



The Curlew

The newsletter of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society

2020-2021 Board of Directors Elections

By Debbie Berkowitz

LCBAS usually holds elections for the Board of Directors at our May membership meeting. Due to Covid-19 and the Governor's stay at home order, we will not be having our May meeting and we do not yet know if we will be having our June picnic. If we have the June picnic, we will vote then. If we do not have the June picnic, we are likely to have a vote by mail/email, depending on how you receive your Curlew. Please watch your June Curlew for more information (and possible ballots). All current dues-paying members of LCBAS may vote.

Any LCBAS member who is interested in a position may volunteer or be nominated by email/mail (nominations must be received by May 29). If you are interested in an open position, contact Debbie Berkowitz (preferably by email at secretary@lcbas.org, or at LCBAS' mailing address, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352) before May 29.

We are also fortunate to have committee members who help with committee tasks. These members include Barb and Tom Clarke (Education), Nancy and Bill LaFramboise (Education), Char Reep, (Fundraising), Nancy LaFramboise (Fundraising), Ivar Husa (Programs), Sue and John Decker (Hospitality).

Upcoming Events

All LCBAS meetings and events are canceled, or tentative only at this time.

Canceled:

May Monthly Meeting
June First Saturday Bird Walk

Tentative:

June 23: June picnic. If the stay-at-home order, or phase level, still restricts group gatherings, we will look into alternatives for the meeting; stay tuned for more information.

Please check for updates on our webpage, www.lcbas.org, our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/lcbas/> and/or the June Curlew.

Slate of Nominees:

Elected Positions Officers

President: Jim Castle
Vice President: Sheri Whitfield
Secretary: Debbie Berkowitz
Treasurer: Lori Nelson

Standing Committee Chairs

Birding Events: Jason Fidorra
Communications: Charlene Burge
Conservation: Dana Ward & Rick Leaumont
Education: Cherie Baudrand
Finance: Lori Nelson
Fundraising: Marcie Daines
Membership: Open
Programs: Kathy Criddle
Delegate at Large: Robin Priddy

A number of positions are filled by appointment, rather than election. These people have agreed to serve LCBAS in appointed positions for 2020-2021.

Appointed positions:

Bateman Bird Walks: Lisa Hill
Book Sales: Robin Priddy
Christmas Bird Count: Dana Ward
Curlew Mailing: Jack and Murrel Dawson
Facebook: Heidi Newsome
Historian: Carole Byrd
Hospitality: Marcie and Tracy Daines
Junior Audubon: Cherie Baudrand
Membership List: Rich Barchet
Publicity: Char Reep
Taxidermy: Heidi Newsome
Website: Ed Rykiel

Bird and Nature Therapy, Online

As long as we're stuck at, or close to home, we might as well check out some opportunities to learn more about bird species, or our environment. As LCBAS will not have a May monthly meeting, perhaps one of these options will be an interesting alternative—and you can enjoy the resource during our normally scheduled meeting time, or if a youtube link, another time.

The Deep Forest Owls of the Pacific Northwest: A Conservation Dilemma.

Jack Dumbacher is curator of birds and mammals at the California Academy of Sciences, where he's done work on poisonous birds in New Guinea, elephant-shrews in Namibia, and a variety of projects in California, including studying how fires impact bird communities. Jack will dive a little deeper into work being done in California and the Pacific Northwest on the federally listed Northern Spotted Owl. The Northern Spotted Owl is a beautiful forest species that has been in decline for 30 years, in part because of another owl that has invaded from the Eastern U.S. What will it take to save the spotted owl, and should we do it? Join us to hear about the latest data on our local forest owl "celebrity," and ask questions about the tough decisions that managers may have to make in the near future.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHATnApz-Wk>

For more nature, birds, and science from the California Academy of Sciences, check out their Breakfast Club, here: <https://www.calacademy.org/academy-breakfast-club-livestreamed> and/or other available online resources: <https://www.calacademy.org/?fbclid=IwAR1YupOmQaz2rXh2rnrKPGXVGglaqPGPyStxpBDiau2YmpLvZuvcBWxaU8>

On Tuesday, May 26th, the North Cascades Audubon Society will have a live Zoom presentation from 7 — 8:30 P.M. It is free and open to the public, but you must sign up in advance to get the Zoom entry details.

Fire in Washington's Forests: A Tale of Two Sides of the Mountains.

Dr. Brian J. Harvey is an Assistant Professor in the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences in the College of the Environment at the University of Washington. His research focuses on understanding the nature of forest disturbances (e.g., fires and insect outbreaks) and how forest structure and function is shaped by disturbances, interactions among disturbances, and climate.

Fire has played a foundational role in the forests across the State of Washington historically, currently, and will continue to do so in the future. However, the natural role of fire, effects of past forest management, and effects of a warming climate are drastically different between the east and west sides of the Cascade Mountains. In this talk Dr. Brian Harvey will discuss some current research frontiers regarding forest fire ecology in Washington, and what forests of the future may look like in a warm and more fire-prone future.

Tuesday, May 26; 7 - 8:30pm

The Zoom log-in will be sent by email to registered attendees. To register please click the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/north-cascades-audubon-society-fire-in-was-forests-registration-103550321800>

Remember, this is free, and open to the public, but you need to download Zoom and sign up in advance.

Audubon for Kids, and Kids at Heart

Do you have children or grandchildren at home looking for something different to do? How about you? If you would like to check out an activity which is fun, educational, creative, involves the outdoors, and teaches about birds, check out National Audubon's new, on-line resource for kids, and kids at heart. (That means you!)

This is how National Audubon introduces their new resource: Audubon for Kids! "We can and will get through this together. And it's in that spirit that we're sharing our new Audubon for Kids! program with you. This resource aims to bring together activities from across Audubon's national network of environmental educators, including the classroom curriculum Audubon Adventures, plus related DIY (do it yourself) activities and content from Audubon's editors. These activities can be done at home or in a yard or park, sometimes with the help of a computer. The goal isn't to teach a child how to name and identify bird species, but rather to give them space to explore and feel connected to the natural world. If you're a parent or caretaker, that means you don't need to worry about your own knowledge of birds or plants. All you need to be is a companion to your child's curiosity. We hope it will help you and your loved ones find awe and inspiration in the natural world around us. Here is the link: <https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids>

The Joys of Birding

By Charlene Burge

LCBAS will not be hosting any field trips because of the risk of COVID-19. However, you don't need to give up on the joys of birding and the inspiration the outdoors and nature provides. You can get out by yourself while socially distancing in a way that is responsible, and protect yourself and others. You may need to be flexible and move to a different site if you find your first choice is already too busy. It's difficult to avoid close encounters on narrow trails. Do you know the best places near you to go birding? Have you thought about exploring new areas but aren't sure where to go? The LCBAS website has a list, and descriptions of birding locations here: <https://lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/BirdingLocations.html>

Many birds are just arriving now, or migrating through on their way to their breeding grounds—and some are showing up in unusual numbers. For example, several birders are reporting an unexpected species this year: Evening Grosbeaks. Nancy LaFramboise reported several at her feeder, and commented that it's important to remember that they are finches, and like the House Finches and goldfinches, they wander. This leads to some years being irruption years, where they are seen in unexpected places or numbers. If you use Facebook, you can follow the reports on the Tri-Cities Birders page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/151054868748760/>, and on the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon page <https://www.facebook.com/lcbas/>. eBird is, as always, a great resource.



Evening Grosbeak
Photo by Eric Ellingson



Least Sandpiper at McNary NWR HQ Unit
Photo by Sheri Whitfield



White-faced Ibis at McNary NWR
Photo by Elke Davis

Some birders report that their normal feeder birds are suddenly missing, or their numbers have dropped. Where did they go? Many of those species may either be staying close to a nesting location, and natural food sources that are now more available with flowering and/or going to seed spring plants, or choosing natural food sources that have more of a certain nutrient that they need. I've noticed House Finches plucking all the seeds from the back yard dandelions (thank you finches!) while ignoring the feeder. Others species may have migrated in large numbers to breeding/nesting locations, and will be back.

Our local wetlands and waterways are also experiencing a fluctuation of birds. White-faced Ibis, considered rare here in the Lower Columbia Basin, have been seen by many birders in the McNary NWR / Wallula Unit / Walla Walla River delta. Osprey's, common but ever so exciting to see back again, are at their normal platforms, but one pair surprised us by building a nest in a parking lot on a light structure!

So please, give yourself a nature break, and go birding, safely. Let us know what you see via the Facebook pages, eBird, or contact the Curlew Editor at communications@lcbas.org if you would like a chance to have your observations featured in the Curlew. We are always accepting submissions .

Have you found a baby bird out of the nest too early, or an injured bird? Not sure how to proceed? Blue Mountain Wildlife, and LCBAS, have helpful guidelines: <https://lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/Injured.html>

Field Trip: Snow Mountain

Trip Report and Photos by Ivar Husa

Earlier this month Elke Davis and I had the pleasure of visiting a natural area west of Yakima called Snow Mountain Ranch. When David James spoke at one of our meetings he recommended the area for butterflies (and I suppose birds too). This 1800 acre historic ranching area is a Cowiche Canyon Conservancy holding, where they are working on native habitat restoration. Habitats on the ranch include riparian, pond, and wide open lowland fields. Elke and I saw lots of birds and bugs, and the weather was wonderful. I returned May 8th. My mission was to gain the summit, and photograph anything that flies, and then stops long enough for a photograph.

The natural area is easy to get to and there was plenty of parking when we visited. There is a lower area with long trails and little elevation gain. I did the circle route, which takes one to Cowiche Summit. I haven't looked it up, but it was some elevation gain, up and down 10 miles.

One can see Mount Adams and Rainier summits from there. I recorded 19 species, including Western Tanager and Lazuli Bunting.

For more information on the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy: <https://www.cowichecanyon.org/>



Ivar Husa



Lazuli Bunting



The View from the Summit

Now Free from Pete Thayer — Thayer Birding Software!

By Pete Thayer

After 26 years, I am starting to gradually wind down Thayer Birding Software. As part of my exit strategy, I realized that the decision to offer our birding software now to anyone for free just made a lot of sense. Thousands have already taken advantage of this offer. Use this software to learn about the amazing birds in your yard and in your country. Watch videos of bird behavior, hear their songs, and take hundreds of fun quizzes on the birds of North America. Use the ID Wizard if you are not sure of a bird name. Compare two birds side-by-side. If you like, use the promo code PeteThayerFree to change the price from \$49.95 to \$0.00. This program runs on computers using Windows 7, 8 or 10. It will also run on older Mac Operating Systems such as Mac OS X 10.9 - MacOS 10.13. This includes High Sierra, Sierra, El Capitan, Yosemite and Mavericks. It is very easy to download a copy: Simply visit www.ThayerBirding.com. Click the "Windows or Mac download" button. Now click the "Add Promo Code button". Type in PeteThayerFree. Click Apply. Click Free Checkout. Happy Birding!

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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	Jim Castle	president@lcbas.org
Vice President	Sheri Whitfield	vicepresident@lcbas.org
Treasurer	Lori Nelson	treasurer@lcbas.org
Secretary	Debbie Berkowitz	secretary@lcbas.org
Birding Events	Jason Fidorra	fieldtrips@lcbas.org
Communications Chair	Charlene Burge	communications@lcbas.org
Conservation Co-Chair	Dana Ward and Rick Leumont	conservation@lcbas.org
Education Chair	Cherie Baudrand	education@lcbas.org
Finance Chair	Lori Nelson	treasurer@lcbas.org
Fundraising Chair	Marcie Daines	fundraising@lcbas.org
Membership Chair	OPEN	Pending
Program Chair	Kathy Criddle	programs@lcbas.org
Director at Large	Robin Priddy	

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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