



Salem Audubon Society

The Kestrel

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June 2018

Volume 51, No. 10



President's Message – Ray Temple

Not exactly the view from Sapsucker Woods, but....

Spring continues to spring, with summer on the way, maybe even here by the time you read this. It's been a busy time at our house as all the projects that I put in the "do in the Spring" mental box have come due. One of those has been expanding the capacity of our irrigation system

and its drip line components to accommodate new plantings and different needs (plan, buy supplies, change plans, plumb, need more parts, go to town...repeat frequently). Expanded milkweed plantings, a new pollinator hedgerow, and transitioning the garden toward no-till, all present watering challenges aided by several electronic timers that have elected to do something other than what I program them to do.

When that's all in-hand a bit more, I need to build two microscope cases for the scopes we bought this spring and to complete the dining table that I started two new shoulders ago. And there is this nature center project that I occasionally dabble in.

Amidst all that, this is an amazing time of year to just set aside those things that are demanding time and enjoy nature unfolding new generations all around us. Last year a pair of flickers raised a brood in a box on the edge of our riparian woods just in front of the house. This year a pair seems to have moved in, but they must be doing extensive renovations inside. We hear drumming from inside the box day after day, to what end I don't know yet.

After feeding as many as 17 bluebirds all winter, we have none nesting at our house. This is the first time in several years to not have at least an attempted nesting. They appear to have found better diggings' elsewhere in the neighborhood. Even on a nearby farm where we monitor 23 bluebird boxes, there are only two broods so far. And the Tree Swallows at home are just now getting serious about nesting but only in two of our several swallow boxes. And the native bumblebees are late in emerging as well.

For the past six winters we have hosted a Western Screech-Owl (generically named "Fred"; likely a succession of Freds or Frederickas) and at least two broods of owlets have been fledged there. This year Fred returned in winter but did not stay in our box consistently. As Spring unfolded we found him in a woodpecker hole in a snag and assumed that to be a nest location. However, for weeks we have been treated to Fred's calls through the nights, presumably looking for a

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President's Message

mate. Answering calls are few and not particularly enthusiastic it would seem. In addition to the typical tremolo call, there has also been one composed of a long series of single calls, constant in pitch and cadence repeated many times.

For the first time ever, we also have a pair of Wilson's Warblers who look like they might be interested in nesting. They have been around for more than a week, first imaged on the trail camera that was set to capture brush rabbits, then actively foraging in the riparian corridor and a brushy fence row. Time will tell, I guess.

All these birds and many more are welcome distractions from being responsible. I encourage all of you to stop and let nature flow around you. It's good for mind and body.

My email "door" is always open. If you have any comments on this topic or comments or questions about Salem Audubon, the Board of Directors, or any of our programs, please contact me at dg1065@gmail.com. I will answer you.

2018 Bird Identification Workshops

In 2018, Salem Audubon Society will be offering six workshops on identifying local birds and bird biology. Five of the six workshops will be on new topics while the most popular workshop on Raptor ID will be repeated. The workshops are held on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon. The cost of each workshop is \$10.00 per person with all proceeds going to Salem Audubon to support conservation and other related activities. Mike Unger is the instructor for the workshops. Check future Kestrels for further information on each workshop.

2018 workshops:

- July 28 – Flight and Feathers (see page 5)
- October 6 – Owls of the Pacific Northwest

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, and 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 carpooling to try to reduce our impact on the environment, with riders helping to cover the cost of driving. If you have a suggestion for field trips or have any questions, contact Glen Lindeman at (503) 930-1492 or gdalindy@msn.com.

SAS-SHORTS are abbreviated versions of our popular field trips. These trips are in the local area, typically last one to one and a half hours, and cover no more than a mile of walking. They are primarily designed for new birders, although everyone is welcome. Due to the short duration of SAS-SHORTS, please arrive before the start time. The outings will begin at precisely the advertised start time. Refer to the outing descriptions below for specifics.

Many of our field trips meet at the **Airport Road Park and Ride** because the parking lot we have used for years near the now closed Kmart is no longer available. *The park and ride is located on the east side of Airport Road, between Mission and State Streets, next to the DMV Motor Pool and just south of the bridge over Mill Creek. To reach the park and ride from the former lot, go east on Mission Street to Airport Road (the first stoplight east of 25th Street) and turn left. Follow Airport Road north 1 block to the park and ride.* Note that there are no restrooms at this site.

See page 3 for the Field Trips schedule.

Field Trips

Sunday, June 10, 7:00 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park

(Upcoming – Thursday, July 5 and Sunday, August 5, both at 7:00 AM)

Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Fred Stephens (503) 378-1364, and Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

Spring has brought forth vocal sounds from birds as they migrated into the valley, landing here for nesting activity. Wood Ducks have been calling, allowing us to follow and count at least nine nesting pairs in the waterways of the park. We have followed the paths to Eola Park, through the woodland stands and the fields of restorative plantings, seeking warbler species with good results. Though summer is not quite here at this early date, it is for birds, delivering their dawn songs, demonstrating their social and territorial behaviors and seeking nest materials and food sources, anticipating feeding their young. We will choose a route loop and seek nesting birds in all locations amidst the varied habitat, including trees with cavities, grassland, shrubs and nearness to water.

Meet at 7:00 AM at parking lot #3 (the last parking lot in the park). Dress for the weather and bring snacks and water to keep energized. Wear appropriate footwear and plan for considerable walking. We will plan to finish by 11:00 AM

Directions: From River Road South, turn west at the signal at Minto Island Road and proceed to the last parking lot.

Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

(Upcoming – Saturday, July 21, and Tuesday, August 21, both at 7:00 AM)

Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Fred Stephens (503) 378-1364, and Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

Ankeny refuge is a spectacular birding spot in summer due to the availability of water in back ponds, ditches and fields. This is the home of returning and nesting American Bitterns, Green Herons and Pied-billed Grebes. Soras and Virginia Rails will also nest here. Other shorebird migrants can surprise us. The interior is open, and we will walk at least one of those loops. Pullouts are valued for hedgerows, ditches and thick

shrubs, and wet grassy brush areas are productive for songbirds, flycatchers, and Marsh Wrens with their persistent calls and show as they build their nests. Oak stands, snags, and woodland areas can yield nesting raptors, grosbeaks, vireos, flycatchers, warblers, woodpeckers and swallows. Join us in this refuge of rich diversity.

Meet at the Eagle Marsh parking lot at 7:00 AM. Dress for the weather, bring snacks, water and plan to carpool. We will plan to finish by 11:00 AM. Note there is a portable ADA restroom available at Pintail Marsh.

Note: The Ankeny Hill Overlook will be closed on June 18th to start construction of the Nature Center’s infrastructure.

If the Overlook’s parking lot is closed, follow Buena Vista Road a mile west from the Liberty-Ankeny Road intersection to the Eagle Marsh parking area.

Directions: From Salem, take I-5 south to Ankeny Hill (Exit 243). Follow Ankeny Hill Road west and turn left at the intersection of Ankeny Hill Road and Liberty Road South. Continue about one mile to the west on Buena Vista Road, and Eagle Marsh will be on your left. Alternatively, take Liberty Road South to its junction with Ankeny Hill Road, continue straight on Buena Vista Road for about one mile and Eagle Marsh will be on your left.



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Notes

SAS SHORTS

Tuesday, June 26, 9:00 AM – Keizer Rapids Park

Leader: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998

Keizer Rapids Park in Keizer is a local, undiscovered gem for birding enthusiasts. The park has a variety of habitats that attracts a wide variety of birds including sparrows, finches and towhees, but many other birds can be found here including waterfowl, raptors, woodpeckers, warblers and creepers. Swallows, ospreys, kingfishers and an occasional eagle can be seen near the river.

Meet at 9:00 AM at the far parking lot at the end of the road leading to the boat ramp.

Directions: From Salem take River Road North, turn left onto Chemawa Road North, turn left onto Walsh Way North and proceed to the parking lot at the at the end of road near the boat ramp.

Wednesday, July 25, 6:30 PM *and* Thursday, August 16, 6:00 PM – Minto-Brown Island Park

Leader: Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

These late afternoon, nearing dusk, SHORT walks will be with the goal of seeing residents and migrants during the end-of-the-day feeding time, especially near the river. We hope to hear and see Common Nighthawks

and that use the summer insect hatchings. We may also see other passerines on the walk to the river, and water species such as Osprey, Spotted Sandpipers, herons, and mergansers. We will finish by 8:00 PM.

Directions: See prior description for the Minto-Brown Island Park field trip (on page 7).

Birds and Wine Event at Cherry Hill Winery – Friday, June 22, 2018

This spring, Salem Audubon Society's Bird and Wine event will combine one of the best birding hot spots in the Willamette Valley with one of the best wineries in the Eola-Amity Hills wine growing area.

We will begin the morning at Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge with a bird walk on the Rich Guadagno Memorial Loop Trail. The trail takes us up a moderate climb to the top of Baskett Butte, and then through a mix coniferous forest that includes Oregon White Oaks. In the spring this trail is a great place to find migratory songbirds.

As we climb the butte, we will be looking for meadowlarks, bluebirds and buntings, as well as the Fender's Blue Butterfly (right), a butterfly once believed extinct that was rediscovered here at the refuge. In the forest section of the trail we will be listening for flycatchers, kinglets, nuthatches, tanagers and warblers, among other migrants and local breeders.

Wine tasting and lunch will be held at the nearby Cherry Hill Winery (www.cherryhillwinery.com), a world class winery and vineyard. It uses sustainable growing practices and is LIVE and Salmon Safe Certified. The winery is in the Eola Hills with a picturesque view of the vineyard, the valley and the coastal range. While at the winery, we will have lunch, a wine tasting, a tour of the winemaking facility and an opportunity to walk a nature trail through a stand of Oregon White Oaks on the winery property.

Fee: \$50 per person (includes lunch, wine tasting and a contribution to Salem Audubon Society)

Attendance is limited. To make reservations or ask questions, contact our chapter treasurer Tim Johnson at (503) 507-8552 or tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com.



Bird Walks at Illahe Hills Country Club

Monday, June 25 and Monday, July 23, 2018, 8:00 – 11:00 AM

3376 Country Club Drive S, Salem, Oregon 97302

Please join Stephanie Hazen as she meets Kassi Roosth, the groundskeeper who is leading Illahe through a one to three-year process to obtain certification from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. This program helps golf courses enrich the natural areas and habitats that golf course provide by environmental planning, water conservation and quality management, wildlife and habitat management, and reducing the use of harmful chemicals.

Meet at the clubhouse, where we'll gather to explore and look for birds that call Illahe their home. For directions, please visit <http://www.illahehills.com/About-Us/Directions.aspx>. If you miss the bird walk on Monday, June 25, please be sure to join us on Monday, July 23.

Please contact Stephanie Hazen at stephaniehazen17@gmail.com with questions.

To learn more about the International Audubon's Cooperative Sanctuary certification program, please visit auduboninternational.org/acspgolf.

Oregon Birds: See, Learn, and Share – Flight and Feathers

Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem

In this workshop we will take an in-depth look into avian feathers and flight. We will discuss feather structure, evolution, development, and replacement. You'll learn how feathers achieve the vivid colors and patterns we enjoy in birds. We will also discuss one of nature's wonders, the flight of birds which is an amazing physiological feat. You will learn about the how and why of bird flight, and how to use observation of flight patterns as an identification aid. We will delve into the complexities of skeletal structure, and anatomy, as well as flight behaviors.

Cost \$10 per person. Reservations requested. Please call Salem Audubon at (503) 588-7340. Leave your name and telephone number and state that you wish to attend the workshop on flight and feathers or email Salem Audubon at laurie@salemaudubon.org.

For more information, call Mike Unger at (503) 930-8998

Audubon Reserve Work Parties Every Wednesday from 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Attack invasives and help keep our Reserve looking great!

Water and weed new native plantings.

BYO work gloves; tools provided or bring your favorites.

FREE! No background check required! On-the-job training!
Possibilities for advancement!

Coffee and conversation at McDonalds after.

Call Lee Slattum at (503) 364-9325 with questions.

Audubon Nature Reserve

Eola Drive, off Edgewater, in West Salem

See <http://www.salemaudubon.org/salem-audubon-nature-reserve.html>

Visit our Facebook Page at

<https://www.facebook.com/Audubon-Nature-Reserve-1636890073202471/>

www.salemaudubon.org



Robin parent with lots of protein for its young. A robin was seen feeding its offspring in the "canyon" in early May. (Photo by Jim Scott)

Salem Audubon Annual Financial Report (April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018)

– *Tim Johnson, Treasurer*

For its relatively small size, Salem Audubon Society is a very active chapter with organized activities occurring every week of the year. These activities include weekly field trips and monthly speaker meetings that are open to the public, nature-oriented classes delivered to local schools, ongoing restoration work at the Audubon Nature Reserve in West Salem, a woodshop that produces many hundreds of nest boxes each year, a monthly newsletter with timely articles on conservation topics and chapter activities, a popular Facebook page, and coordination of the Salem Christmas Bird Count. Among many other things, Salem Audubon Board of Directors has been busy for the past couple of years creating a new Nature Center at Ankeny National Wildlife. The Nature Center will likely be open by this time next year. I've probably left out some other important chapter activities. What never ceases to amaze me is that these activities are organized by volunteers. Nearly all members are involved in one way or another as volunteers in chapter activities.

Despite the large role that volunteers play in running Salem Audubon Society, we still have some expenses that must be paid. Below is a summary of these annual expenses.

Annual Expenses

Administration	
Bank Fees	\$ 171
Insurance	\$ 6,366
Postage	\$ 302
Printing and Publications	\$ 859
Technical: web hosting, software subscriptions	\$ 102
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,791
Other Administration Costs	\$ 319
Education Traveling Education and Workshops	\$ 1,491
Fundraising, Sales, Events	\$ 3,061
Kestrel (printing and mailing)	\$ 2,241
Meetings	\$ 630
Nature Center	\$ 207
Nature Reserve (utilities, repairs, supplies)	\$ 697
Personnel Expenses (wages, taxes, insurance)	\$19,207
Professional Expenses (accounting, legal, consulting)	\$ 4,930
Rent (office, storage unit)	\$ 5,329
Wood Shop (materials, a new saw purchased in 2018)	\$ 2,255
Total Annual Expenses	<u>\$49,958</u>

During the past year, we covered these expenses using the following income sources:

Annual Income

Contributions, Fundraising, Sales	\$25,420
Education Traveling Education Program and Oregon Birds Workshops	\$ 4,787
Meetings Donations	\$ 456
Membership Fees	\$10,480
Oregon Community Fund Endowment Payouts	\$ 3,045
Withdraw from savings account	\$ 5,770
Total Annual Income	<u>\$49,958</u>

We only draw from chapter savings when necessary to make ends meet. Most of our income comes from the generous support of our members, either through membership fees or from fundraisers and appeal letters. Thanks to all of you for your support.

SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

Board of Directors 2017-2018

Ray Temple, President
 Carolyn Homan, Secretary
 Tim Johnson, Treasurer
 Michael Babbitt
 Judy Brunkal
 Doug Spencer
 Lowell Spring
 Maureen Leong-Kee

Committees & Special Projects Chairs

Beginning Birding Class <i>Maureen Leong-Kee</i>	Education Coordinator Lowell Spring
Birder's Night <i>Eugenia Becker</i>	Field Trips Glen Lindeman
Birding Workshops Mike Unger	Kestrel Editor <i>Melissa Young</i>
Bluebird Project Pat Gallagher	May Birdathon <i>Tim Johnson</i>
Christmas Bird Count <i>Tim Johnson</i> <i>Barbara Dolan</i>	Nature Reserve <i>Lee Slattum</i>
Conservation David Harrison	SAS Woodshop <i>Chet Zenone</i>

Office Information

Laurie Buswell, Administrator
 Office hours by appointment only
 Monday-Thursday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 338 Hawthorne Ave NE
 Salem, OR 97301
 (503) 588-7340

email: laurie@salemaudubon.org
 Website: www.salemaudubon.org

Bird & wildlife emergency contact:

Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center
 (503) 540-8664
www.turtleridgewildlifecenter.org

Upcoming Events for 2018

June 2018

[Dean Hale Woodpecker
Festival](#)
 Sisters, OR

July 2018

Summer Lake field trip

August/September

[Shorebird Festival, Charleston](#)

Visit **Salem Audubon's Facebook page**
 for great photos and links to articles:

www.facebook.com/SalemAudubonSociety

Be sure to  Like us!

Visit the **Straub Environmental Center** at
www.straubcenter.org for information about their
 Environmental Lecture Series, Northwest Naturalists
 Classes, and more!

Salem Audubon 's Birder's Night ...

is on hiatus June through August. Please join SAS this
 September when Birder's Night returns. See the July-
 August Kestrel for details.

Visit the Golden Eagle Cam, maintained by the East
 Cascades Audubon Society
<http://www.goldeneaglecam.com/>

View the Dean Margie Paris Osprey Cam, located on the
 University of Oregon's Knight Law Center
<https://law.uoregon.edu/explore/osprey>



Below, clockwise from center – Common Murres; Brown Pelicans; Pelagic Cormorant sits on its nest; a Brandt's Cormorant does its mating display; and a Pigeon Guillemont Photographed from Yaquina Head Lighthouse, Newport, Oregon on May 14 by Jim Leonard of Salem



Salem Audubon Society

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Connecting people with birds + nature

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRIPS



Mark your
calendar!

Field Trips

June 10, 7:00 AM

Minto-Brown Island Park

June 19, 7:00 AM

Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

June 26, 9:00 AM (SAS Short)

Keizer Rapids Park

Other Events

June 22, Birds & Wine

Cherry Hill Winery

June 25, 8:00 AM-11:00 AM

Bird Walk at Illahe Hills Country Club

July 28, 10:00 AM-12:00 N

Oregon Birds: See, Learn & Share—
Flight & Feathers

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Birder's Night resumes in September

Membership Form

Name

Address

Email*

**Required for E-Kestrel Membership*

Individual Membership

\$43 Print Edition

\$35 E-Kestrel Edition

Family Membership

\$58 Print Edition

\$50 E-Kestrel Edition

Annual memberships renew February 1

**Mail to: Salem Audubon Society
338 Hawthorne Ave NE
Salem OR 97301**