



South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
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Coos Bay, OR
97420
Permit No. 309

Winter
2010



The Newsletter of South Slough
National Estuarine
Research Reserve
and the
Friends of
South Slough
Reserve, Inc.
Charleston,
Oregon

SOUTH SLOUGH VOLUNTEERS MIGRATE TO KLAMATH BIRD OBSERVATORY

By Nina Gee

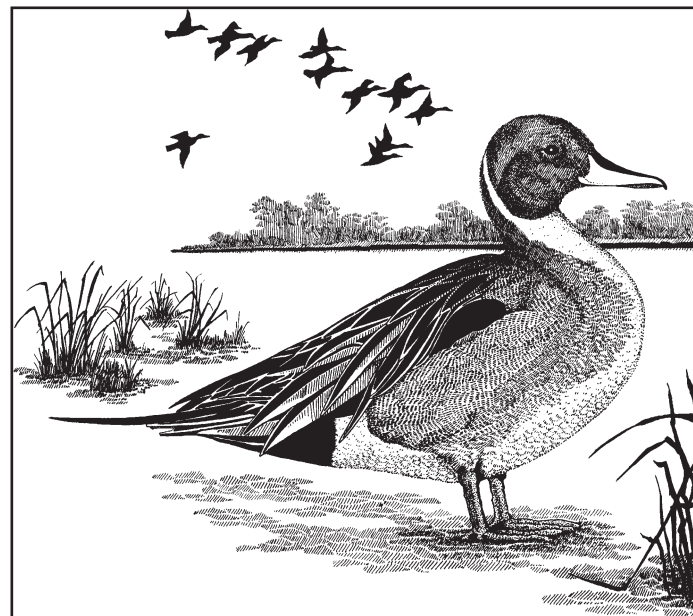
Lora and Bill Wehner are back in their Bandon home after four weeks of canoeing, camping, and counting birds as independent contractors for the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO), a non-profit organization dedicated to bird and bird habitat conservation in the Americas.

The couple are Friends of South Slough (FOSS) volunteers who eagerly gave part of their summer to the Western Colonial Waterbird Survey. This west wide effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is being implemented in eleven western states with KBO documenting species composition, size, and location throughout Oregon.

The Wehners worked as one of five teams. They were given three days of orientation with staff at the KBO training facility at Rocky Point along Klamath Lake, before being sent into the Klamath Marsh and Upper Klamath Lake. The orientation included intensive safety measures for field work, protocol for dealing with the birds, and instruction in recording species activities, nesting area, and counting the size of the colony. The survey

targeted seven Aquatic Colonial Nesters: Black Terns, Forster's Terns, Franklin's Gulls, White-faced Ibis and three types of grebes—Clark's, Western, and Eared. The Black Terns were the main focus of Lora and Bill's first weeks. The small Tern nests in the Klamath Marsh area and leaves to winter at sea, south of the United States border. After spotting a colony of birds, each nest had to be located and charted on a map with the aid of a GPS. The birds float their nests in the marsh, constructing it of

grasses and bulrush. Colonies had to be approached by water either by wading or by canoe. The Wehners began the Black Tern survey in the pre-nesting period in June, and finished with the sighting of their first chick "Our interest in birds, canoeing, and the chance to be involved in research attracted us to the opportunity to work with KBO and Karen Hussey, Research and Monitoring Manager, for the Colonial Aquatic Nesters," said Bill. "She was a great person to work for and we look forward to the opportunity to work with her again in the future."



Join South Slough this Winter for a variety of activities designed to expand your appreciation of nature while staying dry!

- **Tide of the Toddlers** (November 20, December 4, January 8)
- **Feeding Birds in Winter** (January 22)
- **South Slough, Sustainability and You** (January 29)
- **Films** (November 13, December 18, January 15)



Lora and Bill Wehner getting ready to do a transect of Klamath Marsh



SOUTH SLOUGH WINTER CALENDAR 2010



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 6

Birds on the Estuary

8 to 10 am

Explore the shores of Charleston in search of winged wildlife. Interpreter, binoculars and spotting scopes provided. **Meet at the Charleston Visitors Center.** (\$1/birder)

Fall Mushrooms

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Discover the world of mushrooms with instructor John Schaefer. Learn how to identify at least 6 local mushroom species and techniques for mushroom hunting. This workshop takes place indoors and along trails, so please dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Please bring a sack and knife for collecting. (\$20/participant or free to FOSS members as of 11/05/10)

NOVEMBER 11 Interpretive Center closed for Veterans Day

NOVEMBER 13

Film: life ~Challenges of Life & Mammals~

1 to 3 pm

Watch this amazing documentary about life on earth. Narrated by Oprah Winfrey this month's episodes will be "Challenges of Life and Mammals". We'll provide the big screen and popcorn. (free)

NOVEMBER 19

Fit Friday Hike

10 – 11:30 am

Join us for an invigorating hike along the trails of the Reserve. (free)

NOVEMBER 20

Cedar Pouch Weaving

9 am to 4 pm

Join Nan McDonald and Brenda Brannard for a day of learning about Native American weaving techniques and create your own cedar pouch. Students will construct their own unique Cedar Twined Pouch using red cedar, spruce roots, wild iris leaves and coastal sedge. Other material on hand will be wild cherry bark and bear grass. All skill levels welcome. All supplies provided. Please bring a sack lunch & beverage. Class maximum is 8 people, class minimum is 4 people. Cost \$45.00

Tide of the Toddlers ~Leaves~

10 to 11 am

Bring your wee ones, ages 1 to 5. Sing a song, read a story, make a craft and discover the natural world. (\$1/toddler)

NOVEMBER 25 Interpretive Center closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

NOVEMBER 26 Interpretive Center closed for Statewide Furlough.

NOVEMBER 27 Interpretive Center closed.

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 4

South Slough Birding

8 to 10 am

Search the reserve for winged wildlife. An interpreter, binoculars and spotting scopes will be provided. (\$1/birder)

Tide of the Toddlers ~Whales~

10 to 11 am

Bring your wee ones, ages 1 to 5. Sing a song, make a craft and discover the natural world. (\$1/toddler)

DECEMBER 11

Estuary Arts & Crafts - Natural Ornaments

1 to 3 pm

Create natural ornaments and gifts for the holidays. For artists 6 years old and up. (\$3/artist)

DECEMBER 18

Film: Gray Whale Obstacle Course

1 to 3 pm

Discover the journey of the gray whale from Baja to Alaska, including the Oregon Coast. We'll provide the big screen and popcorn. (free)

DECEMBER 24 & 25

Interpretive Center closed for Christmas holiday.

DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1

Interpretive Center closed for New Year's holiday.

All programs begin at the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Interpretive Center unless otherwise noted.

Please call (541) 888 - 5558 to reserve your place and confirm all programs. Programs may be cancelled due to low enrollment or hazardous weather.

Activity fees and donations cover materials and are used by the Friends of South Slough Reserve, Inc. in support of the Reserve.

The Interpretive Center, located 4 miles south of Charleston on Seven Devils Road, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Trails are open daily from dawn to dusk.

For more information visit us at www.southsloughestuary.org

JANUARY

JANUARY 1

Interpretive Center closed for New Year's holiday.

JANUARY 8

Birds on the Estuary

8 to 10 am

Explore the shores of Charleston in search of winged wildlife. Interpreter, binoculars and spotting scopes provided. **Meet at the Charleston Visitors Center.** (\$1/birder)

Tide of the Toddlers ~Wild Things~

10 to 11 am

Bring your wee ones, ages 1 to 5. Sing a song, make a craft and discover the natural world. (\$1/toddler)

JANUARY 15

Film: life ~ Fish and Birds~

1 to 3 pm

Watch this amazing documentary about life on earth. Narrated by Oprah Winfrey this month's episodes will be "Fish and Birds". We'll provide the big screen and popcorn. (free)

JANUARY 22

Feeding Birds in Winter

9 am to 12 pm

Build your own birdfeeder, discover which feeds work best for which birds and identify common backyard birds of Coos county. 15 participant limit. (\$5/participant)

JANUARY 29

Sustainability, South Slough and You

1 to 4 pm

Explore recent improvements to the reserve that lighten our energy load and learn what you can do to make more sustainable choices. (free)

