



The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see www.lcbas.org

May 26: Monthly Chapter meeting and elections at 7:00 PM

June 2: LCBAS Board Meeting

June 6: LCBAS First Saturday Bird Walk - see page 2

Save the Date!

June 23: LCBAS end-of-year picnic / potluck at Leslie Groves Park

In this Issue of the Curlew:

- Details on upcoming walks, events, and meetings.
- Results from the May First Saturday walk
- Information on our upcoming LCBAS elections - see page 3
- LCBAS and Earth Day Events

AND MORE

If you've Found a Baby, Injured, or Sick Bird:

Please see the articles in the March 2026 Curlew!

www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/lcbas-curlew-newsletters

Birds in the Hand and on the Page: Avian Ecology & Illustration

LCBAS Chapter Meeting:
Tuesday, May 26, 2026, 7:00 PM
First Lutheran Church, 418 N. Yelm, Kennewick, WA

With Dr Jack DeLap

Dr. Jack DeLap is a professor, ecologist, and science illustrator based in Seattle, Washington. He holds a BA in Fine Art & History, an MSc in Wildlife Biology, and a PhD in Environmental & Forest Sciences. He teaches courses in the life sciences and science illustration at Seattle University. He has co-authored journal articles on a range of topics, including urban ecology, wildlife biology, avian behavior, and the impacts of human recreation in wildlands. As a freelance illustrator, his work has been widely published in journals, scientific papers, and books, including *Birds in Yellowstone: Diversity & Abundance in the World's First National Park* (Princeton, 2023), *Whooping Cranes: Biology & Conservation* (Elsevier, 2018), and *Welcome to Subirdia* (Yale, 2014).

Make a Difference - Volunteer with LCBAS!

This month we are electing the LCBAS Board. We have important open positions on the Board, in the Standing Committee Chairs, and the Appointed Positions. In recent years, we've had difficulty finding people to help out. Most positions don't take a lot of time, but our club depends on volunteers to keep our group vital and current. Please consider volunteering for a position to keep LCBAS strong and active!

Think of LCBAS like your favorite flock of birds - the larger it is and the more diverse the individuals within it, the stronger and more sustainable both LCBAS and it's members will be.

We know everyone in our community is different in their own specific way. And that's precisely why we know you can help us help birds. You have unique talents and experiences, and we would love to have your help! We offer many ways to volunteer that ultimately help us protect and advocate for birds. It doesn't matter whether you're an expert birder or are new to birding, we have plenty of opportunities for you to choose from. See page three for more info!

First Saturday Bird Walk Trip Report W.E. Johnson Park, Richland, May 2026

By Lisa Hill



We've been lucky this spring with some great weather for the first Saturday bird walks, and the May walk was one of the best. The beautiful day made the mosquitoes almost bearable...almost. They were out in force, but we marched on and found a very good list of 29 species. We did find a few migrants including a WESTERN TANAGER and the best find of the day, an EVENING GROSBEAK. It came up rare on e-bird because so few are observed in this area, but they are noted in spring in most years. We heard the bird giving a loud cheep that sounded like an Osprey, but it was repeated many times and was coming from the same location in a tree. An Osprey's call is more variable and only given a few times while in flight. It was disappointing to have no warblers or vireos on the list.

Many SONG SPARROWS, BEWICK'S WRENS and BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were present. Several breeding birds have returned and everyone got great looks at a first-of-the-year YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. It was perched in a small tree, showing off its glowing yellow belly and giving a recital of its odd whistles, rattles, ratchets and squawks. ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS have become fairly common in the park and

several gorgeous males flashed their brilliant red-violet gorgets.

A LAZULI BUNTING sang beautifully and we all marveled at the unique blue of its head, back and upper tail coverts. Even the blue of lapis lazuli for which the bird is named does not come close to the blue of the bunting.



Many bird names use minerals to describe their brilliant colors, and hummingbirds take the biggest prize. Only glittering, precious gemstones can adequately describe their amazing iridescent plumages. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Golden-tailed Sapphire, Sapphire-spangled Emerald (two points for that one), Great Sapphirewing, Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, Amethyst-throated Sunangel, Amethyst Woodstar, Lazuline Sabrewing, Coppery Emerald, Garnet-throated Hummingbird, Fiery Topaz, Horned Sungem, and a whole group with the name Mountain-gem.

Female Western Tanager (above left) and
Lazuli Bunting (lower right)
Photos by Larry Umthun

The next First Saturday Bird Walk is June 6 at Horn Rapids Park, near the intersection of Highway 240 & 225, Benton Co. We will begin promptly at 8:00AM.

Please come a few minutes early to sign in.

Expect late spring migrants and summer breeding birds!

46.380497, -119.435717

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

2026 - 2027 LCBAS Upcoming Elections: May 26

It's that time of year again - we need you to vote for LCBAS Officers and Standing Committee Chairs! All current, dues-paying members are encouraged to vote.

LCBAS elections will be held during our May 26th Chapter Meeting.

Please consider volunteering to keep our chapter running! Think of LCBAS as your favorite mixed flock of birds - the larger the flock and the more diverse the individuals within it, the stronger and more resilient LCBAS will remain.

Any LCBAS member who is interested in a position is welcome and strongly encouraged to volunteer or be nominated for a position. More information about elections and open positions is provided below.

If you would like to volunteer for a position or nominate someone else (with their permission), you can contact Debbie Berkowitz at: secretary.lcbas@gmail.com or volunteer at the meeting.

We welcome your assistance with any position, but we especially need help in some key open positions. Here is a description of the major duties for each of those positions:

Vice President: Assist the President at the membership and board meetings and cover when the President is absent; other functions as appropriate.

Birding Events: Getting members and non-members alike into the field to see birds is a primary function of LCBAS. The Birding Events Chair shall help plan, organize, and conduct LCBAS field trips and birding events. The First Saturday Bird Walk, and the Christmas Bird Count are already established, appointed positions.

Communications Chair: Prepare communications with members and non-members. Communications shall publish, at a minimum six (6) times a year, a bulletin or newsletter for the members of LCBAS. Communications is separated out into Newsletter, Publicity, Webmaster / Website, and Social Media. While the Communications Chair may at times assist with those other duties, the main responsibility is publishing the Curlew newsletter.

Education Chair: Education of both members and the public on ecology and environmental issues is a major goal of LCBAS. The Education Chair shall maintain close contact with the Environmental Information and Education Division of the National Audubon Society. It shall encourage schools and colleges within the LCBAS territory to conduct courses in, or to otherwise stress natural history, ecology, and conservation.

Fundraising Chair: Developing activities and actions that will produce funds for LCBAS projects. Help run current fundraising activities, and develop new potential fundraising opportunities.

Membership Chair: If you are interested in meeting people and spreading the word about the good work that LCBAS does, you are a perfect fit for

We need to fill the positions marked open.

Elected Positions:

- President: Dana Ward
- Vice President: **OPEN**
- Secretary: Debbie Berkowitz
- Treasurer: Dan Hansen

Standing Committee Chairs:

- Birding Events: **OPEN**
- Conservation: Dana Ward & Rick Leaumont
- Communications: **OPEN**
- Education: **OPEN**
- Finance: Dan Hansen
- Fundraising: **OPEN**
- Membership: **OPEN**
- Programs: Lori Nelson
- Director at Large: Robin Priddy
- Director at Large: Kelly Doyle

Appointed Positions:

A number of positions are filled by appointment, rather than via election.

- First Saturday Bird Walks: Lisa Hill
- Book Sales: **OPEN**
- Christmas Bird Count: Bill LaFramboise
- Curlew Mailing: **OPEN**
- Social Media: Heidi Newsome
- Hospitality: **OPEN**
- Junior Audubon: **OPEN**
- Publicity: **OPEN**
- Taxidermy Collection: Sheri Whitfield
- Website: Lisa Hill & Lori Nelson

Continued on page 4

Speaking out for Birds at Earth Day Events

LCBAS had a display at three events in April: Tri-Cities Earth Day celebration at the Reach, Earth Day at WSU Tri-Cities, and the Prosser Science Expo.

We focused on ways that attendees can help birds through everyday actions, like keeping feeders clean, turning off lights at night to protect migrating birds, and keeping cats indoors. Altogether, more than 1200 people attended the three events – and many of them stopped at our table to talk about birds and learn how they can help our feathered friends!



Big thanks to all who helped get our materials set up and talked to folks, including Marcie Daines, Dana Ward, Dan Hansen, Debbie Berkowitz, Lori Nelson, and Tracy Daines. A huge shout out to Marcie, who was the linchpin of the operation!



Photos: Dana Ward and Lori Nelson at Earth Day at The Reach (above), and Marcie Daines and Lori Nelson with three Loraxes at Earth Day at WSU Tri-Cities, sponsored by the Environmental Club (left)

Dim the Lights for Birds at Night

Help migrating birds have a safe migration: turn off, cover, or dim the lights at night. For more information, see Audubon's Light's Out Program:

www.audubon.org/

[our-work/cities-and-towns/lights-out](http://www.audubon.org/our-work/cities-and-towns/lights-out)



LCBAS Elections: Continued from page 3

the position. This person helps recruit new members and motivate existing members to be more involved.

Publicity: The main responsibility is to get the word out about monthly programs, the First Saturday Bird Walk, and any special events we hold including fundraisers and the Christmas Bird Count. This may include coordinating with the Curlew editor, website, and social media, and publishing information in outside sources.

We welcome assistance in other areas, especially those indicated as open on the list of positions. Perhaps you would like to lead bird walks, develop a new bird or conservation event or help with education outreach. If you have skills or a desire to volunteer, we'd love to have your help! If you would like to volunteer or nominate for any position, please let us know at the meeting.

We are looking for help!

We have several critical positions open:

- ◆ Vice President
- ◆ Birding Events Chair
- ◆ Communications Chair
- ◆ Education Chair
- ◆ Fundraising Chair
- ◆ Membership Chair
- ◆ Publicity

Get involved in the good work we do and help us to be a vibrant and viable Audubon chapter! We'll provide training, guidance, and moral support to new board members. The time commitment for these positions varies, but is typically very flexible.

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