

# The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia  
Basin Audubon Society

## Upcoming Events:

For more information see  
[www.lcbas.org](http://www.lcbas.org)

**June 27:** LCBAS Picnic in the Park

**LCBAS Elections** will occur at the LCBAS picnic. See page 2

**July 12:** Birds and Brews Field Trip, see page 4

**July Birding Challenge:** See page 3

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

**Bateman Island First Saturday Birdwalk is on summer hiatus until September**

## Memorial Service for Ruth M. Fischer

July 22, 2023 at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Avenue, Richland at 2:00 PM (see page 3)

## Columbia Basin Chapter of the WA Native Plant Society

The local native plant society is a great resource to learn more about our native plants, and can help you choose natives to support birds and pollinators in your garden. For upcoming meetings and walks, and other information:  
[www.cbwnps.org/](http://www.cbwnps.org/)

## LCBAS Annual Picnic in the Park

**Tuesday, June 27th, at 5:30 PM**

**Leslie Groves Park, Shelter #2, Richland  
Park Street Entrance**

Come and renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. This is our last get-together until we reconvene in September. We will start gathering around 5:30 PM, and likely start eating around 6:00 PM. We will hold the LCBAS election after we eat (see below). All are welcome!

We invite everyone to join in the potluck if you're comfortable with sharing food, or you can bring your own and skip the potluck. If you're participating in the potluck, please bring a main dish, dessert or side to share. Please bring your own plates and utensils. Water will be available. Don't forget a lawn chair!

This is a great way to usher in the summer break in LCBAS activities, see old friends, say goodbye to last year's board members, and welcome next year's board members. We will be voting on next year's board after we eat, so please come thinking of how you might be able to help out in the coming year!

Directions: In Richland, take George Washington Way to Newcomer Ave., and turn east, toward the river. Turn north onto Harris Ave., and then east on Park St. towards the river. This is the Park St. Entrance, with parking to the left of the entrance.

## LCBAS Elections --Time to Vote!

LCBAS Elections will be held at the June picnic on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 (see page 2 for election details). The picnic will be from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at Leslie Groves Park (Park Street entrance, Picnic Shelter #2). Nominations and the vote will occur after we eat (approximately 6:30 PM). We have a number of open positions among the elected positions, which include officers and standing committee chairs. Please consider volunteering to keep our chapter running well!

## 2022-2023 Elections for Officers and Standing Committee Chairs

It's that time of year again - It's time to vote for LCBAS Officers and Standing Committee Chairs! All current, dues-paying members are encouraged to vote.

Additionally, any LCBAS member who is interested in a position is welcome and strongly encouraged to volunteer or be nominated for a position. More information about elections and positions which need filling is provided below.

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### Elected Positions:

President: **OPEN**  
 Vice President: **OPEN**  
 Secretary: Debbie Berkowitz  
 Treasurer: Dan Hansen

### Standing Committee Chairs:

Birding Events: Jason Fidorra  
 Conservation: Dana Ward and Rick Leaumont  
 Communications: **OPEN**  
 Education: **OPEN**  
 Finance: **OPEN**  
 Fundraising: Marcie Daines  
 Membership: **OPEN**  
 Programs: **OPEN**  
 Director at Large: Robin Priddy

### Appointed Positions:

A number of positions are filled by appointment, rather than via election. These people have agreed to serve LCBAS in appointed positions for 2023-2024:

Bateman Bird Walks: Lisa Hill  
 Book Sales: Robin Priddy  
 Christmas Bird Count: Bill LaFramboise  
 Curlew Mailing: Jack and Murrel Dawson  
 Facebook: Heidi Newsome  
 Hospitality: Marcie Daines  
 Junior Audubon: **OPEN**  
 Publicity: **OPEN**  
 Taxidermy Collection: Sheri Whitfield  
 Website: Lisa Hill, Lori Nelson

## We are looking for help!

**We have many critical board positions open:**

- ◆ **PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT** We cannot function without them!
- ◆ **Education Chair**
- ◆ **Membership Chair**
- ◆ **Communications Chair**
- ◆ **Programs Chair**

Get involved in the good work we do and help us to be a vibrant and viable Audubon chapter! We'll provide training, guidance, and moral support to new board members. The time commitment for the positions varies, but is flexible.

## July Birding Challenge

By Jason Fidorra

The July Challenge is an annual birding "competition" between Franklin and Benton Counties. Birders can bird in either county, or both, as we see which county can rack up the most species for the month.

Not only is this a fun event, but the data collected contributes information for a month when normally few people are birding. July is historically the least birded month of the year! This means that not only are cool birds not being located, but also that science is least informed about this time of year – an important time with offspring being added to populations, and arctic breeding shorebirds already heading south for the winter! Many discoveries await! Contact Jason Fidorra at [fieldtrips@lcbas.org](mailto:fieldtrips@lcbas.org) to participate.

Benton County came out ahead in the last three July Birding Challenges. There's some great places to bird in Franklin County, so let's see if we can change those results this year!

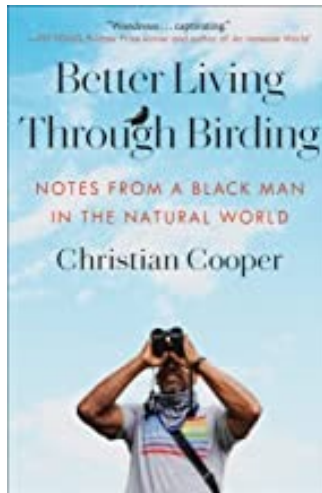
2020	2021	2022
Benton Co: 137	Benton Co: 128	Benton Co: 124
Franklin Co: 123	Franklin Co: 122	Franklin Co: 116
Combined: 151	Combined: 144	Combined: 138

## An Extraordinary Birder - Christian Cooper on NPR, a National Geographic special, a book and more!

From Robin Priddy

I was in between things Monday morning and heard *Fresh Aire* on NPR. Terry Gross was interviewing Christian Cooper, a member of the board of New York City Audubon and an avid birder. I changed my errand route so I could listen, and I'm glad I did. The broadcast was in turn interesting, educational, and moving.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/06/12/1181314626/central-park-birder-christian-cooper-on-being-a-black-man-in-the-natural-world>



He's to be featured on a National Geographic special titled "Extraordinary Birder", which will begin showing on June 21st. I'm looking forward to watching!

<https://people.com/black-birder-christian-cooper-national-geographic-tv-show-extraordinary-birder-7508414>

He has a book called *Better Living Through Birding*, and also wrote a graphic novel. So much to explore!

## In Memory of Ruth M. Fischer

By Nancy LaFramboise

Longtime Audubon member Ruth Fischer passed on May 5 at the age of 89. If you knew Ruth, you had a friend for life. Ruth has been absent from our chapter for a few years but she was very dedicated to it, the birds we try to protect, and the family we feel we are. If you did not know her, I am truly sorry for what you missed.

Ruth was instrumental in encouraging Howard Ennor to publish his book, "The Birds of the Tri-Cities and Vicinity", the first of its kind. Ruth and others spent hours proof-reading and making sure this book happened.

Ruth participated in many chapter activities and knew the birds of our area quite well. Ruth had so many interests you could not help but learn from her. She was an accomplished gardener and completed the Master Gardener program. She learned to type Braille in order to provide reading for the blind and she also recorded books on tape. She was a supporter of the arts. She cared.

Ruth and I birded together from the time we met in 1992 until I moved away for a brief time in 2011. She taught me much and introduced me to many good local birding locations. I could go on and on about our adventures and the birds and places we discovered.

These trips contributed to the knowledge Bill and I compiled for the three new local checklists.

There will be a memorial on July 22, 2023 at 2:00 PM. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Avenue, Richland.

The family invites you to add your thoughts and memories to the online guest book at:

<https://www.codaalternative.com/obituaries?name=ruth-m-fischer>

## Chamna Natural Preserve Bird Walk June 3, 2023

By Lisa Hill, Photographs by Larry Umthun

The final 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday bird walk of the season was held at Chamna Nature Preserve. After a lightning strike on May 8, Bateman Island was closed due to fire damage/for inspection. Despite contending with mosquitoes, we found a good list of birds at Chamna. According to eBird, over 155 species have been documented at the site, including a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in June 2021.

New birders on the walk got a great opportunity to compare the plumage patterns on the underside of the wing of RED-TAILED HAWK and SWAINSON'S HAWK. At least two OSPREY flew by with their fish prey clasped firmly in their talons in the typical forward-facing, aerodynamic fashion. Multiple YELLOW-



Western Kingbird

BREASTED CHATS, BEWICK'S WRENS and BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS chattered and warbled their morning conversations.

At the parking area off Cullum Rd, a pair of WESTERN KINGBIRDS (WEKI) maintained a nest on a utility pole. Later, we were able to study the EASTERN KINGBIRD with plumage patterns and colors very different from the WEKI. Both species have a reddish-orange crown patch, a characteristic rarely seen. These birds are Tyrant Flycatchers, belonging to the genus *Tyrannus* in the *Tyrannidae* family. The moniker reflects the birds' tyrannical, aggressive nature when defending their territories and nests from much larger birds including hawks and falcons.

Chamna is the name the indigenous peoples gave to their ancestral land at the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. The site is a 276-acre wildlife preserve with more than 11 miles of trails winding through shrub-steppe, riparian, and wetland habitat. In recent history, the area was used for grazing and farming, and remnants of grape and asparagus crops as well as the old concrete pipe irrigation system are visible throughout the park.

**Watch for information about bird walks for fall 2023 in the LCBAS Curlew newsletter and the LCBAS website. If Bateman Island is closed, we will schedule walks at other great local birding hot spots.**



Eastern Kingbird

### Upcoming Field Trip - Birds and Brews - Clover Island and Ice Harbor Brewing.

- Jason will lead an all-ages bird walk starting at the Clover Island lighthouse at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 12.
- We will have an easy, casual walk looking for birds along the river, and Duffy's Pond.
- Afterwards we will head to Ice Harbor Brewing on Clover Island around 8:00 PM.
- Both walk and venue are family friendly! Join for both or either part of the event.

Watch the website and/or Facebook page for other events which may be scheduled during the summer.

### Trip Report: May Birds and Brews at Chiawana Park and Sage Brewing

By Jason Fidorra

Seventeen birders met in Chiawana Park in Pasco on May 24th for the first Birds & Brews walk! While birding was slow we did find some life birds for some, and had nice looks at Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Western Grebes, and some beautiful looks at a pair of Wood Ducks sunlit in the trees. Along the way there was great conversation which continued at the brewery along with some wonderful guacamole!

## New Hummingbird Garden in the Heritage Garden at Hansen Park, Kennewick

By Lisa Hill

**\*Benton Conservation District in partnership with the Columbia Basin Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society has developed a Heritage Garden program designed to honor the cultural and natural heritage of the Columbia River Basin while utilizing sustainable gardening practices. Heritage Gardens promote low-water-use landscaping with native plants to create beautiful wildlife friendly landscapes. (Benton Co Conservation District)\* <https://www.hgcd.info/>**

Following the theme of wildlife friendly, water-wise landscapes, a new Hummingbird Garden has been created within the Heritage Garden at Hansen Park in Kennewick. LCBAS sponsored the cost of materials and plants to implement the garden and provide funds to replace plants as necessary over several years. In October of 2022, the plan was initiated by removing sod from an area in a corner of the Heritage Garden.



**Photographs clockwise from left to right:  
Anna's Hummingbird feeding in the new Hummingbird Garden--Photo by Donna Lucas. Hummingbird Garden before and after--Photos by Lisa Hill**

In spring of 2023, the area was enlarged a bit and landscape edging was installed to maintain the shape of the new garden. By June 1, the garden was a reality, complete with many species of hummingbird plants (albeit, not Washington native plants), a tower-style trellis for red-flowering honeysuckle, and a hybrid serviceberry to attract Cedar Waxwings, American Robins and other fruit-eating birds.

With advice and hands-on work from Lisa Hill, LCBAS member, plants were selected that are proven favorites of hummingbirds in the region. Salvias, agastache, zauchneria, and lonicera (honeysuckle) will be in full bloom by July 1 and continue until frost. Installation of the garden was completed by Lisa and Donna Lucas, co-creator of the Heritage Garden program and garden volunteer.

Within minutes of putting on the final touches to the garden, an Anna's Hummingbird zoomed in and perched in the serviceberry. It proceeded to investigate every blossom that had opened on the salvias and agastache. From a high perch on a dead twig wired to the trellis to especially encourage hummingbirds to rest and perch near the plants, the bird surveyed its new cafeteria.

Upon close inspection of photos of the bird, it appears to be a juvenile Anna's Hummingbird. June 1 is much earlier than a juvenile Black-chinned Hummingbird would be seen, which is the only species previously confirmed as here. Very recently there has been solid evidence that Anna's Hummingbird has expanded its breeding range into the Mid-Columbia.

To visit the Hummingbird Garden, travel south on Columbia Center Blvd from Clearwater Ave. Turn right (west) on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Turn left (south) on Georgia St and continue to the parking lot on the left. The fenced garden is due south of the parking lot.

# Monarch Butterflies in Decline

By Charlene Burge

When I was growing up, I frequently observed clusters of thousands of monarch butterflies, a small portion of the millions which used to overwinter in California and Mexico. Monarchs cluster together for warmth and protection from wind and storms. When the weather is good for activity and feeding, they release from each other and fly free, peppering the blue sky with a fluttering blizzard of orange and black.

In the last several years monarch butterflies have suffered a serious decline. The decline is so severe that it's hard to imagine the giant clusters of thousands I used to see. During the winter of 2020-21, the number of monarchs counted in their wintering range in California plummeted further, to 0.01%. That's 1 in 2,250 remaining. Less than 2,000 monarchs were counted two winters ago, down from four years ago when 300,000 were counted in the same time frame.

## There is still hope.

While monarch butterflies have almost completely disappeared from some areas, or are a very small number compared to their historic numbers, there's still hope! There was a small rebound last year. What will this year bring? To read about how you can help, check out the information provided by the Xerxes Society: <https://xerxes.org/western-monarch-call-to-action>



Monarchs are dependent on milkweed for their larval stage. Plant, and protect milkweed to protect monarch butterflies. Showy Milkweed is the most common species observed in Eastern WA. Check out the link to see all four natives! <https://burkeherbarium.org/imagecollection/browse.php?Genus=Asclepias>



## Monarch

*Danaus plexippus*



## Viceroy

*Limenitis archippus*

JOURNEY NORTH

Monarch Butterflies are mimicked by the Viceroy Butterfly. See the differences in the graphic above, which shows the different pattern on the lower wing. There is also a slight size difference, but this pattern is easier to observe.

Photo / graphic by Journey North

<https://journeynorth.org/>

## Help Save Monarch Butterflies!

We can do something! Plant pollinator friendly gardens, protect milkweed which is so important for raising monarch caterpillars, avoid using pesticides, even organic, for cosmetic purposes, and watch for and report any monarchs, caterpillars, chrysalis, or eggs observed.

Birdwatchers are great observers of the natural environment. You can help watch for monarchs, and join the citizen science effort to report observations. At this time citizen reports are more important than ever to track the monarch migration! Research is greatly enhanced by citizen science, and David James, an Associate Professor with WSU, has a website set up for reporting observations.

Please take photographs if possible, and submit observations of any monarch or caterpillar via email to David James, WSU, or through the Monarch Butterfly NW Facebook page, or on iNaturalist. The next few weeks are especially integral, so please, watch for them!

[david\\_james@wsu.edu](mailto:david_james@wsu.edu) OR  
[www.facebook.com/MonarchButterfliesInThePacificNorthwest](https://www.facebook.com/MonarchButterfliesInThePacificNorthwest)

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**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Please send address changes (postal address or email address) to <https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact> so that your subscription is not interrupted. You can also mail address changes to LCBAS, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352.

**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 <https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/join-renew-donate>

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)

### LCBAS OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Sheri Whitfield	<a href="mailto:president@lcbas.org">president@lcbas.org</a>
Vice President	Michael Henao	—
Treasurer	Dan Hansen	<a href="mailto:treasurer@lcbas.org">treasurer@lcbas.org</a>
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz	<a href="mailto:secretary@lcbas.org">secretary@lcbas.org</a>
Birding Events	Jason Fidorra	—
Communications Chair	Charlene Burge	—
Conservation Co-Chair	Dana Ward and Rick Leumont	<a href="mailto:conservation@lcbas.org">conservation@lcbas.org</a>
Education Chair	OPEN	—
Finance Chair	Dan Hansen	<a href="mailto:treasurer@lcbas.org">treasurer@lcbas.org</a>
Fundraising Chair	Marcie Daines	
Membership Chair	OPEN	To contact anyone without a dedicated email address, please use the contact form on our website:
Program Chair	OPEN	
Director at Large	Robin Priddy	
		<a href="https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact">https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact</a>
<b>OTHER CONTACTS:</b>		
Curlew Editor	Charlene Burge	
Membership Database	Rich Barchet	
LCBAS Website	Lori Nelson and Lisa Hill	
Publicity Chair	OPEN	

**Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society**

**PO Box 1900**

**Richland, WA 99352**

**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](http://www.audubon.org)