The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
June/July 2014

Summer Events

There are no regular monthly meetings of KBAS during the summer; however, field trips are planned and two special events as described below are open to the entire membership and promise to be very worthwhile and enjoyable.

Planning Meeting

We will hold our annual Planning Meeting June 17th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Discover Klamath, 205 Riverside. All members are welcome to join the board in discussing our goals and priorities for next year. The format will be a bit different from years past. We will be looking at the big picture concerning conservation policy, education programs, partnerships with other organizations and the community and budget. Pizza will be ordered for lunch; however, please bring your own beverage. If you cannot attend but have ideas to consider or comments, please contact any board member.

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 541-810-2110 or jeanatrockypoint@gmail.com.





President's Message . . . *Molly Russell*

A big thank you for those that helped at the International Migratory Bird Day this year. It started off with hail, rain, snow and wind but everyone stepped up and gave the kids that attended a good time. Thanks to Rick Hardy, Mary Kelley, Marshal Moser, Jim Rooks, Barry West and Darrel and Diana Samuels.

We have stopped our monthly meetings until next September but field trips are being scheduled throughout the summer. This is a great time to see the migrating songbirds coming through the Basin along with the Pelicans and Dancing Grebes. There is water on the Lower Klamath Refuge but it will be decreasing again this year. They are planning on getting about the same amount of water in the Fall from the Project as last year. Of course it is never enough but everyone is being cut back.

We will hold our annual Planning Meeting June 17th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Discover Klamath. All members are welcome to join the board in discussing our goals and priorities for next year. The format will be a bit different from years past. We will be looking at the big picture concerning conservation policy, education programs, partnerships with other organizations and the community and budget. If you cannot attend but have ideas to consider or comments, please contact any board member.

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

Badger Run Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Update

Needs Volunteers

The Badger Run Center, in Keno, rehabilitates over 200 injured birds annually and is seeking assistance in retrieving injured animals from around the county. When people find an injured animal they often call the ODFW or the center which then notifies a volunteer to retrieve the bird. Liz Burton, the President of Badger Run then dispatches a volunteer to retrieve the injured animal and take it to the Everett Veterinarian Clinic in Klamath Falls or her location in Keno. The Center has a 120-foot long pen that provides space for large birds to work out and build up strength so they can be released back into the wild. If you are interested in helping please contact the center at 541-891-2052 or email lizburton@badgerrun.org. She will set p an orientation session with prospective volunteers to discuss safe ways to handle and transport injured birds. This is the only recovery group in the region and their members meet on a quarterly basis. Even if you do not volunteer you can help by reporting injured raptors along area roadways that may be rehabilitated [and by providing food, such as freshly killed/frozen mice, voles, squirrels, etc. - ed] By Gary Vequist

Indiegogo Campaign for Xray Machine

Badger Run has launched an ambitious campaign through crowdfunding to raise $22,000 by July 7 for critically needed x-ray equipment on site. Presently, the only way to verify a fracture is to drive 30 minutes to a Klamath Falls Veterinary office, adding more stress to already anxious birds or animals. The costs add up also - at least $50 a visit to the Vets. An on site machine would provide a more timely diagnosis, spare animal/bird stress, save volunteer time and in the long run, save precious dollars. Badger Run is the only wildlife rehab organization within a 200-square-mile radius, and rescues between 250 to 300 animals every year since its beginnings in 2003. The H&N recently featured an article about the x-ray machine acquisition on May 31.

You are encouraged to contribute to this worthwhile drive – Go to
https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/help-injured-wildlife-x-ray-machine-needed-at-badger-run-wildlife-rehab-center

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

We are entering another summer of drought. It looks bad with forest fires and above average hardships for farmers, ranchers and wildlife. Many people are working on how to better prepare and stay in balance with the natural cycles. Several conservation organizations have filed a lawsuit asking for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan that the Klamath Basin's six national wildlife refuges, supposed to have been completed 18 months ago. In addition to boosting the local economy, the Basin's six national wildlife refuges are some of the most important in the nation, a critically important migratory path between Central America and Canada. The impacts reach well beyond the Basin.

There's lots of other news and potential actions to squeeze in, locally: KBAS is cooperating with others for a Schoolyard Habitat and Pavilion for the children of Pelican Pines. Collins Plywood's in K Falls applied for their air quality permit; also, they received a fine for past infractions. Want to help monitor Golden Eagle nests in the area? Contact Frank Isaacs, Oregon Eagle Foundation, 541-929-7154, fbisaacs@peak.org. A Beaver Seminar in Chiloquin and Sprague River is scheduled July 21-22, 2014. Joe Wheaton of Utah State University will be on the program covering such things as beaver ecology, stream and water table restoration, living and working with beaver, examples of beaver restoration projects, etc. If interested contact the Klamath Watershed Partnership, 530-681-1570.

Around Oregon & the Country: Efforts succeeded to persuade the Pacific Fishery Management Council to adopt the preferred alternative to protect forage fish. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management working to remove geocaches from ***wilderness*** and ***environmentally sensitive areas*** in Central Oregon (geocaches are containers at the end of compass &/or GPS hunts used by hobbyists). The pendulum is crashing back from sustainable forests & timber harvest management using rhetoric about how the forests are "unhealthy" and need "restoration". Yes, some management is needed, but not to overdo! The Forest Service is proposing a timber sale in the McCollins Late-Successional Reserve (Siskiyou Co., CA). Ask the Forest Service to embrace, not reject, collaborative efforts to restore this important LSR: Patricia Grantham, Klamath National Forest, Forest Supervisor, pagrantham@fs.fed.us . The Forest Service is also planning projects on the McKenzie River Ranger District - Green Mountain and Goose - that would log thousands of acres - some in mature forests, unroaded areas, and critical habitat for threatened wildlife, and clearcuts: comments-pacificnorthwest-willamette-mckenzieriver@fs.fed.us. The Oregon Department of Forestry is reluctant to adequately protect State Forests such as Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. Timber revenue is how they continue and this should be modified for the good of all the citizens. The pending Farm Bill will fast track logging in 45 million acres--that is nearly 25% of all US Forest Service lands. Most of the forests in eastern Oregon outside of designated wilderness could be logged. Much of these forests are actually very healthy and beetles, fire, etc. "restore" the forest without over logging.

The Oregon House followed the Senate's lead to pass Senate Bill 838 to better protect Oregon's salmon streams from suction dredge gold mining. The bill is with the Governor; hanks everyone! The U.S. senate's highway bill has funding for National Parks maintenance in it, including for Crater Lake.



Field Trips

Saturday, June 28th: Redband Ranch at Crystal Creek
Come join our hosts, Anne & Karl Wenner at their ranch off Westside Road (near Rocky Point). Carpooling meeting place will be at the Lodge at Running Y at 8:30 AM. We'll walk around (easy walking) looking for nesting mountain and waterfowl species. Bring a lunch/seating, drinks, sun block, insect repellent (!). There is also the opportunity to paddle around Crystal Creek: a 2-person kayak and a canoe will be available, or bring your own! For questions, contact Anne at kcwenner@aol.com or 541-891-2319.

Saturday, July 12: Wood River Valley
Gary Vequist will lead us to some of his favorite areas: the Klamath Fish Hatchery, the Wood River Day Use area, and a mystery site! Easy short walks at each location. We'll be done by noon, so bring snacks, drinks, sun block and insect repellent. Carpooling meeting is at the USFWS office at California St. at 7:30 AM or at the fish hatchery on Hwy 62 at 8:15 AM. For questions, contact Gary at garyvq@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 16: Potluck Picnic at Jean and Al VanHulzen's Rocky Point Home. See Page 1

September 20: North American Migratory Bird Count (NAMC).
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. Planned deadline to RSVP is September 18.

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

Developing Next Generation of Conservationists . . . *by Brandon Breen, Science Communications & Outreach, Klamath Bird Observatory*

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell has announced $6.7 million in grants to support conservation employment and mentoring opportunities at 43 projects on public lands across the country. The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps is a national collaborative effort to put America's youth and returning veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's great outdoors.

Klamath Bird Observatory's Internship Program Selected as one of 43 Projects Winning Grants for hiring young people to work on public lands.

With funding from the Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park service, and US Forest Service, Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) will build on a long-standing partnership with the agencies to expand its internship program and improve outreach to underserved communities. Program expansion will create four six-month internship positions.

KBO Interns are provided with a robust opportunity to gain a realistic appreciation of what a field biologist position entails as part of their training and practical experience. The internship program establishes a working atmosphere of respect and collaboration with intern engagement with staff and Board members, a series of day-long extracurricular seminars, and KBO social events. Interns also learn how the data they collect are applied to address conservation priorities at regional, continental, and hemispheric scales. Klamath Bird Observatory's project will be operated out of long-term field residences in the Upper Klamath Basin, OR, and will include activities at 10 monitoring sites in southern Oregon and northern California, and at KBO's headquarters in Ashland, OR.

Field Trip Reports

Saturday, April 19 Field Trip to Aspen Lake
. . . Dave Hewitt

Twelve people went on a nice morning field trip to Aspen Lake, a large freshwater marsh near the Mountain Lakes Wilderness. We started at the meadow on the north end of te lake/marsh and continued around the west side for a few miles. The wind really picked up by mid-morning and put a damper on the songbird sightings, but we saw some great birds before that. It was apparently a little early for the water-associated birds, as expected, but we did see nearly 150 Franklin's Gulls winging around on the east side of the lake and heard a pair of Sandhill Cranes. In total we recorded 39 bird species.

At the north meadow, many of the folks in the group got to see some elk, which was a real treat. Plenty of Western Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrows (recently arrived), and Cassin's Finches were in that area as well. Some Greater Yellowlegs were in the wetter portions of the meadow. Not far from the meadow we spotted a small group of silent Clark's Nutcrackers that seemed to be coming down to get water.

At a stop on the west side of the lake where some aspens were growing in a wet area, we heard two singing Cassin's Vireos, saw a Red-breasted Sapsucker working on a nest hole, and then heard the low "booming" of a Sooty Grouse. We never got to see the bird, unfortunately.

If you're interested in visiting this area, I put together a document with directions from Klamath Falls, including photos. I can email the document as a PDF if you would like one: dhewitt37@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 13 Eagle watch at LKNWR
. . . Mary Ellen Sargent

Many thanks to Stever Rooker, USFWS, for leading 13 participants to the closed area of Lower Klamath NWR to view the eagle's nest. The weather was great and the eagles were very cooperative! Along the way, many other species were observed. After the eagle watch, several people went with Charlotte Ann Kisling to the Sheepy Ridge valley to see the nesting Golden Eagle pair. Again, the eagles were very cooperative and 2 chicks were active. Other participants visited other eagle/hawk/owl sites on the way back to Klamath Falls.

Saturday, May 3 Klamath River at the Keno Dam
. . . Mary Ellen Sargent

On May 3rd, 6 people enjoyed a brisk morning birding along the Pacific Power road (Old Wagon Road). Of the 45 bird species seen, we especially enjoyed the Osprey bringing nesting materials, the Bullock's Orioles and Yellow Warblers. Herons, egrets, gulls, terns and ducks were plentiful. We enjoyed a muskrat staring at us, turtles sunning and a snake slithering across the trail. For the curious, here's driving directions: From the intersection of Hwy 66 and Clover Creek Road, take Clover Creek .3 miles to Old Wagon Road, turn left and go approx. .4 miles to an informal parking area. (After the Stop sign, it becomes a rough road.)



Common Birds in Decline

The Audubon.org website has posted “Common Birds in Decline.” The analysis is the first in a new series of Audubon reports that will continually update the State of the Birds. The story of Common Birds in Decline will be of interest, not just to bird watchers, but to all who care about what this disturbing trend indicates about the health of the environment we share with birds and other wildlife.

Twenty [20] common North American birds, with the greatest population declines since 1967, are listed. Clicking on the species name reveals its profile; clicking on “photo” provides a high resolution, printable image of the bird; and clicking on the audio link will download its call/song. **See #3 on the list – Pintail Duck on page 6**. Check out the website: http://www.audubon.org/newsroom/press-rooms/common-birds-decline

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 volunteers, so you are encouraged to give it a try. Contact any board member if you are interested.
Education Chair – contact Molly Russell
Hospitality Chair – contact Molly Russell
Field Trip Leader – contact Mary Ellen Sargent
Newletter Assistant – Marilyn Christian
[see page 7 for contact information]

Update on Pelican Pines Schoolyard Habitat and Pavilion [Supported by KBAS]

Grants were sought two years ago to fund turning space behind Pelican Elementary – a field surrounded by tall Ponderosa Pine trees - into an outdoor classroom. Those involved procured an $8,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a $5,000 grant from the Pacific Power Foundation and a $2,000 grant from the Klamath Basin Audubon Society. The grants from Pacific Power and KBAS are for a pavilion that will likely be built this summer. Last fall, the school planted native trees and shrubs, the start of four unique habitats within the schoolyard habitat. One habitat will be a dry-land habitat with xeriscaping; another will feature taller trees; the third will have fruit and berry trees to attract birds and the last is a grass habitat.

"A contractor in California, Joe Lareau, has offered to coordinate the building of the Pelican Pines Pavilion by working with ZCS Engineering, Mark Wendt, and getting information from Wayne Huggins. I appreciate all the support and help given. I still believe that this outdoor pavilion and schoolyard habitat will be an amazing spot for outdoor learning for Pelican students as well as all students in KFCS. I'll keep you all informed of recommendations and then eventually meet with the Pelican Team to update the timeline and get this project finished. Thanks for your help!" From Maureen Lundy, former teacher at Pelican and now at Mills School.

WELCOME

TO NEW MEMBERS

Charlotte Harbeson and Santa Fe Ryan

TO RENEWING MEMBERS

Joni Beaman, Donald W. Carroll, Rose Chapman, Maureen Dehlinger, Frances Gearhard, Charles T. Kruse, Joanne McCauley, Marshal Moser, Arlene Ninneman, Kathryn Paine, Kelly Patterson, Cy & Beth Phillips, Donna L. Santos, Mary Ellen Sargent, Wendy Spencer, Beverly & Dennis Taugher, David Van Scoyoc, Iva Will, Ronald Williams, Jim Zipay

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* . . . *Conintued from Page 5*

Long-necked slender duck. Male has brown head, white underparts and neck with white line extending onto side of head, grayish back and sides, and long, black, pointed central tail feathers. **Habitat:** Marshes, prairie ponds, and tundra; sometimes salt marshes in winter. **Range:** Breeds from Alaska and Labrador south to California, Nebraska, and Maine. Locally in East and occasionally elsewhere. Winters south to Central America and West Indies. Also in Eurasia. **Discussion:** This is still a widespread and common duck, especially in the West, where about half of North America's six million are found. Winter flocks can be very large, numbering in the thousands. Seeds of aquatic plants are the Pintail's main food, but in winter it also eats small aquatic animals; when freshwater habitats freeze over, it resorts to tidal flats, where it feeds on snails and small crabs. **Nesting:** 6-9 pale greenish-buff eggs in a shallow bowl of grass lined with down, often some distance from water. Photo: Howard B. Eskin



Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members			
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	*Gary Vequist [402]	290-6592	garyvq@gmail.com
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	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net

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 ..... 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 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
June/July 2014

Or Current Occupant

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**

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Have a Great Summer!