



Pine Siskin

Number 323
February / March 2024

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 about 6:30 we have Society business and announcements. The Program begins at about 6:45. Refreshments both liquid and solid are served at our informal meetings. In December we hold a holiday Potluck Dinner and in June a Potluck Picnic, in other locations. We hope to see you!

February Chapter Meeting

Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. approx.

Program: "Plovers" by John Taylor

John Taylor "cut his teeth" on shorebirds on the beaches of Malibu, California, about 1960. Plovers are some of the most mysterious of birds because of their changing plumage. This show will explore both the breeding and non-breeding plumages of these engaging small peeps.



Semipalmated Plover

March Chapter Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. approx.

Program: "Oregon's Owls: Their Habits and Habitats" by Lee Webb

Fourteen species of owls are known from Oregon. Lee Webb, retired wildlife biologist for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, will use images and sounds to delve into the lives of this fascinating bird group.



Barn Owl
by Mark, on pixabay

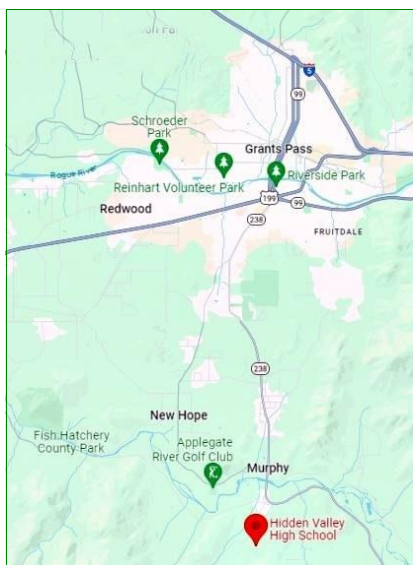
3rd Tuesday Bird Walks at Reinhart Volunteer Park

February 20, 2024 8:45 a.m.

March 19, 2024 8:30 a.m.

Join Fran Taylor of Siskiyou Audubon for a walk in Reinhart Volunteer Park in Grants Pass on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We will try to identify the birds we see, and maybe other creatures, too. Meet in the parking lot next to the Pedestrian Bridge. NOTE THE TIME CHANGES. Questions? Get in touch with Fran by e-mail to sisgaudubon@gmail.com, or text or phone 541-291-0506.

The mostly level walk is about a mile and takes about 2 hours. Wear walking shoes – waterproof if the weather is wet. Bring binoculars, maybe a water bottle & a snack. 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.



Map to
Hidden
Valley
High

Nest Box Building Day

Saturday, March 2, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

Hidden Valley High School Wood Shop, Murphy

This is our annual mass-production day for making hundreds of bird houses. Details are inside on Page 3.



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.

124th Audubon Christmas Bird Count – 41st Siskiyou Audubon Society CBC Results: December 16, 2023

SPECIES IDENTIFIED Number of Birds

Snow Goose.....	1
Canada Goose (large form).....	1453
Cackling Goose (small form).....	12
Wood Duck.....	102
Gadwall.....	93
Eurasian Wigeon.....	1
American Wigeon.....	272
Mallard.....	401
Northern Shoveler.....	54
Northern Pintail.....	5
Green-winged Teal.....	51
Redhead.....	1
Ring-necked Duck.....	74
Lesser Scaup.....	12
Bufflehead.....	122
Common Goldeneye.....	1
Hooded Merganser.....	42
Common Merganser.....	13
Ruddy Duck.....	3
Wild Turkey.....	68
California Quail.....	70
Common Loon.....	1
Pied-billed Grebe.....	13
Western Grebe.....	6
Double-crested Cormorant.....	26
Great Blue Heron.....	25
Great Egret.....	26
Black-crowned Night-Heron.....	5
Turkey Vulture.....	3
Bald Eagle.....	8
Northern Harrier.....	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	2
Cooper's Hawk.....	3
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	26
Red-tailed Hawk.....	28
American Kestrel.....	15
Merlin.....	4
Peregrine Falcon.....	2
Virginia Rail.....	2
Sora.....	1
American Coot.....	409
Killdeer.....	18
Spotted Sandpiper.....	5
Wilson's Snipe.....	9
Rock Pigeon.....	133
Eurasian Collared-Dove.....	67
Mourning Dove.....	85
Barn Owl.....	3
Great Horned Owl.....	2
Anna's Hummingbird.....	34
Belted Kingfisher.....	11



Sora at Tule Lake
NWR – USFWS



Bushtit
USFWS



Common Loon,
Non-breeding
USFWS



Western Meadowlark
Nestucca Bay NWR
USFWS

SPECIES IDENTIFIED Number of Birds

Acorn Woodpecker.....	134
Red-breasted Sapsucker.....	4
Downy Woodpecker.....	23
Hairy Woodpecker.....	11
Northern Flicker.....	53
Pileated Woodpecker.....	2
Black Phoebe.....	21
Say's Phoebe.....	2
Steller's Jay.....	56
Western Scrub-Jay.....	117
American Crow.....	407
Common Raven.....	70
Black-capped Chickadee.....	137
Mountain Chickadee.....	1 Count Wk
Oak Titmouse.....	10
Bushtit.....	33
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	6
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	18
Brown Creeper.....	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	43
Western Bluebird.....	35
Hermit Thrush.....	1
American Robin.....	935
Varied Thrush.....	1
Wrentit.....	6
European Starling.....	1981
Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	95
Townsend's Warbler.....	3
Spotted Towhee.....	131
California Towhee.....	5
Fox Sparrow.....	25
Song Sparrow.....	49
Lincoln's Sparrow.....	4
White-throated Sparrow.....	12
White-crowned Sparrow.....	75
Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	503
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon).....	1258
Red-winged Blackbird.....	68
Western Meadowlark.....	21
Brewer's Blackbird.....	116
Purple Finch.....	17
House Finch.....	60
Pine Siskin.....	91
Lesser Goldfinch.....	91
American Goldfinch.....	38
House Sparrow.....	36

Count Day Individuals Total10,631

Count Day Species Total96

Number of Spp (+ count week)97

Chapter News

Nest Box Building Day, Saturday March 2 – 9:30 a.m.

Hidden Valley High School Wood Shop

The first Saturday of March in 2024 is our big Nest Box Building Day, when we build hundreds of bird houses for sale direct to the public and wholesale to retail outlets (Wild Birds Unlimited, Northwest Nature Shop, Greenleaf Industries Union Avenue store, etc.). We will again be working at the Hidden Valley High School wood shop, 651 Murphy Creek Rd. Remember, each person who works takes home a free nest box.

Check our website siskiyouaudubon.org for updates.

We will have all the tools and parts on hand.

Bring your own: Hammer, lunch, drink, enthusiasm!

Our set-up crew will be there early so as to be ready for folks to start building at 9:30.

We'll take a break at lunch time, then resume work until we meet our quota or use up all the wood, whichever comes first.

Wood Trimming Work Party

Some of the lumber for making into nest boxes was donated, but pieces are irregular sizes and need to be trimmed to make the parts for building. A cutting work party is to be at the Hicks home at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13. Working and parking spaces are limited, so to volunteer with this effort please reach out to Lee Webb or Phil Hicks through the Society email sisqaudubon@gmail.com, or by phone to Lee at 541-479-6859.



Donated Wood
in Storage



Siskiyou Audubon Market Booth Events

Audubon Members & Non-Members, Volunteers are Requested

to come and help with our Market Booth at various times. Our upcoming dates are given here.

We show our hand-crafted structures for birds to prospective buyers, and talk with folks about birds they have seen or have questions about. For these events, we need folks who will work for two to three hours (or more). Ability to use a field guide or Merlin app, and a desire to learn as well as teach are the only qualifications.

Please come and take part in our Siskiyou Audubon Society life!

Email, text or call Fran Taylor,
sisqaudubon@gmail.com, 541-291-0506.

Please join Raptor Creek Farm in sharing seeds at the third annual

Community Seed Swap

**Saturday, March 9th 10:00-12:00 Raptor Creek Farm - 3658 Upper River Road
inside the Josephine County Food Bank Warehouse**

What's a seed swap?
Bring your seeds or plants labeled with variety, Date and location collected.
Join without seeds, we'll have plenty to share

Family friendly activities
Please no invasive species
Rain or Shine
Bring a friend, but not your pet!
Donate non-perishable foods

Want to join with a booth?
email info@jocofoodbank.org to reserve a spot

Siskiyou Audubon Society will be there with a Market Booth for sales of nest boxes and other structures.

Saturday, March 30 Grants Pass Growers' Market 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Come to the Grants Pass Growers' Market outdoors on March 30th to purchase nest boxes and get information about birds, habitat and wildlife.

Save the Date May 11-12, 2024

for the
**Galice Garden Faire
Saturday & Sunday
May 11-12 2024**

at the
Galice Community Center
10820 Galice Road
20 miles west of Grants Pass
via Merlin





"Bee-Safe" Garden
Nancy Kennedy, Xerces Society

Gardening for Insects and Birds

February and March are the months when gardens are planned, Gardeners peruse catalogs and magazines and search for cultivation advice, and starts and seeds are ordered in anticipation of spring. Make sure to plan for plenty of insect-attracting flowers in order to attract birds to the garden, since birds feed primarily insects, especially in early summer while they are raising their broods.

At the January Siskiyou Audubon Chapter Meeting, Dave Kollen of the Xerces Society related the needs of Monarch Butterflies in the garden. He pointed out that while milkweed is well known for being essential to Monarchs (since they lay their eggs on, and the caterpillars eat, only milkweed) other nectar plants are also

essential. Nectar plants provide food for a wide variety of other insects, too, be they be flies, butterflies, wasps or bees.

It's important to provide flowers from early spring until late autumn. Monarch butterfly migration is made northward in stages, each one a new generation of the insects, so spring and summer flowering plants are needed to nurture them.

But the last generation of Monarchs each year migrates south to wintering areas along the southern Pacific coast and Mexico. This "super generation *" in particular needs flowers for food well into autumn, so it's important to plant late-blooming nectar plants as well as spring and summer ones. Some of the best of these are in the Asteraceae (sunflower family, formerly Compositae) which includes zinnias and sunflowers in summer and asters in the fall. National Audubon, American Birding Association and Xerces Society all offer online links to sources of nectar producing plants, native and otherwise. It's important to provide insect-attracting flora if you want

Some late blooming plants, according to

www.efloras.org are North American natives in the family Asteraceae:

"Relatively few North American species of Asteraceae are economically important or widely used ethno-botanically. The only major Asteraceae crop of North American origin is the sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*, which is valued for its seed oil and is appreciated in the horticultural trade. Other crop plants from native species worth mention are *Helianthus tuberosus*, the Jerusalem artichoke, . . . *Echinacea* spp. are touted as health plants. Members of several genera of Asteraceae native to the flora are grown for their ornamental value, notably species of *Coreopsis* (tickseeds), *Echinacea* (coneflowers), *Helianthus* (sunflowers), *Liatris* (blazing stars and gay feathers), *Rudbeckia* (Black-eyed Susans), *Solidago* (goldenrods), and *Symphyotrichum* ("asters" of the trade)."



Some characteristics and bloom times of these native plants are:

Helianthus annuus - annual, summer; *Helianthus tuberosus* - perennial, August and September ; *Echinacea* - perennial, June to August; *Coreopsis* - some annual, some perennial, early summer through autumn (if kept deadheaded); *Liatris* - perennial, July through September; *Rudbeckia* - perennial, late July through September; *Solidago* - perennial, August through early autumn; and *Symphyotrichum* - cold-hardy perennials, summer to fall.

The poster at right displays the flowers of a dozen beautiful, but non-native, nectar producing flowers, beneficial to insects. From left to right, row by row, they are: Yellow Chamomile, Crown Daisy, Corn Marigold, Marguerite, Sow Thistle, Chicory, Gazania, Galactites, Field Marigold, Ox-eye Daisy, Common Hawkweed and Cape Daisy. Most of these were introduced into North America long ago. Not pictured is another such plant, the true dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*.

Enjoy your garden this coming growing season, and remember our insect friends and beauties as you plan.

[* Learn more about the "super generation" of Monarch butterflies at [Green Bay Botanical Garden's website](http://www.gbbg.org):

<https://www.gbbg.org/monarch-migration-super-generation/#:~:text=SUPER%20GENERATION%20IS%20BORN,their%20parents%20and%20great%20Dgrandparents.>



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



Pine Siskin

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



Rogue Valley Audubon Society – Sponsored Bird Walks

Wild Birds Unlimited North Mountain Park Bird Walk

Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m.

Limited to 9 participants. To reserve your spot, come in or call the store at (541) 772-2107.

First Wednesday Bird Walk – Denman Wildlife Area

Wednesdays: February 7, March 6, April 3

Join RVAS for our monthly outing to Denman Wildlife Area. Walks begin at 8:30 am and end before noon, and are led by Jim Hostick. The gate will be open from 8:00 – 8:20 am. Participants need to purchase an ODFW Area Parking Permit at the ODFW Office, Sportsman's Warehouse on Delta Waters and Highway 62 in Medford, or at Bi-Mart. We request that all participants be vaccinated for COVID-19. More information:

<https://www.roguevalleyaudubon.org>

Klamath Basin Ducks & Hawks

Saturday, March 9 – All Day – \$95 per Person

Klamath Bird Observatory board members Amanda Alford and Dick Ashford. leaders. Limited to only 10 attendees to carpool (a must!) in only 3 vehicles. For more information or to register visit KlamathBird.org.

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. There will be guided birding trips with local experts in varied habitats; a boat tour around a protected island bird sanctuary, or for a longer trip, to the San Juan Islands. Also a car caravan to the Makah Reservation for bird-watching and the Makah Cultural & Research Center Museum.

For detailed information contact the River Nature Center at 360-681-5636 or email Info@OlympicBirdFest.org. Online registration is open at www.olympicbirdfest.org.



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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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Cedar Waxwing at Lake Shastina
photo by Tom Wetter

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 2024

February

- Sat. 2/3: Bird Walk - Wild Birds Unlimited North Mt. Park
Wed. 2/7: Bird Walk - Rogue Valley Aud. 1st Wed. at
Denman WMA

Wed.-Sat. 2/7-2/10: Laredo Birding Festival, Laredo, Texas

Tue. 2/8: Siskiyou Audubon Soc. Chaptr Meeting

Tue. 2/13: SAS Wood-cutting Day

Tue. 2/20: SAS 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk - Reinhart

March

Sat. 3/2: SAS BIG Nest Box Building Day at Hidden
Valley High School wood shop, Murphy.

Wed. 3/6: RVAS 1st Wed. Bird Walk - Denman

Sat. 3/9: "Seed Swap" & SAS Market Booth, Raptor Creek
Farm - Josephine County Food Bank

Thur. 3/14: SAS Chapter Meeting

Tues. 3/19: SAS 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk - Reinhart

Sat. 3/30: SAS Market Booth at Grants Pass Growers' Mkt.

April

Thur.-Sun. 4/11-4/14: Olympic BirdFest, Sequim, WA

May

Sat-Sun. 5/11-12: SAS Market Booth at Galice Garden Faire

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



Pine Siskin
by Rosie
Anderson