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

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ASLC in the Classroom: "Our Neighbors the Osprey" with Oceanlake Elementary School Kindergarten Classes



During the 2016-2017 school year, Oceanlake kindergarten teacher Megan Strong contacted ASLC about visiting her class to introduce her kindergarteners to birds. ASLC volunteers have offered Audubon's "Wild About Birds" program to fourth and fifth graders in Lincoln and Tillamook counties for many years, but birding for kindergarten kids was something new! Fortunately, Oceanlake Elementary is right across the street from one of Lincoln City's five osprey nests, and the osprey family offered ASLC, the teacher and the students a wonderful direct experience with one of our most charismatic bird neighbors. That year, ASLC volunteers Caren Willoughby and Laura Doyle introduced the kids to their osprey neighbors by bringing raptor feet and wings into the classroom for the kids to touch as well as an exciting close-up video of an osprey catching fish. The kids measured themselves against osprey wing span to experience the size of adult birds before stepping out to the school lawn to view the osprey nest and family across the street. ASLC volunteers helped the kids view the nesting pair through scopes so that each child was able to see their osprey neighbors up close.

That experience was such a success and so much fun for the kids, the teacher and the ASLC volunteers that when Megan Strong invited ASLC back again in May 2018, ASLC Education Chair, Caren Willoughby said "Of course!" As Caren and Megan began planning for her class, there was interest from the other kindergarten teachers in ASLC's hands-on, in-school birding program. This year, ASLC volunteers Caren Willoughby and Patty Sorensen brought "Our Neighbors the Osprey" to all six Oceanlake kindergarten classes, about 120 students. In addition, ASLC volunteers Caren Willoughby, Erin Sol, and Steve Griffiths accompanied Ms Strong's kindergarten class and their chaperones on their June field trip to Alder Island Loop Trail at Siletz Bay Wildlife Refuge. ASLC's volunteers helped the students and adults become more aware of the animals, plants, and birds they encountered on the trip including their habitats and lifestyles. ASLC had field guides, binoculars, and bird identification sheets available for reference, but the focus was just on helping the kids and adults experience and appreciate the diversity and richness of the nature surrounding us.

- Laura Doyle

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.

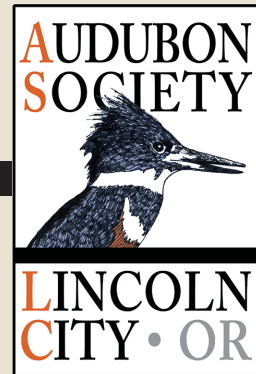
YOUR PAID MEMBERSHIP
MAKES POSSIBLE:

- 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!

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NOTICE FROM DAWN



I want to thank our members for electing me ASLC President a few months ago. I'm excited about the opportunity and look forward to getting to know more of you! We hope that you are enjoying the monthly e-Newsletters (if you haven't seen them, you need to join!). We're trying them as another way of keeping you up to date with our efforts. In addition, we hope that you check out our Facebook page (facebook.com/audubonlincolncity) as well as watch for upcoming changes to our website, lincolncityaudubon.org!

We have two primary objectives for 2019, one is our Education program and the other is our new Conservation Action Committee. Caren Willoughby, Laura Doyle, and Mark Elliott have been delivering our Education program for seven years. We are fortunate to have this outstanding team of experts teaching local children and adults about how to identify, observe, and enjoy local birds. Our new Conservation Action Plan is now officially adopted for 2019 - read the article in this issue and join us!

I'd like to encourage you to support our efforts through a generous year-end donation. Our education for children is available free-of-charge due to support from members and donors like you. And we will need additional support, both donations and your time, to make our Conservation Action Plan a success. So please consider an additional contribution in your year-end plans!

The Kingfisher

Volume 13, Issue 2 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Winter 2019

St. James Santiago School Students Completing Migratory Bird Day Mural



The 4th - 7th grade students at Lincoln City's Saint James Santiago School (SJSS) are having a great time illustrating local birds and pasting them in the appropriate habitat on a four-panel mural originally created for an art project by Karen White and kids attending at last spring's Migratory Bird Day festival. Too many fabulous activities meant that this particular project didn't get done that day!

SJSS offers a course in science illustration taught by math teacher and certified science illustrator (and ASLC board member) Nora Sherwood. The mural has given the opportunity to learn to use bird identification guides, read about diverse habitats, and understand field marks and how they relate to seasonal and sexual dimorphism.

Finally, I'd like to thank Jack Doyle, who remains on the ASLC board, for his leadership over the years. Jack was instrumental in starting our chapter 13 years ago, and served as president for most of that time. Thank you, Jack. I'm stepping into big shoes.

- dawn villaescusa, ASLC President



They know their teacher will expect their illustrations to be pretty accurate! The kids who have been working on it in a once-a-week class for about five weeks now are really loving it.

When it's completed, the mural will include 40 different species that were identified as important by members of the ASLC's education committee. It will be displayed somewhere in the community (location to be determined) so that everyone can enjoy the hard work and investment the kids have put into it.

Having spent so much time studying and illustrating birds ranging from Bald Eagles to Ruby-crowned kinglets, the kids naturally expressed an interest in seeing some of these birds in the wild. Lucky for them, the generous education committee has agreed to arrange several outings for them over the school year!

- Nora Sherwood

What kind of Oregon coast do you want to leave your children and grandchildren?

Audubon Society of Lincoln City has formed a new Conservation Action Committee to encourage greater involvement in preserving and protecting important coastal habitat and threatened species.

Committee members include board members Steve Griffiths (chair), Jeanne Sprague, Rich Hardman, Nora Sherwood, Mark Nicholson, and Joseph Youren, who served as last year's Conservation Chair. Joe recently moved to Salem, but has graciously agreed to serve on the Committee.

We invite your participation in our conservation efforts in 2019. Our ASLC 2019 Conservation Action Plan was adopted at the November board meeting. We will be letting you know via our website, Facebook, and email how you can get involved.

Steve Griffiths recently attended a weekend meeting of the Oregon Audubon

Council (OAC) in southern Oregon. Each fall representatives of various Audubon groups throughout the state meet to set conservation priorities for the coming year and to assess progress on current priorities. The OAC 2019 priorities will be finalized within the next two weeks.

Our Conservation Action Plan will be aligned closely with these priorities. One priority is the need for a Comprehensive Coastal Conservation Plan (or vision) that would help protect wildlife and natural resources from the summit of the Coast Range to the western maritime boundary. We anticipate working with other coastal Audubon groups to address this need.

Closely aligned with this focus will be our efforts to build greater public support for our marine reserves, in particular the Cascade Head marine reserve. We will also be

advocating for more effective enforcement of the Oregon Forest Practices Act with a special focus on increasing riparian buffers to protect salmon habitat.

Another issue your Conservation Action Committee plans to take on in 2019: single-use plastics! According to Paul Engelmeyer of Portland Audubon, 85% of all plastics end up on the beach. That's a staggering statistic. How can we put a dent into it? We can start with education about the negative impact plastic has on marine life and seabirds – and ways to take steps to reduce our use of plastic bags and straws.

Perhaps our greatest need will be for volunteers willing to read and research on line and off about issues relevant to habitat and species protection on the Oregon Coast, from the mountains of the Coast Range to the offshore reach of the Oregon Territorial Sea. This involves learning about estuaries, marine reserves, wildlife ref-

uges, rocky shores, forests, and coastal prairies. We need help summarizing what we learn so we can provide guidance to the ASLC board.

But that's not all. Our primary focus is our home, the North and Central Oregon Coast, and we are actively looking for opportunities to encourage dialogue with other groups interested in outdoor recreation: surfers, fishermen, hunters, and public land advocates. Our goal is to define and support comprehensive coastal conservation from the mouth of the Columbia River to the California state line – and we need your help and involvement in this effort.

We will be calling on you to take action in 2019. Action may be as simple as writing a postcard to a decision-maker (*we've just produced a handsome postcard with our logo for you to use*), making a phone call, or attending a meeting. Stay tuned. We look forward to working with you. - Joseph Youren and Steve Griffiths

WINTER AND SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR



JANUARY

Saturday, Jan 12, 9-11am - OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center Nature Trail and Yaquina Bay South Jetty. There will be an abundance of waterfowl, birds of prey, and 3 species of loons. Birds in the bush are always a surprise, like Western Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows. From Newport take the first exit south after crossing the Yaquina Bay Bridge and drive on SE OSU Drive following signs for the Center. Park at the east side of the Visitors Center.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb 9, 9-11am - Siletz Bay: Taft Waterfront and Salishan Nature Trail. Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, and Surf Scoter are usually seen with the possibility of an Eurasian Wigeon. Bald Eagles always put on a show. Meet at the dock beside Mo's Restaurant (860 SE 51st St.) in the Taft District of Lincoln City.

Friday, Feb 15 - Monday, Feb 18 ~ Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

Everyone is welcome to participate, from beginners to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy and it helps the birds. More details to come.

Late Feb/Early Mar

Citizen Science Job Fair - date to be determined. Learn how you can help birds and other wildlife in our area by volunteering to help with surveys, monitoring, clean-up, and more. Details to come.

MARCH

Saturday, Mar 9, 9-11am - Tillamook Raptor Survey. This driving and walking field trip will take us to several popular hangouts for wintering eagles, hawks, and falcons in the Tillamook bay area. Meet at Fred Meyer in the north end of the parking lot.

APRIL

Saturday, Apr 13, 9-11am - Nestucca National Wildlife Refuge bird walk. The new 2.2 mile Two Rivers Nature Trail boasts a sweeping viewpoint of the confluence of the Nestucca and Little Nestucca Rivers. The trail is moderately difficult based on elevation changes and uneven terrain. Will look for Varied and Hermit Thrush, a variety of sparrows, Northern Pygmy Owl, raptors, and waterfowl. Heading north on Hwy 101, turn left at the refuge entrance on Christensen Road and meet in the lower parking area.

MAY

Saturday, May 12 - World Migratory Bird Day festival and birdwalk in Lincoln City. Kids activities, art projects, bird walks, speakers, and more. Details to come.

JUNE

Saturday, Jun 8, 9-11am - Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (Yaquina Lighthouse). Yaquina Head is known for its easy viewing of nesting seabird colonies of Common Murres, Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots, Western Gulls and Black Oystercatchers. The highlight for some are the Peregrine Falcons which have nested on the cliff face beside the Interpretive Center for several years. Yaquina Head is located north of Newport off Hwy 101. Turn west at the traffic signal onto Lighthouse Drive. After stopping at the entrance booth, continue up to the Interpretive Center parking lot. Vehicle entrance fee will be waived for ASLC birdwalk participants.

Annual ASLC Meeting (*date and location to be determined*). Business meeting, election of officers, and a special presentation, followed by potluck dinner.

Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) 2018 Christmas Bird Count

National Audubon Society's (NAS) Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running citizen science project in the world. For over a century, volunteers have been collecting information about birds seen in designated areas, called "count circles," during a specific period of time. This year is the 119th Christmas Bird Count, our 6th here in Lincoln City. **This year our count will be on Sunday, December 16th.**

• What is a Christmas Bird Count (CBC)?

It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across many countries in the Western Hemisphere count birds over a 24-hour period on one calendar day.

• What is a Count Circle?

It is a designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle in which birds are surveyed each year on count day. ASLC applied to NAS in 2013 and received permission to conduct a circle with its center in Lincoln City. Our circle encompasses Lincoln City, Cutler City, Gleneden Beach, and most of Lincoln Beach and Otis. (*See map at right.*)

• Where can I count?

If your home is within the boundaries of our count circle (see map), you can stay at home and report the birds at your feeders, in your yard, or flying overhead on count day. If you want to join a team in the field, we will meet at Sambo's at 6:30am. Either way, you need to register with the CBC coordinators using the contact information provided below.

• When can I count?

Any time from midnight to midnight on Sunday, December 16th, or meet at Sambo's at 6:30am to join a team.

• What tools do I need?

A pair of binoculars, a checklist of local birds, and a good bird book. *Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* is one example. ASLC has field guides and binoculars we can loan for the day. Checklists will be emailed to you prior to count day.

• How do I report?

It's easy! There are no complicated forms to fill out. Simply send an email to the CBC coordinator listing each species (e.g., Chestnut-backed Chickadee), how many you saw and your time (see "My count" and "My time" below).

☐ My count:

Look for the maximum number of each species visible (or within earshot) at any one time. For instance, if you see 5 chickadees on your feeder at once, and a few minutes later a single chickadee flies by after the 5 are gone, don't add another to your count.

☐ My time:

Report how long you spend counting birds. If you count on-and-off during the day, keep a tally of time spent so you have an accurate total at the end of the day.

Interested? Contact:
CBC Coordinator: dawn villaescusa,
dawnv@birdlover.com, 503-507-8457

