

The Chat

Number 403
February, 2014

A voice for education and conservation in the natural world

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

www.roguevalleyaudubon.org

Deadline for submissions for the March 2014 issue is Feb. 15.



FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEEING, TUESDAY, FEB. 25 —7 PM.

"DRAGONFLIES OF JACKSON COUNTY" Presented by Norm Barrett

It came from the mud. Its thousands of eyes scanned the sky for the enemy. Its skin cracked and peeled as it spread its powerful wings to the sky. Its voracious appetite for raw flesh drove it skyward in search of prey. A new dragonfly had emerged.

Dragonflies are more than big and little; red, blue, green and brown. Here is your chance to discover what makes dragonfly identification even more challenging than peeps and immature gulls. How many species can be found in Jackson County? Attend the February meeting and find out. Learn about those darn Darners and D#%m Damselfs. How long do they live? Where do they go? Norman Barrett will introduce you to the delights and frustrations of being an Odonatist - or Odd Nut as they are known.

It started with Wood Ducks and Monarch Butterflies at age 5. Sixty years later Norm Barrett still chases birds with a passion (or obsession according to some). This led to a Botany/Zoology degree from Butler University and a Wildlife Biology degree at Oregon State University.

25 years as a U.S. Forest Service biologist included Spotted Owl and Mardon Skipper surveys in western Oregon, Flammulated and Boreal Owl surveys in the Colorado Rockies and a fascination with anything with wings.

Five years ago this fascination took a new turn - Dragonflies. Limiting most of his study to the Jackson County area, Norm has located and photographed most of the species expected to be found in the county, as well as discovering 2 that were well out of range. 2013 found him expanding his efforts coast to coast and into Canada.

For more information about Norm Barrett and to view his dragonfly photographs visit nmbnaturephotography.com.



Chapter Program meetings are held at 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford, in Lidgate Hall of the Medford Congregational Church.

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President's Column

This year's Nominating Committee would like to know of members who may be interested in serving as a RVAS Director. Directors are critical to our Chapter; they determine what we will do, what policies we will support, and how our budget will be allocated. The Board meets once a month for two hours. Beyond that obligation, each Director determines how much time he or she will spend on RVAS issues and efforts. I encourage you to consider serving on the Board, or to suggest someone you would like to have serving on the Board and representing you. And if you've considered serving on the Board before and needed to decline due to other commitments, consider it again. Call Mike Guest, who Chairs the Committee, or send him a message (see listing on left of this page), and he will be glad to explain what's involved. The election will be held at our April Chapter meeting, as part of our Annual Business Meeting.

RVAS has recently become an institutional member and supporter of the Malheur Field Station. I know several of you include a trip to Malheur every year, and I'm glad that RVAS can support this very important birding site. Please notice that our support also brings benefits for those of you who are planning a trip.

Finally, I want to thank Mary Pat Power for organizing Project FeederWatch at North Mountain Park in Ashland, and Sue Polich for doing the same at Coyote Trails Nature Center in Medford. This month and next you can join other birders for an hour of observation at feeder stations in Ashland at 9:00 on alternate Saturday mornings, and in Medford at noon every other Thursday and Friday. For more information and specific dates, check our website. Hope to see you there.

I look forward to seeing you on the 15th at our Annual Potluck and Auction. Good Birding! - Bill Hering

Field Notes:

The Changing Seasons—

Compiled by Stewart Janes

It's been a cold, dark, foggy month. No rain to speak of and no snow. The long hard freeze of December chased out many birds. Still, there were birds to be seen, and there were also unmistakable signs of spring. A **Red-tailed Hawk** was standing in a nest along the greenway, and pairs could be seen on the few warm days sitting side by side. **Oak Titmice, Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Colored Doves** and **House Sparrows** are all singing (when the sun shines, rare as it is).

House Sparrows, European Starlings and **Oak Titmice** have all been checking out nesting cavities. A male **Anna's Hummingbird** was doing its best to impress a female with its courtship dive which ends in a loud "pop" just a few inches over the female's head. The pop is generated by the vibrating tail feathers when it is spread at high speed.

Now the swallows, 2 at Whetstone Pond on 1/4 (RM) and 8 **Tree Swallows** at Lost Creek reservoir on 12/29 (RN) are debatable. Are these wintering birds or adventurous migrants? It seems we have had one or two sightings every winter over the last 10 years.

This is certainly a banner year for **Rough-legged Hawks** on the valley floor. This month individuals were seen in north Ashland on 1/1, Emigrant Lake on 1/5, Hammel Road on 1/8 and the Jackson County Sports Park on 1/17 (DA,RN,MM,LM, PT).

Ferruginous Hawks have also been observed more often than usual. Individuals were seen at

mileposts 6 and 7 along the Dead Indian Memorial Road on 12/18 and 12/25 (HF,LK), Emigrant Lake on 12/23 (HF), and near Jacksonville on 12/19 (RK).

A **Prairie Falcon** was at the Hoover Ponds on 1/17 (RN) and a **Short-eared Owl** at the airport on 12/29 (RN). After a two year absence, a pair of **White-tailed Kites** has again taken up residence along Hartley Road in Talent.

A few waterfowl sightings have livened up the winter drear a bit. A **Tundra Swan** was at Agate Lake on 1/14 (RK). A single **Snow Goose** has been keeping company with Canada Geese in and about Ashland since 12/17 (DA,HF). Cackling Geese were on Emigrant Lake on 1/16 (HF).

Individual **Redhead** were seen on Kime Reservoir on 12/23 (RK) and at Lynn Newbry Park on 12/31 (Roxanna). A **Canvasback** was at the Kirtland Ponds on 1/17 and 15 at Mingus Pond on 12/21 (SJ). A female **Common Goldeneye** was at Emigrant Lake on 1/5 (PT) and a pair of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** at Keene Creek Reservoir on 1/4 (FE).

I'm not sure what to make of the 25 **Sandhill Cranes** over Ashland Pond on 1/6 (AM). I know they are early migrants, but this is more than a little early.

A lone **Western Sandpiper** was at Emigrant Lake on 1/5 as well as a **Horned Lark** (PT).

The bird of the month has to be the **Swamp Sparrow**. This bird should be somewhere in the southeastern United States right now. Still, there is usually one or two misplaced birds kicking around Oregon in winter. This winter the chosen spot is North Mountain Park in Ashland. It was seen first on 12/26 (FE).

Field Notes continued on Page 4

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There are always a couple of **Townsend's Warblers** wintering in the valley. One was seen on the Medford Bird Count, one was in Ashland on 12/23 (BH) and two south of Medford on 1/1 (SJ).

Other sightings of note include a flock of **Band-tailed Pigeons** on 1/2 in Ashland (DA). Very small numbers winter in western Oregon, but they are seldom seen in the Rogue Valley. A **Mountain Bluebird** was on Mount Ashland on 1/1 (FL). Again, this bird is rarely seen in the county in winter.

The **Red-naped Sapsucker** continues to be seen near the Holy Water, most recently on 12/29 (RN). A **Northern Shrike** is in its usual winter hangout along Industry Way (HF). A **Rock Wren** was also in its usual winter haunts at Emigrant Lake on 12/29 (JB,HF).

Red Crossbills were unusually abundant last year, but things have returned to normal. They aren't here. Well almost. A small flock was near the Siskiyou Pass on 12/27 (FL). A **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** was heard at Grouse Gap on 12/18 (FL). **Lewis's Woodpeckers** appear to be doing well. Forty-five were noted between Agate Lake and Salt Creek Road on 12/25 (LM,MM).

Thanks to this month's contributors including Dick Ashford, John Bullock, Forrest English, Harry Fuller, Ron Ketchum, Frank Lospalluto, Alex Maksymowicz, Lisa Moore, Marjorie Moore, Russ Namitz, Linda Keisman, Roxanna (?), Pepper Trail, and Dennis Vroman. Deadline for contributions to the Field Notes in the next edition of The Chat is February 15.



ASHLAND CBC SUMMARY-January 4, 2014 — Submitted by Harry Fuller

The four-year old revived Ashland Christmas Bird Count had 53 participants this year including several feeder watchers. There were a total of eleven count teams covering our circle. Dry weather allowed access to several mountain areas blocked by snow in previous counts. Our count dinner was held at Alex's, which shortly afterward closed down for good. If we were responsible, we apologize. We're now on the hunt for a new dinner venue.

John Bullock again compiled our findings. Including count week birds we had 120 species this year, our highest total so far. Of all species seen almost 10% (8 species) were represented by a single bird. Those one-only species included Snow Goose, White-headed Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Western Sandpiper, Ruffed Grouse (that posed for pictures) and Pied-billed Grebe.

Most abundant by far was the American Robin (over 44-thousand). Then:

Starling, almost 9,800

Cedar Waxwing 2,269

Junco 1,297

Canada Goose 881

Other high-flyers in this count were: Lesser Goldfinch (446), Mallard (398, most on Emigrant Lake), Western Bluebird (287). It was a good count for raptors including 4 Rough-legged Hawks, 10 Golden Eagle, 15 Harriers, 20 Kestrels and 6 Prairie Falcons. We had a total of 14 diurnal raptors on the count plus 5 owl species. For the first time we had a full team (led by Dick Ashford) working the east side of I-5 north of the freeway weight station). That upped our raptor count. Our sturdy mountain teams were led respectively by Frank Lospalluto, Forrest English and Tom Phillips.

New species for the count this year: Goshawk (2), Ruffed Grouse, Western Sandpiper, Saw-Whet Owl, Swamp and Harris's Sparrow. We doubled our gull count this year with Ring-billed Gulls at Emigrant Lake. One was a Peregrine target but eluded its predator with some fancy wing-work. Birds we missed included Pintail, Barn Owl, Say's Phoebe, Northern Shrike, Double-crested Cormorant and any rail species



Conservation Column - submitted by Frank Lospalluto

On Wednesday, January 15th Robert Mumby and I attended an afternoon meeting of Oregon Habitat Joint Venture (OHJV) and its local partners at the Suncrest Day Retreat in Talent. It was an interesting afternoon learning about the workings of the Joint Venture, the types of projects it helps facilitate and the types of projects its local partners are engaged in.

From their own literature: "*The Oregon Joint Venture is a loose coalition of organizations working with government agencies to protect and restore important habitats for birds and other wildlife through voluntary cooperative efforts. The joint venture helps put together partnerships for a variety of habitat conservation projects, including habitat restoration and enhancement on private and public lands, and acquisition of key areas for permanent protection.*

The Oregon Habitat Joint Venture coordinates state-level activities for two regional Joint ventures (Pacific Coast Joint Venture and Intermountain West Joint Venture) implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other continental conservation initiatives for landbirds, shorebirds, and other waterbirds. "

The meeting in Talent was the first one held in southern Oregon by OHJV. The local partners and collaborators attending included Lomakatsi, Klamath Bird Observatory, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, BLM, USFW, ODFW, and KS Wild. Bruce Taylor, Bob Altman and Sara Evans-Peters were here representing the Joint Venture. All the partners had an opportunity to describe the projects and activities in which they are engaged.

Here in southern Oregon the types of projects talked about revolved around the different types of oak and grassland habitats. These oak habitats are the focus as they are ones greatly impacted by human activity. Much of these lands is under private ownership and as such requires often greater levels of collaboration and cooperation to implement habitat protections. We are fortunate here to still have a great amount of public lands down at lower elevations as compared to the Willamette Valley but 35% or more is private. And as we all know birds don't distinguish between private and public. Viable bird populations need appropriate vital habitat.

Bob Altman gave an example of a project in the Willamette Valley of restoring population numbers of Western Meadowlark to a sustaining level as a kind of project that can occur here. These projects target appropriate habitat that is large enough, somewhat contiguous and then sets goals for numbers of breeding pairs that can sustain a certain population level. One term that we will be hearing more of in the future is 'surrogate' or focal species.

Conservation Column continued from Page 6

Surrogates can be more than one species; they can be a suite of species whose presence represents a vital healthy habitat. So if we are managing for the suite we pursue a holistic approach that benefits all parts of the ecosystem.

There were a number of short presentations by the local partners present. We heard from Craig Harper and Kristi Mergenthaler about the conservation focus areas that the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy has targeted as they pursue the target goal of conserving 20,000 acres by 2020.

Marko Bey and Jaime Stephens told of the oak restoration work of Lomakatsi, USFW and KBO that has taken place in Douglas, Jackson and Siskiyou Counties. Terry Fairbanks of the BLM told us about the relatively recent formation of a Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network that promotes conservation and restoration of oak habitats both in the physical and cultural arenas. Brandon Breen of KBO presented information on the Northwest Avian Data Center.

It was a jam-packed session with lots of information and my description falls short of including everything discussed. Bruce Taylor of OHJV called it a very good meeting. It was interesting and informative. There is a lot of good work happening in our area to promote and restore birds and their habitats.



Photo Source: Terry Steele (above) and Harry Fuller



RVAS FUNDRAISER RESCHEDULED FOR FEB. 15, 2014 as "LOVING BIRDS"

Our snowed-out raffle and auction fundraiser has been rescheduled for February 15, 2014 same time, (6 pm), same place (Medford Congregational Church), same emcee (Pepper Trail) and new program with George and Sally Peterson sharing photos and tips for finding and photographing birds. This event will be a potluck, so bring a dish to share and your own dishes and utensils.

We have wonderful prizes to tantalize you so you'll buy raffle tickets at the potluck, and plan your bidding around what you want most, all in the interest of helping bird conservation through education in the Rogue Valley.

Raffle Items

- Two admissions to Science Works Hands-on Museum, Ashland. (two winners of two)
- \$20 gift certificate from Bloomsbury Books
- \$25 Gift Certificate from the Ashland Food Co-op; use within one year
- Two movie passes for Coming Attractions Theatres in the Rogue Valley (three sets of two)
- Bird photo calendar from Emmalisa Whalley
- \$25 Gift Certificate for Grange Co-op use during the year at any of their stores in Ashland,
- Augusta Lucas Andrae's Art Greeting Cards - five sets of four each
- Two 6" beeswax candles from Hinode Farms
- From Four & Twenty Blackbirds Bakery in Ashland, a gift certificate for pie or cake (\$18)
- Ceramic figurines donated by Sharon Heisel - winners pick from: Lenox Baltimore oriole, Lenox blue jay, Lefton white birds, Angeline Originals chipmunk
- A selection of Dagoba Chocolate made in Ashland
- Two \$10 gift certificates for McGrath's Fish House, Medford
- \$20 Gift certificate for Little Shop of Bagels in Ashland
- Large pizza Gift certificate from Baci's pizza and pasta restaurant in Medford
- \$50 gift certificate from The Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland
- Multi-course Sunday brew and food tasting for two from Standing Stone in Ashland (\$50)
- \$50 Gift Certificate for Wild Birds Unlimited, Medford

The Raffle Alternative Table will be stocked with items to choose if what you won does not work for you. These include: very gently used books about birds, Identifier birdsong set, Ornamental blue birdhouse, Woodpecker painting, a heater for your birdbath, and more to come!

Auction Items

- \$75 gift certificate for Cucina Biazzi, Ashland
- \$100 gift certificate for fine dining at Amuse, Ashland
- Original owl wood carving created and donated by Mike Guest
- Two seabird prints by Katrina Meister of Katrina's Cards, Talent
- Raven mask by Ben Della, Makah artist, dated 1988 donated by Kaethe Fulton
- "Loon in the Rain" print by Diana Tillion, Paris, 1975, donated by Kaethe Fulton

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- Northern gannet carved in wood, painted, and donated by Mike Guest
- Framed print of a Cooper's hawk by Steele Roberts-Ross donated by Lynda Stevenson
- Mistle thrush print by Moos Stage also donated by Lynda Stevenson
- Peregrine print signed and numbered by Michael William Mintzer (1978) donated by Russ Namitz
- Framed snowy owl photo taken and donated by Russ Namitz
- Framed pectoral sandpiper photo taken and donated by Russ Namitz
- Framed pigeon guillemot photo taken and donated by Russ Namitz
- Framed tropical macaw photo taken and donated by Russ Namitz
- Framed gyrfalcon photo taken and donated by Russ Namitz
- Silver bird nest earrings with turquoise "eggs" made and donated by Lynn Kellogg
- A blue bead necklace you may have seen before, donated by Allen Dresher
- Two tickets for a Craterian performance
- A basket for birders who read on snowy days, includes new books:
 - *Bird Sense: What it's like to be a bird* by Tim Birkhead, *More than Birds: Adventurous lives of North American naturalists* by Val Shushkewich, four matching mugs, coffee, tea and treats, donated by Kate Cleland-Sipfle and Sooney Viani
- The Bird Songs Bible which you could find through Amazon for as much as \$200
This one is new and in original packaging, donated by Lynda Stevenson
- A very nice selection of brews, a mixed six-pack, from Caldera Brewing Company
- Two wines from Grizzly Peak Winery: 2010 Intrigue (white) Le Mystere (red)
- One night in a Jacuzzi room at the Green Springs Inn, donated by Diarmuid McGuire
- Wine tasting with snacks for a party of eight at South Stage Cellars, Jacksonville
- A morning bird walk with coffee, tea, and snacks led by Bob Hunter at Osterhout Farm, donated by Bob and Gretchen Hunter (new item this year!) For up to four persons
- Gift certificate for one night's lodging for two in a private room donated by the Siskiyou Field Institute for their field station in Selma
- May or early June morning bird walk in North Mountain Park, Ashland, led and donated by Vince Zauskey, who will bird by sight and sound
- A package of items donated by Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center in Merlin includes: admissions for two, Wild Weekend Saturday Youth Camp classes for two children aged 7-12, a wild animal release at a time to be arranged
- The Ashland Springs Hotel donation includes a one night stay in a double room plus a gift certificate worth \$50 at Larks restaurant
- Next is one night's lodging for four persons in two double rooms donated by the Running Y in Klamath Falls, a birdy place!
- A day of late winter or early spring birding for up to four persons in the Klamath River area of Northern California plus lunch will be guided and donated by Frank Lospalluto
- A two-night stay in Langlois, on the Oregon coast, at Eva's Garden House, a three-bedroom two-bath facility for up to six persons is being donated by Shelley Tanquary
- Harry Fuller is again donating guided birding along I-5, Freeway Birding, which he is known for as author of the book by the same title. Negotiate a trip north to the Portland area or south to toward Sacramento with Harry if you win this trip, for which you will make your own accommodations and be responsible for your own meals.

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Thank You to Our Donors for the February 15 (rescheduled) Fundraiser **Be sure to thank them in person!**

Science Works Hands-on Museum, Ashland
Bloomsbury Books, an independent bookstore in Ashland
Wild Birds Unlimited, Medford
Coming Attractions Theatres
Craterian Theater
Ashland Food Coop
Augusta Lucas Andreae
Emmalisa Whalley
Hinode Farms
Sharon Heisel
Dagoba Organic Chocolate
Little Shop of Bagels. Ashland
McGrath's Fish House, Medford
Alex's Restaurant on the Plaza, Ashland
Four & Twenty Blackbirds Bakery, Ashland
Baci's Pizza and Pasta Restaurant, Medford
The Northwest Nature Shop, Ashland
Standing Stone, Ashland
Cucina Biazzi, Ashland
Amuse, Ashland
Evelyn Wadsworth
Maureen Swift
Lynda Stevenson
Mike Guest
Kaethe Fulton
Lynn Kellogg
Sooney Viani
Allen Drescher
Kate Cleland-Sipfle
Grizzly Peak Winery
Caldera Brewing Company
South Stage Cellars, Jacksonville
Bob and Gretchen Hunter of Osterhout Farm
Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center. Merlin
The Ashland Springs Hotel and Larks restaurant
Diarmuid McGuire, Green Springs Inn
Running Y. Klamath Falls
Siskiyou Field Institute
Vince Zauskey,
Frank Lospalluto
Shelley Tanquary
Harry Fuller

RVAS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome the following new National Audubon Society members to RVAS, this month: Albert Alford, Jamie Arvizo, Debbie Bish, Miroslav Bobek, Joan Brown, Veda Gries, Susan Hansen, Stanley A. Haugen, Thomas Houser, Helen K. Leybold, Keith Perchemlides, Shell Riley, Judith Ritter, Eric Spivak, Dana Wooster.

New NAS members receive the current issue of *The Chat* newsletter in a special mailing, along with other Rogue Valley Audubon Society information and a postpaid, preaddressed postal card so that their preference for receiving future issues of *The Chat* can be recorded. Any member may receive *The Chat* by mail, at no cost, or it can always be viewed online at <http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/>. New members are encouraged to join us at our Chapter meetings, field trips and bird walks, and to become involved in the organization. Welcome to RVAS!

If you would like to join, dues are \$20 per year, per family.

RVAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____ Email: _____

Rogue Valley Audubon Society will not share your information with any other organization.
Check if you are a: New member _____; Renewing member _____

The Chat, our newsletter, is available on the RVAS webpage or by email. Please check YES if you would like a printed copy mailed through the USPS. YES____

Dues alone do not fully support our many activities, conservation, educational and research projects. Please consider a contribution in addition to your \$20 membership. Your additional contribution is tax deductible as RVAS is a 501(C)3 organization. Donation: \$_____.

Please check here if you wish your contribution to be anonymous ____.

Mail this form with your check for **\$20** RVAS dues and any contribution you wish to make, to:

Rogue Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 8597
Medford, OR 97501

It's Back: Birdathon 2014

Birdathon is...

- a) a chance to celebrate Southern Oregon's spring migration in the company of other birders
- b) a competitive sport
- c) an important fundraiser for the Rogue Valley Audubon Society
- d) all of the above

Birdathon returns on Saturday, May 3. If you've never participated in this annual event, why not make 2014 your year? The object of Birdathon is for sponsored teams to count as many species as possible within a 24-hour period. Teams can range widely or stick close to home, so long as they stay in Jackson County. In a nutshell, here's how it works:

Form teams. Call your best birding buddies, or recruit a newbie. Most teams include two to five birders, although a single individual may also comprise a team.

Find sponsors. A person can sponsor your team with either a fixed donation or amount per species. Consider recruiting kids for your team, as they're harder to turn down!

Count species. The event officially begins on Friday, May 2 at 6:00 pm, and ends 24 hours later, but you count species any time within that window.

Celebrate! Join the other teams at Jackson Creek Pizza for tale-swapping, prizes and mild bragging. Birdathon 2013 featured five stellar teams: the Binosaurs, Great Grays, Old World Warblers, Restive Wrens, and Wandering Tattlers. Collectively these teams raised over \$2000 for RVAS. The Great Grays, under the able leadership of Bob Hunter, swept the title for most species at 154. Conspicuously absent from last year's competition was the Falcons, captained by Pepper Trail. We hope the Falcons will be back for 2014, but we also want new blood. To that end, we'll be dreaming up new team (and prize) categories to encourage all you bench-warmers to jump in the game.

FAQs

What if I'm not an experienced birder? The fierce competition among the "hard-core" teams is legendary, but you need not be an elite birder to participate in Birdathon. In fact, your ability to find sponsors is just as important as your ability to identify warblers.

How do I find a team? Give us a call or drop us an email and we'll help match you with a team.

Can my family be a team? Yes! We want to encourage kids and families to participate in Birdathon. And remember, you can choose any length of time, whether all day, half a day, or an hour.

I don't want to get my boots muddy, but I'd still like to contribute. Consider sponsoring a team or sending in a donation. Look for donation forms in the April issue of The Chat, and at upcoming Chapter meetings.

I still don't get it. Look for more details in upcoming issues of The Chat. If you have a burning question, feel free to contact Juliet Grable (julietgrable@yahoo.com or (541) 778-8174) or Bill Hering (bh@ashlandnet.net)

BIRD AND BIRDING RELATED ACTIVITIES

Learning Common Backyard Birds

Ashland Parks & Recreation - North Mountain Park Nature Center

620 N Mountain Ave in Ashland, 541-488-6606

www.NorthMountainPark.org

Using photos, stories and fun facts you will learn about the birds that live in your backyard!

Class I will look at Robins, Acorn woodpeckers, Bald eagles, Chickadees, Scrub jays, Screech owls, Red Tailed hawks, Great Blue Herons, Mallards, Crows, Flickers, and Kestrels.

Class II will look at Anna's hummingbird, California quail, Great horned owls, House finch, Stellar jays, Mourning doves, Golden eagles, Song sparrows, Lewis woodpeckers, Killdeer, Red-winged blackbirds, and Ravens. Pre-register online at www.ashland.or.us/register or call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

AGES	All ages welcome (children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult)
DAYS	Wednesday
DATE	February 19 & 26
TIME	6:30—8pm
PLACE	North Mountain Park
COST	\$20

INSTRUCTOR: Shannon Rio is a longtime watcher of birds and a board member of the Klamath Bird Observatory.

Project FeederWatch

Ashland Parks & Recreation - North Mountain Park Nature Center

620 N Mountain Ave in Ashland, 541-488-6606

www.NorthMountainPark.org

Help count birds that visit the feeders at North Mountain Park while learning to identify species with expert birders. This is a great opportunity for all-level birders to get acquainted with local birds and mingle with other birders. The information collected will be submitted to Cornell University's Feeder Watch project, a nationwide bird monitoring effort. Pre-registration is not required. For more information please call the Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

Ages	10—Adult
Days	Alternate Saturdays
Dates	February 1, 15 March 1, 15
Time	9—10am
Place	North Mountain Park
Cost	Free; Pre-registration is not required
Instructors	Rogue Valley Audubon Society Volunteers

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BIRD AND BIRDING RELATED ACTIVITIES *continued*

Project FeederWatch—Medford

Dates: Thursday, February 6, 2014 Friday, February 7, 2014
 Thursday, February 20, 2014 Friday, February 21, 2014
 Thursday, March 6, 2014 Friday, March 7, 2014
 Thursday, March 20, 2014 Friday, March 21, 2014

Time: Noon to 1 pm

Location: Coyote Trails Nature Center, Medford, OR

Olympic BirdFest 2014

Dates: April 4-6, 2014

Location: Sequim, WA

Visit the rain shadow of the *Olympic Peninsula* to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, silent auction, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker is Noah Strycker: "Bird World: the fascinating parallels between bird and human behavior". The festival with the most spectacular setting!

Immediately following BirdFest, join us for a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2014. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon.

Birdfest website address: www.olympicbirdfest.org

E-mail address: opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com

Contact name: Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, 360-681-4076

Mountain Bird Festival

Dates: May 30—June 1, 2014

Location: Ashland, OR

Mark your calendar for the first-ever Mountain Bird Festival hosted by Klamath Bird Observatory. Plan to attend the guided bird walks, keynote presentations, fine art, music, and more. For details and to register online, go to Klamathbird.org.

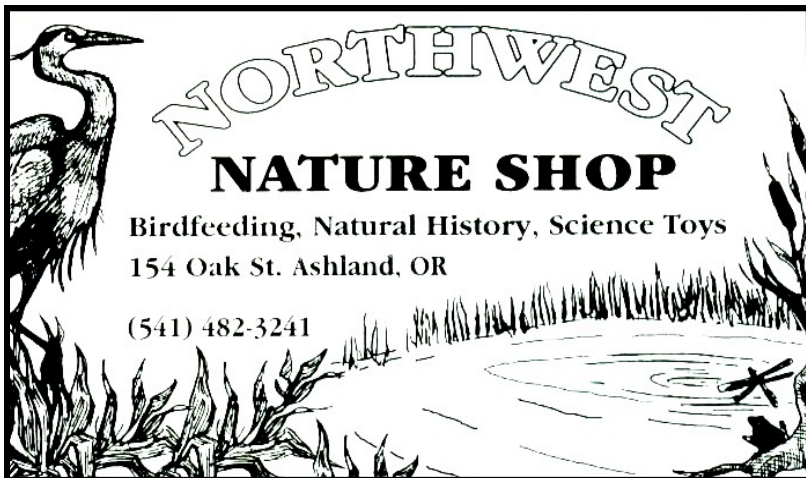
**FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON FIELD TRIPS SPONSORED BY ROGUE VALLEY
AUDUBON SOCIETY VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.roguevalleyaudubon.org**

FIRST WEDNESDAY BIRD WALKS CONTINUE AT AGATE LAKE

Murray Orr will continue to lead his monthly bird walks on the first Wednesday of each month on or near Agate Lake. Birders wishing to join Murray should him on the far side of the lake across from the boat doc to observe birds on and near Agate Lake. The walk begins at 8:30 and will end before noon. Meet Murray at the gate. We hope you can join us.

FIELD TRIP LEADERS NEEDED

Local birders are needed to lead field trips. Field Trip Chairman Maggi Rackley coordinates the events, but leaders have the option of choosing their destinations. Please contact Maggi at imabrrrder@yahoo.com to volunteer, or to get further information. Thank you.



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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.

