

The Chat

Number 381
September 2011

A voice for education and conservation in the natural world

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

www.roguevalleyaudubon.org

Message phone 541-601-3683 (601-DOVE)



September Program Meeting— Tuesday, September 27 at 7:00 pm:

Join Harry Fuller as he explores
"Telling the Hard Ones Apart:

Which one of the reddish-brown finches is at your feeder in December? Which one of the streaky sparrows is feeding along the path ahead? Those shorebirds running around the shoreline at Agate Lake . . . How do you figure out what they are? Harry will go through some of the tougher ID challenges we see regularly here in the Rogue Valley. If you have an image of a ID dilemma please email it to Harry at atowhee@gmail.com before September 15.

Harry Fuller is a birding guide based in Jackson County. He is a partner of PIB tour company, www.pibird.com. He also leads birding trips locally and is co-founder of the Ashland Christmas Bird Count. Harry teaches birding classes At Olli and for Ashland Parks & Recreation. His personal website is www.towhee.net and his bird blog is <http://atowhee.wordpress.com>.

New Location for RVAS Chapter Meetings

Starting in September 2011, the monthly RVAS chapter meetings will be held at the Medford Congregational Church meeting hall, 1801 E. Jackson St in Medford.

The Congregational Church meeting hall is located on the north side of East Jackson Street between North Berkeley Way and North Barneburg Rd. It is most easily accessed from North Barneburg Rd. Just make a left turn into the church parking lot at the tree in the middle of the road.

Chapter meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of the following months: September, October, November, January, February, March, and April. Meetings start at 7 Pm.

In December, instead of a regular meeting, we have our annual Holiday Party & Potluck and fundraising raffle. On the fourth Tuesday in May, we have our annual picnic in Tou Velle State Park.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President, Alex Maksymowicz, 482-1964, maks-box1@gmail.com

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Debi Blair, 301-2296

Bill Hering, 488-5886

Robert Mumby, 535-2934

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Katy Reed, 245-5095

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Holiday Party Raffle: OPEN

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Membership Database: Stan McIntosh, 535-2053

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Telephone number: discontinued

The President's Report—

Whither RVAS? For the next year at least, the answer lies in the Annual Plan adopted by the RVAS Board at their annual retreat in June. Here it is.

1. Establish environmental education grants for local schools
2. Recruit additional field trip leaders
3. Increase the number of third grade classroom presentations
4. Advocate for improvement of bird habitat and enhancement of birding opportunities at the Denman WMA
5. Expand the conservation committee
6. Organize workshops for members
7. Advertise the newly established research grant program
8. Get actively involved in local conservation efforts that affect bird habitat

This is a pretty ambitious programs that can't be executed successfully without the help of volunteers like you. Please consider volunteering if asked. Even better, please consider volunteering without being asked.

If you are interested in helping out with educational programs, contact Lynn Kellogg, kellogg.lynn@gmail.com or 541-855-9638,

If you are interested in working on conservation issues, contact Robert Mumby, rdmumby@charter.net or 541-535-2934.

Field Notes: The Changing Seasons
Compiled by Stewart Janes

Cold wet spring. Cool summer. Consequently, our breeding birds delayed nesting by one to three weeks. This is a rather remarkable delay. Migration and nesting dates rarely vary more than 4 days either way. The last delay even approaching the events of this year was in 1999. Forest birds arrived late but didn't dally and got right down to breeding quickly making up for lost time. Not this year. There was simply too little food in the forest to allow for breeding until quite late. You might think that fall migration might be delayed a bit to compensate for all this disruption. Rearing young and molting all take time and energy. Well, apparently the internal clock of birds is unforgiving. Migration is right on schedule and maybe even early for some species. **Western Kingbirds** cleared out of the valley about a week early this year with very few remaining after the first of August. **Male Rufous Hummingbirds**, **male Bullock's Orioles**, and **Ash-throated Flycatchers** were hard on their heels.

Apart from early disappearances, the first clear evidence of fall migration begins with the shorebirds. Norm Barrett caught the first wave on the mudflats at Lost Creek Reservoir on 8/5 where he found a **Western Sandpiper**, 20 **Least sandpipers**, 3 **Baird's Sandpipers**, and a **Greater Yellowlegs**. Numbers of peeps swelled to the low 100s by 8/13 with **Semipalmated Plovers** and a **Red-necked Phalarope** joining the throng. A **Solitary Sandpiper** dropped in on 8/19 (GR,CB,EL) and stayed for a couple of days.

A **Common Loon** showed up on Lost Creek reservoir at the same time and was joined by a second on 8/19 (NB). An immature **Herring Gull** was present on 8/11 (NB) and **Caspian Terns** have been at both Lost Creek Reservoir and Emigrant Lake since 8/5. Both **Western** and **Clark's Grebes** were at Howard

Prairie on 6/28 (LM,MM). I suspect these were subadults or failed breeders looking for good fishing. **White Pelicans** have been seen all summer at Howard Prairie (MM,LM,LN). These are either subadults or adults commuting from breeding islands on Clear Lake or lakes in the Warner Valley. White Pelicans are notorious for long distance feeding forays.

The first fall waterfowl have been spotted. A flock of **Northern Shovelers** was at Lost Creek Reservoir on 8/21 (NB), and a probable female **Lesser Scaup** was present on 8/19 (JT).

It's been an interesting year for **Hooded Mergansers** in the county. The books say Jackson and Josephine Counties are at the southern extreme for breeding by this species. I've had my doubts thinking that someone had a brood sometime in the distant past but nothing in the last 25 years. That was until this year. A female was on Ashland Pond on 8/6 (HF). Then there was the brood of 9 young on 7/22 on the pond in Provolt. This pond lies on the county line between Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Another bird that may or may not breed in the region is the **Merlin**. It has been suspected that a few may breed in the high Cascades in the northern part of the state. Nothing has been verified. This summer birds have been seen on Mount Ashland on 8/9 (KC-S), on Roxy Ann on 8/16 (JT), and at Denman in late June (OS). I'm not sure what to make of this.

Northern Goshawks were observed on 7/19 at Howard Prairie (MM,LM) and an immature on Hobart Bluff on 7/29. **Red-tailed Hawks** had another abysmal breeding effort this year (fourth in a row). I have only been able to find 3 immatures in the valley. Apparently they did better at higher elevations. Is it the poor buffet or some other factor. The **Red-shouldered Hawks** did somewhat better with 2 young fledged at both the nest behind my house in Dark Hollow and the nest along Colver road.

Continued on Page 5

THE CONSERVATION COLUMN

By Pepper Trail

Welcome back from summer! Many of you, I hope, spent plenty of time these past few months enjoying the magnificent natural wonders of Oregon - or of other parts of the world. Perhaps - just perhaps - this meant that the summer issue of the Chat made its way into the recycle pile before you got around to reading it. If so, I respectfully request that you go to the RVAS website and read my summer conservation column, entitled "What are we to do ... here?" The topic was how Rogue Valley Audubon Society can engage more effectively on local issues related to bird and wildlife conservation, such as the management of the Bear Creek Greenway and the Denman Wildlife Area. The column was intended to stimulate discussion, and I'm happy to say that discussion has begun, and will continue on the RVAS Board and among interested volunteers. If you would like to engage with this effort, you are very welcome. Please email me (ptrail@ashlandnet.net) or Conservation Co-Chair Bill Hering (williamhering@ashlandhome.net) if you have suggests, comments, or would like to get involved. I hope to have some progress to report for the October conservation column.

Meanwhile, August saw an important development in an issue of great significance for Oregon: the survival of wild Columbia River salmon. The following summary is courtesy of the excellent environmental group, Earthjustice:

In early August, U.S. District Court Judge James Redden ruled that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service failed for the third time in ten years to produce a legal and scientifically adequate plan to protect imperiled Columbia-Snake River salmon from extinction. The harm to these species has been largely caused by operation of the federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. Today's court action is a watershed moment for fishing and conservation groups, the state of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Spokane Tribe, all of which opposed the federal biological opinion, or BiOp, in court.

In deciding the case, the court wrote, "The history of the Federal Defendant's lack of, or at best, marginal

compliance with the procedural and substantive requirements of the ESA ... has been laid out in prior Opinions and Orders in this case and is repeated here only where relevant." The court went on call the federal defendants' plan "neither a reasonable, nor a prudent, course of action."

"Today is a victory for the nation," said Trip Van Noppen, President of Earthjustice, the public interest law firm that represented fishing and conservation groups in the case. "But the work has only just begun. In the wake of the worst recession the nation has experienced since the Great Depression, there's a simple path forward that would create thousands of jobs for a small investment. Taking out the four dams that strangle the lower Snake River would bring millions of dollars from restored salmon runs to communities from coastal California to Alaska and inland to Idaho. Let's reject the path that continues wasting money on failed salmon technical fixes and embrace a solution that could set an example for the rest of the nation."

This is the third time Judge Redden has found a BiOp for the Columbia-Snake Basin inadequate and illegal. Today, salmon populations are critically low, lingering near just 1 percent of their historic levels.

In finding the current plan's heavy reliance on unidentified and uncertain habitat actions illegal, the court wrote: "Coupled with the significant uncertainty surrounding the reliability of NOAA Fisheries' habitat methodologies, the evidence that habitat actions are falling behind schedule, and that benefits are not accruing as promised, NOAA Fisheries' approach to these issues is neither cautious nor rational."

"The judge's decision is a victory for wildlife, taxpayers, and the fishing industry," said John Kostyack, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation and Global Warming, National Wildlife Federation. "Protecting Columbia-Snake River salmon protects fishing jobs, saves taxpayers billions of dollars, and helps preserve the outdoor heritage of the Northwest."

Among those hit hardest by the Columbia-Snake salmon crisis are commercial, sport, recreational and tribal fishermen. Repeated fishery closures and cutbacks in recent years have harmed river and coastal family businesses and livelihoods, and fishing groups have been at the forefront of this legal battle for decades.

Continued on page 6

Field Notes continued from page 3

Passerine migration is also now in full swing. **Black-throated Gray Warblers** in transit were noted on 7/21 and 8/11. **Empidonaxes** were detected on 8/11 (SJ) and 8/18 (Willow, HS). **Blue-gray Gnat-catchers** were in Eagle Point on 8/18 (HS). **Western Tanagers** showed up on the valley floor beginning 8/5 (LN), and a **Bank Swallow** was among a flock of **Violet-green Swallows** at Lost Creek Reservoir on 8/19 (NB,AC). **Rufous Hummingbirds** were staging on Mount Ashland as of 8/19 (JB) and **Hermit Warblers** have been massing at Rye Spring and undoubtedly other high elevation water sources in the high country (OS).

Speaking of Hermit Warblers, I located another hybrid area for **Hermit** and **Townsend's Warblers** this summer in addition to the one on Black Butte and Green Ridge and the area on Trout Creek Butte near Sisters. The shores of Odell Lake are swarming with scrambled birds. If you wish to be entertained by various combinations of the two species, check it out next spring.

It's a bit early for our wintering birds to be arriving, but a couple just couldn't wait. The first reported **Dark-eyed Junco** showed up at the feeder of Liz Northrup on 8/18 near Jacksonville. A possible **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was heard on 8/12, but be careful. Starlings are tuning up again and the Golden-crowned Sparrow is one they like to imitate. An early migrant was also located last year on Mount Ashland. And while we are visiting Liz's place, note that the **Mountain Chickadee** that showed up last April is still present!

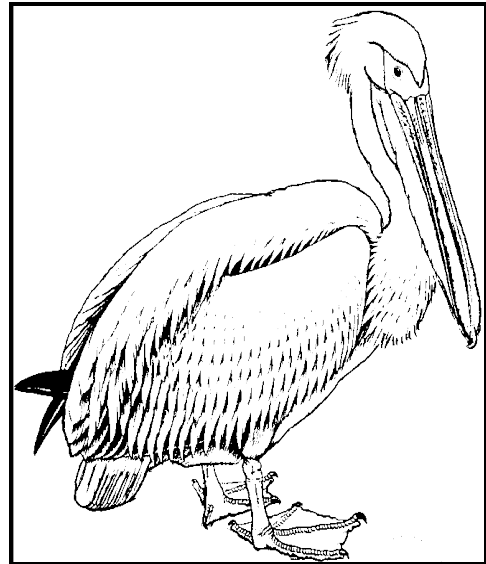
Mockingbirds are beginning to show up in Ashland. Individuals were located on 8/6 and 8/9 at Ashland Pond and the intersection of Iowa and Bridge Streets (FE,HF).

Evening Grosbeaks are nomads, and may drop in to breed in almost any coniferous forest without warning. Apparently a few stayed in the area to

breed near Siskiyou Pass (FL). Usually they breed well to the north of us.

Other sightings of note include **Flammulated Owls** near Huckleberry Campground (NB) **Rock Wrens** on Mount Ashland (RB), **White-headed Woodpeckers** nesting in the burn area south of Howard Prairie (MM,LM,DA), and a probable female **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** on the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument on 6/28 (PT).

Thanks to this issue's contributors including, Dick Ashford, Norm Barrett, Ralph Browning, Clint Brummitt, John Bullock, Alan Contreras, Forrest English, Harry Fuller, Edith Lindner, Frank Lospalutto, Lisa Moore, Marjorie Moore, Liz Northrup, Gwyneth Ragosine, Howard Sands, Otis Swisher, Pepper Trail, and Jeff Tufts. Deadline for contributions to the Field Notes in the next edition of The Chat is September 20.



Conservation column continued

"Now is the time for the Obama Administration to walk the talk on real salmon solutions," said Zeke Grader, Executive Director of Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA). "As this ruling highlights, the federal government has spent nearly 20 years spending enormous sums of money foolishly by doing all the wrong stuff. Facing the problem squarely, including potential removal of the four fish-killing dams on the lower Snake River, will create many thousands more jobs, revive the fishing industry, save billions of dollars for taxpayers, and lead in the development of clean, renewable, more efficient energy. What we need most now is for this Administration to lead us to those solutions, not just bury its head in the sand in denial as has so often happened in the past."

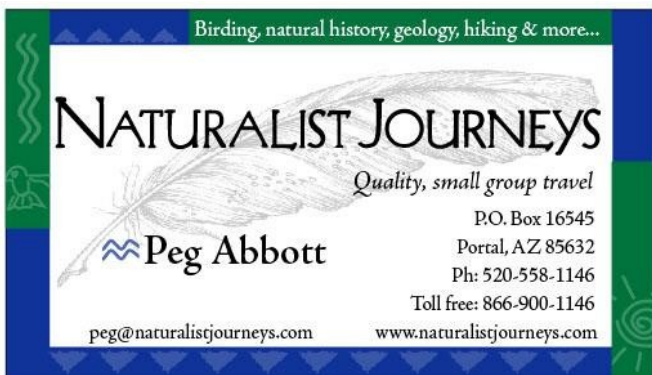
Endangered Snake River salmon and steelhead tackle a migration like no other salmon on earth. Some swim more than 900 miles and climb almost 7,000 feet to reach their spawning grounds—scaling eight dams along the way. In addition to the amazing journey these fish make, their likelihood of surviving the coming changes from global warming makes their protection and restoration all the more urgent, and makes the BiOp's failure to adequately address climate change all the more distressing.

"We applaud the court for keeping a solid eye on the science and the law," said Sierra Club Executive Director, Michael Brune. "The cool, high elevation wilderness watersheds of Central Idaho, Southeast Washington, and Northeast Oregon are a virtual Noah's Ark for salmon and steelhead in a climate changing world."

Jeff Tanner

Rogue Valley Audubon Society lost a loyal member and dedicated supporter of the Audubon cause when Board Member Jeff Tanner passed away on July 4th. He was an important presence on our field trips, at our Chapter meetings, and at Jefferson Nature Center, where he helped establish and maintain the JNC Project Feeder Watch.

Jeff loved nature and the outdoors, and was an avid and experienced birder. Many new birders and birders new to the Rogue Valley received their first introduction to local birds through Jeff's efforts as he quietly assisted us on field trips, helping locate a bird and recognize the field marks. At Chapter meetings he always had contributions to make. On the RVAS Board Jeff brought thoughtful suggestions to many projects. Through his soft-spoken and supportive efforts Jeff always worked to support bird conservation in the Rogue Valley, and to strengthen RVAS. He will be remembered for his kindness to others, and he will be very much missed.




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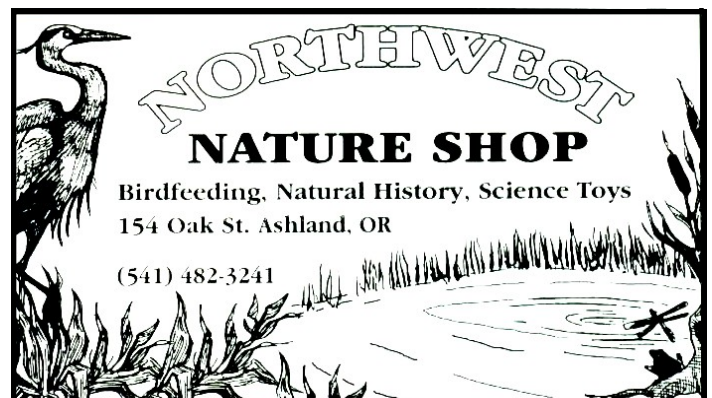
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Field Trips

September 11 (Sun): North Mountain Park and Emigrant Lake.

Leader: Harry Fuller.

Fall migrant landbirds and shorebirds are moving through our area. Let's see what we can find.

Meet 8 am at North Mountain Park and then proceed to Emigrant Lake.

Upcoming Field Trips

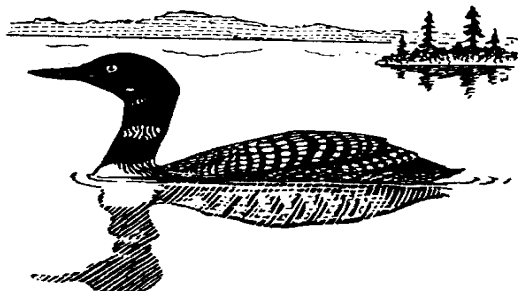
October 15 (Sat): Whetstone Savannah.

Leader: Ron Ketchum

November 5 (Sat): Holy Water (Lost Creek Lake) **Leaders:** Edith Lindner & Keiko Thurston.

RVAS Calendar of Events

- Sept. 11:** Field Trip to Emigrant Lake
- Sept. 27:** Chapter Meeting
- Oct. 5:** Bird Walk at Denman WMA
- Oct. 15:** Field Trip to Whetstone Savannah
- Oct 25:** Chapter Meeting
- Nov. 2:** Bird Walk at Denman WMA
- Nov. 5:** Field Trip to Holy Water (Lost Creek Lake)
- Nov. 22:** Chapter Meeting
- Dec. 6:** Annual Holiday Party
- Dec. 7:** Bird Walk at Denman WMA
- Dec. 17:** Christmas Bird Count - Medford Circle
- Dec. 29:** Christmas Bird Count - Ashland Circle



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Holiday Party and Raffle

The date for the annual RVAS holiday party and raffle has been set for Tuesday, December 6. Please reserve that evening on your calendar. The party will be held at the Medford Congregational Church meeting hall, 1801 E. Jackson Street, the same location that we will be using for our chapter meetings.

Carol Palmer has volunteered to organize the party, but a second volunteer is urgently needed to organize the raffle part of the event. And yes, Pepper Trail has once again volunteered to draw the winning numbers out of the hat in his inimitable, irrepressible manner. All we need is to have some prizes to stimulate his chatter.

Funds raised through the raffle at the Holiday Party in December account for between one-fourth and one-third of the RVAS operating budget each year. We desperately need to have an organizer for the raffle in place by mid-September in order to contact donors and start selling tickets in October.

Volunteers Needed

RVAS needs volunteers to fill three important positions. The most urgent need is for someone to organize the raffle at the annual holiday party. This has been discussed in the article "Holiday Party and Raffle" included above.

The second position is that of field trip organizer. The field trip schedule through January 2012 has already been set, so half of the year's work is done. But RVAS does need someone to line up field trips for the remaining half year. The only skill needed is to contact potential field trip leaders and persuade them to sign on. RVAS Board members will help you identify candidate leaders.

The third position involves the organization of RVAS activities at the Master Gardener Fair at the beginning of May. It seems far away, but planning activities for the Fair start soon after the New Year, so it's not too early to volunteer. The position requires interacting with the Fair organizing committee, coordinating our joint booth with the Klamath Bird Observatory, scheduling people to staff our booth during the fair and to set up and take down the booth at the beginning and at the end, respectively. It's a fun event and finding volunteers for these tasks is not too difficult, but some cat herding skills would be useful.

Please contact Alex Maksymowicz at maksbox1@gmail.com or 541-482-1964 to sign up or get more information for any of these positions.

ASHLAND BIRD FESTIVAL

by Harry Fuller

Rogue Valley Audubon Society and the Ashland Chamber of Commerce are considering the feasibility and do-ability of an annual bird festival. The current thinking is to try a one-time festival in May 2012, and if the event seems worthwhile and not overwhelming for all the workers and trip leaders and volunteers required, it could become an annual event. Clearly Ashland has the services needed for a few hundred birding visitors. The real hard work is organizing the field trips, managing the online sign-up process and staffing the registration and other services needed to make a birding festival work.

I have suggested that our region's most interesting birds to visitors from nearby urban areas will be our montane species: Green-tailed Towhee, both grouse, Mountain Quail, Lewis's and White-headed Woodpecker, Williamson's and Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Mountain Bluebird, Mountain Chickadee, Calliope Hummingbird (there were still some along Tolman Creek Road as late as June 18), Vesper Sparrow, nesting Wilson's Snipe, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Dusky, Willow and Hammond's Flycatchers. That's not to even presume to promise the Alpha birds: Goshawk and Great Gray Owl. In addition we could run trips to Klamath for their spring birds-dancing Aecmorphus grebes impress every birding client I've taken to see them. Klamath also provides Black Tern, breeding plumage Eared Grebe, Redheads and other life-listing attractions.

If this birding festival gets born, it will need lots of help and expertise from our Rogue Valley Audubon members, from office work to field trip leadership. And RVAS would likely become the focal point for organizing volunteers and expertise contributions from other local organizations. In addition the festival could become a major revenue source for RVAS.

Bob Black Memorial Research Fund

As detailed in a remembrance in the May 2011 issue of *The Chat*, on April 5 RVAS lost one of our "Pretty Good Birders", the late Bob Black. Since that time, RVAS has received \$1000 in donations in memory of Bob. At their annual retreat on June 19, the RVAS Board decided to simultaneously honor Bob and provide small grants for bird studies in Jackson County by using this money to set up the Bob Black Research and Education Fund.

For details regarding who may apply for one of these research grants, what sorts of projects are eligible, and the procedure for submitting an application, please visit the RVAS web site (www.roguevalleyaudubon.org) and click on the Research link.

RVAS gratefully acknowledges donations to the fund from the following people and organizations:
John and Pamela Wood
Timothy Scanlon and Maria del Carmen
Dan Erchul and Mary Krystine
Gwyneth Ragsine
Allen and Karen Drescher
Raul and Thalia Keple and The Ashland Art Center
William and Sue Sager
Barbara Massey
Malcolm Mac Ewen and Laura Reeder
Kathy Uhtoff and Northwest Nature Shop
Brian Frink and Diane Schaffer
Alex Maksymowicz

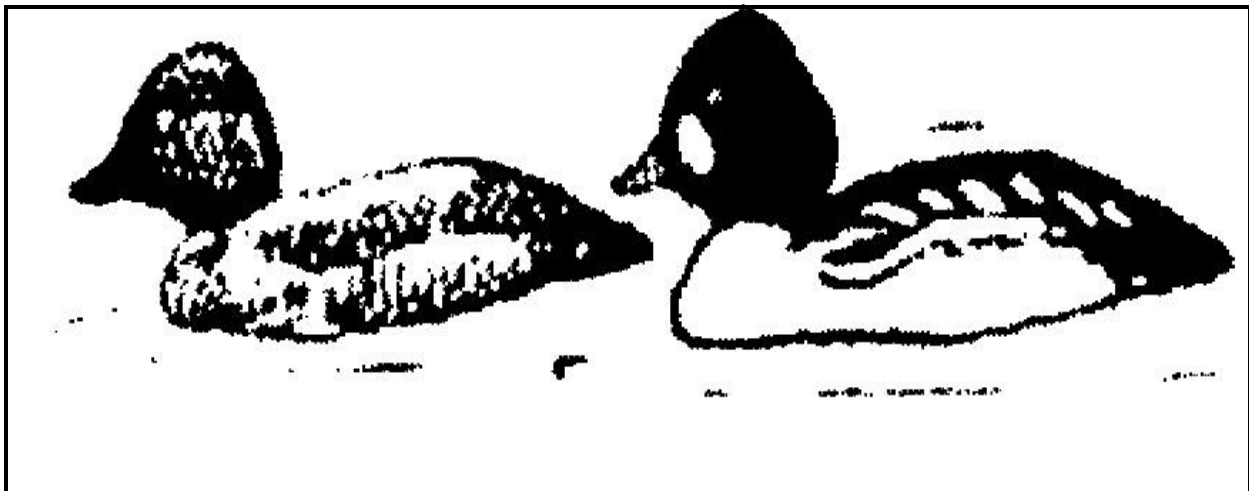
Where did your money go?

As mandated by RVAS by-laws, here is a top-level summary of our cash flow for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

The \$11,931 total income available for support of chapter operations during this period came from the following sources: membership dues: \$3,940; fundraising activities: \$6,932; *Chat* advertising: \$500; National Audubon grant: \$400; sales of *Birds of Jackson County*: \$159. Membership dues include both local memberships (\$2,050) and payments received from the National Audubon Society for NAS members residing in the Rogue Valley (\$1,890). Fundraising activities include Birdathon (\$2,853), holiday raffle (\$2,102), donations (\$1,945), and meeting raffles (\$32). The chapter also received \$455 in pass-through income from Christmas Bird Count dues.

Operational expenses for our chapter for the period under consideration totaled \$9,916. Administrative expenses for chapter operations came to \$2,281, including \$2,060 for rental of our office at the Jefferson Nature Center and of the hall where we held our chapter meetings. The expense for printing and mailing *The Chat* was \$2,618. Expenses for our various educational programs were \$3,261, including \$1,590 in scholarships and grants and \$418 for Project Feeder-watch at the Jefferson Nature Center. Other expenses totaled \$1,156.

Our operational surplus (income minus expenses) for the year came out to \$2,015. This sum was deposited in the RVAS bank account and became part of our reserves. Aside from a cushion to meet unforeseen expenses (mandated by RVAS by-laws), the rest of the reserves is available for chapter operations and the funding of special projects in the areas of education and conservation, as determined by your Board of Directors.



The Chat - September 2011

Local Membership Renewals Are Due

Did you know that RVAS has over 600 members? Most of you belong to the National Audubon Society, which means you are also a member of Rogue Valley Audubon Society. This national /local partnership is true across Audubon societies in every state, and results in the healthy membership size in local chapters.

Some of you prefer to only be members of your local Audubon chapter, and some of you want to pay additional dues to show your support for RVAS as a joint member of National Audubon and Rogue Valley Audubon. In either case, if you have a "local membership", that membership will expire on September 30th. This is true for all "local Members" unless you joined within the last four months.

Please keep your membership and your support of RVAS active, by completing the application below, and mailing it with your check before September 30th. If you are uncertain of your membership status, or have any questions about membership, please send an e-mail to: bh@ashlandnet.net, or call Bill Hering at 541-488-5886, or Stan McIntosh at 541-535-2053. Thanks very much!

ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Phone (optional): _____ Email (optional): _____

(Rogue Valley Audubon Society will not share your information with any other organization.)

Circle if this is for **NEW MEMBERSHIP** **RENEWING MEMBERSHIP** **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Would you like to receive a printed copy of The Chat, our newsletter, mailed to you (it is also available on line)? **YES** **NO**

Dues alone are not enough to support our many activities, environmental and education efforts. Please consider a contribution in addition to your **\$20** membership. Your additional contribution may be tax deductible as RVAS is a 501 (C) 3 organization.

_____ Please check here if you wish your contribution to be anonymous.

Mail this form with your check for **\$20** RVAS dues and any contribution you wish to make, to: Rogue Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 8597, Medford, OR 97501.

ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE CHAT

Newsletter of the ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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 on-line. Send an 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.

MONTHLY BIRD WALK WITH MURRAY ORR

First Wednesday Each Month: Little Butte Creek Walk. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on TouVelle Road in the northeast section of Denman Wildlife Area near White City. Leader: Murray Orr 857-9050*** Please contact Murray if you are willing to join him in organizing these bird walks. He needs volunteers to help him open and close the gate, record observed species, and to lead the walks when he is not available.

