

A voice for education and conservation in the natural world
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
www.roguevalleyaudubon.org

Deadline for the April 2025 issue is March 20



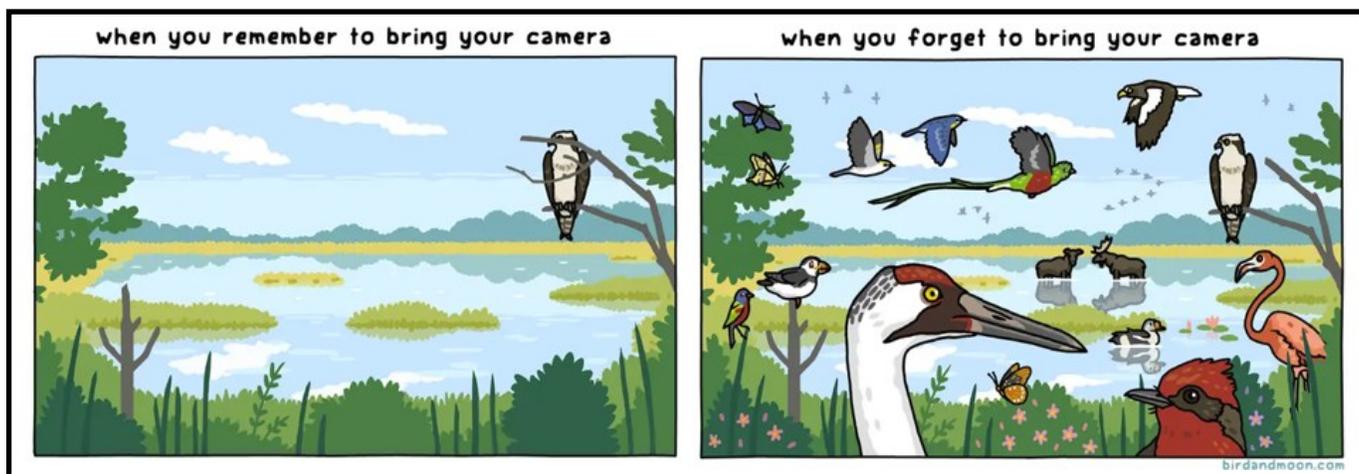
March ZOOM (Virtual) Program
Tuesday, Mar. 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Finding Humor in Birds
With Rosemary Mosco

Cartoonist Rosemary Mosco of Bird and Moon will talk about her work making bird comics and art for fun and conservation. Rosemary is an author, illustrator, and speaker whose work connects people with the natural world. She's written and drawn for The New York Times, Audubon, Rewiring America, the PBS Kids show Elinor Wonders Why, Ranger Rick, and more, and makes a regular comic strip in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *Living Bird* magazine. She creates acclaimed [science books](#) for kids and adults and the nature comic Bird and Moon, which won the National Cartoonists Society's award for Best Online Short Form Comic and was the subject of an award-winning museum exhibit.



You can learn more about Rosemary [in this Audubon profile](#).



Zoom instructions: The Zoom link will be posted on the Rogue Valley Audubon webpage the day of the meeting.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President: Vacant
Vice-President: George Peterson, sgpeteron1@msn.com
Secretary: Rebekah Bergkoetter, rebekah.bergkoetter@gmail.com
Treasurer: Kay Simmons, mwsimmons1@verizon.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Kate Halstead katherine.elspeth@gmail.com
Jamie Trammell trammelle@sou.edu
Rebekah Bergkoetter rebekah.bergkoetter@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archivist: Vacant
Annual Picnic: Wendy Gere, wendy.gere@gmail.com
Birdathon: Vacant
The Chat Editor: Kate Halstead, chateditor@gmail.com
CBC-Ashland: Jonathon Pope, jonath.pope@gmail.com
CBC-Medford: Rebekah Bergkoetter, rebekah.bergkoetter@gmail.com
Conservation: Pepper Trail, ptrail@ashlandnet.net & Juliet Grable, julietgrable@gmail.com
Education: Vacant
Field Notes: Frank Lospalluto, fdlospalluto@gmail.com
Field Trips: Frank Lospalluto, fdlospalluto@gmail.com & Kristi Mergenthaler, coprolitemergie@yahoo.com
Holiday Party: Vacant
Hospitality: Vacant
Outreach & Tabling: Vacant
Membership: George Peterson, sgpeteron1@msn.com
Programs: Rebekah Bergkoetter, rebekah.bergkoetter@gmail.com
Project FeederWatch: Mary Pat Power, marypat1010@gmail.com
Publicity: Vacant
Swift Monitoring: Erin Ulrich, eulrich44@gmail.com

CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

Email: info@roguevalleyaudubon.org
The Chat: chateditor@gmail.com
Webmaster: Tom Pratum, tkp9551@gmail.com
Website: www.roguevalleyaudubon.org
Facebook: Kristi Mergenthaler, https://www.facebook.com/RogueValleyAudubonSociety/

Mailing Address

RVAS
P. O. Box 8597
Medford, OR 97501

Chapter Program meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month (unless otherwise noted), September through April, at 7:00 pm. Meetings take place at 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford, in Lidgate Hall of the Medford Congregational Church of Christ.

NOTE: Chapter meetings will be held on Zoom if deemed unsafe for gathering, or as otherwise needed.



The January RVAS program talk by Pepper Trail on "A Bird's-Eye View of Climate Change" was attended by more than 70 birders. Photo credit: Kay Simmons

Become a Member of the Board!

Our wonderful chapter is supported by amazing volunteers who lead bird walks, write for the newsletter, facilitate FeederWatch programs throughout the Rogue Valley, and so much more! The Board welcomes your input and ideas on RVAS programs and worthwhile projects. **We invite you to join us as a guest Board Member for just 3 months.** Long-term Board positions are also available.

The Board meets every first Thursday of the month via Zoom. The Zoom meetings are at 7 pm, and usually last around an hour.

If you are interested, contact any Board Member. Our email addresses are posted in *The Chat* and on the website. We look forward to having you join us!

Ornithologist Report #1

Hi my name is Abby Hudson, and I'm the class ornithologist for Mr. Williams 3rd grade class at Jacksonville Elementary. This month has been so exciting. We have seen so many birds, mostly goldfinches. The most exciting bird sighting this month was when we saw the Ruby-crowned Kinglet for the first time!! A problem we have is that the deer eat our seed. To solve the problem, we put cages on the bird feeder. Thank you for your support of our class bird feeder. We have so much fun with the bird feeder!!! It's my favorite thing to do!!



Status of upcoming events

Field trips: Denman Bird Walk - Apr. 2, May 7, Jun. 4

Chapter Meeting: Tues. Mar. 25 at 7pm

Project FeederWatch: Sat. Mar. 1 & 15 (see pg 7)



February Field Notes 2025

By Frank Lospalluto

To fly like the cranes and not look back!
-- Marina Tsvetaeva

A real winter in all parts of the valley sent people and birds scrambling to adapt and deal. This month we will mostly eschew a foray into the eBird ledger and share a few other observations.

Ryan Terrill reported an early male **Rufous Hummingbird** on Feb 8 in Ashland. Longtime RVAS member Maggi Rackley reports her Rufous Hummingbirds appeared at her Sardine Creek residence Feb 19 and she now has four males at her feeders. The long-reported female Costa's Hummingbird in Eagle Point at Tanner Martin's house was determined by hummingbird expert Sherri Williamson to be an **Anna's x Costa's hybrid**. This hybrid combo is reported fairly regularly in California and seemingly may become a regular occurrence in Oregon as well.

Dianne Keller observed some interesting **Anna's Hummingbird** behavior during the recent snow event in the valley: on Feb 4 at her feeder, a pair of warring birds came to a ceasefire agreement and both fed at the feeder until the storm abated (photo right). With some warmer valley weather, Anna's females will be looking for nest sites and starting nest construction over the next few weeks.

Marion Hadden and Vince Zauskey both report **Turkey Vulture** sightings in the valley recently. There have been a few reports from January, but the window is opening for kettles to arrive. A good opportunity to spy other raptors circling with them.



Sandhill Cranes are making their way north with a few flocks over the Siskiyou Summit as of this writing. Mid-to-late February is the normal migration window here.

Vicki Fox reports that an apparent male **Bullock's Oriole** visited her Talent yard at the beginning of Feb. She had clear binocular views of the bird before it disappeared. Considering how sheltered and warm the valley can be (despite this recent sledgehammer of winter weather), overwintering orioles and tanagers may be hidden in plain view oftentimes. There are multiple reports from the southern Oregon Coast and the Smith River area, why not here!

Remember to support our non-profits like RVAS, Klamath Bird Observatory, and The Understory Initiative in these perilous times as our country flirts with autocracy.

Peace.

2025 Birdathon

By Carol Mockridge

2025 Birdathon is on. Get ready.

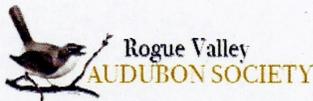
The RVAS Birdathon returns May 16 - 17. Now is the time to form your teams and sign up. The Birdathon is an important fundraiser for RVAS. And it's fun!

The object of the Birdathon is for sponsored teams to count as many species as possible within a 24-hour period. Teams can range widely or stick close to home, so long as they stay in Jackson County. The event officially kicks off on Friday, May 16 at 6 p.m. and goes to 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 17. Most teams include two to five birders, although a single individual may also comprise a team. For all the rules, and other info, and to find the pledge form, visit www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/birdathon/.

A task equally important as picking your all-star team is finding sponsors - that's the fundraiser part. A person can sponsor your team with either a fixed donation or an amount per species found. Get pledges and send in your money and the official form (located on the RVAS website). Donors can also use PayPal to send in their donations. Look for the "Donate" button at the top on the home page and choose "Birdathon" on the form. The team that raises the most money WINS and gets the famous Birdathon traveling trophy for a year.

If you've never participated in this annual event, why not make 2025 your year? To sign-up your team or for more info, contact Carol Mockridge at 360-829-7505. A celebratory dinner on Saturday night will follow. Location of the dinner will be announced in the April *Chat*.

Have you renewed your annual membership? If not, send in the form below today (or visit www.roguevalleyaudubon.org), and get spring off to a great start!



Rogue Valley Audubon Membership Application

Mail check to: Rogue Valley Audubon, P. O.Box 8597, Medford, OR 97501 or join online at www.roguevalleyaudubon.org using PayPal. Welcome to the flock. We are a dedicated group.

___ \$20 Regular membership ___ \$25 for paper newsletter _____ Additional donation (amount)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail (required to receive newsletter online, the preferred method and other RVAS announcements):

___ Check here if you wish to be sent a printed copy of *The Chat* by U.S. mail. Add \$25 to membership check.

___ Check here if you would like to volunteer for Rogue Valley Audubon.

___ Check here to opt out of all electronic communications from Rogue Valley Audubon.

BIRDCENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

RVAS

First Wednesday Bird Walks: April 2, May 7, June 4

Join RVAS for our monthly outing to Denman Wildlife Area. Walks begin at 8:30 am and end before noon, and are led by Jim Hostick. The gate will be open from 8:00 - 8:20 am. Participants need to purchase an ODFW Area Parking Permit at the ODFW Office, Sportsman's Warehouse on Delta Waters and Highway 62 in Medford, or at Bi-Mart.

Directions to meeting spot: We will meet at the entrance off Agate Rd. between 1/4 and 1/2 mile past the fire station on the left side of the road. Coming out Table Rock Rd., turn right on Antelope Rd. and go to the light on Agate Rd. and turn left. The fire station will be on your left at the corner of Ave. G and Agate Rd. Go 1/4 to 1/2 mile past the fire station and the gate will be on your left. Coming out on Highway 62 to Antelope Rd., turn left and go to the next light. Turn right and continue to the gate on Agate Rd.

Wild Birds Unlimited

Kirtland Lagoons Birding Trip

Max McClarnon will be leading a bird walk to the Kirtland Lagoons this Saturday. The Kirtland Lagoon is a collection of water treatment ponds that, despite being a human made landscape feature, contains some of the best shorebird watching in Jackson County. Look for migrating sandpipers, plovers, phalaropes and other shorebirds as well as many species of ducks, raptors, and gulls. Limited to 9 participants. To reserve your spot, come in or call the store at (541) 772-2107.

DATE: Saturday Mar 15

TIME: 9:00 am

“Nesting Season: Becoming a Good Bird Landlord” presented by Laura Fleming

Nesting season is just around the corner... are you ready to be a bird landlord? We will talk about avian architecture, choosing an appropriate nesting box, the different stages of the nesting season, behaviors to watch for, and how to deal with potential predators and problems. Bring your curiosity and questions. Space is limited to 20 participants, so come in or call the store at (541) 772-2107 to reserve your seat today.

DATE: Sunday Mar 16

TIME: 2-3:00 pm

COST: Free

LOCATION: Wild Birds Unlimited store, 961 Medford Center, Medford OR 97504

KS Wild

The 23rd Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival

We are thrilled to announce the 2025 Wild & Scenic Film Festival. This festival aims to bring the community together to celebrate our work in protecting the Klamath-Siskiyou wildlands and restoring clean water in the Rogue Basin through film and art. It will be shown at the Historic Ashland Armory on Saturday, April 12th and at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center on Saturday, April 19th. Doors open at 5pm for drinks, food, and an in-person raffle. Films start at 6pm. All attendees will also receive a video-on-demand link to watch from home between April 12th and April 19th. Purchase tickets at www.siskiyoufilmfest.org/tickets. You can purchase the online-only streaming option through either the Ashland or Grants Pass event form at the above website. If you need help purchasing a ticket or other accommodations, please call Allee Gustafson at (541) 488-5789, extension 1014. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

DATE & LOCATION: Sat. Apr. 12 (Ashland Amory) & Sat. Apr. 19 (Grants Pass Performing Arts Center)

TIME: 5:00 pm





Ornithologist Report #2

My name is Ashley Cortes and I am the lead ornithologist this month for Mr. Williams' 3rd grade class at Jacksonville Elementary. This month has been an exciting bird month for me and the class. This month we have continued to see similar birds that we saw last month, mostly American Goldfinches, sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos.

The most exciting bird sighting this month was seeing a Cooper's Hawk and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The problem we had was deer coming to our bird feeder, which made Mr. Williams put cages - but it did not work so we changed the top part to be spicy.

Some facts I learned about a Sharp-shinned hawk and a Cooper's Hawk: A Cooper's Hawk is 14.6-17.7 inches long and their wingspan is 24.4-35.4 inches long, and a Sharp-Shinned Hawk is 9.4-13.4 inches long and their wingspan is 16.9-22.1 inches long. Now a Cooper's Hawk mainly eats medium-sized birds, rodents, and bats. And a Sharp-shinned Hawk eats mainly song birds, American Robins, and rodents. Both birds live all around North America.

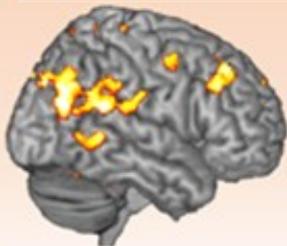
Thank you for your support of our class bird feeders!!

Want to be a Guinea Pig (or Guinea Fowl, perhaps)?

Hey there, flock! We recently received an email from Judy Zhu, a student research coordinator at University of Toronto/Rotman Research Institute, inviting us to participate in a birder-focused research study. That seems right up our alley! See details within the flyer below, and visit www.birdingstudies.com to join in.



Which of four birds at right matches this bird?
And the which is the "odd one out"?



Our group researches how birders' brains differentiate species like this House Wren from other possibilities (1. Marsh Wren, 2. House Wren, 3. Lincoln's Sparrow, 4. Winter Wren). Check out:

www.birdingstudies.com

for our newest **online study** (~15 min, laptop/desktop required)– it's open to all, from beginners to experienced birders. Be a part of our next research report!

 Participants can enter raffle for binoculars giveaway 

NORTHWEST
nature shop
SINCE 1985

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



Ziplines,
Ninjalines,
& Slacklines

Birdfeeders
Suet &
Seeds

Binoculars
& Field
Guides

\$5 OFF
with any purchase of \$25
or more with this coupon
Redeem at NW Nature Shop
or use at northwestnatureshop.com
Coupon Code:
welovebirds

Personalized Shopping & Curbside Service: 541-482-3241
Visit NorthwestNatureShop.com for online ordering
184 Oak Street, Ashland Oregon 97520

Project FeederWatch 2025

By Kay Simmons

Project FeederWatch at North Mountain Park Nature Center, Ashland, is popular with birds and birders. RVAS funds the seed purchase, and the feeders are often filled in the mornings. This is a good site to observe birds, especially for children. Next scheduled FeederWatch observations are Saturday, March 1 and March 15, 2025, at 9-10 am. RVAS provides the seed. MaryPat Power reports the observations to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Vince Zauskey, Reggie Windham, with FeederWatch volunteers Alan and Holly Hubbard (left to right), Feb. 15, 2025. Credit: Kay Simmons.



**20% OFF One
Regularly-priced Item**

*Valid 10/1/24 thru 9/30/25 at the Medford, OR WBU store. One discount per purchase. Not valid on bird food, previous purchases, optics, gift cards, DSC memberships, or sale items.

Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop

THE CHAT

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Sign up to receive easy notification of
Chapter activities**

Your Audubon Chapter wants to be sure you are aware of upcoming field trips, chapter meetings, the most recent edition of *The Chat*, and other items we post online.

At the bottom of every page on our website roguevalleyaudubon.org you will find a form where you can request to be added to our mailing list. And be assured, we will never share your e-mail address with any other organizations.

