

Subject: SWIFTY off to a flying start for 2024

This winter SWIFTY has been busy getting prepared for the return of our feathered friends. Wally led a workshop with Lincoln County Parks where we assembled 15 swallow boxes for SWIFTY and built another 40 boxes for the Parks. Now that we have trained County Parks they will continue to build and install boxes on their own.



Scenes from the day we built 55 swallow boxes with Lincoln County Parks

Regarding our purple martin (PUMA) projects, we assisted Eric Horvath in constructing 40 boxes which will be installed on the Yaquina River. Last summer, we helped Eric to do a population survey of PUMA nesting pairs in Lincoln County. Of the 142 recorded, 102 pairs were on the Yaquina, 17 on the Siletz, 19 on the Alsea and 4 on Devil's Lake.



PUMA boxes under construction with Eric Horvath

SWIFTY has built 14 PUMA boxes and tubes to double the number of our boxes in the field. Five of these will be installed at the Siletz Wildlife Refuge, four at Knight County Park at the mouth of the Salmon River, and four at Don Lindly County Park on the Alsea.

Now for duck boxes! This year we will be starting a relationship with the Wetlands Conservancy (TWC), which has easements on 1500 acres of wetlands across the state, including one on the north shore of Alsea Bay. TWC will be the 11th SWIFTY partnership, which includes Oregon and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, county and state parks, two watershed agencies, two cities, a research facility, a port authority, and the Audubon Society.

Over the next month we will be reinstalling boxes that we stored during the winter. This is a great time for those of you to clean and scrape your boxes and prep them for spring. Use a little disinfectant please.

Lastly, please keep these dates on your calendar:

May 11: Yachats' first very own "Wild Thing Festival". This is a family fun event to celebrate our coastal wildlife and plants with music, workshops, plant, and animal walks, tide pool adventures, etc.

May 19: Dr Sarah Rockwell will be speaking in Yachats about Purple Martin conservation and their amazing 8000-mile migration to SE Brazil from the coast of Oregon.

Thanks to all for your support and help,

Jim, Wally, Robert, Bob, Cathy, and Kurt
SWIFTY - Swallows in Flight to Yachats