



# The Kingfisher

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Summer 2006

This is the first quarterly newsletter of the Audubon Society of Lincoln City. 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 nickersons@charter.net

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## Kingfisher Named Official Bird of Lincoln City

Thank you to the students of Oceanlake Elementary, Taft Elementary and Faith Baptist Kindergarten for casting over 750 votes and electing the Belted Kingfisher as the official bird of Lincoln City.

On June 12, the city council of Lincoln City approved the following proclamation.

*Whereas, the Belted Kingfisher (Ceryle alcyon), the majestically crested bird often heard before seen due to its conspicuous harsh rattling call, is a common permanent resident throughout Lincoln City. The Belted Kingfisher can be found specifically near the open waters of Devils Lake, Siletz Bay, the Salmon River, and local marshes and estuaries.*

*Whereas, the students of Oceanlake Elementary School, Taft Elementary School, and Faith Baptist Kindergarten cast over 750 votes to elect the Belted Kingfisher as the official bird of Lincoln City.*

*Whereas, the Audubon Society of Lincoln City will educate and enlighten the citizens of, and visitors to, Lincoln City as to the importance of the Belted Kingfisher and its habitat by promoting the official bird through chapter newsletters, field trips, habitat restoration projects, and environmental education programs.*

The Belted Kingfisher can be found throughout the area including the Siletz Bay, Drift Creek, Salmon River, Devils Lake, and many other creeks, marshes and estuaries.

Alexandra Chitty, an artist in residence at the Sitka Center has created the official logo for the Audubon Society of Lincoln City—shown for the first time on this newsletter. Ms. Chitty is a printmaker whose work is deeply influenced by her background as a scientist. She produces sculptural modern artifacts on paper and fabric. Her delicate prints capture the



**The Belted Kingfisher named the official bird of Lincoln City.**

true essence of her subject with detail that lures one in to take a closer examination. Her days at Sitka have allowed her to explore the land on foot, producing encounters with local wildlife such as porcupine, sea birds and a variety of fauna and flora. Her eye for detail has pushed her into new territory as a printmaker. Chitty holds a BA in fine arts and biology from Smith College and will attend the Graduate Printmedia program at the Art Institute of Chicago this fall.

## Audubon Society of Lincoln City Continues to Grow!

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City was formed in October 2005 and currently has over 180 members in Lincoln and Tillamook Counties. Our mission is to encourage residents and visitors to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and habitats found on the Central Oregon Coast. Our goals are focused in three main areas:

**Education** — Offer experiences in nature to the schoolchildren, adults, and seniors in and visitors to the Central Oregon Coast. This programming would be a precursor to establishing a permanent environmental education center in the area.

**Conservation** — Initiate conservation projects to directly

benefit birds, other wildlife, and their habitats and to stimulate grassroots efforts specifically on issues affecting the Central Oregon Coast.

**Citizen Science** — Create involvement of the local community in citizen-science opportunities through Important Bird Areas, Great Backyard Bird Count, and Christmas Bird Count projects.

***Ospreys were seriously endangered by effects of pesticides in the mid-20th century, but have made a good comeback.***

Lives of North American Birds,  
Kenn Kaufman

## Osprey Nesting in Siletz Bay

Next time you are traveling south of Lincoln City on Hwy 101, pay close attention while you are crossing the Siletz River. Just upstream you can see the Osprey nest atop an abandoned utility pole in the middle of the river. And if you are really lucky you will see the Osprey either sitting in the nest or circling overhead.

US Fish and Wildlife Biologist, David Pitkin has been coordinating with Kevin Putnam of PPL and Bob Thomas with Sprint about the osprey nest and the status of the utility pole.

New utility poles have been installed over the river, and are now in operation. The osprey nest remains on the old

Sprint pole on the small island in the middle of the river, and there are no imminent plans to remove the pole. However, the wires on the pole will have to be removed, and that will probably weaken it, as the pole is in very poor condition.

Meetings have been held to discuss the possibility of putting up a new pole for the osprey pair. This pole would have a nice nesting platform attached to the top of it, and would probably be placed on the mainland on the south bank of the Siletz River within a short distance from the current nest site.

An excellent place to view these fish hawks plunging feet first into the river to catch fish

is from the Kernville Restaurant. Sit back and enjoy the view while enjoying a good meal too. The Kernville is also the place to see more Osprey photos like the one shown below, by local photographer Brian Gaunt.



## Summer Field Trips for the Entire Family

### Audubon Field Trips

The second Saturday of the month is the selected day for Audubon's monthly field trips. Bring binoculars and a field guide to enjoy these upcoming trips:

Saturday, July 8, 2006

Yaquina Bay— 8am -noon, meet at the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

Saturday, August 12, 2006

Tillamook, Bay Ocean Spit, Cape Mears—meet at 7am at Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce (Safeway parking lot) to carpool north or meet at 8:30am at Bay Ocean Spit located on the east side of Tillamook bay off the Three Capes Drive.

For more information contact Field Trip coordinator Dick Demarest at 541-765-2241 or

email [marets@cablespeed.com](mailto:marets@cablespeed.com).

### Siletz Bay Wildlife Refuge Kayak Trips

The Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex invites you to join refuge interpreters Sylvia Graham and Amanda Gladics in a rare opportunity to explore Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge during a series of five guided canoe and kayak trips during July and August, 2006.

Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak for the event and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will have extra binoculars and field guides to borrow if needed. The tours will take place at the following dates and times:

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

1:15pm-3:45pm

Thursday, July 20, 2006

9:15am-11:30am

Thursday, August 3, 2006

7:15am-9:30am

Tuesday, August 22, 2006

12pm-2:15pm

Monday, August 28, 2006

2:30pm-4:45pm

To reserve your space please contact Amanda Gladics by calling 541-867-4550 or e-mail [amanda\\_gladics@fws.gov](mailto:amanda_gladics@fws.gov).

## Summer Bird Feeding - It's Not Just for Hummingbirds Anymore!

If you're like most people, you feed the birds in your backyard during the winter, while in the summer, you change to feeding the hummingbirds-- allowing the songbirds to forage for food on their own when insects, seeds and fruits appear plentiful. It is true that spring and summer bring the bounty of foods needed by most birds, and the dependence on backyard feeders may diminish. However, in times of drought or other weather extremes, birds do well with filled feeders nearby. This can be especially

true during the summer when bird pairs are actively raising their young.

By feeding birds in the summer, you can enjoy increased involvement with birds—more species, and in different cycles of their lives. It is possible, for instance, to leave suet out in the summer too- although in smaller amounts-and in temperatures below 80° F. Downy woodpeckers may bring their young to the suet to give them a head start in nutrition. Dried, crushed eggshells can also be

rewarding as many birds feed on them for the calcium they provide.

It is important to remember when feeding birds in the summer to be extra careful that the food you offer is fresh, to only offer what can be consumed in a day or two, and that the feeders are kept clean.

Or... you can always hang a hummingbird feeder. Remember, the best nectar is just one part white table sugar to four parts water.



**Dark-eyed Junco**  
Photo by Jack Doyle

## Birding on the Central Oregon Coast

Birding on the Central Oregon Coast is good all year long. So pull out your binoculars, pack up the kids, and begin your trek to view and photograph our fine feathered friends. From Tillamook to Newport a myriad of locations and opportunities exist for bird watching enthusiasts. Here are a few of the outstanding ones.

A bit north of the town of Neskowin and off of Hwy 101 is Three Capes Drive Loop. As Gary Lesniak of the Pacific City Birding and Wildlife Taskforce notes "Birders traveling Three Capes Drive have discovered that Pacific City is surrounded by diverse bird habitats: ocean shore, marine headlands, coastal rocks and islands, bays, rivers, wetlands, dunes, coastal rainforests, and farmland." Some specific locations in the Pacific City area appealing to birders are the Neskowin Marsh, the Little Nestucca River and the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge. From August to March, Tillamook Bay is one of the best spots in Oregon to

watch birds and has been designated an Important Bird Area.

Siletz Bay and the Salmon River Estuary near Lincoln City have both been designated Important Bird Areas. More than 274 species can be seen between the Salmon River Estuary and Boiler Bay just south of town. Favorite places to bird include Devils Lake at the north end of town, and specifically at the locations of East Devils Lake State Park, and Regatta Park. Shorebirds, waterfowl and seabirds can be observed using Siletz Bay, where grassy areas, shrubs, trees, mud flats, ponds and beachfront reveal at least 3 dozen species, with twice as many possible depending upon luck and the season. Favorite locations on Siletz Bay are the Bay Park Kiosk just south of Waters Edge Inn on Highway 101 and the area near Mo's Restaurant on SW 51<sup>st</sup> Street. Although the Siletz Bay Wildlife Refuge is closed to humans, many of the species can be seen from the nature trail that follows the south end of the

bay, which originates in the parking lot in the Shops at Salsihan.

Farther south, near Newport, are the areas of Yaquina Head and Yaquina Bay. Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area is a State Important Bird Area and a Globally Important Bird Area. It is a great spot for viewing nesting birds, including Western Gulls, Common Murres, Brandt's Cormorants, and Pelagic Cormorants, particularly if you are packing a pair of binoculars. Yaquina Bay is home to thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl each year.

There are enough birds in this area to make Tippy Hedron nervous. But our coastal birds are kinder. So where did you leave those binoculars, and how soon can you get here?

For more information on area birding, visit [www.oregoncoast.org](http://www.oregoncoast.org) and [www.orednet.org](http://www.orednet.org).

***Tillamook Bay,  
Siletz Bay, the  
Salmon River  
Estuary, and  
Yaquina Head  
Outstanding  
Natural Area have  
all been designated  
as Important Bird  
Areas by Bird Life  
International and  
Audubon***



PO Box 38  
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Phone: 541-921-4009  
E-mail: nickersons@charter.net  
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 membership in 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 \_\_\_ \$100 Contributor \_\_\_ \$250 Supporter  
\_\_\_ \$500 Patron \_\_\_ \$Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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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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