



For Immediate Release

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The Alliance Welcomes *New York Times* bestselling author David Gessner for ACONS Webinar Exploring Ospreys on the Cape & Islands

**Celebrating the 25th anniversary of his landmark Cape Cod nature classic
*Return of the Osprey***

Hyannis, MA – The **Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound** has announced that acclaimed author, naturalist, and environmental writer **David Gessner** will be the guest speaker on its popular [ACONS \(A Celebration of Nantucket Sound\)](#) series on **Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 6-7pm via Zoom**. **ACONS**, launched in 2020, is an educational webinar series that celebrates Nantucket Sound's exceptional environment, rich history, and enduring cultural importance to the Cape and Islands.

Gessner will present an engaging exploration on the osprey—one of the region's most iconic birds. A familiar sight soaring above Cape Cod's marshes, estuaries, and shorelines, the osprey has become an enduring symbol of the Cape's rich coastal environment and one of conservation's greatest success stories. The webinar will also highlight the important role Nantucket Sound continues to play in supporting healthy osprey populations throughout the region.

The webinar, ***Ospreys on Cape Cod and Nantucket Sound***, coincides with the 25th anniversary of Gessner's influential bestselling book, ***Return of the Osprey***, widely regarded as one of the most important works of contemporary nature writing to emerge from Cape Cod. *Publisher's Weekly* touted it as "a naturalist's jewel" and *The Boston Globe* praised the book, stating, "*Return of the Osprey* can...claim a place among the classics of American nature writing."

Part memoir, part natural history, and part environmental reflection, *Return of the Osprey* chronicles Gessner's immersion in the lives of nesting ospreys during a single season spent observing the birds on Cape Cod. The book explores the remarkable recovery of the osprey population after decades of decline caused by DDT, while also examining the changing landscape of the Cape and Islands.

"David's writing introduced countless readers to one of the Cape's most iconic and inspiring wildlife success stories," said Alliance President and CEO **Audra Parker**. "As Nantucket Sound continues to serve as critical habitat for ospreys and many other vital species, we are thrilled to welcome David to our ACONS series and celebrate both the birds themselves and the enduring legacy of his historic book."

During the webinar, Gessner, hailed as “a master essayist” (*Booklist*) will discuss the origins and impact of ***Return of the Osprey***, share stories from his time observing the birds on Cape Cod, reflect on the osprey's dramatic recovery over the past quarter century, and explore what these birds of prey can teach us about conservation, resilience, and our connection to the natural world.

To register or learn more about the Alliance's ACONS webinar series, visit www.saveoursound.org/acons. The mission of the Alliance is to secure permanent protection for Nantucket Sound by advancing its recognition and designation as a **National Historic Landmark**.

UPCOMING: 2026 WINTER WEBINAR

Thursday, November 12, 2026 | 6–7 PM

Winter Birds of Nantucket Sound with guest speaker John Hanlon

Noted naturalist and educator **John Hanlon** (Cape Cod National Seashore) explores the remarkable winter bird species that migrate each year to Cape Cod and Nantucket Sound. From colorful waterfowl and diving ducks to loons, grebes, and other coastal birds, the Cape becomes a seasonal refuge for wildlife that breeds far to the north.

This webinar will introduce attendees to the birds that transform our shores and waters during the colder months, while also offering insight into the habitats and ecosystems that make Nantucket Sound such an important winter sanctuary.

ABOUT DAVID GESSNER

Gessner is the author of fourteen books that blend nature writing, memoir, humor, and environmental advocacy. His works include *The Book of Flaco*, *All the Wild That Remains*, *Sick of Nature*, and *Leave It as It Is: A Journey Through Theodore Roosevelt's American Wilderness*. He is a professor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and founder and editor-in-chief of the literary magazine *Ecotone*.

Gessner's essays and articles have appeared in publications including *The New York Times Magazine*, *Outside*, *Audubon*, *Sierra*, and *Orion*. His honors include a Pushcart Prize, the John Burroughs Award for Best Nature Essay, the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment's Award for Best Book of Creative Writing, and the Reed Environmental Writing Award. He has also appeared in numerous television and documentary programs, including National Geographic's *Explorer*, where he hosted "The Call of the Wild."

ABOUT THE ACONS WEBINAR SERIES

Launched in September 2020, **ACONS (A Celebration of Nantucket Sound)** is an educational webinar series that celebrates Nantucket Sound's exceptional environment, rich maritime and tribal history, and economic importance to the Cape and Islands. The webinars have provided free, accessible, and fun learning opportunities for individuals and families through Zoom. Each webinar features a renowned expert discussing one of the Sound's unique values. To date, this successful series has welcomed over 6,000 registrants through over 35 webinars. Past speakers have presented on a wide array of topics, including marine mammals, historic sites, the Blue Economy, history of shipwrecks, the Kennedy family legacy, green crabs, wildlife, tribal history, lighthouses, recreational fishing, oyster farming, white sharks, boatbuilding, and more.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE TO PROTECT NANTUCKET SOUND

The **Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the permanent preservation of Nantucket Sound, the historic body of water that lies between Cape Cod and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The goal of the Alliance is to permanently protect Nantucket Sound and existing uses such as fishing and recreation by designating it as a **National Historic Landmark**.

The Alliance, along with a diverse coalition of stakeholders including environmental groups, tribal entities, municipalities, historic preservation groups, chambers of commerce, and others have joined together to support federal action to protect Nantucket Sound in perpetuity.

For more information, please visit www.saveoursound.org.

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