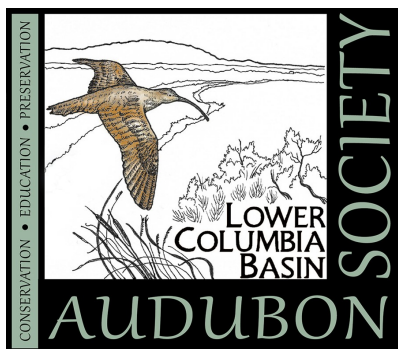




The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia
Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see
www.lcbas.org

Sept 22: Monthly Chapter meeting
at 7:00 PM

Oct 3: LCBAS First Saturday Bird
Walk - see page 2

Oct 6: LCBAS Board Meeting

Oct 27: Monthly Chapter meeting
at 7:00 PM

Make a Difference - Volunteer with LCBAS!

In May, 2026, we elected the LCBAS Board. We still have important unfilled positions. In recent years, we've had difficulty finding people to help out. Please consider volunteering for a position to keep LCBAS strong and active. Contact any board member (page 3) for more information!

If You've Found an Injured or Sick Bird:

Blue Mountain Wildlife can again rescue birds from Washington. We have had a long history with them and are thrilled with the news. blue-mountainwildlife.org/ 541-278-0215
Additional rescue resources: WSU Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Pullman, 509-335-0711, and Central Washington Wildlife Hospital in Ephrata 509-450-7016

Establishing Artificial Bank Swallow Colonies in Eastern Washington

LCBAS Chapter Meeting:

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
First Lutheran Church, 418 N. Yelm, Kennewick, WA

With Rowan Young-McMurchie

Avian insectivores across the world have seen massive population declines over the last four decades, and Bank Swallows in particular have experienced nearly a 98% decline in the Lower 48. Bank Swallows are an especially threatened species as a result of their susceptibility to human-caused disturbance to naturally occurring nest sites. Rowan will present on how he identified this problem, and how he is contributing to remedying this situation via the creation of permanent nesting habitat.



Rowan is an 18-year-old young birder raised in the Tri-Cities. He has been involved with LCBAS for almost 15 years (do the math), and more recently, has become invested in pursuing local conservation focused on birds.



First Saturday Bird Walk: Yakima Delta and Dike Trail September 5, 2026 Trip Report

By Lisa Hill

It was a perfect late-summer morning for the First Saturday bird walk season opener. A crew of eager birders set out from the location of the former causeway to Bateman Island and headed west on the trail. 'Tis the season for YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS to arrive here for a winter vacation and there were plenty of them flitting about in the trees. A few WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were also settling in for their winter break.

A few migrant songbirds were passing through including YELLOW WARBLER, NASHVILLE WARBLER, TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, and WESTERN WARBLING VIREO. Water levels were low, revealing mud flats that hosted a few shorebirds; LESSER and GREATER YELLOW-LEGS, WESTERN SANDPIPER, and an uncommon MARBLED GOD-WIT viewed with a scope. Seven or more BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were roosting in trees along the shoreline and we had the opportunity to take a long look at a beautiful adult. It is the best time of year to easily find 10 or more GREAT EGRETS in the shallow water. A small flock of RED-NECKED PHALAROPES circled and pivoted in an erratic dance, creating small eddies in the water which pull bits of food up from the mud below. Their frantic movements are a contrast to the lazy paddling and dabbling of AMERICAN WIGEON, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, NORTHERN SHOVELERS, GADWALL, and WOOD DUCKS.



Two OSPREY and a RED-TAILED HAWK were it for raptors this time. At the end of the walk, we observed a songbird perched quietly on a branch near the shore. At first, we mistakenly identified it as a Yellow-rumped Warbler, but upon closer inspection decided it was a juvenile YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT which was unexpected. Chats, and yellow-rumps for that matter, rarely remain still for more than a few seconds, but this bird did not move at all for more than a minute. We noticed it had a deformed bill, likely caused by Avian Keratin Disorder, a condition possibly caused by a virus. An affected bird's bill can grow too quickly to be kept in check by normal wear and tear, resulting in an elongated bill that eventually curves and crosses. Birds have difficulty eating and preening, which detrimentally effects their health and vigor.

Adult Black-crowned Night Heron (above right) and
Juvenile Yellow-breasted Chat (below left)
Photos by Phil Bartley

The next First Saturday Bird Walk is October 3, 2026 at Sacajawea State Park, Franklin Co. WA State DISCOVER PASS required: Day passes can be purchased at the park, and yearly passes are available online. The gates open at 8:00 AM and we will begin by 8:15 AM. Meet in the main parking lot. Located in southeast Franklin County at the confluence of the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Late fall migrants and early waterfowl should make this a great bird walk.

ebird.org/hotspot/L600472

Please join us. Both the public and LCBAS members are always welcome. Binoculars are available, first come, first served. No registration is required.

LCBAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: The Curlew digital newsletter 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 newsletter without interruption. Renewing online is easy, quick and safe:

www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/join-renew-donate or you can use the form included with this newsletter.

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 _____

City, State, Zip _____

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