



Pine Siskin

The Siskin

Newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society, Josephine County, Oregon

Siskiyou Audubon Society meets on the second Thursday each month from September through May, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 400 at Grants Pass High School, 830 NE 9th Street, Grants Pass. Room 400 is in the northernmost, or uphill, building on campus. Enter the parking lot from either 8th or 9th Streets. In December we hold a holiday Potluck Dinner, and in June a Potluck Picnic.

Coffee and refreshments are served at our informal meetings – **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CUP** – we’ll see you there!

Chapter Meeting, Thursday, October 13, 2016 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Come to our Chapter Meeting in Room 400 at Grants Pass High. From 6 to about 6:45 p.m., we’ll talk birds, socialize and snack. Then we’ll learn something from our

Program: “The Truth About the Birds and the Bees” Dr. Gabriela Chavarria on Pollinator Conservation

Dr. Gabriela Chavarria is the Forensic Science Branch Chief at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Forensic Laboratory in Ashland. Prior to this post, she was Science Advisor to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), where she served as counsel to the Service Director.

She has worked at the Natural Resources Defense Council’s Science Center; the Defenders of Wildlife; the National Wildlife Federation; and at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Washington, D.C. Dr. Chavarria has served on a number of boards and advisory councils, and is currently a member of the Science Works Museum Science Advisory Board. She belongs to several professional societies.

Born and raised in Mexico City, Dr. Chavarria has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the National University of Mexico, and a Masters and Ph.D. in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology from Harvard University. Her research focused on the systematics, behavior, and biogeography of Neotropical bumble bees. She has conducted research on these topics in more than 30 countries in North America, Central America, South America, Europe, and Asia, and was a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History, where she worked on pollinator conservation.



Dr. Gabriela Chavarria

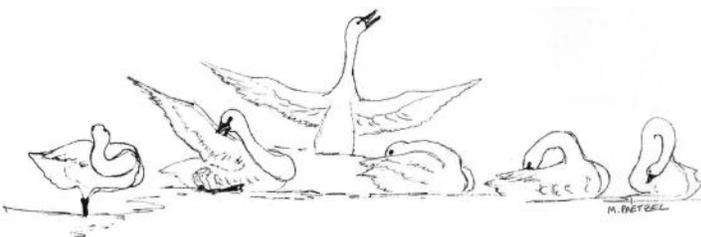
Chapter Meeting, Thursday, November 10, 2016 Program: “Hummingbirds: Jewels in the Air” by Joy & John Taylor

Siskiyou Audubon members John and Joy Taylor will once again enchant audiences with their stories of fascinating birds. This time the Hummingbirds of the Americas. There are over 240 living species of Hummingbirds in the world, and we are still discovering new ones. The only other family of birds outdoing the hummers is the 277-strong Tanagers. Hummingbirds can be found only in the Western Hemisphere, from southern Alaska to Tierra Del Fuego, and from deserts below sea level to steamy tropical forests at 16,000 feet high in the Andes of South America.



Joy & John Taylor

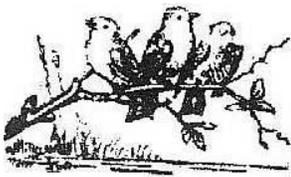
During this program you will learn which are the favorite flowers of hummingbirds in the tropics, like epiphytes, bromeliads and Heliconia (of which hummingbirds are the primary pollinators). Also you will learn which are the malar stripes and the supercilium of these tiny birds. We will show photographs of hummingbirds in Belize, Costa Rica and the United States, including Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas and Utah.



Swans Grooming
by Mary Paetzel

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

The September 20 meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the Phil & Marsha Hicks' home. After being called to order, the Minutes and Treasurer's Report were discussed and approved as presented. Correspondence was minimal. We bought a new canopy for our Kids' Nest Box Building events ("KNBB"), now we have two sturdy ones for sun & rain protection. Kids built 77 kits into bird nest boxes at the "Saturday Parkways" Festival in Grants Pass on Sept. 24. The pictures below were taken during the fun. Our next events will be the spring of 2017, following our adult Nest Box Building Day on February 25th at Grants Pass High School wood shop, when we build the houses we sell. Save the date!

Our chapter recently paid \$1300.00 for one unit of "3-COM" pine lumber, 384 boards, at City Center Plywood. With this wood each box will cost about \$3.00 to make. This is an increase but the board decided to leave the sales price of the boxes at \$6.00 apiece for now.

We have KNBB planned for Growers Market in GP on March 18 and April 15, 2017, and at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford on sat March 11. But we decided not to go to Ashland Middle School in the future, because it is out of our Chapter area. Organizers of the Madrona Elementary School "Fall Festival" on November 4 wanted to know if our chapter would be interested in setting a booth up for some nature activity, such as making pine cone bird feeders. We will get more information as we consider it.

Besides our outreach activities, the Board discussed future program topics; talked about how to increase attendance at the monthly meetings (we're going to try sending a reminder a few days before); and the annual report to National Audubon which is due in November for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. Alan Ome is going to meet with Lee Webb to organize the report. Lee has a spread sheet itemizing a lot of the data. A sincere THANKS! to Helen Simcox, who donated books to us – a full set of the Audubon Nature Encyclopedia (National Audubon) and The Living World of Audubon by Roland C. Clement.

Remember the adult Nest Box Building Day on February 25th at Grants Pass High School wood shop!



Siskiyou Audubon Society Members helping kids build nest boxes at "Saturday Parkways."



Obituary: Eleanor Pugh

On September 12, 2016 it was reported that Eleanor Pugh has died at the age of 96. An early member of Siskiyou Audubon Society, she lived in the Lookingglass Valley near Roseburg for the last few years, and was a member of Umpqua Valley Audubon.

Along with her husband Bob, Eleanor founded "Lichen," an environmental sanctuary and "intentional community" in the Wolf Creek area. Eleanor was among the early nominators of "ACEC's", the BLM's "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern." Her successful nomination of the King Mountain Rock Garden is a lasting legacy. Eleanor and other folks she enlisted started Golden Coyote Wetlands, thus saving the historic town of Golden, which is now administered as a State Heritage Site (Park ID #189) through Oregon State Parks, oregonstateparks.org, along with the Wolf Creek Inn. She was one of the stalwarts of our annual bird box building days when she lived in our area.



Eleanor drilling entry holes in fronts for nest boxes - 1992

Boyd Peters said of Eleanor's passing, "Every day I wake in anticipation of hearing and maybe seeing birds, a window to the natural world. Eleanor, thank you for that gift. There is no more exalted treasure."

Margaret James said that Eleanor "was a great lady and an awesome birder. She traveled all over the region with a recording machine and then sent the tapes to the Cornell Lab. of Ornithology." Eleanor sold cassette tapes, and later CD's, of bird song, including a short course on bird identification by ear.



Eleanor & Bob Pugh at the 1992 Nest Box Building Day, Grants Pass High School

Rest in peace, Eleanor.

Let's Talk Birds

Fall migration is in full swing, and some signal birds are being seen. On September 9, Russ Namitz wrote on OBOL*, "I have been doing morning point counts for the last 3 days in the Oregon Caves National Monument in Josephine County. Nothing out of the ordinary, but I did observe a few migrants like Golden-crowned Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Townsend's Warbler." Fran Taylor also reported Golden-crowned Sparrow in Hugo on Sept. 13, while John & Joy Taylor noted them in the Wilderville area on Sept. 20. They were present at Whitehorse County Park on Sept. 22, along with Fox Sparrow and a Wilson's Warbler. (For the other birds observed by Margaret James & Fran Taylor that day, visit e-Bird, <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31784120>.)

As in the spring, fall migration takes place mostly at night. Birds settle down during the day to rest and feed, but at night they're on the wing, high aloft. That's why the best time to see migrating birds (unless you're a night owl) is fairly early in the morning.

From Rogue Valley Audubon Society's newsletter: The Chat, Sept. 2016 (www.roguevalleyaudubon.org), comes a report that "As water levels lower and the flats are exposed, Lost Creek Lake is a good place to search for southward bound Lapland Longspurs hiding in the thin ground cover."

Also in The Chat, Jeff Tufts wrote, "For the second straight year, a family grouping of Purple Martins made their presence known at a residence . . . on the outskirts of Ashland. Immature birds were in the group that showed up July 28 . . . Purple Martins have been thought of as rare or irregular in Jackson County for several years, but multiple sightings this year at several different locations may indicate an upward trend."



Lapland Longspur
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
Photo



Lost Creek Lake, Jackson County
Rogue Valley Audubon Society Photo



2015-2016 Collected Observations and Preliminary Analysis

As described in The Siskin #276, Dec. 2015 / Jan. 2016, Project FeederWatch is a North American Citizen Science program run by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, with individuals and groups making regular counts of birds that visit feeders. The counts are conducted from November through March, with the data submitted being used by scientists to suggest possible trends in behavior and/or populations, and track broad-scale movements of winter birds.

The 2015-2016 findings have now been published by the staff at Cornell. There are a number of interesting articles based on their analysis ranging from: 'Bird Interactions,' 'Rising Robin Numbers in the North,' 'Western Scrub-jay Species Split,' 'Distinguishing Common Wrens in Winter,' and concluding with the main subject: 'The Regional Roundup' of data listing 2015-16 FeederWatch "Trends and Highlights."

To get an idea of the scope of the FeederWatch project; from November 2015 through March of 2016 there were 22,082 participants, 140,034 checklists, and 6,775,487 birds counted. The roundup and trends section listed the top twenty-five species in each of the six North American regions. When reviewing the Northwest Region's list the findings were quite similar to our own Christmas Count: Dark-eyed Juncos, American Robins, European Starlings, and Black-capped Chickadees made up the top sightings. Interesting note, it seems as though the Northern Cardinal not only dominates its home range in the Southeast, but has been spotted in North Dakota suggesting their ranges are expanding westerly.

The article devoted to displacement and predation uncovered some noteworthy findings. Eliot Miller, a Cornell scientist, suggests species that live in pairs or family groups like Blue Jays, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Common Grackles tend to be friendlier to one another, while flocking species like finches, redpolls, and to a certain extent hummingbirds, tend to argue more among themselves. This is based on 200 Feeder Watchers submitting 1,994 observations of interactions at feeder. More detail about these findings are found at Winter Highlights 2016 <http://feederwatch.org/explore/year-end-reports/> and feederwatch.org/blog/interaction-project-end-of-season-summary.

Further, in a separate piece, the Western Scrub Jay has now officially split into two separate species. We in Oregon are familiar with the "coastal" form (now the California Scrub-Jay). The other is the "interior" form (now the Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay); the California Scrub-Jay is darker and described as having a more bold personality, while the Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay is paler, has a thinner bill, and tends to be a bit shy. The American Ornithologists' Union has been considering this split for several years. The split became official after genetic research demonstrated that the two species rarely interbreed. In most of California and all of Oregon and Washington, it's the California Scrub-Jay you'll be recording. If in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, or Texas, then it's the Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay.

The 'Winter Bird Highlights' has great articles and interesting findings and can be accessed at the aforementioned website. Also, if you are interested in participating in the winter watch program it is not too late to submit an application to FeederWatch 2016-2017 season. You can find the information at: <http://feederwatch.org>.



California Scrub-Jay



Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay

As this is my fourth year participating in the "Watch." I may be able to answer some of your questions.

~ Alan Ome

Events, Field Trips, Festivals, Classes & Outings

Rogue Valley Audubon Society

Rogue Valley Audubon Society bird walks are free and open to the public. Bring your own food, water and binoculars. Car-pooling and sharing fuel expenses are encouraged. Please, no dogs. Prepare for the weather; wear sturdy shoes and expect some walking. Dates and times are subject to change, so before any trip, check the web site www.roguevalleyaudubon.org or phone the trip leader.

Wednesdays: October 5, November 2, & December 7

First Wednesday Bird Walk at Agate Lake - 8:15 a.m.

On the first Wednesday of each month RVAS takes a bird count at Agate Lake in Jackson County near Eagle Point. Experienced leaders organize the count, and birders with any level of expertise are invited to join in this citizen science effort.

The walk covers approximately 1-½ miles. It begins at 8:30 a.m. and lasts about 2-½ hours. Meet at the main parking area on the EAST side of the lake, the far side from the boat ramp. Bring binoculars, field guide, and spotting scope (if you have one). Mud boots are a good idea. Each month, results of the count will be e-mailed to participants and logged into eBird. Any questions, contact leader Murray Orr by phone 541-857-9050, or email at mworr2@charter.net.

Siskiyou Field Institute

The mission of the Siskiyou Field Institute is to increase the understanding of, and connection to the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion through education, scientific research, and public engagement. Our adult education courses combine the best of classroom and field experiences in the natural sciences. The instructors are top experts in our bioregion, specializing in subjects from aquatic invertebrates to whales. SFI youth education programs are also available.

Visit www.thesfi.org to view the complete course catalog, to register for courses, and for more information. There's a fungus among us, and SFI has the courses to help you learn about them.

Sundays, October 23 or October 30, 2016

2016 Edible Mushrooms of the Siskiyou

Instructor: Mike Potts

Location: Meet at SFI, Selma, Oregon Tuition: \$55

Learn how to safely identify and collect edible mushrooms. In a classroom introduction, learn key characteristics of local mushrooms and learn to differentiate the poisonous types & discuss cooking techniques and recipes. The class will then take a field trip in the Cave Junction area to discover and identify fall-fruited mushrooms.



Marasmiellus candida
Photo by Don Begnoche



Lactarius deliciosus
Photo by Don Begnoche
www.thesfi.org

Friday-Sunday, November 4-6, 2016

2016 Forest Mushrooms of Southwest Oregon/ Northwest California

Instructor: David Lebo, M.S. Location: Meet at SFI, Selma Tuition: \$165

Learn wild mushroom biology, ecology, taxonomy, and field identification. This class will focus on all mushrooms – edible, poisonous, mycorrhizal, saprotrophic/saprobic, and parasitic/pathogenic. On Friday afternoon the class will learn about fungi, then drive the scenic Smith River Gorge Saturday while looking for mushrooms on the Six Rivers National Forest. Sunday continues mushroom forays along the southern Oregon Coast. Saturday night lodging in Brookings is available at a special SFI rate, additional to the class tuition.

Friday-Sunday, November 18-20, 2016

2016 Exploring the Hidden World of Truffles

Instructor: Scot Loring Location: Meet at SFI, Selma, OR Tuition: \$165

Discover how to find hidden truffles during a series of hikes. In both field and classroom, learn how to identify truffles, both common and rare, from the co-author of the upcoming book *Rare Truffles of Oregon*. Nearly 400 different types of truffles are known to exist in Oregon; many species are found in the diverse Siskiyou bioregion. These include several gourmet edibles that fetch exorbitant prices, along with some rare types that are of conservation concern. As mushrooms that evolved into subterranean organisms, truffles often go overlooked. Scot will show you where to look, how to identify them by sight and smell and under the microscope, and the ecological roles they play as part of the food chain.

Wild Birds Unlimited Hosts Monthly Educational Talks

These talks by Shannon Rio take place at the Wild Birds Unlimited store, 961 Medford Center. The emphasis is on a casual and fun learning experience. Shannon loves teaching about birds using beautiful photography, fun facts and stories. She is president of the board of the Klamath Bird Observatory, and has taught at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and North Mountain Nature Park in Ashland.

Space is limited so please come in or call 541-772-2107 for reservations.

Wednesday October 12: Fun Flicker Facts, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Learn about the world of flickers and their interaction and effect upon other birds and people. There will be lots of photos and Join us for this fascinating and entertaining talk on the Northern Flicker.

Wednesday, November 9: Wintering Birds of the Rogue Valley, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Many birds do not migrate away but stay here all year long, making every month a good time to enjoy watching birds. Photos and fun facts will be the focus of this presentation. Join us for this fascinating and entertaining talk on Wintering Birds of the Rogue Valley.

For more information, visit the Wild Birds Unlimited website at <http://medford.wbu.com>.



White-crowned Sparrow
Photo from Wild Birds Unlimited

Audubon Society Membership Applications

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 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.

 **National Audubon Society –**
 Pay and Mail this to:
 National Audubon Society, Chapter Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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. 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 2018
Secretary: Margaret James.	” ” June 2018
Treasurer: Phil Hicks	” ” June 2017

Directors

Marsha Hicks.	” ” June 2017
Alan Ome.	” ” June 2018
Susan Perry.	” ” June 2018

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Education

Programs – Joy Taylor

Membership – Lee Webb

Web Master – Pat Etchells

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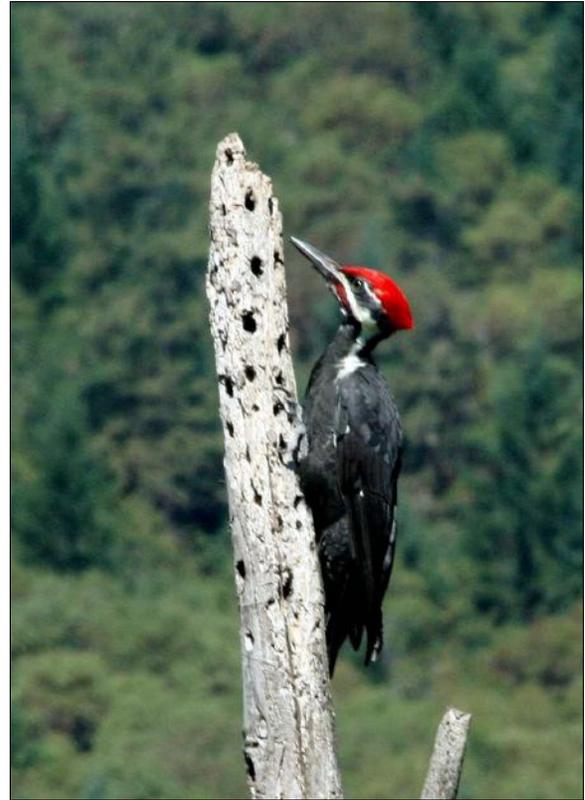
Pine Siskin
by Rosie Anderson

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Clean Out Your Birds' Nest Boxes!



Pileated Woodpecker - Male (see the red malar stripe)
Photo by Phil Hicks

Date Book – October / November 2016

Wed. Oct. 5: Rogue Valley Audubon Society 1st Wednesday Bird Walk at Agate Lake 8:15 a.m.

Thur. Oct. 13: Siskiyou Audubon Society Chapter Meeting - Program: "The Truth About the Birds & the Bees" 6 p.m.

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Sun. Oct. 23 and Sun. Oct. 30: Siskiyou Field Institute Classes - Edible Mushrooms of the Siskiyou

Wed. Nov. 2: RVAS 1st Wednesday Bird Walk at Agate Lake 8:15 a.m.

Fri.-Sun. Nov. 4-6: Siskiyou Field Institute Class - Forest Mushrooms of Southwest Oregon/Northwest California

Wed. Nov. 9: WBU Medford Educational Talk - Wintering Birds of the Rogue Valley 5:30 p.m.

Thur. Nov. 10: Siskiyou Audubon Society Chapter Meeting - Program: "Hummingbirds - Jewels in the Air" 6 p.m.

Fri.-Sun. Nov. 18-20: SFI Class: Exploring the Hidden World of Truffles

Marsha & Maggie
show off our new
supply of lumber
for nest boxes.



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



Pine Siskin
by Joy Taylor