

The Chat

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A voice for education and conservation in the natural world

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

www.roguevalleyaudubon.org

Deadline for submissions for the next month's issue is the 20th of each month



The Changing of the Guard 2012 by Gwyneth Ragosine

As usual, at the summer retreat the new Board of RVAS elected officers for the coming year. Bill Hering agreed to stay on and to take on the role of President. As a reward (or punishment) for encouraging him to do this, I get to write a guest column for him, introducing the new Board.



Bill is very well-qualified to guide RVAS through the coming year. He has served on the Board since 2007, chairing the Membership and Nominating Committees and recently co-chairing with (Pepper Trail) the Conservation Committee. He has represented RVAS at meetings of the Oregon Audubon Council.

A birder and Audubon member since 1971, Bill was an active member and volunteer with the Golden Gate Audubon Society since 1973. He and wife Suzanne moved to the Rogue Valley in 2006 and immediately got involved with RVAS. In addition to this work, Bill has been very ably heading the Curriculum Committee at OLLI.

When he first joined RVAS he described himself as an enthusiastic but not very good birder. He's still enthusiastic and has now progressed sufficiently to get argumentative about Empid identification. (Bill never shrinks from an argument, but he swears that he has mellowed).

Bill's Vice-President will be Sooney Viani. Sooney joined the Board in the summer of 2011. She is a former elementary school teacher, having taught both internationally and in Ashland, an avid cook as well as a keen birder and hiker. Sooney and her husband, Nick, enjoy exploring bird habitats and camping in their 4Wheel pop-up camper.

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Changing of the Guard continued

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Newly elected to the Board are Bob Arrigoni and Linda Kreisman.

Bob writes "I am a retired energy engineer. My wife Bettina and I moved from Hawaii to the Rogue Valley four years ago. My interest in birding started in Hawaii with Hawaiian endemic birds and their conservation. I love birding because it takes me outside into nature. I try to eBird all of my sightings to give back to the scientific community and to the birds themselves. My interest in being on the RVAS Board is habitat conservation. We are blessed with a multitude of wonderful bird habitats in Southern Oregon. It's my hope that through RVAS we will nurture and improve some of those areas close to home"

Linda is a graduate of Ashland High School (as is her husband Peter), where she was valedictorian. She worked as a research food scientist for General Mills in Minnesota until retiring back to Ashland in 2005. She and Pete really got into birding after taking Harry Fuller's OLLI classes. Peter's excellent photographs record their beginners' luck - such as the Grey-crowned Rosyfinch hanging around on Howard Prairie.

Continuing Board officers are Kathy Simonsen (Treasurer) and Shelly Tanquary (Secretary). Maggi Rackley will serve as webmaster, Robert Mumby will oversee Membership. Robert became seriously interested in birds after moving from Hawaii to a Phoenix subdivision ten years ago where he started observing the many different types of birds that came to the feeders. He and his wife both retired from jobs with the City and County of Honolulu government.

Katy Reed was also persuaded to stay on. She is well known to us as the owner of the Medford Wild Birds Unlimited store.

Continued on page 4

Field Notes: The Changing Seasons

Compiled by Stewart Janes

I'm hot. Baby swallows and swifts fill the skies, and there are Western Tanagers in my yard feasting on flowering plums before heading to Mexico. The fall shorebird migration is ramping up big time, and I need to summarize the birding highlights back to late April and spring migration! Okay. So be it. Here we go.

By early May the wintering ducks and geese have pretty much cleared out except for a few waiting to make sure Point Barrow and vicinity will really have melted out by the time they get there. The 5 **Northern Pintail** on Emigrant Lake on 5/7 are a case in point (FL). The **Redhead** and **Greater Scaup** on Agate Lake on 5/13 are another (AC). Most of the shorebirds clear out by mid-May with just a few stragglers after that. This year was more interesting than most with a couple of **Pectoral Sandpipers** at the Kirtland Ponds on 5/13 (JT). We always see a few juveniles during fall migration straying from the traditional route over the Great Plains. By the return trip they usually have things sorted out and bypass Oregon. Not so this year. Then there were the **Sanderlings** at the Kirtland Ponds on 5/25 (NB). Again, we sometimes get a wayward bird or two on fall migration but not in spring. The coast is the rule for these birds. The **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 5/24 along with a smattering of usual shorebird migrants (NB) was another remarkable find. Again this bird should have been a thousand miles east or more.

The **Snowy Plover** at the Kirtland Ponds on 5/26 (GS), is both more unusual and more understandable. They are quite rare in Oregon, but they breed along the coast to the west and to the east around some of the playas in southeastern Oregon.

Still, there are only a couple of records for Jackson County. Besides the usual late **Least** and **Western Sandpipers** and the **Yellowlegs**, **Black-bellied Plovers** were seen at the Kirtland Ponds on 5/25 and 5/26 (GS,GR) and both **Wilson's** and **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at the Kirtland Ponds on 5/27 (JT,RK) wrapping things up for the spring.

No sooner had we cleaned up the place when the fall migrants began to arrive. **Least** and **Western Sandpipers** began showing up on 7/11 (NB) and both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** on 7/20 (JT). The excitement should build to its peak sometime in late August. Keep an eye out. A **Spotted Redshank** has already been seen in the Eugene area.

White Pelicans can be seen in small number throughout spring and fall migration in the valley but the bird cruising the Rogue River below Tou Velle State Park on 6/17 (FL) was a bit out of place.

An unusual **White-faced Ibis** appeared at the Avenue G Pond on 5/8 (NB) but apparently quickly realized its mistake and hopped the mountains back to the Klamath Basin. Three **Forster's Terns** were at Agate Lake on 5/13 (AC) and a **Black Tern** at the Kirtland Ponds on 5/26 (GR). Both breed in the Klamath Basin but not in the valley. It shouldn't be forgotten that Black Terns bred at the Hoover Ponds as recently as the 1970s.

Other waterbird sightings of note include the **Western Gull** at Lost Creek Reservoir on 5/12 (NB) and a **Bonaparte's Gull** at Emigrant Lake on 5/26 (KC -Avenue G pond on 5/26 (GS). I'm not sure what to make of the next sighting but 3 **Tundra Swans** were seen flying over Eagle Point on 7/20 (JT). They are either extremely tardy or extremely early. What gives?

Continued on page 6

The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

Local Conservation - What's Next? Over the past year, our revitalized Conservation Committee established a successful dialogue with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife concerning the management of the Denman Wildlife Area. This has raised the profile of birders as an important user group at Denman, and reinforced the significance of Denman as habitat for shorebirds, songbirds, and other marsh-dwelling birds, as well as for the gamebirds that have been ODFW's traditional focus. Our work to protect and enhance Denman as wildlife habitat will continue.

So... what should be our next local conservation priority? Ideas that have been discussed include improving shorebird habitat at the Kirtland Ponds area, getting more involved with management of Ashland Pond, and possible habitat enhancement projects along Bear Creek and the Rogue River. We would like to hear from RVAS members about what your priorities are, or if you know of important bird habitat in Jackson County that is under threat. Please email me your thoughts at: ptrail@ashlandnet.net - or consider writing an article for the Chat!

Worrisome developments regarding the Northwest Forest Plan. In June, 229 scientists called on the Forest Service to uphold the protections afforded hundreds of species, clean water, and salmon, which were established under the landmark Northwest Forest Plan in 1994. Among the birds protected by the Northwest Forest Plan, of course, are Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets.

While still in formal environmental review, the Forest Service is proposing a plan revision on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Washington that includes undoing protective reserves and weakening the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the plan. This is the first forest plan revision to pose such radical shifts in the protective elements of the Northwest Forest Plan. Citing "new science" and climate change concerns, the agency proposes moving to "whole-landscape level management," where protective reserves are eliminated and mandatory stream protections become discretionary. Given the importance of the Northwest Forest Plan for preserving old-growth forests in southern Oregon, the letter is reprinted in full on pages 10 & 11.

Changing of the Guard continued

We owe a debt of gratitude to Alex Maksymowicz who served so well for three years as President (he can now join the prestigious Former-Presidents-of-RVAS club). He has agreed to serve as Program Chair for the coming year. Thanks also to Debi Blair for all her contributions.

The new Board is made up of people with a wide range of talents and interests; I look forward to seeing how they chart a course for RVAS in the coming year.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY POT LUCK
AND RAFFLE/AUCTION WILL BE
HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1.
HOST WILL BE PEPPER TRAIL.**

BOARD NEWS AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A Board of Directors Retreat took place on June 30th at the Coyote Trails' Jefferson Nature Center. The following goals were set for 2012-2013:

1. Increase member participation in Chapter activities, field trips, education programs, committees and Chapter meetings;
2. Expand local conservation advocacy efforts;
3. Increase member involvement in "Citizen Science" activities; e.g. bird counts, Project Feeder Watch and e-bird; and
4. Identify long term education and conservation projects for RVAS funding.

If you have comments, questions or would like to volunteer, contact a Board Member. Names and contact information is on page 2.

2011-2012 Financial Summary by Kathy Simonsen, Treasurer

As mandated by RVAS by-laws, the following is a summary of our cash flow for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

The **\$12,188** total income available for support of chapter operations during this period came from the following sources: membership dues: **\$3,938**; fundraising activities: **\$5,443**; *Chat* advertising: **\$300**; sales of *Birds of Jackson County*: **\$50**. Membership dues include both local memberships (\$2,065) and payments received from the National Audubon Society for NAS members residing in the Rogue Valley (\$1,870). Fundraising activities include Birdathon (\$1666), holiday raffle (\$2,612) and donations (\$1,165). **\$1955** was received in donations to the Bob Black Fund. The chapter also received \$505 in pass-through income from Christmas Bird Count dues.

Operational expenses for our chapter for the financial period totaled **\$15,993**. Administrative expenses for chapter operations came to **\$3242**, which includes \$1310 for rental of our office at the Coyote Trails Jefferson Nature Center and a new computer to maintain the RVAS website. Chapter meeting expenses totaled **\$589**. The expense for printing and mailing *The Chat* was **\$2,144**. Expenses for our various educational programs were **\$3672**, which included \$965 in scholarships and grants, \$662 for Project Feederwatch at the Jefferson Nature Center and North Mountain Park. Also included was \$1851 for classroom education, which included the purchase of binoculars for the students to use on field trips. The Bob Black Fund awarded **\$1200** in research grants. We supported the Bear Creek Rehabilitation project with a **\$2500** donation to Lomakatsi. This project is being funded by a National Audubon Together Green Grant which was awarded last year. The remaining **\$2646** was used to send a board member to the Audubon State Conference, support other conservation groups, assist classrooms to attend the birding education at North Mountain Park, support Southern Oregon Land Conservancy with their educational program "Loving the Land" and various miscellaneous administrative and fundraising expenses.

Our operational deficit (income minus expenses) for the year came out to a negative \$3805. This was close to the budgeted amount. Since RVAS had acquired a surplus over the past few years the board chose to spend some of the surplus this year to put your money to worthwhile birding and conservation activities.

Speaking of weirdness, there is the **White Stork**. Finally, most of you have probably seen that the Mail-tribune brought a sense of order to the world. White Storks breed in Europe. Period. They don't live farther east than the Caspian Sea and no further west than the Atlantic Coast of Europe. Yet over the last couple of years there have been sightings of a bird in Medford, Ashland, Montague, Red Bluff and who knows where else. It turns out someone has a couple of birds in the Applegate and one flies or flew I should say. I think its days of freedom have come to an end.

Now to a set of rather interesting sightings. First, there is the matter of 39 **Purple Martins** in the Kirtland Pond area first reported on 5/23 (BH). Over the years a few have been seen in the spring but never this many. By 5/27 they were gone (GS,JT,GR,NB). Okay strays, nothing more. Then they were heard on 6/17 near Dodge Bridge (FL). Keep an eye out, they may not have taken off after all. This may mean they are nesting somewhere along the Rogue River.

Black-throated Sparrows are a fine bird of the desert southwest. Once in awhile they show up here. Indeed one was seen on Upper Table Rock on 5/12 (BQ). Then Pepper Trail, while rummaging around on the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, finds two maybe three territorial males somewhere south of Pilot Rock. They have stayed with us throughout the breeding season. This bird has a habit of colonizing areas far to the north of their normal range and returning every year for a few years before abandoning the effort. It will be interesting to see if they are there again next year.

Great-tailed Grackles. Yes we have them, one more year, males at least (5/24-6/12). No one has reported a female yet. And it's always the Avenue G pond area (BH,GS). This year you can add Sam's Valley to the list. Are we building up to Valley to the list. colonization, or is this just a bachelor hangout?

Grasshopper Sparrows are in the news. The Avenue G birds and those along Agate Road are still there (FE,BH). Now you can add the fields between Hornbrook and the Klamath River (SJ).

White-headed Woodpeckers have been more apparent than usual with birds and even nests reported near Howard Prairie, Forest Road 20 on Mount Ashland and the backside of Mount Ashland, all usual haunts. Now add **Pygmy Nuthatches** at the campground on the back slopes of Mount Ashland. They were seen on 6/17 (BA). This is not the first time they have been at this spot. I'm beginning to wonder if they might not be at least occasional breeders along the spine of the Siskiyou. I present to all of you this challenge.

Other excitement this summer has been two sightings of male **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** one in early May in Sam's Valley (I have lost the details), and the second 3 miles west of Phoenix on Pioneer Road on 6/25 (DC). Then there was the **Eastern Phoebe** along the Klamath River on 6/16 near the Irongate Fish Hatchery (MR).

Other sightings of note include a **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** on Mount Ashland on 5/15 (LM,MM), a Gray Flycatcher in the yard of Alan Contreras on 5/4 in Medford, a Northern Goshawk on Mount Ashland on 7/5 (AM), **Flammulated Owls** on Lake Creek (it's been awhile) (NB), late **Evening Grosbeaks** in Ashland on 6/26 (HF), and **Tri-colored Blackbirds** at the avenue G Pond on 5/27 (BH).

Thanks to this month's contributors including Bob Arrigoni, Norm Barrett, Denise Carrico, Kate Cleland-Sipfle, Forrest English, Harry Fuller, Bob Hunter, Ron Ketchum, Frank Lospalutto, Alex Maksymowicz, Lisa Moore, Marjorie Moore, Bob Quaccia, Gwyneth Ragsine, Michael Robbins, Gary Schaffer, Pepper Trail, and Jeff Tufts. Deadline for contributions to the Field Notes in the September edition of The Chat is August 20.

BIRDATHON RESULTS—Pepper Trail and the Falcons Reclaim the Crown and funds are raised!

Alex Maksymowicz

The competition is over and the results are in. The Falcons, under the inspired leadership of Pepper Trail, amassed a total of 162 species, leaving Bob Hunter's Great Grays trailing in the dust. The Great Grays bagged 144 species, one species more than their winning total last year, but not nearly enough to match the Falcons' stellar performance. After a two-year run as the champions, the Great Grays are again number two and will be trying harder next year.

Norm Barrett's Binosaur's were close behind the Great Grays, with a total of 142 species. Meanwhile the leaders—and only competitors—in the women's league, Edith Lindner's Old World Warblers, recorded a respectable total of 106 species.

The Falcons' total of 162 species is a Jackson County record for a single Birdathon team. The old Jackson County record—also set by the Falcons—was 153.

The total number of distinct species seen by all of the participants is unknown, due to premature recycling of the papers on which this information was recorded. Pepper Trail is sure that it was in the 170s and might even have been in the low 180s. Last year's total number, 174, apparently was a record, but it seems that we won't know if that record was broken in 2012.

Here are the names of the participants for all four teams.

The Falcons: Pepper Trail, Steward Janes, John Alexander, Matt Carney

The Great Grays: Bob & Gretchen Hunter, Frank Lospalluto, Brian Barr,
Dominic DiPaolo

The Binosaur's: Norm Barrett, Jim Livaudais, Gary Shaffer, Howard Sands

The Old World Warblers: Edith Lindner, Maggi Rackley, Lynn Kellogg, Kathy Simonsen

The fundraising results are in and as of July the total amount raised was \$2,186.70 with \$1,866.70 from pledges for the four teams and the balance from direct donations. The top fundraising teams were the Great Grays at \$729.00 and the Old World Warblers at \$703.70. Congratulations to all and thanks to teams and donors for making this year's birdathon a birding and fundraising success.

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Education Committee

Report by Lynn Kellogg

The RVAS Education Committee had a busy Spring.

- With the help of Gwyneth Ragsine and Juliet Grable and the fantastic bird pictures of Jim Livaudais. I updated the RVAS Bird Adaptation Slide Show into a Powerpoint program and Sally Peterson and Debi Blair helped me pilot our new program in 15 classrooms. We hope to present the program to all 3rd grade classes in the Rogue Valley next year.
- In conjunction with Lomakaski we had two sessions of "Together Green" service learning for Logos Charter School at the Spencer Street Park. The students worked on habitat restoration for 45 minutes and then got to bird for 45 minutes with Sally Peterson, Juliet Grable, Kathleen Donham and myself.
- Juliet Grable and I led an after school 4-H enrichment class at Sams Valley Elementary for 12 students for 6 Tuesdays throughout the Spring.
- With the help of Debbie Janes, Kathy Simonsen and Juliet Grable we led a Birding Field Trip to the Jacksonville Woodlands for a 5th grade class from Jacksonville Elementary School.
- Maggie Rackley and I led a bird walk as an evening program for campers at Valley of the Rogue State Park.



Our education committee does many different things and we can always use new members. If you are enthusiastic about birding (you don't need to be an expert) and enjoy children, I would love to have you join us.

You can contact me at
rvas.ed@gmail.com or 541-855-9638.

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER

Birders nationwide will be participating in the North American Migration Count (NAMC) during the third weekend in September, and Rogue Valley Audubon members are invited to join the Jackson County portion of the citizen-science project.

Begun in 1992, the NAMC is designed to build a location-specific bird population database during the critical Spring and Fall migrations. Birders throughout the country reported sightings to county coordinators, and that data is then relayed to a statewide supervisor. Each reporting state then submits its information to a national clearinghouse.

Jackson County efforts will take place on Sunday, September 16, and all participants will survey a designated area of their choice. RVAS Field Trip Chairman Jeff Tufts will coordinate the selection of areas to avoid any overlap. To volunteer to take part in this important citizen science effort or for further information, contact Jeff at tallahto@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

Free Lithia Park Nature Walks—Enjoy beautiful Lithia Park's Natural History offered by Ashland Parks & Recreation

For three days a week, rain or shine, trained naturalists from the Ashland Parks & Recreation Department lead an easy, interesting, 1.5 hour nature walk through Lithia Park. Topics include: trees, flowers, birds, climate, water, geology and the history of the park. Nature walks are free and take place on Saturdays (in July and August only) and on Sundays, Wednesdays & Fridays from May through September. Meet at 10 am at the Lithia Park entrance, all ages are welcome.

Summer Saturday Morning Bird Walk, August 11, 8 am to 9 am, North Mountain Park

Stroll through North Mountain Park with local birding experts from the Rogue Valley. This will be an opportunity to see and hear a variety of birds that spend the summer in the Rogue Valley. Binoculars and field guides will be available for check-out. Register on-line at www.Ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at 541-488-6606. This walk is free and all ages are welcome.

THE RVAS BOARD EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO ALAN HAMILTON. HIS BELOVED WIFE, GENITA, PASSED AWAY ON JULY 18 AT OHSU KNIGHT CANCER INSTITUTE OF COMPLICATIONS FOLLOWING CHEMOTHERAPY. GENITA ATTENDED CHAPTER MEETINGS WITH ALAN AND WILL BE MISSED.

OPEN LETTER FROM 229 SCIENTISTS IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN AS A GLOBAL AND REGIONAL MODEL FOR CONSERVATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

June 14, 2012

As scientists with backgrounds in natural resource management and ecology, we wish to express our full support for the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP), a global model in ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. The protective provisions of the late-successional reserve (LSR) network and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) are fundamental to the plan's objectives and recent science confirms that these designations along with other elements of the NWFP are at least as vital today as they were when originally conceived by the plan's architects. We are writing at this time, because we are concerned that the first forest-plan revision in the Pacific Northwest calls for dismantling key conservation biology principles of the NWFP by eliminating the LSR network and weakening the ACS.

The proposed draft revised forest plan for the Okanogan-Wenatchee forest, located on the east slopes of the Cascade Range in Washington, proposes changing the LSR designation to "Restoration Areas" within which vague active management practices will take place and moving away from the more protective standards and guidelines of the ACS. The Forest Service cites climate-related predictions that call for a doubling or tripling of fire by century's end in the Washington Cascades, and the agency claims that this, along with elevated insect and disease risks, is justification for eliminating reserve categories and weakening the ACS. However, even if such disturbances were to increase as a result of climate change, this is not cause for drastic measures that eliminate the region's underlying conservation strategy, particularly given the NWFP is a robust conservation strategy that allows for restorative actions in its current land-use configurations.

Under the NWFP, approximately 30% (7.4 million acres) of federal lands in the Pacific Northwest that were traditionally managed for timber production were designated as LSRs to provide habitat for hundreds of wildlife species associated with older forests that have been greatly depleted by logging across the landscape. These reserves are not inviolate and allow for some forms of logging – thinning in young forests to accelerate late-successional development and fuel reduction for fire concerns – provided they comply with the plan's standards and guidelines. The ACS, through its various components, including establishing Riparian Reserves and identification and protection of Key Watersheds, also was designed to restore and maintain ecological processes for aquatic and riparian areas. These areas have shown measurable improvements in watershed conditions since the plan's inception.

The architects of the NWFP envisioned the LSR network as a regional and robust conservation strategy of sufficient redundancy in late-successional forest types, so that disturbance-related reductions in any given type would not affect the overall conservation strategy for that type. The reserves also were designed to be an interconnected ecosystem to accommodate wildlife shifts from recently disturbed to undisturbed areas. Protected reserves like those in the NWFP remain the cornerstone of scientifically sound conservation strategies globally, especially as threats to fundamental ecosystem services accelerate from climate change and land-use stressors. However, in the Pacific Northwest there have been attempts by federal agencies at weakening reserve protections or eliminating them entirely in favor of untested non-reserve, active management approaches as reflected by elements of earlier (2006, 2008) drafts of the northern spotted owl recovery plan. The Wildlife Society, Society for Conservation Biology, and American Ornithologists Union summarily rejected these approaches in peer review as being scientifically incredulous.

The conservation foundation of the NWFP, which is rooted in fixed reserves, has been broadly supported in the scientific literature. This is largely because the reserve network is the backbone to a regional conservation strategy for hundreds of species that depend on older forests that are relatively rare on surrounding nonfederal lands. The older forests and intact watersheds that these reserves protect, or seek to restore also provide a myriad of related ecosystem benefits, including storing vast quantities of atmospheric carbon in live and dead trees and soils important in climate regulation, refugia and a relatively connected landscape for climate-forced migrations of wildlife in search of cool, moist conditions, and high quality water for aquatic organisms and people. Notably, in a five-year status review of the northern spotted owl, scientists concluded that there was no reason to depart from the NWFP and that the situation for the owl would be bleaker today if not for the NWFP⁷. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in its 2011 revised critical habitat proposal for the owl stated that “results from the first decade of monitoring do not provide any reason to depart from the objective of habitat maintenance and restoration as described in the Northwest Forest Plan.” Recent science on climate change refugia also documents the importance of protecting old forests in reserves as climatic refugia.

The Okanagan dry forest ecoregion was identified by the World Wildlife Fund as nationally significant but critically endangered due to extensive logging, grazing, mining, road building, fire suppression and other land-use disturbances⁹. Over half of the region’s old forests have been logged and few intact areas remain.¹⁰ The onset of climate change combined with ongoing land-use stressors pose unprecedented threats to key ecosystem services such as high quality water, carbon stored in old-forest ecosystems and wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat. The continuation of the reserve network that includes both the LSRs and ACS among other land designations is even more fundamental today precisely because of climate change -- reducing these protections is neither consistent with conservation nor science-based climate adaptation or mitigation strategies.

This letter was signed by 229 scientists, including local conservationists Dominick DellaSala of the Geos Institute and Jack Williams of Trout Unlimited.

2012 RVAS Scholarship Recipients at Siskiyou Field Institute

The Siskiyou Field Institute has been able to award five Jackson County educators with scholarships for adult classes during our 2012 field season. Two of our scholarship awardees are students at SOU (one is a student teacher; the other is enrolled in SOU's Master's Program in Environmental Education). The other three recipients are educators working with Jackson County nonprofit organizations (Klamath Bird Observatory, Sanctuary One, Science works).

We'd like to send a heartfelt “thank you” out to the Rogue Valley Audubon Society for making this scholarship fund available. Thanks to your generosity, five Jackson County educators are heading back into the classroom with a new spark of enthusiasm for teaching their students about the natural history of this beautiful region!

FIELD TRIP LEADERS NEEDED

RVAS Field Trip season will return in September, and when it does, it is time for local birders to volunteer to lead our field trips. Field Trip Chairman, Jeff Tufts, will coordinate the events, but leaders will have the options of choosing the destinations. Please contact Jeff at tallahto@aol.com to volunteer or for further information. Thank you

2012 Pot Luck Picnic and Bird Walk

It was another quite cool day for the annual Pot Luck Picnic and Bird Walk at Tou Velle State Park this year on May 22. Fifteen RVAS members showed for a little birding, great homemade food and socializing and all seemed to enjoy themselves despite the not-so-perfect weather. We'll hope for better weather next year.

2012 Master Gardener Fair

Thanks to all volunteers that signed up to take turns at the RVAS booth for the May 5th and 6th Master Gardener Fair and thanks to Jim Harleman for helping with set up. This event is always an excellent way to introduce Jackson County residents to their local Audubon Society and an enjoyable volunteer opportunity for RVAS members.

Rogue Valley Audubon Society Membership

Members of the National Audubon Society are automatically enrolled as members of RVAS. If you are not a member of NAS you can still be a member of Rogue Valley Audubon Society. To join, please send a check for \$20.00 annual dues to RVAS, P.O. Box 8597, Medford, OR 97501. Include your name, address, e-mail address and (optional) phone number. If you have any questions about membership, please contact membership chair Bill Hering at 541-488-5886 or bh@ashlandnet.net.

Do you have a favorite retailer or service provider? Is there a restaurant you would like to support? You can help them succeed while supporting RVAS. Consider using your personal contact to suggest they buy an advertisement in *The Chat*. For as little as \$100. per year our members can be re-minded that a retailer or restaurant supports RVAS every time they see *The Chat*. For details, contact our Treasurer, Kathy Simonsen at simonsen@mind.net.

ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE CHAT

Newsletter of the ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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. Send an e-mail 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.

MONTHLY BIRD WALK WITH MURRAY ORR

First Wednesday Each Month: Little Butte Creek Walk. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on TouVelle Road in the northeast section of Denman Wildlife Area near White City. Leader: Murray Orr 857-9050. Please contact Murray if you are willing to join him in organizing these bird walks. He needs volunteers to help him open and close the gate and record observed species when he is not available. Walks will continue through October.

