The Siskin

Newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society, Josephine County, Oregon

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 and have a free Raffle. Then at 6:30 we have Society business and announcements. The Program begins at about 6:45. In December we hold a holiday Potluck Dinner at a separate location, and in June a Potluck Picnic. Coffee and refreshments are served at our informal meetings. We hope to see you there!

Christmas Potluck Dinner & Chapter Party
Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Parish Hall
Please RSVP!

This year we’ll hold our Christmas Potluck Dinner & Party in the parish hall of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 224 NW ‘D’ St., Grants Pass, rather than at our usual meeting place. The Society will furnish a baked ham, while you, Members and guests, are asked to bring the rest of the food and trimmings. Coffee & tea will be provided. If you want other beverages, please bring your own.

There is no sign-up sheet, but please RSVP to Marsha Hicks (541-474-4457) or Fran Taylor (541-291-0506) so we will know how much ham we’ll need. A gift exchange will be held. To participate, bring an ornament valued at up to $10, wrapped as a gift. There may be other activities or surprises, too.

2023 Christmas Bird Counts
Grants Pass: Saturday, December 16
Ashland: Sunday, December 17
Medford: Saturday, December 30
For CBC Details See Page 3 and the National Audubon website
[https://www.audubon.org/answers-your-top-questions-about-christmas-bird-count]

3rd Tuesday Bird Walks at Reinhart Volunteer Park
December 19, 2023 9:30 a.m.
January 16, 2024 9:30 a.m.
Join the Audubon Bird Walk in Reinhart Volunteer Park in Grants Pass on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meet in the parking lot next to the Pedestrian Bridge. NOTE THE TIME CHANGES.
The mostly level walk is about a mile and takes about 2 hours. Bring water, maybe a snack, and binoculars. If you don’t have your own binoculars, we have “spares” to share. We’ll walk out on the bridge first, then backtrack to follow the riverside trail downstream, then back towards our starting point, either by way of the Agnew-Lytle baseball field or the “back side” of the ponds by the volleyball courts. Questions? Email sisqaudubon@gmail.com, or text or phone Fran at 541-291-0506.

Chapter Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. approx.
Program: “Monarch 101” by Dave Kollen

Dave Kollen is a Xerces Society Ambassador who is involved in educational and outreach work. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is a non-profit environmental organization, named for the extinct Xerces Blue California butterfly. They focus on the conservation of invertebrates considered to be essential to biological diversity and ecosystem health. Dave is an Oregon Master Naturalist and Master Melittologist Apprentice, involved in the science and wonder of butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

In this program he will give an introduction to the Xerces Society, and then focus on the Monarch Butterfly – its life history, threats against it, conservation needs of Monarchs and what we can do to help them through Xerces resources and community science projects with Xerces and other groups.

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.
Chapter News
Memorial Nest Box for Glenn Campbell

Siskiyou Audubon Society will honor our late member Glenn Campbell with a memorial nest box. The box will have a plaque commemorating Glenn, plus artwork by Naomi Debracci on the backboard and sides. When the nest box is complete, we’ll schedule an installation date at Reinhart Volunteer Park in Grants Pass.

Bird House Building

Greenleaf Industries employees will build their own birdhouses in early December – either the 4th, 5th or 6th, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Greenleaf greenhouses off Lower River Road. SAS will supervise and provide tools and plans as about 20 builders. We’ll need SAS members to help out. Check in with Lee Webb, 541-479-6859, or with any other SAS Board member to find out the exact date and place.

Established in 1981, Greenleaf Industries is a private, non-profit corporation, serving as the Northwest’s largest horticultural training center, providing training and employment opportunities to eighteen men and women who have varying developmental disabilities. Their store on Union Avenue is a seasonal resource for plants, planting tools, and yes, birdhouses.

Nest Box Work Parties

During January and/or February, SAS will be holding work parties to cut up the irregularly sized wood in storage, so that it can be used at our next Nest Box Building Day. Watch upcoming newsletters for details.

Nest Box Building Day 2024

Tentatively scheduled for the last Saturday of February or the first Saturday of March in 2024, this is the big day, when we build hundreds of bird houses for sale to the public and for wholesale to retail outlets (Wild Birds Unlimited, Northwest Nature Shop, Greenleaf Industries Union Avenue store, etc.). We expect to work at the Hidden Valley High School wood shop again. Watch this newsletter and the website for the details as the time draws closer. [siskiyouaudubon.org]

Siskiyou Audubon Society 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk Oct. 17, 2023
Reinhart Volunteer Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Black-capped Chickadee</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Duck</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>White-breasted Nuthatch</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Merganser</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Brown Creeper</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna's Hummingbird</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pacific Wren</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Coot</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>American Robin</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Sandpiper</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>European Starling</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cedar Waxwing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Black-throat’d Gray Warbler</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belted Kingfisher</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spotted Towhee</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acorn Woodpecker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>White-crowned Sparrow</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Phoebe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golden-crowned Sparrow</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say’s Phoebe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Song Sparrow</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutton’s Vireo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Scrub-Jay</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Brewer’s Blackbird</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow-Jay</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>House Sparrow</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Species</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Total Individuals</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The kingfisher was seen to dive into the river, splash around 3 or 4 times, then fly up to the trees. It was then seen to be eating something.

The blackbird was in the midst of a flying flock of starlings and there may have been more than one.

In addition to the birds, a Mink was seen at river's edge. It caught a fish & retreated up the bank into the bush.
2023 Christmas Bird Counts

Frank Chapman and 26 other conservationists initiated the Christmas Bird Count (“CBC”) on Christmas Day of 1900 as a way of promoting conservation by counting, rather than hunting, birds. Some counts have been running every year since then and the CBC now happens in over 20 countries in the western hemisphere!

Read about the history here. [https://www.audubon.org/conervation/history-christmas-bird-count]

Now a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 120 years of community science involvement, it is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada (where Audubon partners with Birds Canada), and many countries in the Western Hemisphere go out over a 24-hour period on one calendar day to count birds.

There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must make arrangements to participate in advance with the circle Compiler but the CBC is open to all. Each count takes place in an established 15-mile diameter circle, and is organized by a count Compiler. Count volunteers follow specified routes through the circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It’s not just a species tally – all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day.

Birders of all skill sets are involved in the CBC. If you are a beginning birder, your Compiler will pair you with an expert.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangement with the count Compiler.

Grants Pass - Josephine County - 40th Annual CBC Saturday, December 16, 2023

Compiler: Margaret James 541-476-8126 or mcddjames@yahoo.com

Come to the Siskiyou Audubon Christmas Pot Luck & Party Thursday, December 14th to sign up. Compiler Margaret James will be delivering count packets to Section leaders, and will assign you to a team. Or you can reach her as above.

Even if you think you can’t identify birds, you can help in the Count as a spotter of movement and birds. The more eyes the better. We now have binoculars available to use if you don’t have your own.

The count lasts all day, but folks may participate for as much or as little time as they wish. At 5 p.m., we will meet at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church on ‘D’ St. for the “countdown,” where observations are submitted and hot soup & drinks and the fellowship of the Count will be enjoyed.

Jackson County - Rogue Valley Audubon Society CBCs The Ashland CBC will take place on Sunday, December 17.

The count circle is centered at the northwest corner of Emigrant Lake, including both the northeastern slopes of Mount Ashland and the western slopes of the Cascades (as far east as Little Hyatt Lake). Also included are the steep Siskiyou Mountain woodlands, extensive farmland, grassland and oak savannah habitats in the eastern section, as well as the entirety of the city of Ashland with its parks, gardens, and riparian habitats.

The Ashland CBC is coordinated by Cat Gould and Emmalisa Whalley. To join the Ashland CBC or for more information, contact Cat Gould at catgould@gmail.com by December 1.

The Medford CBC will take place on Saturday, December 30.

This count encompasses Medford, Central Point, White City, and Eagle Point. Birding hotspots such as Whetstone Savanna Preserve, Table Rocks, Agate Lake, Denman Wildlife Area, Prescott Park, and the Bear Creek Greenway area are all included in this section.

The Medford CBC is coordinated by Rebekah Bergkoetter, To join the Medford CBC or for more information, contact her at rebekah.bergkoetter@gmail.com.
2nd Saturday Field Trips to Ford’s Pond
west of Sutherlin
Dec. 9, 2023; January 13; February 10; March 9; April 13; May 11; June 8; July 13;
August 10; and Sept. 14, 2024

Join UVAS for a morning field trip to Ford’s Pond in Sutherlin to experience the
birds and the seasons together. People new to birding are always welcome to join in, as are
families with children. Loaner binoculars are available for adults and children.

Local birders will be in attendance, but a group effort to spot ID birds is encouraged.
Walks will be approximately two hours long. Participants can leave when they need to.

Currently the ADA accessibility paved pathway is halfway around the pond. It will be completed at some point during our
year of birding. A porta-potty is available at the Church St. parking lot until the restrooms are completed.

Specific details for each month’s date will be posted on the website: umpquaudubon.org.
For questions contact Stacy Burleigh at stacyjmb13@gmail.com.
Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 381, Roseburg, OR 97471

~ Submitted by Voyla Steves

Rogue Valley Audubon

RVAS 1st Wednesday Bird Walks
December 6, 2023 January 3, 2024 February 7, 2024
8:20 a.m. - Noon Approx.

Join RVAS for its monthly outing to Denman Wildlife Area. Walks begin at 8:30 a.m. and
end before noon, and are led by Jim Hostick. The gate on Agate Road north of Avenue G will be
open from 8:00 - 8:20 am.

Directions to meeting spot: Meet at the entrance off Agate Rd., between 1/4 and 1/2 mile
past the fire station on the west (left) side of the road. Coming from Grants Pass, turn north
(left) on Agate Rd. The fire station will be on your left at the corner of Avenue G and Agate Rd.

Participants will need to purchase an Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Area Parking Permit at the ODFW Office
located at 1495 E. Gregory Rd., Central Point, or at Sportsman’s Warehouse on Delta Waters and Highway 62 in Medford,
or at Bi-Mart. RVAS requests that all participants be vaccinated for COVID-19.

Jackson County Christmas Bird Counts

For the first time in recent memory, the RVAS CBC dates are different from the Siskiyou Audubon date, so birders
can count in several CBCs instead of just one. The Ashland count is on Sunday, December 17, while the Medford count is
on Saturday, December 30.
See Page 3 of this newsletter for details, or visit the Rogue Valley Audubon website: www.roguevalleyaudubon.org.

Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway
Chico, California
Thursday - Sunday, January 25 - 28, 2024

Join us in the search for winter birds of the Pacific Flyway on four days of
action-packed field trips with experienced trip leaders, plus more.
Field trips, Exhibits & Activities at the Patrick Ranch Museum
"Avian Art" Exhibit & Reception at the Museum of Northern California Art

Registration begins in early December 2023

Questions? Reach us at email info@snowgoosefestival.org, or at our
website www.snowgoosefestival.org,
or by calling the Festival Office at 530-592-9092.

Snow Goose Festival organized by AltaCal Audubon Society
www.altacal.org

Be sure to visit the Webcam at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge at Willows,
California, hosted by Explore.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 ____-____-__________ New ☐ Renewal ☐
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.

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 C4ZW10.
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

The 12th Laredo Birding Festival
February 7-10, 2024
Registration is Open at https://laredobirdingfestival.org or click on the bird.
This year’s festival celebrates Louis Agassiz Fuertes, with a keynote presentation from Robert M. Peck, PhD., Curator of Art and Senior Fellow at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (Drexel University). Dr. Peck will tell the story of how the self-taught artist revolutionized wildlife art and popularized bird watching in the early twentieth century. In addition there will be two dynamic guest presentations from Christina Bael & Cin-Ty Lee. After your workshops and birding trips, you have the opportunity to visit St. Peter's Plaza to admire local parakeets.

Olympic BirdFest 2024
Come Bird With Us in Sequim, Washington
Thursday - Sunday, April 11 - 14, 2024
Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic Peninsula BirdFest at the newly expanded Dungeness River Nature Center (formerly the Dungeness River Audubon Center).
Online registration opens January 1, 2024 at www.olympicbirdfest.org
Discover the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula. Enjoy guided birding trips with local experts in varied habitats, from bays and estuaries along the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the forests of the Dungeness Recreation Area. Join a boat tour around a protected island bird sanctuary, or for a longer trip, to the San Juan Islands. Or join a car caravan to the Makah Reservation for extraordinary bird-watching and the Makah Cultural & Research Center Museum. You just might go home with a new bird for your life list!
For more information contact the River Nature Center at 360-681-5636 or email Info@OlympicBirdFest.org.
**The Siskin**

Siskiyou Audubon Society
Newsletter Number 322 - December 2023/January 2024

P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass Oregon 97528
IRC §501(c)3, Tax ID #93-0866572
Website: [www.siskiyouaudubon.org](http://www.siskiyouaudubon.org)
E-Mail: sisqaudubon@gmail.com

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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 sisqaudubon@gmail.com
Programs: John Taylor
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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**Upcoming Events 2023 / 2024**

Mon., Tue., or Wed. Dec. 4 or 5 or 6: Siskiyou Audubon Nest Box Building with Greenleaf Ind. Employees
Wed. Dec. 6: Rogue Valley Audubon Denman Bird Walk
Sat. Dec. 9: Umpqua Valley Aud. Field Trip-Ford's Pond
Sat. Dec. 16: SAS Christmas Bird Count
Sun. Dec. 17: RVAS Ashland CBC
Mon. Dec. 25: Christmas Day
Sat. Dec. 30: RVAS Medford CBC

Thurs. Jan. 11: SAS Chapter Meeting
Sat. Jan. 13: UVAS Field Trip - Ford's Pond

Save the Dates:
Feb. 2024 (or March?) SAS BIG Nest Box Building Day
Feb. 2024: Laredo Birding Festival
April 2024: Olympic BirdFest, Sequim, WA

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Siskiyou Audubon Society is
Independent Chapter No. T61
Affiliated with National Audubon Society, [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)