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Be sure to visit  
[www.lincolncityaudubon.com](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.com)  
for more news and activities of the  
Audubon Society of Lincoln City

Audubon Society of Lincoln City is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax-exempt #20-3795649

### America's Smallest Falcon by Lisa Voelker



The American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) is probably more commonly (although inappropriately) referred to as the Sparrow Hawk. Regarded as perhaps the most colorful raptor, the American Kestrel, the smallest North American falcons, is found throughout the United States. Some populations permanently inhabit their territory, in colder areas birds may migrate to southern climes for the winter.

Highly adaptable, this little falcon is found in both urban and forested areas. When hunting, both perches and open areas are required. Summer feeding is in the morning and evening, winter feeding is throughout the day. Although they prefer to hunt from a perch, they will also hover hunt. Kestrels dine on large insects, small mammals (especially mice), lizards and snakes, small birds and frogs.

The kestrel will nest both in tree cavities or in nest boxes, laying between one to seven lightly spotted eggs per clutch. With a survival rate of about 50%, the remaining chicks leave the nest after 30 days but remain a family unit for a varying amount of time.

### True Blues by Lisa Voelker

Just over the hills pushed up by the plate of Juan de Fuca lies the Willamette Valley, home to the Blue Jay. This side of the rise dwells the raucous and noisy but oh, so beautiful Stellar's Jay, a large song-bird. With a black head and shoulders, a prominent crest, barred primary feathers and tail feathers, blue striped "eyebrows" and a distinctive but sometimes annoying call, this is the only crested jay west of the Rockies. Their call can also sound like that of the Red-tailed Hawk.



The Stellar's Jay prefers coniferous forests, but just about any forested area will do. Any camper or backyard bird hobbyist can attest to the Stellar's Jay omnivorous diet; if you're either eating it or feeding it to someone or something else, they're interested. In nature their diet ranges from seeds and berries to small snakes, nestlings, insects and rodents. Nothing's too good for a Stellar's Jay.

A jay's nest of mud, grasses, sticks and scavenged trash is usually built in a conifer or a hollow tree. There two to six glossy, oval greenish-blue with olive green speckled eggs are laid.

### Wildlife Rescue Center of the Northwest

We are fortunate to dwell amidst the native flora and fauna of the region, where we may encounter injured wildlife, whether the result of natural circumstances or trauma resulting from close encounters with human beings. Most of us would like to help, but the question is frequently, how?

The answer is the Wildlife Rescue Center of the Northwest and begins with a call to director Sharnelle Fee: 503.338.3954 or, 338.0331. A team of local volunteers in every city from Cape Lookout to Cannon Beach compromise a modern day pony express system for capturing, transporting and providing triage for injured wildlife. Volunteers are rated for these three levels; a long list of volunteers helps assure that there is someone available to help. Sharnelle, assisted by Norma Wise of Rockaway Beach, makes contact with the closest volunteer rated for the recovery need of the injured wildlife.

Lincoln City volunteers include Roger Clark, Harry & Patty Dodson, Betty & Mark Nicholson, Doug & Jane Holbrook, and LC Audubon member Lisa Voelker.

Locally, Lincoln City Veterinary Clinic, 994.8181, keeps contact numbers for the Wildlife Rescue Center and local volunteers. Jim Rice of OSU Marine Hatfield Science Center is the contact for beach stranded marine mammals and can be contacted at 541.270.6830. For reptiles, snakes, and turtles the contact is Washo Shadowhawk at 503.806.0796. Feral cats have a friend in the CAT Hotline: 503.842.5663.



### THE KING'S CORNER

*This newsletter contains details about the upcoming Great Backyard Bird count on February 12-15, 2010. It has been a great satisfaction for me to participate the past 4 years. The rules are pretty simple, just count bird species with the total number you see at one time. You can count from your house, looking out the window. You can count all day or only a few minutes if that is all you have. Before starting you need to go to the website for the great backyard birdcount at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc), and print out a checklist for our area. After you make your count get back to the website and send in your results. You can do this every day of the count or just the last day. It is amazing how fast you will see your results, within minutes you can see yours and other entries. About 150 cities in Oregon send in checklists. In 2007 Lincoln City sent in 61 lists and finished 3rd in the state. For photographers, the birdcount website has provisions for sending in your pictures. Around 4 to 5 thousand people send in pictures each year. In 2007 a person from Otis finished in 2nd place for best overall picture, check it out. The birdcount information is used each year to track bird movement and population. The great thing about this count is that you do not need to be a birding expert, but you do need to know how to input data on the website using yours or someone else's computer. Have fun and I will be checking the results to see if our area gets more people taking part.*

*A big thank you to Mary Pounding at the Blackfish Café. She had our bird pictures on show for over 2 months, till the end of December. Customers bought 20 pictures which added over a thousand dollars to our Chapter's bank account.*

*Have a happy and safe 2010. I will be looking for you at our next field trip.*

- Jack Doyle, ASLC President

# The Kingfisher

Volume 5, Issue 1a Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats First Quarter 2010

## Take a Mid-Winter Nature Break with the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15, 2010

Bird watchers coast to coast are invited to take part in the 13th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2010. Participants in the free event will join tens of thousands of volunteers of all levels of birding experience to count birds in their own backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges.

Each checklist submitted by these "citizen scientists" helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how the birds are doing—and how to protect them. Last year, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

"Taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way to get outside with family and friends, have fun, and help birds—all at the same time. Anyone who can identify even a few species can provide important information that enables scientists to learn more about how the environment is changing and how that affects our conservation priorities," said Audubon Education Vice President, Judy Braus. "Everyone who participates in the GBBC—families, teachers, and young people—will get a chance to hone their observation skills, learn more about birds, and make a great contribution to the future!"

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). One 2009 participant said, "Thank you for the opportunity to participate in citizen science. I have had my eyes opened to a whole new interest and I love it!"

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PHOTO © BY JACK DOYLE

(BIRD COUNT - continued from page 1)

"The GBBC is a perfect first step toward the sort of intensive monitoring needed to discover how birds are responding to environmental change," said Janis Dickinson, director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab. "Winter is such a vulnerable period for birds, so winter bird distributions are likely to be very sensitive to change. There is only one way—citizen science—to gather data on private lands where people live and doing this across the continent over many years. GBBC has enormous potential both as an early warning system and in capturing and engaging people in more intensive sampling of birds across the landscape."

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For example, 2009 GBBC data highlighted a huge southern invasion



PHOTO © BY JACK DOYLE

of Pine Siskins across much of the eastern United States. Participants counted 279,469 Pine Siskins on 18,528 checklists, as compared to the previous high of 38,977 birds on 4,069 checklists in 2005. Failure of seed crops farther north caused the siskins to move south to find their favorite food.

On the [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators. Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC website's photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

For more information about the GBBC, visit the website at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 or (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473) or [gbbc@cornell.edu](mailto:gbbc@cornell.edu), or Audubon at [citizen@audubon.org](mailto:citizen@audubon.org) or (215) 355-9588, Ext 16.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from Wild Birds Unlimited.

(Press Release from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca NY)

## Support Your Local Audubon Society

### VIP CLUB ▼ Members

As a **Paid Member**, your donation supports our environmental education and citizen science programs, and enables us to participate in restoration and public advocacy projects throughout the Central Oregon Coast.

With a donation of \$20 for individual, or the family amount of \$30, you will enjoy annual membership to both the local and national Audubon Societies and will receive a year's subscription to *Audubon* magazine.

Call 541-992-0440 to sign up.

### VIP CLUB ▼ Volunteers

Volunteer Members are the backbone of our organization. Without them, the implementation of organizational tasks could not be possible. In fact, the organization itself could not exist.

As a **Volunteer Member** of Audubon Society of Lincoln City, you will enjoy taking part in creating successful Special Events, Educational Programs for young and old, and Field Trips for all ages.

You don't have to be a paid member to volunteer your services. All you need is the time and effort to help others enjoy birding and the great outdoors.

### VIP CLUB ▼ Sponsors

If you enjoy wildlife and outdoor activities as much as we do but don't have the time or energy to put into volunteering your services, consider being a VIP Sponsor.

As a **VIP Sponsor**, you and your organization can provide tremendous financial aid to Audubon Society of Lincoln City in presenting educational and regarding Special Events to resident and tourist family members of all ages. What a great way to give back to the people and community that supports you and your business.

Make a donation today.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS ▼ Winter Events



### JAN

**Saturday 2nd ~ Yaquina Bay Christmas Bird Count (CBC).** Join in the fun and camaraderie! A CBC is an all day adventure, so bring a sack lunch, dress warmly, bring rain gear, and wear waterproof footwear because you are only as comfortable as the most miserable part of you! If you live within the CBC Area and have bird feeders, you can join in the CBC by doing a feeder count on Jan. 2. Cost: \$5 per field observer; no fee for feeder counters and participants under age 18. Field team assignments are made in advance of the CBC date. Please contact the Compiler, Rebecca Cheek (867-4699; [nelsoncheek@charter.net](mailto:nelsoncheek@charter.net)) if you plan to participate or for more details.

**Monday 4th, 5:30pm ~ Audubon Society of Lincoln City Board Meeting ~ OCCC, Public Welcome.**

**Saturday 9th, 9am-noon ~ Bird Walk at Yaquina Bay.** Meet at Hatfield Marine Center in Newport. Binoculars and field guides provided for use during trip, if needed. First time birders welcome. Call 541-992-0440 for more information.

### FEB

**Monday 1st, 5:30pm ~ Audubon Society of Lincoln City Board Meeting ~ OCCC, Public is welcome to attend.**

**Thursday 4th and Friday 5th, 9-11am ~ ASLC will bird at Siletz Bay with 5th Graders from Oceanlake and Taft Elementary.** This event is result of visiting classrooms and presenting "Wild About Birds" to the fifth grades. Volunteers needed, call 541-992-0440 or 992-2809 for more information.

### MAR

**Monday 1st, 5:30pm ~ Audubon Society of Lincoln City Board Meeting ~ OCCC, Public is welcome to attend.**

**Saturday 13th, 9-11am ~ Bird Walk at Devils Lake.** Meet at "D" River Wayside on Hwy 101 in Lincoln City. Binoculars and field guides provided for use during trip, if needed. First time birders are welcome. Call 541-992-0440 for more information.

Visit [www.lincolncityaudubon.com](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.com) to see what else is in the news!

## This Walking is for the Birds

by Ernie Rose

This being my first "official" bird walk, with people who know a heck more than me about birds, I feel compelled to write about the experience.

We all met at the Nestucca Wildlife Refuge on Christensen Rd in Cloverdale, OR around 9 am. Looking at our group, anyone could see who the experienced birders were . . . those who dressed properly for the weather and carried lightweight birding binoculars unlike the heavy pair wrapped around my neck. Also, I wasn't dressed for the rain, which was predicted in our local weather forecast after a week of frigid cold.

Our group of nine was led by Mark Elliot and guided by Karen White. Also in attendance was birding expert Dick Demarest, who led many of Audubon Society of Lincoln City's (ASLC) bird walks in past years.

We were immediately welcomed by a low flying Red-tailed Hawk as we began our ascent up the hill, due west of the park-

ing lot. On our way up, we were stopped by the abrupt movements of small birds as they flittered from bush to bush.

"That's a Song Sparrow." Looking through my binoculars, I could see it was a sparrow, but, to be honest, I didn't know a Song Sparrow from a Lincoln or Fox Sparrow! But, with the help of those standing near me, I soon learned! That was one of the fun things about the walk, the camaraderie was tight and others were very willing to help another get more engaged in the identification of nearby feathered friends.

Atop the hill, we chose to walk through the field rather than follow the path to an observation deck. The wind was blowing hard and cold, and birds would be more abundant in protected areas. More sparrows were flittering around in the tall grass. To see what other birds were present in the area, we chose to walk

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(BIRD WALK - continued from previous page)

along the edge of the woods and eventually headed back downhill from where we came.

Fortunately, the rain stayed away and the air's temperature seemed to get warmer as we strolled downhill and then turned toward the river on our left. Walking through the woods, we heard and saw lots of activity. Ruby-crowned Kinglets sprinted from tree to tree at eye-level and Chestnut-backed Chickadees fluttering high above us.

When we made it down to the river's bank, we saw a couple of Killdeers pacing alongside the Dusky Canadian Geese. Pied-billed Grebes were diving into the chilly water in search of food, and Northern Pintails, Buffleheads, and Mallards paddled the river's surface and hung out on its other bank. We noticed a Northern Harrier attempting to make a meal of the quackers but was being unsuccessful!

Brrr, suddenly the air got colder. So, we turned around and headed back from whence we came. As we spied more birds, I received a call on my cellphone. It was my dad, asking what I was up to. I told him I was on a bird



walk. "A what?" "A bird walk!" The conversation ended with a big chuckle from him. But, admittedly, he wasn't the only one chuckling . . . I, too, was laughing deep inside from having one of the most fun experiences in a long time.

The next scheduled ASLC bird walk is on January 9th at Yaquina Bay. See our website ([www.lincolncityaudubon.com](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.com)) and calendar above for more information. Hope to see you there!