

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
August/September 2014

KBAS General Meetings

September 11, 2014, Tools to Help with Bird ID Challenges, by Dave Hewitt

After a summer vacation, our KBAS monthly program meetings kick off on September 11 with Dave Hewitt our featured speaker. Dave's program, entitled "Tools to Help with Bird ID Challenges," will help us to identify some of those difficult families like flycatchers, shorebirds, warblers, etc., that are encountered during the fall migrations. No longer are we limited to a guidebook, binoculars, and perhaps our best guesses in identifying closely appearing species. And Dave will share the latest in technological tools including eBird, Hotshot Explorer, and others that will move even the most casual (and frustrated) birder further along on the proficiency scale!

Dave is no stranger to KBAS, being one of our most active members in recent years. A key volunteer at the Winter Wings Festival, a frequent contributor to the Klamath Basin Bird News network, and the regional data reviewer for eBird sightings, Dave's professional responsibility is a fish biologist with USGS. He moved to the Klamath Falls six years ago and is ecstatic to be in one of the top birding areas of the nation. Dave was successful in attracting only the second Oregon recorded Ruby-throated Hummingbird to his feeder, but keeps his method a closely guarded secret!

October 9, 2014, Research on Lower Klamath NWR by OIT Professors Michael Hughes and Jherime Kellermann

Our featured speakers are Oregon Tech Professors Michael Hughes and Jherime Kellermann and some of their students addressing their ongoing research study: "Habitat Use by Waterfowl and Shorebirds at the Lower Klamath IBA during the Spring 2014 Migration." A grant from KBAS has allowed 9 Oregon Tech students to conduct research focused on bird surveys and gather data on groundwater levels and water quality. Data collection was largely finished in the Spring and the group will report on an analysis of their findings. KBAS is most interested in this study as our chapter is attempting to lead an effort to qualify Lower Klamath NWR as a Globally Important Bird Area.

Dr. Hughes holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Studies, and Policy from the University of Oregon and an MS in Environmental Geology from Ohio University. He currently serves as the Director of Environmental Sciences at Oregon Tech where he teaches courses in geomorphology, hydrologic field methods, ecological assessment of riparian ecosystems, environmental management and restoration, applied limnology, aquatic, ecology, and landscape interpretation. Students doing the field work at Lower Klamath are from his undergraduate research program which engages students in hands-on field experiences using the latest research tools.

Dr. Kellerman is an Assistant Professor at Oregon Tech teaching courses in biology, wildlife ecology, and ornithology. He is also the Science Coordinator at the Crater Lake National Park Science and Learning Center. He has nearly 20 years experience conducting research in avian ecology in the Klamath Basin as well as southern Arizona, the Caribbean, and Latin America.



President's Message . . . *Molly Russell*

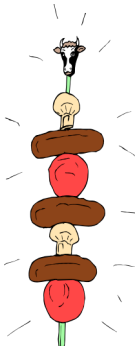
Summer is in full force and the warblers, pelicans and grebes are back. Even though we are still in draught conditions, there are still many places to see the birds. Link River Trail, Pelican Point, Lake Ewauna, Wood River Wetlands, Hagelstein Park, Moore Park and Tulelake Refuge to name a few. Make sure you get out early in the day or evening and enjoy the wonderful area we call home.

The Board held the annual Planning Meeting on June 17th. We focused on what we would like to accomplish in the coming year by setting some priorities. We will continue to monitor conservation issues as they come up on a case by case basis. We will continue to look for opportunities to form partnerships with other NGOs in the area to provide education and opportunities for birding. We are currently partners with OIT and the Greater Outdoor Alliance. We will become more of a presence in the community by submitting articles to Herald & News and providing field trips and presentations in schools and to the public all year long.

We awarded $4000 to the Klamath Falls Downtown Association for their Utility Box Art Project. Local artists will be selected to paint different birds on the utility boxes along Klamath Ave and Main Street this year. Each box will also have a short description of the bird provided by KBAS and a brochure will be produced to be available at local businesses so visitors can locate each one. This project is also funded by the Klamath Community Foundation and the Klamath Falls Downtown Association. Look for them later this year. [See flyer on page 6.

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

Picnic Time August 16



Jean and Al VanHulzen, once again cordially invite members of KBAS to enjoy birding and a potluck picnic at their home in Rocky Point on Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Grill-meister, Al, will be serving up shrimp appetizers at noon followed by his famous tri-tip from the BBQ. Bring a dish to share for about 8: main dish, salad, dessert, or appetizer. Also, bring your own beverages, table service and drinks. Insect repellent/long sleeve shirt recommended!

The birding will be great and easy! You are welcome to come early and bird informally around their lovely property or after the picnic. RSVP to Jean at jeanatrockypoint@gmail.com or 541-810-2110. This special occasion is always a very popular event that you won't want to miss!

WELCOME

TO NEW MEMBERS: Sheila Guidi, Bobbie Hitson

TO RENEWING MEMBERS: Bill & Elaine Deutschman, Marcia J. Forsythe, Nicki Horner, Valerie Paulson

Field Trips

Saturday, August 16: Potluck Picnic at Jean and Al VanHulzen's Rocky Point Home See Page 2 for details.

Saturday, September13: "Bench Birding" at Wood River Wetlands [Modoc Point Road to Agency Lake]
Meet at Wood River Wetlands at 8:30 a.m. [Carpoolers meet at USFWS Office on California Street, Klamath Falls at 8:00 a.m.]. September is the start of southward bird migration along the Pacific Flyway with white-fronted geese and pintails leading the way. Most of the water birds: herons, egrets, ibis, bitterns should still be about. Plus raptors, song birds, and waterfowl. [Note: This is the same day as NAMC, listed above; however, species and numbers tallied on this trip will be included in the NAMC data.]

The plan would be this start at Wood River Wetlands and walk out to the first bridge. The catch is this: we stopover along the way at 3 benches and quietly wait for 20 minutes and see what pops out. It can be amazing what shows up. Like maybe a little green heron or bittern. Watch how birds behave. Be out of the wetlands by 11 a.m. Contact Gary Vequist, leader, for info [402-290-6592] or garyvq@gmail.com

Saturday,September 20: North American Migration Bird Count (NAMC)
This is an all day event, but can take all forms of effort, from a backyard feeder watch, a walk in a neighborhood, or trail, a trip to a park, ranch, or favorite habitat, to lasting several hours to possibly 24 hours and going to many different habitats and areas. There will be several teams, if you wish to join one for part, or all of the day. Or, you can submit your effort separately. It involves identifying the bird species you encounter and the number seen, or heard, for each species. Also important is the time and distance covered by walking or driving during the effort. If you wish to participate in NAMC, please email or call Kevin Spencer at: rriparia@charter.net or 541-884-5739. The fall migration will be in full swing. Kevin Spencer is the coordinator, contact him at rriparia@charter.net for details.

September 26-30: Point Reyes National Seashore and Hawk Hill
Charlotte Ann Kisling will lead the group on easy walks to the best migrant traps on the west coast. Up to 490 species have been recorded in the area! Hawk Hill is the place to be to view the raptor migration. Our meeting base will be in Novato. Birding will be on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, so if you can't be there for the entire time, join us for a day or two. Close to San Francisco, you can make this part of a vacation! For questions, contact Charlotte Ann at kiss@cot.net. Deadline to RSVP is September 18.

Saturday, October 18: Fall Changing of the (Bird) Guard on the Williamson Delta.
Come join Dave Hewitt and Melissa Schroeder (TNC) to view the changing of summer to fall and enjoy the late departing migrants and early arrival of our winter birds at the always birdy TNC's Williamson Delta. Meet at the USFWS office on California Ave. at 7:45 a.m. or at the TNC entrance just north of the Williamson River on Modoc Point Road at 8:15 a.m. This is a morning only trip. For questions, contact Dave at dhewitt37@gmail.com .

Directions to the Williamson River Delta Preserve from Klamath Falls (apx. 30 minutes from Klamath Falls):
1. Head north on US Highway 97 (The Dalles-California Hwy) from Klamath Falls for about 15 miles.
2. Take a left onto Modoc Point RD and travel for about 6 miles.
3. Take a left onto Copco RD and travel for about ¼ of a mile. Park at The Nature Conservancy Preserve sign.

Saturday, November (TBD): Southern Klamath Falls Ride and Bird Tour with Tom Essex. We'll tour the river, fields and ponds just south of Klamath Falls. This morning trip is mostly riding with short walks to selected sites to see the late departing breeders and the early arriving winter birds. This is a rain or shine trip! (Unless we have a blizzard!) More details in the October/November *The Grebe.*

For all field information, contact: Mary Ellen Sargent, Field Trip Chair, 850-3926, sargentme5@aol.com to register, ask questions, have suggestions or can lead a field trip.

NOTE: Please check the KBAS website for updates on additional field trip information: www.klamathaudubon.org

Field Trip Reports

Saturday, May 10 NAMC [North American Migration Count] *by Kevin Spencer*

The spring count was quite exciting this year, as some unusual species were seen. The day itself is set purposely at a time when neotropicals are moving their way northward, and shorebirds may have stopped temporarily to gain strength for the last leg of their journey to a nesting area. Since shorebirds favor mudflats, or flooded pastures, finding such a location seemed a premium after the dry winter and spring. A drying flooded field in the Straits Drain Units of the Lower Klamath NWR seemed to be the only such place left and as the field was drying up, the numbers of shorebirds also went down. But, among the hundred or so still there on that day, and the handful of BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS, was a lone PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER, a rare Asian vagrant, and a possible first record for Klamath County. An alert went out to others out for the day, and Julie Van Moorhem, later visited the same area, and found two RUDDY TURNSTONES, a rare migrant that is mostly seen along the rocky shores of the ocean. Another surprise was finding a BAND-TAILED PIGEON in the Rocky Point area, and two YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS, one at Wood River Wetlands, and another at Wood River Day Use Area. All of the participants contributed to finding unusual or uncommon species such as: ROSS'S GOOSES,COMMON GOLDENEYE, HOODED MERGANSER, GREEN HERON, PINYON JAY, OAK TITMOUSE, MOUNTAIN QUAIL, YELLOW RAIL, MARBLED GODWIT, HORNED LARK, SAGE THRASHER, ACORN WOODPECKER, WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER, an early WESTERN WOOD PEEWEE, ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, and BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. The observers: Jean Van Hulzen, Julie Van Moorhem, Marilyn Christian, Mary Ellen Sargent, Dave Haupt, and myself, tallied 180 species for the single day. That is an amazing number and shows Klamath County has a great diverse number of habitats, and very knowledgeable keen observers!

Sunday, June 28 Redband Ranch *by Mary Ellen Sargent*

Eleven people toured the Wenner's ranch along Westside Road on a perfect morning and early afternoon, seeing 53 species. Three active nests were seen: Red-breasted Sapsucker, Northern Flicker and Bullocks Oriole. Attendees also learned about the Conservation Restoration Program (CRP) in which government and private grants were used to restore a creek feeding Crystal Creek to benefit the Redband trout. Highlights included an interaction of a Bald Eagle with a Northern Goshawk (a draw) and up close views of Sandhill Cranes, as well as boating on Crystal Creek to see huge trout, otters and turtles. Many thanks to Anne & Karl for a wonderful trip! Dave Hewitt's checklist may be found at **http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S18936573**

Saturday, July 12, Summer Birding to Wood River Valley *by Gary Vequist*

Six of us hardy souls braved the heat and traveled into the Aspen Wetlands alongside of Wood River. We saw a total of 41 birds including some still nesting in aspen and confer stands we explored. First stop was the Klamath Fish Hatchery, an area that offers ideal habitat alongside Crooked Creek - a tributary of Wood River. Despite the heat, flycatchers of several varieties were out as where hummingbirds and butterflies. Swallows are the most abundant species here with a plentiful supply of flying insect to feed [fewer mosquitoes - thank goodness]. Bald eagles that nest on the ridge above gave us a careful watch.

Our second stop was Wood River Day Use Area a shaded boardwalk and hard surface trail winds a figure eight through mostly aspen and ponderosa pine with willows along creek side. We saw and heard hairy woodpeckers and a red-breasted sapsucker near their nesting cavities in aspens. We watched trout swim in their pond a favorite of local osprey.

And finally, we ventured to the "secret" site. Via a one-mile dirt road, we arrived at Reservation Spring at the headwaters of Fort Creek. A beautiful secluded spot with cold clear water bubbling up next to a shoreline covered in yellow monkey flowers. This area is at the edge of the outlying boundary of the Historic Fort Klamath, so naturally we had to visit the interpretive plaque and cornerstone of the old fort [a bit of history never hurt any naturalist!].

WE'RE BACK! In July we kicked off planning for the **2015 Winter Wings Festival** with our key volunteers. Here's the scoop:

Richard Crossley, an internationally acclaimed birder, photographer and award winning author of '*The Crossley ID Guide*' series, will be our Saturday night keynoter. Crazy, wildly passionate, driven and single-minded are just a few of the words used to describe his love of birding and the outdoors. Learn more about his guides at www.crossleybooks.com/





Friday night's keynote will feature **Jennifer Wu,** a nature and landscape photographer, specializing in creating stunning images of the night sky and stars. Since January 2009 Canon U.S.A. selected Jennifer to be one of the world's 36 best photographers for the Explorer Of Light program, an elite group of internationally recognized photographers. See some of her amazing work at www.jenniferwu.com/

We're happy to announce that Fisher Nicholson Realty is returning as our Title Sponsor for the second year in a row! This is a **huge** commitment to our event and we want to thank them again for their generosity and participation at the Festival. We know that you have many real estate choices in the Klamath Basin; please consider FNR for your next real estate transaction.

FNR
Fisher Nicholson Realty, LLC

The festival continues to be four days but we are simplifying some activities. Happily new leaders have stepped forward to coordinate the youth art contest! Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, based in Portland [OMSI] will play a special role on Saturday at the Festival.

We have openings for a few volunteers to help out in planning and organizing the event. Please contact Anne at 541-882-1219 or Diana at 541-850-5832 for information on how you can help.

KBAS General Meetings are held at 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month, except June, July and August at Oregon Tech [OIT], Mt. Thielsen Room in the College Union, Klamath Falls.
NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION

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 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.

Conservation Chair - Marshal Moser has stepped down as Conservation Chair due to his many other responsibilities. Marshal has been a great help to the Board and members throughout the years and will continue to be an advisor to the Board. That leaves an opportunity for someone else to fill that role. The Chair reviews issues as they come up and writes an article for the Grebe every other month. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested in conservation issues, let any of the board members know.

Grebe Editor - Marilyn Christian has done a great job as Grebe editor for many years and has decided to pass this on to someone else by the end of the year. Articles are submitted to Marilyn and then she organizes them using MS Word to produce the Grebe every other month. She is willing to train someone on the formatting and give her tricks of the trade. Contact Marilyn if you would like more information.

Field Trip Leaders – We are always looking for a few good birders to lead field trips for our members. If you are interested, contact Mary Ellen Sargent.



This is the Klamath Art Project flyer funded, in part by Klamath Basin Audubon Society. Watch for the progress on this beautification/educational project.

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members			
President	* Molly Russell	884-3868	russellx1@msn.com
Vice-President	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Secretary	*Beth Philips	723-2161	pidgeco@gmail.com
Treasurer	*Sherry Lindley	205-5269	shadylin@aol.com
	*Hallie Rasmussen [530]	667-2231	hallie_Rasmussen@fws.gov
	*Gary Vequist [402]	290-6592	garyvq@gmail.com
	*Virginia Bary [530]	398-4718	virginia.bary@yahoo.com
	*Tom Essex	273-7442	ospreytom@charter.net
	*Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	Sargentme5@aol.com

ALL AREA CODES ARE 541 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs			
Conservation	**OPEN**		
Education	**OPEN**		
Field Trips	*Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	sargentme5@aol.com
Grebe Editor	Marilyn Christian	850-0084	mchristian1@charter.net
Historian	Ralph Opp	882-8488	kfopps@q.com
Hospitality	**OPEN**		
Membership	Sue Romig	892-0829	saromig@gmail.com
Programs	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Publicity	*Gary Vequist [402]	290-6592	garyvq@gmail.com
Grant Review	Jim Rooks	851-0209	runningyrooks@charter.net
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 ..... Date _____

☐ Student and Senior (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 _____

NOTE: You will receive *The Grebe* at this email address

☐ I do not have an email address. Please mail my copy

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 Oregon Tech [OIT] Mt. Thielson Room in the College Union.
- **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
August/September 2014

Or Current Occupant

- **KBAS General Meetings** are held at 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July and August at Oregon Tech [OIT] Mt. Thielsen Room in the College Union, Klamath Falls. **NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION**

- **Klamath Basin Bird News [KBBN]** Reminder: Klamath Basin Bird News is an informal email network (a mailing list) of over 100 bird enthusiasts in the Basin and elsewhere. You can learn more about the group at its web site (https://sites.google.com/site/klamathbasinbirdnews), and it is linked from the 'Birds' section of the KBAS web site. Please participate! Sign up online or contact Dave Hewitt at dhewitt37@gmail.com

- **Join Us!** If you would like to be more involved, 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* . . .

Annual Picnic	2
Board/Committee Chair	7
Board Meeting Schedule	7
Field Trips and Events	3
Field Trip Reports	4

Membership Form	7
President's Message	2
Volunteer Opportunities with KBAS	6
Winter Wings Festival	5
Klamath Art Project Flyer	6

Have a Great Summer and Fall!