



Salem Audubon Society

The Kestrel

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- Need to update your mailing address?
Please call or email Salem Audubon at (503) 588-7340 or laurie@salemaudubon.org

American Kestrel
Photo © Ron Mulbery

President's Message

— *Tim Johnson*



Hi all. I hope you are safe and well, and that life is as normal for you as circumstances will permit. I have a couple of things to share.

First regarding the Ankeny Hill Nature Center, much progress has been made towards a hopeful opening of the Nature Center later this fall. The road and trail work are nearly complete. The contractor and Graham Evans-Peters, Refuge Manager, are doing some final touches, including reseeded of the disturbed area and finishing the trail surfaces. They also will be installing gates at the entrances to the Nature Center.

Later this fall, Lee Slattum and his team from the Nature Reserve will be planting native shrubs and perennials around Gehlar Hall. This will certainly beautify the site as well as provide great habitat for the birds, bees, and other wildlife.

Samantha Bartling, Visitor Services Manager, has been busy completing a new Nature Explore Area, a kiosk, an Overlook Structure and custom signage for the Nature Center. Samantha and her team are also developing a new logo for the Nature Center and some other beautiful images for the signs, interpretative displays and website.

Mike Williams, our newest board member, is developing a new website for the Nature Center. We plan to launch this new digital portal to the Nature Center in early November, and to hopefully open the gates to the public later in November.

As soon as all that work is complete, we will begin work on the design and development of the Dave Marshall outdoor classroom at Peregrine Marsh. Fundraising will continue for that project as well as for the extension to Gehlar Hall. Please let me know if you would like to help support this exciting next step in the Nature Center.

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President's Message continued

These are truly exciting times for Salem Audubon. A long-time dream of having a Nature Center where we can inspire and educate our community about the wonders of the natural world will soon be open to the public.

On another topic, assuming the local situation with the Coronavirus doesn't change for the worse later this fall, the Salem Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 19. Mike Unger will conduct a Zoom workshop to cover some of the count details on November 21. See a related article in this newsletter.

Be safe.

Salem Audubon Society Online Birding Webinars November and December 2020

Salem Audubon Society (SAS) will be offering the following birding related webinars. **You must register in advance to attend any of the webinars.**

Oregon Ducks and Geese (\$10) – Sunday, November 8 at 1:30 PM

Most people think of Mallards when they think of ducks, but there many other ducks that make Oregon home. Do you know which ducks are dabblers and which are divers? We answer this and other questions as well as learn how to identify and classify these ducks, geese, and swans. Join us for a look at another type of water bird.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K8IDQVKBQfaRtRqhrNHXfa

Christmas Bird Count Tips & Techniques Webinar (Free) – Saturday, November 21, 11:00 AM

This free workshop will provide participants with numerous techniques, tips, and suggestions to help make your next CBC (and general birding) experience the best it can be. Adding even a few of these to your annual CBC outing will enhance your team's outcome with an increase in both species and numbers – making the count more accurate, more useful, and hopefully more fun! We will focus on winter bird identification during the workshop. We will also cover the Salem CBC and its history and what to expect as well as an overview of count day.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TOKrih-STum_ol2f12ZU2w

Where to Go Birding in December (Free) – Monday, November 23 at 2:00 PM

One of the most common questions we get asked is "When is the best time and place to go birding in the Willamette Valley and Oregon?" Well, it is hard to say which month is the best, because there is something unique during every season! This month we will look ahead to December and discover some of the birds to look for, where to go around Salem and other areas of the state.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OJMAZukRdK9PtGYfknzUA

Exploring Raptors: Birds of Prey (\$10) – Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 AM

This webinar will help participants learn about raptors that call Oregon home. The raptors discussed include hawks, eagles, vultures, osprey, falcons, and harriers. The workshop will highlight the best sites in the area to look for these raptors and offer participants tips for identifying these birds of prey. Participants will learn how to distinguish a red-tailed hawk vs. a red-shouldered hawk. Find out how fast falcons can fly and why vultures never get sick when they ingest dead carcasses. In this workshop participants will learn how to ID raptors by sight and sound.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cOiQGVdtQOCDPIZFx1M5zg

For more information or any questions, please email Mike Unger at salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com.

Birder's Night

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 – 6:30 PM

— *Hot Times - Their Money or Your Life* by Harry Fuller



Harry Fuller, expert birder and natural history author, will be the featured speaker for Salem Audubon's Birder's Night on **Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 PM via a Zoom Meeting**. (Instructions for joining the Zoom meeting are at the end of this article.) His talk is entitled *Hot Time - Their Money or Your Life*. Harry describes the contents of his talk as the on-going effects of climate change, how it's affecting all creatures, especially our Oregon birds. What we know and what we don't. How habitats and their residents will and can change. Who adapts, who doesn't? Who wins? Who probably loses? What can still be done by our species?

Harry has lived in Oregon since 2007, first in Ashland, then McMinnville, and now in Salem. Before retirement he managed TV and Internet newsrooms in San Francisco and London. During his time in television he won two local Emmys for news coverage and a national

Peabody Award for coverage of the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. In addition to his professional career, Harry has worked as a volunteer and professional birding guide for more than 10 years. Currently he leads trips for Malheur Field Station and the Klamath Bird Observatory and has provided private guiding services since the 1990's. His birding journal is online at atowhee.blog and his website at www.towhee.net. He is the author of three natural history books, including "Great Gray Owl in California, Oregon and Washington," "Freeway Birding, San Francisco to Seattle," and "San Francisco's Natural History, Sand Dunes to Street Cars." He also contributed a chapter on Common Nighthawks in the book "Edge of Awe," an anthology of essays about Malheur NWR and the Steens Mountains.

Salem Audubon is extremely fortunate to have Harry Fuller as a full-time Salem resident. Since moving to Salem this summer Harry has signed on to be one of our regular field trip leaders and will be leading weekly field trips during much of the year. He is featured in an iTunes podcast interview titled "Photographing the West".

(<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/photographing-west-podcast/?ls=1>)

Please join us for an informative evening with Salem Audubon member and volunteer, Harry Fuller.

How to Join Our ZOOM Webinar:

1. As a participant, you do not need any special software or hardware. The audience will not require a microphone or camera. You will not need special ZOOM software.
2. All participants will need to "Pre-Register" in advance of the event by clicking on a link which will be provided in the Kestrel, on the Salem Audubon website, and on the SAS Facebook page. The link for pre-registering for the November 10 Birder's Night is: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xq6fFlsBSyKeS9nl5Xtr6A
3. Once registered, you will immediately receive a confirmation email which will include your **personal** link to use to join the meeting. Please keep track of it and do not use another person's link. You will receive a reminder email on the day of the program which will also have your link. A few minutes before the program's start time, pull up your invitation on a PC, Mac or smart device, click on the meeting link and enter the Zoom session. It's that easy.
4. As an audience member/participant, your microphone will be automatically muted during the program and your camera will also be disabled to avoid background noise and distractions. During the program, communications from viewers to the Hosts, Tim Johnson and Mike Unger, will be through the "Chat" function: Find the "chat button" on your computer screen, click on it, and then type in your question/comment, whether it be a technical problem you are having or a question for the speaker during the Q&A at the end of the talk. Tim and Mike will dispense advice on technical problems through "Chat" during the program. Submitted questions for Harry will be read to him at the end of the program.

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Birder's Night continued

5. As at our regular programs, we will have a "Sharing Session" after the formal program and Q&A. Those who stay for Sharing will all have their microphones and cameras activated. Those without a microphone can participate through "Chat". (Note that all iPads have a built-in microphone and camera.) This is the chance to experience the social and community side of Birder's Night, seeing fellow members and hearing about their birding sightings, experiences, and queries.
6. For technical questions, please email Tim Johnson, tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com. For other questions, email Eugenia Becker, Chair, Birder's Night Committee, heronflight99@gmail.com.

*Sandhill Cranes feeding**Loggerhead Shrike*

Raptor Identification – Salem Audubon's most popular webinar is coming up! Saturday December 5 – 10:00 AM to Noon

The most popular webinar (Raptor ID) that the Salem chapter of the Audubon Society holds locally is coming up on **Saturday, December 5**, and reservations are required. Last year, two workshops were necessary to accommodate the number of people interested in this subject.

Mike Unger is the webinar instructor said the webinar, "Exploring Raptors: Birds of Prey" fills up quickly every year. This year's event will be held online using the Zoom platform

The webinar which is held from **10:00 AM to noon on Saturday, December 5**, will help participants learn about raptors that call Oregon home. The raptors discussed include hawks, eagles, vultures, osprey, falcons, and harriers. The webinar will highlight the best sites in the area to look for these raptors and offer participants tips for identifying these birds of prey.

Participants will learn how to distinguish a red-tailed hawk vs. a red-shouldered hawk. Find out how fast falcons can fly and why vultures never get sick when they ingest dead carcasses. In this webinar participants will learn how to ID raptors by sight and sound.

Cost for the webinar is \$10 per person and includes handouts for future reference.

To reserve your spot, register online at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cOiQGVdtQOCDPIZFx1M5zg

If you have any difficulty registering for the webinar or have any questions, please email Mike at salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com.

Upcoming Field Trips

— *Compiled by Cynthia Donald*

Greetings! We have exciting news! First, we have three new field trip leaders – Paul Evans, Harry Fuller and Dominic Valenti. Each one has led one or more of our POD WALK field trips. When you see them, please welcome and thank them for stepping forward.

Second, Mike Unger is continuing with his “virtual” field trip reports via email. These reports are from scouting trips some of our trip leaders make to our regular spots so members can repeat these walks on their own and have an idea of what was seen, heard and expected but missing. Mike had to suspend this for a while due to the hazardous air quality from the fires but he is now back to twice-monthly outings.

Third, we officially started our SAS pod walk field trip program in September. This consists of offering bird walks limited to five (5) participants plus the leader(s). Our goal is to enjoy birding in small groups while remaining as safe as possible following mask/social distance guidelines from the CDC and the State of Oregon. At this point, the walks are limited to Salem Audubon members and we are offering two walks every week through November 11, 2020. Notice for each walk is sent via email with a registration link. If you are signing up for these, please do not use the link more than once unless you are signing up for more than one person. We’ve had people do this and the form logs it as an additional attendee thus removing what would otherwise be an open spot. Synopses of our pod walk Reports are below.

September 23, 2020 – Willamette Mission State Park with Harry Fuller

21 species, including Wood Duck, Mallard, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, California Scrub-Jay, Barn Swallow, Bewick’s Wren, European Starling, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow and Lincoln’s Sparrow.

Here’s a link to Harry’s blog

<https://atowhee.blog/2020/09/23/pretty-high-fall-utin/>

September 30, 2020 – Minto-Brown Island Park with Harry Fuller

27 species, including Canada Goose, Mallard, Pied-billed Grebe, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna’s Hummingbird, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Steller’s Jay, California Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Bewick’s Wren, European Starling, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Lesser Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Lincoln’s Sparrow and Spotted Towhee.

Here’s a link to Harry’s blog

<https://atowhee.blog/2020/09/30/minto-brown-at-the-end-of-september/>

October 5, 2020 – Spong’s Landing with Dominic Valenti

33 species, including Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Anna’s Hummingbird, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Merlin, Steller’s Jay, California Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Barn Swallow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick’s Wren, European Starling, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee and Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon).

Here’s a link to Dom’s ebird list

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S74463829>.

October 7, 2020 – Talking Water Gardens with Harry Fuller

22 species, including Wood Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Sora, American Coot, Wilson’s Snipe, Turkey Vulture, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Steller’s Jay, California Scrub-Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Bushtit, American Goldfinch, Song Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird.

Here’s a link to Harry’s blog

<https://atowhee.blog/2020/10/07/lyrical-sounds-at-talking-waters/>



Field Trips continued

October 12, 2020 – St. Louis Fish Ponds with Dominic Valenti

Unsure of total species number as Dominic was not able to be at the walk, but 6 enthusiastic birders went walking anyway. Here’s what was reported, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, California Scrub-Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Bewick’s Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird.

October 14, 2020 – Baskett Slough NWR with Harry Fuller

26 species, including Cackling Goose, Gadwall, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson’s Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Black Phoebe, California Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Violet-green Swallow, Marsh Wren, European Starling, American Robin, American Pipit, House Finch, White-crowned Sparrow and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Here’s a link to Harry’s blog <https://atowhee.blog/2020/10/14/65307/>.

The Field Trip Committee will meet in early November to discuss our 2021 schedule. We may well need to continue with the pod walk concept for the first few months of 2021. These are challenging times for us all

But wait! There’s more! Upcoming pod walk field trips are on November 2, 4, 9 and 11. That will round out the pod walks for 2020. In December’s issue of The Kestrel, I hope to have more information about continuing the pod walks into 2021 or perhaps resuming our regular bird walks throughout the valley. Who knows ... these are strange times for us all.

If you have a suggestion for field trips or have any questions, contact Cynthia Donald at planres@outlook.com or (480) 283-4515. Check the Salem Audubon web site and Facebook page throughout what remains of fall for current information. Good birding, and stay safe and well! Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

What’s Happening at the Salem Audubon Reserve

The Arrival of Fall Requires Trail Maintenance



Lee Slattum and Barry De Armand wheel barrows full of donated wood chips through the Reserve.



John Huff and Ken Johnson, the dedicated, hard-working “Raking Crew”, await the delivery of wood chips to winterize the extensive trail network



Bill Anning and Bill McNamee dump loads of trimmed branches on a bushwhack trail forming at a bend in the Two Stair trail. “Bushwhackers need encouragement to stay on the authorized trails,” says Work Crew Leader Lee Slattum. An extensive network of trails has been created in the Reserve. Informal trails can cause erosion and be safety hazards.

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What's Happening continued

Caring for Our Native Plantings



Mary Lippi has cleaned up the milkweed bed for the winter and collected the seed pods. She will chop up the stems and pods, scatter them on the bed, and then spread several inches of wood chips to discourage invasive weeds.

Trail Sign Artistry



New trail signs painted on natural boulders found on the Reserve now make hiking the Reserve an artistic as well as nature-viewing and exercising activity. The palettes of Allan King, Work Crew Member, and 13-year-old Bella Slattum are still in front of this newly painted sign. Hopefully, the cheerful hummingbird messenger will make the “No Bike Riding” message more palatable!

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

Attack invasives and help keep our Reserve looking great.
Nurture native plants and shrubs. Maintain trails. Paint rocks.
BYO work gloves; tools provided or bring your favorites.
BYO mask and maintain social distancing for safety's sake.

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

Coffee and conversation after.
Call Lee Slattum, (503) 364-9325, with any questions.

Audubon Nature Reserve

Eola Drive, off Edgewater, in West Salem

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

See our Facebook Page at

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

Upcoming Events for 2020 - 2021

Many birding festivals have made the decision to cancel their events in 2020 due to the continued spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). However, there are virtual events available:

SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

Board of Directors – 2020 - 2021

- Tim Johnson, President
- Michael Babbitt, Vice President
- Carolyn Homan, Secretary
- Tim Johnson, Treasurer
- Judy Brunkal
- Cynthia Donald
- Maureen Leong-Kee
- Doug Spencer
- Lowell Spring
- Mike Williams
- Jenny Ammon

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>Cynthia Donald</i> | SAS Woodshop
<i>Chet Zenone</i> |
| Bluebird Project
<i>Pat Gallagher</i> | Birding Workshops
<i>Mike Unger</i> |
| Newsletter Editor
<i>Melissa Young</i> | Christmas Bird Count
<i>Tim Johnson</i> |

SAS 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



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Upcoming Events & Trips



Mark your
calendar!

Field Trips

Tentatively Scheduled to resume 2021

Birder's Night

Tuesday, November 10 – 6:30 PM
See link on page 3

Online Birding Webinars

November and December Schedule
See links on page 2

Raptor Identification

Saturday December 5 – 10:00 AM to Noon
See link on page 4

Membership Form

Name

Address

*Email**

**Required for E-Kestrel Membership*

Individual Membership

- \$21.50 Print Edition
 \$17.50 E-Kestrel Edition

Family Membership

- \$29.00 Print Edition
 \$25.00 E-Kestrel Edition

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338 Hawthorne Ave NE
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