

The Chat

Number 423
April 2016


A voice for education and conservation in the natural world
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
www.roguevalleyaudubon.org
Deadline for the May issue is April 20.



**APRIL PROGRAM MEETING
TUESDAY, April 26 at 7:00 PM**

**"Argentina, from Top to Bottom and North to South:
A Naturalist's View"
Presented by DR. STEWART JANES**

Join Stewart Janes on a journey through Argentina. Stewart spent two months of his sabbatical exploring this diverse landscape and is eager to share his experiences in this fascinating country. Argentina is the most diverse country in South America, with habitats ranging from tropical rainforests to deserts, the *altiplano* high in the Andes to the extensive Ibera wetlands. And this is all before heading south to the shrubsteppe, southern beech forests, and alpine heart of Patagonia. As you might expect, the birds are equally diverse, with species like Strange-tailed Tyrants, Giant Coots, and Puna Rhea.



Biology professor Stewart Janes is a native Oregonian who has worked at Southern Oregon University for the last 22 years, teaching various biology courses and training both classroom and informal science teachers. As an ornithologist, he studies both raptor ecology and the complex song culture of our local warblers. As a naturalist, he enjoys putting on a pair of boots and exploring just about anything in the outdoors. He contributes a monthly column to the Medford *Mail Tribune* regarding the natural history of birds.



****Chapter meetings are held at 1801 E. Jackson Street in Medford****
Lidgate Hall, Medford Congregational Church

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President: Linda Kreisman, 541-482-6456

linda@ashlandhome.net

Vice-President: Jon Deason,

jdeason39@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sue Polich, 541-608-3802

spolich@charter.net

Secretary: Mike Guest, 541-857-6334

mwquest@juno.com

Wendy Gere

wendy.gere@gmail.com

Carol Mockridge

mockridge50@hotmail.com

Carol Palmer

carol_p@charter.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archivist: Alyson Dal Ponte, alyson287@gmail.com

Annual Picnic: Gaylene & Judd Hurley, 541-621-3196

Birdathon: Katy Reed, 541-245-5095

Book Sales: Sooney Viani, 541-482-5146

Chat Editor: Juliet Grable, chateditor@gmail.com

CBC-Ashland: Carol Mockridge,
mockridge50@hotmail.com & John Bullock,
jas@opendoor.com

CBC-Medford: Bob Hunter, 541-826-5569

Conservation: Pepper Trail, ptrail@ashlandnet.net &
Carol Palmer, carol_p@charter.net

Education: Lynn Kellogg, rvas.ed@gmail.com & Sooney
Viani, sooneyviani@gmail.com

Field Notes: Jeff Tufts, tallahto@aol.com

Field Trips: Russ Namitz, 541-294-2063,
namitzr@hotmail.com

Holiday Party : vacant

Hospitality: Katy Reed, 541-245-5095

Master Gardener Fair: vacant

Membership: Gary Palmer, 541-245-9815,
gopalmer@charter.net

Programs: Katy Reed, 541-245-5095

Publicity: Carol Mockridge, mockridge50@hotmail.com

CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

E-mail Address:

roquevalleyaudubon@gmail.com

The Chat: chateditor@gmail.com

Webmaster: Jeff Tufts, tallahto@aol.com

Web Site: www.roquevalleyaudubon.org

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.

President's Column

We need new Board members! This year, three of our seven Board members are leaving the Board as their terms expire. Our by-laws require at least seven Board members, and we would prefer to have an eight or nine-member Board. So, there's a big need for at least three more members. **We need you to volunteer.**

Everything at RVAS seems to be going really well at the moment. We have a record number of local members. We have enough money in the bank, so fundraising is not a necessity. Focusing on our twin missions of education and conservation, we have developed several projects and partnerships with other local organizations that have been very successful this year. We have been using these partnerships to leverage the effectiveness of our limited funds in a fiscally responsible manner.

Many of our members make great and valued contributions of time and energy (and monetary donations) to RVAS. I'm always very impressed by the willingness of so many bird-watchers to do so many different things to enhance the enjoyment for all of us—except spend a few evenings a year in Board meetings! Why is that?

The Board meets nine times a year, on first Thursdays from September through May, at Coyote Trails Nature Center in Medford. Carpooling is usually available from Ashland. Meetings last for two hours. A full-day workshop in June allows us to plan for the next year. Our by-laws state that a Board member shall not miss three meetings in a row, which gives members a lot of flexibility for travel and other commitments.

New Board members would bring new ideas, talents and excitement to all of RVAS (such as our new Facebook page). Please consider helping us by calling or emailing any current Board member (our contact info is here in *The Chat*) and volunteering or suggesting the name of someone you know who would be good for the RVAS Board. We would love to hear your ideas.

Linda

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 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

April Walk: Wednesday, April 6

May Walk: Wednesday, May 4

June Walk: Wednesday, June 1

Contact Murray at 541-857-9050 or mworr2@charter.net

BIRDATHON 2016—Saturday, May 7

NOTE: THE DATE FOR THIS EVENT HAS CHANGED!!

Birdathon 2016 officially begins on Friday, May 6 at 6:00 pm and ends 24 hours later. 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. For more info, contact Katy Reed at kmreed24@hotmail.com or **541-245-5095** or Linda Kreisman at **541-482-6456**.



Peter Kreisman photographed this male Wild Turkey on March 12. It was part of a good-sized flock near Emigrant Lake.



Field Notes from Jackson County (Feb 20 - Mar 19, 2016) Compiled by Jeff Tufts

Reports from this calendar period are usually highlighted by arrivals, but this year the most interesting sightings from late February and early March were birds that decided that certain Jackson County locations are great places to spend the winter.

The fields along Table Rock Road just south of the Lower Table Rock turnoff are traditionally a good spot to find **Tundra Swans**, and this year's birds stuck around much longer than expected. More than 25 of them were first reported in late January, and at least half that many were still in the fields throughout February and as late as Mar 13.

About two miles south of the swans winter home—but still in the Central Point zip code—were two **Ferruginous Hawks** (one adult and one immature) and one **Rough-legged Hawk**. Both species are considered regular visitors to the Rogue Valley in winter (although in very small numbers), but they are rarely as easy to find as this year's birds were.

The Ferruginous Hawks were most often seen either at the Kirtland ponds or a short distance south in the area of the Whetstone Savannah Preserve. The Rough-legged Hawk seemed to spend its time near the Avenue G ponds just inside the southern border of the Military Tract of the Denman Wildlife Area. These birds were first spotted in early to mid-January and were still present at the end of this reporting period.

Very few **Horned Grebes** have been seen locally this winter, but one bird first reported from the Boise-Cascade pond in mid-February was still being seen there a month later.

Although its secretive habits often made it difficult to spot, the North Mountain Park **Swamp Sparrow** probably deserves the title of Jackson County's Most Loyal Winter Visitor. It was first reported from the Ashland

location Nov 2 and was still being seen as late as Mar 12. This is the third winter in a row at NMP for this bird.

Gulls and terns generally don't qualify as arriving migrants, but March definitely brought an increased number of them to Jackson County. **Ring-billed Gulls** are the most common species in this area, and early on Mar 5, 24 were counted at the Kirtland ponds (BW). Later in the day the total was up to 42 (FL), and even later, 48 were there (BH).

Single **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Agate Lake Mar 10 (GS) and the Kirtland ponds Mar 12 (GS). One **California Gull** was seen at Agate Mar 2 (RVAS) and one was at the Kirtland ponds Mar 11 (RN) and Mar 13 (BW). Kirtland also had a single **Herring Gull** Mar 10 (GS).

Only tern sighting this period was a **Caspian Tern** spotted Mar 19 (BW) at the Kirtland ponds.

Among some species, "spring migration" actually starts in late winter, and that's especially true with the majority of the **Turkey Vultures** that come through Jackson County. Occasional sightings of one or two birds are reported throughout the winter, and the first large kettles were reported Feb 23 when 30 were seen over Ashland Pond (HF) and Mar 7 when more than 80 were spotted over Ashland (TC,MC).

Osprey dependably return to the area in March, and single birds on Mar 12 were at Kirtland (GS) and the Gold Ray Recreation Area (BW), on Mar 14 at Ousterhout Farm (BH) and TouVelle State Park (FL), and on Mar 16 at Emigrant Lake (RA).

The earliest **Violet-green Swallow** sightings of the year were in last month's report, and their numbers have increased significantly during the period covered in this report. And, we've had the season's first **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (Ave G Mar 19 FL), **Cliff Swallow** (Ousterhout Farm Mar 7 BH), and **Barn Swallow** (Kirtland Mar 14 FL). We await the first reports of Bank Swallow and Purple Martin.

Field Notes continued on page 5

Field Notes continued from page 4

Birds of Oregon: A General Reference characterizes **American White Pelicans** as “rare across the state in winter,” so it’s notable that 20 were seen at Emigrant Lake back in December and perhaps more surprising that five showed up at Agate Lake Mar 16 (BW). Eight were there three days later (CB).

First **Rufous Hummingbird** of the season was reported Feb 25 (CP) from Toad Hall along the Rogue River near Shady Cove.

Orange-crowned Warblers are occasionally seen in Jackson County during the winter months, but there have been very few such reports this year. One that was at Minus Pond Mar 14 (JK) might have been an early migrant, and the same could be said for birds seen along the Greenway (DV,CB) on Mar 19.

The first **Great-tailed Grackle** report from Avenue G last year was on Mar 11. This year’s first was a male seen Mar 15 (GS,HS,NV). Breeding was expected there last year but not confirmed.

And speaking of breeding, there have been three separate sightings of **White-tailed Kite** pairs that are likely nesting in Jackson County this year. One pair was seen (and also photographed) mating near Wilson Road in north Ashland Mar 5 (KS,LF). Another likely mated pair was at Emigrant Lake Mar 11 (FL). And, the nest location in downtown Phoenix appears to be active for the second straight year.

With the exception of a single **Western Sandpiper** spotted at the Kirtland ponds Mar 10 (RN), shorebird sightings in the period were only of the expected species: **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, and **Long-billed Dowitcher**. Lost Creek Lake, Agate Lake and Emigrant Lake have little or no shorebird habitat, as their

water levels rise in the spring, so the Kirtland ponds area is the most significant location for finding these birds in Jackson County. Even at Kirtland, available mudflats are minimal if the front pond is totally flooded.

One of the more unusual sightings reported to eBird during the period was a **Chukar** seen on private property in north Phoenix. Although the reporting party noted that a photograph was taken, confirming details were not available as this is written. This introduced game bird is a common resident in eastern Oregon, but is not established west of the Cascades. It is the most-harvested upland bird in Oregon and Nevada.

Two **Clark’s Nutcrackers** were unexpected when seen flying over Ridge Road above Lithia Park Mar 1 (FE), and a singing **Northern Shrike** (yes, they are songbirds) at Ousterhout Farm Mar 6 (BH,GH) was notable.

April will bring many migrants into the area, so be prepared. Here are some first Jackson County sighting dates from last year that may be of interest: Vaux’s Swift Mar 23, Vesper Sparrow Mar 31, Western Kingbird Apr 3, Pacific-slope Flycatcher Apr 4, Cassin’s Vireo Apr 10, Bullock’s Oriole Apr 10, Nashville Warbler Apr 11, Calliope Hummingbird Apr 12, Black-headed Grosbeak April 12, and Wilson’s Warbler April 17.

Thanks to all whose sightings contributed to this report: Rene Allen, Norm Barrett, Camden Bruner, Mark Chichester, Taylor Chichester, Forrest English, Lee French, Harry Fuller, Bob Hunter, Gretchen Hunter, Janet Kelly, Frank Lospalluto, Russ Namitz, Christy Pitto, Howard Sands, Karl Schneck, Gary Shaffer, Dennis Vroman, and Ben Wieland. Sightings from a Rogue Valley Audubon event are designated (RVAS).

Spring Hikes at the Table Rocks

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are sponsoring free guided hikes at the Table Rocks. Several of these feature the birds and insects at the Rocks. Hope you can join us!

Hikes are free but reservations are required, as space is limited. Register online (link follows each hike) or call the Medford District BLM at 541.618.220, M-F 7:30 am - 4:00 pm. Hikes are 3-5 miles roundtrip along a moderate grade trail and generally last 3-5 hours.

Dress for the weather and bring drinking water (none is available at the site) and lunch or a snack. Restrooms are available at the trailhead. No dogs, mountain bikes or OHVs are allowed on the trail.

For the Early Birds

Saturday, April 23, 8:00 am - Lower Table Rock

Join local bird experts **Bob Quaccia**, with RVAS, and **Frank Lospalluto**, with Klamath Bird Observatory, to view the spring birds of Table Rocks. Learn I.D. tips and conservation information. Bring binoculars and I.D. books if you desire. **Limited to 15 individuals.**

<http://fortheearlybirds.eventbrite.com>

Nature on the Rocks: Celebrating 30 Years of Environmental Education

Saturday, April 30, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Lower Table Rock

Join us for a fun filled day of activities, hikes, and interactive displays suitable for the entire family. Help us celebrate 30 years of successful community engagement and education on the Table Rocks. Public event, open to all. Please consider carpooling, as parking is limited. A shuttle will be offered from Sam's Valley Elementary parking area to the Lower Table Rock trailhead throughout the day.

<http://natureontherocks.eventbrite.com>

Beautiful Butterflies & Incredible Insects

Saturday, May 14, 10:00 am - Lower Table Rock

Dr. Peter Schroeder, entomologist and affiliate professor of biology at Southern Oregon University, will lead a hike to observe and discuss the beautiful butterflies and other incredible insects that live on or flutter by the Table Rocks. On this hike, Peter will help you gain a deeper appreciation for how butterflies and other insects live and their essential role in the environment.

<http://beautifulbutterflies.eventbrite.com>

Whooo Comes Out at Night?

Saturday, May 14, 7:30 pm - Lower Table Rock Loop Trail

Join **Tony Kerwin** and **Steve Godwin**, wildlife biologists with the BLM, to look for creatures and listen to sounds of the night from dusk 'til dark on a jaunt around the Lower Table Rock Loop Trail (1/2-mile accessible trail). Steve will attempt to lure pygmy, great horned, and screech owls—no guarantees! A short presentation of the common bats, owls and other animals active at night in this area and their unique characteristics and adaptations will precede the hike. Bring your flashlights and good hiking shoes.

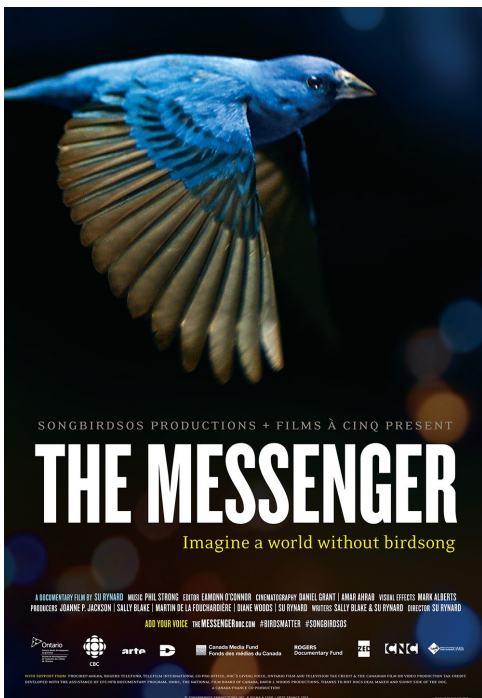
<http://whocomesoutatnight.eventbrite.com>

Mountain Bird Festival Returns!

WHEN: May 20, 21 and 22

WHERE: Ashland, OR

The third annual Mountain Bird Festival is coming up soon! Hosted by the Klamath Bird Observatory, this award-winning community event raises funds for bird conservation while celebrating the role citizens play in conservation, as well as the birds and wildlife of southern Oregon and northern California. The Festival weekend is packed with activities, including Saturday workshops and field trips on Friday evening and throughout Saturday and Sunday. OSU professor Doug Robinson will give the keynote address on Saturday evening. Local wine, microbrew and food vendors contribute to the feel-good community atmosphere.



RVAS is sponsoring an exclusive showing of the documentary film *The Messenger*, to be screened at 7:00 on Friday, May 20. Su Rynard's wide-ranging and contemplative documentary explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own. Moving from the northern reaches of the Boreal Forest to the base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, *The Messenger* brings us face-to-face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks and many other airborne music-makers. This film will be brought to the festival free for registrants through the generosity of RVAS. There is limited seating, so register today!

Registration costs \$120, which includes two basic field trips and admittance to the film, Saturday keynote and other activities. ("Premium" field trips cost extra. Register for the Festival at: www.klamathbird.org/community/mountainbird

The Conservation Column

By Carol Palmer

Birder Input Needed For Conservation Strategy Updates

Steve Niemela, ODFW Wildlife Biologist at Denman Wildlife Area, has been named Conservation Strategy Implementation Biologist. There are three of these Conservation Biologists in Oregon now. One covers Northern Oregon, north of the Umpqua watershed area to the Washington border; another has Eastern Oregon as his territory. Steve covers the Umpqua watershed area and the Rogue River watershed to the California border. Steve describes the biologists' goals as a collaborative voluntary plan to do things for species at risk to preserve biodiversity. They will focus on improving habitat to encourage the success of so-called "strategic species," which are those deemed likely to benefit from intervention.

The three new positions are funded by both state and federal grants and monies. ODFW is primarily funded by hunting and fishing license sales. The agency also manages non-game species, sometimes called "watchable wildlife." ODFW is looking for other sources besides hunters and fishermen—hence the parking fees, conservation stamps, etc.

Steve is very excited about his new job and looks forward to forming networks of volunteers to do citizen science for conservation. He plans on doing presentations on conservation projects that will be taking place soon and that are planned for the future. He would like for local birders to let him know what bird species they think should be included to update the 2005 list of Strategy Species. He would like to meet with birders at Denman Wildlife Area Office and, using technology to map out observation areas, learn where and when bird species are seen and how many were observed. The observations would need to be taken pre- and post-habitat improvement, in order to see if interventions are working.

Steve would also like to learn about habitats that you have observed that might need to be improved by an ODFW project. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Steve: steveniemela@state.or.us or (541)826-8774

FERC Rejects Jordan Cove

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has denied the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Coos Bay and the pipeline necessary to support it. The agency based its decision on adverse effects on landowners, saying the public benefits didn't outweigh them and would be inconsistent with public interest. The pipeline and terminal would have been used to transport LNG from Canada for export to Asia. The proposed Pacific Connector pipeline consists of a 232-mile route that cuts through Southwestern Oregon.

This project was one of the most controversial fuel export plans in the U.S. Many citizens and groups have spent years working together to fight against it. This is a huge win for conservation!

Conservation Column continued on page 9

Conservation Column continued from page 8

Oregon Passes Clean Electricity and Transition Bill

The State of Oregon recently passed Senate Bill 1547-B. Also known as the Clean Electricity and Transition Bill, this landmark legislation requires the State's two largest utilities, PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric (PGE), to stop using coal in their energy mix by 2030. It also requires those utilities to provide at least 50 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2040. The Oregon League of Conservation Voters says this is an historic win, and the *New York Times* called it "pioneering legislation" that "makes Oregon the first state to eliminate coal by legislative action and places it among a handful of other states with renewable energy standards 50 percent or higher." I am proud to live in such a state.

Mega Mall at the Grand Canyon Defeated

The U.S. Forest Service rejected an application from a private developer to prepare infrastructure and widen roads in the Kaibab National Forest. The plan was to prepare the area for a giant mall to be built near the southern entrance. We can thank the U.S. Forest Service for rejecting this application.

Sources:

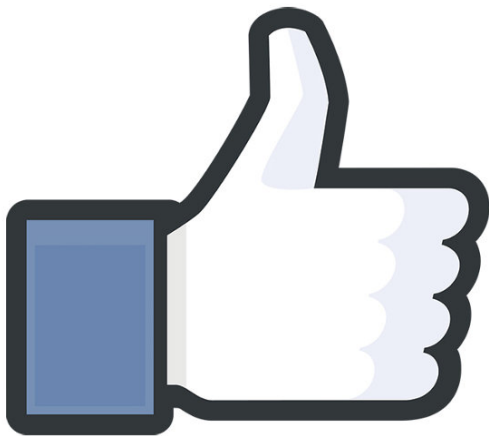
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Rogue Riverkeeper

National Parks Conservation Association

An interview with Steve Niemela by Carol and Gary Palmer

RVAS is on Facebook!



Rogue Valley Audubon Society is now on Facebook. Go to our new page and "like" us. And look for important announcements, news and links to other Facebook pages of special interest. Thanks to new Board member Wendy Gere for setting this page up.

www.facebook.com/RogueValleyAudubonSociety/

Pygmy Owl: Ambassador to North Mountain Park

By Vince Zauskey

Many Rogue Valley Audubon members, non-members and visitors to Ashland's North Mountain Park have heard of and hopefully seen the Northern Pygmy Owl that has inhabited the park for a month. I have to admit, since I do a lot of volunteer work at the park, I keep in touch with park staff and especially Linda Chesney, Stewardship Coordinator. She told me about the Pygmy Owl sighting and write-up by out-of-town visitor Nick Martens that appeared on his blog February 20, 2016 (hipsterbirders.blogspot.com). Since Mr. Martens' report and pictures, the Pygmy Owl has been observed and photographed by many people. A very reliably-seen bird and quite approachable (I have come within 20 feet several times), it has most likely been around the park every day, but it seems milder weather—lack of rain, wind—makes the bird more visible and easier to find. I think the bird is roosting in a tree cavity or possibly an empty nest box in the park. Most importantly, it is finding a reliable food source and that is why it is sticking around.

I believe this bird is the same bird I saw on New Year's 2012, when I visited the park to begin a new birding year. I was walking around looking at birds on a mild winter day and suddenly heard a number of Scrub Jays at a different area of the park. I quickly walked over to them. There were at least four or five jays, maybe a Song Sparrow or two and even an Anna's Hummingbird all calling, chirping or flying around. I immediately thought "owl" but looked carefully and could never find it. Since I had my camera with me I was pretty disappointed. I finally walked away after a couple of minutes but decided to take one last look. And there it was. Why hadn't I seen the Pygmy Owl earlier? Because I was looking up where the alarmed birds were calling instead of down where the owl was perched—no more than eight feet off the ground on a small, spindly tree branch. And how lucky, because when approaching the area where all the ruckus started, I had probably stood within 10 feet of the bird. It never flew away. I took a few pictures that day but nothing like the pictures taken recently.

What I have enjoyed most is observing the Pygmy Owl for a lengthy period of time and noting its prey since it has been at the park in 2016. I'm also amazed at its speed when flying.



Marie Annette McCabe photographed the Pygmy Owl after it had caught a vole. Note the blood on its beak.

Ambassador Owl continued on page 11

Ambassador Owl continued from page 10

It has been photographed numerous times by local, professional photographer Dan Elster, and he had a great experience with the bird dropping from a perch in front of him no more than 15 feet away while he was searching for it the last weekend in February. The owl dropped on a rodent, and Dan was able to watch the tiny owl wrestle around with it several times while Dan clicked photos of the entire event. It then flew to a nearby Ponderosa Pine (but not far from the ground), holding its prize, which looked like a Pocket Gopher and probably weighed as much as the owl (go to www.elsterphotography.com for a terrific picture). Because of the size of the Pocket Gopher, I'm guessing this Pygmy Owl is a female, as it can carry bigger prey.

I visited the park on a chilly morning a couple of days later, Feb. 29, and there was Dan Elster again. We both were looking for the owl and suddenly saw it fly to a tree carrying a lizard with a very long tail. There is only one lizard in southern Oregon with a tail as long or longer than the body, and that is the Alligator Lizard (around 14 - 15" total length). Pretty amazing sight. The owl clutched its prey for a



while on a tree limb and then started eating it from the head down to maybe the first set of legs. After that, the bird flew and wedged the remains in the crotch of a tree. I'm assuming it was caching its prey to return later and I'd bet that is what it was doing with kills such as the gopher, as it most likely wouldn't consume the entire gopher at once. When I worked for BLM in the early 90's I saw something similar with a Spotted Owl and the partially-eaten remains of a Western Woodrat hanging from a tree with a Spotted Owl perched nearby.

The Pygmy Owl has "eyes" on the back of its head. Photo by Marie Annette McCabe.

It will be interesting to see how long this owl—the smallest owl in our area along with the migratory Flammulated Owl at close to 7"—stays at the park. If it keeps finding a reliable food source will it stay through the spring? Even summer? Will it nest in the park? It has to find a mate first, and no one has heard a Pygmy Owl call at N. Mountain Park. If this bird were a male, I'd think it would be trying to attract a mate, as they usually nest around April to early May in our area.

My next observation at NMP will be an active Red-shouldered Hawk. It probably is a male; it has recently been calling often and has been observed flying around. I saw it calling from a small nest on Saturday, March 19 in the park (the last time I saw the Pygmy Owl as of this writing). So far, there has only been one Red-shouldered Hawk seen in the park. It would really be something to have both a Pygmy Owl and Red-shouldered Hawk nest in North Mountain Park this year!

Ashland Parks and Recreation Classes, Workshops and Events

Rogue Valley Bird Day – Saturday, May 14, 8 am - noon

Rogue Valley Bird Day is the local celebration of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), which celebrates one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird—its journey between wintering and breeding grounds. This year's theme will focus on how birds have inspired many of the most significant environmental conservation actions in the Americas. We recognize the capacity of citizens in every country to support programs and laws that protect birds and their habitats, including a landmark treaty that, for the last century, has protected nearly all migratory bird species in the U.S. and Canada ~ the Migratory Bird Treaty. Enjoy Wildlife Images exhibits, guided bird walks and a bird-calling contest for all ages. This outdoor event is admission-free and takes place at North Mountain Park, 620 N Mountain Avenue, Ashland. For more information visit www.RogueValleyBirdDay.net or call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

Spring Birding at North Mountain Park

Learn about the birds arriving on their annual migration, and the year-round birds, as they prepare for springtime courtship. The evening presentation will use picture and audio aides to prepare for the two-hour Saturday morning field trip. This is a class for all levels of birding ability. Pre-register online at ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

AGES 8—Adult (*children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult*)

Lecture

Field Trip

DATES Wednesday, April 27

Saturday, April 30

TIME 6:30—8pm

8:30—10:30am

PLACE North Mountain Park

COST \$20

INSTRUCTOR Shannon Rio teaches classes about birds, plant medicine and yoga. She is on the board of the Klamath Bird Observatory.



Peter Kreisman captured this Wood Duck in Lithia Park.

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy Events

The Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) hosts several hikes and tours that explore selected locations around the Rogue Valley. Some of these are specifically focused on birds. Examples of upcoming events include

- Beekman Woods Birding
- Natural History Hike at Rogue River Preserve
- Oredson-Todd Woods Ecology Hike

Please note that some events are reserved for SOLC members. For a complete list of their events (all of which require registration), go to **www.landconserve.org/upcoming/hikes-and-tours**

Volunteers for Coyote Trails Education Program Needed

We at Coyote Trails are in the midst of the "Finding Home" program. So far, the 5th-grade students and teachers are loving the program, which is completely run with the help of grants and donations.

We are reaching out to RVAS in hopes that volunteers are able to help with instructional/education rotations for the field trips this spring at the Coyote Trails Nature Center. This is a four-hour commitment, which includes a big-group introduction, 30-minute "rotation stations," transition times, a 30-minute break for lunch, and a closing circle. We use rotation stations to keep group sizes small and to give students a wide range of experiences.

There are roughly 60 kids per field trip; we hope to limit groups to no more than 12 at one time. If there are two birders available each day, then each birding group in the rotation will have approximately 6 students. Here are the dates we need covered:

Tuesday, April 26, 9:30 am—1:30pm: Need 1 volunteer
Monday, May 2, 9:00 am—1:00 pm: Need 1 volunteer
Friday, May 20, 10:00 am—2:00 pm: Need 2 volunteers
Friday, May 27, 10:00 am—2:00 pm: Need 2 volunteers

There will be plenty of parent chaperones to help with logistics. We'd love to have RVAS at all four dates, as we believe birding is a crucial component to nature connection—which is what this is all about!

Please contact Program Coordinator Katie Buttermore at Katie@CoyoteTrails.org, or call 541.772.1390. Thanks in advance, and Happy Trails!

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 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**

NORTHWEST
nature shop
SINCE 1985

Intriguing gifts, toys, and
tools for discovering the
natural world.



for the explorer

for your garden

for the scientist

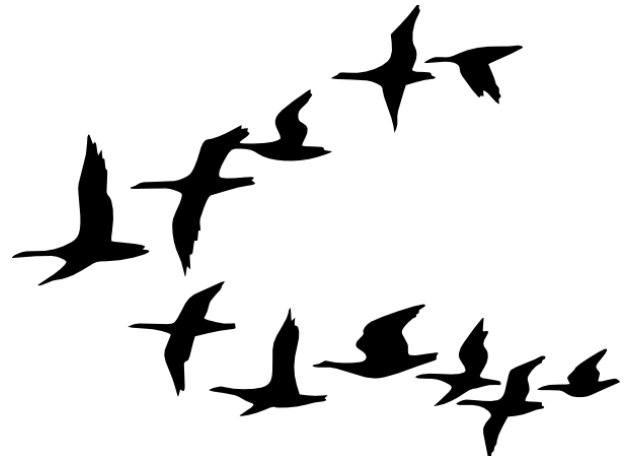
"The Northwest Nature Shop proudly sponsors the Ashland Independent Film Festival!"

154 Oak Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520
(541) 482-3241 | www.northwestnatureshop.com
Mon-Sat 10am to 6pm and Sun 11am to 5pm

ALLEN G. DRESCHER, P.C. *Attorney At Law*

Member, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

21 South 2nd Street (541) 482-4935
P.O. Box 760 Fax (541) 482-4941
Ashland, OR 97520 drescheral@aol.com
www.ashlandoregonlawyer.com



Birding: More Than
a Hobby, It's a
Way of Life.



Wild Birds Unlimited

NEW LOCATION/NEW OWNER: 987 Medford Center Dr., Medford, OR •
541-772-2107

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 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.

