

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

Deadline for the October 2023 issue is September 20



September IN PERSON Program
Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Partnering with Beavers for a Resilient Future
With Jakob Shockey

Rogue Valley Audubon Society is teaming up with Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon and Vesper Meadow Restoration Project for a joint program featuring Jakob Shockey from Project Beaver. Project Beaver empowers humans to partner with beavers and value their work. They work to nourish a world where humans partner with beavers for the resilience of our planet. Birds, wildlife, and native plant communities greatly benefit from the work of beavers. Later in October, Vesper Meadow will host a tour of their restoration work that will include a work party and potluck!

Courtesy: USFWS



Stay tuned for another talk co-sponsored (and hosted) by Vesper Meadow in October!



About the Speaker

Jakob Shockey is a human, father, and husband, and co-founded and leads Project Beaver. He works primarily with beavers and people, focusing on the restoration of complex natural processes and relationships that create and maintain resilient habitat and its wildlife. He enjoys singing to himself, loves flying kites, and can't spell.

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

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Mailing Address

RVAS
P. O. Box 8597
Medford, OR 97501

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.

Seeking Volunteers to Count Migrating Swifts...Again!

End of summer evenings in Medford are quite pleasant. Enjoying a nice dinner outside while birds swirl around and dive into chimneys is even better. And what's even better than that is contributing to citizen science while you're enjoying your evening out!

RVAS is seeking volunteers to help count the migrating Vaux's Swifts that roost in a couple of locations in Medford. Last year, Audubon volunteers counted swifts from late August through September. Each count requires about 2 hours of your time, and no prior bird survey experience is necessary. You will be asked to estimate the number of birds that dive into the chimney, and also record things like outside temperature/weather, time, and when the first bird enters the chimney. Noting things like predator attacks and other behavioral observations is also helpful. So, if you would like to spend a night or two (or more) this fall and help us out we would really appreciate it!

I know it's smoky outside but you can count swifts inside your car.

Please contact Erin Ulrich to help out or to get more information at eulrich44@gmail.com.

Are you thinking to yourself, "This article seems familiar"? Yes, it is you smarty pants. I sent this exact same appeal last year. Why rewrite it? 😊

Learn more about these incredible little birds at vauxhappening.org.



Status of upcoming events

Field trips: Denman Bird Walk - Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, Sept 26 at 7pm

RVAS celebrates 50 years!

By Erin Ulrich

It's the start of 2023-2024 programs and activities for the Rogue Valley Audubon Society. This year we are celebrating more than 50 years of advocating for bird conservation and education to protect birds and their habitats in the Rogue Valley. RVAS was first recognized as a non-profit, 501c(3) organization by the IRS on January 17, 1974.

It all started when Rev. Thomas McCamant, a pastor of the local Congregational Church, organized a bird club. The first general meeting was held in September 1971, and 131 members enrolled. One of the first activities was to organize a Christmas bird count as part of the national effort led by the National Audubon Society. (This is according to historical records in the RVAS archives including a 1971 *Chat* article written by Edith Linder.)

Let's make our fiftieth year the best yet! We are going to have some wonderful programs for our chapter meetings; we will be out in the community at various events, getting school children excited about birds; and we will finally have some t-shirts that we can show off! Please join me in celebrating our organization, and each other, for dedicating our time and sharing our passion for birds to everyone we can!



2023 Birdathon results are in

By Carol Mockridge, Birdathon coordinator

This year marked the successful return of the Rogue Valley Audubon Annual Birdathon on May 12 and 13 after a couple of years of COVID hiatus. While only three teams participated this year, the proceeds were an amazing \$4,399. A new team, *The Chickadees*, demonstrated their powerful fundraising skills by collecting \$3,918 for the win (and bragging rights) until next year. The winner is the team that raises the most money not the team that sees the most species.



The Chickadees' goals were to win and have fun. Success! L - R top row - Kay Simmons, Janet Kelly and Carol Mockridge. L - R bottom row - Amanda Alford and Leslie Hart. Photo by Leslie Hart.

The Chickadees led by Carol Mockridge with Amanda Alford, Janet Kelly, Kay Simmons and Leslie Hart, took their first Birdathon very seriously. They scouted for several days and even contacted Stewart Janes for advice. While they missed finding a poorwill very late on Friday night, they were rewarded at other stops with great looks at a swimming Sora at North Mountain Park, a posing Bittern at dusk, and a family of just-fledged Great Horned Owls still perched near their nest. Their species total was 128.

*The Binosaur*s, led by Norm Barrett with Howard Sands, Gary Shaffer and Jim Livaudais, returned this year with their customary determination. They counted 118 species. "After a fourth year of declining success in species numbers, *The Binosaur*s realized that being old and deaf does impact your detection success", Norm recounted. "Our solution to this problem may be to change the group name to the Earless Grebes or Earless Trogons. None the less, the day was rated a great success, with three owl species and a hybrid Hermit/Townsend's warbler that didn't count toward either species.

You know you're a Binosaur when the first bird you get on the Big Day is a pterodactyl."

Nate Trimble formed a new team of one and conducted the whole Birdathon on his bike and on foot. He recorded 106 species. This feat is such an interesting story that it deserves a separate article. (Hint: it's in this very issue of *The Chat!*).

Letter From the Board:

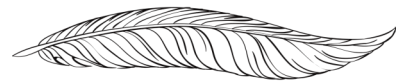
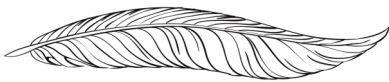
Goals from the RVAS Board Retreat 2023-2024

When the Board met in June, we decided that this year we would keep it simple. We had a very positive meeting and were all excited to talk about what we hope we can continue to work on in the coming year. Here are a few of our goals. I hope you can help us achieve them.

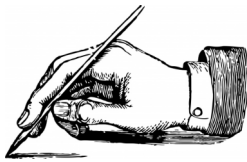
1. **Continue support of Hedrick Middle School chimney.** We will stay in communication with the Medford School District regarding the retrofitting of the chimney. We will make sure that Vaux's Swifts have a roost site for the foreseeable future.
 2. **Partner with Southern Oregon University to make it an official Audubon "Bird Campus."** Board Member Jamie Trammell will be continuing his work to establish a student-led group to qualify the school for the Audubon designation.
 3. **Partner with Science Works** to support a bird exhibit or feeding station at their future pollinator garden.
 4. **Continue Project FeederWatch stations in Jackson County.** We will continue with our successful stations at Jacksonville Elementary School and North Mountain Park in Ashland.
- Support the vegetation plan at White City Lagoons (formerly Kirtland Ponds).** We are committed to help with the planting efforts at White City Lagoons. This includes the seeding of native plants, planting of small shrubs and trees, and planting native reeds in the lagoon.

If you have any questions or would like to talk with us further about our goals for the year, please reach out to any of our RVAS Board members. We are happy to speak with you about how you can get involved!

- Erin Ulrich, RVAS President

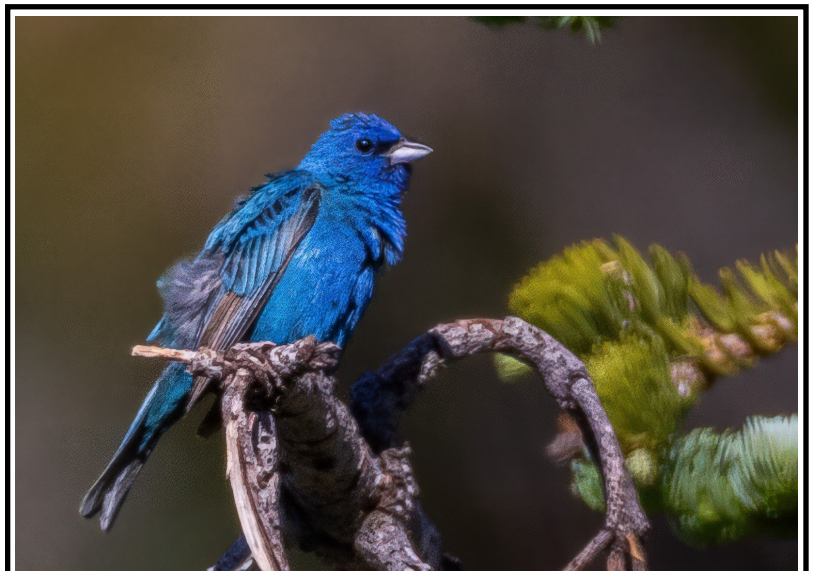


Rogue Valley Audubon needs a Secretary. Would you like to help?



Would you like to get involved in Rogue Valley Audubon's work in support of bird conservation and education? The Rogue Valley Audubon Society has a vacancy for Secretary on our board and needs a volunteer. Duties include attending the monthly board meetings (by Zoom) and recording the meeting notes. We estimate that Secretarial duties take 2-3 hours per month.

If you are interested contact Erin Ulrich (President) at <email> or Kay Simmons (Treasurer) at mwsimmons1@verizon.net.



Thanks to Keeley Kirkendall for sharing this photo of the Indigo Bunting that he posted on eBird in July. It was big news to have such a spectacular rare bird appear on a specific tree on Mt. Ashland!

The Conservation Column

Pepper Trail

Welcome back from summer! With unprecedented heat baking the globe and political divisions at an all-time high, it's easy to focus on the negative. So let's ease into fall by highlighting two positive developments on the local conservation front.

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Expansion Wins in Court -- Again

In July, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the legality of an expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument made by President Obama in 2017, reversing a lower court decision that threw the Monument's boundaries into doubt. This federal court ruling joins a victorious ruling from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in April that also declared the monument expansion lawful.

"This lawsuit attempted to rob Oregonians and all Americans of a biological treasure that deserves permanent protection," said Kristen Boyles, attorney with Earthjustice. "Appeals courts in DC and Seattle have now upheld Monument expansion, rejecting every single one of the timber industry's arguments."

The Monument was first designated in 2000 under the Antiquities Act as an ecological wonder known for its incredible diversity of species. The court decision today again confirms protection of these special federal lands and is a major victory for the Monument and the spectacular variety of plants, fish, and wildlife that depend on the Monument's ecological integrity.

The legal arguments in these cases hinged on whether a 1937 law, the Oregon and California Lands (O&C) Act, committed approximately 40,000 acres of the monument expansion to commercial logging, making those lands ineligible for inclusion in a monument.

The D.C. Circuit rejected the industry's arguments and affirmed that the President acted within his authority under the Antiquities Act when he expanded the national monument. "This opinion cements the interpretation that the O&C Act provides BLM with authority to manage the O&C lands for many uses, including conservation and recreation," said Susan Jane Brown, attorney with Silvix Resources.

"The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is a great gift to present and future generations," said Dave Willis, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council chair and long-time Monument advocate. "We're very glad this unanimous Court saw fit to not let logging companies take any of this gift away."

Monument supporters, ranging from local residents and conservation groups to elected officials, business owners, scientists, botanists, hunters, and anglers, have fought for decades to protect this special area straddling southwest Oregon and northwest California that is known worldwide for its remarkable biodiversity.

"Western Oregon BLM lands provide clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, and countless opportunities for recreation," said Joseph Vaile, Climate Director with Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center. "This decision ensures that these public lands are managed for their many social and environmental values, including the phenomenal Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument."

"Once again, courts have rejected the logging industry's abhorrent theory that BLM lands cannot be conserved," said Doug Heiken Conservation and Restoration Coordinator with Oregon Wild. "These are public lands, managed for more than just logging. Special places like the Cascade-Siskiyou

National Monument and our mature and old-growth forests deserve to be safeguarded for fish and wildlife, and clean drinking water."

Earthjustice attorneys Ashley Bennett and Kristen Boyles and Silvix Resources attorney Susan Jane Brown

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represented Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, and Oregon Wild in defense of the Monument's expansion.

I-5 Wildlife Crossing

The Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition, of which Rogue Valley Audubon is a part, has made tremendous progress toward making a wildlife crossing over I-5 a reality. Working with ODOT, SOWCC has analyzed all the potential sites for such a crossing, and has selected the Mariposa Preserve, at Milepost 1.7 as the best location. This site, within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, offers the best combination of favorable topography, geology, and wildlife use to create an effective crossing.

SOWCC has produced an excellent video to explain and promote the wildlife crossing effort, and both full 15-minute and short 3-minute versions are available on YouTube at:

15 Minute: <https://youtu.be/0uKKRfzGpk4>

3 Minute: <https://youtu.be/T8kjRJklj3l>

SOWCC's earmark request for \$400,000 to help fund the fencing design planning has been included in the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) bill that was released in July. Oregon Wildlife Foundation made the request on SOWCC and ODOT's behalf and will receive and distribute the funds once they are available. There is still a long way to go before it is signed into law by President Biden, but getting in the bill is a HUGE step. Thank you Senators Merkley and Wyden.



As the conceptual drawing by ODOT (included above) shows, the Mariposa Crossing overpass would be a major structure, costing millions of dollars. Therefore, SOWCC and ODOT have worked together to apply for a major grant from the federal Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program. The federal program is highly competitive, but our application is very strong, and we are optimistic about our chances to make this visionary project a reality. Imagine how great it will feel to drive under this structure as we travel to or from California, knowing that it is safely passing deer, elk, bears, and so many other species across this barrier to the movement of wildlife!



A juvenile STILT SANDPIPER was spotted at Emigrant Lake on Sept.06. This is a fourth county record for this species which is relatively rare in migration along the west coast. This long-legged sandpiper breeds in the low arctic of North America and winters in South America. The bird is recorded as having been seen in 1977, 1989, 1995, and 2023. All fall records.

-- Frank Lospalluto (Editor's Note: Thanks to Frank for the excellent photos!)

RVAS Financial Summary for July 2022 to June 2023

Kay Simmons, Treasurer

Total income of \$15,382 for the fiscal year, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, came from these sources:

Dues	\$2,526
National Audubon Society	1,870
Donations	2,122
Holiday Auction Income	3,780
Birdathon	4,554
Sale of <u>Birds of Jackson County</u>	29
Chat printed subscriptions	301
Advertising in <i>The Chat</i>	200

Total expenses of \$11,133 for the fiscal year 2022-2023 went to the following:

Administrative expenses	\$4,349
Support RVAS mission expenses	6,784

Administrative expenses included: web site, *Chat* newsletter, meeting program and facility, Zoom, storage facility, office supplies, insurance, mailing, and taxes.

Mission expenses included: Project FeederWatch, Birding in Schools, Audubon Youth Birding leaflets, N. Mountain Park Bird Day, and pledge for new vegetative plan (grass seeds, plants) for the White City Lagoons (Kirtland Pond).

Thank you, Rogue Valley Audubon Society members, for your generous donations and contributions!

Jackson County Birdathon 2023: Birding by Bike

By Nate Trimble

This year, I decided to participate in the Jackson County Birdathon while traveling my entire route by bike or on foot. My two favorite hobbies are cycling and birding, so for 2023 I combined them into the ultimate sport, the bicycle birdathon. I began and ended my adventure at my house in Ashland.

My strategy was to get the slowest uphill miles done before the competition officially started on Friday and then spend Saturday riding the flatlands. I left my house around 3:30 pm on Friday and rode the climb up Dead Indian Memorial Rd to Keno Access Rd. This allowed me to be at Lily Glen Park at 6 p.m. for the start of the competition. I got as many high elevation species as I could before dark there and at Vesper Meadow before descending back home. I had breakfast on my porch at sunrise while listening to Evening Grosbeaks, before a short hike into Liberty St. Park for some mixed oak conifer birds. I then got back on the bike and birded the Bear Creek Greenway from Ashland to Mingus Pond. After a quick lunch stop, I rode to Upper Table Rocks and hiked to the top to find some oak woodland species and a Rock Wren. From there I went to the White City Lagoons, a few locations in the Denman Wildlife Area, and finished with an unsuccessful snipe hunt at the Medford Airport. I got rehydrated and refueled on pizza with the other Birdathon teams after the competition and then rode the Bear Creek Greenway back home.

I didn't record exact mileage, but I estimate that I rode about 110 miles and hiked another 7. My species tally was 106. Some species highlights were Evening Grosbeaks at first light from my back porch, Wilson's Phalarope at the White City Lagoons (a lifer for me), and Rock Wren because I had to hike all the way to the top of Table Rocks to find it. Overall, it was a great challenge and a really fun adventure.



Credit: Kay Simmons

BIRDCENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

RVAS

First Wednesday Bird Walks: October 4, November 1, December 6

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.

Wild Birds Unlimited

Jacksonville Britt Trails Walk

Erin Ulrich will be leading a bird walk at the Britt Trails in Jacksonville this month. This will be a new birding spot for us. Can't wait to see what is seen! To reserve your spot, come in or call the store at (541) 772-2107.

DATE: Sunday Sept 17

TIME: 9:00 am

"Birding Harney County" Talk

Harry Fuller will be with us to talk about birding in Harney County. Where's that you ask? Think Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon...extensive wetlands and seasonal lakes, playa, desert, sagebrush steppe, montane forests of conifer or aspen, juniper brushland, volcanic rock lands. All of this extensive habitat supports a multitude of bird species, many rarely seen by urban dwellers.

Harry is an avid birder and guides birding trips to Malheur several times a year. He has recently written a book (his 4th) about this very subject, and all proceeds from the book sales go to Malheur NWR.

Harry's entertaining classes always fill up fast, so reserve your seat today by coming into or calling the store at (541) 772-2107!

DATE: Sunday Sept 24

TIME: 9:00 am

Klamath Bird Observatory

Let's Talk Bird Series

Join Shannon Rio for three weeks of classes, chatting about our local birds, and ending with a field trip. Powerpoint presentations will include a deep dive into a specific group of birds like woodpeckers, and learning fun bird factoids. We will explore the use of a variety of bird guides and info books. This class is collaborative and interactive and meant to be fun. For important information and to register, visit <https://klamathbird.org/callnote/lets-talk-bird-with-shannon-rio/>.

DATES: September 11th, 18th, 25th, and field trip on Sep 30th or Oct 1st.

TIMES: 12:00 - 1:30 pm for first three sessions & full day field trip

LOCATION: Klamath Bird Observatory office in Ashland

COST: \$0-\$100 suggested donation



Birdcentric Events continued on page 9

Birdcentric Events continued from page 8

Klamath Bird Observatory, cont.

Great Grey Owl Talk with Harry Fuller

Great Gray Owls are scarce over much of the range shown in typical field guides or online range maps. There are small regions within their overall range where they are more numerous. In this, they are like many birds that are very picky about habitat and food supply—Pinyon Jays, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Green-tailed Towhees.

Why are Great Grays here? How do they behave? Survive? Deal with humans? What does climate change portend? For more information and to register, visit <https://klamathbird.org/callnote/great-grey-owl-talk-by-harry-fuller/>.

Great Grey Owl book and Harry's most recent publication, Birding Harney County will be available for sale during the event.

DATE: Friday Sept 22

TIME: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Klamath Bird Observatory office in Ashland, Zoom option available

COST: Free



Final Bird Banding Event of the Year!

Join us for this extraordinary final family-friendly bird banding outing of the year! During this fundraiser for our renowned banding program, you will learn about the importance and unique contribution of bird banding to science and see some of Oregon's birds up close. You will also get to experience one of our field stations on beautiful Upper Klamath Lake and observe science in action, including mist netting and data collection, AND interact with the biologists. After the field station visit, we have a unique opportunity to bird from the deck of Rocky Point Resort, with light refreshments provided by Rocky Point. This is a great introduction to science in the field for kids and young adults (as well as for non-birders, almost birders, and fully-fledged birders). Come have fun in the field with us before the birds fly south! Space is very limited. For important information and to register, visit <https://klamathbird.org/callnote/final-bird-banding-event-of-the-year/>.

DATE: Thursday Sept 28

TIME: 6:30 am - approx. 1:00 pm (inclusive of drive time to and from Ashland)

LOCATION: Upper Klamath Lake

COST: \$75 per person

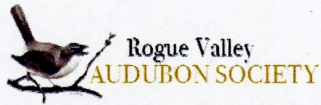
Save the Date! Brazil Trip 2024

We invite you to join the directors of Klamath Bird Observatory and Mantiqueira Bird Observatory for a 10-day adventure exploring the Atlantic Forest of southeastern Brazil. The trip will be held August 20-29, 2024. During the trip you will visit natural landscapes and enjoying scenic places; hike through a diversity of habitats; observe birds and wildlife in nature; experience local culture; learn about birds, bird observatories, and international conservation; and support Klamath Bird Observatory and Mantiqueira Bird Observatory's intern exchange program. Registration for the Brazil trip will open on September 20th. To register, visit <https://klamathbird.org/callnote/save-the-date-brazil-2024/>.

DATES: Aug 20 - Aug 29, 2024

LOCATION: Atlantic Forest of Brazil

It's membership renewal time! To renew, clip and send in the form below, or visit www.roguevalleyaudubon.org!



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.



Male and female Evening Grosbeaks, credit: Jim Livaudais

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Intriguing gifts,
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184 Oak Street, Ashland Oregon 97520



Bird Song

Twee! Twee! Twee!

Little Bird

I only wish I knew

The meaning of your warblings

So I could twee with you.

~ Barbara Vance

Excerpt from 'Suzie Bitner Was Afraid of the
Drain' by Barbara Vance





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*Valid 10/1/23 thru 9/30/24 at the Medford, OR WBU
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ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE CHAT

Newsletter of the
ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Post Office Box 8597

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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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.

