

The Kingfisher

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Spring 2008

International Migratory Bird Day—Birds in a Changing Climate

To help save our natural resources and reduce costs, we can provide our newsletter in electronic format. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, send an e-mail to audubonlc@charter.net

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Birds have long been indicators of environmental change, sounding the alarm about the impacts of pesticides, polluted water, and the loss of contiguous forest. While International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) continues to promote the joy of birds, it will also tackle a challenging, yet pertinent topic in 2007 - climate change.

The reactions of birds to weather have long been noted. For hundreds of years, farmers have used the arrivals of migratory birds to make decisions about planting crops. Changes in the movements of some species is just one indicator of the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. To-

day, as the rate of warming increases, scientists are exploring how climate change will affect birds and how we can reduce our impact.

IMBD, held annually on the second Saturday in May, is an invitation to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation. Please join us for many exciting events to be held at the Union 50 Club in Lincoln City.

Beautiful Fliers, by Gretchen Ammerman

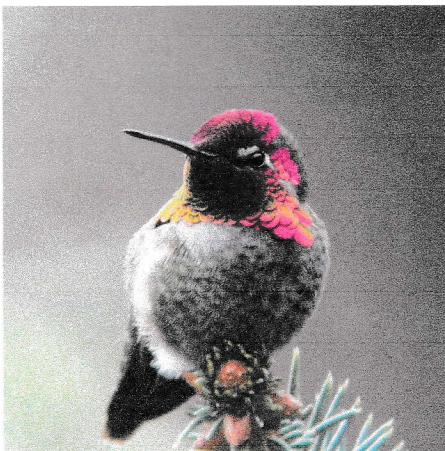
With their bright iridescent colors and entertaining flight patterns, hummingbirds are always a welcome sight. These tiny birds, who play an important role in plant pollination and insect population control, dedicate about 30 percent of their body weight to breast muscles, three times that of the weakest flying birds. To feed those muscles, hummers consume more than their own body weight in nectar each day and have the highest metabolic rate of any animal on Earth.

There are approximately 330 known species of Hummingbirds, all of which reside in North and South America.

Ninety-five percent of the species occur south of the border between US and Mexico. Here on the central Oregon coast, the most frequently sighted hummers are the Anna's, traditionally a year-round resident, and the Rufous, who spend time in the Pacific Northwest during their migration between Mexico and Alaska, a more than 2,500 mile journey. Other species that have been confirmed nesting in the state include the Allen's, on

the Southern Oregon Coast, the Black-chinned, mostly in Northeast Oregon, and the Calliope, mostly in the Cascade and Willamette Mountains.

Natural threats to hummingbirds include weather, predator birds such as kestrels, hawks and crows, and frogs, snakes and lizards. However, chemical



Anna's Hummingbird

Photo by Jack Doyle

fertilizers and pesticides can also poison hummingbirds. A chemical free garden, which includes plants with tubular flowers in bright colors, supplemented by hummingbird feeders filled with a homemade 1:4 sugar to water solution, (dyes, preservatives, food coloring and flavoring in commercial solutions can actually harm birds) will attract hummingbirds to your garden year round.

Our New Board Member— Ron Kaser

Ron Kaser, our newest board member, began bird watching as a child. With over 40 years of boating and birding experience in Tillamook County, Captain Ron decided to share his perspective of bird life on the estuary with others as a birding guide.

Ron is certified by the US Coast Guard and licensed by the Oregon State Marine Board for all inland water ways and 100 miles off shore.

His Yellow Fir Guide Service provides a unique birding perspective aboard a comfortable 22 foot vessel. The Tillamook Bay Estuary, which is home to numerous species of migrating birds and waterfowl, is a favorite tour destination.

If you would like to take a tour, call Yellow Fir Guide Service for reservations at 503-842-3332.

Upcoming Birding Events

Community Days—April 7-14

Audubon is sponsoring two events during Lincoln City's Community Days celebration. On April 7th we will be leading a field trip at Regatta Grounds beginning at 10:00am. On Monday evening, April 9th, we will be hosting a presentation on Backyard Bird Feeding Basics at Oceanlake Elementary School at 7:00pm.

Audubon Field Trip to Yaquina Bay—April 14

Meet at the Hatfield Marine Science Center at 9am.

Earth Day—April 20

Join National Audubon's Taldi Walter for an intriguing presentation entitled "From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska" at the Lincoln City Community Center from 7-9pm.

Birdathon—May 4-6 (see page 3)

International Migratory Bird Day—May 11-12 (see page 1)

Audubon Field Trip to Pacific City—June 9. Meet at Clay Myers State Natural Area at Whalen Island at 8am.

Join Audubon Society of Lincoln City for our 3rd annual Birdathon!

Birdathon is Audubon's largest annual fundraising event, and the world's largest bird-watching competition. Every year, thousands of people join us to count birds, have fun, and raise vital funds for Audubon's mission of environmental conservation, education, and advocacy.

Here's how a Birdathon works: people count birds and collect pledges from sponsors based on the number of species they see. All you have to do is choose a date and time (usually in the spring, when birds are migrating) and start counting. You can do it alone, with a group, or join Audubon Society of Lincoln City's Birdathon at one, or more of our exciting venues.

You don't have to be an expert – some people even do Birdathons from their couch, counting the visitors to their feeder. Others cover dozens of miles in a day, racking up over 200 species in some areas. The key is to have fun!

Last year's nationwide Birdathon helped raise over \$1 million. We hope you'll join with others in the community to help Audubon Society of Lincoln City meet our goal of raising \$5000 in support of our mission to encourage residents and visitors to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and habitats found on the Central Oregon Coast.

Birdathon Time Line

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|------------------|--|
| March-April: | Participants sign up, using the form on the back side of this paper, and solicit pledges |
| April: | Participants form or join teams—prize for best team name |
| May 4-5: | Participants count birds for up to 48 consecutive hours. |
| May 5: | Join us to celebrate and socialize with other successful Birdathoners, 6 pm. |
| Through June 15: | Report your results to your sponsors, collect pledges, and send the money to: |

Audubon Society of Lincoln City
PO Box 38
Lincoln City, OR 97367

All donations will be acknowledged.

Birdathon Rules

- Count bird species (not subspecies) that you see or hear within a consecutive 48 hour period.
- For rare or unusual birds, have more than one person confirm the identification and if the species is considered a "review species" by the Oregon Bird Records Committee, submit a report including photos. (see the Official Checklist at www.oregonbirds.org)
- For teams, at least two members of the team must see or hear the bird for it to be listed by the team.
- Have lots of fun!

Scheduled Field Trips

Birdathoners can bird on their own, form teams with their friends, or join a field trip led by an experienced birder. Using the new Coastal Birding Trail as our guide, the following field trips have been scheduled for May 4-6, 2007

- Friday – Newport & south to Yachats
- Saturday – Boiler Bay, Siletz Bay and Pacific City
- Sunday – Tillamook Bay, Netarts, Cape Mears

Will you Participate in Audubon Society of Lincoln City's 2008 Birdathon?

Just return this page to PO Box 38, Lincoln City, OR 97367 or e-mail your participation request to audubonlc@charter.net

Yes! I will join Audubon Society of Lincoln City on a Birdathon Field Trip. I understand that I will be responsible for making a personal contribution or getting my own pledges to participate in the field trip.

Please identify which trip(s) you will attend, and we'll send you the details.

May 9 – Yaquina Bay and surrounding areas

May 10 – Siletz Bay and surrounding areas

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Yes! I will do my own Birdathon at a place and time of my choosing.

We will send you the pledge tracking form and species checklist.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Yes! I will sponsor Audubon Society of Lincoln City in Birdathon 2008.

Here's what I'll pledge:

a set amount of \$ _____

\$ _____ per species (we'll let you know how many species we spotted)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Checks should be made payable to Audubon Society of Lincoln City and mailed to PO Box 38, Lincoln City, OR 97367

Mist Netting for Science, by Todd Forsgren

To create his paintings, John James Audubon (1785-1851) shot birds and contorted their bodies into dramatic poses by wiring and pinning them onto boards. The quirky postures were not immediately popular with the scientific community. Instead, the Academy of Sciences in Philadelphia published the work of other artists who recorded birds in less flamboyant poses. Audubon's work first gained notoriety in England, where "the American Woodsman" fascinated his patrons. His fame earned him a place in the Royal Society of the Sciences. Today, he is the namesake of the Audubon Society, and now many bird-watchers share a similar goal to Audubon: to record every species in the country on their personal 'life lists'.

It was Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996) who pioneered the idea of a field guide. His guides highlight observable marks, pointed out by carefully placed arrows, which allow for the identification of birds at a distance. Peterson painted thousands of systematic illustrations of birds in static poses which he based on photographs, bird skins, and field observations. Field guides have allowed hobbyists, artists, and scientists to identify birds with binoculars instead of a shotgun.



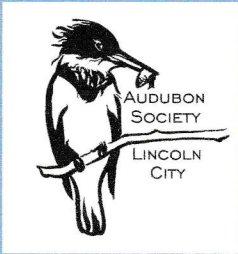
Ornithologists now use mist nets instead of shotguns for data that cannot be obtained with the help of binoculars, microphones, or telephoto lenses. These nearly invisible nets are set up like fences and function as huge spider webs, catching unsuspecting birds. The researcher carefully extracts the bird from the net. Each bird is measured, aged, sexed, and banded with an individually numbered anklet (Audubon's experiments with Eastern Phoebes was likely the first bird banding done in the United States). Then the bird is released, unharmed.

John James Audubon's Monograph, Birds of America, and Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America were the first pieces of artwork I loved. I spent days studying and trying to emulate Pe-



terson and Audubon as a bird-watching teenager. With these artists still on my mind, I set about on this project. I have chosen to photograph birds while they are caught in mist nets. Here, the birds inhabit a fascinating space between our framework of the bush and the hand. It is a fragile and embarrassing moment before they disappear back into the woods, and into data.

As for my connection to Lincoln City... I spent four months as a resident at the Sitka Center a bit more than a year ago. I had a wonderful time photographing experimental sites at Cascade Head Experimental Forest. That work, as well as the bird photos shown here, can be seen at my website, www.toddforsgren.com.



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**Audubon Society of Lincoln City
Mission Statement**
The Audubon Society of Lincoln City's mission is to encourage residents and visitors to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats found on the Central Oregon Coast.

Become a Member Today

Your donation to the Audubon Society of Lincoln City supports our environmental education and citizen science programs, and enables us to participate in restoration and public advocacy projects throughout the Central Oregon Coast.

_____ \$20 Individual _____ \$30 Family _____ \$50 Wood Duck
_____ \$100 Red-Tailed Hawk _____ \$250 Chestnut-backed Chickadee _____ \$500 Osprey
_____ \$1000 Kingfisher _____ \$Other _____

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Audubon Society of Lincoln City is a nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Please return this slip with your check payable to Audubon Society of Lincoln City. Member information is confidential. We do not sell or share our membership list.

