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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

Catherine Pruett Conservation Chair



A life-long conservationist and former attorney, Catherine has an extensive background in science, law, and policy, and has been involved in a wide range of conservation projects. Since early 2011, Catherine has served as the Executive Director of the Lincoln City based Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, where she works to protect and restore local watersheds. As Conservation Chair, Catherine will apply her background to supporting the Audubon Society of Lincoln City's mission to "educate and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to observe and appreciate birds, wildlife and habitat along the central Oregon coast."

Wild About Birds at Local Elementary Schools in 2012

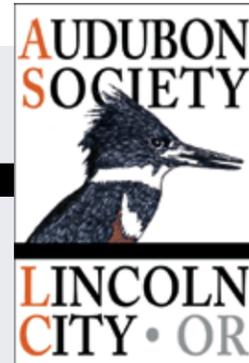
by Laura Doyle



Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) volunteers Caren Willoughby, Patty Sorensen, and Laura Doyle are making plans now with elementary schools in Lincoln and Tillamook counties for 2012 in-classroom programs about birds. 2012 is the fourth year that ASLC volunteers have brought the "Wild About Birds" learning experience to fourth, fifth or sixth graders in county schools. This ASLC program is based on the National Audubon Society's bird education program but has been customized for the schools in Oregon's Lincoln and Tillamook counties.

Last year over 200 students in the fourth, fifth or sixth grades in Lincoln and Tillamook counties learned key elements necessary to identify birds and how to use field guides and binoculars. Caren Willoughby, education coordinator for ASLC, says, "We've put together a very interactive and hands-on experience with which children get very involved. They ask a lot of great questions and are able to take away some practical tips on how to watch birds on their own. Interest level is high and children are eager learners." Willoughby and Sorensen are both retired teachers who bring lots of enthusiasm about birds as well as years of classroom experience to "Wild About Birds."

In addition to delivering two hours of instruction in each fifth grade classroom, ASLC volunteers provide each student with the "Wild About Birds" activity book and provide each classroom with a copy of the birding field guide that the students have learned to use. ASLC provides schools with the "Wild About Birds" program at no charge. This effort is funded by Audubon Society of Lincoln City chapter membership and fundraising activities. Chapter goals are to increase children's awareness of the natural world and of the need to conserve and protect the environment.



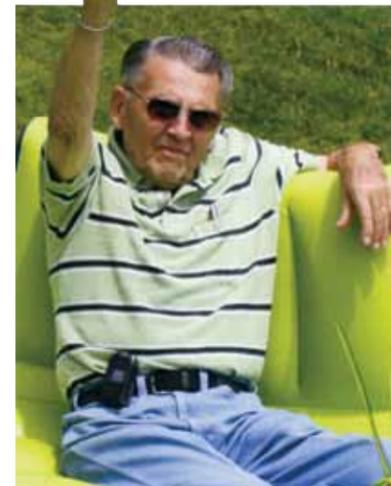
The Kingfisher

Volume 6, Issue 2 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Winter 2011/2012

Al Rice, Mr. Wood Duck

February 7, 1924 – October 8, 2011

By Caren Willoughby



this wonderful tale of these amazing birds from the laying of eggs through the hatching. He talked of placing a bird cam in his boxes and recording the big event.

Audubon's involvement with Al proved to be a partnership. Members would go out with him to clean boxes and count eggs in places that required the use of a ladder or waders. Al and Audubon members maintained wood duck boxes at many locations around Lincoln City.

Al had a way of pulling people in to participate in his passion for Wood Ducks. My husband was talking to Al a few years ago and asking about maybe putting up a box at our house. Before Tom knew it, Al was over at our house with a box helping to pick out a site. That was the beginning of phone calls to report progress and many conversations with Al over the years. Al kept meticulous records of the number of eggs that hatched each year from the phone calls he received.

We will all miss the many phone conversations we enjoyed with Al.



Audubon Society of Lincoln City lost a dear friend in October. Al Rice was a birder and lover of Wood Ducks. Al and his wife moved to Devils Lake in Lincoln City in 1983. That was the beginning of his dedication to the preservation of Wood Ducks on the lake and surrounding water areas.

I first met Al when I asked him to come and talk to my class about these beautiful birds. By that time Al had polished his presentation and was able to educate and entertain people of all ages. I had the honor later of assisting him in several of his programs. His timing was perfect. He would weave

read more about the Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) on www.lincolncityaudubon.org

(continued from The King's Corner)

FUTURE

Our new birding schedule is finalized with many new venues. Our school programs will continue to grow, reaching more kids. We will do more in the area of conservation this year with the addition of our new conservation chairperson, Catherine Pruitt. We would like to give more bird guidebooks to our schools as funds allow. Mostly, we need to add to our depleting bank account with memberships, donations, and a super fundraiser in 2012.

ET CETERA

It has been my honor to serve as president of ASLC for the past 5 years. Our board of directors is made up of exceptional people who are dedicated to educating people while protecting the birds/wildlife that we all share along the Oregon coast.

- Jack Doyle, ASLC President

THE KING'S CORNER



Our Past: Our Future

PAST

I am continually amazed at how our Audubon chapter has continued to grow through the years, not just in membership but in activities, as well. In 2011 we increased our Audubon Adventures programs throughout Lincoln and Tillamook County schools. Our monthly field trips now average 20 birders as opposed to the 6 people we were getting during our first few years. People from throughout the country are now participating, some bringing their children along to learn about birds and experience the wonderful Oregon coast.

In October, we hosted the semi-annual Oregon Audubon Council (OAC) meeting of Audubon chapters in our state. We were invited to make a presentation in Seaside this year, for the first time. Fox12 News came to Lincoln City to tape a segment about birding in our area. We now have a wonderful CD, produced by Ernie Rose, chronicling our chapter's history. Founding board member Janice Redford resigned this year, leaving only myself as the remaining member of the original group.

Mr. Wood Duck, as we affectionately called local bird enthusiast Al Rice, passed away this fall and he will be sadly missed. His dedication and passion to birds was exceptional. In lieu of flowers, he requested contributions be made to our Audubon chapter. We attended a very emotional life celebration in his honor, with many of his wood duck carvings on display. [more](#)

Winter Bird Feeding Tips

by Patty Sorensen

To successfully feed birds in the winter it is vital to provide the right habitat. If your home is near a natural area, you are more likely to attract birds all year round. That habitat provides them with food sources, cover from predators and nesting sites. Giving them the same type of environment in your yard improves your odds in addition to providing a water source.

Tidy, structured yards of new subdivisions are not likely places for birds to venture into during the bare winter. With summer's abundance of flowers and leaves, food sources are abundant and cover is easier to find. When winter arrives, Mother Nature strips the land of much of that cover. As hard as it may be for us, leaving plants in a tangled manner in the late fall provides birds and insects with needed cover. This impacts the likelihood that birds will choose your feeders. So, you have the birds' permission to skip that fall cleanup time.

If one of your goals is to watch the birds as they feed, you should place the feeder where you can easily observe them. In doing this, you may accidentally put them in a situation that is deadly. Feeders placed near windows, patio doors, etc. are very dangerous since the sky/clouds reflects back at the birds as they fly. They will think they are flying into the sky when actually they will hit a window as they rush away from a predator. Many authorities suggest that placing stickers on the outside of those reflective surfaces helps. Personally, I have not had much luck with this approach. I have found that a string of feathers which move in the wind is far more effective. These can be made simply by using 2 suction cups with fishing line strung between them. To this line you tie large feathers at about 12-15 inches distance. Don't stretch the line tight so that the feathers can blow freely around.

I have read many articles that discuss the impact of occasional feeding versus continual feeding. Throughout the year, birds supplement their diet with their natural food even when feeders have abundant resources. One article I read said that if you are going to be gone for awhile, start backing off the amount you feed so they start scavenging more and are not as dependent upon your feeders. I am trying to do this especially in the winter. Very cold periods are difficult for the birds to find both natural food and unfrozen water. I'm glad to help.

If you are trying to attract specific types of birds to your feeders, be sure to research



what feed they prefer. Black oil sunflower seed is enjoyed by a wide variety of birds. Some sources say there are 50+ species of birds that eat this type of seed and for many it is their first choice. Striped sunflower seeds have a thicker hull and are more difficult for birds to break open. If you are fortunate enough to have some mourning doves around, even the seeds/shells that end up on the ground, magically disappear! Because this seed is a favorite, if you purchase wild bird seed mixtures, you will often find your ground covered with seeds that the birds throw out of the feeder in order to get to the preferred sunflower seeds. Just remember that some seeds will provide you with a smelly "garden" below your feeder as they rot. Sunflower sprouts are easy to pull out and niger seed does not sprout since it has to be sterilized for importation. Many times feed stores will have better prices than big box stores. Check around! Once your feeders are found, birds go through a lot of seed.

One final important detail is to keep your feeders and water clean so that you are not spreading diseases. In Oregon it is difficult to keep feeders clean if you provide unshelled seeds due to our wet seasons.

Research differs as to whether our feeders actually impact bird migration. However, in the case of the Anna's Hummingbird it has been proven that they are now extending their year round territory to southern Canada due to the increased feed sources. So, don't forget to keep that hummingbird feeder full and thawed for the little guys. Their normal body temperature is 107 degrees so they need lots of energy in the winter.

(If you have any feeding suggestions or adventures, be sure to let us know!)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter and Spring Events

IAN 2012

Sunday Jan. 1, 2012 ~ Yaquina Bay Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Thursday, Jan 12, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

Saturday, Jan 14, 9-11am ~ Join trip leader Mark Elliott for ASLC birding at the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center Nature Trail in Newport.

FEB

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

Saturday, Feb 11, 9-11am ~ Nestucca Wildlife Refuge bird walk is led by Mark Elliott.

MAR

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

Saturday, March 10, 9-11am ~ Neskowin Marsh birding trip is led by Jack Hurt.

APR

Thursday, Apr. 12, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

Saturday, April 14, 9-11am ~ Siletz Bay bird walk led by Mark Elliott.

MAY

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

Saturday, May 12, 9am-noon ~ Dawn Grafe, USFWS, is our guide of Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint.

JUN

Thursday, June 7, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

Saturday, June 9, 9-11am ~ Tamara Keys and Pixie Land are the sites for birding with Mark Elliott.



JUL

Thursday, July 12, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) Board Meeting in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

Saturday, July 14, 9-11am ~ Join Mark Elliott for a birding event at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

Visit www.lincolncityaudubon.org for more calendar details and for ASLC news updates!

This 17-Year-Old Band Is Still Going Strong



In the words of Range Bayer of Lincoln County's Yaquina Birders & Naturalists organization, "I find it fascinating! So much we think of birds as species, but this is a case where we can think of a bird as an individual.

Range is talking about the Canada Goose Jack Doyle photographed on the #2 fairway at the Chinook Winds Golf Resort on October 3, 2011. The bird had a white neck collar with "244R" in black letters. With intrigue and curiosity, Jack asked Range, "Where did this bird come from?" Here is Range's response as written in the Yaquina Birders & Naturalists' October 2011 newsletter, "The Sandpiper":

Previous records I have compiled indicate that it was at Eckman Lake and the Alsea Bay area on 8/1/1994, 4/13/1995, 10/15/1995, 1/14/1996, and 10/24/2004.

I reported Jack's sighting and relayed his question to the ODFW. Brandon Reishus (brandon.s.reishus@state.or.us) promptly replied that "244R was banded as a female gosling on June 29, 1994 on the Alsea River about 3 km E of Waldport. So as of summer 2011 she was 17 years old. The most recent sighting of her I have in our records was from 11/12/2007 near Waldport."

So this fall she decided to go venturing to Lincoln City, but her sojourn appears to have been brief, since (another birder) saw and photographed her back at Eckman Lake on October 22nd!

If you see neck-collared Western Canada Geese please report them! It is fascinating to know more about the lives of individual birds! Neck bands can provide special insight into the long-term reproductive performance and survival of geese.

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 (Winter, Summer)
- Website: www.lincolncityaudubon.org
- 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