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!

Elections are coming! Every year, terms end for those of the Board of Directors who have served their two-year term. There is a list on the back page of your Siskin newsletter where you can see which terms are ending. This year they are Vice-President, Secretary, Director Susan Bush and Director Fran Taylor.

Nominations for the open positions will be at the April chapter meeting, with the election at the May meeting, and the installation of the new officers and directors is done at the June Potluck Picnic.

Please consider who you will nominate for the open positions. The Board of Directors will present a slate, and they will appreciate other members to step up and agree to serve.

Chapter Meeting – Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. approx.
Nominations for May Election

Program: “California Condors” by Jeffrey Dillon

Jeffrey Dillon, Endangered Species Division Manager of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Fish & Wildlife Office in Portland, will give us a look at the history of California Condors in the northwest, the years bringing them back from the brink of extinction, and what their future looks like today in the Pacific Northwest.

Chapter Meeting – Thursday, May 9, 2024 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. approx.

Election of New Officers & Directors

Program: “Solitary Bees” by Dave Kollen

Dave Kollen, Xerces Society Ambassador from Brookings, will return with a program on native solitary bees. He will give an introduction to native bee lifestyles and explore the biology of solitary female bees, including nesting strategies, bee enemies and threats. He will discuss conservation principles, Xerces resources and give ideas on how humans can help these bees.

3rd Tuesday Bird Walks at Reinhart Volunteer Park
April 16, 2024 8:30 a.m. May 21, 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. 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. Questions? Get in touch with Fran by phone 541-291-0506 or e-mail to sisqaudubon@gmail.com.

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.
### February 20, 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Duck *</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Shoveler</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring-necked Duck</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bufflehead</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooded Merganser</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Collared-Dove</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna's Hummingbird</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Coot</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double-crested Cormorant **</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acorn Woodpecker</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Flicker</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Phoebe</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Scrub-Jay</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Species

- American Crow ..........1
- Black-capped Chickadee ..........1
- Wrentit ..........1
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet ..........5
- Brown Creeper ..........2
- Pacific Wren ..........2
- European Starling ..........4
- American Robin ..........35
- House Sparrow ..........2
- Lesser Goldfinch ..........3
- Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) ..........5
- Song Sparrow ..........1
- Spotted Towhee ..........1

**Total Number of Species**  39  
**Total Number of Individuals** 141

### Comments:

* The Wood Ducks were in breeding plumage. Even the hens had bright colors. The blue speculum was visible.

** The Double Crested Cormorant was quite pale, as for an immature or non-breeding adult.

### March 19, 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Duck *</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bufflehead</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Collared-Dove</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belted Kingfisher</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-breasted Sapsucker</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acorn Woodpecker</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pileated Woodpecker</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Flicker **</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Scrub-Jay</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-capped Chickadee</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-backed Chickadee</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Species

- Wrentit ..........2
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet ..........3
- Brown Creeper *** ..........3
- Pacific Wren ..........3
- European Starling ..........8
- Varied Thrush ..........1
- American Robin ..........18
- Pine Siskin ..........8
- Lesser Goldfinch ..........8
- Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) ..........2
- Song Sparrow ..........2
- Spotted Towhee ..........2

**Total Number of Species**  18  
**Total Number of Individuals**  247

### Comments:

* Two Wood Ducks were up in a tree, then flew down.

** One Flicker was making a hole in a dead snag.

*** One Brown Creeper was carrying nesting material.
Nest Box Building
Wood Cutting Party at Hicks’ Home in February

On February 14th, a SAS crew got together at Phil & Marsha Hicks’ home to cut lumber and make kits for the then upcoming Nest Box Building Day. Working in their driveway, ten people cut boards into size for nest boxes. Luckily it was a dry and sunny day.

Some of the donated wood was in odd dimensions, so it was all cut down into parts. Other straight lumber was cut, too, so that we had enough parts for 300 houses to be built on March 2.

Then Came Hidden Valley High School Nest Box Building ‘Day’ – Which Turned Into ‘Days’

Siskiyou Audubon’s biggest event of the year, Nest Box Building Day March 2, got turned into two days this year, as the local region was partially buried in snow and folks were snowed in, or reluctant to drive on the snowy roads. Nevertheless, about sixteen people came and worked very hard, and built about 180 nest boxes by 12 noon. Our goal had been to build about 300. We thought of continuing to work on into the afternoon, but several folks could not stay. Sandy (Cass) Henderson suggested that we work again on Sunday, March 3. Lee got in touch with the shop teacher, Amy Fogg, who agreed that we could use the shop again the next day. And so we did.

On Sunday March 3, twenty-one people came! The weather was still bad and Cave Junction folks were snowed in and their power was out, but folks from the more northerly areas were clear. Altogether we were able to complete our goal, plus make a few flats of kits for future building events. It was a weekend to remember!

Kudos to Naomi Dabbracci

Thank you, Naomi, for the beautiful engraved bird on some of our nest boxes, shown at left. You made 25 (or so) of these, and they are stunning. We will have some for sale, at the stunning price of $15, at our market booths.

April / May 2024
Siskiyou Audubon Activities
Field Trip with GPHS Ecology Class

Siskiyou Audubon members Marsha and Phil Hicks, Pat and Lee Webb, John Thornburg and Margaret James helped Grants Pass High School teachers Deb Berg and Ken Belcher lead a bird walk at the Provost Seed Orchard Park for the juniors and seniors in the Ecology Class. The school bus driver also joined the walk. About 20 species were identified, all common birds. The weather was beautiful and they had a great morning.

Siskiyou Audubon at Hidden Valley High School – Three Wood Shop Classes

Siskiyou Audubon sent folks to Hidden Valley High School on March 20 and 21, to teach the wood shop students there to build their own bird house. Wood Shop Teacher Amy Fogg explained to the kids that this was a school project, and they would get a grade.

On Wednesday the 20th, Lee Webb and Mike Klem and the six 1st period students cut lumber into parts for bird houses. Lee said the students were really skilled at using the saws and other equipment.

On Thursday the 21st, Lee Webb and Fran Taylor lead the kids to build nest boxes from three classes: 1st Period, 3rd Period & 6th Period. At the beginning of each class, Lee and Fran taught the kids about cavity nesters and habitat. He explained about birdhouses replacing habitat lost to logging and safety issues.

The kids were also learning to follow instructions, use tools, and solve problems while building the houses. When they were done, they took their boxes home. Any that were left at the end of the day will be put up around the school grounds. All together, 37 nest boxes were built that day.

Most of the kids were interested in birds’ lives, and all were interested in the wood-working (of course). 1st and 3rd Periods were very interested and eager to build. By 6th Period most of the students were tired and were ready for Friday, the first day of Spring Break! It was a rewarding day.
Upcoming Outings

Rogue Valley Audubon
First Wednesday Bird Walk at Denman Wildlife Management Area, White City
Wednesdays: April 3, May 1 and June 5

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 to 8:20 am. Participants need to purchase an ODFW Area Parking Permit at the ODFW Office, or at 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. Enter the Area on Agate Road – at the corner of Avenue G and Agate Rd, go north ¼ to ½ mile past the fire station; the gate is on the left.

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.

Table Rock Hikes - for the Early Birds
Saturday, April 20, Lower Table Rock, 8 a.m.

Join other early birds to listen for and observe the birds of the Table Rocks with Bob Quaccia of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society and Frank Lospalluto from the Klamath Bird Observatory. Learn ID tips and conservation information while viewing the spring birds. Bring binoculars and ID books if you desire. The hikes are free, but registration is required due to limited space. To register for the hikes, go to https://early-birds-2024.eventbrite.com.

There are a number of other Table Rocks hikes. View them all at tinyurl.com/TableRocksHikes2024

Bear Creek Greenway Birding with Dr. Pepper Trail
Sunday, April 21, 8 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Bird the Bear Creek Greenway with Dr. Pepper Trail and look for resident and migratory birds along the creek and flood plain ponds. Learn about post-fire monitoring through the Bear Creek Community Bird Survey and the importance of native multi-story streamside forests for wildlife. Meet in the parking lot at the Lynn Newbry Park in Talent, at 8 a.m. To register for this free outing, contact fdlospalluto@gmail.com.

Wild Birds Unlimited Bird Walks

Wild Birds Unlimited bird walks leave from the store at 961 Medford Center, Medford, at 9 a.m. Space is limited to nine (9) people, so please reserve your spot today by calling the store – 541-772-2107 – or by coming in to register.

Wear layers of clothing appropriate for the weather and good walking shoes that can get wet and muddy. Bring along binoculars, a field guide, water and any snacks desired, along with paper and pen or smart phone to record/eBird species seen.

Wednesday, April 17th 9 a.m.

Erin Linton will be leading a walk to N. Mountain Park in Ashland this month. Limited to 9 participants. North Mountain Park has an interpretive center with a botanical nature trail.

Saturday, April 27th 9 a.m.

Max McClannon will be leading a walk to Kirtland Pond this month. Limited to 9 participants. The “Watchable Wildlife Foundation” played a key role in development of the Kirtland Pond mudflat habitat project. Located about 4 miles off I-5, exit 35 (Blackwell Rd), the former sewage lagoons in the shadow of the Table Rocks smell sweet to birds. Bear right onto Kirtland Rd (Hwy 140 East/Hwy 62), left at White City Lagoons sign, left to public parking.
Keep Cats Indoors!

Cat owners often don’t consider the consequences of letting their furry friends roam the outdoors. In these articles from reliable sources, the reasons for keeping cats indoors become clear. Read on . . .

New York City Audubon:

Domestic cats make wonderful companions and pets, but when allowed to roam outside, they are the greatest human-caused source of mortality to birds.

Cats now function as introduced predators in many different habitats across the world. When outside, cats are invasive species that kill birds, reptiles, and other wildlife. Species that evolved together over millions of years are thrown out of balance by cats and other invasive species, often with devastating results. Because most cats – whether feral or owned by humans – receive food from people, they also exist in much higher concentrations than wild felines do. But despite being fed, they kill wild birds and other animals by instinct.

There are now over 100 million free-roaming cats in the United States; they kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making them the single greatest source of human-caused mortality for birds.

Free-roaming cats also spread diseases such as Rabies, Toxoplasmosis, and Feline Leukemia Virus, and face many more threats like vehicles and predators. Living outdoors shortens a cat’s life span to just 2-5 years, whereas indoor cats can live to be 17 and beyond.

The easiest way you can help prevent needless bird deaths and keep you and your pet safe is by keeping your cat indoors.


DutchNews.nl, The Netherlands:

(September 2020)

Plans are being made to launch a test case trial compelling cat owners to keep their pets inside because of the risk to wild birds, campaigners have confirmed to DutchNews.nl.

Nieuwsuur reported on Sunday that ecologist and professor Chris Smit and law lecturer Arie Trouwborst had called for legal action because of the impact of cats on birds and reptiles. Smit has now confirmed to DutchNews.nl that plans are being made for a test case. ‘The idea is that an NGO starts this process. [We are] currently discussing and looking for suitable parties to do this,’ he said.

Under the European Bird and Habitat Directives countries have a legal obligation to protect wildlife, so allowing cats to roam and kill is illegal, Trouwborst says. Some 140 million animals, from birds to bats, reptiles and fish, are thought to be killed annually by cats in the Netherlands and half the killings are carried out by cats with owners.

The Netherlands is home to between two and three million cats and some 10,000 feral cats and strays.


Here in Southern Oregon:

Introduced free range cats encroach on the ecological niche naturally belonging to native weasels, minks, martens, skunks, badgers, and otters. So please, cat lovers, keep your cats indoors or in an enclosed cat space outdoors, so they cannot range freely to hunt.

To those who feed un-homed outdoor cats, please reconsider. Feeding feral cats does them no favor in the long run, leaving them vulnerable to fighting and disease. It also contributes to the devastation of bird populations. Please consider trapping them for adoption or euthanasia.

Keep all cats safe from disease and injury, fights, and roadways. Keep cats indoors.

Save the Date! - Coming in June!

Mark your calendar for June 22, 2024, the Illinois River Celebration at Forks State Park, Cave Junction is coming. Also known as Hathkapasuta, the festival boasts “Playful Arts and Nature Experiences for the Whole Family!” Siskiyou Audubon Society will have a sales and information booth at the festival, and probably nest box building (still to be decided).
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.

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

Galice Garden Faire 2024
Saturday and Sunday May 11 & 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
10821 Galice Road, Merlin OR 97532

The Galice Community Association will put on their annual Mother’s Day weekend Garden Faire, May 11th and 12th, 9:00am to 4:00pm each day. The Community Hall is located on the left side of the road, about 20 miles west of Grants Pass on Merlin-Galice Road. Come shop the selection of Tomatoes, Deer Resistant Plants, Trees, Bushes, and more.
There will be a raffle, vendors, and a goodie table with sweets, as well as serving Dutch Bros coffee and so much more!

Galice Community Association is a non-profit organization. Look for their event page on Facebook. Proceeds of the Faire and raffle go to preservation, maintenance and upkeep of the community hall. The building is over 100 years old with a history of being a residence and a store.

Siskiyou Field Institute Birds & Brews Festival
Saturday May 18, 2024, 1 - 6 p.m.

Bring the family and join us for SFI’s annual fund-raiser and community festival. Enjoy live folk and rock music, birding hikes, nature based activities and crafts for all ages (including a scavenger hunt!), and communion with fellow bird and brew loving community members. Oregon craft beer and Rogue Valley wines will be available for purchase as well as delicious cookout-style foods, beverages and desserts!

NEW for 2024:
Add on an overnight camping ticket to stay on site Friday night, May 17th, to join our morning birding hikes! The cost of ticket is $20/tent.
Check back soon at the website, thesfi.org, for full music lineup and activity schedule!
The Siskin
Siskiyou Audubon Society
Newsletter Number 324 - April / May 2024
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

In this Issue:

- April & May Meetings with Elections........... 1
- 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk Schedule............. 1
- Bird Walk Results...................................... 2
- Nest Boxes: Woodworking & Building........3
- Field Trips & Outreach Events.............. 4
- Upcoming Outings................................... 5
- Keep Cats Indoors!................................. 6
- Save the Date for Hathkapasuta............ 6
- Membership Enrollment Forms................ 7
- Galice Garden Faire............................... 7
- SFI Birds & Brews Festival................... 7
- Siskiyou Audubon Society Directory....... 8

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 monthSeptember 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
April
- Wed. 4/3: RVAS 1st Wednesday Bird Walk
- Thur. 4/11: SAS Chapter Mtg.& Nominations
- Thur. 4/11-Sun. 4/14: Olympic BirdFest 2024
- Tue. 4/16: SAS 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk
- Sat. 4/20: Table Rocks Bird Walk
- Sun. 4/21: Bear Creek Greenway Bird Walk

May
- Wed. 5/1: RVAS 1st Wednesday Bird Walk
- Thur. 5/9: SAS Chapter Mtg. & Election
- Sat. 5/11-Sun. 5/12: Galice Garden Faire
- Sat. 5/18: Siskiyou Field Institute Birds & Brews Festival
- Tues. 5/21: SAS 3rd Tuesday Bird Walk

June
- Wed. 6/5: RVAS 1st Wednesday Bird Walk
- Sat. 6/22: Illinois River Festival - Hathkapasuta

RVAS – Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Medford
SAS – Siskiyou Audubon Society, Grants Pass

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

Photo: Zia Fukuda December 2012