



# The Kingfisher

Volume 8, Issue 2 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Winter 2013

## Christmas Bird Count 2013

by Dawn V

*Each year, in December, citizens throughout the Americas gather together for a friendly competition in counting the number of bird species sighted in one day. This may sound like a trivial exercise in pitting one area's count against another's but it has deep scientific significance. This year marked the 114th annual Christmas Bird Count. Each participating citizen taking part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action.*

### THE KING'S CORNER



**T**his is your advanced notice that I will be stepping down as president of our Audubon chapter. I was an original founding member over 7 years ago. No one from that group is still involved. The only reason I have continued this long is because of the wonderful board I have been associated with. Even our monthly meetings are fun!

The great field guides we have had over these years showed us many wonderful birds in all kinds of weather. One of our most noteworthy accomplishments as an Audubon chapter has been our education program under the leadership of Caren Willoughby, with major help from Laura Doyle and Patty Sorensen. With further assistance from Mark Elliott and Jody Picconi, these three accomplished birders and educators have taught adults and more than a thousand school kids about birding, from Tillamook to Waldport.

Our ASLC chapter is in good shape but we encourage new people to get involved. This is where you come in, whether you sign up for general membership or for becoming a board member. If it's the latter, be sure to put your name on the ballot for our annual June elections.

- Jack Doyle, ASLC President



Sunday, December 15th, the inaugural Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) sponsored Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was conducted under misty, foggy skies. Fog affected visibility for our seawatch and a haze hung over Devil's Lake all day, making it difficult to ID the many waterfowl. Aside from that, the weather was good for a CBC! We gathered in the pre-dawn for breakfast at our local Pig 'N Pancake. The staff and manager did a great job of feeding our large group and getting us out of there in plenty of time for a full day of birding.

We had 23 volunteers on six teams in the field. Our farthest traveller came over from Eugene, and several folks came up from Toledo and Newport to help us out. Seven local residents helped out by counting the birds at their feeders. Our total individual species seen on count day was 107 species, and we had an additional

four species during count week for a total tally of 111 species for the CBC.

Bird of the day had to be a NORTH-ERN GOSHAWK seen by the Siletz River team of Dawn Harris, Ram Papish, Janet Lamberson and Chuck Philo. The Siletz Bay team (Dick Demarest, Wayne Hoffman and Michael McMann) had a LONG-TAILED DUCK among other goodies. The Cascade Head/Salmon River team (Jack Hurt, Jack Doyle, Ernie Rose and Jody Picconi) had our only BARN OWL and the Siletz River team added a GREAT HORNED OWL and two PYGMY OWLS. Two EURASIAN WIGEON were spotted at the Water Treatment Plant by the Drift/Schooner Creek team (Dawn and Desi Villaescusa, Dave Stone). The Devil's Lake team (Deb Holland, Patty & Rick Sorensen, Rick Mark) battled fog all day to add to our total, including both GREATER and LESSER SCAUP. The Road's End/NW City team (Mark Elliott, Caren & Tom Willoughby, Laura Doyle)

*Continued on back cover)*



River Otter

© Jack Doyle

# Dick Demarest - A True Guide in Every Sense of the Word

by Patty & Rick Sorensen and Tom Willoughby

If you were a child of the 50's, you remember Dick and Jane. Well, the Audubon Society of Lincoln City would like to introduce you to Dick and Mark! They are our very talented field trip guides who volunteer their time to help others find and learn about birds along the coast.

In this issue, we introduce you to Dick Demarest and in a future issue you'll meet Mark Elliott. These two guys are usually so busy leading our trips that participants don't have an opportunity to learn much about them except that they are incredible birders!



© PHOTO BY RICK SORENSEN

**Dick Demarest** has been birding since he was 10 years old. In the 1970's he moved to Oregon from the East Coast and continued birding. Prior to that, he spent many years overseas working as a Chemical Engineer with DuPont. He loves birding and helping others learn more about birding. He is a field trip leader for Portland Audubon where he has been a member for over 37 years. Since his retirement he has had the opportunity to lead trips for more birding groups including Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) and the Yaquina Bay Birders.

In mid-April 2012 several members of ASLC enjoyed a Portland Audubon field trip to Klamath Falls led by Dick. Prior to the trip, Dick arrived early to scout out the best locations. Over the course of the two days, his time scouting proved to be quite successful. The group of 13 was treated to ninety-two species. The Tri-color Blackbird was one of the group's priority species along with various hawks, grebes, falcons, geese and eagles. Not only were many of the desired species located, but Dick patiently explained their identification marks and habitat, and he pointed out

the differences between species that had similar markings. We learned that Eared Grebes have a black head and neck with orange feathers on the face whereas the Horned Grebes have a black-capped head with a red-brown neck and buff-orange to yellow ear plumes. Both species have haunting red to red orange pupils.



© PHOTOS BY RICK SORENSEN



Two of the trip's highlights for many of us were the courting dance of the Clark's Grebes at Pelican Point and seeing a Great Horned Owl tucked away in a hillside crevice in the Lava Beds National Monument area.



© PHOTO BY TOM WILLOUGHBY



© PHOTO BY RICK SORENSEN

Dick did a remarkable job guiding the four cars, helping each participant whatever their birding skill, and locating birds by sight and sound. We hope you have the opportunity to enjoy his birding leadership during one of the ASLC field trips which can be found at [www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org). You might also want to check out field trips offered by the Audubon Society of Portland ([audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org)).



## Join Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC), and take part in the education and appreciation of the birds, wildlife, and their habitats along mid-coastal Oregon

As a Paid Member, your donation aids in supporting our environmental education in the school systems and our citizen science programs. It enables us to participate in restoration and public advocacy projects throughout the central Oregon coast.

Be a Volunteer, and help implement the goals of our Society, including field trips, research, education and public events. To volunteer your time and service, call ASLC at 541-992-0440.

We are a non-profit organization. As a VIP Sponsor, you and your organization will be recognized as a tremendous help to Audubon Society of Lincoln City in presenting educational and rewarding Special Events to family members of all ages.

**Come, join us as we explore and discover the many splendors of the natural world around us. Your membership makes the following ASLC efforts possible:**

- Monthly Guided Bird Walks
- Kayak/Canoe Field Trips
- Special Guest Presentations
- Kids' Classroom Presentations
- Free Field Guides/Binoculars (loaned during field trips/walks and classroom presentations)
- Monthly meetings open to Public
- Semi-Annual Newsletter - (Summer and Winter issues)
- Website: [lincolncityaudubon.com](http://lincolncityaudubon.com)
- Staff attendance to quarterly state meetings to help co-ordinate legislative efforts in the protection of Oregon's wildlife and habitat
- Phone service for bird and animal hotline connection and information

**Give us your support today. Call ASLC at 541-992-0440**

## Anna - Our Fragile, Coastal Resident

by Ernie Rose

Seven species of hummingbirds have been sighted in Oregon: Allen's, Anna's, Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Calliope, Costa's, and Rufous. The most common species along the greatest stretch of the Oregon's coastline are the Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds.

During the warm, summer months, it's the Rufous (*Selasphorus rufus*) that you see dominating your feeder(s). That's because it can outfly all others. After all, that stands to reason since it migrates the farthest of all other U.S. hummingbirds, down to Mexico and perhaps as far south as Panama.



© PHOTOS BY JACK DOYLE

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) is a year round resident in Oregon. During the winter months, Anna's can lower their normal body temperature from 107°F to as low as 48°F. Entering this "torpor" state of being, their heart rate and breathing are considerably slowed down.

Being a winter resident has its dangers for the Anna's. During the recent December's sub-zero weather, Anna's had a tough time feeding, especially at backyard feeders. One cute story was that of a friend who noticed a hummingbird sitting below her feeder. She thought it strange that the bird wasn't feeding. Looking closer, she noticed that the water had frozen. She brought it in, thawed it out, and before she had time to hang the feeder, the hummingbird was already feeding!

A sad story, but with a hopeful ending, is one shared by another friend:

"After thawing out my hummingbird feeder yesterday, I guess I left it out too

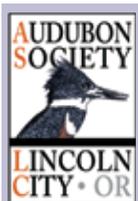
long because around 4pm a hummingbird got frozen to the feeder. I took the feeder down and wrapped it in a towel figuring that it would warm up and defrost our bird.



After about 5 minutes, I checked the bird and it was still frozen to the feeder. We could see that it was still alive, but barely. At this time I brought out the hair dryer and heated the towel to see if it would warm up the bird. That did not work so I had to remove the towel and aim the air from the hair dryer directly onto the poor little bird. I thought its beak was the only thing frozen, but the whole side of its body was frozen to the feeder. I had to put the dryer on high in order to get the heat required to free the bird. It took a long time for it to become free but at last it flew off. A few feathers were left behind but at least the Anna's was alive.



I had no idea that this could happen. I have certainly learned my lesson in leaving a feeder out that can freeze."



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Be sure to visit  
[www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org)  
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

## Birding Basics for Beginners

**Instructors: Laura Doyle, Mark Elliott, Patty Sorensen, Caren Willoughby**

Do you find yourself listening to an odd chirp while walking or gardening? Are you fascinated by the random rustlings in the bushes? Do you notice and enjoy the birds in your world, but wish you knew more about these clever and busy neighbors? This is just the class for you! Participants will learn how birds behave so it will be easier to find, watch, and identify the type you are seeing. Bird identification, adaptations, and habitat will be introduced. Birds of the Oregon Coast will be our focus during this 4-week class. Participants will have access to bird guides and binoculars and will learn how to use them. The final day of class will be a field trip to identify birds in the area.

**Next Class will be held at Oregon Coast Community College - Lincoln City**

**February 11, 13, 18, 20**

**Time: 1:30-3:00**

**Sign up through the college**



American Wigeon

© Bill Henderson

(CBC 2013 continued from page 1)

covered the area west of the highway from Taft all the way to Road's End. Winding their way through the city streets they were not disappointed when a Townsend Warbler and Golden and Ruby Crowned Kinglets came into view. Misses included RED CROSSBILLS and PINE SISKINS (don't know where they are, but not here this winter!). The Black Phoebe seen last week on North Bank Rd failed to make an appearance but we spotted one on the last day for count week. Also making a poor

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

© Ernie Rose



American Dipper

© David Stone

showing were shorebirds of all kinds!

At the end of the day, we met at the Cascade Head Ranch River House for a delightful meal prepared by ASLC members Dave Smith, Rich Hardman and Catherine Pruett. Hot chili, coffee, veg-

gies and cookies were served to a cold, tired but exuberant group of birders. We exchanged stories, ate chili, then listened to the final tallies of the day as coordinator Dawn Villaescusa called out the species one-by-one and each group chimed in with the ones they had seen. At the end of the poll, Wayne Hoffman called out "106" species! We were delighted.

On the way home, one of the teams experienced a beautiful BARN OWL who flew across the road in front of one of the teams as they were driving away from our fabulous Chili Feed. Another team member, driving back to Toledo through the Siletz Highway sector, was able to add a Great Horned Owl to our tally, bringing our total to 107 for the day.

Be sure to hold a spot on your calendar next December, when you can come be part of the fun for the Second Lincoln City CBC!

# 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Counting birds is a fun, free, family-friendly way to discover and help the birds in your community.

▶ Visit [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) to learn more.

February 14-17, 2014



*American Robin by 2013 GBBC Participant Gwen Starrett*



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2013 Statistics: Total Checklists Submitted: 134,935 • Total Species Observed: 3,610 • Total Individual Birds Counted: 34,512,432

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Winter and Spring Events



### IAN 2014 MAR

**Thursday, Jan 9, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort.** Open to the public.

**Saturday, Jan 11th, 9-11am ~ Dress for the weather and join trip leader Mark Elliott for birding the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center Nature Trail.** This time of year there will be an abundance of waterfowl and birds of prey. Birds in the bush are always a surprise as well. From Newport take the first exit south after crossing Yaquina Bay Bridge and drive on SE OSU Drive following signs for the Center. Park at the east side of the Visitor Center. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Call 541-992-0440 if more information is needed.

### FEB

**Saturday, Feb 8, 9-11am ~ Nestucca Wildlife Refuge bird walk is led by Mark Elliott.** The refuge supports 10% of the world population of dusky Canada geese. A multitude of habitat including pastures, grasslands, woodlands, tidal marsh and mudflats, as well as freshwater bogs and forest are found in this beautiful refuge. Binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Travel north on Highway 101 from Lincoln City. Turn left at the refuge entrance on Christensen Road and meet in the lower parking.

**Thursday, Feb 13, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort.** Open to the public.

**Friday, Feb 14 - Monday, Feb 17th ~ The 2014 GBBC (Great Backyard Bird Count)** will take place. Everyone is welcome--from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. for more info, go to: [www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html).

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, February 11-20th, 1-3pm ~ "Birding Basics"** is once again taught by ASLC Volunteers at Lincoln City's Oregon Coast Community College campus. Contact Janice Redford at 541-996-6222 or email [jredford@occc.cc.or.us](mailto:jredford@occc.cc.or.us) for information and/or registration.

**Saturday, March 8, 9-11am ~ Seal Rock Birding.** Meet at Seal Rock State Wayside parking lot on Hwy 101. Call 541-992-0440 or visit our website for more information.

**Thursday, March 13, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort.** Open to the public.

### APR

**Thursday, Apr. 10, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort.** Open to the public.

**Saturday, April 12, 9-11am ~ Beginner's Birding at Siletz, with Jack & Laura Doyle.** Meet at the Salishan Marketplace parking lot. Call 541-992-0440 or visit our website ([www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org)) for more information.



Downy Woodpecker © Jody Picconi

### MAY

**Thursday, May 8, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort.** Open to the public.

**Saturday, May 10, 9am-noon ~ Bird Walking Lincoln City Open Spaces.** Meet in Chinook Winds Golf Resort parking lot. Call 541-992-0440 or visit our website for more information.

### JUN

**Saturday, June 14, 9-11am ~ Pixie Land Bird Walk.** Call 541-992-0440 or visit our website ([www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org)) for more information.

**Friday, June 20, 5:00pm ~ Annual ASLC Meeting in the River House at Cascade Head Ranch.** Election of officers, with pot-luck dinner.

### JUL

**Thursday, July 10, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort.** Open to the public.

**Saturday, July 12, 9-11am ~ Mark Elliott leads this birding event at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.** We will meet in the interpretive center parking lot. We will see nesting colonies of the Common Murre, Bald Eagle, Black Oystercatcher, Cormorant, Brown Pelican, and Pigeon Guillemot. This is a busy time of year for the birds we will view. Dress for the weather. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. From Highway 101 in Newport turn west on Lighthouse Drive. Follow road to parking lot by interpretive center.

### AUG

**Saturday, August 9 ~ Join Jack Hurt and Dick Demarest for birding at the Bayocean Spit/Tillamook Bay.** The spit is surrounded by scenic Tillamook Bay and there will be sightings of migrating shorebirds using this area as a stop over. From Highway 101 in Tillamook, turn west on 3rd Street/Three Capes Scenic Loop and go 3 miles to Bayocean Spit. Turn right and follow the gravel road 1.5 miles to the parking lot. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Call 541-992-0440 for start time which is pending tide.

**Thursday, August 14, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort.** Open to the public.



Wrentit © Ernie Rose

*Visit [www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org) for more calendar details and for ASLC news updates!*