



THE KESTREL

Salem Audubon Society

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Wildlife Emergencies

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

At Peregrine Marsh



Courtesy Carlson/Weit Architects

Architect rendering of the new classroom.

Dave Marshall Classroom Construction Set to Begin

By Tim Johnson

Salem Audubon Society President

During October and the remainder of the year, when you visit the Ankeny Hill Nature Center, you will see construction underway for the Dave Marshall Classroom. The new classroom will be perched next to Peregrine Marsh, a restored seasonal wetland. The new classroom will be cantilevered over the edge of the marsh to provide an up close and personal experience of the marsh and the winter waterfowl that use it.

The classroom will expand the Nature Center's capacity to provide nature-related education focused on plants, animals, such as the Dusky Canada Goose and other organisms that depend on seasonal wetlands.

When the classroom is not used for wetland study activities, it will be available to the public as a blind for observing and photographing the marsh's



Tim Johnson

President's Message

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wildlife.

Salem Audubon will fund and lead the design and construction of the Dave Marshall Classroom, as we did for the Gehlar Hall at Ankeny Hill Nature Center, thanks to the support of our members, friends, and Nature Center partners.

The classroom name honors Dave Marshall for his

instrumental role in establishing Basket Slough, Finley, and Ankeny wildlife refuges in the Willamette Valley and for his distinguished career with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, serving as resident biologist at several national wildlife refuges, including Malheur. Birders know Dave Marshall as the senior editor of *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference Guide*, a complete reference work on Oregon birds.

Salem Area Christmas Bird Count Scheduled

By Mike Unger

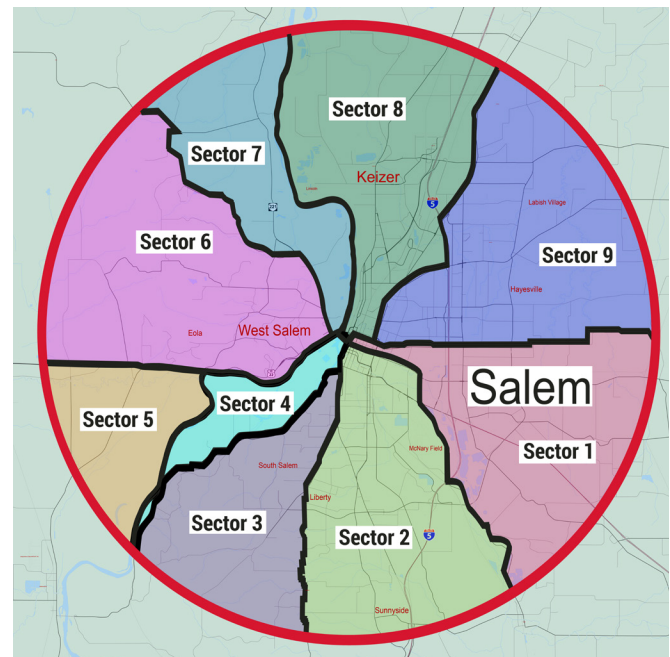
Salem Audubon Society Member

The Salem Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will occur on **Saturday, December 16, 2023**. This is the 61st Annual Salem Area CBC! 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 as little as fifteen minutes or four 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 are holding an in-person Christmas Bird Count workshop. **The workshop will be held at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center on Sunday, November 19, 2023, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.** This workshop will be a little different from past workshops as we try to improve. There will be a history of the national and local Christmas Bird Count, the CBC's organization, how you can get involved, and the roles and responsibilities of each team member.

We will also review counting instructions, go over the forms and how to complete them, discuss common issues encountered by field teams, discuss the rare bird form and how to complete it, what resources are available, and describe



the purpose of the Count Down event. In addition, we will provide some techniques and tips on identifying commonly misidentified birds.

Save the Date! The workshop will be held on **Sunday, November 19, 2023, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM** at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center. Call Tim Johnson at (503) 507-8552 for more information.

Ankeny Hill Nature Center Volunteer Report

Showing Appreciation for Nature Center Volunteers!

The Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex celebrated ALL its volunteers (including the Nature Center volunteers) at the second annual Volunteer Appreciation event on Wednesday, September 27th! There was food, games, fun, and activities for all!

Volunteers contributed almost 4,000 hours to the Nature Center through September this year! They greeted visitors,

installed a Pollinator Patch, planted native plants, watered, removed invasive plants, took the Center offsite to the Marion County Master Gardener's annual plant sale and local Boys and Girls Clubs, and so much more! A HUGE THANKS TO ALL!

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

Birder's Night - October 10, 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM – Scottish Rite Temple)



Galapagos Giant Tortoise

Wild Galapagos- A Place Like Nowhere Else

Story and photos by
Paul Evans and Roxanne Evans

Join us as we share highlights of our journey to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, one of the most fascinating and unique places on earth. Our March 2023 expedition from a live-aboard ship explored unique species of bird life, giant tortoises, marine animals, and the plants of these remote volcanic equatorial islands.

Our focus was on the 63 unique avian species that include a staggering 26 endemics seen nowhere else on the planet. Charles Darwin studied these birds on his epic 1835 visit, noting their island-specific feature in adaptation to locally unique habitats. He developed his theory of Evolution from his observations about Galapagos finches and mockingbirds.

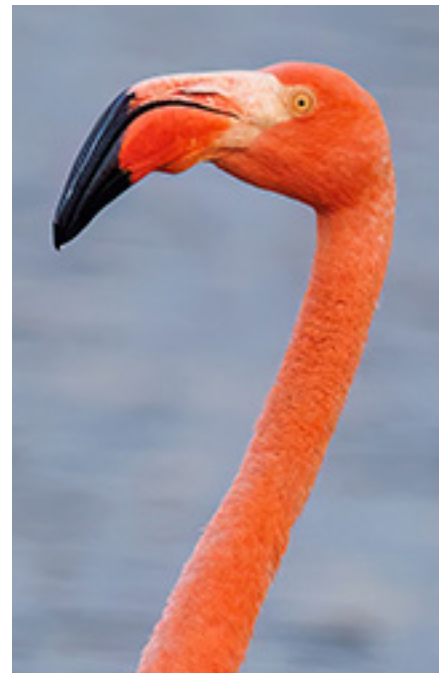
At sea, we marveled at flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins, and blue-footed boobies as they fished from the skies diving for fish with arrow-like precision.



Blue-footed Booby

We also swam in the tropical waters, observing uniquely curious sea turtles, fish, sea lions, penguins, and others that swam with us. On land, we easily observed incredibly tame animals like marine iguanas, giant tortoises, and birds, as they were as interested in us as we were in them!

Our presentation concludes with a discussion of conservation practices



Flamingo

to protect these treasured wild animals from environmental threats from pollution, overfishing, invasives, and overuse to keep this region healthy for generations.

Attend the session virtually on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/oct-23-birders-night>.

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 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. **We encourage participants to be vaccinated and boosted.** Carpooling is encouraged to reduce our carbon footprint, and if you do carpool, please contribute to your driver to help cover costs. If you are carpooling, the driver may require you to wear a mask inside the vehicle.

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

Tuesday, October 3, 2023, from 9:00 to 12:00 PM – Minto-Brown Island Park

(Upcoming – Sunday, November 5 at 9:00 AM and Wednesday, December 13 at 8:00 AM. Please note the time change!)

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

Good birding in the fall and winter months at Minto-Brown Island Park is provided by the rich areas of deciduous and evergreen woodlands, brushy understory, hedgerow areas with fall drying berries, and water for arriving ducks, geese, cormorants, and grebes. Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Barred Owl are expected to be attracted to hunting in grassland areas with surrounding tall trees. The park had fledgling success from the spring arrival of the Osprey pair with vocal juveniles learning to hunt at the river. The extensive trail system within 1200+ acres includes the north Conservation Area and trail to Riverfront Park. It has varietal species activity in the wet season, including sparrows, Marsh Wren, ducks, geese, Bald Eagle and other raptors. Now resident sparrows, towhees, creepers, robins, chickadees, and nuthatches will be joined by incoming Pacific Wren, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warbler, Oregon Dark-eyed Junco, and Golden-crowned, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrow. We will watch for the unusual, including warbler species and White-throated, Swamp, and Chipping Sparrow.

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Upcoming Events
October 2023

TUES 3	<p>SAS - FIELD TRIP Minto-Brown Island Park</p> <p>🕒 9:00 AM - Noon 📍 Minto-Brown Island Park</p>
MON 9	<p>SAS - SHORTS Illahe Hills Country Club</p> <p>🕒 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM 📍 Illahe Hills Country Club</p>
TUES 10	<p>SAS - BIRDER'S NIGHT Galapagos Wildlife</p> <p>🕒 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM 📍 Scottish Rite Temple</p>
SUN 15	<p>SAS - FIELD TRIP Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge</p> <p>🕒 9:00 AM - Noon 📍 Ankeny NWR</p>
FRI 20	<p>SAS - SHORTS Willamette Mission State Park</p> <p>🕒 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM 📍 Willamette Mission SP</p>
SUN 22	<p>SPECIAL SAS TRIP Coast Trip To Newport <i>Contact: tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com</i></p> <p>🕒 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM 📍 Newport</p>
WED 25	<p>SAS - SHORTS Brown's Ferry Park Tualatin</p> <p>🕒 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM 📍 Brown's Ferry Park</p>
TUES 31	<p>SAS - SHORTS Baskett Slough NWR</p> <p>🕒 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM 📍 Baskett Slough NWR</p>
EVERY WED	<p>VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party <i>(All are welcome)</i></p> <p>🕒 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM 📍 Ankeny Nature Reserve</p>
Coming in November and December	
NOV 20	<p>HARRY FULLER SPECIAL Sauvie Island, Portland</p>
DEC 16	<p>SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY Christmas Bird Count</p>

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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. Loaner binoculars are available.

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.**

Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 9:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

(Upcoming – Wednesday, November 15 at 9:00 AM; no field trip in December)

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

As a National Wildlife Refuge, October 1 marks the closure of the interior berms and ponds due to the refuge's mission of protecting wintering ducks, geese, and swans. We will begin to take our fall and winter routes by carpooling, including pull-outs in the 10-mile journey around the refuge to observe visiting shorebirds in wet, grassy areas and fields. This includes Long-billed Dowitchers, yellowlegs species, peeps, and Dunlin. We will look for geese, ducks, and gull species drawn to the marshes. This will be with anticipation of future arriving swans and a variety of winter shorebirds and water species. In the fields, there is a possibility for American Pipit flocks and an opportunity to scope for the unusual. The water areas at Pintail and Eagle Marshes have tall snags providing excellent scope opportunities for resident young and adult raptors and late October visitors such as Rough-legged Hawk. Pull-out areas with hedgerows, shrubs, and ditches provide collections of sparrows, migrant and winter warblers, woodpeckers, or visiting shrike species. These signature stops can include Wilson's Snipe, Horned Larks, and Western Meadowlarks. If time is available, we can include one of the boardwalks.

Meet at the 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 areas. Bring water, binoculars, and a snack. Trails can be uneven, so please wear appropriate footwear. We anticipate finishing around noon. Loaner binoculars are available.

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, October 9 at 8:00 AM – Illahe Hills Country Club

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! This will be our final bird walk here in 2023. Join us when these resume in 2024!

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 around 11:00 AM. **Please contact the leader at paulevansdo@gmail.com to confirm your registration**

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 will be straight ahead.

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Friday, October 20 at 9:00 AM - Willamette Mission State Park

Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

By this time of year, most of our neotropical migrants will have made their way south for the winter, although we may encounter a straggling warbler or swallow. We'll be more likely to find recently arrived sparrows (Golden-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's, White-throated), our resident chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and finches. Both the number and diversity of raptors increase here in the Willamette Valley during the fall and winter months, so we'll keep our eyes peeled for species such as Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Bald Eagle. We'll walk approximately 1.5 miles on mostly paved trails and then finish by driving a short distance to Mission Lake to scan for waterfowl. This field trip should take us about 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.

Wednesday, October 25 at 8:30 AM – Brown's Ferry Park

Leader: Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

This fall bird walk is an extended SHORT due to the mileage from Salem to Tualatin. The park is 28 acres, historically known as a riverside wetland with trees and foliage adapted to the terrain and flooding. Its first highlight includes the trail along the Tualatin River, with Nyberg Creek entering it at one point. Secondly, a pond on this suburban park property allows close observation of water birds, including occasional Green Heron, Wilson's Snipe, ducks (some years a good number of Gadwall and rarely Eurasian Wigeon), and Osprey. Passerines can be found in the riparian habitat and close to the trail. This is approximately a 2-mile walk. Plan for weather changes this time of year, and wear shoes for a dirt trail that could be wet. Bring snacks, maybe a lunch if you need, and we plan to return by noon. There is no restroom at the park and ride, but there are facilities. Join us if you can.

Meet at the Salem Airport Road Park and Ride at 8:30 AM to carpool, with a distance of about 47 miles one way to the park. Or you can join us at the park, with our expected time of arrival there at about 9:15 AM.

Directions: The Airport Road Park and Ride is east of Airport Rd, between Mission St and State St, next to the DMV Motor Pool, and just south of the bridge over Mill Creek. To reach the Park and Ride, follow Mission St to Airport Rd (the first stoplight east of 25th St) and turn north. Follow Airport Rd north one block, then turn right into the Park and Ride.

Tuesday, October 31 at 9:00 AM – Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Harry Fuller (971) 312-1735

Established in 1965 as part of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex, Baskett Slough is primarily managed to provide a wintering habitat for the Dusky Canada Goose, a subspecies of Canada Goose with minimal 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. From the overlook, you can see wetlands throughout the southern part of the refuge. The raptors frequent the area as well in all seasons. Migration will be in full swing. Harry says, "Not a ghost of a chance of rain that day!"

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.

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SAS SPECIAL TRIPS

Sunday, October 22 at 8:00 AM – Coast Trip to Newport area

Leader: Tim Johnson

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

October is a great month to witness the fall migration on the coast, with thousands of individual birds and hundreds of species making their way south for the winter. This field trip will visit some of the better places to see migrating birds on the coast in the Newport area. Target species will include Black Scoter, Black Turnstone, Brant, Common Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, Lapland Longspur, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Sooty Shearwater and Surfbird, to mention but a few. Carpooling from Salem is optional. Return to Salem in the late afternoon. Participation will be limited, and preregistration is required. COVID-19 vaccination and boosters are required. Please **email** the leader, tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com, directly for participation in this trip. You will receive additional information about this trip from Tim. We anticipate this field trip will fill, so early registration is encouraged.

Monday, November 20 at 9:00 AM – Sauvie Island

Leader: Harry Fuller (791) 312-1735

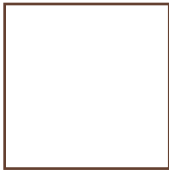
Join confessed “obsessive craniac” Harry Fuller on this “No Hunt Day” on Sauvie Island to listen and look for Sandhill Cranes and Trumpeter Swans among the myriads of smaller, quieter birds from raptors to ducks to sparrows! Bring lunch and water. We will bird until 3 PM or so.

Meet in the Cracker Barrel Grocery parking lot, 15005 NW Sauvie Island Road, Portland, at 9:00 AM. A parking permit is required to park in all wildlife areas on the island. Daily permits are \$10.00, and annual permits are \$30.00. Permits can be purchased at the Cracker Barrel Grocery or online from ODFW at [Buying an ODFW Wildlife Area parking permit | Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife \(myodfw.com\)](https://myodfw.com).

Directions: Sauvie Island is slightly over 1.5 hours from Salem. Once you cross the bridge, stay on the main road, bear left, and the grocery will be on your left.

Annual Christmas Bird Count

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 – SAS Christmas Bird Count! Please volunteer to help in any of the 10 Sectors in the Salem area. You are welcome to participate any time, from an hour to all day.



Salem Audubon Society
 PO Box 2084
 Salem, OR 97308

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

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Birder's Night Harry Fuller	SAS Nature Reserve Lee Slattum
Field Trips Cynthia Donald	SAS Woodshop John Jorgenson
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Membership Form	
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Individual Membership	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 E-Kestrel Edition
Family Membership	
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