

The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia
Basin Audubon Society

Upcoming Events:

For more information see
www.lcbas.org

Nov. 16: LCBAS Monthly Membership Meeting

Dec. 7: LCBAS board meeting

Dec. 18: LCBAS Christmas Bird Count

Jan. 15-Feb. 15: Climate Watch Nuthatch Count

Other Upcoming Events:

Nov. 13: Get Outside at Leslie Groves Park North with the Columbia Basin Native Plant Society and Debbie Berkowitz. See page 4.

Have you found an injured or sick bird?

Contact Blue Mountain Wildlife:

<http://bluemountainwildlife.org/>

(541)278-0215

Thank you to everyone
who participated in the bird
seed sale fundraiser!

Meeting ID: 867 1223 6619

Passcode: 995930

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Reconnecting Habitats:

**The Washington State Department of Transportation's
Approach to Integrating Habitat Connectivity Principles into
the State's Transportation System**

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

**Glen Kalisz, Habitat Connectivity Biologist, WDFW and
Mike Lilga, Tapteal Greenway**

Habitat connectivity is essential to maintaining healthy ecological processes and viable wildlife populations. While transportation infrastructure is often considered a barrier to wildlife movement, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is committed to making the highway system more permeable for wildlife. I will discuss WSDOT's efforts to incorporate habitat connectivity principles into the stewardship of the state's transportation system, including the basis for determining where on our sizeable highway system we can justify spending public dollars on improving highway conditions for wildlife, and how we should integrate habitat connectivity into our fish barrier corrections and other projects. I will highlight examples of WSDOT's accomplishments around the state and address components of our crossing structure monitoring program including the use of infrared trail cameras to collect and analyze data; as well as what we have learned about species' preferences for different types of habitat connectivity infrastructure. I will describe how we determine structure sizing, when and where to use



Deer in wildlife tunnel
c/o B.C. M. Transport, via flickr.com

jumpouts, wildlife fencing, and wildlife guards, and provide some general recommendations for increasing the permeability of our highway system without relying solely on major projects.

Glen P. Kalisz is the Habitat Connectivity Biologist for the Washington State Department of Transportation. In a nutshell, his job involves helping animals safely navigate the state highway system while finding ways to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

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

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86712236619?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86712236619?pwd=WkFOYnEyWHdFSEgvdUEySEJENmN3UT09)

[pwd=WkFOYnEyWHdFSEgvdUEySEJENmN3UT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86712236619?pwd=WkFOYnEyWHdFSEgvdUEySEJENmN3UT09)

See the box to the left for more sign-in information, if needed.

Note that the invitation starts at 6:30 PM so that we have time to prepare, and the featured talk will start at 7:00 PM. You can sign in at any time.

Bird-safe Windows

By Sheri Whitfield, President

Hello my birding friends,

Most of us, if you are not already feeding the birds, will be getting ready to feed for the winter. Winter bird feeding reminds me that it is time once again to make my windows safe for the birds. So, this weekend I replaced my *Window Strike Decals*, which I typically do every six months. I usually purchase my window decals from “Window Alert” – Songbird Essentials. The decals are inexpensive and come in a variety of styles.

For those of you that have not replaced or purchased your decals there are other options to reduce or eliminate window strikes by birds. You can put up a window screen or netting (three inches from window glass) which can help the bird bounce off before the bird reaches the window, almost like a trampoline. If possible, leave your interior vertical blinds down, with the slats half open. Or place vertical exterior tape strips, no more than four inches apart, on the window glass – this works great too. Perhaps you have discovered your own method that aids in preventing bird strikes.

Whichever technique works the best, let us all do our part to eliminate bird strikes during winter feeding and protect our feathered friends.

Happy feeding! - Sheri

Approximately 44% of birds killed hitting windows occur at homes. Unfortunately, many that we think are ok aren't, and fly off to die alone due to their injuries. Can you make your home more bird-friendly? Check out Audubon's information on bird-friendly buildings.

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-friendly-buildings>

Photo of a bird window strike by Angus Kirk



Winter bird feeding

Photo by Mike Lewinsky, via flickr.com



Project FeederWatch

By Cherie Baudrand



House Finch on a local feeder
Photo by Darci Szabo

As Education Chair, I encourage LCBAS members to consider joining Project FeederWatch with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for the 2021-22 season. This citizen science project entails watching birds in your yard two days a week. It runs from November 13 through April 30. With an \$18 joining fee, participants receive a bird ID poster, instructions, and a calendar for keeping track of their chosen observation days. In addition, you'll be learning, and you'll be helping scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology learn about winter bird populations. Observations and counts are entered on the FeederWatch website or phone app. For more information and/or to join, go to: feederwatch.org

Christmas Bird Count December 18, 2021

Please consider participating; we will follow Covid-19 protocols

By Dana Ward

The annual Christmas Bird Count is on but it will be conducted under Covid-19 virus protocols. We had a reasonably good count last year, so I am optimistic for the upcoming count on December 18th. We will not have a potluck.

The National Audubon Society has sent out basic information on two scenarios. The first scenario is that you have the option not to conduct a bird count with no repercussions. The second scenario is to conduct a bird count using strict federal, state and local Covid-19 guidance. With support from LCBAS's Board, I have determined that a limited count can again be conducted and that reasonably good data can still be obtained under the current limitations.

We must be prudent in dealing with this virus so if you feel that you might be at risk please do not participate. If you plan to participate, please sign our standard waiver before you go into the field which is available from the team leads.



Winter swan flyby

Photo by Charlene Burge

Continued on page 4.

Unflappable: A Novel by Suzie Gilbert

Book review by Robin Priddy

Unflappable was an unexpectedly fun book, an on-the-road romantic comedy centered on a gifted wildlife rehabber, Luna Burke. Like a Grisham novel, the main characters are on the run from everyone; and on the run with an American Bald Eagle – trying to get themselves and their charge from Florida to Canada.

Luna's rich and obsessed husband, Adam, "retrieved" the eagle – his name is Mars - from Mars' refuge in Pennsylvania. Adam is rich and powerful enough to make anything happen, apparently - and held Mars in the private zoo on his estate in Florida. Luna is appalled that the eagle has been removed from his refuge, where he was safe with his bonded mate.

Luna and a rehab volunteer Ned take off with Mars intending to get him to Canada where he will be safe and reunited with his mate. They are chased by her husbands' thugs, federal, state and local law enforcement. Aiding and abetting her are a smitten young tech guy, a lethal Navy SEAL turned Florida panther advocate, and an underground railroad of wildlife rescuers intent on protecting one of their own. Awaiting them in Ontario is a legendary old eco-warrior more than willing to provide refuge...as long as Luna and Ned can make it across the border with the eagle. The wildlife rescuers are a quirky bunch – each with their story, skills and passion.

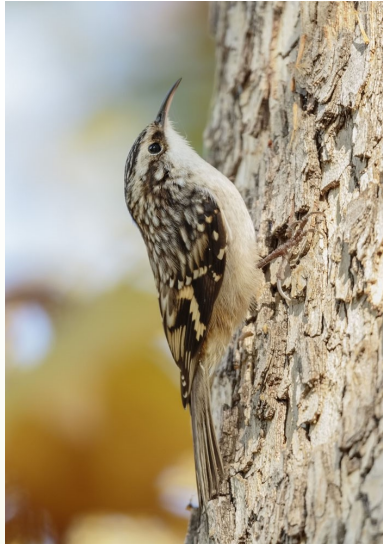
Suzie Gilbert is a bird rehabilitator herself, and wrote about those experiences in a book called *Flyaway: How a Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found her Wings* (2009)

It was a fun read: part road trip, part escape thriller, part romance with a theme about the importance of caring for *all* life, even the individual animal that's been hit by a car or knocked itself out on a window. I enjoyed meeting the various rehabbers; and was fascinated by the peek into the variety of wildlife rehabilitating species.

Christmas Bird Count (Dec. 18)

continued from page 3:

To participate you will need to work alone or with family members or with someone you have been birding with regularly since the onset of the virus. No teams will be developed at 7:30 AM on count day, as in the past where unrelated or unacquainted individuals were assembled to bird together. These requirements will present some challenges such as individual or small group safety especially in cold or snowy weather, driving in traffic or simply the identification of a bird or group of birds. Physical safety as well as Covid-19 safety must be maintained at all times.



Brown Creeper
Photo by Larry Umthun

As in years past, there will be a team lead for each city. Rich Barchet will lead the Kennewick team and Lisa Hill will lead the Richland team. Dana Ward will lead the Pasco team as well as fulfilling the role of overall coordinator. Their contact information is below.

Special request for feeder watchers: Since Covid-19 will hinder our usual counting protocols, feeder watchers could significantly contribute to our count, so if you have a feeder(s) or know people that have a feeder(s), please encourage them to count on December 18. To get an accurate count by species, remember to count only the maximum number of bird species seen at one time and not the total number of species seen all day. Also you can count birds in your yard even if you do not have a feeder since some birds like flickers and robins rarely go to a feeder. Recording the numbers of unidentified birds can also be useful.

The information that all Christmas Bird Counts generate is reviewed and placed in a database that is available on the internet. The database can be accessed through www.birdsource.org, then select the Christmas Bird Count icon. The Tri-Cities count code is WATC.

Thank you for considering participating in the annual count.

Team leader contact information:

Richland: Lisa Hill (509-869-6715).

Kennewick: Richard Barchet (509-430-0053).

Pasco: Dana Ward (509-545-0627).

Or contact via email Dana Ward: dcarlward@gmail.com

For more information on the Tri-Cities Christmas Bird Count, please call Dana Ward, Christmas Bird Count Coordinator at (509-545-0627) or dcarlward@gmail.com.

Get Outside With the Columbia Basin Native Plant Society

The Columbia Basin Chapter of the WA Native Plant Society (CBWNPS) is having a 'Get Outside' event on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 10 AM – 12 PM, called "Plant ID and Seed Collection at Leslie Groves North.

As advertised in the Phlox Phlyer, "Let's get outside and take a stroll through Leslie Groves North with site lead Debbie Berkowitz to see the many stages that take shape in a citizen led restoration project. We'll start near Snyder St. and walk north about ½ mile through the project to Ferry Rd. before looping back. We'll hear about the project's origins and what it takes to maintain the site.

While we meander through the plantings, we'll learn about ethical seed collection and dispersal strategies and also gather seeds to be used for future projects onsite and within our chapter. Plenty of plant ID, both native and noxious is on the agenda.

This event is open to anyone who wishes to join! All botanical skill levels welcome. We will be walking on uneven terrain within the planting site. Closed toed shoes and long pants are recommended. The event will occur rain or shine.

As per WNPS policy, masks and social distancing are required. Leslie Groves North is an ongoing joint project between CBWNPS and LCBAS members. Want to volunteer? Connect with Debbie at secretary@lcbas.org.

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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

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Sheri Whitfield	president@lcbas.org
Vice President	OPEN	—
Treasurer	Dan Hansen	treasurer@lcbas.org
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Birding Events	Jason Fidorra	fieldtrips@lcbas.org
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Conservation Co-Chair	Dana Ward and Rick Leaumont	conservation@lcbas.org
Education Chair	Cherie Baudrand	education@lcbas.org
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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