



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

*Header photo: American Kestrel
Photo © Mike Williams*

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President's Message

By Tim Johnson, president

Happy New Year!

I love New Year's Day. It creates an opportunity to reset many things in my life. To start afresh and to look forward. Nearly anything seems possible on New Year's Day. Even if it might seem a bit artificial, it's real enough for me to get my juices flowing.



Tim Johnson

First things first, I get to reset my annual bird lists. Yes, I admit it. I'm a bird "lister." For those of you not familiar with the concept, many birders keep a wide variety of lists of birds they observe. It's a form of collecting, I suppose. There are yard/feeder lists (birds one sees in one's yard and at one's feeders), county lists, state lists, and lists for favorite bird walks or birding hotspots such as Minto-Brown Island Park or Ankeny Hill Nature Center. There are also country bird lists and life lists. I keep lists for all these geographic areas and more, much more.

There are also subcategories of the above geocentric bird lists. Some temporal-oriented bird lists include a trip summary, month, annual and life lists. Keeping all of these lists current and organized may seem like a lot of work, and prior eBird, it certainly was. Still, eBird and the associated mobile apps have revolutionized bird list keeping. For many of us inveterate birders, keeping track of the birds we observe dramatically enhances the enjoyment and knowledge of this fascinating activity.

On January 1st, many of these bird lists reset to zero, and we start anew with great anticipation and excitement about what birds the new year will bring our way. To get the new year started properly, please join me and others on January 1st for a bird walk at Minto-Brown Park at 9:00 am.

President's Message continued on next page >

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Dave Marshall Classroom Update

Another thing I look forward to is the completion of the Dave Marshall Classroom at Peregrine Marsh. An architect and a contractor are selected. We should have building plans by next April and construction should be completed by the end of summer 2023.

Over the past few of years, Salem Audubon has raised funds for this next phase of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center. To date, we have raised nearly \$200,000. We continue to pursue gifts and grants to help fund the many educational elements of the Dave Marshall classroom. Thanks to everyone for your continuing support.

Special Event - Corvallis Evening Garden Club - January 9, 6:30 PM

Nature's Best Hope

Join the "Home Grown National Park" network!

For more information about how to be a better steward of our planet, plan to attend a ZOOM meeting of the Corvallis Evening Garden Club **January 9, at 6:30 pm.**

This meeting of Garden Club members may be attended by non-members by sending \$5 to the Evening Garden Club, PO BOX 315, Corvallis OR 97330. Be sure to include your email address with the check to receive the ZOOM login information.

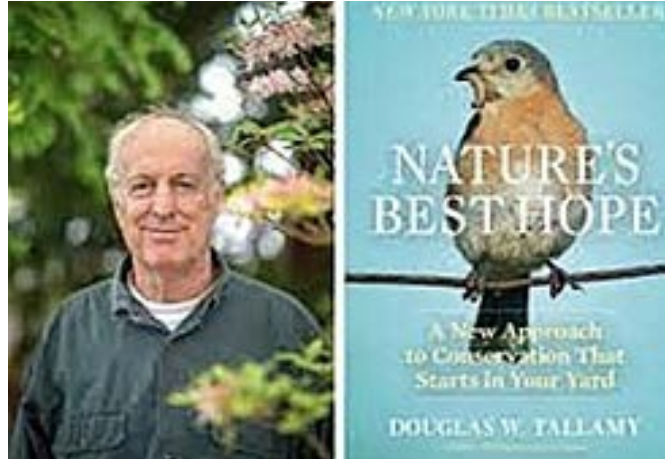


Image courtesy of Corvallis Evening Garden Club.

Ankeny Hill Nature Center Volunteer Report



Photo by Bobbie Allaire

Gehlar Hall Stewards, Florence Hall and Joe Morse, ready Ankeny Hill Nature Center for a visiting homeschool group.

There's Always Work to Do at AHNC

By **Bobbie Allaire**
Volunteer Coordinator

Nature Center volunteers greet visitors most Saturday mornings at the 'Welcome and Education Table.' They answer questions about the Center and the Refuge, plus display and describe selected plant and animal materials.

'Community Volunteer Days' will continue at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center in 2023!

Starting January 21, 2023, and the third Saturday of each month from 10 am – 12 pm, 'drop-in' volunteers are invited to make 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!** Light snacks and water are available.

Would you like to know more about being a 'regular' Ankeny Hill Nature Center volunteer? Attend the no-obligation new volunteer orientation on January 28, 2023. Meet new people, learn more about local nature and have fun!

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities at this center for nature! Contact Pat (he/him/his) and Bobbie (she/her/hers) Allaire, Volunteer Coordinators, at volunteers@ankenyhillnaturecenter.org or call (541) 760-3700 to learn more.



Photo by Harry Fuller

White nutria at Ankeny NWR.

These Critters Pale by Comparison

By Harry Fuller

For *The Kestrel*

This is about “leucism,” the scientific word for having more white than average members of the same species. Leucistic characteristics can appear in any bird or mammal species, but rarely. One bird study I found claimed a leucistic individual is less than one in thirty thousand. Even rarer are true albinos with zero non-white colorings. One estimate: leucism is twenty-five times more common than albinism in wild birds

Leucism may be caused by nutritional deficiencies, hereditary mutations, or progressive graying of the feathers. Poor nutrition can affect cells that produce color pigments. When regular color production is disrupted, white or gray feathers (or fur) are made.

A genetic mutation can cause leucism, which can be passed on to offspring. Mutations that result in leucism can also be caused by pollution. Leucistic genes are always recessive.

Some species I have witnessed with leucistic traits are nutria, mule deer, junco, American robin, surfbird, fox sparrow, song sparrow, Brewer’s blackbird, red-tailed hawk, spotted



Photo courtesy Mike Lund

Leucistic female Cardinal in Virginia.

towhee, California towhee (may have been true albino), black-capped chickadee. Our south Salem garden regularly hosts the white-spotted junco seen at bottom right.

Normal adults can carry those genes without showing signs of leucism. When adult birds with recessive leucistic genes mate, the resulting offspring may exhibit leucistic plumage. Leucistic genes can skip generations without being expressed in offspring.

Studies indicate there are more leucistic birds in urban areas with high levels of contaminants to cause mutations. One study found that male birds exhibited leucism more often than females. Watch for that unexpected flash of white.

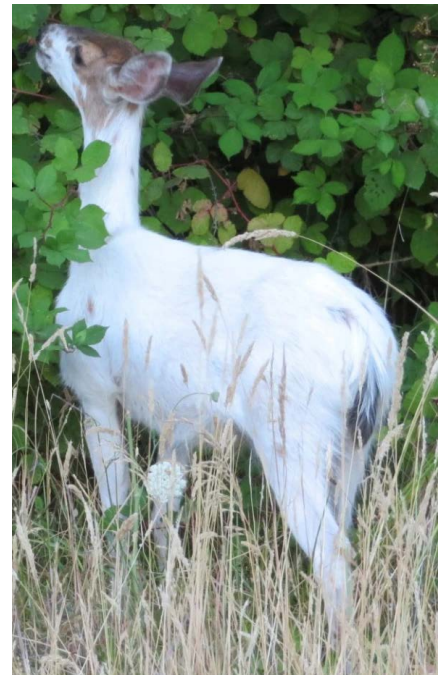


Photo by Harry Fuller

A mostly white mule deer doe was found in McMinnville.



Photo by Harry Fuller

California Scrub Jay with white tail feathers.

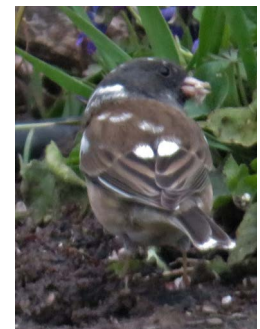


Photo by Harry Fuller

White-spotted backyard Junco.

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.

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.


The Governor has relaxed all regulations for outside activities. However, Salem Audubon recommends all field trip participants are fully vaccinated and, if applicable, have received a booster. Although not required, field trip participants may wear masks or social distance if they desire.

SAS MONTHLY FIELD TRIP

Sunday, January 1, 2023, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Minto-Brown Island Park AND Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 9:00 AM to Noon
(Upcoming – Thursday, February 2, and Sunday, March 5, both at 9 AM)
 Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552

Celebrate the New Year with this special walk at Minto-Brown Island Park on New Year's Day, and join us for our regular walk the following Wednesday! This park is highly accessible, with 29 miles of paved and soft trails. The access to habitat makes it a remarkable park for birders. Leaves are gone from shrubs and deciduous trees. Berries, fallen apples, cherries, and grass seeds are the main attraction, with hedges and woodland providing cover for birds. Chickadee flocks with nuthatches, and Brown Creeper, scavenge for insects in bark and lichen; thrushes, waxwings, and Yellow-rumped Warblers will be in the trees and fallen fruit. Increased winter raptor species, including falcons, will perch for hunting, providing good views and study. The oxbows and fields attract Dusky Canada Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, and many other waterfowl which acquire their best plumage in winter. Fields and waterway edges

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 **Upcoming Events**
 JANUARY 2022

SUN 1	<p>SAS - FIELD TRIP Minto-Brown Island Park</p> <p>9:00 AM - Noon Minto-Brown Island Park</p>
WED 4	<p>VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve</p>
WED 4	<p>SAS - FIELD TRIP Minto-Brown Island Park</p> <p>9:00 AM - Noon Minto-Brown Island Park</p>
TUES 10	<p>SAS - BIRDER'S NIGHT Share Your Best Photos</p> <p>6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Broadway Commons</p>
WED 11	<p>VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve</p>
SUN 15	<p>SAS - FIELD TRIP Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge</p> <p>9:00 AM - Noon Ankeny NWR</p>
WED 18	<p>VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve</p>
SAT 21	<p>ANNUAL EVENT Willamette Valley Bird Symposium</p> <p>9:00 AM - 4:00 PM See story in Kestrel</p>
MON 23	<p>SAS - SHORTS Champoeg State Park</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Champoeg State Park</p>
WED 24	<p>VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve</p>
WED 31	<p>VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ankeny Nature Reserve</p>

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offer shorebirds such as Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe. We will always look for the unusual in this park, such as Western Bluebird, American Pipit, Red Crossbill, and Snow Goose.

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.

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

(Upcoming – Sunday, February 19, and Tuesday, March 14 at 9:00 AM)

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

The Refuge berms and interior ponds are closed during winter to prevent disturbance of waterfowl. But we can visit the loop around the Refuge, including several pullouts and the parking areas at Pintail and Eagle marshes. We can expect migrating raptors during winter, and they will be more easily seen in snags and leafless trees. We will always look for visiting shorebirds on the mudflats, including peeps, dowitchers, and Dunlin, feeding and moving in large swarms above the water and field ponds. If we find American Pipit and Western Meadowlark, we will look for Horned Larks in the fields. Now is the time to look through flocks of visiting sparrows, ducks, and geese and watch for swans when rains replenish the water levels. Because the travel perimeter includes ditches and hedgerows with fruit trees, we will search all sparrow flocks looking for nuthatches, winter warblers, and rarities like Northern Shrike or Lewis's Woodpecker.

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, January 23, 2023, at 9:00 AM – Champoeg State Park

Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

If you like Acorn Woodpeckers and Western Bluebirds, this beautiful state park is one of the best spots in our area to find them any time of year! We'll walk about 2.5 miles through oak trees and a mixed deciduous/conifer forest, where we can also expect to encounter Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, and various finch and sparrow species as well. This park also hosts many raptors during the winter months, including Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Merlin, Cooper's Hawk, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. This walk should last about 2.5 hours. Hope to see you there!

Meet in the Oak Grove Day Use Parking Lot. A valid Oregon State Parks Pass is required, and a \$ 5.00-day pass can be purchased on-site. Please bring water and binoculars! We should be finished by noon.

Directions: This historic State Park is about 23 miles north of Salem. From Salem, take I-5 north to the Brooks exit (exit 263) and turn left (west) on Brooklake Road NE, proceed to River Road NE and turn right (north), take French Prairie Road NE (straight ahead) and continue to the park entrance.

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UPCOMING WINTER BIRDING FESTIVALS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM – WILLAMETTE VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM CH2M Hill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th St, Corvallis, OR 97331

The WVBS is an annual, day-long symposium bringing professionals, students, and amateurs from the Willamette Valley to celebrate birds. After two years of Zooming, the 2023 Symposium will be held IN PERSON!

WVBS registration information is available online at <https://willamettevalleybirds.org>. Registration opened on December 1, 2022. The Early Bird registration deadline is December 26, 2022; the regular registration deadline is January 7, 2023. Early registration includes admission, lunch, free swag, and your choice to purchase a commemorative item. Accommodation requests related to accessibility needs should be made by January 13, 2023, to Noelle Moen at noelle.moen@gmail.com. Questions can be addressed to wvbsquestions@gmail.com.

Upcoming Birder's Night - January 10, 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

Join us for an Evening of Photo Sharing by Members

Our January Birders' Night gives members a chance to share their pix in short (15-min.) presentations. It's best if you are present to share at the meeting in Salem. Let me know if you want to share. Harry Fuller atowhee@gmail.com.

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: <http://bit.ly/3HqadSN> ZOOM use instructions on next page.

OREGON RAPTORS

Photos and narration

By John Matthews

John joined Salem Audubon over forty years ago. Among his subjects will be Snowy Owls, the "attack owl" in Bush's Pasture Park, and some birds that were seen during two decades of raptor runs in the Willamette Valley.

BIRDS OF ICELAND

Photos and narration by Albert Ryckman

Albert and his wife visited Iceland last July. A highlight of their visit was a trip to Grimsey Island. Grimsey is home to about 300,000 Atlantic Puffins. That is far more than the number of people in Reykjavík. Grimsey is a small Icelandic island in the North Atlantic on the Arctic Circle. Puffins are monogamous and may live forty years, nesting each time in the same burrow on an offshore island.



Photo by Albert Ryckman

Atlantic Puffin

AN OREGON BIG YEAR

Photos and narration

By Kathryn Alexander

"Where I went, how I took photos, and what I learned about birds, bird photography, and myself along the way. I will briefly mention the equipment I used and my previous photography experience. I'll give details of where I went, miles traveled, locations, and resources I used to find birds. And there'll be a few short antidotes such as visits to sewage ponds, a pelagic trip, and getting stung by bees."

GREAT GRAY OWLS

Photos by Lee French,

Mel Clements, and Karl Schneck

Owl-man Harry Fuller will narrate. There is a small coterie of Great Gray Owl fans in Jackson County. It is a hotspot for this elusive species. These folks are often eager to share images and videos of these great critters who live in the southern Cascades. We will see owlets in and out of the nest, adults hunting and catching prey, and the flight of these lightweight, big-winged wonders as they float over an open field.

BIRDS IN OREGON

Photos and narration

by Stephanie Hazen.

Stephanie joined Salem Audubon in the 1980s when founding member Jerry Smith led trips all over Oregon. She takes photos for presentations, contests, greeting cards, and to hang as prints on the wall at home. Her presentation will include a Northern Pygmy Owl photo that won a prize at the Oregon State Fair, bluebirds that raised chicks in the backyard, and even a rooster seen while kayaking the Willamette.



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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/salem-audubon-nature-reserve.html>

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

Name

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Email*

**Required for E-Kestrel Membership*

Individual Membership

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- \$35 E-Kestrel Edition

Family Membership

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