

# The Chat

**Number 441**  
**April 2018**

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



**RVAS APRIL PROGRAM**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 24 at 7:00 PM**

**"Lake Abert: A Waterbird Oasis in an Arid Landscape"**  
**Presented by RON LARSON, PhD**

Salty-alkaline lakes are not the kind of place you would want to call home. After all, salt is used to preserve food, and with a pH of 10, the water is like diluted bleach. Yet, Lake Abert, located in arid south-central Oregon, is a waterbird Mecca, with over 80 species being reported and abundances of several hundred thousand birds noted on daily mid-summer counts. Just what brings these birds to the lake is an amazing set of conditions that were created over several million years and are subject to the whims of climate and the actions of man. Ron Larson's presentation will provide an introduction to this amazing yet vulnerable waterbird oasis.



Ron is a retired aquatic biologist from Klamath Falls with a special interest in lake ecosystems and the species that live in them, from microbes to birds. He has traveled widely to study freshwater and marine organisms, including the Arctic and Antarctic—and down 3,000 feet in the Atlantic Ocean using a submersible to collect deep-water jellyfish—but Lake Abert and its birds keep him returning to this fascinating area. Ron and his wife Kathy have lived in the Klamath Basin for 20 years and love the diversity of wildlife and natural areas the region provides.

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

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## Letter from the Board

### A New Bench for Ashland Pond

The RVAS Board of Directors has approved the expenditure of \$600 for a bench to be placed halfway around Ashland Pond. Accordingly, on Thursday, March 15, Barbara Massey and I walked around the pond with two Commissioners and three employees of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department to get their approval for the bench site. Our proposed spot for the bench is at the west end and provides a good sighting across the pond in the afternoon. Everyone seemed to be very happy with this spot and they are checking with the various regulating agencies to be sure they have no issues. Soon we should have a beautiful spot to rest and enjoy the birds (and maybe even otters) on Ashland Pond. Although the RVAS Board has approved this expense, if you think the bench is a good idea and would like to make a donation to help with the cost, it would be happily accepted!

Linda Kreisman

### Message from the President

It's finally spring and the birds are singing in my neighborhood. They seem to be energized as they head into their upcoming cycles of migration, mating and nesting. I'm feeling energized also as president. We have a flurry of activities and projects that the board will be announcing soon. These are only possible to complete if we have both donations and volunteers. Several members both old and new have stepped up to offer their help. I thank them for their generosity. Of course, we still could use a few more. Contact Linda Kreisman, our volunteer chair at [linda@ashlandhome.net](mailto:linda@ashlandhome.net) if you're interested.

Carol Mockridge

**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.**

## Meet Our RVAS Board Candidate

### Emily Lind

Emily arrived in Ashland in January 2018 from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Emily has a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; beginning in July, she will be attending SOU to complete a Master's in Environmental Education. Mark Berres' Ornithology course influenced Emily to pursue a career in Ornithology.



In 2013 Emily lived at the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Tulelake, California studying a small population of Greater-Sage Grouse using radio telemetry. While living on the refuge she was able to assist in capturing and banding Caspian Tern chicks, White-faced Ibis chicks, American White Pelicans, Yellow Rails, Canada Geese and other waterfowl species.

Most recently, Emily spent three years working as a Citizen Science Technician at a nature center in Wisconsin. In this position she helped run the Avian Monitoring Program. Emily assisted with running a bird banding station, the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, as well as other avian monitoring projects throughout west-central Wisconsin.

## Environmental Challenges Forum to Vet Primary Candidates

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) has scheduled a candidate forum for primary candidates for Oregon State Senate District 3. These candidates are competing for their party's nomination for the general election. SOCAN has agreement from all candidates so far declared or registered.

The format includes introductory statements and questions submitted by SOCAN, sponsors and the audience. Local non-profits were invited to co-sponsor the event. RVAS signed on as a co-sponsor and submitted the following question:

*RVAS would like to know the position of each candidate on forest management, especially related to the wildfire issue, and where they stand on the terrible "Resilient Federal Forests Act", HR 2936, (the Westerman Bill) that has been endorsed by Congressman Walden.*

This non-partisan forum will be held on Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Medford Public Library, 205 S. Central Avenue, Medford. For more info, visit: <http://socan.eco/event/sd3forum/>

## Jackson County Field Notes: March 2018

By Frank Lospalluto

Winter continued through parts of the last month with snow in the higher elevations—some much-needed moisture as birds begin to leak north. Now is a good time to brush up on your bird songs before the symphony is in full swing.

A single **Snow Goose** was spotted at Agate Lake March 7 with a pair seen along the Central Point Greenway March 21; also along the greenway were three **Tundra Swan** (MG, JK). **Cinnamon Teal** are back. A pair was at Avenue G pond Feb. 27 (RB). A male **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** was found in the “Holy Water” below Lost Creek Dam Feb. 23 and is still being seen as of this writing (JK, RA).

An **American White Pelican** was observed flying over Dry Creek Road Mar. 8 (EL). A few **Green Heron** sightings have been reported through the winter. One hardy bird has been seen fairly regularly around Ashland Pond.

**Turkey Vultures** have been moving in and through the valley, seen by many. **Osprey** are back and working on their nesting platforms (BH). A pair of **White-tailed Kites** was observed in courtship in Phoenix near where they have nested in the past Mar. 18 (RA, SP). A migrating immature **Northern Goshawk** was spotted flying over Medford Mar. 18 (AK). It's always a good idea to examine the swirling kettles of Turkey Vultures during migration to see what might be hiding with them. Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were viewed at Whet-

stone Savannah Mar. 12 (JK). We are waving and saying good-bye to birds like them as they head north to breed. Pairs of **Red-shouldered Hawks** have been noted by a number of birders, courting and on nests (RC, DA, LK). Nesting season for many raptors is well underway.

Small numbers of **Sandhill Cranes** have been seen this month up near Howard Prairie (JK, KS). More **Greater Yellowlegs** moving through our area have been seen and heard at Kirtland Ponds and in Denman areas. A few **Western Sandpipers** have been noted at Kirtland Ponds, along with the dozens of **Least Sandpipers** (TM, FL, JK).

**Ring-billed Gulls** have become more conspicuous the last weeks and a few **California Gulls** were at Kirtland Ponds Mar. 9 and 10 (BH, JK, FL).

A **BURROWING OWL** was out at Agate Lake Mar. 17. Burrowing Owls used to breed and were regularly seen a few decades back in the valley. They have become very uncommon here and only occasionally seen during the winter. The last sighting reported to birders was from the Butler Creek area in Nov. 2015. A bird was observed fall and into the early spring on Lower Table Rock in 2012 and 2013 (TJ). And there was a bird living in a storm drain on Industry Way off Vilas near the airport in the early to mid-2000s that many birders saw. Yes, pretty grim. There very well may be Burrowing Owls each winter unreported on private properties. Their decline, like so many species in these times, has been fairly precipitous, victims of human activity and sprawling development.

*Field Notes continued on page 5*



*Field Notes continued from page 4*

On a similar note, a **Short-eared Owl** was seen on the Imperatrice Property Mar. 11. Likely the same owl was seen a couple of times in January. This is also a species in decline and seldom seen much in our region anymore.

Reports of **Rufous Hummingbirds** around the valley have been accumulating the last three weeks. There was a bird Mar. 1 in Merlin, a bird Mar. 6 in Eagle Point and one in Ashland Mar. 21 (DV, HS, MC).

A **Northern Shrike** was outside Eagle Point at Ousterhout Farm Mar. 18 (GH)—another bird that we won't be seeing again for a few months.

**Tree Swallows** are back and noticeable along with **Violet-Green Swallows**. A few **Cliff Swallows** are being reported, including one at Ave G. Mar. 18 (JK). A **Pygmy Nuthatch** was reported from a yard off Evans Creek Road Feb. 25 (LW).

**Mountain Bluebirds** are returning. A couple of single birds were spotted in the valley last week with flocks of Westerns (FL, GH), and they are being seen up in the Howard Prairie area again (KS).

One hundred and twenty-five **American Pipits** were on Upper Table Rock Mar. 21 (HS). Both Lower and Upper Table Rocks are good places to see these flocks in late winter and into spring.

An early **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was spotted along the Bear Creek Greenway near the Expo Mar. 21 (MC). A **Townsend's Warbler** was along the TID ditch in Ashland Feb. 22 in the snow (PT).

Six **Great-tailed Grackles** were seen and photographed along Newland Rd. Mar. 17 (RA, SP). Last year they bred right next to Whetstone Pond. Will they return there to breed?

Mysteries never end...that's it for this month! Thank you to all who contributed observations including: Howard Sands, Gretchen Hunter, Tiffany Manger, Linda Wagner, Dennis Vroman, Janet Kelly, Bob Hunter, Ralph Browning, Norm Barrett, Gary Shaffer, Pepper Trail, Mark Chichester, Jon Cox, Michael Guss, Kristi Mergenthaler, Andy Kleinhesselink, Renee Allen and Sammie Peat.

All omissions and errors are mine. Peace.

Burrowing Owl  
Photo by Norm Barrett



## RVAS BIRDING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

### FIRST WEDNESDAY BIRD WALKS AT DENMAN WILDLIFE REFUGE

**\*\*\*NOTE THE CHANGE IN VENUE!\*\*\***

Murray Orr will continue to lead his monthly bird walks, but at Denman Wildlife Refuge instead of Agate Lake. 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 parking area accessed from Agate Road in White City. Participants will need an ODWF parking permit. These can be purchased at the ODWF office, Bi-Mart, or Sportsman's Warehouse in Medford (Delta Waters and Highway 62). Walks begin at 8:30 am and end before noon.

April Walk: Wednesday, April 4

May Walk: Wednesday, May 2

June Walk: Wednesday, June 6

### FIRST ANNUAL OTIS SWISHER MEMORIAL FIELD TRIP

The Rogue Valley Audubon Society will be honoring longtime advocate for birds and one of the beloved founders of RVAS on Saturday, May 19, with the first annual Otis Swisher Memorial Field Trip. As most members are aware, Otis passed away June 7, 2017 after a brief illness. Otis' close friend, Vince Zauskey, will lead the first field trip to Lower Klamath/Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, one of Otis' favorite birding sites. Otis not only led several field trips to this refuge in the 1970s and 80s, but also took numerous photographs of birds he later used for programs or for educational purposes. Subsequent annual trips will be led by other RVAS field trip leaders who had birding experiences with Otis.

**When:** Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 9:30 am—5:00 pm

**Where:** Worden Truck Stop, 19777 Hwy. 97, Klamath Falls.

**Cost:** \$20

**Leader:** Vince Zauskey

Note: The \$300 fee collected will be used for RVAS educational activities Otis Swisher supported.

**HOW TO REGISTER:** The field trip is limited to 15 participants for safety and practical reasons. Registration begins on May 1 to give everyone an equal chance to participate. Contact Nate Trimble ([natetrimble@hotmail.com](mailto:natetrimble@hotmail.com) or 832-419-5086) on or after May 1st to sign up. Nate will confirm enrollment upon receipt of payment. Make check payable to RVAS and mail to:

Nate Trimble  
355 ½ High St.  
Ashland, OR 97520

Please get payments to Nate no later than May 9 to confirm your place on the list. When the 15 participant limit is reached, a waiting list will be generated in order of requests received. For those who must cancel, please notify Nate by email or call him no later than Monday, May 14th. The first person on the waiting list will then be notified for the vacated slot by Tuesday, May 15th. Nate will send an email with trip details to all participants by Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Siskiyou Field Institute Courses Announced

SFI's 20<sup>th</sup> Season includes Birding and other natural history studies

Siskiyou Field Institute celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> year as a natural history educational non-profit with birding, botany, invertebrates, geology and ecology studies. Birding field courses include:

**Birding the Wood River by Canoe: June 16**

with Klamath Basin birders Dave Haupt and Kevin Spencer

**Birds and Botany of the South Warner Wilderness: June 29 – July 1**

with botanists Cheryl Beyer and Janel Johnson and birders Dave Haupt and Kevin Spencer – this course is sold out.

**Birds, Blooms and Bumbles on Mt. Ashland: July 22**

with RVAS members Kristi Mergenthaler and Frank Lospalluto

**Birds and Botany of Crater Lake National Park: August 3-5**

with Frank Lospalluto and Sean Smith

**Marine Biology Field Adventure (includes a pelagic birding trip): August 10-12**

Based at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston

SFI will also partner with the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society to offer a weekend series of Curry County/Pistol River field courses in tribute to the late botanist Veva Stansell. Series includes **Botanizing Signal Butte** with Linda Vorobik, **Ecology of the Pistol River** with Larry Basch, **Wildflower Photography** with Lee Webb and **Botanical Sketching** with Linda Vorobik.

The 2018 SFI field course schedule also includes three river rafting trips exploring the natural history of the Illinois, Rogue and Trinity/Klamath Rivers.

For details, visit [www.thesfi.org](http://www.thesfi.org) or call 541-597-8530 to request a catalog by mail.



## 2018 Annual Birdathon

Friday, May 4 - Saturday, May 5

Form a team and bird all day!

Details, rules, checklists and forms  
at [roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://roguevalleyaudubon.org) under News and Events/Birdathon

## The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

This month the Conservation Column will leave the Rogue Valley to focus on an issue of great importance for bird conservation in eastern Oregon. This concerns the future of Lake Abert, a saline lake in the remote high desert northeast of Lakeview. The lake is a fall migratory stopover site of tremendous importance for Great Basin waterbirds, especially Eared Grebes and Wilson's Phalaropes, which gather there in hundreds of thousands to feed on brine "shrimp" and brine flies. The size of Lake Abert has shrunk in recent years, due to water withdrawals for irrigation and perhaps to a long-term drying trend. The future of the lake has been identified as a conservation priority by the Oregon Audubon Council (OAC). Here is the summary of this priority:

### **Goal: Engage with Conservation Partners regarding efforts to restore Lake Abert**

Objectives:

- Engage with Conservation Partners regarding efforts to restore Lake Abert
- Engage in research to investigate water situation at Lake Abert

2018 Update:

- 2017 was a high water year and birds seem to have responded
- East Cascades Audubon Society continues to conduct shorebird monitoring
- Efforts to engage local landowners in facilitated dialogue appears to have stalled
- The Oregon Dept. of Water Resources has still not released a Proposed Final Order (PFO) on the application filed by River's End Ranch in 2015(!) for an extension of time on its water storage and surface water permits. The reservoir is immediately upstream from Lake Abert, and the only way water reaches the lake is when the reservoir can't handle more water.
  - This is the key/only regulatory handle that Lake Abert advocates have right now.
  - The PFO apparently has been drafted, but for unknown reasons not released.
  - When the PFO is available, there will be an opportunity for appeal
  - National Audubon is tracking this permit process closely and will share what it knows when it is out.



The dramatic Abert Rim rises above Lake Abert.  
All photos by Pepper Trail.

*Conservation Column continued on page 9*



*Conservation Column continued from page 8*

This month, National Audubon featured the Lake Abert situation in a national alert, tied to the publication of a new scientific study of the lake. Here is the NAS alert:

LAKE ABERT, Ore. – Migratory birds and their food sources decrease when a lake's water level is low and the concentration of salt — or salinity — is high, according to a recent report. A study based on data gathered over 25 years at Lake Abert, found that as surface water levels decline, salinity increases, affecting the availability of brine shrimp and other invertebrates — a key food source for waterbirds. Lake Abert is among the most important lakes to migrating waterbirds in the western United States.

The latest results from researchers at the University of Montana, National Audubon Society, Oregon State University, and East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) show that Lake Abert has decreased by 618 acres (nearly 200 football fields in size) since 1986. Water levels have decreased due to water diversions for human uses, drought and climate change. During periods of low water and high salinity, bird sightings at Lake Abert declined by as much as 82 percent.

“Very few long-term studies of natural saline lake systems exist,” said Dr. Nathan Senner, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Montana. “Our dataset is thus one of the few that can confirm what people have shown with laboratory experiments — once salinities become too high, they really have negative effects on both birds and invertebrates.”

The study, ***A salt lake under stress: Relationships among birds, water levels, and invertebrates at a Great Basin saline lake***, combines data on waterbird use, lake measurements, and invertebrate abundance collected over the past 25 years to document how waterbird numbers changed in response to changes in lake area, salinity and food sources.

“Water in the West is a precious resource, and there is urgent need to better understand and manage use of water throughout the region for the benefit of birds and people,” said Stan Senner, vice president for bird conservation at the National Audubon Society.

There are also economic costs to the reduction of lake area and increase of salinity. One of the report's coauthors, Keith Kreuz, had to give up his business at Lake Abert due to uncertainty in the abundance of brine shrimp from year to year. Brine shrimp are used worldwide as a food source in commercial fish farming and for fish food in aquariums.

“We lost our 35-year-old brine shrimp business because of low lake levels, which resulted in toxic high salinity levels and ecosystem collapse,” Kreuz said. “It is unfortunate because Lake Abert could help the local economy by supporting a thriving low-impact sustainable fishery if only recently diverted water was once again allowed to flow into the lake.”

Saline lakes, which provide critical habitat for migratory birds, are threatened globally and especially in the arid western United States. Lake levels have diminished over the years due to a combination of water diversions, drought and a changing climate. For some species of birds, including Wilson's Phalarope, Eared Grebe, and American Avocet, at least half of their global populations rely on this network of saline lakes for food and rest during migration; some of them also nest in the region. Proper management of Lake Abert and other saline lakes in the West is critical to the conservation of waterbird populations in the Western Hemisphere.

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**Conservation Column** continued from page 9

For this study, waterbird data were drawn from Bureau of Land Management and the East Cascades Audubon Society surveys, which used the time and efforts of dozens of community scientists to document changing bird numbers at Lake Abert.

“ECAS was pleased to work with community scientists to study the long-term effects of this beautiful lake and the birds that depend on it,” said John Reuland, volunteer coordinator for the Lake Abert study.



Dr. Johnnie Moore, former chair of the Geosciences Department at the University of Montana and world-renowned water scientist, also contributed to the study, which was published in the international journal, *Biological Conservation*.

**About the Western Water Initiative**

The Western Water Initiative is Audubon's multi-state effort to protect the Colorado River and the West's Saline Lakes. Some 65,000 members strong and growing, the network advocates for science-based, non-partisan water policies and management that benefit rivers and lakes for the birds, wildlife, habitats, cities, and the economies they support. To learn more, visit: [www.audubon.org/conservation/western-water](http://www.audubon.org/conservation/western-water)

Here at RVAS, we will continue to monitor the Lake Abert situation, and speak out for the preservation of this remarkable ecosystem, so vital to the waterbirds of western North America.



## Bird-Centric Events from Around the Region

### PRESENTATIONS AND WALKS WITH WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

#### Learning Bird Songs

When spring arrives we often hear birds before we see them (if we see them at all). Why is a bird singing? What is the difference between a song and a call? Learn techniques that help you to learn the language of birds. Not only what bird is making a sound, but why. Deepen your appreciation for tuning into nature and the world of birds as they nest, feed, and migrate. No experience or knowledge needed. Come to learn and have fun with bird sounds!

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 4

**TIME:** 6:00—7:00 pm

**PLACE:** Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford

**COST:** Free

**PRESENTER** Shannon Rio

#### Chickadee Chats: Woodpeckers of the Rogue Valley

Calling all "bird nerds"! Join us for our bi-monthly get together to talk about birds! We'll drink some Bird Friendly coffee or tea, join with fellow birders, and "chat." This month's focus will be the Woodpeckers of the Rogue Valley. No reservations required, just come to share, learn, and join the fun with fellow bird nerds!

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 14 and Wednesday, March 28th

**TIME:** April 11, 10:30 am; April 25, 3:30 pm

**PLACE:** Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford

**COST:** Free

**LEADER** Erin Linton

#### Bird Walk at Lower Table Rock

Erin Linton will lead us to the top of the Lower Table Rock. This walk will be a bit longer and more strenuous than most, but it will be well worth getting to the top of Lower Table Rock to see all of the spring wildflowers as well as spotting spring birds along the way! Meet at Wild Birds Unlimited at 10:00 am, wear layers of clothing appropriate for the weather and good sturdy hiking shoes that might get muddy and wet. Bring binoculars, a field guide, water and any snacks desired, and paper and pen to record species seen. As space is limited, please come by the store or call 541-772-2107 to reserve your space.

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 18

**TIME:** 10:00 am

**PLACE:** Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford

**COST:** Free

**LEADER** Erin Linton

*Bird-centric Events continued on page 12*

## Bird-Centric Events, cont.

### ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES

#### Spring Birding at North Mountain Park

Learn about the birds arriving on their annual migration and the year-round birds of the Rogue Valley as they prepare for springtime courtship. Photography, poetry, bird sounds and fun facts are used in this presentation to help prepare you to go out and see migrating birds and springtime bird behaviors. Please register online at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register) or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 11

**TIME:** 6:30—8:00 pm

**PLACE:** North Mountain Park, 620 North Mountain Ave, Ashland

**COST:** \$15

**INSTRUCTORS** Shannon Rio

#### SPRING HIKES AT THE TABLE ROCKS

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Bureau of Land Management Medford District are co-sponsoring a series of free guided educational hikes at the Table Rocks weekends in April and May. The following hike may be of particular interest to you. Hikes are free but registration is required since space is limited - more information about the full hike series and online registration is available at <https://TableRockHikes2018.eventbrite.com>

#### Lower Table Rock: For the Early Birds

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

**DATE:** Saturday, April 14

**TIME:** 8:00 am

**PLACE:** Lower Table Rock, Medford

**COST:** Free

**LEADERS:** Bob Quaccia and Frank Lospalluto

#### Upper Table Rock Bee Safari

Join Sarah Red-Laird, a.k.a. Bee Girl, and Sasha Joachims, BLM botanist, to find out what all the buzz is about. They will explain why bee pollination is essential for our survival and tell you about the unique pollinator conservation projects on nearby public lands. On this family-friendly hike, net and ID bees and learn about their relationship with the wildflowers and trees that produce a rainbow of colors on the Table Rocks.

**DATE:** Sunday, April 29

**TIME:** 10:00 am

**PLACE:** Upper Table Rock, Medford

**COST:** Free

**LEADERS:** Sarah Red-Laird and Sasha Joachims

*Bird-centric Events continued on page 13*



## **Bird-Centric Events, cont.**

### **TABLE ROCKS HIKES, Cont.**

#### **Lower Table Rock Loop Trail: Whoo Comes Out at Night?**

BLM wildlife biologist Steve Godwin will lead a night hike to look for and listen to the creatures of the night on the Lower Table Rock Loop Trail (1/2 mile accessible trail) He 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.

**DATE:** Saturday, May 12  
**TIME:** 7:30 pm  
**PLACE:** Lower Table Rock, Medford  
**COST:** Free  
**LEADERS:** Steve Goodwin

#### **Lower Table Rock: Bug Out on the Lower Table Rock**

Hike with Dr. Bill Schaupp, entomologist with the USDA Forest Service's Forest Health Protection, to observe and discuss the incredible insects that live on or flutter by the Table Rocks. On this hike, you will gain a deeper appreciation for how insects live and their essential role in the environment.

**DATE:** Saturday, May 19  
**TIME:** 9:00 am  
**PLACE:** Lower Table Rock, Medford  
**COST:** Free  
**LEADERS:** Steve Goodwin

### **BIRD BIOBLITZ IN THE CSNM**

Friends of Cascade Siskiyou National Monument will be holding a Bird BioBlitz on May 26, 2018. It's a great chance to raise awareness for the monument, participate in Citizen Science AND see some of our mountain birds in the company of expert leaders! Stay informed on the latest BioBlitz details by signing up for the Friends' newsletter <http://www.cascadesiskiyou.org/subscribe>. See you in the monument on May 26th!

**DATE:** Saturday, May 26  
**TIME:** TBA  
**PLACE:** Details TBA  
**COST:** Free

### **8th ANNUAL DEAN HALE WOODPECKER FESTIVAL**

#### **May 31—June 3 in Sisters, Oregon**

During this popular event, festival participants have a choice of 20 guided tours in search of 11 different species of woodpeckers and 200 other birds that make central Oregon a birding hot spot. Sponsored by East Cascades Audubon Society, this festival offers a fun, friendly, casual atmosphere that is all about the birds. The trips are affordable and guided by two local volunteers with the proceeds supporting the many ECAS projects and programs fostering bird conservation. Online registration opens April 2 at 9 am PDT and more information is on the website:

<http://www.ecaudubon.org/dean-hale-woodpecker-festival>

You can email questions to [dhwf2018@gmail.com](mailto:dhwf2018@gmail.com) Trips fill quickly!

## 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 and participating in society activities. 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:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

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.*
- ☐ *Send a monthly paper copy of The Chat newsletter (I don't have Internet access).*
- ☐ *Please contact me about volunteering for society activities (see RVAS website for list of opportunities).*

### 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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## 2018 RVAS Program Schedule

April 24:

"Lake Abert: Its Salinity and the Effect on  
Its Birds"

Presented by Ron Larson

Date TBA:

Annual Potluck at Tou Velle Park



## 20% OFF One Regularly-priced Item

\*Valid 4/1/18 thru 12/31/18 at the Medford, OR WBU  
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# ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

## 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.

