

The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia
Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see
www.lcbas.org

Dec. 27: Christmas Bird Count

Jan. 3: LCBAS First Saturday Bird Walk - see page 2

Jan 6: LCBAS Board Meeting

Jan 17: Winter Waterfowl half day trip / walk at McNary NWR and Hood Park

Jan 27: Monthly chapter meeting at 7:00 PM

March 14: Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser is back! Stay tuned for more information.

Christmas Bird Count Feeder Watch December 27, 2023

Bird feeder watchers are strongly encouraged to participate, but you need to live within the count circle, which is 7.5 miles out from the center of the Columbia River between Chiawana Park and Bateman Island. Please contact Bill LaFramboise for more information and to determine if you live within the count circle:

billnan321@gmail.com

Christmas Bird Count and Potluck December 27, 2025

Audubon's longest running community science project

Have you signed up yet? Contact one of the following team leaders or Bill LaFrambois for more information on how to count birds for science during the holiday season.

Richland: Lisa Hill (509) 869-6715

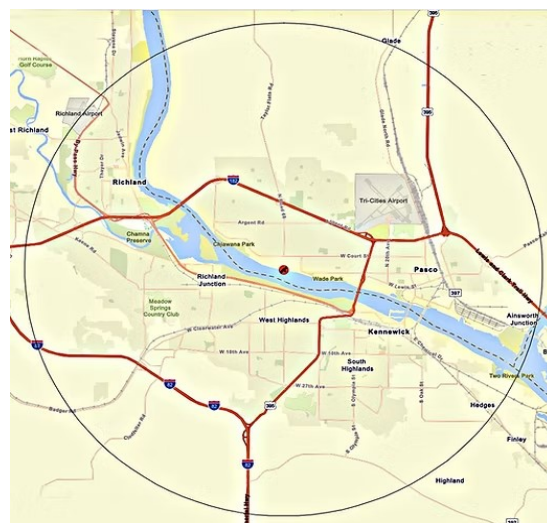
Kennewick: Rowan McMurchie 509-438-7239

Pasco: Dana Ward (509) 545-0627

For more information on the Tri-Cities Christmas Bird Count, please contact Bill LaFramboise: billnan321@gmail.com

The count circle provides excellent birdwatching opportunities. River systems attract a mix of waterbirds, while open parks support upland species. Since the mid-1960s, our Tri-Cities count has contributed valuable data to local, regional, and national studies of bird populations.

Following the count, we will have a potluck dinner to review results and share stories about the day. We will collect data from teams as they come in.



The Tri-Cities (WATC) count circle, #58223

We have reserved a potluck meeting space at the LDS Church in Richland, at 1321 Jadwin. Enter from the back parking lot. The potluck dinner will start at 6 PM, with dinnerware and water provided. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish to share, such as a salad, dessert, or main course.

Help us make this year's effort our best yet. Please contact any of us if you have questions or would like to join.

First Saturday Bird Walk - Two Rivers Park December 6, 2025

By Lisa Hill

Five dedicated birders scoured the park along the west side of the lagoon and came up with a good list of 30 species. A brisk wind kept the songbirds mostly quiet, but there were plenty of waterfowl on the water. There were no eBird rarities and no species even considered very uncommon. That makes it easy to say that there was nothing special or out of the ordinary to see, or the list had the same old same old; the usual suspects. True, the birds we saw are easy to find in many local birding spots. But, what birder hasn't marveled at the HOODED MERGANSER couple? He with an extraordinary plumage ensemble and she, refined, but with a wacky spiked hair-do? The male RING-NECKED DUCK sports his best bib and tucker and a shiny black bouffant, swimming around proud and stiff-necked. Looking like a handsome country gentleman, a GADWALL wears heather tweeds and murmurs to himself. The COMMON GOLDENEYE is anything but, with a glossy, slicked-back head of green shimmering plumage, showing off white tie and tails.

MOURNING DOVES with their soft voices and gentle demeanor have a silky elegant style. When I was growing up, the BALD EAGLE was a seriously endangered species and we never laid eyes on one. I was an adult when I saw my first nesting pair. To this day, even though they have made a remarkable recovery, I feel a little thrill of excitement when I see that head with a shock of white feathers. It still feels special. For such a little bird, a RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET grabs attention as it flits about in a frenzy, chittering and occasionally flashing that scarlet crown. A curious SONG SPARROW is never afraid to come out for a look-see when it hears pishing.

We had one bird bravely warbling its singular mellifluous song. So many other birds of distinction were tallied up; an elegant GREAT EGRET, overly vociferous BELTED KINGFISHERS, goofy DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAYS (the neighborhood toughs), many squatty PIED-BILLED GREBES, and rafts of our ubiquitous winter duck, the AMERICAN WIGEON with their ever-present wheezy, whistling calls. Every bird is extraordinary in its own way. We have to remind ourselves to appreciate even the abundant, usual suspects.



Hooded Mergansers (above), and Song Sparrow
Photos by Larry Umthun

The next First Saturday Bird Walk is Saturday, January 3, 2026, beginning promptly at 8:00 AM. The walk will be at W.E. Johnson Park in Richland. Meet at the south entrance on Tanglewood Dr. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L835470> There is plenty of neighborhood street parking.

Please join us! Both the public and LCBAS members are always welcome. Binoculars are available, first come, first served. No registration is required. Please come a few minutes early to sign in.

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ADDRESS CHANGES: Please send address changes (email address) to 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 hope you will support Lower Columbia Basin Audubon by joining the local chapter, which is locally funded. Please become a paid subscriber and add your voice to our bird protection, conservation, and education efforts. Doing so is fast, easy, and secure at our website:

www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/join-renew-donate

The **LCBAS Privacy Policy** is available at our website. Find out more at www.lcbas.org or www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org

LCBAS OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Dana Ward	president.lcbas@gmail.com
Vice President	OPEN	—
Treasurer	Dan Hansen	treasurer.lcbas@gmail.com
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz	secretary.lcbas@gmail.com
Birding Events	Rowan Young-McMurchie	lcbasbirdingevents@outlook.com
Communications Chair	Charlene Burge	—
Conservation Co-Chair	Dana Ward and Rick Leumont	—
Education Chair	OPEN	---
Finance Chair	Dan Hansen	treasurer.lcbas@gmail.com
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	Lori Nelson	
Director at Large	Robin Priddy	www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact
Director at Large	Kelly Doyle	
OTHER CONTACTS:		
Curlew Editor	Charlene Burge	
Membership Database	Rich Barchet	
LCBAS Website	Lisa Hill & Lori Nelson	
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 our digital newsletter "The Curlew" and priority registration for space-limited field trips. LCBAS is a 501c(3) organization and dues are tax deductible.

_____ Regular membership (Individual or family at the same permanent address) (\$20)

_____ Full-time student membership (\$10)

_____ I would like to make an additional donation of _____.

Total: _____ (If paying with a check, please make check payable to **LCBAS**)

Register and pay online via PayPal at www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/join-renew-donate

-OR- Mail your form and dues to: Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA. 99352

____ I do not want to receive e-alerts for last minute activity changes, important issues, and volunteer opportunities (check for opt-out).

Name _____

Email (required to receive newsletter) _____

Street Address _____

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Phone _____

Membership in LCBAS is separate from membership in the National Audubon Society.

To join the National Audubon Society, please go to www.audubon.org