

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

Christmas Bird Count January 2nd, 2015

*Special Interest
 Articles:*

- Christmas Bird Count
- From the ABC

*Individual
 Highlights:*

- Bateman Island report
 Page 2
- Flapjack Fundraiser
 Page 4
- November Bird Sightings
 Page 5

**No membership meeting in
 December**

Next membership meeting:

**Tuesday, January 27, 7 pm
 First Lutheran Church
 Yelm and 395, Kennewick**

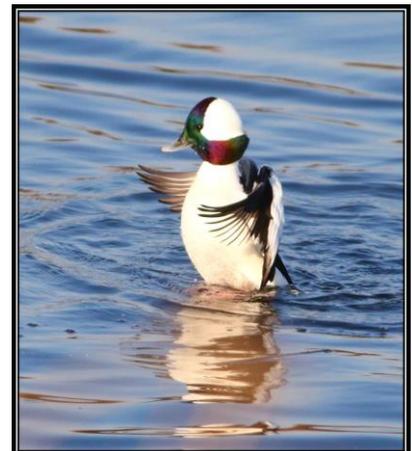
The Tri-Cities count starts in three locations at 7:30am, Saturday, January 2nd. The three start locations where volunteers can join the count are:

Richland – Meet Lisa Hill (509-943-2244) at the “Fingernail” in Howard Amon Park

Kennewick – Meet Richard Barchet (509-430-0053) at the Audubon Nature Trail in Columbia Park

Pasco – Meet Dana Ward (509-545-0627) at the Chiawana Park Boat Ramp, end of Rd 88

More information about the Christmas Bird Count is on Page 7 of this newsletter.



Top: Bufflehead

Bottom: Gadwall

Photo credits: Ivar Husa

Bateman Island Bird Walk: November 7, 2015

Fortune smiled upon the Bateman Island birders again, and we basked in a beautiful, calm day, perfect for spotting 56 species. Most of the water in the delta was frozen over due to the recent cold spell. A large squabble of gulls loafed on the ice. We scoped the birds and found, among our resident gulls, a LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, and the typical winter gulls, GLAUCOUS-WINGED and HERRING. The east side of the causeway was open water with many waterfowl, the smallest and showiest being the BUFFLEHEAD. How does a duck get such a weird name? Many living creatures get their names from Latin or Greek words that are descriptive of the species. The Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*, is derived from "bos" (an ox or

bull) and "cephala" (head), and "alba" (white). The bird was thought to have a head shape that resembled a buffalo, with a white patch. "Buffle" is a variation of "buffalo". So, maybe it's OK to call them Buffaloheads.

It has become quite normal to see COMMON LOONS in the Columbia River on the north end of the island. One was near the shore, offering nice views of its unique head and massive bill. Several birders present were able to add VARIED THRUSH to their life list, and many got to see a HERMIT THRUSH.

While on the causeway, an immature BALD EAGLE flew directly overhead. Bald Eagles

aren't bald, so why this odd name? "Bald" is short for "piebald", with "bald" meaning white patch, and "pie" coming from the magpie with its patchy black and white plumage. A variation of "piebald" shows up in PIED-BILLED GREBE. This duck has a distinct white ring on its dark bill which is therefore "pied".

Please take note: since the Christmas Bird Count will be held on January 2nd, the next Bateman Island bird walk is the second Saturday of January, the 9th. Meet in the parking lot of Wye Park near the causeway at 8am.

From the American Bird Conservancy

Bird-Smart Glass Products Now Available to Prevent Window Collisions

Collisions with glass windows kill hundreds of millions of birds each year in the United States, but thanks to American Bird Conservancy's (ABC) new Bird-Smart Glass Program, a list of 18 tested, proven products is now available to help homeowners and architects identify simple but effective solutions to stop birds from hitting windows.

"This new market of bird-friendly products will go a long way toward reducing a tremendous threat to birds," said Dr. Christine Sheppard, ABC's Bird Collisions Program Manager. "Bird-Smart glass can and should be a standard component of sustainable design. We hope manufacturers develop even more products that help architects and homeowners make

their buildings and homes bird-friendly."

Also: Bird-friendly Building Design Guide Updated: ABC's "Bird-friendly Building Design" guide, built on the pioneering work of New York City Audubon, adds a review of the science behind available solutions, updates solutions to the problem, and provides many visual examples of how those solutions can be applied to new construction and existing buildings. A few examples of bird-friendly design techniques include frit patterns, frosted glass, and window screens. Interestingly, many award winning designs unknowingly incorporate bird-friendly design features.

Greater Sage-Grouse Sign On Letter Reminder

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to protect 10 million acres of the most important sagebrush habitats from mining. This is part of the national sage grouse planning initiative, and an essential next step in preventing further declines in the Greater Sage-Grouse population. ABC has drafted a sign on comment letter that supports the BLM's

proposal, and also asks that additional priority grouse habitat be conserved, as recommended by scientists and top grouse conservation experts. To view the letter and sign on your organization please go to: <http://support.abcbirds.org/ProtectMoreGrouseHabitat>

Lawmakers and Conservation Groups Stand Up for the Endangered Species Act

As Congress considers the spending bill for next year, numerous amendments have been proposed to weaken the Endangered Species Act and strip specific species of the Act's protections. To counter these threats, letters have been sent to the Obama Administration from 25 Senators, 165 Representatives, and over 150 conservation groups. You can help by contacting your Senators and Representative today. Please also forward this action alert to your activists.

New Report Finds Hawai'i's Palila among Nation's Most Isolated Wildlife

Habitat loss and conversion, dams, roads, and other developments are among the leading causes of wildlife habitat fragmentation, according to a new report released today by the Endangered Species Coalition. The report, *No Room to Roam: 10 American Species in Need of Connectivity and Corridors*, highlights ten rare or endangered species that lack safe, navigable corridors to connect them to important habitat or other populations.

The report includes the endangered Palila, a rare Hawaiian finch-billed honeycreeper that used to be distributed widely on the island of Hawai'i. Approximately 2,000 birds remain, and are limited to the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea—less than 5 percent of the species' historical range. This bird depends on the māmane tree, and moves up, down, and around the mountain to find seed pods to eat. Habitat destruction and continued degradation by non-native sheep and other hooved mammals have isolated the population from other areas of potential habitat. For more on this story see ABC's blog.

ABC Opinion on MBTA: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act remains a flagship piece of environmental legislation today. Its language is clear: Without a permit, it is illegal to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill migratory birds "by any means or in any manner." Despite its straightforward language, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is now under attack. Read more: [Court Rulings Could Undermine Safeguards for](#)

Migratory Birds by Darin Schroeder, American Bird Conservancy

Cornell Lab of Ornithology: Saving America's Waterfowl—One Stamp at a Time. By the early 20th century, the beautiful Wood Duck had been nearly driven to extinction by overhunting and habitat destruction. But in 1934, an innovative federal plan (the Duck Stamp Act), brought together hunters, artists, and wildlife managers in a conservation partnership, and now the Wood Duck and other waterfowl have made a huge comeback. Read the full story of one of the most successful but underappreciated conservation successes of the last century. Duck stamps are for birdwatchers, too. Hunters fund conservation by buying Duck Stamps—here are 8 reasons why birdwatchers should consider buying one too.

New Report Assesses Impacts of Emerging Threats on Gulf Coast Species: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released the Gulf Coast Vulnerability Assessment (GCVA), a comprehensive report that evaluates the effects of climate change, sea level rise and urbanization on four Gulf Coast ecosystems and 11 species that depend on them. The ecosystems are mangrove, oyster reef, tidal emergent marsh and barrier islands. The species are Roseate Spoonbill, blue crab, Clapper Rail, Mottled Duck, spotted seatrout, eastern oyster, American Oystercatcher, red drum, Black Skimmer, Kemp's ridley sea turtle and Wilson's Plover.

Understanding Forest Plan Revision under the 2012 Planning Rule: The National Forest Foundation recorded a webinar that provides a good overview of the 2012 Forest Planning Rule and Planning Directives by speakers from the U.S. Forest Service: <http://nationalforestfoundation.adobeconnect.com/p19fhdplb6e/>

Forest Service Webinar, Conservation Strategy for the California Spotted Owl: Tuesday, December 8, 2015, the U.S. Forest Service shared information about its efforts in developing a conservation strategy for the California Spotted Owl. The Region has launched a Website, which includes a recorded webinar, where pertinent CSO Conservation Strategy information can be found: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/plants-animals/wildlife/?cid=STELPRD3854419>

Flapjack Fundraiser January 30, 2016

LCBAS will have their annual Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast
On Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 8:00am-10:00am
5305 Road 68 in Pasco
\$10.00 per ticket

For \$10.00 you get as many pancakes you can eat, sausages, scrambled eggs and a beverage. Audubon keeps \$6 from each ticket sale, which helps fund our education and environmental programs. Your servers will be LCBAS members with smiling faces to pour your coffee and bring you plates of delicious food.

Tickets are available from any Board member or by calling Charlotte Reep at 509-547-9087. It's a fun and a great way to perk up a wintery, January morning.



"Duck Back Pancakes"
Painting by Dan Lacey

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!

Note that prospective members get three complimentary issues of the Curlew. In order to receive more issue, you must become an LCBAS member

Officers

President – Lori Nelson (president@lcbas.org)
Vice President – Joe Lelli
Treasurer – Vacant
Secretary – Debbie Berkowitz (secretary@lcbas.org)

Standing Committees

Birding Events – Kathy Criddle (birdingevents@lcbas.org)
Communications - Joe Lelli (Curlew) (curlew@lcbas.org)
Conservation – Dana Ward (conservation@lcbas.org)
Education - Vacant
Finance – Vacant
Fundraising – Charlotte Reep
Membership – Vacant
Program – Ivar Husa (programs@lcbas.org)

Special Committees

Audubon Adventures – Lannie Smith
Book Sales - Kathy Criddle
Christmas Bird Count - Dana Ward
(christmasbirdcount@lcbas.org)
Hospitality – Marcie Daines and Lannie Smith
Publicity –Charlotte Reep
Website - Ed Rykiel (webmaster@lcbas.org)
Sagebrush Songbird Survey – Robin Priddy
50th Anniversary Year – Ed Rykiel

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFO

CURLEW ADDRESS LABEL: The postal address label on your CURLEW newsletter shows the year/month your subscription expires. 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: <http://lcbas.org/JoinLCBAS.html>

CHANGE TO CURLEW MAILING: The bulk mailing permit used by the LCBAS to mail The Curlew to subscribers will expire at the end of December and will not be renewed. This means we'll be mailing issues at standard postal rates. To reduce the cost of providing The Curlew to our subscribers please consider receiving The Curlew by email instead of by US mail. By doing so, you will see all of the gorgeous pictures in the newsletter in living color, not black and white, and eCurlew will arrive even earlier in the month. If you are now receiving The Curlew by US mail, either as a subscriber or as complimentary issues, and want to change to the eCurlew, please send an email to Subscriptions@LCBAS.org with your request.

NEW NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERS: In order to make you aware of our local chapter, we have been sending you complimentary issues of The Curlew newsletter. 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>

eCURLEW SUBSCRIBERS: Subscribers that receive The Curlew via eMail are not alerted to the impending expiration of their subscription by a date on an address label. However, the LCBAS Subscriptions Administrator will send eMail alerts to let you know of an impending or actual expiration of your subscription. 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: <http://lcbas.org/JoinLCBAS.html>

IF YOU RECEIVE THE CURLEW BY EMAIL: Please let us know when your email address has changed by notifying Rich Barchet at subscriptions@lcbas.org so that your subscription is not interrupted

IF YOU RECEIVE THE CURLEW BY MAIL: If your mailing address has changed or is going to change, please notify Rich Barchet at subscriptions@lcbas.org with any address changes. Or mail changes to PO Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352, Attention: Rich Barchet, LCBAS Subscriptions Administrator.

Bird Sightings for November 2015

By Lannie Smith

North Richland and Richland Columbia River Parks

Dining at the feeders of Jane and Keith Abel in north Richland were: Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, American Robin, Varied Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak (rare winter irruptive). Mike and Mary Lilga live in north Richland too. They are seeing Varied Thrush daily and Pine Siskin are beginning to frequent their yard. Mary heard a flock of Red Crossbills (rare winter irruptive) and saw them leave a neighbor's Blue Spruce tree. In and along Leslie Groves Park the Abel's species list included the following: Gadwall, Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Scaup, Common Loon, adult and juvenile Bald Eagles, Killdeer, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Bewick's Wren, Varied and Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers, Spotted Towhee, White-throated, White-crowned, Lincoln's (rare, winter) and Fox Sparrows, Pine Siskin and Common Redpoll (rare winter irruptive).

West Richland, Horn Rapids Area and Rattlesnake Mountain

Mark Gerber is one of about 3 contributors who has had Anna's Hummingbirds (rare, winter) in his yard in November. Chad Merkley posted on LCBirds2 that he had a female Purple Finch (rare, winter) at his bird feeder in West Richland on the 15th. After reading that post, Roger consulted his bird book to brush up on the identifying characteristics of Purple Finches. Check his results in the Chamna Natural Preserve section.

Rancho Reata and Amon Creek Natural Preserve

The yard list of Neil and Sharon Ofsthun included the first-ever posting of a special winged creature. They were visited by: Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Mourning Doves, Eurasian Collared-Doves, Western Screech Owl, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, Cedar Waxwings, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, Pine Siskin, and, finally, "Bat, species unknown" spotted clinging to a tree.

Yakima Delta, Bateman Island and Chamna Natural Preserve

On the 10th, Marilyn Andersen called in a report of a juvenile Red-throated Loon (rare, winter) in the Delta. Following up on Marilyn's tip, it was spotted and photographed the next day by Jane Abel from her kayak and also seen from shore by Lisa Hill. Other sightings by Jane from the vantage point of the kayak during the month included a few Barn Swallow, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Bald Eagle, Bonaparte's, Glaucous (rare, winter) and Glaucous-winged Gulls (uncommon, winter), 13 Hooded Mergansers (seen in one afternoon), (uncommon, winter) Common Loon, and White-winged Scoter (rare migrant). Mark Gerber photographed 2 female/immature Purple Finches (rare, winter) at Chamna Natural Preserve on the 16th. On the 20th James Cleaver counted 6 gull species on the roof of the marina at Bateman Island: Ring-billed, California, Herring (uncommon, winter), Glaucous-winged (uncommon, winter), Thayer's (rare, winter), and Lesser Black-backed (accidental, winter). On the west side of the causeway he spotted a Merganser reunion: 2 Red-breasted Mergansers feeding with Common and Hooded Mergansers (with the Mergansers being rare, common, and uncommon in winter, respectively).

South Richland, Johnson Park and Badger Mountain

Lisa Hill reported an Anna's Hummingbird (rare, winter) in their yard on the 3rd and an Orange-crowned Warbler on the 5th. Lauren Hirsch also reported an Anna's Hummingbird that was present the first 2 weeks of the month. Seven Pine Siskins were frequenting her feeders mid-month. She also added a Golden-crowned Kinglet to her yard list. Dean Edwards reported from his usual haunt along Amon Creek at the Gage/Keene greenway. On the 23rd an immature/female Purple Finch (rare, winter) was feeding in the Russian olive trees with hordes of House Finches, American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Northern Flickers, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-crowned Sparrows. Dean has seen a few Pine Siskins in the same area, as well as a Varied Thrush and Lincoln's Sparrow (rare, winter). On the 24th Ed Rykiel's porch feeder had a Slate-colored Junco present with a horde of Oregon Juncos, House Finches and House Sparrows. Ron Hinz lives on the Yakima River opposite Johnson Park. His November list: Canada Goose, Common Goldeneye, 1 pair of Common Mergansers, Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, adult and juvenile Bald Eagles, Red-tailed

Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, Spotted Towhee and Dark-eyed Junco. (If you attended the Audubon celebration at the Reach, you may be aware that Ron won the White-rumped Shama carving that was presented in a drawing. You can check one out and hear its beautiful song on Youtube).

Kennewick

Lisa Hill reported a flock of 7-8 Red Crossbills (rare winter irruptive) in Desert Lawn Memorial Park (10th and Union) in Kennewick.

Finley Area

From Finley, Kris Keating submitted her yard list: Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Flicker, Bewick's Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, House Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and Western Meadowlark. Keeping track of her feeding stations are a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrel and, at a distance, an immature Bald Eagle.

McNary National Wildlife Refuge and Walla Walla River Delta

Charlotte Reep and her husband walked McNary NWR in early November. Their bird list included 16 Tundra Swans, 10 Great Egrets, a Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Great Horned Owl, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers and a White-throated Sparrow among numerous White-crowned Sparrows. At Madam Dorian Park they saw 2 Western Grebes. On the 10th Rich Barchet and Allison Hall-Mullen spotted 2 White-faced Ibis (supposedly rare summer visitors) on Slough 2 at the refuge.

Clarifications and corrections are always appreciated.

Please contribute your sightings to our newsletter! Call them in to 545-4898, post them online at LCBirds2, or email to lanirock@charter.net.



Upcoming Events

January 2016

- 2 Christmas Bird Count
- 4 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland
- 26 John James Audubon died, 1851
- 27 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1st Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

February 2016 – Tri-Cities Bird Club became Audubon chapter (1967)

- 1 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland
- 6 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island
- 9-20 Cuba Birding Trip – *FULL!*
- 23 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1st Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

March 2016

- 5 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island
- 7 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland
- 22 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1st Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

April 2016

- 2 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island
- 4 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland
- 14-17 Sagebrush Songbird Survey dates
- 26 John James Audubon born, 1785
- 26 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1st Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

May 2016 – Tri-Cities Bird Club founded (1965)

- 2 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland
- 7 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island
- 12-15 Sagebrush Songbird Survey dates
- 24 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1st Lutheran Church, Yelm & 395, Kennewick
ELECTION of Officers!

June 2016

- 2-5 Sagebrush Songbird Survey dates
- 4 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island
- 6 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland
- 28 Membership Potluck, 5-9 PM, Leslie Groves Park

Annual Christmas Bird Count Potluck and Silent Auction

January 2, 2016

New Information – Please read!

The Tri-Cities count starts in three locations at 7:30am, Saturday, January 2nd. The three start locations where volunteers can join the count are:

Richland – Meet Lisa at the “Fingernail” in Howard Amon Park

Kennewick – Meet Rich at the Audubon Nature Trail in Columbia Park

Pasco – Meet Dana at the Chiawana Park Boat Ramp, end of Rd 88

From these locations we split into smaller teams led by more experienced birders. Some birding skills are helpful but not required. If you cannot make the 7:30am start please coordinate with your count leader prior to Saturday, January 2nd to arrange an appropriate time and location. The team leaders also need to know what you have counted (species and number of species) before the potluck at 6:30pm.

Birds seen at **bird feeders within the count circle are extremely important to the count.** So if you have a feeder please provide those numbers a team leader.

At the end of the count day, the LCBAS has their annual Christmas Potluck. The dinner is held at the Columbia Grange #938 which is located at 6300 Court Street in Pasco. Please bring a main dish and dessert to share. Some standard drinks will be provided such as coffee and bottled water. You will need to provide your own tableware. Start assembling at 5:30pm and we will eat at approximately 6:00pm. The day’s bird count will be presented after we eat. Also the Grange will be open from 10:00am to closing for those that want to stop by for warm drinks, good conversation and

possibly some dulcimer music.

As a special treat at the Grange, we will have a **silent auction** of some splendid bird related items. The items will be on display and you are encouraged to write your name and amount on each item. Remember to tuck a few extra dollars in your pocket for this event.

The information that all counts generate is reviewed and placed in a database that is available to everyone on the internet. The database can be accessed through www.birdsource.org then select the Christmas Bird Count icon. The Tri-Cities count code is WATC.

Richland: Lisa Hill (509-943-2244) will lead the Richland team

Kennewick: Richard Barchet (509-430-0053) will lead the Kennewick team.

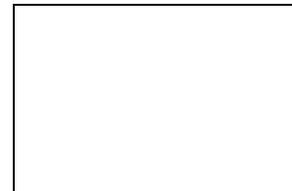
Pasco: Dana Ward (509-545-0627) will lead the Pasco team.

For more information on the Tri-Cities Christmas Bird Count, please call Dana Ward, Christmas Bird Count Coordinator at (509-545-0627)



*White-crowned Sparrow
Photo credit: Ivar Husa*

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



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. _____

_____ LCBAS has an e-alert list (for last minute activity changes, important issues, volunteer opportunities). If you want to opt out, check here. If you opt out, you will not receive e-alert emails (Your e-mail address will not be shared in any case).

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.....

C3Z

Y010Z

