

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
October/November 2013

KBAS General Meetings

Thursday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. "Research and Data Collection in the Klamath Basin" by Michael L. Hughes, Director, Environmental Sciences Program at OIT

KBAS is partnering with the Environmental Sciences Program at OIT using research and monitoring data from many difference sources to develop a data base and mapping of the Klamath Basin. This will give us data that we can use to determine habitat and climate changes, threats to bird species, and populations over time. In addition, we can utilize OIT students in monitoring habitat, nesting sites, populations and much more to determine what areas should be our focus. Michael will give examples of some of his student's projects that have been done recently. It should be a very informative presentation and perhaps a bit different for KBAS presentations.

Thursday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. "Raptors at Every Angle: Identification of Western Raptors Up-close and In-flight" by John M. Goodell, Curator of Natural History, High Desert Museum

John Goodell, Curator of Natural History, will be discussing advanced raptor identification techniques and his raptor research work in Central Oregon. Many raptor species are primarily seen at significant distances – in-flight; where otherwise conspicuous colors and markings are impossible to identify. With the help of photographs and several live raptors, John will discuss important I.D. characteristics of the many challenging raptor species. John will also discuss his current raptor research – monitoring lead toxicity in raptors throughout Central Oregon.

John is a wildlife biologist with over 20 years' experience conducting wildlife research and monitoring efforts throughout the western U.S. He has coordinated numerous songbird and raptor monitoring efforts in diverse habitat types with additional expertise implementing large-scale riparian and sage-steppe habitat restoration projects targeting species of greatest conservation need. John has also collaborated in conservation planning work in the Rockies; addressing the impacts of proposed and existing developments on priority wildlife species and designing preferred alternatives. As a Master Bander, he has supervised long-term raptor and passerine banding stations in several western states. John is also a Master Falconer with over 15 years experience training and hunting with birds of prey. He is currently Curator of Natural History at the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon.

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*

Darrel, Marshal and I have been working with Portland, California and National Audubon to send out a National Action Alert describing the water issues at the Klamath Refuges. Portland has issued their own alert which can be seen on their website. The national alert will be more informative and explain the background and possible solutions. If you were at September's meeting you may remember Steve Rooker saying that they try to get people to first understand so they will appreciate and then protect. That is what we are trying to do with this Action Alert. We hope to have it out in October.

Our annual picnic was held at Al and Jean VanHulzen's beautiful home. We ate outside as downy and hairy woodpeckers ate at the suet feeders, a red crossbill became a life list for one of our members and many more birds flew in and out of the feeders and watering holes. Thank you, Al and Jean, for a wonderful day.

Also a big thank you to Darrel and Diana Samuels for staffing the Third Thursday booth in August.
Jim Rooks and Ellen Minichiello-Boles have been busy planning programs and field trips for the next year. If you have suggestions for speakers or leaders, please let them know. It is shaping up to be a great year.

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 Reports

Fourmile Meadow, Saturday, September 14: Jim Rooks Coordinator; Written by Molly Russell

A beautiful morning greeted us as we drove up to Four Mile Meadow on Saturday, Sept 14th. **Pelicans** were lined up on a log and **Grebes** and **Egrets** were enjoying themselves in Upper Klamath Lake. Al and Jean Van Hulzen invited our group to bird their backyard. We had 14 people join us including a couple from England who had heard Oregon was the place to bird and another couple from Carson City on their way to Crater Lake. First up a **Red breasted Sapsucker** climbing a snag. We also saw **Black-capped, Mountain** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** in the water features. **Red-breasted, White-breasted** and **Pygmy Nuthatches** ran up and down the trees. **White-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows** fed on the ground along with **Savannahs, Lincoln** and **Fox sparrows**. Just as we thought we had seen everything the **Red Crossbills** and **Gray Jays** made their appearance. A **Downy Woodpecker** came to the suet feeder. Out in the meadow we saw a K**estrel** and **Vesper Sparrows**. The group then broke up with several going on to Crater Lake while Dave Hewitt, Jim and Amy Rooks went over to Odessa Campground and were surprised by the number of ducks, warblers, woodpeckers and others. You can see Dave's entire list at https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/klamathbasinbirdnews

Thanks to Jim Rooks, Dave Hewitt and Al and Jean Van Hulzen for a wonderful day!

Message from Tucson Audubon Society Paton's Birder Haven in Patagonia:

You may know that since Marion Paton passed away, the family has wanted to sell the house, and to keep it open in the way that the birding community has become accustomed. This vision is shared by the birding community and now we have an opportunity to do just that. With the American Bird Conservancy and Victor Emanuel we have launched an international campaign to raise the funds for its purchase and renovation.

Once purchased by the American Bird Conservancy, ownership will be transferred to Tucson Audubon to run Paton's Birders Haven for the birding community. You can help by visiting this website: www.abcbirds.org/paton My thanks. Dr Paul Green, Executive Director, Tucson Audubon pgreen@tucsonaudubon.org

Field Trips and Event Schedule

Saturday, October 5, 2013: Wood River Wetlands. Leader: Ellen Minichiello-Boles

And the survey says.....Wood River Wetlands was one of the popular votes from a recent poll. Start time and location to carpool: 8:00 a.m. at U.S. Fish & Wildlife on California Ave. Plan to finish by 11:30, and if you want to canoe/kayak, this is a perfect location for that! Remember your invasive species sticker, whistle and PFD.

This BLM facility includes paved parking, a trail, a canoe launch, picnic areas and benches, toilets, and interpretive signs. There is no drinking water. Pets must be controlled on a leash. There are no visitor fees at this site. The Wood River Wetland is open year-round for day use only. For those traveling from outside Klamath Falls, you may want to meet at the Wood River Wetlands about 8:45.

Saturday, October 12, 2013 8:00 am – 12:00 p.m. Bird Survey at Kimball State Park

Klamath Lake Land Trust has asked us to help them with a bird survey of land at Kimball State Park and the adjacent Wood River. This information will be used to help them acquire private property in the area and preserve it for future generations to enjoy. You don't need to be an expert birder to participate. Meet at the USFWS office on California Ave at 8:00 am to carpool to the Park. Or you can meet us at Kimball State Park in Sun Pass at 8:30 am. Bring water, snacks, bug repellant, and binoculars. Contact Molly Russell at russellx1@msn.com for more information.

Tuesday, October 22 at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday, October 23 at 8:30 a.m. Birding 101 Field Classes for Adults

Do you see people around Klamath Falls wearing binoculars and wonder what they are seeing? Living on the Pacific Flyway is a learning opportunity. Come enjoy a new hobby or lifetime endeavor with an enthusiastic mentor. These classes are intended to build upon one another so if you can attend more than one, that would be ideal, but not necessary. You will walk away knowing how to identify several species of birds along with some interesting behaviors and characteristics! All classes will meet at Putnam Point on Lakeshore Drive across from the North End of Link River Trail. Apologies to newcomers; there is no sign with this name, but watch for a Brown sign with Binocular icon at the bridge. This site is handicapped accessible, has paved parking lot, lots of shade, bathroom, bench and picnic tables.

Classes are appropriate for participants 14 years and older. Please call Ellen Minichiello 541.576.4444 to register and reserve binoculars.

Saturday October 26, 2013 7:30 a.m. – early afternoon, Williamson River Delta Preserve Melissa Schroeder, Klamath Basin Project Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy

There will be short/gentle hikes to a couple locations within The Nature Conservancy's Williamson River Delta Preserve. Primarily we will be watching for fall migrating species and discussing TNC's wetland restoration process of about 7,000 acres. Bring: water, snack and/or lunch, binoculars, sun and/or bug bite protection More information about the preserve: http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/oregon/placesweprotect/williamson-river-delta.xml. Questions? Contact Melissa Schroeder at 541.273.0789 x4

Saturday, November 16th: Meet the Raptors! Leader, Kevin Spencer. Spend a day out in the field viewing and learning about raptors, on. This trip follows a program about raptors at the regular chapter meeting, on the 14th of November (see Programs in "The Grebe". This fieldtrip will visit the areas of Township and Lower Klamath Lake Roads, the Tule Lake NWR, and agricultural areas around Tulelake. Meet at the US Fish and Wildlife parking lot on California Street, and leave by 8:00 AM, on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Bring binoculars, a good scope (if you have one), water, lunch, snacks, hat, sunscreen, and layered clothing, and a fieldguide & notebook. We'll carpool from the start location or meeting area. Plan on mid-afternoon before returning from the trip. Any questions?, Contact Kevin Spencer at rriparia@charter.net

Field Trips and Event Schedule . . . *Continued*

Field Trip Suggestions:

☐ For ALL field trips, please bring: Lots of water, snacks and/or lunch, binoculars, sun and/or bug bite protection, and remember to invite a FRIEND!

☐ **For field information, contact:** Ellen Minichiello-Boles at 541-576-4444 or Natureisit2@yahoo.com to register, ask questions, have suggestions or can lead a field trip.

☐ **USF&WS office** is located at 1936 California Avenue, off the on-ramp to Hwy 97 South from Nevada / Oregon Avenue. Times stated are START/LEAVE times.

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

OTHER NON-KBAS EVENTS Central Valley Bird Symposium: On November 21-24, 2013, the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 17th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium at the Stockton Hilton Hotel, in Stockton, CA. check out our symposium website at: www.2013cvbs.org/

Volunteer Opportunities At Klamath Basin Refuges *. . . by Cy Phillips*

The Refuge offers many opportunities for volunteer work and many people take advantage of these opportunities.

There are people with scientific backgrounds who help the biologists with their work. There are a number of people who help with the hunt program during hunting season. All during the year there are some of us who help with bird sightings by driving around the refuges making notes about where different birds can be found. There are also some people, usually not enough, who help man the front desk in the refuge office.

When we first moved here from California, I got involved in helping Dave Menke place and maintain photo blinds. After Dave died, I became the resident expert on what was needed to keep the photo blinds functioning. Once each year I supervise the CC students who clear the pathways to the blinds. I once put a new floor in the handicapped photo blind (#3) and I have put new camouflage material on the front of the blind several times over the years. Recently, with the help of one or two friends, I have been involved in building two new modern photo blinds which will be much more comfortable to use than the blinds which they replace. Several of the existing photo blinds were the recycled upper portion of portable bathrooms which are cramped and offer viewing in only one direction. The new photos blinds offer viewing in all four directions, and are big enough for two people to share.

Recently two friends and I built an 8 foot by 12 foot platform at the edge of the marsh near the education center so that young students could dip small creatures from the marsh without getting muddy.

As you can see, there are many ways that volunteers can get involved at the refuge and from time to time new opportunities arise. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Hallie or Steve at the refuge to talk about what help they need. The refuge phone #: 530-667-2231







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

As in the news, the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge is last to receive water in the current water crisis and has gone nearly dry [as of mid-September]. The present Task Force, due to release recommendations during September, doesn't include the refuges as a concern despite the critical importance of the refuge to the Pacific flyway and the positive economic impact of refuges. Some water is to come to the refuge by the end of September as farming needs wind down. Helping to get water to the refuges is currently a highest priority issue of KBAS. Meetings are taking place all the way to the national level. Long-term balance between water for the refuges, agriculture, and other needs are needed so that we don't have to go into crisis mode every time the Basin goes into its natural drought cycles.

As reported in a past issue, there is an ongoing project in the Basin to educate people to the benefits of beaver to water flows, pastures, and wildlife. 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. If you know of any "problem" beaver, or know of anyone or places that need beaver, contact me: MarshalMoser@gmail.com.

I recently learned of an impressive stand of old growth Douglass Fir just outside the western boundary of Crater Lake National Park and near the boundary of the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness area. The stand may be impacted by the proposed Bybee Timber sale within Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. I hope to get to the area before the snows to get some photos. Here's Oregon Wild's webpage on the Bybee logging plan: http://www.oregonwild.org/wilderness/crater-lake-wilderness/bybee-timber-sale There isn't a comment period open now to USFS, so send comments to Senators Wyden and Merkley, asking them to stop this bad project and protect the Crater Lake Wilderness.

Did you know that there is a zipline proposed in National Forest about 25 miles west of Klamath Falls? It is on a hillside ESE of the intersection of SR 140 and Westside Road. Called the "Roe Cascade Canopy and Tours," for more information try: http://1.usa.gov/18srDIt

News excerpts: A federal district court rejected the remaining claims of a 4th timber industry lawsuit in 10 years to expand logging of the Marbled Murrelet's old growth forest nesting habitat and eliminate protections for the old-growth forests. The bird is a shy, robin-sized seabird that feeds at sea but nests along the Pacific Coast in only old growth Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce, Western Hemlock, and Redwood. Old-growth is a tiny percentage of our forests. Do we need to keep logging what is left? As others have pointed out, we need to focus on science-based management of our timber to improve habitat for wildlife, protect clean water, safeguard the scenic beauty and outdoor recreation, and drive Oregon's long-term economy. Audubon and other conservation organizations intervened in the lawsuit.

The Forest Service continues to stall on protection of the Jack Creek drainage in far northern end of the Basin in Klamath County. Illegal grazing has been a major source of destruction. Mentioned in earlier issues, Jack Creek is a small creek draining a large area of springs, fens, and bogs. It has roughly 60 known sensitive species including the Oregon Spotted Frog, the once thought extinct Miller Lake Lamprey, and smaller creatures new to science.

Test shooting Barred Owls by trained hunters to help Spotted Owl has been authorized. Possibly due to the breakup of their habitat by humans, Barred Owls have expanded into the habitat of Spotted Owls and become major predators of the endangered owls.



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.

Maintain Nest boxes – The nest boxes at Miller Island and Moore Park need to be cleaned out each fall so they are ready in the Spring. Sometimes they need small repairs if they have been damaged. We will go out in October or early November before the snow flies.

Hospitality – We need members to bring refreshments to our general meetings each month except December and February. We furnish the cups, plates, napkins and utensils. Cookies, crackers, vegetables, anything that is easy to eat standing up works well.

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

Classified: Help Wanted
Traveling on the West Coast in November, December, or January?
The Winter Wings Festival needs marketing helpers

The Winter Wings Festival need helpers to deliver rack cards, posters, or Save the Date postcards to venues that birders/nature photographers frequent on the West Coast such as Wild Birds Unlimited stores, photography stores, Audubon nature centers, other birding festivals, etc.

Contact Diana Samuels or Anne Wenner or email info@WinterWingsFest.org with your travel destinations and dates to see if arrangements can be made for you to deliver our marketing products outside of the area. Thank you!

Classified: Help Wanted
2014 Winter Wings Festival

Contact Diana Samuels or Anne Wenner or email info@winterwingsfest.org for more information

- ☐ Registrar Assistant
- ☐ Art Contest Coordinator
- ☐ Vendor Coordinator Assistant
- ☐ Bird Central resource desk organizer
- ☐ Graphical schedule developer (excel)
- ☐ Optics and other equipment needs planning and coordination

Training available for all volunteer assignments. More detailed task descriptions and time commitments are available for each assignment.

KBAS BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE: November 6, December 4 and January 2 [Thursday] 205 Riverside Ave 3:00 – 5:00

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members			
President	* Molly Russell	884-3868	russellx1@msn.com
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	*Tom Essex	273-7442	ospreytom@charter.net
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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



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Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
October/November 2013

Or Current Occupant

Links to Popular Birding Sites

Klamath Basin Audubon Society: Email: klamathaudubonino@gmail.com
Like us on Facebook: Klamath Basin Audubon Society You can simply search for our page or use this link http://www.facebook.com/pages/Klamath-Basin-Audubon-Society/150534675107885
Website: www.klamathaudubon.org
Klamath Basin Bird News: Listing of birds seen in Klamath Basin by birders in the area. Anyone can view but you need to join to post. https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/klamathbasinbirdnews Sign up **The Cornell Lab of Ornithology**: Great resource for all types of information about birding. Also offers on-line classes on several subjects. http://birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478
Klamath Bird Observatory: Based out of Ashland, they do research in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. The second link is to their education library that may be of interest to educators. http://www.klamathbird.org/ https://www.zotero.org/groups/klamath_bird_observatory_k-12_library/items

We will try to bring more links that may be of interest to our members. If you have one or more to share, email it us and we will put it in the next Grebe.

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