



Salem Audubon Society

The Kestrel

2013 Salem Audubon Society Bird-a-Thon

May 2013

Volume 46, No. 9

1. What is a Bird-a-thon?

It is similar to a “walk-a-thon” only instead of getting pledges for each mile walked, participants ask sponsors to make a pledge for each species of bird that’s spotted. It’s as simple as that – and the pledging part is what makes the Bird-a-thon one of Salem Audubon’s most important events of the year. Salem Audubon relies on funds raised by the Bird-a-thon to sustain its current programs, so as the traveling education program, nest box program, monthly meetings, newsletter, field trips and the associated administrative support. Membership fees alone are not sufficient to cover these expenses.



2. How do I participate?

To join in, you can form your own team or be a part of one of our prearranged field trips. Simply gather your pledges and then count bird species within the Bird-a-thon 2013 window of May 15-22. You can sign up by contacting the 2013 Bird-a-thon coordinator, Tim Johnson, at 503-363-8435 or tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com.

3. What if I can’t get out and bird all day?

You can customize your Bird-a-thon team in any number of configurations, such as a morning bird walk in your neighborhood, or an afternoon visit to your favorite birding hotspot. You can get as creative as you want with your Bird-a-thon event. How about hosting a bird feeder count lunch or coffee at your house or backyard? All you have to do is gather family, friends, neighbors or colleagues for an hour and see how many birds visit your feeders. Another suggestion is to organize a “Big Sip,” where you serve a bird-label wine & cheese party on your back deck, asking your guests for a “sipping fee” as their Bird-a-thon contribution. The whole idea is to have fun and raise much needed funds for Salem Audubon.

4. How does pledging work?

Your supporters can pledge per bird seen, or they may want to just agree to a flat sum donation. As many as 60+ species could be sighted by a team, so if your sponsors are worried that you might shatter a previous record (and perhaps break their bank) you can place a ceiling on their pledge such as \$1 per species up to a certain amount.

Continued on page 2

Bird-a-Thon continued

5. I'm not an experienced birder – can I still participate?

Everyone can participate and beginning birders are welcome.

If you wish, we'll help you create your own event or link you up with an experienced leader. Salem Audubon has always been about birding and people who make things happen in our community and Bird-a-thon is a great opportunity to join forces, have some fun and get out and bird!

6. Where can I bird?

Anywhere in Oregon.

7. What are this year's prearranged guided teams?

- Wednesday, May 15 – Minto-Brown Park Bird Walk (leaders – Barbara Dolan/Tim Johnson)
- Sunday, May 19 – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (leaders – Tim Johnson)
- Sunday-Wednesday, May 19-22 – Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (leader – Glen Lindeman) – FULL

8. Next step?

The best way to get started is to contact this year's Bird-a-thon coordinator, Tim Johnson, and discuss how you can get involved.

SAS Beginning Birding Classes

The second series of the birding classes continue and wrap up with the following this May:

 May 2: Bird songs: the beautiful and the not so beautiful

 May 9: A special class on bird photography

The 2013 version of the special class on Bird Photography will take place Thursday, May 9. The field sessions will be May 18 and 19 at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. Once again the class will be taught by Lew and Marti Ligocki of Impeccable Images and The Camera Discovery Company (www.impeccableimages.com).

Photography basics are indeed basic. In consequence this year's class will include much of the same basic information as previous Salem Audubon Bird Photography classes, but with updated examples. This year, in addition to an emphasis on maximizing point-and-shoot and compact cameras for still images, Lew and Marti will also talk about use of phone cameras, video and post-capture possibilities.

The field sessions sign-up will take place during the break in this class. Each session will be two hours, with a maximum of 10 people per session. This format will provide individual attention for each participant. Bring your camera, your manual - if you have one - and your questions. A map of the location will be available.

The class sessions meet on Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Carrier Room of The First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, in downtown Salem. The fee is \$12.00 per class session (\$15.00 for the special class on bird photography).

Reservations are requested but not required. Please call Salem Audubon at (503) 588-7340 and leave your name and the dates you will be attending, or email laurie@salemaudubon.org.



Birder's Night – Tuesday, May 14th

Photo Sharing

If you are interested in bird photography and enjoy learning about both the birds and the camera technique, be sure to attend the Salem Audubon Birder's Night, Tuesday, May 14 in Willamette University's Cat Cavern on the second floor of the Putnam University Center. Salem's Audubon chapter is fortunate to have many excellent photographers, and our members look forward to our Birder's Night Photo Sharing events. Anyone can share from one to 30 photos, with an upper time limit of 10 minutes. Those who have pre-registered to show photos will be first on the program, including Jon Hazen, Theresa Byrne, Frank Kolwicz, Stephanie Hazen, and Jenna Beilby. Those who sign up at the door will divide what time is left. To pre-register call or e-mail Eugenia Becker at (971) 239-4816 or heronflight99@comcast.net or Judy Brunkal at (503) 930-7035 or judbrunkal@gmail.com. Bring your photos on a thumb drive or CD in jpeg format.

Jon Hazen has been backyard birding for about 4 years and field birding since last spring's SAS Beginning Birders classes. His interest in photography has been life-long. Field trips have made photography all the more enjoyable and added a level of interest to his birding. Jon's photos will be a mix of local birds, landscapes, and things he found in the field and yard that were interesting. One highlight will be a Cooper's hawk with, unfortunately, an evening grosbeak in its grasp. Jon has logged 97 field trips since March 4th 2012. Is he hooked? One might say so!

Theresa Byrne loves the outdoors and incorporates walking and bike riding with her birding activities. She will show photos from the Salem, Portland and Corvallis areas where she does most of her birding. Theresa became interested in birding about 8 years ago. For her, it was a natural extension to enjoying the outdoors and nature's scenery.

Frank Kolwicz got interested in photography and birds at the same time during the 1980s and has continued pursuing both on and off since then. He looks at birds as a photographer for print exhibition in galleries and other places, not as a birder who happens to use photography for recording species or behavior.

Stephanie Hazen moved to Salem in 1977, having graduated from Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine. She retired in June of 2012 after 35 years of practicing small animal and exotic veterinary medicine, all of that time spent in Salem. She became interested in birds and the natural world during her time in Arizona where she attended high school and college. She credits her Natural History professor, Stephen Russell, at the University of Arizona with getting her started in birding.

Continued on page 7



*Chipping Sparrow
Jon Hazen*

Right – Green Heron at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in Portland (Stephanie Hazen)

Bottom (left to right) – Long-billed Dowitcher at the Talking Water Gardens, Albany-Millersburg, OR (Stephanie Hazen); Canada Geese at Lyons Mehama County Park, (Stephanie Hazen); Tundra Swans near Klamath Falls (Stephanie Hazen); Bluebirds on OSU's campus in Corvallis (Theresa Byrne)



Upcoming Field Trips *compiled by Glen Lindeman*

Salem Audubon field trips are open to the public, and we usually have a mixture of experienced and novice bird watchers. These trips are a great way to become more familiar with the birds of Oregon, plus you will find some great new places to go birding and possibly meet some new friends. There is no fee for the trips, but we do encourage car-pooling to try to reduce our impact on the environment, with riders helping to cover the cost of driving.

For some of the trips, participants will be meeting at the Salem Audubon Nature Reserve in West Salem (referred to in the trip outlines as the "SAS Nature Reserve"). To reach the Nature Reserve, go west on Edgewater Street to Eola Drive, then uphill on Eola Drive. The Nature Reserve and the parking area will be on your right about 4 blocks up the hill, just before the corner. If you have a suggestion for field trips or have any questions, contact Glen Lindeman at (503) 364-6968 or gdalindy@msn.com.

Here is the upcoming schedule:

Saturday, May 11 thru Sunday, May 12 – Silver Falls Mother's Day Birding & Wildflower Festival

Learn about the native plants, wildflowers, and birds that fill Silver Falls' temperate rainforest. Join guided walks, family hikes, and children's activities. Enjoy live raptors and wildflower displays. Purchase native plants. Visit local wildlife organizations. \$5.00 day-use parking permit or state parks pass is required, no other fees.

Check the "events" tab on the Oregon State Park's website for details: <http://www.oregonstateparks.org>. For more information, call the park at 503-873-8681 or 503-873-0201.

Wednesday, May 15 – Minto-Brown Island Park (also Wed June 19 and Tue July 16)
Leaders: Barbara Dolan (503) 982-3204 and Tim Johnson (503) 363-8435

Minto-Brown Island Park, in southwest Salem, provides some excellent wildlife viewing all year. The park attracts a wide variety of resident birds such as sparrows, finches and towhees, but many other birds can be found here including waterfowl, raptors, kinglets, warblers, wrens, creepers and woodpeckers. **Meet at 7:30 am at parking lot #3** (at the end of the paved road into the park, Minto

Island Rd). Bring comfortable footwear as we'll be doing a good deal of walking (typically 3-4 miles).

Bring water and a snack for the trail. We'll plan to finish by around 1:00 pm.

Directions: Turn west from River Rd S onto Minto Island Rd.

Sunday, May 19 – Ankeny NWR (also Sun June 9 and Wed July 10)
Leaders: Barbara Dolan (503) 982-3204 and Tim Johnson (503) 363-8435

Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, south of Salem, is a spectacular birding spot in spring, with waterfowl, raptors and woodland birds all vying for our

attention. **Meet at the overlook at the northeast corner of the refuge at 8:00 am.** Bring comfortable footwear as we'll be doing a good deal of walking (typically 3-4 miles). Also, bring water and a snack for the trail, and we'll plan to be done by around 1:00 pm.

Directions: The overlook is on Ankeny Hill Rd, about 1/4 mile south of the intersection with Buena Vista and Liberty Road. Take I-5 south to the Ankeny Hill exit, turn right, and follow Ankeny Hill Road a couple miles to the overlook, which is on your left. Or take Liberty Road south to its junction with Ankeny Hill Road, turn left, and proceed about 1/4 mile to the overlook, on your right.

Continued on page 5



Field Trips continued

Thursday, July 18 thru Sunday, July 21 – Summer Lake

Leader: Glen Lindeman (503) 364-6968

July marks the peak of shorebird migration in Oregon, and one of the best places to observe the spectacle is at the Summer Lake Wildlife Area in central Oregon. But it's not just the shorebirds; there is a wide variety of habitats to explore, and many different birds to discover. There are camping facilities in the area, as well as a couple of motels. If you're interested in this trip, or for more information, contact Glen Lindeman.

Friday Aug 23 thru Sunday Aug 25 – 27th Annual Oregon Shorebird Festival

Coordinator: Glen Lindeman (503) 364-6968

The Oregon Shorebird Festival's 27th year will include a full weekend of activities planned for birders of all skill levels. The festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, OR. Activities include expertly guided land based field trips to Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, New River and the Coos Bay area. There is a pelagic trip on Saturday for those who want to experience birding on the water.

The Oregon Shorebird Festival usually attracts between 60 to 100 birders from all over the nation but primarily from the Pacific Northwest. The Festival is small when compared to other wildlife festivals across the nation. We like it this way as it keeps the festival intimate so visitors are able to

interact more closely with field trip leaders, guest speakers and other festival attendees. Join us for days filled with shorebirds and evenings with good conversation and great presentations.

The title of the Friday presentation is "Hawks". Hawks have captured our imaginations in ways that few other bird groups do. Easily seen, they push our primal poetic buttons. In this program, Dick Ashford will examine the natural history of these fascinating creatures, including hunting behavior, courtship, and adaptations for survival. This talk is for those who are interested in learning more about the natural world of hawks, eagles and falcons. At the end of your time together, you'll be a certified raptor enthusiast!

Dick is Board President of the Klamath Bird Observatory, a Board Member of the American Birding Association, and a former Mayor of Sonoma, CA. He has spent hundreds of hours in the field watching hawks and an equal amount of time researching their natural history. He leads hawk-watching outings in both California and Oregon and is a frequent speaker at bird clubs and birding festivals.

If you are interested in attending the festival, or just want more information, check out their web page at: <http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm>

Contact Glen for information on car-pooling to the festival.

Preventing Birds from Striking Windows

by Stephanie Hazen

Since moving to a rural location near Salem, Oregon, bird feeding has become our hobby. Sadly, this hobby has been responsible for the deaths of too many birds that fly into our highly reflective windows. Even birds that appear to survive the window strike are weakened and susceptible to delayed mortality due to predation, concussion, or inability to effectively forage.

According to the American Bird Conservancy, somewhere between 300 million and 1 billion birds

die each year from collisions involving glass in buildings from skyscrapers to homes.

Continued on page 6

The reduced window glare due to the window screen helps prevent birds from striking this window

(Stephanie Hazen)



Preventing Birds from Striking Windows continued

We tried moving the feeders farther from the house, closer to the house, and finally we ceased feeding for a time. We hung surveyor's tape streamers over the windows, pasted raptor silhouettes on the glass, kept the venetian blinds closed, turned on and off the interior lights. Nothing worked.

My husband finally settled on what seems to be a perfect solution. Using his wood shop he constructed lightweight wooden frames that hold loosely stretched window screen sized to the windows they are designed to cover. These screened frames hang loosely from hooks attached to the soffit above the windows. They are attached to the house in no other way. They do not seem to bang against the house in the wind. If they do, we can apply insulation foam tape to the inside bottom of the frame, or apply another hook and eye to the bottom to firmly attach them to the house, or simply remove them. Having easily removable screen frames simplifies window cleaning.

Because the screens dull the glare, and are visible as a separate entity, far fewer birds try to fly through the window space. If a bird does strike the window, two things help soften the blow. The screen is loosely stretched, and the whole frame gives way a bit, due to the fact it is held away from the house.

Since applying these loose screens to all our windows, we have stopped finding dead birds or their telltale feather-smushed areas on the windows or screens, and no longer hear the resounding thump of birds hitting the house, or other evidence of bird strikes.

The view from inside the house to the yard is not so diminished as to interfere with our enjoyment of watching birds at the feeders.

For a complete discussion of this topic, visit the American Bird Conservancy's web page relating to this topic.

<http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/glass.html>



Birds fly into windows because the reflection is so realistic and it does not seem like a solid barrier

Clockwise from left

This photo is of a sliding glass door – I am on the outside taking a photo of the reflection of me and the back yard

This is a photo of me taking a picture of a window that is screened

This screen hangs free on hooks in front of the highly reflective window

The screen is not attached to the house in any other way except via hooks hanging from the soffit

The screen is not stretched tight into the frame; if a bird strikes the screen, there is flexibility allowing the bird to rebound with less injury

The screen is attached to hooks that hang from the soffit

Center

The screen is attached to hooks that hang from the soffit

Birder's Night continued

Stephanie's first trip to Malheur was led by Jerry Smith, one of the founders of Salem Audubon. "The year we went to Malheur was the year of the great floods, and the birds were just everywhere," said Stephanie. "From that time on, I was hooked and have migrated back to Malheur yearly, just like the birds do."

Stephanie will be showing photos of Oregon birds taken close to home and will be happy to answer questions about photography should folks want more information. Her interest in photography goes back to high school. She currently uses an "all in one" bridge camera, the Panasonic FZ200.

Jenna Beilby, one of our youngest active members, enjoys birding at the Oregon coast. Some of her photos were taken at Newport. Jenna, who is now 15, became interested in birds through a science class she took at George Fox College. She has been birding about 3 years. She uses a Nikon point-and-shoot camera and a slightly larger Panasonic compact.

Birder's Night, an informal sharing of observations, questions and a program on some aspect of birding, meets at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month, September through May, held at Willamette University's Cat Cavern. Admission is open to the public and free.

Birder's Night is co-sponsored by Willamette's Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society led by Dr. David Craig of the biology department. For more information, contact Salem Audubon Society at (503)-588-7340.



Cackling Goose
(*Canada Goose subspecies*)
Frank Kolwicz

Remember the New Location: Cat Cavern is on the 2nd floor of Willamette University's Putnam University Center. Parking is free and open to the public during the evening hours in the parking lot off Bellevue Street. On entering the campus from the parking lot, with Hatfield Library on the right, go in the opposite direction to Putnam, which is the first building to the left. The WU website has a map of the university at:

<http://www.willamette.edu/about/visit/pdf/CLA%20map.pdf>

Field Notes *by Denise Cedar*

Barbara Roizen has reported sightings of several birds to include a Blacked-capped Chickadee, which was above her head making quite a raucous as she filled the suet feeder, and she saw a Great Blue Heron on the big pond on her property. On March 24, Rufus Hummingbirds finally returned to enjoy her hummingbird feeders. She also reported a pair of Starlings going in and out of the dryer exhaust located at the back of her home, but placed a screen over the pipe, which quickly stopped their efforts. Pine Siskins are enjoying her nyjer feeder, with at least 30 hanging around her deck at one point; Barbara hasn't seen so many at her place at one time!

A pair of huge Mallards was on her large pond, having to quietly sneak down the hill to make sure what she saw! A Scrub Jay has also started to bang on a large window located on the side of her house; she imagines that they are enjoying bugs as they do every year. She also saw a pair of House Finches in the Magnolia tree by her kitchen window and a Purple Finch on her deck. A very plump Robin and three Juncos were enjoying bathing collectively in the small pond.

Mason Bees are out early and Honey Bees are alive and busy.

Needless to say, the birds and insects are quite active at Barbara's place.

William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge

Open House at the Refuge – Saturday, May 11 from 10:00A to 3:00P

At the Open House you can visit stations across the refuge while learning about how refuges are conserved; you can tour historic buildings; watch live demonstrations of horse logging and learn wildlife photography techniques from the experts! You can take an exclusive behind the scenes tour, but places are limited, so call the refuge for details at (541) 757-7236.

26208 Finley Refuge Rd., Corvallis, Oregon 97333

Spring Is Busting Out All Over...

The Salem Audubon Refuge on Eola Street in West Salem is bursting with new growth. In place of rampant blackberry thickets, the native Snow Berries are forming their own thickets. Oregon Fawn Lilies are shyly nodding their heads along the paths. Spotted Towhees are trilling and chickadees are calling. Oregon Grape, or Mahonia aquifolium, the State Flower, is creating vivid yellow accents.

The Wednesday Crew has planted over 40 native shrubs, and the tiny Red Flowering Currants burst into bloom as soon as they were in the ground. Other shrubs planted include Red and Blue Elderberry, Salal, Red Osier Dogwood and other native plants with high value for wildlife. As these mature they will create a mid-story level rich in food and shelter for birds and other animals.

As usual, the Wednesday crew will be working every Wednesday from 9 to 11:00 a.m. New comers are always welcome, no background check required. Join us after for coffee and conversation at McDonalds.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with watering the new plants during the summer. Lee will be creating a schedule and this can be done on your own time. We hope to work out a summer schedule in which no one person will need to work for more than a few weeks.

For more information or to volunteer, call Lee Slattum (503) 364-9325.

Left to right – the Rare Giant Purple Trillium, Mahonia (Oregon Grape), Oregon Fawn Lilies, and the Red Flowering Currant



Chapter Meeting – Tuesday, May 21st

Joel Geier, "Native Plants, Native Birds and Community Landscapes"

The Willamette Valley has seen enormous changes in landscape in the past 160 years and even more so in the past 70 years since World War II. Once-familiar yard birds like Chipping Sparrows have practically disappeared, along with Oregon's state bird, the Western Meadowlark, which was nominated by school children who considered it to be one of the most familiar birds that they heard while walking to rural schools. Western Bluebirds have been making a comeback thanks to "bluebird trails" devotees, but their oak woodland habitat is still severely diminished. Our western subspecies of the White-breasted Nuthatch, the "Slender-billed" Nuthatch, is now extirpated in Washington and declining here in Oregon. Our endemic Streaked Horned Larks, closely linked to open grassland habitats, have recently been proposed as a federal threatened species under the Endangered Species Act by the USF&WS.

Continued on page 9



Joel Geier

Chapter Meeting continued

In this talk, we'll look at the historical changes in bird habitat that have created this crisis for oak woodland and grassland birds, and suggest ways that you can help – even at risk of talking to your neighbors! Landscape scale is critical for our most imperiled species, so we'll also talk about how to advocate for oak woodland/savanna habitat in your neighborhood, beyond the scale that you can manage on your own. You should expect for this to be a provocative talk, but laced with a bit of humor, plus ideas for building local community around these goals.

Joel grew up baling hay, shoveling manure, and hosing out the milking parlor on a Minnesota dairy farm, with brief vacations from farm chores in Pasadena, St. Louis, and finally college in Berkeley, not to mention his more laid-back high school years on a Minnesota grain farm. He now works as a hydro-geologist, specializing in the question of how hazardous chemicals dissolved in groundwater can find their way through faults and smaller cracks in the bedrock. This career has taken him to Manitoba, Sweden, Finland, England and France, with side trips across Siberia, Kenya, and Spain. However his enduring passion, ever since encountering a patch of virgin prairie on the family farm in southern Minnesota -- and with encouragement from a remarkable high school biology teacher, Rollie Johnson -- has been grassland ecology. Joel still does groundwater consulting to pay the bills, but in May and June you can find him out looking for nesting Meadowlarks, Horned Larks, Vesper Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows in our remnant grassland habitats around the Willamette and Umpqua Valleys. The rest of the year you might well find him in muck boots, working on any of several favorite restoration sites in the mid-valley, especially Luckiamute State Natural Area near Albany. His life partner Becky, and two of their three kids, are now familiar with the routine of breeding bird surveys that start at 4 AM. Their middle kid has wisely avoided feigning any interest in the concept.

Salem Audubon Society's Chapter Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, September through May, at 6:30 p.m., with programs starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room in the Salem Public Library in downtown Salem. Admission is open to the public and free.

Right – A close-up of Joel's front-yard prairie restoration with their neighbor's house and SUV in the background, illustrative of what people can do in a residential setting. The noticeable plants and wildflowers include prairie junegrass, yarrow, Oregon sunshine, slender cinquefoil, meadow checker mallow, blue wild rye, and Roemer's fescue. A non-native pie cherry tree (pruned to function somewhat like an oak) and a native blue elderberry are the main visible trees (photo courtesy of Joel Geier).



Left – A picture from the Umpqua Valley grasslands, which illustrates some of the best remaining habitat for Oregon vesper sparrow and grasshopper sparrow in western Oregon (photo courtesy of Joel Geier).

May is for Colorful Birds and Song in Our Yards

by Barbara Dolan

As we move to May the neo-tropicals arrive with plumages drenched with color. They have nothing drab about them including their song. Feather color can be due to pigment or to elements of feather structure. Though the vireos and flycatchers and females in species may be drab, a birder with an eye for neutrals may contest. The purpose here is to predict and lead our senses in seeing and hearing. Using data of spring migrant/arrival dates in eBird, and Audubon's North American Bird Feeding Guide, and the Birds of Oregon, Birds of Oregon, A General Reference Guide (2006), and Willamette guides and checklists, we can correlate what to look for in nesting pairs; what species are expected to be dimorphic vs. gender look-alike; the habitat/plant/food preference; and the songs we are destined to hear.

Male Warblers bring melodious repetitive songs for us to learn; Yellow with *so sweet* at the end;



Yellow Warbler, Malheur NWR
Jim Leonard

Wilson's sounding rushed; Common Yellowthroat with their witchety; McGillivray's with a buzzy sweeter from brushy parks and

hillside re-growth; and song of Hermit and Black-throated Gray with *buzzy musical* notes.

Male Black-headed Grosbeaks station themselves in neighborhoods and parks to sing *strong songs* from nests to maintain territory.

Male Lazuli Bunting perch on shorter trees and the edges giving melody to announce a territory with expected nesting below.

Western Bluebirds announce *cheer cheer* notes from their boxes or overhead wires and call in flight with low *chippy* notes.

Orioles fill the trees with *scolding breaths*, and melodious *whistle* calls.

The *trilling* species include Spotted Towhee with rich trills at breeding time, Dark-eyed Junco with *jingling* trills, Orange-crowned Warbler-with a trill that mostly trails at the end, and Chipping Sparrows with dry unvarying *trills*, each can challenge our sense of sound distinction.

Finches, including American Goldfinches and their *potato chip sound*; Lesser, with plaintive and mimicker calls; House, with pleasant long warbling; Purple, with a hurrying cascade; Red Crossbills,



Purple Finch
Jim Leonard

with *gip gip* or *kyip kyip* calls

mostly in 'two notes'; joined by

Pine Siskin and their *twittering* fill the spring air.

If you are fortunate to have a Western Tanager come to your trees and announce *prididit*, or a *ghri-ipp rattle*, take the time to compare its robin-like song-a little, hoarse and a little shorter-with our *caroling* American Robins.

Add in the cheerful developing song of resident birds of winter: Blackbirds species from ponds; the close family species of Western Meadowlarks; nasal and piping nuthatches; drumming and calling woodpeckers (incl. Red-breasted Sapsuckers); the high notes of kinglets, Brown Creepers; flyovers of Osprey, hoarse and loud female Mallards, occasional hawks, shorebirds, like Killdeer, and Greater Yellowlegs on their way north, you now have a symphony.

The song of neo-tropicals is vibrant through summer, but it will wane. It becomes less vibrant over time before migration south. Some song notes will be dropped and can become less recognizable and even disappear. But remember during this short period of enjoyment the next generation is learning.

WELCOME!

New Members

Pam & Tom Wetzel
 Barbara Blankenship
 Nancy Ferrell
 Trude McMillin
 Steve Moe

Calling all Birdwatchers!

Please report your bird sightings to Denise Cedar by emailing her at

cedarpope@gmail.com.

Remember – we need to hear from you to continue this favorite article and Denise, our trusty Field Notes editor, is waiting to hear from you!



Salem Audubon Society's website has a list of upcoming SAS field trips, meetings, classes and other events. Check it out at

www.salemaudubon.org

Reminder!

**Friends of Straub
 Environmental Learning Center**

Go to www.fselc.org and check out the many excellent learning opportunities at the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center.

SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Board of Directors
 2012-2013**

Michael Babbitt, President
 Jonathan Pope, Secretary
 Judy Brunkal
 Carolyn Homan
 Tim Johnson
 Lowell Spring
 Ray Temple, Treasurer

Committees & Special Projects Chairs

Beginning Birding Class <i>Wes Craven</i>	Field Notes <i>Denise Cedar</i>
Birders Night <i>Eugenia Becker</i>	Education Coordinator <i>Lowell Spring</i>
Chapter Meetings <i>Stephanie Hazen</i>	Nature Reserve <i>Don Christensen</i>
Field Trips <i>Glen Lindeman</i>	SAS Shop <i>Chet Zenone</i>
Bluebird Project <i>Pat Gallagher</i>	May Bird-a-thon <i>Tim Johnson</i>
Conservation <i>David Harrison</i>	Kestrel Editor <i>Melissa Young</i>

Office Information

Laurie Buswell, Administrator
 Office hours by appointment
 Monday-Thursday, 10:00A–3:00P
 189 Liberty Street NE, Suite 202
 Salem, Oregon 97301
 (503) 588-7340
 email: laurie@salemaudubon.org
 web site: www.salemaudubon.org

Bird & wildlife emergency contact:

Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center
 (503) 540-8664

Salem Audubon Society

189 Liberty St. NE, #202
Salem, OR 97301
503.588.7340
www.salemaudubon.org

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salem, Oregon
Permit #165

Connecting people with birds + nature

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRIPS



Mark your
calendars!

Thursday, May 2 and May 9

Beginning Birding Classes

May 11-12

Silver Falls State Park/Mother's Day
Birding and Wildlife Festival

Tuesday, May 14

Birder's Night

Wednesday, May 15

Bird-a-Thon/Minto Brown

Sunday, May 19

Bird-a-thon/Ankeny NWR

May 19-22

Bird-a-thon/Malheur NWR trip (full)

Tuesday, May 21

Chapter Meeting

Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

_____ \$ 35 Individual
_____ \$ 50 Family
_____ \$ 100 Contributor
_____ \$ 250 Supporter
_____ \$ 500 Patron
_____ \$1,000 Benefactor

Mail to:

SAS
189 Liberty St. NE, Ste 202
Salem, OR 97301