Klamath Basin Audubon Society

The Grebe

August/September 2015

TOGETHER GREEN, ACT TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

President's Message

I had the best time, met the best of the best at our July 28 yearly planning meeting. My first and I hope to have many more. I have a new email address: canadageese61@gmail.com. Immediate needs should be called in or text – your preference 541.539.9001. Thank you, Anne and Diana, for all you do I hope to be available for you and your troops.

Goodbye, Hallie, you'll be missed. Hopefully there will be a new Ranger to carry on your work.

On another note, our membership chair, Sue Romig, is stepping down. I was told we need an applicant that understands Microsoft Excel. We will miss her and accept her offer to train a new person. Besides membership, we are looking for people to serve in the following positions: Board, Hospitality, and Education. Please contact me if see yourself taking on one of these positions. We need your help!

See you soon, Sherry Pollock
(541) 539-9001

KBAS General Meetings

CHANGE THIS MONTH: The next general meeting will be **September 17** at the Washington Federal Conference Center at 5212 S. 6th St. (across from Black Bear Diner and in the back of the Washington Federal Buildings)

Welcome to the New KBAS/ National Members and Returning KBAS/National Members

New KBAS/National Members

- Bob Nieman

KBAS/National Renewals:

- Judith Hassen
- Nickie Horner
- John Noller
- Kelly Patterson

Winter Wings Festival Update

by Diana Samuels

The 2016 Festival schedule for Feb. 11 - 14 will offer four days of workshops, mini-sessions, field trips, receptions, keynote presentations, vendors, and hands-on activities for birders, photographers, and families.

- James Currie, a life-long wildlife enthusiast and native of South Africa, who is fast becoming one of the most recognizable faces in birding and wildlife in North America joins us. James hosts the popular birding TV show, Nikon's Birding Adventures, now in its 7th season and currently airing on Discovery Channel's Destination America. An exciting speaker, Currie offers a unique blend of information and adventure, making bird-watching refreshing, contemporary, interesting and exciting. In addition to keynoting and leading a celebrity birding trip, we are working with James to film an upcoming television episode on the Winter Wings Festival and birding in the Klamath Basin.



- Stephen Johnson, landscape photographer, author, designer and educator, will also appear courtesy of Canon USA. He has been photographing since 1973. His work has been featured in Communication Arts, Life Magazine, American Photo, Outdoor Photographer, PBS Newshour and ABC Discovery News, among many others.



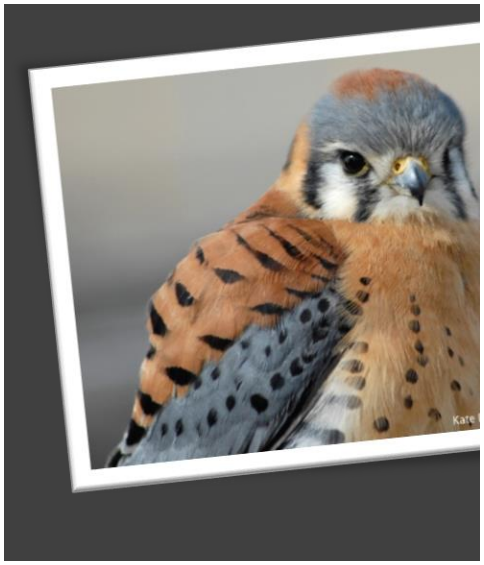
Several volunteer assignments are open. Please contact Diana Samuels 850-5832 or Anne Wenner at 882-1219 if you are interested in helping plan and organize the festival.

WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL

Winter Wings Festival is Presidents' Day Weekend, February 11-14, 2016. Look for more information on the 2016 Winter Wings Festival in the next issue.

American Kestrel Nest Boxes

By Cy Phillips

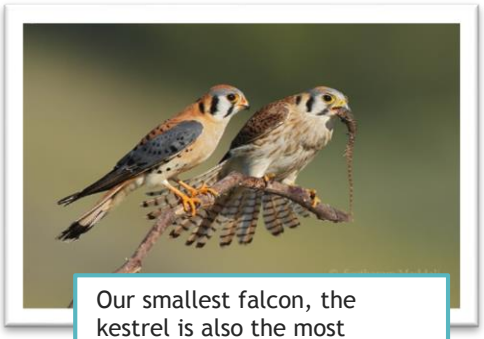


KBAS provided funding for a number of American Kestrel nest boxes, and we try to provide information each year about how the nesting season has gone. This year, I monitored 43 nest boxes in the Tule Lake/Malin area which had the following results:

- 17 or 43 nest boxes were used, or 39.5%
- 83 eggs were laid, but four were vandalized by a predator
- 73 eggs hatched
- 68 chicks survived and 5 died of unknown causes
- 68 chicks fledged this year compared to 62 last year

The 130 chicks hatched in the last two years are starting to make a difference on the local population with people telling me about the many Kestrels they are seeing in areas where successful nesting took place.

I have also noticed that groups of Kestrels were hanging out in some areas with group sizes varying from 5 to 15 birds during the period late June to late July. Several people have seen this happen and have asked about it because no one of us have seen this type of activity in prior years. If any of you have seen this group activity, please let me know. Cy Phillips at raptorcounter@gmail.com



Our smallest falcon, the kestrel is also the most familiar and widespread in North America. In open country it is commonly seen perched on roadside wires, or hovering low over a field on rapidly beating wings, waiting to pounce on a grasshopper. Kestrels nest in cavities in trees; in places where there are few large dead snags to provide nest sites, they may rely on nesting boxes put up for them by conservationists.



Klamath Basin Bird News Information

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

Field Trips

by Mary Ellen Sargent

Saturday, August 8
Picnic for Members and Guests

Picnic for members and guests at the Van Hulzens', noon with early bird birding before then! Call Jean at 541.810.2110 to RSVP (or jeanatrockypoint@gmail.com) and get directions. Be sure to bring a side dish or dessert for 8, your own table service and beverages.

Saturday, September 12
Migration in Williamson Delta

Join Heather Hendrixson and her staff at the TNC's Williamson River property on Copco Road (Tulana hay barns, first left after crossing the Williamson River) at 8:30 am for carpooling on the property. Or, meet at 8 am at the USFWS office on California Ave. for carpooling/ caravanning to the site. This trip will end by noon or so.

Saturday, September 19
North American Migratory Count

The North American Migratory Count (NAMC), fall edition, coordinated by Kevin Spencer, rriparia@charter.net. Count birds anywhere in Klamath County: backyard, park, and travel routes, whatever! For a few minutes a couple of hours, ½ day or all day, just let Kevin know where you'll be counting and then report to him when you're done.

Saturday, October 17
Upper Klamath Basin

Join Marshal Moser on a trip to find migrants travelling south in upper Klamath Basin. Meet at Hagelstein Park at 8:30 am. Tentative plans include the Wood River Valley for raptors, Williamson River Canyon for falcons, Collier Park and Spring Creek. Remember this is the change of seasons so bring weather gear, lunch, drinks, etc. Walking up to 1 mile round trip might be in the picture. End time around 2 p.m. Marshall can be contacted at 541.880.4629 or marshallmoser@gmail.com for any questions.

Saturday, November 7
Trip to Klamath Canyon

Join Virginia Bary on a walking trip (about 1 and ½ miles round trip) in the Klamath Canyon at Keno. Meet at 9 am at the USFWS office on California Ave. for carpooling/ caravanning. Low profile vehicles are discouraged. Expect to see the last of the summer species and most of the winter species. Bring weather gear, drinks, and snacks for this AM only trip. Note: In case of bad weather, the alternate date is November 14. Contact Virginia at Virginia.bary@yahoo.com for any questions.

Saturday, December 19
Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count

The Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count (CBC) takes place! Join a team to either walk, ride or a combo in one of the 7 count areas. It's a fun activity for the cold winter of December. Contact Kevin Spencer at rriparia@charter.net for more details. Post count activities include a pot luck and compiling of all the species seen.

Sunday, January 3, 2016
The Tule Lake CBC Challenge

The Tule Lake CBC challenge takes place! Join a team to check out the winter species. There is a potluck dinner and compilation afterwards. Contact Kevin Spencer at rriparia@charter.net for more details.

January
2nd Annual Cabin Fever Break

Sometime in January, come out and view all the raptors, water birds, and winter species from the comfort of your car! Date: TBD Leader: TBD



For all field information

Contact: **Mary Ellen Sargent**
Field Trip Chair

541.850.3926, 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



Skillet Handle Saturday, May 23

by Darrel Samuels

About 12 birders joined me for a leisurely walk along the Skillet Handle Trail at the Running Y. Interestingly, most were guests staying at the Running Y as I had advertised the walk at the resort as well as to KBAS. For those who have not birded the Skillet Handle trail. I would highly recommend giving it a try. Note: the trail veers to the right off the old gravel road just inside the gate. This trial was constructed by a mixed group of folks two years ago (Klamath Lake Land Trust members and staff, OIT students, Running Y employees, homeowners from both the Running Y and town). It winds through some great mixed oak woodland forest and can be very birdy during migration time. We were treated to views of dancing Grebes on the lake below, nesting Tree Swallows and several others including Nuthatches, Yellow-rumped warblers, and Black-headed Grosbeaks.





Link River Festival Saturday, May 30

by Darrel Samuels

KBAS was represented at two stations of the Link River Festival: an informational table and birding station at Putnam's Point, and further up the trail with views of the riparian habitat. KBAS members, Diana Samuels, Sherry Pollack, Sherry Lindley, Mary Ellen Sargent, Mary Kelley, Gary Vequist, Darrel Samuels and Anne Wenner provided information and birding help to hundreds of visitors who took part in a beautiful day along the Link River Trail. At Putnam's Point a spotting scope and binoculars were available to those who wanted a close-up view of the Grebes and other birds. On the trail itself the highlight proved to be a pair of nesting Bullock's Orioles less than a hundred feet from the spotting scope. Visitors to that station were truly amazed at the sight of the female sitting in the nest occasionally visited by the male.





Crystal Springs and Nuss Lake Saturday, June 6

by Mary Ellen Sargent

A small group enjoyed at least 56 species combined from Crystal Springs on the Lost River and Nuss Lake. We birded until it got too hot, but had a wonderful time and met some new locals. Thanks to the Kincaids' for hosting the Nuss Lake portion. It was an easy (not much walking) way to see lots of birds and enjoy the farmlands of the Klamath Basin.



An Oregon Birding Group

Cold Springs Road Saturday, June 13

by Jean Van Hulzen

For our June field trip, 5 KBAS and 4 visitors ventured along Cold Springs Road to look for forest birds and especially the Black-backed Woodpecker. A Black-backed Woodpecker pair were found at its nest cavity feeding young. It was difficult to get close without causing too much disturbance, but everybody enjoyed seeing them, including a 90-year old lady who wanted to add this bird to her life list. The birds seemed quiet this day, but other species detected were: Olive-sided Flycatcher, also at a nest; Western Wood-pewee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, Steller's Jay, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Junco, Robin, Golden – crowned Kinglet and Western Tanager.

Canoe/Kayak the Wood River Wetlands Saturday, July 11

by Gary Vequist

Ten by water and two by land enjoyed birding in the Wood River Wetlands on this mid-July field trip. Kayakers were able to paddle out to the slough to Wood River then drift down to the delta marsh on Agency Lake. Viewing water birds from a kayak is the best. Especially when searching the shoreline for birds like Virginia Rails and Green Herons ...both of which were spotted. One is able to watch bird behavior such as Black Tern feeding and single file pelicans gliding just above the water surface. These pelicans a true community bird during nesting and feeding. Eared Grebes where also viewed from a distance near their floating nests. The walker saw the usual array of song birds and more. Osprey and Terns did their flyby as well. The light wind created small waves they helped us surf around the point to the short-cut though the tulles back to the bridge. Water level has dropped recently and the blue-green algae has made the lake unfit for kayak adventures now in August. We were lucky.





Photo from Gary Vequist's Field Trip





HELP

At the KBAS planning meeting it was determined that a box of KBAS binoculars has strayed from the storage shed. If you borrowed them for a field trip or some other activity, please return them or call one of the board members and arrange for them to be picked up. Thank you

FOR FUN

Enjoy the 2015 Audubon Photography top 100 awards. 9000+ photos were submitted and judges picked these 100 as the best. www.audubon.org

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members

President	Sherry Pollock	541.539.9001	canadageese61@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Sherry Lindley	541.205.5269	shadylin@aol.com
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Board	Virginia Bary	530.398.4718	virginia.bary@yahoo.com
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Board	OPEN		

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Membership	OPEN		
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The Grebe is published 6 times a year by the Klamath Basin Audubon Society (KBAS)

Mission: The Klamath Basin Audubon Society will provide the opportunity for all to experience and appreciate our region's wildlife, focusing on birds and other natural resources.

KBAS is a chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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. Sherry Pollock, 11800 Tingley Lane #31, Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Comments and information **to The Grebe Editor** are welcomed and encouraged. Send to Grebe Editor, 6212 Osprey Lane Klamath Falls, OR. 97601 or s.alley@charter.net

Check our website:

www.klamathaudubon.org

KBAS e-mail address:

klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

Date _____

□ Individual: $20

□ 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_____

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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

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August/September 2015

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P. O. 354
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

KBAS general meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July, August and this September meeting which will be September 17. See page 1 for more details.

Website: www.klamathaudubon.org

KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com