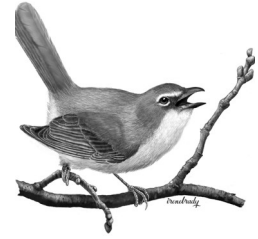


**A voice for education and conservation in the natural world**  
**Rogue Valley Audubon Society**  
**[www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org)**  
*Deadline for the November issue is October 20.*



**RVAS OCTOBER PROGRAM**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23 at 7:00 PM**

## “Swiftling in the Valley: the Great Update”

**Presented by KAREN HUSSEY**

Join wildlife biologist Karen Hussey for a glimpse into the amazing life of the Vaux's Swift. Discover what makes swifts unique, what mysteries remain, and what swifts have to do with hopscotch at Hedrick Middle School. Learn how a grant from RVAS has uncovered unexpected twists and turns in the swift story, and how you can help write the successful ending. If we are lucky, we may have a surprise appearance by Hedrick Middle School students.

Karen Hussey is a wildlife biologist with 14 years of experience working with birds as well as many other species ranging in size from moose to fairy shrimp. She's been in the Rogue Valley for nine years and is currently part of the stewardship team at Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC). Karen is a co-leader of the Medford Winter Raptor Survey run by East Cascades Audubon and chairs the Scholarship Committee of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Other volunteer projects that keep her busy include fisher research, shorebird surveys, and of course Vaux's Swift counts.



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

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

**President:** Carol Mockridge, 360-829-7505  
[mockridge50@hotmail.com](mailto:mockridge50@hotmail.com)

**Vice-President:** George Peterson,  
[sgpeterson@msn.com](mailto:sgpeterson@msn.com)

**Secretary:** Wendy Gere,  
[wendy.gere@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.gere@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Susan Stone  
[weaverstone86@gmail.com](mailto:weaverstone86@gmail.com)

Jon Deason	<a href="mailto:jdeason39@gmail.com">jdeason39@gmail.com</a>
Laura Fleming	<a href="mailto:wbumedford1@gmail.com">wbumedford1@gmail.com</a>
Emily Lind	<a href="mailto:emily.krista.lind@gmail.com">emily.krista.lind@gmail.com</a>
Jeanine Moy	<a href="mailto:Jeanine@kswild.org">Jeanine@kswild.org</a>
Sarah Norton	<a href="mailto:nortons@sou.edu">nortons@sou.edu</a>
Nate Trimble	<a href="mailto:nateltrimble@hotmail.com">nateltrimble@hotmail.com</a>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Archivist:** Linda Kreisman, [linda@ashlandhome.net](mailto:linda@ashlandhome.net)

**Annual Picnic:** Vacant

**Birdathon:** Vacant

**Book Sales:** Sooney Viani, 541-482-5146

**Chat Editor:** Juliet Grable, [chateditor@gmail.com](mailto:chateditor@gmail.com)

**CBC-Ashland:** Carol Mockridge,  
[mockridge50@hotmail.com](mailto:mockridge50@hotmail.com) & Emmalisa Whalley,  
[emmalisa@yahoo.com](mailto:emmalisa@yahoo.com)

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

**Conservation:** Pepper Trail, [ptrail@ashlandnet.net](mailto:ptrail@ashlandnet.net) &  
Juliet Grable, [julietgrable@gmail.com](mailto:julietgrable@gmail.com)

**Education:** Lynn Kellogg, [rvas.ed@gmail.com](mailto:rvas.ed@gmail.com) & Sooney  
Viani, [sooneyviani@gmail.com](mailto:sooneyviani@gmail.com)

**Field Notes:** Frank Lospalluto, [fdlospalluto@gmail.com](mailto:fdlospalluto@gmail.com)

**Field Trips:** Nate Trimble, [nateltrimble@hotmail.com](mailto:nateltrimble@hotmail.com)

**Holiday Party :** Lynn McDonald

[junelynnjacobs@gmail.com](mailto:junelynnjacobs@gmail.com)

**Hospitality:** Jon Deason, [jdeason39@gmail.com](mailto:jdeason39@gmail.com)

**Master Gardener Fair:** Laura Fleming,  
[wbumedford1@gmail.com](mailto:wbumedford1@gmail.com)

**Membership:** George Peterson, [sgpeterson1@msn.com](mailto:sgpeterson1@msn.com)

**Programs:** Katy Reed, 541-245-5095

**Publicity:** Wendy Gere, [wendy.gere@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.gere@gmail.com)

**Volunteers:** Linda Kreisman, [linda@ashlandhome.net](mailto:linda@ashlandhome.net)

## CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

**E-mail:** [roguevalleyaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:roguevalleyaudubon@gmail.com)

**The Chat:** [chateditor@gmail.com](mailto:chateditor@gmail.com)

**Webmaster:** Tom Pratum [tkp9551@gmail.com](mailto:tkp9551@gmail.com)

**Web Site:** [www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org)

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/  
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

The beginning of our new Audubon season is off and running. The board continues to look for new ways to support avian conservation and education in the Rogue Valley as you will read below. I encourage all members to get involved with our many activities and to attend monthly chapter meetings.

Carol Mockridge

## Fall in the Field Update

As fall is arriving in southern Oregon, it signals the beginning of the annual Fall in the Field program created and run by graduate students of the Environmental Education program at Southern Oregon University. This year, Fall in the Field offers place-based education programs for grades K-8 at multiple locations throughout Southern Oregon, including both day-long and residential programs. Each program will provide highlights of important ecological features of the local environment, foster a positive relationship between students and nature, and offer hands-on learning through exploration.

To continue Rogue Valley Audubon Society's support of Fall in the Field, we are providing funding for a special service learning lesson for sixth graders at South Middle School.



SOU graduate students test out their bird box designs. Photo by Ellie Thompson

*Letter from the Board continued on page 3*

### ***Letter from the Board continued from page 2***

Through this service learning field study, students will learn about native cavity nesting birds and some of the threats that they face, namely invasive species and loss of habitat. Each student will have the opportunity to build a bird box designed specifically for Black-capped Chickadees, a native secondary cavity nester. These bird boxes will be taken home by students to be put up in their yards, school grounds, or park.

Sarah Norton

### **New Student Research Grant Available**

The Audubon Board will be offering a new Student Research Grant to Southern Oregon University students pursuing avian research. The board approved to set aside \$3,000 annually to the fund. Students will be expected to formally apply with a detailed research proposal, and present their research during a chapter meeting upon completion of their project and also report their findings in *The Chat*.

Emily Lind

### **Meet Birding in the Schools intern Kelsey Hanson**

Hi! My name is Kelsey, and I am the new Birding in the Schools intern. I am originally from Idaho and graduated from Idaho State University in 2016 with my B.S. in Biology with an emphasis in integrative organismal biology. After graduation, I moved to Washington to work on boats as a marine naturalist and teach visitors about orcas and other amazing marine life.



I also worked as an environmental educator in Olympic National Park teaching children about nature, sustainability, and ecosystem health. For the time being, I am immersed in the graduate program at SOU for Environmental Education, and I am loving learning more about the ecosystems of the Rogue Valley and how to be a better educator for the public. I respect and admire all wildlife, and I cannot wait to get involved with the Audubon Society to teach people about how fascinating birds are, how they are integral components in nature, and how to better protect their habitats. I am so proud and humbled to officially be an Audubon representative to students of all ages in the Rogue Valley.



## September Field Notes

By Frank Lospalluto

Skins of Greater White-fronted Geese have been migrating over the valley the last few days as I write this. Their recognizable and familiar voices let us know that autumn has arrived. This month we'll cover a few of the highlights of the past few weeks, taking note of a couple of summer highlights.

Field notes are ordered like most of your field guides—in taxonomic order. This summer saw some updates by the AOS (American Ornithological Society). <http://www.bioone.org/doi/pdf/10.1642/AUK-18-62.1>

The splitting, lumping and sequencing changes move rapidly these days as the evolutionary picture becomes increasingly refined by the use of molecular phylogenetics. I am sure Drs. Pepper Trail or Stewart Janes would gladly wax poetically about this subject if questioned. Anyway, I will do my best to adhere to the new changes. The one most will notice is the name change of the Gray Jay to Canada Jay.

**Eared Grebes** are being seen on area lakes. Two were at Lost Creek Sept. 1. (NB). Howard Prairie and Hyatt Lakes held a few early in Sept. (RN, LP). **Western Grebes** are also showing up.

**Common Nighthawks** are mostly gone from our area but a dozen were noted near Agate Rd. Sept. 16 and one was seen Sept. 18 (HS). Interestingly, this area outside Eagle Point had a remarkable 26 on July 7 (HS).

**Vaux's Swifts** are migrating, as many of you know. Hedrick Middle School has had a few nights where the number of birds using the chimney as a nighttime roost hovered near 2000 (KH). A few **Rufous Hummingbirds** are still being reported using local feeders (MH). A female **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was noted visiting a feeder off Pioneer Rd. Aug. 10 and 11 (SJ). Earlier in the summer on June 11 a possible female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was seen

along the PCT near Soda Mtn. Rd. (PT).

It has been a good late summer and early fall for shorebirds and waders this year in the valley. An **American Avocet** was at the south end of Emigrant Lake Aug. 22 and remained through Aug. 26 (BMc, JK). A **Black-necked Stilt** was at Kirtland Ponds Sept. 22 (SP). A **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER** was found at Kirtland Ponds Aug. 28 by a visiting birder who ebirded her sighting and was rediscovered by Janet Kelly, unaware of the previous day's sighting (CKJ, JK). The same visiting birder noted a **Long-billed Curlew** at Agate Lake Aug. 28 (CKJ). Earlier in the month on Aug. 12, a **Long-billed Curlew** flew over Ousterhout Farm outside White City (BH).

A seven shorebird day that included **Sanderling**, a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and two **Semipalmated Plovers** occurred at Lost Creek Sept. 5 (NB).

**Baird's** and **Pectoral Sandpipers** have been numerous this season and noted and photographed by many.

Rene Allen and Sammie Peat found a **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** at Emigrant Lake the evening of Sept. 3. A number of birders were able to see this rarity the following day. Amazingly, the bird spent over 11 days out at the lake (RB). The last Buff-breasted to grace our area was at Agate Lake Aug. 2009 (JT).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper by Frank Lospalluto

*Field Notes continued on page 5*

*Field Notes continued from page 4*

According to the Birds of Jackson County (2014) this most recent sighting was the 6<sup>th</sup> record.

A number of **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen around the valley in August. Two spent a couple of weeks at Wilson's Pond near E. Dutton Rd. near Ousterhout Farm (BH). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was out at Kirtland Ponds when the Pacific Golden-Plover visited Aug. 29 (BH).

**Caspian Terns** have been conspicuous of late. Forty-four were at the south end of Emigrant Lake Sept. 14 (FL). Two Caspians were keeping company with one **Common Tern** at Agate Lake Sept. 18 (JK, NB, JL).

A **SNOWY EGRET** was reported on ebird Sept. 12 at Emigrant Lake by a reliable observer who was visiting the area and looking for the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Local birders did not refind it.

A **Long-eared Owl** was heard and seen during a Spotted Owl survey in the Applegate in mid-August. **Great Horned Owls** have been more vocal again of late as they begin courtship.

A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was reported June 11 from along the PCT near Soda Mtn. Rd. (PT). **Lewis's Woodpeckers** are back in the valley for the winter. Interestingly, there were a few sightings of Lewis's at the end of May in the Grizzly Peak Preserve. Usually all the Lewis's have left the valley by May 15 to go to breeding areas east and north of us. There have been no breeding reports for the Rogue Valley for a few decades.

**Say's Phoebes** were spotted near Hyatt Lake and Howard Prairie Lakes Sept. 2

and 9 (RN, LP, FL). And one was in the Little Applegate Sept. 17 (MH). Some do overwinter in our area but many migrate through. A **Pygmy Nuthatch** was near Little Hyatt Aug. 9 (SJ).

**American Pipits** are back in the area. A dozen were seen near Mt. Ashland Sept. 3, 14 were at Emigrant Sept. 8, and 20 were spotted at Agate Sept. 18 (AJ, TM, KM, BH).

Earlier this year a **LAWRENCE'S GOLD-FINCH** was found by Anne Goff in Cantrell Buckley Park May 27. Anne then found five Lawrence's—an adult feeding young July 9 at Provolt Pond, which is near the Jackson /Josephine County line. This is the best evidence yet of likely breeding in Oregon. Anne must be a finch whisperer.

**Golden-crowned** and **White-crowned Sparrows** are back for the winter. A **White-throated Sparrow** was seen at a feeder in Medford Sept. 24 (EL).

A male **HOODED ORIOLE** was reported at a feeder July 14 in Sam's Valley by Cat Kizer. Photos were posted on Facebook and an ebird report was submitted. Beautiful bird!

Thanks to everyone who contributed sightings to this edition including: Jeff Tufts, Bob Hunter, Pepper Trail, Courtney Kelly Jett, Janet Kelly, Norm Barrett, Jim Livaudais, Gary Shaffer, Howard Sands, Rene Allen, Sammie Peat, Russ Namitz, Stewart Janes, Marion Hadden, Anne Goff, Adam Jackson, Tanner Martin, Jon Cox, Ralph Browning, Kristi Mergenthaler, Edi Lindner and Lucky Penny.

All errors and omissions are my own. Peace.

## Project FeederWatch Returns

By Mary Pat Power

It's that time of year! In November Project FeederWatch (PFW) begins its 17<sup>th</sup> season at North Mountain Park in Ashland. The Medford PFW is looking for another location due to the closing of the Coyote Trails program. See the article on page 8 for details.

Organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, PFW is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through March and send their counts to the PFW data base. This data helps scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

The free one hour watches provide novice birders the easiest possible identification practice since there are unobstructed, close up views of from ten to twenty species perched at feeders with the experienced birders available to help. There is shelter in case of inclement weather and young people are encouraged to join in if accompanied by an adult.

We are seeking volunteers to lead each session. The process is easy and takes just a few minutes of preparation and data recording before and after the hour long observation session. For more information or to volunteer contact Mary Pat Power at [marypat1010@gmail.com](mailto:marypat1010@gmail.com) about Ashland PFW.

### Project FeederWatch schedule for 2018 – 2019:

#### North Mountain Park (Ashland) PFW

**Fridays:** 9:00 – 10:00 am; counts done by 1 person; not advertised to the public  
Nov 9, Nov 23, Dec 7, Dec 21, Jan 4, Jan 18, Feb 1, Feb 15, Mar 1, Mar 15

**Saturdays:** 9:00 – 10:00 am; open to the public  
Nov 10, Nov 24, Dec 8, Dec 22, Jan 5, Jan 19, Feb 2, Feb 16, Mar 2, Mar 16

## RVAS BIRDING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

### FIRST WEDNESDAY BIRD WALKS AT AGATE LAKE

Murray Orr will continue to lead his monthly bird walks at Denman Wildlife Refuge this fall. These walks take place on the first Wednesday of each month. In this ongoing citizen science project, the numbers of different species observed by walk participants are entered in the Cornell Ornithological Laboratory's eBird database. Birders wishing to join Murray should meet him in the parking area accessed from Agate Road in White City. Participants will need to purchase an ODFW parking permit. These can be purchased at the ODFW office, Bi-Mart, or at Sportsman's Warehouse in Medford (Delta Waters and Highway 62). Walks begin at 8:30 am and end before noon.

October Walk: Wednesday, October 3  
November Walk: Wednesday, November 6  
December Walk: Wednesday, December 5

## It's Membership Renewal Time

The RVAS Board decided to go back to having membership renewals once a year in the fall. Please renew your membership by **Oct. 31**. Renew online or complete and mail in the form below. Your membership supports all the excellent programs your local chapter provides and the conservation work RVAS supports.

Membership is \$20, but if you wish to receive a paper copy of *The Chat*, please consider including an extra \$20 to cover mailing costs.

What membership includes:

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

### Rogue Valley Audubon Society Membership Form

Mail check to: Rogue Valley Audubon Society, PO Box 8597, Medford OR 97501  
or join online with PayPal at [www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org)  
Welcome to the flock! We are a dedicated group.

\_\_\_\_ Regular Membership (\$20) \_\_\_\_ Printed newsletter (\$20) \_\_\_\_ Additional Donation (amount)

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email (required to receive online newsletter and other RVAS announcements):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

- ☐ Check here if you wish to be sent a printed copy of *The Chat* by U.S. mail. Add \$20 to membership check.
- ☐ Check here if you wish to volunteer for Rogue Valley Audubon.
- ☐ Check here to opt out of all electronic communications from Rogue Valley Audubon.

## Changes to Audubon Programs

By Jon Deason

The Coyote Trails Program in Medford is closing. This is a great loss to environmental education in the area and also to some RVAS activities. The center was ideally located on the Greenway and offered access to Bear Creek for riparian study and salmon spawning observation. It was also an ideal location for the Feeder Watch program and provided a meeting room and storage space for the RVAS Board.

The Medford FeederWatch program will be difficult to replace. It requires a public place (hopefully with some cover from the rain) for observation and daily maintenance of the feeders. RVAS supplies the birdseed.

The meeting location is not as difficult. We have already been offered space at the church where we have our Chapter Program meetings. A new storage space is located but we could use a couple of book shelves. Please call Carol Mockridge at 360-829-7505 if you can donate one. Also let the board know if you have a suggestion for a new FeederWatch program location in the Medford or Applegate area.

## RVAS to Host Annual Conservation Meeting

This year's annual Fall Conservation meeting of the Oregon Audubon Council (OAC) will take place on October 12 to 14, 2018. The goal of the meeting is to bring together Oregon Audubon chapter leaders to discuss conservation issues of concern and select OAC priority issues for the coming year. Rogue Valley Audubon is hosting the meeting in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument at the beautiful Green Springs Inn. RVAS members are welcome to participate. For more information, or if you have a conservation issue you feel should be discussed at the meeting, please contact Pepper Trail or Juliet Grable (see below).

### OAC WEEKEND MEETING IN BRIEF:

Friday, October 12	Social Gathering and No-host Dinner
Saturday, October 13	Oregon Audubon Council Meeting Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included
Sunday, October 14	Field Trip in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Breakfast and sack Lunch included

**MEETING AGENDA:** The agenda planning process is being conducted by e-mail and phone with chapter leaders. Please contact us concerning conservation issues your chapter would like to discuss, as well as those you would like to champion for OAC priority status. We look forward to hearing your ideas.

### OAC Meeting Contacts:

RVAS Conservation Committee Co-chair Pepper Trail, [ptrail@ashlandnet.net](mailto:ptrail@ashlandnet.net)  
RVAS Conservation Committee Co-chair Juliet Grable, [julietgrable@gmail.com](mailto:julietgrable@gmail.com) or 541-778-8174  
OAC Secretary Meg Ruby, [megruby@gmail.com](mailto:megruby@gmail.com) or 503-784-3912 (cell)



## The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

For this Conservation Column, here is an update on the 2018 conservation actions and priorities of the Oregon Audubon chapters, compiled by Joe Liebezeit of Portland Audubon. On October 13-14, Rogue Valley Audubon will host the annual conservation meeting of the Oregon Audubon Council (OAC) at the Green Springs Inn, where 2019 priorities will be discussed. As always, there is no shortage of critical conservation issues!

### Marbled Murrelets:

On June 7, 2018, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission voted 4-2 to reverse a decision that it made just four months earlier to raise the Marbled Murrelets's status from "threatened" to "endangered" under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. The reversal demonstrated a blatant disregard for science, state wildlife law and the continued survival of the murrelet in Oregon. At the August meeting the ODFW Commission approved toothless voluntary survival guidelines that have no force of law. Subsequently five conservation groups, including Portland Audubon filed a lawsuit against the ODFW Commission. The lawsuit includes four claims. First, the ODFW Commission failed to base its decision upon documented and verifiable science. Second, the Commission failed to adequately explain its decision to reverse its prior decision to uplist. Next, the decision not to uplist is not supported by substantial evidence in the record. Finally, the Commission failed to provide adequate notice to the public or the petitioners to weigh in on its decision to reverse the uplisting in June.

### Elliott State Forest:

The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled on August 1 that the 2014 sale of the 788-acre East Hakki Ridge tract on the 93,000-acre Elliott State Forest was illegal. The ruling, which overturns the sale of the public land to a private timber company, marks a major win for the state's public lands and for the future of the Elliott State Forest, setting an important precedent for the State's future role in managing public lands.

### Defense of federal environmental laws

A variety of federal laws have come under attack over the past year, including the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, floodplain protections, and the sage grouse plan. In March 2018, 10 Oregon Audubon chapters submitted a letter to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) opposing its Draft Proposed 2019-2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Portland Audubon is tracking this process. Individual chapters have submitted letters and signed-on to letters opposing other efforts to weaken federal laws and Portland Audubon has helped organize a national coalition to oppose weakening of floodplain protections achieved through its litigation against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Comments are currently being drafted by Portland Audubon addressing weakening of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

### Lake Abert

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.

*Conservation Column continued on page 10*

*Conservation Column continued from page 9*

#### Klamath National Wildlife Refuge

Audubon Portland, Oregon Wild, WaterWatch, and Crag Law Center have filed a lawsuit charging that the USFWS failed to follow federal law in the development of the refuges CCP and that the preferred alternative does little to protect the refugees habitat and wildlife. The ROD preferred alternative was released in January 2017 ([https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tule\\_Lake/what\\_we\\_do/planning.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tule_Lake/what_we_do/planning.html)). Litigation is still in process and in the briefing phase.

#### Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Portland Audubon hired Teresa Wicks as the Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator based out of Burns, Oregon. Teresa hit the ground in May and is working to support the work of the High Desert Partnership, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and other conservation initiatives in the area (including a number of OAC priorities). The addition of a full-time staff person based in Harney County in addition to support from Candace Larson, Portland Audubon Field Biologist, has enabled an increase in both outreach and wildlife monitoring engagement with the Malheur NWR and Harney County partners. Audubon Portland continues to be deeply engaged with the implementation of the Malheur CCP and related efforts. Several chapters have tried to help support the Malheur Field Station during its challenges over the past year.

#### Condors

We are still awaiting the USFWS Environmental Assessment (EA) that was due for public comment fall 2017. As of mid-July, the word from USFWS was that they tentatively planned on publishing the proposed rule in late-Aug/early-Sept, but looks like they're on track for more delay. Portland Audubon has expressed interest in becoming a signatory on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Condor release, but it is unclear whether there is actually a process in place to add additional signatories and we have yet to be invited in. Our current focus is on trying to find ways to engage in and support reintroduction efforts while continuing to advocate for the highest level of protection possible for this population. Nevertheless, the EA is sure to stick to the 10j non-essential population designation for birds in this range, thus limiting protections.

#### Greater Sage Grouse

The Trump administration has weakened sage grouse protections across the west triggering lawsuits from national conservation organizations. Impacts in Oregon were relatively small compared to other states. East Cascades Audubon has about 80 volunteers engaged with Sage Grouse related projects including mosquito trapping to assess prevalence/ risk from West Nile Virus. Meanwhile, Portland Audubon continues to be involved with Sage Con (state/ federal effort to implement sage grouse plan) and submitted comments opposing weakening of sage grouse protections in Oregon.

#### Cormorants

The Corps and other federal agencies declined to implement the final year of lethal control of Cormorants on East Sand Island due to colony collapse in 2016 and 2017. The focus now is on the revision of the Columbia River Salmon Protection Plan and getting the agencies to address the primary causes of salmon declines: the federal hydropower system.

#### Streaked Horned Larks / Vesper Sparrows

We are still awaiting the USFWS Streaked Horned Lark Draft recovery Plan that was due for public comment in the spring of 2018.

## Timber Sale Threatens Great Gray Owl Habitat



Great Gray Owl. Photo courtesy Peter K. Burian.

This summer, the Bureau of Land Management released the Griffin Half Moon timber sale which targets several hundreds of acres of forest adjacent Howard Prairie Lake, very close to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Included in the acreage are 170-year-old trees and valuable habitat for both Great Gray Owls and Pacific Fishers. Great Gray Owls need canopy cover for roosting and nesting; this timber sale will effectively remove this habitat and replace it with monoculture “tree farms.”

George Sexton, Conservation Director for the Klamath Siskiyou Wildland Center (KS Wild) wrote in a recent [blog](#), “The public forests surrounding Howard Prairie are a Great Gray Owl hotspot and are essential as a primary ‘source population’ for the species. Due to the importance of this habitat, previous BLM timber sales in the area had protected, rather than logged, known owl nesting sites. Those days are behind us...Through the Griffin Half Moon sale, the BLM is targeting previously protected owl nesting sites for ‘regeneration.’”

If you would like more information about the issue or would like to know what else you can do, please visit the KS Wild website or contact Brodia Minter of KS Wild at [brodia@kswild.org](mailto:brodia@kswild.org)

Please consider contacting the BLM District Manager Elizabeth Burghard and opposing this timber sale: [https://secure.everyaction.com/TRY3gTkmSkSW4jbm1\\_zt7A2](https://secure.everyaction.com/TRY3gTkmSkSW4jbm1_zt7A2)

Here is a sample message:

Dear District Manager Burghard:

I would like to join with the chorus of neighbors, scientists and biologists who support conservation of remaining old-growth forests that provide essential habitat for rare and imperiled species like the Great Gray Owl.

I urge public land managers to focus their efforts on small-diameter thinning near homes and communities rather than increasing fire hazard in the backcountry through either clearcutting or the logging of old-growth trees that provide habitat for at-risk wildlife species.

I am particularly concerned with timber sales such as “Griffin Half Moon” that target logging of 170-year-old trees in old growth forests that provide Fisher and Great Gray Owl habitat. Instead of creating more tree plantations that will further increase fire hazard for up to three decades, please focus management on already degraded tree plantations and fuels reduction projects to protect communities, restore forests, and produce timber byproducts.

You can work with the public and local stakeholders to protect and restore old-growth forests and wildlife habitat on public lands.

## Annual Holiday Event: Party with Purpose Saturday, December 1

Our Annual Holiday Potluck will be held on Saturday, December 1 at Medford Congregational Church in Lidgate Hall (as usual), [1801 East Jackson Street, Medford](#). This year, our goal is to raise money to support the Vaux's Swift roosting site at Hedrick Middle School in Medford. Back by popular demand, the emcee will again be the incomparable Pepper Trail, aided by Jim Livaudais, who will select photos of his latest travels. The live auction will include such goodies as guided field trips, accommodations, handmade gifts and wine.

The board hopes you will join us for an enjoyable evening—and bring your check books! If you have an auction item to donate, contact Lynn McDonald by 16 November at [junelynnjacobs@gmail.com](mailto:junelynnjacobs@gmail.com)



Migrating Vaux's Swifts use the old brick chimney at Hedrick Middle School (seen in the background) during their annual fall migration. Students at Hedrick are learning about their avian neighbors through curriculum that was funded by an RVAS grant. The proceeds from this year's Holiday Party will go to preserving this important roost site. Look for more details about this project in November's newsletter.  
Photo by Carol Mockridge

### Save the Dates!

Medford Christmas Bird Count  
Sunday, December 16, 2018

Ashland Christmas Bird Count  
Saturday, December 29



## BIRD-CENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### PRESENTATIONS AND WALKS WITH WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

#### **Chickadee Chat: Bird Migration**

We will be discussing the amazing act of **Bird Migration** this month. No registration is required, just show up to learn, share, and have fun with fellow bird nerds!

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 10 and Wednesday, October 24  
**TIME:** 10:30 am (October 10); 3:30 pm (October 24)  
**PLACE:** Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford  
**COST:** Free

#### **Monthly Educational Talk: Journey of a Field Biologist**

Brandon Breen will share a highlight reel of stories and photos from his decade working as a field ornithologist. He'll cover his first job out of college, helping to reintroduce California Condors in northern Arizona, and move on to shrub-steppe songbirds in Montana, Golden-cheeked Warblers in central Texas, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in California's Sierra Nevada, Turkey Vultures in the Falkland Islands, Andean Condors in Ecuador, and more. Brandon will end by discussing his current interest in spreading a conservation ethic through children's literature. As space is limited, please reserve your spot today by calling the store at 541.772.2107 or by coming in to register. 541.772.2107

**DATE:** **Tuesday**, October 16  
**TIME:** 6:00—7:00 pm  
**PLACE:** Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford  
**COST:** Free

#### **Bird Walk: Lost Creek Lake**

Erin Linton will be leading a walk to the Lost Creek Lake area. We will look for waterfowl, fall migrants, local songbirds, and birds of prey. Meet at Wild Birds Unlimited. 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, along with paper and pen or smart phone to record/eBird species seen. As space is limited to 15, please reserve your spot today by calling the store at 541.772.2107 or by coming in to register.

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 17  
**TIME:** 10:00 am  
**PLACE:** Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford  
**COST:** Free  
**LEADER** Erin Linton

*Bird-centric Events continued on page 14*

## BIRD-CENTRIC EVENTS, CONT.

### ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

#### Learning Common Backyard Birds

Using photos, stories and fun facts, we will learn about the birds that live in the Rogue Valley. Focus will be on interesting behaviors of birds such as mating and nesting and how they spend their days. Robins, chickadees, crows, hawks, woodpeckers and owls will be among the bird superstars we will get to know. Come prepared to learn and have fun. This class has two sessions, come to either or both. *Pre-register online or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.*

**DATE:** Wednesdays, October 10 and 24

**TIME:** 6:30—8:00 pm

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

**COST:** \$20

**INSTRUCTOR** Shannon Rio is a wildlife educator and board president of the Klamath Bird Observatory.

### KLAMATH BIRD OBSERVATORY EVENTS

#### KBO Banding Demonstration at 7 Mile Guard Station

Hello RVAS members. I am pleased to announce an opportunity to see the long running banding research project carried out by the Klamath Bird Observatory in action! KBO has carried out banding in the Klamath Siskiyou Bioregion for the better part of 20 years and have generously offered to demonstrate their work for Rogue Valley Audubon Society members at the beautiful 7 Mile Guard Station located four miles west of Fort Klamath. Those interested in learning more about field methods used by ornithologists to study bird populations and want an opportunity to see a variety of bird species very close up will not want to miss this trip.

Banding provides critical information on bird movements, age demographics, and individual condition that is impossible to gather as effectively from any other research technique. It also provides banders and observers with the privilege of observing birds in the hand where subtle details of their form and color are able to be witnessed in a way that is impossible even from the best looks of birds otherwise. Come join us in observing KBO's skilled ornithologists and interns gather data on our region's birdlife right in front of your eyes!

Note: Banding involves capturing and handling wild animals and is inherently an invasive way to study birds. While captured birds are released unharmed after they are banded, the process requires delicate work from highly trained and skilled ornithologists. We ask all participants to talk at low volumes and follow any directions given by the banders to minimize stress and risk to the animals.

**DATE:** Monday, October 8

**TIME:** 8:30 am (Meet at Ashland Rite-Aid at 6:50 am to carpool from Ashland)

**PLACE:** 7 Mile Guard Station, Fremont-Winema National Forest

**COST:** Free

**Directions from I-5:** Take Dead Indian Memorial Rd and Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway to Hackler Rd in Fort Klamath. Follow Hackler Rd and Nicholson Rd to NF-33. Look for 7 Mile Cabin on the left shortly after the road turns to gravel.

**RSVP:** Email Nate Trimble ([nateltrimble@hotmail.com](mailto:nateltrimble@hotmail.com)) to RSVP for the trip. There is no cost but the trip is limited to 20 participants and the first 20 people to RSVP will be given spots in the trip.

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## Save the dates!

Annual Holiday Party and Auction  
December 1

Medford Christmas Bird Count  
December 15

Ashland Christmas Bird Count  
December 29

**Please send me your  
bird photos at  
[chateditor@gmail.com](mailto:chateditor@gmail.com)  
Thanks!**



## 20% OFF One Regularly-priced Item

\*Valid 4/1/18 thru 12/31/18 at the Medford, OR WBU store. One discount per purchase. Not valid on bird food, previous purchases, optics, gift cards, DSC memberships, or sale items.

961 Medford Center, Medford, OR 97504  
541-772-2107

# 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.

