



AUDUBON
SOCIETY
LINCOLN
CITY

The Kingfisher

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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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State of the Birds

From Audubon Magazine, June 2007

Birds are important indicators of the overall health of our environment. Like the proverbial canaries in the coal mine, they send an urgent warning about threats to our water, air, natural resources, climate and more.

Audubon's State of the Birds reports provide a picture of how the continental U.S.' birds – both common and rare – are faring. They bring together population data from our Christmas Bird Count – the longest running wildlife census in the world, the U.S. Geological Survey's Breeding Bird Survey and other wildlife and habitat research to highlight population declines and explore the threats behind them.

A new series of State of the Birds analyses is being launched with June 2007's Common Birds in Decline.

Audubon's unprecedented analyses of forty years of bird population data from Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird Survey reveals alarming declines for many of our most common and beloved birds. Since 1967 the average population for the common birds in steepest decline has fallen 68 percent, from 17.6 million to 5.35 million. Some species have nose-dived as much as 80 percent and all 20 birds included in the Common Birds in Decline (shown at right) have lost at least 50 percent of their population - in just four decades. For more information on the State of the Birds, go to www.audubon.org.

- #1 Northern Bobwhite
- #2 Evening Grosbeak
- #3 Northern Pintail
- #4 Greater Scaup
- #5 Boreal Chickadee
- #6 Eastern Meadowlark
- #7 Common Tern
- #8 Loggerhead Shrike
- #9 Field Sparrow
- #10 Grasshopper Sparrow
- #11 Snow Bunting
- #12 Black-throated Sparrow
- #13 Lark Sparrow
- #14 Common Grackle
- #15 American Bittern
- #16 Rufous Hummingbird
- #17 Whip-poor-will
- #18 Horned Lark
- #19 Little Blue Heron
- #20 Ruffed Grouse

Audubon Field Trips

Audubon Society of Lincoln City will be offering field trips to local birding hotspots throughout Lincoln and Tillamook Counties. Each month, a new and exciting trip will be planned so birders, both experienced and novice, can enjoy the wonderful sites our area has to offer. This is a great opportunity for families

to get out and enjoy nature together!

Saturday, Sept. 8th: Siletz Bay. Meet at SW 51st St. in Taft at 9am.

Saturday, Oct. 13: Yaquina Bay. Meet at Hatfield Marine Science Center at 9am.



Thank you to Bill Bradbury, Dawn Grafe, Trillium Natural Foods, The Union 50 Club, Hot Club de Jour, and all the volunteers who helped make International Migratory Bird Day a big success!

Swallows

Swallows can be quickly recognized by the erratic, almost comical flight patterns they adopt when hunting for food. These members of the passerine order have adapted to skillfully catch insects mid-flight, using their unusually strong jaws and wide gape. Their slender streamlined bodies and long pointed wings give them their great maneuverability, endurance, and speed; the air speed of one swallow species is estimated to be roughly 24 miles per hour. Their body length ranges from about 3.9–9.4 inches and their weight from about 0.4–2.1 ounces. Swallows can produce many different calls or songs, but the typical song is a simple, sometimes musical twittering.

Swallows use their excellent flying skills to attract a mate; some female swallows will se-

lect mates on the basis of tail length, as a long tail increases maneuverability. Generally, the male will select a nesting site first, then go about attracting a mate. Pairs of mated swallows are monogamous, and pairs of non-migratory species often stay near their breeding area all year. Migratory species, such as the bank swallow, often return to the same breeding area each year, and may select the same nest site if they were previously successful in that location. First-year breeders generally select a nesting site close to where they were born and raised.

Species likely to be seen in Oregon include barn swallows (pictured), bank swallows, tree swallows, cliff swallows, and violet green swallows. Unfortunately, these birds may soon be negatively affected by global warming. According to the

American Bird Conservancy, bank swallows, tree swallows, and cliff swallows are among the species whose range will be moderately to severely decreased by the changing climate.

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City will be placing Swallow nest boxes at the Crowley Creek site off of Three Rocks Road in hopes of providing a unique educational opportunity for local residents to study the swallows up close.



Oregon Coast Birding Trail

On May 12, 2007, International Migratory Bird Day, members of the Lincoln City Audubon Society, local residents, and public officials gathered at Taft Waterfront Park to officially dedicate the Oregon Coast Birding Trail (photo right).

The Trail, which consists of 173 birding hotspots along the Oregon Coast, is a self-guided driving itinerary highlighting the premier locations for observing birds along the entire Oregon coast and into Northern California. More than 450 bird species have been recorded in the habitats along the beautiful Oregon coast.

Throughout Tillamook and Lin-

coln counties there are 65 birding trail sites to visit, explore, and visit again—season by season. The Audubon Society of Lincoln City is the sponsor of two of these sites. Spring Lake Open Space, located on NE Port Ave. in Lincoln City, includes several trails that meander through this 25-acre young forest with a



small lake and creek. Wood duck nest boxes circle the lake and are used annually.

Jospehine Young Park, located in Cutler City off of SW 65th St., gives an impressive view of the Siletz Bay and the mouth of Drift Creek. Many water fowl, shorebirds, eagles and herons are frequent visitors to the bay.

For more information on all of the sites on the Oregon Coast Birding Trail, and to download a printable map, go to www.oregoncostbirding.com.

Audubon Supports Renewable Energy

For years environmentalists have been touting the benefits of generating electricity from pollution-free wind power. As the threats of global warming loom ever larger, alternative energy sources like wind power are essential.

For Audubon, wind power is a good news, bad news story. The good news is that many new wind-power projects are being proposed across the country. The bad news is that wind turbines sometimes kill a lot of birds. Some early wind projects like Altamont in California are notorious for killing many raptors, including golden eagles. Modern wind turbines are much safer for birds than their predecessors, but if they are located in the wrong places, they can still be hazardous and can fragment critical habitat. In cases where the birds affected are already in trouble, such as sage grouse in windy parts of the plains states, the turbines could push them closer to extinction.

On balance, Audubon strongly supports wind power as a clean alternative energy source that reduces the threat of global warming. Location, however, is important. Many National Audubon Society Chapters and State Programs are actively involved in wind-power siting issues in their communities. Each project has a unique

set of circumstances and should be evaluated on its own merits.

Every source of energy has some environmental consequences. Most of today's rapidly growing demand for energy is now being met by natural gas and expanded coal-burning power plants, which are this country's single greatest source of the greenhouse-gas emissions that cause global warming. If we don't find ways to reduce these emissions, far more birds - and people - will be threatened by global warming than by wind turbines. Our challenge is thus to help design and locate wind-power projects that minimize the negative impacts on birds.

Audubon Society of Lincoln City supports renewable energy and specifically the Blue Sky program offered by Pacific Power.

For our members who are not in Pacific Power's service area, please contact your local utility and find out if they offer renewable energy options. For more information on Blue Sky, go to www.pacificpower.net/bluesky or contact the Lincoln City Community Outreach Coordinator for Blue Sky at 541-921-4009.



Audubon Leads Adventures in Lincoln City Schools



The Audubon Society of Lincoln City is delighted to offer educators and students Audubon Adventures — a nationally acclaimed, award-winning program. During the 2006-2007 school year, Audubon Society of Lincoln City presented Audubon Adventures to more than 300 school children in Lincoln City schools. A grant from the Walter R. Behrens Foundation has allowed us to offer these programs at no charge to students in Lincoln City during 2007.

Audubon Adventures has been honored with numerous awards for excellence in educational publishing. Most recently, Classroom Earth added Audubon Adventures to its list of "Top Ten Most Popular Environmental Education Projects for K-12 Teachers."

Each two or three-hour Audubon Adventures program comes with a student newspaper which focuses on a topic about the natural world, hands-on activities, and assessment questions and answers. An Audubon volunteer provides resources and expertise, and even conducts the classroom lessons and accompanying field trips and activities.

If you are interested in volunteering to lead an Audubon Adventure in a local classroom, please contact Kathleen Nickerson at 541-921-4009 or audubonlc@charter.net.



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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.

Our Wish List

LCD Projector
Laptop computer
Natural History artifacts such as bird nests, eggs, feathers, etc.
Monthly Storage Rental
If you are able to donate any of these items, please call (541) 921-4009
Thank You!

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 _____

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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.