

# The Chat

Number 433  
May 2017

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



## RVAS ANNUAL PICNIC Tuesday, May 23 at Tou Velle State Park

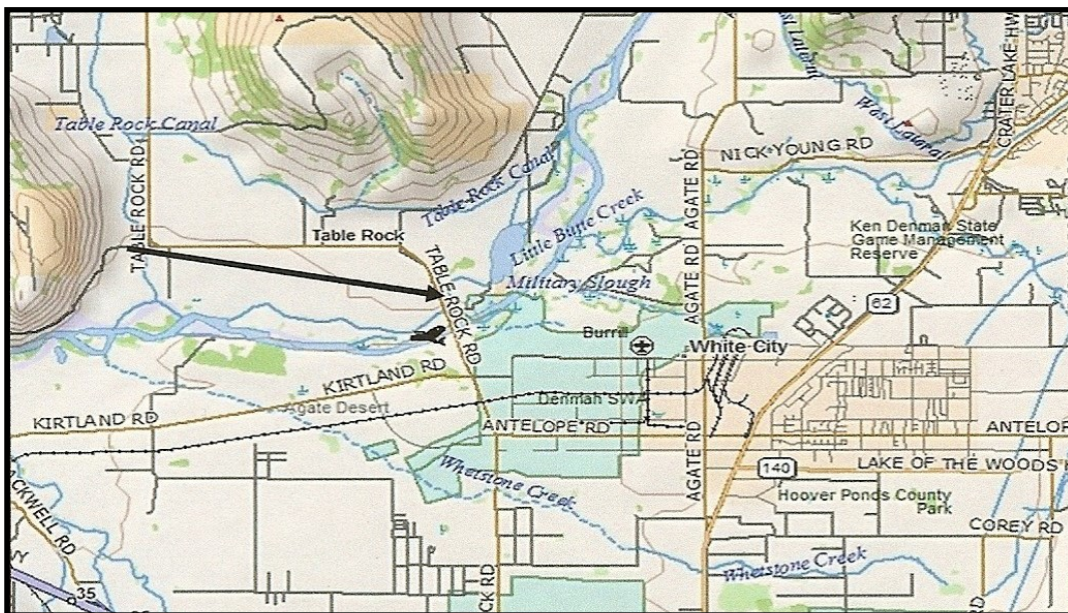
**Bird Walk:** 5:00 pm (sharp!)

A guided bird walk will wind through the park and along the Rogue River.

**Potluck dinner:** 6:00 pm

Bring a dish to share, plus your own plate, cup and utensils.  
Tea and lemonade will be provided.

The potluck will take place in the main area of the park; enter on the east side of Table Rock Road. There is a daily parking fee unless you have an Oregon State Parks pass or a Jackson County Parks pass.



**\*\*We will be on summer hiatus for the next three months.\*\***  
**Chapter meetings will resume in September.**

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**Field Notes:** vacant

**Field Trips:** Nate Trimble, 832-419-5086

**Holiday Party :** vacant

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**Master Gardener Fair:** vacant

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[RogueValleyAudubonSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/RogueValleyAudubonSociety/)

**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

### Wanted: Your Suggestions for 2017-18

On June 10, 2017, at Coyote Trails Nature Center, the RVAS Board will hold our yearly workshop where we agree on three or four priority goals for next year, 2017-18. During the first hour we hold our final Board meeting of the year and elect Board officers for the next year. Then we spend a couple of hours brainstorming on issues we want to tackle; after lunch, we finalize our goals. Any suggestions from RVAS members would be greatly appreciated. If you have an idea for a goal for next year, please let me or any of the Board members know. Contact information for the Board is on page 2 of *The Chat* and on our website. We feel great about having met every one of our goals from last year:

1. Develop a sustainable model for Birding in the Schools: With the help of Board Member Jeanine Moy, we worked with Professor Linda Hilligoss at SOU's Environmental Education Department to establish two internships for their first-year graduate students to offer our Birding in The Schools class to local schools. The interns present the class up to 20 times.
2. Develop a kit and a plan for outreach at events: Board Member Nala Cardillo developed the kit for tabling at local events. With the help of our Student Board Member, John Ward, she has tabled at several events this year and plans to table at several more upcoming events, as well.
3. More local field trips without car-pooling: Board Member Nate Trimble, who is also our new Field Trip Coordinator, has established field trips at the Imperatrice property and local trips for beginners.
4. Holiday Party Fundraiser for Birding in the Schools: With the help of Sooney Viani, Board members contributed and solicited contributions for Pepper Trail to auction. We raised almost double our goal.
5. Disseminate the Imperatrice Bird Survey results to members: This goal was accomplished both in *The Chat* and on the RVAS website.

Linda Kreisman

*Letter from the Board continued on page 3*

*Letter from the Board continued from page 2*

### **Master Gardener Spring Fair**

Once again RVAS will have a booth at the Master Gardener Spring Fair on the weekend of May 6th and 7th. This event is held at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Central Point. We will be located over on the North Concourse. This is a great place to contact folks who are interested in birds and their backyard gardens. We hope we can encourage many of them to join the Rogue Valley Audubon Society.

Laura Fleming

### **RVAS Events Tabling Update**

It's spring and the birds are singing — as are we, to represent Rogue Valley Audubon Society at local community outreach events! On April 13th, we joined a dozen or so other organizations at the Climate Forum at Southern Oregon University, where an audience of about 100 people received powerful messages from Professor Mary Christina Wood (Faculty Director of U of O Law School's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center) and a trio of youth climate activists. While not many handouts were taken from the RVAS table, our Meadowlark plush toy received many a squeeze — producing uplifting birdsong amidst challenging climate news. Such as, if we continue “business as usual” our planet may be un-inhabitable by the year 2090! Uplifting songs continued on April 22 and 23 in Southern Oregon University's Music Recital Hall, where RVAS had materials on display at the Siskiyou Singers concerts “For the Beauty of the Earth.” Interested in helping to share bird-related news at upcoming events? We'll have tables at the Master Gardener Fair and Rogue Valley Bird Day in May. Contact me at [nalacardillo@gmail.com](mailto:nalacardillo@gmail.com) for details.

Nala Cardillo

## **RVAS BRIEFS**

### **Medford Project FeederWatch Report**

Project FeederWatch at Coyote Trails School of Nature in Medford has completed a seventh season, with a total of 28 species counted. Many thanks to Anne Newins, George Duran, Edith Lindner, Judd Hurley, Nala Cardillo, Jon Deason, Mike Guest, Carol Mockridge and Sue Polich for giving your time.

Wendy Gere, CTSN Coordinator

### **Field Notes to Return**

Frank Lospalluto has agreed to begin providing Field Notes for *The Chat*, starting with the June newsletter. Jeff Tufts compiled Field Notes for both Jackson and Josephine Counties for several years. This interesting record of notable species observed is a valuable resource for RVAS members. Thanks to Frank for stepping forward!

## 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 in 2017. 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 am and end before noon.

May Walk: Wednesday, May 3

June Walk: Wednesday, June 7

July Walk: Wednesday, July 5

### GIVAN RANCH PARK

Saturday, May 13, 8:00 am—??

Leader: Howard Sands

Givan Ranch consists of beautiful pine-oak acreage and riparian habitat along the Rogue River. It is located on Agate Road north of Medford. Expect a leisurely walk of two to three miles over mostly flat terrain. Walking shoes should be fine, but if we have a lot of rain in the days leading up to the field trip, rubber boots might be in order. Folks should bring water and food if they want, and be advised that there are no restroom facilities.

Meet at Howard's house at 10655 Agate Rd. at 8:00 am, as Givan Park does not have very much parking. We'll carpool over to the park, which is just a 1/2 mile up the road. If you have questions please call Howard at **541-821-0174**.

Peter Kreisman recently photographed this Lincoln's Sparrow. Note the fine streaking on the bird's buffy breast.



## Granted: Great Gray Owls Matter!

By Lee French

Earlier this year in a conversation with RVAS president Linda Kreisman, I asked her if she had any ideas on how we could secure more funds for RVAS' Great Gray Owl Nest Platform Program. She suggested I take a look at the small grant program offered by the Oregon Birding Association (OBA). They were fielding requests for \$500 grants to be awarded to four worthy projects. I immediately contacted Harry Fuller to see if he would be willing to fill out the grant application form. Who better to articulate the scope and purpose of the RVAS platform program than one of the co-authors of *Great Gray Owl In California, Oregon and Washington*? Along with Peter Thiemann, not only did they "write the book," they started the RVAS platform program. In his cover letter to OBA, Harry explained, "When researching our book...I learned that nest availability often limits this species' breeding success. Owls do not build nests. They can use old buteo or Goshawk nests, or broken off tree trunks at least thirty feet tall. None of these are abundant in the woodlands of Oregon that also provide short grass meadows for hunting. A thirty year program by the Forest Service in Le Grande shows that platforms are often used multiple years in a row and can last a decade or more. Rarely does any natural site last more than a year or two." OBA saw the wisdom of Harry's words and awarded a grant to RVAS! The \$500 will allow us to put up four more platforms, bringing the total deployed to sixteen.

Harry and Peter worked with RVAS three years ago to launch the program. Using his excellent carpentry skills, Peter started building the platforms. They found a first-rate tree climber in Marty Main, who had no qualms in ascending to heights of forty feet or more to install Peter's creations. A team of assistants remained on the ground helping to man the ropes and offer encouragement to Marty as he magnificently managed the platforms, tools, and branches.

Peter has kindly passed on his woodworking and owl knowledge to Karl Schneck and myself. We are now building the platforms in Karl's shop and doing our best to duplicate Peter's fine work. With Peter and Harry's guidance, a small team of RVAS volunteers work on site selection and platform monitoring.

As of this writing, the usage rate has not been as high as hoped, but we feel it is important to keep providing the Great Gray Owls with nesting opportunities for years to come. Donations to the RVAS Great Gray Owl Nest Platform Project are tax deductible.



## The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

### 2017 Applegate Oak Restoration Project

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), as part of their on-going efforts to implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy, has identified a project to restore fire to approximately 120 acres of Oak Woodland and mixed conifer habitat in the Applegate Wildlife Management Unit. Following the presentation by Steve Niemela of ODFW at our members' meeting in February, we have been interested in finding conservation and habitat enhancement projects that ODFW and RVAS can work on together.

Here's how Steve Niemela describes this project:

The Oregon Conservation Strategy, the State of Oregon's blueprint for the conservation of at-risk species and habitats, has designated Oak Woodlands and Savannas as one of the 11 most imperiled habitats in Oregon. In the Willamette Valley and the Coast Range, 95% of historic oak habitat has been lost to development and agricultural conversion. Oaks in our Klamath Mountain Ecoregion are relatively more abundant, but still threatened. Forty-five percent of the Oregon White Oak habitat in the Rogue Basin has likely been lost over the last 100-150 years, and remaining oaks are threatened by our history of fire suppression.



Oak Woodland and Oak Savannah habitat are dwindling throughout Oregon. Photo courtesy Lomakatsi

Oak Woodlands and Savannas are fire-adapted ecosystems which rely on relatively frequent but low intensity fire to cycle nutrients, eliminate competing conifers, thin stands, create the cavities, snags, and down wood needed by wildlife species and rejuvenate the shrub layer. Historically, fire returned to these oak systems every three to 20 years. The absence of this low severity/high frequency fire has resulted in oak stands that are not providing the habitat they could for wildlife species and are in danger of loss from catastrophic wildfire or conversion to a Douglas fir stand. These new conifer forests are not adapted to the specific site, and in recent years, they have proven vulnerable to drought and insect pests in the Applegate, setting the stage for more severe wildfires.

Loss of natural disturbance has set the stage for a new type of relatively infrequent but high severity fire that is outside the range of historic variability and has the potential for stand-clearing events. Climate change is likely to exacerbate this threat as temperatures rise and precipitation becomes less

*Conservation Column continued on page 7*

*Conservation Column continued from page 6*

predictable. The Oregon Conservation Strategy defines the loss of natural disturbance such as fire and global climate change as two of the key conservation issues threatening species and habitats across Oregon.

The Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative has recognized the reestablishment of fire as a critical strategy in restoring ecologically resilient forests. SOFRC identifies 2.1million acres on federal land that are accessible and in need of treatment in the Rogue Basin. One million acres of these are not economically self-sufficient and will require subsidy to achieve goals of ecological restoration and fire resiliency. Current funding and scope of operations is not keeping up with the demands of an increasing fuel load, degrading oak habitat and encroaching conifers.

ODFW proposes to maintain approximately 120 acres of previously treated oak and mixed conifer habitat through the use of a prescribed fire underburn on BLM property within the Applegate Wildlife Management Unit. We will hire contract crews to conduct the burn in the fall. Fall burning is more consistent with the area's fire history and avoids problems with burning in the biologically active spring season when new wildflowers are blooming and wildlife are reproducing.

BLM has suggested a site for this potential oak restoration project. It is about two miles west of Cantral-Buckley Park, on the south side of the Applegate River. The site includes approximately 40 -50 acres of an open Oregon white oak dominated woodland and about 80 acres of a mixed conifer hardwood stand dominated by Douglas Fir, with madrone, black oak, and big leaf maple scattered throughout. The site was thinned during the Pilot Joe project and is in need of an under-burn. Portions of the site are within the Nature Conservancy's areas of modeled oak persistence and is relatively close to ODFW's Oregon Caves/Applegate Conservation Opportunity Area.

\* \* \* \* \*

ODFW has acquired a \$12,500 grant from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation, which it is using as match to secure an additional \$37,500 from the Pittman Robertson grant, a federal excise tax on firearms that is used for wildlife management. Rogue Valley Audubon has agreed to signal our support with a small monetary contribution, and to help organize citizen science volunteers to conduct bird monitoring before and after the prescribed burn. Photographs of the site indicate that there is relatively little brush present that would be attractive to nesting birds, and the burn will probably mostly clear out invasive conifer saplings that could eventually crowd out the oaks on the site, cycle nutrients, create fire scars or cavities that are important to wildlife, and make the forest as a whole more resilient to fire in the future. Therefore, prescribed fire will likely benefit the oak woodlands, but it would be very desirable to have monitoring to document the effects on bird populations.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you're interested in participating in bird monitoring for this project or want to find out more, please contact Steve Niemela at ODFW, who will keep you informed as the project moves forward. His email is: [steve.a.niemela@state.or.us](mailto:steve.a.niemela@state.or.us). Applegate residents are especially encouraged to participate!

## The Nesting Season in the Klamath Basin

By Barbara Massey

The breeding season starts early for resident birds in the Klamath Basin, and in April the music of Song Sparrows and Western Meadowlark fills the air in the uplands, and Red-winged Blackbirds are beginning to delineate territories in the tules. Many migrant waterbirds are arriving: Double-crested Cormorant, Forster's and Caspian Tern, Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet among them. All of these species nest in the refuge despite the fact that most of the ponds have dried out by June. (There is a serious lack of sufficient water in summer, and if this could be remedied the refuge would host even larger numbers of nesting birds.) Swallows are among the first migratory Passerines, and they form large breeding colonies—Cliff and Barn Swallows under bridges along the canals and at the Oregon Drain, and Bank Swallows in burrows in the quarry on the east side. Sage Thrashers and Loggerhead Shrikes nest in the scrubland east of the quarry.

We have sometimes had difficulty determining the species of the shrikes we see; they can be disconcertingly similar and a scope is advisable. The Loggerhead Shrike is supposedly a breeding migrant, arriving in early spring, and the Northern Shrike a winter bird. But we have seen what we were sure were Northern Shrikes in July. The best identifiers of the Northern Shrike are its larger size—not always easy if there is no comparative example of the other species—its hooked bill and pale speckled breast.

By May, nesting is seriously underway, and in June/July, the heart of the breeding season when migration is in temporary abeyance, 75 species were identified on our counts, emphasizing the importance of the refuge as year-round habitat.

The acreage of the refuge complex is so large and varied it is impossible to know all that is going on. It consists of shallow ponds, dense marsh, open water (with islands), upland scrub, riparian habitat and jagged cliffs at the headquarters on Tule Lake.



The Loggerhead Shrike (left) and Northern Shrike (right) Photos: Kevin Cole and Terence Phillippe

*The Nesting Season continued on page 9*



### *The Nesting Season continued from page 8*

There is much that is inaccessible to visitors, and some of the dirt roads are navigable only with four-wheel drive. The area called Sheepy Ridge West by the rangers is the site of a major breeding colony of pelicans and cormorants, but the access road is beyond intimidating and we have never ventured it. Many species nest only in certain specific habitats, among them Black Terns in Klamath Marsh in Wocus Bay. White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Caspian Terns and Ring-billed Gulls nest on islands, natural and artificial. Marsh Wrens and Yellowthroats are restricted to tule-lined ponds and channels, Sage Thrashers and Loggerhead Shrikes breed in upland scrub habitat, mostly at the far east end of Lower Klamath Refuge, and Killdeer on gravel wherever it is not an active roadway.

The Auto Route Road through Tule Lake begins at a turnoff from Hill Road a few miles south of refuge headquarters. There is farmland on the south side, but the large pond on the north side always has water. All three species of colorful blackbirds have nested in the tall grasses on the south side. Red-wings are the largest contingent and arrive earliest. Yellow-headed and Tri-colored Blackbirds come a bit later and form segregated colonies. Breeding patterns are similar among them; all are polygynous, and males sing continuously from perches on tall-grass stems to attract females. The Red-winged Blackbird is one of the most abundant passerines in the U.S., but the Tri-colored is being considered for Endangered status. Klamath Basin is fortunate in having breeding colonies of all three species.

We are still finding remarkable bird occurrences in 2017. On April 4 along the Auto Route, we found a nesting colony of seven Great Blue Herons in the willows, and across the channel a rookery of at least 25 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons.

We have yet to determine where White-faced Ibis and Sandhill Crane nest, even knowing there are large colonies of both in the refuge. An artificial (rock) island in Tule Lake provides nesting habitat for White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Ring-billed Gulls and probably more. The best place to see this island is from the overlook on the south side of Sump 1(B), the southernmost pond in Tule Lake. But the main pelican/cormorant summer habitat is on little-visited Clear Lake, about 20 miles east of Tule Lake. A major pelican-banding operation is carried out there every summer.



White Pelicans feeding in an irrigation slough. Photo by Dan Dzuris

This is only a taste of what is happening in the summer at the refuge. Our hope is that these articles will spark more interest in non-winter visits and more observations will be forthcoming. So many bird enthusiasts visit Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in summer (myself included), yet this much closer refuge is equally rewarding and is just a one-day excursion from the Rogue Valley.

*Editor's Note: This is the second of Barbara Massey's series of articles about birds in the Klamath Basin. The first, which appeared in the April newsletter, described two stellar breeding events that take place every summer. Look for the third article in the September issue of The Chat.*

## Bird-Centric Events from Around the Region

### SPRING HIKES AT THE TABLE ROCKS

#### Whooo Comes Out at Night?

BLM wildlife biologists Steve Godwin and Tony Kerwin will lead a night hike to look for and listen to the creatures of the night on the Lower Table Rock Loop Trail, which is a half-mile accessible trail. They will attempt to lure Pygmy, Great Horned, and Screech Owls – no guarantees! A short presentation about the unique characteristics and adaptations of the common bats, owls and other animals that are active at night in this area will precede the hike. Bring flashlights and wear good hiking shoes. Space is limited to 20 individuals, unless otherwise noted. Please register online at

<http://TableRockHikes2017.eventbrite.com>

**DATE:** Saturday, May 13  
**TIME:** 7:30 pm  
**PLACE:** Lower Table Rock  
**COST:** Free  
**LEADERS:** Steve Godwin and Tony Kerwin

### PRESENTATIONS AND WALKS WITH WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

#### Denman Bird Walk

This will be an easy walk for beginners to advanced birders, ages 12 years and up. Come see what spring migrants have returned, along with our resident songbirds, woodpeckers, waterfowl, and raptors. **We will meet here at the store and carpool over to Denman Wildlife Area.** Wear warm, appropriate, layered clothing and boots that can go through mud and water. Bring binoculars, along with a field guide and notebook/pen to record species seen, as desired. **Registration is required**, as space is limited to 10 participants.

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 17  
**TIME:** 10:00 am  
**PLACE:** 961 Medford Center, Medford; Denman Wildlife Area  
**COST:** Free  
**LEADER** Eric Linton

#### Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Garden

Join Laura for a talk on attracting these flying jewels to your yard. Hummingbird plants, feeders, nectar, accessories, cleaning, and fun hummingbird facts will all be presented. This is a perfect time to ask all of your hummingbird questions. Come join the fun!

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 24  
**TIME:** 6:00—7:00 pm  
**PLACE:** 961 Medford Center, Medford  
**COST:** Free

**PRESENTER** Laura Fleming is the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited. She has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from Michigan State University and is on the boards of RVAS and the Klamath Bird Observatory.

*Bird-centric Events continued on page 11*

## Bird-Centric Events, cont.

### ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

#### Learning Bird Songs

When spring arrives, we often hear birds before we see them (IF we see them). Why is a bird making that sound? Is it a call or a song? Learn what local bird is calling or singing, then identify the bird. Deepen your appreciation for tuning into nature and the world of birds as they feed and migrate during spring or nest around our area. This program includes a field trip where participants have a chance to practice what they have learned in the classroom. Please register online at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register) or call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 3 (evening presentation) and Saturday May 6 (field trip)

**TIME:** 6:30—7:30 pm (evening presentation); 8:00—10:00 am (field trip)

**PLACE:** North Mountain Park Pavilion (620 North Mountain Park, Ashland)

**COST:** \$20

**INSTRUCTOR** Vince Zauskey and Shannon Rio are local bird guides who believe learning about birds is fun.

#### Learn Local Bird Songs

This course provides a brief introduction to the incredible diversity of sounds and songs made by birds around the world and then focuses in on the songs of several of the more common birds of the Rogue Valley. We'll listen to recordings of bird songs during the course and talk about tips for learning songs. We'll also see multiple photos of our local birds. No prior experience necessary. Please register online or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

**DATE:** Thursday, May 4

**TIME:** 7:00—8:30pm

**PLACE:** NMP Nature Center (620 North Mountain Ave, Ashland)

**COST:** \$12

**INSTRUCTOR** Brandon Breen has a Master's in Conservation Biology and has several years of experience as a field ornithologist.

Peter Kreisman photographed this  
Lark Sparrow on April 25 on East  
Emigrant Creek Road.



*Bird-Centric Events continued on page 12*

## Bird-Centric Events, cont.

### ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS, CONT.

#### Rogue Valley Bird Day

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 is, "*The importance of stopover habitats.*" Enjoy Wildlife Images exhibits where you can meet some magnificent birds of prey. Join the experts for guided bird walks, and compete in a bird-calling contest at 11 a.m. for all ages.

This outdoor event is admission-free and takes place at North Mountain Park, 620 North Mountain Avenue in Ashland. For more information on this exciting and family-friendly event, please call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541.488.6606 or visit [RogueValleyBirdDay.net](http://RogueValleyBirdDay.net).

This event is made possible with the generous help of sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring the 2017 event, please contact the Nature Center at 541.488.6606 or email

[libby.vanwyhe@ashlandor.us](mailto:libby.vanwyhe@ashlandor.us)

**DATE:** Saturday, May 13  
**TIME:** 8:00 am—12:00 pm  
**PLACE:** North Mountain Park, Ashland  
**COST:** Free

Peter Kreisman photographed this "2016 model" Red-tailed Hawk recently. ID tips from Dick Ashford:

- Dark-light-dark pattern
- Light feathers on scapulars form half of the "V" if viewed from behind.



#### A Fascinating Study on the Birds of North Mountain Park

This fun and informative evening presentation will share insights and findings from a 17-year data set of the birds of North Mountain Park. The information will be shared (with beautiful accompanying photos) in the context of global climate change and continent-wide bird population declines.

Come learn about the bird communities that benefit from the habitats at North Mountain Park and about how they have changed through time. *Please register online or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.*

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 17  
**TIME:** 7:00—8:30pm  
**PLACE:** NMP Nature Center (620 North Mountain Ave, Ashland)  
**COST :** \$8

**INSTRUCTOR** Brandon Breen has a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology and years of experience as a field biologist and presenter.



## Reminder: Sign Up Your Birdathon Teams!

Birdathon returns on **Saturday, May 6**. There is still plenty of time to form your teams and sign up.

Birdathon is an important fundraiser for RVAS. 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. The event officially kicks off on Friday, May 5 at 6:00 pm. A celebratory dinner on Saturday night allows teams to compare notes and claim bragging rights.

Most teams include two to five birders, although a single individual may also comprise a team.

**A task equally important as picking your all-star team is finding sponsors—that's the fundraiser part.** A person can sponsor your team with either a fixed donation or an amount per species your team sees.

If you've never participated in this annual event, why not make 2017 your year? To sign up your team or for more info, contact Katy Reed at [kmreed24@hotmail.com](mailto:kmreed24@hotmail.com) or **541-245-5095** or Linda Kreisman at **651-303-6671**.

Please include the form below with your Birdathon pledge/donation.  
You may also add your pledge online at [www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org).  
We will include this same form in next month's newsletter.

### ***BIRDATHON 2017: Please Pledge or Donate***

You can either make a donation of a set amount or pledge a certain payment per species seen. That way you can do your own Birdathon species list, put together your own Birdathon team, or support a team of your favorite birders. If you are participating as a birder, please ask friends and team members to pledge as well.

☐ My tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

☐ I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per species.

☐ This pledge is for birds I will see myself.

☐ This pledge is for birds seen by \_\_\_\_\_ (name of Birdathon team or other birder).

*Please mail your check to*

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

P.O. Box 8597, Medford, OR 97501

**RVAS is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, and all donations to RVAS are tax-deductible.**

RVAS will mail you a receipt for your tax records if you provide us with your address.

## 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 or go to [www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org) and sign up with your PayPal account.

### 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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**Thanks to everyone who  
has contributed their  
wonderful bird photos.  
Keep them coming!**

**—The Editor**

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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.

