

A voice for education and conservation in the natural world
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
www.roguevalleyaudubon.org
Deadline for the May issue is April 20.



RVAS April 2019 Program TUESDAY, April 23 at 7:00 PM

Birds of Botswana and Zimbabwe **Presented by André Carvalhaes**

This program is a photographic sampling of the rich biodiversity and fauna of Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park and Hwange National Park. We will explore these incredible regions as I share bits of information on how to get there, the best season to visit, conservation challenges, unique geography, friendly people and amazing birds (and mammals).



André Carvalhaes, Ph.D., conducted his master's degree research in Jau National Park and doctorate research in Chapada Diamantina National Park (both in Brazil). He has travelled (and birded) most of South America, North America, France, Cambodia and Israel. He loves the natural world and shares his experiences with great enthusiasm.

Birdathon 2019: It's not too late!

What: RVAS fundraiser, fun-raiser and friendly competition
When: Friday, May 3 (begins at 6:00 pm) to Saturday, May 4 (ends at 6:00 pm)
Where: All of Jackson County

Hopefully Gretchen Hunter's hilarious and informative article in the February *Chat* inspired you to grab some buddies and form a team. It's not too late to get in on the fun. Contact Gretchen at (541) 613-5940 (phone or text) or email her at gretchenhunter@embarqmail.com

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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

Before I began to write my letter from the board this month, I decided to seek inspiration by participating in two of my favorite activities - birding and biking. I'd been working on the computer all morning and it was turning into a 70 degree day and I wanted to go outside. I headed along the Bear Creek Greenway from Ashland to Lynn Newbry Park and recorded all the waterfowl and birds I saw in eBird. Then I rode over the freeway into the orchards where I had a personal record day of spotting hawks and falcons. I returned home in a lighter mood ready to write my *Chat* article.

I soon started thinking about everything RVAS "needs" to do. Responding to legislative challenges at both the local, state and federal level and requests for more new activities can be daunting. So can keeping activities going such as bird counts, field trips and fundraisers that our members enjoy. Good thing I took a "happiness break." My bike ride reminded me that when we take time to enjoy what we love to do, it gives us the energy and motivation to stay engaged in the causes we value. RVAS offers opportunities to do both. We have great members who generously volunteer.

Our annual election of board members will be at the April meeting. Please consider joining the board. We could use a couple of new members. It's a great way to really learn everything our Chapter is doing and contribute to planning our goals for the future. We need people with lots of different skills, or sometimes just a willingness to do a variety of tasks that are needed. Let me know if you are interested in hearing more about becoming a board member.

Good birding,
Carol Mockridge, President

Tabling for RVAS is fun!

We will once again be having a table/booth at the Rogue Valley Earth Day on April 20th from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. This event is held outside at the Science Works Museum in Ashland. Tabling is a fun way to connect with our next generation of birders. I am often both alarmed and encouraged each time I table an event...alarmed at the lack of knowledge and awareness the general public displays about birds and nature in general and encouraged when I engage with a budding youngster who is excited about birds and the natural world. I always come away realizing how crucial it is to be an ambassador for nature, connecting people to birds and protecting their habitats. We are always looking for more volunteers to help table events throughout the valley. If you are interested in being an "Audubon ambassador," contact Laura Fleming at 541-772-2107.

Laura Fleming

Birding in the Schools Report

By Kelsey Hansen

Birding in the Schools has been quite a popular opportunity for teachers in the Rogue Valley. Elementary teachers have loved getting to see their students glow with excitement as they are introduced to local birds up close and personal through the Study Skins Lesson. The Migration Challenge activity was a hit, too. Kids loved getting to run around outside, and it was always fun to watch the kids act like birds. Teachers from Talent to Grants Pass were engaged this winter and spring, and North Mountain Park Nature Center was a great location to go birding with the students.

One of my favorite memories during my internship was having a teacher tell me that a student of hers was so fascinated and interested in the bird lessons that he was going to go home and buy his own bird feeder to watch the birds at home. As an educator, it is hard to ask for a better outcome than that. I have really appreciated my time with the Rogue Valley Audubon Society. I've learned so much personally about classroom management and identifying local birds, and I am really looking forward to continue participating in Audubon activities in the future!

RVAS BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

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 2019. 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 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.

April Walk: Wednesday, April 3

May Walk: Wednesday, May 1

June Walk: Wednesday, June 5

Cold weather at Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge and Butte Valley didn't keep us from having a great day of birding in March with field trip leader Dick Ashford.
Photo by Carol Mockridge



Jackson County Field Notes

Feb. 24 — Mar. 20

By Jeff Tufts

Turkey Vultures, Ospreys and swallows can be found in small numbers throughout winter in southern Oregon, but that doesn't change their status as the species that signal the approach of spring and the promise of the eventual arrival of warblers, vireos, flycatchers and all the other migrants from tropical regions.

In the spirit of spring—a time for looking forward more than backward—this month's Field Notes will start with estimates of the dates when you can expect to see some of our most common neotropical migrants.

These dates are derived from eBird reports and the 2014 edition of the Birds of Jackson County Distribution and Abundance booklet produced by the Rogue Valley Audubon Society. Reports of three or more individuals of a species on a given date are given primary importance.

Common Yellowthroat: Multiple individuals have been reported from the last week of March, so you may have seen a few of these by the time you read these notes.

Yellow Warbler: Earliest report of multiple birds was April 23, 2012, when four were seen on Roxy Ann Butte. So, about one month later than the Yellowthroat. If you've seen a Yellow Warbler before you read these notes, you've either seen a very early bird or you've put off reading the notes. If the former, congratulations. If the latter, shame on you.

Black-throated Gray Warbler: Seven of them were seen in the Colestin Valley on April 10, 2015, and an amazing 28 birds were seen on April 17 last year on an 83-minute tour of the Little Butte Creek Unit of the Denman WMA.

Hermit Warbler: Not surprisingly, the earliest reports of multiple individuals were from the hills above the Rogue Valley. Fifteen were reported south of Gold Hill on April 21, 2017, and a dozen singing males were heard at a similar location exactly three years earlier.

Cassin's Vireo: Not a single sighting on the eBird map during the month of March, but when you bring up April there are dozens. Most reports are of one or two birds in the latter half of the month, but there was a notable checklist submitted April 15, 2016, when 10 birds were seen or heard during a five-mile trek along the Ashland Loop Road and the White Rabbit Trail.

Warbling Vireo: Data is very similar to that for Cassin's Vireo. Nothing in March, then many reports in April, with a slightly higher percentage in the last week of the month. And, only one location had sightings of more than three birds. That was North Mountain Park

where four were reported on April 28, 2013, and five the next day. Do vireos migrate in smaller flocks than warblers?

Western Kingbird: Again, don't expect any of this species in March. Most reports are from the latter part of April. The earliest checklist with more than three birds was from a Sampson Creek Preserve survey on April 22, 2017, when four were counted.

Western Wood-Pewee: Probably our most common Empid, and generally a later arrival than the warblers or vireos or the kingbird. Not many reports even from April, and I can remember at least one Birdathon (first weekend in May) when none were seen. One surprising report of four individuals from the Pioneer Hills area was on April 7, 2011.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: This is a remarkably punctual species. Almost every eBird report from April—and there are many—is from the last week of the month. One notable exception was the two birds seen April 7, 2011 in the Pioneer Hills. Must have been a very "buggy" day there (see above).

House Wren: Have to mention a single bird around the KBO offices in Ashland on March 2, 2012, but most of them show up in April, with the majority in the latter half of the month. But don't be surprised if you hear one or two chattering away early in April. The most interesting eBird checklist was from Grizzly Peak on April 20, 2015, when 15 of them were reported. Bet most of them were in the burn area.

Black-headed Grosbeak: Hard to miss this species when they're singing. Most arrive in the second half of April with the biggest counts in the last week of the month.

Bullock's Oriole: This is another second-half-of-April bird, but don't be surprised if some show up early in the month. Lynn Newbry Park is a good spot for them. A two-and-one-half hour walk on the morning of April 25, 2012, produced 25 of these colorful Icterids at the Talent location.

Thank You!

Many thanks to Frank Lospalluto for his keen observations and dedicated recording of Field Notes for Jackson County these past several months.

And a hearty "Welcome back" to Jeff Tufts as he takes back the reins.

Field Notes is a huge commitment and RVAS is lucky to have dedicated and knowledgeable birders like Jeff and Frank to take on the task.

Field Notes continued from page 4

So much for the future. Let's look at the past month.

Of the many rarities spotted this winter (Lark Bunting etc.), two or three were still present into March.

The **Burrowing Owl** first seen at Agate Lake on Feb. 9 was still there as late as Mar. 12 (FL).

The **American Tree Sparrow**, first seen Jan. 10 close to the Avenue G ponds, moved closer to the Avenue H ponds through February and after not being reported for several days (it was a ho-hum bird by then), it was re-discovered March 20 (AL).

Can't say for sure, but the **Loggerhead Shrike** that was first reported from the Medford CBC Dec. 19 could easily be the same bird seen at the Whetstone Preserve March 16 (RS). The shrike hung around the Highbanks Rd/ Kirtland Rd location for almost a month, and may have been steadily moving south and east during the two months prior to being spotted at the Nature Conservancy site.

Last, but definitely not least, was the young **Swainson's Hawk** spotted soaring over the Table Rock Rd/ Antelope Rd area March 20 (AL). Once the most common buteo in Oregon east of the Cascades, this seriously-migratory species has always been scarce in western Oregon, although in recent years their numbers have increased during spring and fall migration. There are also documented records of a few birds wintering in western Oregon and southwest Washington. If this is a recent migrant—and it almost certainly is—the March 20 sighting date is very early.

Thanks to all who report their sightings to the Rogue Valley Birds listserv and/or eBird. Observers mentioned this month are Alex Lamoreaux, Frank Lospalluto, and Rob Santry.

RVAS Purple Martin Project Update

By Jon Deason

Our Purple Martin project is changing direction from attempting to develop new colonies to supporting existing colonies. We have spent four years placing our two gourd racks at various promising sites near water without success. By checking with three other projects in Oregon, we found that all such projects have failed and all have moved to augmenting existing colonies.

In the West, Purple Martins are in decline due to habitat loss. They naturally live in large colonies in snags. With the loss of that habitat, we now have scattered small colonies struggling to exist with no ability to expand to more normal sizes. Frank Lospalluto gave us a list of five known sites in Jackson County. All but one appear to be limited to power poles. This year we are placing our gourd racks at two of those sites. Both have strong support and show promise of success.

Our large gourd rack was placed at the Rogue River Preserve near Dodge Bridge. Kristi Mergenthaler of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy has been observing a colony in a power pole across the road from the RRP and would like to extend the colony to the excellent habitat in the RRP. Our rack is ideal for that project. It includes six gourds and can be expanded to 12 if successful.

Our second rack is placed on Karl Schneck's property in the Talent area. Karl has observed Purple Martins feeding young near his home. The actual nesting site has not been found, but our rack will allow expansion of the colony.

Jon Deason next to the Purple Martin gourd rack recently placed at Rogue River Preserve.
Photo courtesy Jon Deason.



The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

This month, the Conservation Column is all about the Greater Sage Grouse, one of America's most iconic birds. The species, famous for its spectacular mating displays, is emblematic of the "sagebrush sea" in the inter-mountain West. Sage grouse populations have experienced sharp declines due to habitat loss and disturbance, particularly by energy development. In 2015, after an exhaustive consultative process, the Obama Administration unveiled a comprehensive conservation plan, designed to prevent the species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act. This month, the Trump Administration tossed out that plan, exposing the sage grouse to potentially catastrophic declines. Meanwhile, in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has proposed a plan to poison as many as 1,500 ravens in order to reduce predation on Greater Sage Grouse nests. Ugh. But if you keep reading, I promise a bit of good news at the end.

Trump Administration Trashes Sage Grouse Conservation Plan

(This is a shortened version of this article: <https://crosscut.com/2019/03/trump-deals-blow-sage-grouse>)

The Trump administration on March 15 lifted restrictions aimed at protecting Greater Sage Grouse across seven Western states. In Oregon grazing restrictions are being removed in 13 locations that provide habitat for the imperiled birds.

The revisions will be more far reaching in other Western states than in Oregon. In other states, the federal government had not been allowing infrastructure development in key areas, but it will now give waivers and exemptions for oil and gas drilling in some cases. The plans no longer strictly steer oil and gas leases away from important sage grouse habitat.

"We now have plans that are less protective from the biggest threats to sage grouse, and those protections that are remaining are less certain to be applied and do not work together across the landscape," Nada Culver, senior counsel and director of the BLM Action Center at The Wilderness Society, said in a statement.

The federal government said the goal of the updates was to better align federal habitat management with state management plans.

"The plans adopted today show that listening to and working with our neighbors at the state and local levels of government is the key to long-term conservation and to ensuring the viability of local communities across the West," Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said in a statement.

The amended plans will affect sage grouse habitat on land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, including Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Northeastern California. In Oregon, the updated plans will remove grazing restrictions on small areas of BLM land that had been set aside for research purposes. Scientists had hoped to study what happened to habitat when cattle aren't around.

Those "research natural areas" made up less than one-fifth of one percent on BLM grazing land in Oregon, said Greta Anderson, with the conservation group the Western Watersheds Project.

"It's really about an agency's willingness and the administration's willingness to allow extractive uses to occur anywhere and everywhere, instead of keeping some places free of those impacts for the sake of science," Anderson said.

Ranchers said responsible grazing is good for sage grouse habitat. They said there are other areas in Oregon where there hasn't been any grazing, and sage grouse numbers there are similar to grazed areas. So these small "research natural areas" aren't needed. Ranchers have also argued that restricting grazing can be a "hardship" for people who use those areas as forage for cattle.

Conservation Column continued on page 7

Conservation Column continued from page 6

Sage grouse are found in 11 Western states. Although their numbers were once plentiful across the West, the birds have dwindled in recent years. They face a wide range of threats, from oil and gas drilling in some states to encroaching juniper trees, wildfires and overgrazing in the Northwest.

The birds need large swaths of land for their flamboyant mating rituals, to raise their young and to overwinter. Their health is said to indicate the health of the entire sagebrush ecosystem and the 350 other species that live there, including mule deer, burrowing owls and pronghorn.

“By eroding those plans mid-implementation, the administration has made it incredibly difficult to create a more resilient public lands management model – one that not only can balance the pressures of development and recreational uses, but also anticipates and addresses cumulative impacts like drought, wildfire and invasive species that are less difficult to predict and withstand,” said John Gale, with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, in a statement.



Friday’s updates come after often-opposing groups hammered out a compromise for a landscape-based approach to keeping the birds off the Endangered Species List. Those plans, approved by the Obama administration in 2015, were seen as a new way forward for wildlife conservation.

But they faced backlash from some state governors, industry, ranching and conservation groups. In 2017, then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke ordered a review of the sage grouse plans. Conservation groups say these final updated plans are disheartening.

“What earned its place as the most hopeful conservation success story in American history has suffered a grave setback that threatens not only the Greater Sage Grouse, but also the entire sagebrush ecosystem,” Brian Rutledge, director of Audubon’s Sagebrush Ecosystem Initiative, said in a statement.

Killing Ravens to Save Sage Grouse?

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has applied for federal permits to kill up to 500 ravens a year for three years in Baker County Sage Grouse habitat. Ravens are known to predate sage grouse nests (as are badgers, coyotes, and other species), but this proposal is not supported by on-the-ground research on the significance of this predation in Baker County. Moreover, state and federal agencies have failed to adequately address other causes of sage grouse declines, such as a large 4,918-acre off-road vehicle area that sits on public lands within the designated Sage Grouse Priority Area for Conservation. The proposed lethal control – putting out decoy eggs laced with poison - is inhumane. Poisoned ravens will die a slow death due to renal failure. Their young will be left to starve to death in their nests.

The proposal to kill ravens comes at a time when the Trump Administration is reducing critical protections for sage grouse across the West, including allowing increased grazing on some BLM lands in Oregon identified as Sage Grouse Priority Areas for Conservation. It is outrageous that the federal government would allow the killing of up to 1,500 ravens without strong supporting research, while at the same time decreasing strategies for protecting sage grouse that have overwhelming scientific support.

For more information, visit: <https://audubonportland.org/issues/take-action/help-stop-raven-killing-in-eastern-oregon>

Conservation Column continued on page 8

Conservation Column continued from page 7

**Finally, as promised, a bit of good news....
From the *Washington Post*:**

A federal judge ruled on April 19 that the Interior Department violated federal law by failing to take into account the climate impact of its oil and gas leasing in the West.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras of Washington marks the first time the Trump administration has been held to account for the climate impact of its energy-dominance agenda, and it could signal trouble for the president's plan to boost fossil fuel production across the country. Contreras concluded that Interior's Bureau of Land Management "did not sufficiently consider climate change" when making decisions to auction off federal land in Wyoming to oil and gas drilling in 2015 and 2016. The judge temporarily blocked drilling on roughly 300,000 acres of land in the state. [Much of this land is sage grouse habitat].

Jeremy Nichols, who directs WildEarth Guardians' climate and energy program, said in a phone interview that the decision would force the administration to reveal how its policies are helping to fuel climate change. He said his group would now take steps to try to block federal oil and gas lease auctions scheduled for next week, which encompass an additional 560,000 acres of western land.

"It calls into question the legality of the Trump administration's entire oil and gas program," Nichols said. "This forces them to pull their heads out of the sand and look at the bigger picture."

Stay tuned....

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.

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- ☐ 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

ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS AND CLASSES

Learning Bird Songs

Learn to identify resident and migratory birds by call or song. Two classroom sessions, along with a field trip, will teach students how to identify the call or song of resident birds regularly found at North Mountain Park as well as migratory birds that can be seen in the spring. A water bottle and layered clothing are recommended for the Saturday field trip.

PRE-REGISTRATION AT ashland.or.us/register is required.

DATE: Wednesdays and one Saturday: April 24, May 1, May 4
TIME: 6:30—8:00 pm (Wednesdays); 8:00--10:00 am (Saturday field trip)
PLACE: North Mountain Park, 620 N. Mountain Ave, Ashland
COST: \$25
LEADERS Shannon Rio and Vince Zauskey

Rogue Valley Bird Day

Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution

Rogue Valley Bird Day is the local celebration of World Migratory Bird Day, which celebrates one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird: its journey between wintering and breeding grounds.

Join us on Saturday, May 11, to celebrate! Enjoy Wildlife Images exhibits, guided bird walks and a bird-calling contest at 11:00 a.m. for all ages. This outdoor event is admission-free and takes place at North Mountain Park. To learn more about this national event visit migratorybirdday.org. For more information call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

DATE: Saturday, May 11
TIME: 8:00 am—noon
PLACE: North Mountain Park, 620 N. Mountain Ave, Ashland
COST: FREE

BLM SPRING HIKE AT THE TABLE ROCKS

For the Early Birds: Lower Table Rock

Join local bird experts **Bob Quaccia**, with Rogue Valley Audubon Society, and **Frank Lospalluto**, with Klamath Bird Observatory, to view the spring birds of the Table Rocks. Learn ID tips and conservation information. Bring binoculars and ID books if you desire. Limited to 20 individuals. RSVP at <https://early-birds-hike-2019.eventbrite.com>

DATE: Saturday, April 27
TIME: 8:00 am—12:00 pm
PLACE: Lower Table Rock
COST: Free
LEADERS Bob Quaccia and Frank Lospalluto

ASHLAND BREEDING BIRD COUNT 2019

Reviving the Breeding Bird Count effort made in 2012, **Barbara Massey** is spurring a long-term community survey to learn about bird species in our region and how they are shifting their vital spring habits in response to a changing climate. Counts will be conducted in independent groups of 2-5 people, within a 10 miles radius of Ashland (corresponding to the Christmas Bird Count areas). Nate Trimble and Jeanne Moy are coordinating this event - please let them know if you have further questions. They will send maps and more information to interested participants.

If you are able to join this important event, please **RSVP to AshlandBreedingBirdCount@gmail.com**. Please let Jeanine or Nate know if you have a specific area or group members you prefer, otherwise they will pair you up with some friendly faces! Jeanine and Nate will send updates to the RSVP list and details as the date approaches. Also, for now and future years, you can stay in touch with this effort through the facebook group: [Ashland Breeding Bird Count](#)

DATE: Sunday, June 3
TIME: Sunrise to noon
PLACE: Ashland
COST: FREE
LEADERS Jeanine Moy and Nate Trimble

Bird-centric events continued from page 9

PRESENTATIONS AND WALKS WITH WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Monthly Educational Talk: Inviting Birds into Your Yard...and into Your Life

Birds are all around us. Would you like to learn about the birds in your neighborhood? Would you like to learn how to invite them into your yard? This presentation uses beautiful photographs and information about the local birds. It offers you ways to connect with the birds that live around you and offers ways to invite them into your yard with feeders and bird baths. Prerequisite: curiosity! As space is limited to 25, please reserve your seat today by calling the store or coming in to register.

DATE: Wednesday, April 3
TIME: 6:00—7:00 pm
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
PRESENTER: Shannon Rio

Chickadee Chat: Mason Bees

Erin Linton will talk all about mason bees this month. No registration is required, just show up to learn, share, and have fun with fellow bird nerds!

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

Bird Walk: Mingus Pond

Erin Linton will lead a walk to Mingus Pond on the Bear Creek Greenway in Central Point. 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, April 17
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
LEADER Erin Linton

EVENTS AT VESPER MEADOW (see more at www.vespermeadow.org)

Vesper Sparrows at Vesper Meadow: Volunteers Wanted!

Participate in weekly Vesper Sparrow monitoring efforts from last week in April through the first week in July. All experience levels welcome. The Klamath Bird Observatory and Vesper Meadow Education Program are teaming up to study the imperiled Oregon Vesper Sparrow at the Vesper Meadow Restoration Preserve. Estimated to be down to 2,000-3,000 individuals, and declining by 5% per year, it is one of North America's most imperiled birds. The scenic Vesper Meadow Restoration Preserve, located just 30 minutes from downtown Ashland, is home to the highest elevation population of the OR Vesper Sparrow - creating a unique research opportunity as part of a range-wide Oregon / Washington research collaboration. These community-powered surveys will involve

re-sighting color banded OR Vesper Sparrows from 2018, and moderate to challenging walking through wet meadow and forest-edge habitat. To get involved, mail jeanine@vespermeadow.org or attend the Volunteer Training and Information talk. Pizza provided!

DATE: Thursday, April 18
TIME: 5:30—7:00 pm
PLACE: Klamath Bird Observatory HQ, 320 Beech Street, Ashland
COST: Free

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Save the Date!

RVAS Annual Picnic at TouVelle State Park

Tuesday, May 21

Details to come! Check our website and the May issue of *The Chat*



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*Valid 2/1/19 thru 12/31/19 at the Medford, OR WBU store. One discount per purchase. Not valid on previous purchases, optics, gift cards, DSC memberships, or sale items.

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ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE CHAT

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