



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. Park at the north end of the campus. Meetings are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served. Please bring your own coffee mug to help us hold down costs. We hope you will come to our informal meeting.

Chapter Meeting Thursday, April 13, 2017 – 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Our April meeting begins with refreshments and socializing, and bird talk – observations, questions and answers, and the

Program: Identifying the Birds of the Josephine County, by Susan Bush & Fran Taylor

Do you know the names of the birds you see in your yard? Come learn them at this Siskiyou Audubon Society meeting.

Susan Bush and Fran Taylor will discuss how to identify birds using a field guide, while showing slides and giving descriptions of the common birds of our region. From the ground birds like Oregon Junco and Spotted Towhee to the aerial acrobats like Tree Swallows, the birds we often see are the focus of the talk.



Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
Photo by Alan Ome

Susan Bush and Fran Taylor are long-time members of Siskiyou Audubon Society and amateur naturalists who have gained familiarity with the local birds by frequent and regular bird-watching.

After the program portion of the meeting, we'll get down to business, as we ask for nominations for our May election of officers and directors. Offices to be filled this year are President, Treasurer, and one Director. Officer terms are for two years.

Phil Hicks is willing to serve again as Treasurer, so candidates for President and Director are being sought. Outgoing President Susan Bush said it's the easiest of the jobs our Board members hold, requiring her only to prepare an agenda and chair the Chapter and Board meetings. Directors do much of the work of the Society, and attend monthly meetings. Since our work involves supervising kids building nest boxes, giving programs on birds and conservation, leading bird walks and bird counts, it's a great way to "give back" to our community through education and habitat enhancement. We hope you will join us!

Chapter Meeting Thursday, May 11, 2017 – 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting: Election of Officers and Directors

The May Chapter meeting is the Chapter Annual Meeting, so we encourage all Audubon members to attend. Prior to Dr. Trail's program, there will be a final call for nominations for President and Director, and then the election. Any other Society business will also be on the agenda.

Program: Birds of the South Pacific: Tahiti to Easter Island by Pepper Trail, PhD

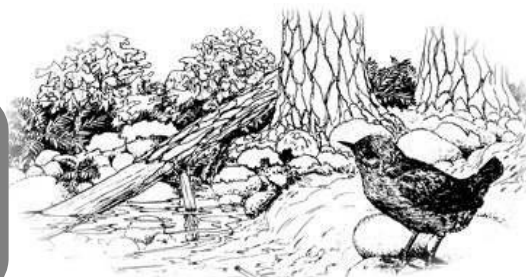
Join us for Pepper Trail's slide show and talk, tracing his extraordinary trip through the remote Marquesas and Tuamotu Islands, and on to the even more remote Pitcairn and Easter Islands. Along the way, he encountered some of the world's most endangered and seldom-seen birds, including Murphy's Petrels, Tuamotu Sandpipers, Henderson Rails, and Pitcairn Reed-Warblers.

According to Wikipedia, the avifauna of French Polynesia include a total of 122 species, of which 27 are endemic, 14 have been introduced by humans and 16 are rare or accidental. Of these, 27 species are globally threatened. This is a voyage you'll never forget!

Pepper Trail is the ornithologist at the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, and the long-time conservation co-chair of Rogue Valley Audubon Society. In his spare time, he leads natural history expeditions around the world, and writes for the Jefferson Monthly, High Country News, and other publications.



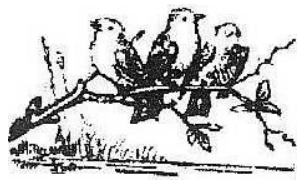
Pepper Trail



American Dipper

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 is on track following its plans made earlier in the Society year. We held our adult Nest Box Building Day on Feb. 25, and made 325 finished nest boxes and 325 kits. The nest boxes were wholesaled to Grange Co-op, Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland) and Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). We have also begun our Kids' Nest Box Building events.

On March 11, at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford, we built 14 boxes with adults and kids. Lee, Pat, Alan, Marsha, Karen, Susi and Phil were there working. We also received donations of \$51. We all wore our new vests, and everyone was so impressed. On March 18 we fielded a booth at Grants Pass Growers' Market, where we sold some birdhouses and helped 31 kids built their own. We made \$98 in sales and \$68 in donations. We will be holding another session there on April 15. Since "a picture tells a thousand words," the rest of the story appears below.

The annual election of officers and directors is coming up in May, with nominations to be tendered by the membership between April and the May meeting. Siskiyou Audubon Society has four officers and three directors, who serve two-year terms. The terms are staggered so that no Board of Directors will be without experienced members. Thus, the positions open this year are President, Treasurer and one Director. Susan Bush is retiring after two terms (4 years) as President. She says it is time for someone new to take the helm. Director Marsha Hicks' term is expiring. Treasurer Phil Hicks said he is willing to serve another term.

This year's Nominating Committee members are Marsha Hicks and Fran Taylor. Anyone who would feel comfortable taking on a more active role in our organization, please get in touch. Come & join us in being for the birds!



The crew at the end of the day - left to right: Front row: Susi Perry, Fran Taylor, Marsha Hicks, Pat Webb, Karen Welden, Trish Chancellor, Alan Ome. Back row: John Etchells, Glenn Campbell, Susan Bush, David Shiah, Phil Hicks, Pat Etchells, Ron Willing, Lee Webb, Evan Webb, Raelyn Starkenburg, Tom Starkenburg, Bob. ~A. Ome



45 Volunteers came to Grants Pass High School wood shop and made bird houses ~ Karen Welden



Funny Phil with Kevin & Alan

Nest Box Building Day, February 25, 2017 at Grants Pass High School wood shop

Pop Quiz

~ by Fran Taylor

- Hint 1. With its top-heavy physique and energetic flight, this bird is common along streams & shorelines throughout North America.
- Hint 2. This is one of the few bird species in which the female is more brightly colored than the male.
- Hint 3. Human activities such as road building and gravel quarrying have created banks where the bird can dig nest burrows, expanding its breeding range.
- Hint 4. The distinctive loud call is often heard before the bird is seen.
- Hint 5. Its food consists mainly of small fish. It also eats crayfish and other crustaceans, insects, amphibians, reptiles, young birds, small mammals & sometimes berries.
- Hint 6. Adult birds regurgitate pellets of fish bones, which accumulate on the ground around perches.
- Hint 7. Scientific name: *Megasceryle alcyon*

Answer on Page 8

More Chapter News



New Magnetic Signs

**Kids' Nest Box Building Day
at
Wild Birds Unlimited, Medford
March 11, 2017**



Above & at right:
Workers Phil, Lee, Karen and Susi
with various young builders



Phil & Lee in our new identification vests



A successful and happy builder
Pat & Marsha in background



All set up and ready for kids

~Charles Thrash

**Kids'
Nest Box Building Day
at
Grants Pass
Growers' Market
March 18, 2017**

Volunteers: Lee Webb, Phil
Hicks, Marsha Hicks, Susan Bush,
Susi Perry, Fran Taylor, Alan Ome



Our crew waiting for customers while one child
builds. ~A. Ome



Happy kids who built nest boxes
from our kits.



Most of the day was busy like this, despite rain.
~A. Ome

Results of the Illinois Valley Christmas Bird Count – December 20, 2016

Eighteen bird watchers went out into the cold morning of Tuesday, December 20, 2016 and counted 87 species of birds in the 117th Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Illinois Valley Circle, near Cave Junction. Thanks to each of you for braving the cold, but not snowy, day. (Starting temperature was 34°F, and the high for the day was 47°.) Birds observed:

Species	Number	Species	Number	Species	Number
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	Eurasian Collared-Dove	10	Bewick's Wren	1
Snow Goose	3	Mourning Dove	26	American Dipper	2
Cackling Goose	3	Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	48
Canada Goose	573	Anna's Hummingbird	10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	43
Wood Duck	11	Belted Kingfisher	6	Wrenit	11
American Wigeon	2	Acorn Woodpecker	122	Western Bluebird	38
Mallard	76	Red-breasted Sapsucker	5	Hermit Thrush	2
Northern Shoveler	2	Downy Woodpecker	3	American Robin	380
Green-winged Teal (American)	32	Hairy Woodpecker	7	Varied Thrush	2
Ring-necked Duck	185	Northern Flicker	31	European Starling	339
Lesser Scaup	2	Pileated Woodpecker	11	Cedar Waxwing	40
Bufflehead	27	American Kestrel	3	Fox Sparrow	33
Hooded Merganser	16	Peregrine Falcon	1	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	366
Common Merganser	9	Black Phoebe	15	White-crowned Sparrow	5
Ruddy Duck	7	Say's Phoebe	1	Golden-crowned Sparrow	294
California Quail	94	Hutton's Vireo	3	White-throated Sparrow	1
Wild Turkey	128	Steller's Jay	74	Song Sparrow	57
Pied-billed Grebe	19	Western Scrub-Jay	143	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Double-crested Cormorant	5	American Crow	175	California Towhee	5
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	6	Common Raven	73	Spotted Towhee	62
Northern Harrier	1	Black-capped Chickadee	109	Red-winged Blackbird	71
Bald Eagle	1	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	6	Western Meadowlark	35
Red-shouldered Hawk	19	Oak Titmouse	1	Brewer's Blackbird	177
Red-tailed Hawk	15	Bushtit	1	House Finch	11
Virginia Rail	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Purple Finch	15
Sora	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	34	Lesser Goldfinch	21
American Coot	42	Brown Creeper	4	American Goldfinch	15
Killdeer	6	Pacific Wren	11		
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	51	Marsh Wren	3		
				Total Species Reported	87
				Total Individuals	4314



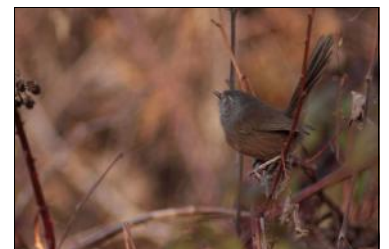
Save the Date!
Friday - Sunday
September 15 - 17, 2017
Oregon Birding Association Annual Meeting

Looking for another reason to visit Malheur?
 Please join us at the 2017 OBA Annual Meeting
 at Malheur Field Station
 World Big Year Record Holder **Noah Strycker**
 will be our keynote speaker.
 Visit the Oregon Birding Association
 website www.orbirds.org
 for more information.



Cooper's Hawk
 Photo by Alan Ome March 18, 2016

Save the Date!
Siskiyou Field Institute's
Birds & Brews Festival
Saturday, June 3, 2017

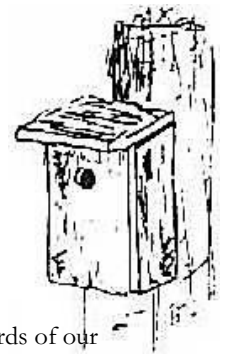


Wrenit
 Photo by Andy Mechling 2014

Kids' Nest Box Building with Siskiyou Audubon Society

****Audubon Members – Volunteers are needed for Nest Box Building for Kids****

Please sign up to work a few hours at some of our events, supervising the children who build nest boxes, and talking with folks at our sales booth. We will be selling our nest boxes, bird feeders and giving out information about birds and habitat at most of these events. To volunteer, call Lee Webb at 541-479-6859, Phil Hicks at 541-474-4457, or Fran Taylor at 541-955-2934.



Grants Pass Growers' Market

Saturday, April 15

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bring your children and come out to the Growers' Market. Kids can build a nest box for free, and learn about the birds of our region. The bird houses built will serve more than six kinds of birds in our that use cavities to nest, including swallows, chickadees and nuthatches. Don't know what kind of birds these are? Come to our booth and view posters, books and handouts that will help you to learn.

Kids will work under the supervision of our volunteers. We supply all the material and tools. Once finished, the nest boxes can be decorated with colorful markers, then put up in your yard at home, or be hung from a balcony if you don't have a yard. Information on nesting birds, tips on bird house placement, and a short field guide to the birds that use our houses are included.

There's no charge, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Galice Garden Faire – Mother's Day Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, May 13 & 14

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Celebrate Mother's Day at the Galice Community Center, down the Rogue River about 20 miles from Grants Pass. Shop for plants for the garden, landscape and house. Arts and crafts will be on display and for sale. Have a nice lunch under the trees. There will be plenty of activities for kids, too, including Siskiyou Audubon Nest Box Building for Kids.

Audubon Members – Volunteers are needed for this event

Please sign up to work a few hours at this event. More help is needed in the afternoons, especially on Sunday. About 30 kids per day are expected. Sign up with Lee Webb or Fran Taylor, or just come out to help. Bring your binoculars, too, as spring migrants will be arriving to nest along the river.



Lupine blossoms

Save the Dates!

Saturday & Sunday, June 17 & 18

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Antique Tractor Festival at Pottsville

Kids will be building nest boxes, petting goats and having a wonderful time at this annual event at the "Home of Oregon Memories," Pottsville, near Merlin north of Grants Pass.



Pottsville 2016

The Pacifica Caterpillar Mobile Natural History Classroom

Last spring, it was found out the Pacifica Caterpillar mobile natural history classroom is wearing out. The trailer itself has failing floors, electrical system and a number of other age- and use-related failures that would cost more to repair than the cost of a new trailer. Pacifica Board member and Siskiyou Audubon Society member David Shiah reported at the last SAS Chapter meeting that a new trailer to house The Caterpillar has been found and purchased.

The new Caterpillar will be readied in time for the 2017-2018 school year. Meanwhile the old trailer is still going to school this school year. To learn more, visit their website <http://pacificagarden.org/caterpillar>, or phone 541-621-6278 Vanessa.

The Caterpillar is a unique mobile science and nature center in a 32 foot trailer (with antennae and eyes added to the front)! Brought to you by your neighbors at [Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyous](#), it has been taking hands-on science to Southern Oregon elementary schools in Josephine and Jackson Counties for over ten years, involving up to 9,500 kids and adults per year. The Caterpillar's hands-on activities & curriculum foster knowledge and joy of science and nature while also providing changing displays and equipment that might not otherwise be available. Grants, fund-raising and our sponsors provide support, with schools contributing only 1/3 of the cost. (Siskiyou Audubon Society is one of the many sponsors of The Caterpillar.)

This unique educational program does more than provide schools with fun curriculum that meets state benchmark requirements for nature and science studies. We invite you to learn more about the important role The Caterpillar plays in your community and how you can get involved! Together we can spread the word that nature and science are important and fun!

Donations are still needed, as the pre-owned trailer has to be remodeled into the classroom. Mail checks to The Caterpillar, Pacifica, PO Box 1, Williams, OR 97544, Email:

caterpillar@pacificagarden.org.





Rogue Valley Audubon Society

First Wednesday Bird Count at Agate Lake

April 5 & May 3, 2017 – 8:30 a.m.

Every month on the first Wednesday, Rogue Valley Audubon Society leads a bird count at Agate Lake in Jackson County.

Meet before 8:30 at the gate on the EAST side of the lake – Enter from Dry Creek Road. (From Hwy.62, take Hwy.140 east about two miles, turn right by the golf course onto E. Antelope Rd. After the 90° corner, turn right onto Dry Creek Rd., then right again onto the lake access road.

This slow-paced walk in a congenial group begins at 8:30 a.m. and covers about 1.5 miles over about 2.5 hours. You don't need to be an experienced birder to join in, but taking part will help you become one. This is an ongoing citizen science project to record the numbers of the different species observed. The data is entered in the Cornell Ornithological Laboratory's 'e-Bird' database.

Please contact Leader Murray Orr for more information or if you have questions: 541-857-9050, or mworr2@charter.net.

Umpqua Valley Migratory Bird Festival

Saturday, April 22, 2017

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

777 NW Garden Valley Blvd, Roseburg, Oregon

Combined with our local Earth Day event, the Umpqua Valley Migratory Bird Festival reaches out to the public of all ages. We have many interactive events particularly for kids including making bird feeders, bird houses, quizzes testing bird knowledge, learning about parts of the bird, theme booth, coloring booth, live bird displays, and more. This will be our 25th year celebrating International Migratory Bird Day!

Organized by Umpqua Valley Migratory Bird Festival
egayner@blm.gov 541-464-3381

The Birds You Love to Hate

Wednesday, April 26, 6 - 7 p.m.

Wild Birds Unlimited Monthly Educational Talk
presented by Shannon Rio

With photos and sound, we will explore why some birds are so disliked and what humans have to do with the presence and abundance of these birds. Take the hated starling. Did you know that Mozart had a pet starling that influenced his musical compositions, and that he wrote a poem for the bird and read it at its funeral? Come prepared to be informed, entertained and willing to look into how we love to hate some birds that are so much like us! (P.S. Mozart's poem will be read!)

Shannon Rio is President of the Board of the Klamath Bird Observatory. She interweaves poetry, pictures, stories and fun facts to teach about the lives of our local birds.

At the Wild Birds Unlimited store, 961 Medford Center, Medford. As space is very limited, please come in or call to reserve your seat, 541-772-2107.

Harney County Migratory Bird Festival
Saturday - Sunday April 8 - 9, 2017



Cinnamon Teal

by Randy Hunn for Ducks Unlimited,
2011

Get details and register at their website:

www.migratorybirdfestival.com

Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival

Wednesday - Tuesday

April 19 - 25, 2017

Arcata, CA

Held at the peak of spring migration, Godwit Days offers around 100 field trips with expert local guides to see thousands of shorebirds around Humboldt Bay, Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet in the redwood forest, and other North Coast specialty species.

Keynote speakers this year are Bridget Stutchbury, research professor at York University, and Noah Strycker, record holder for worldwide Big Year.

Visit: <https://godwitdays.org/> for more information, or

Contact: Gretchen Obrien, 707-826-7050

2017 Pacific City Birding & Blues Festival!



There is a fun and exciting schedule of events in Tillamook County for the 13th Annual Pacific City Birding & Blues Festival April 21-23, 2017. Check their website birdingandblues.org for details, or email birdingandblues@gmail.com.

2017 Rogue Valley Bird Day Celebration

Saturday, May 13, 8 a.m. to noon

at North Mountain Park

620 N Mountain Avenue, Ashland

Rogue Valley Bird Day observes International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), which celebrates one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird – its journey between wintering and breeding grounds. This year's theme is "The Importance of Stopover Habitats."

Join us in this free, outdoor event to celebrate, with Wildlife Images exhibits, guided bird walks, shade-grown coffee, and a bird-calling contest at 10:30 a.m. For more information call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606 or the Klamath Bird Observatory at 541-201-0866.

. . . Classes & Outings

Siskiyou Field Institute

Now in its 19th year, Siskiyou Field Institute offers courses about our Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion, considered one of six global “hot spots” for animal and plant species biodiversity. At Siskiyou Field Institute, youth, adults, families and groups will find a variety of ways to explore – on hikes guided by natural history experts, on wild river and back country trail adventures, in our classroom and lab, in day and overnight camps, and on our outdoor challenge course. SFI is based at Deer Creek Center, 1241 Illinois River Road, Selma, Oregon, in the historic Kendada House. Get more information and the full catalog of courses at www.thesfi.org.



Deer Creek Center
by Dennis Vroman

Adult Field Classes & “Free Friday Learning”

Sat. , April 8: Table Rock Geology and Its Influence on Plant Communities

Instructor: Larry Broeker; Tuition: \$60

Location: Begin at Central Point Library; class will then car pool to Upper Table Rock parking lot.

Study the geologic events that shaped the Rogue Valley and surrounding foothills, specifically the Table Rocks. The course begins with a slide presentation at the Central Point Library, followed by a hike up Upper Table Rock to the summit and proceeds to various points of interest on its southeast arm.

Fri., April 14, 6:30 p.m. at SFI: Favorite Wildflowers & Butterflies of the Western Cascades

Presented by Tanya Harvey, artist, naturalist and co-author of the Oregon Flora. Tuition: Free

Sat. , May 13: Seabirds & Marine Mammals of the Redwood Coastal Trail

Instructor: Keith Bensen, B.S.; Tuition: \$60

Location: Meet at Lagoon Creek Picnic Area on Hwy. 101

Redwood National Park wildlife biologist Keith Bensen leads this field trip beginning on a promontory overlooking the mouth of the Klamath River where it joins the Pacific Ocean. Learn the principles of physics, geology and biology that have created the richest marine feeding ground on the West Coast. Observe migrating whales, descend to the Redwood Coastal Trail into an old-growth Sitka spruce forest and get views of rugged cliffs where wildlife – seals, sea lions and seabirds – bask and feed on rocks below.

Fri., May 23 6:30 p.m. at SFI: An Overview of Our Native Bumble Bees

Presented by Dr. Robbin Thorp, professor of entomology, emeritus, UC Davis. Tuition: Free

Fri.-Sat. , May 23-24: Siskiyou Bumble Bees

Instructor: Robbin Thorp, Ph.D.; Tuition: \$150

Location: SFI, Deer Creek Center

You probably know that bumble bees are essential to native plant reproduction, but did you know they also pollinate many food crops? Tomatoes, peppers, alfalfa, berries and fruit trees are all impacted. This workshop will teach you to identify *Bombus* species native to our bioregion – in labs, lectures and by observing and collecting in the field.

Volunteer Opportunities with Youth Birding Programs

Audubon members, here’s a chance to put into practice our mission of conservation through education. SFI offers exploratory educational programs for Pre-K through 12th grade students, aligned to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). [For more NGSS information, please see www.nextgenscience.org.] Mandy Noel is SFI’s Youth Program coordinator, and needs our help.

Volunteers will take students on hour-long bird walks at Deer Creek Center during their second day of an overnight field trip.

Students will play a bird identification game before their hike to get familiarized with common birds of the area. Many students will be using binoculars for the first time and will need help focusing their binoculars. About 25-30 pairs of binoculars are available at SFI. Laminated photo sheets of common birds will help students ID what they find on their hikes. Groups of 20 to 30 students will typically be split into 2 to 3 smaller groups, depending on how many volunteers are available. As a novice birder, Mandy will join the volunteers in leading hikes. Members, please book your class now. Call Mandy’s cell phone: 541-613-1814, or SFI: 541-597-8530.

Thurs., May 11: 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. Central Medford High School – 20-25 students – 1-2 volunteers needed.

Fri., May 12: 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. Golden Eagle Charter School, Yreka – 21 middle school students – 1-2 volunteers needed.

Wed., May 17: 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. Patrick Elementary, Gold Hill – 25-30 5th grade students – 1-2 volunteers needed.

Wed., May 24: 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. John Muir Elementary, Ashland – 24 4th - 5th grade students – 1-2 volunteers needed.

Fri. May 26: 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. Eagle Rock Elementary, Eagle Point – 75 5th grade students – This large group will be split into 5 groups of 15. Each group will have to share 5 pairs of binoculars unless more can be borrowed. 3-5 volunteers needed.

Tues. June 6 through Fri. June 9: Times to be announced. Fleming Middle School, Merlin.

This group is staying for a week-long Outdoor School and 3-5 volunteers will be needed for this large group on several mornings during the week.



Mandy Noel and elementary school students



Looking toward Deer Creek
from the front patio of
Kendada House

Let's Talk Birds

Coffee and Birds – What Do They Have in Common?

There are over 200 species of neo-tropical migrant birds that breed in the U.S. and Canada during the spring and early summer which migrate to the tropics of Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean for the winter. Some of them that nest in our area include the Rufous Hummingbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bullock's Orioles, several warbler species, swallows, Western Tanager, Osprey, Turkey Vultures, and several species of hawks, among others.



Traditional shade coffee farms like this one are a complex, multi-layer habitat, which helps account for the density of migrant songbirds that use these plantations during the winter.

Photo @Lee Simpson, abcbirds.org

Coffee plantations started out being planted in the shade of rain forests, a coffee plant's natural habitat. Traditional shade-grown coffee farms are biologically diverse ecosystems. Birds are attracted not only to the coffee plant, but to the food that the bushes and shade trees provide, including fruit, nectar, and insects. Shade coffee farms resemble a natural rain forest and can provide a buffer against forest loss. Bird survey studies show that heavy shade coffee farms are able to sustain almost as many species of birds (30-35) as tropical rain forests (35-40), while sun coffee farms contain less than 5 species.

North Americans drink 300 million cups of coffee a day and import more than 3.3 billion pounds of coffee each year. We have helped shape the economies, land, and peoples of Latin America over the last 200 years. Other than having a vague idea that coffee beans were grown and picked in some faraway tropical country, most of us don't think about how our coffee was grown or that it even matters. We have been slow to wake up and realize our coffee habit is causing environmental and social damage and that we hold the key to the survival of many neo-tropical migrants. Coffee drinkers are a powerful force for saving the biodiversity in tropical countries and giving our migrants a safe haven for the winter. We may choose not to give up our coffee habit, but we can insist that it be grown under trees. Shade grown coffee tastes great, but most people buy it because it is good for the birds and good for the farmers who produce it. Look for coffee given the seal of approval by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. The SMBC has developed a set of strict criteria for evaluating shade coffee farms. Make sure your next cup of coffee comes from a farm that's good for birds and for the environment. Look for this seal of approval on every bag of coffee you buy.

~ Wild Birds Unlimited, 961 Medford Center, Medford, Oregon

Email: MedfordOR074@wbmail.com; Website: www.wbu.com/medford; Telephone 541-772-2107

[Editor's Note: Sources of shade-grown coffee include Fred Meyer ("Javatopia"); Rogue Roasters in Grants Pass (rogueroasters.com); Wild Birds Unlimited ("Birds and Beans™ Bird-Friendly®" coffee); and mail order from Grounds for Change (groundsforchange.com); Audubon partner Rogers Family Company 1-800-829-1300 or rogersfamilyco.com; Seattle Audubon Society seattleaudubon.org. The SMBC is not alone in certifying bird-friendly, shade-grown coffees. A comparison chart may be found at www.scaa.org. Yes, shade-grown coffee costs more than commercial brands, in the short-term. In the long term, can we afford to lose the birds?]



Fazenda Da Lagoa coffee plantation
Minas Gerais, Brazil
wikiwand.com

ODFW Adds to Coquille Valley Wildlife Area

During their meeting in Tigard in February, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a land acquisition that will add 95 acres to the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area in Coos County. The wildlife area provides wetland habitat for wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities. The Nature Conservancy is providing funds to acquire the property.

Cape Arago Audubon Society is involved with the new Coquille Valley Wildlife Area. The Chapter hopes to build a bird blind a quarter mile off the road. The blind would allow scoping of waterfowl and other bird species on the Area. The chapter also hope to purchase, install and dedicate a bench near the blind in memory of long-time Society member Rick Foster.

~Harv Schubothe, Cape Arago Audubon Society harv@greaterbandon.org



Belted Kingfisher - female

Photo by Douglas Beall
Feb.2015 contest winner
orbirds.org




Belted Kingfisher - male
Photo: audubon.org

Pop Quiz Answer: Belted Kingfisher

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 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 _____



Pine Siskin

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

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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.

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Treasurer: Phil Hicks	” ” June 2017

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

Email Addresses & Phone Numbers

Susan Bush.	pinesandstars@gmail.com	541-955-8966
Pat Etchells.	sisqaudubon@gmail.com	541-218-0543
Marsha Hicks.	tatahi@charter.net	541-474-4457
Phil Hicks.	philhi66@charter.net	541-474-4457
Margaret James.	mcddjames@yahoo.com	541-476-8126
Alan Ome.	dejunco518@gmail.com	541-226-2380
Susan Perry.	spaquarain@gmail.com	541-476-4327
Boyd Peters	boyd.wolfcreek@gmail.com	541-866-2596
Fran Taylor.	avnwmn@budget.net	541-955-2934
John & Joy Taylor.	tayjoh@oigp.net	541-476-9846
Dennis Vroman.	dpvroman@budget.net	541-479-4619
Lee Webb.	lowebb@charter.net	541-479-6859

Committees and Chairpersons

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Education

Programs – Joy Taylor

Membership – Lee Webb

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Publicity – John Taylor, Margaret James

Ornithologist

Dennis Vroman

Publications

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Distribution – Officers and the Board of Directors

The Siskin

Siskiyou Audubon Society

Newsletter Number 284 – April / May 2017

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



Pine Siskin
by Joy Taylor

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In this Issue:

Page:

April & May Chapter Meetings.	1
Chapter News & Pop Quiz.	2
Chapter Photos.	3
Christmas Bird Count Results - Illinois Valley.	4
SAS Kids' Nest Box Building Days.	5
Pacifica Caterpillar.	5
Events, Field Trips, Outings.	6
Siskiyou Field Inst. Classes & Call for Volunteers.	7
Let's Talk Birds.	8
Pop Quiz Answer.	8
Membership Enrollment Forms & SAS Directory.	9

Date Book – April / May 2017

Wed. Apr. 5: Rogue Valley Audubon Society 1st Wednesday Bird Count at Agate Lake, Jackson County

Sat. Apr. 8: Siskiyou Field Institute Class - Table Rock Geology

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 8-9: Harney County Birding Festival, Burns, Oregon

Thurs. Apr. 13: Siskiyou Audubon Society Chapter Meeting 6 p.m. - Program: Identifying Birds of Josephine County

Fri. Apr. 14: SFI Free Friday Learning – Favorite Wildflowers & Butterflies of the Western Cascades 6:30 p.m.

Sat. Apr. 15: SAS Kids' Nest Box Building at Grants Pass Growers' Market, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fri.-Tues., Apr. 21-25: Birding & Blues Festival, Pacific City, Oregon (Tillamook Coast)

Thurs. May 11: SAS Chapter Meeting 6 p.m. Annual Election of Officers & Directors. Program: Birds of the South Pacific

Sat. May 13: SFI Class - Seabirds & Marine Mammals of the Redwood Coastal Trail

Sat.-Sun. May 13-14: Galice Garden Faire 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., with SAS Kids' Nest Box Building, Galice Community Center

Fri. May 23: SFI Free Friday Learning – An Overview of Our Native Bumble Bees 6:30 p.m.

Fri.-Sat. May 23-24: SFI Class – Siskiyou Bumble Bees

Youth Birding Programs – Volunteers Needed to lead Bird Walks with kids at Siskiyou Field Institute:

Help the staff of SFI teach youngsters from local schools how to identify birds in the field from 8:15 - 9:45 a.m.

Thurs. May 11, Fri. May 12, Wed. May 17, Wed. May 24 and Fri. May 26. Also Tues. June 6 through Fri. June 9, TBA.

Save the Dates!

Sat. June 3: SFI Birds & Brews Festival at Deer Creek Center; SAS Kids' Nest Box Building 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sat.-Sun. June 17-18: SAS Kids' Nest Box Building at the Antique Tractor Festival in Pottsville, near Merlin

Fri.-Sun. Sept. 15-17: Oregon Birding Association Annual Meeting at Malheur Field Station



Pine Siskin
by Rosie Anderson