



The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia
Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see
www.lcbas.org

Oct. 26: LCBAS Monthly Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM, Winter Raptor Survey Project with Jeff Fleischer of the East Cascades Audubon Society. For more information on the project, and to sign up for new routes, check out page 3!

Nov. 1: Board meeting. Contact any board member for information on how to attend.

Nov. 16: LCBAS Monthly Membership Meeting.

Dec. 18: LCBAS Christmas Bird Count!

Other Upcoming Events:

NOW until Oct. 31: Columbia Native Plant Society Plant Sale. Grow native plants to benefit birds

<https://cbwnpsplantsale.com/>

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

**Contact Blue Mountain
Wildlife:**

<http://bluemountainwildlife.org/>

Meeting ID: 845 8204 9428

Passcode: 515697

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Citizen Science in Action:

Winter Raptor Survey Project East Cascades Audubon Society

Tuesday, September 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

**An online presentation with Jeff
Fleischer, director of the project
with the East Cascades Audubon
Society.**

The presentation will offer viewers a chance to see how this project was developed and how it has expanded over the years. It is full of wonderful photographs of all 31 species that have been found during project surveys. Most of the photos were taken by project participants which makes this program and the project a very personal experience for everyone involved. In addition to the photos, there will be accompanying charts and maps that help display the data that has been collected over the years. Come join us to learn about birds of prey in the Pacific Northwest through this great citizen science project and feel free to bring your questions, looking forward to a lively presentation and discussion time!



**Snowy Owl, a Washington
occasional winter species.
Photo by Charlene Burge**

The WRSP is sponsored by the East Cascades Audubon Society chapter based in Bend, OR. The project was originally designed to survey only areas throughout OR and through survey work try and determine density and distribution for a variety of wintering raptor species and monitoring changes from year to year. A desire to understand how Oregon fits in with the rest of the Pacific NW regarding birds of prey has led to a formidable expansion of the project.

Join Zoom Meeting: (or go to www.lcbas.org for a clickable link)

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84582049428?
pwd=MFM0Tik1a2EyU2xlamJxbFJFY3hNZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84582049428?pwd=MFM0Tik1a2EyU2xlamJxbFJFY3hNZz09)

**See the box to the left for more sign-in information, if needed.
Note that the invitation starts at 6:30 so that we have time to prepare,
and the featured talk will start at 7:00 PM. You can sign in at any time.**

Birdwatching!!!

By Sheri Whitfield, President

Birds can help you connect with nature – with approximately 10,000 species across countless habitats on seven continents. They have so many variations in vocal sound, plumage patterns, and colors. Bird species interact with numerous plants and animals. The pursuit of birds can take you to some amazing places locally, or hundreds of miles from home.

Birding is good for your health – spending time and energy finding and observing birds is great for your physical, mental, and emotional health. Birding allows you to get outside, enjoy the fresh air and gets you moving. You might hike to a remote area or walk for miles to find that rare or interesting bird. Some of my most rewarding bird experiences are those that take the hardest and longest to reach. Birdwatching aids in stimulating the brain by sharpening your senses and learning to observe the details.



Juvenile American Dippers observed during a recent trip to Mount Rainier National Park.

Photo by Charlene Burge

Birding is a great way to make NEW friends – most birders are social individuals, and we love to talk about birds, our birding experiences, and the places we have visited in pursuit of birds. Seems like if you have a question about a bird or bird gear, there is always someone to help you find the answer. Spending a day, a week, or more with a birder or even a group of bird lovers can lead at times to making lifelong friends.

Enjoy and happy birding - Sheri

Did you know?

The Curlew is available in digital format! The e-Curlew is full color, with clickable links, and you can receive it via email.

Have you ever thought about subscribing to the digital version? If not, you should! There are many benefits: You can see the photos in color, receive your eCurlew sooner, and save paper and other resources. Due to escalating print and mail expenses, we ask you to consider going to a completely digital subscription!

To switch to the eCurlew, please let us know at subscriptions@lcbas.org and include your name and email address.

LCBAS Birding Resources

Available for Children on our Website!

Members of LCBAS have worked together to develop Junior Audubon resources on our website. To check it out, please go to:

<https://lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/bfkids.html#winterbirds>



Horned Grebe

Winter Raptor Survey Project

By Jeff Fleischer Project Coordinator, Winter Raptor Survey Project East Cascades Audubon Society, Bend OR

The 18th survey season for the East Cascades Audubon Society's Winter Raptor Survey Project will get underway November 1st for optional surveys. The formal survey period starts December 1st and runs through February 28th. I brought the project to all of Central and Eastern WA for the first time in the winter of 2019 and was very fortunate to get 80 routes in play. I am seeking volunteers for new routes near Benton City, Prosser, Grandview and Toppenish. Routes in the Horse Heaven Hills and on Rattlesnake are potentially rougher than the average route and may require 4x4 on some surveys, and close to full days in the field.

These routes range from 30—100 miles and most can be completed in three-to-five hours with the longer ones taking most of the day. Anyone interested in volunteering this winter should contact me directly for more information including training materials and maps. We ask our volunteers to do one survey per month in December, January, and February and these can be done on a day that matches



Red-tailed Hawk with prey observed north of Pasco in the shrub-steppe during a Winter Raptor Survey.

up with your monthly life schedules and good weather.

You should be comfortable with identifying the common species of raptors in your area and have a good pair of binoculars for distant birds; a spotting scope is a plus but not required. If you choose to help out this winter, you will be joining a premiere citizen science project that finished last season with 452 active routes covering nearly 27,000 miles of transects each month by more than 350 volunteers.

The project, so far, has recorded 31 species of birds of prey, and all data collected is provided to The Peregrine Fund to include in their international raptor data base for research and population monitoring purposes.

If this sounds like something that you would like to do during the doldrums of winter, please contact me as soon as possible to secure your preferred route. I am looking forward to hearing from you and I can guarantee that if you join this fun project, you will develop a wonderful appreciation for this regal family of birds!

Contact Jeff Fleischer for more information:

Email: raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: Several members of LCBAS have conducted Winter Raptor Survey routes the last few winters and found it an enjoyable opportunity to get out and birdwatch while contributing to an important, and long running, citizen science project.

Routes are driven slowly to thoroughly search appropriate habitat, with stops that you choose for viewing the area. You do not need to be an expert in survey techniques, just have good attention to detail, take your time, follow the simple directions provided for the surveys, and accurately fill out survey forms.



One of our commonly seen winter raptor species, this Rough-legged Hawk was observed during a Winter Raptor Survey north of Pasco last winter.

Guide to Ethical Bird Photography and Videography

We've likely all been there at one time or another, overly enthused about our experience birding and/or photographing, but not realizing the impact we have on our bird(s). National Audubon put together a list of the best practices, and actions / impacts to avoid whether you're birdwatching, or photographing/videoring.

From: <https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/audubons-guide-ethical-bird-photography>

The first essential element in bird photography and videography is a sincere respect for the birds and their environment. In any conflict of interest, the well-being of the birds and their habitats must come before the ambitions of the photographer or videographer.

Avoid causing unnecessary disturbance or stress:

- ◆ Use a telephoto lens and maintain enough distance to allow your subject to behave naturally. Blinds offer a great way to watch and photograph or record video footage of birds without disturbing them.
- ◆ Never advance on birds with the intention of making them fly, whether they are lone birds or flocks of birds. This disrupts natural processes such as resting, foraging, or hunting, and causes them to expend energy unnecessarily.
- ◆ If your approach causes a bird to flush (fly or run away) or change its behavior, you're too close. Some birds may "freeze" in place rather than fly away, or may hunch into a protective, aggressive, or pre-flight stance. Watch for changes in posture indicating that a bird is stressed, and if you see these, back away. If focused on you, birds may miss a predator. Your actions may also attract predators!



**Great-horned Owl photographed after sunset while taking care to avoid unnecessary disturbance.
Photo by Charlene Burge**

- ◆ Use flash sparingly (if at all), as a supplement to natural light. Avoid the use of flash on nocturnal birds (e.g., owls, nightjars) at night, as it may temporarily limit their ability to hunt for food or avoid obstacles.
- ◆ Learn the rules and laws that apply to the location. If minimum distances exist for proximity to wildlife, follow them.
- ◆ Before sharing locations of specific birds with other photographers, videographers, or birders, think carefully about potential impacts to the birds or their habitats, both individual and cumulative.
- ◆ Remove GPS data from your images/videos for rare or sensitive species like owls.
- ◆ Do not use drones to photograph or record video footage of birds, especially at their nests. Although drones can be useful for researchers and biologists documenting bird populations (such as at island nesting colonies), drones in general can be very disruptive to birds. They are also illegal in national parks and some state parks.
- ◆ Be cautious with remotely triggered cameras. Setting a trap around a fresh kill or cache is generally acceptable, but

supplying bait or other lures in order to attract an animal is not. Never use direct flash, which may temporarily blind owls.

- ◆ Concern for birds' habitat is also essential. Be aware and respectful of your surroundings. Avoid trampling sensitive vegetation or disturbing other wildlife.

For more information and the rest of the article, click the link near the top.

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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 subscriptions@lcbas.org and include your name and email address.

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>

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

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President	Sheri Whitfield	president@lcbas.org
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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