



# The Kingfisher

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall 2007

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](mailto:audubonlc@charter.net)

## Join Us for the Third Annual Breakfast & Birds

**Guest Speakers • Food & Beverages • Silent Auction**

**November 3, 2007**

9:00am—noon

**The Pacific Coast Center for Culinary Arts**

801 SW Hwy 101, Fourth Floor North  
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Call 541-921-4009 for more information

**Field Trip:** Beginning at 7:30 am — Siletz Bay — meet at SW 51st Street in Taft

## Nestucca Bay Wildlife Refuge Open House

Join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as they host an Open House at Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, October 13, 2007 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. This free interpretive and interactive event is being held to celebrate the National Wildlife Refuge System and is open to the public.

During the Open House event, visitors can enjoy breathtaking views of the Coast Range, the Pacific Ocean, Cape Kiwanda and Haystack Rock as they embark on a two-hour hike around the refuge to watch wildlife and learn about the history and purposes of the refuge. Two simultaneous hikes will occur as part of the event. Refuge Volunteer and Caretaker Matt Love will lead a walk that focuses on the history of Nestucca Bay Refuge and the restoration of native for-

est. Supervisory Park Ranger Dawn Grafe will lead a bird hike around the refuge to look for large and small birds in a variety of habitats including managed pastures, woodlands, and open bay. These habitats provide safe haven for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and many species of songbirds.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will have binoculars and field guides to loan for those who would like close-up looks at wildlife. Please dress for Oregon's ever changing and often inclement weather. Meet at 9:00 am at the gravel parking area on Christensen Road (turn west onto Christensen Road off of Highway 101 and travel approximately ½ mile) across from refuge housing. For more information contact Dawn Grafe at 541-867-4550.

### Inside this issue:

**The Great Egret** 2

**A Healthy Marine Ecosystem** 2

**Happy Birthday! Three Arch Rocks** 3

**Upcoming Field Trips** 4

**Become a Member Today** 4

**Audubon Society of Lincoln City supports Measure 49!**

## Great Egret

The Great Egret is also known as the Great White Egret, White Heron, or Common Egret. Great Egrets are only partially migratory, with northern hemisphere birds moving south from areas with cold winters. They breed in colonies in trees close to large lakes with reed beds or other extensive wetlands, and feed in shallow water or drier habitats, spearing fish, frogs or insects with their long, sharp bill. They are often seen waiting motionless for prey, or slowly stalking their victims.

The Great Egret is a large bird with all white plumage that can reach over 3 feet in height and weigh up to 3 pounds. It is only slightly smaller than the Great Blue or Grey Herons. Apart from size, the Great Egret can be distinguished

from other white egrets by its yellow bill and black legs and feet. It also has a slow flight, with its neck retracted. This is characteristic of herons and bitterns, and distinguishes them from storks, cranes and spoonbills, which extend their necks.

Large numbers of Great Egrets were killed around the end of the 19th century so that their plumes could be used to decorate hats. The National Audubon Society was partially founded in order to end this practice, which is why the Great Egret is its official bird. Numbers have since recovered as a result of conservation measures, although in some parts of the southern United States, numbers have declined due to habitat loss.



Photo by Jack Doyle

---

## A Healthy Marine Ecosystem, Sustainable Fisheries and Wave Energy - How Do They Fit Together?

by Cheryl Coon

Oregonians know that our coast is one of the prize jewels of our state. Oregon's ocean nurtures underwater kelp forests, rocky reefs, offshore rocks and other unique features that provide habitat for seabirds, mammals, fish and other marine resources. But recent signs that our ocean is not as healthy as it used to be have spurred us to push for better protections of these underwater gems, so that we can ensure a healthy ocean for future generations of coastal residents, fishermen, tourists, surfers, divers, and others to enjoy. As we move forward to set aside special areas in the ocean for protection, we also are aware that the renewable energy sector is also looking to our ocean as a resource. A flurry of recent activity for wave energy projects filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission demonstrates the potential for new technologies to shape the future of our coast.

In early 2007, Governor Kulongoski asked the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) to proceed with his vision of establishing a system of heritage marine reserves in the ocean to protect the biodiversity of major types of bottom habitat. Over the next eighteen months, OPAC and its marine reserves working

group have an ambitious agenda to accomplish that vision. Most important, from mid-January to mid-April of 2008, the public will have the chance to nominate special places for protection. Public nominations will go to OPAC, the Governor, and ultimately to key state agencies for action. The Department of State Lands and its Land Board, who manage the seabed floor, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife and its Commission, who have exclusive authority over all fishing, will be active in this effort.

Oregon has the necessary conditions to make ocean wave energy commercially viable. The development and commercialization of wave energy technology will help Oregon achieve the goal of Governor Kulongoski's Renewable Energy Action Plan, which calls for renewable resources to meet 25% of Oregon's energy needs by 2025. Wave energy is also being touted for economic development and as a way to help Oregon's coastal cities diversify. Four ocean wave energy demonstration projects already have received preliminary permits from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These "pilot projects" will be located in the Pacific Ocean off the coasts of Coos and Douglas Counties. Permitting for

three other proposed wave energy projects located offshore of Lane and Lincoln counties is currently under consideration. Under FERC's rules, the preliminary permits do not authorize construction; rather they give the permit holders exclusive rights to study the location for potential wave energy development. But demonstration sites (and likely any permanent facilities) will exclude all other uses such as commercial and sport fishing and recreational activities such as surfing and boating.

Not surprisingly, coastal residents and communities have many questions about these efforts. Some traditional fishing communities are concerned about how the emphasis on healthy oceans and new forms of energy will affect their way of life and their livelihoods.

The Governor's interest in marine protection, the progress of wave energy and the concerns of coastal residents means we have a lot to do. All of us need to reach out to our communities and share why marine ecosystem protection is so important, both for sustainable fisheries and as insurance against the unknown effects of global climate change. We need to ensure that wave energy proceeds, but in a manner that does not unduly displace marine protection or traditional uses.

## Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge Centennial

By Dawn Grafe and Amy Gaskill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

In its pioneer days, the natural abundance of a young United States seemed boundless, and so were the appetites of its people. By the early 20th century, Americans had hunted bison and elk to near extinction, silenced generations of nesting birds to use their showy feathers for high fashion, and drained countless marshes for conversion to farmland. However, the exploitation of the continent's natural resource bounty did not go unnoticed.

There is no clear documentation of just when the concept of protection wildlife through habitat preservation was born but as long ago as the mid 1800's diaries of early western explorers, pictorial records and reports from journalists and speakers familiar with the West brought a public realization that the unrestricted slaughter of wildlife for food, fashion and commerce was systematically destroying an irreplaceable national heritage.

Far-sighted citizens and leaders including President Theodore Roosevelt and Oregon's William L. Finley nurtured the seeds of conservation and acted on the belief that America's wildlife heritage should be protected. In 1903, Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge at Pelican Island, Florida and by October 1907 he had designated the first refuge in the west at Three Arch Rocks in Oregon.

The need to designate Three Arch Rocks as a protected wildlife area was first brought to Roosevelt's attention by a young naturalist and conservationist, William L. Finley. Finley and his childhood friend, Herman Bohlman both visited the wind and sea swept rocks in June of 1901 and 1903 to photograph its unique wildlife. During the first expedition they witnessed a tugboat filled with target shooters circling the rocks blasting seabirds for sport and other boats carrying gunners who were shooting Steller Sea Lions for their skins and oil.

Finley wrote "The beaches at Oceanside were littered with dead birds following the Sunday carnage." They knew they had to put a stop to this slaughter as the seabird and seal colonies could not survive much longer. Bad weather conditions prevented them from getting good photographs of the wildlife on the first trip but a second trip in 1903 proved successful at which time they took some of the first photographs of nesting seabirds, collected eggs and specimens

for study, and documented some of the life history of the birds.

Finley had already heard about President Theodore Roosevelt's desire to protect habitat for species conservation, and a few months after the Three Arch Rocks visit he traveled across the country to Washington, D.C. for a personal audience with the President. Finley spread the photographs of the wild animals of the Pacific Coast on a table in front of Roosevelt who found the photos so compelling, he exclaimed "Bully bully, we'll make a sanctuary out of Three Arch Rocks." But Finley's job was not over, he had to lobby four years until the President designated Three Arch Rocks as the first National Wildlife Refuge west of the Mississippi River on October 14, 1907. During that time Finley and Bohlman along with the Oregon Audubon Society (now the Audubon Society of Portland) worked to establish the State Model Bird Law that outlawed the sport hunting of all seabirds. Armed with the new law, the Oregon Game Warden for the Tillamook area confronted the owner of the tugboat Vosberg and mercifully put an end to the shooting parties.

A full century after formal protection, Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge provides habitat for Oregon's largest breeding colonies of Tufted Puffins and Common Murre. The refuge is one of the smallest designated Wilderness Areas in the country providing 15 acres of habitat for over 100,000 nesting seabirds and is the northernmost pupping site of the federally threatened Steller sea lion. Other seabird species breeding on this refuge include Common Murre, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Brandt's Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Rhinoceros Auklet, Cassin's Auklet, Pigeon Guillemot Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull and Black Oystercatcher.

### Visitor Opportunities

Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge can best be viewed from the mainland at Cape Meares and from Oceanside Beach in the community of Oceanside. To prevent disturbance to extremely sensitive seabirds, Three Arch Rocks Refuge is closed to public entry year-round and waters within 500 feet of the refuge are closed to all watercraft from May 1st through September 15th. The refuge staff plans to host several events throughout Three Arch Rocks centennial year.



PO Box 38  
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Phone: 541-921-4009  
E-mail: audubonlc@charter.net  
www.lincolncityaudubon.com

### Audubon Society of Lincoln City Board of Directors

President, Jack Doyle  
Vice-President, Lenny Nelson  
Treasurer, Jack Doyle  
Secretary, Peggy Hawker  
Lori Hollingsworth  
Raylene Erickson  
Ken Knapp  
Patrick O'Connor  
Janice Redford  
Sandy Pfaff  
Jack Nickerson  
Ron Kaser  
Director, Kathleen Nickerson  
Editor, Gretchen Ammerman  
Field Trip Leader, Dick Demarest

#### 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.

### Field Trip Schedule, 2007-2008

Date	Location	Time	Meeting Place
10/13/07	Yaquina Bay	9 AM	Hatfield Marine Science Center
11/03/07	Siletz Bay	7:30 AM	SW 51st St., Taft
11/10/07	Boiler Bay, Depot Bay	9 AM	Fogarty Creek State Park
12/08/07	Siletz Bay	9 AM	SW 51st St., Taft
01/05/08	Christmas Bird Count	7 AM	Apple Peddler Restaurant, Newport
01/12/08	Yaquina Bay	9 AM	Hatfield Marine Science Center
02/09/08	Seal Rocks & Alsea Bay	9 AM	Seal Rocks State Park
03/08/08	Siletz Bay	8 AM	SW 51st St., Taft
04/12/08	Devils Lake	8 AM	D River Wayside
05/09/08	Birdathon	8AM	Hatfield Marine Science Center
05/10/08	Birdathon	8AM	SW 51st St., Taft
06/14/08	Yaquina Head	8 AM	Yaquina Head Visitors Center (\$)

Please check our website for up-to-date information on all our field trips and events.

#### 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.