



# The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia  
Basin Audubon Society

## Upcoming Events:

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

**April 19:** Earth Day at the Reach  
Museum (Free), 12-4:00 PM  
See page 3

**April 22:** Monthly LCBAS Chapter  
Meeting @ 7:00 PM

**April 23:** Birds 'N Brews @ 6:00 PM  
See below

**May 3:** LCBAS First Saturday /  
Bateman Island Walk. See page 2

**May 6:** LCBAS Board Meeting --  
contact any board member for more  
information or to attend

**May 27:** Monthly LCBAS Chapter  
Meeting @ 7:00 PM

**LCBAS events are always open  
to the public. Please join us!**

## Other Relevant Events

**April 26:** Native Plant Appreciation  
Day at McNary NWR. See page 4

There are many birding festivals and  
events throughout the state. For more  
information on bird festivals and  
events in WA state, visit:  
[wa.audubon.org/bird-festivals-0](http://wa.audubon.org/bird-festivals-0)

## Walúula Floodplain Restoration Project at McNary National Wildlife Refuge

**LCBAS Chapter Meeting:**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025 7:00 PM**

**First Lutheran Church, 418 N. Yelm, Kennewick, WA**

**With Steve Kahl**

Walúula Floodplain Restoration Project is an endeavor between the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reconnect the bottom six miles of the Walla Walla River with 1500 acres of its historic floodplain at McNary NWR. Steve, the restoration project leader, will talk about this undertaking and how it will restore wetlands, riparian corridors, and increase the river channel's complexity. He will also provide updates on happenings at the Mid-Columbia River NWR Complex.



## Birds 'N Brews is Back!

Join Jason Fidorra for some easy, family-friendly spring birding! Spring migrants and summer breeding birds will be on hand. Join us for the birding, the brews and bird talk, or both.

- **When:** Wednesday April 23, at 6:00 PM
- **Where:** Kennewick at the Clover Island Lighthouse, moving to Ice Harbor Brewing shortly after 7:00

## First Saturday / Bateman Island Bird Walk April 5, 2025

By Kathy Criddle

The April bird walk was a very pleasant experience. At least 25 birders, both experienced and new, joined together to enjoy a beautiful morning birding and walking around Bateman Island. Beginning at the causeway, we found lots of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, most starting to show their colorful breeding plumage. SONG SPARROWS were plentiful and singing wildly. There were still several duck species including NORTHERN SHOVELERS, MALLARDS, GREEN-WING TEAL, GADWALL and COMMON MERGANSERS. An early highlight was seeing a pair of BELTED KINGFISHERS, who appeared to be visiting a possible nesting hole in a bank across the water.

It is always good to look up ahead on the ground. We were treated to really great views of a HERMIT THRUSH right in the middle of the pathway, out in the open! This bird is usually very hard to see in a tangle of brush.

We found several species of swallows over the water including dozens of TREE SWALLOWS, some CLIFF SWALLOWS and just a few VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS. Later during our walk we were able to observe Tree Swallows diving and swooping around a large tree snag with probable nest holes. While watching the swallows, several of us were surprised to realize two light blue colored birds racing by were actually MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS zipping their way north!



Hermit Thrush  
Photo by Larry Umthun



Birders entering the locust grove on Bateman Island  
Photo by Kathy Criddle

Another highlight of the walk was watching COOPER'S HAWKS building a nest. One of the hawks would fly into a particular tree where it would break off small branches which it would then carry over to another tree where a nest was being constructed. It did so several times before we moved on to see what else we could see.

All in all, we found 41 species during this transition time. The month of May should be a really good time to see a large number of migrant species and many more local species which will be setting up nests and breeding territories on the island.

**The next Bateman Island bird walk is Saturday, May 3, beginning promptly at 8:00 AM.  
Please join us! Both the public and LCBAS members are always welcome.  
Binoculars are available, first come, first served. No registration is required.  
Please come a few minutes early to sign in.**

## Leslie Groves North Volunteer Opportunity

By Debbie Berkowitz

Weeding season at the Leslie Groves North Native Plant/Habitat Restoration Project (LGN) has started. LGN is located at the north end of Leslie Groves Park, north of Snyder St. and east of Harris Ave. in Richland. For these April/May work parties, we'll meet along Harris Ave. Look for my blue Subaru Outback which will be parked north of Snyder along Harris, between Snyder and the first house on the east (river) side of Harris.

### Work Party dates:

Saturday, April 19: 9:30 AM  
 Saturday April 26: 9:00 AM  
 Sunday, April 27: 9:00 AM  
 Saturday, May 3: 9:00 AM  
 Sunday, May 4: 9:00 AM  
 Saturday, May 10: 9:00 AM  
 Sunday, May 11: 9:00 AM

All work parties last from 2 to 2 ½ hrs – but you can come for shorter or longer times.



Lucie Fritz and Debbie Berkowitz working in the Leslie Groves North Native Garden

Please bring a hand weeding tool (a dandelion puller works well), sturdy garden gloves, and drinking water. If you have a bucket for collecting the weeds, that would be useful (the city supplies garbage cans). Long pants, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and hat are recommended, and knee pads can be useful.

Other work parties in April/May will be scheduled as needed. If you're interested in getting emails about work parties, please contact me at [secretary.lcbas@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.lcbas@gmail.com) and I'll add you to my LGN email list.

It helps if you let me know if you plan to come or are tentatively interested - so I can let you know if there's a last minute change in plans. If you RSVP, I can also email you a copy of the WA Native Plant Society liability waiver so you have an opportunity to read it in advance. I'll have a copy to sign when you arrive. We also have a liability waiver for the City of Richland.

## LCBAS 2024-2025 Board of Directors Elections

LCBAS is holding elections for the Board of Directors at our May 2025 membership meeting. All current dues-paying members of LCBAS may vote.

Any LCBAS member who is interested in a position may volunteer or be nominated from the floor at the meeting. If you are interested in an open position, contact Debbie Berkowitz at [secretary.lcbas@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.lcbas@gmail.com) before the May meeting, or volunteer at the meeting.

We have open positions, AND would love help in other areas as well. Please nominate yourself or a friend, and / or volunteering to help out in other capacities.

Also, you can volunteer to assist with education, outreach, field trips, communications, or any other areas.

We strongly encourage both new and long-term members to consider volunteering to assist with running LCBAS. New ideas can help our group shine!

## Tri-Cities Earth Day 2025: Healthy Planet, Happy People

Join LCBAS and other educational and environmental organizations on April 19th for this family friendly, free event at The Reach Museum. We will be set up from 12 - 4:00 PM, and the event includes free admission to the museum exhibits, and activities for the whole family.

For more information, [visitthereach.us/tri-cities-earth-day/](http://visitthereach.us/tri-cities-earth-day/)



## Birding and Walking the McNary National Wildlife Refuge Quail Trail

Photos and Article by Kathy Criddle

Have you taken a walk on the Quail Trail yet? This delightful trail leads around big ponds, past fields and marshlands, over a small bridge, past sagebrush filled slopes, more ponds, and finally a bench in a grove of trees. Total distance out and back is three miles. Now that spring weather has warmed the earth and the waters, life is beginning to emerge. Bulrushes are turning green, painted turtles and muskrats are cruising the shorelines, and Marsh Wrens are scolding everyone within earshot! During our last walk on the Quail Trail we were surprised to see a river otter by the bridge. Dragonflies will soon be skimming over the water and grasses. Birds are everywhere; Osprey are fishing the waters and Red-tailed Hawks are screaming warnings to stay away from their nest. Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds are singing and Brewer's Blackbirds are strutting on the pathways. Find a bench and just sit and enjoy if you prefer or visit the gazebo-like bird blind.

Soon there will be many species of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, as well as kingbirds and catbirds flashing through the golden currant and red-twig dogwood bushes. Speaking of plants, there is a super fun Native Garden and Maze to visit. There will be cottontail bunnies and California Quail hiding and sneaking around in the brush hoping you won't see them, but you will!

Visit Saturday, April 26 for a fun morning of special activities to celebrate Native Plant Month. Explore the Environment Education Center and the Native Plant Garden while you are there. For more information about scheduled activities check the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FriendsofMCRWR](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMCRWR).

Now is the time to visit your local National Wildlife Refuge. Located just 12 miles south of Pasco, the McNary National Wildlife Refuge, and Quail Trail, are located at 64 Maple Street, Burbank, WA. McNary is part of the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

McNary is planning Saturday Morning Nature Walks, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Check out their website or Facebook pages for more information. For more information about the refuge, visit their website at: [www.fws.gov/refuge/mcnary](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/mcnary) or their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/MidColumbiaRefuges](https://www.facebook.com/MidColumbiaRefuges).



### Native Plant Appreciation Day -- Saturday, April 26 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join the Friends of Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge for Native Plant Appreciation Day at McNary NWR in Burbank. Activities will include guided native plant hikes to the Twin Sisters area, and an informational lecture on gardening with native plants by local designer, Ann Autrey. Ann owns and operates a native plant nursery, Tapteal Native Plants, in West Richland, Washington. Her passion to create landscapes for wildlife, pollinators, and humans has given her the opportunity to design over 200 native plant gardens. As always, visitors will be welcome to tour the pollinator garden and hike the Quail Trail at McNary Headquarters. For more information, see the links above.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/join-renew-donate)

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	Dana Ward	<a href="mailto:president.lcbas@gmail.com">president.lcbas@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Chuck Hedel	—
Treasurer	Dan Hansen	<a href="mailto:treasurer.lcbas@gmail.com">treasurer.lcbas@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz	<a href="mailto:secretary.lcbas@gmail.com">secretary.lcbas@gmail.com</a>
Birding Events	Jason Fidorra	—
Communications Chair	Charlene Burge	—
Conservation Co-Chair	Dana Ward and Rick Leumont	—
Education Chair	Kelly Doyle	—
Finance Chair	Dan Hansen	<a href="mailto:treasurer.lcbas@gmail.com">treasurer.lcbas@gmail.com</a>
Fundraising Chair	Marcie Daines	
Membership Chair	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>To contact anyone without a dedicated email address, please use the contact form on our website:</b>
Program Chair	Lori Nelson	
Director at Large	Robin Priddy	<a href="http://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact">www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/contact</a>
<b>OTHER CONTACTS:</b>		
Curlew Editor	Charlene Burge	
Membership Database	Rich Barchet	
LCBAS Website	Lori Nelson and Lisa Hill	
Publicity Chair	<b>OPEN</b>	

**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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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)