



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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Ankeny Hill Nature Center Update

By Tim Johnson

Salem Audubon Society President

The Dave Marshall Classroom will be a major addition to the Ankeny Hill Nature Center. It will add the following:

- A unique education space for environmental education: an accessible outdoor classroom sitting next to a wetland and adjacent to an upland prairie habitat.
- I envision school-age kids coming to the Dave Marshall Classroom, collecting water samples from Peregrine Marsh, and seeing what they can find using microscopes.
- The classroom will be a unique opportunity for kids and adults to discover things about seasonal wetlands.
- A public use space for Nature Center visitors that provides a covered gathering space and wildlife viewing/photo blind for Peregrine Marsh.
- The classroom will also serve as one of the six education nodes at the Nature Center, emphasizing wetlands.
- When Gehlar Hall is reserved and in use, the Dave Marshall Classroom will be available for concurrent programming. It provides room for a class of students, restroom facilities, and covered space. Alternatively, a school will bring an entire grade out for a field trip (e.g., three fourth-grade classrooms, averaging 65 students for one field trip). In this instance, there are multiple buses and enough students to form 3-4 groups.
- Having an additional classroom space will allow educators the flexibility to host more extensive field trips and meet more of the needs of local teachers.
- Having an additional restroom at the Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom will benefit the visiting public and school groups.



Tim Johnson

President's Message

President's Message continued on next page >

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Building a classroom that cantilevers over a marsh has unique challenges, including Department of State Lands (DSL) permitting. Another requirement is wetland delineation; a procedure that determines the location and extent of wetlands on a property, including the predominance of wetland vegetation, hydric (wetland) soils, and signs of hydrology. This work must be completed before we can finish the building plans.

I believe the extra work and expense are worth it. A classroom that provides an opportunity for hands-on, up-close, and personal study and learning about the vital role of wetlands in the natural ecosystem has been a fundamental tenet of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center since the original conceptual design.

If you have questions, please contact me at:
tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com.

It's Easy to Share Photos with *The Kestrel*

By Mike Williams

Editor, *The Kestrel*

The display of interesting content and striking photographs is a critical part of the effort I put into each issue. As a former journalist, I know the importance of marrying words and images to help tell the story. Each month it can be a struggle to find the best images to complement our stories, especially photos with enough resolution (amount of digital image data) to reproduce well online and in print.

Editor's Note

Nearly all smartphones released in the past several years have cameras able to record images with the high resolution needed for printing, as do all mirror-less/DSLR cameras. Unfortunately, birds and wildlife are seldom close, so the photos are made from a distance requiring significant enlargement of a small part of the content frame. This "cropping" process may lower the effective resolution.

We represent image data as thousands of pixels, the smallest unit in digital imaging. Standard ink jet or laser printing needs at least 300 PPI (pixels per inch), while web (screen view) imaging is acceptable at 72 PPI. It's always easier to reduce the PPI for the web requirement. Up-sizing a low-resolution image to achieve print quality isn't impossible, but it often produces inferior results.

To be sure your photos reproduce in high quality, you can calculate the number of megapixels your image needs. The image sensor in a digital camera is rated by how many million pixels (megapixels or MP) it can capture per image.

Our print page size is 8.5 x 11 inches; less the margins, the largest image we can print is 7 x 10 inches.

We can determine how many megapixels a full-page photo requires. The formula is 7 (in.) x 300 PPI x 10 (in.) x 300 PPI = 6,300,000 pixels or 6.3 megapixels. So, if your camera has a sensor of 6.3 MP or higher, a full-frame image from your camera will fill one of our pages. Most bird and wildlife images require more megapixels in the original image to accommodate cropping.

Photo file size (data storage) is measured in kilobytes (KB) or megabytes (MB). This value usually shows next to the file name in the list of images on your camera or computer. Megapixels and megabytes are related, but not in a linear way.

The final variable to consider is the file format (RAW, HEIC, JPEG, PNG, TIFF, PSD). While we can accept these formats, each produces a different total of megabytes for the same original recording of megapixels. A JPEG format is the best format to use as it compresses the file size making sharing via email more possible. If you share a file of at least 3 MB, that will provide enough megapixel data to do some cropping and still reproduce with the highest quality. Files less than 1 MB in size will be difficult to produce well. Most email programs allow attachment up to 10 MB, so you can easily share through that method.

We are always looking for new images to go along with our stories. Images must be your original work and meet the standards described above. You keep all copyright privileges, allowing Salem Audubon Society the right to use the image in non-commercial, editorial publications. **If you have questions or wish to share, please contact me at editor@salemaudubon.org.**

More information:
www.ultimate-photo-tips.com/what-is-a-pixel.html

Salem Audubon's Most Popular Webinar

Exploring Raptors: Identifying Birds of Prey

The most popular class (Raptor ID) that the Salem chapter of the Audubon Society holds locally is coming up on Saturday, February 11, 2023, and reservations are required. The webinar is from 9:30 AM to Noon.

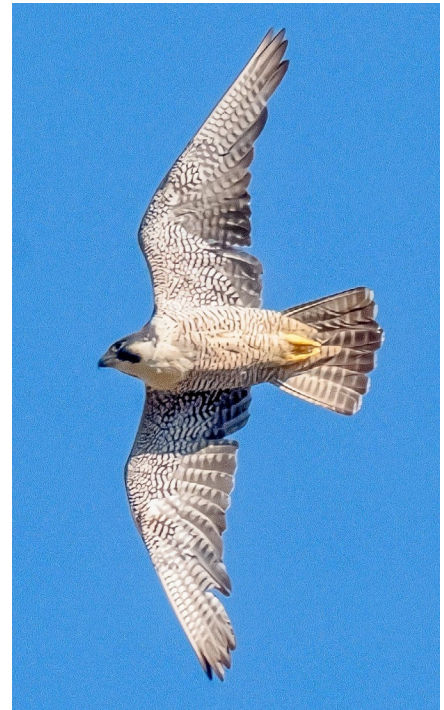
Mike Unger, the webinar instructor, said "**Exploring Raptors: Birds of Prey**" will be an online event again this year using the ZOOM platform. Participants will learn about raptors that call Oregon home. The raptors discussed include hawks, eagles, vultures, osprey, falcons, and harriers. This webinar will highlight the best sites in the area to look for these raptors and offer participants tips for identifying these birds of prey.

Participants will learn how to distinguish a Red-tailed Hawk vs. a Red-shouldered Hawk. Find out how fast falcons can fly and why vultures never get sick when ingesting dead carcasses. This webinar will teach participants how to ID raptors by sight and sound.

The cost for the webinar is \$10 per person and includes handouts for future reference. Register for this exciting webinar using this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eVCFeldyQUmnD5IAeYRLGA

If you have any difficulty registering for the webinar or have any questions, please email Mike at

salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com



Peregrine Falcon

Photo by Mike Williams

Share Your Knowledge and Skills as a Volunteer

By **Bobbie Allaire**

Volunteer Coordinator

The next Community Volunteer Day at the Nature Center is February 18, 2023 from 10 am - Noon.

We invite drop-in volunteers to join in making the Center sparkle by helping with special projects, removing invasive species, moving wood chips, and cleaning Gehlar Hall for visiting school groups. No orientation or pre-registration is required!

Would you like to know more about being an Ankeny Hill Nature Center volunteer? Contact Pat (he/him/his) and Bobbie (she/her/hers) Allaire, Volunteer Coordinators, at volunteers@ankenyhillnaturecenter.org or call (541) 760-3700.

AHNC Volunteer Report

It's Time to Renew Your Salem Audubon Membership

The arrival of February each year means it is time to rededicate your commitment to the wonders of nature and the unending pleasure of discovering Oregon wildlife by renewing your membership to the Salem Audubon Society.

With your renewed membership you will again join the other dedicated members who make possible the fulfillment of our organizational mission. Member benefits include a year's subscription (11 issues) to our newsletter, The Kestrel, and 10% discounts on seed at Wild Birds Unlimited and Copper Creek Mercantile.

Print membership includes a print copy of The Kestrel newsletter delivered via USPS, and online access via the Salem Audubon Society website. Online membership includes access via the Salem Audubon Society website. Family membership provides access to two or more members of a household.

For information and renewal form visit <https://salemaudubon.org/membership-form> or contact Laurie Buswell at 503 588-7340 or email her at laurie@salemaudubon.org.



Government Report Reveals Declining Duck Populations

Hooded Merganser over Tule Lake.

Photos by Albert Ryckman

By Harry Fuller

For *The Kestrel*

Right now, there are hundreds of thousands of ducks wintering in Oregon. Often a marsh or lake will have dozens or hundreds of ducks and geese. Most of these birds will go east or north to their usual breeding grounds as days lengthen and temperatures rise.

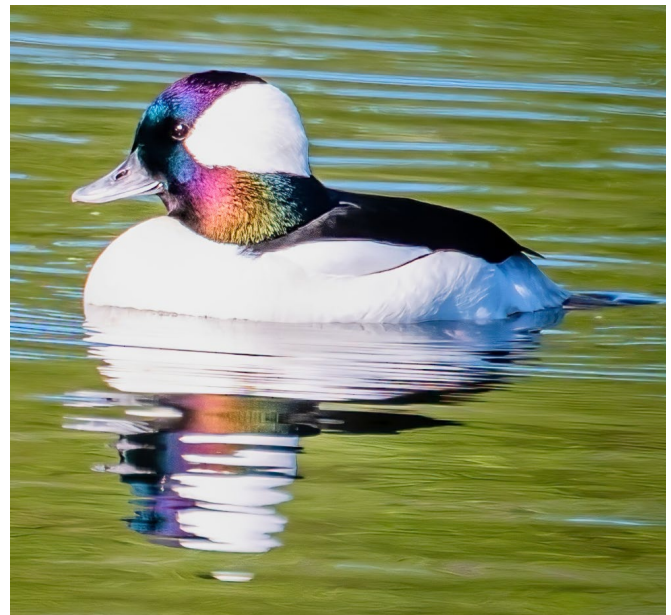
Every year (except early in the pandemic), Canadian agencies and organizations put together waterfowl population surveys for the whole continent. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with many agencies and organizations to provide this annual estimate.

The 2022 surveys were the first since 2019. The final estimate was that North American duck populations were down about 12% in three years though some species showed growth. Two increasing species were shoveler and Redhead. Green-winged teal showed the steepest estimated decline, down almost one-third.

Widespread drought may have been a factor, but the warming climate is melting the tundra and creating MORE ponds. Two Canada Goose populations have been increasing recently among geese and swans. For the same period, the numbers of Cackling Geese and eastern Tundra Swans are dropping.

Some 2022 population estimates for North America:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|-------|
| American Wigeon | 2.1M | Northern Pintail | 1.8M |
| Gadwall | 2.7M | Northern Shoveler | 3.0 M |
| Mallard | 7.2M | Redhead | 1.0M |
| Blue-winged Teal | 6.5M | Canvasback | 6.0M |
| Green-winged Teal | 2.2M | Tundra Swans | 200K |



Bufflehead

In 2022 Oregon was estimated to be home to nearly 80-thousand mallards and 344-thousand ducks overall. Oregon’s Mallard population is down 5% from 2019. But Washington is down 31%, and California is down 25%. From 2019 to 2022, the Oregon breeding duck populations increased by 37%, according to estimates.

For the same period, Washington State was down 12% and California down 19%. With all those added ponds, Alaska showed a 47% increase.

2022 report: <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/waterfowl-population-status-report-2022.pdf>

Previous waterfowl reports: <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/waterfowl-population-status-reports>

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 distancing if they desire.

SAS MONTHLY FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, February 2, 2023, 9:00 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park

(Upcoming – Sunday, March 5 at 9:00 AM and Monday, April 3 at 8:00 AM.

Note time change)

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

Birding the loops in this city park is ideal preparation for the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count. This count will be the 25th annual event sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It can be accomplished in your backyard in as little as 15 minutes daily! Its purpose, to record bird populations in northern and southern areas when there is a shift, has become global. Some birds are in their most extreme locations, some species show unusual irruptions, and the event's timing is close to the start of the migration movement. The dates to record on your computer or mobile app are from February 18 through 21. Please visit <https://www.birdcount.org> for more information.

Our February Minto-Brown trek will provide species familiarity. Leaves are off the trees, and it is cold, still winter, yet shrubs and trees

Continued on next page >

Upcoming Events
FEBRUARY 2023

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

THUR 2 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

SAT 11 SPECIAL WEBINAR
Exploring Raptors: Birds of Prey Webinar
9:30AM - 12:00 PM See story in Kestrel

MON 13 SAS - SHORTS
Willow Lake WWTP
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Champeog State Park

TUES 14 SAS - BIRDER'S NIGHT
Man and Bird: Raptor Rescue
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Broadway Commons

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

Feb. 17 thru Feb. 20 WINTER BIRDING FESTIVAL
Winter Wings Festival
<https://winterwingsfest.org/>
Klamath Falls, OR

SUN 19 SAS - FIELD TRIP
Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge
9:00 AM - Noon Ankeny NWR

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

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are beginning to bud. Join us to enjoy and get in the swing of counting and identifying wintering sparrows, kinglets, nuthatches, wrens, chickadees, and more. We hope to find wintering warblers, possibly a Hutton's Vireo, and elusive species such as Varied and Hermit Thrush. Since our valley attracts wintering raptors and the water provides winter stopovers for ducks, gulls, shorebirds, and geese, we also have the opportunity to study and enjoy them. Snags, woodlands, and hedgerows provide spots for birds to shelter and reveal themselves when seeking food.

Meet at 9:00 AM at Parking Lot #3 (the last parking lot in the park). Dress for the weather, and 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.**

Sunday, February 19, 2023, at 9:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

*(Upcoming – Tuesday, March 14 at 9:00 AM and Sunday, April 16 at 8:00 AM. **Note time change**)*

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

This refuge is a spectacular birding spot in winter. The interior is closed, but we will travel around the refuge to hotspot parking lots and pullouts to view geese, waterfowl, and shorebirds in field ponds and grassy areas. We will watch for winter visitors such as Northern Shrike and Merlin. We have the opportunity to find American Pipit as well as sparrows, warblers, wrens, woodpeckers, and kinglets.

Meet at Ankeny Hill Nature Center (AHNC) Parking Lot at 9:00 AM. There are facilities at this location. 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 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, February 13 at 9:00 AM – Willow Lake WWTP

Leader: Dominic Valenti (503)507-7008

This bird walk has so much to offer in a relatively small area: ducks, gulls, sparrows, raptors, and rails all take up residence here during the winter months. We will walk 1.32 miles on the gravel and dirt paths surrounding the ponds, and this trip should take about 1.5 hours to complete. Come and see for yourself what makes this often-overlooked birding hotspot so special!

Meet in the parking lot off Windsor Island Road, on your right, just before you enter the WWTP, which is closed to the public. There are no facilities, so please plan accordingly.

Directions: From Salem, get on River Road N, and proceed to Keizer. Continue north to Cummings Lane N, proceed west to Shoreline Drive N, which becomes Windsor Island Road N, and proceed north to the WWTP entrance across the street from the Willow Lake Golf Center.

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UPCOMING WINTER BIRDING FESTIVALS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 THROUGH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 – WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL, KLAMATH FALLS, OR

Klamath Basin Audubon Society is back hosting a 4-day Festival in the Klamath Basin over Presidents' Day weekend. This event will be their 43rd annual Festival. Our entire program is online at <https://winterwingsfest.org>. Vaccinations are recommended for attendees, but proof of vaccination is not required. Masks may be necessary for some indoor sessions, buses, and carpools, depending on Oregon State guidelines in February. You can see the keynotes, field trips, workshops, presentations, and receptions offered by clicking on the program tab and selecting one of the sub-tabs for details. Don't hesitate to email us at info@winterwingsfest.org or call (877) 541-BIRD if you have any questions. Watch for more information about when registration will be available online, and please check back for any updates, as scheduling changes may occur before registration.

Klamath Basin Audubon Society volunteers produce the Winter Wings Festival with support from sponsors, grants, and participant registration fees. Proceeds from this festival support local grants to teachers and other entities for outdoor education and community nature-related projects. Species reported during the festival typically number between 120 – 133.

UPCOMING SPRING BIRDING FESTIVALS

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

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

Registration opens in February! 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 Birder's Night - February 14, 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

Broadway Commons, 1300 Broadway St. SE, Salem and on ZOOM.

Man and Raptor: An Eye to Eye Understanding

Don't miss our next Birder's Night... in person if possible... **Man and Bird: A Raptor Relationship**, featuring a great speaker and a live free-flying raptor ambassador!



Dodge

The human presenter is Kathleen Dodge, Raptor Education Director for the Chintimini Wildlife Center. Chintimini is a 501-(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to protect and celebrate Oregon's native wildlife since 1989.

It is based in Lewisburg, 3 miles north of Corvallis but supports native wildlife rehabilitation hospital operations

for animals from Benton Linn, Lane, Polk, and Marion Counties. Their rehabilitation efforts take in over 2000 animals (primarily birds) a year. They also run extensive education programs for the public, including children camps for several age groups throughout the region. In addition to a spring break session, they offer several camps in the summer with scholarships available.

Ms. Dodge was introduced to Chintimini in 2012 when her dog found an injured bird in her backyard. Always fascinated with wildlife, Kathleen fell in love with the non-releasable educational bird of prey ambassadors living at the wildlife center and became a volunteer. Kathleen has been the Director of the Raptor Education Program since 2017. She will be bringing a winged ambassador: Penny, the American Kestrel as co-presenter, an appropriate bird especially for the Salem Audubon.

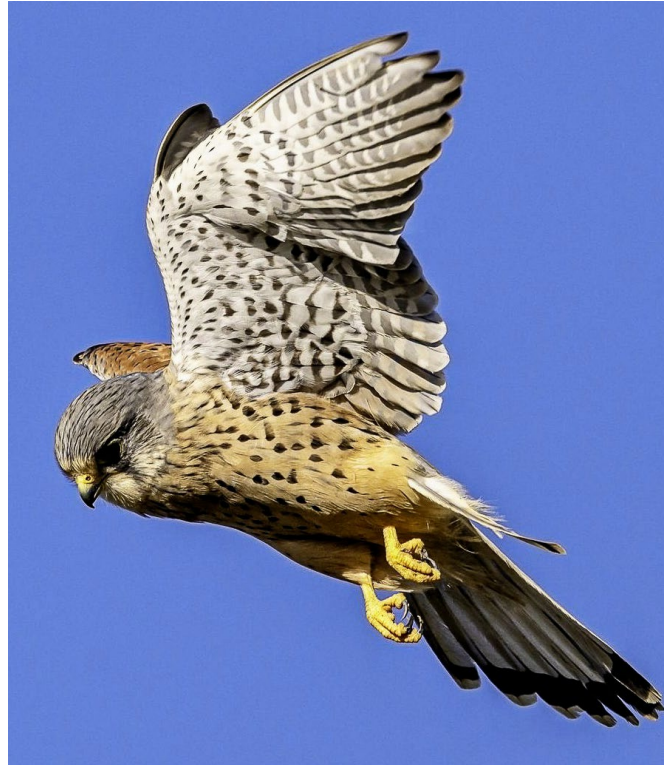


Photo by Mike Williams

American Kestrel

Don't miss the LIVE potential of this special Birders Night! The in-person meeting will be in the Mexico Room of Broadway Commons, 1300 Broadway St. SE, Salem and simulcast on ZOOM.

ZOOM attendees must register in advance at this link: <https://bit.ly/feb23-birders-night> ZOOM use instructions are found on Page 11.



Nature Center to Host Winter Wildlife Days

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in partnership with many Willamette Valley groups, including the Salem Audubon Society, announces its annual **Winter Wildlife Field Days** March 1st - 31st at locations throughout the region. This family-friendly event invites everyone to have fun while exploring nature.

Volunteers from Salem Audubon and others will be at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center on March 4th and 25th with activities to help you explore this year's theme – **Water: The Life in Wildlife**. For more information, visit:

www.winterwildlifefielddays.org

Christmas Count Produces Mixed Results

Some Numbers Up Despite Cold, Fog, Smaller Teams, And Fewer Participants

By Mike Unger

Salem CBC Co-compiler

On this past December's Salem Christmas Bird Count (December 17, 2022), we had freezing temperatures, as it was 23 degrees at the start of the count with dense fog in many sectors. Later in the day, it warmed up to 47 degrees but quickly cooled off again. The winds were calm to 10 m.p.h. during the count with no rain.

We developed an online webinar for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Tips and Techniques class and put it on our YouTube channel. We also used ZOOM again for our traditional Count Down event.

We had fewer field participants but more teams overall than last year. The measurement used to judge overall effort, "party hours," decreased slightly this year, from 158 to 148. As a result, the average team size dropped from 1.9 last year to 1.6 this year.



Photo by Tim Johnson

Black Phoebe

But the overall effort didn't suffer because the number of species observed was over the count average. More on that later.

The total number of species was 107 this year, compared to 112 last year. Even though we did not find as many species as last year, the species count this year exceeded the 11-year average of 106.

The total number of birds we observed this year was higher than last year, 42,391 vs. 32,708. The increase was likely due to the high winds in 2021, which is unsuitable for optimal birding.

We had two new sector leaders this year. Gretchen Johnson was the leader for Sector 2, and Kathy Patterson was the leader for Sector 9B. Gretchen also stepped up as a co-compiler for our CBC. Thanks to all the sector leaders for organizing their teams and covering their sector areas. It's a big job.

This year was the 60th for the Salem CBC. With such a long history of collecting CBC data, we do not often find new species, but this year we found one new species and one rare species.

The new species was a Clark's Grebe, while the rare bird was a Northern Mockingbird seen in the Keizer area. The mockingbird has only been observed in three previous counts!

We did have some record high totals and notable low counts for a few species:

- **Black Phoebe: 15.** This used to be an uncommon species for the Salem CBC, but it seems more common in recent years. Last year we observed 10 Black Phoebes, so it looks as if Black Phoebes are doing well in our area.

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- **Downy Woodpecker: 110.** The previous high was 99, recorded in 2017. Last year only 68 were reported. It appears that all species of woodpeckers in our area are doing well. This year we had 363 woodpeckers, while last year, we had 247.
- **Steller's Jay: 226.** These boisterous jays were making their presence known on count day. The previous high was 207 in 1983. Last year we only accounted for 81 Steller's Jays. So, this year's total was almost triple last year's count!

Other highs included **Great Egret (16)**, **Barn Owl (7)**, and **Hermit Thrush (13)**. Tied for all-time highs were the **Spotted Sandpiper (5)**, **Wild Turkey (16)**, and **Orange-crowned Warbler (2)**.

A couple of low totals were **Canada Goose (Dusky) with 59**. The previous low was 71 in 2017.

Another surprising low was **Eurasian Collared-Dove (ECDO), totaling 44**. The previous low was 55 in 2012. Last year we had 66 ECDO, but as recently as 2020, we had an all-time high of 114.

The only count week species were a Horned Lark and Tundra Swan..

Other Findings

We have spoken in the past about the decline of Northern Flickers. This year we had **193 Northern Flickers**. But as Tim Johnson pointed out a couple of years ago, Northern Flicker numbers may stabilize after a steep decline over the past 50 years.

The decline in Northern Flickers (NOFL) has been a nationwide phenomenon. Nationally, the average



Photo by Mike Williams

Steller's Jay

decline has been around 1-1/2 percent per year, with a national cumulative decrease of 50%. As noted above, this year, we had 190 NOFL, while last year, we had only 136. This seems to be a trend in the right direction. But it will take more data to confirm this trend.

Interestingly, 17 species have been observed during all 60 counts! I won't list them all, but they include **American Robin, European Starling, Red-tailed Hawk, and Black-capped Chickadee**. One that people might not expect every year would be **Lesser Scaup**.

Christmas Bird Count is an invaluable tool for determining patterns of change in winter bird populations over a long period.

Please let me know if you have questions about the count results or want to dive deeper into the data.

Many people deserve recognition for their hard work on the 2022 Salem CBC. Thanks to those who organized a sector, led teams, participated in the fieldwork, and counted birds at their feeders and yards. The Salem CBC would not happen without this level of support.

Special thanks to Gretchen Johnson, who became a co-compiler and handled the coordination of sector leaders and participants for this year's count. Thanks to our head compiler Tim Johnson who is in his 10th year of overseeing the Salem Christmas Bird Count.



Board of Directors

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 Mike Williams

Committees & Special Project Chairs

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beginning Birding Class Vacant | Education Coordinator Vacant |
| 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 |

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

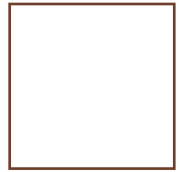
How to Join a ZOOM session

- Participants must “Preregister” 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.





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Salem, OR 97308



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