



Siskiyou Field Institute

TRAVEL ADVISORY: fires in southern Oregon and northern California have produced considerable smoke off and on over the past month. While we do not know what the smoke levels will be like at the Siskiyou Field Institute during the WBBA meeting, recent and forecasted rains have diminished, and likely will diminish the smoke and fire activity considerably. However, elderly and people with respiratory problems should come prepared with proper medications (e.g. inhaler) and be prepared to possibly curtail outdoor activities such as field trips. Indoors there will very likely be no problems.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE

Thursday (September 28th)

12 pm onwards: Feel free to arrive early, settle in and explore the beautiful surroundings before our social gathering and barbecue starts.

4 pm – 5 pm: WBBA board welcomes participants!

4 pm – 10 pm: social and barbecue (vegetarian options available) at Siskiyou Field Institute on Deer Creek. Sponsored by the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory. Locally-produced meats from the world-famous Taylor Sausage Company and vegetables locally sourced.

Friday (September 29th)

6:30 am – 7:30 am: Breakfast and coffee at Siskiyou Field Institute. Primo Costa Rican coffee, gourmet tea, fruit juices, and local fresh bakery products.

7 am – 11 am: Bird banding demonstration at Siskiyou Field Institute. Featuring the expert field crew of Klamath Bird Observatory with lots of one-on one demonstrations. (Those participating in the molt workshop can easily break away to go to the workshop.)

7:30 am – 11 am: Field trip to wonderful birding at the peak of migration in the very birdy habitats of Deer Creek and surrounding areas. We will also explore the unique vegetation of a bog habitat with the spectacular “Cobra Lily”, the California Pitcher Plant. (Those in the molt workshop can easily break away from this for the workshop.)

10 am to 12 pm. Molt theory and application, featuring amusing and spectacular developments (Dr. Jared Wolfe, \$10 fee goes to WBBA).

12 pm – 1 pm: Lunch at Siskiyou Field Institute. Featuring wonderful local food catered by the very popular and accomplished chef Kevin Gillette of Bagel Junction (<https://www.facebook.com/k.gillette.food/>).

1 pm – 5 pm: Workshops, this will include, among others:

- Online resources for trainers *from 3pm-5pm* (Bob Frey, KBO)
- Bird first aid for Songbird Banders .. *from 1pm-3pm* (Bob Frey, KBO)
- W-R-P universal ageing system (Luiza Figueira, KBO)
- Saving Money through Mist net repair (Pedro Martins, KBO)
- Small Band Adjustment and removal (Martin López Aguilar, KBO)
- Magnification in Reading Band Numbers: An Experiment (Pedro Martins, KBO)
- Use ggplot to create amazing figures: an interactive workshop for beginning-intermediate users (Marlene A. Wagner, WBBA)

1 pm – 5:30 pm: WBBA Board Meeting.

6 pm – 9 pm: Dinner and social at Siskiyou Field Institute. Dinner will again feature chef Kevin Gillette of Bagel Junction and have a range of tasty delights for all.

7:30 pm: “**The Oddest Natural History of the Siskiyou Mountains, a Unique Island in Time**” by John Roth, Ranger and Naturalist, Oregon Caves National Monument. John is widely regarded in his knowledge of cave biota, plants and animals of the region, and his entertaining presentation style. Not to be missed!

Saturday (September 30th)

6:30 am – 8:30 am: Breakfast, tea, juices, and coffee at Siskiyou Field Institute with wonderful pastries, etc. from chef Kevin Gillette.

7 am to 8:30 am: Birding in nearby sagebrush and scrub habitats to cover birds missed yesterday.

9 am – 9:45 am: Plenary presentation. “**Mexico's fantastic bird caves and lifestyles among the swifts**”. Dr. David Whitacre will deliver our plenary during this year’s scientific session. Earning his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of California, Davis in 1992, Dave now teaches biology and statistics at the Treasure Valley Math and Science Center in Boise. Dave has studied songbirds and raptors in various places, especially in Tikal, Guatemala, where he directed a study of the forest raptor community for several years. At our meeting, he will return to his roots studying cave-nesting swifts in tropical Mexico. He will introduce us to a third great cave-nesting bird syndrome—that of two Streptoprocne swifts that form tremendous colonies in some of Mexico's impressive pit-caves. He will focus on the differing lifestyles represented among the world's 80-odd swift species, with a special focus on foraging ecology.

9:30 am – 12:15 pm: Scientific session with coffee break

12:15 pm – 1 pm: Lunch at Siskiyou Field Institute. Again, wonderful food by chef Kevin Gillette of Bagel Junction

1 pm – 5 pm: Scientific sessions with coffee break

5 pm – 9 pm: Dinner, social, elections, silent auction and keynote presentation at Siskiyou Field Institute. Our keynote speaker, **Dr. Steven Herman**: Emeritus Member of the Faculty at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, will join us to share his experiences instructing students, encouraging ethic of purpose, advancing the science of bird-banding, and influencing conservation in an entertaining talk “**Birding, Banding, and Teaching in the High Desert of Oregon**”. Steven earned his PhD in Zoology at the University of California, Davis in 1973. For more than 30 years he has taught his acclaimed, Summer

Ornithology: Birds in the Hand, a 3-week intensive field course in Eastern Oregon, providing many WBBA members and others their first opportunity to practice science in the field. He has also been an instrumental advocate in removing cattle from public lands, and in legislating the ban on the pesticide, DDT. Steve is a tireless mentor; training and inspiring beauty, connection, and natural history to promote applied conservation.

Sunday (October 1st)

6 am – 8:30 am: Breakfast and coffee at Siskiyou Field Institute

7 am – 3 pm: Field trip with famed naturalist and ranger John Roth. We will start out birding at the newly-acquired Park Service area around Bigelow Lake. The lake is a pretty mountain lake at 5600 feet near the Oregon Caves National Monument, surrounded by unique wildflowers found in few other places, and has as well as a good assortment of mountain birds. After lunch, perhaps a real, old-fashioned malt or burger at the Caves Café, offering traditional American fare in a 1930's style setting, we will then tour the justifiably world-famous caves with John.

4 pm: Return to Siskiyou Field Institute, and have a relaxed social and a meal in town at one of the great Cave Junction restaurants. Overnight for those who wish.