

Kingfisher

Volume 1, Issue 3

Winter 2006



Christmas Bird Count

To help save our natural resources and reduce costs, we can provide our newsletter in electronic format. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, send an e-mail to audubonlc@charter.net

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The 107th annual Christmas Bird Count season is rapidly approaching; compilers and participants are finalizing their plans and eagerly anticipating what birds, weather, and exciting times will come their way.

More than 50,000 observers participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations. The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. Simply put, the Christmas Bird Count, or "CBC", is citizen science in action. This annual event is an opportunity to meet other local volunteers, hone your birding skills, and take part in a seasonal tradition.

Audubon Society of Lincoln City is planning on establishing a count circle in Lincoln City for the 2007 CBC. Until then, there are two well-established counts in our area—please come and join the fun!

Tillamook Bay CBC

To take part in the Tillamook Bay CBC, meet at the Shilo Inn Restaurant in Tillamook (2535 N. Main, on Hwy. 101, across from Fred Meyer) at 6:30 am. No-host hearty buffet breakfast.

Compiler: Owen Schmidt (oschmidt@att.net)

Count Date: 12-16-06

Count Status: Open to all Participants. Please pre-register at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc

Yaquina Bay CBC

Meet at Apple Peddler Restaurant, 705 SE Coast Hwy, Newport prior to 7 AM departure time. Bring lunch and clothing layers for changeable coastal weather - expect anything from 40F with sideways rain to 60F sunshine.

Compiler: Rebecca Cheek

Count Date: 12-30-06

Count Status: Email nelsoncheek@charter.net for more information about joining.

An Unlikely Visitor—Hoot!

No, they are not filming another movie entitled Hoot, but a burrowing owl was spotted in Newport near the Sports Therapy and Wellness Center, just north of Les Schwab.

Borrowing Owls prefer open, dry grasslands and desert-type areas, and are rarely found on the Central Oregon Coast. This visitor may have hitched a ride to the coast via some form of

motorized transportation, possibly a delivery truck coming from Central Oregon.

As with all wildlife, please be careful not to disturb the owl. It is in an area of heavy foot and vehicle traffic and should be viewed from a distance.

(Photo by Dick Demarest)



The Common Loon

The Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is often seen on the lakes of Oregon. In summer it is very striking with its black and white checkered back, glossy black head, white belly and wing lining, and characteristic white necklace around the throat. In the summer it has red eyes, which help it to see underwater. The beak is dagger shaped to help it spear fish. In winter, the plumage is much paler, with the upperparts dark gray and the throat and belly white. The loon is larger than a mallard duck, but smaller than a cormorant.

Loons have a haunting and variable voice. They have four distinct calls, which they use in varying combinations to communicate with their families and other loons. The tremolo sounds like a crazy laugh and is used for a variety of purposes, such as to signal alarm or worry and to denote annoyance or greeting. The wail is one of the loveliest of loon calls. It is used frequently during social interactions between loons and may be used to regain contact with a mate during night chorusing and in answering other loon tremolos. The yodel is given only by the male. The hoot is a one-note call that sounds more like "hoo." It is mainly used by family members to locate each other and check on their well-being.

Expert divers, loons have eyes that can focus both in air and under water and nearly solid bones that make them heavier than many other birds; they are able to concentrate oxygen in their leg muscles to sustain them during the

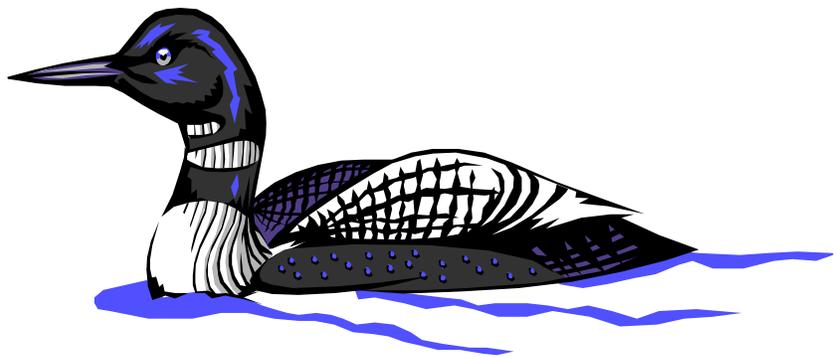
strenuous paddling that can take them as far as 200 feet below the surface. Loons are predators; their diet in summer consists of fish, crayfish, frogs, snails, salamander, and leeches. Hunting, feeding, resting, preening, and caring for young are the loon's main activities. The bird spends long rest periods motionless on the water. It may rouse itself to stretch a leg or wing at intervals, occasionally comically wagging a foot. When swimming on top of the water it will sit erect with its neck slightly curved. The loon will peer underwater, moving its head from side to side to locate prey. It then aims and dives quickly.

True to its reclusive and solitary nature, the loon prefers a secluded lake or estuary. It is very territorial, normally with only one family to a small body of water. The loon pairs tend to be monogamous. The loon nests as close to the water as possible, nearly throwing itself out of the nest and into the water. Their size, solid bone structure and

weight distribution result in thrashing water take-offs that can last 100's of feet. The loon's landing is nothing so much as a controlled crash-glide.

The loon chick can swim right away, but spends some time on the back of a parent to rest, conserve heat, and avoid predators. Chicks are fed exclusively by their parents for the first few weeks of life, and up until eight weeks of age the adults are with them most of the time. At migration time, the young are able to look after themselves, and the adults generally leave first, with the young following soon after.

According to *Birds of Oregon*, by David Marshall, et al, the Common Loon is the most widespread loon in winter, occurring on both salt and fresh water. The call of the loon is rarely heard in Oregon and so it is most easily found by scanning the sky and ocean where it may be seen with other loon species.



Our New Board Member—Welcome!

Gretchen Ammerman, our newest board member, relocated to the Oregon coast in 2005 from San Francisco. Although a Californian, Gretchen points out that San Francisco isn't exactly in the banana belt, so the weather has not been too much of an adjustment.

Her enthusiasm for birds began when she volunteered at a triage center for birds grounded by an oil spill off the coast of Humboldt County, where she

was concluding coursework for an environmental science degree at Humboldt State University. To this day, her identification skills are limited to aquatic species.

Gretchen is currently the Manager of the Lincoln County Solid Waste District, a position that is exactly as glamorous as it sounds.

Help us set the goals and future direction of Audubon on the Central Oregon Coast by becoming an Audubon Society of Lincoln City board member. Interested individuals from Tillamook and south Lincoln County are especially encouraged to get involved. Our regular board meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm in Lincoln City. Call 541-921-4009 for more information.

Audubon Field Trips

Audubon Society of Lincoln City members and the general public are invited to attend our field trips. People with all levels of natural history experience, from beginning to expert, are welcome.

These trips are a great way to become more familiar with the birds of Oregon, plus you will find some great new places to go birding and meet some new friends to.

There is no fee for our field trips, but we encourage participants to carpool and share costs with the driver. Carpooling is encouraged for conservation of energy resources and enhanced sociability. Wear your binoculars so the leader and other participants can identify you.

For more information or comments call Audubon Society of Lincoln City at 541-921-4009.



2007 Field Trip Schedule

January 13: Yaquina Bay, 9:00 am
Meet at Hatfield Marine Science Center

February 10: Boiler Bay, Depoe Bay, 9:00 am
Meet at Boiler Bay State Park

March 10: Siletz Bay, 8:00 am
Meet at SW 51st street in Taft

April 14: Yaquina Bay, 8:00 am
Meet at Hatfield Marine Science Center

May 12: Birdathon—locations to be chosen
Look for details in our Spring newsletter

For the Birds—Upcoming Events in the Pacific Northwest

Christmas Bird Count—
December 16th and December 30th. (see page 1 for details).

Great Backyard Bird Count—
President's Day weekend, February 16-19, 2007. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all levels in counting birds and reporting results to create a mid-winter snapshot of the numbers, kinds, and distribution of birds across the continent. At the Great Backyard Bird Count web site, www.birdsource.org, participants can fill out an online checklist, check results from other areas, and track the count in their neighborhood.

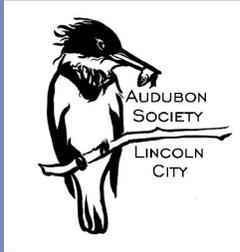
Winter Wings Festival—
February 15-18, 2007. The Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival is a four-day event that occurs every President's Weekend at Oregon Institute of Technology. The Festival will offer workshops, tours, vendors, displays, and activities attractive to families at low or no cost.

Birding & Blues Festival—
February 23-25, 2007 in Pacific City. Now into their fourth successful year, the upcoming Pacific City Birding and Blues Festival of 2007 will offer 12 nature seminars, 16 three-hour field trips, an all-day Three Capes Birding Tour, live birds of prey, a writer's workshop, a nature sketching class -

and to top it off, blues music in the evening.

Olympic BirdFest—
Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2007 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, March 30 - April 1, 2007.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula. Program information and registration can be found at www.olympicbirdfest.org.



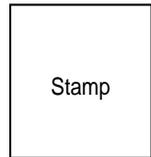
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www.lincolncityaudubon.com

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Audubon Society of Lincoln City Mission Statement

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City's mission is to encourage residents and visitors to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats found on the Central Oregon Coast.

Become a Member Today

Your donation to the Audubon Society of Lincoln City supports our environmental education and citizen science programs, and enables us to participate in restoration and public advocacy projects throughout the Central Oregon Coast.

_____ \$20 Individual _____ \$30 Family _____ \$50 Wood Duck

_____ \$100 Red-Tailed Hawk _____ \$250 Chestnut-backed Chickadee _____ \$500 Osprey

_____ \$1000 Kingfisher _____ \$Other _____

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Audubon Society of Lincoln City is a nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Please return this slip with your check payable to Audubon Society of Lincoln City. Member information is confidential. We do not sell or share our membership list.

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