

A voice for education and conservation in the natural world

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

www.roguevalleyaudubon.org

Deadline for the September issue is August 20.



President's Letter

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

Membership

- We changed to having all annual memberships expire on Oct. 31 of each year. This will help with renewals. Membership Chair George Peterson reports that the new membership database is working great. Thanks to the many members who added a donation to their yearly dues.
- Attendance at our monthly chapter meeting again averaged over 50 participants. We had to cancel two programs - one due to inclement weather and the other due to a last-minute cancellation by the speaker.
- Lynn MacDonald took over coordination of the Holiday Party and Jeff Tufts is now writing the very popular Field Notes column in *The Chat*.

Education

- Kelsey Hanson, graduate student in the SOU Environmental Education Program, continued our successful Birding in the Schools intern program throughout the Rogue Valley.
- Board member Emily Lind conducted a new free Birding 101 class in Medford. She plans on continuing it next year. Watch the RVAS website calendar and Facebook page for updates.
- The board promised up to \$1,200 to SOU's Environmental Education students' Fall in the Field Program. Also, RVAS continued to support the Siskiyou Field Institute's scholarship fund for area teachers.
- A big thanks to Dr. Stewart Janes, who coordinated the once every five year revision of our popular Birds of Jackson County, Oregon booklet. See update on page 6.
- RVAS funded the "Vaux's Happening" project at Hedrick Middle School in Medford in September. Karen Hussey, former Land Steward of Southern Oregon Land Conservancy and swift expert, conducted five classroom visits and was the MC of carnival night to welcome the migrating swifts. All who attended raved about the event. A KOBI news video about the event is linked on our website under "News and Events." RVAS will coordinate the outreach this year and will expand it to reach more students and Rogue Valley residents.

Birding Events

- The FeederWatch Program at North Mountain Park continued and gave the public many chances to bird with experts. The board is still looking for a new location in Medford or Jacksonville.

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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.**

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Birding Events, cont.

- The first Wednesday of the month bird walk continued at Denman Wildlife Area under Leader Murray Orr. Records of his impressive species lists are posted on eBird.
- Monthly field trips and bird walks covered Southern Oregon and Northern California and included more local family-friendly trips. We greatly expanded our posting of non-RVAS birding events on our website calendar and Facebook.
- The Medford Christmas Bird Count had 65 participants and the Ashland CBC had 64 participants.
- 2019 Birdathon had a record-breaking nine teams made up of 34 birders, who counted 189 species in 24 hours.

Conservation Advocacy

- We volunteered to host the fall Oregon Avian Conservation Committee, headed up by Audubon Society of Portland, at the Green Springs Inn to introduce the members to the importance of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Conservation Co-chair Pepper Trail gave an informative presentation describing the unique geological conditions which gave rise to biological diversity and current threats to the region.
- RVAS continues to research and sign-on to at least one letter a month from various organizations to promote conservation of land and resources.

Community Outreach

- Two interpretive signs were created and funded by RVAS for the Ashland Park Department describing the wonders of the American Dippers living in Ashland Creek.
- Board member Emily Lind started up a new Birds and Beers gathering. These informal get-togethers are held every few months at various locations around the Rogue Valley and are geared toward anyone with a general interest in birds. Topics include upcoming field trips, current research, interesting sightings, conservation initiatives, and favorite birding hotspots. This new event will hopefully provide a chance for birders to meet one another and enjoy a relaxing evening with one another over birds and beers.
- RVAS was a sponsor of Rogue Valley Bird Day at North Mountain Park in Ashland. We contributed contest prizes, a Big Sit event led by Dick Ashford and a table of Audubon information for visitors.
- Volunteers staffed the RVAS information tables at Earth Day at ScienceWorks and Bear Creek Salmon Festival at North Mountain Park.

~Carol Mockridge

Birdathon 2019 Report

By Gretchen Hunter

The RVAS Birdathon blew the socks off Jackson County birds this year: a record-breaking nine teams made up of 34 birders counted 189 species in 24 hours (remember when there were only three or four teams and we all could hear all the birds?). Considering that the current RVAS Birdathon list had 202 possible species available for the counting, that total was pretty impressive – and it included seven species that weren't on the RVAS Birdathon list: Blue-winged Teal [Owltlaw Biker], Lesser Yellowlegs [Owltlaw Biker], Loggerhead Shrike [Falcons], Pygmy Nuthatch [Great Grays], California Thrasher [Vortex], Flammulated Owl [Great Grays], and Swainson's Thrush [Falcons]. Missed birds from the list were Hooded Merganser, Horned Grebe, Black-crowned Night-heron, Black-necked Stilt, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, California Gull, Merlin, Clark's Nutcracker, White-throated Sparrow, White-tailed Kite (where have they all gone?) and Sooty Grouse (the grouse was detected, but unfortunately not at the same time and hence, not countable).



The Falcons' Jamie Trammel, Stewart Janes, and Sarah Norton at Lower Table Rock. Credit: Jon Cox

Also missing was the esteemed and legendary Dr. Pepper Trail, recently injured in the line of duty on a trip to Japan. His mighty **Falcons** were ably led by Dr. Stewart Janes, who again showed off his skill in recruiting young talent (Jamie Trammel, Emily Lind, and Sarah Norton). The Falcons appear not to have missed him much because they identified an amazing 158 species – not quite reaching their still-standing record of 162, and winning the count for the second year in a row. Their most exciting finds were a Spotted Owl and a Loggerhead Shrike. If Dr. Trail had been able to join them, they undoubtedly would not have missed the House Finch, widgeons, or swifts they failed to find.

Winning the prize for Most Ethical Contestant was Tim Johnston, the **Owltlaw Biker**. Tim not only was awarded 20

handicapping points as defined by the Birdathon Committee¹ for conducting his search by bicycle, but he also earned 41 handicapping points for being the only team to comply with the ABA Code of Ethics by not using playback or other means of harassing birds in this most critical season of courtship and nesting. He's also the only one who found a Lesser Yellowlegs and Blue-winged Teal.² As he did last year, he found an average of one species for every mile of biking, covering 83 miles for 81 species – bringing his handicapped total to 142, for fourth place. He did seem to be a bit more tired and dehydrated than some others at the pizza get-together afterward, for some reason.

On the other end of the spectrum was the largest and most diverse team, the **Blackbirds**. They placed third with 150 species. This team was made up of eight KBO employees and interns from several US eastern states and Mexico (Alex Lamoreaux, Nate Trimble, Lauren diBiccari, Clare Fastigg, Erin Betancourt, Martin Lopez Aguilar, Sergio Gomez Villaverde, and Alexis Sosa). Perhaps because so many of them weren't from the Rogue Valley, their team was able to win the record for the most life-birds ID'd by any team.

¹ Consisting of: me. See the February 2019 issue of the Chat, for a fascinating and brilliantly-written article detailing the rules as defined by the Birdathon Committee. Committee members met regularly for the last year and worked hard to make sure that this year's Birdathon was a smashing success, which it clearly was. As Committee Chair, I'd like to thank the members of the committee for all our hard work.

² Editor's Note: Respectfully, the Phat Chats also spotted a Blue-winged Teal (at Kirtland Ponds), thanks to the sharp eyes of team member Jon Cox. I make this clarification only because I am a servant of accuracy.

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Coming in second for the second year in a row, with 155 species, were Bob Hunter and Frank Lospalluto's **Great Grays**, joined by Portland new-comer Katie Walter, and for part of the day by Brian Barr. Although two team-members did see and/or hear a Sooty Grouse, it was at different locations and no team members observed the same bird. An argument was submitted to the Rules Committee that the bird should be counted, because team member Violet (Frank's Aussie) did detect both birds, as did Katie. The Rules Committee reluctantly rejected the argument, as Violet was not able to effectively communicate confirmation.

Despite not being able to hear anything quieter than a beer-bottle being opened, the **Binosaurus** (Norm Barrett, Howard Sands, Jim Livaudais, and half a Gary Shaffer) managed to identify all six owls on the standard RVAS list. They were disappointed to miss all the flycatchers. But they did have the best tee-shirts.

Sooney Viani's **Wandering Tattlers** (with Goly Ostovar, Sonya Daw, and Janet Kelly) brought in 119 species, including a great view of a Northern Goshawk.

Winning the Avian Stewardship prize were the **Phat Chats** (Maris Wilson, Jon Cox, Carol Mockridge, and Juliet Grable), who found 104 species. They won this coveted prize because they went to some considerable effort to free an American Kestrel that was trapped behind a screen in a shed.

The **Old World Warblers** (Maggi Rackley, Edith Lindner, and Lynn Kellogg) counted 97 and were pleased to announce that they had no car crashes.

Vortex, made up of Bill and Phyllis Feusahrens, got 40 species and made the effort to ensure the California Thrasher was observed for the Birdathon. Welcome to the Rogue Valley, Bill and Phyllis!

Finally, and most importantly, the pledges estimated so far come to around \$2400 for RVAS, and over \$1,500 for KBO. The Jon Deason Birdathon Winner trophy for most money raised will be awarded at the September chapter meeting. It's a thrilling honor to win that trophy, as I can personally attest. It's not too late to bring in some pledges. If you have enough susceptible relatives and friends, you, too can have this gorgeous prize adorning your mantel.



The Phat Chats' Carol Mockridge, Juliet Grable, and Maris Wilson at Kirtland Ponds. Credit: Jon Cox



Past RVAS President Linda Kreisman and Boar member Nate Trimble admire their year-long project to create and install two interpretive signs about the American Dipper along Ashland Creek in Lithia Park. Trimble provided the artwork and narrative. Photo by Carol Mockridge.

Jackson County Field Notes

April 21 — May 20

By Jeff Tufts

Looking over my notes for the period covered in this month's report reminded me of a trip to the airport where you people-watch the arrivals and departures.

Just as those awaiting the arrivals tend to be in a happy mood anticipating the return of loved ones, we look forward to our first sight of old friends like **Calliope Hummingbirds**, **Yellow-breasted Chats** and **Olive-sided Flycatchers**.

The departures tend to be a bit more somber. Your feelings when you say goodbye to a family member whose visit is ending are echoed in the morning when you look in the backyard and realize that the last of the juncos and the White-crowned and Golden-crowned sparrows are gone.

As of this writing, the only regular migrant from the tropics that has yet to return is the Common Nighthawk. No surprise as they are almost always the last to show up. Their dependence on big flying insects—and plenty of them—dictate that they won't be able to thrive at our latitude until the weather is consistently warm and the bugs are out at night.

If there was a single surprise bird in Jackson County during this period, it would have to be the **American Three-toed Woodpecker** found at Thousand Springs Sno Park April 24 (HS, ES). It was the first of its species reported to eBird for Jackson County, and it has been seen as recently as May 19 (SP). Only one individual has been reported, and it's a female that has been excavating a nest cavity. If there's a mate around, it hasn't been seen.

There are several eBird reports of American Three-toed Woodpeckers in Douglas and Klamath counties, but they've always been very difficult to detect in our county.



Three-toed Woodpecker
Credit: Tanner Martin

Speaking of surprise birds, the Talented Mr. Thrasher of Talent is still singing and still attracting visitors. Most recent report submitted to eBird was from May 19 (CG). To refresh your memory, this bird was first noticed by local birders on April 5.

You might be surprised to learn that our **California Thrasher** is not the most famous member of its family in rare bird circles these days. On May 17, a Sage Thrasher was discovered at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens County, New York, not far from the end of one of the major runways at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Considering that this species' normal range extends only as far east as Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Wyoming, it is definitely a stranger in a strange land. They are regular breeders east of the Cascades but rare on our side of the mountains.

Although no Sage Thrashers have been reported in Jackson County this year, we have had other visitors that are normally found on the other side of the Cascades.

White-faced Ibis, often found in very large flocks in the Klamath Basin, only rarely make it to our county and usually in very small numbers. It was a surprise, then, that eight were seen at the Kirtland Road ponds Apr 27 (JK). A single bird had been at the Avenue G ponds the day before (BH), and most of the large group first seen at Kirtland were gone the next day.



Black Tern
Credit: Tanner Martin

Another species that is common at certain locations in Klamath County but rare in our county is **Black Tern**. None had been seen locally since 2015. Two turned up at the Kirtland Road ponds May 15 (SK), and four days later there were two seen at the same spot (SP). No way to know if they were the same birds.

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Also visiting the Kirtland ponds were a **Whimbrel** Apr 27 (HS) and a **Willet** May 5 (RA, SP).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds, another species familiar in the Klamath Basin, have been seen recently at the Kirtland Ponds, the Avenue G ponds, and the stockyard on Brophy Road north of Eagle Point.

Now getting back to those sad departures, it's interesting to note that the only eBird reports for **White-crowned Sparrows** in May at the lower elevations were from the first few days of the month. The latest were two seen at Cantrall-Buckley Park May 5 (AG). Much higher up, along the Keno Access Road, one was seen May 10 (MH).

Although there are a fair number of summer records for White-crowned Sparrow in Jackson County at the higher elevations, their status as a breeder is uncertain.

Birds of Oregon: A General Reference notes that they are a "common breeder, migrant and winter resident that presents a complex pattern in terms of distribution because of seasonal changes and a mix of migrant and assumed resident populations and subspecies, the movements of which are not fully understood."

That phrase "not fully understood" shows up a lot when you're doing bird research.

The other common bird from the *Zonotrichia* genus is **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, and they too begin moving out of the county in early May. Latest report to eBird at time of writing is a single bird seen at the Imperatrice property in Ashland on May 9 (TM). Unlike the White-crowned Sparrows, we know where all of the Golden-crowns go to breed (Canada and Alaska).

And then there are the **Dark-eyed Juncos**. There are many thousands in the Rogue Valley during the winter, and as a species they don't go far to breed when the weather warms. The key phrase is "as a species."

Do the birds that are ubiquitous in winter just move up into our local mountains in late spring, or are the mountain breeders birds that wintered elsewhere? Not sure anybody knows for certain. What is certain is that when you drive along Forest Road 20 from the Mt. Ashland ski lodge parking lot to points west in August and September, you'll see plenty of evidence of their breeding success.

Thanks to all whose sightings have been mentioned in this column (Renee Allen, Chuck Gates, Anne Goff, Marion Hadden, Bob Hunter, Steve Kaiserman, Janet Kelly, Tanner Martin, Sammie Peat, Elaine Sands, and Howard Sands) and also to those who have submitted reports to the Rogue Valley Birds listserv and/or eBird.

Revised *Birds of Jackson County* on Sale Now!



For the fifth time in 20 years, Dr. Stewart Janes headed up a team to update *Birds of Jackson County*, our local species checklist. His team, which included Norm Barrett, Bob Hunter, Jim Livaudais, Frank Lospalluto, Howard Sands, Pepper Trail, Nate Trimble and Jeff Tufts, worked for a year on the update.

The new cover art is an original pen-and-ink drawing of a White-tailed Kite by RVAS Board member Nate Trimble.

The popular brochure can be purchased for \$5 at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford, the Nature Shop in Ashland, or at monthly chapter meetings. You can also purchase a copy online at our website for \$7 using PayPal under the Resources/Birding tab.

Dr. Stewart Janes displays the newly revised *Birds of Jackson County* brochure at his office at Southern Oregon University. Credit: Carol Mockridge

The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail and Juliet Grable

Speak Up for Alaska's Bristol Bay

Bristol Bay is the huge expanse of the Bering Sea north of the Aleutians and south of Cape Newenham. The bay supports a vast diversity of birds, a vital food web, and a world-class fishery that supports the surrounding communities. Tens of millions of Short-tailed Shearwaters, millions of shorebirds, and more than one million nesting seabirds like Tufted Puffins and Horned Puffins all rely on Bristol Bay. Now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering whether to allow the development of Pebble Mine, an open-pit copper mine above Bristol Bay. A dam failure would wash toxic wastewater through streams and valleys, eviscerating the food web that forms the foundation to Bristol Bay's incredible bird life and aquatic ecosystem.

National Audubon has prepared a sample letter to be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reject the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay. Your comments (personalized if possible) can be sent through National Audubon at: https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/wvnVTl0o0EyiBx45g5_eOA2

Sample Letter:

I urge you to reject the Pebble Mine, which poses an untenable risk to Bristol Bay's birds, salmon, and people. Bristol Bay in southwest Alaska is a marine Eden, supporting tens of millions of birds, tens of millions of salmon, thriving local communities, and world-renowned tourism and fishing sectors. Bristol Bay deserves perpetual protection, not perpetual risk from Pebble Mine.

The sheer number of birds that use Bristol Bay is staggering. An estimated 8-13 million pelagic seabirds forage in Bristol Bay. More than one million seabirds such as Tufted Puffins nest in the region. Up to 75,000 threatened Steller's Eiders use this area. Shorebirds, ducks, geese, and countless other birds flock to forage, rest, and breed in and around Bristol Bay's rich food web.

The Pebble Mine would place an open-pit copper mine at the headwaters of this astounding marine ecosystem. However, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement entirely fails to consider a catastrophic tailings dam failure, which would send shock waves through the watershed and unleash an ecological disaster of immense proportions. Moreover, Pebble has made no secret of its plans to mine the full mineral deposit. Yet the Corps' analysis does not acknowledge the inevitable future expansion. Given the unacceptable risk and misleading errors in the analysis, the agency must reject the Pebble application and select the "no action" alternative.

Thanks for all you do!

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Denies Jordan Cove Permit

Last month, we updated readers on the Jordan Cove Energy Project and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Soon after that issue was published, we learned that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has denied water quality certification, required under the Clean Water Act, to the Jordan Cove LNG terminal and associated Pacific Connector Pipeline. While this is great news, it's not over yet, as I explained in this [story](#) for *Earth Island Journal*. The following paragraphs are excerpted from that story:

In a [letter announcing its decision](#), the DEQ said "there is insufficient information to demonstrate compliance with water quality standards" and "the available information shows that some standards are more likely than not to be violated." The DEQ called out several specific concerns related to the project, citing the "expected effects" of construction and operation activities on water temperature and sediment in streams and wetlands and the possible release of drilling materials into the Coos Bay estuary.

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Social media lit up with news of the decision. “DEQ’s denial comes with 200 pages of ways Jordan Cove LNG does not comply with Oregon’s water quality standards,” proclaimed the [NO LNG Exports Facebook page](#). “We know they can’t build this project and comply with Oregon’s water laws.”

But even as climate activists, tribal members, landowners, and other citizens celebrate the decision, past experience has taught them to be wary. In the famous words of Monty Python, Jordan Cove is “not quite dead yet.” The state agency made its decision “without prejudice,” which means the company can submit a new application or new information which addresses inadequacies. Considering the amount of money Calgary-based Pembina Pipeline Corporation has already invested in the project, it seems unlikely that they will simply walk away. The company said in a statement that it is working to “better understand” the decision and its impacts. Meanwhile, the flow of [television ads](#) promoting Jordan Cove as an environmentally benign creator of jobs continues unabated. Interestingly, just days before the DEQ announcement, Pembina announced that it was delaying the project by one year and pulling back funding on activities not related to permitting. The company also has yet to secured so-called “binding offtake agreements” — legally binding agreements between buyer and seller — for the LNG.

The timing of the DEQ decision came as something of a surprise — technically, the agency had until September 24 to make its decision. The Army Corps of Engineers extended the deadline after Pembina withdrew and resubmitted its application last September. Agencies in several states have been encouraging companies to “withdraw and re-submit” in order to extend permitting deadlines and give the agencies more time to decide. However, [recent court decisions](#) suggest that agencies employing this strategy may waive the right to grant or deny water quality certification for related projects. To be on the safe side, Oregon DEQ stuck to the original May 7 deadline.

The World of eBirding: Your Checklist and Citizen Science

By Jeff Tufts

You know that feeling of accomplishment you get when you submit a checklist to eBird? You’ve added to your own personal records, and you’ve made a valuable contribution to citizen science. It’s all good!

But then somebody comes along and tells you that **ninety percent of your checklists don’t meet the criteria for a critical type of bird research**. That hurts.

This is basically what Dr. Tyler Hallman did at the Willamette Valley Bird Symposium last January during a presentation titled “Make your eBirding count: The potential of eBird in fine-scale modeling.”

Before you decide that you don’t want to hear what Dr. Hallman has to say, know that he’s an avid birder with a strong desire to contribute to management and conservation decisions that will help protect the birds we all love.

His remarks at the symposium were based on research he did while completing his doctoral dissertation at Oregon State. The title of the dissertation—“Modeling Fine-scale Avian Distributions and Densities with Multi-scale Models: Predicting the Past and Present”—might intimidate you.

You can read an abstract of the dissertation on-line, but you’ll probably be more comfortable with an article that Dr. Hallman wrote for the Salem Audubon Society’s newsletter, *The Kestrel*. It’s in the April edition and is titled “Five Simple Steps to Maximize the Value of Your Citizen Science.” It can be found here:

https://salemaudubon.org/assets/docs/Kestrel/2019_April_eKestrel.pdf

The message is basically this: Stationary counts from exact personal locations for relatively brief durations (5-10 minutes) provide the most valuable data for researchers who want to associate specific environmental characteristics with the species reported on a checklist.

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Dr. Hallman's recommendations raise some obvious questions, and he was kind enough to provide answers when I contacted him.

Q: If you submit mostly traveling checklists when you bird a favored location, do you have to switch to multiple short-term stationary counts in order for your checklists to be valuable?

A: *You certainly don't have to do anything. If you're interested in contributing the most valuable data you can, I suggest interspersing short-term stationary counts along with your normal traveling counts. Short-term stationary counts allow researchers to address many research questions that cannot be answered with longer traveling counts. A few stationary counts can go a long way to increasing the value of eBird data.*

Q: Birders visiting an unfamiliar area often rely on hotspot data to inform their decisions about where to bird. If enough birders use personal locations in lieu of hotspots, won't that diminish the quality of the hotspot data?

A: *Hotspots only contain data from users who submit to those specific hotspots. In many areas, you can already find personal locations that are clearly within hotspots in the eBird database. The data from these counts, however, are not included in hotspot summary information. It would make more sense for eBird to treat hotspots as polygons that can be used to aggregate all checklists within an area. This would be done by eBird behind the scenes. All user tools would remain unchanged. You could still look up hotspot data, and the data you viewed would be much more comprehensive.*

Q: Most birders do not have extensive training or experience in methodically counting large flocks of birds. If an eBirder makes an effort to come up with a reasonable estimate, is that preferable to using an "X"?

A: *If an eBirder makes an effort to come up with a reasonable estimate, then that is much preferred to the use of an "X". An "X", however, should be employed when no effort was made to estimate numbers. This is frequently the case when birders don't tally species while birding, but report numbers after leaving a site. I believe that "X" should be used more often for small numbers of birds that were not actually counted while birding. To me, "X" is preferred to guesses that are not based in some method of estimation (keeping a running tally is a method of estimation).*

Dr. Hallman's remarks to the Willamette Symposium and his responses to my questions should be thought-provoking material for many eBirders. If you have any comments or questions about his ideas, email me at jcttufts33@gmail.com

The eBird column for the September issue of *The Chat* will include follow-up comments about Dr. Hallman's recommendations and discussion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and its many hotspots.

eBirding Tip of the Month

This month's eBird tip is an explanation of the process of finding arrival dates for birds migrating to Jackson County. From the eBird home page, click on "Explore" at the top of the page and then scroll down to the bottom of the resulting screen and click on "Arrivals and Departures." That takes you to a box with a header that reads "Choose a Location." Use the lower pull-down menu to select Oregon, and then click the "Counties" radio button. That produces a third pull-down menu which you use to select Jackson, and then click on "Continue."

The Jackson home page should show the word "Arrivals" in bold face. Use the left hand pull-down date menu to select a year for the start of your search, leaving the right hand pull-down at 2019. Don't click on the All-time records box. Click "Submit," and you'll see a list of species in phylogenetic order with the earliest date shown on the far right.

If you want to see the earliest arrival date for a specific year, adjust the two year pull-downs so that each shows the year in which you are interested.

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.

June Walk: Wednesday, June 5

July Walk: Wednesday, July 3

August Walk: Wednesday, August 7

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) ____ Total 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

ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Birds and Beers

Hosted by RVAS, Birds and Beers is a casual gathering for folks to chat with fellow birders about anything bird related. Topics may include upcoming field trips, current research, interesting sightings, conservation initiatives, favorite birding hotspots, anything you want to discuss. This group offers birders the chance to meet one another and enjoy a relaxing evening over birds and beers! This month we will go on a short hike, followed by a social hour at the Green Springs Inn.

Meet at the Ashland Rite-Aid at 5:30 pm

DATE: Tuesday, June 13

TIME: 5:30 pm (carpool)

PLACE: Green Springs Inn, 11470 Highway 66
(meet at Rite-Aid in Ashland)

COST: Free



ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS AND CLASSES

Summer Saturday Morning Bird Walks

Stroll through North Mountain Park for a chance to see and hear a variety of bird species. On this easy walk, held on the third Saturday of every summer month, you will enjoy an opportunity to see and hear a variety of birds that spend the summer in the Rogue Valley. Binoculars and field guides will be available for check-out. Please pre-register online at ashland.or.us/ register or call the Nature Center for more info: 541.488.6606.

DATE: Saturday Jun 15 | Jul 20 | Aug 17

TIME: 8:00 am—9:00 am

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

COST: FREE

INSTRUCTOR: Local birding experts

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 9

TIME: Sunrise to noon

PLACE: Ashland

COST: FREE

LEADERS Jeanine Moy and Nate Trimble

Bird-centric events continued on page 12

Bird-centric events continued from page 11

PRESENTATIONS AND WALKS WITH WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Monthly Educational Talk: Introduction to Bird Sketching

Erin Linton will introduce techniques and tips for drawing birds while you are in the field. This beginner level course will focus on bird drawing basics and tactics for nature journaling. Drawing birds is a great way to take birding a step further, familiarizing yourself with field marks and behaviors. As space is limited to 25, please reserve your seat today by calling the store at 541.772.2107 or by coming in to register.

DATE: Wednesday, June 19
TIME: 6:00—7:00 pm
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
PRESENTER: Erin Linton

Chickadee Chat: Wildlife Rehabilitation

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

DATE: Wednesday, June 5 and 19
TIME: 10:30 am (June 5); 3:30 pm (June 19)
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free

Badger Run Wildlife Rehabilitation Fundraiser

Wild Birds Unlimited will be collecting items from Badger Run's wish list (pick up a list at the store) starting Monday, June 3 through Saturday, June 8. Representatives from Badger Run will be on site with their ambassador raptors for you to meet on Saturday, June 8.

DATE: Saturday, June 8
TIME: 10:00 am—3:00 pm
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free

Bird Walk: Mountain Lakes

Erin Linton will lead a walk to the Lake Country (Howard Prairie, Little Hyatt, etc.), this month. 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, June 12
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford
COST: Free
LEADER Erin Linton

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Have a great summer!



Pileated Woodpecker by Nick Viani

Happy birding!



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ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE CHAT

Newsletter of the
ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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.

