

The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia
Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see
www.lcbas.org

November 29: Membership meeting at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

December 3: Bateman Island Bird Walk. See page 2.

December 6: Board meeting; please note the day change to Tuesday.

Remember: The Christmas Bird Count takes the place of a December membership meeting.

December 31: Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Other Events:

For upcoming meetings and walks with the Columbia Basin Chapter of the WA Native Plant Society:

<https://www.cbwnps.org/>

Winter Wings Festival in Klamath:

<https://winterwingsfest.org/>

Save the Date!

Christmas Bird Count

December 31 2022

**Have you found an
injured or sick bird?**

**Contact Blue Mountain
Wildlife:**

[http://
bluemountainwildlife.org/](http://bluemountainwildlife.org/)

(541)278-0215

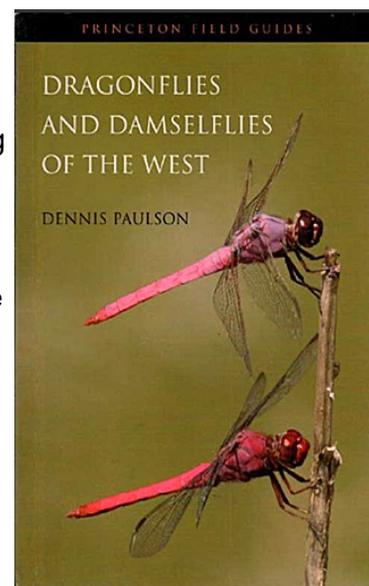
Dragonflies — Rainbows on the Wing

Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 7:00 PM via Zoom (link below)

Join Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society for a free, open to the public Zoom presentation by Dennis Paulson, author, educator, and recently retired museum director.

Dragonflies and damselflies are often called birdwatchers' insects. Active and brilliantly colored, these four-winged predators fly everywhere over unspoiled wetlands. Their very different-looking larvae are dominant predators in the water below. They have the best vision and the most versatile flight of any insects, and their sex life is similarly superlative. In a profusely illustrated lecture, Dennis Paulson will tell us all about the lives of these interesting creatures and how they fit into their environment.

Dennis Paulson recently retired from his position as the Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound. After receiving his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Miami, he has taught college and adult-education courses about natural history for over 40 years. One of his primary goals as a biologist has been to blend the science of biology with the study and appreciation of nature. His special research subjects have long been dragonflies, and he has studied them all over the world. He has written over 50 scientific papers on the Odonata, as well as several books, including *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West* and *Dragonflies; Damselflies: A Natural History*.



Join Zoom Meeting (or go to www.lcbas.org):

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85294586878?
pwd=R3VTTWhQUdBzVzd2WkJXTjQwa05oQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85294586878?pwd=R3VTTWhQUdBzVzd2WkJXTjQwa05oQT09)

Meeting ID: 852 9458 6878 Passcode: 726357

Dial by your location: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose).

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdDu9Z2CbI>

Bateman Island Bird Walk November 5, 2022

By Nancy LaFramboise

The weather on Friday was cold and very windy which made today's walk unpredictable in many ways.

However, 10 hearty souls made the walk and we saw over 40 species (list on eBird), on only the west side trail. Highlights were four Bonaparte's Gulls in the delta area, three Red-breasted Mergansers between the marina and the island, and thousands of distant waterfowl. We also managed to see four species of sandpipers on the north end of the island, including multiple Dunlin and Least Sandpipers as well as one Killdeer and one late Western Sandpiper. Also surprising was Rich's sighting of multiple swallows flying over the delta, which all appeared to be Barn Swallows.

The next Bateman Island bird walk is Saturday, December 3, beginning promptly at 8AM. Meet in or near the parking lot of Wye Park above the causeway to the island.



Members of LCBAS, and new friends/birdwatchers. Remember, our walks are always open to the public!
Photo by Charlene Burge

Community Science

By Charlene Burge

Audubon's long-running (since 1900!) Christmas Bird Count, or CBC, is a community science project that members of LCBAS have participated in for many years. LCBAS members have also been involved with Climate Watch, The Great Backyard Bird Count, eBird, Sagebrush Songbird Survey with Audubon Washington, and Winter Raptor Surveys through East Cascades Audubon Society, and WDFW projects.

I was privileged when I first arrived in the area to join some of these community science projects, as well as the Western Asio flammeus (Short-eared Owl) Landscape Study (WAFLS) through the Intermountain Bird Observatory, and numerous WDFW projects. As I started the first round of Winter Raptor Surveys this last week, I thought about how much fun these projects are, and how important they are to help bolster the knowledge that we have about birds and how birds are surviving in a changing world. Bird data reported by community scientists has been used by bird researchers since the 1930's! I enjoy being forced to slow down and watch birds, and move outside my normal walk of life and into new areas.



Rough-legged Hawk photographed during a 2022 Winter Raptor Survey
Photo by Vic Hubbard

From these projects I have priceless memories: the first time I observed a male Short-eared Owl courtship display, as it plummeted towards the earth clapping its wings, a quintet of juvenile Red-tailed Hawks sparring in the sky, a Great Horned Owl chased by two Rough-legged Hawks through a narrow desert canyon—and the list goes on.

LCBAS's annual Christmas Bird Count is fast approaching on December 31 (see page 3). If you won't be in the area, but are still interested in participating, you may be able to join an Audubon CBC elsewhere! www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count If you would like to participate in a Winter Raptor Survey, routes are still available this year in Toppenish, White Swan, and Wapato. These are all areas with lots of good birds! Contact Jeff Fleischer: raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com

Christmas Bird Count—December 31, 2022

New Year's Eve—on the trail of a plethora of good birds

The annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held Saturday December 31st and teams are being formed, so please get on board and join in the fun. If you want to do a feeder count at your home or just want to walk around the block, please contact one of the Team Leads below for the city you're in to avoid overlap.



Brown Creeper
Photo by Larry Umthun

Although we have lost a lot of open land to housing developments, roads and industry, our count circle is blessed with abundant water where a variety of water birds and shore birds can be found. We also have many open park areas that support a good population of upland birds. The count has been conducted in the Tri-Cities count circle since the 1960s and is a significant contributor to the local, regional, and national bird data base.

Due to the Covid virus and what's shaping up to be a challenging flu season, we will still take precautions. Everyone will have to determine what is safe for them.

We are still debating having a pot-luck dinner at the end of the day but that decision, due to the

virus and New Year's Eve, has not been made yet, so stay tuned for upcoming information in the December Curlew.

The count circle is divided into three sections:

Lisa Hill (509-869-6715) leading the Richland team,
Rich Barchet (509-430-0053) leading the Kennewick team,
Dana Ward (509-545-0627) leading the Pasco Team and filling the roll as overall coordinator.

Please contact them early to participate in one of those count areas.

For more information on the Tri-Cities Christmas Bird Count, please contact me at (509-545-0627) or by email at dcarlward@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering participating in this year's CBC,
Dana Ward
Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

After many years of being the Christmas Bird Count Coordinator, I would like to hand this wonderful Audubon program off to another member starting next year. It does not take a lot of time to organize since most work is charted out and I would be happy to help the new coordinator. I can continue as the team lead for Pasco.

National Audubon Society Subscribers: Did you know?

We would like to encourage National Audubon members to consider joining LCBAS and get involved in all we have to offer in your local area—ten months per year of meetings, Curlew newsletters, and bird walks and field trips! Joining LCBAS is fast, easy, and secure at our website:

www.lowercolumbiabasin Audubon.org/join-renew-donate

New members of the National Audubon Society receive a complimentary three-month subscription to the Curlew, the newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (LCBAS). After the first three months, the complimentary issues end. Please join us!



Two young Great-horned owlets
observed during an
LCBAS bird walk this spring.
Photo by Charlene Burge

LCBAS is Seeking Officers and Great Ideas

Do you have a passion for kids, and education? Perhaps you have many connections in the community and you could help us with programs or publicity. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer to help with LCBAS, we have open slots still for Education / Jr Audubon, Programs, Membership, and Publicity.

Please contact us through the form on our new website for more information!

www.lowercolumbiabasin Audubon.org/contact

The Relationship between Coffee and Bird Conservation: Ivan Phillipsen and The Science of Birds

<https://www.scienceofbirds.com/podcast/coffee-and-bird-conservation>

A podcast review by Robin Priddy

If there were a Venn Diagram of coffee lovers and bird lovers, I think it would have a big overlap. Early risers and coffee seem to be a natural match. Coffee is near the top of the list of beverages that people like the most. It's also a very big business and economic force. As you start considering holiday gifts and stocking stuffers, perhaps bird-friendly Coffee could be on that list!

The ecology of birds and the forests and the coffee plant, as well as cultivation need to be understood to create better habitat around coffee growing. There are many species of coffee, it is native to the mountains of Ethiopia, Sudan, and Kenya, and it's an understory shrub that grows best around 4,500 feet, in the shade. Today it's cultivated in over 70 countries around the world – all across the tropics: Africa, Latin America, China, Southeast Asia, and in the Caribbean.

Traditional, rustic farms grow coffee in forest-like conditions. Monoculture plantations dominate the industry though, with rows out in the sun, replacing forest with clearcuts and plantations. This practice is more productive so there's pressure to cultivate this way. Deforestation, soil erosion and chemical pollution are side effects of these plantations and they represent about 70% of the world's coffee production.

A study published in the journal *Science* showed that the number of birds in North America dropped 30% in the last 50 years, with migratory species spending the winter in Central and South America being affected the most. Some of those include warblers, thrushes, swallows, swifts, orioles and vireos. The habitats in the north as well as the tropics must be protected to support these migratory birds, and how coffee is cultivated plays an important role.

The more forest-like the coffee farm is the better the habitat is for birds. These cultivation methods support birds and other wildlife – migratory as well as neo-tropical birds such as parrots, toucans and trogons. These farms would include multiple species of mature trees, smaller trees and shrubs below them. All these nooks and crannies provide places to hide, seeds, fruits, and insects to eat. It can be called an agroforest—where cultivation is mixed in with forest.

How do we make things better for birds? We could stop drinking coffee, which is unlikely. Assuming that people will keep growing and drinking coffee, how can we have our coffee and birds, too? Increasing the percentage of bird friendly coffee growing would certainly help, though economic pressures work against it. We need to pay attention and buy Bird Friendly Certified Coffee as many already do. I wondered what does this Certification actually meant, though.

This Bird Friendly Coffee program was started by Smithsonian in the 1990's and is the gold standard for conservation and coffee; the farms are inspected and evaluated by a set of science-based criteria. This certification creates better market opportunities. The farm must also be certified as Organic by USDA. These farms protect the habitat and also the communities around them – the effects are far reaching including soil protection and opportunities for eco-tourism.

So, we can pitch in by looking for Bird Friendly Certified Coffee and asking for it at places where we buy coffee. There's a lot more interesting detail in the podcast. I hope you can enjoy it, perhaps with a bird friendly cup of coffee!

Here are links to Smithsonian Bird Friendly Coffee, a short video and another site of coffee and conservation:

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgYOL9t4z-s>
<https://www.coffeehabitat.com/>

To read more about North American bird declines in *Audubon*: <https://www.audubon.org/news/north-america-has-lost-more-1-4-birds-last-50-years-new-study-says>

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: <https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/join-renew-donate> or you can use the form included with this 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: <https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact>

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 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 <https://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	Sheri Whitfield	president@lcbas.org
Vice President	Michael Henao	—
Treasurer	Dan Hansen	treasurer@lcbas.org
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz	secretary@lcbas.org
Birding Events	Jason Fidorra	—
Communications Chair	Charlene Burge	—
Conservation Co-Chair	Dana Ward and Rick Leumont	conservation@lcbas.org
Education Chair	OPEN	—
Finance Chair	Dan Hansen	treasurer@lcbas.org
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	
		https://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact
OTHER CONTACTS:		
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 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