Klamath Basin Audubon Society

The Grebe

October/November 2016

TOGETHER GREEN, ACT TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

President's Message

I've noticed many of the large trees in the Malin Park are showing their beautiful yellow, gold and red leaves of fall and particularly the tree in front of our fire station is just stunning. This is an excellent time of the year to plan a trip to Malin for fall wonders, birds in the park and yummy food at one of three restaurants. Large groups of vultures can often be seen soaring over the park before they head out to feed. Already I can hear killdeer calling as they fly over our house nightly and honking geese coming in to the field and holding pond by our house in the early morning. I'm looking forward to the many migrants that will be heading our way in the next few weeks.

KBAS volunteers have been busy in September - first with the *National Wildlife Refuge Week Celebration* on the 17th at the refuge and then at the *Arts on the Flyway* in downtown Klamath Falls last Saturday. Saturday was a fun day talking with lots of folks at our table about our group, WWF, field trips and handing out copies of the Grebe and birding information. Several people said they were interested in field trips and best places to find birds.

Thank you to the following people that helped in one or both of these events: Darrell Samuels, Cy Phillips, Rick Hardy, Molly Russell, Sherry Lindley. Jim Ferris, Mary Ellen Sargent, Diana Samuels, & Carol Westfall. I'm hoping we can help with both of these events again next year and hope that more KBAS members can join us and share your ideas and have a wonderful time. As I've heard many times recently, birds, outdoors and Oregon life style is why so many people come to the basin. Aren't we all so fortunate!!

Beth Phillips
KBAS President



Meeting Schedule

Board Meetings
Where: Chamber of Commerce
205 Riverside Dr. Ste. A
When: First Wednesday of the Month
Time: 3 pm - 5 p.m.

General Meetings
Where: Fisher Nicholson Realty Office, 403 Main St.
When: 2nd Thursday of the Month
Time 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

October Topic: Living and Working with Beavers, see page 4

THIS IS THE LAST TIME THE GREBE WILL BE MAILED TO HOMES. IT WILL BE POSTED MONTHLY ON WWW.KLAMATHAUDUBON.ORG

KBAS Board

The following list of this year's board officers and committee chairpersons.

We still need volunteers for 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
Mary Ellen Sargent
Carol Westfall
Rick Hardy
Ron Cole

Committees:

Conservation – Marshal Moser
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:



Education
Historian

Snacks for our General Meetings

Would you like to volunteer to bring a simple snack for our general meeting? We aren't picky eaters, so cookies, veg's, fruit slices, chips or crackers. or anything else you would like to share would be great.

If you can help, please call our Hospitality chair, Sherry Pollock at 541-887-2736 . Thanks.

Winter Wings Festival 2017

by Diana Samuels

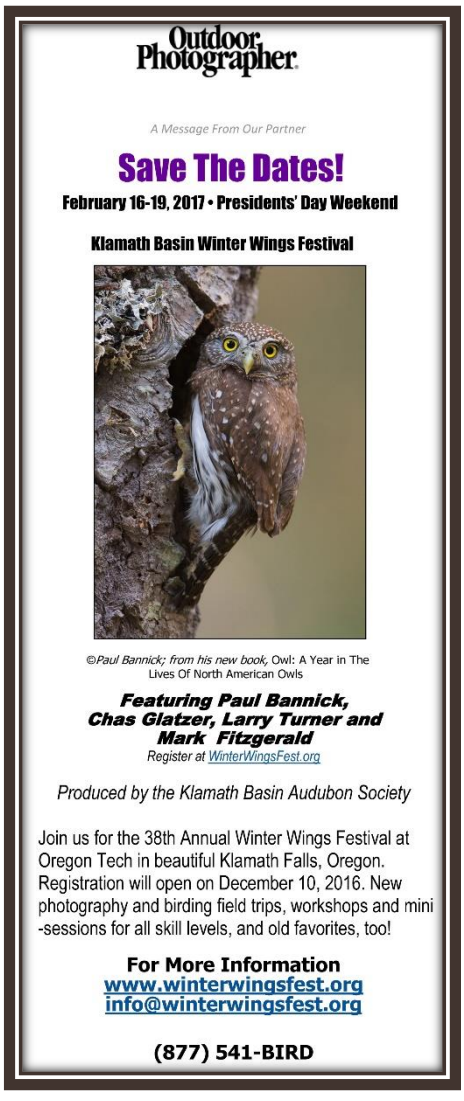
This is the year for owls at the Winter Wings Festival. We have two keynotes on owls, Paul Bannick's "Owl: a Year in the Lives of North American Owls" and Scott Weidensaul's "Caught in the SNOWstorm" about Snowy Owls. Local birder, teacher, and artist, Dave Haupt, provided our featured drawing of a Northern Pygmy Owl that will appear on our save the date postcards and on embroidered shirts and sweatshirts available for sale at the festival.

Additionally, we have a great new media sponsor this year, *Outdoor Photographer*. They will be sharing the online ad (side) with thousands of subscribers. A similar ad will be distributed to BirdWatching online subscribers with the owl watercolor image.

We are planning to have three owls prowls this year, including a new one to the Rocky Point area. The complete 2017 program will be released on line around mid-November 2016 and registration will open December 10th. If you love owls, you'll love the 2017 Festival!



Northern Pygmy Owl by David Haupt



For all field information

Contact: **Kevin Spencer**
Field Trip Chair

541.880.8015, rriparia@charter.net

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

Field Trips

by Kevin Spencer

October 11, Mid-week Field Trip

Meet at Veteran's park at 9 a.m. Beth Phillips will lead this trip. We will bird around the park, check out the trees and Link River from the bridge, then move on to Pelican Point and Moore Park. Bring your lunch, binoculars and dress for the day. We will probably be done by 2 p.m. RSVP to Beth at pidgeco@gmail.com or 530-908-3412 if interested or have questions.

October 22, Day trip Forest Birds

Not all birds migrate. The ones still around could sure use some appreciation. So, we will walk around some different woodlands looking for those resident birds. Expect to see nuthatches, chickadees, creepers, woodpeckers, and corvids, among other species such as sparrows and any water birds we happen to accidently look at. Meet at the parking lot of the USF&WS parking lot on California Street, leaving at 8:00 am. Bring water, a lunch, binoculars, hat and sunscreen. The tentative areas to be birded will be Moore Park and the Skillet Handle. This trip may last to the early afternoon. For more information: Kevin Spencer, rriparia@charter.net or call at: 541-880-8015

November 19, Day trip Raptor Rally, Butte Valley!

This is a wonderful time of year to view raptors. Many species have arrived at their wintering grounds, while some are stopping for an extended time and eating before moving on. It's a time that more often than not precedes poor weather conditions, although weather may be a factor on the day of the trip. The trip expects to encounter: at least 2 buteo species, falcons, eagles, and maybe an accipiter or two. The trip will try and consolidate vehicles, as numerous stops will be made to view and scan from safe roadside pullouts in Butte Valley. Bring binoculars, scope, lunch, water, and warm clothes. We will meet at the USF&WS parking lot on California Street, Klamath Falls, and leave by 9 am. We will make a stop near the large flag in Dorris on Hwy 97, upon arrival there. This trip will possibly last to mid-afternoon. Please contact Kevin Spencer, rriparia@charter.net or call 541-880-8015 for more information.



December 17 & Jan. 2 Christmas Bird Count Dates

Save Saturday, December 17th for the Klamath Falls CBC, and Monday, January 2, 2017 for the Tule Lake CBC. These are all day events, with potluck dinners and a compilation of birds seen, following the potluck. Hope to hear that you will be participating. It's a great time to get out and see those hardy winter birds. For more information on the Christmas Bird Counts, please call or email Kevin Spencer: rriparia@charter.net or 541-880-8015



Field Reports

by Kevin Spencer

September 3 Shorebirds in September

Yes, a fieldtrip about those ultimate "Little Brown Job" peeps that fly around in dizzying packs, and have an inherent jerky quick motion and who never stay in focus or in view after someone leaves a scope for another to look at the bird they want them to see. Well, the fieldtrip did see quite a few shorebird species, although not in numbers that might impress someone, but they were around.

Jean Van Hulzen, Marilyn Christian, and Geri Schloss joined Dave Haupt and myself for a day around the Basin to check out shorebirds, as advertised by Klamath Basin Audubon. We saw 12 species which was awesome considering how spread out the shorebird habitat seemed to be.

Down the LINK RIVER trail, only GREATER YELLOWLEGS (1) and KILLDEER were present, although the walk was a pleasant way to warm up in the early morning sun. We headed to OLD MIDLAND ROAD, where we saw LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - 90 or so, (Dave and I saw @ 270 the evening before while scouting), and 2 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER by plumage, which is what Dave and I saw the day before, although we also heard them on the previous day). KILLDEER, LEAST SANDPIPER, WESTERN

SANDPIPER, and GREATER YELLOWLEGS were also present there. (Wilson's Snipe was there the previous day). We headed down to SOUTH MERRILL ROAD, which is a road that heads south out of Merrill and "T's" up with Stateline Rd. and has at times flooded permanent pastures just north of Stateline Road. No luck there, but the previous day there were Baird's Sandpipers along with other peeps. Onto TULELAKE NWR, where we got onto RED ROCK ROAD off of the tour route. We checked out a Walking Wetlands where we found RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, AMERICAN AVOCET, BLACK STILT, LEAST and WESTERN SANDPIPERs, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, KILLDEER, and one WILSON'S PHALAROPE. On the tour route we stirred up a pair of SPOTTED SANDPIPER. We had good views of adult and immature CASPIAN TERNs. FRANKLIN'S GULLs were seen around the A Dike pump at the head of the English Channel. One the more interesting shorebirds turned out to be the great comparison views of side by side LESSER and GREATER YELLOWLEGS. Although I couldn't get out of the car to discuss the birds, observers noted the bill difference between the two, which was an upturned bill of the Greater. That was great to hear that others had observed that useful fieldmark. There are other differences, but bill shape and length is a good mark to distinguish those two species. We headed home feeling like we had seen all the shorebirds around for that day.

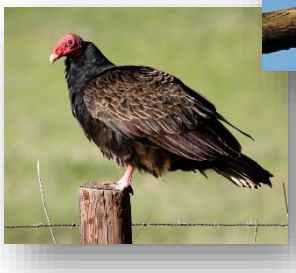
September 24 Hawk Watch, Modoc Rim

I had an awesome experience September 24th, at a hawk watch on Modoc Rim, just north of Hagelstein Park in Klamath County, from 9:30 am to 4 pm. I had previously done hawk watches in the Klamath Basin over the years, including near the Modoc Rim location, but also, Stukel Mountain, Hamaker Mountain, and even up on Pelican Butte. After this day, I'm convinced that Modoc Rim is a great place for viewing hawks in migration, with a broad viewing area, and winds that come from the west, blowing up the face of the rim, and lifting birds so they can glide effortlessly while on their southward fall journey.

I was there with Stewart Janes, Steven Dougill, Karl Schneck, Russ Namitz, Frank Lospalluto, Bob Hunter, Norman Barrett, and SOU students John and Jan. First of all, I am truly amazed at the skill of those observers who can spot a bird two miles away and ID it. There was constant calibration as the birds that were IDed would often fly over or quite near us and their identity could easily be confirmed. I don't think that there was a single changed ID all day!

These are the numbers of raptors observed on that day: Turkey Vultures was an incredible 237, Sharp-shinned Hawks-49, Cooper's Hawks- 18, over 50 Red-tailed Hawks, 6 RED-SHOULDERED HAWKs, 11 Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon-1, Prairie Falcon-2, American Kestrel-2, Merlin-3, a couple of Golden Eagles, and about 4 Bald Eagles.
At least 2 observers were able to view a distant BROAD-WINGED HAWK, but I was not able to get on it with my scope, and did not see that bird. I saw the most BAND-TAILED PIGEONS I'd ever seen in Klamath Co, which was 13, and a few more were seen before I arrived and several groups of Lewis's Woodpeckers totaling about 50 were seen. With passerines moving through the shrubs along the rim, species totaled about 53. It was truly a day I will not forget!





Upcoming Programs

By Rick Hardy, Programs Chairman

Living and Working with Beavers, Oct. 13

Ginny Monroe, Outreach Coordinator, Klamath Watershed Partnership will make a presentation about the Beaver Management Program currently underway in the Klamath Basin. Power point presentation about what the beaver management program is and the accomplishments thus far. We will also learn how landowners can live and work with beavers, and how beavers act as cheap engineers to create an ecosystem where all life can flourish.

Lisa Kochenderfer, Great Outdoor Alliance Coordinator, will make a presentation about the partnership with several entities, including KBAS, to provide outdoor education in the Klamath Basin. Lisa will provide information about what has been accomplished this past summer and what is planned for the future of this partnership.

The November 10th topic will be about white-nose syndrome in bats which has killed millions of cave-roosting bats.



Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge CCP

By Molly Russell, Vice President

Over 1000 comments were submitted to the CCP before the deadline. The Refuge staff will be going over and responding to each comment in October. It will then go to review and the Refuge Director has until January 2017 to finalize the CCP. To receive a copy of the comments KBAS submitted, you can email Molly Russell at russellx1@msn.com.

Update from OAC

Here is the August 2016 update on the OAC Audubon priority agenda. We have provided bulleted updates on each of the priority areas below. We flag a couple of important opportunities up front:

Klamath Draft CCP Comment Period: The US Fish and Wildlife Service comment period for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) which will guide refuge management for the next 15 years ended this month (**August 4**). Over 700 comments were submitted and at least 8 Oregon chapters submitted comments. USFWS is due to have its Record of Decision regarding the CCP released in early January 2017.

How Chapters can help: In the short-term, we may need to mobilize to urge USFWS to get water into Lower Klamath NWR for fall migration

Elliott Forest: The 82,500-acre forest went on sale for only $220.8 million and includes some of the largest tracts of remaining coastal old growth and designated critical species habitat in the state.

How Chapters can help: Stay tuned for opportunities this fall to comment to prevent movement toward privatization of this forest.

East Sand Island Cormorants: Oral arguments were heard regarding the lawsuit brought by Portland Audubon and the judge has indicated he will make a decision within 60 days. Since the complete collapse of the cormorant colony in May approximately 15,300 cormorants are back on the island yet there is no evidence they are nesting and it is unlikely, at this point in the season, they could successfully produce young. All culling activity remains suspended but may resume if the number of cormorants on East Sand Island meets a certain threshold. It is important that we put strong pressure on the agencies to not resume killing this season. More information can be found here: http://audubonportland.org/issues/take-action/cormorant-nesting-colony-suffers-complete-failure-take-action-today

How Chapters can help:

1. Call the agencies on behalf of your chapter and let them know that you do not want them to resume killing (information in link above).

2. Send out an action alert to your members and ask them to call the agencies and tell them that they don't want the killing resumed.

Lead-Free Ammunition Campaign Organizer: Audubon Society of Portland is hiring a part-time employee to develop a Lead-Free Ammunition Campaign. Primary responsibilities will include building and coordinating a diverse coalition of organizations and organizing Audubon activists to oppose the use of lead ammunition, developing materials for use by Audubon and other partners to support the campaign, research on current lead ammunition issue, and delivering presentations regarding the lead ammunition issue. For more information, visit: http://audubonportland.org/files/employment/leadorganizer. Application deadline is **Aug. 26**. Please notify any qualified candidates about this opportunity.

OAC PRIORITIES UPDATES

Habitat/ Important Bird Areas

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Update:

1. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities at Malheur. Volunteer opportunities can be found here: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Malheur/what_we_do/get_involved.html
2. Keep informed on the latest at Malheur by visiting the Restore Malheur Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/RestoreMalheur/



First Annual National Wildlife Refuge Week Celebration a Big Hit

By Stephen Rooker

On Saturday, September 17th, neighbors from around the Klamath Basin and beyond "gave wing to their wild side" at the Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge as they celebrated National Wildlife Refuge Week.

Many refuges host special Refuge Week events between October 9 and

15 to celebrate America's premier habitat conservation system. We were too excited to wait so we decided to do it early this year.

Approximately 200 guests explored booths and activities sponsored by some of the Refuge's local conservation partners. Visitors stayed for hours as the beautiful 75 degree weather was hard to resist.

Badger Run Wildlife Rehab featured live birds of prey. Free guided bus tours were presented by Refuge rangers, and guided bird walks were offered by the Klamath Basin Audubon Society. There were hands-on activities for everyone. Kids learned about observing wild creatures found in some of our country's most pristine wildlife areas – and in their own back yards.

The Refuge's Chief of Biology, John Vandenberg, trapped live ducks for leg banding; kids assisted while learning how banding helps us to understand migration patterns of Pacific Flyway waterfowl. Bats also seemed to be a fan favorite, to little surprise. The National Park Service staff from Lava Beds National Monument was on hand to educate us about bats. They brought with them a 6 foot tall bat, which turned out to be a Ranger in a costume (better luck next year). Kids also were given free bat houses to assemble at home.

Ducks weren't the only critters banded at the Refuge Week Celebration. Akimi King, a Fish and Wildlife Education Specialist from the Klamath Falls U.S Fish and Wildlife Service demonstrated butterfly tagging, and children donned butterfly costumes to celebrate the day. Entertainment by Bill Palmer , the Klamath Basin Beekeepers, and the Great Outdoors Alliance (GOA) also contributed to making it a day to remember. The refuge would like to extend a special thanks to event coordinator Cindy Deas who worked hard to make this event the success it was.



Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge has new hours and will be open

7 days a week from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Meet the People

Meet Ron Cole, New Board Member

Like my grandparents and parents, I was born and raised in Livermore, California. Back then, the East Bay was rural, with rolling hills of oak trees and wild oats and a few cattle, the valley was more almond orchards and vineyards, not houses and highways like today. For three generations, my family made a living as carpenters, electricians, book keepers, nurses, heavy equipment operators, farmers, and ranchers. The outdoors is where we worked, played, and lived. When we played, it was mostly hunting, fishing and camping. Birds were all around me as I grew up, and rare was the day they did not play a part. When my turn came to choose a path, learning more about wild things made sense.

I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University. After a couple of years working in the family heavy equipment business, I began my wildlife career in at the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex as a biological technician. Over the next 32 years, I worked in a variety of positions on numerous national wildlife refuges across rural America, with my last station back in the Klamath Basin Refuge Complex where I was the Project Leader for the last 12 years of my career. My years with the Service taught me that solutions to complex landscape problems require a candid conversation about the land which acknowledges that people and their pursuits are a part of the natural world.

The Klamath Basin has certainly shaped and defined many lives, including mine. I met my wife here, raised my family here. My oldest graduated from OIT and now my youngest is attending OIT.

Much has changed in the conservation world since I first laid eyes on the Klamath Basin back in 1982. In particular, bird numbers are but a small fraction of what they were 30 years ago. Not coincidentally, so is the amount of water Lower Klamath refuge receives. They go hand in hand. There are people throughout the world who want to see the wetlands of Lower Klamath shimmer again. They want to see the birds return to the Klamath Basin. They want to hear the heart of the Pacific Flyway beat once more. Klamath Basin Audubon can help make that happen.

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members

President	Beth Phillips	530.908.3412	pidgeco@gmail.com
Vice-President	Molly Russell	541.884.3868	russellX1@msn.com
Secretary	Darrel Samuels	541.850.5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Treasurer	Sherry Lindley	541.205.5269	shadylin@aol.com
Board	Mary Ellen Sargent	541.850.3926	sargentme5@aol.com
Board	Carol Westfall	541.810.1866	ourlakeshorelanding@gmail.com
Board	Rick Hardy	541.882-3169	rhardy11@charter.net
Board	Ron Cole	541.281.5525	rcolej4@gmail.com
Board	Tom Essex	541.273.7442	Tomkathy_1@charter.net

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Conservation	Marshal Moser	541.880.4269	marshalmoser@gmail.com
Education	OPEN		
Field Trips	Kevin Spencer	541.880.8015	rriparia@charter.net
Grebe Editor	Shirley Alley	541.273.2957	s.alley@charter.net
Historian	OPEN		
Hospitality	Sherry Pollock	541.539.9001	Canadageese61@gmail.com
Membership	Sandy Vequist	541.205.5527	sandyvq@gmail.com
Programs	Rick Hardy	541.882-3169	rhardy11@charter.net
Publicity	Mary Ellen Sargent	541.850.3926	sargentme5@aol.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 annewenner@e-isco.com

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. Sandy Vequist, 11218 Merganser Rd., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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_____

Phone_____

Email _____

Note: You will receive The Grebe at this email address

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

October/November 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 **October 13.** Details of meeting place on page 1.

Website: www.klamathaudubon.org
KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com