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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.

Letter from the Board

Purple Martin Project Update

Another year has passed with no activity in our Purple Martin Gourd racks. It is time to review the project and change direction.

The project was started in 2015 with assistance from Marnie Albritten from the Roseberg ODFW. Marnie helped us choose the type of racks and location. At the time, the ideal location was seen as near water and away from trees. We began with two racks at Whetstone Pond. This year we moved one rack to the Medford Irrigation Pond and the other to my pond on Griffin Creek, while ODFW installed their own rack on the other side of Whetstone Pond. There has been no activity in any of the racks.

I recently contacted Marnie Albritten to find that their site near water was also unsuccessful until it was moved to the other side of the pond near an existing nesting site. With a little more research I found that the most success in the Western States comes from augmenting existing sites to help them grow. Therefore, this coming spring we plan to place at least one of our racks near a nesting site. Our plan for this winter is to locate as many local nesting sites as possible. We will also join a group that reviews Purple Martin projects on the West Coast so we have more regional information.

Jon Deason



Photo courtesy of Jon Deason

November Field Notes

By Frank Lospalluto

Snow Geese were spotted at a number of locations this month; one was at Whetstone Ponds and twenty-three were at Howard Prairie Lake Nov. 9. Fifty were at Howard Prairie Nov. 12 and 100 were at Emigrant Lake Nov. 11. Forty or more stayed at Emigrant for over a week. Snow Geese were also spotted at Agate Lake Nov. 11 (RT, JC, HS, GS, RA, SP). **Cackling Geese** have been seen in small groups with increasing regularity. **Tundra Swans** made their fall appearance about the same time as the Snow Geese, albeit in smaller numbers. Eighteen were found at Agate Lake Nov. 18 (RA, SP). Two **Cinnamon Teal** were at Whetstone Pond Nov. 10 (RN, LP).

Single **Eurasian Wigeon** were at Agate Lake Oct. 24, Nov. 6 and at Hyatt Lake Nov. 11 (HS, JC, RN, LP). Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes are back. Thirteen **Common Goldeneye** were seen on the "Holy Waters" below the Lost Creek Dam Nov. 10 along with 12 **Barrow's Goldeneye** (RN, LP). A single **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** was on Lost Creek Lake Nov. 6 (HS).

Single **Ruffed Grouse** were found on the Grizzly Peak Preserve Nov. 24 and along Baldy Creek Rd. in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Nov. 16 (TP, FL). A lone **Sooty Grouse** was seen off Burnt Creek Rd. Nov. 3 (AC).

Fifteen **Band-tailed Pigeon** were seen off N. Valley View Rd. Nov. 22 (KS). Most have migrated south but many winters a few can be found. **Anna's Hummingbirds** grace many feeders in the valley through the winter. And certainly they would offer a round of applause to those dedicated nectar providers who keep the feeders thawed and filled.

Sandhill Cranes were spotted passing through at a number of locations the past few weeks. Three were over Willow Lake Nov. 3, one was at Emigrant Nov. 12, 34 were flying over Howard Prairie Nov. 9 and 23 were over the Siskiyou Crest Nov. 12 (LH, RA, FL, PT).

Dunlin is a late fall shorebird that has been reported since late October through November. Fifteen were at Kirtland Ponds Nov. 10 and nine at Whetstone Pond Nov. 24 (RN, BH). Fifty-six **Long-billed Dowitchers** were also at Whetstone Nov. 24 (BH). Scattered reports of **Wilson's Snipe** continue as well.

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were still being seen at Lost Creek Lake Nov. 6 (HS). A **Herring Gull** was seen at Fish Lake Oct. 27 (JC). A single **California Gull** was at Whetstone Pond Nov. 21 (LdB).

Common Loons continued on area lakes with a high of 11 being reported at Lost Creek Nov. 2 and one still at Howard Prairie Nov. 12 (MC, GS, HS). A lone **American White Pelican** has been at Whetstone Pond seen as recently as Nov. 24 (BH). Earlier in the month they were reported from a number of locations with 12 being counted at Howard Prairie Lake Nov. 11 (KS).

A **Green Heron** continues to be spotted at Ashland Pond Nov. 10 (MC). One was found at the Provolt Pond Nov. 20 (AG). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** are roosting at Whetstone Pond. A high of seven were spotted there Nov. 10 (RN, LP).

A **Turkey Vulture** was seen soaring over the forest in the Little Applegate Nov. 15 (MH). An **Osprey** was at Willow Lake in early Nov. (LH). A **White-tailed Kite**, which has become a rather elusive bird the last few years, was seen foraging near I-5 southeast of Ashland Nov. 13 (MG). The Lady Hawkeye Raptor Runners found a **Rough-legged Hawk** off East Antelope and Meridian Rds. on their survey Nov. 3 (CS). Two Rough-legged Hawks have been hunting in the meadows near Lily Glen and the Vesper Meadow Preserve this month. Two or possibly three **Ferruginous Hawks** have been seen around the valley with one being seen Nov. 10 over Whetstone Pond (RN, LP). A young Ferruginous Hawk was at the Imperatrice Property in Ashland Nov. 11 (KM).

Field Notes continued on page 4

Field Notes continued from page 3

A bird was at Whetstone Savannah Nov. 15 and found again in that area on Nov. 16 (JK, JC). This is a location where Ferruginous Hawks have been found with some regularity the last number of winters. Another bird or the same bird was seen over the Ave G ponds Nov. 16 (JC). Earlier in the month one was spotted near Owens Rd. Nov. 2 (HS).

A male **Williamson's Sapsucker** was in the Lily Glen Campground along with a **White-headed Woodpecker** Nov. 18 and 19 (JC). A couple of White-headed Woodpeckers were in the old burn on the Howard Prairie Dam Rd. Nov. 12 (PK, HS, GS, JL).

Single **Northern Shrikes** were spotted this month at the Denman Hall Tract Unit Nov. 1, Ave G Ponds Nov. 16, and Lower Table Rock along the Savannah Loop Trail Nov. 15 (HS, JK, SK, JC).

Not a lot of reporting of **Canada Jays**, but that may be due to their stealthy nature. They can be found year round in the mountains. Two were reported up around Howard Prairie Nov. 11 (KS). **Black-billed Magpies** have been reported semi-regularly out at the Ashland Transfer Station. One bird was out near Songer Wayside at Emigrant Lake Nov. 4 (MC). Another bird was seen on the Grizzly Peak Preserve Nov. 24 (JK, SV). And a single bird was seen just north of Hilt inside the Oregon border by two different out-of-town birders Nov. 21 and 24. One **Clark's Nutcracker** was seen on Big Red Mtn. Nov. 12. This seems to be a consistent location for them. Two birds were seen flying over the crest and FS Road 20 near McDonauld Peak.

Horned Larks have been relatively (very relatively) conspicuous this fall. Ten birds were at Medco A flat Nov. 8 (JC). A flock of 20 birds was found at Agate Lake Nov. 21 (LdB).

A single **Pygmy Nuthatch** was found at Lily Glen Nov. 12 (HS, GS). A few days later another one or two were found there (JK, NB, JL, JC).

A late **Swainson's Thrush** was heard north of Grants Pass Nov. 1 (DV). The reclusive **Varied Thrushes** are about in many forest habitats while small flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** can be seen and heard raiding different berry stashes around the valley.

A **Chipping Sparrow** was seen on Ousterhout Farm Nov. 5 (BH).

A single **Tricolored Blackbird** was spotted at Ashland Pond Nov. 24 (KCS).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen in Medford Nov. 21 (JS). A **Common Yellowthroat** was found along the Greenway Nov. 10 (SP). A late female Hermit Warbler was over in Dark Hollow Nov. 4 (SJ).

Many thanks to all who contributed to this month notes including: Anne Goff, Marion Hadden, Bob and Gretchen Hunter, Howard Sands, Gary Shaffer, Russ Namitz, Lucky Penny, Matt Cahill, Leslie Hart, Karl Schneck, Dennis Vroman, Andre Carvalhoes, Rene Allen, Sammie Peat, Jon Cox, Norm Barrett, Peter Kreisman, Jim Livaudais, Stewart Janes, Pepper Trail, Kristi Mergenthaler, Janet Kelly, Sooney Viani, Tom Pratum, Lauren diBiccari, Mark Chichester and Kate Cleland-Sipfle.

All omissions and errors are my own. Peace.

Students Swept Up by Swirling Swifts

By Karen Hussey, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy



This fall students at Hedrick School in Medford got a chance to meet their hidden schoolmates thanks to a partnership between Southern Oregon Land Conservancy and Rogue Valley Audubon Society. Hedrick Middle School's old brick chimney is one of Oregon's most important migratory stops for the Vaux's Swift, an almost always airborne bird that breeds in the greater Pacific Northwest and winters as far south as Venezuela.

With the help of our intern Emily Olsen, and four core school teachers, SOLC's

Land Steward Karen Hussey created a swift education program at the school. One hundred and fifty 7th graders learned about swifts through class presentations and custom designed curriculum in science, math, English, and social studies. Students participated in a citizen science program to count the swifts as they fly into the chimney each night and they welcomed the greater community for the first ever Swift Migration Carnival. Young and old enjoyed food, games, face-painting, and of course the amazing spectacle of thousands of swifts swirling into the chimney. If you run into one of these students, ask them how to play Swift Migration Hopscotch!

The project was generously funded by RVAS.



Students and families enjoy activities at the Swift Migration Carnival. Photo credits: Medford Mail Tribune

Medford Christmas Bird Count

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

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.

Ashland Christmas Bird Count

This year the Rogue Valley Audubon Society's Ashland Christmas Bird Count will be 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.

The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

This is the first conservation column in a long while in which I can celebrate some good news. The results of the mid-term election provide real hope that the worst anti-environmental excesses of the Trump Administration will be reined in by the new Congress. The following post-election analysis is by Oregon Wild.

WHO WIELDS THE GAVEL

Utah Congressman Rob Bishop's reign as Chairman of the House Natural Resource Committee is coming to an end. Bishop has overseen a steady stream of anti-conservation proposals that would weaken bedrock environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act and Wilderness Act, as well as attempts to prioritize oil, gas, and other special interests over the public when it comes to national public lands - and even floating several privatization schemes. He was supported by fossil fuel money and a network of conservative think-tanks to drive anti-conservation policy. An outspoken enemy of national monuments and the Antiquities Act, Bishop famously declared that anyone who supported it should "die."

With the House of Representatives flipping to a Democratic majority, Bishop's gavel will likely land in the hands of Rep. Raúl Grijalva from Arizona, a champion of public lands and wildlife conservation. However, Bishop will retain his position until next year, and during the lame duck session may try to attach unrelated, anti-environmental riders to must-pass legislation as he has done repeatedly in the past.

INTERIOR SECRETARY ZINKE

Once EPA Secretary Scott Pruitt left the Trump Administration, the title of "most scandal-plagued Cabinet member" fell to Ryan Zinke of the Interior Department. While Zinke has certainly proven to be one of the Trump cabinet's most colorful members - he rode to work his first day on a horse, has an archaic flag ceremony to show when he is in DC, and had personalized coins made to commemorate his leadership of the Interior at taxpayer expense - he has also run afoul of restrictions on using government resources for personal use, especially concerning travel with his wife or for political purposes. Zinke's use of "secret calendars" to hide meetings with oil industry executives and elevation of anti-environmentalists like ex-energy lobbyist David Bernhardt and Sagebrush Rebellion cheerleader Karen Budd Falen inside the Department has worried conservationists and attracted attention from ranking House Democrats who now wield oversight power.

With Democrats in control of the House, we can expect them to dig into some of these issues with public hearings where Republicans have chosen to turn a blind eye. However, it is a complicated land deal in Whitefish, Montana that was recently referred to the Justice Department that may prove to be Zinke's undoing. The potential scandal has attracted the attention of the President, and Zinke has been mentioned by Beltway insiders as perhaps the next Cabinet Secretary after Jeff Sessions to hear Trump's TV catchphrase: "You're fired."

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SENATE CHAMPIONS

With Republicans in the Senate picking up some seats in this election, we'll be looking to Oregon's Democratic Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to fight against any attempts in that chamber to weaken bedrock environmental laws. From the current minority, Senator Wyden has successfully shepherd forward the Oregon Wildlands Act through the committee process, which is quite a feat, and speaks to Wyden's ability to navigate the Senate to deliver for Oregon.

Next year marks the 10-year anniversary of the Mount Hood Wilderness bill, which passed with bi-partisan support, including Congressman Greg Walden. That was the last time Oregon designated new Wilderness, so there are high hopes that Wyden and Merkley can deliver on the Wildlands Act and begin planning the next round of public lands conservation legislation.

KATE BROWN WINS, TIMBER MONEY LOSES

Governor Kate Brown ran for re-election touting her environmental bona fides, but she has a lot of work to do to make Oregon the "cutting edge of green" state many of its residents believe it to be. The fact of the matter is that Oregon has fallen further and further behind our neighbors when it comes to protecting our forests, wildlife, and human health. Running opposed to Brown, Rep. Knute Buehler's campaign warchest was fueled in part by logging companies looking for a Governor sympathetic to weakening Oregon's already inexcusable clearcutting laws and wildlife protections. While Brown was able to reverse course on the privatization of the Elliott State Forest and stood strong in defense of the expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, her administration dodged making decisive progress on wolf conservation and modernizing Oregon's "weakest in the West" logging rules. In fact, clearcutting on the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests has reached its highest level ever under Brown's leadership. Legislation to address carbon and climate change appears inevitable in the coming years, and the number one thing Oregon can do to mitigate climate change is to change our forest policy.

Brown showed she understands what's at stake by nominating new members to the Board of Forestry that reduced the logging industry's financial conflicts of interest. She will hopefully follow suit with new nominations to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission that reflect the broader interests of the general public and science rather than special interests. With no more elections yet to run, Brown has an opportunity to make the protection of Oregon's forests a part of the climate conversation in a way it hasn't been before, to speak decisively on wolf and wildlife conservation, and to lay out an ambitious environmental vision for Oregon that will once again bring the state to the cutting edge of conservation policy.

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OREGON SUPERMAJORITIES

Thanks in part to Jeff Golden's victory in his Senate race, Democrats in the Oregon state legislature increased their numbers on Election Day, reaching 3/5ths "supermajorities" in their caucuses needed to reform tax policy. This opens the door to finally revisiting Oregon's broken timber tax system. State and local communities have been grossly underserved by the current system that funnels timber taxes directly back toward the industry and its cheerleaders like OFRI, rather than helping pay for services like law enforcement or healthcare.

There have been several instances where good, progressive environmental bills have been blocked by a handful of legislators in the Oregon legislature, which would likely see broad support if they were able to reach a vote on the floor. Expanded majorities mean Democrats have an opportunity to sidestep anti-environmental members of their caucus that held outsized influence when their majorities were slimmer. Improved notification for aerial pesticide spraying near homes and communities will be on the docket, and most significantly, climate legislation should move forward. That is good news indeed.

Two Ways to Give this Holiday Season

A Partnership Between Rogue Valley Audubon Society and Wild Birds Unlimited

When RVAS members shop at Wild Birds Unlimited, the store will donate to RVAS 50 cents for every 20 lb. or larger bag of bird seed purchased and 5% off all other items purchased by members of RVAS. (If members join the WBU Daily Savings Club, they will receive 15% off all bird food purchased and for every \$200 spent, receive \$10 back in Bird Bucks that can be used for anything in the store.)

Tell WBU you are an RVAS member when you go to the store. WBU will add you to their RVAS Membership List, write down the number of bags of seed and/or the amount of total dollars spent on other items next to your name. At the end of every month, WBU will add up all the donations due RVAS and send a check. The more RVAS members support their local WBU store, the more donations RVAS will receive—a win-win for everyone.

Double your Donation to Rogue Valley Audubon

Rogue Valley Audubon Society has recently completed enrollment with Benevity (<https://causes.benevity.org/>), an organization that contracts with employers who wish to match their employees' donations to non-profits. If your employer offers a donation match, check if they use Benevity; if they do, and depending on the level of your employer's match, you may be able to effectively double your donation to RVAS by making your donation through your employer's Benevity portal. You'll now see Rogue Valley Audubon Society listed as a confirmed non-profit in the Benevity system.

SOU Environmental Education Students Partner with Local Schools

By Laura Bergner, MS Environmental Education SOU

Each year, the SOU Environmental Education graduate students collaborate to design, market, and lead unique, place-based education programs at multiple locations throughout Southern Oregon, including both day-long and residential programs. This fall, SOU Environmental Education students continued a partnership with South Middle School (SMS) in Grants Pass by serving as instructors for their Outdoor School Program. This program is offered to all 6th graders at SMS, and takes place at Camp Latgawa, nestled in the beautiful Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. For the last two years, the partnership between the two parties has continued to grow as we proudly serve more and more students each year at outdoor school.

As part of our commitment to Outdoor School with SMS, the SOU Environmental Education students develop curriculum, provide instruction, facilitate evening programs, and design assessment tools to use at Camp Latgawa. The field studies are crafted to highlight important ecological elements of the site, foster a positive relationship between students and nature, and offer hands-on learning through exploration. This year, field study topics included nature art, macroinvertebrates as bioindicators, microhabitats, cultural history, and two field studies that offered a special emphasis on native birds. One of these lessons focused on nest building birds, and inspires appreciation for nest diversity as students collaborate to build nests based on a specific set of needs and habitat requirements of native birds. The second lesson was a service learning project focusing on cavity nesting birds.



Ellie Thompson preps lumber for the bird boxes. Photo courtesy Emily Lind.



Anna Kennedy and Laura Bergner show off the prototypes. Photo courtesy Emily Lind.

Through this project, students learned about native cavity nesters and some of the threats that they face, namely invasive species and loss of habitat. As instructors, the Environmental Education graduate students worked with 192 sixth grade students. Thanks to a generous donation from the local Rogue Valley Audubon Society, each student was able to finish this lesson by constructing a bird box suited for a Black-capped Chickadee, a native secondary cavity nester. When their time at Outdoor School was over, each student brought their bird box home to hang in a backyard, neighborhood, or park. This service learning project led students to consider the impact of small changes in the environment around them and provided them with tools to protect the local ecosystem.

RVAS BIRDING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

First Wednesday Bird Walks at Denman Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Murray Orr

Murray Orr will continue to lead his monthly bird walks at Denman Wildlife Refuge through the New Year. 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.

December Walk: Wednesday, December 5

January Walk: Wednesday, January 2

February Walk: Wednesday, February 6

Imperatrice Property Winter Bird Walk

Saturday, December 22, 2018 from 12:00 — 3:00 pm

Leader: Nate Trimble

Winter in the Rogue Valley offers great opportunities for viewing a wide variety of raptors. The Imperatrice Property offers one of the best raptor viewing opportunities in the Ashland area as well as beautiful views of Ashland and both sides of the valley. It is a City of Ashland owned parcel of land located on the east side of I-5 at the end of East Ashland Lane near the Ashland Greenhouses. We will meet at the property entrance at noon and spend two to three hours hiking around.

Visitors can hope to enjoy excellent views of a large number and diversity of raptors, including Golden Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, and Ferruginous Hawks. This property is also a great location to see grassland birds such as Western Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, and Say's Phoebes. Accessing and exploring the property will involve some uphill hiking, possible muddy conditions, and exposed and windy terrain, so come prepared to exercise and get dirty.

There is space for parking at the corner of East Ashland Lane and Irish Lane as well as on the side of the road of Irish Lane. Please do not park at Ashland Greenhouses and be aware of any "no parking" signs if you park on the roadside.

Ashland Big Morning at North Mountain Park

Saturday, January 19, 2019 from 7:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leader: Nate Trimble

2018 is almost over, which means it is time to start working on your 2019 bird lists! On January 19, Nate Trimble will be leading a birding trip with the goal of trying to rack up as many birds as possible in the City of Ashland in one morning. As we did last year, we will begin a few minutes before sunrise at the North Mountain Park visitor center. From there we will hit the Ashland Ponds and possibly the Imperatrice Property to add to our raptor list. If time allows we will then head up to the parking lot at the top of Lithia Park and search for coniferous forest birds and American Dippers. I will be open to suggestions for other locations as well if there are specific birds people are looking for or if anyone has any other good hotspots they want to check out. Ashland is home to an amazing array of bird species and this is a great opportunity to get a jump start on your year list or to simply learn more about the wildlife in Ashland. Hope to see you there!

Have You Renewed Your RVAS Membership?

The RVAS board has decided to have all memberships renewed every October. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing so. Membership is \$20, but if you wish to receive a paper copy of *The Chat*, please include an extra \$20 to cover printing and mailing costs. Paper copies of *The Chat* will not be mailed to those who have not renewed their membership.

Your membership supports all the excellent programs and conservation efforts your local chapter provides:

- Chapter meetings (free and open to the public)
- *The Chat* newsletter
- Website (www.roguevalleyaudubon.org) and Facebook,
- 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: Ashland Pond

Erin Linton will be leading a walk to Ashland Pond this month. 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, 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, December 12
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
LEADER: Erin Linton

Chickadee Chat: Owls

There will be no Chickadee Chats in December, but join us in January, when Erin Linton will lead a chat about owls. No registration is required, just show up to learn, share, and have fun with fellow bird nerds!

DATE: Wednesday, January 9 and 23
TIME: 10:30 am (Jan 9); 3:30 pm (Jan 23)
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free

Monthly Educational Talk: Nesting Season in Your Backyard

Nesting season is just around the corner...are you ready to be a bird landlord?

We will talk about avian architecture, choosing an appropriate nesting box, the different stages of the nesting season, behaviors to watch for, and how to deal with potential predators and problems. As space is limited, please reserve your spot today by calling the store at 541.772.2107 or by coming in to register. (Note: there is no Educational Talk in December)

DATE: Wednesday, January 16
TIME: 6:00—7:00 pm
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
PRESENTER: Laura Fleming

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Bird Walk: Ashland's Lithia Park

Erin Linton will be leading a walk to Lithia Park in Ashland this month. We will look for Dippers on the creek, among other winter birds. Meet at Wild Birds Unlimited at 10:00am, 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, January 16
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
LEADER Erin Linton

ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS AND CLASSES

Project FeederWatch

Help count birds that visit the feeders at North Mountain Park while learning to identify species with expert birders. The information collected will be submitted to Cornell University's FeederWatch project, a nationwide citizen science bird monitoring effort. Pre-registration is not required for this free program. This is a great opportunity for all-level birders to get acquainted with local birds and mingle with other birders under a covered pavilion.

DATE: Alternate Saturdays: Dec 8, 22; Jan 5, 19; Feb 2, 16; Mar 2, 16, 30
TIME: 9:00—10:00 am
PLACE: North Mountain Park, 620 N. Mountain Ave, Ashland
COST: Free
LEADERS Local birding experts

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

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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
Thanks!**



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