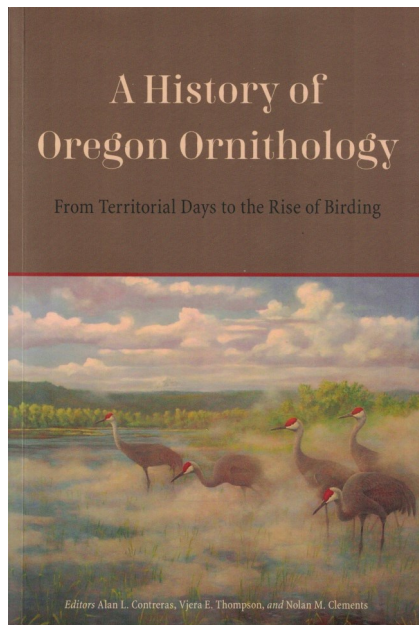


A voice for education and conservation in the natural world
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
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Deadline for the May 2023 issue is April 20



April IN PERSON Program
Tuesday, Apr. 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm
A History of Oregon Ornithology
With Alan Contreras



Alan Contreras from Eugene will present a program based on his recent book *A History of Oregon Ornithology* (OSU Press, 2022). The program will include some interesting and humorous pieces of Oregon's long and varied history of organized bird study, from the Lewis and Clark expedition through the rise of birding as a hobby, and the impact of the Internet. He will include historic and modern bird art from the book, as well as information about who some of the major players have been, including some from southern Oregon. He will bring copies of the book to sell and sign.

About the Speaker

Contreras is co-editor of *Birds of Oregon*, editor of *Edge of Awe: Experiences of the Malheur-Steens Country*, and author of *Afield: Forty Years of Birding the American West*, all from OSU Press.

NOW AVAILABLE: *A History of Oregon Ornithology: from Territorial Days to the Rise of Birding* (Oregon State Univ. Press). Alan L. Contreras, Vjera E. Thompson, and Nolan M. Clements, editors.



Location: Medford Congregational Church of Christ- Lidgate Hall, 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford
Time: 7:00 pm (coffee/tea/cookies will be served beginning at 6:30 pm)

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

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President: Erin Ulrich, 408-499-0315, eulrich44@gmail.com

Vice-President: George Peterson, sgpeterson1@msn.com

Secretary: Carol Mockridge, mockridge50@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Kay Simmons, mwsimmons1@verizon.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Kate Halstead katherine.elspeth@gmail.com

Jamie Trammell trammelle@sou.edu

Zoe Templeton zoe.e.templeton@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: Cat Gould, 541-512-8887, catgould@gmail.com

CBC-Medford: Bob Hunter, 541-826-5569

Conservation: Pepper Trail, ptrail@ashlandnet.net & Juliet Grable, julietgrable@gmail.com

Education: Erin Ulrich, eulrich44@gmail.com

Field Notes: Vacant

Field Trips: Frank Lospalluto, fdlospalluto@gmail.com & Kristi Mergenthaller, coprolitemergie@yahoo.com

Holiday Party : Zoe Templeton, zoe.e.templeton@gmail.com

Hospitality: Jon Deason, jdeason39@gmail.com

Outreach & Tabling: Vacant

Membership: George Peterson, sgpeterson1@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 Mergenthaller, <https://www.facebook.com/RogueValleyAudubonSociety/>

Mailing Address

RVAS
P. O. Box 8597
Medford, OR 97501

RVAS Thanks Local Resident

The Lawrence's goldfinch that has been hanging around a residence in Medford as of late has been a source of enjoyment and adventure for birders across Oregon (and Washington)! Luckily, the bird has adopted the backyard of local RVAS member, Lisa Milano. Lisa has graciously welcomed the throngs of birders seeking the rare bird to her backyard, and on cold days, to the birding nook inside her home.

RVAS wanted to thank Lisa for her generosity, so at our last board meeting we decided to supply her with a fresh round of her usual seed from Wild Birds Unlimited. Thanks to WBU owner, Laura Fleming, for helping us out. I delivered the seed last week and was fortunate enough to see the little Lawrence's while I was there. Was I late to work that day? You betcha. But it was so worth it. Thank you from many, Lisa!



Erin Ulrich, RVAS President

Rogue Valley Bird Day 2023

Celebrate World Bird Migratory Day on May 13 at the Rogue Valley Bird Day, North Mountain Park Nature Center, Ashland, OR. There will be bird walks, a bird calling contest, kids' activities, and other events. Rogue Valley Audubon Society will be providing prizes. Updated information will be posted on the RVAS website as it becomes available. If you would like to volunteer, contact Kay Simmons, phone: 202-870-3404, mwsimmons1@verizon.net.

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 - May 3, Jun. 7, Jul. 5

April Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 25 at 7pm

RVAS Birdathon: May 12 & 13

RVAS Community Outreach

I have been receiving a number of requests from public and homeschool groups that want someone to come and talk about birds to their students. I recently spoke with four 3rd grade classes at Mae Richardson Elementary School in Central Point, and presented a slideshow about how to identify birds and birds they may see in their backyards. We also talked about some “super birds”, one being the Wandering Albatross. Myself and two other students stood at the front of the class and stretched our arms out to show the potential 12-foot wingspan of this bird. The students went crazy! They couldn’t imagine a bird being that large. Each student got to take home a photo checklist and many were eager to show me which birds they had already seen.

I will be taking our FeederWatch crew from Jacksonville Elementary School on a bird walk in April, and SOU student volunteer Charlotte Hyde is coordinating a field trip with LOGOS Charter School in Medford in May. If you’re interested in helping out with school outreach, please let me know! It’s extremely satisfying to see how excited students get when they learn all about birds!

Erin Ulrich, RVAS President



The Birdathon is Back!

The RVAS Birdathon returns May 12 -13. There is still plenty of 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 12 at 6 pm and goes to 6 pm on Saturday, May 13. Most teams include two to five birders, although a single individual may also comprise a team. For all the rules, please go to the RVAS website.



Gretchen Hunter accepts the trophy (made by Jon Deason) for her team in 2018.

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 detected by your team. 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 chose “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 2023 your year? To sign up your team or for more info, contact Carol Mockridge at 360-829-7505.

A celebratory dinner on Saturday night allows teams to compare notes and claim bragging rights. Join us at Jackson Creek Pizza at their new address: 700 Biddle Rd., Medford.

Good luck!

BIRDCENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

RVAS

First Wednesday Bird Walks: May 3, June 7, July 5

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.

Whetstone Savanna Preserve

Whetstone Savanna is a beautiful place near White City with valley floor oak savanna, chaparral, and vernal pool-mounded prairie, and is a preserve of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. Join birder Marion Hadden for a birding tour. We are likely to see or hear Acorn Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Oak Titmouse, and California Towhee. Registration is free and limited to 10 people. To secure your spot, email Frank at fdlo-spalluto@gmail.com. Once confirmed, final details will be emailed to you a few days before the hike.

DATE: Saturday, April 15 2023

TIME: 7:30 -10:30 am

COST: Free

TouVelle State Park

Join Master birders and photographers Howard Sands and Gary Shaffer for a bird walk along the Rogue River. Late April is a great time to see a variety of birds, both migrants and breeders from Cliff Swallows to Belted Kingfishers to Yellow-rumped Warblers. TouVelle Park does require an annual permit (county parks or state parks) or a daily \$5 fee payable at the entrance kiosk. Limited to 12 people. To secure your spot, email Frank at fdlospalluto@gmail.com. Once confirmed, final details will be emailed to you a few days before the hike.

DATE: Saturday, April 29 2023

TIME: 8:00 - 11:00 am

COST: Free (with TouVelle entrance fee or annual permit)

Wild Birds Unlimited

Denman Wildlife Area Walks

Erin Linton will be leading a walk to Denman Wildlife Area in White City. This is a great time of year and area to look for spring migrants. Space is limited to 9 participants. To reserve your spot, come in or call the store at (541) 772-2107.

DATE: Wednesday Apr. 12

TIME: 9:00 am

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Pompadour Bluff: Oaks and Wildlife: Friday, April 14, 2023 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Tour the spectacular Pompadour Bluff just outside of Ashland on a hike guided by forest ecologist and SOLC Land Steward Lyndia Hammer. Use your nature observation skills to find birds, reptiles, insects, nests, flowers and other signs of life.

Wonder and Wander at Whetstone: Sunday, Apr. 16, 2023 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Take a stroll through the Whetstone Savanna Preserve with SOLC staff. This hike will traverse the diverse habitats of the Preserve with stops at the legacy oak woodland and vernal pool mounded prairie. There will be some casual botany, birding, and a special trip to visit the rare Southern Oregon Buttercup.

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Project FeederWatch Update

Our names are Beau and Jasper and we are the lead ornithologists for Mr. Williams' 3rd grade class at Jacksonville Elementary. We have had lots of bird activity and we have seen several new birds at our bird feeder. We had 8 bird species in one bird count, and two of them were new to our feeder - the Northern Flicker and the Song Sparrow. When we saw the black stripe across the neck with our binoculars, we knew it was a Flicker!

This month we have had a problem with rain because it stops birds from coming to our feeder. But we think it is going to get a lot better because spring is around the corner. Thank you for the bird seed. We enjoy watching birds.

Happy birding!
Beau & Jasper





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ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE CHAT

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

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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 online.

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