



Salem Audubon Society

The Kestrel

www.salemaudubon.org

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Need to update your mailing address?

Please contact Salem Audubon at (503) 588-7340 or email, laurie@salemaudubon.org



Tim Johnson
President
Salem Audubon Society

Delay in Opening of the Nature Center

It's unfortunate that my first message to you as your new chapter president is not very good news. The U. S. Highway Administration, which is designing and constructing the Ankeny Hill Nature Center access roads, culvert, parking lots, observation platform and walking trails, has informed us of a six-month delay in their work schedule. This means that the Nature Center will now open in summer of 2020. This is very disappointing to those of us who have been working hard on creating the new Center, as I'm sure it is to you.

Reasons for the delay are to help avoid risks and additional costs associated with road construction during the wettest months of the year, and to achieve some savings by combining the Ankeny Hill Nature Center road work with some needed road work at Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge.

There are some additional advantages to us in delaying the opening of the Nature Center. It will give us needed time to prepare for the opening. There's much work yet to be accomplished by the three partners who will be managing the Center. Those partners are: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Willamette Valley National Refuge Complex and Salem Audubon Society.

The necessary preparations include but are not limited to developing operating procedures; equipping Gehler Hall with tables, chairs, audio/video equipment and environmental education resources; establishing resources for Nature Center volunteer workers; planning for the opening ceremonies; and exploring some additional fundraising to cover anticipated expenses.

President's Message continued page 2

President's Message

Obviously, my focus as your chapter president over the next two years will be participating with our partners in the opening and operations of the new Center. I very much look forward to that challenge – realizing a dream inspired by the vision and generous donation by the late Mark Gehlar and continuing the hard work over the past decade by many of you who are reading this message. I apologize for the delay but remain optimistic that it's probably for the best in the long run.

The Board and I will keep you updated with periodic reports on the Ankeny Hill Nature Center as progress is made. If you have questions or would like to get involved in the new Nature Center or other important environmental education work being done by Salem Audubon members, please contact me at tim@salemaudubon.org. Thanks.

Cannon Beach for Tufted Puffin – Saturday, July 6

[Tufted Puffins](#) are pelagic birds that spend much of their lives in the open seas of the Central North Pacific Ocean. With a solid black body and contrasting white face, large orange bill and golden head plumes, this seabird strikes an impressive profile during breeding season. Each year, 40-50 pairs find their way to Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach to breed and raise their young. Puffins are cavity nesting birds. After cleaning out an old burrow on the steep edge of Haystack Rock, the females lay a single egg. Typically, the chicks emerge from their burrows to fledge in late June. Join us for this field trip to Cannon Beach to see the Tufted Puffins of Haystack Rock. It is necessary to walk approximately one mile each way on the beach to get a good look at the puffins.



Meet at 7:00 AM at the Airport Road Park and Ride (2891 Ryan Drive SE, Salem). We will carpool from there. If you're willing to be a driver please let me know. Bring something to eat and drink. After seeing the puffins at Haystack Rock, we will drive to Kilchis Point Reserve for a lunch break. As time permits, we'll explore some other areas in and around Bay City. Wear sturdy shoes/boots for walking on sand and dress for the weather. We'll plan to be back in Salem late afternoon.

Contact: Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552, tim@salemaudubon.org

Salem Audubon Reserve

Jim Scott reports the presence of Osprey chicks in the nest at the Reserve as of June 8. The male is shown here (right) guarding the nest while the female feeds the chicks with pieces, which she tears from the fish he has just delivered. The male had previously been across the street eating the head off the fish before handing it over – his typical practice. (Photo by Jim Scott.)

To keep up with events at the Reserve, see our Facebook Page, which Jim Scott maintains at <https://www.facebook.com/Audubon-Nature-Reserve-1636890073202471/>

Visit ebird.org to “find more birds, share your sightings, and track your lists.”

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 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 25th Street) and turn left. Follow Airport Road north one block to the park and ride. Note that there are no restrooms at this site.

Thursday, July 4 and Sunday, August 4, both at 7:00 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park

(Upcoming – Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 AM)

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

This 1,200-acre park, which includes a Conservation area, is home to a variety of resident nesting waterfowl (notably Wood Duck), woodpeckers, songbirds such as creeper, nuthatches, chickadees, wrens, towhee, and sparrows, and raptors, including American Kestrel, Northern Harrier and Red-tailed Hawk. On spring bird walks we have been seeing single and paired Barred Owl. Osprey have returned to the nesting platforms. Among the restoration plantings, breeding neotropical migrants include Lazuli Bunting, vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush and warblers that seek nesting and protection for fledgling young. The river is a nursery spot for wading birds with both Green Heron and Great Blue Heron and their young seen. Enjoyable river species include Spotted Sandpiper at the rocky shore, and sky sightings of Common Nighthawk and Northern Rough-winged swallow can be here. Wear comfortable footwear, with water, and snack to explore one or two of the Minto Loops.

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 for uneven trails 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, July 20 and Tuesday, August 20, both at 7:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

(Upcoming – Saturday, September 14 at 7:00 AM)

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

Summer field trips to Ankeny Wildlife Refuge offer unique habitat to the interior ponds. We can see a variety of nesting duck, grebe, and greater opportunity to see Green Heron and American Bittern young as birds emerge from the grasses and water hedges. We will listen for Sora, Virginia Rail, and Pied-billed Grebe, with opportunities to see young, and Marsh Wren serenades filling the cattail and marsh. All these wetland species join the edges of woodland stands filled with warblers like Common Yellowthroat and possibly Yellow-breasted Chat, and Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, flycatcher and Western-wood Pewee, Western Tanager, and woodpecker species. Mudflat areas provide opportunity for viewing shorebirds as the fall migration begins. Because of the refuge's pattern of waterways, ponds and snag-perch habitat, raptors such as Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, and Osprey can be seen. Plan on carpooling around the refuge and walking a berm with uneven surface and moderate distance without shade. If time permits, we can also walk a cooler boardwalk for passerines.

Meet at the Pintail Marsh Parking at 7:00 AM. This will be the only portable restroom stop until the Nature Center off Ankeny Hill Rd is completed. Plan on carpooling. Wear footwear for walking uneven trails. Bring water and snacks. We will plan to finish by 11:00 AM.

Field Trips continued page 4

*Field Trips***Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge**

Directions: From Salem, take I-5 south to the Ankeny Hill Road exit (Exit 243), and turn right (west). At the Ankeny Hill Road/Wintel Road intersection go straight (south) on Wintel and continue about 3 miles to the Pintail Marsh parking lot. You will pass by the Rail Trail on your left, with a sign that sits low; continue and look on your left for the landmark sign "Seasonal Photo Blind". The unmarked parking lot is on your right. (If you get to the railroad crossing you just missed it.) Or follow Liberty Road south to Ankeny Hill Road, turn left and follow Ankeny to Wintel Road, then turn right and follow the directions above.

SAS SHORTS

Wednesday, July 24, from 7:30 to 8:45 PM

Thursday August 15, from 7:00 to 8:15 PM

Minto-Brown Island Park - Summer Evening Bird Walks for Common Nighthawk

Leader: Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

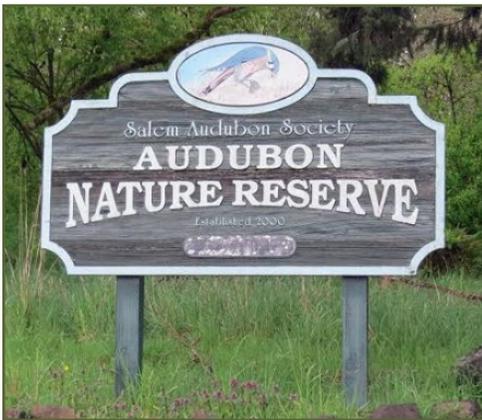
This early evening, nearing dusk, set of two Salem Audubon SHORT walks, will be on two summer evenings to seek and hear Common Nighthawk. The phenology record for this insect hawk as compiled for Corvallis by Alan McGie, tracks the

earliest arrival date for this bird as May 10 over record keeping of 16 years. The average arrival date was recorded to be June 6. Nest building does not occur in this species and the pair may use sandy/rocky areas, stumps, old nests and rooftops to nest. Incubation is about 19 days and fledglings fly after 23 days or so. These birds hawk for insects at dusk, night and day, but predominantly in the evening. We will take a loop from the 3rd parking lot to the river and return hoping to hear and see these birds. We will also enjoy other species connected with water including Osprey and hopefully nestlings on their platform. Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron and possibly Rough-winged Swallow and other migrants that have nested and/or use the river shoreline or cavities and woodland maybe seen or heard.

Join us if you can on these two dates. **Note that the evening time for each walk is different.** The walks will be on mostly even surfaces. If the day is a warm one, we suggest good hydration before you come, and prepare for glaring sun reflection and eye protection while walking along the river. Meet at the #3 parking lot (enter the park from River Road S and go west to the #3 lot). Gather at the signage board to avoid interfering in parking lot traffic. Call Barbara if you have any questions.

Meet at parking lot #3 (enter the park from River Road South and go west to parking lot #3). Gather at the signage board to avoid interfering in parking lot traffic. Call Barbara if you have any questions.

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



Attack invasives and help keep our Reserve looking great.
Maintain trails. Eliminate litter. Water native plants.
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, (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/>

Oregon Birds: See, Learn, and Share – Molt and Migration Workshop

Saturday, July 27, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

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

Molt, the replacement of feathers in birds, and migration are two important aspects in the lives of birds. In this workshop, we discuss the different molt strategies and the plumages that result from molting. We then move on to the amazing phenomenon of bird migration, covering the reasons behind migration, the different strategies that birds employ to migrate and the links between molt and migration.

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 molt/migration or email Salem Audubon at laurie@salemaudubon.org.

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

Fall 2019 Birder's Night Programs

All programs begin at 6:30 PM

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

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Southern Africa Birds and Beasts

– Paul and Roxy Evans

In 2018, the Evans traveled to Sabi Sands Game Reserve in South Africa, Victoria Falls in Zambia, and the Okavango Delta in Botswana. They will discuss how the local ecology affects avian and mammal habitat and share some of the hundreds of wildlife photographs they took, including of birds such as the Lilac-breasted Roller (right).



Photo by Roxanne Evans

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Birding New Zealand: Invasive Exotics, Imperiled Endemics, plus Penguins and Albatrosses

– Jeff Harding

Having retired from the Oregon State Lottery in 2016, Jeff can now spend full time on his many activities as an amateur naturalist, including conducting bird surveys, serving as an eBird reviewer, and visiting and documenting exotic locales such as New Zealand with birds such as this Salvin's Albatross.



Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Banding Birds at Luckiamute State Natural Area

– Josée Rousseau



Josée Rousseau is a Ph.D. student at OSU with an interest in using large data sets to examine bird and animal migrations. She will tell about the bird banding program at Luckiamute State Natural Area north of Albany along the Willamette and Luckiamute Rivers. This area has both rare bottomland cottonwood-maple-ash gallery forest and threatened grassland habitats with diverse bird populations

Note: All programs are at 6:30 pm in the Carrier Room of the First Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem. Parking is on street. Donations appreciated. Call Salem Audubon, (503) 588-7340 for more information.

Salem Environmental Education Pub Talk: Salem's Drinking Water - Tuesday, July 23 at 8:00 **Taproot Lounge & Café, 356 State Street, Salem, Oregon**

What steps are being taken to safeguard Salem's drinking water after last summer's drinking water advisory for vulnerable populations? What is known about the causes of algal blooms in the North Santiam watershed that produce cyanotoxins? How do the new drinking water rules from the [Oregon Health Authority](#) address cyanotoxins?

Work in Salem focuses on three areas - improving drinking water treatment today, installing new treatment to keep drinking water safe in the future, and making sure equipment, partnerships, and volunteers are in place to get water more quickly to the community.

Learn more about the City's long-term solution for removing cyanotoxins and about what is being done now in case another season of high algae levels in the watershed produce harmful cyanotoxins.

Oregon Birds: See, Learn, and Share – Sex Life of Birds **Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon** **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem**

The Bird Biology series continues with a look into the sex life of birds. We explore the various mating systems that birds employ to create the next generation and the role of each sex in these systems. We will also look into nest architecture, clutch size and variation, incubation and fledging. Join us for a look at the amorous side to our feathered neighbors.

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 the Sex Life of Birds, or email Salem Audubon at laurie@salemaudubon.org.

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

Conservation Corner - Salem Audubon Society Conservation Committee Activities

Salem Audubon member Joseph Youren and I joined David Harrison on the Conservation Committee late in 2018. At David's request, I became the committee chair in January 2019. David will continue to represent Salem Audubon on national and regional issues as he has for years; I will focus mainly on local conservation issues such as parks planning and local proposals with adverse effects on birds, and Joe will be the primary lead on state government issues. I anticipate reporting committee activity to the Board monthly.

Salem Audubon is the only non-profit in town that has a local nature-based conservation advocacy presence, and that presence is only partially effective with City or County governments. Late in 2018 we began building a list of professional folks who we could call on for their help on high profile conservation issues that might arise for Salem Audubon. Our activity was in response to the proposed siting of the Bi Mart Country Music Festival adjacent Ankeny refuge and a rule-making by City staff that allowed marathons to be run through the Minto Island Conservation Area. We were looking for greater depth and diversity of expertise than we possess. This is an on-going effort to strengthen the Conservation Committee's effectiveness in advancing the chapter's conservation agenda. Currently, eight professional resource management retirees have agreed to work with the committee as needed.

Some recent activities:

- signed on to about 26 letters, petitions, and comments on national and regional conservation issues since the first of the year.
- supported HB 2829 for conservation funding for ODFW, and HB2834 for recognition of wildlife passage corridors with letters to pertinent legislative committee leaders.
- Attended Lobby Day meetings with Salem legislators on the Clean Air Jobs Act.
- Attended all 2019 Board of Forestry meetings. Offered testimony on Marbled Murrelet Technical Report, and
- Attended Lobby Day meetings with a variety of legislators on restricting neonicotinoids and banning chlorpyrifos.

We anticipate reporting committee activities to the Board of Directors quarterly and publishing those reports in the Kestrel. This article is drawn from the May 21 report to the Board.

www.salemaudubon.org

SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

Board of Directors

2019-2020

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

Committees & Special Projects Chairs

Beginning Birding Class <i>Maureen Leong-Kee</i>	Conservation <i>Ray Temple</i>
Birder's Night <i>Eugenia Becker</i>	Education Coordinator <i>Lowell Spring</i>
Chapter Meetings <i>Position Open</i>	Nature Reserve <i>Lee Slattum</i>
Field Trips <i>Glen Lindeman</i>	SAS Woodshop <i>Chet Zenone</i>
Bluebird Project <i>Pat Gallagher</i>	Birding Workshops <i>Mike Unger</i>
Kestrel Newsletter Editor <i>Melissa Young</i>	Fundraising <i>Tim Johnson</i>

Christmas Bird Count
Tim Johnson and Pam Weiss

Office Information

Laurie Buswell, Administrator
 Office hours by appointment only
 Monday-Thursday, 10:00A–3:00P
 338 Hawthorne Ave NE
 Salem, Oregon 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 2019-2020

September 2019

33rd Annual
[Oregon Shorebird Festival](#)
 Charleston, OR

September 13-15, 2019

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

February 13-16, 2020

[41st Winter Wings Festival](#)
 Klamath Falls, OR

April 2020

[38th Annual Harney County
 Migratory Bird Festival](#)
 Burns, OR

May 2020

42nd Annual Silver Falls Birding
 and Wildflower Festival

June 2020

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

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

www.facebook.com/SalemAudubonSociety

Be sure to  us!

Visit **Straub Outdoors** at strauboutdoors.org for information
 about their Environmental Lecture Series, Northwest
 Naturalists Classes, and more!

Visit **Salem Environmental Education** at salemee.org/ for
 information on Green News and Brews, "Our Oregon"
 programs, and more.



Salem Audubon Society

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www.salemaudubon.org

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Connecting people with birds + nature

Upcoming Events & Trips



Mark your
calendar!

Field Trips

Tufted Puffins – A trip to Cannon Beach

Saturday July 6

Minto-Brown Island Park

Thursday, July 4 and Sunday, August 4
7:00 AM

Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, July 20 and Tuesday, August 20
7:00 AM

Minto-Brown Island Park (SAS Shorts)

Summer Evening Bird Walks for Common Nighthawk

Wednesday, July 2, 7:30-8:45 PM and
Thursday, August 15, 7:00-8:15 PM

Other Events

Oregon Birds: See, Learn & Share –
Molt and Migration Workshop Oregon
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Saturday, July 27, 10:00 AM - 12 Noon

Birder's Night

See Fall Schedule, page 5

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

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