



Pine Siskin

The Siskin

Newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society, Josephine County, Oregon

Siskiyou Audubon Society meets on the second Thursday each month, September through May, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the northernmost building on the Grants Pass High School campus, 830 NE 9th Street, Grants Pass, in Room 400. Coffee and other refreshments are furnished. Please bring your own cup or glass to help reduce waste.

In December there's a Christmas Potluck Dinner and in June, we go on a

Potluck Picnic! Thursday, June 9, 2016

4:00 p.m. to Dusk

Our End of Season Birding Party and Installation of Officers

Susan Bush, our President, will again host the Potluck Picnic which ends our season of meetings.

We'll start the picnic at 4:00 p.m. with the installation of the new Officers & Directors elected in May. Afterward we'll see Susan's bonsai, take a bird walk and try to find her "secret garden," return to the yard to eat Potluck Picnic, and tell tall tales.

As at all our potluck meals, bring your own table service, including cutlery, napery, glass or cup. For this picnic, please bring a chair. Also bring your favorite picnic food – side dishes, desserts, salads, or breads – to share. Bring whatever else you may wish to drink. Bring your own binoculars. Dress for the predicted weather and wear walking shoes.

The main dish chicken, iced tea and coffee will be provided by the Society. To RSVP and get directions to Susan's house, call 541-955-8966 or 541-474-4457, or email sisqaudubon@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



2015 Potluck Picnic

Pottsville – Antique Tractor Festival – Kids' Nest Box Building Father's Day Weekend – Saturday & Sunday, June 18-19, 2016

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

at Pottsville, "Home of Oregon Memories," near Merlin

Members, plan to come and help us help kids build nest boxes at the Early Day Gas Engine Society, Branch 9, Antique Tractor Festival at Pottsville. Our Market Booth will be on hand to sell nest boxes and other structures for wildlife, provide information to interested folks, and guide children as they build their own birdhouse. We need helpers for this on both days – contact Lee Webb or Fran Taylor to sign up for a two-hour (or more) time slot.



2012 Kids' Nest Box Building at Pottsville

Created for Oregon's centennial, Pottsville was established by former State Senator Debbs Potts, providing a historic country setting for this annual tribute to by-gone days. From Interstate 5, take exit 61, head north on Monument Dr., and turn left on Pleasant Valley Road. Pottsville is on the right, marked by a large dozer blade.

Our booth will be just one of the things for kids to do. There will also be demonstrations of old-time crafts; a swap meet; a flea market with all kinds of goods; food; music; the Parade of Power, and a tractor-pull.

Save the Date for the Next Chapter Meeting Thursday, September 8, 2016

After our summer break, we'll kick off a new season back at in the northernmost building on the Grants Pass High School campus, 830 NE 9th Street, Grants Pass, in Room 400 at 6 p.m. Watch for the September issue of **The Siskin** for Program details.



Our Mission . . .

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

Chapter News

Siskiyou Audubon Society members installed Memorial Nest Boxes in Whitehorse County Park, BLM area, on March 1st. The boxes honored the memory of dearly departed members Jeff Bush, Lynn Foley, and Ray Menagazzi.



Tree Swallow feeding in air
treeswallowproject.com

In May, a pair of Tree Swallows were observed to be nesting in Jeff's box in May. Other recent Birding Observations: In April, Dennis Vroman reported a Golden Eagle nest visible from the Manzanita rest stop on I-5 north of the Merlin exit. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported in the buckbrush field along the road to the Sportsmen's Park (shooting range) north of Colonial Valley. Two Say's Phoebe were seen at Deer Creek Center on May 28, along with 22 other species of birds. Yellow-breasted Chat are nesting along waterways. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen in Hugo in May.

At the Chapter Annual Meeting May 12th, the members voted unanimously for the slate of candidates presented in April, so our new officers are: Vice-President - Shirley Bredahl; Secretary - Margaret James; and Directors Alan Ome and Susan ("Susi") Perry.

At the Board of Directors meeting in April, the Board dealt with some insurance matters and other correspondence, had a review of the class we gave on bird identification at the Master Gardeners' Seeds of Spring Seminar in early March, and reviewed this spring's

Kids' Nest Box Building events, and made plans for those coming up.

The April 16 nest box building at Grants Pass Growers' Market was a big success. Kids built 68 boxes. Sales of other houses & structures were \$238, and donations were \$173.70 for total gross income of \$411.70. On April 15 at Vineyard Christian School, 15 boxes were constructed by students and teachers. At the Josephine County Food Bank's Raptor Creek Farm on April 29, about 30 kids from Boys & Girls Club and YMCA, working in teams, built & decorated 12 houses. These were later mounted on fence posts around the farm by some of the Audubon team. 74 Nest boxes were built by kids on Mother's Day weekend at the Galice Garden Faire, and 18 kits went out at Siskiyou Field Institute's 'Birds & Brews' Festival on May 28.

Coming up we still have Ashland Middle School on June 6 scheduled for 180 kids to build birdhouses, and the Pottsville Antique Tractor Festival (Early Day Engine Society Branch 9) on Father's Day weekend, June 18-19, where typically 150 nest boxes get built over two days. Members, we really need volunteers to help at these two events. Please come if you can. We will car pool to Ashland. Pottsville is near Merlin just north of G.P. Then, in September, we expect to be at the 'Saturday Parkways' fair in Grants Pass on Hawthorne Ave., for more kids to build birdhouses from kits.

In order to produce these hundreds of nest box kits, volunteers gathered at Phil Hicks' home to cut lumber and assemble components into kits on two occasions, April 26 and May 20.

Thank you! Siskiyou Audubon Society Members, for your support of and participation in, our activities. Thanks a million! to each one of you on the Nest Box Building Team for being stalwart:

Lee Webb, Pat Webb, Phil Hicks, Marsha Hicks, Susi Perry, Mike Klem, Susan Bush, Alan Ome, Fran Taylor, David Shiah, Margaret James, Shirley Bredahl, Dwain Smallwood, Kevin Cheistir, Trish Chancellor, Glenn Campbell, and Karen Welden. If anyone who helped has not been mentioned, please forgive the writer. And note that this Team doesn't have a fixed membership. If you would like to help with kit-making, supervising the children who build nest boxes at events, just get in touch with Lee Webb or Phil Hicks, phone numbers and email addresses in this newsletter in the Directory on page 7, and come and join us.

A huge **Thanks!** to Marsha Hicks, Pat Webb and Shirley Bredahl for providing coffee, tea and etcetera at our meetings throughout the year. And Thank you, Siskiyou Audubon Society Members, for your support of and participation in, our activities. After our June 9 Potluck Picnic, Siskiyou Audubon Society will be "off for the summer." See you next fall!

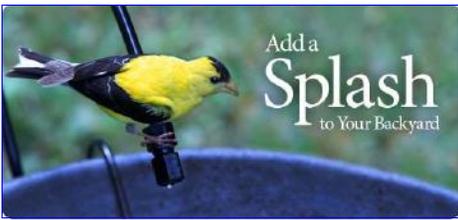
~Fran Taylor



Violet-green Swallow
Sonoma County Birdwatching



American Goldfinch, Lazuli Bunting and Pine Siskin Photo by Michael Lieb, 2011



Water for Wildlife

Water (or the lack thereof) can be deadly serious for birds. Birds must be ready to fly at all times, and bathing is a critical part of feather maintenance and staying in top-flight condition. Whether they are feeder visitors or not, birds need water. Offering a dependable source of water is probably the simplest and most important step you can take to greatly increase the variety of birds in your yard.

Water is also vitally important when it's extremely hot and a bird's ability to regulate its body temperature becomes stressed. Birds do not sweat and must remove excess body heat through their respiratory system. So when temperatures rise, a bird's respiration rate increases, sometimes to the point that it can be seen panting like a dog. This activity dehydrates birds and increases their need for a reliable source of water to replace lost fluids.

~ Laura Fleming, *Wild Birds Unlimited of Medford, Phone: (541) 772-2107*

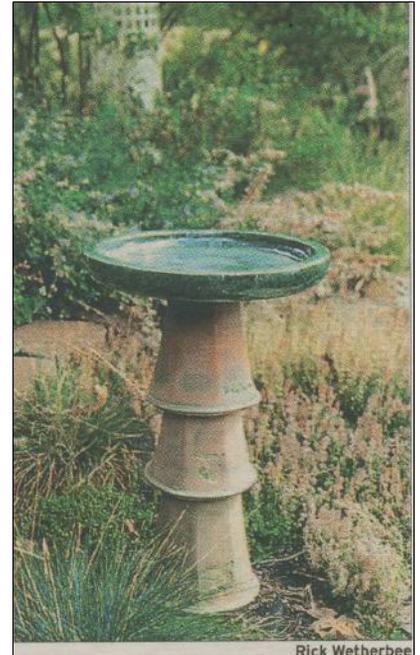
Make Your Own Birdbath

Here are instructions for making a flowerpot birdbath, from Kris Wetherbee's book "Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Winged Wonders to Your Backyard."

MATERIALS:
 * 3 Clay Pots, 8" diameter
 * Epoxy
 * Clay Saucer, 12" diameter

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Select your flowerpots carefully, choosing pots that do not stack tightly together, as shown in the photo.
- 2) Create the pedestal by placing the first pot upside down on the ground. Spread a line of epoxy around the base of the pot. Place the second pot, also upside down, on top of the first. Add epoxy as on the first pot, then place the remaining pot on top, also upside down.
- 3) To finish the birdbath, use the epoxy to attach the bottom of the clay saucer to the flowerpot pedestal. When all is dry, carefully move the birdbath to its location in your yard, and put in an inch or two of water.
- 4) It's a good idea to put a rock or piece of brick into the saucer to create different water levels.



Rick Wetherbee

Natural Diversity – “Naughty and Nice”

How many of us have thrown up our hands and said, “That’s it! Those dreadful thickets must go.” Just passing near them, the dang things appear to reach out and grab you. They don’t like to let you go, either. Frankly, as anyone possessing blackberry brambles will tell you, they don’t seem to have much in their favor. Perhaps braving the recurved thorns to gather those luscious berries could be their only justification for existence.

We do enjoy those berries, but were you aware of the great variety of wild creatures who also obtain sustenance from them? Chief among them are wild birds who not only feed on the fruit, but also find escape, cover and secure nesting sites within these thickets. Numerous bird species can be found throughout all or part of the year within this protective environment.

If you enjoy observing our plump, brown Pacific Northwest sparrows, then blackberries are worth close inspection. Find habitat where water, fields, shrubs and blackberry tangles all coalesce and your odds are high that Song, Fox, Golden-crowned, White-crowned and Lincoln’s sparrows can be found in season. In late fall or early winter, a White-throated sparrow might also be found.



White-crowned Sparrow
 Photo ©Barbara Samuelson

One often hears stated, “The plant doesn’t bother me in the least.” Conceivably they have never crushed the leaves or stems enough to make its toxic sap flow upon their skin. But itching and scratching are certain if you do react to poison-oak, perhaps our most noxious and distasteful shrub.

But wait! Before obliterating it totally from your surroundings, were you aware of its value to wildlife? Seeds produced by these shrubs are a winter staple of many Rogue Valley bird species. Chickadees, Northern Flickers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Sapsuckers, some sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, Towhees, some woodpeckers and Wrentits all consume appreciable amounts of available fruit. Many other bird species, to a lesser extent, feed on poison-oak seed. Actually, more bird species feed on poison-oak berries than blackberries.

Himalayan blackberries truly are at home in our valley and are part of the natural diversity found here. However, these brambles were introduced by man from the Old World and plausibly increased their range by seed spread in droppings from some of the wildlife that fed on their fruit. Today there is, for both blackberry and poison-oak, an association with specific wildlife that adds to the natural diversity found in our valley. Indeed, it could be stated that these shrubs are, from differing perspectives, both naughty and nice.

From “Natural Diversity,” by Dennis Vroman, a series of articles written for The Siskin Newsletter c.1995



Events, Field Trips, Festivals, . . .

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

Based in Medford, Jackson County's "RVAS" leads free bird walks open to the public. Bring your own binoculars, food and water. Folks are encouraged to car-pool and share fuel expenses. Please, no dogs. Prepare for the weather; wear sturdy shoes and expect some walking on most trips. Dates and times are subject to change, so check the web site www.roguevalleyaudubon.org or get in touch with Field Trip Chair Russ Namitz at 541-294-2063, or e-mail: namitzr@hotmail.com.

First Wednesday Bird Walk – Agate Lake

Wednesdays: June 1, July 6, August 3, and Sept. 7, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

Every month on the first Wednesday, Rogue Valley Audubon Society counts birds at Agate Lake in Jackson County. Birders with any level of expertise are invited to join in this citizen science effort led by experienced organizers. The slow-paced walk begins at 8:30 a.m. and covers about 1-1/2 miles over about 2-1/2 hours. Meet at the main parking area on the East side of the lake (far side from the boat ramp). Bring binoculars, field guide, and spotting scope if you have one. Mud-proof boots are advisable.

Directions to Agate Lake: From the junction of Hwy. 62 and Hwy. 140 north of Medford, go 3.5 miles east on Hwy. 140 to East Antelope Road. Turn right and go 1.5 miles; turn right on Dry Creek Road and then go 0.5 mile to the entrance on the right. If any questions, contact Leader Murray Orr by phone 541-857-9050 or email [mworr2@charter.net](mailto:mwor2@charter.net). Results of each count will be e-mailed to participants and logged into eBird. Links to previous months' sightings are available on the RVAS website. Links to the Jan 6 2016 count is: <http://ebird.org/ebird/klamath-siskiyou/view/checklist?subID=S26742243>.



Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

Sisters, Oregon

June 2 - 5, 2016

Festival details at www.ecaudubon.org

East Cascades Audubon Society sponsors this all-volunteer festival centered in Sisters, Oregon. Several new trips have been added and the Saturday Social will feature local author and birder Steve Shunk, whose book Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America, will be available.

For more information Contact Sherrie Pierce at DHWF16@gmail.com or Ken Hashagen at 541-548-4641

For a listing of more summer birding festivals, go to the American Birding Association website at www.aba.org/festivals/index. Most of the summer events are east of the Rocky Mountains, while those in the northwest are in springtime. But if you are planning summer travel to the east, you may want to look them up.

Save the dates for:

The Puget Sound Bird Fest: September 9 - 11, 2016 in Edmonds, WA



This acclaimed three-day event includes speakers, guided walks, land and water-based field trips, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults. Plan to spend the weekend in Edmonds, birding and meeting other birders, naturalists, photographers, and people engaged in fascinating bird research projects. Contact Person: Jennifer Leach at 425-771-0227, or visit their website: www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org or e-mail jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov.

Hawaii Island Festival of Birds: September 24 - 15, 2016 in Kailua-Kona, HI

The First Annual Hawaii Island Festival of Birds launches the Hawaii Island Coast to Coast Birding Trail with expert speakers, a trade show featuring equipment to boost enjoyment of the outdoors, an art and craft fair, children's activities, photography and art workshops, and a silent auction. Field experiences with the best bird guides on the island. Contact Lisa Brochu at 970-219-0029 or visit the website: <http://hawaiibirdingtrails.com>.



Siskiyou Field Institute

Get details at www.thesfi.org, or phone 541-597-8530

National Park Service Centennial Celebration Field Courses:

Friday - Sunday, June 24-26

Geology of the Medicine Shield Volcano

at Lava Beds National Monument with Instructor: Chas Rogers, M.S.
Tuition \$165

Other Summer Classes:

Saturday, June 18

Birding Upper Klamath Lake and Wood River by Canoe

in the Wood River area, Klamath County, Oregon
Instructors: Kevin Spencer and Dave Haupt, Tuition \$165

Friday - Saturday, July 8-9

Tales and Trails at the Oregon Caves

Oregon Caves National Monument,
Instructors: Greg Walter and Dennis Strayer; Tuition \$120
(Includes class tuition and Caves admission.
Friday night lodging and dinner not included.)

21 Other classes will be given during June through August.

Topics range from mushrooms to glaciers, native bees to coastal marine life, and many, many more.

Don't forget 'Free Friday Learning Nights' on June 11 (Native Bees) and July 8 (at the Oregon Caves Chateau)

. . . Classes & Outings

Kids' Nest Box Building with Siskiyou Audubon Society

Siskiyou Audubon Society members, please volunteer your time and energy to help with some of these events. Lee Webb will lead the Siskiyou Audubon Society ("SAS") team helping kids build bird houses. These are practical houses for the cavity-nesting birds that migrate here from Central and South America each spring, like the Tree Swallow. There are also year-around birds such as Chickadees and Western Bluebirds that use old woodpecker holes or other hollows - including our "SAS Basic Nest Boxes" - for nesting and raising their young.

Some half dozen or so species in our region use these cavities. Audubon members will be on hand to talk about birds, help identify birds, display books about birds and bird life, and sell ready-to-mount bird houses, feeders and other structures. As scheduled events draw near, details will be posted on our website.

Questions? Visit our website: www.siskiyouaudubon.org or telephone 541-479-6859, or email sisqaudubon@gmail.com.

Father's Day Weekend, June 18 & 19

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pottsville, near Merlin

The Early Day Gas Engine Branch 9 Festival is the "Antique Tractor Festival." We'll be there for kids to build nest boxes, while tractor pulls, swap meets and other events take place.

Saturday Parkways Festival, September

The City of Grants Pass hosts a festival of outdoor activities for families each September. Watch for details in the September issue of *The Siskin*.



Jace Smallwood built and decorated this birdhouse at Wild Birds Unlimited on March 26th



Alan Orme helps a child build a nest box at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford

Make Your Yard Appealing to Nesting Birds – Easy Tips and Solutions

From Birds and Blooms Extra – July 2015, Reviewed and edited by John Taylor and Fran Taylor

Do birds use birdhouses all summer? The short answer is yes. While springtime is thought of as being nesting season, several bird species will raise two, three or even four or more broods in a single season. So keep those houses up – you can attract nesters all summer.

When should you take birdhouses down? Just because nesting season is over doesn't mean you have to put your birdhouses away. Instead, clean them out and leave them up, because they make great winter roosting boxes. Late Fall into Winter is the best time to clean out birdhouses.

Do birdhouses have specific requirements? Yes. The type of bird you attract with a nest box has a lot to do with the dimensions of it, both the overall size and the hole openings. For a list of birdhouse guidelines by species, visit www.siskiyouaudubon.org, or go to birdsandblooms.com/birdhouseguidelines. These handy charts also tips on placement, including mounting height.

Should birdhouses and feeders be placed together? No. It's best to keep birdhouses away from feeders. Parent birds are territorial when it comes to their nest, and it could jeopardize the young by putting feeders where lots of birds will be coming in and out.

How many different species use birdhouses? Nearly 50 different bird species in North America will use a birdhouse. Half a dozen or so species will use the Siskiyou Audubon Society "Basic" nest box. Some birds you can attract include titmice, bluebirds, swallows, wrens, chickadees and woodpeckers. For larger birds, you can even attract screech-owls and wood ducks using the appropriate size.

If a birdhouse isn't getting used, how can you increase the chances? First, make sure that you have a birdhouse with the right guidelines. Many decorative houses will have entrance holes that are too large. Some birdhouses are really flashy and complicated, so birds don't feel comfortable using them. The more a birdhouse looks and feels natural, the better chances you'll have. You can also put a little bit of nesting material in the house, enticing birds to check it out. Also check the direction the nest box is facing – not into the afternoon sun nor the prevailing wind.

If a birdhouse is taken over by house sparrows, what should you do? You can trap sparrows because they aren't a protected North American bird. You can also remove their nesting material regularly to keep them from getting too cozy. Otherwise, take your houses down for a little while to encourage them to move on to another area.

Late Nesters: Watch for these birds nesting as late as August:

Goldfinches breed when thistles have set seed. If thistle seed feeders are available they may breed earlier; don't use birdhouses.

Violet-green Swallows have been known to start a brood as late as July, fledging the young in late August.

Mourning Doves may raise as many as six broods in a season; don't use birdhouses, but may nest in hanging baskets.

Western Bluebirds may have two to three broods in a season, so keep watching your nest boxes.

Let's Talk Birds – Summer in Southern Oregon



Bullock's Orioles
Peter Burke, National Geographic

Folks have been seeing few birds at the feeder, and wondering why. From May on through mid-summer, the birds are off in the shrubbery nesting and feeding insects to their young. Once the fledglings leave the nest, the parents teach them how to forage, including visiting bird feeders. So as spring wanes and summer comes on, many birds that have been absent for awhile will return to our yards and gardens. We also have to realize, there are just fewer birds overall in the world than there used to be. Sadly, habitat degradation and loss affect birds in their wintering grounds as well as their breeding ranges, and in general, birds are becoming more scarce.

Remember, too, that “baby birds” are, by the time we see them out of the nest, as big as their parents, and may appear larger due to their feathers still being new and fluffy. When a Western Scrub Jay fluttered on the ground until another one flew down to pop a bit of suet into its mouth, I realized the one on the ground must be a baby!

In summer the Chickadees and Nuthatches, Purple Finch and House Finch return. Their cheerful songs as they teach their young about finding seeds call them to our attention, even though they may be hard to see among the leafy trees and bushes. Wrens buzz around the garden finding spiders to feed their nestlings. Tree- and Violet-green swallows sit in the birdhouse holes looking out, while their young within are developing, getting ready to fledge. By mid-summer these will have taken their first flight and learned to eat in the air, and the family will hunt until fall migration south. Western Bluebirds congregate in family groups after the young have flown the nest, and come to bird baths. The young Bluebirds may well help feed their siblings in subsequent broods.

Here in southern Oregon, we get some spectacular migrants stopping to breed during the summer months . . . Lazuli Bunting, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak among them. While Western Tanagers rarely come to feeders, they do like a bird bath, and the pale yellow females may congregate there on hot summer mornings. Males stand out among the foliage with their bright red heads and yellow throat and belly. Both genders have yellow and white wing bars. They love to eat grapes in late summer.

Be on the lookout for the small (5-1/2") yet stunning turquoise, white and rufous male Lazuli Bunting and his modest buffy-colored mate. Their dual white wing bars help to identify them. These insect & seed-eaters come north from the west coast of Mexico, to live in thickets and hedges along agricultural fields and residential gardens, bushy hillsides, riparian habitats, wooded valleys, sagebrush, & chaparral. They breed from Northern California & Nevada, northward through Oregon & Washington, into Idaho, Montana, and eastward into the Great Plains. Their nest is an open cup of coarse grasses, rootlets, strips of bark, and leaves, lined with fine grass, rootlets, and animal hair, and wrapped in silk, placed in a shrub, close to ground.

Another bird that comes here from Mexico to breed is the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. These 4-inch, pale blue-gray birds with grayish-white underparts and a mostly black tail with white edges, eat small insects, spiders, and other invertebrates including leaf hoppers, plant bugs, leaf beetles, weevils, wolf spiders, caterpillars, and grasshoppers, but seldom gnats. Parents generally feed the young small parts of these same foods, offering progressively larger whole prey as the chicks mature. The nasal, wheezy, rambling song and insistent, squeaky calls are first clues to finding them. Their habitat includes a range of broadleaf and mixed woodlands from chaparral to mature forests. They prefer moist areas, often near habitat edges. Breeding across the southern tier of the 48 contiguous United States, those that breed farther north are long-distance migrants, while those to the south have short migrations or may stay resident.

Warblers – about 8 species – are with us throughout the summer, too. The Yellow Warbler can be found in the upper canopy of our wooded backyards, particularly if water is present. A Black-throated Gray Warbler came to drink at my back yard birdbath in late May. MacGillivray's Warbler likes to stay close to the ground in tangles of periwinkle or buckbrush. Resident birds remain as always – Oak Titmouse, Western Bluebird, Wrentit, American Robin, Bushtit, and more. Find these birds and many more by getting outside as often as possible, and being alert to movement and sound. You'll be surprised at what you see!



Male Lazuli Bunting Singing
Drawing by Sophie Webb

~ Fran Taylor

White-nose Syndrome Found in Washington State Bat

A hiker who noticed a little brown bat dying on a trail near the slopes of the Cascade Mountains in western Washington this past March did what he could to save it. He took it to an animal health center, but within two days it was gone. The death seemed unremarkable until a veterinarian who examined the animal made a discovery that set off alarms heard all the way to Washington, D.C. The bat showed advanced signs of White Nose Syndrome (WNS), a mass killer that emerged in New York about 10 years ago and slowly migrated as far west as Nebraska, leaving nearly 7 million bats dead in its wake. Its sudden, thousand-mile leap to the Pacific Northwest is a grave concern to every biologist who studies the winged mammals.

Wildlife biologists want to find where this disease strain originated. Questions they're seeking to answer: Did a traveler track it from Europe or Asia all the way to the west coast? Or did some cave explorer get the fungus on his or her gear in the east and bring it west? They want at least a clue to how long the fungus has lived out west. Considering the haggard condition of the dead bat, including its ravaged wings, a telltale sign of WNS, it's been there for a while.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has tracked WNS since 2006, is extremely concerned about the confirmation, according to Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. “Bats are a crucial part of our ecology and provide essential pest control for our farmers, foresters and city residents, so it is important that we stay focused on stopping the spread of this fungus,” said Ashe. Bats eat insects by the metric ton every night, with a pregnant female capable of devouring nearly a hundred moths and other pests. In a single summer, a colony of 150 brown bats can eat enough adult cucumber beetles to prevent the laying of eggs that result in 33 million rootworm larvae, according to a study cited by Bat Conservation International. Without bats, insects would be free to ravage farm crops and trees, among other things. Their value to U.S. farmers has been estimated at \$3 billion a year. In addition to little brown bats, long-eared bats, big brown bats, Indiana bats and grey bats have been impacted.

Katie Gillies, director of the Imperiled Species Program at Bat Conservation International in Texas, said, “We've got 15 western species that have the potential to be infected,” she said. “Containment is not going to be possible.” Still, even if they develop an immunity to the fungus as bats did in Asia and Europe, “bats are really long lived, and slow to reproduce,” she said. “They're very slow to rebound. We won't see it in our lifetime.”

~ Excerpt from an article by Darryl Fears of The Washington Post. www.washingtonpost.com

Audubon Society Membership Enrollment Forms

Siskiyou Audubon is a nonprofit 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 Enrollment Form - 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.



 **National Audubon Society –**

Pay and Mail this to:
National Audubon Society, Inc., 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014, Attn: Chance Mueleck

I wish to become a member: \$20.00 Family Introductory Rate \$35.00 Sustaining
 \$50.00 Supporting \$100.00 Contributing \$500.00 Donor \$1000.00 Lifetime

New Renewal Renewal Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Mailing Address _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address: _____ **Siskiyou Audubon, Chapter #C4ZT610Z**

National Audubon Society membership includes subscriptions to both *Audubon Magazine* and *The Siskin* newsletter.

Directory

The Siskin, newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society (“SAS”), is published six times per year. SAS is Chapter No. T61 of National Audubon Society. Address corrections, items for publication or letters to the Editor to Editor, P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass, OR 97528; or phon or FAX to 541-955-2934; or e-mail avnwmn@budget.net or sisqaudubon@gmail.com. Siskiyou Audubon Society encourages submission of letters, articles and photos, which may be published at the discretion of the editor. Articles may be edited for size or clarity. Permission to reprint articles from this publication is granted unless the article is under copyright, and provided credit is given to both the author and the newsletter. SAS meets the second Thursday, September through June. The SAS Board of Directors meets monthly or at times determined by the Board. Members, Visitors and the Public are welcome to attend all meetings.

Officers

President: Susan Bush.	Term Expires	June 2017
Vice-President: Shirley Bredahl.	” ”	June 2016
Secretary: Pat Etchells	” ”	June 2016
Treasurer: Phil Hicks	” ”	June 2017

Directors

Margaret James.	” ”	June 2016
Lee Webb.	” ”	June 2016
Marsha Hicks.	” ”	June 2017

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Membership – Lee Webb
Nest Box Building – Lee Webb
Programs – Joy Taylor
Publicity – John Taylor, Margaret James

Ornithologist – Dennis Vroman
Publications
 Newsletter Editor – Fran Taylor
 Mailing List – Lee Webb
 Distribution – The Board of Directors

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The Siskin

Siskiyou Audubon Society

Newsletter Number 279 – June / Summer 2016

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Pine Siskin
by Joy Taylor

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Siskiyou Audubon Society Nest Box Builders Waiting for Kids to Arrive
Susan Bush, Susan Perry, Lee Webb, Phil Hicks, Fran Taylor
Galice Garden Faire May 7, 2016 Photo by Alan Orme

Date Book – June / Summer 2016

Wed. June 1: Rogue Valley Audubon Society - First Wednesday Bird Walk at Agate Lake

Thur.-Sun. June 2-5: Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, Sisters, Oregon

Thur. June 9: Siskiyou Audubon Society Potluck Picnic 4 p.m. to Dusk

Fri. June 11: Siskiyou Field Institute Free Friday Learning - Native Bees

Sat. June 18: Siskiyou Field Institute Class - Birding Upper Klamath Lake & Wood River by Canoe

Sat.-Sun. June 18-19: SAS Kids' Nest Box Building at the Antique Tractor Festival at Pottsville, near Merlin

Fri.-Sun. June 24-26: Siskiyou Field Institute Class - Geology of the Medicine Shield Volcano

Sat. June 25: Nature Conservancy Work Party - Table Rocks Preserve - Pull star thistle on Upper Table Rock

Wed. July 6: RVAS First Wednesday Bird Walk at Agate Lake

Fri. July 8: Siskiyou Field Institute Free Friday Learning - at the Oregon Caves Chateau

Fri.-Sat. July 8-9: SFI Class - Tales & Trails at the Oregon Caves

Wed. Aug. 3: RVAS First Wednesday Bird Walk at Agate Lake

Wed. Sept. 7: RVAS First Wednesday Bird Walk at Agate Lake

Thurs. Sept. 8: SAS Chapter Meeting, 6 p.m. in Room 600 at Grants Pass High School

Sat. In September - Grants Pass Recreation Dept. "Saturday Parkways Festival" details to be announced

Fri.-Sun. Sept. 16-18: 30th Annual Oregon Shorebird Festival, Charleston, Oregon

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



Pine Siskin
by Rosie Anderson