

The Kingfisher

Volume 14, Issue 1 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Summer 2019

Notes from dawn



I'm looking forward to my first Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) annual meeting as ASLC President. What an exciting year it has been - and it has flown by! Right now I'm at my laptop working on final details for our World Migratory Bird Day (MBD) celebrations - it was excellent timing the the international WMBD committee chose "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution" as the theme the same year that we established our conservation action program as one of our two primary objectives. To date, our Conservation Action Committee has been extremely active. There is so much to do to protect our wildlife and habitats: ocean acidification, forest carbon, plastic pollution, and much more and we have jumped right in to try to make a difference!

The second of our primary objectives for 2019 is our Education program. We are proud of our outstanding education program and were happy to share both our adult "Birding Basics" and elementary "Wild about Birds" programs with other Oregon Audubon chapters this year. In addition, we've also delivered a variety of presentations such as "Birds in my Backyard" at Driftwood Library, a "Raptor Survey" field trip in Tillamook, and "My Neighbor the Osprey" at Oceanlake Elementary school.

Finally, I want to recognize Dave Smith, who has been ASLC treasurer and board member for over ten years! Dave has decided that it's time to turn the books over to someone else so he can focus on his passion - golf, golf, and more golf! He got his first hole in one when he was 72 after playing golf his entire life. He consistently shoots his age which few people can do. Dave

We received a small grant from the National Audubon Society to implement an educational program for middle school students focusing on the Snowy Plover, a threatened species of shorebird present on our coast. The grant, which was awarded in mid-April, will include presentations, field trips, and creation of artwork and interpretive materials. The overall goal is to increase the local knowledge of threats to the Snowy Plovers' local habitat and the role we can all play in helping raise awareness to its plight. An additional goal is to have a curriculum that can be shared with area schools in 2019-20.

Board member Nora Sherwood, the natural science illustration teacher is developing the curriculum at the Saint James Santiago School. The program is focused on the upper-level students (4th-7th grade). The group of 19 students and their teachers have already had naturalist Amelia O'Connor visit and share her knowledge of the Snowy Plover. Upper-level students helped the K-3 make cotton-ball



plovers; then spent time with Amelia learning how to use the spotting scopes they will use to spot the plover on their field trip to Sitka Sedge.

The next week, students and teachers hiked the new Sitka Sedge State Natural Area with experts from Lincoln City and Portland Audubon chapters to view the birds and their habitat. Students then were able to sketch taxidermy specimens at the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum. The next step is for the students to generate artwork and text that will be used to educate the public.

What, Me Lobby? by Joseph Youren

My involvement with ASLC's Conservation Action Committee has led me to reach one big conclusion: Climate change is the greatest problem facing us and it is an issue I will commit to fighting for the rest of my life. This led me to sign up for my first ever Lobby Day experience with the Oregon Legislature. I said, "yes" to the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) call for citizens to join in their Lobby Day for the "Clean Energy Jobs Act." I have to tell you, I was terrified at the prospect of being in front of legislators to argue my case. I think many of you may feel the same way. Now that I've participated in two lobbying events, I want to share with you how easy and satisfying it has been.

After my initial RSVP, I received a emails with additional information about the Lobby Day asking if I needed help in any way (e.g., transportation, dietary preferences, etc.). The week before the big day I received text messages and a phone call from the organizers to confirm my involvement. I was getting more and more nervous, but I had told my wife I was going to do it, so that was that.

My first experience was flashy with appearances by Al Gore and Kate Brown, the second was more low-key and local but both had a similar pattern. First step is gathering the group for registration. At each registration

retired from the aerospace industry in 1991, at which time he moved to the Oregon coast where he now resides on a golf course in Lincoln City. He joined ASLC in 2008 and has been the treasurer ever since.
Stay in touch via our website, lincolncityaudubon.org or Facebook @audubonlincolncity. I look forward to hearing from you! Let's work together for birds and nature!

- dawn villaescusa, ASLC President
(continues on page 2)

CROWLEY CREEK SWALLOW BOX PROJECT - SPRING 2019



Ten years ago, Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) installed six swallow boxes on posts in the Crowley Creek meadow. Each year, Audubon members clean and maintain the boxes. However, over the years, trees have grown up around the boxes. This makes them uninhabitable for swallows, who prefer an open meadow nesting. Swallows, we have Tree and Violet-green species, won't use boxes that aren't out in the open. The boxes and posts weren't in good enough shape to move, so new boxes and posts were needed.

After obtaining permission from the landowners (this portion of the Cascade Head Management area is private property), ASLC approached CareerTech school. The Environmental Science class agreed to take on the project. With ASLC providing the materials, they built six new swallow boxes. On April 3, 2019, the students and their teacher, Michelle Rogers, met ASLC board members at the site. A couple of hours of hard work and all six boxes were up.

CareerTech students will monitor nestbox activity throughout the year and provide a written report at the end of the season. They will also provide ongoing maintenance, including cleaning.

Photos courtesy of dawn villaescusa

Lobbying (continued from page 1)

session we were given maps of the building and a packet of background information on the issues of the day. This packet contains talking points and explanations of any scientific or technical aspects of the legislation. Participants are assigned to a Lobby Leader who moderates the meetings and guides the process. "No one has to go it alone," was surely one of the most welcome statement I have ever heard. Leaders reviewed our schedules and provided context for specific meeting: who we would be seeing; are they probable supporters; what specific areas of interest or committees may come into play; and where we would gather prior to each meeting.

Prior to each meeting the Leader reviews who we were going to meet and helps us make decisions such as who will speak to various aspects of the legislation, who will present the information packet, and who will make "the big ask?" – Can we count on your support for the bill?

In some meetings 6-8 of us crowded into the representative's office and we made our pitch. In others we met with a staffer in a conference room. Meetings generally last 15-20 minutes so there is little time to waste. Everyone is polite, respectful, and easy to talk to. I became increasingly comfortable with my assigned roles, and my presentations became more fluent. I hope all of you will take an opportunity to jump into a Lobby Day and get directly involved into the issues that matter most to you. I look forward to joining you.



Crow Not Crow

By Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple
Illustrated by Elizabeth O. Dulemba

There have been several news articles recently about the ways that people who are not regularly exposed to nature become blind to the differences in the denizens of the natural world, unable to differentiate between different types of animals or plants. Yolen and Stemple strike a friendly blow against this blindness by telling the story of a young girl who learns to differentiate between birds by first learning to identify crows. Crows are easy to identify -- they're big, black all over, and have a distinctive call. Once the young girl learns to identify crow correctly, her father teaches her to pay attention to the details in other birds that set them apart from crows. In this way, she learns to observewith all her senses and truly see the birds around her. It's a simple story, told poetically, that also serves as a perfect introduction to birdwatching for even the youngest kids.

- Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney, MLIS, Director, Driftwood Public Library, Lincoln City, Oregon

Come, join Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) as we explore and discover the many splendors of the natural world around us on the Central Oregon Coast.

YOUR PAID MEMBERSHIP MAKES POSSIBLE:

- Monthly guided bird walks
- Kids' classroom education
- Adult Birding Basics classes
- Semi-annual newsletter
- Christmas Bird Count
- Great Backyard Bird Count
- Citizen science projects
- Conservation advocacy
- Special events

We also need volunteers to help implement these programs.

Contact us!

Audubon Society of Lincoln City

www.lincolncityaudubon.org

PO Box 38

Lincoln City OR 97367

541-992-9720

info@lincolncityaudubon.org

501(c)(3) Tax ID# 20-3795649

SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

Held rain or shine, all ASLC field trips are free and open to public, no pre-registration is required. Most field trips are with Audubon field trip leader Mark Elliott. No prior birding experience is required, binoculars and guide books are provided. Dress appropriately for coastal weather.



JUN
Friday, Jun 7, 9-11am - Regatta Park with Devil's Lake. We will walk through the woods looking for warblers, flycatchers, and other songbirds, then check the lake for waterfowl and raptors such as the Osprey and Bald Eagles that nest nearby. This walk is sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City. Regatta Park is on NE 14th Street about .6 of a mile from Hwy 101. Meet in the parking lot.

Saturday, Jun 8, 9-11am - Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (Yaquina Lighthouse). Yaquina Head is known for its easy viewing of nesting seabirds such as Common Murres, Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants, and Pigeon Guillemots. The highlight for some are the Peregrine Falcons which nest on the cliffs by near the Interpretive Center. Yaquina Head is located on Lighthouse Drive north of Newport. From Hwy 101, turn west and, after stopping at the entrance booth, continue up to the Interpretive Center parking lot. Vehicle entrance fee will be waived for ASLC birdwalk participants.

Friday, Jun 21, 5pm - Annual ASLC Year in Review and Business Meeting POTLUCK! Join us for our annual potluck and "Year in Review." The evening will also feature a slide show of Arizona birds from past-president Jack Doyle. The evening activities will include our annual business meeting (see Notice of Annual Meeting in this publication). Bring your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert. We will supply beverages, plates, and utensils. If you're not sure about what to bring, contact our meeting coordinator Caren Willoughby at tcwilloughby@charter.net.

Saturday, Jul 13, 9-11am - Alder Island Loop Trail at Siletz National Wildlife Refuge. This easy one mile trail loops through riparian and wetland habitat along the Siletz River. Will look for a variety of warblers, raptors, and Great Blue Herons. This walk is sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City. Meet in the parking lot on the east side of Hwy 101 at the south end of the Siletz River Bridge.

AUG
Saturday, Aug 10, 9-11:30am - The Knoll Open Space. The complete loop hike is about 2-1/2 miles through second growth forests and upland meadows with no facilities or water. This hike is longer and more difficult than our usual walks. Hiking boots and sticks are suggested. We will look for Canada Jay, Swainson's Thrush, Brown Creeper, and more. This walk is sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City. Meet at the locked gate on the far end of NE West Devils Lake Blvd (past the golf course).

SEP

Saturday, Sep 14, 10am-noon - Sitka Sedge State Natural Area. Please note time change. The trail winds through tidal marsh, mudflats, dense forest, and sand dunes to the ocean. Will look for Marsh Wrens, raptors, and fall migrating birds. Meet in the parking area on Sandlake Rd 1 mile north of Tierra del Mar.

Friday, Sep 20, 9-11am - Hostetler Park (D River) with Devil's Lake State Park. Join us for a walk through diverse habitat including river, wetlands, lake, and woods. We will look for early fall arriving songbirds and waterfowl. This easy walk is sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City. Meet at the NE 1st street parking area on the east side of Hwy 101.

OCT

Friday, Oct 11, 9-11am - Salishan Nature Trail (Siletz Bay). Join us for an easy walk along Siletz Bay and on to the ocean beaches on the Salishan Nature Trail. Siletz Bay is a winter resting grounds for thousands of waterfowl. This walk is sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City. Meet in the west marketplace parking area at Salishan Resort.

Saturday, Oct 12, 9-11am - Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint to Devil's Punchbowl State Natural Area. At Boiler Bay, we will have excellent offshore seabird watching with possible Marbled and Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, and more. In Depoe Bay we'll look for Black Turnstone and Surf-bird, ending at Devil's Punchbowl to locate Harlequin Ducks and various scoters. Meet in the Boiler Bay parking lot.



NOV

Saturday, Nov 9, 9-11am - Salmon River in the Cascade Head Scenic Area. We will start and Knight Park and walk through woodlands, marsh, and along the river. We will look for grebes, gulls, cormorants, waterfowl, and raptors. This walk is sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City. Meet in the Knight Park parking lot, 2.5 miles from Hwy 101 on Three Rocks Road North.

DEC

Friday, Dec 6, 9-11am - Siletz Bay: The Bayhouse to Cutler City. This easy walk starts at The Bayhouse Restaurant and meanders through Cutler City. We will look for wintering waterfowl including Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Pintail, and Bufflehead. This walk is sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City. Meet at The Bayhouse Restaurant parking lot, 5911 SW Hwy 101.

Sunday, Dec 15, all day. Join a team to count birds for our 7th annual Christmas Bird Count. Or, if you live in the Lincoln City area, you can participate by counting birds in your backyard. We meet at 6:30am at a local restaurant and end the day with a potluck at 4:30pm. Details will be posted on our website.

Visit www.lincolncityaudubon.org for more calendar details and for ASLC news updates!



P.O. Box 38
Lincoln City
Oregon 97367

541-992-9720



Be sure to visit
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

2019 Annual Board Elections and Annual Meeting Notice

Date: Friday, June 21, 2019, 5pm ~ Location: Connie Hansen Garden, 1931 NW 33rd St, Lincoln City, OR 97367

Please join us for our annual potluck dinner, "Year in Review" presentation, and an opportunity to meet the ASLC Board of Directors, including this year's nominees. Non-members and guests are welcome; however, only eligible* members may vote in the election and for the ASLC ByLaws amendment.

Please note the changes to the voting process. Voting takes place at the Annual Meeting. To vote, you must be present or have assigned your proxy to someone who'll be present to represent you and your vote. Proxy assignment must be received by June 17.

If you are a member,* you should have received the official Annual Meeting Notice by email (or letter, if we do not have your email on file). The notice includes Board of Directors nominees, recommended amendments to our ASLC Bylaws, and a Proxy vote form. If you have not received your notice, please contact President dawn villaescusa, dawnv@birdlover.com or by phone at 503-507-8457.

**Eligible members: All members of our local Audubon Chapter, Audubon Society of Lincoln City, may participate in ASLC's annual board election and bylaws amendment. Membership must be current as of May 1, 2019.*

Report from Your Conservation Action Committee

On a wet, blustery morning in mid-January, your ASLC Conservation Action Committee (ACAC), along with other board members, met in Yachats for a tour of Portland Audubon's Tenmile Sanctuary. Our guide was Sanctuary manager Paul Engelmeyer.

We drove to the summit of Cape Perpetua for an encompassing view of the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve. Zipping up our rain jackets, we walked on a path through a forest of spruce and hemlock to the edge of the summit. The view from there was grand – the mountainous coastline to the south and the stormy Pacific below us. The Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve extends three miles from shore. A crabbing boat was heading south from Yachats close to shore. Would it set its traps in the reserve, we wondered? "It'll turn around," Paul said, "It knows where the boundary is." And, just at that moment, the crabbing boat turned and headed back north.

Paul showed us maps of our coastal forests and streams. Extending six miles inland, this temperate rainforest represents the greatest carbon sequestration in the world. The many species the forest is home to include the Marbled Murrelet, a seabird that nests in the huge branches of tall, old growth trees. There are few such trees left, and the Murrelets survival is threatened. Clear-cutting and forest roads inter-

rupt the forest canopy, endangering other species as well. And erosion from clear-cuts results in almost all coastal rivers and streams exceeding their total maximum daily load (TMDL) goals required by the Clean Water Act. From there, we hiked back to our cars to drive to the Tenmile Sanctuary where we saw what volunteers are doing to restore forest canopy and improve salmon habitat. A salmon spawning nest was testament to a natural habitat being restored.

Since our outing, the CAC (Mark Nicholson, Nora Sherwood, Jeanne Sprague, Joe Youren, and I) has been busy making small but significant steps to advance our conservations priorities for the year. These include 1) increasing awareness of the Cascade Head Marine Reserve; 2) advocating for effective enforcement of the Oregon Forest Practices Act; 3) educating the public about climate change and its impact on our coastal community; and 4) reducing single-use plastics. We are educating ourselves in the issues, testifying at public hearings, supporting other environmental groups, and asking our members to take action by writing or calling their representatives. We welcome you to join our efforts. Please contact me if you'd like to do so.

-- Steve Griffiths, Chair, Conservation Action Committee

"Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution"

Learn why plastic pollution is a problem for migrating birds and other wildlife, what is being done nationally and locally to diminish its devastating effects, and ways you can reduce plastic use in business and home.

Enjoy early morning bird walk, live raptors, art activities for kids, and free door prizes.

World Migratory Bird Day

Festival

**SATURDAY,
MAY 11, 2019
10am - 2pm**

**Lincoln City Community Center
2150 NE Oar Place, Lincoln City**

Presented by:



8:30am ~ Friends of Woodlands Bird Walk
10:00am Opening with free door prize tickets and sales of raffle tickets.
Chintimini Wildlife Center will have live raptors on display all day.

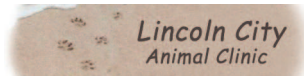
**Browsing Booths for Adults • Door Prize Drawings
Arts & Crafts Activities for Kids • Raffle
Half Hour Presentations on Plastic Pollution/Solutions**

Win a Deluxe 2-night stay at Salishan Resort

Free family entertainment and education



Thanks to Our Sponsors



WMBD Festival Wrap Up by dawn villaescusa

We had a grand ol' time! Our second annual World Migratory Bird Day Festival is in the books. Saturday, May 11th, we filled the halls at the Community Center, graciously loaned to us by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation!

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is a worldwide education program that celebrates the migration of birds between their nesting habitats and wintering grounds. Because these flights can stretch thousands of miles across our oceans, the birds are heavily impacted by plastic debris. ASLC President and festival coordinator Dawn Villaescusa said, "Lincoln and Tillamook counties have miles of beaches where plastic debris can be found. We were thrilled when we found that this year's theme would be "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution" and were able to engage many partners to bring the theme to life."

To participate in this worldwide event, Audubon Society of Lincoln City partnered with Newport Chapter of Surfrider Foundation, the National Forest Service at Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon Coast Aquarium, and many others. Early arrivals enjoyed a walk through Friends of the Wildwoods Open Space. Following that, Oregon Coast Aquarium and Forestry partnered to deliver the news about the problem of plastic pollution and how it impacts birds. Surfrider Foundation later presented some of their programs for addressing plastic pollution, with the final presentation of the day being a Surfrider and ASLC panel talking with the audience about ways we can all be involved in the solution - from beach cleanup to changing our own everyday habits by replacing unnecessary plastic with alternatives like glass and metal. And throughout the day our partners provided informative material and answered questions at a variety of booths.

It was a great festival for kids of all ages. Outdoors, kids got to work with Pooka Rice (Haystack Rock Awareness Program) and Bri Goodwin (Surfrider) to make their own marine debris necklaces and contribute to a "Trash Talk Window Mural" that will be displayed this summer. The window mural was sponsored by Pacific Chiropractic Clinic. Salishan Resort again donated the festival raffle prize of two night stay at their beautiful resort. We had several sponsors and door prize donors, including Black Squid Beerhouse, who provided cold beverages, cookies, two raffle gift-baskets, and helped with planning and at the festival. Our many donors' logos are included on this insert - please be sure to tell them "thank you" when you shop at their stores!

