



The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society

KBAS General Meetings...

Thursday, December 13, 2007: 6:00 p.m.
 (Note change of time) Program: “Potluck, Silent Auction, and Local Lenses” Celebrate the Holidays and enjoy great Audubon style party time!



Good food: A Potluck dinner is planned. Bring a contribution such as hot dish, salad, or desert for 6 to 8 persons. Also please bring your own plates, cups, and utensils.

Silent Auction: Great items donated by YOU will inspire some lively, competitive bidding. All proceeds go to the great KBAS local projects and educational activities. To help jump start your creative ideas, consider donating books; field guides; photography; paintings, stained glass; field guide packs; optics in good working condition; pack carriers for scopes; bird song tapes/CDs; bird houses; gift baskets; garden decorations; or any variety of services. Just ideas – you must have more! You only need to bring the item(s) that night. However, for questions, contact Jean Van Hulzen at 541-810-2110. Bid sheets will be available.

Wildlife Photos: Your turn to shine! Bring your best slides, prints to pass around, or digital pictures to share. Projector and laptop are available. Humor welcomed!

Thursday, January 10, 2008: 7:00 p.m.
 “From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska.” by Taldi Walter, National Audubon’s Alaska Field Coordinator

Don’t miss this program as Taldi showcases some of the important natural areas and brilliant birds found in wild Alaska. Her presentation will explore some of Alaska’s natural treasures set aside decades ago for the benefit of wildlife and the American public. She will highlight the imminent and compelling challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest, and National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The current administration as well as some members of congress has advocated an accelerated extraction of oil, gas, and minerals from some of the state’s pristine wildlife habitat. Taldi will also discuss the work National Audubon is doing to seek a balance between resource extraction and protecting critical habitat.

Taldi Walter joined National Audubon after completing a Masters degree in biology. Her research took her to Brazil where she studied exotic invasive plants. She has traveled throughout the United States and takes Audubon members on tours of Alaska’s stunning natural resources and challenges.

KBAS general meetings: Klamath County Courthouse, Lower Level Meeting Room, 316 Main Street, Klamath Falls, OR.

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President's Message...Darrel Samuels

As I write this, Diana and I have just attended the fall Oregon Audubon Council meeting in Eugene November 10 as our chapter representatives. What an eye opening experience it was! Lynn Teneffoss, our Audubon regional director was in attendance and about eight of our state's Audubon chapters were represented. As you might imagine, the most active was Portland Audubon with has no fewer than 25 paid staff members! Their chapter is actively involved in several statewide issues, both legislative and conservation oriented with a budget of several hundred thousand dollars. Listening to their accomplishments and projects I felt a little intimidated, but upon reflection, I realized that our effect in the Klamath Basin could be just as important. Just as "all politics is local," I think all conservation is local.

There are so many issues and opportunities that have cropped up in the Klamath Basin it's hard for this "newbie" to keep track of them, but they all seem to have one common theme: habitat. Habitat is the key, I believe, to virtually all conservation issues. If we don't produce, preserve, and protect

suitable habitat for our flora and fauna, we will lose species, sometimes forever. The Conger Heights issue and the enhancement of the Link River Trail are all about local habitat preservation. That was one of Chris Melloti's points in his stimulating discussion of the spotted owl/barrred owl issue at our November program. Reduce old growth forests and you reduce spotted owls. Habitat loss is at the crux of the BLM Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR). If certain alternatives of this plan are adopted, tens of thousands of acres of Oregon's forests will be opened to logging. Habitat will be lost or irreparably changed forever.

Good things are happening as well. In his October presentation to KBAS, Dave Mauser, a biologist at the Tule Lake Refuge, discussed the ten-year comprehensive plan to manage the Refuge by providing habitat and food supplies for thousands of migratory birds. At a recent meeting with Lanny Fujishin, manager of the Klamath Wildlife Area (Miller Island and a few other areas), I learned of his ten-year plan to increase habitat for game and non game birds alike. Both wildlife areas, I suspect, are woefully understaffed to effectively deal with the

implementation of their plans and could use any support we and the community could offer. The local refuges offer an opportunity for KBAS members to lend a hand and help preserve habitat in our own back yard.

The aforementioned WOPR promises to be ruinous to a lot of habitats and species, especially if the "preferred alternative" is accepted. I urge you to examine the revisions yourself and send comments to: <http://daylightdecisions.com/wopr/> by January 10. If you would like to have input on the Klamath Wildlife Area Plan, attend a public comment meeting on January 16, 2008 (7 pm - 9 pm at the OSU Extension Office Auditorium on Vandenberg Road). You may also email Lanny Fujishan at Lanny.A.Fujishan@state.or.us. At the meeting with Lanny I asked if there were volunteer opportunities to help his efforts at Miller Island, and he replied "Certainly!" Let me know if you're interested.



Field Trips Schedule...Dave Potter, Chair

Saturday, January 12, 2008: Annual Feeder Hop.

Exact route of this trip will be determined after a line-up of feeder locations is developed. Meet at the Fish & Wildlife Office, 1936 California Ave., off the on-ramp to Hwy 97 South from Nevada/Oregon Ave at 9:00 a.m. Some refreshments may be served along the way by hosts. Contact: Julie Van Moorhem, jvanmoo@sisna.com

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC)



Plan now to join fellow birders for the 108th CBC and help make it the best ever. As

part of three winter birding counts hosted by Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, it is just great fun to do during the holidays.

Fascinating data and photos and instances of rarities are noted in recently received copies of last year's count. You can view the data as well as wonderful photos at audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html. Click on CBC Photo Gallery.

Time: Saturday, December 15, 2006, all day (Approximately 7:00 am - 5:00 pm)

Location: 7 areas to cover by 7 groups (within 15 mi. diameter circle centered at Klamath Falls Airport). Areas include: Lost River, Spring Lake, Miller Island, Greensprings, Klamath Falls town, Link River, and Lake Ewauna

Why? To provide a window of winter bird population data for this area at this time of year, AND to have fun while looking at birds. The CBC covers the U.S., Canada, Central and South America, West Indies and some Pacific Islands.

There is a place for birders at every level of experience. If desired, Kevin will pair you up with couple other birders and there is ever so much to be learned!

A compilation and potluck dinner will follow at the home of Julie VanMoorhem, 3510 Pine Tree Drive, off Pine Grove Road, just east of Shield Crest Golf Course starting about 5:00 pm. Of course you'll learn what others found during the day. Email Julie at jvanmoo@sisna.com for directions.

For more information and to participate, contact the count organizer: Kevin Spencer, 541-884-5739, or email: riparia@charter.net

Field Trip Reports

Moore Park, September 29, 2007 By Kevin Spencer

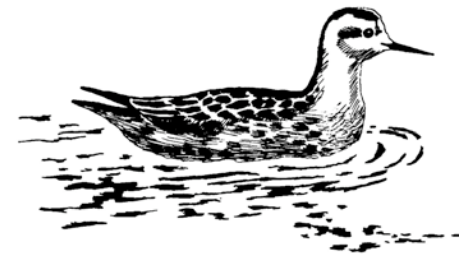
On a cool early fall morning, with some initial foggy drift along Upper Klamath Lake, about 15 people met for a walk around Moore Park. For about 2 hours the group was treated to looks at about 30 species

The Yellow-rumped Warbler was abundant. One Red-breasted Sapsucker really thrilled the group with its bright raspberry red breast and head. A Bewick's Wren came quite close and its tell-tale white supercilium and tail wagging were seen well. A couple of Oak Titmouse, a Moore Park regular, made an appearance, while a Blue-

gray Gnatcatcher, although heard well, was difficult to see as it kept well hidden in a bush. While on the upper loop a Mountain Quail made a brief appearance, but dashed before many could catch a look at this very timid species. Good comparisons were made between Purple and Cassin's Finch, two similar species.

Two Sharp-shinned Hawks made some stealthy cruises, scattering Townsend's Solitaires and Robins. A real highlight was calling in a number of Pygmy Nuthatches. A few White-breasted Nuthatches were also seen. After completing a

loop around the park, everyone departed. If anyone happened to have stopped and looked out on the lake from Putnam's Point, there were about 200 Red-necked Phalarope present spinning around and top feeding.



Steven D'Amato

Field Trip Reports...(Continued)

Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, October 13, 2008 by Dave Potter

On Saturday, Oct. 13, nine of us saw 56 species on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges. Refuge Biologist Dave Mauser began with a great overview of water history and current management. Later, he discussed refuge farming, hunting, conservation planning and other topics like walking wetlands [flooding farm fields for a season or two before dewatering and resuming farming - serves to kill pests and rejuvenate the nutrient cycles.] Thick fog ruined viewing on Tule Lake Refuge but Lower Klamath Refuge fog was burning off as we arrived.

Driving to the far south end, areas closed to general public entry, resulted in magnificent scenery [both snow capped Mt. McLaughlin and Mt. Shasta displaying wonderfully behind the bronzed and blue marshes.] Ended up with 56 species including many highlights: a pair of Golden Eagles circling in the blue sky, several American Pipits working the mud along a wetland, a Black-bellied Plover, several Dowitchers, about 25 Long-billed Curlews circling in to land right in front of us and flocks of White-fronted Geese. The HIGHLIGHT was Ken Johnson finding a "red-breasted mallard" in his spotting scope. Biologist Mauser said he thought it was a mallard-gadwall hybrid he remembered as being called a Brewers Duck. In over 16 years of "biologizing" on these Refuges, Dave said this was the first or second [I forget which] time he'd seen this...quite the rare sight.

Link River October 27, 2007 by Dave Potter

Bright skies, brisk wind and cool temperatures were better than fog but made our Link River Trail bird walk quite brisk. Six folks, all club members, turned out Oct. 27 to see what we could see. Well, we totaled 35 species, all routine. Many willows and other trees retained fall colors and were quite beautiful against the blue sky. Lots of water was pouring down the Link River. The group took a side trail to view where "The Falls" were ... and are presently, much abbreviated. For sure, getting out into the field is always better than not.

Lava Beds National Monument, November 17, 2007 by Darrel Samuels

Thanks to Dave Potter, a great trip was arranged to meet with Dave Larson at Lava Beds headquarters. A cloudy morning greeted the five who carpooled from the FWS office to the monument where Dave Larson met us and another participant. Many of the junipers had been cut down in an area we had driven through, and Dave explained the park was attempting to reclaim the vistas that had appeared in the 1800's before the advent of the junipers. Dave explained the park is home to 14 of the 15 bat species in Oregon, the scarcest being the Townsend's big-eared bat. The Townsend's has ears that can "inflate" to 1- inches when hunting. At rest the ears are curled and folded on the head, giving them the appearance of a Bighorn Sheep's horns.

While most of the species are warm weather visitors, a few

winter over, hibernating in the caves where a constant temperature in the low 40's is perfect for a long winter nap. One cave whose location is a carefully guarded secret is home to 500-600 hibernating Townsend's who will resume their activity in the spring. Dave took us through three caves during the tour; the Sunshine Cave contained seven hibernating Townsend's bats, some hanging at eye (or hat) level. Rangers monitor the bat activity throughout the year and close caves to visitors to protect the bats from disturbance. In the summer, electronic sensors that alert the rangers are used at the entrance to caves to detect human intruders who have trouble reading the posted warnings! Interestingly, Dave mentioned that whispers are more disturbing to the bats than "normal" voices owing to the bats' sensitivity to high frequency sounds.

Skull Cave, a huge cavernous cave has ice at the lowest level although it has steadily decreased owing to the warming temperatures in the monument; sensors have recorded a two-degree average rise in the last 50 years. While inside Dave told the story of an unseen badger who had taken up residence in the cave a few years ago. His snarls had terrorized a few visitors, prompting the closure of the cave by rangers until the badger moved on. As we left the cave we noticed a freshly dug badger hole not more than three feet from the footpath leading to the cave entrance. Dave's attempts to rouse the badger were unsuccessful!

Trip participants: Darrel Samuels, Diana Samuels, Mary Knief, Paul Smith, Howard Clark, Virginia Bary

Field Notes...By Julie Van Moorhem

Report your sightings to me directly if you do not put them on the website: jvanmoo@sisna.com or 882-4488. Please include your name, phone # (in case we need to contact you), location and date of sighting, bird/s and numbers if notable.

Thanks to all the contributors, both the new folks and the stalwarts. Please continue to report your sightings. October and November brought mostly warm, sunny days, some rain, and a dusting of snow in mid-November. Red-shouldered Hawk sightings are increasing across a broad area from Rocky Point to Keno-Worden Rd.

Highlight of this report: Northern Parula.

SURF SCOTER, 2 imm/ females, Skillet Handle at Running Y, Oct. 27 (KS);

1 male, Tulelake NWR off county line road N-12 Canal, Nov. 2 & 8, (RC) and also Nov. 8 (DM)

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, 1, Miller Island WMA, Oct. 8, (JVH, JVM); 1, Discovery Marsh, TuleLake NWR, Nov 6, (DM); 1, alongside Hwy 97 couple of miles north of Worden. Nov 8, (CK); 1, Rocky Point boat marina, Nov. 7, (JVH, JVM); 1, Eagle Ridge/Hwy 140, Nov. 7, (JVH, JVM); 1, Rocky Point residence throughout period, (JVH)

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, 1, Lower Klamath NWR (CA) auto tour loop exit road, Oct. 8, (JVH, JVM)

PRAIRIE FALCON, 1, Wood River Day Use Area, Oct. 6, (KS, mob)

RUFFED GROUSE, 1, Rocky Point residence, Oct. 6, (JVH); 2, Wood river day Use Area, Oct. 6, (KS)

MOUNTAIN QUAIL, 6, Rocky Point residence, Oct. 7, (JVH); several, Moore Park, Oct. 6, (KS, mob)

BONAPARTE'S GULL, ~2300, Putnam Point, Oct 28, (KS)

RING-BILLED GULL, ~ 5500, Putnam Point, Oct. 28, (KS)

BLACK PHOEBE, 1, Nuss Pond, Oct. 28, (KS); 1, Discovery Marsh, Tulelake NWR, Nov. 7, (DM)

NORTHERN PYGMY OWL, 1, Lonesome Duck Ranch, Oct. 8, (MM)

WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER, several, Lonesome Duck Ranch, Oct. 11, (MM); 1, Running Y



residence, Oct. 21, (DS)

PILEATED WOODPECKER, 2, ~ Oct. 5, Rocky Point residence, (JVH); 1, Eagle Ridge, Nov. 7, (JVH, JVM)

PINYON JAY, 2, KAGO Hill, Oct. 28, (DM)

NORTHERN PARULA, 1, Chiloquin residence, Nov. 3 & 7, (WS)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, 1, Rocky Point residence, Oct. 18 (JVH)

Contributors: Ron Cole (RC), Charlotte Kisling (CK), Dave Menke (DM), Marshal Moser (MM), Diana Samuels (DS), Kevin Spencer (KS), Wes Stone

(WS), Jean Van Hulzen (JVH), Julie Van Moorhem (JVM) Picture courtesy of Wes Stone.



A brown bird with distinctive markings on the head and tail. The head features chestnut, black, and white stripes and a chestnut ear-patch; the tail is black with large, white outer corners.

Vocalization: The song is long and complex with pure notes, buzzy notes, and trills

Habitat: Prefers grassy habitats with scattered trees or shrubs, including sagebrush

Feeding: Forages on the ground for insects during the breeding season and seeds, non-breeding seasons.

Unscramble these letters, or turn to page 10 for the answer to the bird's identity.

RARASPKLOWR

Other Opportunities to contribute to Citizen Science...

In addition to the Christmas Bird Count, you can contribute in other ways: 1) For Feeder Watch information, visit www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw 2) Great Backyard Bird Count (February 15-18, 2008): Theme of "Count for Fun, Count for the Future" emphasizes the value of birding, not only for enjoyment but as a way to monitor changes in bird population and distribution over the entire continent. Visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/get-involved/ambassador>.

Conservation Section

A plethora of suggestions for conservation issues were submitted: thanks to Dave Potter, Darrel Samuels, Rick Hardy, and Mary Ellen Sargent. Unfortunately due to space limitations, complete coverage cannot be given to any one of them. Suggestions for additional information on websites are provided so the reader can further pursue topics of interest.

Threats to Bumblebees

Robbin Thorp, emeritus professor of entomology from the University of California at Davis can no longer find a species of bumblebee that just five years ago was plentiful in northwestern California and southwestern Oregon - Franklin's bumblebee. He fears that the species has gone extinct before anyone could even propose it for the endangered species list. Two other bumblebee species - one on the East coast, one on the West - have gone from common to rare.

If bumblebees were to disappear, farmers and entomologists warn, the consequences would be huge, especially coming on top of the problems with honeybees, which are active at different times and on different crop species. Bumblebees are responsible for pollinating an estimated 15 percent of all the crops grown in the U.S., worth \$3 billion, particularly those raised in greenhouses.

In the wild, birds and bears depend on bumblebees for production of berries and fruits.

Scientists recently identified a previously unknown virus, but stress that habitat lost do to housing developments and intensive agriculture, pesticides, pollution and diseases spilling out of greenhouses using commercial bumblebee hives, parasitic mites, pesticides and poor nutrition all remain suspects.

Unlike honeybees, which came to

North America with the European colonists of the 17th century, bumblebees are natives. Visit <http://www.bumblebee.org>

Klamath River Dams

The Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Klamath River Dam Re-licensing was just released.. <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydro/power/enviro/eis/2007/11-16-07.asp>

Peregrine Falcons

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released, for public comment, a Draft Environmental Assessment and Management Plan that proposes to allow the limited removal and possession of migrant first-year "Northern" (predominantly Arctic subspecies) peregrine falcons from the wild for use in falconry.

Service Director Dale Hall noted that "We recognize that falconers have long sought protection of wild raptor populations and played a significant role in the species' comeback. Now that peregrine populations are healthy, the Service is considering allowing the traditional capture of migrant peregrine falcons for use in falconry."

Copies of the Plan can be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Migratory Bird Management, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 4107, Arlington, VA 22203-1610. Written comments on the DEA can be sent to the same address, noting

Attention – Migrant Peregrine EA. The Draft EA also is available at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybird/s/>. Comments on the DEA also may be submitted electronically via the Division of Migratory Bird Management at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybird/s/>. The due date for comments is February 11, 2008.

Tribal Takeover of National Parks and Refuges

Congress is considering legislation that directs the Interior Department to turn over many national parks, wildlife refuges and other operations to tribal governments under virtually permanent funding agreements, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). National parks such as Redwood, Glacier, Voyageurs, Olympic and the Cape Cod National Seashore are among the 57 park units listed as eligible for tribal operation, as are 19 refuges, including all of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and the National Bison Range in Montana.

November 8th, HR 3994 by Representative David Boren (D-OK) was slated for hearing before the full House Natural Resources Committee. Under its terms, tribes could take over any Interior programs "that are of special geographical, historical, or cultural significance to the Indian tribe" and receive federal payments covering all direct and indirect costs.

http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=943

Conservation Section...(Continued)

New Oregon Environmental Website

From promoting clean air, protecting the Oregon Coast from oil wells, updating Oregon's bottle bill to supporting the recently passed land use improvement initiative, there is a new and very informative Oregon environmental news and action web site, www.environmentoregon.org

This site is well written, brief and to the point presenting Oregon issues and efforts being made to address them. It also informs about needed citizen action when that is appropriate. This site is a "must" for anyone interested in our Oregon environment and the work needed to keep and enhance it. I sure recommend it...Dave Potter

Paper or Plastic - No Thanks! by Doris Cruze, President Denver Audubon (Reprinted)

Reduce, reuse, recycle is a familiar slogan we all hope to live up to every day. The problem is, where do we start? How about starting with the decision every grocery shopper must make, "Paper or plastic?" Of course paper means using up trees and plastic means using non-renewable petroleum products. Avoid this tough decision. Bring your own fabric bags or at least bring back last week's bags and reuse them. When they start to fall apart, reuse them for packing material.

Going for a hike? Don't forget water and a snack. Just be sure the water is in a reusable container and

the snack is, too. According to Earth Policy Institute, 8 out of 10 plastic water bottles end up in the garbage. Just making all the bottles for the United States requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, or enough to fuel 100,000 cars. (Visit www.refillnotlandfill.org for more information). Using a refillable container not only saves landfill space, but you are assured of getting safe, inexpensive water from your tap.

Buying yogurt or applesauce or other foods for that snack out on the trail? Buy the largest size you can use and portion out snack sized servings into reusable containers. Those single serving yogurt cups might seem convenient, but they are not recyclable.

Your Favorite Birding Spot

By Mary Ellen Sargent

In early September, KBAS member Sally Stroud alerted me to a potentially nifty birding spot in Keno on Old Wagon Road along the Klamath River. We went there on 9/5 and were rewarded with 35 species, including an Osprey near its nest tree and a Lewis' Woodpecker family. Upstream from the Keno/Needle Dam is tranquil water for many dabblers and divers, riparian edges and a pine/chapparel hillside for many passerines. Below the dam are rapids and canyon flora. We returned to this site on 10/5 and found 33 species with the highlight being over 100 Yellow-rumped Warblers. Although the osprey and woodpecker were gone, many waterfowl were present. On 11/4, my husband and I walked the

upper trail to look into the pine canopy and down into the river. Highlights of this trip were Golden-crowned Sparrow and Bald Eagle.

Directions: From the intersection of OR 140, OR 66 and US 97, take Or 66 for about 9 miles to Keno. As OR 66 makes a sharp left, go straight onto Clover Creek Road. After .9 miles, turn left onto Old Wagon Road and go .6 miles to the river. NOTE: after the STOP sign, the road becomes rough dirt, but there are left-hand pullouts for riparian birding and right hand pullouts near a small boat launch. The road continues for .5 miles, but it is best birded on foot. A scope is handy for the above dam portion. There are

fishing spots also. For the upper canyon trail: After the STOP sign, turn right onto Riveredge Road and go .2 miles to fork at Riverview Lane. Park at the poorly marked trailhead (big boulders). This flat canyon-hugging former jeep trail parallels the river for about 3 miles, although you can descend to the river shortly after the trail begins.

If you have a favorite birdy spot that you'd like to share, please provide a write-up to Marilyn Christian, Grebe editor, mchristian1@charter.net. Thanks to Mary Ellen for this great idea! Hope to hear from many of you!

Board Member Profiles

Mary Ellen Sargent, Board Member

As a kid growing up in suburban New Jersey, the extent of my 'bird list' was robins, doves, blue jays, "seagulls" (we went to the beach) and "ducks". Things improved in my adulthood, with raising a family and having a career, I added bald eagle and peregrine falcon. Not a promising start to my birding career!

All that changed when, as an empty nester I decided to return to college for a biology degree and took an Ornithology course. I was hooked! In the late 90's I assisted a professor in monitoring and banding mountain bluebird and tree swallows. But I was still a frustrated beginner. I decided to join Audubon in Denver, then added the American Birding Association, Denver and Colorado Field Ornithologists and the Cornell Lab (all these were great!). With Denver Audubon I traveled to the Czech Republic, Panama, Ecuador and Mexico (beautiful birds, wildlife, societal exposures). This last spring we went to Pt. Pelee and other migrant traps - - got the Kirtland's Warbler among others. But what really helped me get beyond the beginner and into solid intermediate stage of birding was an Audubon Master Birder class (year long). It was tough, but I really learned a lot. I then helped Audubon by going to nursing homes, doing landscape nursery presentations, and of course, all the various bird counts.

My husband and I retired to Klamath Falls finally this summer after many years of visiting the Basin (and doing some birding). I look forward to bringing new ideas to KBAS, being on the Board, working as Publicity Chair, and helping with Winter Wings.

Board Schedule/Location

Please call the host/hostess for directions (phone numbers on page 11). All members are welcomed at Board meetings.

Date	Location/Home
December	Marilyn Christian
January	Julie Van Moorhem
February	Beth Phillips
March	Jim Goff
April	Rick Hardy
May	Tom Essex

Finance Report...Tom Essex, Treasurer

As if the last Board meeting, our general fund decreased to \$4,831 primarily due to a \$2,000 loan provided to the Winter Wings account for early needs.

KBAS Leadership

Jim Goff has resigned from the KBAS Board, citing an impending move to the Portland area to be near children and grandchildren. We wish Jim well!

Centennial Celebration Kicks Off with 2008 Winter Refuge Raptor Rally

On August 8, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt established Lower Klamath as the Nation's first refuge set aside for migratory waterfowl. To celebrate the 2008 Centennial of Lower Klamath NWR, employees and friends of the refuge will host a monthly series of public events. In January, join teams of observers scouring Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuges to discover raptors on both areas. This event is open to everyone including families and inexperienced birdwatchers that can join experienced raptor experts.

Meet at the Lower Klamath Refuge entrance parking area at 8:15 for the field trip which will depart promptly at 8:30. Bring a sack lunch, drinks, warm clothing and binoculars. Car pooling is a must. Spotting scopes and bird identification guides will be available for group use. After the lunch break at the Tule Lake Refuge visitor center and a sharing of sightings, teams will switch Refuge locations to complete the team experience. At 3:30 observers may elect to go to Laird's Landing until dusk with an experienced guide to observe eagles coming into a night roost.

Expect to see Bald Eagles, Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Great Horned and Barn Owls, Common Raven, Prairie Falcon, and Loggerhead Shrikes or possibly Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Northern Shrike, Short-eared Owl and Northern Pygmy Owl.

For additional information call Dave Menke at (530) 667-2231. For a complete list of monthly Centennial events in 2008 visit the refuge web site at "fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges."

Join us in celebrating the largest concentration of wintering Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states and flocks of migrating waterfowl



2008 Winter Wings Festival

*Presidents' Day Weekend
February 15 – 17, 2008*

*Oregon Institute of Technology,
Klamath Falls*

Guided Field Trips

Eagle Flyouts · Tulelake and Lower Klamath Lake Refuges · Raptor and Waterfowl ID · Photography with Refuge Naturalist · Beginning Birding · Big Day Birding · Snowshoeing at Crater Lake

Workshops and Mini-Sessions

Canon Photography Workshop and Safari with Loaned New Equipment · Nature Sketching Class · Falconry Workshop · Avian CSI · Bats · Oregon Owls · Fluff and Feathers · Naturescaping · Xeriscaping · Optics · Digiscoping

Free Exhibits and Activities

Hands-on Activities for Families · Live Birds · Photo and Art Contests

Special Events

- Friday Night Reception and Keynote Speaker, Trish Nixon, Raptor Specialist, Peregrine Fund's World Center for the Birds of Prey
- Saturday Aerie Afternoon Reception and Bald Eagle Viewing
- Saturday Night Reception at Stefan Savide's Art and Taxidermy Studio
- Book Signing by Naturalist Author, John Muir Laws

Visit www.winterwingsfest.org for updated registration and program information. Call Travel Klamath at 1-800-445-6728 for travel information or contact Todd Christian, Festival Registrar at singingbear@charter.net or 541-850-0084 for festival brochures and registration information.

KBAS Membership & Support

We invite you to consider a tax deductible contribution to KBAS before the end of this tax year.

For 25 years, our Chapter has contributed to education, activities and policies important to our community's environmental and

wildlife health, helping to ensure a heritage for future generations.

The *Grebe* is published a minimum of 5 times per year. Its publication and mailing costs continue to increase. National Audubon returns very little of

national dues to local chapters; in fact, the amount we receive does not even come close to covering the costs of the *Grebe*. Your membership in our local chapter also helps us fund our local programs and to increase the

number of programs and projects we undertake.

Therefore we urge you to become a local member of KBAS and support our local publications, meetings, field trips, educational activities and advocacy on conservation issues. We also

encourage you to consider a tax deductible contribution in addition to local dues. The continued success of these fine programs is assured by your support and generous donations. Please see page 12. Thank you.



Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)



It is #13 on the Audubon list of birds in decline: 63% in 40 years. Unlike most sparrows which move by hopping, the Lark Sparrow moves point-to-point unless startled and only hops during courtship. **Reproduction:** Exhibits unique passerine courtship behavior, including the passing of a twig between male and female during mating. The nest site is usually on poor/sandy soils. Frequently has second broods, and the clutch size range is 3-6 eggs. **Threats:** In the eastern part of its range, the Lark Sparrow is threatened by agricultural intensification and suburbanization, much like the Northern Bobwhite. In the western part of the range, major problems include inappropriate fire, non-native, invasive annual plants (e.g. cheatgrass), grasshopper control activities, and mining/drilling activities.

Festivals to Consider...

ALEUTIAN GOOSE FESTIVAL MARCH 28-30, 2008

Come celebrate Spring and the return of the once endangered Aleutian Geese to the extreme northern coast of California at the 10th Annual Aleutian Goose Festival, **March 28-30 2008** in Crescent City/Del Norte County, CA. Located in the home of Redwood National Park and the Smith River National Recreation area, the festival offers 60+ workshops/fieldtrips, Native American Heritage, birds-birds-birds, Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, Pelagic trip, Smith River Drifts, Geology, Botany and more... To see it all...www.aleutiangoosefestival.org.

GODWIT DAYS APRIL 18-20, 2008

Join the flock at the 13th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival **April 18-20, 2008** at the Arcata Community Center in Arcata, CA. Pre-and post-festival events are offered to extend your birding enjoyment. Choose from over 100 field trips and workshops and browse the vendors at the bird fair. An extraordinary birding adventure awaits you between the redwoods and Humboldt Bay! Go to www.godwitdays.com for more details and to register on-line.

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Winter Wings	Marilyn Christian	85
	Diana Samuels	85
	Julie Van Moorhem	88

KBAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

Local Membership Dues

- Individual: \$20
- Student and Seniors (62 and over): \$15
- Family: \$25
- I want to do more. Here is my tax deductible 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 _____

Klamath Basin Audubon Society - **Chapter Code T 60**

Should you be a first time member of National Audubon, please use the above Chapter Code on your form – we receive additional \$\$.

Please contact me regarding:

- Gift memberships
- Volunteering for KBAS Committee activities

Make your check payable to KBAS and mail with this form to: KBAS, .O. Box 354, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

The Grebe

Is published 5 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 and other natural resources.*

- KBAS is a chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society

- KBAS general meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July and August at the Klamath County Courthouse, Lower Level Meeting Room, 316 Main Street, Klamath Falls, OR.
- The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. the Wednesday preceding the General Meeting; locations to be announced. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- For address changes please contact both National Audubon Society and KBAS, Attn. Jo Massey, 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



The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
December/January 2007/2008

Non-profit Organization
Klamath Falls OR 97601
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 128

Meetings

- ✓ **Thursday, December 13, 2007: 6:00 p.m. (Note change of time) Program: “Holiday Potluck, Silent Auction, and Local Lenses” - See Page 1**
- ✓ **Thursday, January 10, 2008: 7:00 p.m. “From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska.” by Taldi Walter, National Audubon’s Alaska Field Coordinator - See Page 1**

Field Trips/Activities

- ✓ **Saturday, December 15, 2007: Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count – See Page 3**
- ✓ **Saturday, January 12, 2008: Annual Feeder Hop – See Page 2**
- ✓ **Saturday, January 26, 2008 Lower Klamath NWR Centennial Celebration Kicks Off with 2008 Winter Refuge Raptor Rally – See Page 8**

If interested in a Late December or early January birding trip to the Willamette Valley, please contact Charlotte Kisling at either (530) 397-2770 or more preferably, kiss@cot.net.

Other Events

- ✓ **Winter Wings February 15 – 17, 2008 www.winterwingsfest.org See Page 9**
- ✓ **Aleutian Goose Festival March 28-30, 2008 www.aleutiangoosefestival.org See Page 10**
- ✓ **Godwit Days April 18-20, 2008 www.godwitdays.com See Page 1**