

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
April/May 2014

KBAS General Meetings

Thursday, April 10, 2014, 6:30 p.m. "Black Bear History and Current Research at Crater Lake" by Sean Mohren, Terrestrial Ecologist at Crater Lake

This fascinating, not to be missed talk will focus on the past 5 years of research that is currently being completed on Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*) at Crater Lake National Park. As part of this five-year effort we will learn about black bear hibernation behavior, travel patterns, population size, and habitat utilization. We will examine the journey of ten black bears that were fitted with GPS collars and followed over a two-year period between 2011 and 2013. So come, find out if black bears den in the Park, see if they leave the Park to hunt and breed, and find out how close they come to visitors that are enjoying the Park.

Sean Mohren has been the Terrestrial Ecologist at Crater Lake National Park for the past year. He originally started in wildlife management by obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Wyoming. He then spent approximately 12 years conducting research on anything from bugs to birds to bears for the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. After leaving Wyoming, Sean worked a small stent with the Bureau of Land Management in Medford, Oregon before starting work with the National Park Service. Prior to coming to Crater Lake National Park he spent the last 8 years working on long-term natural resource monitoring for the NPS Klamath Inventory and Monitoring Network based out of Ashland, Oregon.

Thursday, May 8, 2014, 6:30 p.m. "Effectiveness of forest restoration treatments on persistence of dry conifer forests and habitats for cavity nesting birds" by Craig Bienz

Craig is an excellent returning speaker at KBAS and and has led very interesting field trips at Sycan Marsh. He is a real friend of KBAS! You won't want to miss this talk!

Dry forests are the most wide-spread, at risk habitats on public lands in Oregon and Washington. Restoration efforts are directed at returning natural disturbance processes to these forests. Forest stand densities have increased due to decades of fire suppression leaving these dry forests at risk of unnaturally severe fire and insect outbreaks.

Recent efforts focusing on restoring ecological function in dry coniferous forests have taken on a new urgency due to observed and anticipated effects of climate change. Currently, fuel reduction treatments are the primary focus of dry coniferous forest restoration. This will necessitate land managers to consider the implications of forest management actions on a range of resources, including wildlife. In this presentation we will discuss data and information Managers need about climate-fire-vegetation interactions to effectively achieve the goals of forest restoration, while maintaining wildlife habitat and other sensitive resources. *Continued on page 3*.

Klamath Basin Audubon Society [KBAS] General Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 6:30p.m., County Meeting Room, 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls.

Noah Strycker Returns to the Basin April 17 *. . . Darrel Samuels*



KBAS is excited to announce a return visit and presentation by Noah Strycker on April 17. Noah wears many hats: birder, scientist, writer, editor, guide, photographer, marathon runner, and adventurer. To learn more about his talents and adventures, visit his web site: www.noahstrycker.com. His program a few years ago at Oregon Tech on penguins was enthusiastically received, as was his first book, Among Penguins.

Noah Strycker, 28, is currently Associate Editor of *Birding* magazine and writes regularly for the American Birding Association's blog. He also works as a naturalist guide on expedition cruises to Antarctica. He has studied birds on six continents and has a personal "life list" of 2,500 species.

Strycker's second book, The Thing with Feathers (Riverhead Books) has just been released, and Noah will be sharing fascinating stories of bird behavior from his research. Noah provided the following description of his presentation:

Birds aren't people, but just how different are they from us? They have the same basic requirements we do: food, shelter, and reproduction. And they can do some amazing things! Approaching bird behavior from new and surprising angles, Noah Strycker explores the astonishing homing abilities of pigeons, extraordinary memories of nutcrackers, self-image in magpies, life-long loves of albatrosses, particle physics of starling flocks, and other mysteries—revealing why birds do what they do, and how we can relate. With humor and wit, and drawing deep from cutting-edge science and anecdotes from the field, Strycker's presentation will leave you with renewed inspiration about our close connections with birds.



Noah's presentation will be held in the lecture hall at the Martha Anne Dow Center on the Oregon Tech campus at 7:00 pm. and seating is limited. Noah will be available to autograph copies of his book. The Klamath Basin Audubon Society is pleased to sponsor Noah's appearance.

The Mountain Bird Festival is Coming to Ashland May 30th to June 1st

Would you like a chance to witness spectacular mountain birds while helping advance conservation? If so, the first annual Mountain Bird Festival is for you!

This unique conservation festival will be held in beautiful Ashland, Oregon from May 30th to June 1st, 2014. The Mountain Bird Festival combines a celebration of the region's mountain birds with the stewardship ethic needed to ensure thriving landscapes for humans and wildlife. Every citizen who participates in this festival will receive an attractive conservation stamp for their significant stewardship of the science that drives bird conservation. The Mountain Bird Festival offers guided bird walks, keynote presentations, a fine art auction, cocktail parties, music, local foods, and a feel-good community atmosphere. We hope you, and your bird-watching friends, join the fun! To register or learn about sponsorship benefits, visit www.KlamathBird.org/Education/MountainBird.



President's Message . . . *Molly Russell*

We had another very successful Winter Wings Festival this year. The weather was rainy but it was fairly warm and the birds cooperated. This is our big fundraiser for the year that provides funds for the Scott Grants given to schools for field trips, science camps, equipment and special projects. This year we gave out more than $4000 in grants. We also give out grants for large projects and avian rehabilitation. This would not be possible without the Festival. I want to thank everyone that volunteered and participated this year. We always get great compliments on how well organized and well run the Festival is and that is because of the team effort involved.

This will be another tough water year in the Basin. The rain has helped but will not be enough for everyone to receive the water they need. It is encouraging to see the partnerships forming to benefit all groups through compromise and a lot of tough discussions. The Refuges will be short on water again this year and we won't know by how much until later in the year. Even though the Refuges are still the last to get water, many stakeholders realize the importance of the Refuges to the environment and economy of the Basin and are giving up some of their water to help out. Stay tuned.

As my first year as President nears an end, I want to thank my fantastic Board and Committees for bringing great programs to our members and the community. Mary Ellen Sargent has stepped up as Field Trip Chair. She brings along a lot of new ideas and I am looking forward to working with her. I am very lucky to have a great team and I encourage everyone to get involved in whatever interests you and works into your busy schedule.

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

Craig Bienz [Speaker at the May 8 Meeting] . . . *Continued from Page 1*

Craig Bienz is the Program Director at Sycan Marsh Preserve for the Conservancy. He has led collaborative efforts with the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Departments of Forestry and Fish and Wildlife to restore over ten miles of instream habitat, 10,000 acres of wetland habitats and provide connectivity for salmonids into 64 miles of Wild and Scenic River. He is a member of the interagency bull trout working group, the Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Board, the Lakeview Stewardship Group, and the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership. Accomplishments as a member of the Conservancy Forest Team include:

- Initiated the Fire Learning Network in South-central Oregon.
- Designed, planned and implemented landscape scale restoration on over 250,000 acres: improving water quality, increasing stream habitat and forest resiliency through fuels reduction, tree thinning and prescribed fire.
- Provided scientific expertise in the multi-agency Birds and Burn research project. This research received the "Wings Across America" award in 2007 for the analysis of fire effects on populations and habitats of wildlife in ponderosa pine forests in eight states across the western United States.
- In collaboration with the USFS developed "The Art of Burning" video.
- Co-authored the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Plan.
- Member of the interagency restoration monitoring team.
- Stratified historic forest spatial patterns based on soil moisture deficits. Initiated research on historic forest spatial patterns on the Fremont/Winema National Forest. Developed prescriptions to restore historic spatial patterns, tree densities, and species composition in collaboration with USFS, Klamath Tribes, and University of Washington.

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

Seems there is great trouble balancing the management of our natural resources. First we overused to the point that huge amounts of our forests primeval where clear-cut and the rivers flooded with mud and silt, choking fish habitat, lakes, and the shores of the oceans themselves. Then we overprotected the forests until a little flame could run rampant through the forests with fires so hot that the soils were scorched down to the minerals. Now, when many of the cut-over forests have recovered to where they can be sustainably managed for timber, wildlife, flood protection, water storage and purification, and other benefits, efforts are occurring on several fronts to go back toward unsustainable practices. This is not the action of just some social, economic, and political pendulum; when it comes to our natural resources, this is a wrecking ball! Each time we go to extremes, we have, or run the risk of doing irreversible damage. This is one sort of wrecking ball that is not just hurting our forests, but our rivers, lakes, oceans, etc. The accumulation of heavy metals, pesticides, other chemicals, etc., and growing health impacts are just another testimony to our excesses in balancing our technical capabilities with understanding how balance of the natural world works. Each "crash" of the ball degrades and endangers the quality of life on earth for us and future generations, costing us such things as clean and safe water and food, more cancers, and the very species from one celled diatoms in the ocean (that supply most of our oxygen), to more complex species; these are the nuts and bolts that hold together the life support system of the planet. How many bolts can be discarded before any system breaks down?

Many conservation issues are taking place very important to us and the future of our children. Time is often purposely too short to respond by agency means, and this space is limited, but here is some news and things you can do: In a seeming reversal of his past environmental savvy, Senator Wyden's "O&C Land Grant Act" was heard late this winter in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee that he chairs. Timber and county government representatives were there to push for more logging. Some things in the bill: Weakens our nation's federal environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act against logging in protected areas and clear-cutting. Eliminates the old-growth and wildlife reserve system of the historic Northwest Forest Plan. Shrinks buffers that protect rivers and streams from logging. Uses "variable retention regeneration harvest" to disguise essentially clear-cutting (70% of the trees in a stand clear-cut, leaving large open areas without any trees). Requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to log 3 billion board feet of logs (approximately 750,000 truck loads) in 18 months, rushing ineffective plans for protecting streams, unstable slopes, recreation areas, wetlands, endangered species, private property, etc. It "allows" Americans only 30 days every 10 years to input on plans affecting tens of thousands of acres of publicly-owned lands in Western Oregon. Contact Senators Wyden and Merkley; we need real solutions to county funding that doesn't sacrifice Oregon's water, salmon, wildlife, etc., or impede the rights of citizens to challenge their government. As for the economic needs, this may provide a short term boom, but a deeper bust in the long run. The BLM as well as the Forest Service manages millions of acres of YOUR land and natural resources for all generations. See the various forest issues on the Oregon Wild site to learn and take action: http://www.oregonwild.org

Increased logging is also proposed near us in the Silver Lake District, including going back to cutting the older trees. Contact the Forest Service at 541-576-2107 for more information and to let them know that public lands are to be sustainably managed for all public uses. The process is poor and they deny about 92% of the objections they receive. Courts may be needed to stop this proposed timber sale.

More news: Since last issue another meeting has taken place to protect the Link River Canyon; contact me if you want to help. The Pacific Flyway Audubon Chapter leaders are working on such issues as climate change, coastal stewardship, forage fish, Alaska (Tongass Forest, shipping, Arctic Ocean), renewable energy without killing birds (the new solar electric generator in the desert of southern CA appears to be killing birds). Oregon's Marine Reserves are working well; public workshops are being held. More needs to be done to protect our oceans and the large, and even small, creatures on which the birds and other organism in the food chain are dependent. To learn more, go to: http://audubonportland.org/issues/species/sea/action

Field Trips

Saturday, April 19 Field Trip to Aspen Lake -- The Giant Freshwater Marsh No One Seems to Know About. Leader is Dave Hewitt

Even though it is huge and located just a few miles off Hwy 140 near Doak Mountain, most people in the Klamath Basin don't know that Aspen Lake exists. Nestled at the base of the Mountain Lakes Wilderness, Aspen Lake is one of the Basin's largest remaining freshwater marshes and also one of the most unique. (Go ahead, look it up on Google Maps!) Records from many years ago indicate that Yellow Rail once nested there, and Franklin's Gulls and Black Terns have nested there recently in large numbers. The "lake" is almost entirely an emergent marsh with only a few spots of open water. The habitat is perfect for Sora, American Bittern, and Pied-billed Grebe, whose calls ring out from the marsh regularly in the late spring and summer. It's easy to find 50 or more Wood Ducks along the shoreline, and that never gets old! In addition to marsh-associated birds, the area around the lake can be excellent for forest birds because of the proximity to the Mountain Lakes Wilderness. Both Mountain and Western Bluebirds nest in the area. Songbird migration through the Aspen Lake valley can be incredible because of the varied habitats -- conifers, aspen groves, open meadows, and timber cuts. Join us for an early spring look at this wonderful natural feature not far from Klamath Falls. We'll be a little early for the action to be in full swing, but we'll show you the way and you can return later in the spring for the rest of the show.

The main trip will conclude by 1 PM. Bring snacks and drinks. If you'd like to stay out longer, the leader will head to a couple other spots on the west side of Upper Klamath Lake. Bring more food if you intend to stay out. Meet Apr 19 at 7:30 AM at the USFWS office on California Ave at the Hwy 97 interchange. We will need to carpool and vehicles need some clearance depending on the road conditions, as the way in is all timber roads. Those with appropriate vehicles should be willing to take an additional person or two if needed.

Saturday, May 3rd: Klamath River Canyon at Keno Dam. Leader is Mary Ellen Sargent

Join us as migration and nesting are in full swing! This trip includes several micro environments: pine forest, riparian, quiet river/rapids, chaparral and sage brush. Expect to see lots of pelicans, cormorants, egrets, geese, ducks, blackbirds and warblers and much more. If we're lucky, we might see nesting terns, nesting osprey or very rarely, a nesting Lewis' Woodpecker or a Turkey Vulture roosting site. Meet at 7:30AM at the USFWS office on California St. for carpooling in high clearance vehicles ONLY. This is a walking (approx. 2 miles round trip) trip; sturdy shoes are a MUST (mud and rough road). Bring the usual sunscreen, insect repellent, water and snacks. There are no facilities. After the trip, try one of these eateries to round out your experience: Max's Family Cafe (Keno), or Keno Grill (Stuart Lennox).

Field Trip Report *. . . Gary Velquist*

March 15th bird walk at Wood River Wetlands went off without a hitch beautiful day lots of birds ...so why weren't you there. Only 6 people showed up for the trip and we saw all kinds of critters including river otters. Marshal posted the bird sightings on ebird before I could say wow. But, he left before we saw two golden eagles at mile post 2.5. Yes a few of us trekked on into the outer swamplands. There is always something different to see on a birding trip. [Editor Note: Marshall Moser posted the list on eBird so it will not be repeated here. His notes are: Protocol: Traveling on foot, out on dikes and back, 4.0 mile[s]; Comments: This was a Klamath Basin Audubon trip led by Gary Vequist. The weather was great and a number of species were FOY for me here at the north end of Klamath Basin. 43 species total]

Important Conservation Issue Summary . . . *Continued*

Last month we mentioned grazing impacts to the wild deserts of eastern Oregon, including Steens Mountain. Much is going on there that is not beneficial to the public and/or wildlife, including at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Some gains are being lost. To learn more and help, see the website of the Oregon Natural Desert Association: http://onda.org/get-involved/take-action

Pendulums anyone?

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.

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.

Field Trip Leaders – We are always looking for a few good birders to lead field trips for our members. If you are interested or have ideas for field trips this summer and fall, contact Mary Ellen Sargent at sargentme5@aol.com or any board member.

OIT Project – The students working as part of a group senior project have selected a series of dates for field work this spring. This would be a great time for KBAS members interested in getting into the field with OIT students to be involved. The students would certainly benefit from the birding skills of Audubon members! The dates are April 12 & 26, and May 10 & 31. If interested contact Chelsea at Chelsea.long0135@gmail.com and CC Jherime.Kellermann@oit.edu

International Migratory Bird Day – We are taking on a larger role at IMBD this year. We need volunteers to not only man the KBAS booth but also the scopes on the Link River and Wing Watchers Trail, lead bird walks, help kids use binoculars and help at the registration table where the kids pick up their passports. Please consider helping out at one of these activities this year.

2014/2015 KBAS OFFICERS AND BOARD of DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

Officer	Officers & Board Members
President	Molly Russell
Vice Pres.	Darrel Samuels
Secretary	Beth Philips
Treasurer	Sherry Lindley
Board	Hallie Rasmussen
Board	Gary Vequist
Board	Virginia Bary
Board	Tom Essex
Board	Mary Ellen Sargent

New nominations are as follows: Mary Ellen Sargent is nominated to replace Todd Kepple, who is retiring from the Board due to new commitments. In addition, Darrel Samuels has been nominated to replace Hallie Rassmussen as Vice President. Hallie is nominated to remain on the Board as a general member.

For Committee Chairs, Mary Ellen Sargent is stepping in to fill the very important post of Chair of Field Trips. We have two Committee Chairs as yet unfilled: Education and Hospitality. If anyone might like to head up either of those two committees, contact Molly Russell at 541-884-3868 or email russellx1@msn.com for detail.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ralph Breitenstein, Glenn & Jesse Justus, Carrie Ganong, Debra Grisiel, Randy & Joan Lemaire, Nancy Nordensteri, Cathy Souther, Jim & Barb Stoutamore, Flavia Strickland

WELCOME TO RENEWING MEMBERS

Paul & Shirley Alley, Robert Ault, Badger Run Wildlife Rehab [Liz Burton], Kate Marquez & Max Baker, Jeff Ball, Virginia Bary, Peter Bischoff, Michael & Ellen Boles/Minnichello, Margaret Buchanan, Jerry & Liz Budy, James F. Calvert, M.D., Lisa Diercks, Marilyn Dyrud, Thom & Kathy Essex, John & Peggy Federhart, Marcia Forsythe, Nancy Garner, Joan Graham, Allen Hart, Dave Hewitt, Gerry Hill, C. L. Johnson, Robert Jones, Chris Karas, Mary Kelley, Kenneth Kendall, Mary King, Walter Larson, Barbara LeMasters, Allan Lowe, Trudy Maloney, Judith Mann, Joanne McCauley, Kathy McKeehan, John Noller, Ernest & Marlene Palmer, Valerie Paulson, Sherry Perry, David Peterson, Lois Phillips, Cheryle & David Ramirez, Debbie Redmond, Roberta Riggan, Darrel & Diana Samuels, Tresa Schmidt, Harry & Barbara Scoles, Geraldine & Billy Sloss, Deborah Stegman, Gilbert Thompson, Melissa Clinton, David Van Scoyoc, Anita Ward

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
	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net

ALL AREA CODES ARE 541 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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Grants: School/KBAS	Jim Rooks	851-0209	runningyrooks@charter.net www.klamathaudubon.org
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 Seniors (62 and over): $15

☐ Family: $25

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Total Enclosed $_____

☐ Check here if you are a current member of national Audubon

☐ Not sure of national membership status

Name _____

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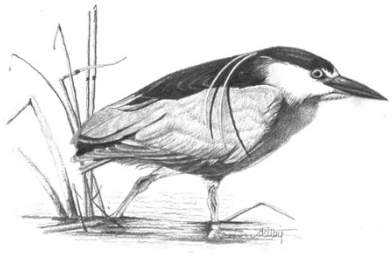
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The Grebe

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



Daniel Kiley

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
April/May 2014

Or Current Occupant

KBAS Monthly Meeting Agenda:
6:30-7:00 p.m. Refreshments; 7:00-7:20 p.m. Business; 7:20-8:30 p.m. Program

Creation of a *Federal Wildlife Conservation Stamp*

A birder, wildlife watcher, photographer and non-hunter version of the *Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp* (aka Federal Duck Stamp) is under consideration. A *Federal Wildlife Conservation Stamp* would provide a robust, parallel revenue stream for National Wildlife Refuges, preserving habitat and wildlife, while giving non-extractive users a funding tool and a stronger voice in habitat and wildlife decisions on our shared, public lands. To learn more, go to: http://wildlifeconservationstamp.org/the-proposal/

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**

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