



# The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia  
Basin Audubon Society

## Upcoming Events:

For more information see  
[www.lcbas.org](http://www.lcbas.org)

**Sept. 28:** LCBAS Monthly Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM.

**Oct. 2-16:** LCBAS 20th Annual Bird Seed Sale / Fundraiser. See page 2.

**Oct. 4:** Board meeting. Ask any board member for information on how to attend.

**Oct. 9:** eBird Global Big Day. See page 2 for more information!

**Oct. 26:** LCBAS Monthly Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM, Winter Raptor Survey Project - with Jeff Fleischer.

## Other Upcoming Events:

**Oct. 1-2:** Audubon Everywhere, National Audubon's first online convention. For more information: [2021.audubonconvention.org/](http://2021.audubonconvention.org/)

**Oct. 21-22:** Colorado Beaver Summit. See page 4.

Found an injured / sick bird?

Contact Blue Mountain  
Wildlife:

<http://bluemountainwildlife.org/>

(541)278-0215

Meeting ID: 810 1143 4452

Passcode: 757452

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,81011434452#,,,,\*7  
57452# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,81011434452#,,,,\*7  
57452# US (Houston)

Back by popular demand with many new photos!

## Flora & Fauna of Colombia

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom



Golden-breasted Puffleg and Rainbow-bearded Thornbill  
enjoying a lush treat  
Photo by Larry Umthun

By Lisa Hill, LCBAS Bateman Bird Walk Leader

A paradise of unimaginable beauty, Colombia is the most biodiverse country on earth by area. Per square kilometer, Colombia has more species than any other country of just about everything in the plant and animal kingdoms. Join Lisa Hill as she shares incredible images of birds, butterflies, animals and plants from a recent birding tour she and her husband Larry Umthun took to the high elevation slopes and deep valleys of the Andes Mountains. A rainbow of brightly-colored hummingbirds and tanagers will lift your spirits and fill you with wonder.

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

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81011434452?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81011434452?pwd=c2dlbG1BdCtoam9rREs4Z2hHY08yQT09)

[pwd=c2dlbG1BdCtoam9rREs4Z2hHY08yQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81011434452?pwd=c2dlbG1BdCtoam9rREs4Z2hHY08yQT09) See the box to the left for more information for signing in, 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.**

## 2nd Annual July Birding Challenge Summary

By Jason Fidorra

It was a closer run this year but defending champ Benton County pulled away with 128 species, over Franklin's 122, for a total count of 144 species combined! This was slightly lower than the 151 species from 2020. It was great to see the challenge gain popularity with 20 people sending in lists this year!



**Black Tern observed in 2013**  
Photo by Ingrid Taylor

Two factors likely impacted totals this year:

1. Record breaking high temperatures for the first half of July deterred birding, and 2. Many people were out of town for part of the month.

Heat and historic drought reduced some species detection/presence. For example, grasshopper sparrows were not detected despite being locally common breeders.

Everyone likely has their own highlights for the month, but the Black Tern found by Nancy and Bill LaFramboise, and the Greater White-fronted Goose found by Mark Gerber are probably my top picks. These were both species not found last July. Participants reported their data using eBird, so efforts add to the scientific record. I'm looking forward to see what we find next year and get some more July birds in 2022.

## Upcoming October Birding Event:

Mark your calendars for October 9<sup>th</sup> for the fall eBird Global Big Day! This is a live, worldwide 24-hour challenge to see as many species possible! Counties, states, and countries are tracked in real time. It's fun to participate and follow along on the eBird website, even if you can't get out and bird! Help out your local state/county by getting out and recording your sightings on eBird!

For more information, check it out at the eBird website: <https://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-2021>

There are many great tools available on the eBird website, including information and a short course on how to use eBird, Merlin for identification, and how to record and share bird song.

By taking part in the October Big Day, you are contributing to citizen science and a better understanding of both birds, and how we effect them.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Seed Sale

October 2—October 16

**Columbia Grain and Feed, 2001 W Lewis St., Pasco 509-547-8818**

For the last 20 years, Columbia Grain and Feed has been a huge supporter of LCBAS. They work to purchase seed in large quantities at this time of year and pass the savings on to you, and then they make a large donation to LCBAS. Unless the bird seed market changes, this sale will have the lowest prices for the year. Buy now for easy storage through the winter!

Call Columbia Grain and Feed to place your order. An order form is not required. Curbside pick-up is available if desired. Call them upon arrival at: **509-547-8818** and they will load your order.

Prices are listed on page 4, and you can use the price list as an order form. Prices will also be posted on the LCBAS website: [www.lcbas.org](http://www.lcbas.org). Please call the store if you have any questions. The staff is very accommodating. If large bags are too heavy, you can buy the whole bag (for the best per pound price) and they will break it down into smaller bags for you.

Remember: ANY purchase during the year benefits LCBAS if you mention our name at checkout! This sale is still likely the best prices of the year. Thank you for your support of LCBAS. Twenty years and counting!

**See page 4 for the seed list and prices!**

## Conservation Activities by the Conservation Committee

By Dana Ward

### Saving the Heart of Hanford

Now that we have a new administration in the White House that appears to have a more favorable approach to conservation, it will soon be time to gear up with saving the "Heart of Hanford". LCBAS was active four years ago in trying to persuade lawmakers that it was time to save additional lands within the core of the Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation. The central core lands are vanishing habitat and lands that former President William Clinton, by memorandum, directed the agency to manage for potential inclusion into the Hanford Reach National Monument. Monument lands, surrounding the central core, are currently managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and they have indicated that they are willing to manage the core land.

In a future Conservation Committee planning meeting, a strategy will be developed to proceed with saving the Heart of Hanford.

### Snake River Dam Removal

The removal of the Snake River Dams is at the least a controversial subject, with passion running deep on both sides of the issue. Removal of the dams is one of the most complex issues that LCBAS is studying. In a broad scope, the impacts to the ecology, economics and energy production are the primary issues. The Conservation Committee, from basically a habitat and ecological perspective, currently feels that removal of the dams would be the best action to take. That said, economics such as barge transportation, irrigation, and commercial tour ships impacts, to mention a few, must be taken into consideration. The loss of cheap hydro power is also a big concern especially with climate change. Tribal issues are also very important.

Currently the Conservation Committee is watching very carefully to the full scope of concerns and interest by a wide variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations and the science they bring to the table. At this time the Conservation Committee is not ready to make a full definitive position for or against dam removal to the Board.

### Horse Heaven Hills Wind Turbine and Solar Farm

The installation of several hundred wind turbines and a large solar array on the Horse Heaven Hills is proposed to be constructed in the very near future. The Conservation Committee as well as much of the general membership has been briefed and involved in this project. On the surface, solar and wind turbines, if properly sited, are supported by National and State Audubon. The big question here is whether the Horse Heaven Hills project benefits outweigh the real detriments. Scout Energy has conducted the required two years of biological surveys necessary to seek a construction license. Recently Scout Energy has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement will be written. The Conservation Committee is anxiously awaiting the results of the EIS to see what the full scale impacts and benefits could be.

No time line on completion of the EIS has been published but it should probably be completed in the near future. The Conservation Committee is concerned about impacts to sensitive birds, loss of habitat and the long term impacts to the regional ecology. Mitigation is also an outstanding factor to consider.

### Comments on the Draft 2021 Columbia River Basin Long-Term Supply and Demand Forecast

In July LCBAS signed on to a group letter questioning the wisdom of the Department of Ecology's mandate to develop water supplies in the Columbia River Basin. The sign on organizations have worked hard over decades to build and enhance support for the protection of Washington's wild lands, waters, and endangered species. LCBAS is concerned about the Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River (OCR) and its mandate to aggressively pursue the development of water supplies (RCW Chapter 90.90) at the sacrifice of Washington's disappearing and fragile habitat. It appears that OCR continues to study uneconomical and environmentally damaging new water storage dams, pumping projects, or expanded storage in the Yakima River Basin, the Walla Walla River Basin, and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

If you would like more information on the Conservation Committee and their work in our area, please contact Dana Ward at [conservation@lcbas.org](mailto:conservation@lcbas.org)

## Columbia Grain and Feed LCBAS 20th Annual Bird Seed Sale Prices

**Call Kevin Wattenburger at 509-547-8818 to place order**

Weight	Description	\$/unit	Units	Total
50#	Cracked corn	\$14.99		
50#	Scratch	\$15.99		
50#	Thistle	\$53.99		
50#	Fine sunflower chips	\$61.99		
50#	Medium sunflower chips	\$55.99		
40#	Black oil sunflower	\$23.99		
25#	Peanut in the shell	\$32.99		
25#	Bird Lovers Blend	\$12.99		
40#	Bird Lovers Blend	\$23.99		
40#	Regional Recipe	\$22.99		
20#	Finch Feast	\$23.99		
20#	Squirrel mix	\$25.99		
20#	Dove and quail	\$22.99		
50#	White Millet	\$29.99		
	Wild bird block	\$13.99		
	Wild life block	\$13.99		
	Game bird block	\$13.99		
		Sub total		
		Tax	8.6%	
		<b>Total</b>		

## Beaver Summit

Learn how removing the American Beaver from our landscapes significantly changed rivers, floodplains, and aquifers

The removal of beavers from the landscape two centuries ago by the fur trade was one of our earliest and most costly mistakes because it dramatically altered critical ecosystems that naturally conserved water in wetlands and alluvial aquifers, which in turn sustained streams and rivers during drought years.

Without beavers maintaining the dams they'd built for millions of years, rivers began to flow faster, carving channels below their floodplains, and water drained out of the landscape, including the aquifers. The resulting ecosystem is drier, less resilient to drought and more prone to catastrophic wildfire. A 2006 study conducted in Rocky Mountain National Park found that aquifer recharge "may be the most important beaver-related factor in mitigating effects from climate change."

Re-establishing beavers in key areas of their traditional range will begin to restore the resilience of western landscapes. Beavers are a keystone species that likely numbered in the hundreds of millions in North America. Once nearly extinct, beavers now number around 10 million, far less than their natural population prior to the arrival of European pioneers and settlers.

Organized by Colorado Headwaters, the inaugural Colorado Beaver Summit will feature two days of online seminars bringing together scientists, policymakers, activists and concerned citizens.

Colorado Headwaters is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit working to sustain, conserve and enhance Colorado's freshwater resources.

For information on how to join the online seminar:

[www.coloradobeaversummit.org](http://www.coloradobeaversummit.org)

**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: <http://lcbas.org/JoinLCBAS.html> or you can use the form included with your 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, contact [subscriptions@lcbas.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.lcbas.org) or [www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org](http://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	<b>OPEN</b>	---
Treasurer	Dan Hansen	treasurer@lcbas.org
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz	secretary@lcbas.org
Birding Events	Jason Fidorra	fieldtrips@lcbas.org
Communications Chair	Charlene Burge	communications@lcbas.org
Conservation Co-Chair	Dana Ward and Rick Leumont	conservation@lcbas.org
Education Chair	Cherie Baudrand	education@lcbas.org
Finance Chair	Dan Hansen	treasurer@lcbas.org
Fundraising Chair	Marcie Daines	fundraising@lcbas.org
Membership Chair	<b>OPEN</b>	---
Program Chair	Kathy Criddle	programs@lcbas.org
Director at Large	Robin Priddy	
<b>OTHER CONTACTS:</b>		
Curlew Editor	Charlene Burge	communications@lcbas.org
Membership Database	Rich Barchet	subscriptions@lcbas.org
LCBAS Website	Ed Rykiel	webmaster@lcbas.org
Publicity Chair	Charlotte Reep	

**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](http://www.audubon.org)