America’s Smallest Falcon
by Lisa Voelker

The American Kestral (Falco sparverius) is probably more commonly (although inappropriately) referred to as the Sparrow Hawk. Regarded as perhaps the most colorful raptor, the American Kestral, the smallest North American falcon, 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. 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 a hollow tree. There are two to six speckled eggs are laid. In conifer or a hollow tree. There are two to six speckled eggs are laid.

The kestrel’s nest is a pencil-thin mud, grasses, sticks and scavenged trash is usually built in a crevice. Nothing’s too good for a Stellar’s Jay. Their call can also sound like that of the Red-tailed Hawk.

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 songbird. 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 birder, the 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 Shannelle Frey: 503.338.3954 or 338.0331. A team of local volunteers in every city from Cape Lookout to Cannon Beach commit to 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. Shannelle, 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 JC 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 Oregon State University, 503.368.9301, is the point person for the local Lincoln City hotline: 503.842.5663.

The Kingfisher

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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 to help us 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 the Great Backyard Bird Count website. On or before February 15, 2010, at www.birdscount.org, bird watchers can click on the “Count at Home” menu option and take the Great Backyard Bird Count pledge. Bird watchers will then receive a checklist by e-mail. They can then use the checklist to make their count. The checklist instruction is an easy-to-use guide, and program leaders recommend setting aside from 15 minutes to a couple of hours to do a count, depending on the quality of the checklist and the bird diversity in your area.

To count birds:

1. Get your checklist by e-mail.
2. Count birds for 15 minutes or more. The checklist can take from close encounters with human beings.
3. Record every bird species 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, and print out a checklist for your area.
4. After you make your count 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, you do not need to know how to input data on the website using yours or someone else’s computer. Have fun and if you will be checking the results to see if your area gets more people taking part.

A big thank you to Mary Pounding in 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.

Here’s a happy and safe 2010. I will be looking for you at our next field trip.

- Jack Doyle, ASLC President

(continues on page 2)
"The GBBC is a 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 we need to know how they are faring in our local weather forecast after a week dressed for the rain, which was predicted to move south to find their favorite food."

For more information about the GBBC, visit the website at www.birdcount.org. Or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 448-2473 or (607) 254-2473 or gbbcbirdcount@cornell.edu. Audubon is at citizenscience.audubon.org or (212) 397-8000, Ext. 16.

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 a love for birds and a desire to help others enjoy birding and the great outdoors.

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 special events programs throughout the Central Oregon Coast.

With a donation of $20 for an 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.

Volunteers

VIP CLUB

Support Your Local Audubon Society

Members

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

With a donation of $25 for an 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.

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