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.

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 traveler 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 NORTHERN 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 WIDGEON 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)

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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!

**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. One 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.

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. You might also want to check out field trips offered by the Audubon Society of Portland (audubonportland.org).
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.

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.”

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
• 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

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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 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, veggies 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!
17th 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 to learn more.

February 14–17, 2014

American Robin by 2013 GBBC Participant Gwen Starrett

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

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 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.

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) for more information.

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

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.

Saturday, June 14, 9-11am ~ Pixie Land Bird Walk. Call 541-992-0440 or visit our website (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 potluck dinner.