



The Kingfisher

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Summer/Fall 2021

Getting to the bottom of our coast's natural beauty August Is Oregon Marine Reserve Awareness Month



NOTES FROM DAWN



Having been to the US eastern shores, I find it ironic that our ocean is dubbed the "Pacific." In Florida, I have walked out nearly a half mile from shore in calm seas barely up to my knees. At Myrtle Beach, wandering in pebble-strewn waves that barely lap at my feet. Here, the undertow sucks at the sand around my feet if I dare to stand still - and no way I could walk in these waves! Ironically, the part of our shores that is true to the name is the human element. On the Atlantic shore, cacophony of human noise rips at the quiet — loudspeakers blaring music, food and souvenir kiosks on the sand, elbow-to-elbow people everywhere. Here, our beaches belong to you and me - no restaurants on the sand, no blaring music... just people flying kites, enjoying tidepools, looking for agates. Our only cacophony the roar of the ocean and scream of the gulls. Peaceful.

Our Audubon chapter is working hard to protect the very places that make our shores so special. In addition to our efforts to designate both Cape Lookout and Cape Foulweather as Marine Conservation Areas, we plan to highlight Cascade Head and other Marine Reserves by allocating this August as Marine Reserve Awareness Month. Partnering with the Lincoln City Cultural Center and others, we are sponsoring an art exhibit "Reserve Inspiration," presentations with keynote speakers, interpretive hikes, children's art activities, and much more! Read our feature article and visit our website to learn more.

Perhaps you've watched the sunset from Roads End or hiked up to Cascade Head and admired the view. Did you know that the ocean waters you see are not only breathtaking, but also protected? Cascade Head Marine Reserve stretches between the headland and Lincoln City—one of five areas of Oregon coastal waters dedicated to conservation and scientific research.

Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) has designated August 2021 as Oregon Marine Reserve Awareness Month for these living laboratories overseen by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Focusing on Cascade Head Marine Reserve, this effort aligns with ASLC's mission to encourage residents and visitors to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and habitats found on the Central Oregon Coast.

ASLC has planned a series of events and activities to enhance appreciation of Oregon's coast beneath the ocean surface—a marine world largely unseen by the public, but one that is vitally important to the interconnectedness of plants, animals, and people in ways known and yet to be discovered. Get involved in these free events:

- Enjoy "Reserve Inspiration." This art exhibit runs from August 13–September 5 at the Chessman Gallery, Lincoln City

Cultural Center. Seven coastal artists share work inspired by the beauty and diversity of the Cascade Head Marine Reserve in media ranging from painting to scientific illustration, ceramics, photography, and even FirePainting. Bring the kids and their creativity to paint ceramic creatures that will inhabit a three-dimensional tidepool!

- Attend a program presentation at the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

~ August 13, 7pm: Cristen Don, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will present Diving into Oregon's Marine Reserves—A Virtual Underwater Tour.

~ August 27, 7pm: Peter Sugus Hatch from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians will present Gifts from the Ocean: Oregon's Marine Resources from a Tribal Perspective.

- Take a hike focused on Cascade Head Marine Reserve and its interconnectedness with the terrestrial ecosystem. Groups limited to 12; preregistration opens July 15.

~ August 14 bird walk from The Villages Open Space to the Roads End State Recreation Site in the Cascade Head Marine Reserve.

~ August 21 hike guided by Camp Westwind staff along the Salmon River and out to the beach to the northern boundary of the Cascade Head Marine Reserve.

~ August 28 hike along the beach by the Cascade Head Marine Reserve, starting at Roads End State Recreation Site, with an optional extension up to the Knoll for stunning views of most of the marine reserve.

As always, we love hearing from you! Get out and enjoy the beauties of Lincoln and Tillamook counties! If you are on Facebook, join our groups My Favorite Rocky Habitat or Birds and Wildlife of Lincoln-Tillamook and share your photos, videos, and stories!

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Monitoring on the Coast: A Snowy Plover Success Story



Back in the early 1990's the population of Oregon Western Snowy Plovers had declined so significantly that only 50 individuals were found along the entire coastline. In response, the plover was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1993, and 16 areas along the coast were identified as Snowy Plover Management Areas (SPMA). These areas provided critical habitat needed for nesting and raising chicks. Through monumental effort the snowy plover is making a significant comeback, with a record high of 536 birds found on Oregon beaches in 2020. A large portion of the population is found on southern beaches, from Florence to Bandon, but some birds have taken up residence on the North Coast as well, in select spots from Newport all the way to Astoria. While designating

Snowy Plover Management Areas was a critical part of the success of their recovery, the team of volunteers who have spent countless hours monitoring and tracking these charismatic birds is a huge part of their success story as well. Each breeding season, people from many different agencies and organizations count and record individual plovers and nests, rope off and protect nesting sites, and educate the public.

One such organization is the Portland Audubon's Snowy Plover Patrol. Every year volunteers patrol 5 SPMA's on the North Coast. Volunteers look for individual birds and nests within the SPMA; many individual adult birds have color coded leg bands that allow volunteers and researchers to track their movements. Band combinations are tracked by the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center and in 2020, researchers there were informed of an Oregon bird that was discovered on the Baja California peninsula in Mexico, the farthest traveling Oregon bird ever recorded.

While Oregon populations may be in recovery, other populations (like those in California and Mexico) are in decline. It is important to continue to track and record where plovers are and how they are recovering in our area as they may become integral in the recovery efforts of other areas along the Pacific Coast. Time commitments for monitoring efforts can range from one day a month to multiple times a week and volunteers come from as far away as Salem and Portland to be a part of the program. While this season is under way, consider volunteering for the 2022 season from April-July. More information can be found at www.audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/snowy-plover-patrol/.

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

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

- \$20 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$50 Wood Duck
- \$100 Osprey
- \$200 Western Meadowlark
- \$300 Red-tailed Hawk
- \$500 Bald Eagle

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Email _____

Calling All Birdwalkers!



Are you interested in a fun and educational activity involving social interaction and even a little exercise? Are you interested in learning of excursions and hideaways you may not have even known existed? Then an Audubon Society of Lincoln City Second Saturday Birdwalk might just be the perfect activity for you!

Second Saturday Birdwalks are open to all and are free of charge. Each month, a site known for providing a wide variety of bird sightings is selected. The sites are usually located between Tillamook and Newport but sometimes further inland as well. Birdwalks typically begin at 9:00am on the second Saturday of every month. They last for approximately two hours and turnout ranges between seven or eight individuals up to twenty and more. At least one expert Birdwalk leader is always present and loaner binoculars as well as bird identification guidebooks are provided, although this practice has unfortunately had to be temporarily curtailed due to COVID-19 protocols. Also, for the time being, facemasks must be worn at all times and minimum six-foot social distancing is mandatory for all Birdwalks.

SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

SPECIAL NOTICE: Due to the pandemic, all of the following events are subject to cancellation or postponement. Please follow us on Facebook (@audubonlincolncity) or check our website (lincolncityaudubon.org) for timely announcements.

About Our Field Trips: All ASLC field trips are free and open to the public, no pre-registration is required. Beginners are welcome, binoculars are provided. Our field trips are held rain or shine, so dress appropriately for coastal weather.



photo by Ernie Rose

JULY

Saturday, July 10, 9-11am - Baskett Slough, Mill Creek Park (picnic-BYO sack lunch), and possibly the ChaChaLu Museum. Look for flycatchers, warblers, birds of prey and possibly Western Tanagers at Mill Creek Park. Baskett Slough offers sightings of birds of prey, egrets, herons, and several duck species. Both locations are off Hwy 22 East. Get more info on our website.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 14, 9-11am - The Villages Open Space and Roads End State Park. This easy stroll takes us through meadows, woods, and marshes ultimately arriving at the ocean beach. We should see fall-arriving song and shorebirds, raptors, and more. Meet at the cul de sac at the north end of NE Devil's Lake Blvd, off Hwy 101 just north of Lincoln City.

Aug 8 through Sep 5 - Oregon Marine Reserve Awareness Month, (Reception Aug 13). "Reserve Inspiration" art exhibit, Program Presentations, Art Kits For Kids, Hikes, and more. For more information, read the Marine Reserve article on the cover page of this newsletter, visit our website and/or our Facebook page.

BIRDWALKERS (continued)

Many of the Audubon Society of Lincoln City's birdwalk sites feature a wide variety of habitats, including woods, rivers, marshes, estuaries, ocean bays and beaches and more. Often, a variety of different habitats, each with their own different species of birds, are involved in a single two-hour birdwalk. Sightings of twenty to thirty different species are not uncommon. Also, know that on a birdwalk you'll meet bird experts, bird novices, photography fans, non-photographers and a lot of friendly, like-minded individuals. As an additional bonus, the birdwalk sites offer excellent opportunities for further exploration by yourself, or with family or friends.

So, please give some serious consideration to trying a Second Saturday Birdwalk hosted by the Audubon Society of Lincoln City. Besides perhaps opening a whole new world of interest, knowledge and activity, it might provide you a new lifelong hobby!

- Tom Rice

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 11, 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. We'll look for Marsh Wrens, raptors, warblers, and other migratory birds. The park is located 1 mile north of Tierra del Mar (north of Pacific City) on the left side of Sandlake Rd. Meet in the parking area.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 9, 9-11am - Ona Beach/Beavercreek State Natural Area. 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. Meet in the Ona Beach parking lot.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 14, 9-11am - Salmon River in the Cascade Head Scenic Area. This two-hour walk along the Salmon River starts at Knight Park and wanders through woodlands, marsh, and along the river. We will look for grebes, gulls, cormorants, and raptors. Meet at Fraser Road kiosk parking lot.

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 19, all day. Join a team to count birds for our **9th annual Christmas Bird Count.** Or, if you live in the Lincoln City area, you can participate by counting birds in your backyard. Details will be posted on our website and on Facebook later in the year.



photo by Scott Groth

MARINE RESERVE (continued from Page 1)

- Visit the ASLC information table at Lincoln City Farmers Market on Sundays from August 8 through September 5 for Oregon Marine Reserves information and more.

Each Oregon Marine Reserve is unique and offers the opportunity to study systems over decades to detect both sudden and subtle changes that reveal the health of the ecosystem and our planet. Research in the Reserves will help us understand how to best maintain the seas for future generations. Take the plunge at www.oregon-ocean.info/marinereserves/!

The exhibition "Reserve Inspiration" features work from local artists Julie Fiedler, Ceramic Sculptor; Scott Groth, Underwater Photographer; Cynthia Longhat-Adams, FirePainter; Victoria McOmie, Abstract Artist; Ernie Rose, Bird Photographer; Nora Sherwood, Natural Science Illustrator; and Jill Perry Townsend, Plein Air Seascape Painter.



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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

Conservation Report

The Garibaldi City Council, the Boy Scouts of America Cascade Chapter, the Miroco neighborhood, the board of St. James Santiago Episcopal Church, watershed councils, scuba divers, the Cascade Biosphere Reserve, a Grand Ronde Tribal staff member, and 235 petition signers. What do they all have in common? They – plus many others – have all declared their support for our efforts to designate the rocky habitats of Cape Foulweather and Cape Lookout as Marine Conservation Areas (MCA).



photo by Steve Griffiths

Stakeholder outreach was critical to guiding the development of, and building support for, the two proposals we submitted to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council last December. Despite the turmoil caused by the pandemic and an unprecedented wildfire season, we reached many community groups in support of preserving the Oregon Coast's rocky habitats. We asked them to write a letter of support on our behalf, and we listened to their concerns. Our proposals were strengthened as a result. For example, we included the kelp forests of Cape Foulweather within the boundary of our proposed MCA because local residents, aware of the declining health of kelp forests on the West Coast, urged us to do so.

We also reached out to groups that were unlikely to be supportive to listen to their concerns as well. For us, this meant reaching out to recreational and commercial fishing interests. Despite our assurances that our proposals include no restrictions to commercial or recreational fishing or

anchorage at Lookout or Foulweather, we did not gain their support. Because kelp forests serve as nurseries for a variety of marine species, working to preserve and restore their health ultimately benefits local fisheries as well as the overall marine environment. We will continue to strive to build alliances with diverse interests that share a common interest in healthy marine ecosystems.

Through our stakeholder outreach we succeeded in demonstrating to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council that our proposals have broad support. Should Lookout and Foulweather be designated MCAs, we will invite all these stakeholders to participate in community-led efforts to manage the MCAs – and to help develop and implement educational, monitoring, and community science projects at the capes.

What stakeholder outreach tools did we use? Personal contacts, My Favorite Rocky Habitat Facebook page, opinion editorials and articles in local newspapers, eye-catching advertisements in Oregon Coast Today, two "Oregon Coast Rocks!" videos, presentations at City Councils in Tillamook and Lincoln counties, webinars, a petition drive, and good old-fashioned phone calls.

We reached thousands of Oregonians and visitors to the coast with our message that the natural values of rocky habitats are worth preserving and protecting, now and well into the future – and we made many new friends and supporters in the process!

- Steve Griffiths

"[The proposed] designation balances protecting natural resources and ensuring continued access to enjoy sightseeing, fishing, bird-watching, boating, and other activities at Cape Lookout."

- Garibaldi City Council

"We believe this designation [for Cape Foulweather] will benefit tourism which is a vital part of our local economy."

- Depoe Bay City Council

OUR MISSION: ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO PROTECT AND ENJOY THE BIRDS, WILDLIFE AND HABITATS FOUND ALONG THE CENTRAL OREGON COAST



OREGON MARINE RESERVES



CAPE FALCON



CASCADE HEAD



OTTER ROCK



CAPE PERPETUA



REDFISH ROCKS

WHAT IS A MARINE RESERVE ?

In Oregon, marine reserves are areas in coastal waters dedicated to conservation and scientific research.

In 2012, Oregon completed designation of five marine reserve sites with help from community groups working together with state officials. The Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua, and Redfish Rocks marine reserves are named for the geological features they are closest to. All removal of marine life is prohibited in these areas, as is ocean development. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are adjacent to the marine reserves. These areas still prohibit ocean development, but allow for some limited fishing activities.

ODFW MARINE RESERVES PROGRAM

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is responsible for overseeing the management and scientific monitoring of Oregon's system of five marine reserve sites. The Department's Marine Reserves Program is housed at the coast in Newport, Oregon and has six staff. The program is responsible for scientific monitoring, developing and implementing site management plans, providing information to the public, engaging communities in marine reserves implementation, and coordinating enforcement with Oregon State Police.

WHY MARINE RESERVES?

The goals of Oregon's marine reserve sites are:

- Conservation** To conserve marine habitats and biodiversity
- Research** To learn about marine reserves and the nearshore to inform ocean management
- Communities** To avoid significant adverse impacts to ocean users and coastal communities

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Oregon Marine Reserves website at oregonocean.info/marinereserves or call the ODFW office 541-867-4741

Watch the video "Tidepools, Rocky Reefs, Marine Reserves - It's all Connected" at oregonocean.info/marinereserves





A DEEPER DIVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHAT IS A MARINE RESERVE?

Marine reserves are areas of Oregon's coastal waters dedicated to scientific research, exploration and conservation. All removal of sea life is prohibited in marine reserves, as is ocean development.

AND A MARINE PROTECTED AREA?

Marine Protected Areas are adjacent to the marine reserves. Ocean development is still prohibited, but limited removal of specific marine resources is allowed. See the Cape Falcon regulations on the back.

WHERE ARE THEY?

The five coastal marine reserves- Cape Falcon, Cape Perpetua, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, and Redfish Rocks- are named after the major geological features they are closest to.

HOW WERE THE LOCATIONS CHOSEN?

Local communities worked together with state officials to choose areas that were ecologically significant and would not create significant impacts (according to Executive Order 08-07).

WHY DO WE HAVE MARINE RESERVES?

Oregon's marine reserves conserve habitats and biodiversity, and allow us to conduct research into the effects that protection (i.e. no fishing) has on underwater ecosystems. What we learn over time in these living laboratories is being used to support nearshore ocean management.

IS IT OKAY IF I WALK ON THE BEACH?

Of course. Marine reserves and marine protected areas are open to all non-extractive recreational activities including scuba diving, surfing, tidepooling, and viewing wildlife.

CAN I STILL COLLECT SHELLS AND AGATES IN THESE AREAS?

You may collect small non-living souvenirs but please leave behind the wildlife and plants for others to enjoy.

HOW DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Call ODFW Newport office: (541) 867 - 4741

HOW DO I REPORT VIOLATIONS?

Call Oregon State Police Dispatch:
1 (800) 452 - 7888

OREGONOCEAN.INFO/MARINERESERVES