

A voice for education and conservation in the natural world

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

[www.roguevalleyaudubon.org](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org)

*Deadline for the February 2023 issue is January 20*



## January IN PERSON Program

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm

### Cannabis Cultivation and the Environment: Lessons and Opportunities



Join us for a research presentation and discussion about cannabis-related land use change in Southern Oregon, and its ecological implications for wild flora and fauna. Dr. Parker-Shames will present some of her work studying outdoor private land cannabis farming in Josephine County during the early phase of recreational cannabis legalization. She will share some of the ecological lessons learned, ongoing research gaps, and opportunities to improve conservation outcomes in the cannabis industry.

#### About the Speaker

Dr. Phoebe Parker-Shames (she/her) is an interdisciplinary researcher who grew up in Southern Oregon and studies the ecological outcomes of cannabis legalization. She is currently a postdoctoral scholar at UC Berkeley working with Drs. Justin Brashares and Chris Schell. She is also part of the Cannabis Research Center at Berkeley. Learn more about Dr. Parker-Shames' work at [www.drphoebe.org](http://www.drphoebe.org).



**IMPORTANT:** This program is jointly sponsored by Rogue Valley Audubon Society and Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon, and is in lieu of our usual 4th Tuesday chapter meeting program. Please note the special date, time, location, and Zoom link.

Location: Southern Oregon University, Science Building, Room 161 (watch party).

This program will also be provided as a Zoom for folks who cannot attend in person.

To register for the Zoom: <https://bit.ly/nps2022-23talks>.

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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## Mailing Address

RVAS  
P. O. Box 8597  
Medford, OR 97501



When: Saturday, December 3rd, 6:00 pm

Where: The Firehouse Dance Hall, 44 North Front St. Medford, OR, 97501

Come and enjoy great food (potluck) & community as we raise money to support the RVAS mission and programs.

Bring a dish to pass and your own place settings. Dishes, drinkware, and cutlery will **\*not\*** be provided. RVAS will provide non-alcoholic beverages. Please note that no alcoholic beverages are permitted at this venue.

Jim Livaudais will be entertaining us with great photos from his world travels. We will have an exciting auction full of exceptional donated items, including birding field trips, artwork, dinners, wellness & beauty items, wine, and more. The auction host is TBD.

Member donations are very encouraged.

Help is always needed! Table set-up at 5:00 pm, assisting with potluck set-up, helping with the payments, item runners, and being part of the evening clean-up.

This venue has a capacity limit, PLEASE RSVP. There is lots of parking nearby and the event is ADA accessible.

Send your RSVPs, questions, auction item donations, or volunteer sign-ups to Zoë Templeton at [zoe.e.templeton@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.e.templeton@gmail.com).

Emails with more details about the event will come in November. Make sure you're on the email list to receive all the most up-to-date information.

**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 of Christ.**

**NOTE: If deemed unsafe for gathering, chapter meetings will be held on Zoom.**

## Status of upcoming events

Field trips: Denman Bird Walk is back! Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1

RVAS Holiday Party: Saturday, Dec. 3

Medford CBC: Saturday, Dec. 17

Ashland CBC: Sunday, Dec. 18

Project Feeder Watch: Dec. 24, Jan. 7 & 21, Feb. 4 & 18

## Letter from the Board

After a three-year hiatus, Project FeederWatch is back up and running at Jacksonville Elementary School! Mr. Williams, an enthusiastic 3rd Grade teacher, volunteered to have feeders put outside his classroom so his students could participate in one of the coolest citizen science projects ever. RVAS has sponsored the station, provided loaner binoculars and a couple of field guides to the classroom.

A week after installing the feeders, I gave an introductory talk to the class. They were already getting lots of American Goldfinches, a California Towhee, Black-capped Chickadees, Golden-crowned Sparrows, American Robins, and Dark-eyed Juncos. There is a madrone tree just outside the building so we are hoping some Cedar Waxwings will visit the bird bath. On Mr. Williams' list of birds to see is the Northern Flicker. I am really excited to be providing an experience that these students will remember for the rest of their lives, and hopefully spread their excitement to those around them.

Erin Ulrich  
RVAS President



## BIRDCENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### **RVAS**

#### **First Wednesday Bird Walks: December 7, January 4, February 1**

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. We request that all participants be vaccinated for COVID-19.

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.

**Holiday Party & Auction:** See details page 2.

DATE: Saturday, Dec 3

TIME: 6:00 pm

#### **East ART Trail Bird Walk**

Shake the winter blues and join Marion Hadden, avid birder and Applegate-Siskiyou Alliance board member, for a winter bird walk along the East ART trail. We will meet in the parking area off of Sterling Creek Rd. Limited to 10 participants.

Sign up: [fdlospalluto@gmail.com](mailto:fdlospalluto@gmail.com).

DATE: Saturday, Feb 4

TIME: 9:00 am

#### **Medford Christmas Bird Count**

For more information, contact Bob Hunter: 541-826-5569.

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 17

#### **Ashland Christmas Bird Count**

For more information, contact Cat Gould: 541-512-8887, [catgould@gmail.com](mailto:catgould@gmail.com).

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 18

#### **Project Feeder Watch**

Come check out this citizen science project at North Mountain Park. To volunteer, contact Jennifer Aguayo at [jennifer.aguayo@ashland.or.us](mailto:jennifer.aguayo@ashland.or.us). For more info, visit [www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/project-feeder-watch/](http://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/project-feeder-watch/).

DATES: Saturday Dec. 24, Saturdays Jan. 7 & 21, Saturdays Feb. 4 & 18, Saturdays Mar. 4 & 18

TIME: 9:00 - 10:00 am

## November Field Notes 2022

By Frank Lospalluto

This month's notes are brought to you by the letter "T" and not because of the holiday! A Jackson County first record of a **TROPICAL KINGBIRD** was found in the Hall Tract Unit of Denman WMA not far from Whetstone Pond Nov. 6 by Randy Young. All of this has been well documented on the rv-birds list serve, in the Medford Mail Tribune, on eBird, and on Facebook. The bird has been elusive and not seen by all seekers, but has been spotted by a number of persistent ones. Local bird enthusiast Tanner Martin posted this on the rv-birds list (used with permission here):

*Tropical Kingbirds wander up the Oregon coast fairly regularly, but this is a very special treat to get one this far inland. The eBird website shows very few inland records of Tropical Kingbirds anywhere in the state, and this is apparently the first inland Tropical Kingbird found anywhere in OR south of Eugene. And based on its Google coordinates, it's also the second farthest inland/eastward any has been found in the state (just behind a kingbird that went slightly farther east up the Columbia River last month).*



Tropical Kingbird  
Credit: Tanner Martin

Two **TRUMPETER SWANS** in the company of a single **Tundra Swan** were observed by Janet Kelly (JK) Nov. 18 on a farm pond near the junction of Voorhies and Coleman Creek Rds. Trumpeter Swans have made a comeback and have become an occasional winter visitor here, though still quite rare.



Trumpeter & Tundra Swans  
Credit: Roxanna Tessman

A juvenile **Glaucous-winged Gull** was spotted at Whetstone Pond Nov. 18 by legendary Oregon birder Russ Namitz.

A sleepy **Common Poorwill** was observed on a private property by Taite Darlington near Pompadour Bluff on Nov. 23. Quite unusual but this species can go into a winter torpor and few may linger, as they have been found in the Klamath River area in winter. Some Native American tribes called them "little sleeper" for their hibernating habit.

Winter raptors are back in the region. Not all buteos in the sky are Red-tailed Hawks! **Ferruginous** and **Rough-legged Hawks** have been reported of late. A Rough-legged was hunting over the old Imperatrice Ranch outside Ashland Nov. 8. Another was out at Agate Lake Nov. 9 (JK), with a third photographed by Keeley Kirkendall near Vesper Meadow Nov. 26. A Ferruginous Hawk was observed and photographed at Whetstone Pond Nov. 10 by Terry and Marty Karlin. Another bird was seen Nov. 13 in Sam's Valley. Howard Sands (HS) photographed one out in a pasture along Modoc Rd. Nov. 26.

And then there are the falcons! **Merlin** reports are on the rise all over the area. A **Prairie Falcon** was out near Lower Table Rock Nov. 13 (JK). Another bird was out at Agate Lake Nov. 21 (HS). Tony Kurz, an expert birder from Northern California, observed one near the Coleman Creek (Trumpeter Swan) pond Nov. 24.

Roxanna Tessman had some nice visitors to her home in Ashland recently. On Nov. 9 she saw a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** and three **Townsend's Warblers**. Townsend's Warbler, while uncommon, is frequently seen in the valley during the winter.

Thank you to all observers! All errors and omissions are my own. Peace.

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*May Your Days Be  
Birdy And Bright!*  
*See you in 2023!*

Ferruginous Hawk  
Credit: Marty Karlin



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# ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

## 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](http://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.

