

the curlew

December 2008

Volume XLIV Number 4

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Bateman Island bird walk

with Kevin Burke filling in for Lisa Hill

The morning started out with a few sprinkles, but soon subsided into an enjoyable overcast day. There were about 20 eagle-eyed birders anxious to see what the morning had to offer and by the end of the day 53 species had been spotted.

We probably could have stayed on the causeway all morning, the birding was so good. **Black-Crowned Night Herons** were abundant from the beginning. The causeway also provided a great look at several **Hooded Mergansers** and a couple of **Common Mergansers**. A **Great Blue Heron** also graced our presence at the causeway along with a trio of grebes—**Pied-billed, Western** and **Horned**. While we were comparing the grebes the first raptor of the day, a **Northern Harrier**, flew overhead. The rattle-trap call of a **Belted Kingfisher** was heard all morning, but not until the end of the walk did it show its great crest at a perch across the water. A good distinction between a **Canada** and a **Cackling Goose** was made in the water off the eastern edge of the causeway. Next a **Red-tailed Hawk** was spotted in a tree at the end of the island by the marina. We later had a better look at it when it was chased off by a gull. Among the **Mallards** at the end of the causeway were a few **Gadwall** and **Green-winged Teal**. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were heard but not seen on the causeway. A quick look and listen to **Marsh Wren** and after 30 minutes we were off the causeway with a great start.

The middle of the island turned out to be full of sounds and very few sights. **White-crowned Sparrows** were heard and there were a few sightings of **Yellow-rumped Warblers, Bewick's Wrens** and **Black-capped Chickadees**, but not in the abundance of months past. The highlight of the middle stretch of the island was a **Downy Woodpecker** being very cooperative on a tree full of **American Robins, Northern Flickers, Red-winged Blackbirds** and **American Goldfinches** were fairly common.

The waterfowl were out in huge numbers on the Yakima delta. **American Widgeon, American Coot** and **Pintail** were some of the most common. Nestled in among them were a few **Ring-necked Ducks**,

continued on page 2

Has your LCBAS membership lapsed?

Please note the expiration date on our mailing label and renew promptly.

We depend on you.

Annual Christmas Bird Count January 3, 2009

The Tri-Cities count starts in three locations at **7:30 AM**. They are:

Richland - The "Fingernail" in Howard Amon Park

Kennewick - Audubon Nature Trail in Columbia Park

Pasco - McDonald's on Court Street

From these locations, we split into smaller teams led by more experienced birders. Some birding skills are nice but not required. In past years the rarest bird found was sometimes initially located by one of the less experienced watchers. Adults are requested to make a \$5. donation to help defray the cost of publishing the count results. Even if you can only spend part of the day, come out and help us count birds!

Feeder watchers not attending potluck are requested to call Dana Ward at 545-0627 with their results by 5 PM on the day of the count.

New Location for Christmas Bird Count Potluck

The Tri-Cities Christmas Bird Count Potluck will be held at 6 PM on Saturday, January 3, 2009, at the Columbia Grange #938, 6300 Court St., Pasco.

Everyone please bring a main dish plus a salad or dessert to share and your own table service. LCBAS will furnish coffee and soft drinks. Whether you spent the day stomping through the fields, watching your feeders or you just want to hear the official results from the 2006 Christmas Bird Count, come and share a meal and holiday cheer with a friendly bunch of birders and their families and friends!

AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT: To conserve and restore ecosystems, focusing on birds and wildlife, for the benefit of humanity and Earth's biological diversity. Audubon educates adults and children about the environment, advocates responsible public policy and legislation for natural resources, and conducts science-based projects using birds as indicators of health of the natural world.

Bateman Island Bird Walk

Continued from page 1

Shovelers and **Buffleheads**. A **Tundra Swan** was in plain view and was seen very well through the scope. Two **Peregrine Falcons** were displacing each other from their perches in a playful manner. **Herring Gull** and **Glaucous-winged Gull** were spotted on the delta as well. **Killdeer** was the only shorebird identified and it was only heard.

As we rounded out the morning and started back to Wye Park were missing a couple of common species that would be heard on our way back. The highlight of the return trip through the middle of the island was a perched **Cooper's Hawk**.

It was a great morning for birding and catching up with friends, many pictures were taken and laughs shared. Join us for our next Bateman Island bird walk on **December 6th** at **8am** in the Wye Park parking lot. Beginning birders are welcome. Bring binoculars for a more enjoyable experience.

Burrowing Owl webcam news

from Mike Livingston, District Wildlife Biologist for
the Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

We have made some changes to the **Burrowing Owl webcam**. We have installed a second camera that provides a close up view of the burrow and has infrared capability. We have changed the operating times to permit some nighttime and daytime viewing with a period in the middle of the day when it is turned off for recharging the solar powered batteries. Most of the owls that were at the burrow through September have now left the area, but we do have 1-2 owls that are still there and hopefully will remain through the winter.

More changes are on the horizon for the webcam and will hopefully include:

- Live streaming video
- Full time night viewing
- Pan, tilt and zoom capabilities from your desktop

Members you can be our best recruiters.

Do you know someone who might enjoy receiving the Curlew? We mail several FREE copies to potential members. Give their name and snailmail or email address to **Jeanne Bates (509)947-4501**
jeaneb@jeannembates.com

Help for Injured Raptors:

If you find an injured raptor in the Tri-Cities or surrounding area you can call a local volunteer for advice. Injured raptors are usually transported to Blue Mountain Wildlife in Pendleton, Oregon for treatment and rehabilitation.

Who to call: Michelle Caron.....(509)366-0888
Marilyn Hayes.....(509)521-4648
Suzanne Baird.....(509)460-2434
Blue Mountain Wildlife..(541)278-0215

For more information see Lower Columbia Basin Audubon website and click on the [Help for Injured Birds](#) link.

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society P. O. Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352 website: lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org

President	Ed Rykiel.....(509)627-1113 <i>E-mail: ecodoc59@yahoo.com</i>
Vice President	Rod Coler.....(509)783-4664 <i>E-mail: rodcoler@verizon.net</i>
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz.....(509)375-4740 <i>E-mail: cdandrb@charter.net</i>
Treasurer	Lucie Fritz.....(509)946-9134 <i>E-mail: LucieF@aol.com</i>
First Past President	Rod Coler.....(509)783-4664 <i>E-mail: rodcoler@verizon.net</i>
Audubon Adventures	Jack Dawson.....(509)551-9920 <i>E-mail: jmdawson@clearwire.net</i>
Audubon Refuge Keepers	Greg Greger.....(509)943-3951 <i>E-mail: mgreg1@verizon.net</i>
Bateman Island Bird Walk	Lisa Hill.....(509)943-2244 <i>E-mail: tiarella@charter.net</i>
Bird Sightings	Bill LaFramboise.....(509)627-3695 <i>E-mail: billnanl@verizon.net</i>
Book Sales	Kathy Criddle.....(509)628-9869 <i>E-mail: jkcridle@verizon.net</i>
Burrowing Owls	Charlotte Reep.....(509)547-9087 <i>E-mail: cmreep@charter.net</i>
Chapter Birding Trail	Dennis Rockwell.....(509)582-6462 <i>E-mail: dennisrockwell@verizon.net</i>
Christmas Bird Count	Dana Ward.....(509)545-0627 <i>E-mail: dana_c_ward@rl.gov</i>
Conservation	Rick Leaumont.....(509)545-6115 <i>E-mail: leaumont@owt.com</i>
Editor	Dennis Rockwell.....(509)582-6462 <i>E-mail: dennisrockwell@verizon.net</i>
Education	Cherie Baudrand.....(509)735-3334 <i>E-mail: cbaudrand@charter.net</i>
Field Trips - international	Barbara Clarke.....(509)588-3362 <i>E-mail: barbaraclarke@verizon.net</i>
Field Trips - local	Dennis Rockwell.....(509)582-6462 <i>E-mail: dennisrockwell@verizon.net</i>
Fund Raising	Charlotte Reep.....(509)547-9087 <i>E-mail: cmreep@charter.net</i>
Historian	Carole Byrd.....(509)371-0789 <i>E-mail: carole_byrd@yahoo.com</i>
Hospitality	Murrel Dawson.....(509)551-9920 <i>E-mail: jmdawson@clearwire.net</i>
LCBIRDS on the web	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LCBirds/ <i>E-mail: LCBirds-owner@yahoogroups.com</i>
Membership	Jeanne Bates.....(509)947-4501 <i>E-mail: jeaneb@jeannembates.com</i>
Nature Trail	Tom Clarke.....(509)588-3362 <i>E-mail: thomasc@bentonrea.com</i>
Newsletter Mailing—postal	Jack Dawson.....(509)551-9920 <i>E-mail: jmdawson@clearwire.net</i>
Newsletter Mailing—internet	Richard Romanelli.....(509)627-0658 <i>E-mail: rroman@urx.com</i>
Programs	Cathy Smith.....(509)521-0860 <i>E-mail: durus123@yahoo.com</i>
Publicity	Marilyn Hayes.....(509)521-4648 <i>E-mail: mzbirds@verizon.net</i>
Webmaster	Katie Harris.....(509)783-1030 <i>E-mail: kharris3b@charter.net</i>
Webpage Photo Editor	Greg Greger.....(509)943-3951 <i>E-mail: mgreg1@verizon.net</i>

Bird Sightings - October 2008

Bill LaFramboise - (billnanl@verizon.net)

See the LCBAS webpage for directions to locations cited in this column)

There were several sightings of Greater White-fronted Geese (mob). The high count was 35 at Paterson Slough on 10/05 (BL, NL). A Snow Goose was at McNary NWR on 10/12 (DR, KBu), 1 was at Othello on 10/22 (RH), and 33 were at Royal Lake on 10/31 (RH). There was a report of about 1,000 below McNary Dam during mid-October (RH). Rare but annual, there were 3 Ross' Geese at Royal Lake on 10/31 (RH). The first reported Cackling Geese of the season were at Columbia Park on 10/30 (NL). There were 3 Tundra Swans at the Hanson Loop Boat Launch on 10/18 (M&MD).

There were 9 Canvasbacks and 5 Redheads at Columbia Park on 10/30 (NL). Eleven Ring-necked Ducks were at the Yakima Delta on 10/08 (BW). There were 2 Surf Scoters at Para Ponds near Othello on 10/22 (RH) and there was a White-winged Scoter at Howard Amon Park on 10/22 (fide BD). Both of those species are rare during fall migration in the Lower Columbia Basin. The first Hooded Mergansers of the season were at the Yakima Delta on 10/11 when 2 were observed (BW). Several Ruddy Ducks were at Paterson Slough on 10/05 (BL, NL).

There were 6 Chukar at FEALE on 10/25 (NL, VW) and 6 were there again on 10/29 (NL, BDu, LH, LU). Chukar was also observed on Badger Mountain on 10/21 (SW). That species can be reliably found at the latter location.

There were 2 Common Loons at the Yakima Delta on 10/27 (NL) and 1 was at Columbia Park on 10/30 (NL). Horned Grebes were at the Yakima Delta the entire month (mob). Locally uncommon during the fall and winter, an Eared Grebe was at Paterson Slough on 10/05 (BL, NL) and 1 was at Columbia Park on 10/30 (NL). There were several sightings of Western Grebes. The high count was 25 at Columbia Park on 10/13 (NL, JorL).

The high count of American White Pelicans was 17 at the Yakima Delta on 10/03 (BW). There were 8 Great Egrets at the Yakima Delta on 10/04 (LH, mob). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was at the Yakima Delta on 10/04 (NL), 1 was there again on 10/13 (NL, JorL), and 1 was at Two Rivers Park on 10/24 (DR). Numbers of that species have been low over the past several years.

Uncommon during migration, a Turkey Vulture was in Pasco on 10/11 (NL). Turkey Vultures were once considered to be very rare in the Lower Columbia Basin. There has been a dramatic increase in numbers observed during migration over the past several years.

Uncommon after the end of September, an Osprey was at Paterson Slough on 10/05 (BL, NL) and 1 was at Two Rivers Park on 10/12 (DR, KBu). Rough-legged Hawk sightings included 1 at the Hatton Coulee rest stop on 10/18 (DR), 3 along Route 26 in Adams County (RH), and 1 at FEALE on 10/24 (HN). A Merlin was in North Richland on 10/31 (SW). A Peregrine Falcon was at the Yakima Delta the entire month (mob). A Prairie Falcon was at FEALE on 10/25 (NL, VW).

There were several sightings of Sandhill Cranes throughout the month (mob). The high count was 200 at Royal Slope on 10/09 (RH).

Migrating shorebird numbers begin to decline in October. However, numbers of several species appeared to be below normal. Black-bellied Plover sightings included 1 at the Yakima Delta on 10/03 (BW) and again on 10/14 (BW). That species is uncommon in the Lower Columbia Basin. A Semipalmated Plover was at the Yakima Delta from 10/05 (BL, NL). The high counts of Killdeer included was 64 at the Yakima Delta on 10/03 (BW) and 50 there on 10/05 (BL, NL).

Rare after the end of September, a Spotted Sandpiper was along the Columbia River in Richland on 10/08 (JA) and 1 was at Ice Harbor Dam on 10/18 (M&MD). A Spotted Sandpiper over-wintered at that latter location last year. It will be interesting to see if this bird repeats last year's rare over-wintering behavior. Greater Yellowlegs numbers appeared to be lower than normal during October. The high count was a modest 4 at the Yakima Delta on 10/04 (LH, mob). Surprisingly, there were no reports of Lesser Yellowlegs. That species is typically common during October.

There was only a single report of Least Sandpiper. One was at the Yakima Delta on 10/05 (BL, NL). That species is typically common during October. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were at the Yakima Delta on 10/05 (BL, NL) and 1 was there on 10/13 (NL, JorL). The first Dunlin of the season was at Ice Harbor Dam on 10/18 when 1 was observed (M&MD). The high count was 14 at the Yakima Delta on 10/27 (NL).

There were several sightings of Long-billed Dowitchers throughout the month (mob). The high count was 76 at the Yakima Delta on 10/14 (BW). The high count of Wilson's Snipe was 8 at Ice Harbor Dam on 10/18 (M&MD).

Bonaparte's Gulls were seen throughout the month at several different locations (mob). The high count was 22 at the Potholes Reservoir on 10/26 (SM). Rare in Eastern Washington, a Western Gull was at Ice Harbor Dam on 10/18 (M&MD). A Glaucous-winged Gull was at the Yakima Delta on 10/11 (BW). It has been a great fall for observing Sabine's Gulls in the Lower Columbia Basin with several observations. The last Sabine's Gull of the season was at Paterson Slough on 10/05 when 1 was observed (BL, NL).

There were 4 Common Terns and 10 Forster's Terns at Paterson Slough on 10/05 (BL, NL). Common Terns are uncommon during October and Forster's Terns become rare after about the third week of September.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was at County Line Ponds near Othello on 10/09 (RH). A Burrowing Owl was near Othello on 10/31 (RH). An Anna's Hummingbird was at Canyon Terrace the entire month (BL, NL, KC, VW), 1 as at Johnson Park on 10/01 (LH, LU), and 3 were in

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Prosser on 10/13 (CRu). That species is rare but with increasing occurrence, particularly in the fall, in the Lower Columbia Basin. A group of 3 in a single location is unprecedented.

The first Northern Shrike of the season was at FEALE on 10/25 (NL, VW) and 1 was at Washtucna on 10/26 (SM). Rare in Washington, a Blue Jay was at Royal Lake on 10/31 (RH). Barn Swallow sightings included 10 at Bateman Island on 10/04 (LH, mob), 6 at the Yakima Delta on 10/13 (NL, JorL), 1 at Para Ponds on 10/22 (RH), and 1 at the Yakima Delta 10/27 (NL). That species is uncommon after the after the end of September.

A Brown Creeper was at Columbia Park on 10/13 (NL, JorL) and 1 was at Washtucna 10/26 (SM). Uncommon during the fall, a Rock Wren was at FEALE on 10/25 (NL, VW). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was at McNary NWR on 10/12 (DR, KBU), 1 was at Columbia Park on 10/13 (NL, JorL), and 1 was at FEALE on 10/25 (NL, VW). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Bateman Island on 10/05 (BL, NL), 1 was at McNary NWR on 10/12 (DR, KBU), 1 was at FEALE on 10/25 (NL, VW), and 1 was there on 10/29 (NL, BDU, LH, LU).

A Townsend's Solitaire was in North Richland on 10/10 (BW). A Hermit Thrush was at Two Rivers Park on 10/12 (DR, KBU), 1 was there on 10/16 (DR), and 1 was at FEALE on 10/24 (HN). The first Varied Thrush of the season was in North Richland on 10/11 (BW). There were several other sightings of that species throughout the month (mob). Last winter, that species was relatively hard to find. Perhaps this winter's numbers will rebound. An American Pipit was at FEALE on 10/25 (NL, VW) and several were in Othello on 10/31 (RH).

A Wilson's Warbler was in North Richland on 10/12 (BW) and 2 were in Washtucna on 10/19 (RH). That species is rare after the beginning of October. I am aware of only 5 other October sightings over the last 10 years.

The high count of Spotted Towhees was 3 at FEALE 10/25 (NL, VW). Uncommon during fall, a Savannah Sparrow was at McNary Dam on 10/21 (DR, KBU). Rare but annual during winter, a White-throated Sparrow was in North Richland on 10/05 (BW). Golden-crowned Sparrow sightings included 1 at FEALE on 10/25 (NL, VW) and 1 at Canyon Terrace on 10/31 (NL).

Locally uncommon to rare during fall and winter, there were 25 Lapland Longspurs at Sprague Lake on 10/26 (RH). Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch sightings included 1 at Rancho Reata on 10/21 (TG), 1 on Badger Mountain on 10/21 (SW), and 5 at FEALE on 10/29 (NL, BDU, LH, LU). Uncommon during winter, a Common Redpoll was in Finley on 10/13 (BDU). There were several sightings of Pine Siskins (mob). The high count was 3 at Canyon Terrace on 10/25 (BL, NL, VW).

Bird of the Month

A russet color Pine Grosbeak was observed by Nancy LaFramboise, Bonnie Dunham, Lisa Hill, and Larry Umthun along Rattlesnake Ridge on 10/29. That was the first sightings of that species on FEALE. After the end of the reporting period on 11/02, Neil Ofsthun found 4 Pine Grosbeaks in the Rancho Reata area. Tony Greager also saw 1 male in the Rancho Reata area on 11/15.

Pine Grosbeaks are birds of northern montane and boreal forest with breeding territories extending south to extreme northern Washington. They are rare south of their breeding ranges except during an irruption year. Pine Grosbeaks are extremely rare in the Lower Columbia Basin. I am aware of only 7 other Tri-Cities sightings. There have been other reports in Eastern Washington indicating that perhaps that there will be an irruption this year. There were 34 Pine Grosbeaks on Mt Spokane on 10/25.

Observers

JA Jane Abel, **KBU** Kevin Burke, **KC** Kathy Criddle, **M&MD** Mike and MerryLynn Denny, **BD** Bob Derting, **BDU** Bonnie Dunham, **TG** Tony Greager, **LH** Lisa



Pine Grosbeak

Photograph courtesy of
Dennis Paulson &
Seattle Birdweb

WDFW Volunteer Needed

Over the last few years Dr. Gaylord Mink has amassed an impressive amount of video footage of burrowing owls in the Columbia Basin. Several fun and interesting clips of his video have been featured on WDFW's burrowing owl web cam site (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildwatch/owlcam/>), YouTube, and in presentations given to Audubon and other wildlife watchers.

We are seeking a volunteer(s) with the skills and equipment to assist in the development of a professionally produced DVD using Gaylord's raw video footage. The finished product would be available for Audubon to sell at membership meetings and elsewhere to generate funds for burrowing owl conservation and education.

If you are willing and able please contact:

Mike Livingston
WDFW Wildlife Biologist
509-545-2201
livinmfl@dfw.wa.gov

Board Meeting Reminder—Debbie Berkowitz's home-544 Franklin, Richland -Tuesday, December 9, 6:15 pm.

Relaxed and friendly board meetings are open to all members. Please watch for announcements in the Curlew and on the LCBAS website. Attend whenever you can. There is always time for members to contribute (or just listen too).

Call for Conservation Volunteers— If conservation is one of your priorities and you have a few hours a month to contribute your talent to the cause, please contact [Rick Leaumont](mailto:leaumont@owt.com) (leaumont@owt.com). We have a lot of potential items on the table and Rick can use your help.

Give the Gift of Audubon

Please consider giving a one year LCBAS and/or National Audubon membership to a loved one this season. It would make a nice gift and we'd love to have them join us. Our local chapter, for those near us: <http://lcbas.org/> National Audubon, for those far away: <https://websvr.audubon.org/forms/updated/neworder/form.php>

The Long and the Short of It - Two Paths to Our Website If you have ever struggled to type www.lowercolumbiabasin.audubon.org into the address field on your internet page, we have an alternative. Now you can type www.lcbas.org into the address (URL) field at the top of the browser window. Both addresses lead to the same website, so use the path that is most convenient for you. Information about upcoming meetings and activities (like the Christmas Bird Count) can be found on the website any time you need them. If you have difficulty finding our website on the internet, don't hesitate to ask for help. For guidance or to make suggestions about the website, please contact Katie Harris at 783-1030 or email her at kharris3b@charter.net.

Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network Survey

The two public workshops of the RROSN attracted more than 60 people in West Richland (a standing room only crowd) and about 30 people in Pasco. Attendees listened to an excellent presentation by Scott Woodward, and then had the opportunity to go to two map stations, one of Richland/West Richland/Benton County, the other of Kennewick/Pasco/Benton County/Franklin County. They were asked the questions: What is your favorite open space area in the map region and what other open spaces would you like to see preserved. Attendees were also asked to fill out a fairly detailed survey. The steering committee received a lot of good input at the meeting and would like to receive more, so has made the survey available on-line at our website, www.lcbas.org. We would appreciate it if you would take the time to fill out the survey (it's restricted to one per computer). Contact Debbie Berkowitz (375-4740) for more information.

Board Briefs – Nov. 11, 2008 Board Meeting

The Board received a preliminary budget plan and a report of the special task force committee on the budget. Both were approved. At their recommendation, the Board requested that the finance committee research the cost of liability coverage for LCBAS. The Xmas Bird Count potluck will be at the Grange in Pasco. Margaret Brower is donating Bill Brower's books to LCBAS. The Education Committee is thinking about applying for a Battelle grant for classroom items; if you are a Battelle employee or retiree, please let us know. We will be placing another order for coffee for our fundraiser. LCBAS had a table at the Friends of Badger Mountain walk. A boy scout is working on his project to clear the trail at the ANT. LCBAS is hosting a special meeting at the Mid-Columbia Library in January with a talk on the Ice Age Floods. LCBAS donated supplies for the Open Space Network public workshops which were held in West Richland and Pasco in November; more than 60 people signed in for the first workshop and about 30 for the second. A survey on open space is available at the LCBAS website. We are requesting that members consider giving a gift membership to LCBAS; we hope to have a booth at the Alternative Gift Fair in December. We talked about a possible yard sale in the spring as a fundraiser.

The next Board meeting is on Dec. 9 at Debbie Berkowitz' house, 544 Franklin St, Richland (near Saint St.). All are welcome to attend.

Conservation Notes

by Rick Leumont

Editor's note:

Rick's internet service provider ate his December column.

Ipecac has been administered.

Look for the results here in January.

In the field

with Dennis Rockwell

Feeling like you need a little field time to warm up for the Christmas Bird Count?

I know I am.

Let's go birding Saturday, December 13.

The water is flowing again through the McNary Wildlife Area below McNary Dam At Umatilla. The ponds will be covered with waterfowl and the bushes will be full of passerines. Let's go there.

We can meet at 8 am in the Park 'n Ride at Union and 27th in Kennewick and let's plan on being back there by noon, because I don't know about you, but I've got other stuff I need to do too.

Your
contribution
could
have
appeared
here.

A Trail Through Time: Ice Age Floods National Geographic Trail

A presentation by

Gary Kleinknecht

**Thursday, January 15, 2009
7 PM at the Mid-Columbia Library
1620 S. Union St., Kennewick**

Hosted by the

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

Bring your friends and neighbors to see and hear this incredible story. Immensely powerful, cataclysmic ice age floods swept across the Pacific Northwest during recent geologic time. Hear stories from one of the region's leading historians about these floods, the Ice Age Floods National Geographic Trail, which will be a system of travel routes linking significant sites and interpretive facilities across the region, and the Ice Age Floods Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to the authoritative presentation of the fascinating but little-known story of the floods.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has just released its newly revised, FREE *Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch.*

For more than 20 years, Project FeederWatch has been an easy, fun way for children to learn about birds and strengthen their skills in observation, identification, research, computation, writing, creativity, and more. FeederWatchers keep track of the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders through the winter and report what they see to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The *Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch* will guide you through bird-related activities that promote learning across many disciplines, including science, math, history, and the arts. Examples of these activities include:

- **Natural history:** Observe and research a bird's behavior and life cycle
- **Math:** Calculate average seed consumption rate and graph data
- **Writing:** Keep a nature journal to write stories and poetry

- **Geography:** Research the geographic ranges of birds
- **Art:** Keep a feeder-bird sketch book or create a papier mache mask

To download the *Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch*, visit www.FeederWatch.org and click on the "Education/Home School" button. You'll be able to download the PDF in low (2.2MB) or high (6.7MB) resolutions.

You may choose to use the free guide as a stand-alone resource, or sign up for Project FeederWatch to submit the data you gather. If you would like to be a project participant, the signup fee is \$12 for members of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, \$15 for non-members. There are discounts for group participation.

Birding in Paradise

Costa Rica is one of the most environmentally diverse countries in the world. The weather can be arid and hot to tropical rains that create lush green rain and cloud forests. Costa Rica is located on the Central American isthmus bordered by the Caribbean Sea on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. The topography ranges from ocean beaches through low lands to towering mountains. This diversity contributes to 1,500 types of trees, 6,000 flowering plants, almost 10% of the world's butterfly species and **best of all, 850 species of birds**. Costa Rica continues as one of the world's best birding hotspots and one of the most spectacular places in the Americas to visit. Join LCBAS in a Far Away Field Trip, "Birding in Paradise," March 27 through April 6, 2008. Visit the chapter web page, www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org, and follow the links under Far Away Field Trips. You can pick up a brochure at the meeting or call Barbara Clarke, 509-588-3362 for more information. Don't miss this opportunity.

Second Saturday Event

from 9 am until noon at the
**McNary Wildlife Refuge's
Environmental Education Center**
311 Lake Rd., Burbank, WA 99323
Phone 543 8322

by Greg Greger

Since sidewalks and parking associated with the McNary Education Center are not yet completed, there will be no 2nd Saturday program on Dec. 13th. However volunteers (Friends of the Refuges) will be there 9 am to noon to assist bird watchers.

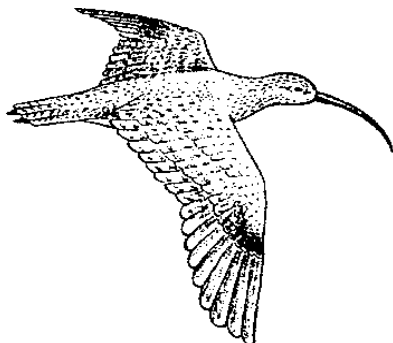
Double crested cormorants and tundra swans can be seen feeding on the McNary pond. Geese are beginning to arrive for winter feeding and resting. White fronted geese can often be noticed among the Canada geese.

Cooler temperatures in the northern region will bring increasing numbers of mallards.

The Curlew
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1900
Richland, WA 99352

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richland WA
Permit # 76

Return Service Requested



Please Check Expiration Date

Audubon Membership Information

Please Note: Membership in National Audubon Society (NAS) and the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (LCBAS) are **separate memberships.**

Chapter Membership (includes a year's subscription [10 issues] to *The Curlew*)

_____ \$20. for annual membership dues or

_____ \$10. for full time students.

Please make check payable to **LCBAS**. I can help with an additional donation of \$_____

_____ Send *The Curlew* to my email address listed below. All my dues will go towards supporting LCBAS in local education and conservation efforts.

_____ I want to be on your Environmental Alert e-mail list to receive timely notices about issues/work parties. (Your e-mail address will not be shared.)

National Audubon Society Membership (includes annual subscription to *Audubon Magazine*)

_____ \$20. for one year new membership in the NAS. (Renewal of NAS membership is currently \$35.)

_____ \$15. for one year new senior or full time student membership in NAS.

Please make check payable to **National Audubon Society**. Please do not sent renewals to LCBAS.

For any of the options above check the appropriate boxes, clip the form and mail it with your check(s) to:

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352

Name.....

Address.....

City, State, Zip.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Y01

7XCH