

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

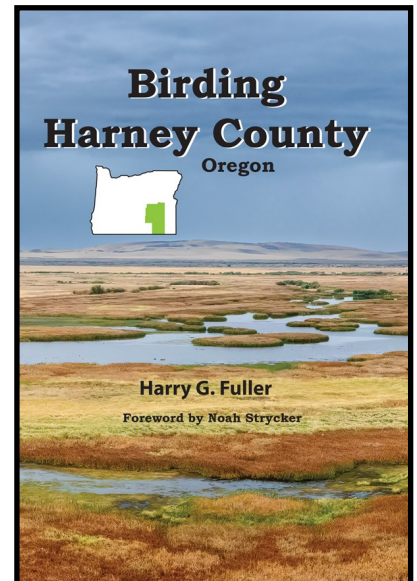
Deadline for the December/January 2023 issue is November 20



November IN PERSON Program
Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Birding Harney County
With Harry Fuller

Birding Harney County, published in July 2023 by Harry Fuller, will help you find new places to bird in eastern Oregon! It will also help you find those special birds you are looking for. Where and when are always crucial elements when seeking that special bird, and Harney County has many birds not found where most birders live. From Bobolink to Common Nighthawk, from Ferruginous Hawk to Franklin's Gull, from White Pelican to Wilson's Phalarope - this area is a birder's challenge, and this book will bring some birder's rewards.

There will be copies of this book for sale at the meeting. Proceeds go to support the Malheur Field Station.



About the Speaker



Harry Fuller is an Oregon birder and natural history author. This is his fourth book. The first was "Freeway Birding" about birding the I-5 corridor. He has also written two other natural history books: *The Great Gray Owl in California, Oregon and Washington* and *San Francisco's Natural History - Sand Dunes to Streetcars*. He leads field trips for Malheur Field Station, private clients, and birding groups. He is a member of the Salem Audubon Society, and his "Some Fascinating Things About Birds" column appears regularly in Salem Reporter. Contact him at atowhee@gmail.com or atowhee.blog.

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,
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Birdathon: Vacant

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Mailing Address

RVAS
P. O. Box 8597
Medford, OR 97501



It's Almost Party Time!

Who: YOU!

What: RVAS Holiday Party & Auction

Where: Medford Congregational Church

When: Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 6:00PM

IMPORTANT!! ***We are currently looking for some folks to provide a birding experience that we can auction off at the party. Did you provide an event last year that you would be willing to repeat? Or, is there a new location you'd like to take folks and share your expertise? If so, please reach out to one of your board members and let us know! ***

It's a potluck party again this year! Bring a favorite dish to share and bring your own plates, cups, and utensils, as we are trying to keep the party as green as possible.

We can't wait to celebrate with you all!



Status of upcoming events

Field trips: Denman Bird Walk - Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, Nov 28 at 7pm

Holiday Party & Auction: Dec. 2

Ashland CBC: Dec. 17

Medford CBC: Dec. 30

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.



Credit: Kristi Mergenthaler

Welcome to Our New Board Member, Rebekah Bergkoetter

Hello fellow bird enthusiasts! I am so excited to join the RVAS board and contribute my note taking skills as the new Secretary! I am also here to help as the program coordinator and coordinate the Medford Christmas Bird Count! For my day job I work as a Land Steward at Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, where I manage to get in some birding throughout the week as a part of my job. I began birding when I took Ornithology at SOU, where I had the first inkling of bird diversity. Up until that point, I just saw "Bird". Since then, birding has felt like surveillance into the natural world around us, signaling the other things I may find, such as general plant composition, water sources, habitat type, etc. I look forward to enjoying many more birding events with you all.

ODFW Needs Your Help!

Hi everyone--October means the start of the spawning cycle in Bear Creek. Fall chinook are actively migrating upstream to spawn.

The fall chinook run has prompted bad behavior in recent years, with damming and trapping of fall chinook by travelers on the greenway. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State Police removed several artificial barriers last year. The dam that I tore out with OSP was a site where an individual had been actively killing salmon and had 10-12 dead fish in possession. Each dead female means around 3,500 fewer eggs incubating in Bear Creek over the winter, and fewer fish returning 3-4 years down the road.

The early rainfall this year will help by making the fish more difficult to catch. But just this week ODFW removed a 2 foot tall rock and shopping cart dam near the mall and fall chinook salmon immediately began moving upstream.

I am emailing for help. We need extra eyes watching for and reporting problems. If you see any of the following please make the recommended contacts.

1. If you see fall chinook salmon upstream of the Rogue Valley Mall, please contact ODFW 541-826-8774 with the location and date.
2. If you see artificial dams in the creek, or people building artificial dams please contact ODFW 541-826-8774 with the location and date.

Bear Creek and its tributaries are closed to fishing. If you see someone fishing or harassing fish, please contact Oregon State Dispatch at 541-664-4600 and report the information.

Any and all help is appreciated!

Dan Van Dyke
Rogue District Fish Biologist
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
1495 East Gregory Road
Central Point OR 97502
1-541-857-2409
Daniel.J.VANDYKE@odfw.oregon.gov

Save the Date for the Christmas Bird Count!

By Cat Gould & Rebekah Bergkoetter

The holiday season is creeping up fast and it is time for us to start thinking about the greatest holiday tradition of all: Audubon Christmas Bird Count! Join us for the 124th count in Ashland, Medford, or participate in both!

The Ashland CBC will take place on **Sunday, December 17**. The count circle is centered at the northwest corner of Emigrant Lake, including both the northeastern slopes of Mount Ashland and the western slopes of the Cascades (as far east as Little Hyatt Lake). Also included are the steep Siskiyou Mountain woodlands, extensive farmland, grassland and oak savannah habitats in the eastern section, as well as the entirety of the city of Ashland with its parks, gardens, and riparian habitats.

The Medford CBC will take place on **Saturday, December 30**. This count encompasses Medford, Central Point, White City, and Eagle Point. Birding hotspots such as Whetstone Savanna Preserve, Table Rocks, Agate Lake, Denman Wildlife Area, Prescott Park, and the Bear Creek Greenway area are all included in this section!

Under the guidance of an experienced area leader, teams bird from dawn to dusk regardless of weather. While some leaders welcome volunteers of any skill level, others may need experienced, hardy birders who can cope with difficult terrain and a fast pace. Newcomers welcome!

Count area maps are at www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/cbc-maps-page/. Anyone living in the count circle can participate by doing a feeder watch and adding their sightings to the Count Week tally (Ashland – Dec. 13-20; Medford Dec 27 – Jan 3). CBC feeder watch instructions and a tally sheet can be obtained by contacting Cat Gould or Rebekah Bergkoetter.

Teams will gather to tally the birds from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm after each of their counts (location to be confirmed in the next *Chat* issue) and share the adventures of the day. Everyone is welcome to come to the evening tally even if you did not participate. The Ashland CBC is coordinated by Cat Gould and Emmalisa Whalley. To join the Ashland CBC or for more information, contact Cat Gould at catgould@gmail.com by December 1st. The Medford CBC is coordinated by Rebekah Bergkoetter; to join the Medford CBC or for more information, contact her at rebekah.bergkoetter@gmail.com.

BIRDCENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

RVAS

First Wednesday Bird Walks: December 6, January 3, February 7

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.

RVAS Holiday Party & Auction

Please join us to celebrate birds and another successful year. It's a potluck party! Bring a favorite dish to share and bring your own plates, cups, and utensils, as we are trying to keep the party as green as possible. We can't wait to celebrate with you all!

LOCATION: Medford Congregational Church, 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford

DATE & TIME: Saturday Dec 2, 6:00PM

Wild Birds Unlimited

North Mountain Park Bird Walk

Erin Ulrich will be leading a walk to N. Mountain Park in Ashland. Limited to 9 participants. To reserve your spot, come in or call the store at (541) 772-2107.

DATE: Sunday Nov 12

TIME: 9:00 am

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Hooo...Hooo...Hooo!
We're grateful for birds...



...and grateful for you.
Happy Thanksgiving from
RVAS!


Wild Birds Unlimited
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**20% OFF One
Regularly-priced Item**

*Valid 10/1/23 thru 9/30/24 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.

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 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.

