



# Salem Audubon Society

## The Kestrel

October 2021  
Volume 55, Number 2

[salemaudubon.org](http://salemaudubon.org)  
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Need to update your mailing address?

Please call or email Salem Audubon at (503) 588-7340 or [laurie@salemaudubon.org](mailto:laurie@salemaudubon.org)

**Note our new mailing address**  
PO Box 2084  
Salem OR 97308

*American Kestrel*  
Photo © Matthew Gooding

### **President's Message** — *Tim Johnson*



Hi all,

I may later regret what I'm about to say, but I'm so looking forward to our fall and winter rains. As I write this, rain is forecast for this weekend, with as much as an inch possibly more. For my yard this rain can't get here too soon. It's been a long, hot, and dry summer! I don't think we have had any measurable rain since the middle of June.

Rain will also be welcome at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center, especially for the recent plantings in Nature Explore Area and around Gehlar Hall. Volunteers and staff have been watering three times a week all summer. Once the rains begin, some of that volunteer work will likely switch to weeding, however we may need to continue some watering through October. If periodic watering/weeding is something you are willing and able to help with, there's a signup calendar at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084dacad2aa0ff2-watering>.

Speaking of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center, much progress towards its public opening has been made over the summer, partly thanks to the efforts of Hope Presley. Hope joined us for 10 weeks this summer. She comes from the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, where she is responsible for the Visitor Center in Fremont and the Environmental Education Center in Alviso. Hope helped us develop a Standard Operating Procedures manual and many of the associated details related to operating the Nature Center.

Hope also helped develop some environmental interpretative elements, including something she calls a "story walk". These materials will contain information for group leaders, families and others who use the nature trail at the Nature Center, including an Activity Book and a narrative script (in English and Spanish) that will aid group leaders in telling the Nature Center story while walking the trails.

*Continued page 2*

### *President's Message*

Were it not for the summer surge of the Delta Variant in our area, it's probable that the Nature Center would now be open to the public, at least the trails. However, that has been delayed until it's safe to do so. It will probably happen in stages. First, we will likely open the gates, the parking lots, the Nature Explore Area, and the trails. Later, we will open the classrooms for reserved use by environmental education providers. I'll let you know as soon as that happens, hopefully soon.

### **Stayton Office**

Last month, we moved our chapter's office to the new Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Building in Stayton. It's a little bit outside of Salem. However, we wanted to maintain the productive relationship that we have with Marion SWCD and the useful resources and support they provide to our chapter.

Our new physical location is 408 N 3rd, Stayton. Our new mailing address is PO Box 2084, Salem, OR 97308. Office hours are Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and Wednesday from 8:00 AM to noon. If a holiday falls on a Monday, office hours for that week on Wednesday will be from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If you wish to visit the office, please call ahead to make an appointment. Laurie Buswell, our office administrator, needs to run periodic errands, so by making an appointment you can be assured that she will be there. The office phone number and email address remain the same as before: 503-588-7340, [info@salemaudubon.org](mailto:info@salemaudubon.org).

### **Salem Christmas Bird Count**

Planning for the Salem Christmas Bird Count is ramping up. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 18. The countdown gathering will happen the next day. There's a related article in this newsletter. I hope you all can participate in one way or another. If you haven't participated in the past and are interested in doing so this year, please let me know. You can reach me at [tim@salemaudubon.org](mailto:tim@salemaudubon.org). Mike Unger and I will be coordinating the count again this year. It's something I always look forward to.

Be safe, bird often

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## **Salem Audubon Society Online Birding Webinars – October 2021**

Salem Audubon Society (SAS) will be offering the following birding related webinar in October. All webinars are one hour in length. You must register in advance to attend any of the webinars. Mike Unger is the instructor for the webinars. Check the SAS website, Facebook Events tab, or future Kestrels for further information on these webinars.

**Where to Go Birding in November (Free) – Thursday, October 21 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 November 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\\_PJgHL1HRRU2FI9h6rfvfkA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PJgHL1HRRU2FI9h6rfvfkA)

**NOTE:** You must register in advance for these webinars. The registration links shown above are also on SAS's website, [salemaudubon.org](http://salemaudubon.org), under "Upcoming Events."

For more information or if you have any difficulty with registration, please email Mike at [salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com).

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## **Welcome New Members!**

William Barry    Les Busch    Lauren Gregg    Susan Fish    Susan Proffitt

Here at SAS, we offer a variety of events to include field trips (see above), Birder's Night (see page 3), online birding webinars (see the paragraph above), and more. We also have many community outreach and volunteer opportunities to include Work Parties at Salem Audubon's Nature Reserve. Join other volunteers every Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the Reserve to keep it looking great and enjoyable for all visitors, people and animals alike. The SAS Reserve is located on Eola Drive, off Edgewater, in West Salem.

SAS appreciates all our members, and we hope to meet you soon.

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

## Birder's Night

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM

### *Oregon's Beavers: The Four-Legged Kind*

— Brian Bangs



North American Beaver are landscape engineers, modifying stream and floodplain environments to generate biological and geomorphic conditions favorable for their survival and productivity. As a keystone species, a wide variety of species require the habitat that beaver create, or are supported by the ecological processes driven by beaver. Birds from Song Sparrow to Great Blue Heron thrive on beaver ponds and their associated wetland habitats. Despite their importance, human-beaver conflicts are common, creating challenges

for landowners, natural resource agencies, and others working and living around beaver. Since the first fur trappers came west over 200 years ago, man and beaver have had a complex, and often violent, relationship. In this presentation, we will discuss the history, biology, and ecology of beaver in Oregon, and discuss advancements in the way beaver are managed to help them coexist near humans, and proliferate.

Brian Bangs is an aquatic ecologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Earlier in his career, much of Brian's focus with Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife was research and conservation of Oregon's resident non-game fish species, primarily Oregon Chub, as well as Pacific and brook lamprey, Sand Roller, great basin redband trout, and Alvord Chub. Brian's work helped restore the chub to the Willamette River watershed after a century of absence. It is the river's only endemic fish. To honor his work the point of confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers has been named Bangs Bend. Brian recently joined the USFWS, where he works on a number of aquatic species across the state, including beaver, Hutton Tui Chub, Fosskett Speckled Dace, and Borax Lake Chub. He lives in Corvallis, home to a different kind of beaver.



#### How to Join our ZOOM Webinar

1. As a participant, you do not need any special software or hardware. Participants 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 October's Birder's Night is [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zrePamO\\_RX-iWZ1KAPYXqQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zrePamO_RX-iWZ1KAPYXqQ)
3. Once registered, you will immediately receive a confirmation email which will include the link to use to join the meeting. You will receive a reminder email on the day of the program. At the start time for the program (or a few minutes before), you can click on the meeting link using a PC, Mac, or smart device to enter the Zoom session. It's that easy.
4. No special software or equipment is needed. Viewers will not need a camera or microphone. Communications from viewers to the Master of Ceremonies, Tim Johnson, will be through the "Chat" function: You will 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 will dispense advice on technical problems through "Chat" during the program. He will read the submitted questions to the presenter at the end of the program.
5. For any technical questions, please email Tim Johnson, [tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com](mailto:tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com). For other questions, email Harry Fuller, Chair, Birder's Night Committee, [atowhee@gmail.com](mailto:atowhee@gmail.com).

## Salem Area Christmas Bird Count

The Salem Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on Saturday, December 18, 2021. At this point we do not know how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the count. Last year, we had to adjust and have smaller teams to keep everyone safe. In any case, we will be following the CDC and Governor's COVID-19 guidelines for the count.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic everyone within the Salem CBC circle has an opportunity to participate in the count. You can participate by counting birds at your feeders. The amount of time you spend watching your feeders is up to you. You can watch your feeders for a little as fifteen minutes or for hours. These feeder counts contribute immensely to our CBC's bird database. Thanks to all of those who have participated in the past.

This year we will not be holding the Christmas Bird Count Tips and Techniques webinar. We have held the webinar for many years. There is not enough new content to support having the webinar. Most of our CBC volunteers have attended the webinar in the past. So, we will not be offering the webinar this year.

## Migration

— *By Harry Fuller*



It is the time of year for the semi-annual bird migration in the Northern Hemisphere. Billions of birds from hundreds of species leave their breeding habitat to winter elsewhere. Most head to warmer climates. That often means swimming or flying south toward the tropics. But it may mean moving to milder coastal areas or dropping to a much lower elevation. Birds that leave in late summer or fall will return sometime next year if they survive, before breeding season.

Here in the Willamette Valley about half of our breeding species migrate out. At the same time, we get an influx of birds from the north and northeast as well as some montane species seeking ground that is not snow-covered. Few species remain at 8000 feet in snow-covered mountains.

Most departing migrants are insectivores or larger predators—swallows, flycatchers, swifts, Osprey, many warblers, and vireos. Some migration patterns are showing change due to global warming. More Turkey Vultures remain here now than previously.

Birds that may arrive here from the mountains include Golden-crowned and Fox Sparrows, Hermit and Varied Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warblers, siskins, and many more juncos. Most obviously we get grazing flocks of Cackling Geese from Canada and Alaska. They crowd our wildlife refuges until spring. We get many wintering ducks including shoveler, wigeon and Bufflehead. Other wintering birds include loons, Sandhill Cranes on Sauvie Island, additional large hawks, Short-eared Owls, Merlin, visiting flickers and robins.

Studying migration has led to amazing discoveries. Navigation is key. Some birds can hear the low rumble of ocean waves from 300 miles inland so they parallel the distant coast. Most small birds migrate at night. They use stars to navigate, but on dark nights they have special chemicals in cells inside the eye that “see” the magnetic waves of the earth. Many birds can smell water. Birds have precise visual memories of landscape and land marks. Some move in flocks, some as loners.

Tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fly non-stop across the Gulf Mexico, twice.

Oregon's smallest bird, the Calliope Hummingbird, flies back and forth to Central America. Bar-tailed Godwits have flown non-stop from Alaska to New Zealand—9000 miles. Arctic Terns migrate between the two poles—over 18000 mile round trip. Sooty Shearwaters fly a 40,000 mile round-trip, on a figure-eight path, from breeding sites in the Southern Hemisphere to better fishing off the Oregon and California coasts.

Migration is inevitably fatal for some individuals. People make migration more dangerous than it once was. Outdoor housecats and building collisions are the worst known killers. American Bird Conservatory has done a lot of research to help us build better for birds.

<https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/community-legislation/>

## Zoom to Sustainability

The 2021-2022 Salem Environmental Education's adult education series, Zoom to Sustainability, delivers informative presentations via Zoom that will provide some solutions to current environmental problems.

Registration is required and details of the presentation and directions for linking to Zoom will be provided before each presentation at the SEE website ([www.salemee.org](http://www.salemee.org)) and the SEE Facebook page. Programs are free although donations are appreciated.

**Wednesday, October 6** - Beyond Recycling: Why considering the life cycle impacts of our stuff matters much more than if it can be recycled.

In Oregon 99% of greenhouse gas emissions associated with making a product occur before it's purchased. Conversely, only 1% of greenhouse gases associated with a product happen during its disposal or recycling. In this presentation, we will discuss how to move beyond recycling and into waste prevention as it relates to the "upstream" or pre-consumer impacts of a products' life cycle (extraction, manufacturing, transportation, use, and disposal). Moving up the "waste hierarchy" towards reduction and reuse of our products is critical to addressing consumption-based climate impacts and moving towards larger systems of change that can more positively affect our well-being and world.

Dakota Tangredi is a Bilingual Waste Reduction Coordinator with Marion County Environmental Services. He has a background in environmental science and community sustainability education, which informs his work as a volunteer program coordinator to mobilize waste reduction volunteers around community projects and action in Marion County.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/x/beyond-recycling-tickets-170458375590>.

## Feathers

— *By Harry Fuller*

Birds have unique characteristics setting them apart from other animals. Perhaps the most central: feathers. They are formed from keratin, a lightweight, fibrous protein. Feathers' strength with minimal weight is crucial for birds. Keratin shapes hair and fur, horns, claws, hoofs, and our species' fingernails as well.

Feathers vary in shape and size, adapted to specific purposes. Tightly overlapped on the outside feathers waterproof and insulate. Soft, fluffy feathers next to the skin offer padding, insulation, protection from friction. Long wing and tail feathers enable flight and navigation. An eagle soars on a few ounces of wing feathers. Flight precision requires that each feather has its own muscle just under the skin. Each feather can adjust as required. Wintering birds and waterfowl can trap air between feather layers. It helps keep birds warm and makes swimmers buoyant. Then a diving grebe can tighten feathers to push out the air, allowing faster and deeper diving.

A feather's core quill is hollow as are birds' bones. Any pilot will tell you: when flying, weight is a crucial concern.

Feathers are the birds' costume before the world. We are all familiar with the showy tails of male turkeys, roosters, or peacocks. There are crests on the cardinal, titmouse, Steller's Jay, phainopepla. There is the bald head of the turkey vulture, the bare legs of heron, egret, flamingo. There are bold colors of parrots, warblers, tanagers. There's iridescent plumage on hummingbirds, a male mallard's head, swallows, starlings, and many others. The colors found across the nearly 10,000 species of living birds put the largest box of crayons to shame. Feathers may contain chemical pigments—carotenoids and melanins. Or both combined. Carotenoids add red to yellow hues. Melanins may bring black, gray, brown or buff tones. How do the parrots get their green? Combine yellow and gray. All sounds simple, like mixing paint, right? But there's blue, as in bluebirds, scrub-jays, some kingfishers, our biggest heron in Oregon. So—there is no blue pigment. There are miniature structural tricks in "blue" feathers so they absorb most frequencies in the visible spectrum and reflect only blue. It's engineered! To put any actress's wardrobe to shame, birds' raiment often includes ultraviolet colors that our limited vision cannot see.

Now you may see feathers scattered in your garden or nearby park. Birds remaining for winter molt—old and worn feathers fall off, new ones grow in. In our climate most birds need a new covering before the rainy season and colder weather. Pass the keratin, please.

*Feathers continued page 6*

### Feathers

For information about upcoming Salem Audubon programs and activities, see [www.salemsudubom.org](http://www.salemsudubom.org), or Salem Audubon's Facebook page.

Harry Fuller is an Oregon birder and natural history author of "Freeway Birding." He is a member of the Salem Audubon Society. Contact him at [atowhee@gmail.com](mailto:atowhee@gmail.com) or <http://www.towhee.net/>. His "Some Fascinating Things About Birds" column will be appearing regularly in Salem Reporter.



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## Field Trips COVID update – October

—by *Cynthia Donald*

Due to the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases and the Governor's new regulations, SAS wants to make our members, field trip attendees and the public aware that we are suspending field trips until November, 2021 at the earliest. We regret doing this but the safety of our members, leaders, their families, and participants are of utmost concern. We urge everyone to keep yourselves, families, friends and loved ones as safe as possible.



## SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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-Tuesday, 8:00A – 4:30P  
 Wednesday, 8:00 AM – 12 Noon

#### Mailing Address:

PO Box 2084  
 Salem, Oregon 97308  
 (503) 588-7340

email: [laurie@salemaudubon.org](mailto:laurie@salemaudubon.org)  
 Website: [www.salemaudubon.org](http://www.salemaudubon.org)

### Bird & Wildlife emergency contact:

Chintimini Wildlife Center  
 (541) 745-5324  
[chintiminiwildlife.org](http://chintiminiwildlife.org)

## Upcoming Events for 2021

Many birding festivals have made the decision to cancel and/or suspend their events in 2021 due to COVID-19 (coronavirus). Events will be added once announced.

### Salem Audubon Society's YouTube Channel

Salem Audubon Society (SAS) YouTube channel will host the Birder's Night presentations as well as some of the birding webinars.

To access the channel, 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 YouTube channel, please email Mike at [salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com).

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

Plant and nurture native trees and shrubs.  
 Attack invasives and help keep our Reserve looking great.  
 Maintain trails. Eliminate litter.  
 BYO work gloves; tools provided or bring your favorites.

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

Coffee and conversation after at Urban Grange, on Edgewater St.

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  
[www.facebook.com/Audubon-Nature-Reserve-1636890073202471](https://www.facebook.com/Audubon-Nature-Reserve-1636890073202471)



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PO Box 2084  
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Connecting people with birds + nature

## Upcoming Events & Trips



Mark your  
calendar!

### Field Trips

*Suspended until further notice*

### Online Birding Webinars

Thursday, October 21 at 2:00 PM

*Where to Go Birding in November*

*See the link on page 2 to register*

### Birder's Night Webinar

Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 PM

*See the links on page 3 to register  
and for the instructions to join the webinar*

## 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**  
**PO Box 2084**  
**Salem OR 97308**