



THE KING'S CORNER



Who would have guessed that our central Oregon coast would be the hotspot for birders from throughout the country? It all started in October when a Brown Booby was spotted in Newport. A Brown Booby is a rare sighting here, but this tropical bird with a northern range of the Gulf of California has been seen in Oregon before. In November, a once-in-a-lifetime bird was spotted by Lee Sliman at the Nestucca Bay NWR. The Tundra Bean Goose turned out to be quite the celebrity, since it was the first confirmed sighting in the lower 48. People showed up from as far away as Florida, and to date, more than 1,000 birders have come to take a look. Only a few North American bird guides even include this species since its normal range is Asia and Europe. The crowds have left, but the bird remains on the refuge.

In 2015, ASLC celebrates our 10th Anniversary. This newsletter includes a ten year timeline of ASLC milestones and activities. Many of our programs have been operating for more than five or six years. ASLC welcomes volunteers who would like to help with bird conservation activities such as the bird box projects or who would like to help with in-school education programs and public outreach including field trips, educational events, membership, and fundraising activities. Since this is our 10th year, we've set a goal of growing ASLC to 100 local members. Your local membership supports bird conservation, student and adult education and public outreach in Lincoln and Tillamook Counties. Please join us as a member and/or as a volunteer in 2015.

- Jack Doyle, ASLC President

The Kingfisher

Volume 9, Issue 2 Central Oregon Coast - Garibaldi to Yachats Winter 2014

Audubon Society of Lincoln City

10TH ANNIVERSARY ★ Timeline

2005, Summer. First organization meeting

2005, Nov 16. New chapter first kick-off event: Breakfast & Birds Program, silent auction, and breakfast attended by 100 people, continues to 2008. First new Oregon chapter in 22 years.

2006, March. 5th graders of Lincoln City select Belted Kingfisher as official bird of Lincoln City. ASLC Free public monthly bird walks begin, continue to present. Chapter by-laws approved.



2006, Summer. First ASLC Kingfisher Newsletter, continues to present.

2007, February. First ASLC Board President Kathleen Nickerson resigns in order to serve as first ASLC Executive Director. Second ASLC President Jack Doyle is elected.

2007, March. Monthly environmental evening programs begin, continue through 2008.

2007, May. Birdathon Fundraiser. International Migratory Bird Day Event including dinner, music and two days of speakers, displays, field trips.

2008, January. "Audubon Adventures" in-school classroom education program begins at Oceanlake and Taft elementary schools, continues to present.

2008, May. Draft business plan for Nature Center reviewed by ASLC board.

2008, August. ASLC office at Oregon Coast Community College established

2008, September. Kathleen Nickerson relocates to Corvallis. Karen White, Nestucca Wildlife Refuge resident, joins ASLC as the staff coordinator through March 2009.

2008, October. Planning begins for a birding and brews festival in Lincoln City. ASLC sponsors 'Big Sit' birding event as part of Nestucca Wildlife Refuge Public Opening festivities.

2009, January. ASLC website www.lincolncityaudubon.org established under volunteer webmaster Ernie Rose.

2009, May 1-3. "Wings and Waves" Birding and Music Festival at Lincoln City Cultural Center with speakers, exhibits, field trips, music, birding contest, art show, vendors.

2009, Summer. Audubon volunteers start project to help Al Rice build, install, and maintain wood duck boxes on Devils Lake and surrounding areas, continues to present.

Continued on page 3)

Mark Elliott - ASLC Field Trip Leader

For over five years, birder extraordinaire Mark Elliott has been leading ASLC's monthly free public bird walks. His enthusiasm, patience, and birding knowledge are part of what makes ASLC bird walks fun and inspirational for total beginners as well as more experienced birders. Mark also joins ASLC's 'Birding Basics' instructors for the raptor identification and field trip segments of ASLC's Oregon Coast Community College class. ASLC volunteers sat down with Mark over a pitcher of Hammerhead Ale to find out more about our intrepid leader.

ASLC: When did you first become really interested in birds?

Mark: 1981. I was 32 and borrowed binoculars and a guidebook from a birding friend for a vacation in Yosemite. I saw a bird that I identified as a Black-backed Woodpecker. My friend was skeptical because this is an uncommon bird, but I knew what I saw and I was excited to find and ID an unusual bird. Shortly after, I was watching birds at a distance out in the water of San Francisco Bay trying to ID them. An older lady standing next to me said "Those are Red Throated Loons." I asked her how in the world she could tell at this distance, and she said to notice how their bills tilted up. Then she "pished" to the little birds in the bushes behind us and four or five different kinds popped out to look at us. From then on, I was hooked and I just started watching birds and searching for new species. I'll be driving to Astoria to see an errant Black-headed Gull. I saw one in France, but this would be a first for me in North America.

ASLC: What's the first bird you remember from childhood?

Mark: We had a pair of peacocks, and I definitely remember their cries. I also remember Redwing Blackbird song on the farm and killdeer calls at the school bus stop.



ASLC: Were birds and biology part of your formal schooling?

Mark: Not really. I graduated from OSU and have an MFA in sculpture from University of Cincinnati.

ASLC: How many different bird species have you seen and where have you traveled to see birds?

Mark: I've birded in every state of the US except Alaska and Louisiana, as well as France, Central Mexico, and the Yucatan. My North American life list is 550 species. My France list added 97 species and Mexico added 58.

ASLC: What equipment do you use?

Mark: I am a Swarovski guy for my binocs and scope.

ASLC: How do you do most of your birding? Alone? A group? With a guide? What keeps you going?

Mark: 90% of my birding has been on my own. I hired a guide for a day once – last year, on the Big Island of Hawaii, and it was definitely worth it to see those rare, native Hawaiian birds. Birds are just so interesting, but it's exciting to see unusual birds that have wandered far out of their territories like the Tundra Bean Goose at Nestucca

Wildlife Refuge, and of course, I am a collector, and there is definitely 'the thrill of the chase' in searching for birds whether it's Christmas Bird Count or a birding vacation.

ASLC: What bird that you haven't seen would you most like to see? Where would you most like to go birding? What's your dream birding trip?

Mark: No question! Northern Pigmy Owl! I've followed up on lots of leads and searched them out for many years but have yet to see one. I've always wanted to go to Peru, especially Machu Picchu. My dream birding trip would be what Noah Stryker is doing now! (Noah Stryker, author of "The Thing With Feathers" started a "World Big Year" project on January 1, 2015. He's traveling to 35 countries, seven continents, and hopes to see 5000 bird species.)

ASLC: What's your next big birding trip?

Mark: At the end of April, we'll be spending a month in Southeastern Arizona.

ASLC: What do you like about being a trip leader?

Mark: I love getting people, especially kids, excited about birds. Besides ASLC trip leading, I like teaching the OCCC class because it's a chance for people to learn more about birds, and I really enjoy working with fifth graders at the "birding station" during the Hatfield Center (HMSC) Sister Schools field day program.

You are welcome to join Mark and other ASLC birders almost every second Saturday of the month for a free public family-friendly birding field trip. Most field trips begin at 9 AM, and most feature easily accessible birding sites in Lincoln and Tillamook Counties. ASLC provides bird guides and binoculars to those without them. Check the ASLC website for future field trip locations and dates (www.lincolncityaudubon.org/calendar.html) and you can see pictures and bird lists from past field trips at www.lincolncityaudubon.org/field%20trips.html.

Birding Basics for Beginners

Instructors: Laura Doyle and Caren Willoughby, with Mark Elliott, Patty Sorensen,

Do you find yourself listening to an odd chirp while walking or gardening? Are you fascinated by the random rustlings in the bushes? Do you notice and enjoy the birds in your world, but wish you knew more about these clever and busy neighbors? This is just the class for you! Participants will learn how birds behave so it will be easier to find, watch, and identify the type you are seeing. Bird identification, adaptations, and habitat will be introduced. Birds of the Oregon Coast will be our focus during this 4-week class. Participants will have access to bird guides and binoculars and will learn how to use them. The final day of class will be a field trip to identify birds in the area.

Next Class will be held at Oregon Coast Community College - Lincoln City

February 3, 5, 10, 12

Time: 1:30-3:00

Sign up through the college (<http://www.oregoncoastcc.org>)



Join Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC), and take part in the education and appreciation of the birds, wildlife, and their habitats along mid-coastal Oregon

As a Paid Member, your donation aids in supporting our environmental education in the school systems and our citizen science programs. It enables us to participate in restoration and public advocacy projects throughout the central Oregon coast.

Be a Volunteer, and help implement the goals of our Society, including field trips, research, education and public events. To volunteer your time and service, call ASLC at 541-992-9720.

We are a non-profit organization. As a VIP Sponsor, you and your organization will be recognized as a tremendous help to Audubon Society of Lincoln City in presenting educational and rewarding Special Events to family members of all ages.

Come, join us as we explore and discover the many splendors of the natural world around us. Your membership makes the following ASLC efforts possible:

- Monthly Guided Bird Walks
- Kayak/Canoe Field Trips
- Special Guest Presentations
- Kids' Classroom Presentations
- Free Field Guides/Binoculars (loaned during field trips/walks and classroom presentations)
- Monthly meetings open to Public
- Semi-Annual Newsletter - (Summer and Winter issues)
- Website: lincolncityaudubon.org
- Staff attendance to quarterly state meetings to help co-ordinate legislative efforts in the protection of Oregon's wildlife and habitat
- Phone service for bird and animal hotline connection and information

Give us your support today. Call ASLC at 541-992-9720

Thousands of Cassin's Auklets Found Dead on West Coast Beaches

by Ernie Rose



Since last fall, there have been reports of thousands of dead or stranded Cassin's Auklets along the west coast, from Washington to California. The suspected cause for the "wreck" (a term given for the high death rate of any one bird species) was due to the higher than normal temperature of the Pacific Ocean. It inhibited the upwelling of colder water from the bottom of the sea. That, in turn, kept the zooplankton from rising closer to the surface to feed the auklets. Thus the birds apparently died of starvation. The final word of the deaths is still in question as of this date.

On Dec. 20th, ASLC member Ernie Rose was strolled the beach from Roads End Park to the north point (The Thumb) in

Lincoln City when he noticed the small birds—black and white with robin's egg blue legs and feet. In that stretch, he counted 166 dead Cassin's Auklets! He emailed COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) volunteer, Laura Doyle. The next day she walked the beach with husband Jack and fellow volunteer Caren Willoughby. After tagging 150 of the dead birds, they contacted COASST and found that these birds had been reported as far north as Gray's Harbor in Washington. Meanwhile, another COASST volunteer, Mark Elliott, said he counted about 150 dead Auklets south of Roads End Park. To learn about COASST and more reporting on this sad news, go to: blogs.uw.edu/coasst.

ASLC Timeline (continued from page 1)

2009, September. Swallow bird box project in Salmon River estuary: boxes built, installed and maintained, continues to present.

2009, October-December. Birding Photography Show and Sale at Blackfish Café fundraiser, continues through January 2010.

2010, February. "Wild About Birds" program at Taft Elementary includes ASLC funded field trip to Siletz Bay.

2010, September. Free public Birding Program at Lincoln City Cultural Center including movie, speaker, and live raptor demonstration.

2011, Spring. "Audubon Adventures" in-school classroom education program expands to elementary schools in Tillamook, Newport, Siletz, and Toledo. Programs in Newport continue through 2013 and Tillamook continues to present.

2011, October. ASLC hosts 2-day Oregon Audubon Chapter State meeting including business, field trips, dinners and Lincoln City movie premiere, "The Big Year."

2012, October. First ASLC adult birding class at Oregon Coast Community College, continues three times/year to present.

2013, April. "Wild About Birds" Program at Tillamook Elementary includes ASLC live raptor demonstration.

2013, December. First ASLC Christmas Bird Count – 40 volunteers and 129 different species, continues to present.

2015, March. Chessman Gallery, Lincoln City Cultural Center Bird Photography show. fundraiser and public bird walks.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

▼ Winter and Spring Events



IAN 2015

Saturday, Jan 10th, 9-11am ~ Dress for the weather and **join trip leader Mark Elliott for birding the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center Nature Trail.** This time of year there will be an abundance of waterfowl and birds of prey. Birds in the bush are always a surprise as well. From Newport take the first exit south after crossing Yaquina Bay Bridge and drive on SE OSU Drive following signs for the Center. Park at the east side of the Visitor Center. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Call 541-992-9720 or visit our website for more information.

FEB

Tuesdays & Thursdays, February 3-12, 1-3pm ~ **"Birding Basics"** is again taught by ASLC Volunteers at Lincoln City's Oregon Coast Community College campus. Call Heidi Hall 541-996-6222 or email shirley.hill@occc.cc.or.us for information and/or registration.

Tuesday, Feb 10, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) **Board Meeting** in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

Friday, Feb 13 - Monday, Feb 16th ~ **The 2015 GBBC (Great Backyard Bird Count)** will take place. Everyone is welcome--from beginning bird watchers 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. For more info, go to: www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html.

Saturday, Feb 14, 9-11am ~ **Nestucca Wildlife Refuge bird walk is led by Mark Elliott.** The refuge supports 10% of the world population of dusky Canada geese. A multitude of habitat including pastures, grasslands, woodlands, tidal marsh and mudflats, as well as freshwater bogs and forest are found in this beautiful refuge. Binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Travel north on Highway 101 from Lincoln City. Turn left at the refuge entrance on Christensen Road and meet in the lower parking. Call 541-992-9720 or visit our website for more information.

Tuesday, March 10, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) **Board Meeting** in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

Friday, March 13, 5-7pm ~ **"Bird Show 2015"** reception at Lincoln City Cultural Center for ASLC bird photography.

Saturday, March 14, 9-11am ~ **Seal Rock Birding.** Meet at Seal Rock State Wayside parking lot on Hwy 101. Call 541-992-9720 or visit our website for more information.

APR

Saturday, April 11, 9-11am ~ **Birding the Siletz.** Meet at the Salishan Marketplace parking lot. Call 541-992-9720 or visit our website for more information.

Tuesday, April 14, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) **Board Meeting** in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

MAY

Saturday, May 9, 9am-noon ~ **Bird Walking Lincoln City Open Spaces.** Meet at Roads End Wayside parking lot. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Call 541-992-9720 for more information.

Tuesday, May 12, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) **Board Meeting** in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

JUN

Saturday-Sunday, June 6 & 7, 9:00am-3:00pm ~ **How to Identify and Photograph Birds.** Let ASLC guide your birding photography to the next level during the 2-day workshop at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology. Topics include identification of local birds, how to find and approach your subject, and camera settings for varying conditions. A portion of your tuition will go directly to ASLC to help conserve and protect nature's birds, wildlife and habitats.

All skill levels
Age 12+ (under 16 with registered adult)
Tuition: \$195 Materials Fee: \$20
Total Cost: \$215

Saturday, June 13, 9-11am ~ **Pixie Land Bird Walk.** Call 541-992-9720 or visit our website for more information.

JUN

Annual ASLC Meeting (date and time to be determined) in the River House at Cascade Head Ranch in Otis. Election of officers, followed by a potluck dinner.

JUL

Saturday, July 11, 9-11am ~ **Mark Elliott leads this birding event at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.** We will meet in the interpretive center parking lot. We will see nesting colonies of the Common Murre, Bald Eagle, Black Oystercatcher, Cormorant, Brown Pelican, and Pigeon Guillemot. This is a busy time of year for the birds we will view. Dress for the weather. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. From Highway 101 in Newport turn west on Lighthouse Drive. Follow road to parking lot by interpretive center. Call 541-992-9720 or visit our website for more information.

Tuesday, July 14, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) **Board Meeting** in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.

AUG

Saturday, August 8 ~ **Birding the Bayocean Spit/Tillamook Bay.** The spit is surrounded by scenic Tillamook Bay and there will be sightings of migrating shorebirds using this area as a stop over. From Highway 101 in Tillamook, turn west on 3rd Street/Three Capes Scenic Loop and go 3 miles to Bayocean Spit. Turn right and follow the gravel road 1.5 miles to the parking lot. No prior birding experience is required and binoculars and guidebooks will be provided. Call 541-992-9720 for start time which is pending tide.

Tuesday, August 11, 5:00pm ~ (ASLC) **Board Meeting** in Aces at Chinook Winds Golf Resort. Open to the public.



Visit www.lincolncityaudubon.org for more calendar details and for ASLC news updates!

Bird Show "2015"

Chessman Art Gallery Director, Krista Eddy, invited ASLC to provide photographs of birds for an upcoming exhibition with the theme of "birds in art." ASLC photographs will be on view in a show at the Lincoln City Cultural Center starting March 13th and running for about a month. ASLC photographers and chapter members Nagi Aboulenein, Jack Doyle, Bill Henderson, Jody Picconi, Ernie Rose, and Rick Sorensen have donated framed bird photographs to the show, and all proceeds from the sale of these photographs will benefit ASLC.

Over the years, a group of us have brought our cameras on our monthly field trips to take pictures of the birds we see. It started as a way of learning and identifying new birds. Sometimes it was easier to take photos

of the unknown birds in the field and then at home try to ID by comparing our images with those in the bird guides. Our photos often showed us bird field marks and features that we missed in the field as the bird flitted through branches, dove underwater or flew off. Some of us started out pretty bad at both bird ID and bird photography, but gradually got better. Our show will reflect how successful we have become at both.

An opening reception will be on March 13, 2015 at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Hwy101. Free Beer and Wine with appetizers from 5pm to 7pm. ASLC will also lead two public bird walks from the Lincoln City Cultural Center through Devils Lake State Park as part of "Bird Show 2015." Check our website for details on date and time (www.lincolncityaudubon.org).

18TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Counting birds is a fun, free, family-friendly way to discover and help the birds in your community.

February 13-16, 2015  Visit birdcount.org to learn more.

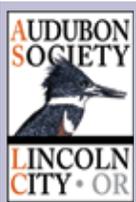


Black-capped Chickadee by 2014 GBBC Participant Missy Mandel



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P.O. Box 38
Lincoln City
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*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

Audubon Society of Lincoln City's Christmas Bird Count 2015

by Patty Sorensen

What fun we had this year! Last year's count day brought heavy fog and cold temps. We couldn't see more than 50 feet. Not so this year. The weather was perfect and we could see across the lake easily. Dozens of folks from around the state came to help.

I had the privilege of being teamed up with three excellent birders to cover Sector 3. My nerves settled down when I realized that they were so adept at what they were doing that all I had to do was drive from place to place, quickly list the birds they were calling off and learn as much as I could from them.

We started at sunrise at the State of Oregon campground near Hwy 101. The birds were very accommodating as they flitted around looking for food and checking out the sounds several of the birders were making. It was really impressive to hit a habitat where someone would say, "Oh, we should find a XXX here." They'd make the call for that bird and magically most of the time they appeared! As for me, I'd have to rely on the iBird app on my phone. Whistling Dixie is about all I can do!

Once we headed to the dock area there, the path changed from mud to water. No worry, we just got our shoes wet! From OUR perch we were able to see some species on the water but few in the air. So, we headed on to another

State Park on the south side of the lake where once again we could view the lake and check out the woods. Our success continued as the time quickly ticked away.

We hurriedly headed to several backyards where we had permission to bird on the east side of the lake. At one we were treated to a HUGE flock of NOISY Stellar Jays. None of us had seen 30 of these characters at a backyard before. Guess they were telling us to get out of the way, those feeders were theirs!

Next we tried a logging road but the birds must have already eaten their breakfasts. They didn't know they were supposed to be flying about so we could count them. They even ignored vocal and iBird calls. Silly!

Then for the treat of the day! We were given special permission to bird the private acreage of an equestrian facility. Our hosts were so hospitable. They pointed us in various directions to where they saw different birds daily. This spot was a gift. It included fields, ponds, streams, woods, buildings, and yards. We were in a candy store for over an hour. Such sweet sounds, sights and hunting we enjoyed! And our numbers/species shot up!

Pulling ourselves away, we headed for the areas by Regatta Park. We'd drive by a spot and once again, someone would say, "Park over there, there should be XXX here." And after a few minutes of searching, they'd come back to the car and I'd add their finds to the list. I must admit this didn't always work but it was remarkable when it did!

Thank goodness the count's planning team had split the lake area into two different sections this year. My team would have had a tough time covering the whole area sufficiently.

Quickly it was 3:30 and we had to stop. Time to fill out our section bird list, then head to the tallying party at the River House on the Salmon River. Enthusiastic birders, warm chili and tasty desserts awaited us. Cheers filled the room as all the groups shared their tallies. What fun that was! By the end of the count, the Lincoln City Audubon had 132 species and 15,682 birds tallied in the six sectors of our count area. WOW!

I so enjoyed having the opportunity to increase my own birding knowledge and spending time with other birders. Camaraderie was a sure bet after spending 8 hours birding together! Hope you'll join us next year. No promises on the weather repeating though. You know Oregon!