Siskiyou Audubon Society meets on the second Thursday each month from September through May, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We meet at the Unitarian Universalists church of Grants Pass, 129 NW ‘E’ St., Grants Pass. From 6 to 6:30 we talk birds and socialize. Then at 6:30 we have Society business and announcements. Then the Program begins at about 6:45. 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!

Annual June Potluck Picnic
June 8, 2023 at the Home Valley Bank Picnic Shelter, Reinhart Volunteer Park
5:00 p.m. - Dusk

The Home Valley Bank picnic shelter is located near the Pedestrian Bridge and the pond, at the far end of the park from the entrance. Arrive at 5 p.m. and visit with each other & go birdwatching. We'll plan to eat at 6 p.m., and the induction of new Officers and Directors will follow.

The Society will provide picnic chicken, and all attending are requested to bring a dish to share. Please bring your own cutlery, plate and napkin, and perhaps a chair. You might want mosquito repellent, as well.

Please RSVP to Karen Welden at 541-226-9607.

We'll need to know how much chicken to buy, and have an some idea of the kinds of food being brought to share, so we can balance things out.

3rd Tuesday Bird Walks
June 20, July 18 and August 15 at Reinhart Volunteer Park
8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. approx.
Fran Taylor leads a bird walk in Reinhart Volunteer Park in Grants Pass on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meet about 7:50 a.m. in the parking lot next to the Pedestrian Bridge. We'll walk out on the bridge first, then from the bridge area, we'll look at the ponds, then walk the riverside trail downstream and end up at the baseball field.

Questions? Email sisqaudubon@gmail.com, phone Fran at 541-291-0506. Watch the Grants Pass Daily Courier & our website for more details.

The mostly level walk is about a mile and takes about 2-1/2 hours. It's a walk, not a hike. Bring binoculars, a snack and your water. Binoculars will be on hand to use if you don't have your own.

Next Chapter Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023
6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalists Church
**2022-2023 Activities Summary**

June 30, 2023 marks the end of the fiscal and program year for Siskiyou Audubon Society, the Josephine County chapter of Audubon. Although we are few in number, we have significantly enhanced people’s knowledge of birds and wildlife through our monthly programs and our outreach activities. A sampling of 2022-2023 activities follows:

- In July, we received a donation from Revella Ruschmeyer, of cedar lumber left over from a newly built fence. The wood is stored until we can hold a “cutting party” to trim the boards to the sizes needed for our birdhouses. In August, Karen Welden presented Revella with a birdhouse and a platform feeder made out of the wood.

- A number of bird walks were held throughout the year – from 3rd Tuesday Bird Walks in Reinhart Volunteer Park (monthly), to requests from Siskiyou Field Institute’s Birds & Brews Festival (May ‘22), Valley of the Rogue State Park (August), Pacific Botanicals Company in Wilderville (April ‘23), and Deb Berg’s Grants Pass High School Ecology Class (Whitehorse Park - April ‘23).

- After holding Zoom meetings only during the Covid-19 pandemic, in September 2022 we began meeting in person at our new venue – the Unitarian Universalists Church at 129 NW E’ Street in Grants Pass. Large enough to hold our typical attendance, it has comfortable chairs, yet is small enough to allow speakers to speak without a microphone. Its audio-visual equipment makes it easy to show programs, too. During the September Chapter meeting, Susan Bush presented “How to Id Birds - for Beginners,” and John Taylor gave a short bird quiz.

- Siskiyou Audubon joined Roger Brant and Linda Naydol in February to survey the area for a Blue Bird Nest Box Trail in the Forks State Park in the Illinois valley. Their group purchased 12 nest boxes to get the trail started.

- We solicited binocular donations through ads in The Daily Courier newspaper and *The Siskin* newsletter. Several pair were received (some of which need cleaning and repair). These will be made available for classes and for bird walks, for folks who don’t have their own.

- October’s program was “Falcons - Rulers of the Sky,” by John Taylor.

- In November we saw two YouTube videos: “Close Encounters of a Bird Kind, Bird Watching Western Oregon Wildlife Refuges” by Jon Hazen with music by John Doan; and “Sanderlings on an Oregon Coast Beach,” by Jody and Chris of ‘JC Journey’ YouTube channel. We also learned of a new feature from the Audubon Society, “Bird Migration Explorer,” a first-of-its-kind, interactive, digital platform that visualizes the heroic annual travels of more than 450 North American migratory species.

- When Dwain Smallwood passed away on June 7, 2022, SAS decided to honor his many hours of volunteering with nest box building – both with kids and at our work days – by putting up a memorial nest box – a Flicker/Kestrel box. Suzanne Calderon, Dwain’s widow, came too, and the box was installed at Reinhart Volunteer Park on November 10.

- Christmas Bird Count followed the December 8th Christmas Potluck Dinner. There were 29 volunteers for the count on December 17, 2022. All eleven sections of our Circle were counted. 101 Species were found. You can get the details at [https://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx](https://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx), click on Current Year and click on Results by Count. Then select United States, Oregon and scroll through to find the Grants Pass circle. Or refer to the February/March issue of *The Siskin*.

- January brought us another donation of wood for making birdhouses, this one from Syd Maplesden of Sam’s Valley. His grandsons helped Karen W., Lee W. and Pat W. load the wood to bring it back to G.P. In appreciation, we took him some nest boxes and bat boxes.
2022-2023 Activities Summary (Cont’d.)

♦ SAS has scaled back its Nest Box Building with Kids program to only small groups. We held 2 events at Brenda Patton’s ‘Enchanted Forest Farm’ (in the mountains of Southern Oregon up Shan Creek near Grants Pass). In October ’22, we built at Brenda’s with EarthReach Camp kids (aged 8 to 12) and ‘On Ramp Forestry Training Camp’ for ages 16 to 24 in March ‘23. We also guided home-schooled kids at Pacifica Garden on June 29 and July 8, 2022, and May 24, 2023, and had a small turnout at the Galice Garden Faire on May 13-14, 2023.

♦ In January 2023, Siskiyou Audubon’s annual report to National Audubon was submitted. This report details the activities our chapter engaged in during the prior fiscal year, and certifies us as a Chapter of Audubon, and garners us a $700 deposit into our checking account from National.

♦ For the first time since 2020, we were able to hold our birdhouse mass-production day at Hidden Valley High School. On February 25, 2023, about 400 finished nest boxes were produced by 38 volunteers, and wood was cut for many kits. THANKS to everyone who participated! We wholesaled hundreds of boxes to Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford and to Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland. The remainder were put into our storage unit, along with the unused lumber, to be used as needed in the future. We also donated some of the unused lumber to the Hidden Valley High Wood Shop.

♦ April saw Mike & Kathy Klem visit Highland Elementary School in Grants Pass to repair and replace nest boxes at the school’s garden. Some boxes were just worn out, others had been vandalized, since they were first installed a dozen or so years ago.

♦ SAS sold nest boxes at Grants Pass Growers’ Market on April 15 and at the Galice Garden Faire on Mothers’ Day weekend, May 13-14, 2023. Several folks bought some directly from us via appointments with Fran Taylor.

♦ On May 25, Karen Welden met with Erin Morton’s Elemental Forest School class at Whitehorse County Park to construct bird feeders and learn about birds.

♦ During the May Chapter meeting, new officers and directors for Siskiyou Audubon Society were elected. The resulting new Board of Directors for the SAS year July 2023 through June 2024 is:

President: Lee Webb (2023-2025)
Vice-President: Phil Hicks (2022-2024)
Secretary: Margaret James (2022-2024)
Treasurer: Mike Klem (2023-2025)
Directors: Susan Bush (2022-2024)
            Pat Webb (2023-2025)
            Fran Taylor (for one year 2023-2024; as Mike Klem’s term was 2022-2024)

Induction of the new officers and directors will take place at the June 8 Potluck Picnic.

More Activities:
January 20, 2023:

Volunteer Jeff standing next to SAS Nest Box installed at Gilbert Creek Park – Rogue Valley Council of Governments project. Photo by Fran Taylor.

November 5, 2022:

Photo Courtesy of Central Oregon Daily.com

July 8, 2022 at Pacifica
Small girl with binoculars.

Erratum

In the April/May issue of The Siskin, the photo on page 7 is incorrectly captioned “Monarch on Showy Milkweed.” That butterfly is actually an Oregon Swallowtail. Monarch butterflies are orange and black, like this one on narrow-leaf milkweed.
2023 Spring Migrants

Dennis Vroman reported the first Rufous Hummingbird of 2023 on February 26, writing, “Seen at 12:15 pm. Obvious male, see photo (not the best, but leaves little doubt as to what it is)”

More sightings this spring:

Rufous Hummingbird at the Vroman home

April 4, 2022
Black-headed Grosbeak - Joan Abrakas' Yard off Dowell Rd.

April 16, 2023
Purple Martin pair at Lake Selmac
Marlowe Kissinger Photo
And on April 28
Margaret James and Fran Taylor went to Lake Selmac and saw these amazing birds.

3rd Tuesday Bird Walk Results for April & May 2023
5 Observers in April, 6 in May at Reinhart Volunteer Park, Grants Pass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>April 18</th>
<th>May 16</th>
<th>2-Month*</th>
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<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood Duck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Shoveler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ring-necked Duck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesser Scaup</td>
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<td>Bufflehead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Merganser</td>
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<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
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<td>Osprey</td>
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<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
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<td>Rock Pigeon</td>
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<td>Eurasian Collared-Dove</td>
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<td>Anna's Hummingbird</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
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<td>Western Wood-Pewee</td>
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<td>Pacific-slope Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Ash-throated Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Western Kingbird</td>
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<td>California Scrub-Jay</td>
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<td>American Crow</td>
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<td>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</td>
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<td>European Starling</td>
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<td>Yellow Warbler</td>
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<td>Yellow-breasted Chat</td>
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<td>Western Tanager</td>
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<td>Spotted Towhee</td>
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<td>House Sparrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-crowned Sparrow</td>
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<td>Golden-crowned Sparrow</td>
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<td>Song Sparrow</td>
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<td>Chipping Sparrow</td>
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<td>Bullock's Oriole</td>
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<td>Lesser Goldfinch</td>
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<td>American Goldfinch</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Number of Species</th>
<th>99</th>
<th>95</th>
<th>105</th>
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Notes:
Canada Geese had goslings in both months.
2 Lesser Scaup hens were preening on a log in the river.
A Lesser Scaup drake was in the pond.
Swallows were abundant in both months. Some observations were made using the Merlin app to listen for the calls.
Cliff Swallows were flying in and out from under the Pedestrian Bridge, apparently nesting there.
Wood Ducks: A hen and 9 ducklings were swimming; 5 drakes were observed in a different area.
Osprey: A head could be seen in May in the nest atop a light standard at Agnew-Lytle Baseball Field.
Events

Camping provided/individual-based:
July 15-September 15 (weekly): Greater Sandhill Crane
(Volunteers can stay for 1-week or possibly more.)

Camping provided/group-based:
June 21-24: Interior Snowy Plover Survey
August 16-19: Fall Shorebird Survey
August 30-September 3: Blitzen River Mussel Survey

The Siskin

Snowy Plover
Keenan Adams,
USFWS

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, June 1-4, 2023
East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) has a new website: https://www.ecaudubon.org/. Visit it to get details and to register for the annual Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. Registration will take place in early April, so check the website for the date it opens. Named after Dean Hale, who was killed in a car accident in 2012, the festival is part of Dean's legacy as a birder par excellence and consummate conservationist and teacher.

There are 11 nesting species of woodpeckers in the area and there is a good chance to see them all, as well as lots of other cool birds. Centered in Sisters, Oregon, the Festival is hosted, organized and run by East Cascades Audubon Society volunteers.

Harney County Bird Count Opportunities
Portland Audubon has a suite of opportunities for volunteers to come to Harney County and help count birds this year. To get more information, please get in touch with Theresa ‘Bird’ Wicks, PhD., Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator for Portland Audubon, at https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/ or 541-450-7560.

Camping provided/group-based:
June 21-24: Interior Snowy Plover Survey
August 16-19: Fall Shorebird Survey
August 30-September 3: Blitzen River Mussel Survey

Camping provided/individual-based:
July 15-September 15 (weekly): Greater Sandhill Crane
(Volunteers can stay for 1-week or possibly more.)
Excerpts from Wildlife Field Notes by Eleanor Pugh ©1999
Butterflies

A butterfly is a fragile animal. In order to continue existence, it must maintain an unbroken thread of life through the most extreme conditions it’s likely to face. The adult, in most cases, cements its eggs to a certain plant that will serve to feed the larvae when they hatch. This must be timed so that the plant may hold the eggs securely throughout winter and blustery spring weather until the plant growth is young and tender – just right for the eating state as a caterpillar. Or the caterpillar assumes the pupal stage and is protected by the soil or a touch case provided.

Most caterpillars are fastidious eaters, sticking to one kind of plant, sometimes a single species. If we are to continue to see and enjoy butterflies around us, we must know and conserve patches of the favored larval plants. Let’s consider this, for we might often think of these important plants as common weeds. These are not the same as the nectar plants that the adult butterflies and hummingbirds go for. Often, too, we gardeners may be dismayed to find that caterpillars have devoured much of some of our flowering plants or shrubs. Let’s learn and be more understanding, by watching to see what emerges.

Some trees, such as alder, ash, willow, dogwood, oak and cherry are host plants for caterpillars. Some Elfin and Angle wings [sic] feed on azaleas and blueberries, which are also popular with many other larval butterflies. At lower levels in the environment, there are many grasses, clovers, lupines, and violets that host caterpillars of many kinds. Little Blues, Hairstreaks and Fritillary Butterflies (some of our very pretty ones) munch on all kinds of violets (Viola spp.) So if you find some green slug-like “worms” among your violets, spare them!

Plants in the cabbage and mustard families are favored hosts of Western and Pine Whites. The ferny-leaved carrot family of plants generally are favored by the larval Swallowtails. And find the most spectacular Red Admiral and Milbert’s Admiral on the unloved nettle plants, of which there are very few in Josephine County. So, if you know of some nettle patch, take good care of it! Milkweeds, too, are quite scarce – and you know who likes them – Monarch Butterflies.

Then, you can enjoy the behavioral antics of these beauties. Two similar butterflies flying upward spirally are probably rival males in battle. The Red Admiral that may sit on your shoulder is drinking of your sweat. The pugnacious Skipper flying in your face as you bend closer is defending his special flower territory. And if you stand in a sunny lane or driveway between trees, you may find butterflies patrolling past you, back and forth. Enjoy them this summer.

Diversity In Wildlife Habitat

We hear a lot about “diversity” these days, and we probably have a good idea what is meant: variety, in the vegetational sense in particular, a variety of plants, as opposed to strictly managed tree planting, etc. But let’s look more closely at the need for diversity to try for a clearer picture of what’s lacking, and what we might do about it.

In watching wildlife, what is needed for wildlife habitat? Of course, we understand the general need for food, clean water, and shelter. Is this something that the “new forestry” should take care of? Is there anything that we ordinary citizens can do to help? If we consider the new emphasis on “neotropical migrant birds” and their worrisome decline in numbers, how does that concern us? Let’s remember that “our” Oregon migrants do come from the western coastal areas of Central and South America, largely. This means from a diversity of wintering habitat, including most scarcely, dry forest, wetlands, and upland cloud forest. To relate these three to similar habitat here, think of our mixed evergreen forest areas, all kinds of wetlands, and our coastal humid forest – and what do we offer these hard-pressed migrants for breeding? A shortage of these here, also!

So, what can we do? It seems to me that each of us can find ways to act locally on this global problem, if we think about it. What are other indicators of even small successes as we work at it? Numbers of small birds that seek natural supplies of seeds and insects, butterflies that must have the right plants for their larval stage - as well as nectar flowers for adults - are two obvious indicators of even small successes as we watch for them and enjoy them this summer. If we look around Whitehorse County Park, listen to the bird song and see so many little birds, we know this is good habitat. Why can’t we encourage more of this type of diversity close to our homes? Can’t we put up with some mosquitos, knowing that the small wet places do breed them and that they are prime food for birds? Think “can do” and we can!

I live for the day when I hear friends invite their friends to – “Come out and walk with me in my wild garden;” “Let’s go watch the butterflies” – hear a small child come in and ask Granny to “Come see what I found,” and show her the jewel-like chrysalis of a Monarch caterpillar hanging in the blackberry bushes next to a group of milkweeds! Surely, we can do, and encourage, these kinds of activities. Think what a different environment this offers for our young people to experience, also.

Can’t we think “native” when it comes to landscaping? Why can’t we resist the European urge to “tidy things up” and leave some weedy corners in the yard to go to seed for birds and bugs? Why can’t we note and let caterpillars devour some violets, willows, carrot family plants, etc., so they can become lovely butterflies? Why can’t we encourage noxious plants like nettles to grow undisturbed to provide for the larval needs of the gorgeous Red Admiral and Milbert’s Tortoiseshells? Why can’t more of us deliberately plant more native wild flowers, shrubs like wild cherry, and “weeds” that the wild things need? It’s a different kind of gardening, that, once established, persists without care, and little if any water, season after season – and is so vital for food and shelter of the right sorts.

We can, if we put our minds to it, and perhaps do a little studying up on how-to. This summer I’ll bet we can quietly start some such activities. Let’s do it!

— June 1994, Eleanor Pugh

The Siskin

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April / May 2023
Audubon Society Membership Applications

Siskiyou Audubon is a not-for-profit 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 – PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE FORM.

Siskiyou Audubon Society Membership Application - 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.

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

Or mail your check for $20 or more to
National Audubon Society, Attn: Donations, 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014.
Please reference Siskiyou Audubon Society, Chapter T61, Code C4ZT610Z.
Included are subscriptions to both Audubon Magazine and The Siskin newsletter.

The National Audubon Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our federal tax ID number is 13-1624102

Who Was Eleanor Pugh?

Those of you who have joined Siskiyou Audubon in recent years may wonder, who was this Eleanor Pugh who wrote Wildlife Field Notes? Well, Eleanor was a special person. According to her obituary appearing in The News-Review, the daily newspaper for Douglas County, on October 3, 2016, Eleanor Ann Young Pugh was born in December of 1921, and was an adventurous woman who was an Ohio farm girl, took flying lessons like Amelia Earhart, and earned a BS in Chemistry 1943 from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She married fellow chemist Robert Willmar Pugh in June of 1944, sharing chemistry work with him at Eastman Kodak, Rochester, NY, and at the Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge, TN. Following the use of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, when they understood what their chemistry had helped create, the family moved west where Bob found his life work as a California State Park forest ranger in natural history interpretation and administration.

Eleanor learned woodworking and cabinetry at her grandfather’s knee and always enjoyed tools and hardware. She made furniture, children’s toys, and carved intarsia scenes from nature. She was also a life-long birder, active in Audubon societies, who birded by ear, recorded bird song professionally, sold cassette tapes and CDs of bird song, and sent her recorded material to the Cornell University Ornithological Laboratory, Ithaca, NY, at their request. Her spiritual strength was found in Nature through her bird studies, through photography of dragonflies and butterflies, through intellectual discussion and reading, and as a state park forest ranger’s wife. She co-founded the Symbiota Land Conservancy/Trust and Lichen Intentional Community, and was founder of the Golden Coyote Wetlands, all of these in Wolf Creek, OR. She led Elder Hostel tours. She assisted the BLM in creating an Area of Special Ecological Concern (ASEC) atop King Mountain, and she wrote and published “Wildlife Field Notes” for Siskiyou Audubon Society.

Golden Coyote Wetlands
The Siskin
Siskiyou Audubon Society
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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 to Membership, and items for publication to Editor, both at P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass, OR 97528, phone 541-955-2934 or e-mail sisqaudubon@gmail.com. Articles and photos submitted 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 2nd Thursday each month September through June, but not July & August. The SAS Board of Directors meets monthly except December, June and July.

Officers
President: Lee Webb. .......... Term Expires June 2025
Vice-President: Phil Hicks. .......... June 2024
Secretary: Margaret James. .......... June 2024
Treasurer: Mike Klem. .......... June 2025

Directors
Susan Bush. .......... June 2024
Fran Taylor. .......... June 2024
Pat Webb. .......... June 2025

Committees and Chairpersons
Education: [Vacant] Effective July 1, 2023
Executive Assistant: Marsha Hicks
Nest Box Building: Lee Webb & Phil Hicks Contact us at
Programs: John Taylor sisqaudubon@gmail.com
Membership: Lee Webb & Phil Hicks
Web & Media: Pat Etchells
Ornithologist: Dennis Vroman
Publications: Newsletter Editor – Fran Taylor;
.... Mailing List – Phil Hicks;
.... Distribution – Officers and Board members

Upcoming Events
Thur.-Sun. June 1-4"Dean Hale Woodpecker Fest., Sisters, OR
Thur. June 8 - SAS Annual Potluck Picnic & bird walk at
Reinhart Volunteer Park, Grants Pass
Tues. June 20: SAS 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk at Reinhart

Tues. July 18: SAS 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk

Audubon Society of Portland Harney County Bird Surveys –
June 21 thru early September: see page 5.

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