Upcoming Events

See p. 2 for details about birding trips

**Oct 1** - Board Meeting, 6:15 PM at Richland Public Library, Richland.

**Oct 6** - First Saturday Bird Walk, 8:00 AM at Bateman Island. Arrive early at Wye Park (~7:45 AM).


**Oct 23** - Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM at First Lutheran Church, Kennewick.

**Nov 3** - First Saturday Bird Walk, 8:00 AM at Bateman Island. Arrive early at Wye Park (~7:45 AM).

**Nov 5** - Board Meeting, 6:15 PM at Richland Public Library, Richland.

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**Birding in Borneo**

**Jason Fidorra**

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

**October 23, 2018 at 7:00 PM**

First Lutheran Church

US 395 and Yelm, Kennewick

Join biologist and field guide, Jason Fidorra, for a presentation of photos and stories from birding in Borneo. On a recent independent trip, Fidorra traveled in search of birds and wildlife of the world’s 3rd largest island. Famous for orangutans and elephants, Borneo hosts amazing mammals, but is equally famous for bird life including many endemic species and even an entire family of birds found nowhere else on earth. Jason has traveled to over 20 countries in search of wildlife, but several surprises along the way resulted in this trip being one of the most memorable.

Jason currently works as a biologist in TriCities with WDFW. He has led tropical birding trips to Central America, and has spent over a decade working on bird research and conservation projects in North America and the Caribbean. In addition to being a wildlife biologist and intrepid field guide, Jason is an active volunteer with LCBAS.

![Stork-billed Kingfisher in Borneo by Jason Fidorra](image-url)
**Upcoming LCBAS Field Trips**

Join us on **October 6** for our **First Saturday Bateman Island Bird Walk**! We meet at Wye Park on Columbia Park Trail around 7:45 AM. The bird walk starts at 8. Everyone is welcome; this walk is good for beginning and experienced birders alike. We'll have bird checklists and binoculars for you to borrow.

October 6 is also **The Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s “Big Day”** of birding. You can join birders from around the world to count as many birds and species as possible – the goal is 5,000 species from 125 countries! All bird lists entered to ebird (ebird.org) on the 6th will be tallied toward the Big Day. Learn more about the Big Day and how to log your sightings at https://ebird.org/octoberbigday

Tapteal Greenway leads a nature walk in **Amon Basin Natural Preserve** on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Many LCBAS members participate too. This month’s walk will be October 20 at 8 AM. Meet the group in the parking area at the south entrance to Amon, on the east side of Leslie Road between Rachel Road and Lorayne J Boulevard in Kennewick.

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!

Do you have a trip suggestion or want to lead an LCBAS trip? Field trip leaders do not have to be expert birders - an enthusiasm for birds and a sense of adventure is all you need. Email fieldtrips@lcbas.org and share your passion!

The Curlew

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Columbia Basin Badger Club to tackle the topic of **Shoreline Reconveyance** at their meeting on **November 15** from **11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**.

The Columbia Basin Badger Club is a non-partisan group of TriCitians who discuss contentious issues. **The public is welcome at their events**, but only members of the Badger Club can ask questions. Gary Petersen and Jim Wise will be the speakers featured to present the arguments for and against the transfer of shoreline areas from federal to local control.

The Columbia Basin Badger Club meets at the Shilo Inn on Comstock Street in Richland. For details, visit the Columbia Basin Badger Club website: https://cbbc.clubexpress.com
We need a helping hand!

We have open board positions that we desperately need filled!

Support our chapter by donating your talents and time!

Education Chair - Barb Clarke and Cherie Baudrand do a great job providing education programs, but we need someone to coordinate and oversee our efforts! Responsibilities include fielding inquiries about education programs, giving education programs or seeking volunteers to do so, and keeping a record of our education efforts.

Membership Chair - We have a great membership record-keeper (Rich Barchet), but we need someone who can help us recruit new members! This is a perfect opportunity for someone who likes to go out into the community and meet people.

Treasurer - our current Treasurer, Charlie Burgess has worked hard to get our books in order and he’s ready to pass the checkbook to a new person. Responsibilities include tracking our income and spending, managing deposits and payments, preparing monthly financial reports, and proposing a yearly budget. The new Treasurer would work side-by-side with Charlie until he or she felt ready to fly solo.

Also included in the responsibilities for board members is attending monthly board meetings (at 6 PM on the 1st Monday of every month).

Not ready to serve on the board? Help us out in any way you can! Contact any Officer or a Chair for more information about what you can do to make LCBAS the best Audubon chapter it can be!
Field Trip Reports

First Saturday Bird Walk: Bateman Island
Saturday, September 1, 2018
by Lisa Hill

It has been about five years ago since we counted more than 60 species on a Bateman Island bird walk. On the September walk, we tallied up 63 species! The Yakima Delta was busy, with quite a few waterfowl including CINNAMON TEAL, NORTHERN SHOVELER and GREEN-WINGED TEAL. Shorebirds were busy in the mud: AMERICAN AVOCET, BAIRD’S SANDPIPER, WESTERN SANDPIPER, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER and a significant whirligig of about 20 RED-NECKED PHALAROPES.

High numbers of BARN SWALLOWS were present, with some BANK and CLIFF SWALLOWS intermixed. GREAT EGRETS outnumbered GREAT BLUE HERONS. This has become a common occurrence in late summer/early fall in the Bateman Island/Yakima delta vicinity. One can expect to observe 20-30 egrets distributed along the edge of the cattails and reeds, and perched in groups in the trees.

The best record of the day was a full list of the seven expected fall warblers: ORANGE-CROWNED, NASHVILLE, YELLOW, YELLOW-RUMPED, MACGILLIVRAY’S, TOWNSEND’S and WILSON’S. Several WESTERN TANAGERS, likely juveniles, made chirrup calls. GRAY CATBIRDS, not to be outdone, skulked low to the ground, mewing and occasionally vocalizing their less well-known ratchet call. Only a few raptors were spotted, two OSPREY, two GREAT HORNED OWLS and a COOPER’S HAWK.

If the weather is fine for the October Bateman walk, we could have another great list of 50-60 species. See p. 2 for details.

Amon Basin Natural Preserve Bird Walk
Saturday, September 22, 2018
by Lori Wollerman Nelson

Nearly 40 people attended the joint Tapteal Greenway-LCBAS bird walk. It was a quiet morning for birds though - we saw only 13 species, mostly the usual fall and winter residents including VIRGINIA RAIL, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, AMERICAN KESTREL, and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER. Despite the scarcity of birds, we enjoyed fall-blooming plants like rabbitbrush and asters and a wide variety of associated insects. We also saw abundant sign of the mammals that inhabit the Preserve, including some fresh coyote and jackrabbit scat.
Clean Feeders = Healthy Birds

Feeding birds is an enjoyable and rewarding hobby, but improperly maintained feeders put birds at risk of disease.

Changing your seed regularly is an easy way to reduce the chance that birds at your feeders get sick. Ideally feeders should be emptied every 1-2 days.

Move your feeders around your yard to prevent the build up of discarded seeds and seed shells. These can harbor disease-causing agents, like bacteria.

Another step to keep your yard birds healthy is to clean your feeders regularly. Do a quick clean of your seed feeders every time you fill them. Remove stuck-on seeds and droppings with a putty knife or stiff-bristled brush before you add seed to the feeder.

Deep clean and disinfect your feeders regularly at least several times a year. This is important especially in the fall before you put your feeders out and in the spring, when you take them down. If you feed year-round, set up a schedule for regular deep cleaning of your feeders.

To deep clean your feeders, first use a brush to remove seeds and droppings. Removing debris at this stage is critical for complete disinfection. Wash the feeders in hot soapy water with a stiff brush or scouring pad. Disinfect the feeders with a brief soak in a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water). Vinegar can be used as an alternative to bleach. Make a 1 part vinegar to 1 part water solution in a large sink or bucket and submerge the feeder for at least 4 hours. Rinse disinfected feeders well, and allow them to dry completely before refilling them. Wear gloves during disinfection to protect your hands from harsh chemicals.

If you notice birds that are slow to respond, not well-groomed, or that have infected eyes or sores around their beaks, you should take down all of your feeders and disinfect them immediately. Clean up any spilled seeds on the ground and wait several days to a week before putting your feeders back up.

With a little care and attention, we can enjoy birds at our feeders while keeping them well-fed and healthy!
Don’t duck your opportunity to support wildlife conservation

An important source of funding for the US Fish and Wildlife Service is the sale of Federal Duck Stamps. All duck hunters, age 16 and older, are required to carry a current Federal Duck Stamp. However, anyone can buy a duck stamp and use it to get in free at any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entrance fee.

Where will your $25 go? Nearly all of it (98%) will be deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

This fund allows the USFWS to protect habitat by purchasing land or acquiring conservation easements. Since 1934, nearly 1.4 million Federal Duck Stamps have been sold, providing funding to buy 6 million acres of land for wildlife.

Among the beneficiaries of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund are Malheur, McNary, and Turnbull National Wildlife Refuges. Nearly all of the land in Conboy, Toppenish, and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuges was acquired with money from this fund.

Anyone can support wildlife conservation by buying a Federal Duck Stamp. But do birders take advantage of this opportunity? Not so much, according to a recent study. Researchers from the University of Illinois surveyed a group of birders who participated in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and found that only 20% had purchased duck stamps in the past two years.

Federal and state wildlife management and conservation budgets are largely funded by the revenue generated by hunters and fishermen. As their numbers decline, these agencies are struggling to keep up with threats to our nation’s native plants and animals. There are 46 million birders in the United States. We can do our part to close the gap by buying a duck stamp today.

Current duck stamps cost $25 and can be purchased at some refuges, US Post Offices, sporting goods stores, and at the American Birding Association website (www.aba.org).

Duck Stamp Trivia

Most appearances on the duck stamp:
Mallard and Canvasback (6 apiece). The Canada Goose and Northern Pintail have graced the stamp 5 times each.

First Federal Duck Stamp: 1934. It was painted by JN “Ding” Darling and featured Mallards.

Cost of the first duck stamp: $1

First Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest: 1949. There were 88 entries by 65 artists.

Most prolific family of duck stamp artists: The Hautman brothers, who have collectively won the contest 13 times.

1989: The year the first National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest was held. Children from Kindergarten to 12th grade can enter.

Duck on the 2018 Junior Duck Stamp: Emperor Goose

Species eligible for the 2019 Duck Stamp:
• Black-bellied Whistling Duck
• Emperor Goose
• American Black Duck
• Northern Shoveler
• Bufflehead

All have been featured on previous duck stamps, but none of them more than once.
**LCBAS OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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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](http://lcbas.org/JoinLCBAS.html).
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
PO Box 1900
Richland, WA 99354

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)

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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