

DAUNTLESS DIVE-BOMBER TO BE FEATURED AT ANNAUL FLY-IN

The Florence-Siuslaw Lions Clubs will be hosting the 2017 Wings and Wheels Aircraft Fly-In and Car Show at the Florence Municipal Airport on Saturday, July 1.

The featured aircraft this year is a World War II SBD Dauntless dive-bomber from the Erickson Aircraft Collection in Madras, Ore.

Thanks to the support of the

City of Florence, there will be a raffle for a ride in the aircraft. Tickets for the raffle are available at Florence In Bloom, Sears and the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. Tickets are \$5 each and only 300 will be available for sale.

The raffle will benefit the Lions Club and the City of Florence. Drawing for the ride will be held at Wings and

Wheels on July 1, at noon. Winner must be present to win. The ride will be scheduled at the time for later in the day or on Sunday, July 2. Rides will be available in the plane for a donation of \$1,000 to the Erickson Air Collection.

The appearance of the Dauntless is courtesy of Three Rivers Casino Resort and the City of Florence.

NATURAL PERSPECTIVE — Feathered fathers



BY EMILY J. UHRIG, PHD
Special to the Siuslaw News

If the upcoming Father's Day weekend takes you near the beach, you may encounter some feathered father figures. For shorebirds, including sandpipers, plovers, oystercatchers and other species commonly seen along shoreline areas, male involvement in parental care is often equal to or greater than that of the female.

In fact, across shorebird species, it is more common for fathers to care for offspring than it is for mothers to do so.

One notable local shorebird is the snowy plover. This small bird with a short black

bill, tan back and white belly is a threatened species in Oregon. Should you venture near the dunes this time of year you will find areas of restricted access to help protect the plovers during their nesting season, which lasts from March through September.

While male and female snowy plovers share egg incubation duties, after the eggs hatch the mother generally deserts the offspring to search for other mates.

Looking like downy puffballs with toothpicks for legs, the young plovers are then cared for by their father until they develop adult feathers, or fledge, which takes about a month.

Another locally nesting shorebird, the spotted sandpiper, takes the reversal of stereotypical male and female roles even further. Female sandpipers compete with each other for breeding territories and fights between females sometimes lead to severe injuries.

Like the plover, female sandpipers often mate and lay

egg clutches with multiple males, a tactic that helps them successfully produce more offspring each season. With females focused on defending territories and finding other mates, males are often left to incubate the eggs alone and raise their young as single fathers.

Studies of spotted sandpipers suggest that the caring behavior of fathers is brought on by a hormone called prolactin. Prolactin is considered the "parental care hormone" as increased prolactin levels are associated with caring for offspring in a number of species, including humans.

For most birds, prolactin levels are highest in females coinciding with their substantial maternal care. However, for the spotted sandpiper, the highest prolactin levels are found in the males caring for their brood.

So as you're celebrating the dads in your life, spare a thought for the feathered fathers out there as well.

Happy Father's Day!

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