



THE KESTREL

Salem Audubon Society

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In This Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 2 New SAS Board Members
- 3 Editor's Note
Name Change Survey
- 4 SAS Field Trips

Board of Directors

Tim Johnson, President
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 Dominic Valenti

SAS Office Information

Laurie Buswell, Administrator
 Office Visits by Appointment Only
 Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
 PO Box 2084 Salem, Oregon 97308
 408 N 3rd Ave, Stayton, OR 97383
 (503) 588-7340
 Email: laurie@salemaudubon.org
 Website: www.salemaudubon.org

Wildlife Emergencies

Contact: Chintimini Wildlife Center
 (541) 745-5324 chintiminiwildlife.org

What's in a Name?

By Tim Johnson

Salem Audubon Society President

In 1905, the National Audubon Society was formally formed as a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to conserving birds and their habitats. George Bird Grinnell founded it. According to Wikipedia, as a boy, Grinnell had avidly read Ornithological Biography, a work by the ornithologist, naturalist, and bird painter John James Audubon; he also went to a school for boys conducted by Lucy Audubon. The Audubon name became the namesake of the Society Grinnell founded. Around 500 other Audubon Societies have since formed with a similar mission and name.



Tim Johnson

President's Message

Salem Audubon Society was formed in 1962. In addition to the purpose of conservation of birds and their habitats, Salem Audubon will connect people to nature, with bird walks, environmental education programs, participation in community events, the establishment of the Audubon Nature Reserve in West Salem, and most recently, with the creation of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex).

Salem Audubon Society has built a reputation as a regional leader in environmental education and conservation. It partners on conservation projects with the City of Salem, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, among other organizations. It has built a trusted name in our community.

You are probably aware that recently it has become known through a series of articles in the National Audubon magazine that John James Audubon bought and sold enslaved people. He was also a body snatcher who

President's Message continued on next page >

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collected human skulls to assist the race supremacist work of Samuel G. Morton. These revelations have brought into question whether the National Audubon Society should change its name.

In March this year, after a long process of examining its name, given the personal history of its namesake, the National Audubon Society's Board of Directors retained the Audubon name. The board cited several reasons for this decision, including that over the past 100 years, the name Audubon has come to mean more than the man. And that a name change would have an overall negative impact on its ability to complete its mission.

After the National Audubon Society decided to retain its name, the Salem Audubon Society Board met to discuss whether to follow National Audubon's lead. A name change is a significant undertaking for a small organization like ours. It would affect nearly every part of our organization.

A name change includes these actions:

- Modifications to SAS Articles of Incorporation and By-laws
- Name change with the IRS as a charitable organization
- Oregon Secretary of State corporate name change
- Updating Ankeny Hill Nature Center agreements with USF&WS
- Renaming the Audubon Nature Reserve in West Salem
- Name change with Insurance companies: workers comp, liability, etc
- Name change with our financial institutions, U. S. Postal Service, QuickBooks, and our financial records
- Change to SAS domain name, email domain addresses,
- A new Facebook page (abandon the current one)
- Updating Google search database and other search databases.
- Re-branding Salem Audubon Society in our community is perhaps the most challenging task.

This list is a daunting set of tasks and doesn't include everything.

The critical question is, what are we trying to accomplish by changing the Audubon name? Will it enable us to improve our ability to achieve our mission? Will it help make the organization a more diverse, inclusive organization? Will it let us attract more diversity to our activities and membership?

My experience from ten years on the board attempting to be a more diverse and inclusive organization has been an explicit and consistent goal of Salem Audubon. Diversity goes hand in hand with our mission of connecting people with nature, all people. Each year, the board identifies ways to help Salem Audubon increase its diversity, particularly among Latinos, a significant underrepresented proportion of our community in our programs and membership.

While finding ways to attract a broader community representation in our programs, membership, and board will continue to be a priority for Salem Audubon, I don't see how a name change will significantly affect that goal. In my estimation, the name Audubon represents more than the man, and a name change will do little to improve our perception throughout the community, enable us to improve our diversity or attract a broader representation of the community to our programs and membership.

A few of the larger chapters across the country have announced their intention to go ahead with a name change despite National Audubon's decision to keep the name. This includes Portland Audubon. It's unclear what name these larger chapters will choose and whether they will remain in the National Audubon network. But whatever they decide, I think it is in Salem Audubon's best interest to retain the Audubon name and to continue to become more diverse in other ways.

What do you think? Considering the costs, risks, and perceived benefits, do you believe Salem Audubon Society can be most effective at carrying out its mission by keeping its name, or is a name change a better strategy? We have created a survey to get your opinion. Please click on the following link to access the survey. And contact me directly if you have questions or suggestions – tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com.

Thanks.

Give Us Your Thoughts About Changing Our Chapter Name

By Mike Williams

Editor - The Kestrel

As Salem Audubon Society President Tim Johnson explained in his monthly message, the National Audubon Society (NAS) spent considerable time and effort evaluating its organization's name, considering revelations about the personal history of its namesake, John James Audubon.

We encourage you to read the story of their announcement here:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/national-audubon-society-announces-decision-retain-current-name>.

For similar reasons, the Salem Audubon Society (SAS), as did many other NAS chapters, also considered a name change for their local organization. And now, the Salem Audubon Board of Directors is asking for your input to help guide the Chapter's decision.

Despite the decision by the national organization, consideration of name changes continue at the chapter level around the country.

Editor's Note

The Seattle chapter has announced its new name. The Portland Audubon Society and most other chapters in Oregon have also announced their intentions to drop their use of the Audubon name. Here are a few links to related articles to help you better understand the situation.

- [Audubon faces a backlash after deciding to keep name that evokes a racist enslaver](#) – National Public Radio
- ["Portland Audubon Commits to Dropping the Name Audubon"](#) – Portland Audubon Society
- ["In light of namesake's racist history, Portland Audubon searches for new name"](#) – KGW8

Take Our SAS
Name Change Survey
CLICK HERE

- [Reflecting the Future – Inclusive Change: Birds Connect Seattle](#) – Seattle Audubon.org
- [Seattle Audubon unveils new name after severing tie to slave owner](#) – Seattle Times

How should the Salem Audubon Society Board of Directors decide on this significant matter? Please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey to help us decide whether to keep or change our chapter name. Your answers will be anonymous, confidential, and secure.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and timely response to our survey.

Volunteers Make the Ankeny Hill Nature Center Sparkle

Two business groups brought more than 20 volunteers to the Ankeny Hill Nature Center in June. They watered, weeded, cleaned Gehlar Hall inside and out, built wire plant protectors, redid the volunteer parking area, and more! Other volunteers greeted visitors and shared the wonders of native plants and pollinators at two special events:

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District organized a first-time Home School Day and the second annual **Bees and Blooms** event associated with pollinator week.

Want to volunteer? Contact Pat (he/him/his) and Bobbie (she/her/hers) Allaire, Volunteer Coordinators, at volunteers@ankenyhillnaturecenter.org or call (541) 760-3700.



Laurie Aguirre helps one young visitor 'Become a Pollinator' with a costume provided by Salem Environmental Education during the Homeschool Day event: **Native Plants and Their Pollinators**.

Salem Audubon Society Field Trips

Compiled by Cynthia Donald

Salem Audubon field trips are open to the public, and we have a mix of experienced and new birders. Our field trips are an excellent way to familiarize ourselves with Oregon birds, experience new places, and meet new friends. We don't charge for our trips, but a small fee, such as a parking pass, may be involved, depending on our destination. Carpooling is encouraged to reduce our carbon footprint, and if you do carpool, please contribute to your driver to help cover costs.

SAS-SHORTS are shortened local field trips, lasting up to 1.5 hours and covering about 1 mile on generally even surfaces. New and experienced birders are welcome! Please arrive before the start time as these trips will begin precisely at the listed time.

Many of our field trips meet at the Airport Park and Ride 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. Take Mission Street to Airport Road (the first signal light east of 25th Street), turn left, and proceed north one block to the park and ride. There are no facilities at this location.

SAS MONTHLY FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, July 6, and Sunday, August 6, both at 7:30 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park

(Upcoming – Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30 AM)

Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552, (Paul Evans (317) 922-7908

This 1,200-acre park, adjacent to the Willamette River with multiple sloughs, includes a conservation area and is home to nesting waterfowl (notably Wood Duck). Other residents include five woodpecker species, creeper, two nuthatch species, two chickadee species, towhee, and a variety

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Upcoming Events
July 2023

MON 3	SAS - SHORTS Willamette Mission State Park <small>8:00 AM - 11:00 AM</small> <small>Willamette Mission SP</small>
THUR 6	SAS - FIELD TRIP Minto-Brown Island Park <small>7:30 AM - Noon</small> <small>Minto-Brown Island Park</small>
WED 12	Evening Bird Walk Minto-Brown Island Park <small>7:30 PM - Dark</small> <small>Minto-Brown Island Park</small>
SAT 15	SAS - FIELD TRIP Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge <small>7:30 AM - Noon</small> <small>Ankeny NWR</small>
MON 24	SAS - SHORTS Illahe Hills Country Club <small>8:00 AM - 11:00 AM</small> <small>Illahe Hills Country Club</small>
MON 31	SAS - SHORTS Baskett Slough NWR <small>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</small> <small>Baskett Slough NWR</small>
EVERY WED	VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party <i>(All are welcome)</i> <small>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</small> <small>Ankeny Nature Reserve</small>

Upcoming Events
August 2023

THUR 3	SPECIAL SAS TRIP Cannon Beach Puffin Watch <small>8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</small> <small>Cannon Beach - HWY 101</small>
SUN 6	SAS - FIELD TRIP Minto-Brown Island Park <small>7:30 AM - Noon</small> <small>Minto-Brown Island Park</small>
WED 9	Evening Bird Walk Minto-Brown Island Park <small>7:00 PM - Dark</small> <small>Minto-Brown Island Park</small>
MON 14	SAS - SHORTS Illahe Hills Country Club <small>8:00 AM - 11:00 AM</small> <small>Illahe Hills Country Club</small>
TUES 15	SAS - FIELD TRIP Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge <small>7:30 AM - Noon</small> <small>Ankeny NWR</small>
EVERY WED	VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party <i>(All are welcome)</i> <small>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</small> <small>Ankeny Nature Reserve</small>

Upcoming Events
September 2023

WED 6	SAS - FIELD TRIP Minto-Brown Island Park <small>7:30 AM - Noon</small> <small>Minto-Brown Island Park</small>
SAT 16	SAS - FIELD TRIP Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge <small>7:30 AM - Noon</small> <small>Ankeny NWR</small>
MON 25	SAS - SHORTS Illahe Hills Country Club <small>8:00 AM - 11:00 AM</small> <small>Illahe Hills Country Club</small>
EVERY WED	VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party <i>(All are welcome)</i> <small>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</small> <small>Ankeny Nature Reserve</small>

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of wrens, sparrows, and raptors (Osprey and Bald Eagle nest there). Breeding neotropical migrants include Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, vireos, flycatchers, and warblers. The river is a nursery for wading birds, with both Great Blue and Green Herons seen with their young. Other river species include the Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Common Nighthawk. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and a snack, and explore one of two of the Minto loop trails.

Meet at 7:30 AM at Parking Lot #3 (the last parking lot in the park). Dress for the weather; bring water, snacks, and binoculars! Trails may be uneven, so wear appropriate footwear and plan for considerable walking. We plan to be finished around 11:00 AM.

Directions: From River Road South, turn west at the signal at Minto Island Road and proceed to the last parking lot. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle, and confirm anything inside is out of sight.

Saturday, July 15, and Tuesday, August 15, both at 7:30 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

(Upcoming – Saturday, September 16 at 7:30 AM)

Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552, Paul Evans (317) 922-7908

Summer field trips to Ankeny NWR offer access to the interior ponds. We can find a variety of nesting ducks, grebe, Green Heron, and American Bittern as their young emerge from grasses and water hedges. Songs and calls of Sora, Virginia Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, and Marsh Wren fill the cattails and marshes. Warblers (such as Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat), Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Tanager, flycatchers, and woodpeckers contribute to the aural experience. Mudflats provide our initial glimpses of fall migrating shorebirds. Raptors, including Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Peregrine Falcon, frequent the pattern of waterways, ponds, and snag-perch habitat. Osprey can also be seen. Plan on walking a berm with uneven surfaces and going a moderate distance without shade. If time permits, we can explore a cooler boardwalk for more passerines.

Meet at Ankeny Hill Nature Center (AHNC) Parking Lot at 7:30 AM. There are facilities at this location, and the trails are now open! We will start here before visiting Pintail Marsh and other locations. Bring water, binoculars, and a snack. Trails can be uneven, so please wear appropriate footwear. We anticipate finishing before noon. Please note that the gate does not open until 7:00 AM.

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, bear right and continue on Ankeny Hill Road straight (west), approximately 2.2 miles to the AHNC Visitor Center entrance, which will be on your left. An alternate route from Salem is to take Liberty Road south to Ankeny Hill Road, then turn left and continue about 0.4 miles to the AHNC Visitor Center entrance, which will be on your right. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle, and confirm anything inside is out of sight.

SAS-SHORTS

Monday, July 3 at 8:00 AM - Willamette Mission State Park

Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

A wide variety of bird species can be seen at this beautiful state park during the summer months, including Wood Duck, Band-tailed Pigeon, Hutton's Vireo, Purple Finch, Lazuli Bunting, and various swallows, flycatchers, and warblers. The Willamette River also makes this an excellent spot for Bald Eagles, Osprey, Belted Kingfisher, Spotted Sandpiper, and Great Blue and Green Heron. We'll walk approximately 1.5 miles on both paved and dirt trails, and this field trip should take us about 2 hours to complete. It will likely be sunny and warm, so don't forget to bring water and sunscreen!

Meet in the Filbert Grove day-use area. A state park pass is required for this location. (Single-day permits can also be purchased for \$5 from the fee station near the park entrance.)

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Directions: From Salem, take River Road N through Keizer to Wheatland Road NE, just past the McNary Estates entry. Turn left on Wheatland Road NE to the entrance to Willamette Mission SP. An alternate way is to take I-5 north to the Brooks/Gervais exit (Brooklake Road NE), turn left, continue to Wheatland Road NE, turn right, and continue to the park entrance. Hope to see you there!

Wednesday, July 12 at 7:30 PM and Wednesday, August 9 at 7 PM – Summer Evening Bird Walks for Common Nighthawk

Leader: Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

These early evenings, nearing dusk – set of two Salem Audubon SHORT walks, will be on two summer evenings to seek and hear Common Nighthawk. Nest building does not occur in this species, and the pair may use sandy/rocky areas, stumps, old nests, and rooftops for nesting. These birds hawk for insects at dusk, night, and day, but predominantly evening. We will take a loop from the 3rd parking lot to the river and return, hoping to hear and see these birds. On their platform, we will also enjoy other water-connected species, including Osprey and, hopefully, nestlings. Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Herons, and possibly Rough-winged Swallows and other migrants that have nested and used the river shoreline, cavities, and woodland may be seen or heard.

Join us if you can on these two dates. Note the evening time for each walk is different. The walks will be on primarily even surfaces. If the day is warm, suggest good hydration before you come, and prepare for glaring sun reflection and protection while walking along the river. Meet at the #3 parking lot as you enter from River Road S and go west to the #3 lot. Gather at the signage to correct interference in parking lot traffic. Call the leader if you have questions.

Meet at Minto-Brown Island Park Parking Lot #3 (the last parking lot in the park). Dress for the weather; bring water, binoculars, sunscreen, and eye protection for glare along the river. Trails may be uneven, so wear appropriate footwear. Each walk will last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Once parked, please gather at the signage board to not interfere with other park traffic.

Directions: From River Road South, turn west at the signal at Minto Island Road and proceed to the last parking lot. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle, and confirm anything inside is out of sight.

Monday, July 24, and Monday, August 14, both at 8:00 AM – Illahe Hills Country Club

(Upcoming – Monday, September 25 at 8:00 AM)

Leaders: Paul Evans, Roxy Evans

Please contact the leader at paulevansdo@gmail.com to confirm your registration for this trip.

Illahe Hills Country Club has been graciously hosting limited guided bird walks. These enjoyable walks work jointly to see the birds, animals, and plants and collect data. Illahe Hills CC is now certified by the International Audubon Society. This designation credentials the golf course's good stewardship of wildlife, plants, and ecosystems on the course and the surrounding grounds. Walks are open to Illahe members and limited Salem Audubon Society guests through sign-up (see below). The course is close to Minto Brown Island Park and abuts local farms. Over 90 bird species have been recorded. Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Great Horned Owls nest here and are regularly seen. New birders are welcome!

Registered participants should meet at the Country Club entrance at 8:00 AM. Please park in the main parking area, not in front of the clubhouse! Dress for the weather and bring water, sunblock, a hat, and binoculars. Restroom facilities are available. We will be finished before 11:00 AM. Please contact the leader at paulevansdo@gmail.com to confirm your registration for this trip.

Directions: From Salem, proceed south on River Road to Country Club Road South and turn right (west) on Country Club Road South. Proceed a short distance, and the country club with ample parking area will be straight ahead.

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Monday, July 31 at 9:00 AM – Baskett Slough NWR

Leader: Harry Fuller (791) 312-1735

Established in 1965 as part of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex, Baskett Slough is primarily managed to provide wintering habitat for the Dusky Canada Goose, a subspecies of Canada Goose with very limited summer and winter ranges. This refuge also provides wetland and woodland sanctuary for migrant and resident wildlife, including Fender's Blue Butterfly, once thought extinct but rediscovered here! We are meeting at the Rich Guadagno Trailhead, just off Coville Road, near the center of the refuge. Rich, a former manager at this NWR, perished on September 11, 2001, on United Flight 93. Walk and experience the flora and fauna that call this part of the refuge home. From the overlook, you can see wetlands throughout the southern part of the refuge. Continue on the loop trail through oak woodlands, listening for many passerine species. The raptors frequent the area as well in all seasons. Shorebirds migrate through this area in good numbers, and they may be evident.

Meet at the Rich Guadagno Trailhead Parking Lot on Coville Road at 9:00 AM. Restroom and picnic facilities are available. Bring water, binoculars, a snack, and dress for the weather. Trails may be uneven, so please use appropriate footwear. We will finish around noon.

Directions: From Salem, take Hwy 22 west to 99W. Proceed north to Coville Road and turn west (left). Continue to the trailhead, which will be on your right. Restroom and picnic facilities are available.

SAS SPECIAL TRIP

Thursday, August 3 at 8:00 AM – Cannon Beach Puffin Trip

Leader: Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552



Tufted Puffins are true pelagic birds that spend most of their lives in the open seas of the central North Pacific Ocean. This seabird strikes an impressive profile during breeding season with a solid black body, contrasting white face, sizeable orange bill, and golden head plumes. Each year, up to 20 pair find their way to Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach to breed and raise their young. Puffins are cavity-nesting birds, and after cleaning out an old burrow on a steep edge, the female lays a single egg. Chicks typically emerge to fledge in late June. Join us for this field trip to Cannon Beach to see the Tufted Puffins of Haystack Rock. Please bring a scope if you have one.

Meet at 8:00 AM on the beach on the north side of Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach (look for all the scopes on the beach). There are a couple of parking options in Cannon Beach. Public parking can be found downtown across the street from Theresa's Market (1170 S Hemlock St, Cannon Beach). It's approximately a 15-20 minute walk to the Haystack Rock. There are public restrooms a block south of Theresa's Market. Tolovana Beach State Recreation Site also has public parking and toilets. However, it's approximately a mile from Haystack Rock via the beach.

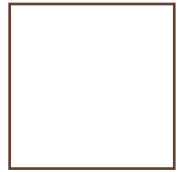
No matter where you park, the sand can be wet and very soft, so please wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather. Cannon Beach is a 2-hour drive from Salem, then a walk to Haystack Rock, depending on where you park. Please plan your departure time to get to the beach around 8:00 AM. Low tide occurs around 8:45 AM.

Bonus option. After seeing the puffins, those interested can caravan to Nehalem Beach State Park for a picnic lunch and additional birding (bring your food and beverage, as there are few options for purchasing anything nearby). An Oregon State Parks pass is required at Nehalem Beach State Park. You can buy a \$5 day-use parking pass with a credit card at the pass vending machine on your way to the day-use area (right side of the road near the boat ramp turnoff).

Directions to Cannon Beach: From Salem, it's approximately 120 miles to Cannon Beach, about 2 hours and 15 minutes, depending on traffic. Take I-5 north to 217, proceed northwest on 217 to 26, proceed west on 26 to 101, and turn south to Cannon Beach. A GPS app or physical maps should get you to Theresa's Market or Tolovana Beach.



Salem Audubon Society
 PO Box 2084
 Salem, OR 97308



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Salem Audubon Society Committees & Special Project Chairs	
Beginning Birding Class Vacant	Education Coordinator Mary Ritter
Birder's Night Harry Fuller	SAS Nature Reserve Lee Slattum
Field Trips Cynthia Donald	SAS Woodshop John Jorgenson
Bluebird Project Vacant	Birding Workshops Mike Unger
Kestrel and Web Editor Mike Williams	Christmas Bird Count Tim Johnson, Mike Unger, Gretchen Johnson
Conservation David Harrison	Chapter Meetings Vacant

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Name	
Address	
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<i>*Required for E-Kestrel Membership</i>	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 E-Kestrel Edition
Family Membership	
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