



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

Great Backyard Bird Count—February 15-18, 2008

In February, volunteers throughout the U.S. and Canada are invited to “Count for Fun, Count for the Future!” Millions of novice and accomplished bird watchers can make their fascination with nature add up for science and for the future during the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, led by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During “Presidents’ Day” weekend, February 15–18, 2008, anyone can count birds from wherever they are and enter their tallies online at www.birdcount.org.

These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation. “These volunteers are counting not only for fun but for the future,” said Tom Bancroft, Chief Science Officer for Audubon. “It’s fun to see how many different kinds of birds can be seen and counted right in your backyard or neighborhood park. Each tally helps us learn more about how our North American birds are doing, and what that says about the health and the future of our environment.”

People of all ages and experience levels are invited to take part wherever they are—at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges, even counting birds on a balcony. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Then they enter their tallies on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site www.birdcount.org. The web site provides helpful hints for identifying birds. Participants can compare results from their town or region with others, as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada. They can also view bird photos taken by participants during the count and send in their own digital

images for the online photo gallery and contest. Otis resident, Jack Doyle, submitted this winning photo of an Anna’s Hummingbird taken during last year’s count.



In 2007, Great Backyard Bird Count participants made history, breaking records for the number of birds reported, and the number of checklists. Participants sent in 81,203 checklists tallying 11,082,387 birds of 613 species. Last year, the residents of Lincoln City submitted the third greatest number of checklists in the state because of the participation of local elementary school students and Audubon members.

“People who take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count see the results of their efforts in the news and in bird conservation work taking place across the country, said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. “Whether the counts occur at home, at schools or nature centers, they’re more than engaging and educational science activities for young people and adults, they’re a way to contribute to the conservation of birds and habitat nationwide.”

For more information on how to participate, visit www.birdcount.org.

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Watch List—Oregon’s Coastal Birds Imperiled

New National Audubon Society WatchList Identifies 11% of the Birds Found in Oregon as Critically Imperiled or At Risk of Becoming Critically Imperiled.

The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy recently released National Watchlist 2007, the newest and most scientifically sound list of America’s birds at greatest risk. Fifty-four of the species identified as either “Red List- Critically Imperiled” or “Yellow List- At Risk of becoming Critically Imperiled” are found in Oregon. This represents eleven percent of the total number of bird species found in State.

Forty-three of the Oregon Watchlist birds have been seen along the Central Oregon coast. Some of these species, however, are only seen at sea, so most people will not have an opportunity to view them. Others, though, can be found by the careful observer in Lincoln and Tillamook counties.

From our oceans to our mountains to our deserts, Oregon residents need to take action to prevent these species on the new Watchlist from slipping toward extinction, beginning in our own backyards.



Varied Thrush—U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Snowy Plover—Oregon Coast Aquarium

Red List: Oregon coastal birds that are critically imperiled

- Sooty Grouse (Blue)
- Laysan Albatross
- Black-footed albatross
- Short-tailed albatross
- Pink-footed shearwater
- Rock Sandpiper
- Xantu’s Murrelet
- Spotted Owl
- Lewis’ Woodpecker

Yellow List: Oregon coastal birds at risk of becoming critically imperiled

- Emperor Goose
- Trumpeter Swan
- Mountain Quail
- Yellow-billed Loon
- Clark’s Grebe
- Flesh-footed Shearwater
- Buller’s Shearwater
- Sooty Shearwater

- American Golden Plover
- Snowy Plover
- Wandering Tattler
- Long-billed Curlew
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Marbled Godwit
- Black Turnstone
- Surfbird
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Heermann’s Gull
- Thayer’s Gull
- Elegant Tern
- Marbled Murrelet
- Ancient Murrelet
- Short-eared Owl
- Black Swift
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Willow Flycatcher
- Varied Thrush
- Wrentit
- Hermit Warbler

Principles of Birding Ethics

As we enter the Spring months and participate in events such as the Great Backyard Birds Count, Birdathon, and International Migratory Bird Day, please remember these guidelines which have been established by the American Birding Association.

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover. Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and nonbirders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.
Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no tape recorders allowed).

(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

2008 Board of Directors Candidate Biographies

All current Audubon Society of Lincoln City members are eligible to vote for the organization's board of directors. Our board consists of four officers and no more than eight directors. Currently there are seven two-year term positions open. The candidates for the director positions are as follows:

Jon Oksenholt is a lifetime Lincoln City resident and enjoys the coastal environment with his wife and sons. Jon has a law degree, real estate & contractors licenses, and owns a business in Lincoln City. In addition, Jon is active in many local community projects.

Sandy Pfaff* is the Executive Director of the Visitor & Convention Bureau. In that capacity she has designed numerous events and built two attractions, the Pacific Coast Center for Culinary Arts and the Jennifer Sears Glass Art Studio. She also serves on the board of the Connie Hansen Garden Conservancy.

Lori Hollingsworth* has been mayor of Lincoln City for 5 years. Prior to being elected Mayor, Lori served on the Lincoln City Council for eight years. She also lent her expertise to a variety of civic groups, from city and urban renewal budget committees to the parks board.

Lori co-authored a successful \$3 million Open Space bond measure and

was behind ordinances to adopt a year-round burn ban within city limits, limit retail buildings to 60,000 square feet, and establish weekly curbside recycling and an equal rights ordinance.

In addition to city government, Lori has been involved in many community organizations, including the Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce business retention/expansion committee, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council.

Jody Picconi loves the outdoors and nature and enjoys fishing, birding, golf and photography. Jody has been a golf course superintendent for over 25 years. In 2000, he helped in a Bluebird restoration project in San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties in California. On his golf course, the bluebird population increased from 15 nesting sites to 130 nesting sites, and all but 4 sites produced fledglings — a very successful project. He would like to do a similar project on our golf course here in Lincoln City.

Caren Willoughby is a retired teacher who put binoculars around her neck and a bird book in her hands upon retirement. She has started a life list and each day finds joy in watching birds. Living close to water and the mountains, Caren is constantly re-

mindful of how fortunate we are and how great the need is to protect the environment in order to share it with others.

Raylene Erickson* has served on the Audubon board for the past two years. She is a member of the Preservation Society of Devils Lake and is active in many issues that affect the environment in Lincoln City.

Janice Redford* has lived in Lincoln City for the past 14 years and joined Lincoln City Audubon at its inception over two years ago. An avid bird lover, Janice is the Building Coordinator at Oregon Coast Community College - North County Center.

Betty Nicholson has been involved with conservation organizations for many years - from the San Diego Zoo and the World Conservation Union in East Africa, to recently helping to develop the Oregon Coast Birding Trail. She has worked in the areas of marketing and sales, administration and education and is an avid kayaker and birdwatcher.

Jack Nickerson* is Principal of Oceanlake Elementary School and is focused on creating a sustainable school in Lincoln City. He has served on the Audubon Board since its inception.

* Seeking reelection

2008 Board of Directors

Ballots must be received by March 31, 2008. Please mail to:

**Board Nominations Committee
Audubon Society of Lincoln City
PO Box 38
Lincoln City, OR 97367**

Your name (please print): _____

Your signature: _____

Election Ballot

- Raylene Erickson
- Lori Hollingsworth
- Betty Nicholson
- Jack Nickerson
- Jon Oksenholt
- Jodi Picconi
- Sandy Pfaff
- Janice Redford
- Caren Willoughby

Upcoming Birding Events

Winter Wings Festival February 15-17 Klamath Falls, OR

The Klamath Basin Audubon Society is sponsoring the Winter Wings Festival in conjunction with the Klamath Wing-watchers. The Festival will offer a keynote speaker, reception, field trips, workshops, mini-sessions, and other special events. In addition there are many free activities, vendors, live birds, and displays targeted to families and children.

For more information:
www.winterwingsfest.org

Aleutian Goose Festival March 28-30 Crescent City, CA

In the home of Redwood National and State Parks and the Smith River National Recreation Area, choose amongst the 60+ workshops and field-trips led by experienced, qualified guides. Outstanding birding, geology, Native American Heritage and more are all featured during this "Celebration of Wilderness".

For more information:
www.aleutiangoosefestival.org

Olympic BirdFest 2008 Sequim-WA April 4-6, 2008

Visit the rain shadow of the *Olympic Peninsula* to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and a salmon banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. **New this year:** A three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2008, immediately following BirdFest. The festival with the most spectacular setting!

For more information:
www.olympicbirdfest.org

Birding & Blues Festival February 22-24 Pacific City, OR

For three days discover secrets about the intriguing bird life and wildlife along our spectacular Oregon coast. There will be morning guided field trips and interactive daytime seminars. Then, each evening after an ocean sunset, try some fine restaurant fare, check out the art galleries, and warm your soul with blues in the night.

For more information:
www.birdingandblues.com



Audubon Field Trips

Date	Location	Time	Meeting Place
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 (\$)



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Audubon Society of Lincoln City Board of Directors

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Director, Kathleen Nickerson
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.

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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