

# THE KESTREL

### Salem Audubon Society

May 2023 Volume 56 Number 8

SalemAudubonSociety} ∰ salemaudubon.org

## **Salem Audubon Board Elections**

#### By Tim Johnson

Salem Audubon Society President

The Salem Audubon bylaws specify that we hold board elections at a General Meeting sometime during the year. This year's General Meeting and Election will take place at the beginning of the May Birder's Night meeting, on May 9 (see Birder's Night details in this issue). I invite and encourage all members to participate in the election at that meeting (in person or through Zoom) for no other reason than to show your support to those willing to serve on the board.



Tim Johnson

#### Iunteering to help g on the board is nember terms are **President's Message**

If you have ever considered volunteering to help our chapter fulfill its mission, being on the board is a great way to get started. Board member terms are typically two years. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of

the month, beginning at 6:00 pm. Meetings last around 90 minutes and are usually conducted on Zoom and sometimes in person. At the meetings, we typically review progress on the goals for the year, make changes to chapter policies (as needed), receive updates on ongoing programs and projects (including for the Ankeny Hill Nature Center and the Audubon Reserve), review chapter finances, and look for new ways to carry out our mission.

The responsibilities of the board include helping to guide and support the chapter in fulfilling its mission. Our mission of Connecting People to Nature is broad, which provides lots of flexibility on how board members can get involved. Currently, the chapter's focus is on the following:

**Education** – We offer a variety of educational programs for various audiences.

**Protecting and Enhancing Wildlife Habitats** – Including many related opportunities at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center and Audubon Reserve in West Salem.

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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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**Conservation** – Includes supporting measures to reduce bird window strikes and conducting bird surveys for the City of Salem, the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, the Greenbelt Land Trust, and private landowners with conservation easements.

**Field Trips** – We conduct around 50 field trips annually in and around Salem.

**Community Outreach** – We participate in various public outreach opportunities, such as the upcoming Oregon Master Gardeners Plant Sale.

### Other opportunities for volunteers

#### **Oregon Master Gardeners Sale**

In addition to joining the board, there are many other opportunities to get more involved in Salem Audubon

Above, I mentioned the upcoming Oregon Master Gardeners Plant Sale at the Oregon State Fairgrounds.

This event is on Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6 (see https://marioncomga.org/plant-sale/). Salem Audubon has been invited to have a booth at this event, an excellent opportunity to connect with the broader community. We're looking for volunteers to take a shift or two to help us staff the Salem Audubon booth. Click on the following link to sign up for a slot -https://bit.ly/mastergardenersale

Salem Audubon's Wood Shop

Salem Audubon's Wood Shop crew produces hundreds of nest boxes each year. These nest boxes, made out of cedar, provide critical habitat for our cavity nesters, including woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, wrens, swallows, and even some waterfowl and owls. The shop also produces nesting and roosting structures for bats and bees. Some of these nest boxes are in response to requests from members or landowners. However, most boxes are used as part of our education programs and public outreach events.

The wood shop crew's hours vary, but typically they meet on Wednesdays for a few hours. The shop is located a few miles east of Salem. No previous woodworking experience is needed. If this sounds interesting, please contact our shop leader John Jorgenson at *jorgens860@ yahoo.com* or (503) 378-1186.

Again, I hope you will consider joining us on the board. You can just visit a board meeting to see if this is something you wish to get involved in. You can reach me anytime at *tim@salemaudubon.org* or (503) 507-8552.

### **Springtime Arrives at Ankeny Hill Nature Center**

Native flowers and native pollinators are emerging at the Nature Center!

Volunteers are busy indoors and out. Some are 'spring cleaning' – removing unwanted plants in the Nature Explore Area.

Others are preparing fun and engaging activities for Spring World Migratory Bird Day, Saturday, May 13, 10 am – 2 pm. Join them and celebrate the official unveiling of the new Motus kiosk! Check the ankenyhillnaturecenter. org website for more information.

Would you like to know more about being a 'regular' 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.



Photo by Bobbie Allaire

Volunteers Tom Lancefield (from left), Joe Morse, and Pat Allaire installed and confirmed that the new mason bee nest box in the pollinator area was on the level.

# Upcoming Birder's Night - May 9, 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM) The Secret Lives of Bushtits

Bushtits are adorable, friendly balls of fluff that appear in flocks at bird feeders and birdbaths in backyards throughout the western US. The Bushtit is the only species in its family that lives in the Western Hemisphere.

There are seven other species in the long-tailed tit family, Aegithalidae. We can thank the Siberian Land Bridge-now underwater-for its presence here.



Dr. Sarah Sloane

How much do you know about these mysterious little birds? But, unfortunately, all is not as amicable as it appears on the surface. Competition may be the name of the game.

Join Dr. Sarah Sloane as she reveals some of the intriguing complexities of bushtit social structure she has uncovered during her long-term research in Arizona and Portland for the last six years.

The 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/May23birdersnight



**Bushtits** 

### Exploring the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon

Sunday, May 7, 2023 - 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Dragonflies and damselflies make up the insect order Odonata and are the focus of Salem Audubon Society's new class. There have been nearly 100 verified species recorded in Oregon. In this class, we examine the life cycle, natural history, and diversity of these remarkable insects, focusing on species found in Oregon.

We will cover key characteristics for identification, habits, and species, focusing on those found in the Willamette Valley. We will also cover when and where to see these magnificent insects. The class will be held at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center at 130 Ankeny Hill Road SE, west of the Ankeny Hill exit on I-5. Participants will also have the option to attend the class via Zoom.

The course costs only \$10, with all proceeds going to the Salem Audubon Society. Advanced reservations are required for this class (registration will not be accepted onsite).

Please register in advance for the in-person class or Zoom option using this link: https://bit.ly/sas-dragonfly

After the class, we will have a short field trip to look for dragonflies and damselflies at the nature center. A limited number of binoculars will be available if you do not have a pair of binoculars.

Our presenter, Mike Unger, is a volunteer with Salem Audubon who leads field trips, conducts bird surveys, and teaches classes on birds and nature. Contact Mike at salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com

### 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 fee, such as a parking pass, may be involved, depending on our destination. Carpooling is encouraged and if you do 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** 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 25<sup>th</sup> Street), turn left, and proceed north one block to the park and ride. There are no facilities at this location.

#### SAS MONTHLY FIELD TRIPS

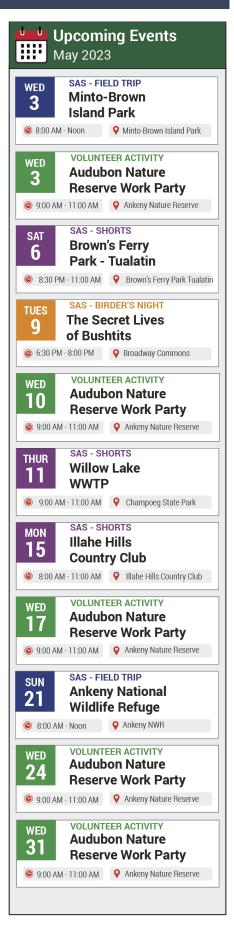
#### Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 8:00 AM - Minto-Brown Island Park

(Upcoming – Sunday, June 4 at 7:30 AM and Tuesday, July 6 at 7:30 AM. *Please note the time change!*)

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

In May, neo-tropical migrants arrive, drenched in color, and compete for nesting areas alongside resident birds. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, and wrens are drawn to the green understory with the end of the Indian Plum bloom. Bewick's Wrens can be early nesters at the base of trees and roots with Spotted Towhees and Song Sparrows, while California Scrub-Jays and Steller's Jays build their nests above. White-crowned Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings prefer the tight weedy grasses with perches. Savannah Sparrows are drawn to the renovated grassland with Giant Lupine. Black Twinberry provides nectar for Anna's and Rufous hummingbirds. Soon Warbling Vireos, Lazuli Buntings, Blackheaded Grosbeaks, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's-, Yellow-, and Orange-crowned Warblers will be joined by flycatchers in their dawn songs. As expected, the Osprey arrived in April. Bald Eagles, hawks, owls, and herons have been nesting since February or March. As we take the walking loops, we will watch for cavity nesters, including swallows and Vaux's Swifts.

Meet at 8:00 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.



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**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; confirm that anything inside is out of sight.** 

#### Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 8:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

(Upcoming – Tuesday, June 13 at 7:30 AM and Saturday, July 15 at 7:30 AM. Please note the time change!)

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

This refuge is a spectacular birding spot in May due to water availability in back ponds, ditches, and fields. This is the home of returning and nesting American Bitterns, Green Herons, and Soras. The refuge interior is now open, and we will walk the loop watching for sparrows and migrants like Yellow-breasted Chats, flycatchers, and warblers. Pullouts are valued for hedgerows, ditches, and thick shrubs. Grassy brush areas are productive for songbirds and woodpeckers. Oak stands, snags, and woodland areas can yield nesting raptors. Recent arrivals, including grosbeaks, vireos, flycatchers, warblers, and swallows, are beginning their nesting process.

Meet at Ankeny Hill Nature Center (AHNC) Parking Lot at 8:00 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; confirm that anything inside is out of sight.** 

#### SAS-SHORTS

#### Saturday, May 6 at 8:30 AM – Brown's Ferry Park

Leader: Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

This early Spring 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 lunch, if needed, and we plan to return by noon. There are restroom facilities at the parking lot at Brown's Ferry Park. 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.

#### Thursday, May 11 at 9:00 AM - Willow Lake WWTP

Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

We will walk the 1.32-mile trail around the treatment ponds, which will take about 1.5 hours to complete. The bird species present here change dramatically along with the seasons. Gone will be the gulls and many ducks and sparrows hanging out here in the winter. But they will be replaced by various spring arrivals such as swallows, flycatchers, Black-headed Grosbeak,

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Western Tanager, Yellow, Wilson's, and Black-throated Gray warblers. We will also be looking for Green Heron, Virginia Rail, and Sora, birds often present but infrequently seen. We hope to see you there!

Meet at the public parking lot off Windsor Island Road in Keizer. This is about 1/3 mile north of the intersection of Windsor Island Road and Lockhaven Drive. Turn left off Windsor Island Road and, just before the main entrance to the treatment plant (which is closed to the public), turn right into the parking lot.

#### Monday, May 15 at 8:00 AM – Illahe Hills Country Club

(Upcoming - Monday, June 20 at 8:00 AM)

Leaders: Paul Evans, Roxy Evans Please contact the leader at paulevansdo@gmail.com to confirm your registration.

Illahe Hills Country Club has been graciously hosting limited guided bird walks. Through registration with the leader, walks are open to Illahe Hills CC members, their guests, and limited Salem Audubon Society guests. The course is close to Minto Brown Island Park and abuts local farms. Over 90 bird species have been recorded to date. Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Great Horned Owls nest here and are regularly seen. New birders are welcome!

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

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

#### UPCOMING SUMMER BIRDING FESTIVALS

## Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7, 2023 – GRAYS HARBOR SHOREBIRD AND NATURE FESTIVAL, Grays 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 greatest 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.

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 <a href="mailto:shorebirdfest@gmail.com">shorebirdfest@gmail.com</a>.

#### 11th Annual DEAN HALE WOODPECKER FESTIVAL, Thursday, June 1 through Sunday, June 4, 2023,

Sisters, OR From the website Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival | All About Birds

The Festival takes place takes place June 1-5, 2023. Online registration opens in April.

Headquartered in beautiful Sisters, Oregon, this Festival is an excellent opportunity to explore new areas and meet other local birders, with a good chance of seeing 11 species of woodpeckers. As it is very popular, most tours fill quickly, sometimes within a day of registration opening. This year, participants have a choice of twenty tours over four days in search of 11 different woodpecker species and 200 other birds that make central Oregon a birding hot spot.

East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) sponsors the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, which offers a fun, friendly, casual atmosphere about the birds. The trips are affordable, limited in size, and guided by local volunteers. The proceeds support ECAS education and conservation projects.



#### **Board of Directors**

Tim Johnson, President Michael Babbitt, Vice President Carolyn Homan, Secretary Tim Johnson, Treasurer Jenny Ammon Judy Brunkal Mike Williams

#### **Committees & Special Project Chairs**

Beginning Birding Class Education Coordinator Vacant Vacant

> Birder's Night Harry Fuller

SAS Nature Reserve Lee Slattum

**Field Trips** Cynthia Donald

John Jorgenson

SAS Woodshop

Bluebird Project Vacant Birding Workshops Mike Unger

**Christmas Bird Count** 

Kestrel and Web Editor Mike Williams

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 "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

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