

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
October/November 2014

KBAS General Meetings

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.

November 13, 2014, "Birds and Wildlife of Southern Africa, Wet and Dry" by Darrel & Diana Samuels and Tom & Kathy Essex

In March/April Darrel and Diana Samuels traveled to four countries in southern Africa primarily to view wildlife using the tour company Overseas Adventure Travel. At the end of the wet season they encountered lush vegetation and animals in prime condition in the countries of South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In September/October Tom and Kathy Essex repeated the itinerary with O.A.T. but during the dry season. Each season offers its advantages and disadvantages to viewing the vast array of birds and wildlife in the national parks of the four countries. In addition to the "Big Five" mammals (lion, rhino, leopard, elephant, and buffalo) the four countries showcased many bird species (rollers, kingfishers, hornbills, eagles, waterfowl, etc.) living in very diverse habitats shaped by seasonal climate change.

Mark your calendars: December 11 will be the second annual KBAS pizza party. Details will follow in the next *Grebe*.

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



President's Message . . . *Molly Russell*

September 1, 1914 was the day Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon, died in the Cincinnati Zoo. She was the last of over 5 billion passenger pigeons that were so abundant they blackened the skies with flocks over one mile wide and 20 miles long. The flocks could strip a forest of beechnut, maple, elm and oak trees in a day or less. Hunters started shooting them for food as squab became a delicacy and thousands were shipped each day to eastern markets. Habit declined, few young grew to adulthood and eventually Martha was the lone survivor to live out her days in a zoo. Her stuffed body is now at the Smithsonian.

In the last two centuries in the US, five species have become extinct, 50 species and subspecies are listed as endangered and an additional species are endangered in the Hawaiian Islands. As development encroaches and climate changes such as the drought we are experiencing have pushed birds further out of their natural habitats to find food and nesting areas. The Audubon Society works diligently to protect them from human interference and has many successes but also as many disappointments when industries expand.

For the past eight years, Audubon scientists have been studying how global warming will impact the birds we love. More than half of species studied are at serious risk – some are forecast to lose more than 95% of their current ranges. They used the North American Breeding Bird Survey (USGS) and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count as well as data from US and Canadian climatologists. This information is now available at Audubon.org/climate. There are interactive maps showing where the birds were in 2000 and where they will be in 2020, 2050 and 2080. I encourage you to go online and read the study's results and come to your own conclusions. I hope it opens up a conversation of how each of us can help to protect the environment we enjoy for our children and their children in the future.

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

Winter Wings Festival . . . *by Diana Samuels*

The 2015 Winter Wings Festival Planning is well underway. As of the end of September, here are some highlights:

- ✓ Bald Eagle researcher Frank Isaacs returns to the Festival with a workshop and field event on Admiring and Aging Bald Eagles.
- ✓ The National Audubon Pacific Flyway program will send a representative to the Festival.
- ✓ The 2015 art contest will resume after a year's suspension. Local photographer and graphic designer Madeleine Blake is leading the effort. KBAS has made a commitment to purchase metal sheeting so the art entries can be attached to the easels with magnets.
- ✓ Oregon Museum of Science and Industry [OMSI] of Portland will be bringing down a hands-on science activity program, which will serve as the free, featured family event on Saturday.

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 THIS YEAR**

WELCOME

TO NEW MEMBERS: Juanita Carlson, Sue Collins, Arthur Crisp, Virginia Gray, Wilfrid Hodgson, Susan C. Schuette, Lila Sevy

TO RENEWING MEMBERS: Michael & Ellen Boles/Minnichello, Todd Montgomery, Santa Fe Rya

Field Trips

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 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 from Klamath Falls [approximately 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 Road 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 8: [Ice/snow storm reschedule] Miller Island Wildlife Management Area. Join Tom Essex and Jason Journey (Area Manager) for a tour of this migratory stopover on the outskirts of Klamath Falls. Jason will give a presentation, then it's off to find birds, including some of Tom's favorite little known sites (short walks). This is a **car pooling trip only**, meeting at the USFWS office on California Ave. at 8:30 a.m. All vehicles entering Miller Island must have a parking permit, so Tom asks anyone who can 'loan' a permit for the day to call him at 541-272-7442. Those not wanting to carpool can purchase a permit at Walmart, Big R, etc. [$7]. If times permits, other wetland sites nearby will be visited. Come prepared for the weather and bring snacks, drinks, etc. Questions: Contact Tom 541-273-7442 or ospreytom@charter.net

Saturday, November 15: Raptor Search [and more]. Comb the roads and (probably waterless) byways of the lower Klamath Basin for raptors and anything else that pops up! Leader, Charlotte Kisling, requests meeting at the Worden Cafe on Hwy 97, just before Township Road at 9 a.m. The trip will end in early afternoon, so bring lunch, snacks, drinks, etc. and be prepared "for weather." For questions, contact Charlotte at kiss@cot.net.

Sunday, December 14: Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count [CBC]. This is an all day event and is a great time to get out and see winter birds, or the last of the hardiest migrants, before true winter, or a colder time of year really settles in. Participants visit a variety of habitats to count the birds by species and numbers. Visiting a variety of habitats ensures that as many species present around Klamath Falls at that time of year. This count typically sees about 108 species on average. There are seven areas to be covered with a variety of physical efforts, from all driving, or nearly all walking. Some areas of walking have up to 6 or so miles logged by the end of the day. Or you can also submit a your totals from your yard. Let me know how you want to participate and if there are preferences to walking or by car. The day ends with a potluck dinner and a count compilation at a participant's home. Stories of the day, and an awareness of what other groups found are shared. If interested in participating, contact Kevin Spencer at 541-880-8015 (cell) or by email - rriparia@charter.net

Sunday, January 4: The Tule Lake CBC. That part of the Basin has harsher weather, but can also be pleasant for a winter day. The area has four areas covered by groups, and almost all of it is covered by car or truck. A potluck and compilation at Tulelake Elementary occurs at the end of the day. If interested contact Kevin Spencer at 541-880-8015 or rriparia@charter.net

Saturday, January, 17 or 24: Cabin Fever Break! Join Mary Ellen Sargent on a car birding trip to some areas around KFalls to see what we can find (hopefully there will be open water). This will be a carpooling trip with some short walks (depending on ice conditions). If KBBN posts any rarities or irruptions, we'll try to find them. Date depends on the weather, so contact Mary Ellen at 541-850-3926 in January.

Thursday – Sunday, February 12-15: Winter Wings Festival [WWF]. Attend and/or volunteer!

Saturday, February 21, 2015: Post WWF bird finding trip. Join WWF Bird Central point man, Rick Hardy to find the species WWF volunteers/leaders observed and perhaps others not seen at WWF. More details coming.

Field Trips . . . Continued

March [mid-late, TBD: Touring Malin and Merrill field and streams. Spring is coming and the birds are starting to migrate in! Cy Phillips will show us Malin City Park, the Lost River near Merrill, fields and perhaps White Lake Unit to showcase early migrants and late winter birds.

April [TBD]: Eagle gawking and more at LKNWR. Join Steve Rooker of FWS. This is a reprise of last year's popular tour to the Bald Eagle nest.

April/May [TBD]: Skillet Handle at Running Y. Join Darrel Samuels and Jim Rooks to look for all the migrating birds coming in. More details to follow.

Saturday, May 2: Sycan Marsh. Craig Bienz of the The Nature Conservancy [TNC] will show how Sycan Marsh looks in the spring. More details to follow.

Saturday, May 9: International Migratory Bird Day. Lots of stuff going on this weekend!

June [TBD]: Nuss Lake, Lost River and Poe Valley. Join Bob and Cary Kincaid at their property on Nuss Lake and tour the surrounding fields and streams. More details to follow.

Saturday, June 6: Link River Festival. Volunteer and/or attend!

June [TBD]: Stukel Mountain. Any volunteer[s] to lead? Call Mary Ellen at 541-850-3926.

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.or**

Field Trip Reports

August 16: Picnic at the Van Hulzen's. An outstanding turnout, including 2 members of the Rogue Valley Audubon, appreciated the wonderful potluck picnic hosted by Jean and Al. The shrimp and tri-tip were wonderful, salads galore and desserts to die for – we were well sated! Plus the setting: always a wonderful birding experience at their home. Thanks, Jean and Al!

September 13: Wood River Wetlands. Klamath Basin Audubon Society offered a bird walk to Wood River Wetlands and we had a good turnout, even two persons from Bend showed up. We walked to the Wood River Bridge (1/2 of mile) then observed migratory birds from picnic tables and a rocky embankment. Bench Birding! We saw over 70 kinds of bird including resident species and migrating songbirds, shorebirds and thousands of waterfowl.

September marks a time when summer resident species start to head south. Some favorites like Great Egrets and pelicans (that nest in Klamath Basin) were gathering in large flocks on the north end of Agency Lake. Also, still present were White-faced Ibis, American Bitterns and even a Dusky Flycatcher hanging around. Lots of activity by warblers and sparrows were noted in the willows and cottonwoods along the trail. Some river otters showed up to munch on crayfish. One is never disappointed in the sites and sounds of the Wood River Restored Wetlands. Gary Vequist, Leader

Central Valley Bird Symposium

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 18th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 20-23, 2014 at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. Saturday Night's keynote program is presented by Joel Greenberg on ***"The Echoes of their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon."*** For the past four years he has been a leader in Project Passenger Pigeon which aims to mark the anniversary of the species' extinction. He is co-producing with director David Mrazek the documentary, **From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction.** It will be available in spring of 2014. Also several other speakers plus workshops and trips are offered. Check out our website at: http://www.2013cvbs.org/ or to Register: https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=159646

East Cascades Audubon Society's Winter Raptor Survey Project Needs Your Help!. . . *by Jeff Fleischer*

The East Cascades [Bend, OR] Audubon Society's Winter Raptor Survey Project has nearly 200 volunteers that survey more than 250 survey routes throughout Oregon, the Klamath Basin area of CA, the Columbia River area of WA, and throughout Idaho. Obviously, the Klamath Basin area of this project is a key wintering area for raptors and surveys over the last decade have revealed some really big numbers.

One of the routes in the Basin, the Swan Lake-Dairy area east of town, is in need of a volunteer this winter to do surveys. The core survey period is December through February, with November and March also available as optional months. Volunteers are asked to be comfortable with raptor identification and to do one survey a month during the core months as a minimum effort. Dave Hewitt has covered this area for the Project in the past and would be a good local reference for anyone who might be interested in doing this route.

The Swan Lake-Dairy route is right at around 70 miles in length. The amount of time spent will vary depending on driving conditions as well as bird numbers. A person should plan for at least 4.5 to 5 hours to insure good coverage. The slower a person goes, the better birds at a distance and/or perched will be able to be spotted. We don't want people to rush through it just to get it done; the idea is to maximize the take for the quality time spent on doing the survey. Depending on feeding opportunities based on snow coverage primarily, birds will shift greatly throughout the Basin and this route can be very unpredictable as to numbers.

If you would like more information or want to volunteer, please email Jeff directly. He can provide a route map along with a copy of the survey protocol and a detailed data collection form for the surveys. Insuring full data for the Basin this is crucial - it is the only route left without coverage for this winter! Jeff would be very grateful if someone would step forward.

Jeff Fleischer is Project Coordinator for the East Cascades Audubon Society's Winter Raptor Survey Project and a former assistant refuge manager of the Klamath Basin NWR Complex (1976-84). Email him at raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com

Audubon CALIFORNIA — Help us avert a disaster for birds in the Klamath Basin





Photo: USFWS staff pulling a dead duck from Tule Lake by Lacey Jarrell/ Herald & News

As you read this, thousands of birds are dying at Tule Lake in Northern California. Because there's no water at the nearby Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, ducks and other waterfowl are crowding onto the lake, putting them at great risk of disease.

And disease has already hit them hard. **So far, 5,000 to 10,000 birds have died from avian botulism. And it's still early in the season.**

The Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge provides the most important habitat for migratory waterfowl in the Lower 48. This is a disaster we can and should avoid.

You can help by sending an email to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell asking her to direct the Bureau of Reclamation to divert water to the Refuge and avert a major disaster for birds. [Form for use at website below]

Send your email right now.
https://secure.audubon.org/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=1747&autologin=true

Flying into the Future
KBAS Established Endowment Fund with Klamath Community Foundation

Since its inception in 1983, the Klamath Basin Audubon Society (KBAS) has built a legacy of success in providing opportunities for people in the Basin to experience and appreciate our wildlife, natural beauty, and of course, our birds.

The Winter Wings Festival welcomes hundreds of visitors to the Basin every year to witness and enjoy the eagles and the literally hundreds of other bird species that make the Klamath Basin their home. Birding magazines recognize the Winter Wings Festival as the oldest birding festival in the country. And our educational programs, field trips and grants expose countless students and bird enthusiasts to the Klamath Basin's role as a home, hotel and highway for the tens of thousands of birds that travel the Pacific Flyway every year.

KBAS is currently leading a year-round celebration of Basin birdlife in historic downtown Klamath Falls. Through a partnership between KBAS, the Downtown Association and the Klamath Community Foundation, recognized local artists are painting downtown traffic light boxes with Basin-area birds in the look and style of an Audubon painting. Each box will include information about the birds, making it an enjoyable and educational activity for locals and tourists.
So to fortify our legacy of success, we are taking another bold step: KBAS recently established an endowment fund with the Klamath Community Foundation. This permanent fund will grow over time, providing us with a reliable source of annual income so that we can always provide opportunities to experience and appreciate the Basin's wildlife.

The Klamath Community Foundation is a tax-exempt public charity that works with donors and non-profits to create charitable endowments. By managing the KBAS endowment, the foundation makes it easy for individuals and businesses to support the KBAS immediately or through their will or estate plan. And this allows us to stay focused on our mission.
All donations to this fund are tax deductible. If you would like to send a gift to the Klamath Basin Audubon Society Endowment Fund, make your check payable to:

KCF/ Klamath Basin Audubon Society Endowment
P.O. Box 1903, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Please consider partnering with us in this important effort. Come fly with us.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH KBAS

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. The Chair reviews issues as they come up and writes an article for the Grebe every other month.

Grebe Editor - Marilyn Christian has done a great job as Grebe editor for many years and has decided to "retire." Articles are submitted to the editor, who organizes and formats them, with graphics added, using MS Word to produce the Grebe every other month. She is willing to train someone. 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.

Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report

"Field Guide to the Future: Nearly Half of North America's Birds at Risk from Global Warming"

Nearly half of the bird species in the continental U.S. and Canada are threatened by global warming. Many of these species could go extinct without decisive action to protect their habitats and reduce the severity of global warming. That's the startling conclusion reached by Audubon scientists in a new study.

Here in Oregon, birds threatened include Northern Pygmy-Owl, Merlin, California Gull, Barrow's Goldeneye and many others.

Of 588 bird species examined in the study, 314 are at risk. Of those, 126 species are at risk of severe declines by 2050, and a further 188 species face the same fate by 2080, with numerous extinctions possible if global warming is allowed to erase the havens birds occupy today.

"The greatest threat our birds face today is global warming," said Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham, who led the investigation. "That's our unequivocal conclusion after seven years of painstakingly careful and thorough research. Global warming threatens the basic fabric of life on which birds – and the rest of us – depend, and we have to act quickly and decisively to avoid catastrophe for them and us."

To understand the links between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them, Langham and other Audubon ornithologists analyzed 30 years of historical North American climate data and tens of thousands of historical bird records from the U.S. Geological Survey's North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Understanding those links then allowed scientists to project where birds are likely to be able to survive – and not survive – in the future.

The study also reveals areas that are likely to remain stable for birds even as climate changes, enabling Audubon to identify "stronghold" areas that birds will need to survive in the future.

The result is a roadmap for bird conservation in coming decades under a warming climate. The study provides a key entry point for Audubon's greater engagement on the urgent issue of global warming. Responding to the magnitude of the threat to our birds, Audubon is greatly expanding its climate initiative, aiming to engage a larger and more diverse set of voices in support of protecting birds.

Solutions will include personal choices to conserve energy and create backyard bird habitat, local action to create community climate action plans, state-based work to increase rooftop solar and energy efficiency, and our work in Important Bird Areas and other efforts to protect and expand bird habitats.

For more information, visit http://climate.audubon.org/
[article reprinted with permission]

The website mentioned above contains quantities of articles, graphs, and data. Try looking at a particular state to see what birds might be impacted by climate change. Depending on your level of interest, there is an incredible array of information from which to choose.

An example includes links to all the full articles in the September /October Audubon Magazine, devoted entirely to their rollout of the Climate Change Report. The cover picture is shown in miniature at the right and is an interesting story in itself. It was designed by master mosaic creator, Charis Tsevis, who is based in Athens, Greece, by using John James Audubon's "*The Birds of America"* in digitalized format. He created the base composition, a Golden Eagle, and then using software, took fragments of Audubon's pictures to overlay as a mosaic. It's worth a trip to the website to see the larger version!



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. Sue Romig, P.O Box 354, Klamath Falls, OR. 97601
- Comments and information to The Grebe Editor are welcomed and encouraged. Send to Grebe Editor, 6749 Coopers Hawk Rd. Klamath Falls, OR. 97601 or mchristian1@charter.net.
- Check our website at www.klamathaudubon.org
- KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com



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Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
October/November 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.
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 Fall and Happy Thanksgiving!