

April/May 2008



The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society

KBAS General Meetings...

Thursday, April 10, 2008: 7:00 p.m.
Avian CSI: Fighting Wildlife Crime with Science

The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, is the world's premier wildlife crime lab. Take a virtual tour of the facility – normally closed to the public – to see how experts for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service combine time-tested techniques and cutting-edge research in the service of wildlife law enforcement. Well known ornithologist and contributor of conservation pieces to the Grebe, Dr. Pepper Trail will keep you fascinated as he describes the awesome work being accomplished at the Lab. He has a remarkable sense of humor that you will enjoy.

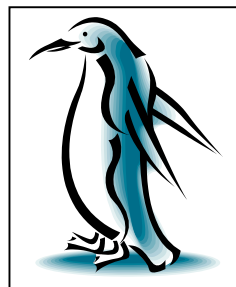
Pepper Trail is an ornithologist, conservationist, photographer, and writer. He received his B.A. from Cornell University, and his M.S. from the University of California at Davis. He then returned to Cornell, and received his Ph.D. in ornithology for his field studies of the spectacular Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock in Suriname. This work was featured in a National Geographic article, illustrated with Trail's photographs. He continued his research with post-doctoral fellowships at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the California Academy of Sciences, where he studied the ancestry of Darwin's finches.

Since 1994, Trail has been the ornithologist at the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory. In this position, he is responsible for identification of all

feathers, bones, and other bird remains that are submitted in investigations of wildlife crimes.

Trail is the author of numerous research papers in scientific journals and he has also published natural history articles in National Geographic, Geo, Pacific Discovery, and the Jefferson Monthly, among other magazines.

Thursday, May 8, 2008: 7:00 p.m.
Penguins and the Antarctic



Come to our final meeting of 2007/08 and hear Scott and Corry Dreisman present a fascinating program on the Penguins and the Antarctic. The Dreismans have visited the Antarctic multiple times, studying these birds and have many wonderful stories to tell. They have just returned from yet

another trip.

Scott is a former President of Siskiyou Audubon Society and works as an international consultant and has assisted other countries in creating Penguin habitat displays.

KBAS general meetings: Klamath County Courthouse, Lower Level Meeting Room, 316 Main Street, Klamath Falls, OR.

Inside the Grebe...

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President's Message...Darrel Samuels

This column is a mixed bag of topics about our chapter activities. I would like to address our recent Winter Wings Festival, recognition of outstanding chapter service, recent board decisions, and upcoming KBAS activities.

For those of you who volunteered at this year's Winter Wings Festival, you know how well received and successful our offerings were! Registrations were up 35-40%, walk in traffic was brisk, the Herald and News coverage was outstanding, and the evaluations from participants were glowing! At a recent wrap up meeting Julie, Diana, and Marilyn gathered several pages of suggestions from about 20 volunteers aimed at making next year's festival even better. The hard work of our coordinators as well as dedicated volunteers from KBAS and Wingwatchers really paid off!

It's that time of year when our nominating committee is actively recruiting for open positions in our chapter. Tom Essex, Beth Philips, and Charlotte Ann Kisling, our nominating committee members, are looking to fill several key positions: vice-president, treasurer, membership chair, education chair, and hospitality chair. Vice-president Rick Hardy is looking forward to retirement from USFWS and some well-deserved leisure time and travel. Treasurer Tom Essex has worked very hard to make sure our chapter is on sound financial footing and is ready to move on to other opportunities. Membership chair Jo Massey has fostered an active and growing membership over the years in spite of her very busy

work schedule. I applaud all three for their many years of service in leadership positions in Klamath Audubon! They have certainly enriched our chapter!

The education chair has remained unoccupied this year and that is a shame. I believe our chapter is poised to make an outreach to local schools and community organizations, bringing knowledge and appreciation of our astounding Basin birding resources, but we need a member willing to "harness the horses." Jim Rooks has worked hard in our chapter's educational (Scott) grants' program which has awarded yearly grants to deserving local teachers, but I feel with an education chair we could strengthen our service to the community. Please let one of the nominating committee know if you could step up. Lastly, we need a hospitality chair to insure refreshments are available at every meeting. Volunteers are also needed to staff the KBAS tables at International Migratory Bird Day (May 10 at Veteran's Park and May 17 at Tule Lake). If you haven't already signed up for a time slot, please contact Beth Philips or myself.

Over the past four board meetings the board has discussed refining the procedures to effectively utilize the funds in the Scott endowment allowing for more flexibility and more money to be used for education projects and grants. At the March board meeting a new set of procedures was passed unanimously which will increase the impact of the endowment that Wayne and Lois Ann Scott left to our chapter. I am also pleased to announce that our chapter has

received over \$1000 in donations in memory of Dr. Robert Moore who passed away in January and was an avid bird watcher. Our thanks go to his family for requesting these donations, and we will strive to use the money wisely. Your board also recently heard a presentation by members of the Tule Lake Refuge Association (see article page 7). They are working hard to stabilize a historic building at Camp Tule Lake, but their group needs more helping hands. It's not exactly birding, but it would be a great opportunity to get involved with an important historic project.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that our chapter is hosting the spring meeting of the **Oregon Audubon Council on April 11-13**. This group, composed of members of all Oregon chapters meets twice a year to discuss chapter activities and priorities and to focus on important Oregon issues. This year's meeting will be held at the Best Western Olympic Inn. A no host dinner at Dynasty Restaurant on Friday, April 11, will kick off the weekend, followed by the meeting Saturday and a field trip to the refuges on Sunday. All activities (including the conference on Saturday) are open to everyone, so if you would like to attend, please let me know and I will send you a registration form.



Field Trips Schedule...Dave Potter, Chair

Saturday, March 29, 2008: Miller Island & Lower Klamath Refuge area. TRIP IS CANCELLED

Sunday, April 13, 2008: Tule Lake & L. Klamath Refuges. This trip will be part of the Oregon Audubon Council meeting with those attending as our guests (see President's message). Leader is Ron Cole. Meet at the Fish & Wildlife Office at 8:00 a.m. or 9 a.m. at Refuge Visitor Center, 4009 Hill Road, Tulelake, CA 530-667-2231.

Saturday, May 3, 2008: Canoe/kayak Upper Klamath Lake. Leader is Dave Potter, 850-3808. Meet at the Fish & Wildlife Office at 8:00 a.m. or 9 a.m. at Malone Springs Boat launch off West Side Highway north of Rocky Point about 4-5 miles [1/2 mile gravel road off east side of highway] Bring or rent your own kayak or canoe. Life jackets highly recommended as well as sun screen, lunch or snacks.

Saturday, May 31, 2008: Birding Wood River Wetlands. Leader is Kevin Spencer. Phone: 884-5739 or riparia@charter.net Meet at the Fish & Wildlife Office, at 7:00 a.m. or 8 a.m. at Wood River Wetlands on northeast corner of Agency Lake

Saturday, June 28, 2008: Jean and Al Van Hulzen's Home at Rocky Pt. Potluck and great birding. See below for details

Fish & Wildlife Office is located at 1936 California Ave., off the on-ramp to Hwy 97 South from Nevada/Oregon Avenue.



Birding opportunities in Lake County by Mary Ellen Sargent

A group of birders in Lake County is extending an invitation to KBAS members to assist with a bird census of a Valley Falls property that has a conservation easement. Birding at other hotspots is possible also, with the possibility of a return trip to Klamath Falls through Summer Lake. Projected dates for meeting in Lakeview are April 26th or May 3rd for the migration period and/or June 7th for nesting sage brush species. Please let Mary Ellen Sargent, sargentme5@aol.com or 850-3926 know if you are interested. If there is enough interest, a group could go to Lakeview Friday evening (motel or stay at local birders' homes), then bird on Saturday, with a return to Klamath Falls very late Saturday evening, or possibly birding on Sunday with a return Sunday afternoon (group will decide!). There are several very experienced birders in Lake County that are interested in participating and leading the group while in Lake County, but we will need a Klamath birder also as a group lead. Please contact Mary Ellen by April 19th so arrangements can be made.



Daniel S. Kilby

Jean and Al Van Hulzen cordially invite members of KBAS to enjoy birding and a potluck picnic at their home in Rocky Point on Saturday, June 28.

Meet at Fish & Wildlife Office (see above) to carpool at 8:00 a.m. We will bird around their home and at Forest Service property nearby and then enjoy a potluck about 12:30. Bring a dish to share and your own plates, utensils and drinks. Also bring insect repellent/long sleeve shirt!

RSVP (not required), questions, or directions (if you wish to drive separately), call Jean at 541-810-2110 or email alvinv@hughes.net

Field Trip Reports

Winter Wings Festival Follow-Up to Hot Birding Spots, February 23, 2008 by Rick Hardy

A group of hardy people met on Saturday morning at 9:00 am (not 8:00 am as some thought!) to check on the best bird sightings of the Winter Wings Fest Weekend. The weather was not as cooperative on this day as it was during the festival, and a few of us, including the leader were not dressed warmly enough. Having grown up in North Dakota, you would think I would know by now what a strong wind does to the perceived temperature.

We carpooled down to Township Road and found a significant amount of snow hanging around that area. As we drove south and east the field got more snow-free. There were many tundra swans near Stateline Road, although White Lake was still frozen. Many of the swans had died of avian cholera so there were a lot of happy bald eagles and other predators in that area. We watched a coyote right beside Stateline Road make a run at a large flock of swans on the ground in hopes a sick one may not be able to fly away, but they all made it.

The stop at the Refuge Headquarters was appreciated for the restroom facilities and the opportunity to bird from indoors. As usual, the area in back of the refuge was loaded with birds bathing and eating. We attempted to locate the red-shouldered hawk seen consistently near the buildings, but were unable to find it.

We traveled south on Hill Road to check on Tule Lake. There were some large flocks of ducks and geese in the open water there, and we got some good looks at a variety of species. We were able to compare American wigeon and Eurasian Wigeon through spotting scopes so that everyone could see the differences. Part of the group had to leave about this time.

The rest of us decided to take a lunch break at Pappy Gander's restaurant in Merrill. We returned to Klamath via Hill Road where we stopped to check on the nesting great horned owls, which were home, and the golden eagles, which were not home.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Forensics Laboratory, March 8, 2008 by Marilyn Christian

About twenty KBAS members who responded to a notice in the last Grebe were privileged to tour the National Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, normally not open to the public. We are grateful to Ron Cole for arranging this trip. It was truly an amazing experience, led by Darrell Hickman, Branch Chief for Administration and Technical Support.

Lab personnel are enjoying about 17,000 square feet of new space and state of the art equipment since construction was completed in July, 2007.

The Lab is "one of a kind" in the U.S. as well as the world...it is the only lab in the world dedicated to crimes against wildlife. Investigations within the realm of the Lab include moving and trafficking animal parts, illegal under the EPA as well as poaching.

It is very much like a 'typical' police lab, except the victim is an animal. They examine, identify, and compare evidence using a wide range of scientific procedures and instruments, in the attempt to link suspect, victim and crime scene with physical evidence.

Various units of the lab include:

Chemistry: Answers questions concerning cause of death such as particular agricultural poison, pest control agent, or I.D. of petroleum hydrocarbons found on/in "oiled" birds and species identification.

Criminalistics: Includes a firearms group that can determine caliber, make of gun and type of shot as examples. Latent print id happens here as well.

Genetics: Identifies species and gender of remains to determine those conservation regulations that may apply. An example was explained of a family who shot animals and packaged and sold them as domesticated meat. Genetics unit was able to identify the type of wild animals involved.

Morphology: The essential first step in wildlife crime investigation since identification of the remains must be established to determine which, if any laws have been violated. Look at chemical make-up of feathers and



Field Trip Reports (Forensics Laboratory) ...Continued

bones to determine where in the world the bird came from as determined by what they ate. The geologic/chemical make-up of the Earth's crust has been well mapped to assist this process.

Pathology: Cause of death determined on many levels.

Digital Evidence: Examines forensic evidence from seized computers. For example, business activities such as purchase and sales of smuggled animal parts.

Approximately 600-700 cases are processed per year which could involve one item or hundreds of items. All work is wildlife related – not domestic animals.

We learned of the importance of “chain of custody” of the specimen, a meticulously kept document that is incredibly important to assure that no tampering with the evidence has occurred.

We learned that a virtual network is almost complete whereby investigators in originating state can assist in the investigation at the lab.

We learned that a 70°C cryogenic freezer stores vials of tissue samples ready for comparisons.

We learned that if it was determined that a bird such as a Bald Eagle died of natural causes or unavoidable trauma, then the remains are stored in a U.S. FWS depository in Denver. Native Americans can apply for possession.

On-going research and consultation to other countries is a large piece of operations.

The Lab employs about 32 paid staff but enjoys the services of volunteers...many retired professionals such as pathologists, veterinarians, and others in biology, etc.

Find fascinating reading including a story about the “Royal Wool” of the Tibetan Antelope (protected by both the EPA and at the highest level by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)) at <http://www.lab.fws.gov/contact.html>

“Our mission is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”

Note: Dr. Pepper Trail, Ornithologist at the Laboratory will be our April General Meeting speaker. See Page 1.

The Right Tree in the Right Place...by Doris Cruze, President, Audubon Society of Greater Denver

The threat of global warming has motivated many people to plant trees. The reasons are sound: Trees have the ability to impact air quality, offset storm water runoff, form sound barriers, provide shade and energy savings, produce food, and provide aesthetic value. They are a relatively inexpensive way to reduce gases closely associated with global warming.

Trees can increase property values, attract birds and other wildlife, improve neighborhoods, and help calm traffic by their presence. Trees play an important part in connecting young children with nature.

Tree-lined streets and parks, businesses with trees on the property, and public places with trees are all linked to safer traffic flows, less crime, better mental health, and many other benefits.

All that from a tree? All that and more. Over 3,000 communities earned the Tree City USA award during the past year, meaning they have met four requirements: They have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita and hold an Arbor Day observance and proclamation (see www.arborday.org for a list of all the communities on the list and for more information on trees).

When you're ready to plant some trees, here are some tips: Contact your city arborist, county extension agent, or local nursery for recommendations about which trees will best fit your needs, whether you are looking for street trees, landscaping, ornamental trees, or trees to attract birds.

Watch for tree giveaways and special promotions in your community. As tree planting time approaches, many nurseries will hold special promotions. (Continue on Page 7)

Klamath Falls Presents the 9th Annual

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration 2008

-A Free Community Event-

Saturday May 10, 2008

Veteran's Park

Klamath Falls, OR

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

The celebration is FREE and includes a variety of activities for the entire family to enjoy such as educational bird walks, historical tours of the Link River Trail, birdhouse building, educational programs, hands-on children's activities, great food, live bird demonstrations and live music and dancing. Join us in this international celebration!



GREAT EVENT FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES!

Come and enjoy.....

FUN, FOOD, EDUCATION, CRAFTS, ART, & LIVE MUSIC

All activities are FREE and require no registration.

Contact Lindsey Lyons at 883-7131 or lindsey.lyons@oregonstate.edu for more info

Visit www.birdday.org to learn more!

The Right Tree in the Right Place...Continued

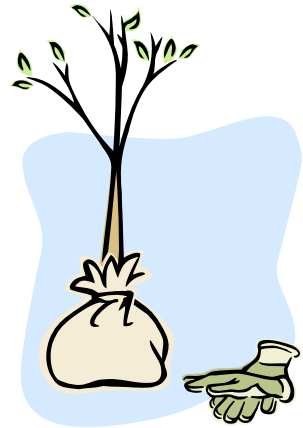
Do your homework. Consider how big your trees will grow. Avoid planting near utility lines or other hazards. The right tree in the right place means the tree can grow to become healthy and vigorous and be able to live to the limits of its natural life.

Expect to do maintenance. After your trees are planted, they will need pruning, mulch, water, feeding and regular care. Protect your trees. Mulch can insulate the soil, retain moisture, keep weeds away, and prevent lawn mower damage. Some trees need support until they are well established.

Others need protection from insects and cold weather.

Involve the whole family. Planting and caring for trees is something each of us can do to improve our community and the environment. Trees are an investment which will pay dividends for many years.

Note: This article was submitted by Mary Ellen Sargent. Arbor Day is April 25th.



Volunteers Wanted For Camp Tulelake Preservation Effort

below Sheepy Ridge.

Camp Tulelake is a valuable heritage resource that has been abandoned for many years. It is located about five miles west of Tulelake on Hill Road just

The Preservation Project: Camp Tulelake was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 and in 1997 a Historic Building Survey report was completed. In 2007, the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge Association applied for and was awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the purpose of rehabilitating the barracks building at Camp Tulelake.

There are two major goals of the project; first, to make repairs needed to halt further deterioration of the building, and, second, to develop interpretive displays for exhibit to the public. Significant work has already been completed.

The Volunteer Need: Much work needs to be done in the remaining three months of the project. The tasks at hand include the following:

- Remove ceiling structure
- Repair roof trusses
- Reconstruct window framing
- Repair and install windows and casings
- Install roofing ridge caps and edge caps, repair storm damage
- Complete leveling of building
- Complete development of interpretive displays
- General cleanup

Anyone with a willingness to assist in accomplishing these tasks would be most welcome. Much of the work requires no special skills. Some of the work would be most easily accomplished by volunteers with carpentry or other wood working skills.

Workdays have been scheduled on most Tuesdays and Saturdays in the months of March and April. We'll generally begin about 9:00 AM and go until 4:00 or 5:00 PM. If you would like to help and would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact either Larry Hearne at (541) 850-2128 or Terry Harris at (530) 260-0018. If full days are too much for you, consider helping for a few hours

Nominating Committee Report

Members of the Nominating Committee, Charlotte Kisling, Tom Essex, and Beth Phillips have been seeking an ideal slate of candidates for open positions for 2008/09. Many thanks to these folks for being willing to be part of the leadership team for KBAS. Voting will take place in May at the regular meeting. As of this printing of the Grebe, the list is:

Vice President..... To be determined
Treasurer: Paul Alley
Education..... Jerry Ingram
Membership Charlotte Kisling
Hospitality..... To be determined

Board Schedule/Location

Please call the host/hostess for directions (phone numbers on page 11). All members are welcomed at Board meetings (first Wednesday of the month).

Date	Location/Home
April	Rick Hardy
May	Tom Essex

To All the Winter Wings Festival Volunteers:

Our very sincere thanks for all your terrific help at Winter Wings Festival 2008. Registrations were up by a third over last year - about 450 and evaluations were extremely positive. ☐ We couldn't have done it without YOU! ☐ We hope to see you on the team in 2009 for the Festival 30th Anniversary, as well!

☐

Marilyn, Diana, and Julie

Reminder: Volunteers needed for International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday, May 10 at Veteran's Park and May 17 at Tule Lake. Call or e-mail Beth Phillips or Darrel Samuels if you can help

Wings and Wine Festival, May 10, 2008: Presented in part by Lane County Audubon Society. Includes birding walks, canoe trips, live raptors, educational speakers, guided birding tour, tasting at three area wineries and a gourmet dinner and much more. Some activities require pre-registration and fees. For more information, call 541-935-8841 or visit <http://www.Wingsandwinefestival.com>

Audubon group at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, Ashland, Oregon



Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Vice-President	*Rick Hardy	882-3169	rhardy11@charter.net
Secretary	*Beth Philips	723-2161	pidgeco@gmail.com
Treasurer	*Tom Essex	273-7442	ospreytom@charter.net
Members	*Marilyn Christian	850-0084	mchristian1@charter.net
	*Ken Johnston	883-7671	kjohnston7671@charter.net
	*Michelle Nuss	850-0338	michele_nuss@hotmail.com
	*Ron Cole		Ron_Cole@fws.gov
	*Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	sargentme5@aol.com

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Conservation	Ralph Opp	882-8488	kfopps@magick.net
Education	Vacant		
Field Trips	Dave Potter	850-3808	kpottermom@yahoo.com
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Publicity	Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	sargentme5@aol.com
School Grants	Marge Glass	883-7418	
Winter Wings	Marilyn Christian	850-0084	Mchristian1@charter.net
	Diana Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
	Julie Van Moorhem	882-4488	jvanmoo@sisna.com

KBAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

Local Membership Dues

- Individual: \$20
- Student and Seniors (62 and over): \$15
- Family: \$25
- I want to do more. Here is my tax deductible contribution for \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

- Check here if you are a current member of national Audubon
- Not sure of national membership status

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Klamath Basin Audubon Society - **Chapter Code T 60**

Should you be a first time member of National Audubon, please use the above Chapter Code on your form – we receive additional \$\$.

Please contact me regarding:

- Gift memberships
- Volunteering for KBAS Committee activities

Make your check payable to KBAS and mail with this form to: KBAS, .O. Box 354, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

The Grebe

Is published 5 times a year by the
Klamath Basin Audubon Society
(KBAS)

Mission: *The Klamath Basin Audubon Society will provide the opportunity for all to experience and appreciate our region's wildlife and other natural resources.*

- KBAS is a chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society
- KBAS general meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July and August at the Klamath County Courthouse, Lower Level Meeting Room, 316 Main Street, Klamath Falls, OR.
- The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. the Wednesday preceding the General Meeting; locations to be announced. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- For address changes please contact both National Audubon Society and KBAS, Attn. Jo Massey, P.O. Box 354, Klamath Falls, OR. 97601
- Comments and information to *The Grebe* Editor are welcomed and encouraged. Send to Grebe Editor, 6749 Coopers Hawk Rd. Klamath Falls, OR. 97601 or mchristian1@charter.net.
- Check our website at www.klamathaudubon.org



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Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
April/May 2008

Non-profit Organization
Klamath Falls OR 97601
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 128

Meetings

- ✓ **Thursday, April 10, 2008: 7:00 p.m. Avian CSI: Fighting Wildlife Crime with Science.** See page 1
- ✓ **Thursday, May 8, 2008: 7:00 p.m. Penguins and the Antarctic.** See page 1

Field Trips/Activities

- ✓ **Saturday, March 29, 2008:** Miller Island & Lower Klamath Refuge area. CANCELLED
- ✓ **Sunday, April 13, 2008:** Tule Lake & L. Klamath Refuges See page 3
- ✓ **Saturday, May 3, 2008:** Canoe/kayak Upper Klamath Lake See page 3
- ✓ **Saturday, May 31, 2008:** Birding Wood River Wetlands. See page 3
- ✓ **Saturday, June 28, 2008:** Pot luck picnic and birding at a private home in the Rocky Pt. area. See page 3

Other Events

- ✓ **Olympic Bird Fest 2008, Sequim, WA April 4-6, 2008** Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and a salmon banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Contact: Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382; 360-681-4076; info@olympicbirdfest.org , www.olympicbirdfest.org .
- ✓ **Godwit Days April 18-20, 2008** at the Arcata Community Center in Arcata, CA. Choose from over 100 field trips and workshops and browse the vendors at the bird fair. Go to www.godwitdays.com for more details and to register on-line.
- ✓ **Wings and Wine Festival, May 10, 2008:** Presented in part by Lane County Audubon Society. For more information, call 541-935-8841 or visit <http://www.Wingsandwinefestival.com>