The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
February/March 2015

KBAS General Meetings

February: There is no regular KBAS program meeting due to the Winter Wings Festival from February 12-15. There will be a monthly Board meeting on February 4 at Discover Klamath.

March 10, 2015, 6:30 p.m. "The Woodpeckers of Oregon and Their Amazing Adaptations" by Dan Gleason

Dan, author of "***Birds! From the Inside Out"*** and "***Looking for Yellowheads"*** will present a fascinating look at Oregon's woodpeckers. Questions like: *How do they find their food? Why don't woodpeckers get headaches? How do they use their tongues to extract food?* among others, will be answered by Dan. The role woodpeckers play in a healthy environment will be another major theme.

Dan Gleason is a retired faculty member from the Biology Department of the University of Oregon and continues to teach Field Ornithology each year. Active as a board member of the Lane County Audubon Society, Dan is past president of the Oregon Field Ornithologists and volunteers at the Cascades Raptor Center in Eugene. He is passionate about environmental education in the Eugene area leading field trips, workshops and volunteer guide training. He writes a monthly column, *Backyard Habitats*, for The Register Guard and is a frequent guest speaker at schools and organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest. He and is wife have recently opened a Wild Birds Unlimited store in Eugene. Dan has also presented at several Winter Wings Festivals.



Figure 1 Acorn Woodpecker – Brian E. Small

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 NEW LOCATION**

Great Gray Owl [GGO] Nesting Platform Update

After Harry Fuller's very interesting and well-received talk on Great Gray Owls at the January KBAS meeting, the Board voted to contribute $250 to build and install another platform. Two nest sites have been identified: one is near Grizzly Peak off Dead Indian Memorial Road at about 3500 ft. elevation on private land; and the other is on the Enchanted Forest trail in Applegate on BLM land. That one is at 2000 ft. elevation. GGO activity has been documented at both locations and it's feasible to install the platforms before nesting season starts this spring. Should Rogue Valley Audubon plan a trip to one of the sites [ten, with the one KBAS has donated] KBAS members will be invited to attend as well.



President's Message . . . *Molly Russell*

The holidays are over and the birds are flocking in. We had a new record of 114 species at the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in December and saw new and unusual birds at both the CBC and the Tulelake CBC. Some birds are staying around longer and others seem to be checking us out for future living arrangements. We are still in a drought status but the rain has helped keep the fields wet and provide forage for many of the raptors and geese coming in. There are swans, white fronted geese and snow geese flying overhead and the owls and eagles are starting to nest. The weather has been warm and sunny to give us great opportunities to get out and see what nature has provided us here in the Basin.

Our annual Winter Wings Festival will be held this month at OIT. Check out the winterwingsfest.org website for more details. We have great photographers, birders and speakers leading field trips and presenting the keynote talks. Diana Samuels and Anne Wenner have done a great job as coordinators again this year to bring new and interesting activities to the festival. The funds we raise are used to provide grants to organizations in the community for research, rehabilitation, school projects and the utility box art project downtown to name a few.

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

Volunteer for Winter Wings!

It's time to consider volunteering for Winter Wings if you haven't already done so. There are a variety of opportunities depending on your schedule and interests. We need help in many areas, including the children's art contest, Bird Central and the KBAS sales table. There may also still be opportunities to assist at workshops and mini-sessions. Regardless of what you do, Winter Wings is always a lively and interesting event!

As a volunteer you do not pay for the activities for which you are volunteering; the $5 registration fee will be waived, and you may attend Saturday night's keynote presentation at no cost.

You can volunteer by 1) registering online as a volunteer at the Winter Wings website (www.winterwingsfest.org) and selecting volunteer activities, 2) sending an email to WinterWingsVolunteers@gmail.com and we can contact you, or 3) you can call one of the Volunteer Coordinators (Virginia Bary at 530-340-3812 or Suzie Moser at 541-880-4691). Your volunteer effort is what helps make Winter Wings such a successful festival.

William Finley Exhibit

The Favell Museum will feature "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 will be on display at the museum from February 10 to 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. The exhibit will officially open on February 15th, in collaboration with the 2015 Winter Wings Festival. Steve Rooker, Interpretive Park Ranger, Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, will be at the museum throughout that day. He will provide information and answer questions about the legacy and career of William L. Finley. Free to festival registrants Thursday, February 12 through Sunday, February 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Winter Wings Festival *. . . by Diana Samuels and Anne Wenner*

The Klamath Basin Audubon Society will hold its 36th annual Winter Wings Festival February 12 - 15, 2015. KBAS welcomes back Fisher Nicholson Realty as the 2015 Title Sponsor. KBAS has also received publicity grants from the National Audubon Society, the Klamath County Tourism Tax Grant Program, as well as a Klamath Cultural Coalition grant for the art contest. We are thankful for all of the grants we have received and our sponsor donations.

Registration: Registration for the 45 activities opened on December 6, 2014. Field trips are mainly sold out but there is good availability in receptions, keynotes, workshops and mini-sessions. These activities deserve special mention and we hope that you will join us for:

Thursday Feb. 12
Welcome Meet and Greet at the Yacht Club *(catered by Yummy's)*

Friday Feb. 13
Put a Camera on It: Beginning Photography for Birders *by Canon staff*
Secrets of Crittercam Photography Revealed *by Jonne Goeller **
Keynote: Nature's Elusive Beauty *by pro photographer and Canon Explorer of Light Jennifer Wu **

Saturday Feb. 14
Protecting the Pacific Flyway *by Michael Sutton, VP, National Audubon Society*
Keynote: Past Present and Future *by internationally acclaimed birder, photographer, and award-winning author Richard Crossley*

Sunday Feb. 15
Klamath Reclamation Project and How It Affects Water Delivery Today *by Todd Kepple*

*Free but registration required.

Art Contest: The art contest is back this year under the leadership of coordinator Madeleine Blake and her onsite leader Denise Buck. The art contest has new themes, a new display look, and new prizes. Please stop by the area in front of the OIT auditorium during the festival vendor hours.

Photo Contest: "Put a Bird **in** It!" is the theme for our new photo contest featuring images of bird(s) found in the general area of the Klamath Basin and photographed sometime between February 12-15, 2015. We encourage anyone with a great bird shot – amateur or professional – to enter. See our festival website www.WinterWingsFest.org for all of the contest details.

Vendors: We are still looking for a few quality vendors that wish to showcase nature related crafts, artwork, photography; birding supplies; optics; or other related or craft. If you know of vendors that have not participated before but you think would enjoy our event, have them contact Ginny Monroe at safarrowacres@fireserve.net.

OMSI: For the first time ever, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) will be hosting a Science Fair during the Winter Wings Festival! This family friendly event will be filled with a variety of science challenges guaranteed to thrill youngsters, perplex adults, and offer an unforgettable experience. Come between the hours of 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 14 upstairs in the Crater Lake Complex in the OIT College Union. For more information on OMSI, visit their website at: www.omsi.edu.In addition, OMSI staff will conduct 10 assemblies in the days leading up to the festival at local City and County Schools. Funding for the assemblies and fair is partially supplied through KBAS.

Field Trips . . . *by Mary Ellen Sargent*

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. Meet at 9 a.m. at the USFWS office, California Ave.

Saturday, March 14: Raptors and More! Join Cy Phillips to explore southern Klamath County's bird life. Raptors will be nesting, early migrants will be coming in and the weather should be warming up! We'll meet at the Polar Bear (next to the Merrill community center) at 9:30 a.m. Those interested in carpooling can meet at USFWS, California Ave. at 8:30 a.m.

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, 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. IMBD is in Veteran's Park, so put it on your calendar to come and help or participate. The theme this year is "Restore Habitat." If you are interested in helping, let Beth Phillips know as we need several volunteers for bird walks or being at our table giving out KBAS information. [541-723-2161 or pidgeco@gmail.com] Cindy Deas is in charge of this event. It's a fun Day!

Saturday, May 9: NAMC [North American Migratory Count]: Kevin Spencer is coordinating. More details will follow.

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.

Mid-June: Species of the Burn Areas: Join Jean VanHulzen 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 VanHulzen's at 8 a.m. More details will follow.

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 will follow.

July: Have the birds returned? Join Molly Russell to see the oak forest restoration areas near Keno to see the benefits of the 2012 KBAS partnership with USFWS and USDA . Has bird life increased? Let's find out! More details will 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.**

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.

Field Trip Reports *. . . by Kevin Spencer*

The Klamath Falls CBC ended up having the highest species count since it began in 1979. Yes, the weather probably influenced this year's result quite a bit, not only with the mild day, but with the days and weeks leading up to the day, December 14th, 2014, which did not have any significant weather event such as a blanket of thick snow, or bone-chilling cold days, that would have frozen all of the open water, covered feeding opportunities, and moved many birds out of the Klamath Basin. The final tally ended up with 114 species, surpassing the previous high of 113. That previous high was reached two times, in 1981 and 1984, when Steve Summers used to recruite a group of talented observers to come and enjoy the birds we have here.

Among the highlights were a YELLOW-BREASTED SAPSUCKER, first seen about 2 weeks prior to the count day, PEREGRINE FALCON, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, CACKLING GOOSE, GREATER SCAUP, THAYER'S GULL, GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL, WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER, RED CROSSBILL, along with other species NOT normally seen during winter months such as: WESTERN GREBE, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, WESTERN BLUEBIRD, VARIED THRUSH, NORTHERN YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, ROCK WREN, BLACK PHOEBE, WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER, FOX SPARROW, and ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD.



Figure 2 White-headed Woodpecker Robert A.

Especially pleasing to Lois Phillips was the move of a neighbor who had numerous cats, and whose presence had left her feeders very quiet on several previous counts. With the cats gone, her feeders where she lives on Lakeshore Drive had MOUNTAIN QUAIL coming in to feed again. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK reached an amazing number, 11, and showed that this species has surely established itself as a resident bird in the basin. EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES continue to gain with numbers, but were still outnumbered by MOURNING DOVE. And even though just a subspecies, and beautiful, seemingly pure, YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER was seen along Front Street.

All of these findings were shared at Julie and Bill Van Moorhem's home at day's end, where warmth and food were there to greet all who had participated. Thanks goes to all of the counters: Wes Stone, Howard West, BJ MATZEN, KEN JOHNSTON, and grandson, Julie Van Moorhem, Cathy Souther, Dave Potter, Dave Haupt, Dave Hewitt, Barbara Scoles, Yvonne McDonald, Mickey Jarvis, Frank Mayer, Kevin Spencer and feeder watchers: Lois Phillips and John Fortune.



Figure 3 Rock Wren
Both by Glenn Hartley



Figure 4 Varied Thrush

The Tule Lake CBC, with weather that was more like a low elevation valley winter day, ended up with 90 species. Although there was frozen water on both Sumps 1A and 1B, and a few more potholes of free water than normal, the waterfowl seemed more dispersed compared to other years when they are packed around one large giant open hole in the ice, constantly swimming to keep their only free water open. Also different are the waterfowl totals, and who used to winter in the hundreds of thousands in the Tule Lake Basin. That has changed for some reason, in the 1990's, and now waterfowl numbers reach just the tens of thousands.

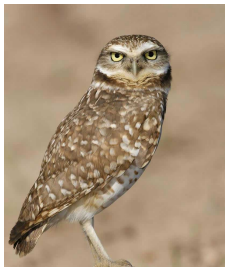


Figure 5 by Brian E. Small

Among the highlights included a BURROWING OWL, popping up out of a pothole in the middle of a Lower Klamath Lake NWR road. It was seen flying around from time to time before the observers left. This species is rarely seen in the basin, even in migration. Two adult TRUMPETER SWANs and seven cygnets were heard, and seen flying over the League of Nations. They sounded their distinctive trumpet sounds as they quietly flew by. A lone MOUNTAIN QUAIL was atop Sheepy Ridge, and provided just the second record of that species for the count. Unusual species included: RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (3), BLACK PHOEBE, and GREATER SCAUP, and with the amount of open water, BELTED KINGFISHER and WESTERN GREBE were taking a chance of making it through the winter there. Only two LAPLAND LONGSPURs were seen among the Horned Larks during this count. The most numerous waterfowl was AMERICAN WIGEON with about 6200 seen.

Thanks to all of the participants: Frank Lospalluto, Bob Hunter, Dave Hewitt, Barbara Scoles, Julie Van Moorhem, BJ Matzen, Nancy Nordensten, Steve Sheehy, Kevin McKereghan, John Johannsen, Dan Cohen, Clarence Story, and Kevin Spencer.



Great Backyard Bird Count

Show Birds Some Love on Valentine's Weekend: Join the Great Backyard Bird Count [GBBC] February 13 – 16, 2015!

Following are excepts from a news release by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It's fun and easy; you can get all the instructions you need at the web address below; and you are contributing to citizen science! . . . Give Mother Nature a valentine this year and show how much you care about birds by counting them for the 18th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) February 13 - 16. Anyone in the world can count birds at any location for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and enter their sightings at www.BirdCount.org. The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track changes in bird populations on a massive scale. The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with partner Bird Studies Canada. Bird watchers from 135 countries participated in the 2014 count, documenting nearly 4,300 species – that's about 43% of all the bird species in the world!

"We especially want to encourage people to share their love of birds and bird watching with someone new this year," says Dick Cannings at Bird Studies Canada. "Take your sweetheart, a child, a neighbor, or a coworker with you while you count birds for the GBBC. Share your passion and you may fledge a brand new bird watcher!"

Participation is free and easy. To learn more about how to join the count, download instructions, a slide show, web buttons, and other materials, visit www.birdcount.org. While you're there, get inspired by the winning photos from the 2014 GBBC photo contest.

Eagles and Protection of American Indian Rights Update

As most know, the Eagle Protection Act was enacted in 1940 to protect bald eagles on the brink of extinction. Basically, the Act prohibits anyone from possessing a bald or golden eagle, dead or alive or any part, nest or egg without a specific permit from the Secretary of the Interior. The Endangered Species Act ("ESA") was enacted in 1973 to conserve endangered and threatened species and their ecosystems. Bald Eagles were removed from the ESA in August 2007 but remain protected under the other Acts.

In many American Indian religions, the eagle is considered a link to the creator and the spirit world. Its feathers are an important part of rituals. However, new feathers may be acquired only through the National Eagle Repository located near Denver and run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Feathers are from eagles found dead in the wild.

Native religious practitioners have long complained about this system due to being very slow. But the biggest criticism of the repository is perhaps that not everyone can use it. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations say only members of federally recognized tribes may apply for permits.

Practitioners ineligible to use the repository have challenged this system, arguing that the distinction between members of federally recognized tribes and other Americans violates the First Amendment's free exercise clause and the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores* said that a federal department must show "that it lacks other means of achieving its desired goal without imposing a substantial burden on the exercise of religion by the objecting parties in these cases." See more at http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/american_indians_challenging_eagle_feather_rules_get_a_boost_from_hobby_lob?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=ABA+Journal+Magazine+Stories#When:11:53:00Z

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

New KBAS/National Audubon Members: Marshal Case, Karen Duke, Suzanne Farley, Kelly Head, Marsha Leinen, OR Tech Library, Manfred Lindenhoven, Lindsey Nichols, Marilyn A. Pile, William Walker, Doug/Pam Wierenga

KBAS/National Audubon Renewals: Laura Allen, Paul/Shirley Alley, Dr. John Bauman, Joni Beaman, Lucy L. Butcher, John/Peggy Federhart, Frances Gearhard, Paul H. Hanson, Allan Hart, Dave Hewitt, Wilfred Hodgson, Chris Karas, Mary Kelley, Mary K. King, Joanne Mc Cauley, Kathy McKeehan, Marshall/Suzanne Moser, Ernest/Marlene Palmer, Carol Patzkowsky, Jim/Amy Rooks, Iva Will

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	*Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	Sargentme5@aol.com

ALL AREA CODES ARE 541 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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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
February/March 201

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!**

Coming in the next issue of *The Grebe*: Do you ever get frustrated by the amount of space the traditional "hash mark" system used for most bird counts uses? In the April/May issue, Charlotte Ann Kissling will show us how to use a much more compact way to record those elusive birds!

- **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

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