

# The Chat

**Number 418**  
**October 2015**

**A voice for education and conservation in the natural world**  
**Rogue Valley Audubon Society**  
**[www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org)**  
*Deadline for the November issue is October 20.*



**OCTOBER PROGRAM MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, OCT 27 at 7 PM**

# "The WISE Project: A Win-Win for Our Region"

## Presented by STEVE MASON

Steve Mason, project coordinator of *Water for Irrigation, Streams, and Economy*, or “WISE,” will provide an update on this regionally-supported water management project, which will improve the health of the Bear Creek and the Little Butte Creek watersheds in Jackson County and benefit native fish populations. By piping and modernizing the current irrigation system of canals, our region would annually save more water than is in all of Emigrant Lake.



Steve Mason grew up in the Illinois Valley and has a Masters degree in Fishery Biology from Oregon State. He is the WISE project Manager and serves on the Board of the Rogue River Watershed Council.

## Coming Up

## November Program Meeting, Tuesday, Nov 24

Speaker: Kristi Mergenthaler from the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC)

December Holiday Party, Saturday, Dec 5

**Emcee and Presenter: Pepper Trail and Jim Livaudais**

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**Chapter Program meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September through April. Meetings take place at 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford, in Lidgate Hall of the Medford Congregational Church.**

## President's Column

The big news this month is that the RVAS Board has given a pledge of \$4,000 to the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) to help them buy a piece of land they are calling the Rogue River Preserve. It includes over 300 acres flanking the Rogue River north of the Dodge Bridge, with one and a half miles of riverfront and a mix of great habitat. Everyone who saw it on our field trip on September 20<sup>th</sup> was impressed.

The opportunity to have such a great piece of property conserved is very exciting to all of us on the Board. We hope all of you will support us in our quest to raise the money to help make it possible!

All of the proceeds of the auction at the Holiday Party on December 5 will go towards our pledge. Pepper will serve as auctioneer for us again, and already has several great field trips lined up to auction! Also, several members have responded to our plea with some great donations to auction or raffle. Please be thinking of anything you can give that you think other birders would enjoy. Sooney Viani, Katy Clelland-Sipfle or any Board Member will be happy to receive your donations—or simply bring them to a chapter meeting.

Please come to the Holiday Party on December 5: have a good time and help conserve the Rogue River Preserve.

Another nice bit of news was the September 18<sup>th</sup> article that appeared in the Outdoors section of the Medford *Mail Tribune*, which covered our First Wednesday bird walk at Agate Lake. Murray Orr and Jeff Tufts have been doing this walk for many years and don't always get the recognition they deserve for such a useful and enjoyable function. The story served as a good reminder for all of us get out there and join them!

Linda

## Field Notes for Jackson County (Aug 21 to Sept 20, 2015) Compiled by Jeff Tufts

Four conspicuous patterns of bird movement are traditionally part of late summer in the Rogue Valley: waterfowl begin arriving in big numbers from northerly breeding grounds, shorebird migration hits a peak, most neotropical migrants move out of the area, and the common fall/winter visitors put in their first appearances at numerous valley locations.

And then there is the occasional unexpected visitor. The male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** that decided to visit the Ousterhout Farm in Eagle Point in early September definitely falls in that category. The bird was first seen Sept. 4 (BH,GH) and remained at least through Sept. 9. All previous Jackson County records for this species were either in January or from April through August.

**Mallards** and **Northern Shovelers** are familiar Jackson County waterfowl throughout fall and winter, and the birds arriving during this report period include many males transitioning from eclipse plumage. Less likely to remain locally in significant numbers are **Northern Pintails**, but approximately 200 of them were seen at Howard Prairie Aug. 20 (FL). Those birds were probably on their way to wintering grounds further south.

As of Sept. 20, we're still waiting for first reports of one of our most common winter waterfowl—**Ring-necked Duck**—and another common species—**American Wigeon**—has been reported only once. Eight were seen Sept. 13 at Howard Prairie (FL).

Although **Greater White-fronted Geese** have been heard flying over the area, none have been spotted stopping at local sites. The first significant flocks were seen last year on Sept. 27. By the time you read this, their barking calls will probably be a familiar sound and they will have been seen in significant numbers locally.

There have been only sporadic reports of individual **Common Loons**, and 45 **Eared Grebes** were seen at Hyatt Lake Sept. 20 (FL).

Because of dramatically low water levels at Agate and Emigrant lakes (Agate hit 2% of capacity in mid-September), shorebird numbers have been well below average. Despite that situation, two of our less common shorebird species put in several appearances.

One **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Emigrant Lake Aug. 18 (FL), and it was joined by a second bird the next day (FL). Another Solitary was at Avenue G Aug. 20 and Aug. 21 (BH), two were at the Wilson pond in Eagle Point Aug. 23 (BH), and one was at the Kirtland ponds Aug. 27 (eB).

Most **Sanderling** sightings in Jackson County are of one or two birds, but five were found at Agate Lake Sept. 8 (NB). Only two were there the next day (BH), and one was seen Sept. 15 (JT) and Sept. 16 (CB). Emigrant Lake had one of this species Sept. 5 (FL).

Two members of the Heron/Egret family that do not breed in Jackson County are frequent visitors in late summer. Agate Lake seems to be the most popular spot for **Great Egrets**, and as many as eight were seen there in August. Less common are **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, but one juvenile and one adult were at the Avenue G ponds Aug. 23 (BH), a single juvenile was at Emigrant Lake Aug. 18 (FL), and a single adult was at a small pond along Reese Creek Road above Eagle Point Aug. 31 (JT).

Two raptor species that are most commonly found in Jackson County during the fall and winter months were spotted during the late summer period covered in this report. A **Ferruginous Hawk** put in an appearance in the Cascade foothills outside of Ashland Sept. 19 (KS), and single **Prairie Falcons** were seen at Emigrant Lake Aug. 19 (FL) and at Agate Lake Sept. 15 (BH, GS).

**Lewis's Woodpeckers** have begun to arrive in numbers with the best report coming from a two-mile stretch of Salt Creek Road that yielded 23 of these colorful birds Sept. 17 (CB). That area also had an adult female **Williamson's Sapsucker** Sept. 11 (CB).

**Ring-billed** and **California Gulls** and **Caspian Terns** are regular visitors to low-elevation bodies of water in Jackson County, but only Howard Prairie had other members of these families during the reporting period. Two **Franklin's Gulls** and one **Forster's Tern** were spotted in the Willow Point area Sept. 13 (FL).

Probably second only to the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in terms of scarcity were the two **Black Swifts** spotted outside of Eagle Point Aug. 28 (HS). Their status as breeders in Oregon is uncertain, and any sighting in Jackson County is almost certainly of a migrant.

*Field Notes continued on page 4*

## The Chat – October 2015

*Field Notes continued from page 3*

Although not considered a rarity, **Say's Phoebe** are always a welcome sight to local birders. Generally absent during summer, a few individuals being to appear in late summer. One was at Emigrant Lake Aug. 18 (FL), and subsequent reports included birds at the Mt. Ashland ski area Sept. 11 (FL), Hyatt Prairie Sept. 14 (BW) and Agate Lake Sept. 15 (BW).

Other interesting sightings of late summer visitors included a **Horned Lark** at Howard Prairie Sept. 12 (FL), three of the same species there on the 13th (FL), a **Pygmy Nuthatch** at Hyatt Lake Sept. 3 (FL), and four **Pine Siskins** in southeast Ashland Aug. 20 (RK).

It may be that the upcoming winter will be a

good one for Pine Siskins, as there were 125 of them reported from the Mt. McLoughlin trail Sept. 19 (FL, KM). That trek also produced 35 **Red Crossbills** and three **Gray-crowned Rosy Finches**. One of the latter species was reported outside of Shady Cove Sept. 10 (eB), but confirming details were not provided.

Thanks to all of the contributors to this report: Norm Barrett, Camden Bruner, Bob Hunter, Gretchen Hunter, Ron Ketchum, Frank Lospalluto, Kristi Mergenthaler, Howard Sands, Karl Schneck, Gary Shaffer, and Ben Wieland. Sightings derived from eBird reports are designated (eB). Deadline for submitting contributions to the Field Notes for the next edition of The Chat is October 19.

### RVAS Annual Holiday Event: Party with Purpose

By Mike Guest

Our Holiday Party potluck will be held on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. This year, our goal is to raise money to support the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy's *Rogue River Preserve Acquisition Project*. This project will acquire and manage a remarkable, permanently conserved 352-acre property on the Rogue River near Medford. In keeping with the first of our Mission Statements, RVAS is pledging \$4,000 to aid this endeavor.

Back by popular demand, the emcee will again be the incomparable Pepper Trail, aided by Jim Livaudais, who will present an illustrated talk about the birds of some place in the world—your guess will be as good as mine. Our annual party will revert back to the popular auction, which will include such goodies as guided field trips, accommodations and wine, plus the customary raffle with a plethora of prizes.

The Board hopes you will join us for an enjoyable evening—and bring your check books!



## The Conservation Column

### By Pepper Trail

This month, the US Fish and Wildlife will make a formal decision about whether or not to list the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act. To update RVAS members on the status of this iconic bird of the interior West, we reprint the following excellent summary prepared by the American Bird Conservancy.

#### **Sage Grouse's Future Hinges on Politics & Federal Management Plans**

##### **By the American Bird Conservancy**

(webpage: <http://abcbirds.org/sage-grouses-fate-depends-on-historic-decisions/>)

In the coming days, new Greater Sage-Grouse management plans are expected to be finalized. These plans cover over 50 million acres of federal land across the entire range of the species, and are essential to reverse its decline. By the end of this month, federal authorities will also decide whether to list the grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In the 1800s, as many as 16 million Greater Sage-Grouse lived in the wide-open sagebrush of the West, including eastern Oregon. That number has since plummeted to about 210,000 birds today, and the grouse's population continues to decline. More than half of the bird's sagebrush habitat has been lost to development. Much of what land remains is crisscrossed by oil and gas developments, roads, and power lines — bad news for the skittish grouse.

Federal authorities are now poised to make historic decisions that may dramatically change the landscape of the American West: Whether to list the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act, or rely on management plans for federally owned lands that, in their current form, are too weak to save the bird. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to issue its decision by the end of the month.

As American Bird Conservancy's Senior Policy Advisor, Steve Holmer has been working to educate members of Congress and administration officials on the sage grouse and what's at stake. Here he explains what these decisions mean for the Greater Sage-Grouse.

##### **What factors determine whether a species is listed under the Endangered Species Act?**

There are several. A species must be listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) if its numbers are declining due to any of the following five factors: destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; over-utilization of the species for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; disease or predation; inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

##### **Does the Greater Sage-Grouse meet any of these requirements?**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that two of these factors — concerning habitat loss and the lack of effective regulatory mechanisms — pose a “significant threat” to the Greater Sage-Grouse now and in the foreseeable future.

*Conservation Column continued on page 6*

*Conservation Column continued from page 5*

The regulatory processes in need of updating are Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service plans affecting roughly 50 million acres of sage grouse habitat on public lands in Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

**Who ultimately makes the decision?**

ESA listing decisions are meant to be based on the best available science. Two federal agencies make the listing decisions: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, which handles marine mammals and sea life. In this instance, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that Greater Sage-Grouse was threatened and proposed it for listing in 2010. But ESA decisions have become politicized. A listing can be prevented, overturned, or changed by law. In 2014, Congress passed, and President Obama signed into law, a defense bill that included a measure placing a one-year moratorium on adding Greater Sage-Grouse to the list of endangered species. New attempts to continue that moratorium — which ends on September 30 — and to overturn federal management plans for the grouse, are now being considered as part the National Defense Authorization Act and the Interior Appropriations Bill.

**Given the grouse's clear decline in recent years, why is there so much speculation about whether the bird will be listed or not?**

The prospect of an ESA listing has raised fears from energy and mining companies that they may have to change their current development practices in the most important sage grouse habitats. But it has also galvanized a remarkable collective effort on the part of states, industries, scientists, and federal agencies to put in place conservation measures that — if effective — could potentially forestall an ESA listing.

ABC would support a 'no-listing' outcome — but only if the federal land management plans are allowed to go into effect and are significantly strengthened.

**If the Fish and Wildlife Service decides to list the grouse, what does that mean?**

When a species is listed, it becomes illegal for landowners or federal agencies to take action that would kill or harm that species, or remove or damage its habitat. Federal agencies making management decisions that might affect the species have to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to see if the action is allowable or not, and if mitigation and protective measures need to be applied.

**This is a major decision. But haven't federal agencies been working on sage grouse conservation for the past several years?**

Yes. In 2011, when a deadline was established for a listing decision by Sept. 30, 2015, federal agencies swung into action. The Bureau of Land Management announced it would begin an unprecedented planning effort to update its management plans for 50 million acres of public lands where the grouse occurs. Soon after, the Forest Service announced that 20 national forests would join BLM in this regional planning effort.

*Conservation Column continued on page 7*

*Conservation Column continued from page 6*

Meanwhile, the Natural Resources Conservation Service began the Sage Grouse Initiative to engage private landowners in grouse conservation. To date, SGI has provided more than \$300 million in support for sustainable ranching, conservation easements, and habitat restoration projects. This collaborative approach has been a big success, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last month that it would extend SGI for three more years and allocate an additional \$200 million in support of grouse conservation.

Federal agencies haven't been the only ones, though. Many state wildlife agencies, Joint Venture partnerships, academics, and conservation organizations are involved. They are conducting research, establishing conservation easements, and initiating habitat restoration projects. These partners are essential in efforts to save the grouse.

**So there's quite a bit of action on the ground to save this bird. Is it working?**

It's too soon to tell if these efforts are producing results yet. State and federal agencies will continue to count males at their lek sites each year, which has been the main basis for population estimates. We do know that grouse populations have been steadily declining at a rate of 2 percent a year since 1965. And since 1985, those numbers have dropped by an estimated 30 percent.

The Sage Grouse Initiative and other federal management plans should improve habitat conditions on private and federally owned land. But the challenge is that development on these lands is ongoing—so the risk of additional habitat loss remains.

The new federal management plans will provide more-stringent protections of grouse habitat. But if leases for oil and gas drilling or mining were approved prior to the adoption of these new plans, then those projects will be allowed to continue, causing further habitat loss.

**What happens if the Service declines to list the bird?**

We roll up our sleeves and keep working to ensure recovery of the species. Grouse conservation measures and protective standards will begin to be applied to the majority of the bird's habitat, provided that the new federal plans are allowed to go into effect. A number of issues still need to be addressed related to new and existing drilling and mining leases, proposed power lines, renewal of grazing permits, and how to alleviate unavoidable habitat losses.

In addition, the Sage Grouse Initiative will be continuing at least through 2018 to reach out to landowners and support grouse conservation projects on private lands. Federal agencies and states will continue to monitor the grouse population to determine if the plans are working to recover the species. If grouse populations don't rebound, the plans can be adjusted.

**Does the sage grouse need to be listed to survive? Or are there other ways to make meaningful progress?**

It all depends on how robust the federal land-management plans are. Unless these plans are strong, scientifically sound, and follow the recommendations of grouse experts, we need the bird to be listed.

*Conservation Column continued on page 8*



*Conservation Column continued from page 7*



The Greater Sage-Grouse is an iconic species of the American West. The real question is whether we want the plains to be full of wildlife — or full of power lines and oil wells. You can have some of both, but right now we are heading toward a horizon filled with industrial infrastructure that will squeeze out the grouse.

One thing is clear. Regardless of what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decides this month, Greater Sage-Grouse will need committed landowners and smart federal policy to survive.

**What You Can Do:**

Go to this American Bird Conservancy site to contact elected and agency officials about the importance of conserving the sage grouse: <https://secure2.convio.net/abcb/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=187>

*Editor's Note: On September 22, The USFWS announced that it will not list the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act; however, 98 new conservation plans, aimed at conserving Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and supporting economic development across 10 Western states, were also announced. These plans affect 67 millions acres of public lands.*

*Summarizing ABC's reaction to the news, Steve Holmer says, "We're optimistic. However, we'll want to see regular reviews of the species' population trend to learn if the current long-term decline is reversed. If not, the listing issue may have to be revisited in the future."*



## Project FeederWatch Returns

It's that time of year! In November, Project FeederWatch begins at **North Mountain Park in Ashland**. Organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through March and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. This data help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

The free one-hour watches provide novice birders the easiest possible identification practice. Participants can expect unobstructed, close-up views of from ten to twenty species perched at feeders, with the valley's top birder/educators available for help. Binoculars and field guides are available for use, though it is best to bring binos you are familiar with, if possible. More experienced birders often attend, jumping at the chance to show off their knowledge as well as to swap tall avian tales with their peers. Young people are encouraged to attend, if accompanied by an adult companion. There is shelter in case of inclement weather.

### **Project FeederWatch schedule for 2015 – 2016:**

**Fridays:** 9 – 10 am; counts done by 1 person; not advertised to the public  
Nov 13, Nov 27, Dec 11, Jan 8, Jan 22, Feb 5, Feb 19, Mar 4, Mar 18

**Saturdays:** 9 – 10 am; open to the public  
Nov 14, Nov 28, Dec 12, Dec 26, Jan 9, Jan 23, Feb 6, Feb 20, Mar 5, Mar 19

RVAS is seeking volunteers to lead each session. For more information or to volunteer contact Mary Pat Power at [marypat@ashlandhome.net](mailto:marypat@ashlandhome.net) about the Ashland PFW.

## Project FeederWatch Needs a Coordinator for Coyote Trails

RVAS has had a Project FeederWatch location at North Mountain Park in Ashland for many years from November to March, coordinated by Mary Pat Power. For the last two years, we have also had a location at Coyote Trails Nature Center in Phoenix. This is a great location for many people; unfortunately, we do not have a coordinator for Coyote Trails for this year.

### Here's a summary of what's needed:

- Coordinate with Mary Pat Power, Ashland PFW, about sending out volunteer email
- Set up volunteer schedule for Coyote Trails. This involves responding to emails and perhaps recruiting (volunteer slots are one hour on a Thursday or Friday from noon – 1 pm, Nov through March.)
- Register online at Project FeederWatch. Fee is \$15 paid by RVAS.
- Check in with Coyote Trails staff – let them know PFW schedule, discuss who refills the feeders, etc.
- Send email reminders to volunteers about their shifts.
- Periodically collect data sheets from Coyote Trails and enter data on PFW web site (not a difficult task). This can be done monthly or even just 2 – 3 times during the season.
- At end of the PFW season, let Mary Pat know how the watches went. She will submit summary article to The Chat.



If you would be willing to help keep this project going at Coyote Trails, please contact Linda Kreisman at [linda@ashlandhome.net](mailto:linda@ashlandhome.net) or Mary Pat Power at [marypat@ashlandhome.net](mailto:marypat@ashlandhome.net). We hope you can help.

## **RVAS BIRDING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS**

### **FIRST WEDNESDAY BIRD WALKS AT AGATE LAKE**

Murray Orr will continue to lead his monthly bird walks at Agate Lake on the first Wednesday of each month. In this ongoing citizen science project, the numbers of the different species observed by walk participants are entered in the Cornell Ornithological Laboratory's eBird database. Birders wishing to join Murray should meet him at the picnic area off Dry Creek Road across from the boat ramp to observe birds on and near Agate Lake. Walks begin at 8:30 and end before noon.

October Walk: Wednesday, Oct 7

November Walk: Wednesday, Nov 4

Contact Murray at 541-857-9050 or mworr2@charter.net

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 — LOST CREEK LAKE AND HOLY WATERS**

Russ Namitz will lead this trip. Participants will explore the Joseph Stewart State Park and walk out the mudflats, birding the willows, flats and open lake. A spotting scope is recommended for the lake, but not necessary. Expect to walk one to two miles over flat, even ground throughout the morning. If there is time, we will bird the "Holy Waters" in search of a slightly different species mix.

Meet at 8:00 am at the NE end of the north Fred Meyer parking lot in Medford, exit 30 from I-5. Specifically, the parking lot with the Goodwill trailer, south of the Taco Bell (Google Maps = 42.352980, -122.869954). Bring a sack lunch and water. We should return to Medford by 2:00 pm or earlier.

Space is limited, so please email Russ Namitz namitzr@hotmail.com to sign up.

## **New RVAS Membership Policy**

Due to concerns from some new RVAS members that their memberships would expire after only a few months, the RVAS board recently decided to make a change to the membership policy.

**The New Policy: Memberships will last for one year from the date that a new member joins, rather than having all memberships expire on September 30th each year.** The majority of our members have been around for more than one year, so their memberships will still expire on September 30th. The memberships of those who joined after September 30, 2014, will expire on the anniversary of joining.

Each member will receive a written notice to renew at the beginning of the month in which their membership expires. Those with memberships expiring September 30th will have already received a letter and a standardized form for renewal. The standardized form greatly simplifies the process for the Treasurer and the Membership Chair, and its use is greatly encouraged.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Gary Palmer at fgpalmer@charter.net

## Ashland Parks and Recreation Classes, Workshops and Events

### Hawks!

Hawks are fascinating creatures that capture our imaginations as few other bird groups do. Easily seen (but tough to identify), they push our primal poetic buttons. This popular course is a PowerPoint presentation that will examine the natural history of diurnal raptors – what makes a hawk a hawk, anyhow? We will also investigate hawks' relationship with humans throughout history. This is NOT an ID class but, at the end of this course, you are guaranteed to be a dedicated hawk enthusiast! Pre-register online at [www.ashland.or.us/register](http://www.ashland.or.us/register) or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

Dates            October 6, 13 & 20

Time            7—8:30pm

PLACE           North Mountain Park

Cost            \$25/series

INSTRUCTOR: Dick Ashford is Director Emeritus of the Klamath Bird Observatory and a popular hawk-watching tour leader in the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion.

### Learning about Birds

Whether a beginning or seasoned birder, this class will explore getting to know the birds of our area using photography, bird song and fun facts. Information on locations to go birding will be included. As with most APRC programs, pre-registration is required—Pre-register online at [www.ashland.or.us/register](http://www.ashland.or.us/register) or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

Ages            10—Adult

Date            Wednesday, October 14

Time            6:30—8pm

PLACE           North Mountain Park

Cost            \$15

INSTRUCTOR: Shannon Rio teaches classes about birds, plant medicine and yoga.

### Learning More about Birds

This is an intermediate-level class for learning about local birds using beautiful photos and fun facts. Emphasis will be on birding by ear and identification of some challenging species. Information on locations to go birding will be included. As with most APRC programs, pre-registration is required—Pre-register online at [www.ashland.or.us/register](http://www.ashland.or.us/register) or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

Ages            10—Adult

Date:           Wednesday, October 21

Time            6:30—8pm

PLACE           North Mountain Park

Cost            \$15

INSTRUCTOR: Shannon Rio teaches classes about birds, plant medicine and yoga. She is on the Board of the Klamath Bird Observatory.

## Field Notes for Josephine County (Aug. 21 to Sept. 20, 2015) Compiled by Jeff Tufts

Shorebird activity at Lake Selmac highlights this month's report from Josephine County.

Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen on the mudflats at Selmac Aug. 24 (RW), and three days later two (perhaps the same individuals) were also reported (RN).

Also at Lake Selmac on Aug. 24 (RW) were a **Lesser Yellowlegs** and two **Red-necked Phalaropes**. One of those phalaropes was reported Aug. 27 (RN).

Other noteworthy JoCo sightings were two **Willow Flycatchers** at Lake Selmac Aug. 27 (RN), 120 **Cedar Waxwings** at Whitehorse County Park Aug. 30 (DV), and an early **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard Sept. 3 (DV).

Thanks to this month's contributors: Russ Namitz, Dennis Vroman and Robert Wohlers.



**White-breasted Nuthatch, by Roxanna Tessman**

Roxanna has seen several of these beauties snatching safflower seeds from her backyard feeder recently.

## Rogue Valley Audubon Society Membership

If you are not an RVAS Member, we invite you to help support our local activities by becoming a member. We hope you're aware of the many activities of the Audubon Society, both locally and nationally, that help to further the cause of bird conservation and public education in southern Oregon. Member dues, along with donations and income from local fund-raising events, support our activities and programs, such as:

Educational and social membership meetings (free and open to members and the public)

*The Chat* newsletter

Website ([www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org))

Birding forum for posting sightings and active locations

Monthly field trips and bird walks

Educational programs for students and adults

Monitoring of regional conservation issues

Work with local wildlife managers to improve access and bird habitats

Bird counts for national species censuses

Support for local research projects

A one-year family membership costs \$20. To become an RVAS member, please complete the form below and send with your check for \$20.

### RVAS Membership Form

Please fill in your information:

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Rogue Valley Audubon Society will not share your information with any other organization.

- ☐ *Include my email on the RVAS list for notification of activities and posting of *The Chat* newsletter.*
- ☐ *Do not send a paper copy of *The Chat* newsletter.*
- ☐ *Send a monthly paper copy of *The Chat* newsletter.*

### Donation

- ☐ *I am enclosing an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_.*
- ☐ *I wish my donation to be anonymous.*

Please mail this form with your \$20 check payable to Rogue Valley Audubon Society, along with any additional contribution you wish to make, to:

**Rogue Valley Audubon Society**  
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**Medford OR 97501**



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**It's Autumn, and  
The Chat has a new look!**

Your feedback is welcome.

Email me at  
chateditor@gmail.com

—Juliet

**ALLEN G. DRESCHER, P.C.** Attorney At Law

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## THE CHAT

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### Sign up to receive easy notification of Chapter activities

Your Audubon Chapter wants to be sure you are aware of upcoming field trips, chapter meetings, the most recent edition of *The Chat*, and other items we post on-line. E-mail [RogueValleyAudubon@gmail.com](mailto:RogueValleyAudubon@gmail.com) and ask to be added to the e-mail notification list. And be assured, we will never share your e-mail address with any other organizations.

