



notes
from dawn

It's tough to follow the fun we had at our first annual ASLC Birthday Party in November, but we've got stuff happening! This month there are three Christmas Bird Counts in our two counties: Tillamook Bay, Lincoln City, and Yaquina Bay. See our website to see how you can participate. February brings the Great Backyard Bird Count, and then spring migration happens! Thousands of birds will arrive or migrate through while sparrows, waterfowl, and others depart to their nesting grounds. Such fun! Check out the new **Bird Migration Explorer** (www.birdmigrationexplorer.org), a digital platform that reveals migration data for 458 bird species that breed in the United States and Canada.

We were happy to host the fall Oregon Audubon Council retreat in October. Representatives from many of the 13 Oregon chapters spent the weekend discussing priorities and accomplishments. We also had a good conversation about a potential name change. National Audubon and other large Audubon groups, recognizing the white supremacist legacy of namesake John James Audubon, are in the process of reviewing the current name. They plan to decide early next year whether to drop the name Audubon and, if so, what the new name might be. Our Oregon chapters will be providing input and watching the discussion as it unfolds. We will meet next year to talk about our own names after National announces their decision. For more about the name, see audubon.org/news/the-myth-john-james-audubon and audubon.org/magazine/fall-2020/revealing-past-create-future.

In January, our board will hold a retreat for the first time since the COVID pandemic. We'll be talking about our priorities and making plans for the coming year and beyond. We have three strong programs—Education, Community Science, and Conservation—with great opportunities in each. Please let us know what appeals to you, because I know we have a good fit for your interests and skills!

--dawn villaescusa, ASLC President

The Kingfisher

Volume 17, Issue 2

Winter – Spring 2022-23

WINTER IS FOR DUCKS!

by Halle Renn and
Nora Sherwood

Winter on the Oregon Coast can be cold, wet, and blustery! Then why do thousands of ducks want to spend the winter here? We are fortunate to host a large number of duck species in the winter months, including one of the most striking—the Bufflehead. Others include Northern Pintails, American and Eurasian Wigeons, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teals, Canvasbacks, Ruddy Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Lesser and Greater Scaups, Harlequin Ducks, and more.



Buffleheads

Ducks need wintering grounds that offer open/unfrozen water and a good supply of food, so the Oregon Coast is perfect. In their summer breeding grounds, the rivers, lakes, and even the ocean will freeze over, and ice and snow will cover their food sources.

Since they're not breeding and caring for young, ducks aren't as secretive as during the summer. They spend their days eating, resting, and being far more sedentary. If you find a good spot to watch ducks, chances are many of them will stay put, allowing for long observations.

Now that you know what to look for, you need to know where to look. Our miles of Oregon coastline are an excellent place to spot winter waterfowl. You can find all three species of White Wing, Surf, and Black Scoters in huge groups just offshore.

Multiple species of grebes, like the Horned, Red-necked, and Western Grebe, are frequent visitors. You may even spy a rare Long-tailed Duck or Brant's Goose. Great spots to find these species are Boiler Bay State Park, Yachats State Park, Cape Kiwanda, or the Barview Jetty; these areas jut out into the ocean and provide ample viewing opportunities.

With higher winter tides, our bays are filled with water longer. Enormous numbers of ducks and other waterfowl take refuge in these areas. Some of the best and most accessible bays are Siletz Bay (with a great viewpoint along the Salishan Nature Trail), Tillamook Bay (and the Kilchis Trail), Nehalem Bay (and Nehalem Bay State Park), and finally Yaquina Bay with a wonderful trail beginning at Hatfield Marine Science Center. Our lakes are also excellent places to view waterfowl, and there are many to choose from along the Coast. Devils Lake in Lincoln City, Smith Lake in Barview, and Tahkenitch and Woahink Lakes near Florence are all guaranteed to host winter waterfowl.

With all the rain we receive in the winter, farm fields and flat open spaces flood, creating desirable locations for waterfowl foraging for food. The Neskowin Golf Course always hosts large numbers of birds. Wet areas around Whalen Island and the Sand Lake Estuary are good places to observe ducks, and the Nestucca Wildlife Refuge is the winter home and one of the only places in the contiguous United States to spot the rare Aleutian Cackling Goose or the Dusky Goose. All these places are surefire birding hits, but the best part about the Oregon Coast is that *anywhere* outside is excellent to get out and bird!



Surf Scoters

Illustrations by Nora Sherwood

CONSERVATION ACTION TEAM REPORT

by Steve Griffiths

Decision Time

By the time you read this, we may know the fate of our two rocky habitat proposals to designate Cape Lookout and the Cape Foulweather Complex as Marine Conservation Areas. The Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) will meet December 9 to vote on these proposals, plus an additional four submitted by others.

We submitted our proposals to OPAC almost two years ago and have jumped through a lot of hoops since. All the while, we remained committed to preserve these critical rocky habitats that are home to a diversity of marine life and seabird nesting colonies. I'm honored to serve on a hardworking and dedicated team led by Coastal Conservation Coordinator Kent Doughty and including Jim Carlson, Nora Sherwood, Dawn Villaescusa, Dennis White, and Joe Youren. Thank you! Community support has been instrumental in crafting these proposals and will play a huge role in implementation.

Building Support for Marine Reserves

If you shopped at a farmers' market this summer, you may have spotted us at Newport, Lincoln City, or Neskowin—sharing information about Oregon's five marine reserves and our rocky habitat proposals, plus chatting with shoppers about our bird walks and educational programs. Connecting with the public was enjoyable and worthwhile. Many visitors signed up to receive more information about our activities. Thanks to Janet Bleck, Kent Doughty, Jennie Sue Dunn-Dixon, Rick Mark, Nora Sherwood, and Dawn and Desi Villaescusa for helping make this outreach effort such a success.

Particular thanks to Nora for designing five new decals, one for



ASLC and Oregon Kelp Alliance volunteers assess the health of sea urchins culled from the kelp forest off Cape Kiwanda Rock. Since the disappearance of sunstars from the Oregon coast due to seastar wasting syndrome, urchins have few natural predators and feast unchecked on kelp until only barren rock and urchins are left. Photo by Ernie Rose

each Oregon marine reserve. Each decal features the reserve name, a representative animal, and the slogan "For Our Ocean—For Our Future." We're getting the decals out and expect to see them on car windows, water bottles, and lunch boxes, helping to publicize the marine reserves and their importance.

Our work is getting noticed. We helped organize and participated in Oregon Kelp Alliance's urchin culling effort at Cape Kiwanda, and writer Katie Frankowitz of public radio in Astoria posted an article about the effort on KMUN's website. Tom Calvanese of Oregon Kelp Alliance gave a shoutout to ASLC when he spoke on the culling project at the Elakha Alliance's 2022 Sea Otter Science Symposium and included photos by ASLC member Ernie Rose in his presentation. Your Conservation Action Team is making a difference, and we invite you to join us!

BOOK REVIEW

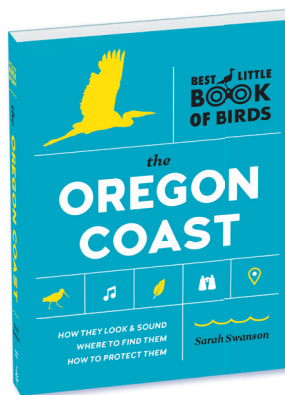
by Joe Youren

Best Little Book of Birds: the Oregon Coast

By Sarah Swanson

What's this? A new book about birds of the Oregon Coast? Probably an auto-buy for me, a coastal resident, but how can I justify buying yet another bird book?

Thumbing quickly through *Best Little Book of Birds: the Oregon Coast* by Sarah Swanson, my first impressions: photo illustrations on the left, and to the right, solid orange or blue pages with common names in all caps, genus and species in white italics, and small black print for the details. Readable even without my glasses. Icons direct attention to four, concise descriptions for each bird, so basically a bulleted list—short, sweet, and to the point. Preferred habitat includes feeding and nesting behavior, improving a birder's opportunity to find or identify a species. Geography includes specific locations for targeted searches. Calls, song descriptions, and miscellaneous information complete the lists. Organized by "type" rather than strict taxonomy, this



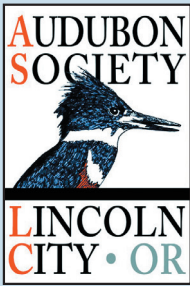
little volume would be easy to use in the field or at home preparing or planning for an outing. Doing some quick arithmetic—250 pages on birds with two pages devoted to each—means 125 species. That's very decent coverage for a bird book specific to my home range and hey, it fits in my hip pocket.

A deeper dive into the contents uncovers some really good stuff. My favorite section is the description of

the rich variety of habitats found on the Oregon Coast beyond the most obvious oceans, beaches, and bays. Even coastal residents can use the occasional reminder that our rocky habitats, rainforests, coastal prairies, and freshwater wetlands offer great birding. For nonresidents the author's descriptions, lists of species associated with each habitat, and tips for getting the most out of each habitat make this volume a solid addition for any trip to the Coast.

Okay, I'm sold.

Available for \$16.99 at Powell's, Amazon, Bookshop.org, and selected local retailers.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter and Spring 2022-23

All ASLC bird walks are free, family-friendly, and open to the public. No prior experience is needed, and you do not need to pre-register. The 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.

JANUARY

Friday, January 6, 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.

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

Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City

Saturday, January 7, 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.

Location: Meet in the HMSC visitor center parking lot.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 11, 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.

Location: 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 17–Monday, February 20
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, easy—and it helps the birds. Learn more at www.birdcount.org.



Photos by Ruth Shelly

MARCH

Saturday, March 11, 9–11 a.m.

Spring Lake Open Space

Spring Lake Open Space is a hidden treasure within the city limits about a quarter of a mile from Highway 101 on NE 14th Street. 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.

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

Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City

APRIL

Friday, April 7, 9–11 a.m.

The Villages Open Space and Roads End State Park

The Villages 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.

Location: 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 8, 10 a.m.–noon

Nestucca National Wildlife Refuge, Two Rivers Loop

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.

Location: Meet at the lower parking lot off Christensen Rd.

MAY

Friday, May 12, 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.

Location: Meet at the pull-out on SW 63rd.

Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation and Explore Lincoln City



Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.*–noon

Sitka Sedge State Natural Area with picnic

*Please note starting time. Sitka Sedge State Natural Area has a variety of coastal habitat that is teeming with wildlife. The trail winds through tidal flats, saltwater marshes, and forested wetlands to the ocean. We'll look for songbirds and shorebirds.

Location: Meet in the parking area off Sandlake Rd.

Sunday, May 14, TBD

World Migratory Bird Day festival

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an international event. In 2023, we plan to resume our WMBD festival celebrating birds and their habitats. Watch our website for more information.

JUNE

Friday, June 9, 9 a.m. –noon

The Knoll Open Space

Join us on a 2-1/2 mile hike to The Knoll through the forest north of Lincoln City. The hike is longer and more difficult than most of our walks, with uneven ground and elevation gain. We recommend hiking boots and sticks. At the top, we'll enjoy sweeping ocean views.

Location: Meet at the cul-de-sac at the north end of NE Devils Lake Blvd.

Saturday, June 10, 9–11 a.m.

Ona Beach and Beavercreek State Recreational 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. From there, time permitting, we'll drive to Beavercreek.

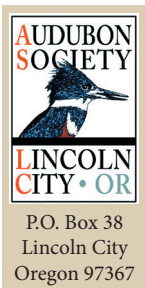
Location: Meet at the Ona Beach parking area.

Thursday, June 22, 5–7:30 p.m.

ASLC Annual Potluck and Meeting

Save the date for our annual potluck and business meeting!

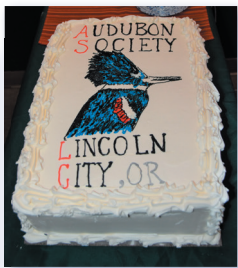
Visit our NEW website at www.lincolncityaudubon.org for more calendar details and ASLC updates!



Be sure to visit our **NEW** website www.lincolncityaudubon.org for more 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

ASLC Celebrates 17 Years and unveils new website!



On November 19, ASLC members gathered at the Lincoln City Cultural Center for a celebration of our chapter's founding in 2005. Attendees enjoyed a fund-raising raffle, potluck dishes, and a spectacular cake. Author Sarah Swanson presented her new book Best Little Book of Birds: the Oregon Coast (see review inside), and Digital Media Coordinator Nissa Parker toured the features of ASLC's new website. Be sure to bookmark www.lincolncityaudubon.org for bird and conservation news in Lincoln and Tillamook Counties! Photos by Ruth Shelly

Osprey Awareness Initiative A Call for Volunteers!

As far as we know, there are more Osprey nests per capita in Lincoln City than anywhere else in Oregon. Osprey returning each spring are noticed by residents and tourists alike, who often have limited understanding and appreciation of the bird's migration, nesting and feeding behavior, or the importance of its coastal habitat. This spring, Audubon Society of Lincoln City will develop printed and interactive web-based maps of local Osprey nest locations, with a link to Audubon's Bird Migration Explorer to track the Osprey's travels throughout the year. We'll lead an Osprey-focused bird walk, and host a summer Osprey Odyssey



community event with featured speaker and family activities to celebrate the Oregon State Raptor.

Would you like to help? ASLC will recruit and train Osprey Ambassadors to observe platforms for initial nesting behavior and eventual rearing of chicks. We'll repeat these observations annually to collect ongoing community science data regarding nest occupation and fledgling success. If you'd like to "adopt" an Osprey nest this spring and become an Osprey Ambassador, please email info@lincolncityaudubon.org. Thank you!