

# The Kingfisher

Volume 9, Issue 1 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Summer 2014

## For the Love of Learning and Birds

by Patty Sorensen

### ▼ The King's Corner



**It did not happen!** No one came forth to serve as president of our chapter, so I am coming out of retirement and serving one more year.

We had a very successful year. Our local membership continues to grow and is now over 50. The major funding we get is from membership.

Birding education continues to be our main focus with classes taught in both Tillamook and Lincoln counties. The adult basic birding class taught at our local community college is one of the school's most popular classes.

Our field trips, led by Mark Elliot, have grown so much in size that we now need more than one leader to handle the group size. Thank you Dick Demarest and Jack Hurt for your added assistance and expertise.

We had a new trip this year in which we viewed birds in Lincoln City's newest open space. We plan on doing this trip again in the coming year.

Please look over our Calendar of Events planned for the next several months and plan on joining us on the always enjoyable bird walks.

- Jack Doyle, ASLC President



Lincoln City Audubon's educational team, Caren, Laura and I, all love to learn and to share our love of birds and to learn with others. Using some of the curriculum available from Audubon's *Wild About Birds*, we coordinate our bird lessons with fifth grade curriculum by stressing all the adaptations that various bird species have developed, teaching students basic bird anatomy to help them with identification, demonstrating how to use a birding guide with charts, maps, and keys, and practicing the proper use of binoculars. What fun!

We recently spent four days with fifth grade students at East Elementary in Tillamook teaching them the basics of birding. There, we are known as the "Bird Ladies." It is amazing to notice how many students are very engaged and excited by the visit by bird "experts" to their classroom. As I noticed them answering some of our questions perfectly, I wondered why they knew so much about birds. Why they had chosen this particular topic to be interested in as an eleven year old? It was time for some sleuthing on the side. I quietly asked these students why they knew so much about birds. Their responses were remarkable and a lesson for us all as teachers. A few were:

~ "I've always loved birds since I was a little kid." She went on to say,

"I especially love the predatory birds like hawks."

~ "I'm part Indian and we value birds." (member of Sioux tribe)

~ "My sister was in your class two years ago. She has this bird guide so I've been reading it." (He was reading it in detail and was past page 60.)

~ "When I go visit my grandparents, they have books on birds that I read."

I also listened in on two of Caren's conversations. The first one was with a teacher whose student kept putting his hand up excitedly and giving us detailed correct answers. Caren said, "Wow, you've got quite a little scientist on your hands!" The teacher responded, "I didn't know! He's never talked this much."

At the end of our last session, a young man helped us to our cars with our many containers of guides and binoculars. Caren had a quick conversation with him. They talked about the birds he saw in his yard. Then she asked him, "Do you have a feeder at home?" His response was, "What's a feeder?" Ever the teacher, she gave an in-depth description, and then told him he should ask his parents to get him one.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ▼ Summer and Fall Events



**2nd Thursday of each month at 5:00pm ~ Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) Meeting** in Aces Grill at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Because time and location can change, call 541-994-9330 for latest update on location. Open to the public.

## AUG

**Saturday, August 9, 10:30am-1pm ~ Join Jack Hurt and Dick Demarest for birding at the Bayocean Spit/Tillamook Bay.** The spit is surrounded by scenic Tillamook Bay and there will be sightings of migrating shorebirds using this area as a stop over. From Highway 101 in Tillamook, turn west on 3rd Street/Three Capes Scenic Loop and go 3 miles to Bayocean Spit. Turn right and follow the gravel road 1.5 miles to the parking lot. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Call 541-994-9330 if more information is needed.

## SEP

**Saturday, September 13, 9-11am. Kayaking/canoeing and birding in the Salmon River estuary.** We'll depart from the Knight Park boat ramp so arrive a little before so that you can unload and unpack ahead of that. If conditions are as good as we hope, you may want to stay on to explore other areas of the estuary on your own. This is the second of three field trips in the Salmon River Estuary this year that the Audubon Society of Lincoln City has planned as part of 'Celebrating 40 years of protection, restoration, and appreciation' in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Cascade Head Scenic Research Area (CHRSA). Binoculars and field guides will be provided for participants who need them. Bring weather-appropriate clothing and foot gear that you can wear to 'beach walk' as well as get into and out of your vessel. You will need to provide your own gear - kayak or canoe (see below for rental information), personal flotation device (PFD)/life vest (mandatory), and whistle (also mandatory). All participants must wear a PFD at all times when you are on the water. You should also be able to swim as you ARE responsible for your own safety. Be sure you have an invasive species permit for your vessel if it is 10 feet or longer (mandatory).

## OCT

**Saturday, October 13th, 9-11am ~ join ASLC field leader Mark Elliott for birding at Whalen Island and Clay Myers State Park Natural Area.** Clay Myers Natural Area at Whalen Island is a birding hot spot. Our birding experts say that Whalen Island is THE place for October coastal birding! Beginning birders are welcome. Binoculars and guidebooks are available for those who don't have their own, and carpooling is usually an option.

**Directions: from the south** - from Lincoln City travel north on Hwy 101 about 15 miles to Pacific City turnoff. Turn left and travel about 2.8 miles to a stop sign with a Shell station on right. Turn left, travel over bridge and turn right onto Cape Kiwanda Dr. Passing the Pelican Pub on lefthand side, travel about 4.6 additional miles to launch site. You'll come to a 4-way stop. Continue north to and through Tierra del Mar. About 1.5 miles after Tierra del Mar, you will turn left at brown sign reading "Whalen Island Clay Myers." Park in parking lot next to restrooms. **From the North:** In Tillamook, travel about 10.5 miles south on Hwy 101 to the turn off. Turn right onto Sand Lake Rd toward Cape Kiwanda/Pacific City and travel an additional 4.3 miles to a stop sign. At the stop sign, turn left towards Pacific City/Sand Lake and travel 3.4 miles to brown sign reading "Whalen Island / Clay Myers." Turn right and park in the parking lot next to restrooms. If you pass through Tierra del Mar, you have gone too far!

## NOV

**Saturday, November 8th, 9-11 am ~ join Mark Elliott and Jack Doyle in this birding adventure at the River House\* in the Cascade Head Scenic Area.** Bird expert Mark Elliott will lead the bird walk while Jack Doyle will discuss photographing the birds on and around the beautiful Salmon River.

\* **Directions to CHR River House from coastal Hwy 101:** at the junction of Hwy 101 and Three Rocks Road North, travel west toward the ocean for 2.3 miles. At the "Y" in the road, turn right on to Savage Road and follow it to the end. It'll bring you down to the mouth of the Salmon River and to the Cascade Head Ranch River House.

## DEC

**Christmas Bird Count** - details to be announced at a later date. See the website for more information.

## JAN 2015

**Saturday, January 10th, 9-11am ~ Dress for the weather and join trip leader Mark Elliott for birding at OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center Nature Trail.** This time of year there will be an abundance of waterfowl and birds of prey. Birds in the bush are always a surprise as well. From Newport take the first exit south after crossing Yaquina Bay Bridge and drive on SE OSU Drive following signs for the Center. Park at the east side of the Visitor Center. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Call 541-992-0440 if more information is needed.

## FEB

**Saturday, February 8th, 9-11am ~ Nestucca Wildlife Refuge bird walk will be led by Mark Elliott, ASLC.** The refuge supports 10% of the world population of dusky Canada geese. A multitude of habitats— including pastures, grasslands, woodlands, tidal marsh and mudflats, as well as fresh-water bogs and forest—are found in this beautiful refuge. Dress for the weather. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Travel north on Highway 101 from Lincoln City. Turn left at the refuge entrance on Christensen Rd and meet in the lower parking. Call 541-992-0440 if more information is needed.

*Visit [www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org) for more information and to see what else is in the ASLC news!*

# Meet the New Board Members of ASLC

Dawn Villaescusa and Laura Doyle



**Dawn Villaescusa** (Dawn V) was born in Winona Lake, Indiana and moved to Salem, Oregon in 1971. Growing up, the family did a lot of camping and hiking, always with the Peterson Bird Guide in hand.

In Salem, she adapted her backyard to be wildlife friendly, and kept daily notes of the birds that came to her pond and feeders. In 2009, Dawn moved with her husband to Lincoln City.

While excited about being on the coast, Dawn feared that her birdwatching days were over -- after all, "all that's there are seagulls" (yes, I honestly said that to my hubby). However, a visit from her brother, an avid bird photographer from Tennessee, rekindled her interest in local birdlife. Lacking much of a backyard, she began exploring area parks, beaches and "open spaces." Her blog "Central Oregon Coast" (dvillabirds.blogspot.com), highlights many of the areas she explored. Dawn joined ASLC in 2011.

**Laura Doyle** has been enjoying life at the coast as a full-time resident for more than ten years. She has served arts and environmental causes for many years as a volunteer and as a board member for Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, and Cascade Head Music Festival. For the past five years she has also been volunteering with ASLC teaching "Wild About Birds" in Tillamook and Lincoln County 5th grade classrooms and "Birding Basics" for adults at Oregon Coast Community College and with University of Washington's COASST citizen science program.



## Supporters of the Same Ideals

Members are a very important part of any group, whether it is the boy scouts, a bridge club or the Audubon Society. Whatever the group may be, they will all have one thing in common. They are all supporters of the same ideals. The National Audubon Society has over five hundred chapters. We are one of those chapters.

Our chapter has 58 active members and we hope to double that number over the next year. Getting new members is not an easy task. It takes dedication, and a belief in your organization. A few questions you may have before joining any organization. What is it that you have to offer? Why do I want to join YOUR organization? Why do I want to give you my money? I think the reason is because you want to feel like you are giving back to the environment and helping the community. We do just that. We reach the youth by going to schools and teaching them about birds and the environment around them. We teach people of all ages. We give birding classes at our local community college. We offer monthly field trips with expert birding field leaders. All this is done voluntarily by its MEMBERS and it takes hundreds of dedicated hours to get it done. With your membership donation we can buy books, binoculars, handouts, etc. We are dedicated to educating and teaching all members of our community about the importance of our birds, their habitat and environment, as well as all wildlife around them.

## 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.

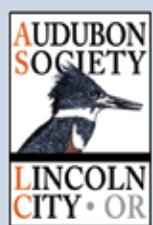
**Be a Volunteer**, and help implement the goals of our Society, including field trips, research, education and public events. To volunteer your time and service, call ASLC at 541-994-9330.

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 \$20 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 (Jun, Dec)
- Website: [www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org)
- 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 541-994-9330**



P.O. Box 38  
Lincoln City  
Oregon 97367



Be sure to visit  
[www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org)  
for more news and activities of the  
Audubon Society of Lincoln City

Audubon Society of Lincoln City is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax-exempt #20-3795649

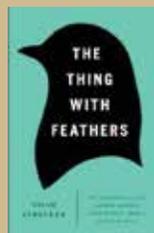
(Love of Learning continued from Page 1)

I wish we had the time to build a feeder with every student then send them home with some seeds. I am betting we will adjust our lessons to include a quick conversation about feeding birds at home and send home a flyer about bird feeding. We're learning too! Hopefully we at least planted the seed of observing birds and their behaviors in our learners.



*(The National Environmental Education Training Foundation acknowledges Audubon Adventures as "one of the top ten most popular environmental projects in K-12 schools." The Audubon Adventures program has been designed to address specific standards within the national language arts and science standards, and the content and activities in "Wild About Birds" provide opportunities for students to achieve new understanding and demonstrate their learning and skills in both science and language arts curriculum domains. More information about the specific national standards that "Wild About Birds" addresses is available.)*

## What Are The Bird Ladies Reading?



### The Thing with Feathers by Noah Stryker

I knew that birds were intelligent but I didn't know why. Stryker helps one to understand the mysteries regarding birds: How do homing pigeons know their way home? Why don't those masses of starlings fly into each other? How is it that nutcrackers can remember where they have buried over 30,000 pine seeds? The answer to these mysteries and more are brought to light by this Oregon author.



### What the Robin Knows by Jon Young

Deep bird language is an ancient discipline, perfected by Native peoples the world over. Finally, science is catching up. The author, a lifelong birder, tracker, and naturalist, explores bird song and behavior in various habitats to help us consider how respectful observers can watch them behave naturally in their environments.



### Why Birds Sing by David Rothenberg

The author, a musician, approaches this subject as a naturalist, philosopher, musician and investigator. He ponders the mystery of their songs; do they sing at times for pure pleasure? Listen to some of his musical performances with birds at <http://www.whybirdssing.com>.



### How to Heal a Broken Wing by Bob Graham

*(Children's picture book)*  
How one young boy's observant behavior leads to a story of hope and healing.

# Cascade Head: Head Out, See Birds, And Learn About The Marine Reserve

By Lisa Mulcahy, B.S., MARM  
REEF Education Coordinator  
Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council

**Cascade Head** is already well known as a favorite spot for many local birders. Over 27 different species of important seabirds use the nearby habitat for nesting, but how about the marine resources in and near its waters? In June 2012, Governor Kulongoski designated Cascade Head as a marine reserve. The site is located on Oregon's central coast between Lincoln City and the Cascade Head headland just north of the breathtaking Salmon River estuary. To the north, the west, and the south, marine protected areas border the reserve.

**What is a Marine Reserve?** A marine reserve (MR) is like an underwater park. It's a marine area that is set aside to protect, sustain or restore ocean life so that current and future generations can enjoy and benefit from it. Marine reserves do not allow any extractive uses such as fishing in addition to ocean development.

**What is an MPA?** A marine protected area (MPA) allows for some extractive uses but not others. For example, the Cascade Head South Marine Protected Area excludes the use of nets but all other legal extractive uses are allowed.

**How Does It Work?** A marine reserve has specific uses and boundaries that protect and conserve important habitats, wildlife, and resources. This protection provides a reservoir of life in case of natural disasters and environmental change and helps to maintain the balance and variety of life that is important for a healthy, productive ocean. Scientists also use these areas as a reference for research to understand more about our ocean as a system. These results provide valuable information for use in protecting, conserving, planning, and balancing ocean and resource uses. *To learn more about ODFW ecological monitoring visit: [www.oregonocean.info/index.php/marine-reserves-sp-26120/science](http://www.oregonocean.info/index.php/marine-reserves-sp-26120/science).*

**How Did These Get Here?** In 2012, five marine reserves were designated in state waters: Redfish Rocks, Cape Perpetua, Otter Rock, Cape Falcon, and including Cascade Head. Marine reserves came about through a process in which local stakeholder community groups and State officials worked together to choose areas that were ecologically significant while not creating significant social or economic impacts (Executive Order 08-07). Researchers are currently studying the value of marine reserves and their socioeconomic impacts. *To learn more about ODFW socio-economic monitoring go here: [www.oregonocean.info/index.php/marine-reserves-sp-26120/science](http://www.oregonocean.info/index.php/marine-reserves-sp-26120/science).*

**What Fun Things Can I Do at Cascade Head?** In these marine reserves and marine protected areas, you can enjoy swimming, diving, surfing, tidepooling, kayaking, birdwatching (of course), and mammal observations. Birding is best during the summer months when large seabird colonies of more than 15,000 birds collect off Cascade Head! Examples of birds you might see are: Common Murre; Double-crested, Pelagic, and Brandt's Cormorants; Pigeon Guillemot; Western Gull; Tufted Puffin; Rhinoceros Auklet; Black Oystercatcher; and Peregrine Falcon.

## Cascade Head

- Marine Reserve:** No removal of animals or seaweeds and no fishing from shore. For full rules see OARs: 635-012; 736-029; and 141-142.
  - North Marine Protected Area:** You may take crab, salmon by troll, or use hook and line.
  - West Marine Protection Area:** You may take crab or salmon by troll.
  - South Marine Protection Area:** No use of net gear; all other legal take is allowed.
  - Beach not included in marine reserve or protected areas.**
  - Public Park**
- \*Shore rules summary, for all other rules see OARs.



**What are the benefits?** From research in tropical and temperate locations, reserves, for the most part and over time, have the benefit of allowing fish to grow to a bigger size. Big mature fish (also know as big old fat females or BOFFs) produce more (and often healthier) young, which result in more fish in areas surrounding the reserve. *See PISCO Science of Marine Reserves at: [www.piscoweb.org/publications/outreach-materials/science-of-marine-reserves-0](http://www.piscoweb.org/publications/outreach-materials/science-of-marine-reserves-0).* Although Oregon marine reserves were not designed specifically to enhance fisheries, the insurance they provide against uncertainty and the increased diversity of life could show a long-term ecological benefit. Currently, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) is studying the long-term ecological changes of having marine reserves in Oregon waters.

### Reasons to Care/More Information/How Can I Get Involved?

As anyone who has gone to the beach with any regularity knows, the ocean and its beaches are constantly changing. In addition to offering some measure of protection, marine reserves provide great opportunities for citizen involvement. Many local groups are involved in studying bird use at marine reserves, studying sea star wasting disease, monitoring marine debris, doing beach cleanups, and more. Currently ODFW is seeking input on what community projects or research above and beyond what ODFW is already doing is important to citizens. You can fill out a survey online at: <https://oregondas.allegiantech.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=WD2U5R>. Audubon has the exciting opportunity to monitor seabirds nesting near Cape Perpetua by contacting: Joe Liebezeit at [jliebezeit@audubonportland.org](mailto:jliebezeit@audubonportland.org). Coast Watch also has some excellent opportunities to adopt a mile to walk and see how it changes daily. *See: [www.oregonshores.org/coastwatch.php5](http://www.oregonshores.org/coastwatch.php5).* For more information about the marine reserves visit: [www.oregonocean.info/marine-reserves](http://www.oregonocean.info/marine-reserves) or contact or contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Newport Office at (541) 867-4741.

# Comment Gallery

Submitted by Tillamook's East Elementary 5th Grade Classes



# H

## Beachcombers or Birders Wanted!

elp make a difference for the environment by collecting data for the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST). COASST is a citizen science project dedicated to involving volunteers in the collection of high quality data on the status of coastal beaches, and trends of seabirds. Our goal is to assist government agencies and other organizations in making informed management and conservation decisions, and promote proactive citizen involvement and action. COASST volunteers systematically count and identify bird carcasses that wash ashore along ocean beaches from northern California to Alaska. Volunteers need NO experience with birds, just a commitment to survey a specific beach (about 3/4 mile) each month.



If you are interested in participating, join COASST staff for a full, 6-hour training session. Hear about how COASST started, learn how to use the custom Beached Birds field guide, and try out your new skills with some actual specimens. There is no charge to attend a training but plan to provide a \$20 refundable deposit if you would like to take home a COASST volunteer kit complete with a COASST Beached Birds field guide. Training activities take place indoors, and include a break for lunch - please pack your own or plan to buy lunch nearby.

To reserve a spot at a training session, please call COASST at 206-221-6893 or write to: [coasst@uw.edu](mailto:coasst@uw.edu). Please check website at [www.coasst.org](http://www.coasst.org) for additional information on upcoming trainings.