September 2010
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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 September 28!
- Summer Bird Sightings pages 4 & 5
- **SEED SALE** order forms! Fill yours out today!

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Habitat Restoration on the Hanford Reach National Monument

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 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 Heidi Newsome, biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who will present her talk, Habitat Restoration on the Hanford Reach National Monument. Heidi will discuss recent post-wildfire rehabilitation projects and some of the results of those projects for on- the- ground - conservation of shrub-steppe habitat. Heidi has a MS in Wildlife Science and has been in the Columbia Basin since 1999.

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*

The Bateman Island Bird Walk season got off to a fantastic start on September 4 with a great list of 60 species. Many migrants were moving through the area while a good number of the summer breeding birds still remained which accounted for the long list. Before we set foot on the island, an ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER was found in the Russian olive trees just before the causeway. Thanks to Phil Bartley for spotting this relatively rare species for the Tri-Cities. There was a beautiful mink glistening in the sun on the rocks beneath those same trees.

Quite a few of our winter residents have returned from their breeding grounds including WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, GADWALL, AMERICAN WIGEON, NORTHERN PINTAIL, GREEN-WINGED TEAL and PIED-BILLED GREBE. Other warblers were ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, YELLOW WARBLER and NASHVILLE WARBLER.

Two GREAT HORNED OWLS and a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH were in the locust grove. With the help of a spotting scope to scan the delta, the shorebird list really added up – WESTERN SANDPIPER, SPOTTED

Bateman Island Walk *Continued*

Ash-throated flycatcher *by L.Umthun*

"Many migrants were moving through the area while a good number of the summer breeding birds still remained.."

SANDPIPER, LEAST SANDPIPER, SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER, KILLDEER, GREATER YELLOWLEGS, BLACK-NECKED STILT, and LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.

A RED-NECKED PHALAROPE swirled around in a typical circular pattern in the shallow water near the shorebirds. CASPIAN TERN, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, OSPREY, and BELTED KINGFISHER all made an appearance over the water.

Autumn is beautiful in the Tri-cities so don't miss the next Bateman walk on Saturday, October 2. We meet in the parking lot of Wye Park at 8AM. Binoculars are recommended. Birders of all skill levels are welcome!

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.

Beaches, Wildflowers and Red Dirt: travels in Central and South-Western Australia.

Wednesday, September 22 at 7 pm
Kennewick Library
1620 S Union St.

Australia is one big place and a beautiful travel destination. Explore around Alice Springs, Perth and Kangaroo Island . In between, travel some very long roads as we search for wildlife, Aboriginal art, southern beaches and some odd little towns.

Join Kathy Criddle as she shares adventures and travel tips from a journey taken in Australia with some intrepid members of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

10th Anniversary of the Hanford Reach National Monument!

When: Saturday October 9, 9am
What: A Public Celebration of the 10 th anniversary of the Hanford Reach National Monument! Begin at the Vernita Bridge, Mattawa, WA.

Self-guided tours begin at the rest stop at the Vernita Bridge on Hwy 240 (towards Vantage). Stop for information and tour maps. The self tour includes 5 stops with a geology talk, the Wanapum traveling museum, Saddle Mtn access road tips, a gorgeous view of White Bluffs & more. For more information contact Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges 546-8350 or USFWS 546-8300.

The McNary Education Center will also be open for those who wish to view the taxidermy or walk the trails to observe the fall migration.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 – VERY IMPORTANT DATE – OCTOBER 16!

NINTH ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE AND INFORMATION DAY

Want good prices on the things you use to feed birds? Have questions about what or how to feed our feathered friends? Once again, in connection with Columbia Grain & Feed, we will be hosting our Ninth Annual Bird Seed Sale and Information Day. Please tell your friends and mark your calendars for October 16. Place an order on the enclosed order form before October 5 and then pick it up on October 16. If you can't make it on the 16th, that's fine, just don't wait too long. Preordering insures you get the items you want at the best possible prices. Based on your purchase amount, Columbia Grain & Feed will make a donation to the LCBAS Education Fund for taxidermy. Help us beat last year's record.

- LCBAS members will be present to answer questions
- Best prices possible for bird feeding supplies and answers to your bird questions
- Saturday, October 16, 9 am until 2 pm
- Columbia Grain & Feed, 2001 West Lewis, (corner of 20th and Lewis), Pasco
- It's fun, informative, and a win-win for all. 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.

Columbia Grain and Feed has been so generous for the past 8 years. Please support their generosity. Our taxidermy collection has grown due to their commitment to our education program. The most recent pieces include a Greater Sage-Grouse, Cliff Swallow, Sage Thrasher, and Hermit Thrush.
See order form in this issue for current pricing information.

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.

Audubon Adventures

Last year LCBAS purchased 12 classroom kits of Audubon Adventures. The cost of each kit is $45. This year we have a goal of finding 15 classrooms to benefit from this nationally acclaimed program. LCBAS members who would like to make a contribution to this worthwhile program can mail a check to LCBAS and indicate that your donation is for Audubon Adventures. Send to: Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352, Attention: Katie Harris - Treasurer.

Audubon Adventures helps 3rd through 5th graders form positive attitudes about nature and supports teachers with instructional content aligned with national standards for Social Studies (with an emphasis on Civics), Science and Language Arts.

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

Volunteering to help with Heritage Days

For the past three years LCBAS members have volunteered to help with Heritage Days at Sacajawea Park. This year Heritage Days is September 24, 25, and 26th. Blue Mountain Wildlife and LCBAS will share a space again. Volunteers are needed to recruit new members and explain our mission. Interested folks call Marilyn Hayes at 521 4648 or email her at mzbirds@me.com.

Bird Sightings – August 2010

Angela Harding - *(gela.harding43@gmail.com)*

" I hope you have all had a great summer full of birding and other wonderful adventures. Its fall migrant season and I can't wait to read about what you find. ."

Hello fellow birders!

I hope you have all had a great summer full of birding and other wonderful adventures. Its fall migrant season and I can't wait to read about what you find. Here is a list of the great birds some of you have reported for August.

1. August 5th, 2010. Craig from Benton City. Believes he saw a lesser goldfinch at Lewis and Clark State Park by Dayton.
Also saw young yellow warblers, a young marsh wren, and young wood peewees. Johnson Park, Saturday August 7th. Saw several well-worn lazuli buntings, 3 Downey woodpeckers, catbird, Wilson's warbler, and quite a few other species.

2. August 11th, 2010. Tony Greager. Spotted a family group of 4 Short-eared Owls along Cemetery Road just south of Benton City.

3. August 13th, 2010. Tom M. The quarry on the Pasco-Kahlotus Highway about 2 or 3 miles from Hwy 12 near Pasco.
Both Yellowlegs a Solitary Sandpiper and a Red-necked Phalarope

4. August 13th, 2010 Nancy L. The Yakima Delta:
3 Long-billed Dowitchers, 17 Killdeer, 1 Western Sandpiper, 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1 Greater and 7 Lesser Yellowlegs, 4 Red-necked Phalaropes, and a Spotted Sandpiper. The day before, some of the same birds plus Least Sandpipers and 4 Black-necked Stilts.

5. August 14th, 2010. Nancy L. The quarry on the Pasco-Kahlotus Highway about 2 or 3 miles from Hwy 12 near Pasco.
2 Solitary Sandpipers, 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper, several Killdeer, and 1 Baird's Sandpiper. Mallard, Green-winged Teal, 1 Black-crowned Night-Heron and 2 Great Blue Herons.

6. August 17th, 2010. Nancy L. Bateman Island.
1 Wilson's Warbler. 1 Black-headed Grosbeak, at least 10 Yellow Warblers, Eastern Kingbirds, Gray Catbirds, Bewick's Wrens, and BC Chickadees. Western Grebe. The Yakima Delta.:20 Killdeer, Least, Western, and Semipalmated Sandpipers (about 20 total), 3 Baird's Sandpipers, 1 Semipalmated Plover, and 2 Spotted Sandpipers. A fairly high count of 20 Red-necked Phalaropes.

7. August 17th, 2010. Ron & Carole Louderback. Rothrock Rd., back side of Rattlesnake Mnt. Spotted and photographed a Black Merlin.

8. August 20th, 2010. Nancy L. Paterson Slough (Umatilla NWR near Plymouth WA)
8 Long-billed Dowithcher, 1 juv. Short-billed Dowitcher, 15 Black-necked Stilt, 7 American Avocet, 5 Lesser Yellowlegs, 3 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Spotted Sandpiper, 6 Killdeer, A peep flock of about 60 birds with Least, Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers, 1 Stilt Sandpiper, 1 Wilson's Snipe, 75 Red-necked Phalarope, 2 Canvasbacks.

9. August 20th, 2010. Lisa Hill. W.E. Johnson Park.
Wilson's, MacGaillivray's, and Townsand's Warblers. Warbling Virios, Red-brested Nuthatch, Western Tanager, 25 Bewick's Wrens, 30 Song Sparrows, 15 Gray Catbirds, 7 Yellow-breasted Chats. In her yard next to the park she had 1 Calliope Hummingbird and 4 Black-chinned Hummingbirds.

10. August 21st, 2010. Bill & Nancy L. Bateman Island.
12 Yellow (maybe summer breeders still), 15 Orange-crowned, 3 MacGillivray's, 3 Nashville, 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler. 1 Warbling Vireo, 2 Chipping Sparrows, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Some Red-necked Phalaropes in among the gulls and Caspian Terns. Some of

August Bird Sightings *continued*

the kingbirds have departed as well as the orioles and grosbeaks (only saw 2) but the catbirds were still plentiful.

11. August 21st, 2010. Kevin Black. Sacagawea State Park.
8 Northern Pintail, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 12 American White Pelican, 7 Double-crested Cormorant, 1 Great Blue Heron, 2 Osprey, 1 Spotted Sandpiper, 2 Caspian Tern, 10 Mourning Dove, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 western Wood-pewee, 10 Eastern Kingbird, 2 Warbling Vireo, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, Tree, Violet-green, and Barn Swallows, 5 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Orange-crowned, 2 Nashville, 3 Yellow Warblers, 10 Chipping Sparrows, 10 Song Sparrows, 1 Brown-headed Cowbird, 10 House Finch, 20 American Goldfinch.

12. August 24th, 2010. Nancy L. Yakima Delta
There was finally some mud for the shorebirds. 50 peep types (Western, Least and very likely a Semipalmated), many Killdeer and 2 Semipalmated Plovers, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper, 8 Red-necked Phalaropes, and a few of both Yellowlegs. 2 Virginia Rails. 2 BC Chickadees, 5 Nashville Warblers, 1 MacGillivray's Warbler, 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, a Warbling Vireo, and a Song Sparrow.

13. August 28th, 2010. Nancy L. Chandler Dam. First White-crowned Sparrows. Rotha, Rothrock, and Case Roads on the south slope of Rattlesnake. Sage Thrasher, Sage, Vesper, and Brewer's Sparrows.

14. August 29th, 2010. Bill & Nancy L. Yard in Richland, Wa. Wilson's Warbler

Olmsted in the Pacific Northwest: Parks, Gardens and Campus Designs

Among the most influential landscape designers in history, the Olmsted Brothers travelled west around the turn of the 20th century to assist with the creation of parks and campuses throughout the Pacific Northwest. Each park, they advised, should reflect its natural surroundings, and be different than parks across town. Olmsted greatly admired the Pacific Northwest's native vegetation and urged public and private clients to retain as much of the underlying shrubbery — and the treescape — as possible. Today, we see the value of preserving native plants in our landscape, but are we a century too late? Or was Olmsted a century too soon?
Joan Hockaday is the author of *Greenscapes: Olmsted's Pacific Northwest*, published by Washington State University Press in 2009. Hockaday has explored and written on landscape history elsewhere on the West Coast with her first book *The Gardens of San Francisco*, an exploration of the natural history — including histories of its parks and gardens — of San Francisco. She has given numerous lectures on topics related to her books at the Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane, the Seattle Public Library and the Rainier Club, among others.
For more information contact: Kathy Criddle, kcriddle@midcolumbialibraries.org

Join LCBAS for cookies and refreshments at the Kennewick Library during this wonderful Humanities Washington and Community Lecture Series Program.
Thursday, October 21
7PM
Kennewick Library
1620 S Union St

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://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*

Conservation Notes:

with Rick Leaumont

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and you were able to spend sometime in the field birding and maybe even adding a bird or two to your life list.

Thank Heaven the British Petroleum (BP) gulf oil leak has finally been successfully plugged. Only time will tell how much damage was done and how long it will take for the gulf to repair itself. I say "repair itself" because the leak was too massive for mere humans to ever completely repair or contain. We must press Congress and the administration to ensure adequate safety measures are in place and a system of rigid inspection and regulation are implemented to guarantee everything humanly possible is done to prevent another disastrous leak.

During the months ahead we will be monitoring any efforts to revive the Black Rock and Lower Crab Creek reservoir projects. We will be watching land use decisions at Hanford to insure wildlife habitat is protected and any DOE lands declared excess are first offered to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Hanford Reach National Monument.

The proposed Hanford Reach Interpretive Center is slowing moving forward with efforts to secure approval for locating the Center in Columbia Park West. Hopefully the Section 106 Archeological Survey process will soon be completed. If the location passes this survey process the prospects are good for final approval of the site.

President's Message

from Robin Priddy

As there is a tradition of a message from the president in the Curlew, I'll do my best to continue. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as president, it's been an interesting journey to begin to understand all that goes on within LCBAS; and I know there's still much for me to learn. It's been great to get to know people through bird walks, banding, and learning; I have enjoyed the opportunities to learn so much and how generously everyone shares. I'm looking forward to the year learning and spending time with people, and playing my part in supporting our work to see, share and save the beauty around us.

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

Editor's Note:

Hello members and friends of Lower Columbia Basin Audubon! I hope you enjoy reading "The Curlew" and invite anyone who is interested to submit articles and material for future issues. The Local newsletter likes to focus on local events, travel, bird sightings and local conservation issues. I also like to include articles of interest to our readers. Please feel free to send anything that you think other members might find interesting or of concern! My contact is heidi_newsome@yahoo.com
The articles are generally requested by the 2 nd Sunday of each month. Thanks so much in advance for your contributions that keep the newsletter interesting and informative!

World's Rarest Wild Macaw to Benefit From Land Purchase for Conservation

From American Bird Conservancy

(Washington, D.C., September 1, 2010) Habitat vital to the world's rarest and most endangered Macaw surviving in the wild, the Blue-throated Macaw, has been purchased in a joint effort by three leading conservation groups -- American Bird Conservancy, Asociación Armonía Bolivia and World Land Trust, US. Over 2,800 acres of savanna and rainforest in northwestern Bolivia will now be protected as part of the existing Barba Azul Nature Preserve – creating a total protected area of 11,555 acres.

"Only about 350 Blue-throated Macaws, including as few as 50 breeding pairs, are believed to exist in the wild, so expanding the reserve was vitally important to preservation efforts for this bird," said George Fenwick, President of American Bird Conservancy, the leading bird conservation organization in the United States.

The Blue-throated Macaw is found only in one place on Earth: the Beni Savannas of Bolivia. It is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), due to habitat loss and poaching for the wild bird trade. The complex system of grasslands, marshes, and forests that makes up the Beni is largely in the hands of cattle ranchers. Every year, large swaths of land are lost to intentional burning for pastureland.

The Barba Azul Nature Reserve is now being managed by Asociación Armonía Bolivia. "Barba Azul" means "Blue Beard" in Spanish, and is the colloquial name for this beautiful Bolivian endemic bird. Additionally, the preserve protects several other threatened bird species and provides habitat for large mammals such as jaguars, peccaries, pumas, giant anteaters, pampas deer, black caiman and maned wolves.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Expanded Reporting for Birds Captured and Collected During Deepwater Horizon Response

-press release U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

WASHINGTON -- Based on a rigorous review by a team of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists of previously released preliminary data, the Service has compiled an expanded report of the birds rescued and collected during the response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This report, which will be provided regularly moving forward, outlines a species-by-species breakdown and maps of where the birds were collected, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Tom Strickland announced today.

"These new detailed reports will give us a better initial picture of the effects to migratory bird populations from the Deepwater Horizon spill, help guide our efforts to restore these populations and help ensure that those responsible will be held accountable for the full impacts of the spill," Strickland said.

The initial report released by the Fish and Wildlife Service today showed that as of September 14, 2010, a total of 3,634 dead birds and 1,042 live birds have been found in areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon spill. These numbers are subject to verification and cannot be considered final. Of the dead birds, the largest numbers are laughing gulls, followed by brown pelicans and northern gannets.

These numbers will be updated as the team of biologists continues the verification process which can take several weeks. Until the response to this environmental disaster is complete and birds are no longer being captured alive or collected dead, any numbers regarding birds must be considered preliminary.

More information located at http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/collectionreports.html

Ninth Annual Seed Sale & Bird Information Fair - October 16 *(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 16, 2010, 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 16, 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, 2010

Name:_____ Phone:_____

Address:_____ Date:_____

_____

Size	Product	Price	Quantity	Total	Size	Product	Price	Quantity	Total
50#	**Black Oil Sunflower Seed**	$16.49	_____	_____	20#	**Healthy Hearts Sunflower**	$20.95	_____	_____
50#	**Healthy Hearts Sunflower**	$41.95	_____	_____	10#	**Nyger Thistle**	$ 9.99	_____	_____
50#	**Nyger Thistle**	$38.95	_____	_____	20#	**Finches Feast** *(Thistle & sunflower hearts) fits in thistle feeders)*	$19.99	_____	_____
50#	**White Millet**	$ 10.29	_____	_____	20#	**Shell Free Fiesta**	$20.99	_____	_____
50#	**Regional Recipe** *(cracked corn, black oil sunflower, white millet mix)*	$14.69	_____	_____	25#	**Regional Recipe**	$ 7.99	_____	_____
50#	**Cracked Corn**	$ 9.99	_____	_____	25#	**Squirrel Chow Select**	$18.95	_____	_____
50#	**Bird Lover's Blend**	$ 14.99	_____	_____	25#	**Peanuts in Shell**	$31.95	_____	_____
50#	**Primo Wild Bird**	$ 14.99	_____	_____	25#	**Primo Wild Bird**	$ 7.95	_____	_____

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_____

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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 includees 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

Name……..

Address…….…….

City, State, Zip…….……. **Y01**

Phone…….……. **7XCH**

Email……..