



The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

September's LCBAS meeting will feature two sets of great speakers:

First-up, an introduction to our new website with co-webmasters Lisa Hill and Lori Nelson. For the second half, we will enjoy a discussion of fall migration in our area with Bill and Nancy LaFramboise.

Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 7:00 PM via Zoom (link below)

Tour our new website with co-webmasters Lisa Hill and Lori Nelson.

- Check out the new “cool blue” look with stunning photos of birds and chapter doings.
- Updated / streamlined to quickly put LCBAS news and events at your fingertips.
- See blog posts about conservation issues and bird identification.
- Peruse members’ photography page.
- Quickly renew your membership or donate to LCBAS.
- Learn how you can benefit our chapter through the monetary generosity of local merchants.

The chapter gives a heartfelt thank-you to Ed Rykiel, who kept the LCBAS website running as webmaster for many years. His dedication to the job is an inspiration to Lisa and Lori as they take on the responsibility of co-webmasters.

Join Nancy and Bill for a look at fall migration! They will be discussing some of the local migrants we can expect, and when they’re likely to be in our area. While peak fall migration is mid August to November, fall migration can start as early as mid June and last until the early days of January, according to Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82749184162pwd=aUJtTURvbUIWNkd4a3NnTmlReks5Zz09>

For more sign-in info, see page 4.

Upcoming Events:

For more information see www.lcbas.org

September 27: Membership meeting at 7:00 PM

October 1: Bateman Island Bird Walk (see page 2)

October 5: Board meeting. Contact any board member for information on how to attend. Please note the day change to Wednesday.

October 25: Membership meeting at 7:00 PM

October: 21st Annual Fundraising Bird Seed Sale (see page 4)

For Other Events: See page 4

Bateman Island Bird Walk September 3, 2022

By Lisa Hill



Bewick's Wren
Photo by Vic Hubbard

September 2022 is a milestone for me as the Bateman Island Bird Walk leader. The first Saturday of the month marked the beginning of my 16th year as the guide, happily learning about, and sharing my growing knowledge of bird life in the Tri-Cities. Birding and chalking up amazing experiences with birding buddies is a delight, and I will be thrilled if I can lead the Bateman Island bird walk on September 5, 2037 – 15 years from now! Thanks to all who faithfully accompanied me in all kinds of weather, and filled in for me when I was away.

In some years, the bird list for the September Bateman walk is one of the best of the year for migrant songbirds, but not so for 2022. The weather was cool and the overcast sky seemed to keep the birds from revealing their presence to us. We did glimpse ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER and YELLOW WARBLER as well as hear the somewhat hesitant autumn songs of BEWICK'S WREN and SONG SPARROW.

Maybe the small birds are running late this year and we will see an abundance of warblers, vireos and sparrows in October.

Many BARN SWALLOWS and a handful of BANK SWALLOWS zipped overhead and skimmed the waters of the Yakima Delta.

The number of GREAT EGRETS in the area seems to be on the rise. It was an amazing sight to scan westward from the island toward the delta and see at least 25 egrets scattered in every direction. Stalking the mud and cattail margins, they far outnumbered the GREAT BLUE HERONS.



Lisa during the September bird walk.

Three GREAT HORNED OWLS glided stealthily from tree to tree in the locust grove, offering only brief views of their impressive wingspan. The owls nest reliably here, and this year, mother owl opted for a sparse, scrubby tree at the edge of the grove to raise her brood of three owlets. The nest was in plain view of the main trail, but many people passed by without ever realizing that the owls were watching from above.

**The next Bateman Island bird walk is Saturday, October 1st.
Meet in the parking lot of Wye Park above the causeway
to the island. We begin promptly at 8AM.**



Participants in the September bird walk scope out distant birds in the delta.

Will Audubon Change it's Long-time Name?

Shared by Dana Ward:

The LCBAS Board is aware that there is some controversy in the legacy of John James Audubon as a slave holder and that it might be prudent across the nation, and locally, to rethink using the name Audubon. The Board is studying the impact this name change may present. The article below will give you a perspective on the timeline and seriousness of this action with National Audubon.

Dear Audubon Chapter Leaders,

As some of you may have already heard, National Audubon Society's Chief Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Officer, Jamaal Nelson, recently stepped down from his role due to the sickness of a loved one. Our hearts are with Jamaal at this time.

A search process for a new Chief EDIB Officer will take place over the coming months. Until a new Chief EDIB Officer is identified, I am leading Audubon's EDIB team. The EDIB team remains energized and deeply committed to our internal and external EDIB initiatives.

One such effort is to provide consultation to a Board Task Force that will examine the name and the legacy of John James Audubon. This initiative is integral to the organization's mission to root itself in equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging and the need to interrogate our present decisions through the prism of the Audubon that we would like to become in the future.

Seattle Audubon recently announced that they would be removing "Audubon" from their name. We respect the Seattle chapter's autonomy in representing themselves to the community that they serve, just as every Audubon chapter can and does.

The National Audubon Society is still in our process and has not yet made a decision about our name, so I wanted to let everyone know more about the process, where things stand, and what to expect.

- A Board Task Force was formed earlier this year and is responsible for making a recommendation about whether or not to change National Audubon Society's name to the entire National Audubon Society Board.
- To make that recommendation, the Task Force is executing a scope of work that will provide 4 key inputs: historical research, engagement data, and legal and financial analyses.
- The historical research explores John James Audubon's biography; the organization's origin story; the legacies of both the individual and the organization; and the frameworks that institutions can leverage to engage with these histories.
- An engagement firm will design and execute a process to listen to where people are, gather feedback, understand the impact of any potential decisions, and provide data and analysis. Key audiences, including staff, donors, members and volunteers, will be engaged in that process.

After considering these inputs, the Board Task Force will present their recommendation to the full Board at the February 2023 Board meeting. At that time, the Board will embark on a decision-making process regarding the Audubon name.

The timeline of this project reflects the enormous scale of the decision. This work must be grounded in the history, current state, and future impact of the Audubon name and the extent to which that name reflects our identity and organizational mission. Recognizing that this decision will affect every single chapter, the Task Force is committed to taking the time to gather input and analysis from all parts of the Audubon network between now and December 2022. Updates will be shared as progress is made.

—Sent by National Audubon EDIB Team

Audubon's Statement on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging:

The birds Audubon pledges to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference, and countless other ways. By honoring and celebrating the equally remarkable diversity of the human species, Audubon will bring new creativity, effectiveness and leadership to our work throughout the hemisphere.

<https://www.audubon.org/about/edi>

21st Annual LCBAS Bird Seed Sale

Unfortunately supply issues have left the status of the seed sale uncertain.

For the last 21 years, Columbia Grain and Feed has been a huge supporter of LCBAS. They have been searching, and as yet are unable to find, some products for the seed sale.

Watch our website, www.lcbas.org. We hope to have more information soon. If the sale occurs, it will likely be late in October.

Remember: ANY purchase during the year benefits LCBAS if you mention our name at checkout!

Additional sign-in information for the September 27 LCBAS Membership Meeting:

Meeting ID: 827 4918 4162

Passcode: 333801

Dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782, 1-669-900-6833, 1-719-359-4580, 1-929-205-6099

Other Events:

Check out the fall migration celebration with Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/visit/migration-celebration/>

Bird migration forecast from Birdcast:
<https://birdcast.info/>

Upcoming meetings and walks with the Columbia Basin Chapter of the WA Native Plant Society:
<https://www.cbwnps.org/>

VOLUNTEER FOR LCBAS:

If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer to help with LCBAS, we have open slots still for Education / Junior Audubon, Programs, Membership, and Publicity. Please contact President Sheri Whitfield for more information:
President@LCBAS.org or
(435) 817-2750

Citizen Science: Winter Raptor Surveys

If you can identify raptors in our area and enjoy spending time out birding, you should consider joining the Winter Raptor Survey. The 19th survey season for the East Cascades Audubon Society's Winter Raptor Survey Project will get underway November 1st for optional surveys.

Three great driving routes near Kennewick have opened up for this year's survey. Don't miss out; inquire soon!

The project, so far, has recorded 31 species of birds of prey, and all data collected is provided to The Peregrine Fund to include in their raptor data base for research and population monitoring purposes.

Contact Jeff Fleischer for more information:

raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: Several members of LCBAS have conducted Winter Raptor Survey routes the last few winters and found it an enjoyable opportunity to get out and birdwatch while contributing to an important, and long running, citizen science project. Routes are driven slowly to thoroughly search appropriate habitat, with stops that you choose for safe viewing of the area. You do not need to be an expert in survey techniques, just know your raptors, have good attention to detail, take your time, follow the simple directions provided for the surveys, and accurately fill out simple survey forms. Easy peasy and lots of fun!



A Rough-legged Hawk observed in 2020 during an official Winter Raptor Survey in Franklin County.

Benton County Parks Plans:

Benton County is undertaking its periodic comprehensive parks plan process. A part of this is a community survey, at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BentonCountyResident>.

The survey takes just a few minutes and is for anyone in and around Benton County to express views on parks and recreation in the area. There will even be a drawing for a \$250 gift card among participants! We hope you will consider taking the survey before the end of September (deadline is unclear, so the earlier the better) and feel free to forward this information to others.

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 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 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 or www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org

LCBAS OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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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