



September 2015  
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# the curlew

## Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

### Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

# The First Best-Step Solution to Global Warming

**Tuesday, September 22, 7 pm  
 First Lutheran Church  
 Yelm and 395, Kennewick**

A brief discussion of global warming and impacts on birds, followed by a description of Citizens' Climate Lobby's Carbon Fee and Dividend legislative proposal, and its economic, health, and environmental benefits.

Presenter Alex Amonette is a bird lover and has lived in the Tri Cities for 17 years. She's participated in many bird counts and outings, both with LCBAS and other birders from the state and Pacific Northwest. She's a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby and is hopeful that by creating political will, we can move our Congress to act and save birds from extinction by our changing climate and loss of habitat.



## LCBAS Bylaws Change

A bylaws change was unanimously approved by the board at the Aug. 25 Planning/Board meeting as follows:

“Article VI, Section 2 as follows:  
 “Section 2 – Slate of Nominees. The nominating committee shall nominate candidates for LCBAS Officers, Committee Chairs, and Directors-at-Large to succeed those whose terms of office expire at the next annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall publish the slate of nominees at least 10 days prior to the annual **May** meeting.”

Since the annual meeting may be in a month other than May, this change makes this section of the bylaws consistent with other sections relating to LCBAS elections.

*Submitted by Debbie Berkowitz,  
 Secretary*

### Special Interest Articles:

- LCBAS Calendar
- Help Save Hanford Central Lands!

### Individual Highlights:

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## Bateman Island Bird Walk: September 5, 2015

A very light rain and cooler temperatures must have caused a migrant “fallout”. We had a stellar count of 71 species for the walk, many of which were migrating songbirds. Participants were thrilled and captivated by the many warblers: TOWNSEND’S (7-8), NASHVILLE (2-3), YELLOW-RUMPED (50), WILSON’S (2), ORANGE-CROWNED (7-8), YELLOW (1), and MACGILLIVRAY’S (1). Winter-resident WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS have arrived in small numbers. Others sparrows traveling through were SAVANNAH and a pair of LINCOLN’S. The locust grove was very busy with a mixed flock of warblers, CASSIN’S and WARBLING VIREOS, RUBY-CROWNED and GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS, an unidentified flycatcher, BEWICK’S WRENS, and CEDAR WAXWINGS. Even the GREAT HORNED OWL made an appearance.



*Townsend's Warbler*  
Photo credit: Ivar Husa

Swallows were constantly overhead with all the species represented: NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED, CLIFF,

BANK, BARN, TREE, and VIOLET-GREEN. During the week before and after the Bateman walk, hundreds (or thousands?) of swallows were swarming over the shallow water of the Yakima delta. We did not have a spotting scope but still managed to identify many ducks and shorebirds: GADWALL, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, RUDDY DUCK, PIED-BILLED GREBE, HORNED GREBE, AMERICAN AVOCET, WESTERN SANDPIPER, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, YELLOWLEGS, CASPIAN TERN, and COMMON TERN.



*Double-crested Cormorant*  
Photo credit: Ivar Husa

A MERLIN perched atop a tree, giving us a quick look. Merlins are not uncommon in winter, but this one was a bit earlier than usual. Several GRAY CATBIRDS, soon to move south for the winter, mewed plaintively from the dense rose bushes. Another winter resident, the SPOTTED TOWHEE, has returned, too.

**DID YOU KNOW?** It is customary to refer to many plants by their taxonomic name,

such as Hydrangea, Viburnum, Phlox, Hibiscus and Magnolia. That is rarely the case with bird names. Hardly anyone knows the scientific names of common birds, except for possibly the humorous, *Turdus* (thrush) *migratorius* (to move or migrate), American Robin. However, there are a few exceptions. *Vireo* (to be green) *gilvus* (pale yellow) is Warbling Vireo. A group of hawks often referred to as the accipters includes the Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter* (to take or grasp) *striatus* (having lines or bands). The notoriously difficult-to-identify flycatchers collectively called “empids” include *Empidonax* (gnat king) *minimus* (smallest), the Least Flycatcher.

The next Bateman Island Bird Walk is October 10th, the *second* Saturday of the month. This coincides with Audubon Day at the Reach Museum as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society.



*Merlin*  
Photo credit: Ivar Husa

## President's Message with Lori Nelson

Welcome back!

We've had a busy summer at LCBAS. Even though we haven't had meetings or bird walks over the summer, the board was busy, busy, busy.

In July, several of us attended the National Audubon Society Convention in Leesburg, Virginia. Robin Priddy, Kathy Criddle, Dana Ward, and I joined leaders from Audubon chapters and centers across the United States and the world to learn more about Audubon, how to lead our chapters, and how to be effective in advocating for birds and the people who love them.

Some of the highlights? For me, three things stand out.

The first was the recognition that our chapter received for our work on the Sagebrush Songbird Survey. David Yarnold, CEO of National Audubon, mentioned it in his opening remarks – and even included a quote from our own Robin Priddy! We attended a small-group meeting with David as well and he looked at me and asked, “So, what’s happening in eastern Washington?” That was our opportunity to talk about our work, how it’s affected our chapter, and our valuable collaboration with Audubon Washington (especially Christi Norman) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. We gave a presentation about our program, which was well-attended (even though we had the LAST time slot of the Convention) and well-received. As if that wasn’t enough, Robin was awarded the prestigious Dutcher Prize in recognition of her efforts to get this program off the ground!

The second was the strong showing by Washington chapters. Even though we traveled more than 2500 miles, we had one of the largest contingents there. Audubon Washington staff ran

several of the workshops. Eastern Washington chapters brought posters to highlight the work that they are doing. We brought one describing the Sagebrush Songbird Survey. Kittitas Audubon brought one that talked about their work on climate change and wildfires. Central Basin Audubon’s poster publicized the Bird Day event that they organized in Moses Lake.

The third highlight was our chapter’s efforts to galvanize support among our elected officials on Capitol Hill and National Audubon staff for the conservation of central Hanford Lands. Dana and Kathy spent a day on Capitol Hill, lobbying our Senators and Representative Newhouse to support the transfer of these lands into the Hanford Reach National Monument. We also had the chance to make our case with National Audubon staff, including David Yarnold, for the designation of central Hanford as an Important Bird Area. Our efforts were warmly received by NAS staff and I think we can anticipate their active support.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity at Convention! Happy Birding!  
Lori

## Congratulations to our own Robin Priddy!

### Recipient of the 2015 William Dutcher Award for the Pacific Flyway

Robin, current Past President of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, was honored by National Audubon with the 2015 William Dutcher Award for the Pacific Flyway. Robin leads the Sagebrush Songbird Survey, which is the largest Audubon citizen science project ever attempted in Washington.

*“People like Robin truly make Audubon amazing. Her boundless energy and commitment to conservation amazes and inspires those around her. She demonstrates the power of a network like Audubon.”*

— David Yarnold, Audubon President and CEO

## Interested in helping make things happen? Look no further!

We have openings for people who are interested in helping LCBAS run...

**Treasurer** – Help us track and manage our money! This is an excellent position for people who pay close attention to detail and are good with spreadsheets.

**Finance Chair** – Want to affect the long-term financial future of LCBAS? This person helps us manage our investments, make budgets, and plan for the future.

**Membership Chair** – For the social butterfly! If you're interested in meeting people and spreading the word about the good work that LCBAS does, you might be a perfect fit for this position. This person helps recruit new members and motivate existing members to be more involved.

**Education Chair** – Want to influence future environmental stewards? The Education Chair coordinates education activities, including Audubon Adventures, Junior Audubon, and classroom presentations. We already have people doing this good work – but we need someone to keep everyone organized!

If you are interested or if you just want more information, contact Lori Nelson at [wollerman.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:wollerman.nelson@gmail.com) or (509) 619-0143.

Don't forget to check our website [www.lcbas.org](http://www.lcbas.org) for up to date information. And remember we have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lcbas> - you do not have to have a Facebook account to read our page, just put in the address above!

**Note that prospective members get three complimentary issues of the Curlew. In order to receive more issue, you must become an LCBAS member**

### Officers

President – Lori Nelson ([president@lcbas.org](mailto:president@lcbas.org))  
 Vice President – Joe Lelli  
 Treasurer – Vacant  
 Secretary – Debbie Berkowitz ([secretary@lcbas.org](mailto:secretary@lcbas.org))

### Standing Committees

Birding Events – Kathy Criddle ([birdingevents@lcbas.org](mailto:birdingevents@lcbas.org))  
 Communications - Joe Lelli (Curlew) ([curlew@lcbas.org](mailto:curlew@lcbas.org))  
 Conservation – Dana Ward ([conservation@lcbas.org](mailto:conservation@lcbas.org))  
 Education - Vacant  
 Finance – Vacant  
 Fundraising – Charlotte Reep  
 Membership – Vacant  
 Program – Ivar Husa ([programs@lcbas.org](mailto:programs@lcbas.org))

### Special Committees

Audubon Adventures – Lannie Smith  
 Book Sales - Kathy Criddle  
 Christmas Bird Count - Dana Ward  
 ([christmasbirdcount@lcbas.org](mailto:christmasbirdcount@lcbas.org))  
 Hospitality – Marcie Daines and Lannie Smith  
 Publicity –Charlotte Reep  
 Website - Ed Rykiel ([webmaster@lcbas.org](mailto:webmaster@lcbas.org))  
 Sagebrush Songbird Survey – Robin Priddy  
 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year – Ed Rykiel

## IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFO

**CURLEW ADDRESS LABEL:** The postal address label on your CURLEW newsletter shows the year/month your subscription expires. 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>

**CHANGE TO CURLEW MAILING:** The bulk mailing permit used by the LCBAS to mail The Curlew to subscribers will expire at the end of December and will not be renewed. This means we'll be mailing issues at standard postal rates. To reduce the cost of providing The Curlew to our subscribers please consider receiving The Curlew by email instead of by US mail. By doing so, you will see all of the gorgeous pictures in the newsletter in living color, not black and white, and eCurlew will arrive even earlier in the month. If you are now receiving The Curlew by US mail, either as a subscriber or as complimentary issues, and want to change to the eCurlew, please send an email to [Subscriptions@LCBAS.org](mailto:Subscriptions@LCBAS.org) with your request.

**NEW NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERS:** In order to make you aware of our local chapter, we have been sending you complimentary issues of The Curlew newsletter. 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>

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# Bird Sightings for Summer 2015

By Lannie Smith

## North Richland and Richland Columbia River Parks

The only reported sighting is from the Columbia River was a Black Tern (rare migrant) found in July on Island 19 by Jane Abel. Mary Lilga sent in their North Richland yard list for August: juvenile Cooper's Hawk, Western Screech Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Common Nighthawk, Townsend's Solitaire, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Warbling Vireo.

## West Richland, Horn Rapids Area and Rattlesnake Mountain

Horn Rapids County Park saw a lot of activity this summer. In June, Keith Able found a Willow Flycatcher and Jane Abel located a Chestnut-sided Warbler (accidental migrant). In July, Larry Umthun photographed Lazuli Bunting, Western Kingbird and Common Nighthawk at the Park. In August Keith found several flycatcher species, Barn Owl, Lewis's Woodpeckers, and White-crowned Sparrows in the park and an immature Bald Eagle overhead. Also in August, Laurie Ness found a Black-throated Gray Warbler (rare migrant) feeding with Townsend's Warblers. Yellow, Orange-crowned, Wilson's and Nashville Warblers were also present, as was a Lewis's Woodpecker. Lisa Hill and Larry Umthun spotted White-breasted Nuthatch (rare in winter), MacGillivray's, Townsend's, and Black-throated Gray Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow at the park in August. Mark Gerber reported a Downy Woodpecker and a Rufous Hummingbird in his West Richland yard in June.

## Rancho Reata and Amon Creek Natural Preserve

A late-July posting from Tony Greager noted increased bird movement in the Rancho Reata area: Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Western Tanager, Warbling Vireo, a young Golden-crowned Kinglet and Black-chinned Hummingbirds (replacing the Rufous Hummingbirds which were present earlier in the summer). A pair of Cooper's Hawks successfully fledged at least 3 young hawks in his front yard.

Sharon and Neil Ofstun had an enviable summer. During July they had Western Screech Owls and Long-eared Owls sharing habitation in their shed! Five or six of them hung out together, coming and going all day and night. Neil would check the shed several times a day to report how many were present.

Apparently most of the mice have been cleared out and now only one or two are using the shed. Besides the owls, the Ofstun's summer yard list included: Cooper's Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning and Eurasian Collared-Doves, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Red- and White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin,

Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Tanager and Lazuli Bunting.

## Yakima Delta, Bateman Island and Columbia Park

Jason Fidorra photographed a male Black-throated Gray Warbler (rare migrant) on August 23<sup>rd</sup> on Bateman Island.

## South Richland, Johnson Park and Badger Mountain

Lisa Hill and Larry Umthun live near Johnson Park. Their yard is a popular place for hummingbirds—Rufous, Calliope, and Black-chinned. Also seen in their yard this summer: Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Nashville Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow. In the park over the summer months they've seen (or heard) Spotted Sandpiper, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Western Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Nashville, MacGillivray's, Wilson's and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Song Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Bullock's Orioles. Ron Hinz lives on the Yakima River not far from Johnson Park. Some of his summer sightings included immature Mallards, an immature Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Egrets, Belted Kingfisher and Osprey.

## Finley Area

Kris Keating had both Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds in her Finley area yard. Dennis Rockwell (near Two Rivers Park) took note of a Rufous Hummingbird and a flock of juvenile Cedar Waxwings in July. Lisa Hill reported a Virginia Rail and Golden-crowned Kinglet at Two Rivers Park on August 24.

## McNary National Wildlife Refuge and Walla Walla River Delta

Heidi Newsome reported an American Golden Plover in breeding plumage with a group of Caspian Terns on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wildlife Refuge. Marilyn Anderson called in her sighting of 2 Marbled Godwits with some Black-necked Stilts which were present in the smaller pond as you cross the causeway on the Refuge.

## Pasco and Franklin County

And if you've actually read this far, here is what you've been waiting for. Remember the guy in New Mexico at Bosque del Apache NWR who was videoing a Least Bittern when a Rufous-Necked Wood Rail walked into the picture? One of our members had a similar experience. Here's the Tri Cities version: Larry Umthun was taking pictures of the hydroplane boats on the Columbia River when a Red Phalarope (rare migrant) swam in front of him on July 24<sup>th</sup>!!

## Clarifications and corrections are always appreciated.

Please contribute *your* sightings to our newsletter! Call them in to 545-4898, post them online at LCBirds2, or email to [lanirock@charter.net](mailto:lanirock@charter.net).

## Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society 2015-16 Events and Important Dates

### August 2015

- 29 Annual Planning Meeting, 10 AM, Benton County REA, West Richland

### September 2015

- 5 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island  
14 Board Meeting, 6 PM, 254 Riverwood Street, Richland  
19 Bird Banding Demonstration, 8-10 AM, Amon Preserve  
22 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

### October 2015

- 3 Bird Seed Sale, Columbia Feed and Grain, Pasco  
5 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland  
10 Bird Walk, 8 AM, Hanford Reach Interpretive Center  
Audubon Day at the Reach, 10-3, Presentation by Washington author Jack Nisbet at 1pm  
23-24 Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) Meeting, Mt. Vernon, WA  
27 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

### November 2015

- 2 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland  
7 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island  
14 Bird Banding Demonstration, 9-11 AM, Leslie Groves North  
17 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

### December 2015

- 5 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island  
7 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland

### January 2016

- 2 Christmas Bird Count (tentative)  
4 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland  
26 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick  
27 John James Audubon died, 1851

### February 2016 – Tri-Cities Bird Club became Audubon chapter (1967)

- 1 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland  
6 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island  
9-20 Cuba Birding Trip – *FULL!*  
23 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

### March 2016

- 5 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island  
7 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland  
22 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

### April 2016

- 2 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island  
4 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland  
14-17 Sagebrush Songbird Survey dates  
26 John James Audubon born, 1785  
26 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Yelm and 395, Kennewick

### May 2016 – Tri-Cities Bird Club founded (1965)

- 2 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland  
7 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island  
12-15 Sagebrush Songbird Survey dates  
24 Membership Meeting, 7 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Yelm & 395, Kennewick  
ELECTION of Officers!

### June 2016

- 2-5 Sagebrush Songbird Survey dates  
4 First Saturday Bird Walk, 8 AM, Bateman Island  
6 Board Meeting, 6 PM, Richland Public Library, Richland  
28 Membership Potluck, 5-9 PM, Leslie Groves Park

# You can help save Central Hanford Lands!

By Dana Ward

LCBAS is working hard to save the central Hanford shrub-steppe environment and the birds and animals it supports. You can help us by writing personal letters to our elected representatives. Use the form letter or write your own – we've included talking points below. Whichever way you choose to do it will be fine.

Make a push with our Senators to save central Hanford lands for birds and for our children and grandchildren!

Talking points:

- President Clinton, by Memorandum of Direction dated June 9, 5 2000 to the Secretary of Energy, directed the Secretary to manage the ecological resources of central Hanford to allow for the possibility of adding lands, as they are remediated, to the Hanford Reach National Monument;
- while a portion of central Hanford lands is needed for the Department of Energy's continuing mission, much of the remaining central area contains unique and vanishing shrub-steppe habitat and other objects of scientific and historic interest that must be preserved;
- the Department of Energy's Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement designated much of central Hanford as conservation and preservation lands, suitable for transfer to the Hanford Reach National Monument;
- the Department of the Interior stated in their letter of February 26, 2014 "[we] treasure this landscape and we are deeply invested in the existing monument lands and the conservation values that will be realized as central Hanford area lands are remediated and preserved for the benefit of future generations";
- these lands will never be acceptable by the general public (outside of the Tri-Cities) as farmland because of the perception of radioactive contamination, even after cleanup is completed.

Here's a form letter you can use, if you prefer. Send your letters to Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, and Representative Newhouse. Their addresses are below. You could also send an email to the address given below.

Honorable Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Murray.senate.gov

Honorable Maria Cantwell  
311 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Cantwell.senate.gov

Representative Dan Newhouse  
Longworth House Office Building  
Independence & New Jersey Ave., S E  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Newhouse.house.gov

Date

Dear Honorable Senator Patty Murray and Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell:

I wanted to appeal to you to save for future generations those central Hanford lands that are now cleaned up and no longer needed by the Department of Energy. These lands contain some of the best sagebrush habitat left in eastern Washington. The land, and the birds and animals it supports, should be moved into an expanded Hanford Reach National Monument or the area in central Hanford designated a National Wildlife Refuge.

I feel that these central Hanford lands should not be developed but should be saved for future generations to enjoy as a refuge for wildlife. It would be best if these lands were managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because they are the experts in how to manage lands for habitat and wildlife.

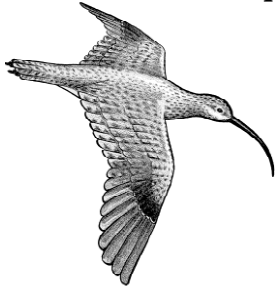
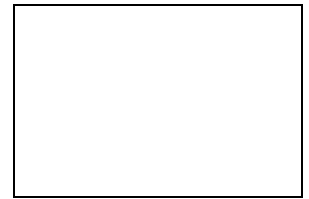
Sincerely,

Your name here

Thank you for considering writing these letters. It will really help our cause.

**The Curlew**

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon  
Society  
P.O. Box 1900  
Richland WA 99352  
**Return Service Requested**



**Audubon Membership Information**

**Please Note: LCBAS Chapter Benefits** (includes a year's subscription [10 issues] to *The Curlew*) this is an additional cost to membership in National Audubon Society.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20. for annual membership benefits 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. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ LCBAS has an e-alert list (for last minute activity changes, important issues, volunteer opportunities). If you want to opt out, check here. If you opt out, you will not receive e-alert emails (Your e-mail address will not be shared in any case).

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20. for one year new membership in the NAS. This payment includes membership in the local chapter (LCBAS) but does not include a subscription to *The Curlew*

Please make check payable to **National Audubon Society**. Please do not send renewals for NAS 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.....

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Phone.....

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**C3Z**

**Y010Z**

