

The Kingfisher

Volume 12, Issue 1 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Summer 2017

Birding with Noah

by Jack Doyle

THE KING'S CORNER



I recently attended a presentation by the Oregon Historical Society titled "Hunting Birds with a Camera", how William Finley and Herman Bohlman used photography to save Oregon's birds. William Finley is credited with establishing Oregon's first National Wildlife Refuge at Three Arch Rocks in 1907. The next year he was instrumental in establishing our Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

At this presentation I saw Roy Lowe, the retired Oregon Islands NWR manager. For those of us living on the coast, we owe Roy a great deal. Under his leadership we now have some of the finest wildlife refuges in the country. The Oregon Islands NWR was established in 1935 and covers our entire coast line of 320 miles, protecting 1,853 off shore rocks and islands from human disturbance. Without Roy's vision we would not have the Nestucca Bay, Siletz Bay and Bandon Marsh refuges in their current condition. He oversaw the dike removal in all these NWR's and increased the size of all. Siletz Bay went from 46 acres in 1991 to its present 568 acres. Bandon Marsh had dikes removed and a viewing platform added in 2011. I think his legacy will be Nestucca Bay NWR. When the two rivers peninsula, formerly the Jesuit tract, was put up for sale in 2013, Roy somehow added this property to the refuge. At 1,202 acres the Nestucca Bay NWR is the largest on the Oregon coast. Since Roy is an avid and excellent bird photographer perhaps the Oregon Historical Society will be giving presentations about him 50 years from now.

Cheers, Jack Doyle



Jack Doyle ~ Noah Strycker ~ Laura Doyle

Noah Strycker is a 31-year-old writer, photographer, and bird man based near Eugene, Oregon. In 2015, during a quest spanning 41 countries and all seven continents, he set a world record by seeing 6,042 species of birds – more than half the birds on Earth – in one calendar year.

Laura and I were lucky enough to spend three intense days birding with Noah in March of this year. Playa, on Summer Lake, is a non-profit organization and facility offering artist-in-residence opportunities where Noah had spent a month earlier in the year working on his upcoming book. As a fundraiser for its artist-in-residence programs, Playa had asked Noah to return to lead a birding workshop for donors. Six other people had signed up for this workshop which was a very comfortable size group for this workshop. We gathered for lunch at noon on Friday March 24 and after introductions proceeded on our first field trip. We spent the next four hours touring the Summer Lake Wildlife Area. It had stopped raining/snowing by then but it was cold and the wind was still blowing around 30 mph. With so few people it was easy to use two cars for the five mile trip around the refuge. This refuge is a hunter's paradise during hunting season but lucky for us it was not hunting season. Within the first mile we came to a pond of Tundra and Trumpeter Swans. It

is easy to see the difference when the two species are side by side, and in this case, it was even easier because the Trumpeter Swans were wearing large green numbered collars.



The swans turned out to be the birding highlight of the first day. It is safe to say that Noah lived up to his reputation as an excellent birder, but what we didn't know is that he would turn out to be such a fun person to bird with. On our return we settled into our cabins and prepared for a grilled trout dinner in the main lodge followed by a presentation by Noah discussing his book "The Thing With Feathers." I strongly recommend this book and promise that you will learn things about birds you never knew.

Our second day began with serve-yourself breakfast at 6am which allowed

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

▼ Summer and Fall Events

2nd Tuesday 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 541-992-9720 for latest updates. These meetings are open to the public.

JUN

Friday, June 9, 9-11am ~ Open Spaces Bird Walk at Devils Lake State Park/ Boardwalk/D River. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided.

Saturday, June 10, 9-11am ~ Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. You are likely to see Common Murre, Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorant, Black Oystercatcher, Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. North of Newport off Hwy 101, turn west at the traffic signal onto Lighthouse Drive. We will meet at the Interpretive Center. BLM requires a recreational pass or charges a vehicle fee of \$7.00.

Friday, June 23, 9-11am ~ Open Spaces Bird Walk at Spring Lake. Forest and wetlands with cedar and hemlock, pond, some forest edge, and open brush. Easy walking. Call 541-992-9720 if more information is needed.

Friday, June 23, 5pm ~ ASLC Annual Meeting at CHR River House at the end of Savage Road along the Salmon River. Please join us for a potluck dinner, short business meeting, and program. The agenda includes election of board members and election of board officers. *(See insert for more detailed information.)*



JUL

Saturday, July 8, 9-11am ~ Buell County Park & Mill Creek Park. Enjoy a hot day along beautiful Mill Creek while looking for flycatchers, warblers, birds of prey and possibly a Western Tanager. Located 35 miles east of Lincoln City off Hwy 22, turn left at Mill Creek Road. In a half mile turn right into Buell County Park. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Call 541-992-9720 if more information is needed.



AUG

Saturday, August 12, 9-11am ~ Kilchis Point Reserve. Saturday, August 12 ~ Situated on 200 acres of mixed woodlands bordering Tillamook Bay, the Reserve has 2 miles of flat trails. Good habitat for warblers and thrushes with sandpipers and birds of prey along the bay. Traveling North on Hwy 101 from Tillamook towards Bay City: as you just begin to enter Bay City limits, turn LEFT on Warren Street (across from Habitat for Humanity Restore). Turn LEFT on Spruce Street. You will be able to see the trailhead parking lot. Traveling South on Hwy 101 from Bay City towards Tillamook: Turn RIGHT on Warren Street (across from Habitat for Humanity Restore). Turn LEFT on Spruce street. You will be able to see the trailhead parking lot.

SEP

Saturday, September 9, 9-11am ~ Kayaking/canoeing and Birding the Little Nestucca River. Part of the Nestucca NWR, we will see waterfowl, raptors and riparian birds. You will need to provide your own gear: kayak/canoe, personal flotation device (PFD)/ life vest (mandatory), and whistle (also mandatory). Must wear a PFD at all times when you're on the water. You should also be able to swim as you ARE responsible for your own safety. Have an invasive species permit for your vessel if it is 10 feet or longer (mandatory). Boat ramp is located on the south side of the Little Nestucca River on Meda Loop, a quarter mile off Hwy 101.

OCT

Saturday, October 14, 9-11am ~ Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint to Devil's Punchbowl State Natural Area. Excellent offshore seabird watching. Possible Marbled and Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Sooty Shearwater and Western Grebe. In Depoe Bay we may find Black Turnstone, Black Oystercatcher and Surf-bird. Devil's Punchbowl may reveal Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter and Peregrine Falcon. We will meet in the parking lot at Boiler Bay.

NOV

Saturday, November 11, 9-11 am ~ Cascade Head Scenic Area at the River House. We will meet at the River House where Jack Doyle (and others) will discuss photographing the birds on and around the beautiful Salmon River (bring your camera!). We will look for wintering birds in woodlands, marsh and along the river. North of Lincoln City, 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 will bring you down to the mouth of the Salmon River and the Cascade Ranch River House.

DEC

Christmas Bird Count - see website for date(s) and details.



2017 ASLC Annual Meeting Notice

WHEN: 5 PM, Friday, June 23, 2017

WHERE: CHR River House, Salmon River/Savage Road, Otis, OR

***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 (CHR) River House.

2017 Annual Meeting: Please join us for a potluck dinner, a short business meeting and program. Bring a dish to share. ASLC provides drinks and plates/utensils.

2017 Annual Meeting Agenda includes election of board members and election of board officers. ASLC's quorum is 15 members in person, by mail, or by proxy! Members can vote: in person by attending the meeting; by sending in the ballot below to ASLC, PO Box 38, Lincoln City OR 97367; by proxy; or by emailing the ballot below to ASLC Secretary laura_doyle@charter.net. For proxy, our by-laws say you must communicate in writing that you are voting by proxy, although you may send your written proxy by email to ASLC Secretary laura_doyle@charter.net. Mailed or emailed ballots or proxies must be received by noon, June 21.

PROXY Delegation: I give my proxy to . . .

_____ Secretary, ASLC

OR

_____ name of person holding my proxy

_____ signature _____ printed name

ASLC 2017 Annual Meeting Ballot

Board of Directors Election: The ASLC board recommends the following slate of ASLC members be re-elected as board members:

_____ Jack Doyle (current board president)

_____ Dave Smith (current board treasurer)

_____ Steve Griffiths (new)

_____ Caren Willoughby (current education chair)

_____ write-in

_____ write-in

Introducing Steve: *Steve Griffiths worked for the Sierra Club in San Francisco for thirty years before retiring in Lincoln City eight years ago. Here he has served on the city's Open Spaces Committee and the Parks and Recreation Board. Currently, he is a member of the Planning Commission and President of the Nelscott Neighborhood Association. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking and performing on stage at Theatre West.*

Board of Directors Officers Election: The ASLC board recommends the following slate of board officers:

_____ President, Jack Doyle (current)

_____ President, write-in

_____ Vice President, Joe Youren (current)

_____ Vice-President, write-in

_____ Secretary, Laura Doyle (current)

_____ Secretary, write-in

_____ Treasurer, Dave Smith (current)

_____ Treasurer, write-in

An Update on OAC Conservation Goals

by Joseph Youren, Vice-President, ASLC

As you know, a profound change has occurred in our nation's approach to the environment. We are witnesses to direct and damaging attacks on the EPA, NOAA, environmental regulations, and even science itself. Gag orders have been issued to suppress the voices of scientists employed by the federal government and a budget that proposes to eliminate all funding of scientific research. Who would believe that nearly two decades into the 21st Century it would become necessary to march in support of the Scientific Method of Inquiry or to have to argue that facts are real? We live in truly amazing times so I thought it would be appropriate to report on just a few of the 2017 conservation goals adopted by our own Oregon Audubon Council.

A Win for Public Lands

I'll begin with the only good news I have to share. The Oregon State Land Board reversed their earlier decision to privatize the Elliott State Forests. This comes as a direct result of the powerful lobbying efforts by conservationists, Audubon in particular. The forest will be removed from its obligation to the Common School Fund and be managed sustainably. Thank you, all who called, wrote, emailed and talked to our public officials. And thank you, Governor Brown for your leadership. It will be remembered.

Forests Practices Improve Slightly

The Oregon Board of Forestry is proposing a new Oregon Forest Practices Reform Act. Reforms are needed because Oregon has consistently failed to protect water quality in our state. Oregon has the weakest forest protection laws in the nation. Questions like, "Why do Oregon

timber producers still use clear cutting?" or "Why do they routinely spray herbicides into our watersheds?" have a simple answer: "Because they can." Logging practices in Oregon consistently degrade our streams, threatening our lives and health. While the Forest Practices Reform Act does increase the width of riparian buffer zones to provide more shade for streams, the new requirements are still too small and fail to protect small headwaters all together. Clear-cutting is banned in national forests because of the negative effects it has on environmental health yet corporate landowners continue the practice. Oregon allows timber companies to spray pesticides and herbicides from helicopters to within 50 feet of streams. Even Alaska under Governor Sarah Palin banned aerial spraying out to 1500 feet.

Scapegoats in the Crosshairs

Scapegoating occurs when one species is identified as the villain when explaining the loss of another, more highly-valued species. The most common Oregon example is blaming Double-crested Cormorants for low numbers of salmon available for harvest. Operators of the dams on the Columbia use this dishonesty as they encourage the public to ignore the damage done to historic fish runs by hydropower generation, habitat loss, and hatchery fish programs. Thousands of cormorants are shot off their nests and tens of thousands of nests are sprayed with oil in the name of protecting threatened salmon. Oregon state officials are now using scapegoating in a legislative proposal to allow shooting seals and sea lions for the same reasons. Our hatchery programs ignore the natural history of salmon species and produce

waves of juvenile fish that move through river systems en masse rather than the more natural progression of wild fish that spreads migration out over a period of months. As these huge masses of hatchery smolts make their way through rivers and estuaries they, of course, attract large followings of predators that have been forced inland by an offshore environment currently devoid of baitfish. Scapegoating is also being used to disguise threats to Sage Grouse populations. Crows and ravens are being proposed as the villain in this case.

Scapegoating is always an attempt to solve complex ecological problems with simple solutions. Restoring our wild salmon runs is going to take hard work and involve making hard choices about dams, production, harvest limits, and habitat improvement. Saving the Sage Grouse will need to involve hard changes: in the way we use land, in where we allow people to build houses, and in our approach to wildfire. Solving problems in nature is hard, much harder at least than picking up a rifle or shotgun and killing a scapegoat.

Speaking of Rifles and Shotguns

No progress has yet to be made in Oregon to eliminate lead from bullets. The biggest obstacle to reintroduction of California Condors is lead poisoning. Lead fragments are ingested by condors when they feed on deer and elk carcasses killed by hunters using lead bullets. Every major ammunition manufacturer offers lead free alternatives. Oregon should require their use. Plans are underway to release condors into northern California and southern Oregon. Let's hope we can be responsible neighbors and not poison these magnificent birds.

Birding During the Total Solar Eclipse

Steve Griffiths

Recently I spent a weekend in Ashland at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. At breakfast one morning, the topic of the impending August eclipse came up in conversation. My bed-and-breakfast hosts, a British couple, mentioned they had experienced a total eclipse in Zimbabwe in June, 2001. They were working for the British Embassy there at the time. "We sat on a rock out in the middle of nowhere and watched the eclipse. We noticed that many birds began to settle down and roost."

As my hosts were viewing the eclipse, 250 members of Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe had their eyes trained on wildlife behavior at the Mana Pools National Park. As the total eclipse approached, they observed birds flying toward their roosting spots. The birds were quiet during the total phase of the eclipse, then greeted the sun with a raucous, dawn-like chorus when it re-appeared.¹

Did you know that – not too long ago – we experienced a total solar eclipse on the central Oregon coast? On February 26th, 1979, at 8.12 a.m. Here's what a careful observer noted of bird behavior at the mouth of the Yaquina Estuary: 1) Black Turnstones, cormorants, and gulls flew away from the shore, some forming "roosting rafts" in the channel; and 2) hundreds of gulls flew over the channel, many of them "giving alarm calls"² (no predators were present). The birds returned to feeding after the eclipse passed.

So, even if it's cloudy, wet, or foggy here on August 21st, we're still in for a treat. Have your binoculars in hand and focus on the birds.

¹Todd Thompson, "Observing Wildlife Reactions During a Total Solar Eclipse", www.eclipse-chasers.com

²"Effects of Solar Eclipse on Waterbirds at Yaquina Estuary, Oregon" printed in 1989 Oregon Birds and found online at yaquina.info

Join ASLC today!

Membership is your key to participation in education and bird appreciation activities. Join us and expand your enjoyment of birds, wildlife, and our beautiful Oregon coast environment.

Get Active. Become Engaged.

As a paid member your donation helps continue our environmental education and citizen science programs. It also enables us to participate in local and regional habitat restoration and wildlife advocacy programs. Your membership can really make a difference.

As a volunteer you help us further the goals of our Society. We provide guided field trips, participate in research, and educate children and adults to appreciate birds and our magnificent local environment.

Become a VIP Sponsor and increase your impact on wildlife and habitat preservation. Your donation to our 501(c)(3) non-profit will expand your influence and impact in our educational and scientific efforts. VIP Sponsors make everything we do possible.

Please join us as we explore the many splendors of the natural world that surround us.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP makes possible:

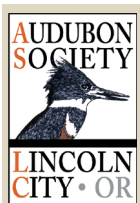
- Monthly interpretive bird walks
- Kayak/canoe field trips
- Free use of binoculars and field guide during field trips
- Special guest and media presentations
- “Birding Basics for Beginners” community college workshops
- “Wild About Birds” elementary school programs
- Monthly meetings
- Newsletters
- Representation at state meetings
- Co-ordination of legislative efforts to protect wildlife and habitat
- Hotline phone service for bird and animal information
- Local Citizen Science Projects such as the Lincoln City Christmas Bird Count



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Visit us on the web: www.lincolncityaudubon.org



P.O. Box 38
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NOAH (continued from front page)

us an early departure. We were provided with box lunches since this was going to be a sunrise-to-sunset day of birding. Our first stop was Fort Rock State Park about 40 miles NW of Summer Lake. This rock formation is home to many Prairie Falcons that nest and stay all year. After walking the trail around the rock and viewing many both American Kestrels and Prairie Falcons, we headed out to Cabin Lake about five miles down the road. On the way we spotted a Golden Eagle on a power pole on the side of the road. We got out of our cars and walked toward the Eagle who allowed us to get very close. This was a first opportunity for me to take this bird's picture, up close.



For years, people have been telling me about Cabin Lake and the opportunity it provides to photograph birds. The Cabin Lake site has two small blinds where you can sit inside on a chair with a cushion and watch birds through a small viewing port as they come within ten feet to drink water from a cement container. At this time of year only the full-time resident birds came, but they were almost close enough to touch which made for some pretty good pictures. On our return we continued birding as we drove back through Paulina Marsh. A few people in our group had a Northern Shrike as one of the birds they most wanted to see, and just before we headed home someone spotted one.

After a delicious roast chicken dinner we were treated to another talk and slide show by Noah entitled "The Biggest Year in the World." He told us about his 'big year' traveling seven continents to see a record-breaking 6,042 species. Check his website to see when and where he is speaking and try not to miss it! You can now pre-order his new book, "Birding Without Borders", from Amazon. It's scheduled for release the first part of November.



Amazon donates to Audubon Society Of Lincoln City when you shop AmazonSmile. So the next time you place an Amazon order, support ASLC by ordering through AmazonSmile. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3795649>



Our final day began with another early morning breakfast followed by a return to Summer Lake Wildlife Area. This five mile trip around the refuge was completely different than the trip two days earlier. Redwing and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were abundant as were Cliff and Tree Swallows. Our big treat was an up-close look at a Virginia Rail, a common, but seldom seen marsh bird. We returned to Playa at noon for lunch and a wrap up meeting where we made a list of all the species we saw. Our list included 79 birds, outstanding for this time of year!