Siskiyou Audubon Society meets on the second Thursday each month from September through May, from 6:00 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m. in Room 400 at Grants Pass High School, 830 NE 9th Street, Grants Pass. Room 400 is in the northernmost building on campus. Enter the parking lot from either 8th or 9th Streets. In December we hold a holiday Potluck Dinner, and in June a Potluck Picnic. Coffee and refreshments are served at our informal meetings. We hope to see you there!

Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner
Thursday, December 12, 2019
4:00 p.m. to about 7:30 p.m.

Our traditional December “meeting,” the Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner, will again be held in the parish hall of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 224 NW ‘D’ Street, Grants Pass, beginning at 4 p.m.

The Society will furnish baked ham, and Pat Webb will bring mashed potatoes. Members and guests, please bring the rest of the food dishes and trimmings for the Christmas feast we’ll share. No need to bring your tableware this year – we may use the kitchen supply at St. Luke’s as long as we wash all the dishes afterward. Coffee and water will be available; please bring other beverages as you prefer.

To reserve your place & assure we have enough ham, please call 541-474-445 or email pchicks66@gmail.com. Please do RSVP with Marsha & Phil.

Bring a wrapped gift of about $10 value to play in the ‘Yankee Swap’ gift exchange game where there’s fun in opening the gifts and swapping them from one to another. See Karen Welden for any help needed. Sign up for the Christmas Bird Count, too, if you haven’t already. Grants Pass Count Circle packets will be distributed to section leaders. More details on page 3. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 14, 2019

Sign up for the Grants Pass Christmas Bird Count at the Christmas Potluck & Party. Section leaders will get their Count Circle packets from Compiler Margaret James. More details on Page 3.

Chapter Meeting, Thursday, January 9, 2020
Program: “Wildlife Photography” by Jim James

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Jim was not able to give this program in October. But in January we’ll get to know Richard E. “Jim” James, and his passion for wildlife photography.

As a small boy in the early 1940’s, Jim’s family moved from Montana to Oregon. Jim was brought up on the Oregon coast where he spent most of his time fishing, hunting, hiking, and observing animals in the wilderness. He worked summers in the woods while in high school, college, and medical school.

Fifty years ago while in the Air Force, Jim and his family moved to Alaska, where, living in one of the last great wilderness areas in North America, he first became seriously interested in nature photography. He continues to develop his serious passion for wildlife photography. He began with slide film but switched to digital about 8 years ago. Except for occasional minimal enhancement, Jim does not digitally engineer his images.

Except for the years spent in the Air Force and in medical training, Jim has lived in Oregon. He and his wife, Valerie, raised their four children in the Rogue Valley. Now retired, Jim spends his free time with his family (eight grandchildren) as well as photographing wildlife throughout the world. He hopes to bring a better understanding and enjoyment of some of God’s most unique and beautiful creatures to others through his pictures.
Evergreen Elementary School Family Math & Science Night

The evening of last November 13th, seven SAS members traveled to Cave Junction to Evergreen Elementary School for a nest box building event there as part of Smile Night (or Family Math & Science Night). We accomplished building 37 nest boxes in about an hour of actual work time, and it was great with very nice kids. Most (90%) of the kids were old enough to wield a decent hammer hit. So things moved along and each of us workers kept busy.

I know the picture is fuzzy and not much activity, but it was the first minute or so that kids were allowed in the building. Also, as you should know, the seven workers there were the same ones that have been showing up for these type events for years. Where are new members or folks who might eventually take over in SAS?

Take care and smiles, Phil Hicks

Welcome New Program Coordinator

Thank you, Christie Nelson! for taking over the duties of Program Coordinator. Joy Taylor did this vital Society task for many years, but has had to retire due to health reasons. Christie and her husband Mike have been members of Siskiyou Audubon since 2015, when they transferred here from Washington State. Christie has already lined up programs for the coming months. We look forward to more excellent programs brought to us through her efforts.

Siskiyou Audubon Society Needs You!

There are over 200 members on our Chapter roster, and over 100 who receive this newsletter by mail or internet. Attendance at Chapter Meetings averages 25, yet the core group that does the work of the Chapter numbers only around a dozen. We appreciate no end, those of you who come to the annual Nest Box Building Day to help, and/or who support us financially, but we wish that some younger folks would become more actively involved in the Society.

Please, come to the ‘Board’ meetings with your ideas and proposals for the activities and future of our Chapter of Audubon. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 11 a.m. at the home of Marsha and Phil Hicks. Meetings usually last about 1-1/2 hours. If you can’t make a weekday meeting, call or email anyone on the Board to make your suggestion. Be prepared to back up your suggestions with being willing to work. Get together with one of the Board, or email them through sisqaudubon@gmail.com.

Winter Wings Festival – February 13 – 16, 2020
Klamath Falls, Oregon

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS SATURDAY, 12/7/2020

Winter Wings Festival is celebrating its 41st year in 2020. For questions on how to register, contact WWF at 1-877-541-BIRD (2473) and leave a message, or email the registrar at info@WinterWingsFest.org. If activities you are interested are closed, leave a message to be added to waiting lists. Onsite registration begins at the Oregon Tech College Union at 9 a.m. Thurs., Feb. 13th.

The Pacific Flyway is a major north-south route of travel for migratory birds in the Americas, extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Every year, migratory birds travel some or all of this 8500 mile distance, both in spring and in fall, following food sources, heading to breeding grounds, or traveling to overwintering sites. About 80% of Pacific Flyway migrants make the Klamath Basin a stopover. Klamath Basin Audubon Society (KBAS – www.KlamathAudubon.org) produces the annual Winter Wings Festival to celebrate this abundance of birds, plus the largest wintering population of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states.

Field Trips, workshops, keynote speakers, and a banquet are in store for all who venture to WWF. The Festival offers something for anyone interested in birds and the natural world. Full details at http://winterwingsfest.org/.

Birders and nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend the 21st Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway in Chico, CA. This 5-day event celebrates the millions of waterfowl and thousands of raptors that migrate along the Pacific Flyway and call the Northern Sacramento Valley home during the winter months. This is one of the least explored and most amazingly diverse areas of California. The festival gives the local community the opportunity to rediscover the abundant treasures the North State has to offer.

FIELD TRIPS & WORKSHOPS – WILDLIFE ART EXHIBIT – BANQUET & MORE

Registration begins in early December. We highly recommend getting on our email list as soon as possible. Emails will go out to notify you when registration opens, of various deadlines, and of any changes and additions to the program along the way. You can follow us on Facebook, too! For more information visit www.snowgoosefestival.org.
Audubon’s 120th Christmas Bird Count, 2019

Grants Pass Circle – 35th Count
Saturday, December 14

Come to the Siskiyou Audubon Christmas Dinner Party Thursday, December 12 to sign up for Christmas Bird Count and be assigned to a count Section. Compiler Margaret James will be handing out packets to Section leaders: packets containing section maps, tally sheets, and rare bird reporting protocol.

Each Section will begin counting at a time & place determined by its leader. The Count goes on all day, and may start as early as daybreak, but individuals may count for just a portion. About 4 p.m. the light begins to fade, and at 5 p.m. participants meet for “Countdown” at Elmer’s Restaurant, 175 NE Agness Ave., Grants Pass, where tallies are turned in and counters share a meal and tales of the count. Everyone is welcome at the Countdown even if one didn’t count.

The G.P. Circle has a 7.5 mile radius and is centered on the Josephine County Fairgrounds. If you live within the Circle, and wish to count birds at home, please make arrangements with Margaret beforehand.

Contact Margaret James: mcdjames@yahoo.com or 541-476-8216.
[There will be no count this year in the Illinois Valley.]

Medford Circle Sunday, December 15

If you are interested in participating contact Bob Hunter, who heads up the Medford CBC, at bobhunter@embarqmail.com or 541-778-3310. More details at https://roguevalleyaudubon.org/em_events/medford-christmas-bird-count-2/.

Ashland Circle Saturday, December 28

The Ashland CBC is coordinated by Carol Mockridge and Emmalisa Whalley. To join a counting group or for more information, contact Carol Mockridge at mockridge50@hotmail.com or 360-829-7505 by December 21.

21st Annual Ashland Dipper Count on Ashland Creek
Saturday, January 4, 2020

Meeting place for the 21st ADC will be on the Ashland Downtown Plaza at 9 a.m. We will walk upstream on both sides of the Ashland Creek counting Dippers from Water st. to the top of Lithia Park.

For more information contact Bob Quaccia, bquaccia@hotmail.com, 541 261-6440.

Audubon Society Membership Form

Siskiyou Audubon is a nonprofit society under IRC §§501(c)3, Tax ID #93-0866572. Subscriptions are tax-deductible.

Send your application with dues payment to the address shown on the form or join National Audubon via website www.audubon.org.

Siskiyou Audubon Society Membership - Local
Pay and Mail this to: Siskiyou Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass, OR 97528

I wish to become a local member: ☐ $15.00 Regular ☐ $10.00 Student ☐ Extra Donation $__________

Name ______________________________________________________   New ☐ ☐ Renewal ☐
Phone ____ - ______ - ____________ Renewal Date _____________________

REQUIRED: E-mail Address ______________________________________

OR: I do not have email. Please send a printed copy of The Siskin to me by U.S. mail, to

Address: ____________________________________________________________, City, State __________ Zip Code __________

Siskiyou Audubon membership includes The Siskin newsletter for one year from date of dues payment.

National Audubon Society – Join online at www.audubon.org

National Audubon Society membership is $30 per year (or more) which includes membership in Siskiyou Audubon. It also includes subscriptions to both Audubon Magazine and The Siskin newsletter.

You may also join at a local Chapter Meeting. Be sure to state you want a National membership.

Rev. 9/18/2019.
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Directory & Upcoming Events. This page, below.

Siskiyou Audubon Society Directory
Six issues of The Siskin, newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society ("SAS"), are sent out each year by postal mail & email.
Send address corrections & items for publication to Editor, P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass, OR 97528; e-mail to sisqaudubon@gmail.com. You may phone 541-955-2934.
Articles and photos submitted to The Siskin for publication may be edited for size or clarity. Reprinting of articles from this publication is permitted except when the article is under copyright, and provided credit is given to both the author and the newsletter.
SAS meets monthly on the second Thursday, September through June, except July & August. The SAS Board of Directors meets monthly or at times determined by the Board. Visitors including Members of Siskiyou Audubon Society and the Public are welcome to attend all meetings.

Officers
President: Pat Webb. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Term Expires June 2021
Vice-President: Shirley Bredahl. . . . . . . . Term Expires June 2020
Executive Assistant: Marsha Hicks. . . . . . . Term Expires June 2021
Secretary: Margaret James. . . . . . . . Term Expires June 2020
Treasurer: Susan Perry. . . . . . . . . . . . Term Expires June 2021

Directors
Peter Good. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Term Expires June 2020
Susan Bush (½ Term). . . . . . . . . . . . . Term Expires June 2020
Karen Welden. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Term Expires June 2021

Committees and Chairpersons
Education – [Vacant] Revised Nov. 1, 2019
Nest Box Building – Lee Webb
Programs – Christie Nelson
Membership – Lee Webb
Web & Media – Pat Etchells
Ornithologist – Dennis Vroman
Publications – Newsletter Editor – Fran Taylor
. . . . Mailing List – Lee Webb
. . . . Distribution – Officers and Board members

Upcoming Events
December:
Thurs. Dec. 12: Siskiyou Audubon Society Chapter Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner, 4 p.m. PLEASE RSVP!

January:
Wed. New Year's Day, 2020: RVAS First Wednesday B.W.
Sat. Jan. 4: 21st Annual Dipper Count, Ashland, 9 a.m.
Thurs. Jan. 9: SAS Chapter Meeting and Program
Tues. Jan. 14: SAS Board Meeting 11 a.m. at Hicks’

February:
The Great Backyard Bird Count February 14-17
Visit gbbc.birdcount.org

Western Bluebird – Sialia-mexicana
leebird.com