Upcoming Events
See pg. 2 for additional details on birding events.

Sept. 20: Mesa Lagoons and Lake half-day trip with Jason Fidorra.

Sept. 21: Fall Migrant / Vagrant full day trip with Nancy and Bill LaFramboise.

Sept. 21: Tapteal Water Trail Paddle; 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., hosted by Tapteal Greenway.

Sept. 24: Membership Meeting; 7:00 P.M. at First Lutheran Church, 418 N. Yelm, Kennewick.

Sept. 26: Junior Audubon walk 3:45-4:45 P.M. on Bateman Island. Meet at Wye Park.

Sept. 27-29: Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) meeting.

Sept. 28: Kickoff event / information fair for the 18th Annual Bird Seed Sale, from 9:00 to 2:00 at Columbia Feed and Grain.

Oct. 5: First Saturday Bird Walk; 8:00 A.M. at Bateman Island. Meet at Wye Park ~7:45 A.M.

Oct. 7: Board Meeting; 6:00 P.M. at Richland Public Library, Conference Room A.


Oct. 22: Membership meeting at 7 P.M.

For more information, see www.lcbas.org

Gray Flycatcher Nesting Ecology in Ponderosa Pine Forests

Jeff Kozma

Yakama Nation
September 24, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.
First Lutheran Church, US 395 & Yelm, Kennewick

The Gray Flycatcher breeds in a variety of habitats in the arid and semiarid regions of the western United States. Detailed information on their breeding biology is lacking, especially in the northern portion of their range where they nest in ponderosa pine forests.

During May through July, 2014-2015, Jeff Kozma monitored Gray Flycatcher nests and measured vegetation at nest sites in the Wenas Valley, Yakima county, WA. He and his co-authors found that predation accounted for 90% of failed nests. Also they found evidence of a positive association between daily nest survival and both nest height and distance of nest substrate to the nearest tree. No support for other habitat variables was found but evidence documented that period survival rate was higher during the nest building stage than the incubation and nestling stages. In addition to nest survival, Jeff will also present summaries of nest site characteristics and demographic variables (e.g., clutch size, number of fledglings, etc.).

Jeff Kozma is a Wildlife Biologist for the Yakama Nation in the Timber, Fish and Wildlife Program, within the Department of Fisheries Resources Management. His main research interests focus on the life history and reproductive biology of birds and how habitat characteristics influence nest survival in managed ponderosa pine forests of the eastern Cascades of Washington.
Upcoming LCBAS Field Trips

Join Jason Fidorra on Friday, September 20 for a half day birding trip to Mesa Lagoons. We’ll meet at the main CBC parking lot (20th Ave and Sun Willows) to arrange for carpools; we will depart at 8 A.M. The group will visit Mesa Sewer Lagoons, for shorebird viewing. Mesa Sewer Lagoons is a restricted access area that we’ve pre-arranged for the tour. We will continue on to Mesa Lake Wildlife Area for migrants and maybe waterfowl. Expect a casual one-mile walk on uneven surface and with seedy/spiky plants. Scopes suggested but not needed. Back to Pasco by noon. No RSVP required. Contact Jason for more information.

Join Nancy and Bill LaFramboise on Saturday, September 21 for a full day birding trip in the Washtucna area for fall migrants and vagrants. We will meet at Bassett Park at 8 A.M., and bird Washtucna, the nearby waste ponds, and possibly Windust Park. Contact Nancy and Bill for more information.

The October Bateman Island Bird Walk will be on Saturday, October 5th. We’ll meet in the usual place (Wye Park, 1600 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, across from Sage Port Grill and Anything Grows). Meet at 8 A.M., and expect the walk to take between two and three hours. This is a great option for families and beginners; birders of all experience levels are welcome. We’ll have binoculars for newcomers to borrow, and bird lists for you to take home. Open to the public.

LCBAS 18th Annual Seed Sale and Bird Information Fair at Columbia Grain and Feed

For the last 18 years, Columbia Grain and Feed has been a huge supporter of LCBAS. They work to purchase seed in large quantities at this time of year and pass the savings on to you and then they make a large donation to LCBAS. Unless the bird seed market changes, this sale will be the lowest prices for the year. Columbia Grain and Feed, 2001 W 20th, Pasco

There will be a kick-off event/bird information fair at Columbia Grain and Feed on September 28 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. Come in and have your feeding and bird questions answered. We will bring taxidermy so you can see some local birds. Tell your friends and neighbors. Bring the kids!

We no longer do order forms. If you plan to buy huge amounts or have questions, don’t hesitate to call Columbia Grain and Feed at 547-8818 to make sure they reserve your purchase.

Prices will be posted on the LCBAS web page as soon as they are available. www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org Call the store if you have questions. The staff is very accommodating and will try to do what you need. You can pre-pay and pick up after the sale dates but please arrange this with the store. Large bags too heavy? – you buy the whole bag (for the best per pound price) and they will break it down into smaller bags.

Be sure to mention that you want a donation made to LCBAS when you purchase feed from Columbia Grain and Feed at any time of year. It costs you nothing and helps so much!
Field Trip Reports

First Saturday Bird Walk: Bateman Island
Saturday, June 1, 2019
By Lisa Hill

On a fine sunny day, an energetic crowd of 20 birders found 52 species at Bateman Island. Among the many colorful breeding species in our area were an abundance of singing males. Though very few females were seen, the numbers were still significant and the actual numbers were likely far higher; 6 GRAY CATBIRDS, 5 BULLOCK’S ORIOLES, 12 YELLOW WARBLERS and 20(!) BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS. LAZULI BUNTINGS are not hard to find in our area, but are mostly absent from the island so it was a treat to see one singing out in the open. New birders on the walk were thrilled to see the sky-blue bird with its rusty breast and white belly. Several representatives of the flycatcher group were observed: EASTERN KINGBIRD, WESTERN KINGBIRD, WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE and CEDAR WAXWING. The marshy cattail habitat around the island is perfect for COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, but they are very rare throughout most of Benton and Franklin Counties. We found one by voice which was later confirmed by sight. Non-breeding migrants included SAVANNAH SPARROWS and WILSON’S WARBLERS.

Only in the last 3-4 years have YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS been noted as an established breeding population on the island. Rivalled only by the Gray Catbird, a chat's 24/7 vocalizations are a jumbled collection of squawks, squeaks, rat-a-tat chatter, whistles, pops and cackles. Many an experienced birder has been stumped by strange noises emanating from dense shrubbery. The chat’s appearance is distinctive: a bright egg yolk-yellow throat and breast, white spectacles and black lores, and a grayish olive back. Occasionally, a singing male can be seen in an awkward bouncy flight from perch to perch. Mostly they skulk low to the ground in impenetrable thickets; females and young are rarely seen.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS often parasitize Yellow-breasted Chat nests, laying eggs in the nest expecting the chat to raise a young cowbird. Ornithologists and taxonomists historically categorized chats as wood-warblers in the Parulidae family, noting that chats have unique characteristics unlike other songbirds in that family. In 2017, the American Ornithological Society moved the chat into its own family, the Icteridae, and it is no longer considered to be a warbler.

We are looking for help!

Volunteers are needed for the Vice President and Membership Chair! Get involved in the good work we do and help us continue to be a vibrant and viable Audubon chapter. We will provide training, guidance, and moral support.

First Saturday Bird Walk: Bateman Island
Saturday, September 7, 2019
By Nancy LaFramboise

Quite a few folks showed up for the first Bateman Walk of the season with much enthusiasm. In total we saw 46 species. Land birds were pretty quiet but having returned WHITE-CROWNED SPARRROWS was great. Off the causeway were six HOODED MERGANSERS. As with most of the ducks they were coming out of eclipse plumage and not in full color yet. Offshore was productive with KILLDEER, WESTERN SANDPIPER, 1 BLACK-NECKED STILT, and some returned waterfowl. There were also two HORNED GREBRES, a hint of more grebes to come. A good start to the Bateman Island First Saturday walks this fall.

It’s the season for migrants, vagrants, and rarities.

An unusual visitor at Bateman Island reported in ebird on 8-20, 9-8, and 9-11
Red-shouldered Hawk
Photo by Jason Fidorra
Trip Report — City of Rocks, Cassia County, ID
Report and photos by Ivar Husa

This was photographed with the rising moon. The pillar that is Treasure Rock casts a long shadow toward the setting sun.

You might enjoy a visit to City of Rocks National Reserve near the Idaho/Utah borders (https://www.nps.gov/ciro/index.htm) There is spectacular scenery and interesting wildlife. It is also a notable waypoint along the California Trail, and there is interpretive material available in the area.

The drive is 7 ½ hours from Tri-Cities, so it takes some effort to get there. Dana Ward and I visited there as we traveled to the Audubon Society’s national meeting in Utah. The extra time spent driving seemed well worth it. The elevation is around 7,000 feet so you can see some alpine species such as Clark’s Nutcracker and Mountain Chickadee. I also observed Ferruginous Hawk, lots of pretty insects, and I saw my first mountain lion!

Rock climbing is the most common reason people visit the City of Rocks National Reserve. The area has some of the best and most accessible granite wall climbing in the country. Audubon member Laurie Ness tells me she’s climbed there. There are climbing routes suitable for a wide range of skills, including grade 5.11, which is very, very difficult.

The Reserve has over 60 camp sites pleasantly spread out along City of Rocks RD. Many of the sites have spectacular views. Camping at City of Rocks is basic. Each site includes parking, a picnic table, and a tent site. There are several pit toilets and water sources among the campsites, but they are not close to all sites. There is also no garbage service, so pack it out. The roads in the area are unpaved but well maintained.
LCBAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Postal Curlew subscribers can see the year/month their subscription expires by looking on their Curlew label. eCurlew subscribers are alerted to the impending expiration of their subscription by email. 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](http://lcbas.org/JoinLCBAS.html) or you can use the form included with your newsletter.

Consider receiving the eCurlew instead of a paper copy! See all the photos in color, receive your Curlew sooner, and save paper and other resources. To switch to the eCurlew, contact (PENDING) and include your name and email address.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please send address changes (postal address or email address) to Rich Barchet at (PENDING) 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)

The LCBAS Privacy Policy is available at our website.

Find out more at [www.lcbas.org](http://www.lcbas.org) or [www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org](http://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jim Castle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Lori Nelson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Debbie Berkowitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birding Events</td>
<td>Jason Fidorra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Chair</td>
<td>Charlene Burge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Co-Chair</td>
<td>Dana Ward and Rick Leaumont</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Chair</td>
<td>Cherie Baudrand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Chair</td>
<td>Lori Nelson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Chair</td>
<td>Marcie Daines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Chair</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>Ivar Husa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director at Large</td>
<td>Robin Priddy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER CONTACTS:

- Curlew Editor: Charlene Burge
- Membership Database: Rich Barchet
- LCBAS Website: Ed Rykiel
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 for 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 www.audubon.org