



The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin
Audubon Society

Items of Interest

- Message from our new President
- 2017 National Audubon Convention
- Bateman Island Fire Update
- Osprey Rescue
- Bird Seed Sale

Upcoming Events

Sept 2 - First Saturday Bird Walk, 8:00 AM at WE Johnson Park, Richland

Sept 10 - "Finding Your Community" fair, 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the Fingernail in Howard Amon Park, Richland

Sept 11 - Board Meeting, 6:15 PM at Richland Public Library

Sept 26 - Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM at First Lutheran Church, Kennewick

Sept 20 - 30 - Bird Seed Sale, Columbia Grain and Feed, Pasco

Sept 30 - Bird Information Fair, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Columbia Grain and Feed, Pasco

Oct 7 - First Saturday Bird Walk, 8:00 AM, Location TBA

September Membership Meeting

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR): A Raft Trip down the Canning River

presented by **Dan Streiffert**

Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 PM

First Lutheran Church

US 395 and Yelm, Kennewick

Join us for our September meeting when Dan Streiffert will take us on a photographic journey to the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge through pictures from his float trip down the Marsh Fork of the Canning River in 2010. Dan will share with us the beauty and importance that ANWR has for all birders.



Don't miss this special travelogue to the far north.

*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, handle it with a towel 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.

Find out more at the BMW website at www.bluemountainwildlife.org.

Are you interested in joining National Audubon Society?

Membership in LCBAS is separate from membership in the National Audubon Society. Many of our LCBAS members are not National members.

If you are interested in becoming a new member of National Audubon, your first year of membership dues can go directly to our chapter!

All you have to do is use this link: <https://action.audubon.org/donate/chapter-membership?chapter=Y01> and your \$20 Audubon membership will be directed to LCBAS.

A Message from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warm welcome to all members and interested parties of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. I hope you all had a memorable and educational summer of birding, and will share their wonderful experiences and stories of adventure. Whether your experience is in our local community or further afield, birding unites us all and the enjoyment of birding is everlasting.

I remember some years ago thinking about birding and wondering how to get started. A friend suggested going on an Audubon bird walk. Therefore, I did and I was hooked on birding. The people were excited about sharing their knowledge and experience and were willing to teach me about how to identify birds; some were interested in observing behavior, others simply the beauty of birds and others enjoyed song. Those fine folks were willing to share binoculars, spotting scopes, guides and notebook and made me feel very welcome.

I found that same experience at the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society when my wife, Charlene, and I moved here from California's Imperial Valley about a year and a half ago. While the birding was fantastic around the Salton Sea and the desert, we missed having people to share those experiences. We have met some wonderful people here and have enjoyed birding in Eastern Washington.

I am excited and looking forward to being the President of this outstanding organization. I will continue to support activities the LCBAS has been involved with and look forward to taking on new challenges in the future.

Thank You.
Sincerely,
Jim Castle



Western Meadowlark
by Ivar Husa

Sixteenth Annual Seed Sale and Bird Information Fair

**Special sale on bird feeding supplies at
Columbia Grain and Feed between
September 20 - 30!**

Columbia Grain and Feed will make a donation to LCBAS based on bird feeding supply purchases during this special sale which runs from Sept. 20-30th.

Bird Information Fair

**September 30th
Columbia Grain and Feed
2001 Lewis Street, Pasco
9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

On the 30th, Audubon members will be at the store with displays, brochures, and taxidermy to educate shoppers and answer birding questions.

Please use the **Seed Order Form** in this issue of the Curlew and take advantage of the special prices.



American Goldfinch by Larry Umthun

**Any purchase during the year
benefits LCBAS if you
mention our name!**

Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival

September 15 - 17, 2017

Join the Chelan/Entiat Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society and HawkWatch International this fall for their **Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival!**

The festival is scheduled to coincide with the peak of southbound migration of raptors at Chelan Ridge – the best place in Washington to view fall migrating raptors. Past festivals have brought several hundred people to see hawks up close, enjoy Memorial Park, and spend the day learning all about raptors.

On Friday evening (September 15), there is a raptor ID and migration workshop at the local Fire Hall with Dr. Dave Oleyar from HawkWatch International.

On Saturday, September 16, there are free family educational activities in Pateros, a field trip to the Wells Wildlife Area, and carpool trips to the Chelan Ridge HawkWatch site.

Register in advance for the field trips and workshop at ncwaudubon.org.

Visit the exhibits at Pateros any time during Saturday.

Details about activities in Pateros and contact information to sign up for the workshop and field trips are available at the North Central Washington Audubon website (ncwaudubon.org).

Elevating Audubon: America's Most Effective Conservation Network

A report on the Audubon Convention by Dana Ward, Ivar Husa, Barb & Tom Clarke, and Laurie Ness

Five members of LCBAS attended the National Audubon Convention in Park City, UT from July 14 - 17. Over 430 Audubon members attended the conference with workshops, outstanding speakers, social gatherings, local field trips, and networking events. We were reinvigorated to continue the bird conservation work of national, state, and local Audubon.

We were elated to hear David Yarnold, President and CEO of National Audubon Society, state during his Opening Plenary presentation that the Hanford Reach National Monument was removed from the list of 27

monuments up for removal or reduction in size by the current administration. A hardy cheer went up from the 350 attendees tempered with the knowledge that many other monuments still need to be saved. In a one-on-one meeting with David, Dana was able to re-extend LCBAS's invitation to have him tour the HRNM to witness firsthand why we need to include the Heart of Hanford into the Monument. He agreed that he would like to visit us.



**Barbara Clarke and Dana Ward participate in a small group session with David Yarnold
Photo by Camilla Cerea/Audubon**

The featured speakers at the Convention were outstanding. Dana's favorite speaker was Dr. Drew Lanham, author and Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Clemson University. His presentation combined photos with insightful dialogue on birds, conservation, cultural perspective and diversity. His views as a black man on bird watching and cultural prejudice were eye opening.

LCBAS presented a poster on our Sagebrush Songbird Survey at the poster session on Friday evening. It was a popular poster; we were still talking to people long after the evening session was supposed to end. Many thanks to Audubon Washington for their help with it.

On the last day, we went on guided local field trips. Ivar and Dana choose a trip to high elevations in Big Cottonwood Canyon near Silver Lake. They counted 54 different bird species during the hike, but the highlight was when the trip leader called in three Pygmy Owls! He said that this was the first time this has ever happened during a tour.

This year's participants from LCBAS had a terrific time at the National Convention and learned a lot to bring back to our chapter. If you can attend the next conference, you should - you will not regret it.



**Ivar Husa (left), Barbara Clarke, and Tom Clarke (right) at our poster
Photo by Dana Ward**

Good Samaritans to the rescue!

Photos by Elke Davis



LCBAS member Elke Davis found an osprey entangled in baling twine at McNary NWR in July. She alerted US Fish & Wildlife Service personnel.

A USFWS staff member was able to free the bird.

After a brief rest, it was able to return to its nest.



This is the large mass of twine and fishing line removed from the osprey's leg.

Good work Elke & USFWS staff!

Get up to the minute scoop on local bird sightings!

We have discontinued the Bird Sightings column in the Curlew.

Sad? Don't be!

There are now more timely ways to find out which birds are being seen now throughout our area!

You can go to **Facebook** and see notices from the **LCBAS** Facebook page (Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society). You can also join the **Tri-Cities Birders** or **Inland Northwest Birders** groups on Facebook. All of these groups post fabulous pictures of birds and offer help with bird ID.

You can have messages about bird sightings **emailed directly to you!** Sign up for **LCBirds**, which specializes on local sightings. To join, go to the LCBirds2 Yahoo group website at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/LCBirds2/info> or **Inland Northwest Birders**, which reports bird sightings in Idaho (north of the Salmon River) and Washington (east of the Cascades). Sign up at <https://lists.uidaho.edu/mailman/listinfo/inland-nw-birders>.

With **eBird**, you can browse sightings on their site *and* have notifications sent to your Inbox! Create an eBird account at ebird.org. LCBAS offers workshops for you to learn more about how to use all the features available in eBird. Watch for more information coming soon!

Bateman Island Fire Update

by Lori Wollerman Nelson

At about 6:00 PM on July 16, a fire started on Bateman Island, a popular birding spot in the Tri-Cities. I could see the column of smoke from my house and like many of you, I watched in horror as dusk fell and the island glowed orange and red in the dark. The fire burned all night and into the next day, then smoldered for several days afterward.



The Bateman Island fire from the Pasco side of the river
Photo by Charlene Burge

The source of the fire is unknown, but it seems likely that it was man-made. In total, authorities estimate that about 70 acres were burned, mostly in the center of the island where they think the fire started.

About three weeks after the fire, Joe Schiessl, Parks and Public Facilities Director for Richland, and other city staff toured the island. He updated the Richland Parks and Recreation Commission on the status of Bateman Island at their August 10 meeting.

The bad news? The island is likely to be closed to public access for several months.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which owns the land, has closed Bateman Island until further notice to protect cultural resources. The park will reopen when enough vegetation has grown to conceal and preserve them.

The good news? There is reason to be optimistic about the island's recovery.

Schiessl reported that he observed variability in the severity of the fire and found areas with new plant growth. He said that the closure might be shorter than many had feared and perhaps the park could reopen as soon as this winter.



Damage from the fire is patchy with unburned areas (left) next to burned ones (right). Photo by Jim Castle

*“It’s green and it’s coming back. I think there’s reason for us to be positive...”
- Joe Schiessl,
Richland Parks &
Public Facilities*

LCBAS has held a monthly bird walk on Bateman Island for many years. Until the island reopens, we’ll be offering the bird walk at other sites around the Tri-Cities - keep tuned to our website and Facebook page for announcements!

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). On the internet, go to www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4. Click on "Re-enroll or link Your Rewards Card now" to sign up.

Yoke's - Register for an escript card and link it to LCBAS. Every time you have your card scanned, we'll receive a donation. Go to www.escrip.com/howitworks/ and click on "Sign Up" to get started and select Lower Columbia Basin Audubon (Society).

AmazonSmile - If you use our AmazonSmile link to purchase products on Amazon, we'll receive 0.05% of

LCBAS OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
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Birding Events	Vacant -- your name could be here!	
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Conservation Chair	Dana Ward	conservation@lcbas.org
Education Chair	Barbara Clarke	education@lcbas.org
Finance Chair	Charlie Burgess	treasurer@lcbas.org
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Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

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Return Service Requested

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: _____

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To join the National Audubon Society, please go to

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