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the curlew

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Special Interest Articles:

- Don't Forget: Membership meeting and Program November 23!
- San Juan trip see page 2
- Mark your calendar for the Christmas Bird Count!

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The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – a personal perspective from Scott Woodward

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 23, 2010, 7:00 p.m. Kennewick First Lutheran Church, corner of Yelm and Highway 395

All LCBAS members come to the November meeting to be there first hand to hear Scott Woodward's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) Presentation! Scott is a LCBAS member and a self professed full time volunteer and conservation activist. Scott and Pamela Woodward wanted to see ANWR up close and personal to gain perspective on the big

picture story of this threatened landscape. The pair enlisted the guidance of an internationally recognized ANWR advocate who survived Vietnam, Chicago 1968 and Woodstock. The Woodwards were immersed in an intimate adventure down the Kongagut River through the North Slope of the Brooks Range in search of the truth about this amazing place. In Scott's words: "Be prepared for an educational and personal exploration of the Eastern edge of ANWR and a side bar trip into Denali National Park at the height of the spectacular fall colors and the Grizzly

pre-hibernation hyperphagia, a prehibernation phase that prompts the bears to pack on fat before winter."

Scott is a 60 year resident of the TriCities. He is a retired teacher/coach at Richland High School and Columbia Basin College. He currently serves as President of Tapteal Greenway Association and Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network.

The business meeting will begin at 7:00 followed by a short social time and refreshments. Our speaker usually begins around 7:45 p.m. Please bring a treat to help make this meeting a fun time to visit with friends and enjoy a tasty snack.

Bateman Island Bird Walk *with Rich Barchet*

Although fall colors have passed their peak, the [Bateman Island](#) walk on November 6, 2010, was a cool, overcast day which demonstrated that fall

migration was well underway. A group of 16 adults and three children were able to spot four grebe species, a Common Loon, and [Common Merganser](#) plus the usual

collection of ducks before crossing the causeway. Just before reaching the [locust grove](#), a group of Junior Audubon families joined the



“a group of Junior Audubon families joined the main group, here is a photo of a few of our juniors, Blake and Alisandro, at the bird walk.”

Bateman Island Walk *Continued*

main group and then had wonderful views of a **Great Horned Owl** in the grove. At the overlook of the Yakima, scopes gave everyone good looks at American White Pelicans, **Northern Pintails**, Rudy Ducks, more grebes, **American Coots**, and the usual gulls. Notable other sightings included a

Merlin and a late **Orange-crowned Warbler**. Total species count for the morning was 49. Check out the LCBAS.ORG web site for a complete list.

The next Bateman Island bird walk will be **December 4 at 8 AM**.

Meet in the parking lot

of Wye Park above the causeway to the island.

Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Invite a friend, bring your binoculars (some available for loan) and scope, if you have one, and dress warmly! We are sure to find many more new arrivals to the area that will stay for the **winter season**.

San Juan Mother's Day Weekend of Birding

On Friday, May 6, 2011, we will make our way to beautiful Friday Harbor. It is necessary to take the Anacortes Ferry so check schedules. The weekend includes **2 nights lodging** in the Harrison House Suites Bed & Breakfast. A **4 course gourmet breakfast** will be served on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Saturday morning, we will join **San Juan Safaris-Whale Watching**

Wildlife Tours for a 3 hour bird watching excursion around the San Juan Islands. We will have a **specialty box lunch** on the boat. In the afternoon, a **3 hour Sea Kayaking** for birds around the island will be available as an option. Birding on shore around the island will also be available. Saturday evening dinner will be at the **Coho** Restaurant. Cost of this weekend is \$300 based on double occupancy or shared

suites. Sea Kayaks are an additional \$75. Not covered transportation to and from Friday Harbor and items of a personal nature such as phone calls and alcoholic beverages. Space is limited so if you are interested contact Barbara Clarke at (509) 588-3362 or barbaraclarke@frontier.com

McNary Environmental Education Center - Second Saturday Event- Animal Track Discovery

When: Saturday, Dec 11th, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

What: Who made these tracks? Discover animal encounters in the sidewalks and mud. Solve the mystery - what happened and to whom?

The McNary Education Center will also be open for those who wish to view the taxidermy or walk the trails to observe the winter waterfowl. 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 the second stoplight after the Snake River Bridge. Turn left onto Lake Rd. Look for Education Center on the left.

JUNIOR AUDUBON NEWS

Junior Audubon is off to a great start this school year. Seventeen children attended the first after-school meeting. We have many new members. Cesar, Sydney, Jessa, Jayden, Siomara, Connor and Jared attended their first meeting. Other new members, Mireya, Lizette, Kylie, and Bo couldn't make the meeting. We learned about owls with owl mounts that have been on display at Hawthorne Elementary School. We saw a Great-horned Owl,

Snowy Owl, Saw-Whet Owl, Flammulated Owl, Barn Owl, and Burrowing Owl. We started work in our Jr. Birder booklets. Everyone got to take home a backyard bird poster and an owl facts coloring page.

Six families attended the Saturday Bateman Island Bird Walk. The children were thrilled to see a Great-horned Owl in the scopes provided by Nancy and Rich. They also got to see several species of grebes, Buffleheads, a

Common Loon, American Pelicans, Song Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos. Welcome to the Stordahls, who joined after the bird walk.

We'll have an after-school meeting on Monday, December 13, and maybe carpool to Sacajawea Park to take an eagle walk afterwards. January 15 we'll be "Going Ducky." We'll take a look at the many ducks that winter in the Columbia River.

Audubon Adventures

LCBAS is purchasing 15 classroom kits for 12 educational facilities this year: Cottonwood Elementary, Hawthorne, Elementary, Jason Lee Elementary, McNary Education Center, Marcus Whitman Elementary, Whittier Elementary, Lewis and Clark Elementary, Mark Twain Elementary, Homelink Middle School Program, Sagebrush Montessori School, Amistad Elementary School, and Kingspoint Christian School. The total cost is \$684.75. Any interested

LCBAS member who would like to contribute to helping to pay for this project can make out a check to LCBAS and indicate that it is for the Audubon Adventures program. The cost of an individual kit is \$45.65. Send checks to our post office box, P.O. Box 1600, Richland, WA 99352 in care of our treasurer, Katie Harris.

Audubon Adventures is a great way to begin to connect kids with nature! Please support our educational effort!

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.

Dues Reminder

You can pay your dues and make donations to LCBAS using a credit card and PayPal. See our website at lcbas.org or go to this link: <http://lcbas.org/JoinLCBAS.html>.

Empty Your Cache

Are you having trouble viewing lcbas.org? Your browser may be using old information in its cache instead of the updated information from our ongoing website revision. Clear your browser cache and refresh the LCBAS browser window to see the latest revision.

Any questions? Contact webmaster@lcbas.org.

Christmas Bird Count – January 1, 2011! Mark Your Calendar.

This year's count will be held Saturday, January 1st. This count, which has occurred nationally for 111 years, and locally for nearly 41 years, is done in over 1,900 locations around the United States and nearby countries and involves over 60,000 volunteers. The data that all these counts produce becomes part of the largest wildlife database in the world and is vital for determining the status of expanding and declining bird numbers. **Anyone that enjoys looking at birds can help.**

All Christmas Bird Counts are standardized to a 7.5 mile radius circle (about 177 square miles). The LCBAS count circle is registered as the Washington Tri-Cities Circle and centers on the Columbia River just off shore near the end of Road 68 in Pasco. This is a very large area that includes Selph landing Road in Pasco, most of Two Rivers Park east of Kennewick and Badger Mountain in Richland.

The Tri-Cities count starts in three locations at 7:30am, January 2nd. Although some hardy souls may do some owling at the official start time of 12:00am midnight. The three start locations where volunteers can start are:

Richland – The “Fingernail” in Howard Amon Park

Kennewick – Audubon Nature Trail in Columbia Park

Pasco – Chiawana Park Boat Ramp

From these locations we split into smaller teams led by more experienced birders. Some birding skills are nice but not required. Look for more information in the December issue of “The Curlew”!

It's Your Collection – Go See It

Seed Sale Results and Taxidermy Update

The LCBAS taxidermy collection is on display at the Education Center at McNary National Wildlife Refuge in Burbank. It is used when volunteers from the LCBAS Education Committee go into classrooms, have displays, or speak to community groups. It is also used by the Mid-Columbia River Refuges Education Center staff and volunteers when they have classes and visitors.

Over the past few years, we have made an effort to upgrade specimens and to have appropriate species for comparison. This takes a lot of funding. If you participated in the Ninth Annual Bird Seed Sale at Columbia Grain and Feed, you have greatly helped in this effort. Columbia Grain and Feed is our biggest supporter so when you visit them, please express your thanks. Predictions are for at least a \$1000 donation from the October 16 event. Even though the big sale is over, whenever you buy bird feeding supplies, ask them to contribute to Audubon, it's a win-win for all. You must tell the clerk that you want your purchase to count toward the donation to Audubon.

As more dead birds are turned in, we will be looking for more funding. Every little bit helps. LCBAS maintains a fund for this effort and donations are appreciated. We are still looking for certain species including breeding plumaged American Goldfinch and House Finch. Whatever you find (if it is in good shape), call Nancy (627-3695) and maybe they will become part of our collection. Recently Roy Petersen turned in some birds and we were able to add a Savannah Sparrow to the collection. Due to cooperation with Mike Livingston of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, we now have a female Greater Sage-Grouse in our collection.

We recently were able to connect with the curator at the Connor Vertebrate Museum at WSU in Pullman. We owe thanks to Dr. Kelly Cassidy who was able to transfer some dead birds to us and she even delivered them! She brought us a Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, California Gull, and Black-chinned Hummingbird. Funding from the last seed sale will cover having these birds prepared. Look for them at future meetings. We are very fortunate to have connected with Leon Matthews of Avian Artistry who has been doing our

Continued on next page

taxidermy work. His attention to detail and his artistic eye are truly enhancing the collection. Kelly also brought us a Northern Shrike and a Loggerhead Shrike that were already preserved. Leon will be adding new stands and vegetation to these so they can be used and displayed.

PLEASE GO SEE AND ENJOY YOUR COLLECTION!

Alternative Gift Fair- December 4, 2010

This year Lower Columbia Basin Audubon is participating in the 3rd Annual Alternative Gift Fair!

Do you want gifts that reflect the true spirit of the holiday season? At the Alternative Gift Fair, you can donate to participating local, national, and international non-profit organizations, including LCBAS! You may choose hand-lettered holiday cards featuring local artists describing the gifts you have made in the names of your friends and family.

**Please come to the 3rd Annual
Alternative Gift Fair!**

**Saturday, December 4, 2009
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Community Unitarian Universalist
Church
2819 West Sylvester St., Pasco**

The Alternative Gift Fair is a charity fundraising event sponsored by Community Unitarian Universalist Church and is based on a model by the Center for a New American Dream. All the gifts go to the charity of choice and are tax deductible.

Check out our website:

<http://www.lcbas.org>

President Robin Priddy..... E-mail: grania0358@aol.com

Vice President Austin Ray Johnson

**Secretary Debbie Berkowitz. E-mail:
cdandrb@charter.net**

**Treasurer Katie Harris.....E-mail:
kharris3b@charter.net**

Finding Your Wings

Finding Your Wings is a workbook for bird watchers. We read a chapter and discuss it once a month. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 14, 6:30, at Cherie Baudrand's home. We're reading Chapter 16 - Sparrows for next month. We'll soon be starting over, and a new group is planning to begin during the day in January. E-mail cbaudrand@charter.net if you would like to join a group.

CAPTURING WILDLIFE IMAGES

Friends of Mid Columbia Wildlife Refuges are proposing that a special camera and associated equipment be installed at the edge of pond # 4 that is part of the McNary Wildlife Refuge. This camera will capture the images of waterfowl resting on the anchored, floating logs in the pond. Special equipment will project the images recorded by the camera, in digital form 800 feet to a TV screen inside the Education Center.

This system will enhance the learning levels of school classes that come to the refuge for "out-of-door" science instruction. Viewing the waterfowl images will be helpful in teaching wildlife identification and the relationship to other species, habitat and weather. It will also be very useful to those refuge visitors who cannot walk the 800 feet to the bird blind to enjoy close-up wildlife viewing.

The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society is assisting the Friends group in the funding of the proposed camera configuration and its installation. Grant requests were also made to local organizations who sponsor the instruction of our youth in the wonders of nature and its stewardship.

GREG GREGER
Member,
Friends of the Mid-Columbia Wildlife Refuges

President's Message *from*

Robin Priddy

Greetings from the now early sunset -

As I've now entered my sixth month – three board meetings and membership meetings – I continue to grow in my understanding and appreciation of the depth and breath of the involvement of our chapter in “**seeing, sharing, and saving**”.

Saving - conservation continues to be a priority. We all watch developments and add our voices, individually and as a group, to the many conservation issues here – disposition of Hanford Lands, Amon Basin, Juniper Dunes, the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center – there is a lot going on. Our chapter and Rick Leaumont in particular continue to receive recognition for our work in Save the Reach. Tapteal Greenway just named Ed Rykiel Conservationist of the Year for 2010. Rich Barchet has done a yeoman's job attending ACOW on our behalf, and moving information so that we can support the statewide effort to make our voices heard during this upcoming legislative session. As these many efforts move forward, we'll continue to make ourselves heard and express our desire to preserve this precious shrub-steppe for years to come.

Sharing has so many aspects – Cherie Beaudrand and everyone involved with Jr. Audubon has grown the group to 39 members! Nancy LaFramboise made a presentation about owls to the first graders, and then Barb Clarke and the Owls were special guests at the Hawthorne luncheon – and the students have learned about bats from Jon Lucas. Along with this, Marilyn Hayes has gotten Audubon Adventures out to 12 schools. LCBAS has just committed to help McNary Wildlife Refuge provide a camera for viewing waterfowl thanks to the efforts of Greg Greger. LCBAS co sponsored a talk at the Mid Columbia libraries on the plants that the Lewis and Clark Expedition saw – Kathy Criddle helped get that done. Sharing as we do will help “grow” the young conservationists who will carry us into the future.

Seeing, as always is a combination of learning and fun. Lisa Hill continues to lead the monthly Bateman walks; Barb Clarke is organizing a couple trips near and far. And then Dana Ward is helping us start off the new year with a bird – our Christmas Bird count will take place on 1/1/11.

I continue to be touched by the long and determined efforts of so many to see, share, and save. There's a lot more going on that I've mentioned here, a lot. Sometimes just being president seems so removed from actually doing the things that Audubon as an entity and as individuals do with such dedication. I hope, as I learn and grow in all manner of ways, that I can at the very least help give voice and support to everyone who is working with such dedication.

Thanks for the privilege of being president.

Thanks, Robin
President, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon
2010-2011

Birding Tip of the month: Consider the season you are in – this makes a difference in plumages you might expect due to young being present, molting, feather wear, and more.

Bear Pride Luncheon

By Barbara Clarke

I was invited to talk about owls at Hawthorn's Schools Bear Pride Luncheon on October 29. The luncheon is for a student from each class that has excelled during the month. We had six of our taxidermy owls. When had Great Horn Owl, Snowy Owl, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Saw Wet Owl, and the Flamulated Owl. We talked about all the special characteristics of each owl. At one point I asked if anyone had seen an owl. A couple of hands went up but on little boy was most enthusiastic. I asked him what kind of owl he had seen. He stated a barn owl. I asked him where he had seen the owl, to which he replied "On the front of my Grandma's car. She hits lots of stuff." It is hard to swallow that much laughter. The kids were especially interested in knowing that Great Horn Owls can eat skunks because they cannot smell and have no olfactory nerves. We listened to lots of owl calls from my I phone. It is great fun to share a love of birds and birding with our kids. We always need adults to help with Junior Audubon and give talks to class rooms. Come and join the fun.

Conservation Notes:

With Rick Leumont

Hanford Land Uses

The Department of Energy is considering expanding commercial and industrial land uses on the Hanford reservation (see Curlew, October 2010).

DOE is only looking at commercial and industrial land uses in the area designed for industrial development in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan adopted in 1999. LCBAS has no objections to environmentally sensitive industrial land use in this area, with the exception of a few areas of high wildlife habitat value which should be preserved. We oppose any industrial or agricultural development in the areas designated for conservation and preservation. DOE had indicated that a public meeting would be held in early December to inform the public and receive public comment on proposed industrial land uses. At this writing we have not been able to determine when this meeting will be held. We must monitor this closely to ensure that industrial development only occurs in the area currently designated for it and that the development is environmentally sensitive.

Audubon in Olympia

The Washington state legislature will be convening shortly after the New Year but will Audubon be there? Audubon has a long history of providing a spokesperson for wildlife and the environment in Olympia. I hate to use the word lobbyist as our spokespersons have always been much more than lobbyist. Our voice has always been from the heart, with no thought for personal or commercial gain and no political agenda. Audubon has been a source legislators could always turn to for the facts, no grandstanding, hard facts and good science. Currently we do not have a spokesperson in Olympia but the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) is working hard to find the funds and bring on board the right person to fill this void. Time is short but we can do it!

Odessa Subarea Special Study:

The US Bureau of Reclamation has just released its Odessa Subarea Special Study draft environmental

impact statement. The statement presents alternatives for irrigating from 57,000 to 102,600 acres of farm land east of Moses Lake. These lands have been irrigated by wells but the ground water table in the Odessa aquifer has been dropping dramatically for years. The 736 page report reviews alternatives for shifting irrigation of these lands from well water to surface Columbia River water via expansion of the Columbia Basin Project. Alternatives range from No Action to irrigation of 57,000 acres upwards to 102,600 acres. The project would draw tens of thousands of additional acre feet of water from the Columbia threatening fish and wildlife. Expansion of the Columbia Basin Project infrastructure would also destroy and fragment shrub steppe habitat.

Copies of the study may be requested by calling Bureau of Reclamation at 509-575-5848 x 603. Comments on the study are due by December 31, 2010. A public hearing will be held on November 18th at Big Bend Community College, Bldg 1800, 7611 Bolling St NE, Moses Lake, Washington.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 4 - Alternative Gift Fair
Dec. 21 - No meeting. Merry Christmas!

2011

Jan. 1 - Bird Count and Potluck Dinner
Jan. 18 – Meeting Program: Paul Hofferth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist, Hanford Reach Salmonids
Feb. 22 – Meeting Program: Dr. Dan Roby, OSU, Fish-eating Birds in Eastern Washington
Feb. 26 – Fundraising Breakfast at Applebees in Pasco
Mar. 22 – Meeting Program: Chris Caviezel, Hummingbirds
April 2 – Ghost Bird Movie, Battelle Auditorium
Apr. 26 – Meeting Program: David Knibb, Author: Grizzly Wars: The Public Fight Over the Great Bear

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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. This payment includes membership in the local chapter (LCBAS) but does not included a subscription to *The Curlew*

Please make check payable to **National Audubon Society**. Please do not send renewals for NAS 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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