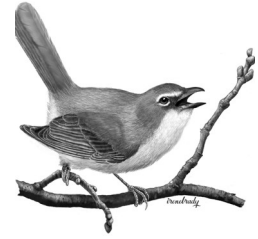


A voice for education and conservation in the natural world

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

www.roguevalleyaudubon.org

Deadline for the December/January issue is November 20.



RVAS NOVEMBER PROGRAM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 at 7:00 PM

“Woodpeckers of the World”

Presented by JOHN & JOY TAYLOR

Tonight you will see 68 woodpeckers that we have selected out of the 215 species that exist in the world. After showing you the many woodpecker species that breed in North America, we will take you to Central America and on to Africa. After that we will show you five of the 27 species of tiny Piculets scattered around the globe, and then on to India and the Asian sub-continent. From there we go to Europe and on to our last stop with the wonderful woodpeckers of South America.

John and Joy Taylor have been Siskiyou Audubon Society members since 1999. They have a life list of almost 1,000 species of birds worldwide. John is a graduate in Bird Biology from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology; he joined the San Fernando Audubon Society in 1960. John and Joy have been birding together since 1979. Their travels have taken them to Alaska, Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Egypt, the Hawaiian Islands, Mexico, and throughout the United States.



****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

Vice-President: George Peterson,
sgpeterson@msn.com

Secretary: Wendy Gere,
wendy.gere@gmail.com

Treasurer: Susan Stone
weaverstone86@gmail.com

Jon Deason	jdeason39@gmail.com
Laura Fleming	wbumedford1@gmail.com
Emily Lind	emily.krista.lind@gmail.com
Jeanine Moy	Jeanine@kswild.org
Sarah Norton	nortons@sou.edu
Nate Trimble	nateltrimble@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archivist: Linda Kreisman, linda@ashlandhome.net

Annual Picnic: Vacant

Birdathon: Gretchen Hunter

Book Sales: Sooney Viani, 541-482-5146

Chat Editor: Juliet Grable, chateditor@gmail.com

CBC-Ashland: Carol Mockridge,
mockridge50@hotmail.com & Emmalisa Whalley,

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

Conservation: Pepper Trail, ptrail@ashlandnet.net &
Juliet Grable, julietgrable@gmail.com

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

Field Notes: Frank Lospalluto, fdlospalluto@gmail.com

Field Trips: Nate Trimble, nateltrimble@hotmail.com

Holiday Party : Lynn McDonald

junelynnjacobs@gmail.com

Hospitality: Jon Deason, jdeason39@gmail.com

Master Gardener Fair: Laura Fleming,
wbumedford1@gmail.com

Membership: George Peterson, sgpeterson1@msn.com

Programs: Katy Reed, 541-245-5095

Publicity: Wendy Gere, wendy.gere@gmail.com

Volunteers: Linda Kreisman, linda@ashlandhome.net

CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

E-mail: roquevalleyaudubon@gmail.com

The Chat: chateditor@gmail.com

Webmaster: Tom Pratum tkp9551@gmail.com

Web Site: www.roquevalleyaudubon.org

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

[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

Over the past year, several volunteers have worked on projects that are drastically improving the way RVAS operates. This article highlights two and hopefully will get you thinking about what unique skills you have that could be of value to the organization.

I met **Dr. Jamie Trammell** on my 2017 Ashland Bird Count team last year. He is an assistant professor of Environmental Science and Policy at Southern Oregon University and an excellent birder. After a cold and very productive day of birding Area Five in the heart of Ashland with a very hard to decipher map, Jamie mentioned to me that he could have his students put the CBC maps into the university's GIS database.

Fast forward to today, and both the new Medford and Ashland CBC maps will soon be available on our website. Users will be able to choose their view—topographical or street view—and be able to zoom in to actually see exactly where the boundaries are. There will be more information about this new website feature in the Dec/Jan issue of *The Chat*.

Tom Pratum contacted Volunteer Coordinator Linda Kreisman shortly after he and his wife Peggy moved to the Rogue Valley and offered to help RVAS. He was previously very active in his local Audubon chapter in many roles. I had recently become RVAS president and was still in charge of our new website. Feeling overwhelmed, I jumped at the chance to turn the website over to another volunteer.

Since then, Tom has made many improvements to the programming of the site and has saved us money on licensing agreements. He also updates the news on the pages and calendar and proactively suggests ways to add new features to make our pages more user-friendly.

Hearing of our need to change how we keep track of membership records, Tom also volunteered to create a new database that is more accessible through the cloud. Membership Chair George Peterson and Treasurer Susan Stone Weaver are working with Tom to populate the database during our current membership renewal.

Letter from the Board continued on page 3

Letter from the Board continued from page 2

It's been exciting to work on all of these projects. There is a real atmosphere of teamwork and pride in advancing the mission of RVAS. I look forward to hearing from more of you with new ideas in the upcoming months.

We are a small Audubon chapter, doing mighty things where we live and work to fulfill the mission of conservation and education.

Carol Mockridge, RVAS President

THE BEAR CREEK SALMON FESTIVAL NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK



Over 250 children and adults visited the RVAS table at the 2018 Bear Creek Salmon Festival at North Mountain Park on Oct. 6. Board member Laura Fleming remarked how many children could identify our local birds by sight and sound. Photos by Carol Mockridge.



October Field Notes

By Frank Lospalluto

Shorter days and golden light stroke the autumn birding season. Winter waterfowl are beginning to return, though many of our lakes and reservoirs have little water. Migration continues in spite of our presence. It is a wonder.

Smaller numbers of **Greater White-fronted Geese** have been found around the valley and in the mountain lakes. The big movements were in September but there has been another surge of late. Over two hundred birds were at Howard Prairie Oct. 21 and a few flocks were noted over the Siskiyou Summit area Oct. 19, 20, and 21 (FL). **Cackling Geese** have been reported from a few places in Josephine County, including Lake Selmac, and likely there are a few birds in Jackson County that have gone unreported (TM). At least one **Blue-winged Teal** has been at Kirtland Ponds the last few weeks noted by many observers. **American Wigeon** numbers have been increasing and a few **Eurasian Wigeons** have been reported. One was at Hyatt Lake Oct. 17 and one at Lost Creek Oct. 20 (FL, LKW). **Northern Pintail** numbers have been rising as well. It would seem they like the company of the Greater White-fronts. At least eight **Canvasbacks** were at Howard Prairie along with three **Redheads** Oct. 20 (BH). **Common** and **Hooded Mergansers**, **Buffleheads**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Ring-necked Ducks** along with **Ruddy Ducks** are all back in noticeable numbers. Three **Surf Scoters** were found at Lost Creek Oct. 14 amidst a raft of Coots (RN, LP).

Horned Grebes and **Eared Grebes** have been observed at Lost Creek and Howard Prairie Lakes recently. Eight **Horned Grebes** were at Lost Creek Oct. 16 (TM). Close to 50 **Eared Grebe** were at Lost Creek Oct. 15 (FL). **Western Grebes** have been seen in small numbers at various locations. A lone **Clark's Grebe** was on Howard Prairie Lake Oct. 20 (BH). One hundred **Band-**

tailed Pigeons were seen in the Little Applegate Oct. 6 (MH). Four **Vaux's Swifts** were over Kirtland Ponds Oct. 10. **American Coot** numbers have been increasing, with hundreds up on the mountain lakes. Twenty-five **Sandhill Cranes** were seen migrating over Willow Point on Howard Prairie Lake Oct. 21 (GH). Eleven **American Avocets** were found at Kirtland Ponds Oct. 3 and at least six were still there Oct. 9 (TM, PS).

Dunlin are one of our late shorebird visitors in the fall. Ten were at Kirtland Ponds Oct. 20 and four were at Lost Creek Oct. 23 (FL, HS). A lone Pectoral Sandpiper was there Oct. 12 (MC). This is a good time of year to see **Wilson's Snipe**, as they are often flocking up and feeding in the open along muddy lake edges and in wet pastures.

Fifteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Agate Lake Oct. 14 and three were at Lost Creek Lake Oct. 23 (MC, HS). October is the time of year we see more of these delicate gulls as they head south. On the lakes they often sit on the water and circle like a phalarope looking for and grabbing invertebrates from the surface of the water—a strategy called surface-seizing—which can aid in identifying them at a distance. Of course they will dive and dip to feed as well.

Seven **Common Loons** were on Lost Creek Lake Oct. 14 (BH). Four or more were on Howard Prairie Oct. 17. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, an adult and an immature bird, were at Whetstone Pond, Oct. 14 (SP, RA).

Large kettles of **Turkey Vultures** were seen heading south through early October with 400 Oct. 9 near Emigrant Lake (AF). Six **Golden Eagles** were seen soaring just north of Ashland Sept. 30 (KS). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was on the Siskiyou Crest near Big Red Mtn. Oct. 3 (FL). Five **Bald Eagles** were at Howard Prairie Lake near Willow Point Oct. 21: two adults and three juveniles (BH, GH). A **Rough-legged Hawk** returned to near Lily Glen Oct. 21 (DD). An adult **Ferruginous Hawk** was also near there on Oct. 19 (RB).

Field Notes continued on page 5

Field Notes continued from page 4

Great Horned Owls have been vocal in some locations as pairs settle in. And **Northern Pygmy-Owls** have been vocalizing in the first light and last on their winter feeding territories. Listen for the hooting and tooting.

Williamson's Sapsucker has been reported from a few locations recently. One beautiful male was spied visiting Rye Springs Oct. 18 and 22 (GS, HS). A late Western Wood-Pee-wee was observed Oct. 6 near Emigrant Lake (AC). One was in Eagle Point Oct. 2 (HS). There seemed to be a late movement of **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** the first week of October with a handful being reported from various locations (LH, JK). **Say's Phoebes** have been noted as active around the valley in backyards and human haunts (EL, HS, KS).

A few **Northern Shrike** are showing up; these winter visitors tend to be hatch-year (juvenile) birds. One was at Lost Creek Oct. 14 and one was near Keno Access Rd. Oct. 19 (RN, KS). Single **Warbling Vireos** were reported Oct. 2 from the west Medford area and from Colestin Oct. 4 (JK, FL). Two **Clark's Nutcrackers** were observed on Big Red Mtn. Oct. 3 and two were along Soda Mtn. Rd. Oct. 13 (HF).

A flock of 10 or more **Horned Larks** was on the Medco A flats near Lost Creek Lake Oct. 14. A single lark was on Big Red Mtn. the same day (RN, LP).

Five **Rock Wrens** were on Lower Table Rock Oct. 10 and three Rock Wrens were at Emigrant Lake (BQ). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were still being seen in the Grants Pass area in October, according to eBird reports.

Western Bluebird flocks have been very conspicuous these past weeks. Some will stay, but many are moving south into California. Varied Thrush are back in forested areas around the valley and in the mountains. **Hermit Thrush** are also being observed with more regularity again; some will stay the winter. A lingering **Swainson's Thrush** was heard in the forest below Og-

den Hill near the top of the Colestin Oct. 20.

American Pipit flocks have been gracing us with their presence of late. Twenty were on Lower Table Rock Oct. 10 (BQ) while similar size flocks have been foraging on the Emigrant Lake flats. They are also encountered on the Medco A flats and up around Howard Prairie and Hyatt Lakes. A few can still be found up on the Siskiyou Crest and Mt. Ashland until the snow flies.

Evening Grosbeaks and **Red Crossbills**, while scarce, have been heard and seen on the slopes of Mt. Ashland recently. Two **Red Crossbills** overflew the Ashland Post Office Oct. 21, and a flock of 30 **Evening Grosbeak** was seen in the pines of Lily Glen Park Oct. 24 (FL).

A single **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** was found on top Lower Table Rock Oct. 10 by Bob Quaccia and two were observed up there Oct. 12 by visiting birder, Matt Cahill. Then on Sunday, Oct. 14, Russ Namitz and Lucky Penny found a group of eight Lapland Longspurs on the Medco A flats. They were loosely associating with a flock of Horned Larks. The Lower Klamath Basin usually holds a number of wintering Lapland Longspurs with dozens being seen in some winters. Also often seen in and around the area are Horned Lark flocks that winter there.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper by Frank Lospalluto

Field Notes continued on page 6

Field Notes continued from page 5

Some **Chipping Sparrows** were still being seen near Ousterhout Farm in Eagle Point Oct. 20 (BH). A **White-throated Sparrow** was at a feeder in the Little Applegate Oct. 12 (MH).

A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was seen near Emigrant Lake Oct. 6 (AC). A few **Common Yellowthroats** were still being seen and heard in the valley. A **Yellow Warbler** was near Little Hyatt Lake Oct. 13 (HF). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was noted in Ashland Oct. 9 (BQ). A number were noted in many locations the first week in October—a last hurrah as it were. A **Wilson's Warbler** was along the Bear Creek Greenway in Talent Oct. 4 (LH).

Dennis Vroman found a first winter **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** along the irrigation canal next to the Grange Coop in Grants Pass Oct. 12.

A **Western Tanager** was spotted in Cantrall-Buckley Park Oct. 7 (AG). And one was seen in West Medford Oct. 11. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was at a feeder in the Little Applegate Oct. 3 and 6 (MH). One was on the Ousterhout Farm Oct. 8 (BH).

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this month's notes including: Anne Goff, Marion Hadden, Bob and Gretchen Hunter, Howard Sands, Gary Shaffer, Russ Namitz, Lucky Penny, Matt Cahill, Bob Quaccia, Leslie Hart, Karl Schneck, Dennis Vroman, David Dwyer, Andy Frank, Paul Sullivan, Harry Fuller, Andre Carvalhaes, Rene Allen, Sammie Peat, Tanner Martin and Larry Wright. Apologies to anyone I neglected.

If you have sightings that you want to bring to my attention please feel free to email me. All errors and omissions are my own. Peace.

New Birdathon Trophy Awarded for 2018

Gretchen Hunter accepts the new Birdathon Perpetual Trophy from Boardmember Jon Deason during the September chapter meeting. Her team, the Great Greys, collected \$1,625. The No Playback Woodpeckers led by Kristi Mergenthaler came in second with \$1,134. The total raised for 2018 was \$3,890.17.

This award will be passed on each year to the Birdathon team who raises the most money for RVAS. Deason hand-crafted the new trophy from fine hardwood and a local, metal owl species.

Photo by Carol Mockridge.



Wanted: Project FeederWatch Volunteers

By Mary Pat Power

Volunteers are still needed to assist with Project FeederWatch at North Mountain Park. I'm hoping that a few Coyote Trails PFW folks will migrate south to Ashland. There is a covered outdoor shelter with a "bird buffet" garden nearby and other areas for ground feeders. Friday watches are done by one or two people and are not advertised to the public. The Saturday counts are open to all and usually attract eight to 12 observers. The count 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

Available dates:

Fridays: Dec 7, Dec 21, Feb 1

One hour between 8:00 – 10:00 am

1 – 2 people needed to conduct count

not advertised to the public

Saturdays: Dec 8, Jan 19, Feb 2, Feb 16, Mar 2, Mar 16

9:00 – 10:00 am

1 – 2 volunteers to direct the count and assist with bird ID

open to the public

Ashland Christmas Bird Count

By Carol Mockridge

The Ashland CBC will take place on **Saturday, December 29**. The count circle is centered at the northwest corner of Emigrant Lake, so the count area includes both the northeastern slopes of Mount Ashland and the western slopes of the Cascades (as far east as Little Hyatt Lake). Also in the official area are the steep Siskiyou Mountain woodlands, extensive farmland, grassland, oak savannah habitats in the eastern section, and the entirety of the city of Ashland with its parks, gardens and riparian habitats.

Birders who wish to count birds that visit their backyard feeders are also encouraged to join the Ashland CBC lineup. CBC feeder watch instructions and a tally sheet can be obtained by contacting Carol Mockridge (contact information below). Newcomers are always welcome to participate in this traditional citizen science effort.

The teams will meet from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm to report how the day went and to tally the birds. The meeting will be at El Tapatio Restaurant, Hwy. 99 in Ashland. Everyone is welcome to come to the tally even if you did not participate.

The Ashland CBC is coordinated by Carol Mockridge and Emmalisa Whalley. To join a counting group or for more information, contact Carol Mockridge at mockridge50@hotmail.com or 360-829-7505 **by Dec. 21**.

MEDFORD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This year the Rogue Valley Audubon Society's Medford Christmas bird count will be on **Saturday, December 15.**

This important event gives everybody an opportunity to be part of the biggest citizen science effort in the New World. From mid-December through early January tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action.

The area for the Medford Christmas Bird Count is a circle 15 miles in diameter, centered a mile or so west of the junction of Hwy 140 and Hwy 62 in White City. The circle has been carved up into 15 sections. Each section is entrusted to an experienced leader who makes the decisions as to times and routes. Some leaders welcome newcomers to their teams. Others may prefer to team up with experienced, hardy birders who can cope with difficult terrain and a fast pace. Hard-core birders go from dawn to dark in all weather, which is sometimes wet, foggy, and cold.

Those who live in the count circle and have bird feeders can do a feeder watch and add their sightings to the count. CBC feeder watch instructions and a tally sheet can be obtained by contacting Bob Hunter (contact information below). Birds not seen in the count circle on the count day can still be included in the count if seen during the count week, which is from December 12th through December 18th.

The teams will meet from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm to report how the day went and to tally the birds. **The meeting will be at Jackson Creek Pizza, 317 E Main St, Medford.** Everyone is welcome to come to the tally even if you did not participate. If you are interested in participating contact Bob Hunter at: bobhunter@embarqmail.com or 541-778-3310.

On Sunday, October 14, Pepper Trail led attendees of the Oregon Audubon Council meeting on a natural history hike around the Greensprings Mountain Loop trail. See next page for details. Photo by Carol Mockridge.



The Conservation Column

By Juliet Grable

The annual Oregon Audubon Council (OAC) Conservation Meeting was a great success. Twenty-one members from chapters around the state attended the meeting, which was hosted at the Green Springs Inn on the weekend of October 12-14.

During the day-long Saturday meeting we reviewed the 2018 Conservation Priorities, identifying areas where we made progress and those where we did not meet our goals. We then used this discussion as a basis for identifying new priorities and deciding which we would carry over from 2018.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was a presentation by Teresa Wicks, who is the Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator based in Burns, Oregon, near Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The Audubon Society of Portland hired Teresa to fill the gap after Malheur lost all of its biological field staff after the occupation of the refuge in early 2016. Teresa conducts biological surveys as part of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the refuge; she also coordinates work parties and leads bird walks (both at the refuge and closer to town) as part of her outreach effort. She is working to engage kids from the Paiute Tribe and leads field trips every Friday. She also participates in the collaborative water-sharing plan which includes four working groups. One of her goals is to plan tours that will appeal to a wider range of people and to involve people in community science projects. She is also looking for ways to engage Audubon chapters and is eager to host tours for chapters who plan a trip to Malheur. (I think this is a fantastic opportunity and would like to organize such a trip. Please contact me if you're interested.) You can also learn more about Teresa's work at Malheur by following the [Restore Malheur](#) Facebook page.



OAC meeting attendees.
Photo by Carol Mockridge

Hosting the event at the Green Springs Inn enabled us to introduce attendees to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Pepper Trail gave an informative presentation on Saturday night, during which he described the unique geological conditions which gave rise to the region's outstanding biological diversity. He also described current threats to the region, including Secretary of Interior

Conservation Column continued on page 10

Conservation Column continued from page 9

Ryan Zinke's attempt to roll back the Monument Expansion and the Griffin Half Moon Timber Sale proposed for several tracts north and northeast of Howard Prairie Lake.

On Sunday, Pepper led two field trips. At 7:00 am, we caravanned from the Inn to the lakes in search of Great Gray Owls. One graced us with its presence on our first stop, in one of the meadows between Hyatt and Howard Prairie Lakes. This was a first for several birders. We also saw Golden and Bald Eagles and a surprising range of waterbirds at Howard Prairie Lake.

After breakfast, Pepper led us on a hike on the Greensprings Mountain Loop, which includes a short section of the Pacific Crest Trail. The trail winds through a mature mixed conifer forest then opens up to oak savannah on the west and southwest flanks, affording fantastic views of the Bear Creek Valley and the Siskiyou. It was cool and quite windy, so the birds were quiet, but it was a great chance to orient visitors in the Monument and share some of the natural history of the area.

In between activities, RVAS hosted "socials" on Friday and Saturday evenings at one of the cabins. Many thanks to Carol Mockridge and George Peterson for setting up on Friday, and kudos to Carol for providing tasty snacks and beverages and for being such a gracious host.

Here is a list of the **2019 Priorities**. We will provide more details in an upcoming issue:

Defense of Federal Lands and Laws

Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Endangered Species Act
Northwest Forest Plan

Habitat

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Klamath Basin

Forests

Oregon Forestry Practices Act reform
State Forests

Oceans

Marine Reserves—continue to support ecological monitoring and educate people about these important ocean protections. When the time comes, advocate for expansion of program.
Rocky Shores—support research and protections for this important habitat

Species

Marbled Murrelet	California Condor
Sage Grouse	Streaked Horned Lark

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reform

Includes supporting and nominating candidates to ODFW Commission

Climate Change

Support Cap and Invest legislation

Chapter Support

Create sharable lists of speakers and experts
Portland Audubon has a number of programs and initiatives ready for "export" to other chapters. These include Cat Safe at Home, Lights Out, Bird Safe Buildings, and Community Science efforts
Klamath dams removal
Be on the lookout for efforts to defund landscape restoration

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](#). Come and enjoy an evening of food, festivity and friends, as we raise money to fund bird habitat improvements in the Rogue Valley. Specific projects will be announced as they are developed.

Potluck Dinner

Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. We will provide non-alcoholic drinks and decorations.

Entertainment

Jim Livaudais will again show us a selection of his recent travel photographs. The Warblers are back by popular demand and, for small cash inducements, will entertain us with avian melodies. Bring your dollar bills.

Live Auction

Pepper Trail will keep the auction moving with a variety of items and experiences for your bidding pleasure. Gift certificates, wines from Platt Anderson Cellars, artwork, overnight vacation stays, an artsy bird bath and many specialty field trips. Check out photos of some of the auction items on www.RogueValleyAudubon.org

More Auction Items Needed

We welcome contributions that you might enjoy donating. Invite a group to your home or a favorite birding spot. If you have a vacation rental, offer a one or 2 night stay. Specialty baskets or hand-crafted items will also be enthusiastically welcomed.

Please call Lynn McDonald at (541) 708-0532 or email her at junelynnjacobs@gmail.com

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.

November Walk: Wednesday, November 7

December Walk: Wednesday, December 5

January Walk: Wednesday, January 2

RVAS Membership Form

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)

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

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.

BIRD-CENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

PRESENTATIONS AND WALKS WITH WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Bird Walk: Klamath Wildlife Refuge

Erin Linton will be leading a walk to **Klamath Wildlife Refuge**. This will be an all-day event, leaving the store by **7:00 am**. Wear layers of clothing appropriate for the weather and good walking shoes that can get wet and muddy. Bring a lunch, water, and any snacks desired along with binoculars, a field guide, paper/pen or smart phone to record 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, November 7
TIME: 7:00 am
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
LEADER Erin Linton

Chickadee Chat: Winter Sparrows

This will be the only Chickadee Chat this month. Erin Linton will be discussing our winter Sparrows, including the Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Juncos, and Towhees. No registration is required, just show up to learn, share, and have fun with fellow bird nerds!

DATE: Wednesday, November 14
TIME: 10:30 am
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free

Monthly Educational Talk: Winterizing Your Feeding Stations

Are your feeding stations ready for winter? Becoming “seasonally savvy” is another way to help the birds in your yard. Laura will talk about who you might see during the winter months, types of feed that will be beneficial for the birds in winter, and ways to make your winter bird feeding chores easier for you. She will also touch on Project FeederWatch and why this is a beneficial citizen science program for you and the birds. As space is limited, please reserve your spot today by calling the store at 541.772.2107 or by coming in to register.

DATE: Wednesday, November 14
TIME: 6:00—7:00 pm
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
PRESENTER: Laura Fleming

Bird-centric events continued on page 14

Bird-centric Events continued from page 13

ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Attracting and Feeding Birds in Your Yard

Participants will learn what types of bird feeders are best for attracting specific bird species as well as feeder placement and foods that attract various birds. Questions such as “When should I feed birds? What bird seeds work best to attract a variety of birds? Should I feed birds year-round? What about feeding hummingbirds?” will be answered. Bird feeders will be displayed and bird species common to our area that visit feeders in the fall, winter and spring will be discussed. Bring a pen or pencil to this class for note-taking *Pre-register online or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.*

DATE: Wednesday, November 6

TIME: 6:30—8:00 pm

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

COST: \$15

INSTRUCTOR Vince Zauskey has conducted bird surveys, led bird walks and taught classes at North Mountain Park since 1999.

Hawks at Your Feeders

Want to learn how to ID the hawks that are most likely visiting your feeders? Join Dick Ashford for a presentation about raptors you’re most likely to see, then learn some of the finer points of their field identification. Be sure to take notes and have fun! *Pre-register online or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.*

DATE: Thursday, November 29

TIME: 7:00—8:00 pm

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

COST: \$20

INSTRUCTOR Dick Ashford is Director Emeritus of the Klamath Bird Observatory and past board chair of the American Birding Association.

20th ANNUAL AMERICAN DIPPER COUNT

On Saturday, January 5th, 2019 the 20th annual count of American Dippers will be conducted on Ashland Creek. The meeting place will be the Downtown Plaza in Ashland near the Lithia water fountains at 9:00 am. From here we will walk to the start of the count at the bridge on Water Street. We will walk upstream on both sides and meet at each bridge crossing for 1.7 miles through Lithia Park.

This is a fun event for veterans or newcomers. If you have never seen a Dipper it will be a treat to observe the behaviors of this unique bird. It is our only aquatic songbird and is completely comfortable living its entire life in or on the creek. We have averaged five Dipper sightings over the last 19 years. They nest on the creek starting in March. Since this is the 20th year I'm inviting any who would be interested to meet earlier at 8:00 am at Brothers Restaurant near the plaza for coffee and/or breakfast.

For more information, contact Bob Quaccia at bquaccia@hotmail.com or 541.261.6440

DATE: January 5, 2019

TIME: 9:00 am (8:00 am for breakfast at Brother's)

PLACE: Ashland Plaza

COST: Free

LEADER: Bob Quaccia

NORTHWEST
nature shop
SINCE 1985

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



for the explorer

for the scientist

for your garden

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

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

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
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

THE CHAT

Newsletter of the
ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Post Office Box 8597
Medford, OR 97501

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sign up to receive easy notification of Chapter activities

Your Audubon Chapter wants to be sure you are aware of upcoming field trips, chapter meetings, the most recent edition of *The Chat*, and other items we post on-line. E-mail RogueValleyAudubon@gmail.com and ask to be added to the e-mail notification list. And be assured, we will never share your e-mail address with any other organizations.

