



THE KESTREL

Salem Audubon Society

April 2024

Volume 57 Number 8

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Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Statement

The Salem Audubon Society will foster a workplace and community that values and celebrates diversity in all its forms. We believe embracing diversity, promoting equity, ensuring inclusion, and creating a sense of belonging are fundamental to our success and integral to improving society.

Wildlife Emergencies

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



Photo Courtesy Lynn Herring

Georgia Marshall (near bow), family members and guests shared the ribbon-cutting duties.

David B. Marshall Outdoor Classroom Opens with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

By Tim Johnson

Salem Audubon Society President

I'm writing this message following the David B. Marshall ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 16. It's difficult to capture in words how special and wonderful the event was. The ceremony celebrated the completion of the David B. Marshall Outdoor Classroom and served to celebrate the progress so far at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center.

When we opened the Ankeny Hill Nature Center to the public in February 2022, the country was just coming out of a COVID shutdown. A celebration had to wait for a better opportunity. So, this ceremony also marked the culmination of years of hard work to create a place where families, school classes, and the community could come to experience and learn about Nature. We were celebrating the David B. Marshall Outdoor Classroom, the Mark Gehlar Hall, and the 25-acre Ankeny Hill Nature Center.



Johnson

President's Message

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Nearly 100 people attended the ceremony, including representatives of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center partners (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and Salem Audubon Society), representatives of U. S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Andrea Salinas, Nature Center volunteers, representatives of Dalke Construction, Nature Center donors, and members of Dave Marshall's family, including Dave's wife, Georgia Marshall.

Georgia Marshall addressed the gathering by thanking everyone for their efforts on the project and honoring her late husband's legacy. Dave Marshall's son, John Marshall, told us of his father's love of birding before birding was a thing and of his frequent visits to the future sites of the Finley, Ankeny, and Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuges. At the same time, he was a student at Oregon State University.

Dave would later be instrumental in establishing these National Wildlife Refuges. Visiting Services Manager Samantha Bartling described the vision behind the design of the David B. Marshall Outdoor Classroom: to create an IN Nature, immersive opportunity to learn about Nature and the ecosystem of wetland marshes such as Peregrine Marsh.

While all of this was happening, the sun was shining, bald eagles circled above Peregrine Marsh, western meadowlarks were singing from the nearby prairie, and chorus frogs were vocalizing from the marsh. It couldn't have been a more fitting backdrop for the ceremony, and the things said to honor Dave Marshall.



Georgia Marshall, widow of David B. Marshall, with her step-son John Marshall.



The Outdoor Classroom interior during the wecloming presentation.



SAS President Tim Johnson chats with Hugh Morrison, Regional Director for USF&W Region 1.



David B. Marshall Outdoor Classroom looking toward the Northwest.

Birder's Night - April 9, 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM – Scottish Rite Center)

Understanding Migration Paths

Klamath Bird Observatory is a nonprofit that advances bird and habitat conservation through science, education and partnerships. Their presentation will share updates on their western purple martin and Oregon vesper sparrow research. KBO has been successful in tracking both to their wintering grounds and back with GPS tags that fit like backpacks. Understanding a species' migration path is essential to full annual conservation. Both species are experiencing population decline, and with this data, they hope to understand better why.

The speaker, Elva Manquera-DeShields is KBO's Science Communications, Outreach, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Manager. She has a Master's in environmental education from Southern Oregon University and is an Oregon native born and raised in the Willamette Valley. Elva enjoys sharing her passion for the environment and bird conservation.

To register on Zoom, click on the following link: <https://bit.ly/birders-night-april-2024>

IN MEMORIAM

Lowell Spring - Beloved Educator

Long-time SAS member Lowell Spring passed away on March 5. Lowell was a top donor for the SAS Nature Center and a teacher and leader for Salem Audubon Society's Traveling Education program for nearly two decades, teaching 30-40 programs per year at K-12 grade schools throughout the Willamette Valley. Lowell was enthusiastic and tireless sharing his knowledge of bats, otters, beavers, Canada Geese, birding and birds, with students from public and private schools, home schools, and even youth in juvenile detention. He led many community events, including at the Silver Falls State Park Mother's Day and Winter Festivals.

Tim Johnson recalled that he helped out with several of Lowell's school programs and community events, saying, "My favorite memory of Lowell was when he would have a classroom of kids circle him, sitting on the floor, and he would tell stories and relate amazing facts about bats, beavers or otters. He was a masterful storyteller and a favorite of the kids."

Lowell encouraged current education coordinator Mary Ritter to join the SAS education program and donated all his owl, bat, beaver, and otter education kits to Salem Audubon. "I first knew him from 12 years ago when he volunteered to present programs for students in my detention education program," she said. "He had the kids in the palm of his hand. All these tough kids were on the floor making bat wings and using cookie pans and ping pong balls to learn about echolocation. Those were great life lessons."



Salem Audubon Society Archive Photo

Lowell Spring in his environment, sharing stories about bats and other wildlife with young students.

Long-time Salem-Keizer teacher, SAS member, and Salem Environmental Education Outreach Educator Laurie Aguirre also has fond memories of Lowell.

"I have always thought of Lowell as a gentle giant of a man. Our time together began long ago when he came to share a bit of his vast knowledge about BATS through his SAS class with my 2nd-grade students at Optimum Learning Environments Charter. The kids were enthralled with his content, which included information filled with scientific terms that showed that he respected their intelligence."

Lowell will be greatly missed.

Tim Johnson, Mary Ritter and others contributed to this story

Salem Audubon Society Field Trips

Compiled by Cynthia Donald

Salem Audubon Society (SAS) 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. Some leaders request participants carpool to reduce our carbon footprint, so please contribute to your driver to help cover costs. Masking when inside the vehicle is up to individual drivers.

SAS field trips vary in both driving distance and walking length. Specific field trip descriptions will note trail conditions (uneven, paved, etc.), meeting places, and times, often including anticipated species to be encountered and directions for carpooling (if applicable). Please let your leader know if you need to leave the trip earlier than the scheduled time!

SAS APRIL FIELD TRIPS

Monday, April 8, 2024, 8:00 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park

(Upcoming – Wednesday, May 8 at 8:00 AM and Sunday, June 9 at 7:30 AM. Please note the time change!)

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

Winter dormancy ends with resident and migrating birds settling into nesting territories. This 1200-acre park offers many walking loops with soft and hard trails through excellent wildlife habitat. Restoration area plantings are maturing, providing spring pollen and nectar for migrating Rufous Hummingbirds. In summer and fall, these areas also provide shelter in thick grasses, seeds, and berries. Evergreen and deciduous woodlands provide perch and nest areas for raptors, including accipiters and Red-tailed Hawks. These woodlands attract cavity nesters such as woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, and Wood Ducks. We anticipate the Osprey have returned and hope to see the rebuilding of last year's nest. Adequate winter rainfall provides essential water to the oxbows and ponds, allowing close looks at herons and waterfowl.

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. Loaner binoculars are available.

Directions: From River Road South, turn west at the signal at Minto Island Road and proceed to the last parking lot. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle; confirm that anything inside is out of sight.

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 8:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

(Upcoming – Sunday, May 19 at 8:00 AM and Monday, June 24 at 7:30 AM. Please note the time change!)

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

April is an exciting time with the re-opening of refuge gates to allow berm access to back ponds and hedgerows. With plenty of water, the refuge has had interesting visitors, including Tundra Swan, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, and other wintering hawks. Young Bald Eagles have been honing their hunting skills. High numbers of winter waterfowl include Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Green-wing Teal, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Canada, and Cackling Geese. Now is a time of change with shorebirds, warblers, and flycatchers arriving while some waterfowl leave for northern prairies. In past years, we've seen nuptial displays by American Bittern, and we will look and listen for returning Sora and

Upcoming Events
April 2024

MON 8	<p>SAS - FIELD TRIP Minto-Brown Island Park</p> <p>8:00 AM - Noon Minto-Brown Island Park</p>
April 11-14	<p>SPECIAL EVENT Burns, OR</p> <p>Migratory Bird Festival</p>
SUN 21	<p>SAS - FIELD TRIP Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge</p> <p>8:00 AM - Noon Ankeny NWR</p>
THUR 25	<p>SAS - FIELD TRIP Willamette Mission State Park</p> <p>9:00 AM Willamette Mission St. Pk.</p>

Future Events

May 3-5	<p>SPECIAL EVENT Gray's Harbor, OR</p> <p>Gray's Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival</p>
May 30 June 2	<p>SPECIAL EVENT Sisters, OR</p> <p>Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival</p>
July 24	<p>SPECIAL EVENT Cannon Beach, OR</p> <p>Cannon Beach Puffin Trip</p>

EVERY WED | **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY**

Audubon Nature Reserve Work Party *(All are welcome)*

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Ankeny Nature Reserve

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Wilson's Snipe that nest here. Join us to enjoy sightings along the waterway berms.

Meet at the 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. Loaner binoculars are available.

Directions: From Salem, take I-5 south to the Ankeny Hill Road exit (Exit 243) and turn right (west). At the Ankeny Hill Road/Wintel Road intersection, bear right and continue on Ankeny Hill Road straight (west), approximately 2.2 miles to the AHNC Visitor Center entrance, which will be on your left. An alternate route from Salem is to take Liberty Road south to Ankeny Hill Road, then turn left and continue about 0.4 miles to the AHNC Visitor Center entrance, which will be on your right. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle; confirm that anything inside is out of sight.

Thursday, April 25 at 9:00 AM – Willamette Mission State Park

Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

We'll walk approximately 2.5 miles on paved and dirt trails along Mission Lake and the Willamette River this early spring day. Osprey, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, Vaux's Swift, and various swallow species will have recently arrived, and some overwintering Fox, Lincoln's, and White-throated sparrows may also be present. This time of year is also great for seeing both subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's and Myrtle) in their bright alternate plumages. And the last week of April is the best time of the year to see both Hammond's Flycatcher and Nashville Warbler as they migrate through the region. We should finish up around noon.

Meet in the Filbert Grove day-use area. A state park pass is required for this location. (Single-day permits can also be purchased for \$5 from the fee station near the park entrance.)

Directions: From Salem, take River Road N through Keizer to Wheatland Road NE, just past the McNary Estates entry. Turn left on Wheatland Road NE to the entrance to Willamette Mission SP. An alternate way is to take I-5 north to the Brooks/Gervais exit (Brooklake Road NE), turn left, continue to Wheatland Road NE, turn right, and continue to the park entrance. Hope to see you there!

ILLAHE COUNTRY CLUB BIRD WALKS RETURN ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024!

UPCOMING BIRD FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL SAS TRIPS!

Thursday, April 11 to Sunday, April 14, 2024 – Migratory Bird Festival, Burns, OR

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

Registration opened on February 14! Follow us on social media for updates and information. We're looking forward to your participation! Thank you for supporting the Harney County Migratory Bird Festival and our community!

The Harney County Migratory Bird Festival was first held in 1981 to celebrate the large 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. Spend an amazing weekend witnessing the spectacular spring migration in the Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon.

Over 300 bird species use the refuge each year, making Harney Basin a bird watcher's paradise. In April, we celebrate the migratory birds' return each year with guided tours led by experts, workshops, and fun activities for youth and adults.

Friday, May 3 to Sunday, May 5, 2024 – Gray's Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival, Gray's Harbor NWR, Hoquiam, WA

From the website: www.shorebirdfestival.com. Registration is open online!

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

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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 multiple 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 other parts of the County. People from around the world come to view this event of hemispheric importance. The Festival brings people together to experience 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.

Thursday, May 30 to Sunday, June 2, 2024 - Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, Sisters, OR

From the website Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival | All About Birds All About Birds

The Festival takes place takes place May 30 to June 2, 2024. Online registration opens on April 2, 2024.

You can choose from a variety of tours over four days to see as many as 11 different species of woodpeckers as well as 200 other bird species who make their homes in the spectacular forests, burn areas, and diverse habitat in the Sisters and Central Oregon's Cascade Mountains and high desert region. Tours are limited to ten participants and typically fill quickly.

Burned areas left behind by Central Oregon's recent forest fires attract bugs, which attract woodpeckers. So participants can see not only common woodpeckers like Hairy and Downy, but also much rarer species like White-headed, American Three-toed, and Black-backed Woodpeckers. Few places in the United States are as rich in such a variety of woodpeckers as this area of central Oregon.

Tours go to places such as Summer Lake, Shevlin Park, Trout Creek Butte, Three Creeks, Cold Springs, the Milli Burn, Abbot Creek, Calliope Crossing, Suttle Lake, and Green Ridge, as well as several other excellent birding areas. In addition to the birding tours, the Festival offers native plants/birding tours and an opportunity to experience the bird banding of kestrels and bluebirds.

Tours take place under a special use permit with the Deschutes National Forest. Participants provide their transportation, and carpooling is required.

Sponsored by the East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS), this Festival offers a fun, friendly, casual atmosphere about birds. The trips are affordable and guided by local field-trip leaders, with the proceeds supporting the many ECAS conservation projects.

Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 8:00 AM – Cannon Beach Puffin Trip

Leader: Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552

Tufted Puffins are true pelagic birds that spend most of their lives in the open seas of the central North Pacific Ocean. This seabird strikes an impressive profile during the breeding season with a solid black body, contrasting white face, large orange bill, and golden head plumes. Each year, up to 20 pair find their way to Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach to breed and raise their young. Puffins are cavity-nesting birds, and after cleaning out an old burrow on a steep edge, the female lays a single egg. Chicks typically emerge to fledge in late June. Join us for this field trip to Cannon Beach to see the Tufted Puffins of Haystack Rock. Please bring a scope if you have one.

Meet at 8:00 AM on the beach on the north side of Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach (look for all the scopes on the beach). There are a couple of parking options in Cannon Beach. Public parking can be found downtown across the street from Theresa's Market (1170 S Hemlock St, Cannon Beach). It's approximately a 15-20 minute walk to the Haystack Rock. There are public restrooms a block south of Theresa's Market. Tolovana Beach State Recreation Site also has public parking and restrooms. However, it's approximately a mile from Haystack Rock via the beach.

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No matter where you park, the sand can be wet and very soft, so please wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather. Cannon Beach is a 2-hour drive from Salem, then a walk to Haystack Rock, depending on where you park. Please plan your departure time to get to the beach around 8:00 AM. Low tide occurs around 8:45 AM.

Bonus option. After seeing the puffins, those interested can caravan to Nehalem Beach State Park for a picnic lunch and additional birding (bring your food and beverage, as there are few options for purchasing anything nearby). An Oregon State Parks pass is required at Nehalem Beach State Park. You can buy a \$5 day-use parking pass with a credit card at the pass vending machine on your way to the day-use area (right side of the road near the boat ramp turnoff).

Directions to Cannon Beach: From Salem, it's approximately 120 miles to Cannon Beach, about 2 hours and 15 minutes depending on traffic. Take I-5 north to 217, proceed northwest on 217 to 26, proceed west on 26 to 101, and turn south to Cannon Beach. A GPS app or physical maps should get you to Theresa's Market or Tolovana Beach.

Ankeny Hill Nature Center Volunteer Report

Volunteers and Changing Seasons at the Nature Center

Gehlar Hall reservations and Ankeny Hill Nature Center (AHNC) activities picked up in March as winter changed to spring. Volunteers hosted two Winter Wildlife Field Days (WWFD) events, a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Prairie Plant working group, two Marion County Master Gardener events, and two Salem area Boys and Girls Clubs!

The first WWFD event was cold and blustery. Volunteers greeted visitors inside the classroom at Gehlar Hall. Children crawled through mole tunnels, discovered soil life under a microscope, and more! The second WWFD was warm and sunny. Activities spread to the Gehlar Hall Outdoor classroom. Partner organizations, community volunteers, USFWS staff, and AHNC volunteers introduced over 170 visitors to "Worlds Unseen!"

One volunteer said, "...what a great day we had today." All made possible by the presence of wonderful volunteers and partners!

On March 16th, AHNC volunteers supported USFWS staff and Nature Center partners at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for the NEW David B. Marshall Outdoor Classroom down the hill from Gehlar Hall.

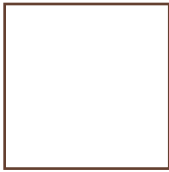
Are you interested in joining the Ankeny Hill Nature Center volunteer community? Whether you want to be a habitat steward, engage with visitors, or both, you have a role.



Photograph courtesy John Baer

Volunteers and partners listen and prepare for visitors at the March 2nd Winter Wildlife Field Days event at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center.

If you would like to sign up for the next, no commitment new volunteer orientation, please contact Pat (he/him/his) and Bobbie (she/her/hers) Allaire, Volunteer Coordinators, at volunteer_manager@ankenyhillnaturecenter.org or call (541) 760-3700. To learn more about the Nature Center, check out <https://www.ankenyhillnaturecenter.org/>



Salem Audubon Society
 PO Box 2084
 Salem, OR 97308

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Birder's Night Harry Fuller	Birding Workshops Mike Unger
SAS Woodshop John Jorgenson	SAS Nature Reserve Lee Slattum
Kestrel and Web Editor Mike Williams	Conservation David Harrison

Christmas Bird Count
 Tim Johnson, Mike Unger, Gretchen Johnson

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging
 Mike Williams

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 Membership valid Feb. 1, 2024 - Jan. 31, 2025

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To pay by check, please complete this form and mail with payment to:
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