



Salem Audubon Society

The Kestrel

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www.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

American Kestrel, Photo © Jim Leonard



President's Message

— *Tim Johnson*

IRA Required Minimum Distribution

Recently, a member asked me if it is possible to donate a portion of one's IRA required minimum distribution (RMD) specifically to the Ankeny Hill Nature Center. It is certainly possible to do this. Many of our members including myself will designate a portion of their 2020 RMD to the Nature Center, which among other things will help with the design and construction of the Dave Marshall outdoor classroom at Peregrine Marsh. If you haven't done so already, there's still time to do this for your 2019 RMD. I would like to encourage you to consider supporting Salem Audubon in this way. I believe there are some tax advantages to distributing your RMD directly to Salem Audubon. Check with your tax preparer for details. If you wish to distribution a portion of your IRA RMD to the Nature Center specifically, please indicate that with your distribution, or let Laurie or me know of your intentions and we'll keep a lookout for it. Such funds are deposited into a restricted bank account and are used only for their specified purpose.

On the other hand, some members donate a portion of their annual IRA RMD to Salem Audubon, without specifying any use. This type of donation gives us greater flexibility on how best to use the funds to support our mission, which doesn't exclude supporting the Nature Center. Such contributions are deposited into an unrestricted bank account and used to support a wider range of our nature-oriented programs and activities.

"Restricted" and "Unrestricted" are technical accounting terms. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) stipulates that non-profit organizations hold restricted and unrestricted funds separately, account for them separately, and use them only for specified purposes. Here at Salem Audubon, we follow GAAP guidelines. So again, if you designate a donation for the Nature Center, we will only use it for developing, operating, or supporting the Nature Center.

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*President's Message***Salem Audubon Goals for 2020**

At the next meeting of the board of directors, we will continue to set goals for the new year. If you wish to suggest a goal, please let me know, or better yet, join us at the January 28 board meeting and help us establish and prioritize our goals for the new year.

Preliminary goals include:

- Working with our Ankeny Hill Nature Center partners, develop a plan for the opening of the center, scheduled for fall 2020. This plan will include an Open House event and celebration.
- Raise enough funds for the design and development of the Dave Marshall outdoor classroom at Peregrine Marsh.
- Develop a plan and a calendar for Salem Audubon's nature-oriented program offerings at the Nature Center.
- Develop an annual plan and calendar for Salem Audubon's participation in public events, including the Home, Yard and Garden Show at the fairgrounds, and the Silver Falls Mother's Day and Christmas events.

Please let me know if you have any related questions or would like to get more involved in charting Salem Audubon's future.

If you have questions about any of these topics, you can contact me at tim@salemaudubon.org.

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 gdealindy@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.

**Wednesday, January 1 at 9:00 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park**

(Upcoming –Thursday, February 6 and Sunday, March 1, both at 9:00 AM. Note time change for the winter months.)

Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998 and Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

Minto-Brown park is highly accessible with many trails - 8 hard surface trails and many more soft trails. The access to habitat makes it a remarkable park for birders. Leaves are gone from shrubs and deciduous trees. Food, in berries, fallen apples, cherries, and grass seeds are a main attraction, with hedges and woodlands that provide cover for birds. Chickadee flocks with nuthatches and Brown Creepers, scavenging for insects in bark

and lichen; thrushes, waxwings and yellow-rumped warblers will be in the trees and in fallen fruit as insects gather. Increased winter raptor species including falcons will perch for hunting, providing good study and views. The oxbow and fields will attract Dusky Canada Geese, Greater White-fronted geese, with American Wigeon and other ducks that acquire their best plumage in winter. In fields and waterway edges we will look for shorebirds such as Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe and more. We will always look for the unusual for this park, such as Western Bluebirds, American Pipits, Red Crossbills and Snow Geese flyovers.

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Field Trips continued

Meet at 8:00 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 Noon.

NOTE: Be aware that there have been several cars broken into in the parking lot in the past few months, so don't leave anything of value in your car while on the walk.

Directions: From River Road South, turn west at the signal at Minto Island Road and proceed to the last parking lot.

Sunday, January 12, 9:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

(Upcoming – Sunday, February 23 and Tuesday, March 17, both at 9:00 AM. Note time change for the winter months.)

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

With rising waters in the Pintail and Eagle Marsh areas, this is a great time to visit the many perimeter pullouts around the refuge. We'll make frequent stops to scan for field or field pond species. These areas are where Cackling, Canada and Dusky geese, Tundra Swans, ducks, and other waterfowl will be gathering for their winter stays and feeding. Diving ducks will be feeding on the pond bottom for aquatic plants and invertebrates, and dabbling ducks can be seen moving surface water for aquatic food. Some ducks maybe pairing up, and geese can be seen in family groups. Orange collars can identify Dusky Geese, with identification number and letters linking to their natal place of origin. We can expect to observe an increased number of visiting raptors on snags. There is also a good chance for Sandhill Crane flyover. Stands of oak and snags with cavities will be a source of food and shelter for woodpeckers and nuthatches. This appears to be an 'acorn year' as many birders have already observed. Mistletoe berries can be attractive for Western Bluebirds and Yellow-rumped Warblers that move around for food in the oaks. We can expect identification challenges with flocks of sparrows in shrub growth and hedgerows along the road and ditches. Plan to carpool as we travel, with stops that might include the boardwalk at Rail Trail or Pintail Marsh, if time permits.

Meet at the Pintail Marsh Parking at 9:00 AM. This will be the only portable restroom stop until the Nature Center off Ankeny

Hill Road is completed. Plan on carpooling. Wear footwear for walking uneven trails. Bring water and snacks. We will plan to finish by Noon.

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

Tuesday, January 21, 9:00-10:30 AM – Cascades Gateway Park

(Upcoming – Wednesday, March 25 at 9:00 AM)

Leader: Fred Stephens (503) 378-1364

We will walk the approximately 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, February 20, 9:00-10:30 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park

Leader: Barbara Dolan (971) 338-8817

This will be a SHORT winter walk. We will choose a reasonable loop from our winter February birding in the park. Many paths are available unless there is flooding. Parking lots are also like magnets for birds feeding at hedgerows and flyovers. Winter migrant and resident sparrows have been seen nicely in the park at the 3rd parking lot, and while the leaves are off the trees we will look for woodpeckers searching for insects, seeds and sap, raptors, and as many waterfowl as we can. We will set a goal to see and hear as much as possible in the planned 1 1/2 hours.

Meet at 9:00 AM in parking lot #3 (the last parking lot in the park, see directions above). Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear for soft wet paths.



Guide to Binoculars:

<https://www.audubon.org/gear/binocular-guide> or <https://salemaudubon.org/assets/docs/binoculars.pdf>

Birder's Night – Tuesday, January 14, 2020 - 6:30 PM

The Carrier Room, First United Methodist Church, 600 State St., Salem

Oregon, California, Hawaii, Texas, Ohio, Zambia – Oh My!

— SAS Members

Birder's Night on Tuesday, January 14, will be our annual Photo-Sharing Night. At this event, SAS members share their best birding pictures and experiences, giving us a potpourri of topics and images. The program starts at 6:30 PM in the Carrier Room of the First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem. We have a full slate of "shorts" with a few surprises to throw in:

"Milestone Wanderer": After a year of grieving her mom's death, **Tara Choate** decided to mark the anniversary with a trip. See photos from her trip to Monterey, California, and back along 101 and through the redwoods.

"Birds of Newport, Oregon": The Newport area has diversified habitat, including the Mark Hatfield Nature Trail, South Jetty, Yaquina Bay, and other fruitful areas. **Tim Johnson**, SAS President, Treasurer, CBC and Salem Bird List Compiler, and leader of coastal bird trips will show photos of Brant, Marbled Godwit, Rhinoceros Auklet, Snowy Plovers, and many others, and give us tips to improve our own coastal birding experiences.



White Tern by Ted Floyd

"American Birding Association Rally in Hawaii": Did you know that the islands of Hawaii have been added to the ABA area? In October Bruce and Kathy Patterson spent two weeks visiting three Hawaiian Islands with the American Birding Association, finding many island endemics tucked away in rainforests and seeing a wide assortment of introduced birds. A pelagic trip off the Big Island was one of the highlights of the tour with sunny skies. Kathy has been a member of Salem Audubon for many years. She is a member of the Birder's Night Committee, served two terms on the Audubon Board, and participates in the SAS Christmas Bird count. **Ted Floyd**, Trip Leader and ABA editor of the Birding magazine, took the photos for this presentation.



Crested Caracara by Beth Aften

"Chiggers, Snakes and Alligators – Oh My! Birding the Rio Grande Valley": **Beth and Dick Aften** have lived in Oregon since coming west on their honeymoon in 1969, instantly falling in love with the mountains and forests. But they really didn't become interested in birds until about 10 years ago when they bought a cabin in Camp Sherman, near the Metolius River. They met a neighbor, Doug Beall, an amazing bird photographer, who recommended the Canon 7D Mark II camera and became their mentor. Beth had only used an old Instamatic camera and didn't know what Aperture, F/stop, etc. even meant. Learning a new hobby at age 70 was a challenge, but capturing a photo of a bird was a Thrill and became a hobby they really enjoy together. Texas was amazing and almost every bird was a LIFE bird!

"The Marvels of Magee Marsh": Inspired by Tim Johnson's presentation last year, **Dick Aften and his wife Beth** set off to Ohio for "The Biggest Week in American Birding", a Warbler Festival sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory at one of America's best sites at which to encounter Warblers and many other resplendent migrants resting up before crossing Lake Erie. The experience was overwhelming, so many colorful tiny beauties perched all around.



Number One Owl by Marcia Batten

"Travels through the Pacific Northwest and Northern California": **Gary and Marcia Batten** enjoy finding new birds and running into other interesting wildlife. Their travels took them to Malheur last May where cold and rain didn't prevent their seeing new birds. In July they took a trip to Bend/Sisters primarily in search of the calliope hummingbird--which they thought would be easy to find at Calliope Crossing in Sisters. They were wrong and never saw a hummingbird, but did see nighthawks flying around in the middle of the afternoon. In August they took a trip to Clarkston, WA, and the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. Their last trip was in November to Redding, CA where they used Harry Fuller's book "Freeway Birding" to find interesting, low key, areas to explore.



Loss, original painting by Tara Choate



Sanderling by Tim Johnson



Prothonotary Warbler, by Dick Aften

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Birder's Night continued

"Zambia Safari": **Mitch Rohse** is a west Salem resident who took up wildlife photography eight years ago, after a long career in land-use planning. He photographs wildlife mainly in Oregon but also travels often to other states and countries. You can see his work at his website, justmynature.smugmug.com. Mitch visited Zambia last summer with his wife Louann. With hundreds of species of colorful birds and a vast array of other animals such as elephants, lions, and leopards, Zambia is a wildlife watcher's paradise. Mitch and Louann went out on safari every day there for three weeks, where Mitch took more than 8,000 thousand photos. Some of the best will be seen in his slideshow "Zambia Safari!" It will be accompanied by traditional music from southern Africa.



Hippo by Mitch Rohse

Birder's Night is a monthly program presented by Salem Audubon Society on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May. Meetings are free and open to the public. Salem Audubon always appreciates donations to support its conservation, education, and stewardship programs. For more information, call the Audubon office at (503) 588-7340.

— *Eugenia Becker, Chair, Salem Audubon Birder's Night*

Oregon Birds: See, Learn, and Share – Exploring Raptors: Birds of Prey Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

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

Did you know that Oregon is home to numerous raptors including hawks, falcons, and eagles throughout the year? This class will highlight the best sites to look for them. Do you have trouble separating a Red-shouldered Hawk from a Red-tail? We investigate the tricky identification challenges that these birds present. How fast can falcons fly? How come vultures don't get sick when they eat dead things? We answer these questions as well as others and learn about the classification, identification, and lifestyles of these fascinating birds. We also learn the identification of some of these raptors by sight and sound.

Cost \$10 per person. Reservations requested. Please register online at <https://forms.gle/9qe3NLweSAPjJHdi9>. For more information or if you have any difficulty with registration, please call Mike Unger at (503) 930-8998 and leave a message.

Green Burial: The Ultimate Form of Recycling

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – 8:00 PM

Taproot Lounge and Café, 356 State St, Salem

It's no secret that Oregonians hold our environment in high regard. For many of us, incorporating practices that help preserve our state's water, air and land have become ingrained into our daily routine. But what are our eco-friendly options when it comes to end-of-life? Attend this presentation and learn about options for the ultimate act of environmental volunteerism—green burial.

Elizabeth Fournier owns and operates Cornerstone Funeral Services in Boring, Oregon, where she is affectionately known as "The Green Reaper" for her green burial advocacy. She serves on the Advisory Board for the Green Burial Council, the environmental certification organization setting the standard for green burial in North America. She is also the author of *The Green Burial Guidebook: Everything You Need to Plan an Affordable, Environmentally Friendly Burial*.

The program is free with donations encouraged. For questions contact Jon Yoder at joyoder73@gmail.com.

Visit Salem Environmental Education's website at <https://salemee.org> for more information on this and other programs available throughout the year.



2020 Bird Identification Workshops

In 2020, Salem Audubon Society (SAS) will be offering six workshops on identifying local birds and using eBird. Two of the six workshops will be on new topics while the most popular workshops on Raptor ID and Hummingbirds will be repeated. The **workshops are held on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**. The **cost of each workshop is \$10.00 per person** with all proceeds going to SAS to support conservation and other related activities. Mike Unger is the instructor for the workshops. Check future Kestrels for further information on each workshop.

March 14 – Hummingbirds of the U.S. July 25 – Owls of the Pacific Northwest
 April 18 – eBird and Birding Resources October 3 – Sparrows Workshop
 May 2 – Land Birds (Woodpeckers, etc.)



*Acorn Woodpecker
Photo by Jim Leonard*

*** SAS Membership Renewal Reminder ***

February 1 marks the annual renewal for your SAS membership. To renew your membership (or become a new member), complete the membership form on the back of this newsletter then mail or use a credit card or PayPal account on Salem Audubon Society's website under the "Support Us" tab at salemaudubon.org.

Also, please consider changing your membership to the E-Kestrel. It saves you some money, and, as a bonus, the E-Kestrel usually arrives a little earlier than the printed version of the monthly newsletter. It also includes full-color pictures. All that you will need to do is indicate 'eKestrel' on your renewal/membership form.

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

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 at McDonalds after
 Call Lee Slattum at (503) 364-9325 with any questions

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

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



The hardy work crew at the Salem Audubon Reserve works in all weather. However, they welcome fair-weather friends and anyone who wants to join them, whether for a day or months.

SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

Board of Directors 2020

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

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>
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

Upcoming Events - 2020

February 13-16, 2020

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

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

March 20-22, 2020

[Sandhill Crane Festival](#)
 Othello, WA

May 2020
[42nd Annual Silver Falls Birding
 and Wildflower Festival](#)

March 20-22, 2020

[Wings Over Water
 18th Annual Northwest Birding
 Festival](#)
 Blaine, WA

Malheur NWR Trip
 Eastern Oregon

June 4-7, 2020

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

April 24-26, 2020

[Gray Harbors Shorebird and
 Nature Festival](#)
 Hoquiam, WA

June 4, 2020
 Summer Lake Trip, Oregon

July 7, 2020

Puffins Trip, Cannon Beach, OR

April 2020

[Birding and Blues](#)
 Pacific City, OR

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

www.facebook.com/SalemAudubonSociety

Be sure to  Like us!

Visit **Salem Environmental Education** at salemee.org for
 information on [Green News and Brews](#) (see below for
 upcoming programs), "Our Oregon" programs, and more

Green Burials

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 8:00 PM

Climate Change: What Can You Do?

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 8:00 PM

Held at the Taproot Lounge and Café, 356 State Street, Salem



Salem Audubon Society

338 Hawthorne Ave NE
Salem OR 97301

503.588.7340

www.salemaudubon.org

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Connecting people with birds + nature

Upcoming Events & Trips



Mark your
calendar!

Field Trips

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- Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge**
Sunday, January 12, 9:00 AM
- Cascades Gateway Park (SAS Short)**
Tuesday, January 21, 9:00-10:30 AM

Birder's Night

- Oregon, California, Hawaii, Texas, Ohio,
Zambia – Oh My!**
Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 PM
First United Methodist Church, Carrier Room
600 State Street, Salem

Other Events

- Oregon Birds: See, Learn, and Share –
Exploring Raptors: Birds of Prey**
Saturday, January 18, 10:00A to Noon
Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, 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

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