

A voice for education and conservation in the natural world
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
www.roguevalleyaudubon.org
Deadline for the December/January issue is November 20



NOVEMBER Program

Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 pm

FIGHTING CRIME WITH FEATHERS:

The Casebook of a Forensic Ornithologist

Presented by PEPPER TRAIL



Join us as our own Pepper Trail, the world's leading forensic ornithologist, lifts the curtain on the secret world of wildlife crime. As the ornithologist at the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ashland for over 20 years, Pepper has seen it all, from carved hornbill skulls to Harpy Eagle head-dresses to oil-covered roadrunners to hummingbird love charms. He will illustrate all of this and more in this informative (and sometimes appalling) talk.

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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

When did your love of birds begin? Were you five years old, or were you 25? Maybe you were 55? Many people discover the joy of birds and birding later in life and wonder what life would have been like had they discovered them when they were younger. Luckily, my love began when I was very young. I still remember my first trip to Sequoia National Park dated 1976. My favorite bird from that trip was the Northern Flicker; I used to think its feathers with their salmon-colored shafts were magical. The runner-up was the beautiful Steller's Jay with its brilliant blue-and-black plumage. I still get excited when I see them in the woods around my home. Was that first magical experience what tethered me to my love of birds? Maybe. I've always been drawn to them, and now that I'm older I want other kids to be drawn to them, too.

We need today's kids to care about birds. We can help make this happen in their classrooms with special presentations, through programs like Project FeederWatch, and Hedrick Middle School Swift Education Program. I feel very lucky to have been asked to head up the educational outreach component of our amazing organization. As an employee at Jacksonville Elementary School, I feel even luckier to have access to hundreds of students that I can try to persuade into becoming advocates for birds! A station for Project FeederWatch was just approved for the school, and I am extremely excited to begin working with a 3rd Grade classroom on this project. My ultimate goal is to expand Project FeederWatch to other schools in Jackson County. If you like working with students please let me know! I'd like to get a core of eager RVAS members that want to get kids excited about birds! Won't you be the spark that ignites a young person's lifelong love of birds?

Erin Ulrich

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH RETURNS

Help count birds that visit the feeders at North Mountain Park in Ashland, 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. No registration is required.

When: Alternate Saturdays from 9:00 — 10:00 am

Where: North Mountain Park Pavilion

November dates: November 9 and 23

December dates: December 7 and 21

Project FeederWatch will continue through
March 2020

Ashland Christmas Bird Count

The Ashland CBC will take place on **Saturday, December 28**. 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, 1633 Highway 99 in Ashland. Everyone is welcome to come to the tally even if you do 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 **December 21**.

RVAS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

When: Saturday December 14, 6:00 pm

Where: Lidgate Hall, Congregational Church, Medford

Come and enjoy great food and community as we raise money to support the Vaux's Swifts migrating through our valley.

POTLUCK: Bring a dish to share and your own place settings.
RVAS will provide non-alcoholic beverages.

Jim Livaudais, I hear, is very excited to entertain us with more great photos from his world travels. The Warblers are trying to get it together to sing. Please bring your \$\$ bills to encourage them.

Pepper Trail has agreed to emcee a lively and humorous auction of a variety of exciting donated items: photographs, paintings, field trips, wine, and more. Feel free to bid generously!

Member donations of auction items are very welcome (and required, actually). Use your fabulous imaginations to contribute a memorable experience.

Help is always needed:

Table set up at 4:00 pm * assisting with potluck set-up * helping with the payments at end of the evening * evening clean-up

Contact Lynn McDonald at (541) 708-0532
Or email junelynnjacobs@gmail.com

Jackson County Field Notes September 20 — October 20, 2019

By Jeff Tufts

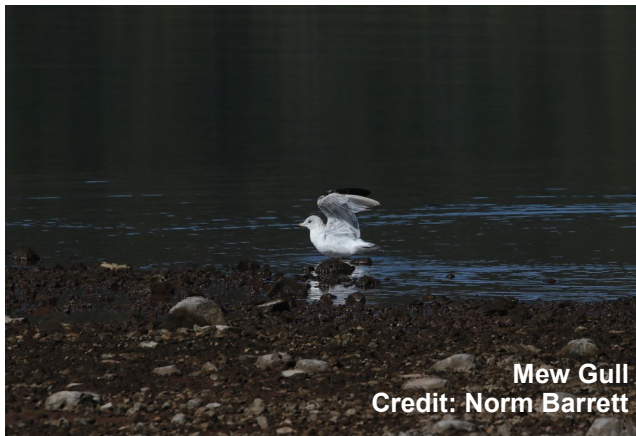
No matter the source or strength of the forewarning, what birder can casually shrug off the disappointment of a brief look at a likely mega-rarity followed by a fruitless search for a confirming second sighting?

Spend enough years looking at birds, and you'll eventually have to deal with the frustration of the "one that got away."

For Ralph Browning, the day was October 4, and the location was the "flats" at Lost Creek Lake. The bird was a probable **Little Bunting**, a Eurasian species that has been documented once before in Oregon in 2013 in the town of Joseph in Wallowa County (extreme northeastern part of the state).

Other confirmed sightings of this member of the *Emberizidae* family in the Pacific Northwest include a bird seen near the coast in Grays Harbor County in Washington in October, 2015, and one seen by dozens of birders in the coastal town of McKinleyville in Humboldt County, California in December, 2013.

Ralph's description of his bird—a probable immature—prompted a quick response from a crew of local birders who joined in a search for a second look and possible photographs, but all efforts were in vain. The



first and only sighting was in one of the large willow clumps that are under water for at least half of the year, and if the bird was unusually shy it could have gone undetected while still in the same general area.

While the Little Bunting was added to the unofficial Jackson County list for 2019, it will only make the supplemental roster that is appended to the official Jackson County species list. Established rules for that list dictate that a bird must be seen by at least two experienced observers unless it has been confirmed by a photo-

graph.

Seven other species are on the supplemental list: Red-throated Loon, Mountain Plover, Boreal Owl, Plumbeous Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Kentucky Warbler. Little Bunting joins them as by far the rarest of the group.

Local birders who may not know of Ralph Browning should be aware that he was the author of the first document that specifically dealt with the birds in our area.

The title is *The Distribution and Occurrence of the Birds of Jackson County, Oregon, and Surrounding Areas*, and it was published in 1975 under the auspices of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Reprints are available through Amazon, and a pdf version can be downloaded at:

<https://www.fwspubs.org/doi/pdf/10.3996/nafa.70.0001>

Ralph also was the Taxonomic Editor for *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference*, the 2003 volume that is the single most important reference work for birders in our state. Last year Ralph published *Rogue Birder: The Making of a Modern Ornithologist*, an autobiographical journal that Alan Contreras, co-editor of *Birds of Oregon*, described as "a delightful tour through the worlds of mid-century teenage birding, professional ornithology and our ultimate enjoyment of birds in the wild."

The flats of Lost Creek Lake may not have yielded a second report of the Little Bunting, but that area did produce the second rarest sighting of the period covered in this column. Two visiting birders (LB, JM) headquartered at the Joseph Stewart State Park Campground discovered and photographed a **Clay-colored Sparrow** on Oct 17. The only previous record of this species in Jackson County during the second half of the calendar year was a bird seen in Sep 2004.

Identification of three members of the *Spizella* genus in non-breeding plumage—Brewer's Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow—can be so problematic that even David Sibley notes in his big field guide that some "rare individuals may be unidentifiable."

The month of October has thus far seen eleven species added to the 2019 Jackson County list, and nine of them were found in the Lost Creek Lake area.

In addition to the aforementioned Little Bunting and Clay-colored Sparrow, the lake itself produced **Surf Scoter**, **Mew Gull**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Pacific Loon**, and **Common Tern**. One or two **Lapland Longspurs** were seen on the flats, and an immature **Glaucous-winged Gull** was at Holy Waters.

The first Surf Scoter was found Oct. 6 (CKJ, JK, FL) and two weeks later five of them were on the lake (HS). One was also spotted at Emigrant Lake Oct. 19 (FL).

The Mew Gull was seen and photographed Oct 1 (NB), and two Common Terns were spotted Oct. 6 (CKJ, JK, FL).

Field Notes continued on page 5

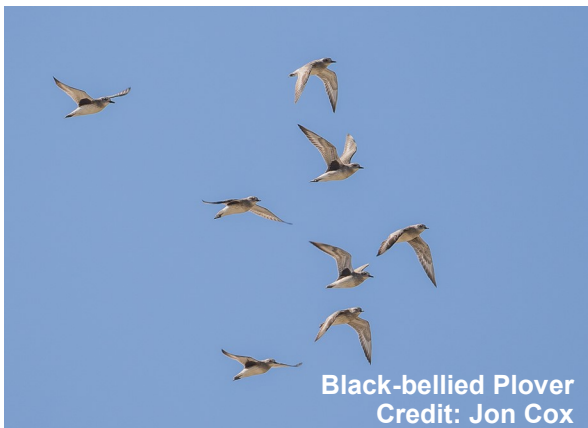
Field Notes continued from page 4

Two Red-necked Grebes were found Oct. 1 (NB), and at least one of that species was present through Oct. 18.

One Pacific Loon was spotted Oct. 9 (NB). One or two of this species are likely to show up at any body of water in Jackson County during fall migration while thousands of them are seen during regular sea watches on the coast.

First record of Lapland Longspur was from the Lost Creek Lake flats Oct. 5 (FL) and one or two were seen there on three subsequent days. A single Longspur was at the Kirtland Ponds Oct. 19 (HS).

The first-year Glaucous-winged Gull was seen and photographed on the Holy Waters Oct. 10 (NB, GS, JL), and after comparison of photos it was determined that a similar gull seen on the flats Oct. 5 (FL) and then photographed two days later (HS) was a first-year Western X Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid. The latter bird is believed to be the first confirmed record in Jackson County of this most common of gull hybrids. They are so abundant on the coast that they've earned the unofficial, non-scientific name of **Olympic Gull**.



Black-bellied Plover
Credit: Jon Cox

Note the black axillaries ("wingpits"), which are a diagnostic characteristic of the Black-bellied Plover.

The only other species added to the 2019 Jackson County thus far in October are **Brewer's Sparrow** and **Black-bellied Plover**. The rather late Brewer's Sparrow was seen on Big Red Mountain Oct. 7 (FL), and eight Black-bellied Plovers were at Agate Lake briefly the same day (JC) before being frightened off by an unexpected invasion of Mylar balloons.

Mention should be made of a rare species sighted during the time period covered in last month's field notes but not confirmed until after the copy deadline. An out-of-state birder (ST) spotted a **Gray Catbird** at Willow Lake Sept. 18. This is only the eighth record in Jackson County, and curiously the most recent previous sighting was

also at Willow Lake (June 2016).

In addition to the Surf Scoter reports, other notable waterfowl seen recently include a **Redhead** at Hyatt Lake Oct. 13 (GS) and five **Snow Geese** at Emigrant Lake Oct. 11 (FL).

The 18 **Greater Scaup** reported from Holy Waters Oct. 17 (NB, JL, GS) reminds that the portion of the Rogue River below the Lost Creek Lake dam is the only location in Jackson County where that species regularly outnumbers Lesser Scaup.

As of this writing, we're still awaiting the arrival of Common and Barrow's Goldeneye. They are most frequently seen at Holy Waters, and the first reports from last year were on Oct. 22 and Oct. 27, respectively. By the time you read this edition of the Field Notes, both species figure to be in attendance.

Notice should be made of two species of shorebird that have been notable by their relative absence this year: **Baird's Sandpiper** and **Pectoral Sandpiper**.

Baird's have been reported at Lost Creek Lake and the Kirtland ponds, but none have been seen at either Agate or Emigrant lakes. There was at least one report from Agate Lake every year from 2011 through 2018, and Emigrant Lake had at least one from 2015 through 2018.

In the early years of this decade, Pectoral Sandpipers were frequently seen in small flocks at Agate Lake. One observer reported 24 of them there in 2013. Not a single Pectoral was reported from Agate in 2017 and 2018, and none have been seen there so far this year.

Merlins have begun to show up in expected numbers, but only one **Prairie Falcon** (Sept. 23) has been reported thus far this season (FL), and the location—Big Red Mountain—would indicate that it was a bird passing through. At this time last year, there had been eleven Prairie Falcon reports to eBird in Jackson County.

One **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted over the Vesper Meadows Oct. 19 (LF), but no reports yet of a Ferruginous Hawk in the county.

Only one **White-tailed Kite** has been seen since last spring. That was a bird hunting over the Imperatrice property Oct. 17 (AL).

Early reports of **Lewis's Woodpeckers** seem to indicate that they will be abundant in the Rogue Valley this fall/winter. Checklists that include 10 or more of these colorful birds have been submitted from Lower Table Rock, Agate Lake, and the Rogue River Preserve.

One **Black-backed Woodpecker** was seen flying over Forest Service Road 37 (aka Big Elk Road) Sept. 25 (FL).

The first **Northern Shrike** of the season was reported from Little Hyatt Lake Oct 12 (SR), and another was at Agate Lake Oct. 20 (JK).

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Field Notes continued from page 5

Most **Clark's Nutcracker** sightings in Jackson County are from the Cascade Mountains, but a surprising flock of seven was seen Oct. 7 (FL) at Big Red Mountain in the Siskiyou.

It's been a couple of years since we've had large numbers of **Pine Siskins** in the valley over the winter, but early reports indicate that this could be a good year for them. The same could be said for **Cedar Waxwings** and **Red Crossbills**.

And what can we make of the fact that there were 65 **Lark Sparrows** at the Jackson County Sports Park Sept. 22 (GS, JL)? Surely they weren't there for the drag races.

Notable late reports of species that will eventually be gone until next spring include **House Wren** (Oct. 2, MH), **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (Sept. 27, FL), **Nashville Warbler** (Oct. 3, JH), **MacGillivray's Warbler** (Sept. 29, MLA, BT, SGV), **Yellow Warbler** (Oct. 5, JH), **Townsend's Warbler** (Oct. 13, NM), **Hermit Warbler** (Sept. 30, FL), **Wilson's Warbler** (Oct. 3, FH) and **Black-headed Grosbeak** (Sept. 22, KS).



Lewis' Woodpecker
Credit: Karl Schneck

Thanks to all whose reports to eBird and/or the Rogue Valley Birds listserv were mentioned in this edition of the Field Notes: Martin Lopez Aguilar, Norm Barrett, Linnaea Basden, Ralph Browning, Jon Cox, Lee French, Marion Hadden, Frank Hall, Jim Hostick, Courtney Kelly Jett, Janet Kelly, Alex Lamoreaux, Jim Livaudais, Frank Lospalluto, Joshua Meyers, Nicole Morgan, Shannon Rio, Howard Sands, Karl Schneck, Gary Shaffer, Susan Thornburg, Brian Tsuru, and Sergio Gomez Villaverde.

BIRD-CENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS AND CLASSES

Attracting and Feeding Birds in Your Yard

Participants will learn what types of bird feeders are best for attracting specific bird species as well as feeder placement and foods that attract various birds. Questions such as "When should I feed birds? What bird seeds work best to attract a variety of birds? Should I feed birds year-round? What about feeding hummingbirds?" will be answered. Bird feeders will be displayed to help participants have a broader understanding of feeder types. Bird species common to our area visiting feeders in the fall, winter and spring will be discussed. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

DATE: Wednesday, November 6

TIME: 6:30 — 8:00 pm

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

COST: \$15

INSTRUCTOR: Vince Zausky

EVENTS AT WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Bird Walk: Klamath Wildlife Refuge

Erin Linton will be leading a walk to **Klamath Wildlife Refuge**. This will be an all-day event, leaving the store by **7:30 am**. Wear layers of clothing appropriate for the weather and good walking shoes that can get wet and muddy. Bring a lunch, water, and any snacks desired along with binoculars, a field guide, paper/pen or smartphone to record species seen. As space is limited to 15, please reserve your spot today by calling the store at 541.772.2107 or by coming in to register.

DATE: Wednesday, November 20

TIME: 7:30 am

PLACE: Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford

COST: Free

LEADER: Erin Linton

The World of eBirding: Observation Types and Incomplete Checklists

By Jeff Tufts

One of the most important decisions that an eBirder has to make when submitting a checklist is the choice of observation type. Almost all lists in Jackson County are either traveling, stationary or incidental.

Traveling and stationary are pretty much self-explanatory, but many eBirders seem inclined to use the “incidental” category just because they aren’t sure about the duration of the count or the distance traveled.

A proper example of an incidental list would be a report of a single bird seen while shopping, driving or working in the yard. The brief explanation that eBird provides is that you should use the incidental label when birding is NOT your primary purpose.

But what if you didn’t start out with birding as your primary activity and then find yourself seeing (and/or hearing) several different species? Could there be a point at which you decide you are, to some extent, concentrating on birding? Does your list then qualify as something other than incidental?

If you can remember the approximate time when you saw your first bird, it’s easy enough get a reasonably accurate estimate of your total time spent birding, and if you’ve been driving or walking, add in your estimate of distance covered. In such a case, it would be okay to use traveling or stationary as the observation type.

The last decision to be made before you submit a checklist is the answer to this question: are you submitting a complete checklist of the birds you were able to identify? Whether you check the yes or no button depends not on whether there were a few birds that you couldn’t identify, but rather on whether you have deliberately refrained from identifying and counting certain species or groups of species.

If you’ve chosen to not count such common birds as Rock Pigeons or European Starlings, then you should click on the “no” button. That should also be the option you choose if you were concentrating only on raptors and ignoring the passerines you saw.

Failing to identify a few birds that are far off or only briefly visible is NOT a reason to choose the “no” option.

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 the rest of 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.

November Walk: Wednesday, November 6

December Walk: Wednesday, December 4

Medford Christmas Bird Count 2019

This year the Rogue Valley Audubon Society's Medford Christmas bird count will be on **Sunday, December 15**. This important event gives everybody an opportunity to be part of the biggest citizen science effort in the New World. From mid-December through early January tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action.

The area for the Medford Christmas Bird Count is a circle 15 miles in diameter, centered a mile or so west of the junction of Hwy 140 and Hwy 62 in White City. The circle has been carved up into 15 sections. Each section is entrusted to an experienced leader who makes the decisions as to times and routes. Some leaders welcome newcomers to their teams. Others may prefer to team up with experienced, hardy birders who can cope with difficult terrain and a fast pace. Hardcore 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 12 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.

****TME TO RENEW!** 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.

The Conservation Column

By Pepper Trail

The Most Extensive Study Yet on Birds and Climate Change

In October, the National Audubon Society released the most detailed analysis ever done on the likely effects of climate change on North American birds. The “Survival by Degrees” report uses a huge dataset of bird occurrence records – from eBird, the Christmas Bird Count, and the Breeding Bird Survey, among other sources – and combines that with the latest climate models to predict how different climate scenarios will affect the ranges of 604 bird species. The study analyzes the effects of 1.5°, 2°, and 3° C increase in average temperature by 2080. The climate models come from a report by an international panel of more than 800 climate change experts called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report. The models are based on CMIP5 data from the AR5—IPCC 5th assessment.

The report includes guild-based*/habitat-based analysis of bird species, such as grasslands, arctic, boreal, coastal, aridlands, etc., with tailored modeling with specific variables, particularly in summer and winter. It also incorporates estimates of localized impacts of Earth’s changing climate:

- Sea level rise
- Urbanization
- Cropland expansion
- Extreme weather
- Fire weather
- Heavy rain
- Drought
- False springs
- Lake level changes

***Guilds** are groups of species in a community that exploit the same set of resources in a similar manner, but are not necessarily closely related taxonomically.

What are the report's primary findings?

Audubon’s new science shows that two-thirds (64%) (389 out of 604) of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change. The good news is that the science also shows that if we take action now we can help improve the changes for 76% of species at risk.

Where can I read the full report?

You can download the report in PDF form in both English and Spanish at www.audubon.org. Extensive coverage is also included in the Fall 2019 issue of *Audubon* magazine.

What geographical range does the study cover?

The study covers North America.

How are birds where I live projected to respond to global warming?

Audubon has created an amazing online “Birds and Climate Visualizer” which provides detailed maps of how birds in your area are likely to be affected. Go to <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees> and type in your zip code and it will show you how climate change will impact your community and your local birds—and it includes ways you can help.

Results for Some Southern Oregon Birds

I used the Birds and Climate Visualizer tool to check on the predictions for some familiar and beloved Oregon birds. The analysis included 204 Oregon bird species, 54% of which were rated as in “High” or “Moderate” vulnerability categories – that is, predicted to lose at least half their current North American range under the 3° C warming scenario.

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Even when warming is predicted to be “only” 2° C, 46% of our birds remain in these vulnerability categories. Some examples for 3° C of warming are given below. Species in italics are predicted to lose all or almost all of their summer range in Oregon.

Great Gray Owl: 97% of current range lost

Townsend's Solitaire: 83%

Vaux's Swift: 80%

Lincoln's Sparrow: 75%

Canada Jay: 71%

Rufous Hummingbird: 71%

Varied Thrush: 68%

Orange-crowned Warbler: 63%

Acorn Woodpecker: 57%

Are birds with ranges that are shown to expand or shift “safe” from climate change?

Not necessarily. The Audubon models look at the most fundamental climate needs each species requires for survival; they do not take specifics of habitat into account. For example, the models predict that the range of the Acorn Woodpecker in Oregon will expand east of the Cascades, based on predicted milder winters. However, the oak woodlands that the species needs for survival are currently highly localized east of the Cascades. How long will it take extensive oak woodlands to establish themselves? Until they do, Acorn Woodpeckers will not be able to expand their range in Oregon – and are predicted to lose most of their range in interior California as summer temperatures soar.

What does 1.5 C and 3.0 C mean?

Our planet has been warming rapidly since the Industrial Revolution and scientists are measuring our average global temperature based on historic averages. In fact, we have already reached 1.0 C and we see the impacts with stronger hurricanes in the East and severe drought in the West.

Thousands of climate scientists around the world study our environment by considering three future warming scenarios: 1.5° C (2.7 F), 2.0° C (3.6 F) and 3.0° (5.4 F). The consensus is that our goal should be to hold warming at 1.5 otherwise we will face increasingly dire consequences if the planet warms more than 2.0 C. If we do nothing, 1.5° C is imminent, 2.0° C would happen as soon as 2050 and 3.0° C would happen by the end of the century.

In order to hold warming steady we must act now to reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere. The bottom line is that by 2050 we must break even in carbon emissions by reducing the amount of carbon we produce and by absorbing what is produced through natural solutions like reforestation or with technology that removes carbon from the air.

What We Can Do: The fall issue of *Audubon* magazine has a great “Climate Action Guide,” which I encourage everyone to check out for lots of specific ideas. Meanwhile, here is a summary of some key steps:

Reduce your use of energy at home and ask your elected officials to support energy-saving policies that reduce the overall demand for electricity and that save consumers money.

Ask your elected officials to expand consumer-driven clean energy development that grows jobs in your community – like solar or wind power.

Reduce the amount of carbon pollution released into the atmosphere. In order to drive down carbon emissions, we will need innovative economy-wide solutions that address every sector of the economy – like a fee on carbon. Another option is to address carbon emissions one sector at a time like setting a clean energy standard for electricity generation.

Advocate for natural solutions, from increasing wetlands along coasts and rivers that absorb soaking rains to protecting forests and grasslands that are homes to birds and serve as carbon storage banks, and putting native plants everywhere to help birds adapt to climate change.

Ask elected leaders to be climate and conservation champions.

Thanks for all you do.

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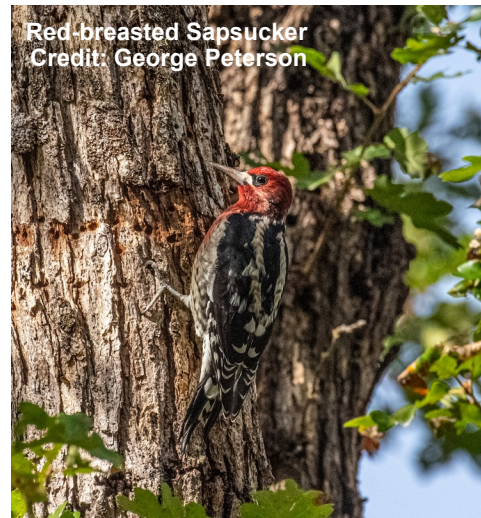
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