Black-Tailed Gull was seen at the WW Delta by MD&MLD what a great bird I would have been down there in a minute if not for work! This has to be the bird of the summer I don't know of any other records around here.

Observers:

(HB) Howard Browers, (RL) Ron Louderback, (CS) Cathy Smith, (LH) Lisa Hill, (ER) Ed Rykiel, (JT) Joel Tinsley, (NL) Nancy LaFramboise, (LU) Larry Umthun, (JA) Jane Abel, (WH) Wayne Heinz, (MD&MLD) Mike Denny and Merrylynn Denny, (TG) Tony Greager, (PR) Pat Rutherford, (GM) Guy McWethy, (AF) Adam Fyall, (MH) Marilyn Hayes, (MW) Mike Woodruff, (BT) Bill Twiet, (BLaBar) Bruce LaBar,(BW) Bob Woodley, (JB) Jennie Bradbury, (HN) Heidi Newsome, (BG) Brian Greeves, (MB) Matt Bartels, (MFM) Mary Frances Mathis, (ML) Mary L, (BD) Bonnie Dunham, (JL) Jordene Lucas

This is just a highlight reel of what everyone witnessed over the summer. There were many more shorebirds and passerines seen this summer. If I offended anyone by leaving anything out I apologize in advance. This can be an evolving process, so if anyone has any suggestions on what they would like to see in the sightings column please let me know. Compiling all of this data has made me want to go out and bird!!!! Keep all the sightings coming and next month will be the sightings from September. P.S. I hope I spelled everyone's name correctly.

President's Message

Welcome to 2010! I predict that the world isn't going to end in 2000 or 2001. Fatalists can still hold out hope that the end is near as we approach the last days of the Mayan calendar in 2012.

Since we have to soldier on, we held our annual planning meeting August 8 at the Benton REA Community Center. I am constantly amazed at the ambition of the officers and directors who once again plan for an exciting year of conservation, education, and fun activities. I hope that you will support their plans by volunteering a little of your time to LCBAS.

A few of our goals for this year are to expand our Junior Audubon program to middle and high school, start a "Finding your wings" study group for beginning and intermediate birders, ride herd on local conservation issues especially related to the Hanford Reach National Monument, diversify the program for our monthly meetings, plan 4 local birding trips, develop a membership drive and coordinated fundraising program, and continue our community outreach. And there's more that you will hear about as we go along this LCBAS year.

I hope that you will make it one of your goals this year to check our website, lcbas.org, at least once a week, and to participate in at least a few of the upcoming projects and activities. Your participation makes your voice heard in our community and beyond.

Each time I write one of these messages, I feel like I left out something extremely important and I'm sure I'll think of it as soon as I click the Send button. But this time I can't think of anything more important than inviting you to another great year of LCBAS treats and Nature's delights.

Ed Rykiel
President
LCBAS 2010

Note from Blue Mountain Wildlife

Attention LCBAS members:

Last January Michele Caron of the Benton City Satellite Facility of Blue Mountain Wildlife spoke to our membership about the "hack" or fledging program. After her entertaining presentation several members came up to volunteer services and/or materials. One member mentioned that he had dog runs he would like to donate. Unfortunately no one remembers the name of this generous individual. Anyone wishing to donate materials or services please contact Marilyn Hayes at 521-4648.

Renewal Reminder

For many members, September is renewal month. Please look at your mailing label and renew! Don't miss out on a single issue of the *Curlew*.

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

President Ed Rykiel.....(509)627-1113
E-mail: ecodoc59@yahoo.com
 Vice President Rod Coler.....(509)783-4664
E-mail: rodcoler@verizon.net
 Secretary Debbie Berkowitz.....(509)375-4740
E-mail: cdandrb@charter.net
 Treasurer Lucie Fritz.....(509)946-9134
E-mail: LucieF@aol.com

Eighth Annual Seed Sale & Bird Information Fair - October 17 *(more details on Page 3)*

Once again, Columbia Grain & Feed will make a donation to LCBAS based on bird feeding supply purchases.

Who: Anyone who feeds birds or wants to know more about our local birds

What: Displays, Good Prices, Answers to Questions

When: October 17, 2009, 9 am to 2 pm

Where: Columbia Grain & Feed, 2001 W Lewis St, Pasco

Why: FUN, Information, Benefits education programs, Good deals

Questions: Call Nancy at 627-3695

By preordering by October 5, Columbia Grain & Feed can get the amounts and varieties that customers want. Don't be disappointed. If you are not available on October 17, please PREPAY your order and enclose a note letting Columbia Grain & Feed know when you expect to pick up your order. Remember; WHENEVER you buy bird feeding supplies at Columbia Grain & Feed tell the clerk that you want your purchase to count toward the donation to Audubon!

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon – Columbia Grain and Feed Seed Order Form

RETURN ORDER FORMS AND PAYMENT TO: Columbia Grain and Feed, 2001 W Lewis Street, Pasco, 99301 BY October 5, 2009

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

<u>Size</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
50#	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$16.49	_____	_____	20#	Healthy Hearts Sunflower	\$21.99	_____	_____
50#	Healthy Hearts Sunflower	\$49.00	_____	_____	10#	Nyger Thistle	\$11.99	_____	_____
50#	Nyger Thistle	\$52.99	_____	_____	20#	Finches Feast	\$18.69	_____	_____
50#	White Millet	\$ 9.99	_____	_____	20#	Shell Free Fiesta	\$19.99	_____	_____
50#	Regional Recipe <i>(cracked corn, black oil sunflower, white millet mix)</i>	\$14.99	_____	_____	25#	Regional Recipe	\$ 8.95	_____	_____
50#	Cracked Corn	\$ 8.29	_____	_____	25#	Squirrel Chow Select	\$ 6.99	_____	_____
50#	Bird Lover's Blend	\$16.99	_____	_____	25#	Peanuts in Shell	\$31.29	_____	_____
50#	Primo Wild Bird	\$ 11.99	_____	_____	25#	Primo Wild Bird	\$ 6.69	_____	_____

Subtotal _____ Tax 8.3% _____ Grand Total _____

Please try to find the following bird feeding item for the sale: _____

Comments: _____

Payment can be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, Am. Express, Discover).

Credit card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____



Education and Taxidermy – a winning combination

Have you ever seen the LCBAS taxidermy collection? Now is the time. We now have over 100 pieces and more are on the way. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has built special display cases in the new education facility at McNary National Wildlife Refuge and our collection looks very professional. The USFWS also purchased the interpretive signs. New donations have increased the collection as have purchases that we have made.

Two events listed in this month's *Curlew* will feature the collection – the Eighth Annual Bird Seed Sale and Information Day and the Grand Opening of the McNary Refuge Education Center (see pages 2 and 3). This collection has been in the making for a long time and is finally a showpiece and an excellent addition to the education programs that we run and support. Birds are used in the Education Center and are also brought to classrooms through our speakers program.

Over the past eight years, one of our biggest supporters has been Columbia Grain & Feed. Their donations, based on your purchases of bird feeding supplies, have generated enough funds to have added at least 20 birds to the collection. Whenever you buy seed at Columbia Grain & Feed, ask the salesperson to count your purchase toward the Audubon donation. Place an order for the October 17 Bird Seed Sale and you will get wonderful prices in addition to supporting the fundraising effort.

If you are able to attend the Grand Opening of the Education Center on October 10, you will be able to see the facility and our

display. The cases are currently arranged by bird and habitat groups. Featured are Waterfowl, Shrub-steppe, Perching Birds, Raptors, Owls, Game Birds, and Wetlands. One additional case currently has a few birds but will hopefully in the near future display an egg collection and a skull collection. Come to the Grand Opening or call or leave a message at 546-8350 to find out when the center is open. If you have some time to donate, ask about volunteering; training is available.

Recent new birds include a **Pine Grosbeak**, **Black-billed Magpie**, **Wild Turkey**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Winter Wren**, and quite a few more. Though we never wish a bird's death, we hope to get a few more common local birds such as a male House Finch or a male American Goldfinch. If you find a fresh dead bird, wrap it in newspaper and put it in a freezer bag with as little air as possible. Do you know a hunter with taxidermy they are ready to donate? We are looking for Gadwall, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Call Nancy at 627-3695. Taxidermy is expensive and donations of pieces or money are always appreciated.

New Editor of "The Curlew"

Hello! My name is Heidi Newsome and I am the new editor of our newsletter! I welcome contributions and could not do this without your help. Contributions should be in by the first Sunday of each month and can be sent to heidi_newsome@yahoo.com.

I hope you enjoy the new format, please send comments and suggestions and I look forward to making this a great publication!

The Curlew

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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 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

Name.....

Address.....

City, State, Zip.....

Phone.....

Email.....

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