



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 © Jim Leonard

President's Message – Nature Center Update

— *Tim Johnson*



Hi all. I hope this finds you safe from the recent ice storm. As I write this article on February 16, Carol and I have been without power for 4 days. With all the down power lines and strong wind forecast for today and tomorrow, it's not clear when we will have power restored. In my 13 years living in the Willamette Valley, this is the worst ice storm I've experienced. I especially worry about the people living in the Santiam Canyon who are still trying to recover from the Labor Day fires.

Despite the limitations imposed by the coronavirus and winter weather conditions, progress continues at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center. The interpretive displays for the Nature Center trails have been designed and are in production. We anticipate they will be installed in March. The Nature Explore Area has been designed. It is expected that installation work will begin in March.

Pat Gallagher, founder, and long-time leader of Salem Audubon's Bluebird Nest Box Program, installed a couple Bluebird nest boxes on the grounds of the Nature Center. The upland prairie habitat component of the Nature Center is ideal for Western Bluebirds, which have been recently observed at and around the Nature Center. We have our fingers crossed that Western Bluebirds will use these nest boxes this spring. If you might be interested in monitoring and helping to maintain these nest boxes, please let Pat or me know.

After many hours of hard work by Michael Williams, a beautifully designed and informative webpage for the Ankeny Hill Nature Center is now live. You can see it for yourself by going to ankenhillnaturecenter.org. There you will see the grand vision for the Nature Center and some of the fun activities that will be available in time. Once the Nature Center is open to the public, the website will have a calendar of upcoming events, a mechanism for environment education groups to reserve the Gehlar Hall classroom, and a way for volunteers to get involved in various Nature Center projects. It also has a bilingual option. Check it out. Of course, Salem Audubon will have a big presence at the

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President's Message

Nature Center, with interpretive nature walks, classes on a variety of nature-oriented topics, feeder watches, etc., all of which will be listed on the Ankeny Hill Nature Center website.

Soon, Salem Audubon will begin working with our refuge partners on a new Nature Center design and construction agreement. Once that is finalized, Salem Audubon will take the lead on the next phase of the Nature Center development, the design and construction of the Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom at Peregrine Marsh. We anticipate construction will be completed by the end of 2021. The new classroom, situated on the edge of a marsh, will provide some unique environmental education opportunities to study the plants and animals of a seasonal wetland's biome.

Together with our partners, we are actively evaluating a security system and related Internet access options for the Nature Center. Mike Unger has been involved in that evaluation. We will have various security monitoring technologies, and professional surveillance and response at the Nature Center. Salem Audubon will help support those resources.

Finally, if you visited the refuge recently you may have noticed some improvements. Refuge staff have filled in many of the potholes at observation areas at the refuge, including Eagle Marsh, Pintail Marsh, the Rail Trail and Willow Tree parking areas and related access roads. These repairs make it easier and safer to access these locations. Also, you may have noticed that Ankeny NWR is looking a little tidier. The reason is that several Salem Audubon members have formed an informal litter patrol at the refuge. Most of the litter consists of discarded food and beverage containers. If you visit the refuge I invite and encourage you to pick up trash that you find and deposit it in your household garbage. I bring a trash bag, a Bottle Drop blue bag, and some disposable gloves with me whenever I visit the refuge. If we all pick up a few things it can make a big difference.

Many thanks for your continuing support of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center and the Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge.

Salem Audubon Society Online Birding Webinars –March and April 2021

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

Songbirds Part 3: Sparrows to Goldfinches (\$10) – Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 10:00 AM

In the final chapter of the Songbird Series, sparrows, cardinals, buntings, orioles, blackbirds, and goldfinches will be in the spotlight. Like the other workshops in the series, we will investigate the classification and identification of these birds using sight and sound. These birds include some of the gaudiest, as well as some of our most difficult birds to identify (especially the sparrows).

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hg81TIGzSymbpVuT4cF9_g

Where to Go Birding in April (Free) – Thursday, March 25 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 April 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_-QdrepIBRQyCgcyhAq_PgQ

Owls of the Pacific Northwest (\$10) – Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 AM

Owls have captivated the imagination of mankind for centuries, symbolizing everything from evil and death to wisdom and protection. In this class we dive into the classification, biology, and conservation of these nocturnal birds. Can't tell a Whiskered Screech-Owl from a Western Screech-Owl? We also learn the identification of owls by sight and sound.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4shkkP1LTKmTKvpCivYI8g

SAS Online Birding Webinars continued page 3

*SAS Online Birding Webinars***eBird Basics - Getting started with eBird (Free) – Thursday, April 15 at 2:00 PM**

A brief overview of eBird, how to set up your eBird profile, how to log a bird checklist into eBird, including sharing your checklist and adding photos, and why numbers count and how accurate do you need to be. You will also learn how to view your data to see your County, State, Country, ABA and World lists and hear how eBird data is reviewed and used, making it possible for every level of birder to use eBird. Every checklist counts – you're not just birding anymore, you're doing surveys!

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_911xmlrhQmOjgQ6UzzqxIA

eBird 101 - Find the Birds You Want to See (Free) - Thursday, April 22 at 2:00 PM

You will learn how to find out what birds are being seen near you or anywhere in the world, how to see where a certain species is located, see what species are present at a certain time of year, how to get daily or hourly alerts for rare birds or birds you "need" to see.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DyNcsVTYSBqQLsu9bK2O5g

eBird 102 - Submitting Checklists using the eBird app (Free) - Thursday, April 29 at 2:00 PM

You'll learn how the eBird App on your phone differs from the eBird website as well as the basics of using the eBird app: lookups, codes, intuitive count entries, and sharing your checklist with your fellow birders in the field. Also discover how using the app increases accuracy and saves time, when and how to create and submit a checklist when you have no cellular coverage, and how to edit a submitted checklist.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NTId6UA9TAaWh2fAkXZ0ew

For more information or if you have any difficulty with registration, please email Mike at salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com.

Birder's Night

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM – Join the Zoom Webinar - Instructions on Page 4

— **Cynthia Donald: *The Eighth Continent***

At March Birder's Night, Salem Audubon's new Field Trip Coordinator, Cynthia Donald, will take us on a trip half way around the world to an island few of us have visited. Cynthia explains: "From 4 November to 30 November, 2011, I was fortunate to travel around Madagascar on a Field Guides trip. Whilst several endemic bird families can be found there, my two primary reasons for taking the trip were to see lemurs and Uroplatus, the Leaf-tailed Gecko, which graces the front cover of Peter Tyson's book (see the photo on the right). In this program, I hope to introduce you to the varied environments, people, places, animals and, of course, birds we encountered. If you've been there, please let me know. If you haven't, I hope this inspires you to put this unique spot on your list!"

Cynthia has had an active life of work and travel. Seizing an opportunity, she retired "early" in 2007, and focused on exploring our planet. In her prior life, she raised 3 kids and had several business partnerships, the final one being partner in a Civil Engineering, Land Planning and Land Survey company (EPS Group, Inc). She has lived in six different states and one foreign country and she became seduced by and seriously interested in birds in late 2001. Volunteer work has always been extremely important to her and she hopes to continue if she can. A recent transplant from Arizona, she still chuckles at the question "why did you move here?"



The Leaf-tailed Gecko, Uroplatus, graces the cover of Peter Tyson's popular book on Madagascar

Birder's Night continued page 4



Cynthia Donald and friend in the field



Yellow-bellied Asity, from Rockjumper



Spiny-backed Chameleon



Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur

How to join the Birder's Night ZOOM Webinar:

1. As an audience member, you do not need any special software or hardware.
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 February's Birder's Night is: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XADIHZgrSPOXOsgf7_Q67w
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, Tim Johnson will be available through the "Chat" function to help you with any technical problems: Click the "chat button" on your computer screen and type in a description of your problem. In addition, use "Chat" to type in questions for the speaker during the program. Questions submitted for Cynthia Donald will be read to her by a Birder's Night Committee member during the Q & A.
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 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.

Birder's Night Continued

Birder's Night

Miss a Birder's Night Program? Catch It on YouTube

All of this season's Birder's Night programs to date (September 2020 through February 2021) have been recorded and are available on YouTube. To tune in:

1. Go to www.youtube.com
2. Search for Salem Audubon Society
3. Find the program you want in the list of SAS You Tube videos

If you wish to subscribe (no charge) you will receive a notification of any new programs as they appear.

Audubon Reserve Work Parties Every Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:00 Am

Help clean up after the Ice Storm.
Attack invasives and help keep our Reserve looking great.
Maintain trails. Eliminate litter. Create trail signs.
Work on Imaginative Special Projects.

BYO work gloves; tools provided or bring your favorites.
BYO face mask and be prepared to observe social distancing.

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

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

Audubon Nature Reserve
Eola Drive, off Edgewater, in West Salem
See: <https://salemaudubon.org/salem-audubon-nature-reserve.html>

See our Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/Salem-Audubon-Nature-Reserve-1636890073202471/>

SAS Membership Renewal Reminder

Thank you to all who have already renewed your membership. Your stewardship to our mission here at Salem Audubon is important and it's what keeps this organization so viable to our region.

There's still time to renew your Salem Audubon Society membership for 2021-22. Please use the form on the back of this newsletter or visit our website, salemaudubon.org, under the "support us" tab to renew electronically.

SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

Board of Directors – 2020 - 2021

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

Committees & Special Projects Chairs

| | |
|---|---|
| Beginning Birding Class <i>Maureen Leong-Kee</i> | Education Coordinator <i>Lowell Spring</i> |
| Birder's Night <i>Eugenia Becker</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/Mike Unger</i> |
| Conservation <i>David Harrison</i> | Chapter Meetings <i>Position Open</i> |

SAS Office Information

Laurie Buswell, Administrator
 Office hours by appointment only
 Monday-Thursday, 10:00A–3:00P
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 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 2021

Many birding festivals have made the decision to cancel their events due to the continued spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Look for festivals that may begin in 2021.

Salem Audubon Society has a new YouTube Channel

Salem Audubon Society (SAS) has a new YouTube channel. The new channel will host the Birder's Night presentations as well as some of the birding webinars. Mike Unger who developed the YouTube channel said it will take some time to get all the content on the channel. He asked for your patience because it takes time to edit and prep the video presentations for publication on the YouTube channel.

The best way to access the channel is go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and enter "Salem Audubon Society" in the search box then click search icon 🔍. This will bring you to the SAS YouTube channel. You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel by clicking on the **SUBSCRIBE** button on the page. Once you subscribe to our channel, any new videos it publishes will show up in your Subscriptions feed.

For more information or any questions about our new YouTube channel, please email Mike at salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com.



Photo of a male Townsend's Warbler taken this past December but was still visiting Cynthia in January! Photo courtesy of Cynthia Donald



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

Tentatively scheduled to resume 2021

Birder's Night

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 6:30 PM
See page 4 to register and
for instructions to join the webinar

Online Birding Webinars

March and April Webinars
See links on pages 2 and 3 to register

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