

# The Chat

**Number 429**  
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**A voice for education and conservation in the natural world**  
**Rogue Valley Audubon Society**  
**[www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org)**  
*Deadline for the February issue is January 20.*



**JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, January 24 at 7:00 PM**  
**"Antarctica: Unknown, Unseen & Unforgiving"**  
**Presented by DAVE BAKER**

Join Dave Baker on an Antarctic adventure during our January Chapter meeting. Dave will lead us on visits to the penguin rookeries inhabited by the four primary Antarctic penguins: the Emperor, Gentoo, Adélie and Chinstrap.

Dave's interest in Antarctica started at age six, when he first learned about the famous polar explorer, Captain Robert Falcon Scott. After graduating from Yale in 1954, Dave joined the Navy, and he realized his dream when he was selected to become a part of the Wintering Party at McMurdo Sound, the American base built by the Sea-Bees in 1956. That base was and continues to be the major U.S. support and science center in Antarctica.



At McMurdo Station Dave served as the Survival Officer and was a member of a para-rescue team that included 30 sled dogs. He may be the only qualified Naval parachutist and dog sled driver in the history of the United States Navy. He served at McMurdo from December 1955 to February 1957 and returned to Antarctica with National Geographic Expeditions in 2006 and 2010.

Dave is a frequent speaker in Medford's Elementary schools where his video, ***Mostly Penguins***, has given hundreds of first graders a virtual journey to Antarctica. He has lectured in most of the Jackson County Libraries and is also a lecturer at OLLI, in Ashland and Medford. He holds the rank of Captain, U. S. Navy Retired.

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**Chapter Program meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September through April, at 7:00 pm. Meetings take place at 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford, in Lidgate Hall of the Medford Congregational Church.**

## Letter from the Board

This month we are focusing on the Educational efforts we are supporting: the “Fall in the Field” classes held by SOU Environmental Education students for local elementary schools and our “Birding in the Schools” programs taught by our intern, John Ward. You’ll get to hear and see more about both of these efforts at the Holiday Party on December 3rd.

### Fall in the Field update from Carol Mockridge and Linda Kreisman:

Environmental education should be taught outside, and we are lucky to have so many special areas close by to act as classrooms. RVAS contributes to Southern Oregon University’s Fall in the Field program, which conducts field trips for hundreds of Rogue Valley elementary students each year.

Enthusiastic Environmental Education graduate students develop collaborative interdisciplinary lessons to highlight our region’s unique biodiversity. They meet students at **Deer Creek Center for Field Research and Education** in Selma, Oregon (an overnight program), **Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument** off of Hwy 66 near the Green Springs Summit, and at **Ashland Pond**.

We spent a morning observing them in action at the Monument. Picture a large circle of 15 students, each with a photo of a local plant or animal. Their graduate student explains the lesson and they quickly move around and group together in the center as they discover how they are connected to each other in the “web of life.” Then they are off to listen for the drumming of a woodpecker or to examine different kinds of igneous rocks. It was magic!

### Birding in the Schools update from John Ward:

For the past three months, I have been getting out to local schools to teach students about ornithology. This has been a busy fall, with several school visits and a handful of bird walks at Agate Lake. When not leading activities with the students, I have been brushing up my own birding skills, attending a Vaux’s Swift count, a HawkWatch event, a birding hike on Mt. Ashland, and going on multiple personal outings.

*Letter from the Board continued on page 3*

*Letter from the Board continued from page 2*

I started my internship with Rogue Valley Audubon Society by becoming acquainted with the position. This involved meeting with Jeanine Moy to go over the materials that were available and then reading through curriculum and taking notes on what I wanted to teach. I also tried to get outside as often as I could to gain more field experience.

My first classroom visits were to four classes of second graders at Jewett Elementary. I could not have asked for better classes. The students were respectful, intelligent, and eager to learn about birds. The success of these first visits opened up the opportunity for me to revisit Jewett Elementary, this time teaching in all three of the fourth grade classrooms. These students had some big expectations to meet, after such a positive experience with the second graders, and they exceeded those expectations. All of my visits to Jewett were for our most popular lesson, which is about bird identification and utilizes study skins. These are preserved specimens of birds that give students a chance to make close-up observations of our local species.

I rounded out my school visits with two inquisitive middle school biology classes, teaching them about bird adaptations with a fun lesson called “Bird Olympics.” The older students were excited to get outside and test their abilities against the reigning “champions” of the bird world. This required the students to complete tasks like measuring their wingspans, timing their 40-yard dash, and seeing how long they could stand on one foot. After the activities were completed, we would have a discussion about bird adaptations and the students would try to hypothesize about why these adaptations are beneficial to the “champions.”

I finished up my final activities by taking the Jewett Elementary second graders on some birding hikes at Agate Lake. The first day was a little rainy, which kept most of the birds quiet and inactive. We did, however, get to see a Great Egret, some Dark-eyed Juncos, and a few Yellow-rumped Warblers. The second day was bright and sunny. The first class was visited by a White Pelican, which joined the Great Egret out on the lake. The second class didn't get to see the pelican, unfortunately, but did get several great looks at a beautiful Red-tailed Hawk.

I greatly enjoyed my experiences this fall. Seeing excitement in students' faces as they held a preserved Rufous Hummingbird, tried to hold their stare longer than a Great Horned Owl, or simply just waved and said, “hi, Birdman” to me in the hallway. I look forward to gaining more such experiences next spring as I continue working with local schools and try to inspire future students about birding in the Rogue Valley.

The RVAS Board

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

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

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

See map at [www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/First\\_Wednesday\\_Count.html](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/First_Wednesday_Count.html)

December Walk: Wednesday, December 7

January Walk: Wednesday, January 4

February Walk: Wednesday, February 1

### **18th ANNUAL AMERICAN DIPPER COUNT on ASHLAND CREEK Saturday, January 7th**

Bob Quaccia will lead this walk, approximately 1.75 miles up Ashland creek. The object is to accurately count all American Dippers. We will walk up both sides of the creek and meet up at every bridge.

The American Dipper is an aquatic songbird that displays many interesting behaviors. It is specially adapted to life in and on the water. The Dippers do not stray away from the water, making them easy to count—that is, if your eyes are trained to see an all-grey bird bouncing or dipping on a grey rock in the stream.

We will meet at 9:00 am on the Ashland Plaza, downtown Ashland. For more info, email Bob: [bquaccia@hotmail.com](mailto:bquaccia@hotmail.com)

## **Wanted: Field Notes Writer**

Jeff Tufts will no longer be writing Field Notes for Jackson and Josephine Counties. If you are interested in compiling Field Notes for *The Chat* (for either Jackson or Josephine County, or both), please contact Linda Kreisman ([Linda@ashlandhome.net](mailto:Linda@ashlandhome.net)) or Juliet Grable ([julietgrable@yahoo.com](mailto:julietgrable@yahoo.com)).

Many thanks to Jeff for his informative and engaging columns!

## RVAS Holiday Party

**When: Saturday, December 3 at 6:00 pm**

**Where: Lidgate Hall, Congregational Church, Medford**

**Come and Enjoy** an evening of food, festivity and friends, as we raise money to fund “Birding in the Schools” classes to local school kids and help equip the “Fall in the Field” program with necessary supplies and tools.

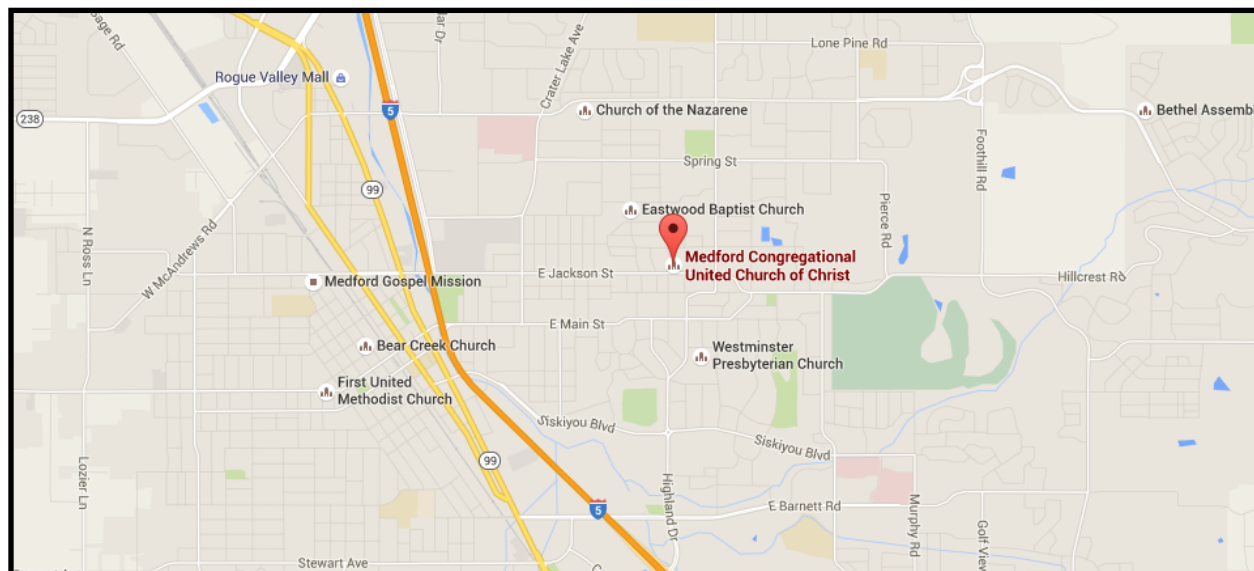
**Potluck Dinner:** Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. We will provide non-alcoholic drinks and decoration. If you bring wine, please remember to be discreet and take the bottle home with you.

**Entertainment:** Jim Livaudais will again show us a selection of his beautiful pictures. And **The Warblers** are planning to fly in again and, for small cash inducements, will entertain us with avian melodies.

**Live Auction:** **Pepper Trail** will be at his most entertaining with a variety of items and experiences for your bidding pleasure. The list of items up for auction begins on page 6.  
**There will be NO RAFFLE!**



**Link for direction to Lidgate Hall: <http://bit.ly/2eJkPgG>**



## Holiday Party Auction Items

- 1. Northwest Nature Shop \$50 Gift Certificate**
- 2. Birding and Beekeeping Tour** at Wendy and Doug's home.
- 3.** Pick out the **two peonies from Deason's Peonies** online catalog. Let Jon know and he will come plant them in the perfect spot at your home.
- 4. Botanizing and Brunch with Jeanine Moy**, Outreach Director KS Wild. Join Jeanine for a casual walk through wildflower meadows and learn about the rare, endemic, and of course beautiful flowers of the Siskiyou. She'll cater the outing to your liking, and prepare a picnic brunch to enjoy for up to three participants. Unlike birds, we won't have to wake early for these floral gems!
- 5. Klamath Bird Observatory regalia** – water bottle, Tee-shirt, tote bag, hat
- 6.** Enjoy an **hour-long massage** by donor Kate McKenzie
- 7.** An **aggregate bird bath** from Wild Birds Unlimited (retails for \$89.99)
- 8. Birds and Wine in the Applegate with a Designated Driver.** Itinerary: Red Lily Vineyard for birding on the grounds (riparian habitat) and wine tasting with snacks. Schmidt Family Winery for lunch and wine tasting, along with birding in their extensive gardens. Wooldridge Creek Winery for sampling wine and cheese from their on-site creamery, along with birding on the grounds. For three persons (besides driver). Minimum bid \$150 includes all wine tasting, lunch and cheese tasting. Designated driver is donor Kate Cleland-Sipfle. Car is a Subaru hybrid. Date to be arranged with Kate.
- 9. Original painted carving of a Saw-Whet Owl, hand-made by Mike Guest.**
- 10.** Come **enjoy a morning of birding with three of your friends on the Ousterhout Farm** near Eagle Point. Join Gretchen and Bob Hunter for a walk around their family farm to see the work they've been doing to convert the vineyard to wildlife- and bird-friendly habitat. Tour followed or preceded by coffee and a snack. Date to be scheduled with participants, 541-826-5569
- 11.** The Warblers are modeling **three beautiful shawls hand knitted with high-quality wool yarn** by Marge Maddux. A fourth shawl is on the auction table. First high bidder gets to pick the shawl of their choice. Second high bidder can choose one of the three remaining. Do your Christmas shopping now!
- 12. Beautiful necklace with Blue Beads** – an RVAS tradition.
- 13. Tide pool and Seabirds:** Spend a Saturday at the Oregon coast exploring tidepool and seabird life during Spring or Summer nesting season! We'll look for Tufted Puffins, Pigeon Guillemots, Black Oystercatchers and other charismatic coastal birds while exploring tide pools for sea stars, anemones, nudibranchs and other interesting invertebrates. Join RVAS Board member Nala Cardillo, former Coordinator of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in Cannon Beach, with up to four friends for a four-hour Seabird and Tide pool Tour on a Saturday of your choice (between April and August) in Bandon, Oregon. Box lunch and beverages provided. Starting bid: \$100.

*Holiday Party Auction Items continued on page 7*



*Holiday Party Auction Items, cont.*

- 14. A variety pack of six wines from the Platt Anderson Winery** in Ashland. This award-winning winery located within the Ashland city limits supports many local organizations.
- 15. Come Birding on the Wild Side.** Take a fun morning birding walk on Susan Stone's 170-acre forest property off of Sterling Creek Road outside of Jacksonville, and then take in a beautiful view of the Applegate Valley while having brunch served to you on a quiet knoll.
- 16.** Four copies of an **"Ecuador Galapagos 2017" calendar** with 12 of George Peterson's bird and animal pictures from his and Sally's trip to the Galapagos. George will personalize your four copies with up to 30 of your family dates (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.). Take advantage of this great offer to do some family Christmas shopping.
- 17. Antique Bird Book** that has been auctioned on eBay for \$499.
- 18. Gift Certificate from Siskiyou Field Institute.**
- 19. Upper Rogue drift boating and birding with Bob Hunter.** Date to be arranged with Bob (541-826-5569).
- 20. A "Raptorous" Day: Klamath Basin Raptors with Dick Ashford.** Date to be arranged with Dick (541-482-0396).
- 21. Find 100 species in a day with Pepper Trail.** Pepper didn't quite get 100 last year, but he wants to try again!

### Finding Home Program Needs Volunteers

Coyote Trails will be returning to Title I schools to provide the Finding Home Program for fifth graders. In the spring, the students will have a field trip at the Coyote Trails Nature Center, where we would once again love to have volunteers from RVAS help lead small groups of students. Last spring was a great success due in part to RVAS volunteers -- some of the kids said their favorite part was looking at the birds close-up: "The binoculars! I've never used binoculars before!"

Please contact  
**Katie@CoyoteTrails.org** if you are interested in fostering our students' lifelong connection to nature.



## The Conservation Column

### Oregon's Oldest State Forest is at Risk

By Juliet Grable

Located in the Southern Oregon Coast Range, the Elliott State Forest includes over 41,000 acres of mature native coastal forest and some of the most productive and pristine streams for Coho and Chinook Salmon in the Coast Range. This forest also provides critical habitat for federally threatened Marbled Murrelets and Northern Spotted Owls.

The Elliott State Forest was created in 1930 to provide long-term funding for Oregon's public schools and is managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. The Elliott is mandated to produce revenues for the Common School Fund, and for several decades it did so. But the rate of timber harvest was unsustainable, and today, the forest is operating at a deficit.

Several years ago, Portland Audubon and other conservation groups successfully sued the State of Oregon to stop wide-scale illegal logging on the Elliott State Forest. Despite this, State officials adopted a Forest Management Plan at the end of 2011 that increased clearcutting and nearly doubled the annual harvest rate within the forest. In 2012, Audubon Society of Portland, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Cascadia Wildlands, represented by Crag Law Center, sued the state of Oregon for logging occupied Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat in violation of the Endangered Species Act. In 2014, after the federal court indicated a strong likelihood that it would rule in the conservation groups' favor, the State settled the case and cancelled 28 timber sales, agreeing to new logging protocols and reducing its projected annual timber harvest from over 40 million board feet per year to approximately 15 million. The scale of change reflects the degree to which the State was illegally harvesting this incredible forest.

The settlement should have resulted in a more sustainable approach to managing the Elliott Forest. Instead, the State Land Board sold off more than 1,000 acres of these public lands later in 2014, triggering another lawsuit from Portland Audubon, Cascadia Wildlands, and the CBD that is still making its way through the courts.

The Elliott is caught in a conflict between its out-of-date tie to the Oregon Common School Fund through logging revenue and its legal obligations to protect the Marbled Murrelet and other federally-listed species, while also honoring the public's desire to preserve remaining old growth forests, wild salmon, and wildlife. In 2016, the State decided to sell 82,500 acres of the Elliott State Forest, claiming that it cannot both protect threatened and endangered species and fulfill its obligation to supply the Common School Fund. A statement posted on the Department of State Lands website claims: "In recent years, timber harvests have been greatly reduced due primarily to the protection of threatened and endangered species resulting in net deficits from managing the Elliott. In 2013, loss from the Elliott was \$3 million and deficits are projected to continue. Draining money from the Common School Fund to maintain an asset violates the Trust responsibilities of the State Land Board."

Since the State announced its intention to sell, many conservation groups have expressed interest in submitting a bid, but raising the nearly \$221 million dollars in such a short span of time proved too formidable a task. When the deadline for submitting bids passed on November 15, the sole bidder was Lone Rock Timber Management Partners, a consortium of Roseburg Forest Products and several Tribes.

*Conservation Column continued on page 9*



*Conservation Column continued from page 8*

The State has confirmed that the 75-page proposal to manage the forest, submitted last week by Lone Rock Timber Management Partners and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, meets the minimum requirements for keeping public access to the land, generating jobs, protecting older forest stands and managing the areas surrounding creeks and rivers. However, many conservation groups have pointed out potential loopholes in the state's requirements that would allow the company to harvest old-growth forest.

Although the Department of State Lands could approve the sale without further review and approval from the State Land Board, it has decided to hold a hearing in Salem on December 13, in part to take public input. The State Land Board consists of Governor Kate Brown, Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins, and Treasurer Ted Wheeler. Both Atkins and Wheeler leave the Board at the end of 2016.

Privatizing the Elliott State Forest would be a tremendous loss for all Oregonians, and would no doubt result in further fragmentation, degradation, and loss of habitat for the Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, Coho Salmon and other species. We believe that the only way to protect this acreage is to keep it under public ownership. It is critical to contact state leaders ahead of the December meeting and urge them to find a solution for the Elliott that keeps it permanently in public ownership and protects its natural resources. Please ask the State Land Board to go back to the drawing board and transfer the Elliott into a Trust Land through legislative action. Please stress in your messages that you will not accept the privatization of our public lands.

This story was compiled from articles published by *The Oregonian* and information furnished by the Portland Audubon Society. Here are links to more information on the Elliott State Forest:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2016/11/bid\\_for\\_elliott\\_state\\_forest\\_p.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2016/11/bid_for_elliott_state_forest_p.html)

[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2016/11/proposed\\_elliott\\_state\\_forest.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2016/11/proposed_elliott_state_forest.html)

### **1. Call the State Land Board**

Governor Kate Brown - (503) 378-4582

Treasurer Ted Wheeler - (503) 378-4329

Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins - (503) 986-1523

### **2. Write to the State Land Board**

Governor Kate Brown, [info@katebrownfororegon.com](mailto:info@katebrownfororegon.com)

Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins, [oregon.sos@state.or.us](mailto:oregon.sos@state.or.us)

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler, [oregon.treasurer@ost.state.or.us](mailto:oregon.treasurer@ost.state.or.us)

DSL Director Jim Paul, [jim.paul@state.or.us](mailto:jim.paul@state.or.us)

### **3. Attend Upcoming State Land Board Meeting on December 13**

**When:** December 13, 2016 at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Department of State Lands – 775 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

## A New Landmark Conservation Report on Great Gray Owls

By Harry Fuller

The most crucial and thorough study of Great Gray Owls ever done anywhere in North America is now completed and has been presented to the California government and the public. It calls for serious action to help this species survive.

The Great Gray Owl has been on the California State Endangered Species List for some time. Current estimates say there may be fewer than 300 of these marvelous birds in the entire state. Great Gray Owls may once have lived in the Sacramento River Valley, but they are now limited to relict populations in scattered bits of suitable habitat in the central Sierra, from 1800 to 7000 feet elevation. One recent study of Yosemite, where the birds were first confirmed nesting in 1914, found less than 10 percent of that giant park is suitable GGO habitat. The research also shows that the central California population has been genetically cut off from more northerly populations for over 25,000 years and should be given sub-species status, which in turn could allow federal designation as an endangered species.

Human alteration of the habitat has not been positive for the Great Gray Owl. Now climate change adds stress and more uncertainty about their ability to survive. Introduced West Nile Virus is a potential game-ender, though so far there is no evidence it has struck California's population. An Oregon owl in the northeastern part of the state died of West Nile last year.

Union County and Jackson County in Oregon may each have as many GGOs as the entire state of California. Yet it is unlikely there are as many of the birds in Oregon as there are people in McMinnville where I live (33,000). We should be aware of what is recommended in California and what gets done and what effects that may have.

*[Editor's Note: This article has been edited. To read his original post, visit Harry's blog at <https://atowhee.wordpress.com/2016/11/04/saving-californias-great-gray-owls/>*

To access the new report, visit <http://www.birdpop.org/pages/greatGrayOwlResearch.php>



Peter Kreisman captured these Snow Geese as they circled above Emigrant Lake.



## Join the Medford Christmas Bird Count

This year the Rogue Valley Audubon Society's Medford Christmas bird count will take place on **Saturday, December 17.**

This important event gives everybody an opportunity to be part of the biggest citizen science effort in the New World. From December 14 through January 5, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action.

The area for the Medford Christmas Bird Count is a circle 15 miles in diameter, centered a mile or so west of the junction of Hwy 140 and Hwy 62 in White City. The circle has been carved up into 15 sections. Each section is entrusted to an experienced leader who makes the decisions on timing and routes. Some leaders welcome newcomers to their teams, while others may prefer to team up with experienced, hardy birders who can cope with difficult terrain and a fast pace. Hard-core birders go from dawn to dark in all weather, which is sometimes wet, foggy, and cold.

Those who live in the count circle and have bird feeders can do a feeder watch and add their sightings to the count. Obtain CBC feeder watch instructions and a tally sheet from Bob Hunter (contact information below). Birds not seen in the count circle on the count day can still be included in the count if seen during the count week, which is from December 14<sup>h</sup> through December 20th.

The teams will meet from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm to report how the day went and to tally the birds. The meeting will take place at Bobbio's Pizza and Pasta at the Center Point Building at **312 Oak Street in Central Point** (between 3rd and 4th street, just off of Pine St.). Everyone is welcome to attend the tally, even if you do not participate.

If you are interested in participating contact Bob Hunter:  
[bobhunter@embargmail.com](mailto:bobhunter@embargmail.com) or 541-826-5569.

## Illinois Valley CBC

Can't make the Ashland or Medford CBC? Consider helping out a neighboring county. The Illinois Valley CBC will be held on Tuesday, December 20th, weather permitting. If you would like to participate, meet at **Coffee Heaven** in **Cave Junction** at **7:00 am** (jct. Hwy 199 & Hwy 42, aka Caves Hwy, next to Chevron station).

Please contact Romain Cooper at [541 592-2311](tel:5415922311) or email [romain@frontiernet.net](mailto:romain@frontiernet.net) for more information.

## Join the Ashland Christmas Bird Count

The Ashland Christmas Bird Count will be conducted on **Thursday, December 29, 2016**.

The count circle is centered at the northwest corner of Emigrant Lake, so the count area includes both the northeastern slopes of Mount Ashland and the western slopes of the Cascades (as far east as Little Hyatt Lake). Also included in the official area are the steep Siskiyou Mountain woodlands, extensive farmland-grassland-oak savannah habitats in the eastern section, and the entirety of the city of Ashland, with its parks and gardens and riparian habitats.

The Ashland count was first held in the years before World War II, then discontinued for many years. In 2010, under the direction of John Bullock and Harry Fuller, the count resumed, with a large contingent of local birders taking part. This year's count is led by Carol Mockridge and John Bullock. If you would like to participate, please contact Carol by December 9 at **mockridge50@hotmail.com**. Teams usually meet at daybreak and bird until dusk. Birders who wish to count birds that visit their backyard feeders are also encouraged to join the Ashland CBC lineup by sending an email to Carol. Newcomers are always welcome to participate in this traditional citizen science effort.

All participants in the Ashland CBC are invited to join the post-count dinner to review the day's sightings. The dinner will be held at El Tapatio at 1633 Highway 99 North in Ashland (just south of Butler Ford and Butler Acura) beginning at approximately 4:30 pm. Information about El Tapatio (including menu) can be found on their website: <http://www.eltapatioashland.com/>

After Peter Kreisman photographed this Sharp-shinned Hawk, he asked raptor expert Dick Ashford to verify the bird's i.d. Dick did so, and offered these tips for i.d.-ing Sharp-shinned Hawks:

- Skinny legs
- "Bumpy" transition of forehead to beak
- Eye placement
- Head shape
- Tail length
- Minimal white on tip of tail





## Bird-Centric Events from Around the Region

### PRESENTATIONS AT WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

#### Re-Wilding the Crossroads of the Klamath-Siskiyou

Home to one of the largest networks of wild rivers in the lower 48, extreme numbers of species found nowhere else in the world, and residual pockets of ancient towering forests, the Klamath-Siskiyou region is a world renowned network of wild country. Jeanine will share photos of wilderness areas from local photographers, discuss the importance of restoring critical places on our landscape, and highlight some of the wildlife species that are supported through rewilding efforts. Learn about some of our biggest opportunities we have to work locally and participate in a community of stewardship.

**DATE/TIME:** Wednesday, December 14, 6:00—7:00 pm

**PLACE:** 961 Medford Center, Medford

**PRESENTER** Jeanine Moy is a naturalist with a sense of adventure and a passion for sharing the love of nature with others. Currently she serves as Outreach Director for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild).

#### Hawks at Your Feeders...and More

Learn about the hawks that are most likely visiting your bird feeders. Join hawk expert Dick Ashford for a presentation on the hawks you are most likely to see, and learn the finer points of their field identification. Have any hawk question? Dick is the guy to ask!

**DATE/TIME:** Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 6:00—7:00 pm

**PLACE:** 961 Medford Center, Medford

**PRESENTER** Dick Ashford is a raptor enthusiast and enjoys leading hawk watching trips to the Klamath Basin. He has served as Board Chair of the American Birding Association and as Board President of the Klamath Bird Observatory.

### KBO TALK AND WALK PROGRAM

#### Talk and Tapas Holiday Fundraiser

As a December holiday alternative to the talk and walk program, KBO is hosting a special program in a local home. Sip a glass of wine or bubbly water, dine on light fare, receive a copy of Harry Fuller's book on the Great Gray Owl and listen to a special presentation. A SEASONAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE KLAMATH BASIN and BASIC NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY will feature four short DVDs that highlight the birds and landscape of the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuges through the four seasons of the year. A fifth DVD will capture the powerful beauty of the Great Gray Owl. Guidelines for photographing birds and other wildlife will be presented along with the ethics of bird photography. Mel Clements will discuss how to get the best photos and disturb the birds the least.

To reserve your spot, contact Shannon Rio at [shannonrio@aol.com](mailto:shannonrio@aol.com).

**DATE/TIME:** Thursday, December 8, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**PLACE:** TBD

**COST:** \$100

**INSTRUCTORS:** Mel Clements is an amateur photographer best known for his sightings and photos of the Great Gray Owl. He is also a Vietnam veteran. The DVDs in the presentation were inspired by his desire to create an audio/visual journey into the natural world that would soothe veterans.

## Rogue Valley Audubon Society Membership

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

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

*The Chat* newsletter

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

Birding forum for posting sightings and active locations

Monthly field trips and bird walks

Educational programs for students and adults

Monitoring of regional conservation issues

Work with local wildlife managers to improve access and bird habitats

Bird counts for national species censuses

Support for local research projects

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

### RVAS Membership Form

Please fill in your information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Donation

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

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

**Rogue Valley Audubon Society**  
**PO Box 8597**  
**Medford OR 97501**



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**Happy Holidays!**

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## THE CHAT

Newsletter of the  
**ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
Post Office Box 8597  
Medford, OR 97501

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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

