

The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia
Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see
www.lcbas.org

June 3: 8:00 AM Bateman Island
Birdwalk (see page 2)

June 10: 8:00 AM Tapteal
Greenway / LCBAS jointly hosted bird
walks (see page 6)

May 23: 7:00 PM Monthly
Membership Meeting via Zoom

June 6: 6:30 PM Monthly Board
Meeting via Zoom

May & June: Field Trips (see page 3)

Memorial Service for Rod Coler

May 27, 2:00 PM—4:00 PM
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1609 W. 10th Ave, Kennewick
(see page 2)

Columbia Basin Chapter of the WA Native Plant Society

Wildflower season in ongoing! For
upcoming meetings and walks:
www.cbwnps.org/

Butterfly Dash & "Bee" Discovery Day May 20!

Benton Conservation District hosts this
FREE family event at Hansen Park,
Kennewick from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
[Butterfly Dash/Bee Discovery Day](#)

Flight Paths:

How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration

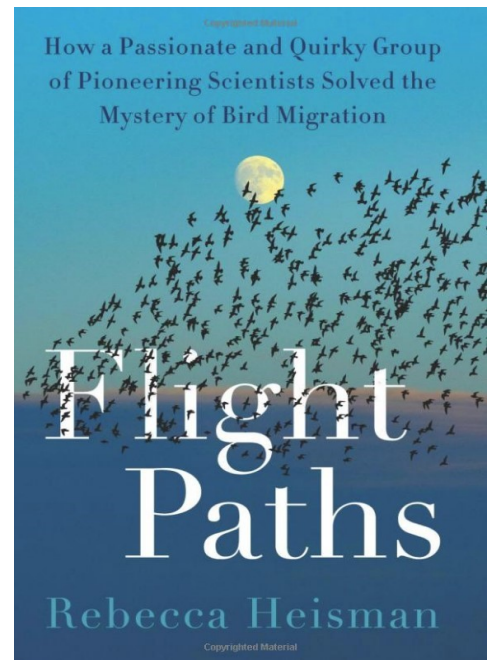
Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM, Zoom meeting

Presenter Rebecca Heisman, author

We've all heard amazing facts about bird migration - birds cover incredible distances, navigating using the stars and Earth's magnetic field and pushing their physiology and metabolism to the max. But how did scientists figure all of this out?

In her talk, Rebecca Heisman will share just a few of her favorite stories from her recent book *Flight Paths*, relating how the ornithologists of the past hundred years have borrowed from nearly every field of science and technology to come up with creative ways to unravel birds' secrets.

Rebecca Heisman is a freelance science writer who lives in Walla Walla, Washington, having contributed to publications including *Audubon*, *Living Bird* (the magazine of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology), and *Bird Conservation* (the magazine of the American Bird Conservancy). Her first book, *Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration*, was published in March 2023. Find her online at rebeccaheisman.com.



Go to www.lcbas.org for a clickable link, or use this link to join the Zoom Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82190240748?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82190240748?pwd=MUtMRkVLa2phWGIMaUJCQmJUNi9Ydz09)
[pwd=MUtMRkVLa2phWGIMaUJCQmJUNi9Ydz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82190240748?pwd=MUtMRkVLa2phWGIMaUJCQmJUNi9Ydz09)

Meeting ID: 821 9024 0748 Passcode: 719840

In Memory of Rod Coler

Doctor, Adventurer, Public Servant, and friend of LCBAS

by Mike Lilga

It was a joy to know Rod Coler. Still is really. Rod went on ahead January 6, 2023 after 98 years exploring, enjoying, studying, and gracing planet Earth. He was a doctor who cared deeply about his patients and family, an adventurer who traveled the world, and a public servant who shared so much with LCBAS and many other organizations in the community. He had a way with people, born of kindness and friendliness, with the ability to infect people with the enthusiasm he just naturally radiated. He always had a story, pulled from broad experiences and humorously spun. I can't think of anyone else like Rod and I can't help smile to think of all he was and did.

He and I bonded when we took on the renovation of the Audubon Nature Trail and traveled together on many LCBAS Far Away Field Trips. I got to experience his youthful exuberance and wonderful sense of humor. Rod was always the student – birds, butterflies, insects, geology, astronomy – deeply curious about the natural world and everything in it. He was usually the last one on the tour bus – “Dr. Coler’s waiting room” as we called it – because he was always looking or collecting. Like the pair of rhinoceros beetles he thought would stay in his suitcase overnight if he put them inside his sock. They didn’t. Or the mammal skull he found along a trail that completed a two week tour of the tropics with us. That one stayed in his suitcase. There was always an adventure and fun to be found.

Many of you have stories about Rod. I hope you share them at Rod’s memorial service.

May 27th, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1609 W. 10th Ave., Kennewick.

I can only think that Rod is now exploring, enjoying, studying, and gracing the rest of the Universe. And that makes me smile, too.



Yakima River delta by Lisa Hill

PICNIC IN THE PARK WITH LCBAS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Tuesday, June 27th, at 5:00 PM

Leslie Groves Park, Shelter #2, Richland

Come and renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. We will have a potluck if you're comfortable with sharing food, or you can bring your own and skip the potluck. Please bring a main dish, dessert or side to share, if you're participating in the potluck, and your own utensils. Don't forget a lawn chair!

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. All are welcome!

LCBAS Name Change: Discussion & Vote

As many of you are aware, in recent years National Audubon grappled with the possibility of a name change due to John James Audubon being a slave holder. After many months of analysis, National Audubon determined that it would keep the name. National Audubon made it known in writing that local chapters could keep or change their name if desired and no ill will would result.

In light of this development, the LCBAS Board determined that a committee should be formed to look into the pros and cons of a name change. The committee has had one meeting with input from the LCBAS Board to determine a possible procedure for considering a name change.

1. Put a statement in the Curlew advising the membership of a discussion about the possibility of a name change and the steps to be taken to make a decision.

2. The general membership, by vote, not the Board, will make the decision as to whether or not to change the name.

3. Voters' identity will be kept confidential. How to conduct a secret ballot will be determined. Please contact a member of the Board if you have suggestions as to how to do a secret ballot.

4. The decision should not be rushed so it could be next fall or winter before a vote is taken.

5. There will be time for discussion at one or more general membership meetings on the pros and cons of a name change so that the members are fully informed before voting.

6. The committee and the Board sincerely requests that the general membership provides constructive input.

7. And, very importantly, it is the wish of the committee and the Board that the proposed procedure, discussions, and the vote do not divide the Chapter.

May & June Field Trips with Jason Fidorra

Saturday, May 20 Juniper Dunes

- This will be a half day field trip starting at 8:00 AM at the CBC Parking Lot at 20th Ave and Sun Willow Blvd in Pasco then carpooling to the entrance on private land to access the north end of the Wilderness.
- Prepare for sun and wind, and have good ankle support. Terrain is challenging off trail and on loose sand, steep hills, and spiky plants. We will be on foot covering 2-3 miles.
- We will keep an eye out for migrant birds, wildflowers, and the Washington localized Juniper Hairstreak butterfly. This access point is open to the public only March through May.
- RSVP not needed but we will depart promptly at 8:00 AM so arrive early.



Juniper Dunes—Bureau of Land Management

Wednesday, May 24 Chiawana Park – Birds & Beer

- Technically, birds THEN beer.
- Jason will lead an all-ages bird walk Wednesday, May 24 at 6:00 PM.
- Meet at the parking lot at the end of Rd 88 in Chiawana Park, Pasco.
- We will have an easy, casual walk for about an hour looking for birds, then reconvene nearby at Sage Brewing at 8425 Chapel Hill Blvd around 7pm.
- Food truck onsite and the venue is family friendly. Join for both or either part of the event.

Wednesday, June 14 Chamna Preserve – Birds & Beer

- Technically, birds THEN beer.
- Jason will lead an all-ages bird walk Wednesday, June 14 at 6:00 PM.
- Meet at the Chamna parking lot off Carrier Rd, Richland.
- We will have an easy, casual walk for about an hour looking for birds, then reconvene nearby at Moonshot Brewing Pub at the Park at 94 Lee Blvd around 7pm.
- Kitchen onsite and the venue is family friendly. Join for both or either part of the event.

On Lake Michigan: the Piping Plovers of Montrose Beach

by Robin Priddy, LCBAS Director- at-Large

Montrose Beach is just north of downtown Chicago, on Lake Michigan. It's part of the park which includes "The Magic Hedge" an amazing migrant stopover I've been able to visit for several years in the spring. "Monty" and "Rose" – the plovers – have created a wonderful story about how birds can create such excitement, meaning, and community.

A pair of Great Lakes Piping Plovers (Monty & Rose) began nesting at Montrose Beach in 2019, fledging two chicks. They returned in 2020, and several local bird conservation organizations teamed up to help educate the public on this exciting development for this federally endangered species, and to help monitor the plovers to ensure their safety during their stay in Chicago. Three chicks were fledged in 2020. Monty, Rose and all the chicks were banded.

Local birders organized themselves to make sure the plovers weren't disturbed inside the enclosure the city had set up on the beach to protect their space. While birding in the Magic Hedge, I met a woman who'd become one of the watchers. She told me about how, during Covid, looking after the Piping Plovers brought meaning and community to her life during a very difficult time. Monty and Rose returned in 2021, when they hatched Imani and another chick, Siewka.

During my 2022 visit, there was much sadness when Rose did not return to the beach. Monty and Imani did, but Monty died from a respiratory infection. An unmated female never arrived, so Imani (chick from 2021) wasn't able to find a mate last year.

2023 has brought some happy news! Imani, the baby of famed Great Lakes piping plovers Monty and Rose, was spotted April 25th at the beach. He was joined April 26th by an unbanded male, with fans quickly dubbing them the "Montrose Beach bachelors."

But they're not alone. Bird watchers tweeted on April 27 that an unbanded female has joined the bachelors. It's not yet known if Imani or the other plovers will stay. But one thing is for certain: Piper Mania is back.

Fans of the birds have celebrated the return of Imani — and expressed cautious hope Thursday that the sighting of the unbanded female could mean love is in the air.

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

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



Photo credit: Susan Haig, USGS, public domain

About Great Lakes Piping Plovers

- 65-70 pairs, nesting on all five Great Lakes
- Population dipped to just 13 pairs by 1990
- Three separate geographic populations:
Great Lakes, Great Plains and Atlantic Coast

Birding the Tapteal Greenway with LCBAS and Tapteal Greenway

Join LCBAS and Tapteal Greenway for the final joint bird walk in 2023!

The walks were scheduled once per month, February through June, in five of the pearls along the Tapteal Greenway necklace. The first walk in the joint venture was February's LCBAS Bateman Island walk and March was at Amon Basin. April was at Chamna Preserve and May was at W.E. Johnson Park. Don't miss the final event!

See www.tapteal.org, the LCBAS Calendar at www.lcbas.org, or email mike.lilga@gmail.com for more information about the start location.

Horn Rapids Park

2nd Saturday

June 10, 8:00 AM

kiosk parking lot

Bateman Island Bird Walk May 6, 2023

By Lisa Hill



Chipping Sparrow
Photo by Larry Umthun

It was a glorious, sunny day for the Bateman Island bird walk. Many new (and young) people joined several of us old(er) people! The complete species list came to 56. The Yakima River water was high with no mud at all on the delta, so no shorebirds were present to put on the list except KILLDEER. We were expecting to see or hear migrating warblers and vireos, but only YELLOW WARBLER (many!) and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER were counted.

However, it was a 5-sparrow day with BREWER'S SPARROW (rare on the island), SAVANNAH SPARROW, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, many SONG SPARROWS, and at least three singing CHIPPING SPARROWS. It was a treat to see the Brewer's, Savannah and Chipping Sparrows all in the same small tree. We had a fleeting glimpse of a male BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, but many people had the opportunity to watch a male DOWNY WOODPECKER at close range. A single FORSTER'S TERN perched on a snag in the delta and a quartet of CASPIAN TERNS flew about overhead.



Brewer's Sparrow
Photo by Larry Umthun

The hit bird of the day was the BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, a summer resident here. New birders were awed by the stunning black, orange and yellow plumage, also viewed up close. The grosbeak's song is a lovely, melodious burble similar to the AMERICAN ROBIN, but a bit sweeter and usually lasts longer.

Several RED-WINGED BLACK BIRDS were harassing a COMMON

RAVEN in flight. The raven eventually cleared out, but later we saw the raven harassing an adult BALD EAGLE. The raven looked so large next to the blackbirds, but the huge Bald Eagle dwarfed the raven. Nevertheless, the raven was later flying around alone, having forced the eagle out of the territory.



Savannah Sparrow
Photo by Larry Umthun

The next Bateman Island bird walk will be Saturday, June 3, beginning promptly at 8:00 AM. Meet in the parking lot of Wye Park above the causeway to the island.

Citizens Climate Lobby Tri-Cities Chapter

Flapjack Fundraiser!

Applebee's Restaurant, 5305 Road 68, Pasco June 10, 2023 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Proceeds support sending a local representative of the CCL to the Annual CCL Conference in Washington, D.C. It is an opportunity to meet like-minded people interested in climate and environmental matters, as well as breakfast with friends and family.

Tickets: \$12, available at the door, or contact Charles LoPresti at 509-460-3312 or clopresti@owt.com.

Have you found an injured bird, or a baby bird?

Baby bird season is starting! Do you know what to do if you find a baby bird?

It's natural for us to want to help, but it's also natural for baby birds to take a leap out of a nest before they're quite ready to fly. Often these birds have outgrown the nest, and their parents are still caring for them, even if they're on the ground. If it is a fledgling bird, it may not need our help.

Sometimes, though, they're too young, have fallen out of the nest due to our activities (such as pruning trees or moving hay stacks), or have been found by a predator. If a baby bird is featherless, or has its eyes closed, look for its nest—maybe you can return it safely. If you took it away from your pet or a feral cat, or it has injuries, it will need assistance and veterinary care.

More information from Washington Department of Wildlife:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/injured-wildlife>

Information on our local wildlife rescue: bluemountainwildlife.org/

If you think a bird needs help, you can call Blue Mountain Wildlife at (541)278-0215



Great Horned Owls by Larry Umthun

National Audubon Society Subscribers

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, that ends.

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, outreach and education, and bird walks and field trips! Don't miss out! Joining LCBAS does so much good, and is fast, easy, and secure at our website:

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

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 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 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 Leaumont	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	
	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 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