



**11th ANNUAL
GARDENING SYMPOSIUM**
RCC/SOU Higher Education Center
Medford, OR
November 7, 2009
Saturday 9:00 to 5:00

Registration Fee: \$40 (includes lunch)

call: (541) 776-7371, or

email: robert.reynolds@oregonstate.edu

For class descriptions and registration materials go to

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/gardening>

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9045 Upper Applegate Rd, Jacksonville

BIRDMAN

Fall migration

BY TED A. GLOVER



The rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) is known as the feistiest hummingbird in North America, tirelessly chasing away other hummingbirds, even in places they're only visiting on migration. Females (photo left) are green above with rufous-washed flanks, rufous patches in the green tail and often a spot of orange in the throat. Males (photo right) are bright orange on back and belly with a vivid iridescent-red throat. All photos @ Joseph V. Higbee.

Fall is on the horizon and that means the birds are on the move. We've already witnessed the departure of many birds that spend summer in our area, but head south for the winter time.

By mid-July the male rufous hummingbird has left, followed soon by the youngsters and females. Only a few of the more than 300 species of hummingbirds actually migrate. Most live in the warm climates of the tropics. The rufous has one of the longest migration paths in the world of hummingbirds. From the northern edge of their breeding range in southern Alaska, to the southern edge of their wintering range, in southern Mexico, is nearly 8,000 miles.

This little bird, less than four inches in size and weighing only about one eighth of an ounce, travels northward in the spring along the Pacific Coast, but in the fall, after breeding, heads for the Rocky Mountains and travels south, to Mexico.

In our area we also have seen the departure of the orioles, many types of swallows, the western tanager, osprey, and the black headed grosbeak. But, just when

many species are leaving, others are beginning to arrive.

The fall migration is really a much longer event than the northward movement in the spring. As we mentioned, the hummers leave very early and some waterfowl arrive as late as December. We also see an influx of birds that may be present all year, but as the winter begins to arrive, and the nights grow cooler, they begin to congregate more in the warmer valleys.

Expect to see larger flocks of juncos, chickadees, pine siskin, and nuthatches, as they come down from higher summertime elevations. Also watch for larger concentrations of American robins, often travelling southward with cedar waxwings.

A great spot to view thousands of birds during fall migration is the Great Salt Lake in Utah. Millions of birds stop over here after breeding to tack on some weight for their continued trek south. As many as 500,000 Wilson's phalaropes and three times as many eared grebes have spent weeks or even months here. This is the place to see large concentrations of stilts, avocets, and other shorebirds, plus ducks...ducks...ducks!

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681

Voices of the Applegate will keep on singing

BY JOAN PETERSON

Many of you are aware of the passing of David Marston, our beloved choir director who died of Creutzfeldt-jakob disease on June 22. He led the Voices of the Applegate for almost seven years and many of our concerts were performed at the Applegate River Ranch House with standing room only.

Dave was an extremely ambitious and talented man. His mission was to spread music throughout our communities including Ashland, Applegate, Grants Pass and Medford. He led the Siskiyou Singers, the Peace Choir, the Methodist Church Choir in Ashland, Three Rivers Choir in Grants Pass, Voices of the Applegate and many smaller ensemble choirs. He also led an Extended Circle of singers who sang in nursing homes, retirement homes and assisted care facilities. He sang to the boys in juvenile hall in Grants Pass once a week for many years. And of course, he led the famous Beatles Band, the Nowhere Men, and played in many venues throughout the Rogue Valley. We will miss him profoundly.

One of Dave's favorite songs was "How Can I Keep From Singing." This song, an old hymn that has been revived by folk singers like Pete Seeger, dates back to 1864. He used to tell his choirs that when

he was going through one of his hardest times, the words of this hymn would come to him and bring him out of his sadness. Here are a few of the lines from the song:

"My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation

I hear the real tho' far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Thru all the tumult and the strife I hear that music ringing

It sounds an echo in my soul,
how can I keep from singing."

The Voices of the Applegate cannot keep from singing. We are planning to continue with the choir, and although we have not yet found a new director, we are actively seeking one, and are in the process of interviewing prospective musicians. We plan to begin again in the Winter and we will put out announcements when we are ready to begin. If anyone is interested in joining the Voices of the Applegate please call: Joan at 541-846-6988 or Marvin at 541-899-7861.

Joan Peterson
541-846-6988