



Seven Capes Bird Alliance

## Osprey Awareness Initiative 2024

Final Report to the Oregon Birding Association  
November 13, 2024

With a grant from the Oregon Birding Association, Seven Capes Bird Alliance (formerly Audubon Society of Lincoln City) executed its **Osprey Awareness Initiative 2024**, the full-fledged implementation of a 2023 pilot project. Seven Capes Bird Alliance (SCBA) trains Osprey Ambassadors to observe and document the raptors' return to Lincoln City. Annually, this small coastal town boasts more than a dozen active Osprey nests, and to our knowledge has more Ospreys per capita than any other city in the state. In the 2023 pilot, the Osprey Ambassadors initiated a community science data set and systematically documented the birds' return date to each nest, mating behavior, number of chicks born, number fledged, and departure date. With OBA funding, we were able not only to continue 2023 activities, but also expand upon them in the following ways:

### 1. Transition nest observation records to the NestWatch platform for standardization and sharing of data.

Our volunteers increased their use of online data collection on their phones. We upgraded the observation form for ease of use, standardization of reports, instant tabulation of observation numbers, and total length of time spent observing. In addition, SCBA hired a part-time Volunteer Coordinator, who is tracking time spent on the Osprey Awareness Initiative outside of field observations. We worked with NestWatch to ascertain how to contribute our data to their efforts and learned that they require a total of 100 nests observed in order to upload data to the database. With that in mind, we will continue to collect data for the next several years until we have a total of 100 nest observations to upload to that system. We also evaluated uploading our data to Osprey Watch and Osprey International.

### 2. Expand the number of observed nests to include sites beyond Lincoln City to all of Lincoln County, particularly focusing on adding nests in Newport and Waldport.



Volunteers consistently observed additional nests in Newport (6), Waldport (3, one pictured at left), and Seal Rock (2). Some of the original nests being observed were abandoned. Expanding beyond Lincoln City has been a learning experience as we strive to solidify and support the "southern team," a goal of the initiative in 2025.

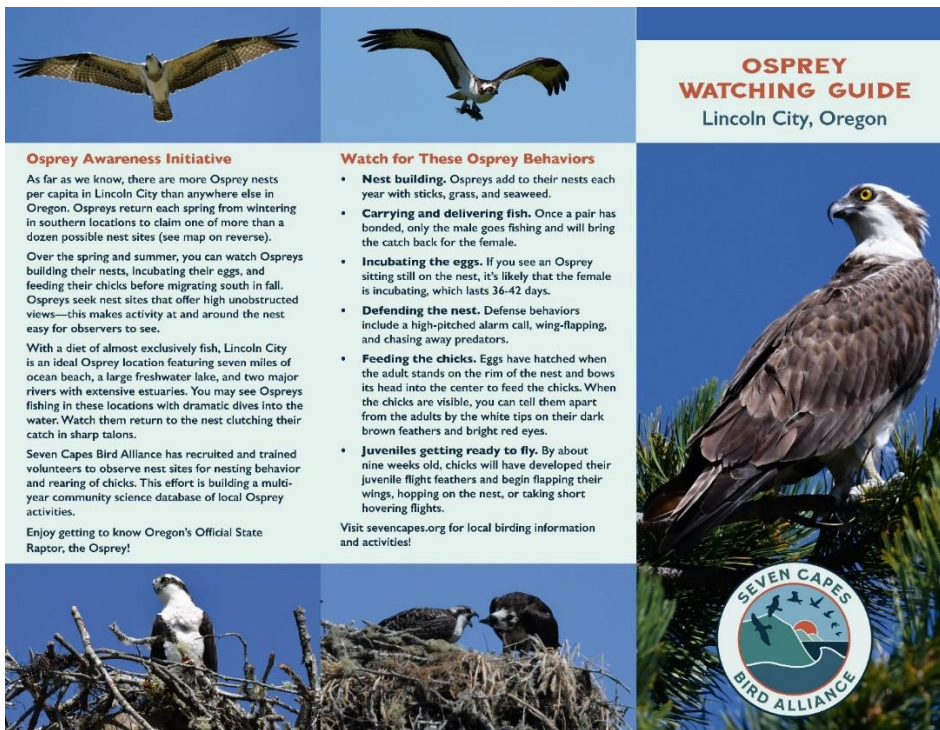
### 3. Increase the number of trained Osprey Ambassadors to observe the additional nests and provide reliable observer backup.

Of the 35 volunteers trained, 31 remained active in 2024, compared to 20 volunteers in 2023.



### 4. Reprint the Osprey map brochure and expand the Osprey website to include new nest locations.

A total of 28 nest sites were monitored throughout Lincoln County, compared to 14 in 2023. Volunteers submitted 899 nest observation reports and 123 photographs, logging 231 hours. The importance of formal annual documentation cannot be overstated. This year, some typically active nests were abandoned, while new nests were discovered—one as recently as July 30! It's especially heartening that two of the "new" nests were established in natural tree snags vs. nesting platforms. In the 28 observed nests, 26 chicks survived. With the dynamic nature of this year's nests, we updated our Osprey map brochure to reflect changes in Lincoln City this year:

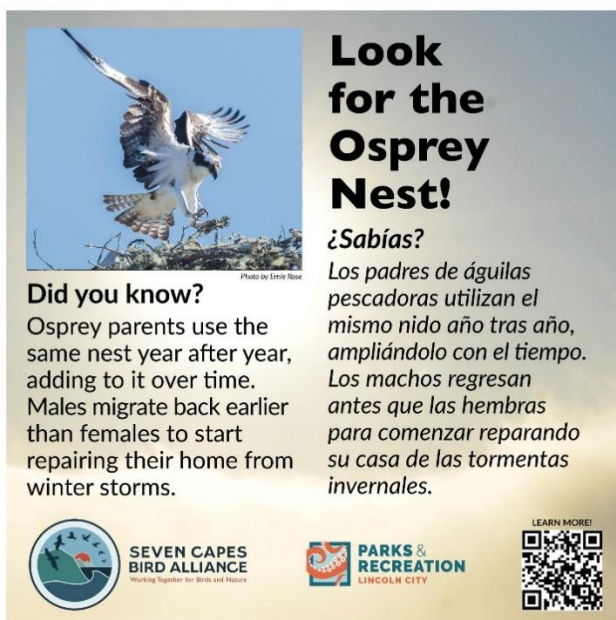






In 2025, when we have more experience in south Lincoln County, we will expand the brochure and our website (<https://www.lincolncityaudubon.org/osprey>) to include established nest sites in Newport, Waldport, and Seal Rock. Current Osprey maps are stocked for the public at the Lincoln City Library, Chamber of Commerce, and Cultural Center.

#### 5. Work with the City of Lincoln City to design the first of a series of interpretive signs that would be installed at a nest location.



We designed a sample sign and submitted a grant request of \$6,948 to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) to cover the cost of ten signs at ten nest locations. Our proposal was well received, but competition for OCRF funds was stiff, and our request was not funded. Fortunately, a member of the review panel was so impressed that she and her husband decided to privately underwrite the project instead! The City of Lincoln City remains enthusiastic about this project, and we have confirmed four sign locations within City limits for installation in 2025. One location includes a bonus: the City has agreed to construct an Osprey nest platform in its new Schooner Creek Discovery Park. The remaining six locations have been identified, and we are seeking permission from landowners for sign installation.

#### 6. Initiate a van tour of Osprey nests for senior centers.

Arranging vehicles proved to be difficult, and we are pursuing this idea for 2025.

**7. Expand the Osprey website with additional resources to answer frequently asked questions, such as how to build an Osprey platform.**

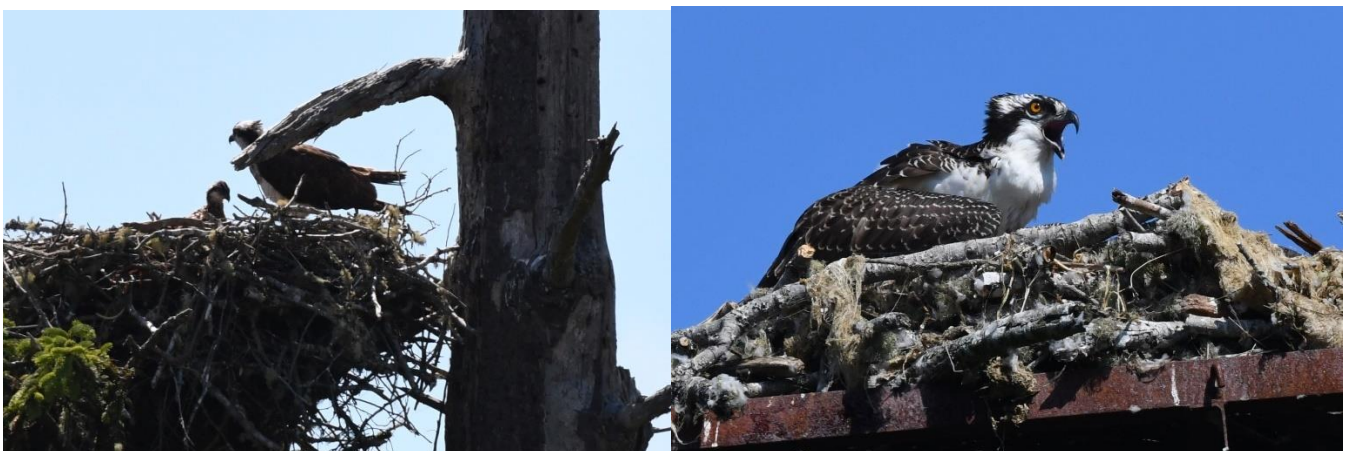
While we regularly update our Osprey website, we reallocated resources to post Osprey messages on Facebook and Instagram instead.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Classroom programs.** SCBA's classroom enrichment program, *Our Neighbor the Osprey*, restarted with a new team of volunteer educators. This popular program was suspended during the pandemic. We recruited two former teachers to take on this program and offered it to 67 K-1 students during four sessions in May and to 20 Lincoln City Parks & Recreation campers in July.



**Bird walks.** Two of our monthly free public bird walks focused on Osprey: July 12 at Nesika City Park (below left) and August 10 at Alder Island of the Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge (below right). Participants in both walks were thrilled to observe chick/adult interaction.



**Table-top display.** As part of our rebranding from Audubon Society of Lincoln City to Seven Capes Bird Alliance, we also upgraded our Osprey tabletop display, used at community events throughout our service area.

**Thank you again for supporting this important initiative!**