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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

(Fishy Business continued from Page 1)

long-term population declines as animals higher on the food chain. That's bad for salmon, groundfish, tuna and other fish that provide valuable fisheries for coastal communities. It's why the North Pacific Fishery Management Council prohibited the directed harvest of many key forage species in Alaska beginning in 1998, with the strong support of commercial fisherman. On the West Coast, the Pacific Fishery Management Council took a similar approach by putting krill off-limits in 2006.

#### What is the solution?

Fishery managers need to consider the role forage fish play in maintaining a sustainable food web and the needs of other marine predators such as birds and seals when deciding how to manage forage species. The Pacific Fishery Management Council has taken a first step in this direction by agreeing to develop a fishery ecosystem plan. In late 2011, a draft of that plan noted that the market for forage species that aren't currently being fished is likely to grow more attractive due to the "spectacular growth" of the global aquaculture industry. Many of these unmanaged forage species, such as saury, sand lance and certain kinds of smelts,

play an important role in the ecosystem. Before allowing the lifeblood of a healthy ocean to seep away to secondary uses, the council should halt the development of new fisheries targeting unregulated forage species until the science is in place to manage them sustainably.

#### What can you do?

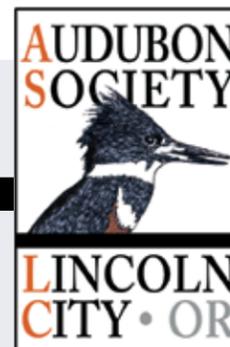
Ask the Pacific Fishery Management Council to help ensure a balanced and

productive marine food web, starting by protecting forage species that aren't currently being managed. Tell the council that protecting the forage base off our shores is essential to managing fisheries in a sustainable manner and to ensure the long-term health and productivity of the West Coast ecosystem. Write the council at [pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov).

Learn more at [www.PewEnvironment.org/PacificFish](http://www.PewEnvironment.org/PacificFish).



Illustration by Ram Papish



# The Kingfisher

Volume 8, Issue 1 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Summer 2013

## This is Fishy Business to Audubon

Excerpt from PEW Environment Group Report

### THE King's Corner



**O**ur spring migration is over and this year it was outstanding. I spent some time at the mouth of the Siletz River in Taft and watched thousands of migrating birds fly within a few feet of me. If you have never experienced such an event, it is a real treat to be that close to the birds.

Identifying them is a different story and something I need to improve on. When they land I have a chance, but in the air it is very difficult for me. This is why I take pictures of birds. I go home and look them up in my guidebook(s).



This is the time of year we put food in our feeders and watch the constant trail of birds that come to feed. Birds that call our part of the country home for the summer started to arrive a few months ago and new species will appear in the next month or so. This is my favorite time of year because I always see something new that has never shown up before.

- Jack Doyle, ASLC President

The birds, and the fish? This being an Audubon newsletter, why are we talking about fish? Well, fish, particularly forage fish, play a critical role in sustaining our shorebird populations. For example, studies show that there is a direct correlation between the availability of forage fish and production of young murrelets. Here are some facts provided by the PEW Environment Group about forage fish and the need to protect them. - Catherine Pruett



Photo by Carol Griswold, Seward, AK

**What happens when forage fish populations decline?** A lack of adequate forage harms wildlife in the ocean. In the past decade alone, depleted forage populations on the Pacific coast have been associated with failed salmon runs, starvation of sea lion pups and declines in seabird populations.

**What are the main threats?** Fishery managers have traditionally overlooked the critical role forage fish play in marine ecosystems when setting management measures and fishing limits. As a result, fishing for forage species at a rate that is not considered overfishing in the technical sense may lead to catching forage fish in such large quantities that there is insufficient food left in the ocean for other marine wildlife that depend on them for survival. And there is increasing market pressure to expand fishing on forage species to supply fishmeal and oil for a booming global fish-farming industry, which now accounts for almost half of the seafood consumed by people worldwide. Forage fish account for almost 40 percent of the total global catch of wild marine fish, with the bulk processed for fishmeal and oil. (Most sardines harvested on the west coast) are frozen and shipped to Australia to feed penned tuna.

**But they reproduce quickly. Won't they be just fine?** Forage fish are notable for their high abundance and rapid reproduction. However, scientists are finding evidence that their populations are just as susceptible to

**Why are forage fish important?** They form the linchpin of the marine food web on the Pacific coast. The California Current is one of just a handful of large marine ecosystems in the world dominated by periodic upwelling of cold water, where nutrients pulled from ocean depths fuel the growth of phytoplankton at the surface. Forage fish swarm to these blooms of life. As they eat the phytoplankton, forage fish convert the energy of the sun into protein that's then readily available as important food for salmon and groundfish species and an astonishing array of ocean wildlife. A recent decade-long study revealed that tunas, sharks, seabirds, seals and whales cross the ocean every year to feed on the rich marine ecosystem off the West Coast. Their key food: forage fish.

## Audubon Society of Lincoln City Annual Meeting June 13, 2013

Current Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) members are welcome to attend and participate in this year's annual meeting.

The agenda includes the election of expiring officers and board members. Below you will find the slate of officers that are up for re-election.

This meeting includes a potluck dinner and presentation on the Spotted Owl by longtime researcher, Stan Sovern. He

graduated from OSU with a BS in Wildlife Science in 1986 and started working with Spotted Owls on the Olympic Peninsula in 1987. Stan started on the Cle Elum Demography Study area in 1989 and has been there since. The Cle Elum Study Area is one of 8 study areas funded by the Northwest Forest Plan.

For direction on how to get to the CHR River House, go to our website or call 541-992-0440 for more info.

### OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS UP FOR RE-ELECTION

#### Officers: **President**

Jack Doyle

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#### **Treasurer**

Dave Smith

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#### **Secretary**

Rich Hardman

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#### **Board Members:**

Caren Willoughby

Jody Picconi

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Nominations accepted from the floor or may be sent in to be received no later than June 13th.



Photo by Bill Henderson

## Buffleheads

By Jody Picconi

We all have seen these little beauties. They are very buoyant, and they seem to have a large head. First you see them and then you don't. They dive very quickly and then resurface as they feed. We, along the Oregon coast, see these little ducks bobbing up and down in bays, estuaries, and lakes. From afar the males look very much black and white. If you can get a closer look at the head you will see it shows kind of a glossy green and purple setting off the bold white patch. The females are a subdued gray-brown with a neat white patch on the cheek.

Here's a little bit of info that might help you locate their nest. Buffleheads nest in old woodpecker holes, particularly those made by Northern Flickers and we have a lot of Northern Flickers along the central Oregon coast. They choose these nesting sites because the hole is too small for larger ducks. They will also use a bird box if you are lucky enough to draw one in.

Buffleheads are mostly monogamous. They are also the smallest diving duck. They take flight by running a short distance on the water. They fly low over the water and higher over the land. To dive, Buffleheads compress their plumage to squeeze out air, then give a slight forward leap and plunge powerfully downward. They hold their wings tightly against their bodies underwater and use only their feet to propel themselves. At the end of a dive, they may bob to the surface like a cork.

Throughout the day they alternate between bouts of feeding, swimming alertly, preening, and sleeping. Buffleheads are seldom seen on dry land: females walk only when they lead their broods from the nest to the water or when they're forced to switch ponds with their ducklings.

Males court females by flying over them, skiing to a stop on the water with their crests raised, and bobbing their heads. It amazes me how high they can raise their crest.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Summer and Fall Events



2nd Thursday of each month at 5:00pm ~ Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) Meeting in Aces Grill at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Because location can change, call 541-992-0440 for latest update on location. Open to the public.

## AUG

**Saturday, August 10th, 2:00-4:00pm ~ 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 if more information is needed.



## OCT

**Saturday, October 12th, 9-11:30am ~ join Dawn Grafe, USFWS, and ASLC field leader Mark Elliott for birding on Beaver Creek.** Participants will need to bring their own kayaks or canoes, safety gear and watercraft permits. We will launch from Ona Beach State Park. The two-mile paddle meanders up the Beaver Creek valley. There will be a variety of raptors, terrestrial birds, and shore birds. From Highway 101 in Newport, drive south 8 miles to milepost 148.9. Turn east on North Beaver Creek Road and take immediate right into parking area. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided.

## NOV

**Saturday, November 9th, 9-11 am ~ join Mark Elliott and Jack Doyle in this birding adventure at the River House\* in the Cascade Head Scenic Area.** Bird expert Mark Elliott will lead the bird walk while Jack Doyle will discuss photographing the birds on and around the beautiful Salmon River.

\* Directions to CHR River House from coastal Hwy 101: At the junction of Hwy 101 and Three Rocks Road North, travel west toward the ocean for 2.3 miles. At the "Y" in the road, turn right on to Savage Road and follow it to the end. It'll bring you down to the mouth of the Salmon River and to the Cascade Head Ranch River House.



## JAN 2014

**Saturday, January 11th, 9-11am ~ Dress for the weather and join trip leader Mark Elliott for birding at 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, February 8th, 9-11am ~ Nestucca Wildlife Refuge bird walk** will be led by Mark Elliott, Audubon Society of Lincoln City. The refuge supports 10% of the world population of dusky Canada geese. A multitude of habitats— including pastures, grasslands, woodlands, tidal marsh and mudflats, as well as freshwater bogs and forest—are found in this beautiful refuge. Dress for the weather. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Travel north on Highway 101 from Lincoln City. Turn left at the refuge entrance on Christensen Rd and meet in the lower parking. Call 541-992-0440 if more information is needed.

## 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 \$20 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 (Jun, Dec)
- Website: [www.lincolncityaudubon.com](http://www.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**

Visit [www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org) for more information and to see what else is in the ASLC news!