

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



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## President's Letter

By Carol Mockridge

It's time to look back at our accomplishments for this past fiscal year. Thanks to all our members who contributed to our mission of conservation and education.

### Membership

- Our membership continues to grow. Currently we have 192 local and 498 national members. Attendance at our monthly chapter meetings averaged over 50 participants - a testament to the excellent range of topics and speakers.
- Many members volunteered to fill vacancies as committee chairs, which helped to share the important work we do.

### Education

- India Bolding and Sarah Norton, graduate students in the SOU Environmental Education Program, continued our successful Birding in the Schools intern program throughout the Rogue Valley.
- Other RVAS members conducted hour-long elementary classroom PowerPoint "Bird Adaptations" presentations.
- The board promised up to \$1,200 to SOU's Environmental Education students' Fall in the Field Program. Also, RVAS continues to support the Siskiyou Field Institute's scholarship fund for area teachers. RVAS sponsored the Rogue Valley Bird Day and the Bioblitz with monetary contributions.
- We reprinted our popular *Birding Hotspots of Jackson County* brochure and *Birds of Jackson County, Oregon* booklet. And work is underway to update the booklet, which is done every five years.
- With donations raised at the Annual Holiday Party, the board agreed to fund a new \$4,000 Southern Oregon Land Conservancy Project at Hedrick Middle School in Medford. The environmental education unit will focus on the Vaux's Swifts that visit there in the fall (see story on p. 7).

### Birding Events

- The FeederWatch programs at both North Mountain Park and Coyote Trails Nature Center continued and gave the public many chances to bird with experienced birders.
- The first Wednesday of the month bird walk moved to the Denman Wildlife Area in January. Murray Orr continues to lead all who show up and records his impressive species list on eBird.

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

## President's Letter, cont.

### Birding Events, cont.

- Monthly field trips and bird walks covered Southern Oregon and Northern California and included more local family-friendly trips.
- The Medford Christmas Bird Count had 58 participants and the Ashland CBC had 68 participants.
- 2018 Birdathon had seven teams and 30 participants.

### Conservation Advocacy

- RVAS is a member of the Oregon Avian Conservation Committee, headed up by Audubon Society of Portland. Our Conservation Committee representative attends an annual meeting to set priorities for the year. This fall, RVAS will host the annual meeting here at the Green Springs Inn.
- The 2018 priorities sponsored by RVAS include:

1. The defense of federal environmental laws and land; work on federal, state and private forest lands to ensure science-based management.
2. Support policies that protect older forests, fish and wildlife and water quality, and promote bird-friendly renewable energy development, and oppose new fossil fuel facilities which may exacerbate climate change.



The Wandering Tattlers were one of seven teams that participated in this year's Birdathon. Photo by Anne Goff.

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### **Conservation Advocacy, cont.**

- The board endorsed many letters sent to us by the OAC:
  - Water Watch of Oregon letter on proposed Senate Energy Bill (section 9301)
  - Sage Grouse Conservation Agreement
  - Coos Bay Channel Modification Project EIS
  - Seiad-Horse Risk Reduction Scoping Comments
  - Migratory Bird Treaty Act Group Sign-on Letter

### **Community**

- A bench at Ashland Pond was funded and dedicated to Gwyneth Ragosine, a past president and long-time bird activist. In addition, a sign highlighting the fascinating life of the American Dipper is in production for Ashland Creek in Lithia Park. Thanks to the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department for their cooperation.
- RVAS contributed \$400 to Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument for the 2018 Birding BioBlitz.



## **2018-2019 RVAS Program Schedule**

We are still working out the details for the upcoming season.  
Please join us for our first fall chapter meeting on

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 at 7:00 pm**

**Presenter PEPPER TRAIL**

Details to come!

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



## Jackson County Field Notes April and May, 2018

By Frank Lospalluto

Listen.

The world slows down.

The long journey expressed in bright tones.

The birds are back and birders are reveling in their first of the seasons, puzzling over song variation and delighting in the miracle of migration.

Here are some of the highlights from the past few weeks. The RVbirdlist has been more active of late, as people share their first of the seasons and their excitement. I hope you have kept up and been inspired to get out and bird!

A few **Snow Geese** were spotted in mid-April at Kirtland Ponds and Ousterhout Farm (BH). Flocks of **Cackling Geese** were observed mid-April moving over Ashland and Howard Prairie (KM, LF). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was in Provolt May 2 and a couple were at Kirtland and off E. Dutton Rd. in April (AG, JK). A lone **Redhead** was found on E. Dutton Rd. in early April (MG). **Greater White-fronted Geese** were still migrating through on the first weekend of May, as a few of the Birdathon teams will confirm. A **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** was at Howard Prairie Lake Apr. 19 (JC).

**Common Loons** were spotted frequently during April and into May at Howard Prairie Lake, handsome in their breeding plumage. Five **Horned Grebe** were on Agate Lake Apr. 18 (JK).

An **American Bittern** is reliable now at Ave. G ponds. **Green Heron** are nesting and will become more conspicuous as the season continues. One continues in the Ashland Pond area (KM). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** has been spotted recently as well around Ave. G (BH).

A **White-faced Ibis** was seen at Ave. G on the morning of May 18, but it did not linger long (RB).

**Sandhill Cranes** are back around the Howard Prairie area and some of the wet

meadows on the plateau to breed and raise their young. Three **Black-necked Stilts** were at Agate Lake Apr 18 and one was at Kirtland Apr. 20 and two on Apr. 25 (JK, GS, BH). A lone **Black-bellied Plover** was at Kirtland Apr. 23 (BH). **Semipalmated Plovers** have been found at Kirtland on numerous occasions from mid-April to mid-May (HS, GS, BH, JK). A **WILLET** was found on the Denman Hall Tract April 15 (JK). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Ave. G on Apr. 9 and one was at Kirtland Apr. 13 (BH).

A **RUFF** was at Kirtland the evening of Apr. 4 but only seen by one birder and no photos were taken, due to the ineptness of the observer (FL). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at Kirtland for a few days starting Apr. 15 (GS).

A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported at Kirtland May 16 (FL). Three **Wilson's Phalaropes** were also at Kirtland the same day (JK).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at Kirtland in April and May by numerous observers.

An early **Flammulated Owl** was heard in the Applegate Apr. 24 (FL). A **Long-eared Owl** was heard in the Applegate May 16.



Anne Goff photographed this pair of Sandhill Cranes near Little Hyatt Lake during Birdathon.

*Field Notes continued on page 5*

*Field Notes continued from page 4*

A single **Common Poorwill** was heard off Long Branch Rd. on Apr. 20 (GS, HS). Other reports have trickled in through early May. Common Nighthawks usually return at the end of May or early June.

**Vaux's Swifts** were first reported Apr. 14 over Medford (TJ). They can be seen and heard twittering as they circle in courtship flight over many of our forests and woodlands. They love to nest in old legacy oaks or in broken top Doug firs. That's their natural habitat, though we associate them with nesting and roosting in chimneys. You can also find Vaux's Swifts nesting in the ancient and majestic Redwoods on the coast. If you see three birds circling, one is likely a nest helper—a bird who won't breed but helps feed the young from the mated pair.

**Calliope Hummingbirds** were spotted up along Tolman Creek Rd. at their spot May 7 (JK).

A **Williamson's Sapsucker** was spotted during the Birdathon off of Keno Road May 5 (KM). **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** are quite active now as they begin to nest. As expected, **White-headed Woodpecker** was reported from Mt. Ashland by an out-of-town birder May 6.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** began appearing in late April with one reported Apr. 27 outside Jacksonville (FL). Numerous reports poured in during the first ten days of May. **Western Wood-Pee-wee** followed a similar trend, with one being reported April 22 along Emigrant Creek Road and scattered individuals popping up through the end of April. They were back in numbers in May.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** began showing up in mid-April with birds along Little Butte Creek Apr 15 (BH). **Pacific-slope Flycatchers**, seldom seen but often heard with a song that's very easy to learn and recognize, were along Forest Creek in the middle Applegate Apr. 20. **Dusky Flycatcher** usually arrive a little later, but one was reported Apr. 25 on Anderson Butte (MH). Early May brought an onslaught of reports

(or is that a Hammond's?). **Gray Flycatcher** migrate through the valley and are often found in buckbrush patches. One was at Denman in the Hall Tract Apr. 15 and one was along Obenchain Road Apr. 17 (MG, BH, JK). One was reported from Lower Table Rock Apr. 28.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher**, a cavity-nesting denizen of our oaks, was observed at the Rogue River Preserve Apr. 29 (KM). A **Western Kingbird** was in Talent Apr. 16. A **Cassin's Vireo** was spotted along the Rogue River Trail Apr. 8 (KMac). **Warbling Vireo** show up late in April. One was at Oredson-Todd Woods Apr. 25, one at Ashland Pond Apr. 28 and out in Ruch Apr. 29 (JK, SP, RA, AG).

The swallows are back, performing their daredevil foraging acts and nesting. **Bank Swallows** are sometimes spotted in spring and fall. Two different birds were seen during the Birdathon but none made the confirmed lists. Here a moment, gone the next.

The happy and busy **House Wrens** are back. **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher** had a slow rollout this season. There was a bird spotted at Tou Velle Mar. 29, but most started to arrive a couple of weeks later.

**Townsend's Solitaires** are back on their breeding grounds in the conifer forests. They like to nest on the ground in old road cuts or rock openings. Along with Hermit Thrush, they are not averse to utilizing Pileated Woodpecker excavations in old stumps. And yes, one of the most beautiful songsters in North America is back to serenading in the twilight: **Hermit Thrush**. **Swainson's Thrush** migrate through our area in first part of May, with a few breeding pairs scattered about the county. One was in Ashland May 10 and another on the same day in Jacksonville Woodlands (JC, LC). **Varied Thrush** breeding is fairly limited in our area but there were two birds along Little Butte Creek Apr. 29 (GS).

*Field Notes continued on page 6*

*Field Notes continued from page 5*

Warblers are back; singing, skulking, flitting, chipping, and best of all, singing. **Orange-crowned Warblers** started spilling in in March, but by mid-April were quite noticeable. There were eight birds at Cantrall-Buckley Apr. 14 (AG), and five were at Jacksonville Woodlands Apr. 19 (DV).

There was a **Nashville Warbler** Apr. 15 in Merlin, one along Little Butte Creek, and a couple along old Tou Velle Road. That was a wet day that brought a good “fallout” of warblers and empidonax flycatchers in a few locations around the area (DV, BH, GS).

**MacGillivray’s Warblers** were back on Heppsie Mtn. Apr. 29 (BH), and sightings of them increased dramatically in early May.

**Common Yellowthroats** appeared in force in April, especially in the middle of the month, where they were abundant throughout the Denman area. **Yellow Warblers** appear a bit later. One was seen in Ashland May 1 (KS).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** reports really began rolling in around the third week of April. **Hermit Warblers** were not far behind. A group of six singing Hermit Warblers was along Forest Creek in the Applegate Apr. 20 (FL).

**Townsend’s Warblers** trickled in through April, though the major movement of them through our area is in May. **Wilson’s Warblers** were along Little Butte Creek Apr. 15, and they also tend to start in April and pulse on through throughout May, likely reflecting the movement of different populations from different wintering grounds.

**Grasshopper Sparrows** are back at the Imperatrice property and a few other scattered locations. **Vesper Sparrows** are back on the meadows in the Howard Prairie area. **Chipping Sparrows** are back as well. A singing migrant **Brewer’s Sparrow** turned

up in the oaks off Forest Creek Road May 1, likely a nice surprise for the observer, Dr. Stewart Janes.

**Green-tailed Towhees** greeted a couple of happy hikers in the Greensprings May 5 and May 7 (KM, KMac).

**Yellow-breasted Chat** is back. They started showing up near the last week of May, full of mischief and joy. **Western Tanager** showed up just outside of Medford Apr 21. (JK).

**Black-headed Grosbeak** was noted in Jacksonville Apr. 15 (TP). **Lazuli Bunting** was spotted outside of Jacksonville Apr. 27 (FL).

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at Ave. G ponds May 7 and 8 (HS, BH, JK). The **Bullock’s Oriole** arrival certainly gets many birders excited. One was in the Little Applegate Apr. 15 and a pair was in southwest Medford Apr. 21 (MH, SD).

**Great-tailed Grackles** are out and about, with birds being seen at Whetstone Pond and Ave. G over the last few weeks. There were eight birds at Ave. G May 12 (FL).

**Red Crossbills** have been rare to non-existent in our area the last couple of years, but recently a flock of 15 was seen off Emigrant Creek Rd. May 9 (DH, SF).

Thank you to all who contributed their observations including: Bob Hunter, Janet Kelly, Pepper Trail, Stewart Janes, Gary Shaffer, Howard Sands, Kristi Mergenthaler, Kate Mackenzie, Rene Allen, Susan Doyal, Tom Pratum, Marion Haddon, Jon Cox, Michael Guss, Sammie Peat, Karl Schneck, Dennis Vroman, Anne Goff, Gretchen Hunter, Kate Sipfle, Ralph Browning, and Lee French.

All errors and omissions are my own. Enjoy the summer! Peace.



## Condos on a Pole, Ready for Occupancy

By Jon Deason

The Purple Martin Project is back. The large rack with six artificial gourds was set up on March 2 by the pond at the Medford Irrigation District office. The smaller rack with four gourds was set up in April at Jon Deason's pond. Both are on private property.

The project was developed in 2015 by Carol Palmer, beginning with the small rack installed at the Denman Wildlife Area. The large rack was added in 2016. There were no Purple Martins sighted those two years, but lots of sparrow and swallow invasions. This



Stephen Park lowers the gourds weekly and checks for invasive species. Photo by Carol Mockridge

year, the Department of Fish and Wildlife set up their own Purple Martin racks, wisely placed across Whetstone Pond to avoid the sparrows.

West of the Rocky Mountains, Purple Martins are known for nesting in natural cavities such as abandoned woodpecker holes, but they are increasingly making use of nest boxes as a result of a program that began in the 1980's to recover local populations of the species.

These projects are long range, require intense management and have no guarantee of success. Having three sites in Jackson County

should help the odds. We want to thank Stephen Park who has volunteered to manage the large rack at M.I.D. This will entail weekly visits to check for Purple Martins, remove invading species and record progress.

Success is reported with similar projects in Roseburg and Eugene. We will keep in touch with those and the Denman project to share information and help make it an Oregon-wide project.

(L-R) Stephen Park and Jon Deason complete installation of Purple Martin nesting rack at a private pond.  
Photo by Carol Mockridge



## Swift Encounter:

Hedrick Middle School teachers and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy prepare to introduce students to their feathery neighbors.

By Karen Hussey, SOLC Land Steward

Thanks to a grant from Rogue Valley Audubon, the Hedrick Hornets will get to meet the Hedrick Swifts!

It's a little known fact in the Rogue Valley that Hedrick Middle School is one of the most important migratory stops for the Vaux's Swift in the fall. The small birds cannot perch like other birds can. They spend all day long in the air and only get to rest at an adequate roosting site when the sun goes down. They need safe, hollow spaces that have the right texture for clinging and can fit enough birds to keep warm.

Historically, swifts roosted in large hollow trees, but those are harder to find these days so they have adapted to spending the night in old chimneys such as the one at Hedrick Middle School as well. Newer chimneys don't have the right texture for gripping and few suitable places in the valley remain.

Because the birds come to school well after the final bell rings and fly out before students arrive, the birds and students have not had an opportunity to meet—until now. Southern Oregon Land Conservancy has begun working with teachers to plan curriculum and activities for next fall around the swifts. Students will get to see the magical swirl of swifts entering the chimney (and it DOES look magical!), participate in an international citizen science program, host an evening family event, and incorporate the little birds into their English, social studies, math, and science learning standards.

Look for another report here in the fall. Thanks, RVAS!



The arrow points to the old chimney at Hedrick Middle School in Medford. Photo by Karen Hussey.



## The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

### Alaska's Bristol Bay Threatened by Mine

Bristol Bay is the huge bay lying just north of the long arc of the Aleutians. It is an area of incredible natural abundance, both in the marine and terrestrial environments, as recognized with 27 globally-significant Important Bird Areas, two National Parks, four National Wildlife Refuges, two Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites, one Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, one National Monument, and one State Park.

#### The Pebble Mine

The existence of substantial copper, gold, and molybdenum deposits in the uplands of Bristol Bay has been known for decades, and various concepts for mining the deposits have been put forward over the years. For the last ten years or so, several proposals for the huge open-pit "Pebble Mine" have been debated. These would impound large amounts of water, waste rock, and mine tailings behind several earthen dams at the mine site. Experience has shown that the eventual failure of such earthen dams is almost guaranteed, which would release huge plumes of contaminated sediment into several rivers and ultimately Bristol Bay itself.

#### What is at Risk

In any given year, millions of birds arrive from around the globe to breed, forage, or rest in Bristol Bay. Perhaps no place else on Earth is so important to so many birds from so many different continents.

At the same time, tens of millions of salmon swim through Bristol Bay each year, providing a foundation for both the local economy, as well as the staggering number of birds. All five of the Eastern Pacific salmon species spawn in the freshwater rivers flowing into Bristol Bay, which is considered to support the largest salmon run in the world.

Nushagak Bay lies within one of the pristine watersheds that would be threatened by the proposed mine and its toxic tailings ponds.  
Photo by Michael Medford,  
National Geographic Stock



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### **Southern Hemisphere Migrant Birds**

- Millions of shearwaters (Sooty and Short-tailed) that nest south of the equator arrive in Bristol Bay each summer to forage, while the Southern Hemisphere undergoes its cold season.
- The Short-tailed Shearwater is the most abundant of these Southern Hemisphere visitors, numbering in the tens of millions.

### **Local Nesting Birds**

- Over a million breeding seabirds, including Tufted Puffin, Common Murres, and Black-legged Kittiwakes.
- At least 75 marine bird species and 24 shorebird species nest in Bristol Bay.
- About 15,000 Tundra Swans breed in Bristol Bay's lowlands.

### **Special Species**

- Millions of shorebirds stage in Bristol Bay's rich coastal estuaries during the fall and spring, making the region one of the most important shorebird areas in North America.
- Nearly the entire global populations of Emperor Goose and Pacific Black Brant use Izembek Lagoon in the southern portion of Bristol Bay.
- Bristol Bay is a global stronghold for Steller's Eider, a federally threatened species.
- An estimated 75% of the Pacific Black Scoter population spends time in the Bristol Bay region.
- About 40% of the western population of King Eiders winters or migrates through Bristol Bay.

**Take action to conserve this remarkable resource.**

**Visit** <http://ak.audubon.org/news/open-pit-mining-threatens-bristol-bay> and click on the "Take Action: submit a public comment" link to submit a comment to the EPA to protect Bristol Bay and halt all proposals to develop the Pebble Mine. A more recent National Audubon alert, with a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers, can be seen at: <https://tinyurl.com/yb8nkbh9> (this will come with my name auto-filled in, since I received the alert. Simply delete my name and email and fill in your own).

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

### **FIRST WEDNESDAY BIRD WALKS AT DENMAN WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Murray Orr will continue to lead his monthly bird walks at Denman Wildlife Refuge over the summer. 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 ODFW parking permit. These can be purchased at the ODFW office, Bi-Mart, or Sportsman's Warehouse in Medford (Delta Waters and Highway 62). Walks begin at 8:30 am and end before noon. Please arrive 10 minutes early.

June Walk: Wednesday, June 6

July Walk: Wednesday, July 4

August Walk: Wednesday, August 1

## All Teams Report an Exciting Birdathon

By Carol Mockridge

Great weather greeted seven teams for the 2018 Birdathon on May 4 and 5. The **Falcons** won first place with 156 species. Their last victory was in 2012. Winning bragging rights for the rest of the year are Stewart Janes, Pepper Trail, and new team members and graduate students Emily Lind and Sarah Norton.

Highlights of the Falcon sightings included eight Common Loons at Howard Prairie Lake, a clean sweep of the warblers and “Standing under dense conifers with a quiet tapping woodpecker in the White-headed Woodpecker area for half an hour and getting nothing.”

The **Great Grays** (last year’s winners) came in second place with 149 species. Bob Hunter, Frank Lospalluto, Romain Cooper, Dominic DiPaolo and Lauren DiBiccari most interesting sighting was of a Grasshopper Sparrow.



The Falcons (L-R): Pepper Trail, Stewart Janes, Sarah Norton, and Emily Lind. Photo by Emily Lind.

The **Binosaurs** came in third place with 126 species. The team members were Norm Barrett, Gary Shaffer and Jim Livaudais. Their most unusual sighting was a pair of Great Gray Owls. In the most interesting category, Norm reported, “As we drove down Hwy. 66, we came around a corner to find a Golden Eagle on a fresh road kill - a ground squirrel, in the middle of the road. Its mate circled overhead.”

Four other teams also reported high numbers. The **No Playback Woodpeckers** with Kristi Mergenthaler, Eril Halcomb, Tiffany Manger, Linda Hammer and Nala Cardillo saw 115 species. They had great views of a Williamson’s Sapsucker and Wilson’s Snipe and camped under hooting Great Horned Owls.

The Wandering Tattlers and the Old World Warblers both had 92 species. The **Wandering Tattlers** team included Juliet Grable, Carol Mockridge, Anne Goff, Maris Wilson and Eva Thiemann. They reported a pair of Sandhill Cranes displaying on the road to Little Hyatt Lake.

The **Old World Warblers** included Edith Lindner, Kathy and Tim Simonsen, Jim Hostick, and Maggie and Clint Rackley. They saw a Canada Goose with an all-white neck and a tan body and a Semi-palmated Plover.

The **Owltlaw Biker** team with Tim Johnston saw 71 species by bicycle. Most interesting species included Ash-throated Flycatcher, White-fronted Goose, Great Egret and Peregrine Falcon.

Thanks to all the teams for raising money for our programs. We’ll report on the fundraising total in the next issue of The Chat.

See you next year!



## Bird-Centric Events from Around the Region

### PRESENTATIONS AND WALKS WITH WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

#### Monthly Talk: Becoming a Conscious Gardener

Gardening season is upon us! Come learn how to make your garden better for the birds and other pollinators. Every gardener can improve the soil to cultivate a healthy biodiversity, attracting a variety of birds and pollinators. This class will focus on how to sequester atmospheric carbon while improving the health of our soil and planet; included will be the teaching of Native American tribes' spiritual relationship to the land.

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 6

**TIME:** 6:00 — 7:00 pm

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

**COST:** Free

**LEADER:** Gerlinde Smith has lived and gardened on three continents with a variety of growing zones and soil conditions. She currently lives in Talent and has the town's first certified pollinator garden.

#### June Chickadee Chats

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." In June, Erin Linton will be discussing Grosbeaks (Black-headed and Evening). No reservations required, just come to share, learn, and join the fun with fellow bird nerds.

**DATE:** Wednesdays: June 13 and June 27

**TIME:** 10:30 am (June 13); 3:30 pm (June 27)

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

**COST:** Free

**LEADER:** Erin Linton

#### Bird Walk at Hyatt Lake

Erin Linton will be leading a walk to Hyatt Lake and surrounding area. This will be a longer walk than usual due to the distance to travel. Meet at Wild Birds Unlimited at 10:00 am, wear layers of clothing appropriate for the weather and good walking shoes that can get wet and muddy. Bring binoculars, a field guide, water and any snacks desired, and paper and pen to record species seen. As space is limited, please reserve your spot today by calling the store or coming in to register.

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 20

**TIME:** 10:00 am

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

**COST:** Free

**LEADER:** Erin Linton

See more WBU events at <https://medford.wbu.com/>

*Bird-centric Events continued on page 13*

## Bird-Centric Events, cont.

### ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES AND EVENTS

#### Lithia Park Natural History Walks

Three days a week—Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays (additional Saturday walks in July and August)—rain or shine, trained volunteer naturalists from APRC lead an easy, interesting, 1.5-hour nature walk through Lithia Park. Topics include: trees, flowers, birds, climate, water, geology and the history of the park. Nature walks are free and all ages are welcome. Please meet at 10 a.m. at the park entrance, across from the Plaza in Ashland. **Pre-registration is not required.**

**DATE:** Sun, Wed & Fri (May-Sep); Sat (Jul & Aug only) June 1--Sep 30

**TIME:** 10:00--11:30 am

**PLACE:** Entrance to Lithia Park, across from Ashland Plaza

**COST:** Free

**LEADERS:** Trained volunteer naturalists from APRC

#### Summer Saturday Morning Bird Walks at North Mountain Park

Enjoy an opportunity to see and hear a variety of birds that spend the summer in the Rogue Valley on this easy walk through NMP. Binoculars and field guides will be available for check-out. Pre-registration is required at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register) or call the NMP Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

**DATE:** Saturdays: Jun 16 | Jul 21 | Aug 18

**TIME:** 8:00 am—9:00 am

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

**COST:** Free (donations welcome)

**LEADERS:** Local birding experts from the Rogue Valley



Anne Goff captured two higher-elevation species—the Mountain Bluebird and Mountain Chickadee—during this year's Birdathon event.

## 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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**Send to Juliet at  
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**Thank you!**



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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.

