



# The Kingfisher

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Winter 2021 / Spring 2022

## Christmas Bird Count Returns

by Halle Renn

### Notes from dawn



**As** I write this, I'm standing in the temporary greenhouse I helped create for Landscaping with Love #otisstrong as part of an effort to replant the yards of people who lost their homes to the 2020 Echo Mountain Complex Fire in Otis, Oregon.

It's a brisk autumn day, and I can hear the jays and crows calling along with the sounds of equipment being used to build and rebuild. This is how I spend much of my time these days, and I am so grateful to be able to give back to this strong, loving community! If you are interested in learning more about it, check out my Facebook page @landscapingwithlove.

In the meantime, our small but mighty Lincoln City Audubon teams have been hard at work. After a year hiatus, we presented our fall Birding Basics class to 11 enthusiastic adults from as far away as Waldport. Our Marine Reserve Awareness Month of activities in August was a huge success. Outings were filled to capacity, children enjoyed building tidepools, and we all enjoyed presentations about our coastal Oregon Marine Reserves. Many folks were able to purchase T-shirts and posters as reminders of our special rocky coast! The main feature, Reserve Inspiration art exhibition, was much enjoyed at the Lincoln City Cultural Center's Chessman Gallery before moving in October to the Newport Visual Arts Center, where it was on display for the month. We plan to have the exhibition in other coastal galleries next year.

As we look forward to 2022, the ASLC Board of Directors is making decisions about the future. We would love to hear from you! We need input on areas of focus for education, community science, and conservation. In addition, we'd like your feedback on communication. We plan to migrate to a new website next year



After an unprecedented year that saw many of the activities we look forward to being cancelled, the Audubon Society of Lincoln City Christmas Bird Count is coming back better than ever! The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) happens every year during the holiday months and is the nation's longest-running citizen science project.

Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman conducted the first count as an alternative to the traditional Christmas hunt. In these hunts, participants competed to see how many birds they could kill in one day. With Frank's more ethical suggestion, a beloved Christmas tradition was born. That day, 25 counts were conducted and 90 species were logged from locations across North America. Now, tens of thousands of volunteers across the world participate, conducting thousands of counts and reaching a vast number of habitats. The highest count total ever recorded was in 2005, when 250 species were observed in Matagorda, Texas. The Tillamook County CBC, just to the north of Lincoln City, is one of the nation's longest-running counts!

The data we collect every year is used by the Audubon Society and countless other organizations to determine the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation plans. With over 100 years of data, we have a snapshot of

how bird populations have changed over time. This is integral for the protection of birds and their habitats. In previous years CBC data has helped inform the State of the Birds Report, Common Birds in Decline Report, and is listed as one of 26 indicators of climate change in the Environmental Protection Agency's 2012 report.

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City gathers a group of volunteers to check a 15-mile radius around Lincoln City proper. These volunteers are split into groups and each takes a different section, checking Lincoln City's parks, neighborhoods, lake, forests, and shoreline throughout the day. At the end of the day, we get together to tally everyone's count and regale stories of the best birds seen, the weather, or the one that got away. Each team will be led by an expert birder. Everyone, from those just beginning to learn the joy and beauty of birdwatching, to those weathered and seasoned birders looking to get back in the game after an uncertain year, are welcome to join us.

If you are looking to spend a fun and refreshing day outdoors with a team of like-minded "birdbrains," please join ASLC on December 19 for our Christmas Bird Count and help us contribute to global understanding of bird populations! If you can't make that day, or it's too far of a drive, Tillamook County CBC is December 18. We need backyard bird counters for the day as well. If any of these sparks your interest, please email us at ASLCOregon@gmail.com so we can get you registered. We look forward to another fantastic Christmas Bird Count with you!

and are also considering whether to continue printing and mailing The Kingfisher. What do you think? We'd love to hear from you!

- dawn villaescusa, ASLC President

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ▼ Winter and Spring Events

All ASLC field trips are free and open to the public; no pre-registration or experience is required. Binoculars and guidebooks are provided. Our field trips are held rain or shine, so dress appropriately for coastal weather. Be sure to carry water. Walks are easy to moderately easy unless indicated. All are family-friendly. Cancellations, if any, are posted on our website and Facebook pages. For details, check our website ([lincolncityaudubon.org](http://lincolncityaudubon.org)) or Facebook (@audubonlincolncity).



## IAN 2022 MAR

**Friday, January 7, 9-11 am**

**Regatta Park and Devils Lake.** Join us for a walk through the Regatta Park old growth looking for wintering songbirds. After the walk, we'll check the lake for waterfowl and Bald Eagles.

**Location:** Meet in the Regatta Park parking lot.

*Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks & Recreation and Explore Lincoln City*

**Saturday, January 8, 9-11 am**

**OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center Nature Trail and Yaquina Bay South Jetty.** Join us for an exciting walk along Yaquina Bay where we'll find an abundance of waterfowl, birds of prey, and songbirds like Western Meadowlark and Savannah Sparrow. After the walk, we will drive to the jetty to see cormorants and hopefully some pelagic birds.

**Location:** Meet in the HMSC Visitor Center parking lot.

## FEB

**Saturday, February 12, 9-11 am**

**Friends of the Wildwoods Open Space.** Walk through forest and forest edge right in the heart of Lincoln City on the Head to Bay Trail. We should see year-round residents such as Pacific Wren and Downy Woodpecker, and enjoy wintering sparrows and eagles.

**Location:** Meet by the Open Spaces sign on NE West Devils Lake Rd across from NE 26th St.

*Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks & Recreation and Explore Lincoln City*

**Friday, February 11–Monday, February 14**

**Great Backyard Bird Count.** 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. Watch Facebook and our website for details.

**If Covid-19 is still active, wearing a face mask is required.**

**Saturday, March 12, 9-11 am**

**Hostetler Park (D River) and Devils Lake State Park.** Join us for a walk through diverse habitat including river, wetlands, lake, and woods. We'll look for wintering sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl.

**Location:** Meet at the NE 1st St. parking area on the east side of Hwy 101 in Lincoln City.

*Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks & Recreation and Explore Lincoln City.*

## APR

**Friday, April 8, 9-11 am**

**Spring Lake Open Space.** This beautiful lake is located in Lincoln City off 14th St. Walk through woods along the lake and up to hilly meadows. We should see resident woodpeckers and Great Blue Heron as well as wintering sparrows and thrush.

**Location:** Meet in the Port Ave. parking lot off NE 14th St.

*Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks & Recreation and Explore Lincoln City*

**Saturday, April 9, 9-11 am**

**Nestucca National Wildlife Refuge, Two Rivers Loop.** 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. We'll look for Varied and Hermit Thrush, a variety of sparrows, Northern Pygmy Owl, raptors, and waterfowl.

**Location:** Heading north on Hwy 101, turn left at the refuge entrance on Christensen Road and meet in the lower parking area.

## MAY

**Friday, May 13, 9-11 am**

**Cutler City Open Space and Josephine Young Park.** Cutler City Wetlands offers a unique habitat—wooded wetlands. Large trees host species such as Pileated Woodpecker while the marshy brush is home to Common Yellowthroat, Wrentit, and other songbirds. We'll look for recent spring arrivals, then move on to Josephine Young Memorial Park where we'll watch for migrating shorebirds.

**Location:** Meet at the pullout on SW 63rd St. west off Hwy 101 in Cutler City.

*Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks & Recreation and Explore Lincoln City*

**Saturday, May 14, 9-11 am**

**Mike Miller County Park and South Beach State Park.** Join us for a new walk through the woods south of Newport. We'll look for both migrating songbirds and resident woodpeckers and Wrentit, among others. From there, we'll travel over to South Beach State Park where we'll walk through the dunes to the beach for more spring arrivals.

**Location:** Meet at the pullout by the kiosk on SE 50th St. in Newport.

**TBD:** World Migratory Bird Day Festival

## JUN

**Friday, June 10, 9-11 am**

**The Villages Open Space and Road's End State Park.** This easy, family-friendly stroll takes us through meadows, woods, and marshes ultimately arriving at the ocean beach. We should see Black-headed Grosbeak, Anna's Hummingbird, warblers, sandpipers, and more as we walk through mixed woodlands, forest, marsh, and coastline.

**Location:** Meet at the cul-de-sac at the north end of NE Devil's Lake Blvd.

*Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks & Recreation and Explore Lincoln City.*

**Saturday, June 11, 9-11 am**

**Ona Beach & Beaver Creek SRA.** This walk includes both marsh and upland habitat. At this time of year we may see wintering ducks before they leave for the north, songbirds including warblers and swallows, resident wading birds, sparrows, hawks, and woodpeckers.

**Location:** Meet at the Ona Beach parking lot.

**Thursday, June 23, 5-7 pm**

**Annual ASLC Meeting.** Potluck dinner followed by a brief business meeting, election of officers, and our "Year in Review" presentation.

**Location:** TBD...watch for details!

*Visit [www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org) for more calendar details and for ASLC news updates!*

# Neighborhood Birding 101: An Identification Guide to Washington, Oregon, & Northern California's Most Common Neighborhood Birds

by Seymore Gulls

## Book Review by Laura Doyle

This attractive bird identification guide is for anyone who has been frustrated with bird guides that have "too many words," "too many birds," or "pictures that just don't help much." Many beginning and even intermediate birders have this experience with the classic comprehensive bird guides.

*Neighborhood Birding 101* addresses "too many birds" by focusing on the 110 birds that people are most likely to see in their local parks and yards if they live in Western Washington, Oregon, or Northern California. The book's format is unique in that words are used to annotate the bird photographs. Text integrated on the photo page indicates the key bird identification field marks: physical appearance, habitat, and behavior. Part of learning to identify birds is focusing on key field marks during the identification process, and this format supports learning this approach. Photos clearly illustrate the identifying field marks, and the full-page photos are large enough to see these characteristics.

The author also keeps the photo list shorter, simpler, and less confusing by using extra images only when birds differ greatly in appearance between male/female, adult/juvenile, or breeding/non-breeding forms. A very helpful exception to this limited photo list is the seven images of Red-tailed Hawks showing a variety of forms, colorations, and behaviors. While this guide is great for beginners because it's so easy to use for all the above reasons, it's also good for someone who is trying to tackle tougher bird identification issues like "is that the finch on the birdfeeder a Purple Finch or a House Finch?" or "is that brown ground bird a Lincoln Sparrow or a Savannah Sparrow?".

To order in paperback: \$14.95 from [pdxbirder.com](http://pdxbirder.com), \$19.95 from Amazon, or free from Amazon's Kindle Unlimited.



*Please help support our birding, education,  
and conservation programs!*

**YES! I'd like to support ASLC by becoming a member:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Western Meadowlark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Red-tailed Hawk    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Wood Duck  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Bald Eagle         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Osprey  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In support of your programs, I submit a donation of \$_____ |   |

***Please mail your check payable to:***

Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC)  
PO Box 38, Lincoln City OR 97367

***Or Join, Renew, or Donate online at:***

[lincolncityaudubon.org/membership.html](http://lincolncityaudubon.org/membership.html)

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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

## Conservation Action Committee Report



In June, Oregon experienced an unprecedented heat wave that broke records. *The New Yorker* described the heat wave as “one of the deadliest natural disasters in Oregon’s history.” In Portland alone, the magazine reported that 96 people died of heat-related causes.

Climate change is wreaking havoc on our communities, forests, oceans, and wildlife. According to National Audubon, “The survival of some of our most beloved and familiar birds, including the Common Loon, Rufous Hummingbird, and Wood Thrush, is in question.”

Increasingly, climate change has become the prism through which Lincoln City Audubon addresses our conservation priorities. For example, in recent months we:

1. Informed Lincoln City public officials about the impact of climate change and industrial logging on the health and stability of municipal water supplies. Current logging practices in the Coast Range decrease stream flows. Longer, hotter, and drier summers decrease them even more. Oregon’s Department of Forestry needs to adapt to the changing environment and modernize its Forest Management Plan (which is weaker than those of neighboring states), and Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality needs to implement stronger protections for water quality and quantity.

2. Sponsored Marine Reserve Awareness Month in August to increase public support for Oregon’s five marine reserves, Cascade Head in particular. The reserves play a key role in protecting marine habitat and biodiversity as well as providing opportunities to research the impact of climate change on the ocean’s natural resources.

3. Submitted written comments to the Oregon Board of Forestry, encouraging the board to adopt the Climate Change and Carbon Plan developed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Forests can and should be our best tool for capturing and storing carbon in the landscape. No new technology is needed. All we need to do is leave more big, old trees in our forests.

4. Signed on to a letter drafted by Portland Audubon to the U.S. Bureau of Energy Management expressing support for responsibly sited offshore wind development. The letter also expresses concern for the “two large globally important offshore important bird areas—Cape Blanco, Heceta Head—that extend into waters where wind turbines are likely to be placed.” In the search for alternative energy sources, we need to ensure that offshore wind development avoids impacts to wildlife and their habitats.

In the months ahead, we will alert you whenever there are opportunities to take action on our conservation priorities.

– Steve Griffiths, Conservation Action Committee Chair