

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society

October/November 2010

KBAS General Meetings

Thursday, October 14, 6:30 p.m. "A Bird's-Eye View of Climate Change" by Pepper Trail, PhD, FWS Forensics Lab and Rogue Valley Audubon Society Conservation Chair.

Pepper illustrates this talk with examples of how climate change is already affecting birds around the world, from Alaska to Amazonia to Antarctica. There will be a little bit of science and a lot of beautiful pictures. Pepper is a well-known naturalist in southern Oregon, and recently published "Shifting Patterns: Meditations on the Meaning of Climate Change in Oregon's Rogue Valley."

You will enjoy his wit and expertise as he discusses this important issue. He did his graduate work at Cornell University.

Thursday, November 11, 6:30 p.m. Film: "On the Wing"

Come and see the story by filmmaker Dan Viens of the tens of thousands of Vaux's Swifts which

have taken up residence in the chimney of Chapman Elementary School in Portland every fall. While the Swifts are the topic of the film, Viens explores the effect this phenomenon has on the people seeing them and the Portland community.

Local Klamath Basin resident Madeleine Blake, a renown photographer and lover of the natural world, will give an introduction to the Vaux Swift film. In mid-September she visited the Chapman School in Portland to see first-hand this awe-inspiring natural event.

You will not want to miss this special screening and there just may be popcorn to go along with the movie!

Tuesday, December 14, 6:00 p.m. KBAS Annual Holiday Gathering. (note: change of date/time)

Potluck and more: Celebrate the Holidays and enjoy a great Audubon style party time! Good food by you! A Potluck dinner is planned. Bring an appetizer, hot

dish, salad, or desert for 8 to 10 persons. Also please bring your own plates, cups, and utensils. Beverage provided. More details will follow in the December/January Issue. Save the date!

Thursday, January 13, 6:30 p.m. Dave Hewitt, "Fish-eating Birds and Endangered Suckers in the Klamath Basin"

General Meetings: 6:30 p.m.
County "Meeting Room," at 4th
and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls

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President's Message . . . Darrel Samuels

I don't need to tell most of you that we are blessed to live in a birder's paradise, the Klamath Basin. At the epicenter of the Pacific Flyway and resting point for about 80% of the fall and spring migrating waterfowl, the Basin has long been recognized as a premier wildlife resource. But the crown jewel of Klamath refuges, Lower Klamath NWR, is currently experiencing a drought of major proportions that threatens a major disruption in the annual migration.

Water has not been delivered to the Refuge since 2009 as the Basin has experienced a low precipitation year and a poor snowpack in the mountains. The Refuge staff has grown a huge amount of food in preparation of the hundreds of thousands of birds making their journey south, but without water on the fields, the birds will not stop.

Refuge Manager Ron Cole is doing everything possible to obtain a special allocation of 15,000 acre-feet of water from the Bureau of Reclamation that would make about 5,000 acres of Lower Klamath a suitable feeding and rest stop for at least 500,000 migrants.

As you know, the Refuges are last in line for water after the needs of endangered fish, the tribes, and agriculture have been met.

The KBRA will put the Refuges on equal footing with agriculture and guarantee at least a minimal allocation, but passage of the KBRA is still probably many years away and depends on Congressional legislation to enact the agreement that many stakeholders worked so hard to write. In the meantime, our refuges will suffer from an uncertain water supply and, as in the case of this year, a disastrous loss of habitat for one to two million ducks, geese, swans and other birds.

Hopefully, we will get an early and wet winter, but barring that or an emergency supply of water from Upper Klamath Lake, Lower Klamath NWR will be a relative ghost of its former self.



The Grebe Logo Artist



While some of the long time members may be aware of the artist who created our Grebe logo, other newcomers may be curious. I am one of the latter. So I asked Kevin Spencer what he knew or if he could provide any reference material. He sent this excerpt from *BIRDS of OREGON: A GENERAL REFERENCE*.

"Artist Elva Hamerstrom Paulson is a professional wildlife artist and has lived in Oregon nearly forty years. The daughter of ornithologists Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom, her interest in birds and art began early. Elva spends a great deal of time sketching in the field, while her husband, Dale, photographs. The illustrations in this book reflect both the many hours she has spent out-of-doors familiarizing herself with the character and habits of birds she loves to draw, and information from her husband's photographs. Elva has illustrated OREGON of BIRDS: A GENERAL REFERENCE [the grebe logo was one of the illustrations], and six other previous books, and her art has been accepted in the Leigh-Yawkey Woodson Birds in Art many times. Twice, she

has been in the top ten finalists of the Federal Duck Stamp Competition."

More information is available in "*My Double Life: Memoirs of a Naturalist*" by [Frances Hamerstrom, Elva H. Paulson](#) and also at <http://www.nrtoday.com/article/20030406/FEATUR/104060006>

Her illustration of the Grebe was given to KBAS several years ago to be used as a logo. KBAS now has the original jpeg files courtesy of Joan Spencer. Many thanks to Joan for preserving them.

Field Trips Schedule . . .Kevin Spencer, Chair

October 2: Westside Road, Upper Klamath. This trip will focus on the last waves of migration before the passerines from the south head back and are gone for the winter. Stops will include: Odessa Campground, Rocky Point, Malone Springs, and Seven-mile Guard Station. It is also just ahead of peak time for fall color! This trip is sponsored by Klamath Bird Observatory. Leader: Kevin Spencer. Klamath Falls folks meet: Fish and Wildlife Office, at 8:00 a.m. Bring: sunscreen, hat, water, binoculars, and a lunch. Contact Kevin Spencer for more information.

Saturday, October 16: Feeder Hop! around Klamath Falls. The sparrows are back! And what else is showing up? Probably finch, quail, dove, and if lucky, a Common Redpoll! Of course all feeders have their regulars that are used to being watched, so should provide excellent close up studies! This trip will go on a route to several feeders to check what people have coming into their yards. We need good places to stop, so make sure to get your feeders listed on the route. Meet

at Fish and Wildlife Office, at 9:00 a.m. Contact Kevin Spencer for more information.

November 13: Raptors! In Butte Valley. This is the place to see raptors! Red-tailed, Ferruginous, Harriers, eagles, Rough-legged... and then add different plumage characteristics! Aging, behavior, and field marks to look for, will be discussed. Leader: Charlotte Anne Kisling. Meet/Caravan from Fish & Wildlife Service Office at 8:00 am. or meet at Dorris flag pole , Hwy 97, 8:45 am. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, warm clothes, hat, binoculars. Scope provided, but additional scopes are appreciated. For more info: contact Kevin.

Saturday, December 18, 2010 Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and Saturday, January 1, 2011, Tule Lake CBC. Usually CBCs are all day bird counting events. Groups head out within specific areas of a 15 mile diameter circle and document species and numbers of each species. At the end of the day groups meet for dinner, often potlucks, and groups submit their findings and totals during a

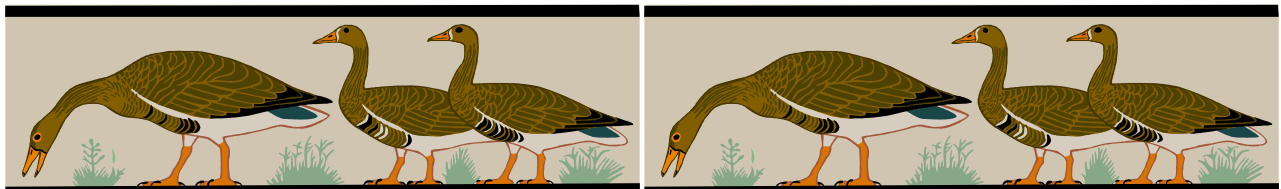
compilation. Sightings of rare birds makes CBC's interesting and fun. Klamath Falls averages about 107 species per year, and has usually always had the highest species total east of the Cascades for Oregon and Washington. Tule Lake's CBC averages in the low 90's, but has had large numbers in raptors and waterfowl. If you are interested in participating either, or both, please contact Kevin.

Editor's comment: the CBCs are great fun and rewarding as well. Kevin can pair you with an experienced person if you are new to this activity.

Contact: Kevin Spencer, Field Trip Chair, rriparia@charter.net or 884-5739 if you have any questions or suggestions or can lead a field trip.

FWS: Fish & Wildlife Office is located at 1936 California Ave., off the on-ramp to Hwy 97 South from Nevada/Oregon Ave. Times stated are START/LEAVE times.

Thursday Birding Bunch: As a weekly scheduled activity, it has been discontinued due to lack of consistent interest. However, if you would like to bird with Julie or Marilyn, contact Julie Van Moorhem [882-4488] jvanmoo@sisna.com or Marilyn Christian [850-0084] mchristian1@charter.net. They bird at least weekly and would enjoy your company!



Field Trip Reports

Saturday, August 21: KBAS Annual Picnic and Shorebirding By Kevin Spencer

Following a pleasant picnic with great food at the Tule Lake NWR Headquarters on Hill Rd., several then joined a shorebird fieldtrip out on the Tule Lake tour route to view shorebirds. The one drawback was the rather brisk winds. However, the group had good views of numerous species.

Those attending: Bill and Elaine Deutchman, Rick Hardy, Tom Essex, BJ Matzen, Julie Van Moorhem, Al and Jean van Hulzen, Mary Ellen Sargent, Kevin Spencer, Kathy McKeegan and grandson Keller, and Darrel and Diana Samuels.



Kathy McKeegan brought the wild card, a third grade birding phenom, who came with the interest of seeing a Peregrine Falcon. Guess what? The group had great looks of one coming

towards us at one point! Keller has an open invitation anytime again and we all hope he wants to see a Least Bittern.

He also challenged others that the winner of the day would be the one who saw the most Anna's Hummingbirds. Everyone tied. We didn't see one, but most were sweating that it would take just one as it seemed like Keller was going to somehow pull it off.



He also got great looks at a couple of Sora, and a few Lark Sparrows that parked it on the road for a minute before slowly winging their way into a head wind.

Below are the estimates of Shorebirds seen, along with some other species of interest. In all, about 60 species were tallied in roughly 2.5 hours.

Next year the picnic will be held at Al and Jean van Hulzen's Rocky

Point home. We'll schedule it on a nonwindy day. And hopefully we can still have the great food and bonding.

Shorebirds: Killdeer- 6; Black-necked Stilt- 45; American Avocet- 0; Greater Yellowlegs- 22; Peep sp.- 40; Least Sandpiper- 5; Long-billed Dowitcher- 1500; Wilson's Phalarope- 30; Red-necked Phalarope- 90

Bonaparte's Gull- 1; Ring-billed Gull- 8; California Gull- 4; Herring Gull- 1; Caspian Tern- 78; White-faced Ibis- 450; Peregrine Falcon-1 [appeared lighter breasted than previous day, so possibly 2 may be present working the refuge sumps]; Sora-2; Rufous Hummingbird-1 [visitor center]; Lark Sparrow- 5 [Lava Beds east entrance road along Sump 1B]; Horned Lark -1; Green Heron- 1 [English Channel]

Saturday, September 18: North America Migration Count [NAMC], Fall 2010

While lists are still being tallied at press time, it appears that upwards of 140 or more species were seen in the basin, despite the uncertain weather. Kevin states: "I think when the final total is in, it will again show that Klamath County is one of the most diverse in the state of Oregon."

Klamath Basin Birding News [KBBN] Reminder: For some time now, Klamath Basin Bird News has been maintained as an informal email network (a mailing list) of about 90+ bird enthusiasts in the Basin and elsewhere. It is also accessible from the KBAS website. Contact Dave Hewitt dhewitt37@gmail.com to sign up so you can know what birds are being seen and where to find them and contribute your own sightings! You determine how often you receive notices. Also check/contribute to ebird for information. **Field Notes are no longer posted in the Grebe since KBBN provides a timelier source of information.**

Conservation . . . Dave Potter

How about a Health Column? Not typical for the Grebe. But our personal health links to our community links to our ecosystem health. Sound like the old "Web of Life" from science classes on ecology? 'Tis!

People often think of the ecosystem as "out there in nature" with us as detached, observers, somehow on the edge. Actually, "we have met the ecosystem and it is us." Humans are a [the?] major component of the Klamath Basin's ecosystems, healthy or otherwise.

One example is installing sewage lines linking Henley Schools to the main sewer plant finally ending the on-going dumping of poorly treated sewage into the Lost River [which ends in the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge except what is pumped through Sheepy Ridge to Lower Klamath Refuge.]

Another is the recent completion of the Modoc Point facility which ended the dumping of sewage into Upper Klamath Lake [including one Nature Conservancy preserve and two National Wildlife Refuge units.] Similarly, our community is now dealing with expensive

decisions on how to improve our big sewage treatment plants which discharge into the Klamath River [nutrient loading significantly contributing to dangerous toxic algae blooms in the lower reservoirs].

KBAS should advocate for a thorough study of costs/benefits of constructing large wetlands to receive and purify sewage effluent as wetlands have long been known to effectively remove nutrients and heavy metals.

Okay, what about you and me? Our health - physical and mental - will be improved if we stay active. So will the ecosystem's health. KBAS offers many opportunities to help you avoid being sedentary! Upcoming Winter Wings Festival, writing comments on lack of water at the refuges, conservation planning at the refuges, purchasing and managing public lands, parks issues, and teaching

activities. Beyond KBAS? Friends of Moore Park and Wing Watchers both allow one to "grub in the dirt" on trail improvements. Klamath Greenways allows one to dialog with community leaders to preserve open space. KBAS and most other groups have opportunities for grant writing [from your warm homes!] to capture some of the enormous amounts of grant funds. Politicians forever need to hear about ecosystem issues from concerned voices, by email, phone or in person.

Don't let your health decline...or your ecosystem's.



KBAS Board and Member News

Board Profiles

Robert Kinkead, Board Member

Robert (Bob) Kinkead has lived in the Klamath Falls area for 4 years, In that time he has been a member of KBAS for 2 of those years. He and his wife Cary first came to the area about 20 years ago and fell in love with the fauna that abounds here. This is where we both saw our first Bald Eagle in the wild, as well as the American White Pelican and Greater Egrets. We made a promise

to ourselves that we would move here. It took us 17 yrs but we made it and, have not regretted a minute. Bob has been quite involved in the transportation and computer industries before and after moving here.

Welcome to the following new members: Ken and Bonnie Hay and Kate Marquez and Max Baker

Treasurer Report by Paul Alley, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report [Sept. 11, 2010]

Account Balances:

Account	Bank Balance
Audubon Checking Acct	\$ 7,791
Scott Fund CD	\$25,299
General-Purpose CD#1	\$ 8,622
General-Purpose CD#2	\$15,045
General-Purpose CD#3	\$10,036
General-Purpose CD#4	
PAX Fund*	\$ 4,204

* as of 6/30/10



The increase was due primarily to the transfer of \$4000 in funds for future expenses from maturing CD#1. Other effects were: **Expenditures** including brochure expenses, payment of KBAS grant, equipment purchase, and Aug-Sep Grebe printing costs. **Income** was from new and renewal memberships and fund-raising. CD#1 balance has decreased due to the transfer of \$4000 mentioned above and the transfer of \$5000 to a new CD#4 maturing in September, 2011. There was an error in reporting the PAX Fund balance in previous Grebe due to a typing error.

Changes since last report (Aug-Sep The Grebe):
The checking account balance has increased by \$3371:

Note: This accounting does not include separate Winter Wings Festival operating funds of approximately \$2200.

32nd Winter Wings Festival . . . by Diana Samuels



Winter Wings Festival Feb. 18-20, 2011

Mark your calendars now. The festival will be held a week later in 2011 to coincide with the President's Day weekend which falls later than it did in 2010. To keep the program fresh and encourage more visitors to return, we plan to offer more field trips than ever and have several new activities, such as snowshoeing at Lake of the Woods and new family-pleasing activities including a presentation by "Doc Wild" from Kalispell, Montana.

Nature photography workshops and field opportunities continue to increase as a component of the Winter Wings Festival. Our title sponsor this year will be Canon USA in collaboration with Leo's Camera and Pro Photo Supply. In addition to underwriting our keynote speaker, Arthur Morris, one of the most highly acclaimed bird photographers in the nation (see his website www.birdsasart.com), the sponsors will be offering a video workshop, beginning and advanced photography workshops, an outing and photoshop

workshop with Arthur Morris, a print station in the vendor area, and some fabulous prizes for the 2011 photo contest. Mark Fitzgerald, a digital specialist from Portland and pro photographer Larry Turner will also be on-hand this year with some new offerings to help improve your photography and post-production skills.

The remainder of the schedule is almost set. Look for details on the 2011 program to be posted at www.WinterWingsFest.org. sometime in November.

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Vice-President	*Dave Potter	850-3808	kpottermom@yahoo.com
Secretary	*Julie VanMoorhem	882-4488	ivanmoo@sisna.com
Treasurer	*Paul Alley	273-2957	p.alley@charter.net
Members	*Bob Kinkead	882-4910	rkinkead@fireserve.net
	*Ken Johnston	883-7671	kljstn@msn.com
	* Dave Hewitt	882-3456	Dhewitt37@gmail.com
	*Mary Kelley	783-3690	mkelley@blc.edu
	*Sherry Perry	882-1980	sherryperryphd@msn.com

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Conservation	Dave Potter	850-3808	kpottermom@yahoo.com
	Ralph Opp	882-8488	kfopps@q.com
Education	Kathy McKeehan	882-0291	berfert1@charter.net
Field Trips	Kevin Spencer	884-5739	rriparia@charter.net
Grebe Editor	Marilyn Christian	850-0084	mchristian1@charter.net
Historian	Ralph Opp	882-8488	kfopps@q.com
Hospitality	Beth Philips	723-2161	pidgeco@gmail.com
Membership	Kathy Essex	273-7442	tomkathy_1@charter.net
Programs	Tom Essex	273-7442	ospreytom@charter.net
Publicity	Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	sargentme5@aol.com
School Grants	Jim Rooks	851-0209	runningyrooks@charter.net
Winter Wings	Diana Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
	Anne Wenner	882-1219	Kcwenner@aol.com

The Grebe

Is published 6 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, focusing on birds and other natural resources.*

- KBAS is a chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society.
- KBAS general meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July and August at the County "Meeting Room," 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls.
- The Board of Directors meets at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the County "Meeting Room," 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- For address changes please contact both National Audubon Society and KBAS, Attn. Kathy Essex, 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

KBAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

Local Membership Dues

- Individual: \$20
 - Student and Seniors (62 and over): \$15
 - Family: \$25
 - Here is my tax deductible extra 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 _____

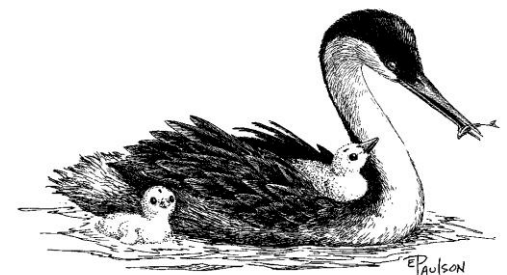
Klamath Basin Audubon Society - **Chapter Code C0ZT600Z**

Should you join as 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, P.O. 354, Klamath Falls, OR. 97601



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P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
October/November 2010

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Or Current Occupant

KBAS General Meetings are the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m., County Meeting Room, 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. The agenda:

- 6:30-7:00 p.m. Gathering and refreshments
- 7:00-7:20 p.m. Business/announcements
- 7:20-8:30 p.m. Program

KBAS Board meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m., County Meeting Room, 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

Schedule of Meetings

Board Meetings

October 7
November 4
December 2
January 6
February 3
March 3
April 7
May 5

General Meetings

October 14
November 11
December 14
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 12