



The Kingfisher

Volume 18, Issue 2

Winter-Spring 2024

A NEW LEVEL OF IMPACT

by **Steve Griffiths**

Conservation Action Team Chair

Last April, Oregon's Land and Conservation Development Commission approved our proposals to designate the rocky habitats of Cape Foulweather and Cape Lookout as Marine Conservation Areas. Shortly after, we received this email from a supporter:

Your organization has really grown in its sophistication through this process and both decision-makers and funders are taking note.

These words made us aware of something we hadn't yet realized—that Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) has achieved significantly more than simply winning the two designations.



Observing seabirds at Cape Foulweather

Generous grants from Northwest funders enabled us to hire Kent Doughty to coordinate our Coastal Habitat Campaign. Last year, we hired Nissa Parker to manage our digital media outreach.



South side of Cape Lookout

We've built relationships with funders and decision makers. We've learned how to network with stakeholders and community groups that share our interests. We've collaborated effectively with state agencies. In addition, we've delved into the issues, learned how to testify at public meetings, and cultivated support for our mission. Sure, we hit bumps along the way and made mistakes, but we learned from them, too.

When did this all start? In 2019, Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development issued an invitation to



Rocky habitat at Cape Foulweather

community groups like ours to submit proposals for rocky habitat designations. Our board responded to the challenge.

Looking ahead, Kent will continue to advance the new Marine Conservation Areas, push for more protection for other nearshore habitats, work to improve estuary management practices, and help increase awareness of Oregon's marine reserves while also growing our network of community groups. Nissa will continue to maintain our website and social media, enhance email communications, and explore opportunities to engage a broader audience in birding and conservation.

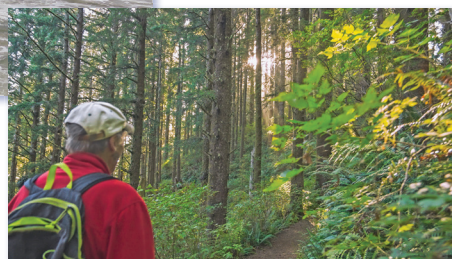
The fact that we succeeded meant, as our supporter noted above, that decision makers and funders have taken note of our work.

We're pleased to announce that ASLC has received a major three-year grant that

The Volunteer Coordinator will work with Kent to implement stewardship and interpretive programs at Capes Foulweather and Lookout, and recruit and train volunteers in our conservation efforts. The Development Coordinator will write grant proposals, prepare reports, and explore new fundraising opportunities such as planned giving.

We have many people to thank for getting us this far: Caren Willoughby and Laura Doyle for establishing and coordinating our 18-year education program, Joe Youren for serving as ASLC's first conservation chair, our conservation teams for their steadfast work to achieve ASLC goals, Kent and Nissa for their tireless staff support, and our Board of Directors for their vision and willingness to contribute countless hours.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and habitats found on Oregon's Central Coast—and we invite you to join us!



Hiking at Cape Lookout

will enable us to deepen the impact of our Coastal Habitat Campaign and increase our capacity as an organization. The grant will not only fund our existing part-time positions, but also fund two new part-time positions: a seasonal Volunteer Coordinator and a Development Coordinator.

Photos by Michael Sherman, Springfield Media

SUPPORT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

by Joe Youren

Did you know that according to Dr. Leslie King, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, wildlife watching contributes \$1 billion annually to our Oregon economy? That's more than commercial and recreational fishing combined! People who visit Oregon to enjoy our wildlife spend a lot of money in our hotels, restaurants, museums, visitor centers, and galleries.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has an opportunity to recognize the value of wildlife viewing in its budget priorities, thereby benefiting both wildlife conservation and our state's budget. However, ODFW spends most of its money managing fish and game species for harvest. The Governor's budget for ODFW projects \$306 million on fish and game management for the 2023-25 biennium and recommends only \$8.7 million for wildlife conservation projects—less than 3% of the projected expenditures for fish and game management.

Why the mismatch between expenditures on harvest versus conservation? Hunters and fishermen fund our wildlife agency directly. They do this with annual purchases of licenses, harvest tags, fees, and excise taxes when purchasing equipment and ammunition. Birders and other wildlife watchers do not buy birding licenses. As a result, we birders do not directly support the only State agency charged with protecting and preserving Oregon's wildlife.

This imbalance is a problem in need of a solution. Tell the Governor and legislature that wildlife conservation needs greater attention and funding. Considering current stressors on wildlife—climate change, habitat destruction, and increasing human encroachment—everyone in Oregon, birders included, must find a way to provide greater funding for wildlife conservation.

We can all help by contributing to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. Make an annual commitment to help ODFW fund habitat protection and restoration projects. Please go to <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCR/> to support non-game wildlife conservation projects locally, regionally, and around the state. information, visit <https://www.lincolncityaudubon.org/osprey>

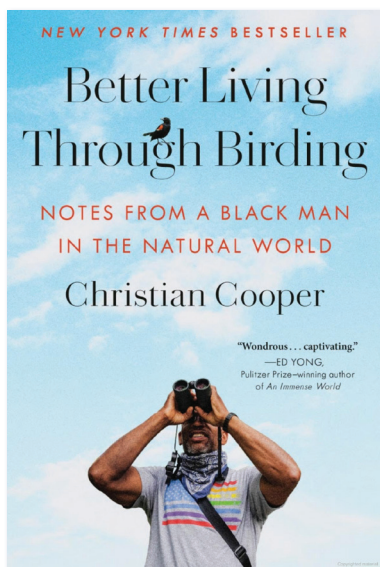


Another way you can help is to purchase an annual habitat conservation stamp or art print, like this 2024 winning illustration of a Short-eared Owl by Buck Spencer. See details here:

<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/habitatconservationstamp.asp>



BOOK REVIEW



by Nora Sherwood

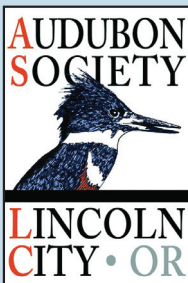
You may remember Christian Cooper's infamous run-in with the ultimate Karen (Amy Cooper) while birding in New York City's Central Park in spring 2020. The resulting video helped many people truly understand what's at stake for Blacks who dare to inhabit what many think of as White spaces. *Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World* is Cooper's memoir. The chapter that describes the Central Park incident makes picking up the book worthwhile, but it is his deep love of birding, nature, and beauty that make it memorable.

“Birding shifts your perceptions, adding new layers of meaning and brokering connections: between sound and seasons, across far-flung places, and between who we are as people and a wild world that both transcends and embraces us.”

Cooper writes honestly about how being Black, gay, and a nerd—characteristics he says define him—all played into discovering a love of birding at a young age. Now in his early 60s, he's led an interesting life so far and shares stories of birding adventures both remarkable and pedestrian. There's much more to Christian Cooper than a one-minute video of a very unfortunate incident in Central Park's Ramble. As a seasoned comic book and science writer, it's not a surprise that he knows how to pace stories and make them engaging. The book is loosely framed around the “Seven Pleasures of Birding” as he leads you through the story of his remarkable life, dropping in little Birding Tips along the way.

Last summer, Cooper also hosted a National Geographic TV series, *Extraordinary Birder* with Christian Cooper, a travelogue of delightful birding adventures around the U.S.

List price \$28.00, available at Powell's, Amazon, Bookshop.org, and selected local retailers.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter and Spring 2024

All our bird walks are free, family-friendly, and open to the public. No prior experience is needed, and you don't 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. Note that dogs are not allowed. Look for the ASLC sign when you arrive at the meeting site. For more information and updates, visit lincolncityaudubon.org.

JANUARY

Friday, January 12, 9–11 a.m.
Regatta Park and Devils Lake

Regatta Park, with playground, picnic area, and lake access, is a favorite spot for local families. Less well known are the park's nature trails. We'll start with a walk through the woods looking for songbirds, then check the lake for wintering waterfowl.

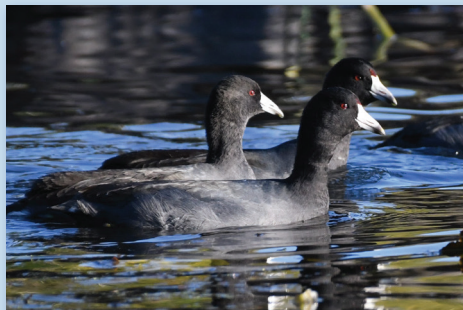
Meet in the parking lot off NE 14th in Lincoln City.

Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City

Saturday, January 13, 9–11 a.m.
**Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC)
Nature Trail and Yaquina Bay South Jetty.**

Yaquina Bay regularly hosts thousands of wintering waterfowl. After walking the trail, we'll drive to the south jetty as time permits. We should see Harlequin and other diving ducks, loons, and other wintering birds. This trip offers short easy walks to viewing areas.

Meet in the HMSC visitor center parking lot.



FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 10, 9–11 a.m.
Friends of the Wildwoods Open Space

This is an easy walk through the forest right in the heart of Lincoln City. We'll look for year-round residents such as Downy Woodpecker and wintering sparrows.

Meet at the trailhead on NE West Devils Lake Rd. There is limited parking along the street at the trailhead.

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

**Friday, February 16–Monday,
February 19**

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. Learn more at www.birdcount.org.

Visit

www.lincolncityaudubon.org

for more calendar details and ASLC news updates!

MARCH

Friday, March 8, 9–11 a.m.
Spring Lake Open Space

This hidden treasure is within the city limits about a quarter mile from Hwy 101 on NE 14th St. Except for the paved trail at the top, most trails are muddy and uneven. The trail follows the lake edge closely most of the way. We'll look for winter sparrows and other songbirds.

Meet in the Spring Lake Open Space parking lot on Port Ave.

Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City

Saturday, March 9, 9–11 a.m. (meet at 8:45 a.m.)

Yakona Nature Preserve

The Yakona Nature Preserve & Learning Center is a privately owned property located on Yaquina Bay in Newport, with limited public access. It includes both deep forests and bay frontage. The walk is moderately difficult with some elevation gain.

Meet at the locked gate at the end of SE 40th/SE Harborton near Wolfree Brewery in South Beach (near the OCCC Central Coast Campus). Arrive at 8:45 a.m. to carpool onto the property.

APRIL

Friday, April 12, 9–11 a.m.

The Knoll Open Space and Roads End State Park

The Knoll Open Space walk provides diverse habitat for an interesting array of birds. April is a great time to see the last of the wintering songbirds and enjoy early arrivals such as warblers. We'll walk downhill past the Sal La Sea wetlands to the parking lot at Roads End State Park to look for nearshore birds.

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

Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks & Recreation and Explore Lincoln City

Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.–Noon
**Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge,
Two Rivers Loop** *Note starting time.

The two-mile Two Rivers Nature Trail boasts a sweeping viewpoint of the confluence of the Nestucca and Little Nestucca Rivers. The walk is moderate with elevation changes and uneven terrain. Early April offers a unique opportunity to view early migrants along with lingering winter birds and waterfowl.

Meet at the lower parking lot off Christensen Rd.



MAY

Friday, May 10, 9–11 a.m.
Cutler City Open Space and Siletz Bay

Large trees in this wooded wetland host species such as Pileated Woodpecker, while the marshy brush is home to Common Yellowthroat and other songbirds. After walking the woods, we'll move on to Siletz Bay where we'll enjoy the herons and look for shorebirds.

Meet at the pull-out on SW 63rd St.

Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City

Saturday, May 11, 9–11 a.m. (meet at 8:45 a.m.)

Grass Mountain on Cascade Head

The Sitka Center for Art & Ecology's Grass Mountain property is an 80-acre preserve on the southwest side of Cascade Head. Largely undisturbed for decades, the property has limited public access and entry is via a locked gate. The walk is moderately difficult with some elevation gain.

Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Sitka Center at 56605 Sitka Dr. to carpool onto the property.

May 11–12 (TBD)

World Migratory Bird Day Festival

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an international event. In 2024, we plan to again hold our WMBD Festival celebrating birds and their habitats.

Watch our website for more information.

JUNE

Friday, June 7, 9–11 a.m.

D River Open Space and Devils Lake

Enjoy diverse habitat along the D River, cross a hidden boardwalk traversing unique wetlands, then through the campgrounds to Devils Lake. We'll look for wintering birds like Hermit Thrush, sparrows, and waterfowl.

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

Saturday, June 8, 9–11 a.m.

Ona Beach & Beaver Creek State Recreation Area

Starting with a walk through the woods along the creek, we'll make our way to the ocean beach, looking for nesting birds including warblers and swallows, resident wading birds, and songbirds. Time permitting, we'll drive from there to Beaver Creek.

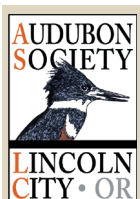
Meet at the Ona Beach parking area.

Thursday, June 20, 5–7:30 p.m.

ASLC Annual Potluck and Business Meeting

Save the date for our annual potluck and business meeting!

Photos by Ruth Shelly



P.O. Box 38
Lincoln City
Oregon 97367

**Give an ASLC membership this year!
Details inside....**



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

ARE YOU READY TO VOLUNTEER?

Our education team needs you! Our chapter is expanding our education efforts, and we need dedicated volunteers to help grow the program. We're active with seniors, adults, and school-aged children (K-12) in the classroom and outdoors. In addition, we organize and lead our bird walks and respond to requests for ad-hoc field trips and presentations in Lincoln and Tillamook Counties. We're looking for volunteers for everything from helping to coordinate programs to teaching to assisting with walks or classes. For more information, contact our Education Coordinator, Nora Sherwood, at nsherwood4art@gmail.com.



Left and below: Nora Sherwood begins a bird walk with students from St. James Santiago School after volunteers helped them learn bird basics in the classroom.



On November 29, ASLC members gathered at the Lincoln City Cultural Center for a celebration of our chapter's founding in 2005. This year we commended 20 volunteers from the first year of our Osprey Awareness Initiative. They monitored 14 nests and documented the fledging of 20 chicks!

Photos by Ruth Shelly and Tom Rice