Klamath Basin Audubon Society



The Grebe

December/January 2015



TOGETHER GREEN, ACT TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

President's Message

Hi all!

The November 12 general meeting was a success. I believe we had 30 KBAS members. We also had some possible new members visit.

Our Klamath Falls Icon and Director of the Klamath Falls County Museum Todd Kepple was the guest speaker. Todd kept us on the edge of our seats talking about the history of Klamath Falls water and water ways. A special hand of applause to Todd.

The winter bird count has started. Anyone interested in helping can email me and I will forward to the appropriate parties.

Some good news - our walkie talkies have been located. Anyone that has knowledge of the batteries, give me a call.

We are still missing a box of binoculars. If they are safe in your garage, let us know.

Our annual Holiday Social will be December 3 at the S. 6th Coldwell Banker conference room. This year we are celebrating with a potluck. Please bring a friend and a dish. See sidebar.

Hope to see you soon.

Sherry Pollock
KBAS President
Canadageese61@gmail.com

KBAS Holiday Potluck Party

When:
Thursday, December 3, 6-8 pm

Where:
Coldwell Banker meeting room, 3815 South 6th Street

Who:
KBAS members and their friends (invite a non-KBAS member to come!)

What to bring:
Last name A-M: Side dish or salad
Last name N-Z: Dessert

Ham and turkey breast will be provided

Plates/utensils, non-alcoholic drinks will be provided

See you there!!!

Winter Wings Festival Update

by Diana Samuels

Winter Wings Festival Receives Three Grant Awards.

The Winter Wings Festival committee submitted four grant applications this fall to help support the appearance of James Currie and the Birding Adventures TV show, general festival marketing, and the appearance of the West Coast Falconry group at four venues. We received word this month that we were successful in receiving 3 grant awards (with the fourth one pending): (1) Klamath County Tourism grant tax program, (2) National Audubon Cooperative Grant, and the (3) Pipeline Connector grant. Combined the grants total over $9000. The committee is very grateful for the support it has received that will help to offset our expenses this year.

More Press

Kathy Patten from the Willamette Valley published a firsthand account of her experiences at the Winter Wings Festival in the Nov-Dec issue of 1859 Oregon magazine. You can read it online at https://www.1859oregonmagazine.com/article?articleTitle=wings-over-klamath--1445278279--1467-- or pick up your own issue at local grocery stores. The article is based on her experiences at the 2014 and 2015 Festivals and subsequent research.

Donna Barnett also visited last year and wrote about her experience taking Amtrak to the Festival. You can read that article at http://www.creators.com/lifestylefeatures/travel/travel-and-adventure/take-the-train-to-oregons-winter-wings-festival.html

Registration Opens Dec. 5th

As you know, many of our field trips fill up in minutes. Tell your friends and family to be on our website when Regonline opens on Saturday at 9 am PST if they want our most popular events such as the Klamath Marsh Owl Prowl. The complete program schedule and schedule at a glance are on our website at www.WinterWingsFest.org.

Free Family Activities

Artwork by the Basin's talented K-12 grade students will be on display in the OIT College Union Auditorium lobby February 12-14. The top prize winner this year will have his or her artwork printed on a t-shirt. Rules and more information are available on the WWF website

Raptors and Falconry

This is going to be amazing! Falconers from the West Coast Falconry Center are bringing 11 trained raptors to the festival for a **Free** show at 11:30 am in the OIT auditorium on Saturday February 13th.

They will share the contributions of the ancient art of falconry to conservation and raptors in the wild and things will get wild during the show too when they fly some of their birds! Don't be late for this event. Auditorium doors will close promptly at 11:30 am.

In addition, the birds and their handlers will be upstairs on Saturday in the Children's Activity area for up close observation, information, and photo ops from 10:00- 11:00 am and 1:00-3:00 pm. Don't forget to bring your camera! On Friday and Sunday from 8:00 -11:00 am, we are offering the rare opportunity to photograph these magnificent birds in flight and perched to the lucky folks who register for one of these workshops. Again, check the WWF website for more details

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 of the Grebe and at www.winterwingfest.org





Central Valley Birding Symposium

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 19th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 19-22, 2015 at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. Please come and help us kick off this year's CVBS! Come meet the CVBS board & staff members! Reconnect with old friends! Meet new ones! Take advantage of the scrumptious Hors D'oeuvres buffet & No Host Bar on Thursday night.

To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and fieldtrips, check out our website at: http://www.cvbsreg.org

Registration: http://www.regonline.com/centralvalleybirdingsymposium2015

Origami Workshop Featuring Passenger Pigeons

By Christie Riggins
christieriggins@stanfordalumni.org

This summer, when I told Anne Wenner that I had established a children's art program with the Favell Museum, her eyes light up and she said "Would you be interested in doing origami with your students?" Absolutely! I replied. Six weeks later I received a heavy box from the Big Apple; inside were 600 pieces of origami paper for Passenger Pigeons.

Once school was back in session, I organized an origami workshop with 18 fifth graders. Most had never done origami, so we started by folding a dog head. Moving on, I asked the students to read the bottom tear-off on the Passenger Pigeon paper. They knew the definition of "extinction," but the Passenger Pigeon story was new to every one of them.

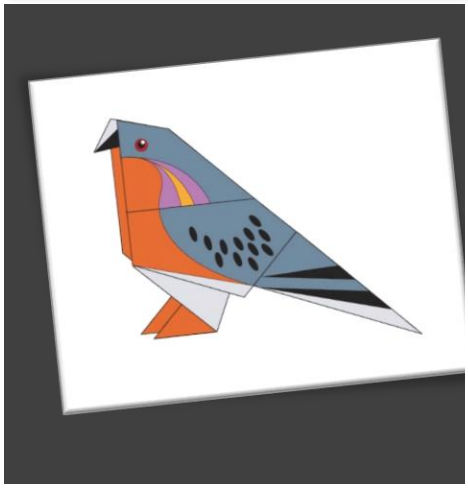
Then we folded the Passenger Pigeons. Fortunately, the night before the class, I practiced. In fact, it took me 4 times to master it. To refresh my memory, I folded two more the morning of the class. And I'm glad I did. Because the fifth and tenth folds are challenging. But we got through the first one, and then the students couldn't be stopped.

Thirty minutes later, most students had folded three birds. They would have folded more if we had had more time. I brought 45 bird papers with me and ran out. Next time I'll bring twice as many because many of the students wanted to take one home for their parents or siblings.

Near the end of class, I asked for volunteers to make a Passenger Pigeon for Winter Wings. About 12 students did that. While they were folding, I told everyone about the birding conference and my plans to display the folded birds with information about the Lost Bird Project. When I asked, "Any creative ideas for how to display these birds at Winter Wings?" I got some terrific ideas. One was "perching" the flock in a tree; another was "flying" them from the ceiling. Make sure you come to the children's art area so that you can see which idea we decided we use. And, hopefully, you will see more local children at Winter Wings, inspired to attend by their participation in this project.

Thank you to the members and Board of Directors of the Klamath Basin Audubon Society for the origami paper. Folding the Passenger Pigeons is a fun and innovative way to engage and educate children. During the 2015/2016 year, I hope to reach hundreds of local children and will log our birds at lostbirdproject.org. To see photos, check out the Facebook page for the Favell Museum Community Art Program and the Klamath Basin Audubon Society.





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, 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

February 20, 2016
Post Winter Wings trip

Join Rick Hardy for a post-WWF trip to find many of the outstanding species reported during WWF. More details to follow.



Mid-March/early April, 2016
Photography Trip

Join photographer Jack Noller for a 1/2 day of visiting his favorite birdy picture areas. If you have anything from a point and shoot to a tricked out photographic rig, this trip is for you! And if you just want to see birds, come along! More details later!

April/May, 2016
Skillet Handle

Join Darrel Samuels for a trip to the Skillet Handle. This morning trip will follow the lake looking for the returning grebes and other waterfowl, plus nesting specialties of Running Y. More details to follow.

Late April, 2016
Shorebird Jamboree

Join Kevin Spencer as he leads us on a trip around the Basin to catch the migrating shorebird action. More details to follow.

Early May, 2016
Eagle Ridge

Join Molly Russell for a trip to Eagle Ridge to find migrants, including warblers and shorebirds and early nesters. More details to follow.

Late July, 2016
Canoe/Kayak Trip on Williamson

Join Heather Hendrixson of The Nature Conservancy on a canoe/kayak trip on the Williamson River at the delta and around the near shores of Agency Lake, especially Goose Bay. Lots of nesters (think: baby grebes on parent's backs) will be around.

"Tips for caring for your binoculars"

Whether your binocular is low-end or a titan, take good care of it. Good care will preserve your investment. These tips come from Tom Hall:

1. Wear your binocular on a neck strap or harness strap, and use the lens covers.
2. Blow or brush the lenses before polishing. Don't over clean the lenses, and never wipe lenses with your shirttail. Use a clean microfiber cloth and replace the cloth frequently (as frequently as you would a kitchen sponge).
3. If your binocular gets wet, wipe it down and let it dry first before putting it away in its case.
4. Use a can of compressed air and a toothpick every few months to clean the gunk out of the eyecups, focus knob, and other areas where dirt and grit might accumulate.
5. Don't carve into, paint, or otherwise alter the rubber armoring on your binocular

-N.C. from Bird Watcher's Digest, Nov/Dec. 2015

North Basin Field Trip Oct. 17

by Marshall Moser

Led and reported by Marshal Moser:

It was a drizzly and rainy October Saturday as some ten intrepid individuals assembled at Hagelstein Park to see and learn about some of the birds and other natural history features of the northern Klamath Basin.

Although it was getting late in the migration season for the north end of the Basin, the birds were active in the light drizzle at Hagelstein. Sparrows were the most abundant birds with many immature White-crowned Sparrows with a few Golden-crowned mixed in. Recently, Varied Thrush had dropped to lower elevations and at least one was seen at the park as well as another thrush family member, Townsend's Solitaire. I tried to track down the squeal of a sapsucker (Red-naped or Red-breasted) as well as a wren on the rocky hillside above the springs but couldn't get a positive ID on either.

We consolidated the cars at the Kla-Mo-Yah Casino after checking out a Great Blue Heron and Great Egret rookery on the way for participants' reference during milder seasons of the year.

Next came Henzel County Park and Wood River Wetland. The lake at Henzel Park was relatively calm and had a large number of birds on it, especially toward the south end along The Nature Conservancy's Williamson River Delta Preserve. There were many gulls, a variety of grebes, Green-winged Teal (a couple dozen loafing along the shore), other ducks, Great Egret, a few shorebirds, etc. At Wood River Wetland rain started in earnest and we were reminded that waterfowl hunting season was open by the assembly of vehicles in the parking lot. It seemed "ducky" weather but we did not notice any gunshots. We checked a few of the birds around the parking lot, which were still active, but the rain literally dampened our spirits and we did not go further.

The forecast was calling for even heavier rain so we truncated the field trip to go directly to the Aux Kanee overlook above Spring Creek with the hopes of seeing another Prairie Falcon before the rain became heavier (we had seen one on the first leg of the trip, as well as lots of Red-tails and a few other raptors). The overlook is also good to view some of the areas beautiful geologic features. Alas, a few of us walked out along the overlook but the rain was really cutting into our ability to bird watch as well as communicate so we decided to wrap up the trip.

Despite the shortened trip, at least 31 species were positively identified: Eared Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harried, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared Dove, Northern Flicker, Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Western Bluebird, Varied Thrush, American Robin, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco.











Klamath Canyon and Keno Dam Trip Nov. 7

by Virginia Bary

The weather cooperated for our Nov. 7 Klamath Canyon and Keno Dam trip with a sunny and clear sky, initially cold but warming up considerably by mid-morning. We decided to start the trip at Putnam's Point since we had some out-of-town birders unfamiliar with our ducks. 36 species of birds were observed, and Marshal Moser gave many helpful tips for identifying ducks. From Putnam's Point we moved on to our original goal, the Klamath River just above Keno Dam. We hiked along the edges of the rather muddy road and observed 23 species, a surprisingly low number and mainly water birds. In warmer weather, the hillside on one side of the road is usually very birdy, but by this time of the year the shrubs and small trees are mostly barren so cover is scarce; however this is always an interesting hike with lots to see. Some of the group ended the outing with lunch at a BBQ food truck in Keno.

Refuge Help Needed

The Tule Lake Refuge office is in desperate need for volunteers to help staff the front desk. Your job would be greeting visitors and answering questions about the refuge and wildlife to your knowledge. If you are interested, please call Steve Rooker at the refuge 530-667-2231. Any help would be appreciated.

Todd Kepple Field Trip Thursday, Nov. 14

On November 14th, 9 people joined Todd Kepple for a tour of some of the Reclamation water structures in the Basin. Participants went to the top of the Link River Canyon for great views, the A Canal Diversion Diversion and Tunnel, Hank's Marsh Marsh and the Lost River Diversion Diversion canal. Along with the great history and purpose of each each area, participants saw over 40 40 bird species. It was a great day day thanks to Todd!

Gift Idea

Workman Publishing's 2016 Audubon



Calendars are now available. These annual favorites showcase stunning bird and nature photography month after month, making them popular holiday gifts for friends and family. As a thank you for supporting KBAS, we would like to offer you a special discount. From now until the end of 2015, the coupon code "audcal" will save you 20% through the online order form

Upcoming Program

by Darrel Samuels

Oregon Wolves

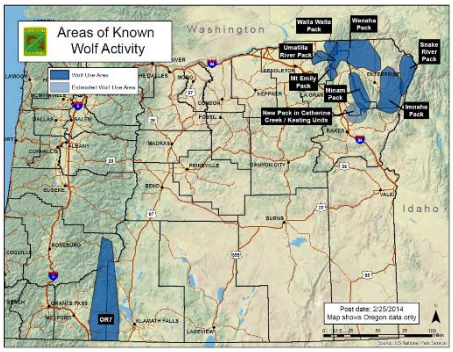
Don't miss the January 14 program meeting! No wildlife species project sparks more controversy than the reintroduction of wolves into their former territories. 41 wolves were released in Yellowstone Park twenty years ago and their numbers have increased well beyond the park's boundaries. Recent articles in the Herald and News have featured Oregon's wolves, their delisting by the state legislature, and a recent livestock depredation north of Klamath Falls by OR25. ODFW reports at least 77 wolves in at least 8 breeding packs mostly in the northeast part of the state.

John Stephenson, USFWS biologist and Wolf Coordinator for Oregon since 2004, will focus on the return of wolves to Oregon including the recovery efforts in the northern Rocky Mountains that set the stage for wolves to reoccupy the state. The Oregon Wolf Plan was first developed in 2004 in anticipation of wolves returning to Oregon. On November 9 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission delisted the wolf from the state's Endangered Species List.

For more information and background about Oregon's wolves watch the Oregon Public Broadcasting special "Living with Wolves: An Oregon Field Guide Special." Copy the following link into your web browser:

http://www.opb.org/television/programs/ofg/segment/living-with-wolves-an-oregon-field-guide-special/







Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members

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Board	Jherime Kellermann	541.851.5156	jherime.kellermann@oit.edu
Board	Virginia Bary	530.398.4718	virginia.bary@yahoo.com
Board	Tom Essex	541.273.7442	ospreytom@charter.net
Board	Molly Russell	541.884.3868	russellX1@msn.com

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Membership	OPEN		
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Grant Review	Jim Rooks	541.851.0209	runningyrooks@charter.net
Winter Wings	Diana Samuels Anne Wenner	541.850.5832 541.882.1219	dsamuels@charter.net kcwenner@aol.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_____

Phone_____

Email _____

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

December/January 2015

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

Or Current Occupant

KBAS general meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July, and August at the Coldwell Banker Holman Premier Realty at 3815 S. 6th St. Ste.110 (across from Big Lots). The next meetings will be December 3 (Holiday Potluck), January 14, March 10, April 14 and May 12. Watch for details in the newsletter.

Website: www.klamathaudubon.org

KBAS e-mail address: klamathaudubonino@gmail.com

