



The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin
Audubon Society

Upcoming Events

See **p. 2** for details about
birding trips

June 2 - First Saturday Bird
Walk, 8:00 AM at Bateman
Island, by special permission.
Arrive early at Wye Park (~7:45
AM).

June 4 - Board Meeting, 6:15
PM at Richland Public Library.

June 15 - Eastern Region
Audubon Meeting, 10 AM - 2
PM, Moses Lake (note time
change from previous
announcement)

June 26 - Annual LCBAS
Potluck Picnic, 5 - 8 PM, Leslie
Groves Park, Richland.

*LCBAS is on hiatus until
September 2018!
Have a great summer.*

LCBAS Annual Potluck Picnic

June 26, 2018, 5:30 PM

**Leslie Groves North Picnic Shelter #2
Park Street Entrance
Richland**

Celebrate the end of another successful year with a potluck picnic!

People will start gathering around 5:30 PM; our potluck picnic will begin at 6 PM. Drinks are provided by LCBAS. Bring a main dish and a dessert or side dish to share. You should also bring your own plate, cup, and utensils - and don't forget lawn chairs!

Come say thank you to last year's officers and welcome next year's Board members - many of whom will look very familiar to you. It will be a relaxing and social way to usher in our summer break in chapter activities.

Directions to Shelter #2: Turn east off George Washington Way on Newcomer Avenue, then north on Harris Avenue, then east on Park Street.



California Quail
by Charlene Burge

Upcoming LCBAS Field Trips.

First Saturday Bird Walk - June 2

On June 2, we will have the last Bateman Island Bird Walk before our summer hiatus. Although Bateman is still closed to the public, we have special permission to do a bird survey, courtesy of the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Richland. Jim Castle, USACE wildlife biologist (and LCBAS President) will be our guide. On our list of target birds are summer residents like Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, and Yellow Warblers. **Meet at Wye Park at 7:45 AM.** Latecomers cannot be accommodated. This is a great bird walk for new birders and children.

Watch Facebook (Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society page and Tri-Cities Birders page) and our website (lcbas.org) for any additional field trips planned for this summer!

Have a trip suggestion or want to lead a LCBAS trip? Email fieldtrips@lcbas.org and share your passion!

Celebrate Invertebrates at McNary NWR

June 23, 9 AM - 12 PM

McNary Education Center, 311 Lake Rd, Burbank



Learn about our spineless friends, the invertebrates! This free event focuses on aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, with hands-on activities, displays, nature walks, crafts, and presentations. Hosted by Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges.



Canyon Wren
by Dennis Werlau



Mallard hen
by Elke Davis

Donate to LCBAS when you shop

Fred Meyer - Link your Rewards Card to LCBAS and we'll receive a donation every time you have your card swiped at the store. Stop by the Customer Service desk at any Fred Meyer or visit their website to connect your card to LCBAS. You can use our name or our ID number (89875).

www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4. Click on "Link Your Rewards Card Now" to sign up.

Yoke's - Register for an escrip card and link it to LCBAS. Every time you have your card scanned, we'll receive a donation. You can register using our number (500745676) or our name.

www.escrip.com/howitworks/

AmazonSmile: Shop at Amazon through smile.amazon.com. Choose "Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society" as your charity and we'll receive 0.05% of your purchase total.



Audubon
WASHINGTON

Join Audubon Washington for regional and state-wide meetings

Eastern Washington Audubon Regional Meeting

June 15, 2018, 10 AM - 2 PM (note time change)

Moses Lake United Methodist Church, 746 S Ironwood Drive, Moses Lake

Join Audubon Washington staff and members of other eastern Washington Audubon chapters at our eastern regional meeting in Moses Lake! On the agenda are updates on state-wide conservation priorities, including shrub-steppe conservation. For more information, contact Robin Priddy, the eastern region's representative to Audubon Washington (grania0358@aol.com),

Audubon Council of Washington

HOST REGION: King County Chapters (Seattle, Eastside, Rainier, Vashon-Maury Island)

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Brightwater Center, 22505 State Route 9 SE, Woodinville, WA

THEME: Through a Local Lens

Since we last met as a group, great progress has been made implementing National Audubon priorities at the Chapter level. This year's theme, "Through a Local Lens," shines a spotlight on the work we have done in Washington state to advance these priorities and sets the stage for our conservation and advocacy efforts to continue in the year ahead.

We are still in the process of finalizing speakers and topics, but you can expect sessions to focus on the importance of public lands for birds, implementation of the Plants for Birds program at the local level, efforts to promote equity, diversity and inclusion, and how we are advancing policy campaigns in Washington state to address climate change. We will provide a deep dive on our legislative efforts to set Washington on a path toward 100 percent clean electricity, as well as our advocacy for a price on carbon and our support for I-1631. Chapter involvement is critical to our success and we'll share ways the entire Audubon network can get involved in these efforts.

We'll reserve plenty of time to answer your questions, share tips, resources and best practices from across our chapter network, and of course to have fun getting to know one another and deepen friendships. As in past years, Friday afternoon will include education and conservation meetings.

The Friday evening speaker will be UW-Bothell professor Doug Wacker who has been studying crow communication in social gatherings,

Please save the date on your calendars now, and we'll share more information with you as we have it. See you in Woodinville!



Crows
by Ivar Husa

Field Trip Reports

First Saturday Bird Walk: Bateman Island Saturday, May 5, 2018

by Lisa Hill

A few more species of local breeding birds returned to Bateman Island in the first week of May. We tallied up 46 species which was a good number considering there were no waterfowl to fill out the list. There was a “gross” of BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS singing from the tops of the trees. A “sweetness” of YELLOW WARBLERS, flashing their brilliant yellow in the light, sang their strident, forte song like a bird twice their size. We caught a glimpse of an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER and the sharp-looking male TOWNSEND’S WARBLER. It’s easy to forget from spring to spring, just how handsome a male YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER is in full breeding plumage. They rival some of the most brilliant eastern warblers.

Surprise, surprise! A male LAZULI BUNTING perched at the top of a tree long enough for most people to get a good look. Buntings are very uncommon on the island and there is little or no evidence that they nest there, although they are pretty easy to find elsewhere in the Tri-Cities area. Also rarely seen on the island was a YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD and a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Year after year, WESTERN KINGBIRDS build nests on the power poles to the south of the parking lot, and they were busy with that task. We watched CLIFF SWALLOWS and BARN SWALLOWS swoop down to a cut in a muddy bank near the causeway. They were picking up a bit of mud as nest-building material. We hoped to see a Bullock’s Oriole, Nashville Warbler and MacGillivray’s Warbler, but they didn’t make an appearance. Maybe in June!

Thornton Unit of the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area Saturday, May 19

by Jason Fidorra

LCBAS visited the WDFW Thornton Unit on the south side of Rattlesnake Mountain. After a morning serenade of SAGEBRUSH and BREWER’S SPARROWS, we made a productive stop at a private homestead and migrant trap where we found LARK SPARROWS, DUSKY FLYCATCHER, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, AND A MYRTLE YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER! After a stop for a singing SAGE THRASHER, we found WARBLING VIREOS, WILSON’S WARBLERS, LAZULI BUNTINGS, and other summer residents among the trees and flowering shrubs of the oasis in the center of the unit..



Black-headed Grosbeak
by Larry Umthun



Yellow Warbler
by Larry Umthun



Lazuli Bunting
by Mike Barrett

Congratulations to the 2018-19 LCBAS Board of Directors

We held elections for the Board of Directors at our May 22 membership meeting. Fifty-one LCBAS members voted. Congratulations to the following members of our board for the next fiscal year:

Elected Positions

Officers

President: Jim Castle

Vice President: Ken Campbell

Secretary: Debbie Berkowitz

Treasurer: Charlie Burgess

We are looking for a "Treasurer-in-Training" to take over from Charlie in 2019-2020

Standing Committee Chairs

Birding Events: Jason Fidorra

Communications: Lori Nelson

Conservation: Dana Ward and Rick Leaumont

Education: OPEN

Finance: Charlie Burgess

Fundraising: Charlotte Reep *CO-CHAIR IS OPEN*

Membership: OPEN

Program: Ivar Husa

Director at Large: Robin Priddy

Appointed Positions

A number of positions are filled by appointment, rather than election. These people have agreed to serve LCBAS in appointed positions for 2018-19:

Book Sales: Jean Campbell

Christmas Bird Count: Dana Ward

Hospitality: Marci & Tracy Daines, Sue & John Decker

Publicity: Charlotte Reep

Sagebrush Songbird Survey: Robin Priddy

Website: Ed Rykiel

Bateman Bird Walks: Lisa Hill

Facebook: Heidi Newsome

Historian: Carole Byrd

Junior Audubon: Cherie Baudrand

Membership list: Rich Barchet

Curlew mailing: Jack & Murrel Dawson

Taxidermy: Heidi Newsome



Lincoln's Sparrow
by Dennis Werlau

We need your help to make LCBAS great!

Volunteer to be a board member or to help with any of our activities, including education, conservation, raising money, or field trips. If you are interested, please contact a committee chair to find out how you can contribute to the good work that LCBAS does. No job is too small and you do not have to be an expert birder. It's a great way to get to know Audubon and your fellow club members better - and to have a lot of fun!

Conservation Updates

Audubon v. Department of the Interior

On May 24, 2018, the National Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Defenders of Wildlife filed suit against the federal government to force it to fully enforce the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Last December (see the February 2018 Curlew), the Trump Administration reversed a long-standing policy for how the MBTA was implemented and enforced. Previous administrations (from both political parties) considered that the MBTA applied to incidental deaths of birds. For decades industries were required to minimize unintended bird deaths that resulted from their activities. Most of the time, industry and the federal government worked together to develop solutions that reduced incidental deaths. For example, guidelines were developed with the wind energy industry that reduced deaths of migratory birds and bats at wind farms, like locating wind farms in places that were less likely to harm birds. Under the current administration's new policies, incentives to site wind energy farms away from sensitive locations would disappear.

With this decision, however, industry is no longer responsible for deaths that result from facilities, structures, and activities that are known bird hazards. This means that companies would not have to address the oil pits, waste treatment lagoons, power lines, communication towers, or wind turbines that collectively kill an estimated 46.5 million birds each year. (For details about causes of bird deaths, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7szfyxu>.)

[Read a statement about the suit](#) from David Yarnold, Audubon President and CEO.

Cat Poop: Another Reason to Keep Cats Indoors

Most of us realize that cats are fierce predators and that outdoor cats can kill an astonishing number of animals, including birds, mammals, and reptiles. But did you know that cat feces carry a parasite that causes toxoplasmosis, a disease that can infect a range of warm-blooded animals? Toxoplasmosis is a major killer of Hawaiian monk seals and the Hawaiian Crow, which was reintroduced on the island of Hawaii after becoming extinct in the wild in 2002. Nearly half of all Hawaiian geese (Nenes) sampled from Molokai were infected with the parasite. Large outdoor and feral cat populations on the Hawaiian Islands are an important source of these parasites in the environment. For more information, read [this story at Hawaiian Public Radio](#).

Baby bird out of the nest? Here's what to do

First, figure out if the bird is injured - do you see blood or other obvious damage? If so, call **Blue Mountain Wildlife** at 541-278-0215 and they will give you further instructions and put you in touch with a local volunteer who can pick up the bird.

If the bird is uninjured, but has closed eyes or undeveloped feathers, then it is not ready to leave the nest. If you can find a nest, try to safely return it. The parents will resume care if the bird is put back into the nest. If there isn't a nest, you can make one out of a small basket (see the websites below for details).

If the bird is fledgling, it will be fully feathered. It might not be good at flying, but it can move on its own by walking or fluttering. If the fledgling is not in a dangerous location, like a road or storm drain, the best thing to do is to leave it alone; the parents are likely to be nearby, taking care of it. If the bird is immediately threatened, move it to a nearby bush or tree. For more information, visit:

- www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/challenges/
- www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/birds/baby-birds-out-of-the-nest

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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>

LCBAS OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Position	Name	Email
President	Jim Castle	president@lcbas.org
Vice President	Ken Campbell	vicepresident@lcbas.org
Treasurer	Charlie Burgess	treasurer@lcbas.org
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz	secretary@lcbas.org
Birding Events	Jason Fidorra	fieldtrips@lcbas.org
Communications Chair	Lori Nelson	communications@lcbas.org
Conservation Chair	Dana Ward	conservation@lcbas.org
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Finance Chair	Charlie Burgess	treasurer@lcbas.org
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Membership Chair	Lori Nelson	membership@lcbas.org
Program Chair	Ivar Husa	programs@lcbas.org
Director at Large	Robin Priddy	
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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 here to 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

<https://action.audubon.org/donate/chapter-membership?chapter=Y01>.