



THE KESTREL

Salem Audubon Society

September 2023

Volume 57 Number 1

[f /SalemAudubonSociety](#)

[sa](http://www.salemaudubon.org) [salemaudubon.org](http://www.salemaudubon.org)

It's Time for Fall Migrations

By **Tim Johnson**

Salem Audubon Society President

As you are probably already well aware, the fall migration has begun. Today (August 10), I got to experience the migration firsthand in our yard when a Rufous Hummingbird showed up at one of our nectar feeders. We have Anna's Hummingbirds in our yard throughout the year, but we only see Rufous Hummingbirds in our yard during migration. They usually don't stay long, just a day or two. It's always a treat to see them.



Tim Johnson

President's Message

Soon, some of the spring migrants that chose our yard to build a nest will be leaving, birds such as the Black-headed Grosbeak. We have been enjoying seeing them at our seed feeders all summer and are now seeing their young at the feeders with their bright, fresh feathers. Usually, they will have left our yard for the year by the end of August.

In addition to experiencing the fall migration from our yard, there are several other ways I enjoy the fall migration. One of my favorites is heading down to Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, a great place to see shorebirds on their journey south. In particular, Pintail Marsh is currently a great place to see shorebirds in migration. The fall shorebird migration usually lasts well into October at Ankeny NWR.

Another fun way to enjoy the fall migration is by going to BirdCast.info. On the BirdCast dashboard, I usually search "Marion County, Oregon." There, one can find the number of birds that passed over the county the previous night and a forecast for what to expect the coming night. It's interesting to see how the numbers vary from night to night. The numbers tend to change depending on the weather conditions, such as the strength and direction of the winds. On nights

President's Message continued on next page >

In This Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Birder's Night Resumes
- 3 Name Change Survey Tallies
- 4 SAS Woodshop History
- 5 SAS Field Trips

Board of Directors

Tim Johnson, President
 Michael Babbitt, Vice President
 Carolyn Homan, Secretary
 Tim Johnson, Treasurer
 Jenny Ammon Judy Brunkal
 Mary Ritter Rich Swartzentruber
 Dominic Valenti Mike Williams

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

Wildlife Emergencies

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

> Continued from previous page

with a full moon, sometimes it's possible to glimpse the night migration by looking up at the full moon and watching birds cross over it. In the fall, the moon is full around the first of each month.

This is a good time of year to turn off all non-essential lights from 10 pm to 6 am each night during the migration season and not to use landscape lighting to light up trees and gardens where birds may be resting. Lights can cause birds to become confused, disorientated, and exhausted, directly impacting their ability to complete their migration successfully.

Audubon Name

In the last issue of the Kestrel, I wrote about how Audubon chapters across the country are considering whether or not to retain the Audubon name. In that same issue, we asked our members and friends to weigh in on how they feel about a name change for Salem Audubon. We have heard from many of you. Our board will use that information to help decide whether or not to retain the Audubon name. That decision will also be influenced by what our ten sister Oregon Audubon chapters decide to do and what we believe gives our chapter the best opportunity to fulfill our mission in the future.

Regardless of the outcome of that decision, Salem Audubon will continue to seek opportunities to connect

with our entire community. We are focused on the Latino community, representing a quarter of Marion County's population. This year, we partnered with the Luckiamute Watershed Council on a successful Spanish-only field trip. We also had booths at several community events that attract Latino families, including the recent Englewood Forest Festival, where we had the opportunity to engage several Latino families with our Guess the Bird Nest Game.

Salem Audubon also provides financial support for a full-time, career, bilingual Ranger position at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center. We anticipate that the post will be filled this fall.

We also help support bilingual nature programs and projects at Ankeny Hill Nature Center through our partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Check out the new Pollinator Patch interpretive display at the Nature Center, with signage in English and Spanish.

If improving Salem Audubon's diversity is important to you, please consider getting involved in that cause. Our chapter has more opportunities than our capacity, and we could use your help. We're especially interested in involving those interested in helping Salem Audubon do a better job of connecting with our growing Latino community.
Tim Johnson, president

tim@salemaudubon.org tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com.

Upcoming Birder's Night - September 12, 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

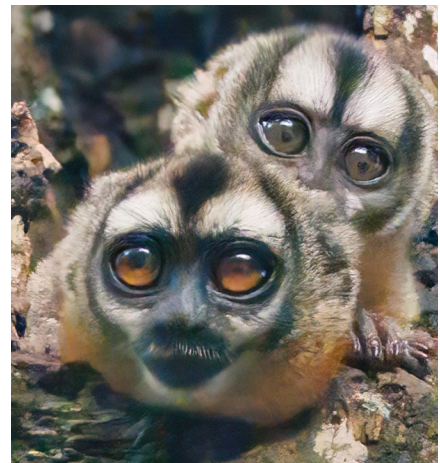
Birder's Night Returns with a trip to the Upper Amazon

By Paul Evans and Roxanne Evans

Share our expedition to bird the headwaters of the mighty Amazon River in Peru's rain forest. We will describe some highlights of our nine-day journey exploring the intricate network of jungle waterways to discover amazing tropical birds and animals while viewing its stunning biodiversity. Our presentation will introduce the region's geography and habitats and share our best photos of local birds, monkeys, and other jungle denizens.

NOTE! NEW LOCATION FOR BIRDER'S NIGHT MEETINGS
Scottish Rite Temple,
4090 Commercial St SE, Salem

We will also share some practical recommendations for those preparing for tropical birding adventures. Here is the Zoom link for September's Birder's Night - https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wXvx5yUsT1y_PQsfyFWJfA



Contributed by Paul Evans and Roxanne Evans

Night Owl Monkeys

Name Change Survey Results Provide Insight

By Mike Williams

Editor, *The Kestrel*

The National Audubon Society, fueled an organization-wide debate in 2022 when it launched a year-long examination of the history of its namesake, John James Audubon.

They decided to keep the name in March 2023 with a \$25 million commitment to expand its Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB) efforts in the next five years. The National Board said this would enable the organization to focus its time and resources, on its long-term strategy, including its new EDIB plan.

While the financial commitment is an exceptional step toward improving its EDIB practice nationally, it does not solve the dilemma faced by the nearly 500 local chapters, including ours, who continue to question the logic of dropping the Audubon name.

Should we remove a name synonymous with birding because of the attitudes and actions of a man behaving as many others did during the 19th Century? Or should we consider Audubon a “man of his time” and ignore his ownership and sale of other humans, his belief in white supremacy, his desecration of Native American graves, his plagiarism, his questionable scientific ethics, and his work as an anti-abolitionist? (Read <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-myth-john-james-audubon>)

In the July-August issue of the Kestrel, SAS President Tim Johnson and I presented information about the name change discussions held by the SAS Board of Directors and resources for readers to understand the situation better. We also posted an online survey asking for basic information about you and your opinion about removing the

CHOICES	READER AGE	VOTES BY SAS MEMBER	VOTES BY NON-MEMBER	TOTALS
NO CHANGE No, the chapter name should remain Salem Audubon Society	80 or Older	13	1	14
	65-79	42	7	49
	45-64	5	10	15
	25-44	1	0	1
	18-24	0	1	1
NO CHANGE Sub-totals		61	19	80
YES CHANGE Yes, the Audubon name should be removed from the Salem chapter brand	80 or Older	3	1	4
	65-79	18	2	20
	45-64	6	2	8
	25-44	3	2	5
YES CHANGE Sub-totals		30	7	37
MAYBE CHANGE Maybe, but will depend on what I think of new name.	80 or Older	3	0	3
	65-79	16	0	16
	45-64	2	2	4
MAYBE CHANGE Sub-totals		21	2	23
NOT UNTIL MEETING No change until all members can vote at an open chapter meeting	80 or Older	2	0	2
	65-79	11	1	12
	45-64	2	0	2
NOT UNTIL MEETING Sub-totals		15	1	16
OTHER Individual comments	65-79	3	0	3
	18-24	0	1	1
OTHER Sub-totals		3	1	4
GRAND TOTALS		130	30	160

Kestrel Graphic by Mike Williams

Audubon name from the Salem chapter brand. The survey was accessible from July 1- August 23. We considered it essential to learn what our members think about the issue before deciding on the chapter action.

As shown in the chart above, no single answer received a plurality of the votes, but the **NO Change – The chapter name should remain Salem Audubon Society** did receive 80 votes (50%). This tally exceeded the 37 (23%) votes

cast for **YES – Change the name**. The remaining 43 (27%) votes reflect readers’ uncertainty with the issue and process.

Please take time to review the data presented in the accompanying chart. The SAS Board will use this information to guide our next steps. We are open to your comments and ideas about improving our involvement with our increasingly diverse community.

If you have questions, you can reach me at: editor@salemaudubon.org.

SAS Woodshop - 29 years and counting

By Pat Gallagher and Chet Zenone

"So, how many have you made?" Salem Audubon Society wood shop volunteers regularly get that question when discussing the Wren Box kits produced for assembly by kids of all ages. Though records aren't complete, the usual answer is, "At least 20,000 Wren kits!" Nest boxes for other species like bluebirds, swallows, wood ducks, and owls pale compared to 2,000 kits.

Doug Knutsen, a former SAS board member and officer, was for an easy carpentry project he could make for kids to assemble as a kit. Beginning in 1994, Doug used his shop to make box kit parts. He also developed a presentation program to teach kids how to build the box and learn about birds and their place in our world. The name on the box is "Wren," but other small birds, like Chickadee species and White-breasted Nuthatches, also use them. Doug presented his first school program at Gubser Elementary School in Keizer.

Over five years of building kits in his shop, Doug continually ran out of room for lumber and completed kits, requiring several moves among the farm buildings on his family's property. Diana Gardener, a farm owner east of Salem, heard SAS needed shop space. Diana had bought a small farmstead abutting her property in January 1999 and had several farm buildings she would not fully use. Doug and SAS officers came to inspect the space and quickly accepted Diana's offer.

Diana and her husband, Jud Parsons, improved shop lighting, updated the wiring to permit the use of multiple power tools and later installed a security alarm system. According to



Woodshop Crew (left to right) Tony Tanzi, Pat Gallagher, Chet Zenone, John Jorgensen, and Don Roberts.

Diana's records, the shop received its first lumber for kits on March 25, 1999, and the shop location has been in use for more than 24 years.

In 2015, Diana retired and sold the farm to a young local farmer, Jay Thompson. During the sale negotiations, she asked him to continue allowing shop access to SAS. She sweetened the deal by offering to pay the shop's electricity bill, something she had done from the beginning. Jay agreed and took over the property on September 4, 2015. This combination of free access to the location and no electric bill for many years is vital to the shop's success. Diana and Jay deserve our most total appreciation for this generous support.

The program has also benefited from the continuity of long-term volunteers at the shop. Doug continued building kits for several years while also doing the school presentations. Now in his 25th year as a wood shop volunteer, Pat Gallagher began at the shop a few months after it opened. A few years later, Don Roberts and Chet Zenone joined the crew, and they, too, can claim 20-plus years of service. Others have worked for shorter

periods, and two new volunteers, John Jorgenson and Tony Tanzi, joined the team this year. Other presenters stepped up when Doug stopped doing school presentations, with Lowell Spring having the longest tenure.

How did the Wren nest box design promote this program? Doug's prototype box was economical and easy to assemble. The shop can turn 50 boards (1" X6" X6') into 75 kits. Each Wren kit has seven parts, requiring four to eight steps. To correct for minor warping of the boards as received from the mill, a straight edge is cut on one side of every board so that when cutting parts, the sides will be parallel and the corners square. This precision is essential since many shop customers are only 5 or 6 years old, and the parts must fit just right.

The pieces are pre-drilled, and the holes must line up because the nails go through one board into the edge of another, which is only 9/16" thick

This simple little nest box still engages children and many adults and is why the SAS nest box program, beginning in Doug Knutsen's shop, has run continuously for 29 years.

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

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023 at 7:30 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park

Upcoming – Tuesday, Oct. 3, and Sunday, Nov. 5, at 9:00 AM. Note the time change!

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

September is the second month of four of the fall bird census and recording. It is one of the peak months for the migration of neo-tropical migrants who have visited us for the summer to nest in our rich food area. Young and adult birds that may be in molt after breeding can be seen along with residents, making a nice mix and providing identification challenges. We will look for plumage changes, listen for song structure changes, and see a difference in the status of birds gathering in flocks from the traditional breeding families. Juvenile raptors like Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and accipiters will be honing their hunting skills. Osprey and Turkey Vultures begin to move south. Many passerines or perching birds will be fattening up on berries and bugs, building up energy for migration to their wintering grounds. We will begin to see more shorebird varieties. Waterfowl in eclipse will begin plumage changes that bring beauty in winter. Join us to enjoy this time of change in our season, watching for the woodpecker, wren, creeper, sparrow, warbler, and even waterfowl species with fledged young that will be on the move or are utilizing the habitat in preparation for cooler weather.

Meet at 7:30 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 11:00 AM. 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.

Upcoming Events
September 2023

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

WED 6 SAS - FIELD TRIP
Minto-Brown Island Park
7:30 AM - Noon | Minto-Brown Island Park

TUES 12 SAS - BIRDER'S NIGHT
A Trip to the Upper Amazon
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM | Scottish Rite Temple

SAT 16 SAS - FIELD TRIP
Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge
7:30 AM - Noon | Ankeny NWR

WED 20 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY
Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Ankeny Nature Reserve

THUR 21 SAS - SHORTS
Champoeg State Park
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Champoeg State Park

THUR 21 SAS - SHORTS
Keizer Rapids Park
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Keizer Rapids Park

MON 25 SAS - SHORTS
Illahe Hills Country Club
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Illahe Hills Country Club

UPCOMING SPECIAL TRIPS

OCT 11 SPECIAL TRIP
Coast Trip Newport Area
Depart 8:00 AM | Newport

OCT 25 SPECIAL TRIP
Brown's Ferry Park
Depart 8:30 AM | Tualatin

> Continued from previous page

Saturday, September 16 at 7:30 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

Upcoming – Sunday, October 15, and Wednesday, November 15, at 9:00 AM. (Please note the time change!)

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

All the Willamette Valley Refuges are exciting places to view shorebirds in the fall. September is one of the best times at Ankeny Refuge to observe birds during fall migration. Shorebirds are fond of the invertebrates and the mudflats when water remains at Pintail Marsh or Eagle Marsh. There are also back ponds at either site. Trails to them are mostly lacking in shade and are frequently uneven but are worth the effort for sightings. We will carpool to visit specific sites looking for sandpipers, phalaropes, and wading birds. We have been treated with sightings of both adult and young birds, Green Heron, American Bittern, Sora, Wilson's Snipe, and Virginia Rail.

Meet at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center (AHNC) Parking Lot at 7:30 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 before noon. Please note that the gate does not open until 7:00 AM.

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

Thursday, September 21st at 8:00 AM – Keizer Rapids Park (SAS with West Keizer Neighborhood Association)

Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998 and Carolyn Homan (503) 463-8652

Keizer Rapids Park, in Keizer, is a local, magnificent place to explore the natural world including birds. The park has a variety of habitats (forest, riparian, grassland and urban) that attracts a wide variety of birds including sparrows, finches, and towhees, but many other birds can be found here including waterfowl, raptors, woodpeckers, and creepers. Kingfishers and an occasional bald eagle can be seen near the river.

Meet at 8:00 am in the far parking lot (at the end of the road leading to the boat ramp). Bring water and a snack for the trail. The walk will last about two – three hours.

Directions: From Salem: Take River Road North, turn left onto Chemawa Road N, turn left onto Walsh Way N, and proceed to the parking lot at the at the end of road near the boat ramp.

Thursday, September 21 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. The latter part of September is an excellent time for birding here in the Willamette Valley because birds are on the move: many of the warblers, vireos, and flycatchers are headed south to warmer climates, and our numerous overwintering sparrows (Golden-crowned, Lincoln's, Fox, and White-throated) have just started to trickle into the region. Adding to this colorful assortment of species, our resident chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and finches make for great variety. 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. 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

Continued on next page >

> Continued from previous page

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.

Monday, September 25 at 8:00 AM – Illahe Hills Country Club

Upcoming – Monday, Oct. 9 at 8:00 AM – our final trip this year.

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

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 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. 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.

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 there. 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 located 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.



Salem Audubon Society
PO Box 2084
Salem, OR 97308



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Salem Audubon Society Committees & Special Project Chairs

Beginning Birding Class Vacant	Education Mary Ritter
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

Membership Form

Name

Address

Email*

**Required for E-Kestrel Membership*

Individual Membership

- \$43 Print Edition
- \$35 E-Kestrel Edition

Family Membership

- \$58 Print Edition
- \$50 E-Kestrel Edition

Mail to: Salem Audubon Society
PO Box 2084
Salem OR 97308

