

P. O. Box 38
Lincoln City
Oregon 97367

Be sure to visit www.lincolncityaudubon.com
for more news and activities of the Audubon Society of Lincoln City

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

▼ Winter & Spring Events

Friday 13th, 7-8pm

Evening Talk:

Dr. Rob Suryan, OSU Hatfield

*Homebodies & Far-Off Travelers:
Seabirds on Our Coast and Beyond.*
Library Seminar Room, Guin Library
Hatfield Marine Science Center
2030 SE Marine Science Dr
Newport, Oregon

Saturday 14th, 8AM

Audubon Field Trip

at Siletz Bay. Meet at SW 51st in Taft.
Free. FMI contact Dick @ 541-765-2241.

Saturday 14th, 10am-3pm

COASST TRAINING

*(Coastal Observation and Seabird
Survey Team)*
Hatfield Marine Science Center,
Room 30/32
2030 SE Marine Science Dr
Newport, Oregon

Saturday 14th, 4-6pm

COASST SOCIAL

(for current Coassters)
Rogue Brewery
2320 OSU Drive
Newport, Oregon

Saturday 11th, 8am

Audubon Field Trip

at Devils Lake. Meet at "D" River
Wayside. Free. FMI contact Dick @
541-765-2241.

Fri, Sat, Sun 1st-3rd

Wings & Waves Festival

at Lincoln City Cultural Center. Enjoy
kayaking field trips, birding lectures,
raptor show, live music, prizes,
constructing the world's largest bird
nest, and much, much more.
FMI call 541-992-0440

▼ Members

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

With a donation of \$20 for 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 for more info.

▼ Volunteers

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.

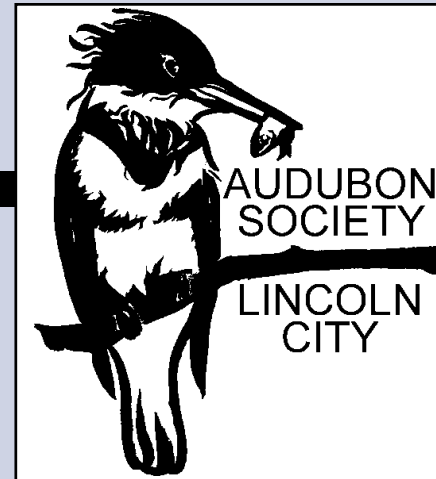
As a **Volunteer Member** of Audubon Society of Lincoln City, you will enjoy taking part in creating successful Special Events, Educational Programs for young and old, and Field Trips for all ages.

You don't have to be a paid member to volunteer your services. All you need is the time and effort to help others enjoy birding and the great outdoors.

▼ Sponsors

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 aid to Audubon Society of Lincoln City in presenting educational and rewarding Special Events to resident and non-resident family members of all ages. What a great way to give back to the people and community that supports you and your business!



▼ The King's Corner

"Change," that seems to be the big buzzword these days especially on the national scene. But change has also come to our Audubon chapter in a big way these last six months. Our chapter founder, Kathleen Nickerson, has relocated with her husband, Jack, a member of our founding Board of Directors, to the Corvallis area. Kathleen brought lots of experience after years as a professional with the Portland Audubon Chapter so we have really missed her these past six months. Lenny Nelson, another founding board member and past vice-president, has also resigned, but we are happy to report that four enthusiastic new board members, Dave Smith, Rich Hardman, Jody Picconi and Ernie Rose have joined us at the table.

We're all working hard on our first Birding Festival, *Wings & Waves*, May 1-3, 2009. The countdown has begun, and volunteers are welcome! The City of Lincoln City is our major sponsor, and the Festival would not be possible without their support. Many other Lincoln City businesses are already helping us out, and we continue to look for additional sponsors. Birding on the Oregon coast in May is among the best birding in the entire country so we anticipate a very well-attended and successful event that will help build Lincoln City as a great eco-tourism destination.

Education, especially for children, is one of the Lincoln City Audubon Chapter's major missions so we've been organizing to offer classroom programs and field trips in Lincoln and Tillamook County schools. Caren Willoughby, Board member and Education Coordinator is making this happen and welcomes others who would like to volunteer in the classroom or out

The Kingfisher

Volume 4, Issue 2 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Winter 2009

LOCAL NEWS

▼ From the Nest



Lincoln City Audubon Society & Oceanlake 6th Graders Kick off the 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count

Fifty-eight 6th graders, birds, and no rain perfectly combined to kick off the 2009 Backyard Bird Count at Siletz Bay in Lincoln City on Thursday, February 12. Students teamed up to observe, identify, and record their bird observations under the guidance of Lincoln City Audubon Society volunteers, teachers, and parents. The students had prepared for the field trip with two

hours of classroom lessons coordinated by Lincoln City Audubon Education Coordinator, Caren Willoughby.

The students were rewarded with some exciting bird sightings: a pair of Eagles working on building a nest; a Great Blue Heron and a Great Egret challenging each other for the same fishing hole; flocks of Pine Siskins; both

(continued on page 3)

(continued from King's Corner)

in the field. Last week as part of the National Great Backyard Bird Count, Caren led 58 Oceanlake School sixth graders and their teachers and seven Audubon volunteers on a field trip to Siletz Bay. The students had prepared for the field trip with two hours of classroom instruction in birds, field guides, and binoculars from Audubon volunteers. I helped man an observation station with my birding scope. One of the girls spotted a duck in the water and asked me what it was. I didn't know, but since I was supposed to be an expert I asked her what she thought it was. Leafing through her field guide within seconds, with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, she identified it correctly as a Bufflehead. I don't think I'll ever forget what a beautiful bird the Bufflehead is, and I'll always remember the feeling it was to realize I wit-

nessed a fledgling birder in the making.

Dick Demarest, birder extraordinaire, led our Audubon chapter field trips to great local birding sites once a month for the past year. We've had some outstanding trips and seen some amazing birds, but attendance has been slight. Everyone is welcome, so please come and help us get the word out. This newsletter includes the schedule. If you have yet to go birding with Dick, you're really missing a very enjoyable outing. Sometimes I feel that people think they have to be advanced birders to go on these trips, but the opposite is the case. Beginners to birding are especially welcome. We provide field guides, binoculars and, of course, Dick is very generously providing his expertise. It is never too late to start birding! Believe me, I know.

-Jack Doyle, ASLC President

REGIONAL NEWS

▼ From the Nest

Bill to Ban PBDEs

PBDEs (fire retardent chemicals used in everything from plastic computer casings to mattresses) are dramatically on the rise and have begun showing up in Peregrines, Osprey, fish, and human breast milk. Two forms of PBDEs have already been banned, but a third form, Decca, is still in use. PBDE's are primarily leaching out of products in landfills.

Portland Audubon and Willamette Riverkeeper are championing legislation to ban Decca PBDEs. Washington and at least two other states have already banned the Decca form of PBDEs. There are more environmentally responsible alternative, cost effective chemicals available to serve as replacements. The bill has the support of



Oregon's Office of Public Health and several legislators. Primary opposition is expected from the American Chemical Society.

Audubon in the Classroom at Siletz Valley School

Siletz Valley School 6th-8th graders studied birds with Audubon education volunteers on Thursday, February 19th. At the request of Siletz Valley School teacher, Joe Scott, Lincoln County Audubon Chapter Education Coordinator, Caren Willoughby, organized a two-hour classroom experience focusing on bird identification for about ten students from the Science, Math, and Engineering Club. After a morning of classroom training, students and teachers took in more hands-on science training at Hatfield Marine Science and observed birds in the wild at Yaquina Bay. Audubon volunteers Dawn Stetzel and Laura Doyle helped out.

NATIONAL NEWS

▼ From the Nest

Birds and Climate Change: On the Move

Nearly 60% of the 305 species found in North America in winter are on the move, shifting their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles. Audubon scientists analyzed 40 years of citizen-science Christmas Bird Count data — and their findings provide new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems.

Northward movement was detected among species of every type, including more than 70 percent of highly adaptable forest and feeder birds.

Only grassland species were an exception - with only 38 percent mirroring the northward trend. But far from being good news for species like Eastern Meadowlark and Henslow's Sparrow, this reflects the grim reality of severely-depleted grassland habitat and suggests that these species now face a double threat from the combined stresses of habitat loss and climate adaptation.

It is the complete picture of widespread movement and the failure of some species to move at all that illustrate the impacts of climate change on birds. They are sending us a powerful signal that we need to 1) take policy action to curb climate change and its impacts, and 2) help wildlife and ecosystems adapt to unavoidable habitat changes, even as we work to curb climate change itself.



What the Birds are Telling Us

Birds are among the most adaptable of wildlife - as long as they can find suitable habitat, they are able to travel substantial distances north, inland, or to higher latitudes. That is one of the things that makes them sensitive environmental indicators - alerting us to ecological disruption, often before it directly affects us.

Audubon's new analysis reveals that many species that winter in the U.S. are moving significantly north - strong evidence that global warming is already

altering their - and our - environment. However, Audubon's analysis also showed that some birds, including the majority of grassland species, are not following the trend — even as temperatures climb. For these species disappearing habitat is taking an enormous toll and leaving them with nowhere to go - even as climate change is altering what habitat remains.

(Source: National Audubon Society, Audubon.org.)

FOR THE BIRDS

▼ In View

A Flock by Any Other Name

by Lori Hollingsworth

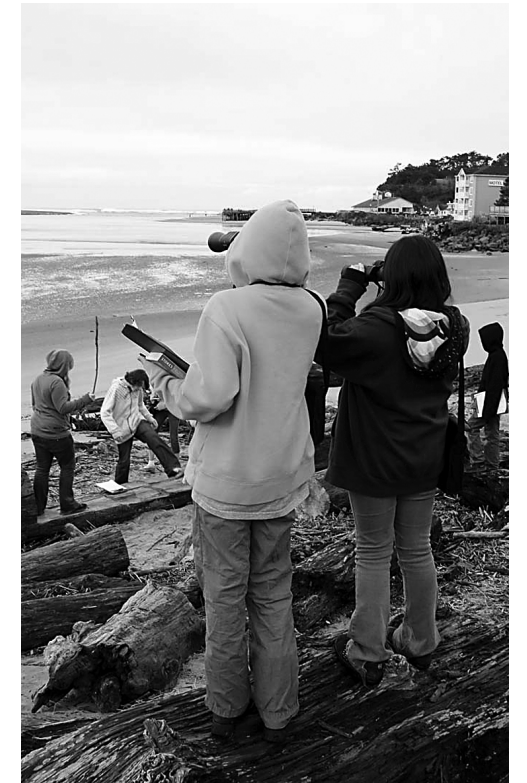
Flock is a general term applied to a group of birds, however, with a variety of species there are very specific and interesting, if not humorous, terms.

A group of warblers is known as either a bouquet, a wrench, a fall, or a confusion. Crows gather in murders, a congress, a horde, a muster, or, my favorite, a cauldron. Sparrows can be found in flutters, quarrels, ubiquities, or crews. A group of kinglets may be called either a castle, a dynasty, a court, or a principedom. The Northern Flicker

gathers in a Peterson, a menorah, or a guttering.

There's more, lots more. There are bands, casts, a party, or a scold of jays; a worm of robins; a tangle or a teapot of towhees. There are descents, drummings or gatlings of woodpeckers; and a group of owls may be referred to as a bazaar, a glaring, a parliament, a stooping, or a wisdom of owls.

So, sharpen your pencil and wax eloquent when next you consider a short story or poem and make use of these eloquent terms.



(Oceanlake 6th Graders - continued from page 1)

Is it Harry the Hairy, or Dow the Downy?

by Lisa Voelker

Working in the yard in early spring, or, while taking a walk on Spring Lake Trail, a distinctive "chip" may be heard ringing out from the trees. Looking about, expecting "Chippee the Chipmunk," you are instead pleasantly surprised as your eyes focus on the well camouflaged busy form of a woodpecker busily making it's way up a tree trunk.

The familiar black and white form with the red patch on the back of the head takes wing, a short flight to the next tree, punctuated by a sharp "chip" and the whistle of air passing through stiff feathers. But wait, is it a Hairy or a Downy Woodpecker?

Almost identical, as the smallest and most common woodpeckers in the United States, the Downy Woodpecker is the smaller of the two. The Hairy is not only larger, its bill is proportionately larger as well. The difference in the bill is a sure form of identification: a small bird with a beak smaller than the width of the head is a Downy. A larger bird with a bill about as long as the head is a Hairy. A black smudge on the shoulder and white outer tail feathers helps to identify the Hairy Woodpecker.

When feeding, Hairy Woodpeckers prefer the trunk of a tree, a Downy prefers branches.

The Downy Woodpecker will frequently travel in mixed flocks taking advantage of the other birds watching for predators. Neither the Hairy nor the Downy Woodpecker is overly shy and will feast on suet cakes hung in close proximity to windows.



Red-throated and Common Loons, as well as many others.

"Siletz Bay is the perfect location for kids to learn about birds! Within short walking distance, the students were able to explore three completely different habitats to discover the great bird diversity we have within Lincoln City", observed Willoughby. "In the classroom, the students prepared by learning about bird anatomy, bird behavior and how to use field guides and binoculars, but seeing the birds in the wild, really brought these concepts home."

Observations by the Oceanlake 6th graders will be entered in the Great Backyard Bird Count, an annual national citizen science project coordinated by Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Results from Lincoln City and the rest of the nation are available on line at www.birdsource.org/gbbc/. This is the third year that Lincoln City Audubon Society has helped local elementary students participate.

"Education is an important part of the Audubon Society mission, and we are committed to bringing understanding and awareness of birds and the environment to everyone, particularly students," says President Jack Doyle.

If you are interested in having Audubon volunteers bring science and environmental education programs to classrooms in Lincoln and Tillamook schools, please contact Lincoln City Audubon Education Coordinator Caren Willoughby at 541-992-2809.