Klamath Basin Audubon Society

The Grebe

April/May 2016

TOGETHER GREEN, ACT TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

President's Message

Dear KBAS Friends,

Waking up to lots of birds. Funny how wonderful they sound.

I hope to see everyone at the last 2 general meetings**, April 14 and May 12**. The weather is better and the sun is up longer making it easier for some of our members that live out of town to come. **Socializing 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7:15. Coldwell Banker Holman Conference room, 3815 S. 6Th St. Klamath Falls**

We really had a knowledgeable speaker at our last meeting with Brenden Breen. If you weren't there you missed a real treat. Quite the storyteller.

Nancie Carlson also spoke to our group about The Blue Zone initiative. Healthy living is a must.

I have been having fun as president, and look forward to being your Hospitality Chair.

Your President,

Sherry Pollock



THANK YOU DIANA AND ANNE!

The Board of Klamath Basin Audubon Society wishes to extend a huge thank-you to Diana Samuels and Anne Wenner for all the time, effort and especially creativity, they put in to organizing our Winter Wings Festival every year. Diana and Anne are the "heart and soul" of the festival, the moving force behind what has become the signature event for birders in south central Oregon.

Many people may not realize the scope of Anne and Diana's efforts. They typically begin planning next year's festival even before the current festival is over. Their unflagging enthusiasm and their wide range of contacts in the community encourage a variety of people and organizations to become involved in Winter Wings. And they make volunteering interesting and fun; everyone who contributes comes away feeling part of something valuable.

Winter Wings benefits KBAS in so many ways, and for much of the Klamath Basin, it is the public face of Audubon. Winter Wings Festival gives back to the community with free children's activities and family events, at the same time piquing children's interest in the natural world and providing thoughtful activities relating to birds.

In addition, most of the money raised from the festival is returned to the Klamath Basin in the form of grants to various community groups for purposes relating to Audubon's goals. Audubon has funded research projects, avian rehabilitation, school programs and field trips, as well as a variety of community projects.

Finally, Winter Wings brings much-needed tourist dollars in to local businesses during winter, and it also provides an opportunity for others to appreciate the natural wonders of our gorgeous Basin.

Anne and Diana, Winter Wings is a constantly-evolving event that you have both shaped and nurtured over the years. We want you to know you are very much appreciated!

KBAS Nominations

The following list of next year's board officers and committee chairpersons will be voted on at the May General Meeting.

We still need volunteers for next year's committees. Please call Tom Essex (541-273-7442) or Molly Russell (541-884-3868) for information pertaining to any of the open committees.

Officers for Next Year:

President – Beth Phillips
Vice President – Molly Russell
Secretary – Darrel Samuels
Treasurer – Sherry Lindley

Board Members:

Tom Essex
Jherime Kellerman
Carol Westfall
Rick Hardy
Ron Cole

Committees:

Grebe Editor – Shirley Alley
Field Trips – Kevin Spencer
Hospitality – Sherry Pollock
Membership – Sandy Vequist
Publicity – Mary Ellen Sargent
Grant Review – Jim Rooks
Winter Wings – Diana Samuels, Anne Wenner

We still need:

Conservation
Education
Historian
Programs



2016 Winter Wings Festival

by Diana Samuels

During four beautiful, mainly sunny days in mid-February, the Winter Wings Festival hosted its 37th annual festival in Klamath Falls, Oregon. After more snow and precipitation than in 2015, the destinations provided more bird habitat than previous drought-affected years. The Festival offered 33 field trips that explored the Klamath Basin Refuges, Upper Klamath Lake, Lava Beds National Monument, and the Crater Lake National Park plus private wetlands. We also hired James Currie with Birding Adventures TV to make an episode about the Festival that will be released in Spring 2016. Noah Stryker who only recently returned from his year-long international birding challenge greeted visitors over the weekend.

Some numbers:

- Festival registrants numbered 511 yielding about $38,000 in registration fees. All of the field trips except two sold out.
- Over 350 participants that did not register but came to see the West Coast Falconry Show and participate in other free children activities, vendors, and the student art contest.
- Updated Saturday children activities included 12 hands-on activities and a chance to see the falconry birds up close.
- 79 submitted photos to the Put a Bird IN It photo contest
- 34 vendors brought high quality sales items and resource booths

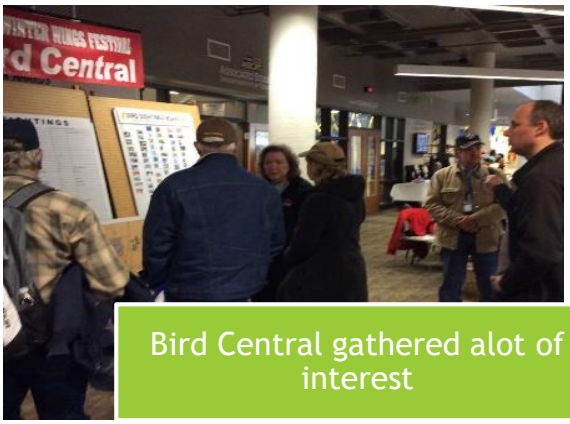
We had many more sponsors and grantees in 2016 than in previous years. Three grantees supported the West Coast Falconry Center appearance, and the Klamath County Tourism Tax Grant Program supported our television show and marketing efforts. Fisher Nicholson Realty was positioned again in the Title Sponsor spot. Canon once again sponsored an Explorer of Light with Stephen Johnson being this year's photography keynoter. The funds raised pay for the facilities and bus rentals, hospitality costs, etc. The WWF is the main fundraiser for the Klamath Basin Audubon Society- any surplus from the Festival will benefit the conservation and education efforts of that group. The final accounting should be completed in May 2017.

2017 Festival program planning is well underway. Contact Anne Wenner or Diana Samuels, if you have program suggestions or would like to volunteer to help organize the next festival.





Children enjoying themselves at the Children's Activities



Bird Central gathered alot of interest

Field Report

February 20, 2016 Post Winter Wings Trip

Initially it looked as if we would have to cancel the trip; the weather was cold and cloudy/snowy and Rick Hardy, our leader, came down sick. Fortunately, (and a big THANK YOU) Marshall Moser assumed the leadership. We went to Putnam Point, Cover Point, Miller Island and LKNWR as well as some other roads. We logged 57 species in all. AND the weather became clear! If you weren't there, you missed a fine day of birding

Field Report

March 26, 2016

Photography and Birds trip to Lower Klamath NWR

Despite an increasingly cloudy day (think, spritzes by late AM), leader Jack Noller showed a group that included participants from Mt. Shasta, Ashland, Corvallis and Klamath Falls the eagle nest and the heron rookery. He had special permission from USFWS and has been monitoring the eagle nest for weeks now. The rest of the refuge was alive with the normal ducks and geese and the White Lake portion only had avocets and stilts. Everyone enjoyed the photographic opportunity!



Standing Room Only at the Falconry Show



Green Heron Artwork by Dave Haupt

17TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
RESTORE HABITAT, RESTORE BIRDS

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 – 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
VETERANS PARK, KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

- Build a Bird House
- See Live Birds
- Birding & Boating
- Live Music and Entertainment
- Enjoy a variety of hands-on educational activities and displays
- Choose from various food vendors as well

Contact: Cindy Deas 541.892.0596 cindyd444@gmail.com

Run for the Birds
9:00 am (free) Kids Fun Run * 9:30 am 1-mile Fun Run, 5K and 10K
Race Day registration is from 8:15-9:00am
Pre-registration is cheaper and strongly encourage. For additional information: Contact Dave Hewitt
dhewitt37@gmail.com or visit linkvillelopers.org

Field Trips

by Mary Ellen Sargent

April 23, 2016
Shorebird Jamboree

Join Kevin Spencer for a special Saturday of looking for migrant shorebirds (other birds, too!) This is a special interest of Kevin's so we're bound to see and learn a lot about shorebirds. Meet at Veteran's Park at 8 am for carpooling (a must!). We'll go to mudflats, flooded pastures, etc. Bring lunch, since this should end in mid-afternoon. If you have a scope, bring that also as well as a favorite field guide for those discussions of plumage.

May 7, 2016
Skillet Handle

Join Darrel Samuels for a hike along the Skillet Handle Trail at the Running Y looking for migrants both on Klamath Lake and throughout the forest (both oak and conifers). The Klamath Lake Land Trust will also be a partner on this hike, which will start at 8 am at the Skillet Handle parking lot. This is a morning hike only, so come prepared to walk and layer for the elements.

May 19, 2016 Eagle Ridge Special Midweek Date

Join Molly Russell on Thursday for a leisurely trip (dirt roads) through various riparian and forest environments to look for migrants and nesters. We'll meet at the Running Y Lodge at 8:30 am for carpooling (a must) and we'll be done around noon. This is mostly very short walks to birding from our autos.

June, 2016
Redband Ranch at Crystal Springs

Redband Ranch at Crystal Creek. Come join our hosts, Anne & Karl Wenner at their ranch off Westside Road. This was a very popular trip in 2014, so we're bringing it back! Carpooling meeting place will be at the Lodge at Running Y. We'll be doing easy walking, looking for nesting mountain and waterbird species. There will also be an opportunity to paddle around Crystal Creek to look for birds and giant redband trout. 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.



THE KLAMATH LAKE LAND TRUST IS LOOKING FOR LEADERS ON PLANNED HIKES TO UPPER KLAMATH NWR (TO INCLUDE WATER CRAFT), KLAMATH RIVER CANYON, AND BUCK ISLAND (TO INCLUDE WATER CRAFT). IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEADING/HELPING WITH ANY OF THESE CONTACT MARY ELLEN SARGENT , SARGENTME5@AOL.COM

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

OREGON MASTER NATURALIST

Oregon State University OSU Extension Service

Become an Oregon Naturalist

If you are interested in Oregon's natural history and resource management and want to be a volunteer, the Oregon Master Naturalist Program Certification is for you.

Classes begin June 10 in Klamath Falls. The Klamath Basin Program consists of a series of lectures and 5 days of field trips throughout the Klamath Basin. **Lectures on June 10** include: archaeology, climate, forest and rangeland ecology and management, aquatic ecosystems, and history of the basin. Field trips leaving from Klamath Falls on June 100@12 and 24-26 will take participants to Crater Lake NP, Lava Beds NM, Tule Lake NWR, Upper Klamath Lake, and other areas, and will cover a broad range of relevant topics interpreted by regional experts.

Space is limited to 20 participants, so register early. Cost is $250

To become a full Oregon Master Naturalist, you must complete an additional 12-week Online Course ($325) about the basic of Oregon's natural history. The next one is offered Fall 2016.

Register on-line at http://oregonmasternaturalist.org/eastcascades
For more information contact: Jason O'Brien, Oregon Master Naturalist Program Coordinator, at Jason.OBrien@oregonstate.edu, or OSU Extension, Klamath Falls at 541-883-7131

Outdoor School for All

By Marjorie Glass, President, Klamath Outdoor Science School

It is probably safe to say that Klamath Basin Audubon members and Klamath Outdoor Science School supporters all share a common goal: getting more kids outside more often, making more connections with nature. There is a movement afoot to do just that!

Last spring, the Oregon Legislature enacted Senate Bill 469, directing the Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts and education service districts in providing outdoor education programs. It was to do that by administering a grant program for outdoor school programs that provide residential, hands-on outdoor school for Oregon 5th or 6th graders. However, the law, which took effect in July 2015, also stated that no "duties or obligations" were imposed on OSU Extension unless funding is provided—and the act does not provide for that funding.

The Outdoor School for All Coalition is working very hard to solve the funding problem. The group is currently circulating a petition statewide that would put an initiated measure on the November 2016 ballot. This measure that would create an "Outdoor School Education Fund" financed by Oregon State Lottery money distributed for economic development. The purpose of the fund would be to provide every Oregon fifth or sixth grade student with a week-long, science-based outdoor school program or its equivalent. Allocations to the fund would not reduce lottery proceeds dedicated under the Oregon Constitution to education, parks, beaches, watersheds, fish, or wildlife.

If this initiative is passed by the voters, it will provide far greater equity of opportunities for Oregon students to attend Outdoor School. Currently, that opportunity is extended only to those students whose districts subsidize it, whose teachers and parents are willing to do the extra work to raise funds for it, or whose parents who can afford to pay for it outright. Because a week of outdoor school is expensive, less than half of Oregon students ever have the opportunity to attend, and even then it may be only for a day or two.

Passage of the ballot measure would change that, by providing a permanent source of funding for all of these students. In so doing, it would tremendously increase the demand for outdoor school programs and facilities.

Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) is currently the only provider of residential outdoor school located in the Klamath Basin, and it is gearing up for this increased demand by further developing its programs and by resuming construction this June of important camp facilities. A kitchen/dining hall and a restroom facility will increase efficiency and comfort, and will more than double the camp's capacity. KOSS is also adding a "Journey to the Sea" southern Oregon coast option to its programs.

You can help by contributing cash or labor to KOSS's construction project at www.klamathoutdoorschool.org and by training to become an Outdoor School for All petition circulator by signing up at www.outdoorschoolforall.org/signature-gathering. We need 125,000 signatures statewide, please help us out!"



East Cascades Audubon Society Winter Raptor Survey Project

Jeff Fleischer has been coordinating a winter raptor survey project on behalf of the East Cascades Audubon Society (Bend, OR) since the winter of 2004-05 and issuing individual survey reports from each area. The project has grown from 80 routes in Oregon to 270 routes in Washington, California Idaho and Oregon.

This year, Jeff and another ECAS member have combined the reports and developed a comprehensive, on-line, interactive display of the raptor numbers observed on each route and the population densities of the primary species throughout the whole area.

To access the reports, go to the main page of the ECAS website: http://www.ecaudubon.org; click on "Projects" at the top; then pick "Winter Raptor Survey," from the menu, and finally click on "1/2016" which is the map. Or you can bypass the ECAS website and go directly to the map with the following link.

http://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=db376acb294345aab38f8d6363ef93fb

It's still a work in progress and further updates will be announced on the ECAS website. He and University of Oregon crew members are also developing the data for eBird.

Jeff would welcome any feedback that you would like to offer.

Contact Jeff Fleischer, Project Coordinator, Winter Raptor Survey Project for ECAS at raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com

Upcoming Programs

by Darrel Samuels

April 14 Mel Clements

Our **April 14** program features the spectacular photography of Mel Clements, an Ashland photographer who has specialized in the birds and wildlife of the Klamath Refuges. Mel will present his four-year on-going project to photograph the birds of the refuges throughout the seasons. He has produced four DVD's that highlight the variety and beauty of his subjects.

Mel is a retired Captain in the Ashland Police Department who took up bird photography in 2012. In 2015 his photograph of a Great Gray Owl in flight won 1st place in the Mail Tribune's annual Wild Bird Contest. Last year he was solicited to exhibit 42 of his bird photographs in an Ashland business for one month. That exhibit was held over for seven months.

Mel's current interest is focused on the Great Gray Owl. Between August and December of 2015 he made 22 sightings in Jackson County of six different birds. He has volunteered for the Klamath Bird Observatory and the 2016 Winter Wings Festival and supports a variety of non-profit organizations.

May 12 Update on KBAS funded Research

Michael Hughes and Jherime Kellerman will lead the **May 12** program with an update of their KBAS funded research of the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. They provided the following message to KBAS:

"At Oregon Tech, we are with your support gearing up for another successful spring survey season. This year marks our third year of spring migration surveys at the Lower Klamath Refuge in support of Audubon's Important Bird Area (IBA) initiative. We will be sharing updated results at the May 12 chapter meeting.

We are especially looking forward to this year's field work. With the Klamath Basin at 114% of its long-term average snow water equivalent (Natural Resources Conservation Service Snotel, 3-23-16), this year's surveys will be our first during a relatively wet water year. Also, with the unfortunate discontinuation of aerial bird surveys recently announced by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, our ground-based surveys take on added significance. Although the ground-based surveys cannot replace the aerial surveys, they will provide a robust comparative context for recent trends and patterns in bird communities at the Lower Klamath Refuge, one of the most important anchor points for migratory birds in the Upper Klamath Basin. Previous survey results have demonstrated the response of birds to intraseasonal changes in standing water levels. In particular, we have observed the contraction of habitat and abandonment of drier units as water levels recede during the spring. We hypothesize that bird numbers will increase and the loss of inundated habitat will be delayed as water levels remain higher during this year's spring migration.

We are also looking forward to extending our habitat assessments to other IBAs in the Klamath region, initiating fall bird surveys at Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuges, and recruiting new students to support this work. We hope you will join us at the May 12 meeting, meet our new students, learn more about our projects, and provide input on our efforts.

We sincerely thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you again in May!"

Dr. Michael L. Hughes is the Director of Environmental Sciences at Oregon Tech. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Studies, and Policy from the University of Oregon. He is the Program Vice President of the Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest and for over 20 years has conducted interdisciplinary research in water resource management and restoration.

Dr. Jherime Kellermann is an Assistant Professor of Biological Resources at Oregon Tech and the Science Coordinator at the Crater Lake National Park Science & Learning Center (SLC). He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in Wildlife Conservation & Management, focusing on avian ecology and phenology. Has recently published several papers on avian migration across North America.

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

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members

President	Sherry Pollock	541.539.9001	canadageese61@gmail.com
Vice-President	Darrel Samuels	541.850.5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Secretary	Beth Philips	530.908.3412	pidgeco@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sherry Lindley	541.205.5269	shadylin@aol.com
Board	Mary Ellen Sargent	541.850.3926	sargentme5@aol.com
Board	Jherime Kellermann	541.851.5156	jherime.kellermann@oit.edu
Board	Virginia Bary	530.398.4718	virginia.bary@gmail.com
Board	Tom Essex	541.273.7442	ospreytom@charter.net
Board	Molly Russell	541.884.3868	russellX1@msn.com

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Conservation	Marshal Moser	541.880.4269	marshalmoser@gmail.com
Education	OPEN		
Field Trips	Mary Ellen Sargent	541.850.3926	sargentme5@aol.com
Grebe Editor	Shirley Alley	541.273.2957	s.alley@charter.net
Historian	Ralph Opp	541.882.8488	kfopps@q.com
Hospitality	OPEN		
Membership	Sandy Vequist	541.205.5527	sandyvq@gmail.com
Programs	Darrel Samuels	541.850.5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Publicity	Virginia Bary	530.398.4718	virginia.bary@gmail.com
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

April/May 2016

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. The next meeting will be **April 14** Coldwell Banker Holman Premier Realty at 3815 S. 6th St. Ste.110 (across from Big Lots). See page 6 for more details.

Website: www.klamathaudubon.org

KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com