

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 Feb. 2015 is Jan. 20.

**JANUARY PROGRAM
MEETING— TUESDAY, JAN.
27: THE ROGUE RIVERKEEPER**

An avid birder, Forrest English will talk about Rogue Riverkeeper's work to protect clean water and fish throughout the Rogue Basin and will touch on how that work can affect birds.

Forrest is a lifelong resident of Southern Oregon and has spent most of his professional life working around water.

In addition to years of grassroots environmental organizing around the country, he has been a commercial fisherman, canoe guide, wetlands technician, heavy equipment operator, and a foreman in charge of stream and wetland restoration crews. Forrest has run equipment or crews on dam removals, reconnecting diverted creeks, cleaning up miles of silted-in spawning beds and worked on numerous wetland delineation and mitigation projects. Most recently Forrest was Rogue Riverkeeper's Water Quality Coordinator for 2 years before becoming the Program Director and Riverkeeper.

Join us for another interesting program.



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

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REMINDER

MEDFORD, SAT. DEC. 20: CONTACT BOB HUNTER AT bobhunter@embarqmail.com.

ASHLAND, SAT. JAN 3: CONTACT JOHN
BULLOCK (email jabtrout@gmail.com) OR
HARRY FULLER (email atowhee@gmail.com)

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President's Column

We should all be proud of how much RVAS accomplishes without paid staff. As an all-volunteer organization, the great majority of our member dues and donations can go directly toward our mission of conservation and education as well as member services.

As members, you are all aware of our website, the rv-birds posting board, The Chat newsletter, the "Birds of Jackson County" booklet, Chapter meetings, Medford and Ashland Christmas Bird Counts, Birdathon, and the many field trips.

What you may not be aware of are the following:

Education: RVAS volunteers make many visits to 3rd-grade classrooms every year, we provide scholarships for local educators at the Siskiyou Field Institute, we give grants to help sister non-profit organizations educate Jackson County school children about birds, and RVAS volunteers man Project Feeder Watch at CTNC and North Mountain Park.

Conservation: Our Conservation Committee lobbies local government agencies to protect local bird habitats; we help support The Malheur Field Station, The Klamath Bird Observatory, and the significant lobbying efforts of the Oregon League of Conservation voters; RVAS signs on to many conservation-related group letters to national lawmakers; and we have helped restore local riparian areas.

With even more volunteer involvement, we could accomplish even more! In my September column I mentioned members who are volunteering to take on new roles but there are also many who quietly continue to volunteer just as they have for years, and whose volunteer efforts have helped build RVAS into what it is today.

Is there something not listed that you feel we should be doing? One thing we have to accept about being an all-volunteer organization is: If nobody steps up to do something, it does not get done. Please consider sharing your skills and passion by volunteering in some capacity and joining us in fulfilling our mission. We promise it will be fun, interesting and rewarding. We will welcome you.

Linda

Field Notes: The Changing Seasons Edited by Jeff Tufts

When shorelines recede and water levels drop, that can mean diminished birding opportunities at some locations. But, that is definitely not the case at Lost Creek Lake. The "flats" that are exposed by summer and early fall drawdowns annually attract enterprising birders searching for migrant rarities.

Those birders were rewarded on October 17 when Jackson County's third recorded **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was found (and photographed) while consorting with a large flock of **American Pipits** (JL). Previous sightings of this locally rare species were in November 2001 and October 2006, and both birds were found at Lost Creek Lake.

Chestnut-collared Longspurs breed in grasslands as far north as southern Canada and as far south as Colorado. Most remain east of the Rocky Mountains, but small numbers regularly migrate and winter in California. Few are observed in the Pacific Northwest.

Their genetic brothers, **Lapland Longspurs**, are more frequently found in Jackson County and have been recorded in the months of October through February. This year one was found at Lost Creek Lake October 21 (NB) and another at the same location on November 16 (RN). As with the **Chestnut-collared Longspurs**, they are most often detected while in company with the much more numerous **American Pipits**.

Even when the water level at Lost Creek Lake is sixty feet below "full," there's plenty of room for occasional wandering Surf Scoters. Thousands of this waterfowl species winter along the Oregon coast, and each year a small number are found on inland lakes and reservoirs.

There have been five **Surf Scoter** reports this fall in Jackson County. One was at Emigrant Lake Oct. 22 (FL, FE, KM). Another single bird was at Lost Creek Lake Oct. 24 (RN, NB, JL), and the same location had three on Nov. 2 (RN), two on Nov. 9 (RVAS), and one Nov. 16 (RN).

With the exception of a single report in August of 2004, all previous **Surf Scoter** sightings in Jackson County have been in the months of September, October and November.

Another species that favors Lost Creek Lake is the deep-diving **Common Loon**. At least a dozen were reported there October 24 (RN, NB, JL), and sixteen were counted November 9 during a well-attended field trip (RVAS).

The much rarer **Pacific Loon** is an occasional visitor, and one was seen at Howard Prairie Lake November 1 (FL).

Of the grebes, **Red-necked Grebe** is the most notable when seen in Jackson County, and one was spotted in the Rogue River, about a half-mile above Takelma Park on November 7 (OS, PR).

American White Pelicans, present in large numbers locally this summer, mostly leave the area as temperatures drop. Some remain, however, through late fall, and six were at Howard Prairie Lake November 1 (FL).

Tundra Swans reliably show up in Jackson County in November, and this year is no exception. Eight were found at Emigrant Lake November 12 (HF, FL), one was at Holy Waters Nov. 15 (LN, AN) and twenty were at Agate Lake Nov 16 (GP).

The other "white waterfowl" expected locally is **Snow Goose**. One was at the Kirtland ponds with a flock of **Canada Geese** October 31 (RN), nine were at Emigrant Lake November 11 (PK), and one was seen flying over Newbry Park in Talent in company with **Canada Geese** (HF).

Raptor numbers continue to increase through October and November, and the first **Rough-legged Hawk** of the season was reported from Mt. Ashland November 3 (eB). Another was at Emigrant Lake Nov. 8 (KM), and three were near Dead Indian Memorial Highway Nov. 11 (SV, BM, TP).

One **Ferruginous Hawk** flew across Newland Road in Central Point November 5 (FL), and another was seen from Old Sams Valley Road Nov. 19 (JT, JB).

Field Notes continued from Page 3

White-tailed Kite numbers in Jackson County seem to have declined a bit in the last two years. One was seen near Butler Creek Road Nov. 8 (KMc, SR), and another was reported from the Denman Wildlife Area Nov. 15 (eB). Neither the Ashland Raptor Run (Nov. 14) nor the Medford Raptor Run (Nov. 19) turned up a single Kite.

Late **Osprey** reports were from Holy Waters Oct. 24 (BH) and Agate Lake Nov. 12 (RN).

Shorebirds continue to move through the area with the late-arriving **Dunlin** always among the most numerous in November. Howard Prairie had 15 Nov. 1 (FL). Twenty-eight were at Emigrant Lake Oct. 24 (FL), and twenty were at Kirtland Oct. 31 (RN).

Notable among other shorebird species was a **Red-necked Phalarope** (Oct. 27) at Emigrant Lake (FL).

Gulls have been fairly inconspicuous in the past month, and Terns have been totally missed. Reported sightings of **Bonaparte's Gulls** include one first winter bird at Howard Prairie Oct. 21 (FL), two at Emigrant Lake Oct. 27 (FL), and one at Agate Lake Oct. 31 (RN).

Last reported group of **Turkey Vultures** big enough to be called a "kettle" was a congregation of about 35 birds seen gathering over Medford Oct. 28 (CB). A single bird was seen soaring over Medford Airport Nov. 5 (FL).

In addition to the **Chestnut-collared Longspur**, the Lost Creek Lake area also produced the second rarest Jackson County sighting of the month. A **Gray Catbird**, only the fifth seen locally, was in the bushes on the west side of Holy Waters Nov. 15 (LN,AN).

First two **Northern Shrike** reports of the fall were both from Agate Lake. First was on Nov. 6 (RVAS) and the second was from Nov. 16 (GP).

A possible **Loggerhead Shrike** was spotted near the Highway 140/Salt Creek Road intersection Nov. 15 (FL)

Late migrants during the period include twenty **Tree Swallows** at Ousterhout Farm in Eagle Point Oct. 26 (BH), six **Barn Swallows** and four **Violet-green Swallows** at Emigrant Lake Oct. 26 (FL), a single **Black-throated Gray Warbler** Oct. 26 at Ashland Pond (HF), and a single **Orange-crowned Warbler** at the same location the same day (BM). A flock of several **Orange-crowned Warblers** seen in east Medford Nov. 16 (GP) could be potential over-wintering birds.

Four **Gray-crowned Rosy Finches** were reported from the Mt. McLoughlin trail Nov. 10 (eB).

Thanks to this month's contributors: Norm Barrett, Carol Brookfield, John Bullock, Forrest English, Harry Fuller, Bob Hunter, Jim Livaudais, Frank Lospalluto, Barbara Massey, Kate McKenzie, Kristi Mergenthaler, Russ Namitz, Andruss Northrup, Liz Northrup, Gary Palmer, Terence Philippe, Paul Rickerson, Shannon Rio, Otis Swisher, and Sooney Viani. (eB) indicates sightings reported to eBird, and (RVAS) denotes birds seen on Rogue Valley Audubon-sponsored birding trips.

Deadline for submitting contributions to the Field Notes for the next edition of The Chat is January 15.

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Rogue Valley Audubon Society Membership

If you are a current RVAS member, you will have already received a membership renewal letter in the mail. 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)
- 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 is \$20, and all memberships expire on September 30th each year. To become an RVAS member, please complete the form below and send with your check for \$20.

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Please fill-in your information:

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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
PO Box 8597
Medford OR 97501

The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

By the time you receive this, Senator Wyden's latest attempt to revise the management of BLM's O&C forest lands may have become law (most likely by being attached to a must-pass spending bill), or have been defeated. Despite that, I think this issue is of such importance that an overview of the proposed legislation is needed. The following is based largely on an analysis produced by Oregon Wild, although my overall judgment on the bill differs.

Senator Wyden's O&C Land Grant Act of 2014 (S. 1784)

In early November, US Senator Ron Wyden released a new version of his "Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2014" (S.1784), and on November 13, the bill was passed out of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. The bill covers 2.8 million acres of public lands in western Oregon. It reduces environmental safeguards provided by the historic 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP), and mandates aggressive logging on a million acres of these public lands.

Last year's version of Wyden's bill covered only 2.1 million acres but was far worse for conservation - more dramatically reducing safeguards for fish and wildlife under federal environmental laws like the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. The 2013 bill was nearly universally opposed by local, regional, and nation-wide conservation groups.

Wyden's revised bill, in contrast, has attracted support from some environmental groups, including the Pacific Rivers Council and the Pew Charitable Trusts, while being opposed in its present form by others, including Oregon Wild and the American Bird Conservancy. It is strongly opposed by timber groups, who do not believe that it will increase logging enough.

Overview

The "O&C Land Grant Act" of 2014 would replace the 1937 O&C Act, using much of the same language from that bill, and estimates the timber volume to be produced at about 400 million board feet per year - double current levels from these lands.

The legislation divides lands into Forestry Emphasis Areas (FEA) for aggressive logging, and a variety of conservation and protected areas. Stream buffers and wildlife protections within FEAs are reduced from current protections provided under the Northwest Forest Plan, and the public's ability to have a voice in how these public lands are managed is limited.

Existing "legacy" trees (over 150 years old) are protected under the bill, and forest stands over 85 years old are also protected from logging through a conservation network. However, the bill abandons the Northwest Forest Plan goal to restore more old-growth forest to replace what was lost in the logging epidemic of the last century. The bill also includes a variety of conservation "sweeteners" in the form of new conservation designations, but most of these would still allow some logging.

Counties would be guaranteed about 75% of the revenue from increased logging. However, this still does not come close to addressing the budget shortfalls facing some counties, where voters have repeatedly voted down measures to balance county budgets.

Continued on pages 7 & 8

Conservation Column continued from page 6

Some of the Important Details

- Divides lands into Forestry Emphasis Areas (FEA or logging zones) and Conservation Emphasis Areas (CEA or conservation zones).
- FEA logging zones, totaling 1.1 million acres, are designated to be managed for producing timber at the highest levels possible under the sustained yield calculation.
- Riparian buffers are reduced (see the streams and watersheds section) in FEAs.
- Divides logging zones into "moist" and "dry", each to be managed under the principles of "ecological forestry" defined for those two types. These forest types are re-evaluated after 10 years.

In "moist" forests:

4-6% of the entire FEA must be scheduled for logging every 5 years. Logging must leave 1/3 of the basal area mostly in clumps. These requirements do not exclude riparian areas, old growth, or areas with sensitive or erodible soils, so the resulting impacts will be more concentrated on areas actually available for logging in the FEAs. 50,000 acres will be designated for more intensive logging - leaving only 1/6 of the trees standing (or about 15%). This area of more aggressive logging will not occur in stands over 80 years, riparian areas, or designated critical habitat.

In "dry" forests (including most in our area):

Treatment priority is given to wildland-urban interface areas and forest areas in need of restoration or at special risk from fire. Thinning, with a retention level of 35% of original basal area, is the accepted form of logging. Fuel reduction within $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of residences is emphasized. Special authority is given to private landowners to undertake these treatments.

CEA conservation zones are set aside to provide ecological and conservation benefits and to protect old-growth. Logging is allowed in these 690,000 acres but generally limited to thinning young stands to improve forest health, increasing fire resiliency, or improving threatened species habitat.

Fish and Wildlife Protections:

The bill requires compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but consultation on logging plans is done at a landscape scale on a 5-year timeline, limiting site-specific analysis of impacts to threatened species. Stream buffers are generally reduced compared to the Northwest Forest Plan.

Public oversight: This is one of most concerning aspects of the bill.

A "Landscape Prioritization Plan" (LPP) is required to be developed every five years to set the framework for management and to map management areas under the bill. The public can comment on this plan for 60 days. The LPP is then incorporated into the current BLM management plan.

Only one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for moist forests, and one EIS for dry forests covering 5 years of activities (together covering more than 2 billion board feet worth of logging) are required to be completed within 2 years of enactment. No further site-specific analysis of timber sales is required or allowed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) except under very limited circumstances.

Conservation areas offer some protection gains

The bill aims to offset the environmental harm caused by logging by designating some Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, as well as adding several new conservation designations (see below). Many of these new conservation designations could still be subject to logging under the guise of "fire threat reduction," "forest health" improvement and other loopholes, but all conservation network lands are protected from future mining, and road building is more restricted.

- Designates the Wild Rogue and Devil's Staircase Wilderness areas, as previously and separately proposed in both the House and Senate.
- Creates the Molalla (24,100 acres) and the Rogue (94,700 acres) National Recreation Areas to be managed as CEAs.
- Expands the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument near the California border by 2,050 acres.
- Establishes the 7,200 acre Illinois Valley Salmon and Botanical Area for conservation and recreational purposes.
- Designates Primitive Backcountry Areas totaling more than 40,000 acres where there is a conservation emphasis but where logging can still be allowed. These areas include Grizzly Peak and the Daku-betede roadless area in the Little Applegate.
- Designates 95,767 acres of current and proposed "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern" as Special Environmental Zones to be managed for conservation.
- Creates the 104,000 acre Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Refuge around the Umpqua's Steamboat Creek to be managed to protect fish habitat.
- Adds Wild & Scenic River protections to more than 150 miles of rivers and streams.

In Summary

I'm concerned about the restrictions in Wyden's bill on public input and oversight, and about the greatly increased logging that it would bring. On the other hand, the protections for old-growth and late-successional forests are significant, as are the conservation areas identified in the legislation. Most important, we must consider this bill in the light of political realities. With the Republican takeover of the Senate, any new forest legislation is guaranteed to be more focused on increased logging, with drastically reduced environmental protections. This is why veteran Oregon environmental strategist Andy Kerr is supporting the bill. Kerr has stated: "Senator Wyden has found the political sweet spot. 'It's a bill that can pass into law, will -- more than not -- protect the environment, will result in increased logs going to mills and resolve a thorny political issue.'"

RVAS BIRDING FIELD TRIPS AND WALKS

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 at Agate Lake. Birders wishing to join Murray should meet him on the far side of the lake across from the boat dock 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. Contact Murray at 541-857-9050.

NOTE:

Local birders are reminded that 2015 parking permits for fifteen Oregon Wildlife Areas, including Denman WA in Central Point and Klamath WA (aka Miller Island) in Klamath Falls, are available on-line and at the ODFW office in Central Point.

The cost is \$7.00 for a daily permit and \$22.00 for an annual permit, and proceeds from the sale of permits will be used to improve habitat and infrastructure and to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities.

Prior to the start of the permit program, operation and maintenance of the wildlife areas was funded primarily by federal excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition and hunting license fees.

The permits are transferable between cars, but each car must have a permit displayed on the dash while parked at a wildlife area.

Project FeederWatch UPDATES

**VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR
COYOTE TRAILS NATURE
CENTER**

FEBRUARY 5 AND 19

NOON TO 1

CONTACT JOANNE HADDAD AT

JoanneHad@aol.com

See website for additional details



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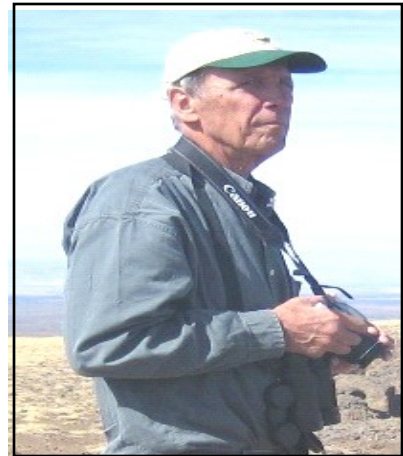
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The Bob Black Fund

Established in 2011 with funds donated to RVAS in Bob's memory by his friends and relatives, the Fund has been used to support projects which promote and nurture birding - the pastime and avocation which gave Bob such great pleasure in his last few years.

As previously reported, grants have been made for nest-box materials and banding costs for the ongoing study of American Dippers in Ashland Creek, to support small research projects by SOU students, to survey wintering Townsend's Solitaires in the Colostine Valley.

The last grant, and the one which would probably have given Bob the most pleasure, has been made to provide transportation for elementary school students to participate in the "Fall in the Field" program conducted by SOU students under the guidance of Stewart Janes:



"The Fall in the Field program is a seven week program offered from mid-September to the first of November. We typically host 28 educational groups on the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and 14 educational groups at Deer Creek Center each year providing environmental education programs for approximately 1100 students. The theme and lessons are the responsibility of each cohort of graduate students and typically include lessons on fire ecology, serpentine soil ecology, biodiversity, stream ecology, and a host of shorter lessons ranging from lichens, to fungi and biogeography to neotropical birds."

Some schools could afford transportation, Talent Elementary School could not. The Bob Black fund will make sure these students do not miss out.

The fund is now exhausted and will be terminated, but RVAS will continue to give financial support to projects which are consistent with our mission.

Dear Rogue Valley Audubon Society Board and Membership,

Thank you for honoring Bob Black through the RVAS fund in his name. He would be delighted with the direction the Chapter has taken in its donations. He believed in the importance of local educators, students, and researchers in the natural sciences to promote the future health of our valley. It is most fitting to Bob's sense of fairness that the recent grant extends opportunities to students who would otherwise have been left out.

Bob's loyal "Birding Buddies" Gwyneth Ragosine and Denny Niebuhr used their considerable skills in birding and leadership to make the fund work. They were diligent in bringing worthwhile projects forward, educating the rest of us on their importance, and working on endless details while plans came to fruition. Not easy stuff, done in loving memory of a friend.

With gratitude,
Midge Black

JOSEPHINE COUNTY FIELD NOTES

Compiled by Jeff Tufts

Surf Scoter, **Sabine's Gull**, **Lapland Longspur** and **Clay-colored Sparrow** are nice Josephine County sightings, but there's no question that the glamour bird of the late summer and fall period in our neighboring county was the **Red-throated Pipit** first spotted by Russ Namitz at Lake Selmac on October 20.

This was only the third record for the species in Oregon, and birders from throughout the state journeyed to the town of Selma to see the Asian vagrant which remained in the area for at least six days. The two previous records were from Wickiup Reservoir in Deschutes County (October 2003) and Cape Blanco, Curry County (two birds in April 2004).

Like the **Chestnut-collared Longspur** found in Jackson County a few days earlier, the **Red-throated Pipit** was found with a group of **American Pipits**. HINT !! HINT !! Always look over **American Pipit** flocks for that occasional rarity.

Three **Surf Scoters** were at Lake Selmac Oct. 27 (RN) and the same number were at Copeland Pond on the same day (RN).

Lake Selmac also produced a **Redhead** Nov. 15 (RN), and as many as fifty **Western Grebes** were there on Oct. 20 (NB). At least half a dozen remained through Nov. 15.

Notable shorebird sightings for JoCo included a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and a **Lesser Yellow-legs** at the Cave Junction Wastewater Treatment Plant Aug. 22 (RN), a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Lake Selmac Sept. 8-12 (RN), and a **Red-necked Phalarope** at the CJWTP on Oct. 27 (RN).

On the relatively late date of Oct. 11, there were 500 **Turkey Vultures** kettleling over Copeland Pond (RN).

Sabine's Gulls are normally found well off the coast during fall migration, but occasionally one or two birds will stray inland. One found its way to Lake Selmac and was spotted Sept. 8 (RN).

Two **California Gulls** at the same location Oct. 26 were less surprising but still notable (RN), and the same could be said for the four **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Copeland Pond Oct. 27 (DV). A single **Bonaparte's** was at Lake Selmac Nov. 3 (RN).

Among the significant passerine sightings of the period, the most notable was the **Clay-colored Sparrow** found by Dennis Vroman. This inconspicuous and seldom noticed species was seldom reported west of the Rocky Mountains prior to 1960, and the first ever Oregon record was a bird collected in Tillamook County in 1953.

Dennis found this bird in the irrigation channel east of the Grants Pass Grange Co-Op buildings on Sept. 25, and it was photographed later that day by Russ Namitz.

Other interesting reports were an early **Pacific Wren** north of Grants Pass Sept. 17 (DV), a **Wilson's Warbler** Nov. 6 in the same area (DV), a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Fish Hatchery County Park Oct. 27 (DV), and the **Lapland Longspur** spotted at Lake Selmac Sept. 28 (RN).

EDUCATION UPDATES

RVAS Collaboration for "Birding in the Schools" Program Offered to Rogue Valley Classrooms

"Birding in the Schools:" During this 2014-15 school year, Rogue Valley Audubon Society is collaborating with the Klamath Bird Observatory and Northwest Nature Shop to enhance educational opportunities for students throughout the Rogue Valley. With the combined resources of the three organizations, a trifecta of educational support will bring both field trips and classroom visits to over 350 students this year.

The program offers a range of classroom lessons to encourage students' curiosity in nature, and to build science skills. Students will gain a deeper sense of place through learning about local ecosystems and local land issues. All "Birding in the Schools" lessons meet education standards and are also attained through joyful educational experiences, using nature as both inspiration for creativity and scientific exploration. Inspiring excitement for education in students helps support development of well-balanced individuals and life-long learners.

Local naturalist and educator, Jeanine Moy, will lead students in the classroom and to local natural areas hands-on learning about the natural world. Jeanine, MS Environmental Education, is an outdoor educator with 15 years of experiences with children. She currently works for Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, teaches natural science classes at Willow Wind Learning Center, and is founder of Ashland Trail Trekkers nature summer camp.

Please email JeanineMoy@gmail.com if you are a teacher (or know a teacher!) and are interested in reserving a date, or would like to help by volunteering to lead students on bird walks.

Finding Home Program

On January 21st, 2015, the Coyote Trails School of Nature "Finding Home Program" will resume at Jackson Elementary and they are looking for a RVAS volunteer to teach a partial classroom component. This multi-season program focuses on increasing the awareness, appreciation, and understanding of nature to 5th grade students in Title-I schools in Jackson County. Interested in helping with this program? Email Katie@CoyoteTrails.org or call [541.772.1390](tel:541.772.1390) to volunteer to help at a field trip for Jackson students on May 22nd at the Coyote Trails Nature Center located in the heart of the US Cellular Community Park at 2931 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford OR 97501.

WALKS AND EVENTS

Winter Bird Walk

Ashland Parks & Recreation - North Mountain Park Nature Center
620 N Mountain Ave in Ashland, 541-488-6606

www.NorthMountainPark.org

Stroll through North Mountain Park to view feathered fauna with birding expert Vince Zauskey. The leafless winter season offers birders a great opportunity to see the birds that spend the winter in our valley, such as White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Fox Sparrows, goldfinches, Pine Siskins, and water raptors such as Merlins and accipiters. The class will also try to ID birds by call. Binoculars and field guides will be available for check-out. Dress for winter weather—Participants will be walking on established Park trails. As with most Ashland Parks & Recreation programs, pre-registration is required - Please register online at www.ashland.or.us/register or call North Mountain Park at 541.488.6606.

AGES 10—Adult (*Children should be accompanied by an adult*)

DAY Saturday

DATE January 10

TIME 8:30—10am

PLACE North Mountain Park

COST Free

INSTRUCTOR Vince Zauskey is a Rogue Valley Audubon member, North Mountain Park volunteer and birding expert.



ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE CHAT

Newsletter of the ROGUE VALLEY
AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Medford, OR 97501

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Editor's Note:

This edition is my last as Editor. Juliet Grable has agreed to take on the challenge of Editor beginning with the February issue. It has been my pleasure to serve as Editor of *The Chat* for the last few years.
Kaethe Fulton

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 online. 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.

