

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

Deadline for the May 2026 issue is April 20

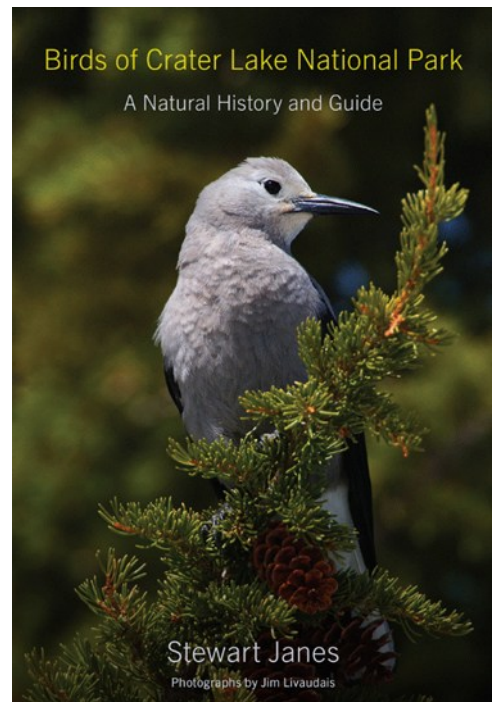


April IN PERSON Program
Thursday, Apr. 30, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Birds of Crater Lake National Park:
A Natural History and Guide
With Dr. Stewart Janes
(at the Medford Library, large meeting room)

Crater Lake National Park mesmerizes thousands of visitors each year with its stunning vistas, natural beauty, and wildlife, including the extraordinary birds that are found there. In *Birds of Crater Lake National Park*, Stewart Janes introduces readers to Oregon's high country birds and those that are most frequently encountered on visits to the park. The high country is a hostile environment; the birds that live there confront challenges—elevation, weather, geology, habitat—that their lowland relatives do not have to endure. Species that inhabit the high country must be adaptable and resourceful. Book photography by Rogue Valley Audubon Society member, Jim Livaudais.

About the Speaker

Dr. Stewart Janes is Professor Emeritus of biology at Southern Oregon University. For several years, he served as a board member for the Crater Lake Natural History Association and wrote a birding column for the Medford Mail-Tribune and Ashland Daily Tidings. He currently lives in Corvallis with his wife, Debbie, and enjoys birding, canoeing, woodworking, and continuing his field research.



Location: Medford Public Library, 205 S Central Ave, Medford, OR 97501
Time: 7:00 pm (doors will be open beginning at 6:30 pm)

This meeting will be in-person only.

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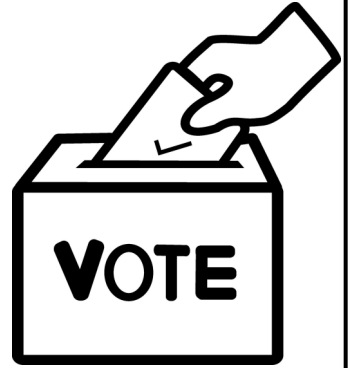
RVAS
P. O. Box 8597
Medford, OR 97501

Chapter Program meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September through April, at 7:00 pm at the Medford Congregational Church of Christ.

Please note that this month, our meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 30 at the Medford Public Library**. Doors will open at 6:30 pm.

April Meeting Board Elections

Per the RVAS by-laws, annual elections for the board must be held. Currently there are six board members who intend to continue to serve for the upcoming year. Elections for the board will be held on April 30th, 7 pm at the speaker event with Dr. Stewart Janes; doors will open at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact Rebekah Bergkoetter to get on the ballot.

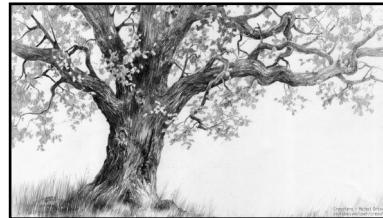


April is Native Plant Appreciation Month!

By Rebekah Bergkoetter

In 2025, Senate Bill 547 passed in the Oregon Legislature, officially declaring April as Native Plant Appreciation Month. Rogue Valley Audubon Society signed on to support this bill and we are so excited to see it passed.

This April, we are celebrating the native plants that support birds across the Rogue Valley, such as white and black oaks, currants, and tarweed. Some of these species provide a direct food source, such as seeds or nectar; others provide habitat for rearing young; and many more support insects, on which birds feed. You can learn more about planting for the birds at <https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>, and about local native plants with our friends at the Siskiyou Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon (<https://www.npsoregon.org/wp/si/>).



Status of upcoming events

Field trips: Denman Bird Walk - May 6, Jun. 3, July 1

Chapter Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 30 at 7pm

Earth Day: Sat. Apr. 18

Birdathon: Fri. & Sat. May 1 & 2

Rogue Valley Bird Day: Sat. May 16

March Field Notes 2026

*on top of more ancient trees, on top of more ancient trees,
Ada Limon*

On this March morning that I compile a few notes, an Oregon Junco trills and a Yellow-rumped Warbler loops its lasso of a song from the trees in a world burning up and a season of drought, the birds offering a small gift of constancy. Who sings and who listens.



Ross's Goose
Credit: Gary Shaffer

A lone **Ross's Goose** was found on a pond off Meridian Rd. Mar 8 (AD). The bird later moved up to the pond just off 140 on the Stone Ridge Golf Course, where it was still being seen at the time of this writing. A flock of 20 **Greater Scaup** were on Agate Lake Mar 25 (JK).

Mountain Quail and **Sooty Grouse** males are being quite vocal with the spring weather, advertising for mates. **Wild Turkey** males have been displaying and gobbling, often in the middle of secondary and rural roads, with often large numbers of both sexes slowing traffic.

Some early **Common Poorwill**, "the little sleeper", have been reported from a couple locations, with a bird calling at an Eagle Point residence Mar 18 (AL). This species has been found a few times in winter in our area. It can thermoregulate and go into a 'torpor' state.

Anna's Hummingbird are nesting and **Rufous Hummingbird** are being spotted throughout our area.

A single **Western Sandpiper** was at White City Lagoons Mar 25 (GS, JK). A **Hudsonian Whimbrel** was found by visiting birders Mike and MerryLynn Denny Mar 28.

A **Bonaparte's Gull** appeared at the Lagoons Mar 25 (GS, JK). A **California Gull** was out at Emigrant Lake Mar 22 (RT, JOT), and another single was at White City Lagoons on the same day (JL).

An **American Goshawk** was spotted near Pinehurst along 66 Mar 13 (GS, JL). A **Prairie Falcon** was seen along Antioch Rd. Mar 19 (SW).

An early **Cassin's Vireo** was heard singing near the Table Rocks Mar 25 (EH, RT).

Oak Titmouse are starting to breed in the valley now; they are cavity nesting birds.

Many of our swallows are back with recent reports of **Barn Swallow**, **Northern Rough-Winged Swallow**, and **Cliff Swallow**.

White-breasted Nuthatch are pairing up and engaging in courtship; like Oak Titmouse they are oak cavity nesters. A **Pygmy Nuthatch** was observed and recorded Mar 11 along 66 near Jenny Creek (JK). The eastern part of the county is where this species is often found.

The small, delightful and entertaining **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher** is back roving through the flowering buckbrush and oaks in our area.

A recent kayak around Emigrant Lake found nine **Rock Wrens** (four likely pairs) and a **Canyon Wren** Mar 12

Field Notes continued on page 4

Field Notes continued from page 3

(BQ). A couple of **Northern House Wren** reports, one from Agate Rd Mar 26 (HS) and another from Denman Mar 27 (JH) not far from each other.



Lawrence's Goldfinch
Credit: Janet Kelly

A **CALIFORNIA THRASHER** (photo pg 7) was found Mar 12 in the CSNM southwest of Pilot Rock. And since then, 2 or 3 birds have been heard and seen in the area increasing the possibility of that species breeding in the state.

Another state and county rarity was spotted with a singing male **LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH** at the south end of Emigrant Lake Mar 22 and 23.

A few warbler species are singing and calling as they move in and through, including **Orange-crowned**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. Surprisingly, two early **Northern Yellow Warbler** reports Mar 26, one from Ousterhout Farm and one from TouVelle (GO, MMLD).

Thank you to everyone who contributed their observations including: Janet Kelly, Gary Shaffer, Howard Sands, Jim Livaudais, Tanner Martin, Elijah Hayes, Jim Hostick, Jeff Miller, Ryan Terrill, Jessica Oswald, Kristi Mergenthaler, Kay Simmons, Gretchen Ousterhout, Bob Quaccia, Marion Hadden, Bob Hunter, Anne Goff, Andres Carvalhaes, Nate Trimble, Shane Jimerfield, Martin Lopez Aguilar, Laura Lovrien, Gary Porter, Brian Barr, Leslie Hart, Myco Schroeder, Andrew Donnelly, Andrea Lucas, Roxanne Tessmann, Samantha Webb, Mike and MerryLynn Denny, and Violet.

All errors and omissions are my own.

Peace.

2026 Birdathon is coming in May!

By Carol Mockridge

The RVAS Birdathon returns May 1-2. Now is the 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 1 at 6 PM, and goes to 6 PM on Saturday, May 2. Most teams include two to five birders, although a single individual may also comprise a team. For all the rules and other info, and to find the pledge form, visit www.roguevalleyaudubon.org/birdathon/.

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 found. 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 choose "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 2026 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 on Saturday after the Birdathon ends, at Jackson Creek Pizza, 700 Biddle Rd., Medford.

Good luck!



BIRDCENTRIC EVENTS FROM AROUND THE REGION

RVAS

First Wednesday Bird Walks: May 6, June 3, July 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.

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.

Earth Day 2026

One of our favorite events of the year is back! Join us in celebrating Earth Day 2026 at the ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum! RVAS will be there with lots of family-friendly bird activities. Come support us to work together to inspire curiosity, celebrate our planet, and connect with our community. For more information, visit <https://www.scienceworksmuseum.org/earth-day>.

DATE: Saturday, April 18
TIME: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
LOCATION: ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum, Ashland
COST: Free

Birdathon 2026

The RVAS Birdathon returns May 1-2. Now is the time to form your teams and sign up. The Birdathon is an important fundraiser for RVAS...and it's fun! If you've never participated in this annual event, why not make 2026 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 (as well as the travelling trophy!). Join us on Saturday after the Birdathon ends, at Jackson Creek Pizza, 700 Biddle Rd., Medford.
DATES / TIMES: Friday May 1, 6pm to Saturday May 2, 6 pm

Rogue Valley Bird Day

Bird walks all morning, as well as educational booths, kids' activities, Name-that-Bird contest, and bird calling contests for youth and adults. Prizes provided by Rogue Valley Audubon Society. For more information, visit

RogueValleyBirdDay.net.
DATE: Saturday May 16
TIME: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
LOCATION: North Mountain Park, Ashland
COST: Free



Courtesy: Rogue Valley Bird Day

Vesper Meadow

Golden Hour Photo Blitz and Workshop

Join us for an inspiring evening, enjoy a photography walk, and choose to participate in the optional follow-up photography contest. Golden hours is one of the most beautiful times of the day and mid-May means you will immerse yourself in the early spring buds, blooms, birds, and butterflies of the meadow! For more info and to register, visit https://www.vespermeadow.org/new-events/2026/5/16/golden-hour-photo-blitz-and-all-levels-contest?blm_aid=22443.

DATE: Saturday May 16
TIME: 4:00 - 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Vesper Meadow, 16534 Indian Memorial Rd, Ashland
COST: Free



Courtesy: Vesper Meadow

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Events continued from page 5

Wild Birds Unlimited

Emigrant Lake Bird Walk

Erin Ulrich will be leading a walk to Emigrant Lake and the surrounding area this month. This large reservoir is good for waterfowl, grebes, and raptors such as Osprey and Bald Eagle. Many of our summer breeding migrants will also be arriving this month including Bullock's Orioles and Black-headed Grosbeaks. Come in or call the store at (541) 772-2107 to reserve your spot on this walk. Limited to 9 participants.

DATE: Sunday April 12

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Emigrant Lake, Ashland

COST: Free

Klamath Bird Observatory

eBird Northwest: An Artistic Reflection of Community Science

Join the Klamath Bird Observatory and local artist Gatore Mukarhinda for an afternoon of creativity and conservation, live music and light refreshments. We will have a shared creative space where we make bird-inspired art together, and explore how eBird turns our observations into conservation. Both artmaking and community science begin with noticing. When someone sketches a bird, builds a collage of feathers and colors, or paints a migration path, they are practicing the same attentive seeing that powers eBird checklists. Each act, creative or scientific, asks people to look closely, to care about what they see, and to share it with others. All craft materials will be provided, but feel free to bring additional craft materials for your project. For more info and to register, visit <https://klamathbird.org/event/ebird-northwest-an-artistic-reflection-of-community-science/>.

DATE: Sunday April 12

TIME: 4:00 - 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Luna Café + Mercantile, 2525 Ashland St, Ashland

COST: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child

Bureau of Land Management & The Nature Conservancy
For the Early Birds

Rise and shine for a spring birding adventure at Lower Table Rock! Join local experts Bob Quaccia and Frank Lospalluto to discover the diverse birdlife on the Table Rocks. Participants will learn bird identification tips, listening skills, and insights into ongoing conservation efforts. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them and be ready to greet the morning chorus. Participation is limited to 20 individuals. To register and for more info, call the Medford District Bureau of Land Management Office at 541-618-2200. Visit <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-activities/oregon-washington/tablerocks> to see our other spring hikes at the Tables Rocks!

DATE: Saturday April 25

TIME: 8:00 am

LOCATION: Lower Table Rock

COST: Free



Courtesy: BLM



Jacksonville Feederwatch Update: February 2026

Hi, my name is Nora, and I'm the class ornithologist. That means I do a bird count twice a week. I have a friend who helps me sometimes. We also have a class bird feeder, which I fill up. The most common birds we see are Dark-eyed Juncos, American Goldfinches, Spotted Towhees, and Goldfinches. My favorite birds are Flickers, Spotted Towhees, Colored Doves, American Robins, and Black-capped Chickadees. Did you know that a Cooper's Hawk has a relatively long tail? A big thanks to the Rogue Valley Audubon Society for sponsoring our bird feeders!

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California Thrasher
Credit: Frank Lospalluto



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purchases, optics, gift cards, DSC
memberships, or sale items.

THE CHAT

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

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