



# Salem Audubon Society

## The Kestrel

[www.salemaudubon.org](http://www.salemaudubon.org)

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September 2018

Volume 52, No. 1

### President's Message

by Ray Temple

"That's a brown-headed cowbird. We don't like them much". This summer on a bird walk I heard a serious birder make that remark to a novice. The implicit value judgment set me to thinking about the seemingly more common applications of societally-based assignments of "goodness" or "badness" to wild animal behaviors and ecological relationships. Even the "Nature" television series has gone to describing animal behaviors in human-centered terms. This approach introduces irrelevant and simplistic diversions that mask the truly wondrous life histories and behaviors that play out around us every day. Brown-headed cowbirds are nest parasites. They lay their eggs in the nests of other songbirds, leaving incubation and chick-rearing to the birds who own the nest. Often, the cowbird chicks prosper in relation to the hosts' chicks due to a size advantage. Is that reason to "not like them much"? How about hawks, falcons, and eagles? They kill all manner of birds and other animals, yet we admire and revere them.

Everybody must eat and reproduce their species. All life is bound together through ecological webs that define roles and relationships. These webs are enormously complicated, with individual species carving out roles that let them prosper in the face of many-faceted competition for resources, while also being part of other species' food chains. Life history adaptations and their resulting habitat requirements create niches for each species to occupy, making possible the enormous diversity of life around us. As birders, we should stop to appreciate what that means for us. Thinking only of birds in our area, Salem Audubon's local bird checklist contains 191 entries representing 191 tweaks on making a living.

Seeing the world around us through the lens of our own values is something that only we humans may be able to do, and we do it readily. Unfortunately, taking an anthropocentric view, consciously or otherwise, masks the wonder, complexity, and interconnectedness of the life around us. It's a jungle out there, but one that operates under natural

processes that have no correspondence to what any human culture may regard as good or bad.

Our mission of connecting people with nature is founded on the assumption that folks who enjoy the natural world will, in ways large or small, help sustain it. The "connection" that we seek in our outreach is to show them the wonder and help them discover enough of the complexity to seed their own inquiries. It's a connection best delivered with a focus on a nature that is seen for its diversity, not for conformance with what we think are appropriate behaviors.

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](mailto:dg1065@gmail.com). I will answer you.

## Birder's Night – Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM

The Carrier Room - First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem

Seeing a Bird through the Eyes of an Artist

– Jon Janosik



For our first Birder's Night of the season, we present a Willamette Valley avian treasure, bird artist Jon Janosik of Hubbard (above). Jon has devoted his entire lifetime to the study and illustration of birds and their environments. Jon will share some of his magnificent pieces with us, and he will show us how a bird's image is brought to fruition, from its structural biology to its behavior to its placement in the natural landscape. Not to be missed in Jon's larger pieces are his detailed renderings of native plants and the ecosystems which support the birds.

Jon was lucky enough as adolescent to be a rural neighbor of Roger Tory Peterson, who took him "under his wing" and started him down this path. Jon trained as a zoologist as well as an artist, and he has traveled with scientists to study and illustrate birds throughout the United States, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Hawaii and most recently Japan and the islands of the Far East. You will find his name in the credits for the shorebirds section of the National Geographic "Field Guide to North American Birds", and in "Birds of the Ligonier Valley" (Carnegie Museum), "The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding", "An Audubon Handbook, Western/Eastern Birds", and "Book of North American Birds" (Readers

Digest Books). Janosik's work has been exhibited in the British Museum in London, the Smithsonian, the Carnegie Museum, and in Japan in Moji Art Gallery, the Kobe Museum, and the Kirritappu Wetland Center. He has been featured in a segment of Oregon Public Broadcasting's Oregon Art Beat.

Jon has called Western Oregon his home for over 35 years. He deeply appreciates the access to both the mountains and the sea and loves how they provide a gateway to a "wildness" which in him evokes the sense of the "primal" or fundamental earth.

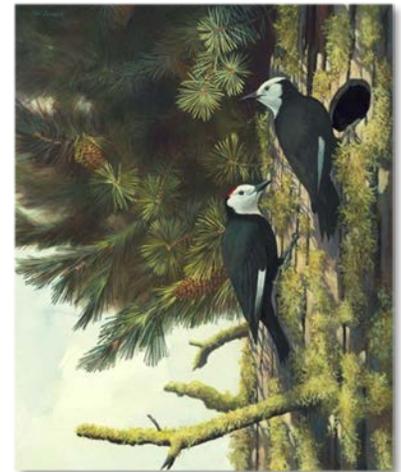
His personal goal now is to help support the lives and conservation of the birds which have supported his life. Cranes and sea birds are of particular interest. He works on their behalf in the USA and Japan. In recent months Jon has been working on illustrations of endangered species for the International Ornithological Congress 2018 session in Vancouver, British Columbia.

To see a curated gallery of Janosik's work sponsored by the Straub Environmental Center, be sure to visit "Eco Hub", a new gathering place at the Willamette Heritage Center (Tuesdays through Thursdays only; Noon to 5 pm) in Salem's Mission Mill, 1313 Mill Street SE, Thursday, August 9 – Thursday, November 29.

Salem Audubon Society Birder's Night is a monthly program presented on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May. The meetings are at the First United Methodist Church. Please enter through the office entrance at 600 State Street. Meetings are free and open to the public. Salem Audubon always appreciates donations to support its conservation, education, and stewardship programs.



*Sora*



*White-headed Woodpeckers*



*Chat*

## Oregon Birds: See, Learn, and Share – Owls of the Pacific Northwest

### Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

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

Owls have captivated the imagination of mankind for centuries, symbolizing everything from evil and death to wisdom and protection. In this workshop we dive into the classification, biology and conservation of these nocturnal birds. Can't tell a Great Horned Owl from a Long-eared Owl? This workshop will help you learn the identification of owls by sight and sound.

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 owls or email Salem Audubon at [laurie@salemaudubon.org](mailto:laurie@salemaudubon.org).

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

## Seeking a Webmaster for the Salem Audubon Society Webpage

by Tim Johnson

The Salem Audubon webpage ([www.salemaudubon.org](http://www.salemaudubon.org)) is the online face of our chapter. It includes information about upcoming activities and events, along with a variety of organizational resources.

Approximately 500 people a month go to the website to find out about upcoming field trips or meetings, for an update on the Nature Center, to explore information about local birding opportunities, to learn about our education programs, or to download the membership application form.

We are looking for someone to help keep this website up to date and accurate. This will involve a couple hours per month at the beginning of the

month. Knowledge and experience with the markup and style sheet languages HTML and CSS is useful but not necessary. The SAS website employs a website management software program (called ModX) for updating the webpage content. We can provide training on using this program.



If you are interested and would like additional information, please contact me at [tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com](mailto:tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com) or (503) 507-8552.

## Here they are!

### The Newest Salem Audubon Logo Caps

The new SAS logo caps are here, featuring SAS's Kestrel logo on a **blue or ivory background**.

You can pick one up at Birder's Night, a field trip or at the SAS office. Sorry that we can't mail the caps. We still have a few of the Khaki and Sage caps remaining.

The cap cost \$20, and the proceeds benefit Salem Audubon.



## 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](mailto: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 their short duration, 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** located on the east side of Airport Road, between Mission and State Streets, next to the State Motor Pool and just south of the bridge over Mill Creek. To reach the park and ride, follow Mission Street to Airport Road (the first stoplight east of 25<sup>th</sup> Street) and turn left. Follow Airport Road north one block to the park and ride. Note that there are no restrooms at this site.

### Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park

(Upcoming – Tuesday, October 2 and Sunday, November 4, both at the new start of 8:00 AM)

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

September is the second month of four of fall bird census and recording. It is one of the peak months of migration of neo-tropical migrants which have visited us for the summer to nest in our rich food area. Young birds, and adult birds that may be in molt after breeding, can be seen along with the park resident birds making a nice mix and challenges. We will look for plumage changes, hear song structure changes, and see a change in status of birds gathering in groups from the traditional breeding. Juvenile of raptors like Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and accipiter will be honing their hunting skills. Osprey and Turkey Vultures begin to move south. Many passerines or perching birds will be fattening up on berry and bug food choices allowing energy for takeoff to the winter grounds. We will begin to see more shorebird variety. Waterfowl in eclipse will begin plumage changes that bring beauty in the winter months. Join us to enjoy this time of change in our season watching for the woodpecker,

wren, creeper, sparrow, warbler and even waterfowl species with fledged young that will be on the move or are utilizing the habitat in readiness for cooler weather.

**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.

### Saturday, September 15, 7:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

(Upcoming – Sunday October 14, and Wednesday, November 14, both at the new start of 8:00 AM)

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

September is a great month to walk the loop around the Ankeny Refuge and explore back ponds, scanning of fields and water areas. Shorebirds will be taking advantage of the invertebrates in muddy edges and flats. Green Heron and American Bittern and Wilson's Snipe may be more visible with chances to see

young birds. Raptors including Bald Eagle and Northern Harrier will be searching for prey. Pied-billed Grebes can be in plentiful numbers. Until the area behind the gates closes on October 1, we can explore the interior wet, grassy, cattail areas with woodland habitat that has provided for hummingbird, flycatchers, warbler, sparrow, bunting, grosbeak in this nesting habitat. Join us and keep in mind weather can vary and can be warm.

**Meet at the Pintail Marsh Parking at 7:00 AM**, which will have the only accessible portable restroom stop.

**Directions: Note this newly established meeting stop at the Refuge.** From Salem, take I-5 to the Ankeny Exit. Follow the Ankeny Hill Road west and continue toward the Pintail Marsh Parking Lot. As you proceed this becomes Wintel Rd; note you will pass by The Rail Trail on your left (with a sign that sits low)-continue and look on your right for the landmark sign "PHOTO BLIND" that the Pintail Marsh Parking is coming up. If coming from Salem and Liberty Rd to Ankeny Hill Rd, proceed up the hill from the junction with Buena Vista and go further 1.5 miles to turn right at the STOP; proceed same as above until coming to the landmark of the PHOTO BLIND and the parking lot entrance follows.



**September 21-23, 2018 – 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual Shorebird Festival,  
Charleston, Oregon**

For more information and to register for the festival, visit the festival web site at [www.oregonshorebirdfestival.org](http://www.oregonshorebirdfestival.org).

Location: [Oregon Institute of Marine Biology \(OIMB\)](#)  
63466 Boat Basin Road  
Charleston, Oregon

## SAS SHORTS

**Monday, September 24, 9:00 AM  
– Cascades Gateway Park**

Leader: Fred Stephens (503) 378-1364

We will walk the approx. 1-mile trail around Walter Wirth Lake, looking for waterfowl, raptors, woodpeckers, and songbirds.

**Location:** 2100 Turner Rd SE, near Walmart, Lowe's, and the Salem airport.

**Thursday, October 25, 8:30 AM –  
Brown's Ferry Park, Tualatin**

Leaders: Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589 and Fred Stephens (503) 378-1364

This fall bird walk is an extended SHORT due to the mileage to Tualatin from Salem of 47 miles. The entire area is 28 acres historically known as a riverside wetland with trees and foliage that have adapted to the terrain and flooding. Its first highlight includes that the trail is along the Tualatin River with Nyberg Creek entering it at one point. Secondly, a pond on this suburban park property allows close observation of birds, including Green Heron (8/6/18), Wilson's Snipe, ducks (last year a good number of Gadwall and a male Eurasian Wigeon), and Osprey. Passerines are in the riparian habitat and close to the trail. This is approximately a 2-mile walk.

We will start our travels **at Salem's Airport Rd Park and Ride, at 8:30 AM to carpool**, with about 47 miles one way to the park. It is possible to join us at the park with the expected time of arrival there, *through peak* traffic, about 9:15 AM. Plan for changes in weather this time of year and wear shoes for a dirt trail that could be wet. Bring snacks, maybe a lunch if you need, and we will plan to return by noon.

**Plan to meet and carpool from the Park and Ride, with entrance on Airport Road.** Airport Road is at the signal that intersects just off Mission/Hwy #22. The parking lot with trees will be on your left. There is no restroom here and there are facilities at the park. Join us if you can.

## Welcome New Members!

Thank you joining the Salem Audubon Society!

Here at SAS, we offer a variety of events such as our field trips, Birder's Night, workshops and more. We also have many volunteer and community outreach opportunities.

We invite everyone to join our exceptional field trip leaders on any of the upcoming **field trips and SAS Shorts** (see page 4 and above for several opportunities). If you haven't yet joined one of these birding adventures, the experience promises to enrich your knowledge of our local birds and their habitats.

**Birder's Night** (see page 2) includes speakers that are always presenting thought-provoking and current topics, presentations of beautiful photography, and so much more.

SAS also sponsors special events such as **Oregon Birds: See, Learn, and Share workshops** (see page 2).

Mark your calendar for these and other events! SAS appreciates our members, and we hope to meet you soon.

Laurie Fredrickson  
Carolyn Lehl

Andrea Pepitone  
John and Jean Sherbeck

Pamela Weiss  
Connie Yoder

## Easy Raptor Perches

By Ray Temple

Stephanie and I have been working with a nearby farm to add perches that facilitate hunting by raptors, especially kestrels. This project is useful because it aids the capture of voles and other small rodents that affect row crops and caps any open vertical pipes. The same effort includes placement of raptor perches on T-posts (the ubiquitous steel fence posts) on the farm.

The perches we have been placing are simple 1-inch by 3/4-inch cedar cross pieces screwed onto 1-1/2 inch PVC pipe caps. These dimensions fit the feet of kestrels as well as larger hawks. We place a 3-inch section of 1-1/2 inch PVC pipe in the cap, then sleeve the assembly over a T-post. Most T-posts can be outfitted in this manner. We have no data on the contribution of these perches to vole capture efficiency, but we have observed ready acceptance by kestrels. On one evening when we were placing perches we saw a kestrel hunting an open field. We put up the perch, and a kestrel was on it before we reached the next post a few hundred yards away. On the next evening we saw two kestrels on perches placed the previous evening and another in the air hunting, all in the same general area. This evening while we were in pursuit of a better image of a kestrel on a perch we saw several birds on our perches. One was eating a small rodent. Given the number of voles we observed scurrying about, they seem the likely candidate for its dinner.

See the photos for construction details and observations of use. It's too soon to know if raptors other than kestrels will use the perches. Over the winter we will be able to get better insights with observations during the time when raptors are most abundant in the Valley. For now, though, it's clear that kestrels readily adopt the perches.

These perches are important to hunting success because kestrels hunt by

hovering over their prey and by sitting perched to watch for prey within their viewing area. If they cannot see it, they cannot catch it. Perches help raptors conserve energy by reducing the need for constant flight and hovering. In open farm settings, man-made perches can be placed in areas where trees or other natural perches are not available, helping to increase predation on rodents. Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls also hunt from perches.

By increasing the number of hunting perches in a farm field, capture efficiency should be improved, benefiting both the birds and farmers. Eventually, perhaps we can help reduce use of some of the rodenticides that are toxic up the food chain to birds of prey. See <http://saferodentcontrol.org/site/wildlife/> for an overview of rodenticide risk to predators.

If you own or have access to open country with voles and other rodents, you may want to put some perches on fence posts or on posts that you place in appropriate locations. It's a trivial investment that will serve for years.



T-post raptor perch detail



T-post perch in place



A kestrel on the perch

## Conservation Corner

### Birds Threatened by Proposed Rollback of Endangered Species Protections

By David Harrison

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has had great successes. Birds such as the Peregrine Falcon, Brown Pelican, and Bald Eagle have all made stunning comebacks in recent decades thanks to the ESA. But its limitations on development and other economic activities have made it a frequent target for attack. In recent years bills have been introduced in every Congress to undermine the ESA or limit its scope.

Now the Trump administration is doing its part to try to weaken the ESA. The U.S. Department of the Interior has proposed new rules for the Endangered Species Act which would put rare birds at greater risk of declining further and going extinct. These rule changes may seem minor and arcane but taken together they would have the result of

seriously weakening protections for endangered animals and plants.

Currently birds receive the same blanket protection whether they are listed as Threatened or the more critical designation of Endangered. Under the proposed changes that would no longer be the case, which would lead to substantially delayed protection and further population losses for already declining species, putting them at greater risk of extinction. Another change would allow consideration of economic impacts of listing a particular species, removing language designed to ensure regulators make listing decisions based solely on scientific factors. This could spell doom for less charismatic species that happen to be in the wrong place.

The Department of Interior has been accepting public input on the proposed rule changes, and Salem Audubon submitted comments in support of keeping the current strong protections. In its 40-year history the Endangered Species Act has kept 99% of listed species from going extinct. That's a record we would like to continue.

## Audubon Reserve Work Parties

*Every Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM*

Attack invasives and help keep our Reserve looking great!  
BYO work gloves; tools provided or bring your favorites.

Hoe or pull invasive plants.

Construct & maintain trails.

Weed, water, and otherwise pamper desirable natives.

Varied jobs are available to suit your abilities and desires.

FREE! No background check required! On-the-job training!

Build your resume! Opportunity for advancement!

Coffee and conversation at McDonalds after.

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

Audubon Nature Reserve

Eola Drive, off Edgewater, in West Salem

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

See our Facebook Page at

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



*Allan King carts wood chips to spread on trails.*



*Jenna Beilby waters a Milkweed patch.*

**SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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2018-2019**

Ray Temple, President  
 Carolyn Homan, Secretary  
 Tim Johnson, Treasurer  
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 Lowell Spring  
 Maureen Leong-Kee

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Birder's Night <i>Eugenia Becker</i>	Education Coordinator <i>Lowell Spring</i>
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Field Trips <i>Glen Lindeman</i>	SAS Woodshop <i>Chet Zenone</i>
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Kestrel Newsletter Editor <i>Melissa Young</i>	Fundraising <i>Tim Johnson</i>
Christmas Bird Count <i>Tim Johnson and Barbara Dolan</i>	

**Office Information**

Laurie Buswell, Administrator  
 Office hours by appointment only  
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 338 Hawthorne Ave NE  
 Salem, Oregon 97301  
 (503) 588-7340  
 email: [laurie@salemaudubon.org](mailto:laurie@salemaudubon.org)  
 Website: [www.salemaudubon.org](http://www.salemaudubon.org)

**Bird & wildlife emergency contact:**

Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center  
 (503) 540-8664  
[www.turtleridgewildlifecenter.org](http://www.turtleridgewildlifecenter.org)

**Upcoming Events for 2018 – 2019**

**September 14-17, 2018**

[Puget Sound Bird Fest](#)  
 Edmonds, WA

**October 5-7, 2018**

[19th Annual Bird Fest & Bluegrass](#)  
 Ridgefield, WA

**December 15, 2018**

Salem Christmas Bird Count

**February 14-17, 2019**

[Winter Wings Festival](#)  
 Klamath Falls, OR

**April 11-14, 2019**

[37th Annual Harney County Migratory Bird Festival](#)  
 Burns, OR

**April 2019**

[Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival](#)  
 Hoquiam, WA

**May 2019**

Malheur NWR field trip  
 41st Annual Silver Falls Birding and Wildflower Festival

**June 2019**

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

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

[www.facebook.com/SalemAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SalemAudubonSociety)

Be sure to  Like us!

Visit the **Straub Environmental Center** at

<http://straubenvironmentalcenter.org/> for information about their Environmental Lecture Series, Northwest Naturalists Classes, and more!

**Notes**

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# Salem Audubon Society

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[www.salemaudubon.org](http://www.salemaudubon.org)

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## Connecting people with birds + nature

### Upcoming Events & Trips



Mark your  
calendar!

#### Field Trips

**September 5**

Minto-Brown Island Park

**September 15**

Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

**September 24**

**Cascades Gateway Park (SAS Short)**

#### Other Events

**October 6**

Oregon Birds: See, Learn & Share—  
Owls of the Pacific Northwest  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

#### Birder's Night

**Tuesday, September 11**

First United Methodist Church  
600 State Street, Salem

### 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**

**\*\* 50% fee reduction for new members  
joining on or after August 1 \*\***

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