

# The Siskin

Newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society, Josephine County, Oregon

Siskiyou Audubon Society meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month from September through May, from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. We meet at the Unitarian Universalists church of Grants Pass, 129 NW 'E' St., Grants Pass. From 6 to 6:30 we talk birds and socialize and have a free Raffle. Then about 6:30 we have Society business and announcements. The Program begins at about 6:45. Refreshments both liquid and solid are served at our informal meetings. In December we hold a holiday Potluck Dinner and in June a Potluck Picnic, in other locations. We hope to see you!

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

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

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

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

#### Program: "California Condors" by Jeffrey Dillon

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



1effrey Dillon

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

### Election of New Officers & Directors Program: "Solitary Bees" by Dave Kollen

A Glimpse Into the Lives of: Solitary Bees

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



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Bird Walks at Reinhart Volunteer Park April 16, 2024 8:30 a.m. May 21, 2024 8:30 a.m.

Join Fran Taylor of Siskiyou Audubon for a walk in Reinhart Volunteer Park in Grants Pass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. We will try to identify the birds we see, and maybe other creatures, too. Meet in the parking lot next to the Pedestrian Bridge. The mostly level walk is about a mile and takes about 2 hours.

Wear walking shoes – waterproof if the weather is wet. Bring binoculars, maybe a water bottle & a snack. If you don't have your own binoculars, we have "spares" to share. Questions? Get in touch with Fran by phone 541-291-0506 or e-mail to sisqaudubon@gmail.com.

American Avocet

Photo: LeeKarney USFWS



#### Our Mission . . .

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

#### Results of 3rd Tuesday Bird Walks at Reinhart Volunteer Park, G.P.

Fran Taylor and Margaret James, Leaders

#### February 20, 2024

Species	Count	
Canada	Goose20	
Wood I	Duck *12	
Northern Sh	noveler12	
ľ	Mallard3	
Ring-necke	d Duck8	
Buff	lehead9	
Hooded Mer	ganser2	
Rock Pigeon (Feral F	Pigeon)2	
Eurasian Collared	d-Dove1	The party
Anna's Humm	ingbird1	
America	n Coot5	
Double-crested Cormo	orant **1	<b>一种</b>
Red-shouldered	Hawk2	
Acorn Wood	pecker3	Northern Flicke
Northern	Flicker2	Wild Birds Unlin
Black F	hoebe1	
California Scr	ub-Jay2	

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

Total Number of Species......39 Total Number of Individuals......141

**Species** 

#### Comments:

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

\*\* The Double Crested Cormorant quite pale, as for an immature or non-breeding adult was March 19, 2024

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



Brown Creeper

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

Count

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

#### Comments:

<sup>\*</sup> Two Wood Ducks were up in a tree, then flew down.

<sup>\*\*</sup> One Flicker was making a hole in a dead snag.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> One Brown Creeper was carrying nesting material.

### Nest Box Building Wood Cutting Party at Hicks' Home in February

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

Some of the donated wood was in odd dimensions, so it was all cut down into parts. Other straight lumber was cut, too,

so that we had enough parts for 300 houses to be built on March 2.



Cedric W., Susan B., and Mike K. with dogs - Maggie and Rosie



We took a break for lunch



Karen W., Lee W., and Cedric W.

# Then Came Hidden Valley High School Nest Box Building 'Day' - Which Turned Into 'Days'

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

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



#### Kudos to Naomi Dabbracci

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



Volunteers at Work at Hidden Valley High Wood Shop, 3/2/24

#### Siskiyou Audubon Activities

#### Field Trip with GPHS Ecology Class

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



#### Siskiyou Audubon at Hidden Valley High School - Three Wood Shop Classes

Margaret James and Deb Berg

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

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

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

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

Amy Fogg and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Period Students in Wood Shop at Hidden Valley High School

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

#### **Upcoming Outings**

#### Rogue Valley Audubon

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

Join RVAS for our monthly outing to Denman Wildlife Area. Walks begin at 8:30 am and end before noon, and are led by Jim Hostick.

The gate will be open from 8:00 to 8:20 am. Participants need to purchase an ODFW Area Parking Permit at the ODFW Office, or at Sportsman's Warehouse on Delta Waters and Highway 62 in Medford, or at Bi-Mart. We request that all participants be vaccinated for COVID-19. Enter the Area on Agate Road – at the corner of Avenue G and Agate Rd, go north ½ to ½ mile past the fire station; the gate is on the left.



Trail through Denman

#### Olympic BirdFest 2024 Come Bird With Us in Sequim, Washington Thursday - Sunday, April 11 - 14, 2024

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic Peninsula BirdFest at the newly expanded Dungeness River Nature Center. There will be guided birding trips with local experts in varied habitats; a boat tour around a protected island bird sanctuary, or for a longer trip, to the San Juan Islands. Aso a car caravan to the Makah Reservation for bird-watching and the Makah Cultural & Research Center Museum.

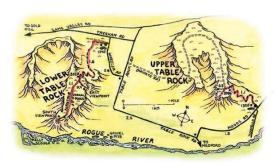
For detailed information contact the River Nature Center at 360-681-5636 or email Info@OlympicBirdFest.org. Online registration is open at www.olympicbirdfest.org.



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

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

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



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

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

#### Wild Birds Unlimited Bird Walks

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

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

#### Wednesday, April 17th 9 a.m.

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



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

#### **Keep Cats Indoors!**

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

New York City Audubon:

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

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

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

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

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

~ New York City Audubon: https://www.nycaudubon.org/take-action/make-nyc-bird-friendly/keep-cats-indoors

#### DutchNews.nl, The Netherlands:

(September 2020)

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

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



Killer Cat?

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

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

www.dutchnews.nl/news/2020/09/killer-cat-owners-may-end-up-in-court-under-wildlife-protection-laws/

#### Here in Southern Oregon:

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

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

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





Bald Eagle leff Meaux APA\_NAS

#### Save the Date! - Coming in June!

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

#### **Audubon Society Membership Applications**

Siskiyou Audubon is a not-for-profit society under IRC §501(c)3, Tax ID #93-0866572. Subscriptions are tax-deductible. Send your application with dues payment to the address shown on the form – PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE FORM.

Siskiyou Audubon Society Membership Apple Pay and Mail this to: Siskiyou Audubon Society I I wish to become a local member:   \$\Begin{array}{c} \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	, P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass, OR 97528				
Name	New □ Renewal □	Pine Siskin			
Phone	Renewal Date				
REQUIRED: E-mail Address					
OR: I do not have email. Please send a printed copy of <i>The Siskin</i> to me by U.S. mail, to					
Address:	, City, State Zip Code				
Siskiyou Audubon membership includes <i>The Siskin</i> ne	wsletter for one year from date of dues payment.				

### Audubon

#### National Audubon Society - Join us Online at www.audubon.org

Or mail your check for \$20 or more to

National Audubon Society, Attn: Donations, 225 Varick Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10014. Please reference Siskiyou Audubon Society, Chapter T61, Code C4ZT610Z.

Included are subscriptions to both *Audubon Magazine* and *The Siskin* newsletter.

The National Audubon Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our federal tax ID number is 13-1624102



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

The Galice Community Association will put on their annual Mother's Day weekend Garden Faire, May 11th and 12th, 9:00am to 4:00pm each day. The Community Hall is located on the left side of the road, about 20 miles west of Grants Pass on Merlin-Galice Road.

Come shop the selection of Tomatoes, Deer Resistant Plants, Trees, Bushes, and more.

There will be a raffle, vendors, and a goodie table with sweets, as well as serving Dutch Bros coffee and so much more!

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





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

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

NEW for 2024:

Add on an overnight camping ticket to stay on site Friday night, May 17th, to join our morning birding hikes! The cost of ticket is \$20/tent.

Check back soon at the website, thesfi.org, for full music lineup and activity schedule!

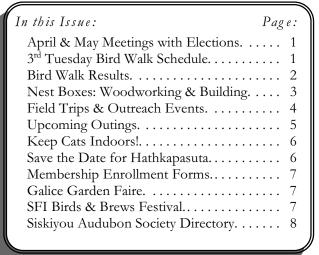
### The Siskin

### Siskiyou Audubon Society

Newsletter Number 324 - April / May 2024

P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass Oregon 97528 IRC §501(c)3, Tax ID #93-0866572 Website: www.siskiyouaudubon.org

E-Mail: sisgaudubon@gmail.com







Townsend's Warbler Photo: Zia Fukuda December 2012

#### Siskiyou Audubon Society Directory

Six issues of *The Siskin*, Newsletter of Siskiyou Audubon Society ("SAS"), are sent out each year by postal mail & email. Send address corrections to Membership, and items for publication to Editor, both at P.O. Box 2223, Grants Pass, OR 97528; phone 541-955-2934 or e-mail sisqaudubon@gmail.com. Articles and photos submitted for publication may be edited for size or clarity. Reprinting of articles from this publication is permitted except when the article is under copyright, and provided credit is given to both the author and the newsletter. SAS will conduct monthly Chapter meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month September through June, but not July & August. The SAS Board of Directors meets monthly except December, June and July..

Officers						
President: Lee Webb	Term	Expir	es June 2025			
Vice-President: Phil Hicks	"	,,	June 2024			
Secretary: Margaret James	"	"	June 2024			
Treasurer: Mike Klem	,,	,,	June 2025			
Directors						
Susan Bush	,,	"	June 2024			
Fran Taylor	,,	"	June 2024			
Pat Webb	,,	,,	June 2025			
Committees and Chairpersons						
Education: [Vacant]. Effective July 1, 202			ective July 1, 2023			
Executive Assistant: Marsha Hicks						
Nest Box Building: Lee Webb & Phil Hicks Contact us			ntact us at			
Programs: John Taylor Sisqau	dub	on@g	mail.com			
Membership: Lee Webb & Phil Hicks						
Web & Media: Pat Etchells						
Ornithologist: Dennis Vroman						
Publications: Newsletter Editor – Fran Taylor;						
Mailing List – Phil Hicks;						

Distribution - Officers and Board members

#### **Upcoming Events 2024**

#### April

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

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

#### **June**

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

> RVAS - Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Medford SAS - Siskiyou Audubon Society, Grants Pass

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



Pine Siskin by Rosie Anderson