



# The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin  
Audubon Society

## Items of Interest

- October Bird Walk Update
- Why Is It "Turkey Day"?
- Junior Audubon
- Conservation update
- Caribbean Birds and Hurricanes

## Upcoming Events

**Nov 4** - First Saturday Bird Walk, 8:00 AM at Bateman Island, by special permission.

**Nov 6** - Board Meeting, 6:15 PM at Richland Public Library

**Nov 28** - Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM at First Lutheran Church, Kennewick

**Dec 2** - First Saturday Bird Walk, 8:00 AM. Location to be announced. For details, visit [lcbas.org](http://lcbas.org).

**Dec 30** - Christmas Bird Count and Potluck. More information will be available in the December Curlew and at [lcbas.org](http://lcbas.org).

## Exploring the Brazilian Pantanal

Larry Umthun

November 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM

First Lutheran Church

US 395 and Yelm, Kennewick



Jabiru  
by Larry Umthun

Larry Umthun is a wildlife photographer living in Richland who specializes in birds. For over ten years he has documented his travels, photographing avian life along the West Coast, Florida, Texas, and Costa Rica. His presentation will be filled with stunning photos of birds and other wildlife from Brazil's Pantanal region, which he visited in August 2017. The Pantanal in central Brazil is a region encompassing the world's largest tropical wetlands area. This wetland ecosystem is thought to be home to 100 bird species and over 1200 other animal species.

## 2017 Hurricane Season: How Have the Birds Fared?

This year's hurricane season devastated a number of Caribbean islands, creating hardship and heartbreak for people in affected areas. In particular, Hurricanes Irma and Maria passed directly over Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Dominica, Cuba, and Barbuda.

Biologists are beginning to assess the damage to bird populations in the places hit by the storms. The news is mixed. Some birds, like flamingo populations in the Bahamas, appear to have survived largely intact. Others, like the Barbuda warbler on Barbuda Island, have experienced significant population declines from the storms. And for some locations, like Cuba, there isn't much information available yet.

Also of concern is the widespread and severe damage to the environment. Bird habitats suffered extensive damage from high winds and salt-water inundation; conservationists are worried about future food supplies and habitat for at-risk bird populations. Shipments of bird food and feeders, including hummingbird feeders, have arrived and local residents are helping local wildlife recover as they work to rebuild their own lives.

Status reports have been compiled by the American Bird Conservancy ([abcbirds.org](http://abcbirds.org)) and Birds Caribbean ([birdscaribbean.org](http://birdscaribbean.org)), among others. For current information, visit the websites for these groups.



Brown noddy on a cay near San Salvador Island, Bahamas (2010)  
by Lori Wollerman Nelson



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events, bird sightings,  
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Our Twitter handle is  
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*Found a bird that's injured? Here's what to do.*

First, call **Blue Mountain Wildlife** at 541-278-0215. They will help you figure out if the bird is in need of help or not.

If the bird does need to be rescued, 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 small enough to pick up, use a towel to handle it and put it in a towel-lined box or crate that has air holes, and secure the lid. Keep the animal in a dark, quiet, cool place. Do not feed it. Call Blue Mountain Wildlife right away for further instructions.

LCBAS is a proud donor to Blue Mountain Wildlife. For more information visit their website ([www.bluemountainwildlife.org](http://www.bluemountainwildlife.org)).

For information about baby birds out of the nest, visit:

- [www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/challenges/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/challenges/)
- [www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/birds/baby-birds-out-of-the-nest](http://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/birds/baby-birds-out-of-the-nest)



**Immature Black-crowned Night Herons**  
by Lori Wollerman Nelson

**Why we put the Turkey in Turkey Day**

by Lori Wollerman Nelson

*Why do we eat roast turkey on Thanksgiving Day? Why not goose? Or pork?*



**Wild Turkey**  
by John James Audubon

According to diaries kept by Puritans, the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621 featured venison, fish, shellfish, and "wild fowl" – most likely ducks or geese, but not turkey. For the next 240 years, Americans celebrated thanksgiving, but not as a regular nation-wide event until 1863, when President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday. Over this time, turkey came to have a central role to play in thanksgiving feasts, prompting Alexander Hamilton to say, "No citizen of the U. S. shall refrain from turkey on Thanksgiving Day."

But why turkey?

Turkeys had several advantages over other meats (or disadvantages, if you are a turkey). First, a turkey is large enough to feed a crowd – a critical factor for a holiday feast. Second, turkeys are not more useful alive. They don't supply milk like cows. They aren't reliable egg layers like chickens. And third, they were uncommon enough to be special. Pork, squab, and other meats would have been available nearly every day in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, so a meal that featured roast pork wouldn't have felt special enough for a holiday feast.

Charles Dickens' book "A Christmas Carol" also had a hand in making roast turkey synonymous with "holiday feast". The novella, published in 1843, features a scene where the newly reformed Scrooge buys the biggest turkey in the shop for the Cratchit family's Christmas feast. The popularity of this story consolidated the place of a roast turkey at the center of our holiday tables.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday and remember to give thanks to the Wild Turkey!

## Report: First Saturday Bird Walk

*W. E. Johnson Park bird walk*

*Saturday, Oct 7, 2017*

by Lisa Hill

The wind was howling the night before the bird walk, but we were delighted that it stopped just long enough in the morning to have a pleasant bird walk in W. E. Johnson Park. (Bateman Island is still closed to the public.) We started the walk from the south entrance where typically there are more birds. Even so, we had to do some diligent searching to find a good list of birds. We found 28 species which is about on par with a species total on Bateman Island – minus the waterfowl and wading birds.

The best find of the day was four PURPLE FINCH including an adult male with a nice rosy wash over most of its plumage. There is a specific site in the park where Purple Finch can be reliably found from Oct - Feb, and these birds were there as expected. Several RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS, SPOTTED TOWHEES, a few BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES and BEWICK'S WRENS, and one each RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH and HERMIT THRUSH were the highlights of the songbird group. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS outnumbered everything else.

The next bird walk will be Saturday, Nov 4 at 8am. With special permission from the Army Corps of Engineers and Richland, we will bird on Bateman Island for the first time since last spring.



Spotted Towhee  
by Ivar Husa



Black-crowned Night Heron  
by Jane Abel

## 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](http://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. Our number with Yoke's is 500745676.

[www.escrip.com/howitworks/](http://www.escrip.com/howitworks/)

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[smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3234539](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3234539)

## SAVE THE DATE!

2017 - 2018

### *Christmas Bird Count*

*Saturday, December 30*

*7:30 AM*

Join LCBAS as we participate in the 118th Audubon Christmas Bird Count!

We will count all the birds we can inside our "count circle" - a 7.5-mile radius circle centered on the Columbia River near Road 68 in Pasco. Stay-at-home birders can participate by counting all birds in their yard on the same day.

All birders, from beginner to experienced, are welcome to participate in this winter tradition!

The yummiest part of the day will be a potluck dinner starting at 5:30 PM at the Columbia Valley Grange on Court Street in Pasco.

Look for details in the December Curlew and online at [lcbas.org](http://lcbas.org)!

For a story about the 117th CBC, see this article from the Tri-City Herald: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/article127870749.html>

## An Update from Junior Audubon

by Cherie Baudrand

The Junior Audubon Club started the school year with a bird walk on the Rod Coler Audubon Nature Trail in October. We played a listening game and tried to match the calls we heard with photos of birds. I introduced a new bird, the Red-breasted Nuthatch and we practiced imitating their VW horn sound by holding our noses and saying "Beep, beep." The members practiced using binoculars focusing on our life-like wooden birds. We found Dr. Coler on the trail cutting back weeds!

Our first after-school meeting will be Thurs. Nov. 2 at Hawthorne Elementary School in Room 4, at 3:20 - 4:20. We will meet monthly either at Hawthorne or on Saturdays for bird walks. We'll be learning about feathers, nests, and we are planning to be citizen scientists and help with the National Audubon Climate Study by counting Red-breasted Nuthatches twice this year.

If you'd like your K-5 child to attend, join LCBAS with a family membership and email [cheriebaudrand@yahoo.com](mailto:cheriebaudrand@yahoo.com)



Rebecca Black 2016

Pine Grosbeaks counted during the Christmas Bird Count in North Richland (2016)  
Photo by Rebecca Black

## Conservation News

by Lori Wollerman Nelson

### *Energy Exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*

The Senate voted on an amendment that is likely to promote energy exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Both Washington senators, Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, opposed the move that would permit the first step to drilling in ANWR. National Audubon CEO David Yarnold was quoted in a Washington Post article (published 10/19/17) on the matter, saying that it is likely the federal government would get only \$9 million from an auction of drilling rights in the wilderness, not the \$1 billion touted by supporters. Dan Streiffert, the speaker at our chapter's October membership meeting, focused on the beauty of ANWR and the more than 200 bird species that call it home.

### *Bird-Safe Federal Buildings*

Bird collisions with buildings, especially glass windows, is estimated to kill about 600 million birds every year. Bird-friendly building design could lower that death toll. The American Bird Conservancy ([abcbirds.org](http://abcbirds.org)) reports that the Senate is considering a bill (S. 1920, the Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act) that would "require federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features." A similar bill has been proposed in the House of Representatives. Call, write, or email Washington's senators and your representative to encourage them to support this legislation and make federal buildings safer for birds.



An all-glass high rise in Vancouver, BC  
By Lori Wollerman Nelson



Pine Siskin  
by Betsy Rathjen Taylor

## Thank You!!

*You made our 16th Annual Bird Seed Sale a huge success!*

In September, we held our annual bird seed sale at Columbia Grain and Feed in Pasco. Preliminary figures suggest that we made over \$1300 this year! The money from the bird seed sale goes toward our education efforts and taxidermies birds maintained by McNary NWR.

Many thanks to Columbia Grain and Feed for their continued support.

Didn't get your order in during the sale? Columbia Grain and Feed supports LCBAS throughout the year! Just let them know that you are with LCBAS and we'll receive a donation when you purchase bird seed or feeding supplies. Visit their store at 2001 W Lewis Street in Pasco.

*Hats off to Charlotte Reep, our Fundraising Chair, on a job well done!*

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**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Please send address changes (postal address or email address) to Rich Barchet at [subscriptions@lcbas.org](mailto: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>

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**Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society**  
**PO Box 1900**  
**Richland, WA 99354**

## **Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Membership Form**

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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
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*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>.*