



## notes from dawn

It's nice to finally have a break in the cold, wet weather. Migrants are arriving or flying past, headed to their various breeding grounds. Bird songs fill the air. The Ospreys are hunting and nesting—so fun to watch them dive for fish!

On the national front, we were surprised and disappointed that National Audubon Society chose to retain its name, despite John James Audubon's racist views. Locally, Oregon chapters meet regularly to talk about options. Here in Lincoln City, we had already been discussing a change due to the restricted nature of having "Lincoln City" in our name, while serving all of Lincoln and Tillamook Counties. We'll keep you informed as we go through the decision-making process.

We had a huge victory this April, with both of our proposed Marine Conservation Areas being approved: one at Cape Lookout, the other at Cape Foulweather. Now we begin work with State agencies on management and implementation strategies. At both sites, we'll be focusing on stewardship and interpretation. Along the nearshore, we're closely watching and supporting legislation to provide funding for our Oregon Marine Reserves. Watch our website and Facebook for updates!

I hope to see you at our annual members potluck and business meeting on June 22, 5-7:30 p.m. We'll enjoy our informative "year in review," look ahead to short- and long-term goals, and share a delicious meal. We'll also hold elections and are looking for a few folks willing to run for a position on the ASLC board of directors. It's rewarding to work with such a great team!

There's so much more to tell you—enjoy reading the newsletter, then visit our website and Facebook pages to keep up on what's happening. We couldn't do it without you!

-dawn villaescusa, ASLC President

# The Kingfisher

Volume 18, Issue 1

Summer – Fall 2023

## MARINE CONSERVATION AREA SUCCESS!

by Steve Griffiths,  
*Conservation Action Team Chair*

Like many days this spring, April 20 was wet, with a quick moving storm blowing in from the southwest and chasing us all the way to Salem. We drove through the Van Duzer Corridor, across the Willamette River, and on to Capitol Street. Our Coastal Campaign Coordinator Kent Doughty and I quickly found a parking spot and hurried through the rain to the Agriculture Building, where the Land Conservation and Development Commission was meeting. The Commission would soon decide the fate of ASLC's proposals to designate the rocky habitats of Cape Lookout and Cape Foulweather as Marine Conservation Areas.



*Cape Lookout*

After Andy Lanier of the Department of Land and Conservation Development (DLCD) presented our two proposals (and four others) to the Commission, the floor was open for public comment. Susan Chambers and Tara Brock, chair and vice-chair of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC), testified online that they were excited the proposals were before the Commission for a decision. At its meeting in December, OPAC voted overwhelmingly to recommend the proposals to the Commission for final approval. And here we were. The time had arrived.

Kent was the last person called to testify. From the smiles on their faces, Commissioners were clearly pleased to see that he was there in person. From their focused attention, it was evident that the Commissioners liked what they were hearing. In their brief deliberations before taking a vote, several members expressed their affection for the Oregon

Coast and their appreciation for the volunteer effort that powered these community-driven proposals. A motion was made, seconded, and a vote taken. All six sites were unanimously approved!



*Coastal Campaign Coordinator  
Kent Doughty prepares to testify.*

What a thrill it was to be there for the vote—after more than three years of effort drafting the proposals, building community support, and shepherding them through the approval process.

What's next? We look forward to working with the DLCD, other state agencies, and community members to develop site-based management plans for Cape Lookout and Cape Foulweather. DLCD plans to sponsor a series of workshops that will provide us and other community members the opportunity to shape the management, interpretive programs, and stewardship for each site. The State will initiate and complete a rule-making process for each site with the designations becoming official in January 2025.

In the meantime, on the next sunny day, consider driving to Cape Lookout or Cape Foulweather. Find a scenic spot and take in the glorious views of rocky cliffs, nesting cormorants, spouting whales, and cresting waves—and appreciate the role you have played, and will continue to play, in helping preserve these two extraordinary places.



*Cape Foulweather*

Photos by Steve Griffiths

# OSPREY AWARENESS INITIATIVE UNDERWAY

by Nora Sherwood, Education Chair

If you spend any time looking at the birds in our area, you really can't miss our annual visitors, the Ospreys. They arrive every year around March, stay through the nesting and fledging season, and depart again in fall. With 13 documented nests, by some estimates Lincoln City has more Osprey nests per capita than any other town in Oregon! Whether or not that fact is true, our chapter has decided to put ourselves on the Osprey map with a multi-year campaign focused on Oregon's State Raptor.

To help with this effort, the chapter received a grant from National Audubon Society to kick off a multi-year project to raise local awareness about this magnificent bird. I'm personally involved in our community science nest monitoring project, started this year. Each known nest has been assigned one or more trained nest monitors to document activities that take place on or near the nest.

Ospreys typically return to the same nest every year, so watching for their homecoming is a big deal. My monitoring partner Joanne Daschel and I visited the Nesika Park nest to watch for the pair's arrival almost every day starting mid-March, and we were beyond thrilled when they appeared. Excitement grew as I watched the male bring more branches and sticks for the female to arrange, rebuilding the nest after winter storm damage. It was amusing to watch him fly in from some distance away with the perfect branch! I wondered why so much energy went into acquiring that particular stick and carrying it some distance, when there were literally thousands of sticks right next to the tree.



An Osprey with chick at Nesika Park, 2021.  
Photos by Ruth Shelly



An Osprey lines the Nesika Park nest with a clump of vegetation.

## BOOK REVIEW

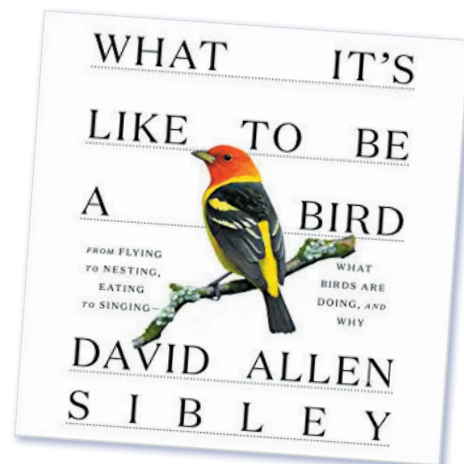
by Joe Youren

David Allen Sibley's latest work, *What It's Like to Be a Bird*, is perfectly and succinctly described by its subtitle: *from flying to nesting, eating to singing—what birds are doing and why*. This is a *bird* book, not a *birding* book. No comprehensive species list or field marks here. Instead, this is a beautifully wrought volume that explains the anatomy, physiology, and behaviors of our avian friends. It contains a portfolio of 87 beautiful life-sized paintings of birds, featuring 96 common species. Opening the book presents a painting on the left, while the facing page provides fascinating explanations of features or behaviors that can be learned by that particular bird example. Yes, the illustrations immediately catch your eye, but it is the exposition that draws you in and makes it difficult to put this book down.

Organized by general patterns and relationships, *What It's Like to Be a Bird* is designed to prompt exploration and promote discovery. Topics and species cannot be searched in an index, but the table of contents guides a reader to the single-most important page: "How to Use This Book." A scant-half page long, this chapter is essential. Some headings

We've observed the couple mating, and they appear to be sitting on eggs—hopefully we will soon be able to watch the parents care for chicks. If all goes well, we may get to watch as they spread their wings and take their first experimental flights. The nest monitoring activity has given me a personal connection to these two big birds, which at times can be quite overwhelming!

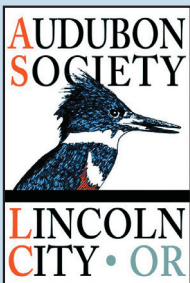
Beyond nest monitoring, other activities this first year include creating and distributing a new brochure with a map of local nest sites, developing a webpage with an interactive map, re-starting the "Our Neighbor the Osprey" youth education program (paused due to COVID), and offering several Osprey-focused bird walks and other events. For more information, visit <https://www.lincolncityaudubon.org/osprey>



from the introduction give the reader a sense of the wide-ranging content: Variation, Senses, Movement, Migration, Foraging, Survival, Social Behavior, and Ecology. A great deal can be learned getting lost among these pages.

A short review simply cannot adequately describe this book. To quote the author, "It is not designed to be read straight through; it is designed to be browsed casually, so that different topics will spark connections and perhaps even a sense of discovery." *What It's Like to Be a Bird* is truly a marvel—capable of captivating, engaging, surprising, and satisfying birders at all levels of experience and expertise.

List price \$35.00, available at Powell's, Amazon, Bookshop.org, and selected local retailers.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Summer and Fall 2023

All our bird walks are free, family-friendly, and open to the public. No prior experience is needed, and you do not need to pre-register. Walks are led by experienced birders, and we provide free use of binoculars and field guides. Dress for coastal weather as we hold our bird walks rain or shine. Please remember to bring water. For more information and updates, visit [lincolncityaudubon.org](http://lincolncityaudubon.org).

Enjoy Lincoln City EXPLORIENCE bird walks! The Explorience program was created to add some local knowledge to the souvenirs you bring home from Lincoln City. Topics range from clamming to bird watching to exploring tide pools. <https://www.oregoncoast.org/events/exploriences/>

## JULY

**Friday, July 7, 9-11 a.m.**

### Nesika City Park

EXPLORIENCE Lincoln City's newest city park! The name "Nesika" means "Our Place" in the Chinook Language. We'll explore the new trails, visit the nesting Osprey pair, and look for songbirds in the woods and wetlands.

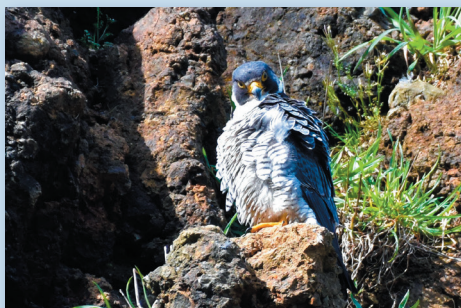
**Meet at SE 3rd and Mast** (look for our ASLC sign).

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

**Saturday, July 8, 9-11 a.m.**

### Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

Join us at Yaquina Head Lighthouse and Natural Area on the Oregon Coast just north of Newport. We'll see colonies of Common Murre and Brant's and Pelagic Cormorants. A popular attraction is the pair of Peregrine Falcons who nest on the cliffs near the interpretive center. **Meet in the Interpretive Center parking lot.**



**July 7-September 22**

### Reserve Inspiration exhibition returns!

ASLC's art exhibition celebrating Oregon's Marine Reserves is on display at the Coos Art Museum in Coos Bay. Enjoy the opening reception on July 14 at 5 p.m. Open Tues.-Sun. More information at [coosart.org](http://coosart.org).

## AUGUST

**Saturday, August 12, 9-11 a.m.**

### Alder Island Loop Trail

EXPLORIENCE Alder Island Loop Trail in the middle of Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge! An easy one-mile trail loops through riparian and wetland habitat along the Siletz River, highlighted by interpretive signage. We'll look for resident and migratory songbirds, Great Blue Herons, and Ospreys.

**Meet in the Alder Island trail parking lot just south of the Siletz River bridge.**

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

## SEPTEMBER

**Friday, September 8, 9-11 a.m.**

### Cutler City Open Space and Siletz Bay

EXPLORIENCE Cutler City Open Space, a unique wooded wetlands habitat. Large trees host species such as Pileated Woodpecker, while the marshy brush is home to Common Yellowthroats and other songbirds. We'll look for early fall migrants, then move on to Siletz Bay where we'll watch for migrating shorebirds.

**Meet at the pull-out on SW 63rd west off Hwy 101.**

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

**Saturday, September 9, 9 a.m.-Noon**

### Bayocean Spit with picnic

Bayocean Spit separates a freshwater lake, Tillamook Bay, and the Pacific Ocean and is a prime location for viewing migrating and vagrant bird species. The habitat attracts more than 230 bird species—from seabirds and shorebirds to waterfowl, hummingbirds to raptors. We hope to see fall migrants as well as resident species.

**Meet in the gravel parking lot at the end of the gravel road.**

## OCTOBER

**Friday, October 13, 9-11 a.m.**

### The Villages Open Space & Road's End State Park

EXPLORIENCE The Villages in Lincoln City. This walk provides diverse habitat for an interesting array of birds. It's a great place to see the arrival of wintering songbirds and enjoy local residents. We'll walk downhill past the Sal La Sea wetlands to the parking lot at Roads End State Park.

**Meet on NE Devils Lake Blvd past the golf course** (look for our ASLC sign).

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

**Saturday, October 14, 9-11 a.m.**

### Boiler Bay to Devil's Punchbowl

Join us on a driving tour of prime rocky habitats, starting at Boiler Bay State Natural Area, for some excellent seabird watching and possible glimpses at shorebirds. We'll enjoy stops at Depoe Bay and Otter Crest loop, where we'll explore the new Cape Foulweather Marine Conservation Area, Marine Garden, and Marine Reserves. Learn more about our protected nearshore habitats and the birds and other wildlife that depend on them!

## NOVEMBER

**Saturday, November 11, 9-11 a.m.**

### Salmon River in the Cascade Head Scenic Area

EXPLORIENCE the mouth of the 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'll look for grebes, gulls, cormorants, waterfowl, and raptors. Learn more about our protected estuarine habitats and the birds and other wildlife that depend on them!

**Meet in the Knight Park parking lot.**

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



### ASLC Annual Birthday Celebration!

**Date and location TBD**

It's a birthday party! We're having our 2nd annual birthday party potluck in November. Plan to join us!

## DECEMBER

**Friday, December 8, 9-11 a.m.**

### Taft Waterfront and Siletz Bay

EXPLORIENCE Siletz Bay! The bay is a winter resting grounds for thousands of waterfowl including Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, and the possibility of an Eurasian Wigeon. Bald Eagles often put on a show and Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets are always present. We'll observe from the Taft dock, then drive south along the bay, ending at Salishan Nature Trail if time permits.

**Meet in the Taft Waterfront parking lot in Lincoln City.**

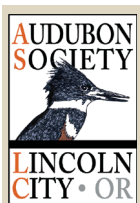
*Sponsored by Explore Lincoln City and Lincoln City Parks and Recreation*

### Christmas Bird Count (dates TBD)

Considered the longest-running Community Science survey in the world and led by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count provides critical data on bird population trends. Volunteers tally as many species and number of individual birds as they can from sunup to sundown. All skill levels and ages are welcome! Watch our website for more information.

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

Photos by Ruth Shelly



P.O. Box 38  
Lincoln City  
Oregon 97367

### Listen to ASLC's new monthly podcast!



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

# SEASON OF THE SWALLOW

by Jim Welch, SWIFTY (*Swallows in Flight to Yachats*)

I'm looking out my window to see a gulp of swallows zooming by, playfully working all levels of the meadows and forest to get their morning meal. As they slurp, they are constantly chirping and communicating. How joyful! Already they're beginning to court, pair up, and bring nesting material to our boxes. Yesterday I witnessed my first egg.

This year's migration was delayed by a couple of weeks by the cold and wet weather. This gave us time to put in place a dozen new projects including boxes for ducks and swallows (Midcoast Watershed Council), ducks, swallows, and Purple Martins (Oregon State Parks), and swallows and Purple Martins (Hatfield Science Center, City of Waldport-Port of Alsea). For a more detailed list of these projects see <https://www.lincolncityaudubon.org/swifty>.

Although SWIFTY's focus has been supporting Tree and Violet-Green Swallows, this year we launched a new initiative to support another swallow, Purple Martins. There are only believed to be 3,500 nesting pairs of Purple Martins in the Western U.S. In Oregon, Purple Martins are found on the coast and nest on boxes mounted to pilings in the major river valleys. Many of these boxes are falling apart and need to be replaced. Our solution is to attract the colonies back on land with pole-mounted nesting tubes which we can better monitor and maintain. We hope to get a couple of colonies going this year from our three starter poles in Waldport, Hatfield, and Beaver Creek.

With all our success in deploying bird boxes, we needed to jumpstart a major monitoring effort. With the help of several ASLC members,



Pole-mounted nesting tubes  
Photo by SWIFTY

we have organized 12 monitors for close to 200 boxes. To be efficient and minimize disturbance to the nests, monitors will be using endoscopes to view and photograph behavior inside boxes. All our data will be uploaded to NestWatch, and we look forward to sharing our results with ASLC later this year.