



THE KESTREL

Salem Audubon Society

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We need your contributions of stories and images for the Kestrel. Submit to:

editor@salemaudubon.org

Need to update your mailing address?

Please call or email Salem Audubon at (503) 588-7340 or

laurie@salemaudubon.org

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Education Grants and Gifts

By Tim Johnson

Salem Audubon Society President

I'd like to thank Paul and Roxie Evans for their generous support of our education programs and activities at Ankeny Hill Nature Center and Salem Audubon. Their AHNC grant supports the education program resources at the nature center, including 17 resource backpacks, each containing a binocular, monocular, field guides, sketchbook, and much more. These backpacks will support groups that reserve the classroom.

An Evans Education Foundation grant also supports Salem Audubon's Birder's Night and our other SAS education programs and activities. That support is very much appreciated.

I'd also like to thank Ray Temple and Stephanie Hazen for donating two microscopes to the AHNC. Stephanie is also providing training to the AHNC volunteers on using the microscopes. These tools will add the ability to study microorganisms as part of AHNC education programs.

Upcoming community events

Salem Audubon will participate or co-sponsor several community events in the coming months. Please mark your calendar and join us if you can.

- March 24-26 Yard, Garden, and Home Show at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. The setup will take place on March 23.
- April 22 - Earth Day at Keizer Rapids Park (Co-Sponsor)
- May 5-6 - Oregon Master Gardener's event at Fairgrounds
- May 13 - Migratory Bird Day at AHNC

Check the calendar on the SAS website and upcoming Kestrel newsletters for more information about these and the other SAS activities and programs.



Tim Johnson

President's Message



Winter Wildlife Days Coming to Nature Center

We look forward to bringing you a bilingual and accessible nature adventure! Everything is free and we will have in-person events in your favorite nearby nature spots, including places you won't need a car to get to. The stickers are back and so are the activity kits!

There will be activities available online, too! See you soon, Nature Explorers, for this year's theme – **Water: the Life in Wildlife**. For more information and schedules visit <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/william-l-finley/winter-wildlife-field-days>

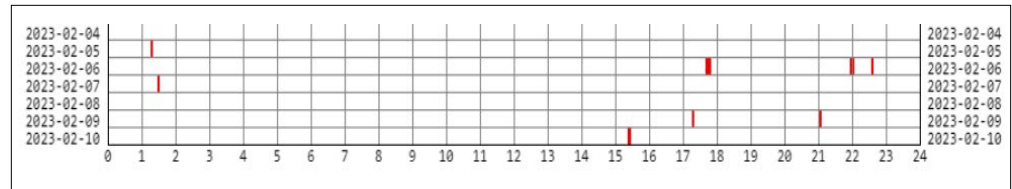
Ankeny's Motus Robin Proves Unpredictable Visitor

By Harry Fuller

For *The Kestrel*

On Feb. 9 a tagged robin was sensed around 10:30 AM and 2:00PM our time. On Feb. 10 the bird was "seen" around 8:30 AM. No overnight signals—that leads me to believe the bird is either going to an out-of-line-of-sight communal roost, or going into a dense conifer to sleep.

Right now the fields at Ankeny NWR are feeding thousands of robins, Killdeer, geese, dabbling ducks, starlings, blackbirds and other ground feeding



birds. Our tagged bird is hardly alone.

If you are just joining us—this bird was tagged last October near Vancouver, BC. It was first confirmed at Ankeny on Jan. 10 at 1:00 PM our time.

The chart above is in modern version of Greenwich Mean Time, seven hours ahead of our time zone right now.

The Motus tower at Ankeny is the first in the Willamette Valley north of Eugene. It was paid for by the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW made a grant for this project to the Salem Audubon Society (SAS). We at SAS had a lot of help from supportive biologists and Motus pros. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages Ankeny NWR, welcomed

the tower project. They completed much of the crucial infrastructure work: a small cement platform, protective fence, trench for cables, electricity, and internet connection. We got the tower up and working last fall. Soon we had a passing dunlin then nothing until "our" robin arrived.

Article reprinted with permission from <https://atowhee.blog/2023/02/12/ankenys-motus-robin-unpredictable/>

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 may be involved, such as a parking pass, depending on our destination. Carpooling is encouraged to reduce our carbon footprint, and if you carpool, please contribute to your driver to help cover costs. If you want to lead a field trip, have places in mind, or have any suggestions or questions, please contact Cynthia at (480)283-4515.

SAS-SHORTS are abbreviated versions of our popular field trips. These trips are in the local area, typically last 1 to 2 hours, and cover up to 2 miles 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.

Some of our field trips meet at the **Airport 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. 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.

Salem Audubon recommends all field trip participants be fully vaccinated and, if applicable, fully boosted. Although not required, field trip participants may wear masks or social distance if they desire.

SAS MONTHLY FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, March 5, 2023, 9:00 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park


(Upcoming – Monday, April 3 at 8:00 AM and Wednesday, May 3 at 8:00 AM.

Note time change!

Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552

This large Salem City Park provides access to various habitats attracting birds and wildlife. The connection of the Peter Courtney Bridge from downtown Salem to the north conservation basin of Minto-Brown Park gives additional opportunities for viewing winter wildlife from the water areas. Various birding loops begin in the Park proper, from parking lot #3. Leafless woodland trees have allowed good viewing of winter birds, and we will see signs of spring budding in Indian Plum, Service Berry, and Fringecup. Cavity openings in the numerous snags provide homes for owls, American Kestrels, five woodpecker species, chickadees, and nuthatches. Western Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owls have been recorded on evening walks, with Barred Owl and Northern Pygmy Owls recorded occasionally in the day hours. Wintering warblers, sparrows, and

Continued on next page >

 **Upcoming Events**
March 2023

WED 1 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY
Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve

SUN 5 SAS - FIELD TRIP
Minto-Brown Island Park
9:00 AM - Noon Minto-Brown Island Park

WED 8 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY
Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve

TUES 14 SAS - BIRDER'S NIGHT
The Impact of Drought On the Pacific Flyway
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Broadway Commons

TUES 14 SAS - FIELD TRIP
Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge
9:00 AM - Noon Ankeny NWR

WED 15 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY
Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve

MON 20 SAS - SHORTS
Willamette Mission State Park
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Willamette Mission SP

WED 22 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY
Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve

WED 29 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY
Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve

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kinglets have joined the resident birds and will begin more spring songs as migration starts. Into March, hummingbirds, Brown Creepers, Bushtit, chickadees, American Robin, Bewick's and Pacific Wrens, Song Sparrows, and towhees will be announcing with more elaborate songs and displays. Join us at this time of seasonal change.

Meet at 9:00 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 noon.

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.**

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 9:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

*(Upcoming – Sunday, April 16 at 8:00 AM and Sunday, May 21 at 8:00 AM. **Note time change!**)*

Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552

In this time of upcoming spring, there is an excellent opportunity to view waterfowl, woodpeckers, Bald eagles, and other raptors from late winter. While Dusky and Cackling Geese depart to their breeding grounds, herons, American Bittern, American Kestrel, Wilson Snipe, and Bald Eagle can be observed finding habitat here to nest. The reedy marsh areas are excellent for Sora, Virginia Rail, and Wilson's Phalarope, which use the refuge to raise fledglings. The interior berms and ponds will not open until April 1, so we will carpool or caravan to prominent pullouts to enjoy birding and scoping the refuge loop field ponds and grassy terrain looking for shorebirds, American Pipit, and possibly Sandhill Crane. If time permits, we can also visit one of the two woodland stand boardwalk areas to look for migrating warblers, flycatchers, vireos, and singing resident sparrows, towhees, Bushtit, and woodpeckers. We will finish by noon.

Meet at Ankeny Hill Nature Center (AHNC) Parking Lot at 9:00 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 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, 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, March 20 at 9:00 AM - Willamette Mission State Park

Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

Some of the earliest migrants to arrive here in the Willamette Valley are Turkey Vultures, Rufous Hummingbirds, and both Tree and Violet-green Swallows, and we will spend the first day of spring in this beautiful state park where all four of these species can be found. In addition to these newcomers, our resident chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers will be present, as will our overwintering sparrows (Golden-crowned, Fox, and Lincoln's) and ducks (American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal on Mission Lake; possibly Common Goldeneye on the Willamette River). We will walk 1 mile on paved trails that border forest, hedgerows, and the river, and then make a quick stop at the end to Mission Lake, the old river channel before the great flood in 1861. This bird walk should take us about 1 1/2 hours to complete.

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.)

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.

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UPCOMING WINTER BIRDING FESTIVALS

Thursday, April 13 through Sunday, April 16 – MIGRATORY BIRD FESTIVAL, Burns OR

From the website <https://migratorybirdfestival.com>

Registration is open! Follow us on social media for updates and information over the next few months. We're looking forward to your participation! Thank you for supporting the Harney County Migratory Bird Festival and our community! Spend a fantastic weekend witnessing the spectacular spring migration in the Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon. View thousands of migratory birds as they rest and feed in the open spaces of Oregon's high desert. Held annually in April in Harney County.

The Harney County Migratory Bird Festival was first held in 1981 to celebrate the sizeable annual migration of birds passing through Harney Basin on the Pacific Flyway. Harney Basin is one of the three most important areas left in the western United States for spring migratory birds stopping on their way north. Over 300 species of birds use the refuge each year, making Harney Basin a bird watcher's paradise. Today, we celebrate the migratory birds' return each year with guided tours led by experts, workshops, and fun activities for youth and adults.

Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7 – GRAY'S HARBOR SHOREBIRD AND NATURE FESTIVAL, Gray's Harbor NWR, Hoquiam, WA

From the website: www.shorebirdfestival.com

Each spring, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed along the Washington Coast and in the Grays Harbor estuary during their migration northward. Coming from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's most significant migrants. Some birds travel over 15,000 miles round trip! The concentration of birds during spring migration offers people a great chance to view many shorebird species. With luck, you will also see the birds fly together in beautiful formations while trying to escape a Peregrine Falcon.

Shorebird is the name given to birds usually found along the shoreline. They include plovers, turnstones, sandpipers, dowitchers, and others. Some shorebirds can be found in Grays Harbor County all year; others only during migration. The shorebird spectacle happens yearly at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge and in other parts of the County. People from around the world come to view this event of hemispheric importance. The Festival works to bring people together for this incredible natural phenomenon. Check our website for more specific information. Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge is open Sunrise to Sunset, 7 Days a week, and we invite you to enjoy our year-round trail. Should you have questions, concerns, or comments, please contact us at shorebirdfest@gmail.com.

Upcoming Special SAS Trip

Tuesday, June 13 through Friday, June 16 – Great Gray Owl Trip

Leader: Harry Fuller (971) 312-1735

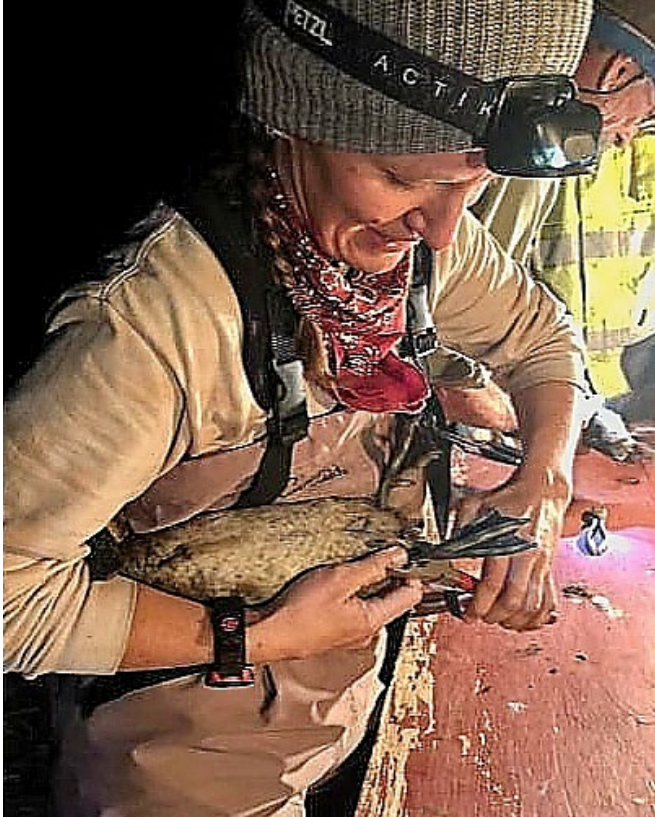
Join us as we travel to southern Oregon to look for some special species! We'll meet for an outside dinner on the evening of June 13 in Ashland. We plan to meet around dawn and bird all day on June 14 and 15, finishing by noon on June 16 if you want to schedule a matinee at the Shakespeare Festival. While the primary focus of this trip is Great Gray Owl, other species we will look for include nesting Sandhill Crane, Mountain Bluebird, Mountain Chickadee, Green-tailed Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, White-headed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Dipper, Nashville Warbler, Hermit Warbler, and MacGillivray's Warbler.

Other possible species include Northern Goshawk, Mountain Quail, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Cassin's Finch, Lazuli Bunting, Golden Eagle, Ruffed Grouse, and Sooty Grouse. Each participant will be responsible for lodging, and we may share some outdoor meals for those willing. You should plan on portable lunches, not in cafes. There will be some gentle walks at 5,000 feet elevation.

For more information and to make a reservation contact: Harry Fuller, (971) 312-1735, anzatowhee@yahoo.com

Upcoming Birder's Night - March 14, 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

Understanding the Impact of Drought on the Pacific Flyway



Photos by Alexa Martinez

Teresa Wicks banding a Redhead.

“Despite being at 130% of average snow-water-equivalent, most of the Harney Basin is still in either extreme or severe drought. The climate forecast for the near future indicates sustained drought, though more precipitation could continue to alleviate the extent of the drought. What does this mean for birds who migrate through and nest in the network of wetlands and lakes throughout eastern Oregon?”

Join Dr. Teresa Wicks, Portland Audubon's Eastern Oregon Biologist, in a discussion of the local, regional, and flyway-wide efforts to understand the short and long-term impacts of prolonged drought and declining water levels on birds in the Harney Basin and throughout the eastern regions of the Pacific Flyway.”

Dr. Wicks is Portland Audubon's Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator. She lives full-time in Harney County and is active doing bird-banding, census-taking and other research on birds and their habitat in that region.

The in-person meeting will be in the Mexico Room of Broadway Commons, 1300 Broadway St. SE, Salem and on ZOOM. ZOOM attendees must register in advance at this link:

<https://bit.ly/birders-night-2023> ZOOM Instructions on Page 7.

March 24-26 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds

Join us at the 2023 Mid-Valley Yard, Garden and Home Show

To make the most of the land around your home to create an enjoyable outdoor living space with productive gardens and plantings that support and attract visiting wildlife, plan to attend the annual Mid-Valley Yard, Garden and Home Show. It opens Friday, March 24 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds and runs through Sunday, March 26, 2023.



Yard, Garden & Home Show

Salem Audubon Society is again among the many organizations and businesses sponsoring booths at this informative event. After viewing the many booths promoting all kinds of home-related things and services, people are often happy to check out Salem Audubon's information on how to make a bird-friendly yard, to learn about wildlife, obtain a bird nestbox or two, and find out about birding opportunities

It's not too late to volunteer to help staff the SAS booth. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/y-g-h-volunteer>
Questions? [Contact Michael Babbitt at babbitt-michael@salemaudubon.org](mailto:babbitt-michael@salemaudubon.org)

The show is at the Oregon State Fairgrounds, 2330 17th St. NE. Exhibit hours will be 11 AM to 6 PM Friday, 9 AM to 6 PM. Saturday, and 10 AM to 5 PM Sunday. Admission and parking are free. Don't miss it!



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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

Bird & Wildlife Emergencies

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

**Audubon Reserve
Work Parties**

Every Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Plant and nurture native trees and shrubs.
 Attack invasive plants 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. NW


Call Lee Slattum, (503) 364-9325, with any questions.

Audubon Nature Reserve
 Eola Drive, off Edgewater, in West Salem

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

See our Facebook Page at
www.facebook.com/Audubon-Nature-Reserve-1636890073202471

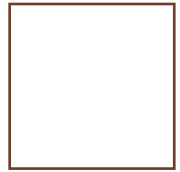
How to Join a ZOOM session

- Participants must “Pre-Register” by clicking on a link provided in the Kestrel, the Salem Audubon website, and the SAS Facebook page. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email including 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 may click on the meeting link using a PC, Mac, or smart device to enter the Zoom session. It's that easy. As a participant, you do not need ZOOM software, microphone or camera.
- Participants may type questions, comments or seek technical assistance using the ZOOM “Chat” button  at the bottom of the ZOOM screen. The program leader will share your questions during the Q&A at the end of the presentation. Technical issues – if any – will be addressed during the ZOOM session.
- For any technical questions, please email Tim Johnson, tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com. For other questions, email Harry Fuller, chair, Birder's Night Committee, atowhee@gmail.com.





Salem Audubon Society
PO Box 2084
Salem, OR 97308



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

THE KESTREL

Share Your Creativity

We are always interested in learning how members experience the many ways to enjoy nature.

We are looking for new contributors to provide stories, images or ideas to help make *The Kestrel* even better.

Please send me an email to find out how to add to our coverage:

Mike Williams, editor

editor@salemaudubon.org

Membership Form

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**Required for E-Kestrel Membership*

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