Our Mission . . .

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

Siskiyou Audubon Society meets on the 2nd Thursday each month from September through May, from 6:00 - 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!

Chapter Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023
6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalists Church
Program: “Gardening for the Bees (and the Birds)”
by David Kollen of the Xerces Society

Dave Kollen of Brookings is a Xerces Society Ambassador and in that role is involved in educational and outreach work. Additionally he is an Oregon Master Naturalist and Master Melittologist Apprentice. His involvement in community science includes the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas, the California Bumble Bee Atlas, and the Oregon Bee Atlas.

His program for us will give a brief introduction to the Xerces Society, then introduce pollinators and their importance in natural systems and our food system, native bee diversity and natural history, butterfly and moth natural history, as well as threats facing pollinators in today’s world. He will discuss how we can play a role in pollinator conservation, both in general and in our own landscapes and communities. Also, for those interested in going above and beyond, Dave will discuss opportunities for getting involved in community science activities.

Free Raffle!

New this season, there will be a free raffle! This being a new Chapter Meeting activity, details will be at the meeting. Come and join us.

Third Tuesday Bird Walks Resume September 19
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. In September, meet in the parking lot next to the Pedestrian Bridge at 8:20 a.m. (As autumn progresses into winter and daylight begins later each day, subsequent walks will start at 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. For updates, watch our website, this newsletter, and the Daily Courier.)

The mostly level walk is about a mile and takes about 2 hours. Bring a snack and your water, and binoculars. If you don’t have your own binoculars, there will be some “spares” available to use. We’ll walk out on the bridge first, then follow the riverside trail downstream toward the fly fishing pond, then to the Agnew-Lytle baseball field, and finally walk back via the big pond to our starting point.

Questions? Email sisqaudubon@gmail.com, phone Fran at 541-291-0506.

Chapter Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2023
Program: “A History of Oregon Ornithology”
by Alan Contreras

Join us when Alan Contreras visits to promote his new book A History of Oregon Ornithology.
Chapter News

Outreach Events

From spring through July, the Siskiyou Audubon Nest Box Building Team worked with numerous small groups for nest box building with kids.

On May 8, in a class for home-schooled kids at Pacifica, the older kids built 10 nest boxes. Meanwhile, the younger kids built bird feeders from ½-gallon cartons. These same kids built their own “nest” on the property near the small pond.

Also in May, the Mothers’ Day Galice Garden Faire hosted kids who built 18 boxes. Lee and Fran had a bird talk with children at the Imagine That! preschool at Bethany Presbyterian Church on June 14th. We provided 15 finished nest boxes which the kids later decorated. Friend of Audubon Keith Huitt took 30 kits to build with some summer camp kids near Lassen National Park in California. Three events were held in July – 7th at Raptor Creek Farm (Jo. Co. Food Bank farm) with young adult interns; 15th and 22nd at Tablerock Foundation Ranch (Brenda Patton’s ranch) up Shan Creek Road. The first group was middle-schoolers, and they also constructed dangling bird feeders (thanks, Karen Welden). Second group were high-schoolers. They were all very interested, attentive & polite.

Nest Box Parts & Kits Inventory & Work Parties

As of August 16, we have 140 standard built bird houses and 90 kits available. We have enough rough lumber in storage to provide for another year. We will be organizing work parties to cut the rough lumber to size.

To be on the list for notices of these “cutting days” please call or email Phil Hicks [pchicks66@gmail.com; 541-474-4457]; or Lee Webb [541-479-6859; lowebb@charter.net].
Member Input Sought for New Cavity-Nesting Birds Brochure

Siskiyou Audubon Society Members! Siskiyou Audubon wants your input – photos and information – for a new publication being planned.

You may be familiar with our 2019 publication, “Some Common Birds of Josephine County,” a full-color photo identification guide, 4 pages on one folded sheet of paper. (Image of front cover at right.) It has been very popular with birdwatchers and educators.

Now we are proposing to do a similar brochure on the cavity nesting birds of Josephine County.

The following lists of cavity nesting birds is from our pocket-folded “Checklist of Josephine County Birds,” 2021 update.

### Cavity-Nesting Birds of Josephine County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wood Duck</th>
<th>Purple Martin (?)</th>
<th>Bufflehead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Merganser</td>
<td>Tree Swallow</td>
<td>Common Goldeneye &amp; Barrow’s Goldeneye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>Violet-green Swallow</td>
<td>Hooded Merganser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Kestrel</td>
<td>Black-capped Chickadee</td>
<td>Peregrine Falcon (rock cliff cavities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn Owl</td>
<td>Mountain Chickadee</td>
<td>Chestnut-backed Chickadee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Screech-Owl</td>
<td>Red-breasted Nuthatch</td>
<td>Flammulated Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pygmy Owl</td>
<td>White-breasted Nuthatch</td>
<td>Northern Saw-whet Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Spotted Owl</td>
<td>Pygmy Nuthatch</td>
<td>Vaux’s Swift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barred Owl</td>
<td>Brown Creeper</td>
<td>Williamson’s Sapsucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis's Woodpecker</td>
<td>Bewick's Wren</td>
<td>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acorn Woodpecker</td>
<td>House Wren</td>
<td>Red-naped Sapsucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-breasted Sapsucker</td>
<td>Pacific Wren</td>
<td>White-headed Woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downy Woodpecker</td>
<td>Western Bluebird</td>
<td>Black-backed Woodpecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
<td>Mountain Bluebird</td>
<td>Cavity-making is obligatory for woodpeckers, as it is part of their courtship ritual.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pacific-slope Flycatcher</th>
<th>European Starling</th>
<th>House Sparrow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ash-throated Flycatcher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Types of Cavities:

Cavities may be holes in trees, holes in snags, holes in old logs on the ground or nest boxes like the ones Siskiyou Audubon makes. Some birds prefer cavities found in rock walls or riverbanks. Brown Creepers prefer a niche, or a small space between the bark scales of an old pine tree. Wood Ducks like holes in trees, or nest boxes, that are up to 60 feet high.

Siskiyou Audubon needs a Society Member to help in designing and completing this project. Most needed are photographs and layout assistance. The new brochure will probably be only one or two pages, instead of four. There may be room to include more life history information, instead of just the name of the bird. New ideas are needed, and we want the new brochure to be as attractive and useful as our original effort. Please review this idea, let us have your comments & help.

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2023-2024 Photography & Birding Tours

Siskiyou Audubon member Voyla Steves sent an email about upcoming birding tours now available. She wrote, “This message is from a tour leader I traveled with some years ago. He has expanded his tours by adding experienced guides. If you visit his website with reports and photos from many tours, you will see that there are many excellent choices.” She goes on to say, “But, I should make it clear that they are not just birding tours. They are photographer tours for all kinds of wildlife. But that is all made clear in his website.” “Well, enjoy pursuing the website with all the wonderful photographs, even if you aren’t interested in a trip. Best wishes, Voyla”

### 2023 Photo Tours and Workshops Available:

- **Brazil Atlantic Rainforest**, September 18-29, 2023; **Yellowstone Wildlife**, September 27-October 4, 2023;
- **Ecuador Birds**, October 7-21, 2023; **Kalahari Mammals and Birds**, October 9-23, 2023 (2 spots left);
- **Kenya Birds and Wildlife**, November 1-15, 2023 (2 rooms left); **Spain Lynx and Raptors**, November 27-December 9, 2023;
- **Pumas and Penguins of Patagonia**, Nov 28-Dec 9, 2023 (1 spot left); **North Peru Birds**, December 1-13, 2023;

Nate Chappell, Trogon Photo Tours, Inc., P.O. Box 1505, Fresno, TX 77455, website: nchappell@trogontours.net.
Obituary - Esther Marple  
August 29, 1938 - July 09, 2021

Long-time Siskiyou Audubon Society member Marple (Esther Marie Marple) passed away peacefully on July 9, 2021. She was born to Elmer and Luella Kivett on August 29, 1938 in Salem, Oregon. Her older sister Phyllis and brother Richard died before her.

Marple lived an adventurous life filled with flowers, art, music, travel and a joy of living. She could do most everything and was always seeking to learn something new. She married and raised 3 children, Marvin, Margaret & David. They helped her raise gardens, flowers, sheep and chickens among other things. She was her children’s best support and cheerleader, and taught them all the tools to live a good life, and how to be strong through anything. She is survived by her three children, 8 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and many friends in many places.

Marple traveled to exotic places including Tibet. An avid birder, she took her binoculars wherever she went. She has been missed by her Audubon friends since moving to Wyoming to live near her daughter several years ago. Arrangements were under the care of Sheridan Funeral Home, and online condolences may still be made to www.sheridanfuneral.com.

Nearly 3 Billion Birds Gone!

I’ve had several calls this past spring and summer from folks who say they have always had lots of birds and now there are few to none. They ask me, “Why?”

Well, folks, I hate to be dismal, but this is the reality of what you have read and heard about in documentaries, shows and reports when they say, “There are fewer birds in the world now than what we have known.” This is the reality of “the number of birds is down.” So when the chickadees come in ones and twos instead of flocks, when a particular species just doesn’t show up at your feeder or nest box any more, you don’t hear birdsong in the morning, this is what is meant.


“The-first-ever comprehensive assessment of net population changes in the U.S. and Canada reveals across-the-board declines that scientists call “staggering.” All told, the North American bird population is down by 2.9 billion breeding adults, with devastating losses among birds in every biome. Forests alone have lost 1 billion birds. Grassland bird populations collectively have declined by 53%, or another 720 million birds.”

A Living Bird article by Gustave Axelson dated September 19, 2019 can be read in full at the allaboutbirds.org website on this page: news/vanishing-1-in-4-birds-gone.

In the 1800’s and 1900’s when coal was the primary fossil fuel of the day and coal mines were dangerous places due to noxious gases that seeped from the coal, the miners took caged canaries with them into the mines. The canaries would succumb to the gases before the humans did, giving the humans warning to get out of the mine. Now our “canaries” are dying out by the millions, primarily because of human development on Planet Earth for decades. The observation of the loss of birds is our warning. The modern way of life is not supportive of life on the planet – birds, plants, animals, fish, and humans.

What can be done? Each of us can reduce the use of chemicals in the home and garden, let some weeds grow, live frugally, reuse and recycle, and conserve energy and water as much as possible.

~ Fran Taylor

Some Amazing Bird Behavior Photos


Blue-gray Gnatcatcher mobbing an immature Red-tail Hawk www.audubon.org
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

Bring Birds to Your Yard with Native Plants

Did you know that adding native plants to your yard, balcony, or garden can help brighten up your green space while also providing food and shelter for your favorite birds?

Native plants are naturally low maintenance, help ease the impact of climate change, and attract the birds you love. They also support a host of other beneficial wildlife: pollinators critical to the whole web of life. But what to plant? Find out with our native plants database. Just enter your zip code! With enhanced bird customization, easy filtering of plants, and additional resources in your community, you'll find everything you need to get up and grow.

~National Audubon

Try it out, your Editor put in our Siskiyou Audubon email and our 97526 zip code. The list of 60 plants that came up gave both common and scientific plant name, description and cultural notes, and illustrations of the birds that use the plants. A few of the plants that came up: Arrow-Leaf Balsamroot, Ash-Leaf Maple (Acer negundo), Big-Leaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum), Bluebunch Fescue, Cardinal Catchfly, and Coyote Mint.

The website also has a “Buy Now” button, which brings up two links: one for local native plant nurseries and one for Amazon.com. The local nurseries button returned an interactive map. For southern Oregon, four local nurseries came up, one of which is wholesale only. They are: Plant Oregon in Talent, Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery in Talent, Silver Springs Nursery, Inc. (Wholesale Only) in Jacksonville, and Forest Farm in Williams. Links to these companies are included. Check out these sites and add some natives to your yard.

~Fran Taylor

Arrow-leaf Balsamroot
American Goldfinch on Purple Coneflower

Photo: Will Stuart

Photo: Will Stuart
Pine Siskin
by Rosie Anderson

Siskiyou Audubon Society
Newsletter Number 320 - September 2023

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Upcoming Events

- Wed. 9/6: Rogue Valley Audubon 1st Wednesday Bird Walk, Denman Wildlife Management Area
- Thurs. 9/14: Siskiyou Audubon Chapter Meeting
- Tues. 9/19: SAS 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk, Reinhart Park GP
- Wed. 10/4: RVAS 1st Wednesday Bird Walk
- Thurs. 10/12: SAS Chapter Meeting
- Tues. 10/17: SAS 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk, Reinhart Park GP

Hummingbirds
Anna’s at Left, Rufous at Right
Photo by Phil Hicks 2009

The Siskin
Siskiyou Audubon Society
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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

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

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