



The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see www.lcbas.org

September 24: LCBAS Chapter Meeting at 7:00 PM

October 1: LCBAS Board Meeting

October 5: LCBAS First Saturday / Bateman Island Walk. See page 2

October 22: LCBAS Chapter Meeting at 7:00 PM

LCBAS events are open to the public.

The Curlew is Going 100% Electronic

September and October are our last printed Curlew editions. After much debate within the LCBAS Board, and requests for feedback from LCBAS membership, the decision was made to discontinue printing the Curlew. You will still receive the Curlew via email, and can also access it via the LCBAS website www.lcbas.org

This will save LCBAS money, and is a sound environmental decision.

Please make sure we have your email address to ensure you will be able to receive the e-Curlew. You can send it by using the contact form on the LCBAS website:

www.lcbas.org/contact

If you have any questions or concerns, please use the contact form or mail us at: LCBAS, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352

Keeping a Nature Journal

LCBAS Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 7:00 PM
First Lutheran Church, 418 N. Yelm, Kennewick, WA

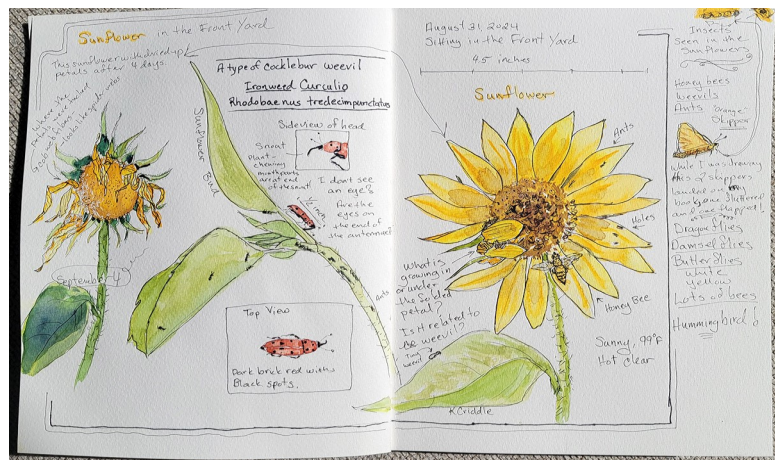
With Kathy Criddle, LCBAS member and local watercolor artist



Nature is everywhere. You find it in the trees and the skies above, in a neighborhood park or a backyard. There are birds, bugs, clouds, stars, plants, and streams to wander along and wonder about. What better way to stop and really embrace the moment than to record your experiences in a nature journal?

Think that keeping a nature journal is all about drawing pretty pictures? It's not! It's more about recording data, what you hear and see, colors, weather, and counting things. It's a way to stop and be in the moment of what you are experiencing - to see and enjoy the wild wonder all around you.

I will share some of my nature journaling journey, including a recent retreat in the high Sierra Nevadas at a John Muir Laws Nature Journaling Retreat. We will also use some time so you can start your own nature journal. We'll explore ideas, materials to use, and ways to record the nature you enjoy!



First Saturday / Bateman Island Bird Walk September 7, 2024

By Lisa Hill

A great Bateman Island bird walk kicked off the 2024-25 season with 50 species counted by about 35 people. It was great to see so many young birders there, well, quite a bit younger than me anyway! Several were returnees and brought their friends. Those new Vortex loaner binoculars purchased by LCBAS have been put to very good use.

Most of the birds seen were the usual suspects at this time of year including NORTHERN PINTAIL, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, AMERICAN WIGEON, GADWALL and WOOD DUCK. A high number of GREAT EGRETS have been sighted at the Yakima delta lately and we saw at least ten. Shorebirds are returning and we were able to scope GREATER YELLOWLEGS and WESTERN SANDPIPER.

In the Black Locust grove were three, possibly four, GREAT HORNED OWLS. These were likely a family unit with young hatched this year. One GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET was also in the grove. Unfortunately, we didn't see any migrating warblers this time, but a few people got a HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER. Plenty of winter resident songbirds have returned: WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, DARK-EYED JUNCO and SPOTTED TOWHEE.

Looking through the bird list, I noticed three birds named for people. As most birders know, the American Ornithological Society announced its commitment to rename nearly 80 North American birds that are currently named for people by the end of 2024. I can't wait to see the names! The decision was made for a number of reasons which not everyone agrees with. Changing the birds' names from a person (likely a long-deceased white male scientist) to names that describe the bird as to its plumage, habitat preferences or behavior will help new and future birders learn the birds according to their characteristics. Think this is all going to be way too hard to learn? Think of it as a great exercise in using your brain to learn new things and then APPLY the knowledge to make it stick. Remember when we all thought learning to say Pacific Wren instead of Winter Wren was going to be such a problem? Not.

This is a monumental task because there are about 10,000 bird names already in use! I came up with a few ideas. Cooper's Hawk could become Wide-legged Hawk or Blunt-shinned Hawk (to distinguish it from its close relative, the Sharp-shinned Hawk). Bewick's Wren would do well with Sassy Wren, Loud-mouthed Wren, or White-browed Wren. There is, however, already a White-browed Scrubwren in Australia. Last on our list was the Hammond's Flycatcher. I couldn't think of anything funny, so thought Small-billed Flycatcher, Olive-backed Flycatcher or Long-winged Flycatcher might do.



Spotted Towhee
Photo by Larry Umthun

The next Bateman Island bird walk will be Saturday, October 5th, beginning promptly at 8:00 AM.

Please come a few minutes early to sign in. Meet in the parking lot of Wye Park above the causeway to the island. Parking is limited, so you may need to park in one of the other lots.

Please join us! Both the public and LCBAS members are always welcome. Binoculars are available, first come, first served. No registration is required.

Conservation: LCBAS Update on Horse Heaven Wind Farm

Update on the most recent LCBAS Conservation letter regarding the Horse Heaven Wind Farm:

((Horse Heaven Wind Farm, Site Certification Agreement, Appendix 2. Mitigation Measures))

August 24, 2024

Kathleen Drew, Chair
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
1300 S. Evergreen Park SW
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
Coments@efsec.wa.gov

Re: Horse Heaven Wind Farm,
Site Certification Agreement, Appendix 2. Mitigation Measures

Dear Chair Kathleen Drew:

The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society submits the following comments by page numbers for your consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to comment but we would like to have had more time for review and submission.

Page 8.

B Habitat (Hab) Mitigation
Hab-1 Wildlife Movement Corridors:

Comment on the Redline Strikeout of the first full paragraph.

Migratory and wildlife movement corridors are extremely important for the movement of all species and also assures the gene pool remains active and not static. The uninhibited free flow, in a movement corridor, is essential to a healthy ecosystem both locally, regionally and nationally. Movement corridors may be the most significant action for protection of wildlife within the project area.

The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (LCBAS) considers it very important that the original language that has been deleted be restored to fully protect the ecological integrity of the Horse Heaven Hills ecoregion.

The modified language in this revised section states, that the Certificate Holder provides rationale to EFSEC for any project components within the movement corridors would continually having EFSEC review and approve or disapprove project components on an individual case for buildup. This could lead to delays followed inevitably by rubber stamping project component siting in movement corridors.

Page 12.

Spec-5 Ferruginous Hawks:

LCBAS is concerned that reducing the impact distance from 2.0 miles to 0.6 – miles (1 Km) radius is not vigorous enough to protect Ferruginous Hawk nests and the health of the species in Washington State. The documented decline of Ferruginous Hawks in Washington has not changed since the initial writing of the SCA, therefore LCBAS strongly recommends that the 2 mile impact distance remains. In particular, LCBAS is at a loss as to where EFSEC got the data to support a 0.6 mile impact distance. A reference is needed.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3- Conservation: LCBAS Update on Horse Heaven Wind Farm

The new language has a net positive slant to protect Ferruginous Hawks through required reviews by PTAG and final approval by EFSEC. This new language would be acceptable to LCBAS if the 0.6 mile exclusion zone is replaced by the original 2 mile distance. This would better assure that Ferruginous Hawks could be protected.

The rewrite by EFSEC, as directed by the Governor, has forced the project to reduce protections to native environments. Ferruginous Hawks and wildlife corridors are a victim to the redraft. One wonders why the Golden Eagle exclusion zone cited on page 11 remains at 1.9 miles, while the Ferruginous Hawk exclusion zone drops, in many cases, to 0.6 miles!

EFSEC falsely believes that Ferruginous Hawks forage only on native lands. Ferruginous Hawks can hunt on a variety of crop lands, residential areas and many industrial parks. Ferruginous Hawks prefer native habitat, but they will go where the food resource can be obtained. It is well documented that hawks, eagles and falcons will adjust their hunting preferences both for prey types and prey locations. Hunting is a learned behavior, and not necessarily an inborn genetic prescript behavior.

In closure, LCBAS supports clean energy development and recognizes the dire fate of global warming, but we need to protect vulnerable habitats and the species they support as we go to a non-carbon energy production state.

Sincerely,

Dana Carl Ward
President
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

Found an Injured or Orphaned Bird? Call WSU

If you have questions, or you have definitely found an injured or orphaned bird, call the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital 24-hour WSU wildlife hotline at 509-335-0711 for information on how best to help.

Any bird which has been caught by a cat, even if it doesn't look injured, needs assessment by a professional. Tiny punctures from cat claws or teeth can cause a fatal infection.

Wild Birds Unlimited

Have you always dreamed of owning a birding store? The current owners of Wild Birds Unlimited are ready to retire and are looking for new owners. They are not going out of business and will continue to operate their shop until they find the right buyer. If you're interested, please contact David and Hanna Goss directly at Wild Birds Unlimited of Richland, 474 Keene Rd, 509-579-5440.

Citizen Science: Winter Raptor Surveys

If you can identify raptors in our area and enjoy having another reason to spend time out birding (but, seriously, who needs reasons?), you should consider joining the Winter Raptor Survey. The 21st season for the East Cascades Audubon Society's Winter Raptor Survey Project will get underway November 1st for optional surveys, and December 1st for the main survey season. For more information: <https://ecbirds.org/projects/winter-raptor-survey/>

All data collected is provided to The Peregrine Fund in Boise, ID, to include in their raptor database for research and population monitoring purposes. This data, as well as data from eBird and research projects, are painting a picture of raptor use and population trends in our western states. More than 450 people are involved each year, covering 551 routes in six states as of last winter, while surveying more than 32,000 miles of transects! Last year, as usual, RTHA, AMKE, NOHA, BAEA, and RLHA continued to be the main species observed, accounting for 91.8% of the total raptors observed.

Several great driving routes near our area are available for this year's survey. Contact Jeff Fleischer to get involved: raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com

This survey is for you, if you know local raptors, love birding, pay close attention to detail, follow the simple directions provided for the surveys, and can accurately fill out simple survey forms. Easy peasy and lots of fun!

LCBAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: **Postal Curlew subscribers** can see the year/month their subscription expires by looking on their Curlew label. **eCurlew subscribers** are alerted to the impending expiration of their subscription by email. Please renew your subscription on or before the month your subscription expires to continue to receive the Curlew without interruption. Renewing online is easy, quick and safe: <https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/join-renew-donate> or you can use the form included with this newsletter.

Consider receiving the eCurlew instead of a paper copy! See all the photos in color, receive your Curlew sooner, and be an environmental and fiscal champion. To switch to the eCurlew: www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please send address changes (postal address or email address) to www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact so that your subscription is not interrupted. You can also mail address changes to LCBAS, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352.

NEW NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERS: We hope you will support Lower Columbia Basin Audubon by joining the local chapter, which is locally funded. 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 <https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/join-renew-donate>

The **LCBAS Privacy Policy** is available at our website. Find out more at www.lcbas.org or

LCBAS OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Dana Ward	president@lcbas.org
Vice President	Chuck Hedel	—
Treasurer	Dan Hansen	treasurer.lcbas@gmail.com
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz	secretary.lcbas@gmail.com
Birding Events	Jason Fidorra	—
Communications Chair	Charlene Burge	—
Conservation Co-Chair	Dana Ward and Rick Leaumont	conservation@lcbas.org
Education Chair	Kelly Doyle	—
Finance Chair	Dan Hansen	treasurer.lcbas@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair	Marcie Daines	
Membership Chair	OPEN	To contact anyone without a dedicated email address, please use the contact form on our website:
Program Chair	Lori Nelson	
Director at Large	Robin Priddy	https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact
OTHER CONTACTS:		
Curlew Editor	Charlene Burge	
Membership Database	Rich Barchet	
LCBAS Website	Lori Nelson and Lisa Hill	
Publicity Chair	OPEN	

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society**PO Box 1900****Richland, WA 99352****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 (Individual or family at one address) (\$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