

Pine Siskin

The Siskin

Newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society, Josephine County, Oregon

Siskiyou Audubon Society meets on the second Thursday each month from September through May, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. During the current coronavirus pandemic, we are meeting via the Zoom platform online. An email containing the link to the meeting will be sent to interested participants ahead of time. To make sure you are on the list, please contact Lee Webb at lowebb@charter.net. Instead of meeting in person, we hope you will join us on Zoom.

Chapter Holiday Meeting via Zoom, Thursday, December 9, 2021

Sign-in Begins at 6:00 P.M. for Meeting Start at 6:30 P.M.

Program: Member Photo Share

Since we are not meeting in person we can't have our annual Christmas Pot Luck dinner and party. We still want to celebrate the season, so some of us plan to dress up. Then, during our Zoom meeting we will share our favorite photos. Each participant may show up to 10 photos, and pictures of any kind can be used.



Varied Thrush in Snow
on Bull Creek Road
December 7, 2013
John Taylor Photo

To show pictures, get in touch with Lee Webb ahead of time at lowebb@charter.net or phone 541-479-6859. Lee will explain how to prepare your photos in a folder on your desktop or in the device of your choice.

At meeting time, open the photos in your preferred picture viewer, whether it be Windows Photo Viewer or some other application. Then, when it's your turn to show them, you will "Share" your picture screen through Zoom. The share option is a green icon at the bottom of the Zoom screen. If you're not familiar with the process, Lee can help you set this up beforehand.

Of course, we'll still have time to socialize and talk about birds, butterflies and the environment. If there's any Society business that needs to be discussed, we'll do that, too. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Bird Count – Siskiyou Audubon's 38th; The 122nd for National Audubon Saturday, December 18, 2021 Details inside on Page 3

Chapter Meeting via Zoom*, Thursday, January 13, 2022

Sign-in Begins at 6:00 P.M. for Meeting Start at 6:30 P.M.

Program: "Songbirds of America -- The Passerines" by John Taylor

John Taylor will present photos and information about the passerines, the birds that sing and easily perch in trees. Fran Taylor will narrate life history notes on each species. John and Fran are both long-time members of Siskiyou Audubon Society.

John joined the San Fernando Audubon Society in 1960 and has been a Siskiyou Audubon Society member since 1999. He now has a life list of almost 1,000 species of birds. In 1990, John graduated as a Bird Biologist from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. Together with his wife Joy, he traveled and birded throughout Alaska, Belize, Costa Rica, Egypt, the Hawaiian Islands, Mexico, and Canada and throughout the United States.

Fran Taylor (not related to John) joined Siskiyou Audubon Society in 1996. An amateur naturalist, she has been interested in birds, other wildlife, habitat and the environment all her life. She chaired the Society's outreach booth when we went to the Grants Pass Growers' Market and other venues, and has been Editor of The Siskin, Newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society, since 2000.

*Most likely the meeting will be held online via Zoom. Should a change to an in-person meeting be made, SAS will send out a notice in advance, giving the location. The Board realizes people want to be together, but there are two major deterrents: 1) an in-person meeting involves night driving, and many members would rather not drive at night; 2) the risk to members from a resurgence of Covid-19 infections, both from the Delta variant and the new Omicron variant.



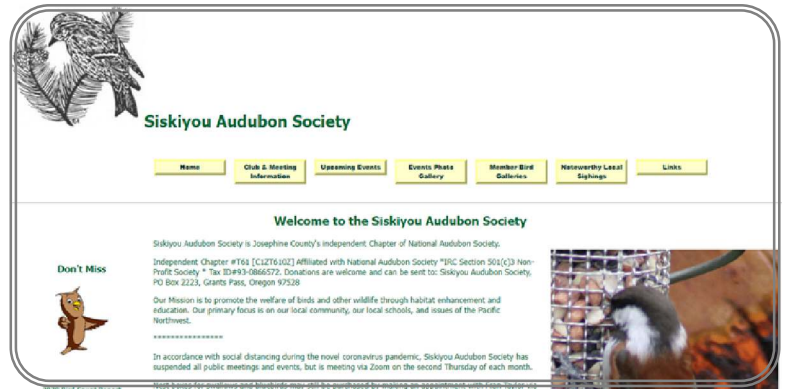
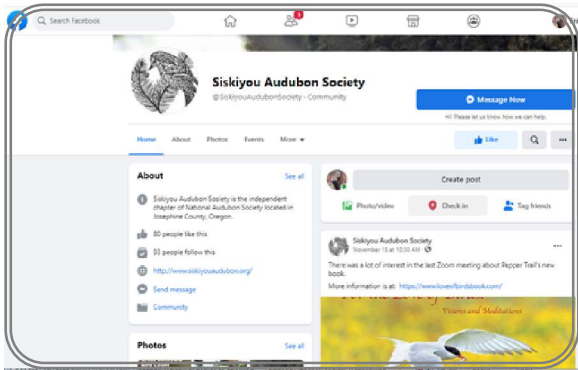
Bufflehead Ducks Photo: seabrookislandbirders.org

Our Mission . . .
is to promote the welfare of birds and other wildlife through habitat enhancement and education. Our primary focus is on our local community, our local schools, and issues of the Pacific Northwest.

Siskiyou Audubon Society Website

Members, have you used our Website or Facebook page lately? This is where www.siskiyouaudubon.org takes you:

The Facebook page looks like this:



Your Board of Directors would like to know – do you use these sites? Or recommend them to people you know? When you go to the site, do you find the information you need? How could they be made more useful? How can we improve communications with and among you, our membership?

Please consider these questions, then send your answers to Mike Klem, 1birdguy@gmail.com. He will compile the results and the Board will confer with our webmaster, Pat Etchells.

Creating “Waystations” for Monarch Butterflies

The program during our October chapter meeting via Zoom was presented by Tom Landis, Southern Oregon’s crusader for Monarch Butterflies. The talk and Power Point show included not only the life cycle/migration cycle of the butterflies, but also resources for growing “Monarch waystations” – gardens specifically for Monarchs, with nectar plants and milkweed to support their unique survival needs. Monarch butterflies are in serious decline in the Western states, so planting and maintaining these waystations is crucial for the populations to recover.



Tom also recommended the following websites for getting more information and milkweed seed: ‘Journey North’

journorth.org/monarchs; also ‘Western Monarch Advocates’ westernmonarchadvocates.com, an interstate website working to restore

the Monarch butterfly. Once on the website, you can use links to Oregon-specific information, and to suppliers of milkweed and nectar plant seed. If you want to talk with Tom directly, his email is nurseries@aol.com.

Thank you Tom Landis, for educating us about Monarch butterflies and showing us how we can help them survive.



Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar on Narrow-leaf Milkweed; Las Pilitas Nurseries laspilitas.com



Siskiyou Field Institute, “SFI,” is where people come to learn about and explore the amazing Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion, a land of steep mountains, wild rivers and unusual diversity of species and habitats right here in Josephine County. SFI is a conduit for scientists and naturalists to share their passion and knowledge with the public each year through Adult Education field courses and SFI Youth Education Programs. Our location allows all students and scholars immediate access to the world-famous serpentinite and old-growth forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou.

SFI’s Winter/Spring 2022 course brochure is now available! Sign up to receive the course brochure and join their mailing list by filling out their [online form](#) , or by mail to P O Box 207, Selma, OR 97538.

Siskiyou Audubon Society's 38th Annual Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 18, 2021

This year marks the 38th Christmas Bird Count hosted by Siskiyou Audubon Society. It is the 122nd CBC for National Audubon Society. The count began in 1900 with a handful of conservationists worried about the decline of birds due to bird feathers being high fashion adornments in hats, capes, muffs, and other clothing during the Victorian age.

In the present age, data collected during the count are submitted online via eBird. Instant results are obtained and trends in bird populations can be tabulated rapidly. This helps bird watchers, government agencies, and education to know the status of the birds of the western hemisphere.

The 120th CBC had a remarkable total of 2,646 counts including 469 from Canada, 1,992 from the United States, and 185 from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. Count circles were as far north as inside the Arctic Circle in Arctic Bay, Canada and Prudhoe Bay, Alaska; as far west as the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; and as far south as Asunción Bay, Paraguay. Count circles in the Americas included Canada, U.S.A. (including Hawaii), Mexico, all of Central America, islands in the Atlantic from Cuba to the Bahamas and Puerto Rico, and the northern parts of South America. Of particular note is a new count from Ecuador: the Isla Santa Cruz, Galápagos circle – the first ever from the marvelous natural history classroom of Las Islas Encantadas where Charles Darwin first hatched his ideas about speciation and evolution.

Siskiyou Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 18, 2021.

Compiler is Margaret James:

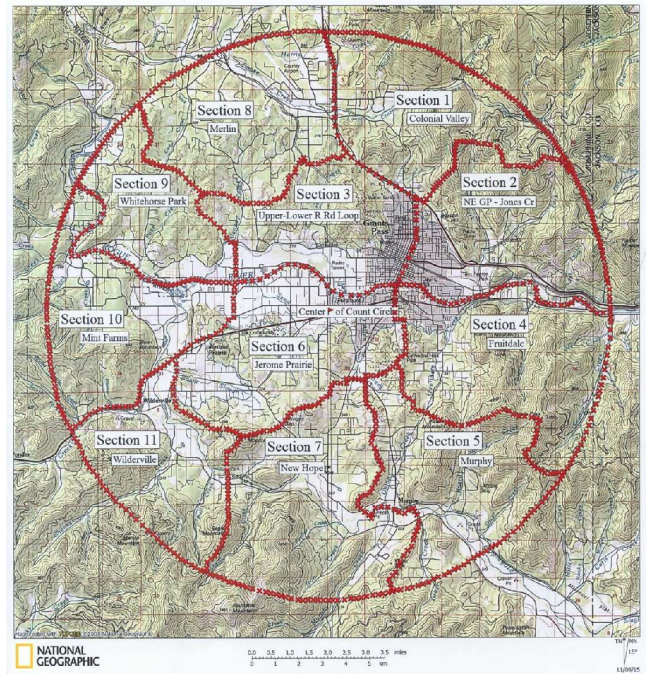
541-476-8126 or mcdjames@yahoo.com.

Volunteers have committed to counting birds in all 11 sections of the Grants Pass Count Circle. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, no groups of birders will be going out, just individuals.

Home counts are OK, too, if your home is within the Count Circle. To make sure, get in touch with Margaret before the count. A home count must be taken for a minimum of 15 minutes, and data collected must include the time of observation, weather conditions, different species observed, and highest total number of individuals observed of each species. Then submit your data to Margaret. Be sure to let her know whether the birds were seen at bird feeders or other habitat.

Multiple 15 minute observations may be made throughout the day, but submit only the highest number of birds seen at once for the whole day. For example, if one observed 3 Black-capped chickadees at a feeder at one time, and 9 at another time of day, the 9 count would be the data to submit. The numbers would not be added together. If you have any questions, call or email Margaret James.

Other CBC's in our area include Medford (Dec. 18, 2021), Ashland (Jan. 2, 2022), Port Orford, Roseburg/Sutherlin (Dec. 18), Coquille Valley, and Coos Bay.



Grants Pass CBC Circle

Audubon Welcomes Dr. Elizabeth Gray as CEO

In November, Audubon announced that Dr. Elizabeth Gray will become the organization's 11th leader as its next CEO. She has been Acting CEO since May. An ornithologist and global conservation leader, Dr. Gray will be the first woman to hold the CEO title in Audubon's 116-year history. Many thanks to those who provided feedback in the CEO search survey. We are fortunate to have an engaged network that cares deeply about Audubon's work, and we are excited for this next chapter in our history.

For more information about and from Dr. Gray, click here:

www.audubon.org/news/national-audubon-society-announces-dr-elizabeth-gray-ceo



Dr. Elizabeth Gray
Photo by Luke Franke



Great Egret
Photo by Patricia McGuire
Audubon Photo Awards

Rogue Valley Audubon First Wednesday Bird Walk Resumes

Rogue Valley Audubon is bringing back the “First Wednesday Bird Walk” with the first one to be December 1, 2021 at the Denman Wildlife Management Area near White City. Jim Hostick is the new Leader.

Walks begin at 8:30 am and end before noon. The gate will be open from 8:00 - 8:20 am. An ODFW Area Parking Permit is required, and can be purchased at the ODFW Office, 1495 E Gregory Rd, Central Point, OR 97502, at the south end of Agate Road in White City. Permits are also available from Sportsman’s Warehouse at Delta Waters and Highway 62 in Medford, or at Bi-Mart. We request that all participants be vaccinated for COVID-19. The January walk will be on January 5, 2022.



Black Phoebe
Rogue Valley Audubon

Denman Wildlife Area is approximately 5 miles north of Medford, just south of White City in Jackson County. Denman is a 1,780-acre wildlife area managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. It consists of both native and cultivated/planted grasslands, woodlands, and wetlands. The area was named after Kenneth George Denman, an attorney who lived in the Rogue Valley until his death in 1962. Denman was offered a position in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (then called the Game Commission) in 1944. In 1951, he was reappointed to the Commission and elevated to chairman a year later. Denman asked Oregon legislators to set the area aside as a wildlife preserve. In March 1963, less than a year after his death, the Denman Wildlife Refuge area was renamed in his honor.

Directions to meeting spot: We will meet at the entrance off Agate Rd. between ¼ and ½ mile north 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 ¼ to ½ 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.



California Quail
Lee Karney, USFWS



Join us February 18–21, 2022
Connect to Birds, to Nature, and with Each Other

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things. Join us, February 18–21, 2022, when the world comes together for the love of birds. Counts are taken in one’s own back yard, or with a group in a park, or in a variety of ways. More details of how to participate will be in the February/March issue of *The Siskin*.

Burrowing Owls
Photo by Erin Smith
Audubon Photography Awards



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 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.



Pine Siskin

Audubon



National Audubon Society – Join us Online at www.audubon.org

National Audubon Society membership is \$30 per year (or more), which includes membership in Siskiyou Audubon Society, Chapter T61, Code C4ZT610Z.

Also included: subscriptions to both *Audubon Magazine* and *The Siskin* newsletter.

Winter Wings Festival

February 18 - 20, 2022 Klamath Falls, Oregon

Get Ready for a 2022 Winter Wings Festival Like No Other! This 3-day Festival will be in the Klamath Basin over Presidents' Day Weekend, February 18-20, 2022 – celebrating its 43rd year.

It will be so great to reunite with many of our festival fans in person! The festival will have some new tweaks. Our working concept is to reduce the size of some of the field trips, have more walking tours, visit some new destinations, and highlight the importance of the Klamath Basin to the Pacific Flyway. Of special note are the presentations and field trips that focus on the effects of climate change and the current water situation on birds that live in and migrate through the Klamath Basin. Details on some creative, cooperative attempts to mitigate those effects will be presented. Another shift we have made is to include more female as well as younger workshop and field trip leaders and presenters.

The entire program is now online on this site. We are planning to have at least 45 in-person sessions for vaccinated attendees. You can see the keynotes, field trips, workshops, presentations and receptions being offered by clicking on the Program tab and selecting one of the sub-tabs for details. Online registration will begin in the second or third week of Dec. 2021. Onsite registration begins on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022 at 9 am at Oregon Tech in Klamath Falls.

Don't hesitate to email info@WinterWingsFest.org or call 877-541-BIRD (877-541-2473) if you have questions. Watch for details in this space for the date that registration will be available online. (The website is <https://winterwingsfest.org/> for those who do not click on links.)



American Kestrel
Painting by
Christine Elder

The Siskin

Siskiyou Audubon Society

Newsletter Number 310, December 2021 / January 2022

P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass Oregon 97528

IRC §501(c)3, Tax ID #93-0866572

Website: www.siskiyouaudubon.org

E-Mail: sisqaudubon@gmail.com



Pine Siskin
by Joy Taylor

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American Pipit
Whitehorse County Park

Photo by John Thornburg
March 2021

Siskiyou Audubon Society Directory

Six issues of *The Siskin*, newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society ("SAS"), are sent out each year by postal mail & email. Now: Due to suspension of activities, some issues of *The Siskin* may be skipped or combined. Send address corrections & items for publication to Editor, P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass, OR 97528; phone 541-955-2934 or e-mail to sisqaudubon@gmail.com. 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 will conduct monthly Chapter meetings on the Zoom internet platform, on the 2nd Thursday each month September through June, except July & August. The SAS Board of Directors continues to meet monthly by socially distant means and via Zoom during this pandemic.

Officers

President: Karen Welden.....	Term Expires June 2023
Vice-President: Phil Hicks.....	" " June 2022
Secretary: Margaret James.....	" " June 2022
Treasurer: Susan Perry.....	" " June 2023

Directors

Susan Bush.....	" " June 2022
Mike Klem.....	" " June 2022
Pat Webb.....	" " June 2023

Committees and Chairpersons

Education – [Vacant]

Executive Assistant – Marsha Hicks

Nest Box Building – Lee Webb & Phil Hicks

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

Revised July 1, 2021

Contact us at
sisqaudubon@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Thurs. Dec. 9: Siskiyou Audubon Chapter Meeting by Zoom, 6:30 p.m. Open to all members. Link to the meeting will be sent by email to those who get *The Siskin* by email. Others interested, call or email Lee Webb to get on the list: lowebb@charter.net

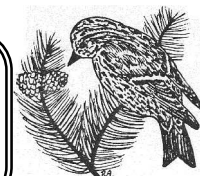
Wed. Dec. 1: Rogue Valley Audubon First Wednesday Bird Walk at Denman Wildlife Area

Sat. Dec. 18: SAS Christmas Bird Count. Contact Compiler Margaret James mcddjames@yahoo.com

Thurs. Jan. 13, 2022: SAS Chapter Meeting by Zoom Program: "Passerines" by John Taylor

Coming on Presidents' Day Weekend, February 2022: Great Backyard Bird Count, Everywhere; and Winter Wings Festival, Klamath Falls

Siskiyou Audubon Society is
Independent Chapter No. T61
Affiliated with National Audubon
Society, www.audubon.org



Pine Siskin
by Rosie Anderson