



November 2011
Volume XLVII
Number 03

the curlew

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Special Interest Articles:

- Osprey Point work party!
- Climate Change for kids at McNary Refuge page 3!
- Junior Audubon back for the school year!
- Feeder cleaning tips

Individual Highlights:

- President's message
2
- Bird Sightings 5

The Search for Teddy Roosevelt's Spirit

**Membership Meeting
November 22, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Kennewick First
Lutheran Church,
corner of Yelm and
Highway 395**

The November membership meeting of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society will feature LCBAS member and conservation activist, Scott Woodward. Scott and Pam Woodward set out on a trip in search of the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt by visiting the site of his conservation revelations at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial National Park in North Dakota. Roosevelt also spent time in the Black Hills of South Dakota so the Woodwards continued their quest hiking

and camping in Badlands National Park, SD, Mt. Rushmore, which has captured a likeness of TR, Wind Cave National Park, and Jewel Cave and Devils Tower National Monuments.

"Nasty weather added to the adventure in TRNP and shortened our stay but the storm induced lighting and rain-enriched soil brought out tremendous early fall colors creating viewscapes that are certainly inspirational in the 21st century and no doubt stirred the inner buffalo of Theodore Roosevelt as he explored the plateaus, ridge tops and drainages of the Little Missouri in Western North Dakota." Scott Woodward is a 61 year resident of the Tri Cities. He taught and coached at Richland High

School and CBC for 30 years. He is married to Pamela, also a retired teacher. Their son, Taylor, 31, is an outdoor EMT ski patrol avalanche and weather specialist at Moonlight Basin in Big Sky, MT. Scott is a full time volunteer focused on conservation, recreation and education as well as a part time fisherman. Scott serves as the President of Tapteal Greenway Association and Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. with a brief business meeting followed by a bird i.d. lesson. Attendees enjoy treats and conversation around 7:30 and the presentation usually begins at 7:45.

Bateman Island Bird Walk *with Rich Barchet*

On a crisp, clear, sunny November morning, Saturday the 6th, earlier in sun-time than most LCBAS Bateman Island walks, 18 intrepid birders gathered at Wye Park at 8 AM and were later joined by a Junior Audubon contingent of about

20 youngsters and their parents to enjoy a morning of birding on Bateman Island. The birds didn't disappoint: 57 species were seen or heard during the morning's walk. Highlights included several Cackling geese with identifying neck

bands, a Belted Kingfisher, several Black-crowned Night-herons, Hooded and Common Mergansers, four grebe species (Western, Pied-billed, Horned, & Eared), Common and Barrows

Bateman Island Walk *Continued*



"Belted Kingfisher"

Goldeneyes (first of season), a flying Tundra Swan, a Peregrine Falcon, shorebirds (Least and Western Sandpipers, Dunlin, Killdeer), and Hermit Thrushes. Myriads of ducks, four gull species, hawks, and numerous smaller song birds didn't disappoint either. Spotting scopes allowed for many great views of the waterfowl and shorebirds by adults and kids.

The next LCBAS Bateman Island birding walk will be December 3. Bundle up and join us!

Greetings from the President! With Robin Priddy

We've had a busy couple months! Charlotte Reep did a great job organizing the the seed sale in October - Scott and Pam Woodward, Marilyn Hayes, Cherie Beaudrand, Cathy Smith, Heidi Newsome, Tom and Barb Clarke, Ed and Ree Rykiel - all involved, along with the much appreciated help of Columbia Grain and Feed raised a record-setting \$2200 for the chapter. And thanks to Marilyn there was a nice article the Tri City Herald.

The monthly Bateman walk led by Chad Merkley and Rich Barchet last week sighted over 50 species; a couple firsts for me! I always appreciate the willingness of our community to share knowledge and scopes! It was truly exiting to see a whole new flock of birders, too - thanks to Cherie's efforts with Jr. Audubon an entire class and their parents came out. Everyone was pretty

bundled up, so I know I saw Marilyn and Cathy (and may have missed others) helping with the class as well. It was a gorgeous morning, and they put the LCBAS binoculars and scope to good use, a Peregrine Falcon provided a nice viewing opportunity in the delta.

The folks who pitch in for education do so very, very much for our chapter and our future. Barb Clarke, Lucie Fritz, Marilyn Hayes, Chad Merkley, and Heidi Newsome recently made some classroom presentations. The Jr. Audubon program is pretty amazing as well, along with those who come to support this and all of our education - Jack and Murrell Dawson, Chris Simonen contribute so much - along with everyone mentioned above. Our new display board has made the rounds at the seed

sale, Tri City Visitor's Bureau, Tri City Film Festival; it's been a nice addition. Kathy Criddle has been pleasantly surprised by the contributions towards the work at Osprey Point. Tom Clarke got the new box out at the birding trail and some new brochures. To support many of our activities, we're looking for a facilities coordinator to manage all of the locations - church, grange, parks, library, and others; if you're looking to get involved, think about this!

As always, there is much going on. Birding, Conservation, Education, and even some fun!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president,

Robin

McNary Environmental Education Center December Second Saturday: Learning How to Care for Planet Earth.

December 10th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Program includes interactive animated videos on 1) What is a carbon molecule & what does it do and 2) Simon Says from hippoworks.com to explain climate change to younger visitors through animals & songs. Additional activities include: "Save the Glacier" game, a short plant walk & sowing native seeds as well as an animal walk.

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 Humor Rd. at second stoplight after the Snake River Bridge. Turn left onto Lake Rd. Look for Education Center on the left.

Osprey Pointe Songbird Habitat Improvement Project *with Kathy Criddle*

OSPREY POINTE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT WORK PARTY

Take a break from shopping! Do something kind for wildlife!

November, 26th

1110 Osprey Pointe Blvd., Pasco WA

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves, a shovel & drinking water. Dress for the weather.

Join the fun!

Hot chocolate will be provided.

Please contact me if you have questions or want to volunteer.

kcriddlebirds@yahoo.com; 509-947-4074



"Like" Us on
Facebook!

A new new place to share! LCBAS now has their own Facebook page. Keep up on important happenings and fun activities. Come contribute and help us make this a fun and educational page.

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

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

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

Treasurer Katie Harris.....E-mail:
treasurer@lcbas.org

Protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – Comprehensive Conservation Plan Comments being accepted!

Now is the time to sign a letter asking the Obama administration to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain, where polar bears den and raise their cubs, and the 100,000-member Porcupine caribou herd migrates and calves, is a truly unique, wild place. It's also an area that has been in Big Oil's sights for decades. The U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service could offer a recommendation for true wilderness-level protection to the Coastal Plain for the first time in history– we need to be sure they include that recommendation in their 15-year management plan's final draft.

Check the link below to sign the letter to the Obama administration, asking them to protect the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain! You can sign on to a letter at the website -- it only takes a minute:

http://act.alaskawild.org/sign/refuge_ccp_comments/

ATTENTION ALL BIRD FEEDING ENTHUSIASTS – KEEP FEEDERS CLEAN AND SAFE FOR BIRDS!

Cleaning your bird feeder may not be the most enjoyable part of feeding and watching your backyard birds, but **it is very important**. It provides clean, fresh bird seed, free from mold, bacteria and disease. Cleaning bird feeders should be done as often as needed. And that will depend on how much traffic you have at your feeders. Each time you fill your feeder, do a quick inspection. Are there seeds stuck to the bottom? Is it covered with droppings? Take the time to scrape them out. You can use a putty knife and a long narrow brush to quickly remove the old seed. This prevents mold from accumulating and keeps the drainage holes clear.

You should do a full cleaning

and disinfecting several times a year. The most important one is the fall, then mid-spring when lots of migrants are coming through.

Cleaning Process

Use the nozzle on your hose to spray clean off most of the dirt. It works well on tube and cage feeders. It easily takes care of all the hard to reach areas. A collection of long, narrow brushes with angled tips is a big help. Choose those that fit your feeders need.

Mix a solution of nine parts water and one part bleach in a plastic bucket, wearing rubber gloves. Scrub all the surfaces inside and out using your brushes. When you are satisfied that the feeder is

clean, rinse it completely, dry with a towel and leave in the sun to dry. Each feeder should only take about five minutes.

This is a great time to clean up the area beneath your feeders. Collect all discarded seed and shells and dispose of them. If they pile up and get wet, they are a source of mold and disease.

Columbia Grain and Feed has a good supply and variety of bird feeders. You will note on the order form that 20# and 25# seed blocks are also available. Be sure and place seed blocks where they won't get wet, rot or mold.

Wild birds coming to your feeders will benefit from your efforts!

LCBAS LOCAL BIRDING TRIPS

Local Field Trip: McNary Dam natural area

The next local field trip on Saturday, 11/26, is to the natural area downstream of McNary Dam on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. The ponds in this area and adjacent waters of the Columbia should host many species of ducks and gulls. The riparian areas will have many migrant and winter resident songbirds and raptors. Meet at Wye Park at the entrance to Bateman Island at 7:30 AM to form car pools for the 40 minute drive to McNary Dam. Bring a snack or lunch and water along with your usual birding gear, and be prepared for wintery weather. More details will be available at the LCBAS membership meeting on the 22nd and via LCbirds2. Contact Rich Barchet via the [LCBAS.org](http://www.lcbas.org) web site to sign up for this trip or volunteer to lead it.

Check <http://www.lcbas.org/fieldtrips.html> for information about future planned field trips. Trips are limited to 8-10 people (2 cars), so sign up early to reserve your spot!

BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR OCTOBER 2011

Thanks for posting your sightings on LCBirds2, emailing them to me (lanirock@charter.net) or calling them in (545-4898). Comments and suggestions are always welcome. --Lannie Smith

Early October:

Many people reported Sandhill Cranes in groups of up to 400. Last month it was the arrival of the White-crowned Sparrows. This month it was the Dark-eyed Juncos: first report was from Bob and Pat Woodley on the 7th, then Kathy Criddle (South Richland) on October 10, and Cathy Smith (North Richland) on the 11th.

Richard Barchet started the month with his first Swainson's Thrush this fall. Tony Greager reported on Bassett Park in Washtucna: 3 Warbling Vireos, 2 Wilson's Warblers, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher on their way south, as well as 3 Hermit Thrushes, 2 Varied Thrushes, 2 Spotted Towhees and 3 Barn Owls. Back in the Tri-cities he noted a flock of about 15 Greater White-fronted Geese preparing to land near the South end of Columbia Center Blvd. His own woodlot in Rancho Reata hosted a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Lincoln's Sparrow, and a flock of about a dozen Ruby-crowned Kinglets. A Great Horned Owl provided an early morning wake-up call on the 3rd. Chad Merkley reported a juvenile Thayer's Gull on the north end of Island 19 in the Columbia. Also present: California, Ring-billed, Glaucous-winged and Herring Gulls along with Eared and Horned Grebes. Neil and Sharon Ofsthun (Rancho Reata area) had a Northern Waterthrush in their yard on Oct 7th. (Their previous visit from a Northern Waterthrush occurred eight years ago). They've also had a Lazuli Bunting and Great Horned Owl visit their yard this month. Jane Abel spotted 2 Red-necked Phalaropes on the Columbia near Port of Benton, 5 Black-bellied Plovers on the northeast side of Nelson Island, and an American Golden Plover, 2 Dunlins, and 4 Bonaparte's Gulls on Island 18.

Mid-October:

On October 12 Bob Woodley had a male Varied Thrush, a Spotted Towhee, a couple of Cedar Waxwings, White-crowned Sparrows and a Dark-eyed Junco in his yard. His birding on the Yakima

Delta resulted in: 4 Western Grebes, a Great Egret, 7 Black-bellied Plovers, 7 Long-billed Dowitchers, 5 Greater Yellowlegs and several Western Sandpipers. Jane Abel reported a Red-necked Grebe on Island 19 and a Snow Goose in Leslie Groves Park. She saw a juvenile Red-necked Grebe north of the Selph Landing boat launch on Oct 14.

On October 15 Chad located a juvenile Snow Goose mixing with the feral geese at Leslie Groves Park. Lisa Hill reported a Western Screech Owl, an Orange-crowned Warbler, ten Hermit Thrushes, a Lincoln's Sparrow, a Varied Thrush and a Northern Shrike in Johnson Park. Rocky Ross reported a Gray-crowned Rosy-finch in the Kahlotus area. Bob Woodley reported two Red-necked Grebes between the Richland shoreline and southern end of Nelson Island also on the 15th. In Leslie Groves Park he found one immature Snow Goose, two White-fronted Geese and a Sharp-shinned hawk. On the Yakima Delta: 12 Western Grebes, 4 Great Egrets, 4 Ruddy Ducks and a few late Barn Swallows.

On the 16th, back at the Delta, Bob spotted a few Killdeer, 6 Long-billed Dowitchers, 8 Greater Yellowlegs and two Peregrine Falcons. Waterfowl included one immature Snow Goose, 3 Wood Ducks, and a few Common Goldeneyes. Also on the 16th Jane Abel spotted three Surf Scoters near Johnson Island in the Columbia River. Another rare sighting was the Harlequin Duck photographed by Dave Harris on the 19th. It was on the Columbia River near the Esquezal Canal outflow. Ed Rykiel had a female Evening Grosbeak in his yard on the 19th. Jane spotted 2 American Pipits on Island 19.

Late October:

The Mike and Mary Lilga had a Hermit Thrush in their North Richland yard on the 20th. Bob Woodley saw 3 Black-bellied Plovers at the Delta. On October 21 Chad reported from Leslie Groves Park: a juvenile Snow Goose, 4 White-fronted Geese, a juvenile Golden-crowned Sparrow, California, Ring-billed, Glaucous-winged Gulls and a juvenile Thayer's Gull. On the 23rd Jane noted 12 Wilson's Snipes on Island 16 and a Red-necked Grebe and Bonaparte's Gull on Johnson Island. The next day she and Chad saw a flock of 30 Bonaparte's Gulls flying over Nelson Island. On the 25th she reported a Ruddy Duck and a Clark's Grebe on Island 19.

To wrap up the month of October, the Ofsthun's had a Long-eared Owl on the 26th and a Varied Thrush on the 28th. Liz Wiley revived an unconscious Golden-crowned Kinglet she found on her deck. By letting it rest and feeding it peanut-butter and cider slurry it was on its way after spending most of the day with her. On the 29th Jane reported Dunlin and Clark's Grebe on Island 19 and the Snow Goose was still present in Leslie Groves Park. A beautiful adult male Cooper's Hawk bathed and drank from the Greager backyard pond.

The Anna's Hummingbird Report:

Lauren Hirsh reported from South Richland on the 12th that she still had Anna's Hummingbirds (one male, one female and one first-year female) eating nectar from her plants and nabbing little insects. An Anna's Hummingbird has been in Lisa Hill's yard off and on from the 4th through the 24th. Norm Karin reported on the 25th that a male Anna's Hummingbird had been feeding on some Salvia in their South Richland yard for several days.

Corrections section: (a regularly occurring part of this column)

Bob Woodley keeps holding me to a higher standard and I love it! Never again in this column will the Canada Goose be referred to as a Canadian Goose. Maybe I could pretend I'm seeding the column with intentional errors just to keep you reading carefully?

Junior Audubon News

With Cherie Beaurand

Junior Audubon started the school year with an after-school meeting about owls in October. Fifteen members attended. Barb Clarke gave an owl presentation with the taxidermy. Cherie organized the members into expert groups. Each group learned about one species of owl. Marilyn, Lucie, Barb, Tom, and Cherie helped with the groups. Then we mixed the experts so they could share what they learned. Tom Clarke made pinecone bird feeding kits for the children to take home.

Junior Audubon Families joined the November Bateman Island Bird walk. Fifteen families from Kennewick School District Home School Program joined us. We started at 9:00, so as not to invade the regular bird walk. We got to use the new scope, and nearly all the binoculars were in use. We had many excited, enthusiastic birders. We didn't find any owls, but they got to see Great White Pelicans, a Peregrine Falcon, grebes, Hooded Mergansers, and a very busy Belted Kingfisher.

There will be an after-school meeting in December, and "Going Ducky" in January. We'll participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 18. We look forward to another fun year.

Spring Chicken Trek, April 13-19, 2012 *by Barbara Clarke*

LCBAS Far Away Field Trips is offering a 7 day Field Trip to Nebraska, April 13 to April 19, 2012. We will be visiting the heart of the famous "Central Fly Way." The goal is to view both **Greater Prairie Chicken** and **Sharp-tail Grouse** Leks or booming grounds. We be able to watch the dancing, drumming, jumping and sparring of these beautiful birds. **If we don't register some more travelers soon this trip may be cancelled!** Please sign up soon. The cost of the trip is \$950. The trip is limited to 8 participants. I have to finalize reservations just after the first of the year. Give me a call at (509) 588-3362 or email-barbaraclarke@frontier.com.

Annual Christmas Bird Count on December 30, 2011

This year's count will be held Friday, December 30th. This count, which has occurred nationally for 112 years, and locally for nearly 40 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.**

Ray Johnson (509-521-5971) will lead the Richland team this year, while **Tom and Barb Clarke (509-539-0857)** will lead the Pasco team. A team lead has not yet been determined for the Kennewick area but for now please call Dana Ward at the number below. Please call them to participate in their area.

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, December 30 th. 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. If you can not make the 7:30am start please coordinate with your count leader prior to Saturday January 1nd to arrange an appropriate time and location. The team leader also needs to know your tallies before the potluck.

The Tri-Cities count is also one of the best supported counts in the state, and regularly has the highest number of species seen inland. All of

this is due to strong community support. Our goal is to count as many birds within the circle during the day (24 hrs). To do this, we need as many teams as possible. If individuals can only participate for part of the day, it will still help. There can be a fair amount of walking involved, so keep this in mind when making plans. But much counting will be done from car windows for those that prefer that form of participation. Birds seen at bird feeders within the count circle are just as important to the count.

At the end of count day, the LCBAS has their annual Christmas Potluck. The dinner is now held at the Columbia Grange #938, 6300 Court Street, Pasco. Please bring a dish to share and your own tableware.

Burrowing owl

Very odd

this little cloud

In trousers

In the sandy

fortress

favored by

prairie dog and

gopher

tortoise.

On the mound

at the mouth hole,

he scouts around

with sibylline

yellow eyes

and then, owl wise,

decides

to clean house.

He dives down

and soon great clouds

of smudge come

flying out,

his home now clean

as a bone.

A diurnal owl,

he's upside down

and inside out

at ease

not in trees

but underground,

where his mate broods

on her eight fragile moons

in an immaculate burrow

whose contours are lined with
cow manure.

-Sidney Wade, from *The New Yorker*

The Curlew

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon
Society
P.O. Box 1900
Richland WA 99352
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richland WA
Permit # 76



Audubon Membership Information

Please Note: LCBAS Chapter Benefits (includes a year's subscription [10 issues] to *The Curlew*) this is an additional cost to membership in National Audubon Society.

\$20. for annual membership benefits 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 include 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.....

Phone.....

Email.....

C1Z

Y010Z