

The Kingfisher

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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

Audubon Nature Center Planned for Lincoln City

Audubon Society of Lincoln City has been laying the groundwork for an Audubon Nature Center in Lincoln City, securing a prime site, with a major commitment from the Oregon Coast Community College, at their new Lincoln City campus location. The site is noteworthy both for its natural resources, its proximity to Taft High 7-12 and Taft Elementary school, and its central and easily accessible location within Lincoln City.

In addition, the city of Lincoln City acquired 6.79 acres of undeveloped land for the Spyglass Wetland Open Space - habitat for birds and other wildlife. This open space lies adjacent to the Community College property.

All indicators suggest that this site, with some restoration and care, has the potential to sustain a new Audubon Nature Center in the future. This proposed nature center will provide us with many benefits.

Nature-based Tourism: The Central Oregon coast has a thriving tourism industry and the Audubon Nature Center could become another destination for those coming to the area for birding, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

Enhancement of Our Education Programs: Our hope is to deliver programs to people of all ages that are relevant to their schoolyards,

their backyards, and their community. Our goal is to provide 25% of the K-12 students in Lincoln County with in-field programs, and to reach 5% of local residents with nature and bird-oriented programs and field trips.

Improved Conservation of the Site: The area surrounding the Center is a disturbed natural area that requires much restoration. There are ample opportunities for school groups and other organizations to get involved in restoring the habitats.

Walk the Talk: We will be operating out of a green, energy-efficient space that will highlight the values of Audubon and help educate our visitors about the importance of building with the environment in mind.

Beginning in September, the Audubon Society of Lincoln City will have an office at the Community College and will be working towards making the Nature Center a reality for Lincoln City.

Come visit our new office at our fall Environmental Evenings and field trips.

Oregon Shorebird Festival

The Oregon Shorebird Festival, one of the longest running bird festivals in Oregon, will celebrate 22 years the last weekend of August. Birdwatchers of all skill levels are encouraged to join in and experience firsthand the wonder of shorebird migration on the scenic south coast from August 29 through August 31, 2008. The festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in the small fishing community of Charleston, OR.

Activities include expertly guided field trips to Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and the Coos Bay area; a pelagic trip hosted by The Bird Guide, Inc.; ocean watches for seabirds and marine mammals by Shoreline Education for Awareness and evening programs on current bird research.

To register for the festival or for more information please visit our website at www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm or contact Dawn Grafe at 541-867-4550.

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Black-headed Grosbeak

A common and familiar bird of the American West, the Black-headed Grosbeak will empty your feeder of sunflower seeds in just one afternoon. The species can be found in mountain forests, along desert streams, or in backyards and gardens. The male and female differ greatly in their plumage, with the male being a flashy black, white, and cinnamon, and the female a drab buff and brown.

- Medium-sized, stocky songbird.
- Large, thick, bicolored, cone-shaped bill.
- White flash in wings in flight.
- Size: 18-19 cm (7-7 in)
- Wingspan: 32 cm (13 in)
- Weight: 35-49 g (1.24-1.73 ounces)

Its song a series of rapidly ascending and descending notes separated by brief pauses. The call note is a sharp "chink."

The Black-headed Grosbeak is considered common and their populations are slightly increasing.

Despite his showy plumage, the male Black-headed Grosbeak shares about equally with the female in incubating eggs and feeding young.

The nest of the Black-headed Grosbeak is widely reported to be so thinly constructed that eggs can be seen through bottom. However, nests are less thin in northern California. Thin nests may provide ventilation and help keep them cool.



Photo by Jack Doyle

The female Black-headed Grosbeak commonly sings. The female song is generally a simplified version of the male song. Occasionally, the female sings full "male" song, apparently to deceive its mate about the presence of intruders and force him to spend more time at the nest.

The male Black-headed Grosbeak does not get its adult breeding plumage until it is two years old. First-year males can



Photo by Jack Doyle

vary from looking like a female to looking nearly like an adult male. Only yearling males that most closely resemble adult males are able to defend a territory and attempt to breed.

Sources

Hill, G. E. 1995. Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 143 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Audubon Saturday Morning Field Trips

Date	Location	Time	Meeting Place
09/13/08	Siletz Bay	9 AM	SW 51st St., Taft
10/11/08	Yaquina Bay	9 AM	Hatfield Marine Science Center
11/08/08	Fogarty Beach/Boiler Bay	9 AM	Fogarty Creek State Park
12/13/08	Siletz Bay	9 AM	SW 51st St., Taft
01/10/09	Yaquina Bay	9 AM	Hatfield Marine Science Center
02/14/09	Nestucca Bay NWR	9 AM	Nestucca Bay NWR Headquarters
03/14/09	Siletz Bay	8AM	SW 51st St., Taft
04/11/09	Devils Lake	8AM	"D" River Wayside
06/13/09	Yaquina Head	8 AM	Yaquina Head Visitors Center (\$)

Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Each summer as visitors make an exodus to the Oregon Coast we try to let them know proper shoreline etiquette to help reduce the impact beach-goers have on the wildlife that also congregate here in the summer. The following poem describes appropriate behavior and gives reasons why its so important to follow it.

Whether local or visitor we'd like to share
A fantastic event that happens once each year

All up and down, along the Oregon shore
There are rocks, reefs, and small islands galore

Each year from April and onto September
These places play host to things you'll remember

Seabirds and Pinnipeds (those seals and sea lions)
Travel miles and miles to come to these islands

Here, on these rocks, reefs and islands they breed
Lay their eggs, birth their pups, rest and feed

They choose these hard to reach places for a reason
They are clumsy on land and do not want to get eaten

While most do not think seabirds are very delicious
They believe we consider them highly nutritious

If you get too close they think you'll cause harm
So they flee off the rocks, frantic with alarm

When this happens it is really not so very lovely
Seals and sea lions cannot digest what's in their belly

For the birds, it is a tad bit worse, a disaster
They pour off the rocks and what comes in after?

Gulls galore swoop onto the emptied area
Scooping up eggs, chicks; carnage that'll scare ya'

Worse even yet, if they are scared off in the Spring
They'll abandon; just give up, on the whole breeding thing

Now this result would be sad as it is truly a sight
To see these colonies at their full, spectacular height

The seals and sea lions are something you must see
Plus seabird interactions are great to watch, and are free

To ensure that these pinnipeds and seabirds abound
These rocks, reefs and islands are protected year-round

Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge encompasses them all
They're off limits all year; large rock or small

They're closed to everyone; that means you and me
No climbing allowed, or you'll pay a huge fee

Boaters please keep away at least 500 feet
Swerve too close and you'll lose the very best viewing seat

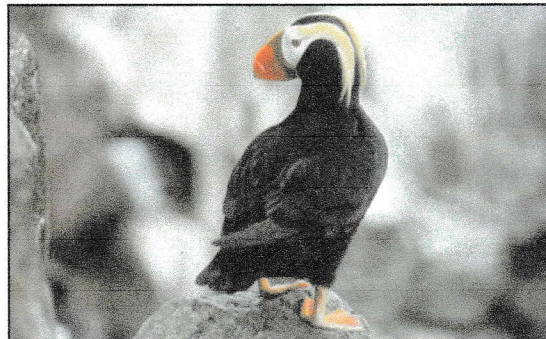
Pilots aloft must keep 2000 feet distance
Dip below that and rocks'll clear in an instant

These simple rules are easy to follow and maintain
And will encourage the seabirds and pinnipeds to remain

We also ask for a simple, kind and courteous deed
Please keep your dogs on a leash, controlled by their lead

You see dogs pose a threat to resting seals and sea lions
And chase away migrating, roosting, feathered birds of all kinds

We thank you for helping protect the wildlife on our Coast



Tufted Puffin

Photo by Roy W. Lowe/USFWS

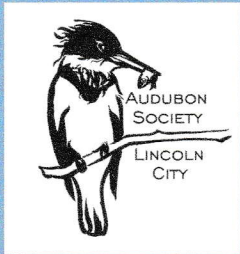
Volunteer Corner

Good-bye and thank you.

Raylene Erickson has served on our Board of Directors since its inception in 2005. She has been a key member of our team and has been instrumental in coordinating the International Migratory Bird Day Festival. She has participated in many of our field trips and has worked with local students at the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. We regretfully accept Raylene's resignation from our Board, and know that she will continue to dedicate herself to the protection of native habitats in and around Lincoln City.

Volunteer Environmental Educators

"Audubon Adventures" is continuing for the 2008-2009 school year. We will be holding a volunteer educator training in August. If you are interested in volunteering in the field and in the classroom to teach children about birds, their habitats, and the environment, please call 541-921-4009 for more information. Our goal is to reach 25% of the school children this year, so we really need your help!



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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..

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City is a 501(c)(3) Corporation 20-3795649.

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.

We're on the web
www.lincolncityaudubon.com