Members accomplish much of what you value about Salem Audubon. More than half of our members volunteer their time and talents at some point during the year to help Salem Audubon achieve its mission of connecting people to Nature.

Serving on the Board of Directors is one vital function our members support. We ask members to volunteer monthly hours to help with chapter stewardship. It's an essential role for a membership-led organization like ours. It can also be a gratifying and fun experience. I hope you, too, can and will serve a term on the board at least once.

At the May Birder's Night meeting, we will hold our annual election of the Board of Directors. Directors serve a two-year term and meet monthly to steer the direction of the chapter. Typical Board tasks include setting or adjusting organizational objectives, evaluating potential opportunities, approving expenditures, and driving new organizational directions.

Please contact me if you have questions about becoming a Director. Thanks.

(tim@salemaudubon.org, 503-507-8552)

Mother’s Day Birds & Wildflower Festival

Again this May, Silver Falls State Park is hosting the popular Mother’s Day Birds and Wildflower Festival. More info: https://bit.ly/mothers_day_festival

The festival is on May 11 and 12 from 10 am-4 pm. The park ranger reached out to Salem Audubon, asking for volunteers to help with the discovery table (all about birds and insects) and the paper bird crafts table. No previous experience is required. https://bit.ly/Mothers_Day_Volunteer_signup

Continued on next page >
Dave Marshall Collection

In early April, Michael Babbitt, Sam Bartling, and I visited the Dave Marshall Collection housed in the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Library. It is an impressive collection, fully cataloged and professionally curated.

The collection includes a wide variety of journals, books, reports, and pamphlets, reflecting the breadth and depth of Mr. Marshall’s interests. The collection totals nearly 1,800 items. Most items in the collection are available for public check-out and viewing.

Here’s a link to the collection: [https://catalog.cbfwl.org/](https://catalog.cbfwl.org/)

Any handwritten items are not for check-out but can be viewed, although there’s not much by way of personal notes. Feel free to share information about this fabulous collection, including the link, with others.

Salem Cinema to Show Famous Birding Film

Salem Cinema is proud to bring back the wonderful film [THE WILD PARROTS OF TELEGRAPH HILL](https://www.salemcinema.com/movie/the-wild-parrots-of-telegraph-hill-2) upon the 20th anniversary of its release! As a show of support, the [SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY](https://www.salemcinema.com/movie/the-wild-parrots-of-telegraph-hill-2) will receive a $5 donation for every ticket sold.

Salem Audubon Society President Tim Johnson and SAS member Harry Fuller will be on hand to share their insights and first-hand experiences of having spent time with the Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill following the screening.

**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2024  **Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Cost of tickets:** $15 advance / $18 day of show

Tickets are available both at the theater’s Box Office and online at [https://www.salemcinema.com/movie/the-wild-parrots-of-telegraph-hill-2](https://www.salemcinema.com/movie/the-wild-parrots-of-telegraph-hill-2).

In a unique and moving snapshot, a homeless musician transforms his life after discovering a flock of wild South American parrots living in San Francisco. How they got there is a mystery, but Mark Bittner forms a bond with the exotic birds through his music and patient, attentive care. A touching, revealing, uplifting, and lovely film, [THE WILD PARROTS OF TELEGRAPH HILL](https://www.salemcinema.com/movie/the-wild-parrots-of-telegraph-hill-2) is the profile of a gentle, caring, and sensitive man who models the empathy and respect we should have for all animals, large and small. For the 20th anniversary of its release, Judy Irving’s award-winning documentary film has been remastered in 4k with a new 5.1 surround sound mix.
Birder's Night - May 14, 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM – Scottish Rite Center)

Birding in Cuba - Caribbean's Most Ecologically Diverse Nation

For Birder’s Night on May 14, 2024, Salem Audubon Society members Paul and Roxanne Evans will present a talk about their unique birding tour to Cuba. The session will include discussions about the natural habitats attractive to its unusual bird life, remarkable photos of Cuban birds, including rare endemics seen only there, and a fascinating parade of exciting and colorful island birdlife.

The Evanses will share their travel experiences, cultural sights, scenes of the countryside, and observations of life in this Communist country will be shared. Please join us in person or on Zoom for a delightful time of exploration and discovery of the beauty of this rarely-visited tropical destination.

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

Photos by Paul and Roxanne Evans
Cuban Trogan, left, and Cuban Tody, above.
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 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. 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 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 MAY FIELD TRIPS**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024, 9:00 am – Birding Along Hwy 22 (North Santiam State Rec Area/Lyons City Park/Aumsville Ponds County Park)**

**Leader:** Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

There are a number of great birding spots just east of Salem along Hwy 22. We will begin the day at North Santiam State Recreation Area, where we will walk a 1-mile loop on both paved and dirt trails going through the forest and along the river. Osprey, Common Yellowthroat, Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper, American Dipper, Western Tanager, and Vaux’s Swift are some species we will likely encounter at this park. With spring migration starting to pick up, there is always the possibility of something unique showing up as well. Last year Lewis’s Woodpecker, Hammond’s Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrow, and Lazuli Bunting were all seen at this location in just over an hour! Once we finish at the State Rec Area, our next stop will be nearby Lyons City Park, an excellent spot for waterfowl, songbirds, and perhaps a Green Heron. If time permits, we will continue to Aumsville Ponds County Park, where we’ll walk the 2/3 mile dirt trail around Young Lake (the trail is generally flat, but there are a few places where you need to go up and down some small sets of stairs). We will finish up between 12:30 - 1 pm.

Meet in the large parking lot at the end of Santiam Park Road, in front of the restrooms. Park passes are not required at these locations, but you should bring water, snacks, and sunscreen. There is a vault toilet at Aumsville Ponds County Park in addition to the facilities at North Santiam.

Directions: From Salem, drive east on Oregon Hwy 22 for about 30 miles, then turn right at the sign for North Santiam State Park onto Santiam Park Rd. Follow Santiam Park Rd until you reach the big parking lot. Hope to see you there!

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 8:00 am – Minto-Brown Island Park**

*(Upcoming – Sunday, June 9 at 7:30 am and Thursday, July 4 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

May is when colorful neo-tropical migrants arrive and compete for nesting areas with resident birds. The understory of deciduous and evergreen woodlands is a magnet for these travelers. Nearby berry hedgerows provide food and bugs for these...
Continued on previous page

and resident birds. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, and wrens are drawn to the green understory, along with Spotted Towhee and Song Sparrow. California Scrub-Jay and Steller's Jay build their nests higher in the woodland trees. White-crowned Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting 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 Vireo, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, Yellow and Orange-crowned warblers will join flycatchers with their dawn songs. Osprey arrived in April, and Bald Eagle, hawks, owls, and herons have been nesting since February or March. We'll walk the loops watching for cavity nesters, including swallows and Vaux's Swift.

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.

Monday, May 13, 2024, 8:00 am – Illahe Hills Country Club
(Upcoming – Monday, June 17 at 8:00 am)
Leaders: Paul Evans, Roxy Evans

Please contact the leader at paulevansdo@gmail.com to confirm your registration for this trip.

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 according to 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 right ahead.

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 8:00 am – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge
(Upcoming – Monday, June 24 at 7:30 am and Saturday, July 13 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, and it is home to returning American Bittern, Green Heron, and Sora. The refuge's interior is now open, and we will walk trails watching for sparrows and migrants, including Yellow-breasted Chat, 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, grosbeaks, vireos, flycatchers, warblers, and swallows are all beginning their nesting process.

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 places. 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.

UPCOMING BIRD FESTIVALS AND SAS SPECIAL TRIPS!

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 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 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 the group of 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 as hemispheric in importance. The Festival works to bring people together for this incredible natural phenomenon.

Check our website for more specific information. Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge is open Sunrise to Sunset, 7 Days a week, and we invite you to enjoy our year-round trail. Should you have questions, concerns, or comments, please contact us at shorebirdfest@gmail.com.

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 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 common woodpeckers like Hairy and Downy and 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 particular 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 the 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 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.

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 bit over 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.

New Volunteer Orientation at Ankeny Hill Nature Center

Join the volunteer community at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center! A new volunteer orientation is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10 am -1:00 pm. Preregistration is required by May 10, 2024. Whether you want to be a habitat steward, engage with visitors, or both, you have a role!

If you would like to sign up for this 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/
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Bird’s Night
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Field Trips
Cynthia Donald

Birding Workshops
Mike Unger

SAS Nature Reserve
Lee Slattum

Conservation
David Harrison

Christmas Bird Count
Tim Johnson, Mike Unger, Gretchen Johnson

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging
Mike Williams

SAS Office Information
Laurie Buswell, Administrator
Mon.-Thur., 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  Office Appointment Only
PO Box 2084  Salem, Oregon 97308
408 N 3rd Ave, Stayton, OR 97383
(503) 588-7340   Email: laurie@salemaudubon.org
Website: www.salemaudubon.org

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