

The Chat

Number 413
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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 April issue is March 20.



MARCH PROGRAM MEETING, TUESDAY, MAR. 24 at 7 PM

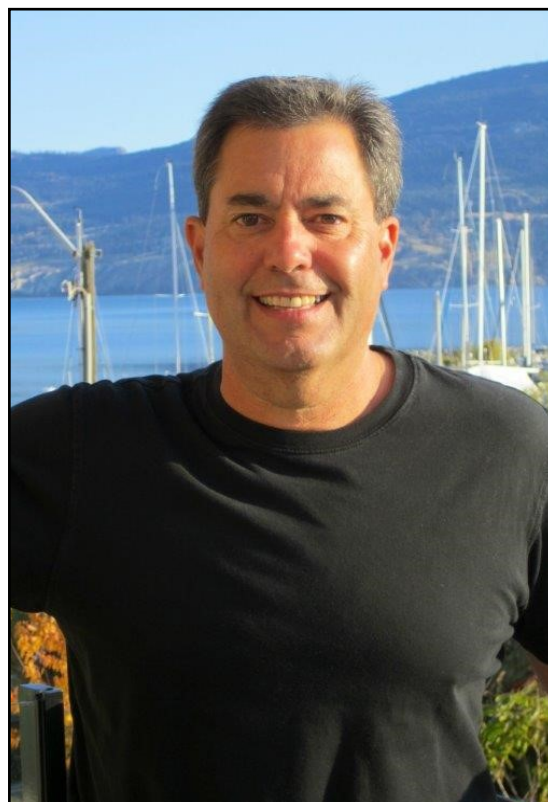
"America's First Waterfowl Refuge: Why is it Dry?" PRESENTED BY RON COLE

The Lower Klamath Refuge is America's oldest National Wildlife Refuge, and an important stop for a large percentage of birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. So why has this key wetland been allowed to dry out completely in recent years? This presentation will shed light on the ecology and politics of the Klamath Basin refuges. There will also be plenty of time for questions.

Ron Cole spent 32 years working in the National Wildlife Refuge System, including seven years as a wildlife biologist and 25 years as a refuge manager and supervisor. He spent over 23 years working on the Klamath Basin Refuges; from 2003 to 2014 he was the Project Leader for the Klamath Basin Complex. He retired from the FWS in 2014 and currently serves as the Western Conservation Program Manager for

the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Working, living and raising a family in the Klamath Basin has provided Ron a unique lens through which to view the water issues of this region. His career in conservation has taught him that solutions to complex landscape problems require candid, collaborative conversations about the land—conversations which acknowledge that people and their pursuits are a part of the natural world.



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

President's Column

How are you all feeling about our Chapter meetings this year? I'd really appreciate some feedback and suggestions for improvement.

For instance, one question I have is about breaking for refreshments after announcements. Announcements have become such a short part of the meeting that as soon as we get settled, we are asked to get up and mingle again! Either we need to include more discussion about Chapter business at this time, or we should go directly to the presentation after announcements. I would prefer to have more discussion of Chapter activities and need suggestions for topics and people willing to lead discussions. Should we talk more about our mission goals—Education and Conservation? How about discussions about which birds are where each month, or a short talk on bird identification? You can see we need help here!

Of course, the other important part of the meeting is the presentation. This year the Board of Directors is also acting as the Program Committee. This was a new role for us, made necessary because no one stepped forward to take on the responsibility of Program Chairman. We were able to do it because we got lots of invaluable help from several sources: from Alex Maksymowicz, the previous Program Chairman; from Chapter members who have lots of experience; from all the Board members (but in particular, Carol and Gary Palmer); and of course, from all the great speakers who have graciously agreed to participate.

Which brings me to my last, most important point: Being involved in planning the programs really can be fun and rewarding. It doesn't mean doing it all by yourself. It means being part of a great team with lots of support and building on a solid base of past work.

Now would be a great time to volunteer to help with next year's programs and Chapter meeting organization. I may still be in New Zealand when you read this (I'm writing it in January), but I'll be back soon. The contact information for all Board members is printed to the left of this column. Please feel free to call or email any of us.

Linda Kreisman

Field Notes for Jackson County (Jan. 20 to Feb. 19, 2015) Compiled by Jeff Tufts

Last month's edition of this column noted that in reporting a **Pine Grosbeak** sighting from Huckleberry Campground (near Prospect), local birder Russ Namitz suggested that this rarely-seen species "seems to be invading various parts of the Cascades and the Coast Range, mostly between 4,000 and 6,000 feet." We can add "the Siskiyou" and bump that high elevation to 7,000 feet after late January's remarkable invasion of the upper reaches of Mount Ashland by at least a dozen Pine Grosbeaks.

The first report of this irruptive species came on January 24 (NB, JL), when four birds were seen. One was near the Ski Lodge parking lot; three others were spotted close to the Pacific Crest Trail where it crosses the Mt. Ashland road above Bull Gap SnoPark. Over the next week, most of the sightings were in these general areas with a high total of twelve individuals seen Jan. 26 west of Bull Gap SnoPark (FL).

Interestingly, three Pine Grosbeaks were seen near Grouse Gap on Jan. 25 (HF). That's west of the location of most of the sightings. Given the wandering nature of these birds, it's certainly possible that the actual number of them in the Mount Ashland area could have been higher than two or three dozen. The last report came on January 30.

The Pine Grosbeaks were easily the highlight of the season--especially for the many local birders who ventured up to what was then a mostly snowless Mt. Ashland—but few other potential winter visitors made a splash. **Varied Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** are all species that occasionally come to the valley in conspicuous numbers, but none of them have been especially noticeable in the past month.

Conversely, it seems that everyone in the valley has been seeing **Pine Siskins**. Unlike last

year when we experienced a rare "Siskin drought," this season has produced very few Goldfinch flocks that didn't include at least a few of their striped brethren. And, there have been occasional large gatherings that were all Pine Siskins.

Although not seen by as many observers as the Pine Grosbeaks, the **Long-eared Owl** that very briefly (Jan. 21) took up residence at the Ousterhout Farm was the other headline bird seen in Jackson County thus far this winter (BH, GH). It did stick around long enough for some good photos.

One of the rarest waterfowl sightings in North America—a **Common Scoter** in Crescent City Harbor—attracted many Jackson County birders in early February, but the local waterfowl scene has been very quiet this winter. Scattered reports of **Tundra Swans** and **Greater White-fronted Geese** were not unexpected. The biggest gathering of the Swans was in an agricultural field just east of Table Rock Road between Mile Posts 10 and 11, where 21 were seen on Jan. 25 during the Medford Raptor Run (JT, KH). Fifteen Greater White-fronted Geese were at the Kirtland ponds Feb. 11 (FL).

Notable among smaller waterfowl were a **Cinnamon Teal** at the Kirtland ponds on January 23 (GR), and a single **Redhead** that put in an appearance at Agate Lake February 4 (RVAS).

Twenty **Canvasbacks** wouldn't be a surprise at Mingo Pond, but that number at Whetstone Pond January 23 was unusual (RM).

Whether you regard **Turkey Vulture** and **Tree Swallow** reports as early harbingers of Spring or evidence that those species never completely depart from Jackson County is probably a matter of personal preference.

Single Turkey Vultures were seen Jan. 25 over Butler Creek Road (eB) and Ashland Pond (eB)—perhaps the same bird—and over downtown Ashland Feb. 1 (eB) and North Mountain Park Feb. 4 (eB). Two were seen near the Emigrant Lake cemetery Feb. 11 (eB), and one over TouVelle State Park Feb. 26 (eB).

Field Notes continued on p.4

Field Notes continued from page 3

The first Tree Swallow report from February was the six birds at Agate Lake Feb. 4 (RVAS), and by mid-month (Feb. 13) as many as 28 were seen checking out the nest boxes at Ousterhout Farm (eB).

Violet-green Swallows are not known to over-winter in Jackson County, so we'll call the bird seen amongst Tree Swallows at the Kirtland ponds Feb. 19 (FL) our first-of-the-year.

We wouldn't normally tab a **Red-tailed Hawk** as the most interesting raptor sighting in Jackson County, but the nearly all-white bird found near Agate Road and north of Little Butte Creek Jan. 29 (NB) was clearly something special.

One week later (Feb. 5) there was the intriguing report of a large (Gyr Falcon-size?) falcon flying over northeast Medford. The sighting was from a binocular-less bicyclist (NB) who understandably had no chance to confirm an identification. Is it inconceivable that an occasional southward-wandering Gyr Falcon would choose a route that takes it over Jackson County? Maybe not.

There were two reports each of **Ferruginous Hawk** (Feb. 3 Whetstone Preserve and Feb. 9 Ousterhout Farm) (BH) and **Rough-legged Hawk** (Feb. 9 Ousterhout Farm and Feb. 15

near Neil Creek) (BH, eB). The Rough-legged Hawk seen near Neil Creek was easily the best bird reported by the many locals who took part in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count.

It's a bit troubling to note the paucity of **White-tailed Kite** reports this winter. Two were reported from Butler Creek Road Jan. 25 (eB), and one was spotted flying into the hills above Ashland above Pinecrest Terrace late Feb. 9 (eB). They have been seen in a few of their regular haunts this winter, but the total numbers may be down from previous years.

First **Sandhill Crane** sightings this year were on Feb. 10 when six were spotted flying over Ousterhout Farm in Eagle Point (BH), and at least 60 of them were en route north when seen flying over the Colestin Valley Feb. 18 (FL).

With water levels going up at Agate Lake and Emigrant Lake (as of Feb. 19, Agate was at 67% of capacity and Emigrant at 64%), local shorebirds reports were all from the Kirtland ponds. **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Dunlin** and **Least Sandpiper** were the three species seen during this period, with the 150 Least Sandpipers on Feb. 1 (JT) being the only significant count.

Sometimes a fairly common species can grab attention by showing up in an unexpected location or by doing something unexpected. Recent birds in these categories were the **Western Scrub-jay** showing signs of nest-building activity in Ashland Jan. 25 (PT), the juniper berry-loving **Townsend's Solitaire** spotted Feb 10 in the Applegate in an area with no juniper trees (FL), the seven **Black-billed Magpies** in the unfamiliar Colestin Valley neighborhood Jan. 31 (PT), and the **Prairie Falcon** in the Cascades at 4,000-ft elevation Feb. 14 (HF).

Thanks to this month's contributors: Norm Barrett, Harry Fuller, Bob Hunter, Gretchen Hunter, Karen Hussey, Jim Livaudais, Frank Lo-spalluto, Robert Mumby, Gwyneth Ragsine, and Pepper Trail. The report also includes sightings obtained from eBird reports (eB) and from Rogue Valley Audubon birding events (RVAS).

Deadline for submitted contributions to the Field Notes for the next edition of The Chat is March 15.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I want to thank the Rogue Valley Audubon Society for its renewed support of the Mountain Bird Festival. RVAS made a \$1000 grant to the festival. Registration is now open and you can get to the site off the front page of the Klamath Bird Observatory website. The first week saw over 40 people register. The festival is May 29-31. Tell your birding friends who live along the coast this is their chance for Caliope Hummingbird and White-headed Woodpecker. One early sign-up was from a man in Florida who wants to see his first Mountain Quail.

Harry Fuller
President, Klamath Bird Observatory Board

UPDATE ON NEW GREAT GRAY OWL PLATFORMS

There are now 11 nest platforms for Great Gray Owls that have been put in place in Jackson County by forester Marty Main. This program began last summer when RVAS agreed to sponsor it and collect the donations. Recently Klamath Basin Audubon Society gave \$250 after I spoke at their January meeting about Great Grays.

Some of the platforms are in the Applegate; the others are in the Cascades east of Ashland. All of them were built by Peter Thiemann and put in place by Marty Main. Most are on private land so the owls will be secure if they choose one of our platforms.

Monitoring of the platforms will begin in March. The owls and I thank RVAS for supporting this project.

--Harry Fuller

Coyote Trails update

In January, Jeanine Moy visited classes at Jackson Elementary, as part of the Coyote Trails "Finding Home" program. She was sponsored by RVAS and KBO to fund these visits and bring birding supplies. The students had a memorable experience sketching the preserved birds and learning about field marks. Many of them claimed they had no idea there were so many different types of birds in Southern Oregon. The program will continue visits to these classrooms through the end of the school year, culminating in a field trip at the Coyote Trails Nature Center. If you'd like to volunteer for this field trip as a member of RVAS, contact Katie@CoyoteTrails.org.

Much Gratitude, Coyote Trails

The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

*** Please remember the March 13 deadline for comments to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on the LNG pipeline issue; see last month's Chat for details.*

I would like to report this month on two serious bird mortality events, one ongoing along the coast, and the other perhaps on its way north from California. The first concerns Cassin's Auklets; the second Band-tailed Pigeons.

Mass Death of Seabirds in Western U.S. Is 'Unprecedented'

(reprinted from *National Geographic News*: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/01/150123-seabirds-mass-die-off- auklet-california-animals-environment/>)

In the storm debris littering a Washington State shoreline, Bonnie Wood saw something grisly: the mangled bodies of dozens of scraggly young seabirds.

Walking half a mile along the beach at Twin Harbors State Park on Wednesday, Wood spotted more than 130 carcasses of juvenile Cassin's auklets—the blue-footed, palm-size victims of what is becoming one of the largest mass die-offs of seabirds ever recorded.

"It was so distressing," recalled Wood, a volunteer who patrols Pacific Northwest beaches looking for dead or stranded birds. "They were just everywhere. Every ten yards we'd find another ten bodies of these sweet little things."

Cassin's auklets are tiny diving seabirds that look like puffballs. They feed on animal plankton and build their nests by burrowing in the dirt on offshore islands. Their total population, from the Baja Peninsula to Alaska's Aleutian Islands, is estimated at somewhere between 1 million and 3.5 million.

Last year, beginning about Halloween, thousands of juvenile auklets started washing ashore dead from California's Farallon Islands to Haida Gwaii (also known as the Queen Charlotte Islands) off central British Columbia. Since then the deaths haven't stopped. Researchers are wondering if the die-off might spread to other birds or even fish.

"This is just massive, massive, unprecedented," said Julia Parrish, a University of Washington seabird ecologist who oversees the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST), a program that has tracked West Coast seabird deaths for almost 20 years. "We may be talking about 50,000 to 100,000 deaths. So far."

One Die-Off Among Many

The gruesome auklet deaths come just as scientists around the globe are seeing a significant uptick in mass-mortality events in the marine world, from sea urchins to fish and birds. Although there doesn't appear to be a link to the virus that killed tens of millions of sea stars along the same shores from California to Alaska over the past 18 months, some scientists suspect a factor in both cases may be uncharacteristically warm waters.

Conservation Column continued on p. 7

Conservation Column *continued from page 6*

The U.S. Geological Survey and others have performed animal autopsies, called necropsies, on several of the emaciated Cassin's auklets. They've found no evidence of disease or trauma—no viruses or bacteria, no feathers coated with spilled oil. The birds appear simply to have starved to death.

"There's very little evidence of food in their GI [gastrointestinal] tracts or stomachs," said Anne Ballmann, with USGS's National Wildlife Health Center.

At first scientists weren't too surprised by the carcasses washing ashore. When young auklets fledge in late summer, they all enter the water at the same time and start competing for food—shrimp-like krill and tiny crustaceans called copepods. For various reasons, last summer's birth class of Cassin's auklets was gigantic. Researchers expected a higher death toll, too.

But they now are perplexed by the sheer numbers of dead birds and the spreading geographic extent of the die-off.

"Death at this level and over this much real estate has to be from more than just that," Parrish said.

By comparison, not one of the five largest U.S. bird mortality events tracked by USGS since 1980 is estimated to have topped 11,000 deaths. In Europe, according to the U.K.-based Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the worst die-off on record occurred in 1983, when 57,000 guillemots, razorbills, puffins, and other seabirds perished in the North Sea and washed up on the British coast.

"You get some of this with seabirds every year," said David Nuzum, with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "You get so many juveniles out there, and they've got this steep learning curve for feeding after being separated from their parents, so you always get a die-off in winter. But I've never seen anything like this, ever, and I've been here since 1985."

On some beaches the Cassin's auklet death toll was a hundred times greater than any bird die-off ever tallied there, and six times worse per kilometer than the body count recorded after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska. On a single stretch of beach on Christmas Eve in Oregon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Mike Szumski collected 250 carcasses—and left nearly as many behind.

"You'd find them piled up in clusters on the wrack line, where the tide leaves sea grasses and debris," Szumski said. "Most were in these states of decay, but every now and then we'd see tracks coming out of the water and find a bird that was just barely clinging to life. They were just skin and bones."

The Culprit: Warm Water?

Bill Sydeman, a senior scientist at California's Farallon Institute, said he believes the most likely scenario is that the deaths are related to a massive blob of warm water that heated the North Pacific last year and contributed to California's drought and to 2014 being the hottest year on record.

Conservation Column continued from Page 7

That water was hotter and stayed warm longer than at any time since record-keeping began. It stretched across the Gulf of Alaska, where a high-pressure system blocked storms, preventing the water from churning to the surface and mixing with air. More warm water eventually moved inward along the coast as far south as California, altering how favorable the environment was for the zooplankton that many fish and birds, including Cassin's auklets, feed on.

That all happened in late summer—about the same time the young auklets began to fledge. Research in the waters off Oregon already has shown that some of the tiny crustaceans at the bottom of the marine food chain were replaced by smaller species that provide less nutrition for larger animals.

It's still not clear how—or whether—a changing climate contributed to any of these shifts. But if the base of the food chain has changed, even temporarily, why is the die-off still limited to just one species of seabird?

"That's the thing that's so puzzling to us—we're just not seeing this with common murres or anything else," Parrish said.

Sydeman predicts that this spring or summer the dying might spread to the salmon and forage fish that eat those same plankton species and then perhaps to the murrees or other birds that, in turn, eat those fish.

"I think there's a strong possibility of it escalating to affect other species in the near future," he said.

Band-tailed Pigeons

Meanwhile, the National Audubon website posted a worrisome report about a mortality event in Band-tailed Pigeons in northern California caused by a single-celled protozoan. This protozoan spreads when infected birds deposit it at watering holes, bird-baths, or bird feeders. The link to the report is: <http://www.audubon.org/news/what%E2%80%99s-killing-california%E2%80%99s-native-pigeons>.

If you have a bird bath or bird feeder attracting large numbers of Band-tails, California Audubon is recommending that you take these down. No indication that this is affecting pigeons in Oregon yet, but since most of our population winters in California, and are only returning now, chances are that they may bring the parasite back with them. If anyone finds dead Band-tails, the news story contains a link for reporting this.

These events are reminders of the precarious state of many bird populations, and the numerous ways in which human activities may affect them. These effects are often unintended, and may be very indirect. It is vital that we reduce known and preventable threats, while working to understand how our activities impact the natural world in ways we never anticipated.

RVAS BIRDING FIELD TRIPS AND WALKS

Saturday, March 14 - Professional biologist Frank Lospalluto and RVAS Board member Anne Goff will lead a RVAS field trip to Cantrall Buckley Park and possibly other nearby birding spots. Locally resident species such as Red-shouldered Hawk and Acorn Woodpecker are likely sightings, and we'll also be looking for early spring migrants such as swallows and warblers. And, this is a great chance to learn from Frank some of the nuances of birding-by-ear. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Ruch Country Store (seven miles out of Jacksonville on Hwy 238 going toward Applegate) to make carpooling arrangements. Jackson County Parks parking permits are required for Cantrall Buckley. Bring food and water and plan to bird until early afternoon. For additional information, contact Anne at annegoffar@charter.net

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.

Field Notes for Josephine County (Jan. 20 to Feb. 19, 2015) Compiled by Jeff Tufts

What birds could be found in Josephine County during the last month that weren't reported from Jackson County?

Let's start with the **Black-crowned Night Herons** and a single **Green Heron** that were seen on multiple trips to the Roguelea Estates (DV) in Grants Pass. Six of the Night Herons were there on Feb. 16, with lesser numbers observed on Feb. 7 and Feb. 9. And the Green Heron was first reported on Feb. 9 (DV) with presumably the same bird seen Feb. 16 (DV).

Great Egrets were reported in numbers that couldn't be matched in Jackson County. There were seventeen of them along Upper River Road in Grants Pass on Feb. 12 (eB), and nineteen were counted along Hunt Lane on Feb. 14 (eB), also in Grants Pass. The latter birds were included in a Great Backyard Bird Count.

Cedar Waxwings also made significant appearances in Josephine County. On Feb. 9 there was a flock of 45 birds at the Roguelea Estates (DV), and 40 were counted at the Hellgate Canyon viewing area on Feb. 15 (DV).

Lower River Road had a large group of 55 **Common Ravens** on Jan. 29 (DV).

Early arrivals during this mid-January to mid-February period included a **Rufous Hummingbird** on Feb. 15 in a yard south of Rogue Community College (eB, Backyard Bird Count), another Rufous hummer north of Merlin on Feb. 19 (eB), a **Violet-green Swallow** west of Merlin on Feb. 18 (DV), and a **Barn Swallow** along Hwy 199 in Grants Pass on Feb. 15 (eB).

Thanks to this month's contributors: Dennis Vroman and eBird.

Ashland Parks and Recreation Classes and Workshops

Project FeederWatch

Ashland Parks & Recreation - North Mountain Park Nature Center

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 FeederWatch Project, a nationwide citizen-science 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 March 14
TIME 9—10am
PLACE North Mountain Park Pavilion
COST Free; pre-registration not required
INSTRUCTORS Rogue Valley Audubon Society volunteers

Introduction to Wildlife & Bird Photography for Teens

Ashland Parks & Recreation - North Mountain Park Nature Center

Learn the basics of creating wildlife images from a professional. Finding and approaching wild animals, the use of natural light and creative composition will be the focus of this workshop, equipment provided. Students will have the chance learn basic camera settings on a digital SLR camera as well as how to use and focus a telephoto lens. A CD with student's photographs and 8" x 12" print are also included. Pre-register online at www.ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

AGES 7th—12th Grade Students
DAYS Saturdays
DATES March 7, 14
TIME 9am—noon
PLACE North Mountain Park
COST \$125; includes all equipment & supplies
INSTRUCTOR Dan Elster is a professional wildlife photographer and father based in Ashland.

Birds

Ashland Parks & Recreation - North Mountain Park Nature Center

Have fun learning about our local birds using beautiful pictures, interesting facts and poetry. This class is for all levels of birders. Prerequisite: be curious! Pre-register online at www.ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

AGES 15—Adult
DAY Wednesday
DATE March 18
TIME 6:30—8pm
PLACE North Mountain Park
COST \$10
INSTRUCTOR Shannon Rio enjoys teaching classes on birding and is on the board of the Klamath Bird Observatory.

It's Back: Birdathon 2015

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 2. If you've never participated in this annual event, why not make 2015 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 an amount per species your team sees.

Count species. The event officially begins on Friday, May 1 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 Saturday evening for tale-swapping, prizes and mild bragging.

Birdathon 2014 featured six stellar teams: the Binosaur, Great Grays, Falcons, Old World Warblers, The Breakfast Club, and Wandering Tattlers. Collectively these teams raised over \$4,265 for RVAS. The Binosaur and the Great Grays finished in a dead heat, each recording 156 species in the 24 hour period.

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 Katy Reed at kmreed24@hotmail.com or 541-245-5095 or Linda Kreisman at 541-482-6456.

Rogue Valley Audubon Society Membership

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

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

The Chat newsletter

Website (www.roguevalleyaudubon.org)

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.

RVAS Membership Form

Please fill-in your information:

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

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

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

Donation

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

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

Rogue Valley Audubon Society
PO Box 8597
Medford OR 97501



Editor's Note:

As the new Editor of The Chat, I heartily welcome your ideas for making the newsletter as informative, interesting and accessible as possible. I would love your feedback!

Thanks to Kaethe Fulton for her dedication to The Chat, and for her invaluable assistance during the transition.

—Juliet Grable



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