

The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
April/May 2015

KBAS General Meetings

Thursday, April 9, 2015 6:30 p.m.: "Four Seasons of Birding in the Klamath Basin" by Gary Vequist

"Four Seasons of Birding in the Klamath Basin" is Gary Vequist's program for the April general meeting. Gary will focus on the great spring birding in the Basin [which has started very early this year!]. Besides being a Board member of KBAS and a former National Parks employee, Gary is the co-author of Wildlife Watching in America's National Parks: A Seasonal Guide. His talk should be of great interest to all. Invite a friend or two to come to this program!

Thursday, May 14, 2015 6:30 p.m.: "Swainson's Hawks in our Backyard" by Chris Vennum

"Swainson's Hawks in our Backyard" is Chris Vennum's program for the May general meeting. We all know the Basin is a great place for raptor viewing, but it is also a prime location for raptor research. For the past 3 years Chris Vennum, a biology graduate student at the University of Nevada-Reno, has done extensive research on the Swainson Hawk population in Butte Valley. Among the topics he will discuss: Swainson's Hawk life history; the history of the Butte Valley project; plumage polymorphism and mate selection. His specific research interests are the effect of territory quality on chick condition and estimating the immigration of new birds into the population.

Chris recommends Scott Weidensaul's book, Living on the Wind [especially chapter 8, "Aguilucheros"] for background on bird migration and Butte Valley's Swainson's Hawks.



Figure 1 By Dustin Huntington/VIREO

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 LOCATION**

William Finley Exhibit: REMINDER: The Favell Museum is featuring "Put a Bird on It: Nature Photography of William L. Finley," a traveling exhibition celebrating Finley, a nationally known bird photographer, naturalist, and tireless advocate for wildlife preservation. The exhibit is on display at the museum until April 30, 2015. Finley, the "Father of Oregon's National Wildlife Refuges," helped set up Oregon's federal wildlife refuge system. If not for Finley, the great marshes of Klamath, Tule and Malheur might have been lost forever. "Put a Bird on It " features forty of Finley's black-and-white bird photographs. Try to stop by the Museum before the show leaves: you won't be disappointed!



President's Message . . . *Molly Russell*

As my term comes to a close next month, I want to thank everyone who has made it such a wonderful experience. The Board has stepped into their roles with enthusiasm and we have accomplished some great relationships with other organizations and people around the Basin and Pacific Northwest with mutual goals. The community has come together not only on water issues but has expanded that to environmental issues as well. I am proud to live in a place surrounded with nature and people that are striving to protect it.

My hope is that we can continue on this path of momentum into the future. Organizations are struggling with keeping volunteers as we rely on the same ones year after year. Most of our volunteers are retired and want to travel and enjoy their lives after years of working. I am one of those so I know the pull it has. But I also want to give back to my community as much as I can within those constraints. We also need to continue to grow our base of volunteers with younger members. Jobs and family take up a lot of your time but birding can be a great stress reliever and it looks good on a resume. So I am asking if you can spare even a small amount of time to help with projects we would be most appreciative. I have made great friends and learned a lot from my experiences and you can too.

I want to thank Marilyn Christian for all her time and effort in publishing the Grebe for the past many years. Shirley Alley has offered to take over with the next issue and I know she will do a great job. We welcome articles from any of our members and other chapters so feel free to share your events or information you may glean from others.

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 Your Help . . .

by Mary Kelley

So far the Nominating Committee has been unable to find someone willing to serve as President for the coming two years. KBAS has an efficient and experienced working Board who enables the President to do the job with a very modest time commitment. We are looking for a person with good leadership and organizational skills, preferably with previous Board experience, to help us carry out our mission of providing opportunities to experience and appreciate wildlife in our region. The President also serves as a liaison to the Oregon Audubon Council and the National Audubon Society. If you know someone you would recommend for this position or are interested yourself, please contact a member of the nominating committee below.

We also need to fill two appointed positions for the Education and Conservation Committee Chairmen.

Mary Kelley 541-783-3690
Beth Philips 541-723-2161
Sherry Lindley 541-205-526

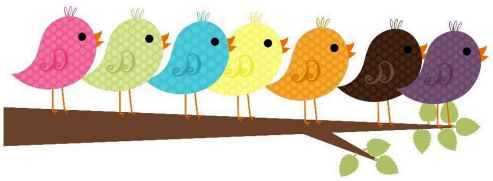
International Migratory Bird Day [IMBD] . . .

by Beth Phillips

The date is May 9th with the event running from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park. We will need volunteers to help with bird walks and to staff at our table. We already have four volunteers but need more.

Our theme is "Restore Habitat, Restore Birds." We will have several bird mascots walking around the event that will make for a good photo op for families and children plus other fun activities for the day. If you are a runner, there is a 10 K run that begins at 10 a.m. To enter the race, contact Dave Hewitt - dhewitt37@gmail.com

IMBD is a fun day full of sunshine, birds, food and friends. Please contact me at pidgeco@gmail.com if you can help or have questions.



Field Trips . . . *by Mary Ellen Sargent*

Saturday, April 11 Raptors and Shorebirds Galore!: Join Charlotte Ann Kisling at the Cinders Cafe on Hwy 97 to roam the south basin looking for the migration action! We'll leave at 9 a.m. and will be carpooling. Bring lunch, etc. and charged walkie-talkie if you have one.

Sunday, April 12 Eagle Gawking and More!: Join Steve Rooker at 10 a.m. at the Auto Tour entrance to LKNWR to get a behind the scenes tour of the nesting Bald Eagles. Along the way, note all the bird life in the refuge.

Saturday, April 25 Eagle Ridge Migration Season!: Join Gerry Hill for a great morning of birding where both water and land birds are migrating and nesting. This is primarily a carpool trip with a few short walks. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Running Y Lodge to carpool.

Saturday, May 2 Sycan Marsh: Join Craig Bienz of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for arriving spring migrants. Meet at 6 a.m. at the Home Depot parking lot for carpooling or caravanning, or join the group at the intersection of roads 27 and 46 at 7:45 a.m. Bring lunch. Directions from Klamath Falls: Drive past Beatty to Ivory Pines Road (Road 30), turn left, then left again at Road 27 to meet Road 46. From Chiloquin, take Williamson River Road to Road 46 and follow until meeting Road 27.

Saturday, May 9: International Migratory Bird Day: See Page 2.

Saturday, May 9 NAMC [North American Migratory Count]: NAMC is on the second Saturday in May, a day to count while out in the field, park, neighborhood, or even your back yard, in Klamath County. Submit your totals for each species seen, and your time walked, driven, or scanned while birding, and also miles walked, driven, or kayaked. Those details can be sent to me, via a message to rriparia@charter.net

Saturday, May 23 The Skillet Handle at Running Y: Join Darrel Samuels on an easy hike looking for migrating and nesting mountain species. Meet at the Skillet Handle parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 30 The 2nd Link River Festival: Lots of activities with many non-profit groups will be taking place along the Link River. KBAS will again set up scopes to view the dancing grebes and other birds.

Saturday, June 6 Nuss Lake: Join Bob and Cary Kincaid at their property on Nuss Lake at 9:30 a.m. to view the wildlife around this private lake. Their address: 9085 Hill Road. For those who want to carpool, meet at 9 a.m. at the USFWS office on California Ave. For those interested, we'll roam the Poe Valley and Lost River looking for migrants and nesters. Contact is Mary Ellen Sargent.

Saturday, June 13 Species of the Burn Areas: Join Jean Van Hulzen to find 3-Toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers and other mountain species. Areas to be covered are the burn areas north of Hwy 140 and Lake of the Woods. Meet at the Van Hulzen's at 8 a.m. More details will follow.

Newly Scheduled Trips

Saturday, September 12 Migration in the Williamson Delta: Join The Nature Conservancy's Heather Hendrixson as we tour TNC's property, looking for early southbound and northbound migrants. More details to follow.

Late September or early October: Join Marshal Moser in an upper Klamath Basin trip. More details to follow.



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.**

Check out the Audubon website and the running account of **Noah Stricker** and his world-wide "Big Year" attempt at logging 5,000+ species of birds. You may remember Noah from two talks he gave at KBAS meetings – he is from Oregon. For this challenge, he has a blog on Audubon at http://www.audubon.org/features/birding-without-borders
He is now in Columbia, having started out in Antarctica and when he finished with Ecuador, he had tallied 1,717 to date.

Field Trip Reports

"Cabin Fever Break" Saturday, January 24th, 2015 . . . *by Mary Ellen Sargent*

A small group enjoyed the waterbirds at Veteran's Park and Putnam's Point before heading south of Klamath Falls to view the raptors and waterbirds in the flooded fields near Township Road. We ended at Stateline Road, enjoying the thousands of waterbirds in the refuge. We had out-of-area participants, enjoying great looks at the eagles and hawks in great weather.

Post WWF bird finding trip Saturday, February 21, 2015 . . . *by Rick Hardy*

We met a large group of eager birders at the USFWS office on Saturday, February 21, 2015. I was told the high count was 28 people, as people joined and left the group at various stops. Our first stop was at the Walker Brothers Farms across from Running Y Resort. The ranch hosts were gracious and led the group out to an area of the property not normally available to birding. The weather was very nice and we saw tundra swans and several bald eagles there.

Next stop was the home of Darrel and Diana Samuels where they have some very busy bird feeders. In addition to the many finches, sparrows, jays, and doves, we had a hawk flyby [probable Coopers] which emptied the feeders in a hurry.

Next stop was the Running Y boat ramp area where we looked for but did not find the Acorn Woodpecker and Barred owl that had been there the week before. We did see a Western Grebe and other waterfowl there.

Then it was off to the home of Carl and Ann Wenner at Cove Point. They also had busy feeders with quail and other species. We could not coax the Canyon Wren out that had been hanging around. There were also many waterfowl visible on the lake from their home.

Next the hardy remaining troopers headed south to the federal refuges. On the way we saw the pelicans at Spring Lake and an active Bald Eagle nest and Great Horned Owl nest (thanks to Charlotte Ann Kisling). Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge had good numbers of waterfowl, especially the white (Snow and Ross) geese. There were also good numbers of Sandhill Cranes, hawks, Bald Eagles, and ducks. The highlight for me was a very cooperative Peregrine Falcon that posed for us next to the road for as long as we wanted to stay there [I forgot my camera and the light was great]. Overall, it was an enjoyable trip with about 35 species detected.



Figure 2 Doug Wechsler/VIREO

Raptors and More!, Saturday, March 14, 2015 . . . *by Cy Phillips, trip leader*

There were nine that attended this trip that included Merrill, Malin and surrounding areas.

There were three stops at points along the Lost River where we saw most of the water fowl that are common to the area. The first highlight of the trip was a close-up view of "Blondie," the leucistic eagle. We saw about 20 more eagles during the trip.

The second highlight of the trip was in the Malin park where a variety of small birds were seen including woodpeckers, creepers and many others. All together we saw at least 42 species.

The Klamath Basin Refuges Can Really Use Your Help! Interested in volunteering for the Klamath Basin Refuges? The Refuge is always looking for new volunteers interested in helping staff the Visitor Center. It is a great opportunity to learn about different species of birds that visit the Refuge and it is fun to talk to visitors about where they are from and what interesting things they have seen. Hours are very flexible! We can work with your schedule and we are open 7 days a week. For more information contact Hallie Rasmussen at 530-667-2231 or hallie_rasmussen@fws.gov.

Winter Wings Festival Re-Cap *. . . by Diana Samuels*

The 2015 Festival exceeded on our expectations on many fronts: the spectacles of snow geese that appeared despite the drought, the level of teamwork demonstrated by the 130 plus volunteers to produce a festival with hundreds of moving parts, and the partnerships that developed between numerous organizations to showcase the art, recreation, and history of the Basin in multiple venues over the weekend.

For 2015 we instituted several changes. We simplified the Festival venues, contracted with a new transportation vendor, added a new family activity on Saturday utilizing the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry education staff, reinstituted the art youth contest, and modified the approach to the photography contest. Richard Crossley complemented the festival organization: "Superbly run and another example of what happens when a group of people work together as a team. Very inspiring."

By the numbers, we had a total of 556 who registered or came to the free Canon keynote, 404 attended the OMSI Science Fest, we received 150 submissions for the photo contest, and about 33 vendors participated. We drew in participants from at least ten states.

Planning for the 2016 Festival will begin soon. Please send any program ideas or other suggestions to Diana Samuels or Anne Wenner [see Page 7 for contact info].



Figure 3 Fisher Nicholson Realtors - Louise Stone



Figure 4 Returning Happy Field Tripers





Figure 5 & 6 Both Photos by Jennifer Wu, Canon Explorer of Light and Festival Keynote Speaker

The Mountain Bird Festival - Ashland May 29th - 31st

The award winning Mountain Bird Festival is back, celebrating the natural wonders of southern Oregon and northern California. The 2015 Mountain Bird Festival will be held in Ashland, Oregon from May 29th-31st. Registration for the Festival will be available on the Klamath Bird Observatory website at http://www.klamathbird.org/community/mountainbird
The Mountain Bird Festival offers guided bird walks, a keynote presentation, fine art galleries, local wine, microbrew and food vendors, and a feel-good community atmosphere. Registration includes half-day or full-day field trips offered on both Saturday and Sunday.

Every citizen who participates in the Festival helps to advance bird and habitat conservation in multiple ways. They contribute to habitat protection through the purchase of a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (a.k.a. the Duck Stamp), thereby supporting one of the most successful conservation programs in the United States. Festival attendees also purchase a Conservation Science Stamp with proceeds supporting Klamath Bird Observatory's regional science and education programs aimed at achieving sustainable natural resource management.
This year's Mountain Bird Festival features a keynote presentation by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's International eBird project leader, Brian Sullivan. Brian will show us how eBird and its state of the art technologies are revolutionizing birding, making this popular recreation a powerful conservation science activity.

Field trips will target highly sought after mountain birds of the Cascade, Siskiyou, and Klamath Mountains, as well as Klamath Basin specialties. Target birds include Mountain Quail, nesting Sandhill Cranes, dancing Western and Clark's Grebes, Black Terns, Great Gray Owls, Calliope Hummingbirds, and the bird that will be featured on this year's Conservation Science Stamp, the White-headed Woodpecker.



Please join us for the 2015 Mountain Bird Festival and become part of our efforts to elevate bird conservation.
Photo Credit: White-headed Woodpecker (c) 2015 Livaudais

Welcome to the Following Returning and New KBAS and National Audubon Members . . .

New KBAS/National Audubon Members: Marjorie Glass, Patricia Derby, Sunny Lemming, Karen Penhall, John Rutherford, Robert Dobbins, Barbara Lund

KBAS/National Audubon Renewals: Paul and Shirley Alley, Patty Baldini, Margaret Buchanan, Todd and Marilyn Christian, Sheila Guidi, Richard Hardy, C.L. Johnson, Ralph & Charlotte Opp, Carol Prara, Molly Russell, Lila Sevey, Flavia Strickland, Marilyn A. Dyrud, Linda B. Garrison, Sherry Lindley, Kerry Mauk, Kathryn Paine, Carol Patzkowsky, David H. Petersen, Gilbert L. Thompson, David Van Scoyoc

***The Grebe* August/September 2006 . . . April/May, 2015:** One issue short of nine years! These are the issues I have put together over the years and it has been a lot of fun. It's always fun when you get to try out your creative side a bit! But now it's time to "retire" and turn *The Grebe* over to very capable hands, Shirley Alley. She is a pro at this sort of thing and I am sure you will see some great issues in the future. In the meantime, I want to thank ALL the contributors from Board members & Committee Chairs to guest writers, and even far-flung members such as Lou Leidwinger. You've always stepped right up to the plate and written some interesting pieces, and I hope I haven't "bugged" you too much! Cheers!, Retired Editor, *Marilyn*

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members			
President	* Molly Russell	884-3868	russellx1@msn.com
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Treasurer	*Sherry Lindley	205-5269	shadylin@aol.com
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	*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			
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Education	**OPEN**		
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Grebe Editor	Marilyn Christian	850-0084	mchristian1@charter.net
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Hospitality	**OPEN**		
Membership	Sue Romig	892-0829	saromig@gmail.com
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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



The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 9760
April/May 2015

Or Current Occupant

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

- **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

- **Name:** Olympic BirdFest 2015 **Dates:** April 10-12, 201 **Location:** Sequim, WA - Join the **Birdfest Pre-trip on April 8-9, 2015**, two days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders. Immediately following BirdFest, join us for a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the **San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2014. Cruise registration: separately at** www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon . Birdfest website address: www.olympicbirdfest.org E-mail: info@olympicbirdfest.org Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, 360-681-4076

INSIDE *THE GREBE* . . .

Board/Committee Chair	7
Board Meeting Schedule	7
Field Trips and Events	3
Field Trip Reports	4
Membership Form	7
Mountain Bird Festival, Ashland	6
Nominating Committee	2
President's Message	2
Programs	1
Winter Wings Festival	5