



The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see www.lcbas.org

April 26: April LCBAS membership meeting with Lisa Hill

May 2: May Board Meeting

May 24: May LCBAS membership meeting

April—June: Leslie Groves North Native Plant Restoration Project Work Parties—see pg 3

BATEMAN FIRST SATURDAY BIRDWALK RETURNS!

May 7: Join LCBAS as we go public again with a free birdwalk on Bateman Island. The walk will start at 8:00 AM at Bateman Island. Meet ~7:45 AM at Wye Park to sign in. This birdwalk is open to the public.

Other Events:

April 23: Native Plant Appreciation Day at McNary NWR 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. See pg 5

May 5: Army Corps of Engineers / Yakima River Delta Ecology Restoration Feasibility Study Meeting (rescheduled from April), from 2:00 to 4:00 PM via WebEx. See pg 5

For upcoming meetings and walks with the Columbia Basin Chapter of the WA Native Plant Society: <https://www.cbwnps.org/>

April 22 is Earth Day!

Perfect Plants for Hummingbirds

Tuesday, April 26, at 7:00 PM Via Zoom (see sign-in below)

Lisa Hill, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon



Learn about the best plant species to attract hummingbirds to gardens in the Mid-Columbia region. Gorgeous photos by Larry Umthun of these little flying jewels visiting a colorful array of flowers will boost your enthusiasm for spring planting. With many years of gardening and birding experience in the Tri-Cities area, Lisa has developed a tried-and-true plant list sure to draw hummingbirds to your yard.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82822377549?pwd=UzY1bEltaUJKMFRTaUFuNXVlKzdyZz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2237 7549
Passcode: 630729

Dial in for sound only—by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Did you miss the March 2022 presentation?

Izzy Edwards' presentation was recorded and it is available through Zoom. **Journey Into Wildlife Photography and Conservation**

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/EWOy_ZdJlqRbBYpUGlUX09vSSAokfH7uivyasNateF5ugJ92M0arsmyMZqpaGp6r9.0-gbuetcN7oYELIf Access Passcode: nYH7!9=W

How to Identify Three Warbler Look-Alikes

By Lisa Hill



ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – 5”

Winter resident and spring/autumn migrant.

The Orange-crowned Warbler (OCWA) can have variable plumage depending on age and subspecies. Differing amounts of yellow and gray on individual birds can make identification challenging.

- Usually drab olive/yellow, but can have a gray head or be bright yellow.
- Long, sharp bill.
- Undefined dark line through the eye with a lighter eyebrow.
- Narrow white eye-arcs.
- Breast and throat have blurry streaks.
- Yellow undertail coverts.
- Sexes are identical.

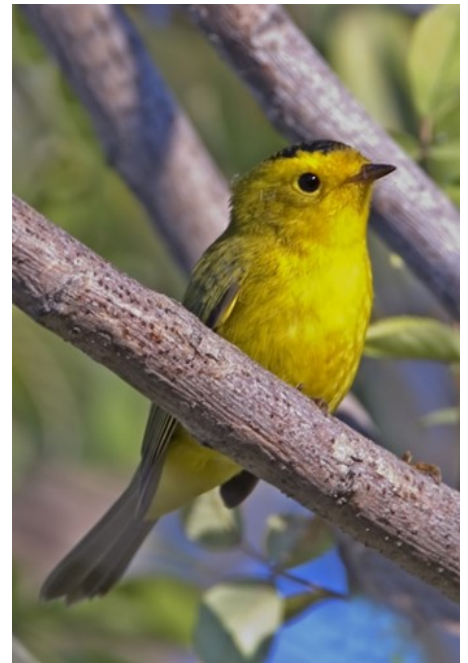


YELLOW WARBLER – 5”

Summer breeding bird and spring/autumn migrant.

The Yellow Warbler (YEWA) is prevalent across the U.S. in breeding season. Their melodic song is quite loud for such a small bird.

- Males are brilliant yellow with reddish brown streaks on the breast (male shown above).
- Females and immature birds are lighter yellow with a pale face and no streaking on the breast.
- Dark bill is long and blunt.
- Flight feathers and coverts are dark, edged in yellow.



WILSON'S WARBLER – 4.75”

Spring/autumn migrant.

The Wilson's Warbler (WIWA) is found across the U.S. in breeding season. Slightly smaller than the OCWA and YEWA, it moves fast through the foliage.

- Males and females have a bright yellow breast and head.
- Males have a pure black cap on the crown. The cap on females is smaller and dark gray.
- Dark bill is small and blunt.
- Back and wings are uniformly drab olive-yellow.

All Photos by Lary Umthun

← Female Yellow Warbler

Leslie Groves North Native Plant Habitat Restoration Project Work Parties

By Debbie Berkowitz, Project Coordinator and LCBAS Secretary

The Leslie Groves North (LGN) native plant / habitat restoration project could use some help. Our weeds are way too happy right now and this is prime weeding time. Our native plants are happy, too, and some will start flowering soon, so this is a great time to see some of our local wildflowers.



Lucie Fritz (L), and Debbie Berkowitz, Project Coordinator, during a weeding work party.
Photo by Charlene Burge

We've scheduled a number of weeding work parties in April and early May. You'll probably receive this Curlew sometime in mid-April, so the following repeats some of the April work parties. In May, we'll continue weeding most Thursdays and Saturdays, and occasionally other days as well. As it gets warmer, we'll start earlier. We hope to have the specific dates and times posted weekly on the LCBAS and Native Plant Society Facebook pages.

- Saturday, April 16 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM
- Sunday, April 24 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM
- Saturday, April 30 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM
- Thursday, May 5 from 9:00 to 10:30 AM
- Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 to 10:30 AM

If you're not a Facebook user and want more information about specific dates, please contact Debbie Berkowitz at secretary@lcbas.org or 509-308-0219. If you let her know - even last minute - that you're planning to come, she'll be able to let you know if there's a change in plans (e.g., weather-related).

If you can come to one or more work parties, please bring gloves, a hand weeding tool, and a bucket or pail if you have one. A kneeling pad is also useful. Long pants, long sleeves, sunscreen, hat, and water are recommended.

We will meet near the corner of Snyder St. and Harris Ave.; you can park along Harris. Note that this is a change from last month's Curlew where the meeting place was at Snyder and the bike path (we'll keep an eye out for you there, too).

If you would like to learn more about LGN, please see: <https://lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/lqn.html>

WDFW Seeking Tricolored Blackbird Surveyors!

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking birders to help locate and monitor Tricolored Blackbird Colonies.

Jason Fidorra is coordinating the effort in time with the California Triennial Surveys for this first - ever Washington effort.

Little is known about Tricolored Blackbirds in Washington, and only a handful of suspected breeding sites are known.



Tricolored Blackbird
Photo by Charles Gates, Flickr

Volunteers will need to be competent in bird ID to independently adopt survey sites around the Columbia Basin for monitoring on a day between May 20-22.

Scouting help is needed prior to the survey dates also.

To participate, please contact : jason.fidorra@dfw.wa.gov

Yakima Delta Ecosystem Restoration Update: Army Corps of Engineers Invite

Please note the date change: **Thursday, May 5, 2 PM to 4 PM**

The US Army Corps of Engineers is inviting the Audubon Society to an online presentation and small question/answer session on **Thursday, May 5, 2 PM to 4 PM**. The topic is the upcoming Yakima Delta Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Environmental Assessment and includes a description of the alternatives and the selected plan. Part of this study includes the possibility of removing the Bateman Island causeway. See the **Webex** link below.

LCBAS had requested that the Corps look at the effects on birds of their proposed Yakima Delta Ecosystem Restoration project. The Corps has done modeling work, developed alternatives, and is looking at the preliminary effects of implementing the proposed action. They will have a draft Environmental Assessment that will go out for public comment in the next few months. This presentation is an opportunity for LCBAS to get a preview of their work.

If you haven't used Webex before, go to www.webex.com to download prior to the meeting.

Join from the meeting link:

<https://usace1.webex.com/usace1/j.php?MTID=ma7587d7215b52f26a1437438ed97bb11>

Meeting number (access code): 2761 417 5843

Meeting password: YaRP22xWE*3

Need help? Go to <https://help.webex.com>



The Bateman Island causeway, near Wye Park
Photo by Charlene Burge

Join by phone:

+1-669-234-1177 US Toll

+1-844-800-2712 US Toll Free

Yakima Valley Audubon Society invites LCBAS members to their April presentation.

The Ecology and Conservation of Alcids in the Waters of Washington State

Thursday, April 28th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom

This program will introduce you to the alcids of Washington. Relatively little is known about the ecology and conservation status of many of these species, of which 15 have been recorded in Washington. Eight of these are regular in occurrence, one of which is iconic Tufted Puffin, a species listed as Endangered by Washington State. Moving between islands, seascapes, and species of the waters of Washington, our speaker, Peter Hodum, will provide an overview of the collaborative research programs focused on improving our understanding of Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, and Marbled Murrelets, and other Washington alcids and their conservation status.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751241932?pwd=K0lseGlvbng4WGikN3NaeEdaL2VTQT09>

To view previous programs that have been recorded, please see our website at www.yakimaudubon.org

Native Plant Appreciation Day at McNary National Wildlife Refuge

When: April 23, Saturday – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: McNary National Wildlife Refuge, 64 Maple Street, Burbank, WA

What: The day will include a wildflower field trip, dedication of our native plant garden, children's crafts, presentations and displays.

Who: For everyone - fun for the whole family and free! More details will be coming soon.

Organized by Friends of the Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges in partnership with USFWS Mid-Columbia River NWR Complex.

From Friends of the Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges

To consider joining Friends see our website_

<http://friendsofmcrrw.org/>

New Birding Access Sites (Take Yourself on a Field Trip!)

By Jason Fidorra, Birding Events

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has partnered with a local land-owner between Kahlotus and Washtucna, WA (Franklin Co.) to allow wildlife viewing access at two sites situated on private land: Harder Springs and Kahlotus Lake Cottonwoods.

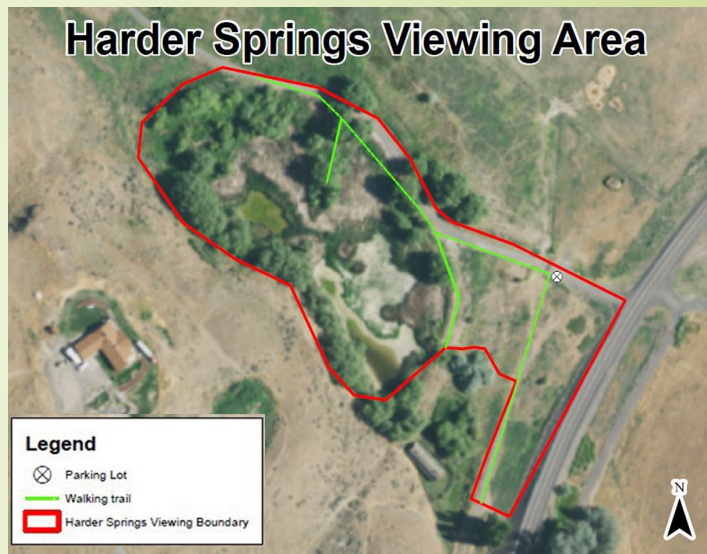
These sites are right off Hwy 260, just east of Kahlotus, and include nice riparian and wetland habitat which provides migratory stopover sites and breeding habitat for Tricolored Blackbirds and other specialty species of Eastern WA.

Park at designated areas and walk in only. No fishing or swimming. No trespassing beyond mapped areas.

Hotspot locations are on eBird. Tricolored Blackbirds have nested at Harder Springs from mid-April to July in recent years.

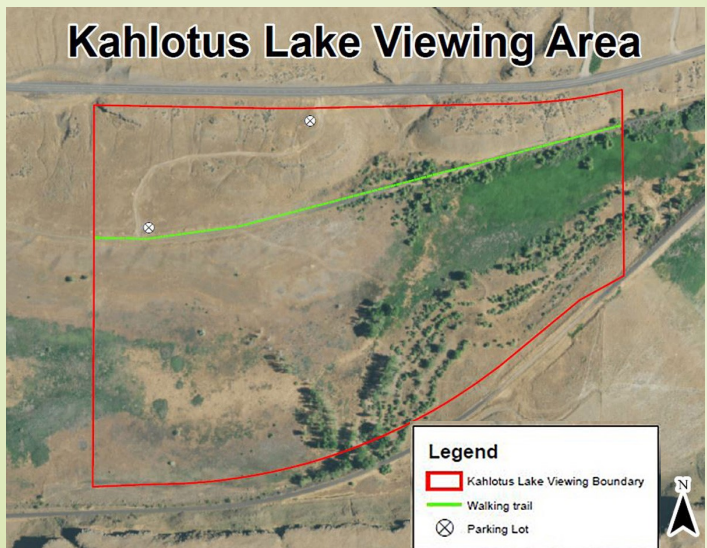


Harder Springs Viewing Area



Tricolored Blackbird
Photo by Terry Llovet, Flickr

Kahlotus Lake Viewing Area



Have you found an injured bird or one needing rescue?

Secure the bird if it's safe to do so. Please don't get in over your head or do something unsafe while trying to capture an injured bird, especially with raptors or large species. Many birds have sharp bills and strong feet.

Contact Blue Mountain Wildlife at
(541) 278-0215

When the Earth Started to Sing by David Haskell

“This sonic journey written and narrated by David G. Haskell brings us to the beginning of sound and song on planet Earth. The experience is made entirely of tiny trembling waves in air, the fugitive, ephemeral energy that we call sound. Spoken words combined with terrestrial sounds invite our senses and imaginations to go outward into an experience of the living Earth and its history. How did the vast and varied chorus of modern sounds—from forest to oceans to human music—emerge from life’s community? When did the living Earth first start to sing? We invite you on a journey into deep time and deep sound that will open your ears and your imagination.”

<https://emergencemagazine.org/audio-story/when-the-earth-started-to-sing/>

A podcast review by Robin Priddy, Director at Large

This podcast is not entirely about birds – I just thought it was amazing and wanted to share. Birds, specifically, come up at about 18 minutes.

From the early cosmos; he describes how sound waves seeded the first stars and made ripples that are detectable today. It can be seen in the spacing of galaxies and background radiation.

Sound is a creative force in the world – it connects, catalyzes, communicates, unifies and provokes.

The early earth had sounds of earthquakes, rain and wind. Early ocean-dwelling creatures and bacteria could sense sound. It took many millions of years for sound to be a means of communication; for animals to call or sing.

For more than nine-tenths of its history, earth did not have communicative sounds. The evolution of insect wings opened the door to sound on land – they could make sound and fly away from predators at the same time.

He invites us to listen to insects on a warm day or evening – land’s first singers.

Then came frogs with a larynx; making all the frog sounds.

Reptiles made sounds – crocodiles, geckos, hissing – along with the dinosaurs - with a larynx. Insects, amphibians and then reptiles added many sounds to the earth along with fish and crustaceans.

Now – birds! There were feathered dinosaurs and early birds; it is thought they did not sing like birds we know now, as the syrinx, the bird’s special organ for song had not yet evolved. Enough birds with syrinxes made it through an asteroid impact 66 million years ago, that birds with syrinxes are now common. As habitats returned, birds and their songs diversified.

Had the asteroid not hit, birds might have been dominated by species without the syrinx; it could be such a different world of birds.

He goes on to explain how mammals, as a result of nursing babies, developed strong musculature that created even more opportunities for different kinds of sounds.

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ADDRESS CHANGES: Please send address changes (postal address or email address) to Rich Barchet at subscriptions@lcbas.org so that your subscription is not interrupted. You can mail address changes to LCBAS, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA 99354.

NEW NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERS: We have been sending you complimentary issues of The Curlew newsletter to keep you up to date on local happenings. After three issues, the complimentary mailings end. To continue to receive The Curlew newsletter without interruption, please become a paid subscriber. Doing so is fast, easy, and secure at our website <http://lcbas.org/JoinLCBAS.html>

The **LCBAS Privacy Policy** is available at our website.

Find out more at www.lcbas.org or www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org

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Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

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Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Membership Form

LCBAS membership benefits include a year's subscription (10 issues) to The Curlew and priority registration for space-limited field trips. LCBAS is a 501c(3) organization and dues are tax deductible.

_____ Regular membership (\$20)

_____ Full-time student membership (\$10)

_____ I would like to make an additional donation of _____.

Total: _____ (Make check payable to **LCBAS**)

Mail your form and dues to: Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA. 99352

I want to save resources and postage and receive my newsletter by email

I do not want to receive e-alerts for last minute activity changes, important issues, and volunteer opportunities (check for opt-out).

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership in LCBAS is separate from membership in the National Audubon Society.
To join the National Audubon Society, please go to www.audubon.org