

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
December/January 2013/14

Happy Holidays!

KBAS General Meetings

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Holiday Party



Where: Mia's and Pia's 3545 Summers Lane
When: December 12th, 2013 6pm-8pm
What: Please come join the Klamath Basin Audubon Society (KBAS) in celebrating this Holiday Season! We will be providing pizza for anyone who would like to join us. Consider it a chance to learn a little bit more about our organization and meet new people. All ages are welcome! We will have a brief welcome and overview about what KBAS does and how you can be involved at 6:30. The rest of the evening is to socialize and have fun!

Thursday, January 9, 2014, 6:30 p.m."An overview of the American Pika at Lava Beds National Monument" by Nancy Nordensten, Chief of Resource Management

The American pika (*Ochotona princeps*) is a small diurnal lagomorph found throughout the western regions of the United States and Canada. Rock and talus obligates, pikas are typically found on lava flows and in sub-alpine or alpine ecosystems. Due to their temperature sensitivity, pikas are frequently cited as a bellwether species for the effects of climate change on other alpine and sub-alpine mammals. In response to reports of an increased disappearance of low-elevation pika populations, the first organized survey of pikas was initiated in Lava Beds National Monument in 2005.

Nancy Nordensten, Chief of Resource Management, will present an overview of pika biology, and discuss seven years of surveys within Lava Beds National Monument. Ms. Nordensten has worked at the monument since June 2012, and has had the opportunity to work with this charismatic species since 2008, during the development of the National Park Service long-term monitoring protocol for pika.

KBAS General Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 6:30p.m., County Meeting Room, 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls.
The agenda:
6:30-7:00 p.m. Refreshments
7:00-7:20 p.m. Business
7:20-8:30 p.m. Program



President's Message . . . *Molly Russell*

The fall meeting of the Oregon Audubon Chapters was held in Portland last month. State priorities were set by the chapters. Klamath Basin was again set as one of the top three priorities along with Malheur Refuge, and Forage Fish. Mike Sutton, VP of Pacific Flyway was also in attendance and is a strong supporter of the Klamath Basin. California Audubon has also set the Klamath Basin as one of their high priorities this year. We hope to capitalize on the all the support to bring more of a national focus on our area to help with water issues at the Refuges.

Our partnership with OIT to look at the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuges has begun. Our first steps are to meet with the Refuge staff and develop projects that will benefit the Refuge, Audubon and provide student projects for OIT. There are various avenues to explore such as water delivery impacts, bird populations, and habitat to name only a few. We received $2,000 from the Oregon Collaborative Grant and are waiting to hear about our application for $5,000 more from the California Collaborative Grant process. KBAS is also contributing $10,000 to the project which will pay for the student and faculty time and travel.

A big thank you to Bill Van Moorhem and Meg Buchanan for cleaning and repairing the nest boxes at Moore Park. Also a big thank you to Darrel Samuels and his team of Jim Calvert, Barry West and Jim Rooks for cleaning and repairing the nest boxes at Miller Island.

We have been having some great presentations at our meetings this year. Our field trips have also been well attended, many times with people out of the area from California, Nevada and a couple from England. I am always pleasantly surprised by all the people who show up at meetings and field trips that are here for the birding. It reminds me of what a beautiful area we have at our fingertips. If you haven't joined us yet, you are missing out on some wonderful information and experiences.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and suggestions so we can continue to make KBAS a great organization.

Field Trips and Event Schedule . . . *by Kevin Spencer*

NOTE: No field trips have been scheduled for December and January, except the Christmas Bird Counts [CBCs].

Saturday, December 14, 2013
The Klamath Falls CBC

This will be an all day count, covering 7 areas. There will even be some owling. There are different strategies used in each area, from walking all day, to driving most of the day and getting out scanning a field, or nearby habitat. The walked areas usually cover less roaded areas, or are not as accessible. And some areas have a mixture of both walking and driving. If you are interested in participating, send me an email, and your preference for walking or driving. You can be teamed up with a group. Following the count, there will be a potluck and compilation of the birds seen during the day, at Julie Van Moorhem's home in Pine Grove. Contact me for more information: Kevin Spencer, rriparia@charter.net or call: 541-884-5739

Sunday, January 5, 2014
[tentatively] The Tule Lake CBC

This count is mostly driven by most participants, covering 3 areas in the count circle. Its weather conditions are a bit harsher, but it is a very enjoyable count. The count averages about 90 species. There will be potluck and compilation at Tulelake Elementary School at 5:00 PM. If interested in participating in this count, please contact Kevin Spencer.

□ **Please check the KBAS website for updates or additional field information: www.klamathaudubon.org**

Field Trip Reports *. . . by Kevin Spencer*

Raptor ID Trip on November 16th.



It was more of an appreciation, than instructional day, for raptors as a group of five braved the early morning misty rain, and the sometimes brisk winds, and toured around Township and Lower Klamath Lake Roads, and the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges.

There were stunning views of numerous hawks, along with aerial displays that made this day unique. The group was able to see both light and dark morphs of the Ferruginous Hawk near the junction of Fugate and Lower Klamath Lake Roads. That area is a good location for that species as they prefer alfalfa fields during the winter period. We also saw several Rough-legged and numerous Red-tailed buteos. Northern Harrier didn't seem to be affected by the sometimes brisk winds; they seemed to be plentiful. The only Prairie Falcon during the day was seen maneuvering and stooping on a Rough-legged Hawk that had haplessly drifted into the falcon's hunting area.

One of the many American Kestrels seen during the day was observed in great light, both at rest, and above, while at the Petroglyphs.

Only one eagle, an adult Bald Eagle, was encountered, near a concentration of waterfowl on Sump 1B of the Tule Lake NWR. We were not able to stir up a Red-shouldered Hawk at the Tule Lake's Discovery Marsh where one has been seen hanging out lately, but a Black Phoebe happened to be there, along with a brief but awesome close view of a Northern Shrike. Two each of the Loggerhead and Northern Shrikes were seen during the day, along with four total Great Horned Owls, one being tucked safely into a crevice at the cliffs of the Petroglyphs.

By the end of the trip, Virginia, Molly, Julie, Gary, and myself, appreciated the sometimes stunning views that raptors have to offer.

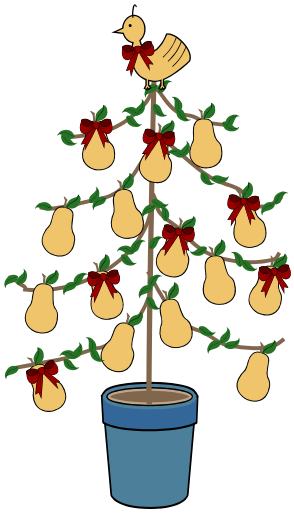
Williamson River Delta trip on October 26th

Beautiful day, and probably not many left this fall like Saturday.... About eight people attended the trip to Williamson River Delta, led by Melissa of The Nature Conservancy.

There was a good display of raptors with some up close views of Sharp-shinned, Merlin, although brief, and Red-tailed. Some soaring views of Ferruginous Hawk with great views of their clear underside, and "socks" on their legs. One Great Horned Owl was quite obliging for viewing. Kestrels, Northern Harriers, and a Prairie Falcon or two added to the raptor list. I saw my first Rough-legged Hawk for this fall season. Of course some regal Bald Eagles were seen posted up in several locations.

Other species included American Coot, which were thick in some sections of the Williamson River. Black-capped Chickadee, Bewick's Wren, and a late Wilson's Warbler were also seen. American Pipets were seen in a disced field, along with some Horned Larks. Savannah Sparrows were the most abundant of sparrows, followed by White-crowned, Lincoln's , and a few juncos. At an area with water, the group viewed some Long-billed Dowitchers, (calls were the source of ID), one Dunlin, Killdeer, and a few Least Sandpipers. There was one Yellow-headed Blackbird.

In all, over 50 species were seen or heard during the trip. Thanks Melissa! and Heather!



Important Conservation Issue Summary *. . . by Marshal Moser*

As the irrigation season ended the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge is still well below critical water levels needed to maintain the ecosystem and avoid disease outbreaks this winter. People are still awaiting the outcome of the Wyden Task Force although, as reported in the past issue, it may not include the refuges as a concern despite the critical importance of the refuge to the Pacific flyway and the positive economic impact of refuges. We still need an equitable resolution so that farmer and wildlife needs don't have to go into crisis mode every time the Basin goes into its natural drought cycles. Contact your representatives and let them know you want to see the Refuges to receive water too as part of the economy and quality of life.

In related news, ABC News and others reported in early November that wildlife refuges boost local economies. "Bird watching, hunting, or just picnicking — whatever the reason, visits to the nation's 561 wildlife refuges are big business. A new report by the Fish and Wildlife Service says visitors to federal wildlife refuges generate more than $2 billion a year in economic activity, helping to employ more than 35,000 people and produce about $343 million in local, state and federal taxes."

The US Fish & Wildlife Service is looking for volunteers for a Klamath Wildlife Response Team. First order of business will be improved coordination for rescuing injured pelicans this year. If interested contact Tia Adams or Ron Larson at 541-885-2506 or ron_larson@fws.gov.

Klamath Greenways Foundation is continuing its work with the Link River Canyon, and would like your involvement and feedback. They are planning maps in and around the Link River, etc. Contact Terry Wagstaff of the klamathgreenwaysfoundation@gmail.com to help. If you want to represent KBAS, contact our President, Molly Russel at russellx1@msn.com.

KBAS received a Collaborative Funding Agreement for 2014 of $2000 for a Klamath Basin - Clear Lake Assessment of Important Bird Areas (IBAs). KBAS will work with Oregon Institute of Technology.

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center reports that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is still logging trees significantly older than our country. If you are concerned about the return to logging off our remaining old-growth trees by agencies such as BLM and others contact your Senators. You can email or make a polite but firm phone call to Senator Wyden's office in Medford at (541) 858-5122 and Senator Merkeley's office in Medford at (541) 608-9102 letting their staff know. You can also write letters to the editor. For more information contact the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center at (541) 488-5789 or www.kswild.org .

On the national level Audubon is working on several fronts: Protecting several more species in decline, including the Sage Grouse, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red Knot, and the Oregon Spotted Frog; The Farm Bill; The Water Resources Development Act. Due to a $2 Billion settlement with BP, Audubon will be doing restoration work in the Gulf of Mexico.

And again, as reported in past issues, if you know of a place or anyone who would like beaver on their land, or conversely, have "problem" beaver, contact me: MarshalMoser@gmail.com. This project will be continuing in the Basin for at least another season to educate people to the benefits of beaver to water tables and flows, pastures, wildlife, etc. First priority is to assist people in living with beaver, then relocate any beaver that are "irreconcilably" in conflict with humans to, usually, more remote, higher elevation locations where they are needed, produce the most benefits, and cause less conflict.

Winter Wings Festival 2014 *. . . by Diana Samuels*

The Winter Wings Festival will hold its 35th annual festival February 13-16, 2014. The Klamath Basin Audubon Society (KBAS) returns in its role as Festival producer. KBAS welcomes Fisher Nicholson Realty as the Title Sponsor of the 2014 Festival. KBAS also was notified recently that they will receive a $7440 marketing grant through the Klamath County tourism grant program to promote the Festival to out-of-county visitors.

Organizers Anne Wenner and Diana Samuels announced that a 2014 brochure containing all of the program descriptions, dates and times is available in an electronic and print version on the Festival website at www.WinterWingsFest.org beginning late November 2013. "We encourage potential participants to review the brochure and go online to register on December 14, 2013 at 9 am PST. Although there are about 60 scheduled activities, several field trips have very limited capacity so it is important to register early to guarantee a spot ."

The organizers are also announcing a new digital photo contest which will replace the print photo contest that has been organized by the Klamath Photography Club in past years. Details on the contest and cash prizes. can also be found on the Winter Wings Festival website. Photographers are encouraged to submit their entries online starting in December, 2013.

About 40-45 vendor sales or display tables are available at OIT from Friday afternoon, Feb. 14 - Sunday afternoon February 16. The Festival is currently accepting applications for vendors that wish to share nature-related crafts, artwork, photography; birding supplies; optics; or other related items. Resource agencies may also display at the vendor area. See the Festival website for the application and more details. Groups may also host children related nature-related hands-on activities on Saturday, February 15.

For questions about the 2014 Festival, call 877-541-BIRD or email info@WinterWingsFest.org.

Raptor Surveys *. . . by Jeff Fleischer*



The 10th winter of survey work for the project is now active :) This project, sponsored by the East Cascades Audubon Society in Bend, runs from November through March, with the primary survey work focused during December through February. November and March are optional months for the project.

The reason I am writing is we need your help this winter! We currently have 3 routes with nobody to do the survey work. The Poe-Langell Valley route has had 32 surveys conducted on it covering all 9 winters and has averaged 112 raptors counted per survey. The Swan Lake-Dairy route has had 30 surveys conducted on it covering all 9 winters and has averaged 158 raptors counted per survey. The Butte Valley route between Dorris and McDoel has had 18 surveys conducted on it over the last 4 winters and has averaged 166 raptors counted per survey. As you can see, they are VERY productive routes and super important when it comes to understanding raptor populations in the Klamath Basin. It would be a shame to have these go vacant this winter, we simply would not be able to get a complete picture of the overall raptor use throughout the Basin this coming winter.

We ask our volunteers to conduct one survey per month during a day that fits your normal life schedule. We ask that you have at least a pair of binoculars to view distant birds, that you have a good feel for raptor ID, that you feel comfortable with driving under sometimes challenging winter conditions in a SAFE manner, and that you have fun during your survey outings! :) [Continued on Page 6]

Klamath Basin Audubon Society [KBAS]

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

KBAS is an all-volunteer organization and our membership is made up of all ages with varied interests and talents. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, give back to the community and best of all, have fun! We have a new volunteer form that you can use to tell us how you can help. We couldn't offer our programs without you so I encourage you to give it a try. Below are some opportunities that can be filled now. Contact any board member if you are interested.

Membership Chair – Jo Massey has done a great job keeping up the membership list that we use to send out the Grebe and track new and renewing members. She needs to step down the first of the year to tend to family matters so we are looking for someone to take her place. National Audubon provides a membership roster that is updated each month that is used to update our list. She also sent out letters to new members and those without email addresses. If Excel doesn't scare you, this may be the opportunity for you.

Newsletter Assistant – Marilyn Christian is doing a great job as Grebe editor. However she could use another person to learn how to format and send out the newsletter to give her a break when needed. If that is up your alley, contact Marilyn for more information.

Hospitality – We need members to bring refreshments to our general meetings for the months of March, April and May. We furnish the cups, plates, napkins and utensils. Cookies, crackers, vegetables, anything that is easy to eat standing up works well. Homemade or store bought, all is appreciated.

Hospitality Committee – We could use someone to coordinate the volunteers bringing refreshments to the general meeting. This would also include setting up the table and bringing the cups, plates, etc. More than one person would help to share the load.

Field Trip Leaders – We are always looking for a few good birders to lead field trips for our members. If you are interested, contact Ellen at 541-576-4444 or natureisit2@yahoo.com

Archiving KBAS records - contact Ralph Opp at kfopps@q.com or 541-882-8488 for more information.

KBAS BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE: December 4 and January 2 [Thursday] 205 Riverside Ave 3:00 – 5:00

Raptor Surveys . . . *Continued*



If this sounds interesting to you and you would like to get involved with this project, I will be more than happy to fill you in on the particulars for each route, provide you with a route map and data collection form tailored to your route, and give you a complete history of what has been found during the surveys that have been done so far. AND, you will have my sincere gratitude for wanting to continue the data collecting process for these 3 key Basin routes! I hope to hear from some of you soon, thank you ! :)

Jeff Fleischer, Project Coordinator
Winter Raptor Survey Project
East Cascades Audubon Society - Bend, OR
Raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com

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ALL AREA CODES ARE 541 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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Winter Wings	Diana Samuels Anne Wenner	850-5832 882-1219	dsamuels@charter.net Kcwenner@aol.com

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 C3ZT600Z**
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

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 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce offices, 205 Riverside, Klamath Falls. 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
- KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com



The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
December/January 2013/14

Or Current Occupant

JOIN US! If you would like to be more involved but are not sure what is happening, here are some places to find our current events.

Website: klamathaudubon.org

Facebook: Like us at Klamath Basin Audubon Society – We post current events such as programs, field trips and other birding information you may find useful.

Herald and News – We publish our programs and field trips in the Thursday edition as well as the Upcoming Events section on Page 2 of the paper.

Klamath Basin Birding News - https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/klamathbasinbirdnews

Be sure we have your current email address to receive the Grebe by sending an email to: kbasmembership@gmail.com

INSIDE *THE GREBE* . . .

Board/Committee Chair	7	General Meeting Programs and Agenda	1
Board Meeting Schedule	7, 8	Membership Form	8
Birding Link Sites	8	President's Message	2
Conservation	4	Raptor Surveys	5
Field Trips and Events	2	Volunteer Opportunities with KBAS	6
Field Trip Reports	3	Winter Wings Festival	5