

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
February/March 2014

KBAS General Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2014 [No Regular Meeting] The beginning of the Winter Wings Festival! You are invited to attend the Birds & Beers reception from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. and multi-media Keynote by Brian Sullivan "Raptor Migration Redux – A New Look at Migration and Raptor I.D." at the RY Conference Center 7:15 – 8:45 p.m. For registration information, please visit the website, www.WinterWingsFest.org. We hope to see you there.

Thursday, March 13, 2014, 6:30 p.m. "Ten Mile Creek Conservation Issues Including Recovery Efforts for the Marbled Murrelelt" by Paul Englemeyer

Paul Engelmeyer has been managing the Audubon parcel located up Ten Mile Creek, south of Yachats since 1990. This effort includes not only watershed restoration and protection strategies but a marine conservation effort as well.

The Ten Mile Creek Conservation Program includes education, land stewardship, acquisition and advocacy. In the early '90s ODFW, Audubon, the local community and the Siuslaw National Forest developed a partnership that grew into a basin-wide protection and restoration program which eventually led to a national award in 2005.

In 2012, the 80,000 acres from Heceta Head through Rock Creek Wilderness, Ten Mile and Cummins Creek Wilderness to north of Yachats River basin was designated a Globally Significant Important Bird Area for the Marbled Murrelet. Being the statewide conservation representative on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) he has worked on formation of system of marine reserve in Oregon's Territorial Sea which includes five sites including the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve and Seabird Protection Area just off-shore of the Murrelet IBA.

Engelmeyer will be discussing a range of issues including land-sea conservation strategies, forage fish issues as well as recovery efforts for the Marbled Murrelet.



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.

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*

Our partner-ship with OIT is moving forward. We met with Refuge staff, Dave Mauser and John Breckinridge in December to discuss their needs. We decided on a few projects that would help them in their work. 1) Help with inflow measurements and soil saturation for specific areas to determine just how much water it takes to fill that area. 2) Test soil salinity and how it affects vegetation and 3) Compile the waterfowl surveys being done into one database. Maybe one of your New Year resolutions this year was to get more involved in Audubon. As an all-volunteer organization we are always looking for help with projects and small tasks. Please consider some of the volunteer opportunities listed in the Grebe.

I would like to thank those that gave their time the last couple of months: Elaine and Bill Deutschman for refreshments at the December meeting and Darrel Samuels and Tom Essex for refreshments at the January meeting. A big thanks you to Hallie Rasmussen for planning and organizing the Holiday Party in December. It was a big hit and we will look at doing this again next year. Mia and Pia's did a great job of keeping the pizza and drinks coming while we enjoyed talking to our fellow birders and their families.

Thank you to Sue Romig for stepping up as our new Membership Chair. She has helped at the Winter Wings Festival as Volunteer Coordinator for the past two years and I know she will do a great job.

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

KBAS Nominating Committee Needs You!

Anyone interested in being on the nominating committee for the Audubon Board, please contact Virginia Bary, who is chairing the committee. The committee will accomplish most of its task post-Winter Wings, so don't let your involvement in Winter Wings deter you from joining. This is your opportunity to contribute to KBAS with a short-term commitment; we plan to complete our work by the end of March at the latest. Virginia can be reached at Virginia.bary@yahoo.com or 530-398-4718.

KBAS School Grants . . . *by Jim Rooks, Chair*

The KBAS board recently approved all of the applications from local educators for $300 grants to be used for conservation activities such as field trips, outdoor schools and a recycling project. These grants are available for classroom students in grades K - 6. There is some money remaining for this year to fund more applicants. The board approved extending the deadline for additional applications until January 31.

The School Grant Program got its start when Wayne and Lois Ann Scott donated $25,000 to be put into an endowment fund supporting conservation projects for local students. Our board has approved additional funds for a number of years in order to maintain the fund and to increase the number of supported projects

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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**

Field Trip Reports *. . . by Kevin Spencer*

Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 14

Ninety-five [95] species were detected, which is about 10 lower than the average in recent years, but certainly not the lowest ever. The double-digit negative temperatures week prior to the count probably had a significant impact on the reduced species, and there were numerous species with only one individual seen. The weather on the count day was about normal.

Interesting species:
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE - 4
VARIED THRUSH - 4
GREATER SCAUP - 1
PEREGRINE FALCON - 1
CALIFORNIA TOWHEE – 7
NORTHERN SHRIKE -1
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 5
MEW GULL - 1
FOX SPARROW - 1, and COUNT WEEK: LEAST SANDPIPER - 1

Species normally encountered but absent on count day:
Hermit Thrush, Barn Owl, Bushtit, Brown-headed Cowbird, White-breasted Nuthatch (SEEN COUNT WEEK), Mountain Quail (HEARD COUNT WEEK)
Pine Siskin (seems to have widespread absence in the Basin).
Big numbers: House Sparrow, European Starling, Rock Pigeon, Brewer's Blackbird, and American Robin.

Special thanks to the participants who weathered the cold fog in the morning: Julie Van Moorhem, Gerry Hill, Wes Stone, Glenn Smith, BJ Matzen, Andrew Matzen, Mary Ellen Sargent, Sherry Lindley, Dave Hewitt, Jennifer Bruce, Barbara and Harry Scoles, Dave Haupt, and Kevin Spencer. Also, thank you to our feeder watchers: Lois Phillips, Kathy and Ron Larson, and John Fortune.

Thanks to Julie and Bill Van Moorhem for having a great potluck dinner, and letting us warm up in your home for the compilation.

Tule Lake Christmas Bird Count Sunday, January 5, 2014

This year's count had a very cold start, near zero at dawn, but it did warm up above freezing by afternoon. The lack of wind made it bearable. The number of species was below average also, and could be attributed to the persistent below zero temperatures in the Basin for the month prior to the count. The sunny day was unprecedented, and many observers had a reddish glow easily seen on their faces as they shared the day at the compilation. They all mentioned that it was a beautiful day. Most interesting was a lingering BLACK PHOEBE at the Tule Lake NWR Headquarters. It was seen at Discovery Marsh earlier in the fall, but somehow was surviving near the Visitor Center's water feature.

At least 3 RED-SHOULDERED HAWKs were seen during the day, with two at the Discover Marsh. A flock of 28 PINYON JAY was seen in the Lava Beds section of the count circle. Three WOOD DUCKS were picked out the dense flock of waterfowl that were pushing and shoving their way around a hole in the ice at Sump 1B on the Tule Lake NWR. Of the waterfowl around the hole in the ice, over 10,000 were AMERICAN WIGEON. Large flocks of blackbirds, mostly RED-WINGED, helped boost the count total for individuals seen during the day. Ninety-one YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS added some bold color for the winter day.

Thanks to: Dave Hewitt, Julie Van Moorhem, Molly Russell, Barbara Scoles, Steve Nelson, Ray Ekstrom, Mark Dalton, BJ Matzen, Dan and Melinda Wiard, Mike and Liz Klein, Sherry Lindley, Steve Sheehy, Nancy Nordensten, Frank Lospalluto, Bob Hunter, Dave Haupt, and Kevin Spencer for all of their efforts they made in this count.

New Field Trip

Saturday, March 15, 2014
Wood River Wetlands at Agency Lake 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Leader: Gary Vequist

This location has willow/ cottonwood riparian, wocus marsh, cattail/bulrush marsh, and open water habitats, which offers an abundant species diversity for a small area.

Meet at the USFWS office on California Ave at 8:00 am to carpool. Or you can meet us at Wood River Wetlands at 8:30 am. Bring water, snacks, bug repellant, and binoculars. Contact Gary Vequist at garyvq@gmail.com for more information.

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

At writing, the Klamath Basin is in a record drought, going below that of 1976. It could be a time of further testing for man and the other creatures with which we share the Basin.

A place in the Basin is already under stress is due to inadequate management and enforcement of grazing and fencing rules, etc., is the Antelope Grazing Allotment, also known as the Jack Creek ecosystem. Mentioned in earlier issues it sometimes seems like we are going backwards on some of the lands held in public trust; in this case the Fremont-Winema National Forest. Right in our own back yard, the grazing allotment is in the Jack Creek watershed east of Chemult in northern Klamath County.

It is a complex of streams, springs, bogs, fens, wet meadows, and forest with dozens of sensitive species; some are new to science and some are better known species such as the Oregon Spotted Frog (currently proposed for federal listing).

With so many acres already available to grazing, and a legislated guideline of multiple use management of our all of our National Forests, as well as the Winema National Forest Plan (which was to eliminate most grazing conflicts with sensitive species), can we not take the extra step to have some unique areas and species given extra protection before they are lost to us and future generations? Some seem to think that priceless means worthless. Some things cannot be replaced once they are lost with any amount of money. Let the U.S. Forest Service know what you think (a public meeting?) ASAP: **Lucas Phillips,** Range Lead, Email: ljphillips@fs.fed.us and **Tracy Beck,** Acting Forest Supervisor, Email: tbeck@fs.fed.us Both are with Fremont-Winema National Forest.

Have you noticed negative aspects of wind turbines have been in the news a lot lately? In fact, David Yarnold, President & CEO of National Audubon held conference calls last month. Some of the points…The main concern was a proposal for Interior Secretary Jewell to issue a 30-year permit to wind farms to allow the incidental killing of Bald and Golden Eagles. Instead of protecting our national symbol, the Interior Department is preparing to knuckle under to industry lobbyists and allow the killings.

Wind farms are often in the path of eagle migration routes; dozens perish every year as they collide with whirling blades and high towers. Newer technology and siting information is available that could pose less risk to birds, but the Interior's action has given the wind industry reason to dawdle. Wind energy is an important piece of moving America to a more environmentally friendly future. Tell Interior Secretary Jewell the issuing of a 30-year incidental take permit for wind farms is unconscionable—it must be reversed.

I have been personally concerned there are multiple problems to the way wind and solar energy are being developed. Wind turbines are killing many more birds than eagles; even bats are being killed by flying too close to the partial vacuum created near the spinning blades. The building of wind towers and transmission lines in our remote and scenic areas is marring the landscape and endangering such iconic species as the Sage Grouse. There is much more work and research that needs to be done on such forms of power as wind, solar, and geothermal. Perhaps we can even site more of the power generation closer, even at the user via their roofs, etc. The efficiency would be much greater but there also needs to be incentives/means for the public utilities to cooperate in less massive grid-dependent systems.

Another dilemma in the news of late is how to handle the overpopulation and overgrazing of our public lands by wild horses and donkeys in eastern Oregon and southeast of us. The damage the animals do is very significant to our native plants, landscapes, and the birds and other animals that live there. One of the problems seems to be that people do not want the horses and donkeys killed, even though it causes the death of other species, and yet people will not adopt them. Keep your ears open to be able to help.

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

2014 Winter Wings Festival Returns on February 13 for Four Full Days

We're back with the 35th annual Winter Wings Festival. Host sites are the Oregon Institute of Technology and the Lodge at Running Y Ranch with supporting roles by Shilo and the Best Western Olympic Inn. Many new activities have been developed to help keep the festival program fresh and worth a return visit.

We are delighted to have Klamath-based Fisher Nicolson Realty (FNR) in the Title Sponsor role with a $5000 donation. FNR is also hosting a special raffle featuring Pam Stoehsler's hand painted Christmas ornaments that will benefit KBAS. We hope you will stop by their vendor table and thank them for their sponsorship.

How's registration going? As we go to press, about 370 have registered. Birding field trips are almost filled but we have openings in several photography events. Our goal is to host between 600 and 700 visitors participate in the 57 activities. Don't miss our special keynoters Brian Sullivan, Rick Sammon, and Bill Thompson III (yes, he's bringing his guitar). Their keynotes and receptions/ banquets still have openings. We're also featuring Sharon Stiteler aka the Birdchick and you can still join her for some digiscoping activities. See www.WinterWingsFest.org for the brochure and to register. We offer both fee-based and free events.

Remember the excitement and drama at the Raptors of the High Desert program last year? The program returns on Saturday, February 15! Also, watch for our first family presentation on Vulture Vomit with Bill Thompson III on Saturday. We are also partnering with the Favell Museum for Foray at the Favell Museum on Saturday and Sunday. We took a big step forward this year with the addition of a new digital photography contest. In addition to cash prizes, we are producing a calendar that will be available for sale during the festival. You can "like" your favorite photos that will result in a "people's choice" award by going to the photo contest tab on the festival website.

Still not part of the action? We are always looking for new volunteers. KBAS will be selling t-shirts, hats, ear warmers, pajaro bags, pins, and many other great items and can use help at our sales table. Email Sue Romig at saromig@gmail.com for information on how you can get involved. Remember, this is KBAS's main fundraiser and we need many members participating to make it successful!

Special Pre-Festival Event . . . Enjoy a one-hour presentation evening by **Jim Stamates** on Tuesday night at 7:00 pm on February 11, 2014 at the Lodge at Running Y Ranch. Explore the "Theory of Rhythms" in this fascinating multi- media presentation. The "Theory of Rhythms" was born from Jim's experiences as a wildlife photographer and focuses on our relationship to the natural world. Defining, in a sometimes humorous way, how we are 'hitched' to everything in the universe, Jim takes a short dive into quantum mechanics explaining what rhythms are, where they come from, and how they affect our lives. The message: get in tune with nature and amazing things happen in art, life, and love. No pre-registration required–pay $10 at the door. Check at the Lodge for room details.

Welcome to New KBAS Members:

Robert Ault, Patty Baldini, Lindenhoven Ballard, Manalla Bell, M. Bruder, Betty Cross, Frank Kuonen, Diane Stegmeir, Gary Vequist, Lorraine Zangger

Welcome to Renewing KBAS Members:

Lucy Butcher, Lisa Diercks, John & Peggy Federhart, Marcia Forsythe, Linda Garrison, Jesse Justus, Todd Montgomery, Ralph & Charlotte Opp, Carol Patzkowsky, Dianne Pierce, Linda Powell, Ethel Quinn, Roberta Riggan, Deborah Stegeman

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.

Field Trip Chair – Ellen Minichiello has taken a position with the Greater Outdoor Alliance that will be taking most of her time so she will be stepping down as Field Trip Chair. We have several field trips in the planning stages for this Spring that just need to be finalized. As chair, you are not required to lead each field trip but it is your job to contact the leaders to set the date and time and answer questions from those interested in the field trip.

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 any board member.

OIT Project – As part of our partnership we have offered our services to the students for their projects. This could include bird identification, bird surveys or counts, manpower such as setting out flow meters, helping with testing or research or becoming a mentor to a student. If you are interested, let Molly know and you will be contacted as these come up.

KNOW YOUR BOARD . . .Virginia Bary

I am a relatively recent immigrant to the area, having spent most of my life in the Bay Area. I graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Sociology. My work experience is quite varied, with my longest stints being as a studio potter and much later as a software developer. My husband and I moved up north when we wanted to "retire" to a more rural area. We purchased an alfalfa farm in Macdoel in the Butte Valley. For several years we had cattle and farmed, until we finally really retired about a year ago.

I was brought up on Audubon, going on field trips in the Bay Area with my father. I didn't bird much as an adult in the Bay Area, except for casual birding during other outdoor activities. What I enjoy most about birding is getting outside and observing the natural world. I also enjoy hiking and botanizing.

I like the direction KBAS is heading, becoming more involved. And I am so impressed with Winter Wings. I would like to see KBAS attract more young members. Joining KBAS has certainly provided me with many interesting experiences and opportunities.

KNOW YOUR BOARD . . .Gary Vequist

I lived in Tacoma for 18 years and us kids spent lots of time outdoors in the woods. I went to WSU and studied Zoology and then to University of Alaska to study aquatic ecology.. After college I got a job working for the National Park Service and ended up working within parks in eight states (Yellowstone, Everglades, Great Smokies, Fire Island, Death Valley, Glacier Bay, Carlsbad Caverns and the Midwest Region-Omaha). I currently live in Chiloquin, Oregon. I think I have settled down now, but still traveling. I even finished a book on traveling "Wildlife Watching in America's National Parks" – published in 2013. You might say traveling is in my blood. I am retired now but spend nearly every morning out walking and birding in the community. What a hoot!

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members			
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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_____

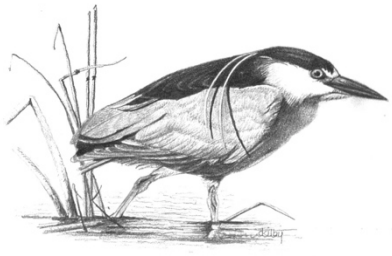
Phone _____ e-mail _____
Klamath Basin Audubon Society - **Chapter Code C3ZT600Z**
Should you join as a first time member of National Audubon, please use the above Chapter Code on your form – we receive additional $$.
Please contact me regarding:
☐ Gift memberships
☐ Volunteering for KBAS Committee activities
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
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Daniel Kiley

The Grebe

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

Or Current Occupant

The 2014 Great Backyard Bird Count [GBBC] is Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. Everyone is welcome--from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. They enter these numbers on the GBBC website. Go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc/ and How to Participate for more details. Please join us for the 17th annual count!

Olympic BirdFest 2014, April 4-6, 2014 in Sequim, WA

Visit the rain shadow of the ***Olympic Peninsula*** to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, silent auction, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker is Noah Strycker: "Bird World: The Fascinating Parallels Between Bird and Human Behavior." www.olympicbirdfest.org

Immediately following BirdFest, join us for a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2014. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, 360-681-4076

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