



September 2013
 Volume XLIX
 Number 1

the curlew

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Special Interest Articles:

- National Audubon Conference reports
- Birding cruise
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Evidence of Ice Age Floods in Aerial Photography!

Tuesday, September 24

7 pm

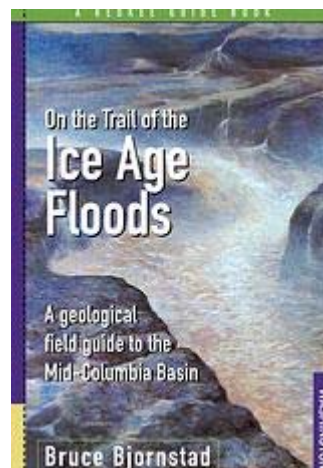
Kennewick First Lutheran Church, corner of Hwy 395 and Yelm

The September program will have Bruce Bjornstad presenting aerial photography of Eastern Washington terrain sculpted by the Ice Age Floods. Bruce Bjornstad lives in Richland, Washington, and is a licensed geologist and hydrogeologist in Washington and Oregon and senior research scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He earned a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of New Hampshire and a master's degree in geology from Eastern Washington University. He has studied the Ice Age floods and explored every corner of the Northwest since 1980. An active member of the Ice Age Floods Institute, he regularly publishes and leads lectures and field trips on the Ice Age floods.

During the last great Ice Age that ended some 15,000 years ago, the Pacific Northwest was repeatedly decimated by cataclysmic floods unlike anything of modern times. Giant ancient lakes such as Glacial Lake Missoula were created as lobes of the massive ice sheets blocked river valleys. These "ice dams" broke time and again over the millennia, sending walls of ice-laden

water, miles wide and hundreds feet deep, racing over the land at speeds up to 80 mph – scouring a fantastic landscape and leaving a fascinating geologic record. This should be a very entertaining and educational presentation.

Please come and renew connections with Audubon friends! Enjoy coffee and cookies and hear about the activities that Audubon will be undertaking this coming year!



Bateman Island Bird Walk September 7, 2013



"Red-necked Phalarope"
Photo courtesy Jane Abel

It was a gorgeous day for a bird walk on Bateman Island. About a dozen people scoured the area and came up with 58 species (at least). The number would have been well over 60 if we had spotted some of the common birds expected at this time of year. Some ducks are about including GREEN-WINGED TEAL, NORTHERN SHOVELER, AMERICAN WIGEON and NORTHERN PINTAIL. A couple of small patches of mud in the delta had WESTERN SANDPIPER, BLACK-NECKED STILT, SPOTTED SANDPIPER, LESSER YELLOWLEGS, and RED-NECKED PHALAROPE which was fun to see. They spin around one way, then the other like a compass gone wild.

Three GREAT HORNED OWLS were in

the locust grove along with a DUSKY or HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER, and RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Most of the warblers were seen, YELLOW, YELLOW-RUMPED, MACGILLIVRAY'S, TOWNSEND'S, and ORANGE-CROWNED. The best find of the day was a RED-EYED VIREO. They are very uncommon in the area and quite hard to find.

Lots of swallows skimmed the water in the delta, BARN, BANK and NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED. Over the past week, several WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS have been seen in the area and we found two juveniles today. One SPOTTED TOWHEE croaked in the dense brush along the trail. The next winter resident we can expect to show up is Dark-eyed Junco.

Four people on the walk saw what they believe was a Parasitic Jaeger flying in the delta area. These birds are extremely uncommon and it would be great to have a confirmed identification. Keep your eyes open for a jaeger!

The next Bateman walk will be Saturday, October 5. Meet in the parking lot of Wye Park by 8:00am.

President's message *with Robin Priddy*

Welcome to the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon 2013-2014 Season! We're happy to be entering this year with Kevin Black as the new Membership Chair (he actually was appointed last year); Ivar Husa in Programs - in addition to all the wonderful photos - and Eileen Kennedy working on Audubon Adventures. Joe Lelli is making a debut with the Curlew and Madeleine Brown is taking on Conservation this year as well.

Charlotte Reep has already scheduled the seed sale - it's a very important fundraiser for us and a great way to support Columbia Grain and Feed, too. It's going to be the

12th of October; more details elsewhere in the issue and many thanks to Char for getting this scheduled!

Audubon Washington is working on developing a Songbird survey for the shrub steppe. We're hoping to get that survey off the ground this year. Many thanks to Ed Rykiel and Heidi Newsome who clearly articulated this need to Audubon Washington - and many thanks to Christie Norman (Programs), Jen Syrowitz (Chapter Associate) and Trina Bayard (Bird Conservation) for moving this study forward. I'm looking forward to spending some time with them at the upcoming ACOW meeting in Bellevue.

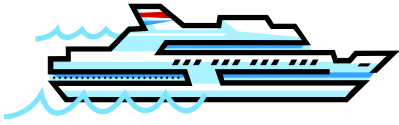
Here's a link to Washington

Audubon <http://wa.audubon.org/> which includes information on the upcoming ACOW on October 5th.

I'm looking forward to an interesting year here with some new people and adventures and many familiar faces as well.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as president - Robin

Carefree Birding Cruise 2014



Come enjoy colors of fall and Eastern bird species!

LCBAS will be joining with Carefree Birding for a Fall Birding Cruise in 2014. This is a 7 day tour, September 14 to September 21, 2014 of US and Eastern Canada on Brilliance of the Seas. The ship will depart from Boston on Sunday, September 14 making stops in Portland, Maine, Bar Harbor, Maine, Saint John, Newfoundland and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Fall leaves should be beautiful this time of year also. This is birding with all the luxury of a cruise ship. We will go birding at each of the stops. Cost includes Carefree Birding fees:

Interior cabin is \$903.65 per person;
Ocean view cabin is \$1,113.65 per person
Balcony cabin is \$1,373.65 per person.

This will be a wonderful chance to see eastern birds both land and ocean. Species such as Eiders, Gannets and Puffins! If you are interested it is time to reserve your rooms for \$500 per person. Contact Barbara Clarke at the September meeting or call 509-588-3362. See the full itinerary on the LCBAS website lcbas.org

Don't forget to check our website www.lcbas.org for up to date information. And remember we have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lcbas> - you do not have to have a Facebook account to read our page, just put in the address above!

Bird Watchers Book Club

The book club is starting the book entitled "What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World" by Jon Young. A lifelong birder, tracker, and naturalist, Jon Young is guided in his work and teaching by three basic premises: the robin, junco, and other songbirds know everything important about their environment, be it backyard or forest; by tuning in to their vocalizations and behavior, we can acquire much of this wisdom for our own pleasure and benefit; and the birds' companion calls and warning alarms are just as important as their songs.

Birds are the sentries—and our key to understanding the world beyond our front door. Unwitting humans create a zone of disturbance that scatters the wildlife. Respectful humans who heed the birds acquire an awareness that radically changes the dynamic. We are welcome in their habitat. The birds don't fly away. The larger animals don't race off. No longer hapless intruders, we now find, see, and engage the deer, the fox, the red-shouldered hawk—even the elusive, whispering wren.

Deep bird language is an ancient discipline, perfected by Native peoples the world over. Finally, science is catching up. This groundbreaking book unites the indigenous knowledge, the latest research, and the author's own experience of four decades in the field to lead us toward a deeper connection to the animals and, in the end, a deeper connection to ourselves.

The group will meet on September 18 th at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Kathy Criddle, kcridlebirds@yahoo.com.

Save Idlewild Campground

Idlewild Campground is a favorite of birders! Located in the Malheur National Forest – either to camp, or just as a stop over to checkout the woodpeckers. However, the Forest Service is grossly unaware of the use of this area. The camp host reported to the Forest headquarters and they had no idea that that many 'birdwatchers' came through the campground. However, the Forest is considering closing the campground. Now this is somewhat puzzling because they just built a new 'super-highway' entrance from the north into the campground. Lots of \$\$ was spent on the project. So, if you are interested in writing to the Forest encouraging them NOT to close Idlewild, please consider doing so. The mailing address is: Malheur National Forest, PO Box 909, John Day, 97845. And thank you for your support!

**ATTENTION ALL BIRD
FEEDING
ENTHUSIASTS – VERY
IMPORTANT DATE –
OCTOBER 12!**

**TWELFTH 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 **Twelfth Annual Bird Seed Sale and Information Day**. Please tell your friends and mark your calendars for October 12. Place an order on the enclosed order form before October 2 and then pick it up on October 12. If you can't make it on the 12th, that's fine, just don't wait too long. Preordering insures you get the items you want at the best possible prices. This year due to the nationwide drought, prices for seed will be higher than normal – but be assured, these will be the best possible prices you will get for this winter's bird feeding season. Based on your purchase amount, Columbia Grain & Feed will make a donation to LCBAS.

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 12, 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 Charlotte at 547-9087**

If you have any special requests for bird feeding supplies, note this on the order form. We will also have a handout on how to clean your bird feeder and keep it sanitary so the seed does not get contaminated with rain, mold, etc. and harm those we feed.

Columbia Grain and Feed has been so generous for the past 11 years, come make year 12 just as great! Please support their generosity with your patronage. Our taxidermy collection has grown due to their commitment to our education program. The most recent pieces include a Sandhill Crane, Snowy owl with ptarmigan, and a male House finch.

See **order form** for current pricing information.

Audubon Council of Washington - 2013

Event Date

Oct 5 2013 - 8:30am

Join us October 5, 2013 at Bellevue College, just off I-90 in Bellevue, Washington for the annual meeting of the Audubon Council of Washington, hosted by Eastside Audubon Society and the King County chapters. **[Kathy Dale, Director of Citizen Science for National Audubon Society](#)**, will be our key note speaker for the event. Her presentation will focus on the role of citizen science in the Audubon network and demonstrate what Audubon citizen science programs have accomplished towards bird conservation to-date and how they will be used in the future, including an introduction to the new Climate Modeling Project being revealed in .October. Kathy is certain to inspire hands-on involvement towards accomplishing local, state and flyway conservation goals.

<http://wa.audubon.org/events/audubon-council-washington-2013>

BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR SUMMER 2013

Before we get to 2013... about a year ago, on Sept 3rd in Johnson Park, Ivar Husa photographed a small bird that he didn't recognize. He posted the photo on LCBirds2 and 4 responders said the same thing: Chestnut-sided Warbler! This summer the bird record committee of Washington Ornithological Society confirmed that he had captured an image of only the 6th sighting of that species in Washington State! Pretty cool Ivar!

North Richland and Leslie Groves Park

Laurie Ness's Western Screech Owlets fledged the end of May and stayed somewhat together during the first week of June. On June 1st the Bob Woodleys had a male Black-chinned Hummingbird take up residence and a Pine Siskin who only stayed until the 13th. Their first Rufous Hummingbird arrived on July 2 and a Red-breasted Nuthatch showed up on July 4. By July, Jane Abel was exploring the islands in the Columbia east of north Richland and finding them rich with shorebirds (dozens of peeps, adult Western Sandpipers, a few Least Sandpipers and one footless Long-billed Dowitcher). Nesting birds included Black-necked Stilts, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpipers, Bullock's Orioles, Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Forster's Terns and a few Black-crowned Night Herons. California and Ring-billed Gulls, along with 1 or 2 Bonaparte's, an Eared Grebe and Common Loons were hanging out on Island 19. Later in July over 100 peeps were counted on Island 19, mostly Westerns and 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper.

Back on shore Laurie Ness saw Red Crossbills late in July. Two Red Crossbills were seen a day later by Mary Lilga on the 30th of July. On July 29th a Calliope Hummingbird settled in at the Woodleys for the rest of the summer. In early August they had a fly-over by a Great Egret, and heard a calling Western Screech Owl. In mid-August Lauren Hirsch posted that she had been sent photos of a Snowy Owl (!!) at Hanford.

Chris and Fred Simonen floated the Columbia south from Ringold in August. The bird action included 20 Eastern Kingbirds, 20 Great Egrets, 6 American Pelicans, an adult Bald Eagle and (possibly the most fun) Common Merganser family units of 2, 10, 2, 11, 5 and 2.

West Richland, Benton City and Horn Rapids Area

On June 4 a White-faced Ibis was spotted by Bob Derting at Twin Bridges. Jane and Keith Abel saw the Ibis and a pair of Wilson's Phalarope there on the 16th. Rick Welch observed a light colored Black-billed Magpie on July 19 in the Benton City area. It had the black bill but the black feathers were a very light brown, somewhat similar to the brown on a barn owl. An on-line search indicated that this was a somewhat rare sighting. In mid-August Mark Gerber had immature Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds in his yard in West Richland.

Yakima Delta and Bateman Island

In August, Ivar Husa hiked Bateman Island turning up, among other birds, Gray Catbird, Marsh Wren, and Virginia Rail. Bob Woodley birded the Delta on August 26. His sightings included 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 American Avocet, 2 Least and 16 Western Sandpipers and 4 Red-necked Phalaropes. On the 27th he added 7 Long-billed Dowitchers, and on the 30th 6 Great Egrets, an immature Black-crowned Night Heron, 2 Osprey, many Killdeer and 10 Red-necked Phalaropes.

Rancho Reata Area and Amon Creek

In late July Tony Greager reported on activity around his home in Rancho Reata. The regulars included young Long-eared Owls, Barn Owls, Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Pine Siskin at the feeder and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

W.E. Johnson Park, South Richland and Badger Mountain

Cherie Baudrand and Marilyn Hayes walked WE Johnson Park in early June and chalked up a Lazuli Bunting, Yellow Warbler, a pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds and lots of Black-headed Grosbeaks. They heard a Yellow-

breasted Chat and two Gray Catbirds. Later in June Lisa Hill had a Yellow-breasted Chat hit a window of her house over-looking Johnson Park. She and Lauren Hirsch had hummingbirds in their yards too. Lisa had a male Rufous and Lauren had male Black-chinned and Anna's Hummingbirds.

Along Keene Road on the last day of June, Patrick Paulson reported a Great Egret, a Sora, 10 Red-winged Blackbirds and 4 Yellow-headed Blackbirds. On that same day Ivar birded at Johnson Park spotting Yellow-breasted Chats, Gray Catbirds, Song Sparrows, a Downy Woodpecker and 10 other species. In early July he was back at Johnson Park for 20 species including Yellow Warbler and Black-chinned Hummingbird. Nina Multari hosted an immature Say's Phoebe for a couple of weeks in mid-July in the Badger Mountain area. On July 27th Bob Woodley and his son found 3 Black-necked Stilts and 1 Greater Yellowlegs in the Acme Ponds.

In mid-August Mark Gerber was in Johnson Park identifying Bewick's Wrens, Black-capped Chickadee, Warbling Vireo and an immature Cooper's Hawk. A bit later in August, back at Johnson Park, he saw male and female Yellow Warblers, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and near the entrance on Duportail, a Black-chinned Hummingbird.

In Lisa Hill's and Larry Umthun's back yard on August 12, Larry reported Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Song Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Bullock's Oriole, Western-wood Pewee, MacGillivray's Warbler and a new batch of baby California Quail possibly with their older siblings. In late August Jordene Lucas was delighted to see an immature Black-headed Grosbeak on her black oil sunflower seed feeder. She believed she had spotted his parents about a month earlier. Back at Johnson Park, over a 3-day period near the end of August, Lisa and Larry spotted Yellow, Yellow-rumped,

Wilson's, MacGillivray's, Nashville, and Townsend's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Common Yellowthroats, as well as Warbling and Red-eyed Vireo. In their yard they hosted all 4 hummingbird species and a House Wren.

Kennewick

Kevin Morgan, who lives off Clodfelter, took photos of a young Common Nighthawk. It spent several days roosting (and panting with the heat) in the same spot near his home. He saw and heard the adults often in the evenings.

McNary NWR and West Walla Walla County

Marilyn Anderson called in two sightings of Black Terns at the McNary in late June and again on the 4th of July. On the latter date she also reported an Ash-throated Flycatcher near parking lot C.

North Franklin and Pasco Area

Gaylord Mink reminded people of the WDFW Burrowing Owl cam in June—the parents were busy feeding a large family. On June 15th the Woodleys saw a Burrowing Owl on hwy 395 just north of Pasco. A White-faced Ibis was seen by several birders at Potholes State Park. In August Kevin Black began birding north Franklin County (Scootenev Reservoir, Hendrick's Road, Lyon's Ferry, small ponds south of Othello). His sightings included Western, Spotted, and Baird's Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, Black-necked Stilts, Caspian Terns, Sora, Virginia Rail, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Townsend's Warblers, 1 Turkey Vulture and 1 Peregrine Falcon.

Thanks for posting your sightings on LCBirds2, e-mailing them to me (lanirock@charter.net) or calling them in (545-4898). If you do call, please leave a phone number in case I have questions. Comments, suggestions, and corrections are always welcome. -Lannie Smith

Say No to Coal!

Coal companies have three proposals to export coal out of Oregon and Washington communities, which would add up to 100 million metric tons of coal a year. Shipping up to 100 million metric tons of coal a year through West Coast would clog our railroads, ports, and roads, risk our families' health, pollute our air and water, hurt local economies and [continue](#) to stoke the climate crisis.

The proposals are for Boardman, Bellingham, and Longview. The Longview proposal is now going through the scoping process for its environmental review. The decision making agencies are the federal Army Corps of Engineers, the state Department of Ecology, and Cowlitz County. The state and county must follow the requirements of our State Environmental Policy Act, which is a little stricter (and older!) than the federal NEPA process.

It's our turn to give our input for the scoping for the Longview proposal.

We're glad the decision makers will have a hearing in our community. Because of the huge outcry for the hearings for the Bellingham proposal last year, these meetings are in the largest facilities the host community can offer. For us, that's TRAC.

Let's fill that place with supporters for clean air and water, sustainable energy, and climate change fighters! Coal is the enemy of each of these. (BTW, coal opponents wear red, and dirty coal supporters wear green.)

Also, because of the huge crowds, there are some firm ground rules for our behavior. No jeering or cheering! (Email me and I'll forward the "now hear this" email the Department of Ecology sent to people on its Longview proposal email list.)

Three other ways to comment:

- Online at www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov
- Email to comments@millenniumbulkeiswa.gov.U.S
- mail: MBTL EIS Co-Lead Agencies, 710 Second Ave., Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98104.

But it's better to attend, to join the rabble in a grand public process. And show the Tri-City Herald that Tri-Cities residents oppose coal exports, despite the TCH's regrettable editorial position.

Want help to formulate your comments? Email me!

Sources:

- Me! Mxbrown9@gmail.com, Allies and Friends Fighting NW Coal Exports on Facebook
- <http://www.powerpastcoal.org/>
- http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2012/itn03_coal.html

National Conference Notes

Several of our members attended the National Audubon Conference this summer. Here are some brief reports!

From Madeleine Brown

Two great soundbites I heard and hope LCBAS will use!

1. Where birds thrive, so do people.
2. Conservation has no party.

As conservation chair, I attended the political and lobbying sessions and they gave me hope and some great ideas, and a few allies. Here are the two key themes: 1) The group with the best maps, wins. And every NAS chapter will get the GIS system NAS has! 2) Never write off anyone! Presenters gave a great example of a conservative Pennsylvania congressman who survived a serious cancer threat. With his new lease on life, he is voting his beliefs, not what the party tells him to, and he is a sometime ally of National Audubon Society now.

National Audubon Society (NAS) is a hemispheric non-governmental organization, delivering locally. We have had big victories, but we must beware of death by 1000 cuts. Grassroots are needed to protect habitat. All politics is local.

From Barbara Clarke

I must say that David Yarnold, president and CEO of National Audubon was personable and made himself available during the conference. I was most impressed when he came and sat at our table. He asked questions to gather information for the depth and width of local Audubon Chapters and its programs. During his presentations he made it very clear that National Audubon values and respects local chapters and the grass root members who belong to them. This is a change from the era where National Audubon worked outside the chapters. He values chapter members as citizen scientist and wants the chapters engaged in both local and National activities. He wanted to know how National could help our chapter.

The presenters spoke of the Audubon Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015. The Plan that includes the five "Pillars" as follows:

1. Develop working lands for birds and people.
2. Sharing our seas and shores.
3. Saving Important Bird Areas.
4. Shaping a health climate and clean energy.
5. Creating bird friendly communities.

Washington State has developed a state plan using the National Plan as an example. The 3 goals mentioned from that plan are as follows:

1. Reach diverse populations
2. Manage shrub steppe
3. Develop living shores

Our chapter is working to make our activities cohesive with state and national goals. If you have questions about the National Conference talk with Madeline, Barbara, Cherie Beaurand or Kathy Criddle!

The Curlew

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Society
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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 E-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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