



The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society

October/November 2008

KBAS General Meetings

October 9, 2008 Lonny Fujishin, Manager Miller Island

This program will be a special opportunity to learn about one of the jewels in our midst. Lanny will show a power point presentation about the Klamath Wildlife Area Ten (10) Year Comprehensive Plan. It includes not only Miller Island with which we are all familiar, but also other areas such as Sesti Tagallox Point, Gorr Island, and Chalolter Bay. We may also learn how KBAS can better support Miller Island with appropriate projects. He will also touch on seasonal birding opportunities at Miller Island.

Lanny has been with Oregon Fish and Wild Life for 25 years. He has had extensive experience as a Wild Life Manager for 21 of those years and earned his Bachelor of Wild Life Science degree from Oregon State. He is a native Oregonian, born and raised in Eastern Oregon (Adrian)

General Meetings: Klamath County Courthouse, Lower Level, 316 Main Street, Klamath Falls

November 13, 2008 Bill and Elaine Deutschman

Bill and Elaine will present a slide program on their recent trip to Ecuador entitled "Birding in Ecuador" at the November 13th Klamath Audubon meeting. Their presentation will include information on selected birding sites from the jungle to the Andes, and include a segment on the Galapagos Islands. They will also talk about birding lodges, guides, foods, costs and travel within Ecuador.

Both Bill and Elaine are retired professors from OIT. Bill taught lasers and physics and Elaine taught mathematics and astronomy. They've lived in Klamath Falls 26 years. Their "occupation" since retirement is travel –including long-distance cycling, sailing on their sailboat and poking here and there by bus, train and whatever modes of transportation will get them where they want to go.

Join us November 13th to learn about a wonderful country in which to travel and see pictures of

some of Ecuador's 1600 species of birds.

Inside the Grebe . . .

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Field Trips/Events

October 11: Moore Park
Beginning Birding, Page 3
October 12: The BIG SIT!
See page 3

President's Message... *Darrel Samuels*

As you know, the Lower Klamath NWR celebrated its centennial on August 8. I was invited to speak

on behalf of Klamath Basin Audubon at the celebration where I made the following remarks:

"Today we are celebrating a significant event in our nation's

history of conservation, an event where Audubon played a key role. As you know, William L. Finley, the charismatic activist and Oregon Audubon's President, convinced Teddy Roosevelt to set aside Lower Klamath specifically as a waterfowl refuge a hundred years ago today. Times have changed dramatically since the days that thousands of egrets were slaughtered for the adornment of ladies' hats, but the need for conservation is stronger today as habitats shrink and political agendas target the pristine areas we value.

In my previous life I served as a docent for the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area between Davis and Sacramento teaching children the importance of wetlands. The Yolo Basin Wildlife area was created and continues to flourish as a partnership of many groups: farmers, state and federal agencies, conservation groups, Ducks Unlimited and many more. My experience at Yolo Basin made me understand the importance of partnerships among all stakeholders for a common goal and I think Lower Klamath exemplifies this. I applaud Ron and his staff for their work with farmers participating in the

Walking Wetlands program. It's a win/win program that should be a model for other areas looking to enhance or increase waterfowl habitat. Hopefully the result of the pending settlement talks will also mirror a solution coming from a partnership of many groups.

We may tend to think of refuges as places just for wildlife and they are that, but refuges are also places for people who seek the inner peace that an experience with nature provides. The Lower Klamath Refuge provides valuable experiences for those of all ages who are open to the lessons of the wetlands. We in the Klamath Basin Audubon Society seek those experiences and look forward to sharing them with the community at large and, by so doing, create an even stronger partnership with the Klamath Basin refuges. The annual Winter Wings Festival that Klamath Audubon produces in February is the oldest birding festival in the country, founded originally to celebrate the largest wintering congregation of bald eagles in the lower forty-eight states. Today the Festival depends on a partnership among many Basin individuals and groups, but it also relies heavily on the Lower Klamath Refuge as the

centerpiece of fantastic birding in the Basin for the hundreds of Festival visitors.

Times have changed dramatically. Three hundred years ago areas like Lower Klamath existed without human intervention or the need for human stewardship. That certainly is not true today. I applaud all the groups who share the common goal of preservation of wildlife habitat and the enjoyment that the Lower Klamath Refuge brings. Ron Cole, Dave Menke, Dave Mauser and the rest of the refuge staff and volunteers are the stewards of the legacy that Teddy Roosevelt and William Finley left us one hundred years ago. Those that came before them and those who come after them will be critical to preserving these shrinking islands of wild America."



Cornell University Ornithology Lab News: In the last issue of the Grebe we told you about **Celebrate Urban Birds!** Now we want to tell you about the "**Little Green Places**" contest. Cornell wants to see your photo, drawing, or video of a Little Green Space that's good for birds. **Send a photo, drawing, or link to your video to urbanbirds@cornell.edu** . Cornell will send the first fifty entries a copy of the new "Celebrate Little Green Places" poster and there will be other great prizes, including a \$100 gift certificate from Johnny's Selected Seeds. **The deadline is October 31.** See <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/temporary/little-green-places-photo-video-contest>

Field Notes . . . Julie Van Moorhem

Report your sightings to me directly if you do not put them on the website: jvanmoo@sisna.com or 882-44488. Please include your name, phone # (in case we of sighting, bird/s and numbers if

Highlights: Congratulations to David Hewitt for being particularly observant of female or immature hummers—he spotted a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (2nd OR record) that appeared to be an



immature male. Kevin Spencer spotted a **Parasitic Jaeger**—another species not usually seen around here.

Green Heron, Sept 7, Wood River Wetland, (MC, JVM)
Osprey, 1, Sept. 7, wetland south of Henzel Co. Park; 1, Sept 7, Wood River Wetland, (MC, JVM)
Red-shouldered Hawk, July 28, Clover Crk. Rd N of Keno, (DH); 2, Sept 9, Rocky Pt residence (JVH); 1, Topsy Reservoir, Sept 10, (MC, JVH, JVM); 1, Sept 7, OR140 W near Eagle Ridge, (JF); 1, Sept. 7, Seven-Mile Rd. near Ft. Klamath, (JF)
Peregrine Falcon, 1, Aug 24, Lower Klamath NWR (CA), (MC, and m.ob. KBAS Field Trip); 2, Sept. 7, wetland south of Henzel Co. Park, (MC, JVM)
Yellow Rail, audible, July 5, Klamath Marsh NWR between mm 6-7, (CK)
Dowitchers (presumably Long-billed), 1000-1500, Sept. 7, wetlands south of Henzel Co. Park, (MC, JVM)
Red-necked Phalarope, 2, Aug 24, Lower Klamath NWR (CA), (JVM and m.ob. KBAS field trip)
Parasitic Jaeger, Sept 17, Lake Ewauna at Veteran's Park, (KS)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Sept 1 thru Sept 4, Keno residence, (DHe, seen by several observers in days following initial sighting)
Lewis' Woodpecker, several, Aug 3, Sprague River-Chiloquin area, (MM); ~50, Sept. 7, from Henzel Co. park north along Modoc Pt. Rd. (MC, JVM)
Williamson's Sapsucker (male), Sept 10, Hamaker Mt., (MC, JVH, JVM)
Red-breasted Sapsucker, Sept 10, Hamaker Mt., (MC,

JVH, JVM)
Ash-throated Flycatcher, Moore Park, (DM)
Cassin's Vireo, Sept. 9, Rocky Pt. residence, (JVH); 2, Sept 10, Hamaker Mt., (MC, JVH, JVM)
Clark's Nutcracker, Sept 9, Rocky Pt residence, (JVH)
Nashville Warbler, several, Sept 9, Rocky Pt. Residence, (JVH); 1, Wood River Wetland, Sept 7, (MC, JVM)
Black-throated Gray Warbler, Sept. 6, Moore Park, (DM); 2, Sept. 10, Hamaker Mt. (MC, JVH, JVM)
Townsend's Warbler, several, Sept 9, Rocky Pt. residence, (JVH)
Hermit Warbler, several, Rocky Pt residence, Sept 9, (JVH); 4, Sept 10, Hamaker Mt., (MC, JVH, JVM)
McGillivray's Warbler, several, Sept 9, Rocky Pt residence, (JVH)
Fox Sparrow, ~10, Sept 10, Hamaker Mt., (MC, JVH, JVM)

Contributors: Marilyn Christian (MC), Jeff Fleischer (JF), Dave Hewitt (DHe), Charlotte Kisling (CK), Dave Haupt (DH), Dave Menke (DM), Marshal Moser (MM), Kevin Spencer (KS), Jean Van Hulzen (JVH), Julie Van Moorhem (JVM) m.ob (many observers)

Field Trip Reports

Lower Klamath NWR and Walking Wetlands . . . Marilyn Christian

On August 24 about eight interested folks spent a glorious Klamath Basin day exploring the Lower Klamath NWR and a portion of the walking wetlands. It was a very productive day with the following observations: 2 Red-necked Phalaropes, Wilson's Phalaropes, Peregrine Falcon, American Bittern, Sandhill Cranes, Western Kingbirds, Stilts,

Avocets, Snowy Egret (10), Franklin's Gull (3--East-West

Field Trip Reports . . . Continued

Lonesome Duck Resort and Surrounding areas . . . Marshall Moser



northeast side of the upper Klamath Basin. (Black-necked Stilts were seen on Klamath Lake, on the way). After a birding walk and a look at the resort (with various common birds such as Pine Siskin, Steller's Jay, Pygmy Nuthatch, Cassin's Finch and Cassin's Vireo, and Morning Doves plus a Spotted Sandpiper on the River bank near the lodge) the group went to a forest service road on the Modoc Rim that overlooks the Williamson River delta.

Rd.), Caspian Tern (8--East-West Rd.), Dowitchers (500+--East-West Rd.) We extend our sincere thanks to Ron Cole, Manager, Refuges in the basin and Board member for his help in planning.

There was an impressive view of the major features of the upper Klamath basin. The special birding objective was migrating raptors but wind, timing, and other conditions presented only a Red-shouldered Hawk plus some Turkey Vultures.

Next was the Forest Service Oux-Kanee Overlook about 10 miles to the north with its view of the Spring Creek Valley. We had the campground at the head of Spring Creek all to ourselves for birding, lunch, and examining the strange and endangered algae along the spring known as Mare's Eggs (*Nostoc pruniforme*). Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-headed Woodpecker, Clark's

Nutcracker and Orange-crowned Warbler were added to the bird list here.

We then drove along the Sprague River Valley and forests to the east to the Head-of-the-River, the remote source of the Williamson River on a pumice hillside among the Ponderosa Pines of Winema National Forest. Here we had non-cooperative Red Crossbills fly over and briefly taunt us from the tops of tall pines. A Willow Flycatcher appeared. The highlight was a Red-breasted Sapsucker hidden in some small willows at close range.

The highpoint and highlight of the trip was a Williamson Sapsucker at the top of Calimus Butte, where a fire lookout station sits at 6,622 feet to the north of the

Sprague River Valley. A Townsend's Solitaire showed itself there as well. The view was spectacular for 360 degrees from the valley below to Sycan Marsh, peaks in the Cascades such as Scott & Thielsen, to Yamsi & Gearhart to the north and east, and the peaks of Chiloquin Ridge and Modoc Rim.

We left looking for more woodpeckers via forest service roads which passed through the area of the 31,000 acre Lone Pine fire of 1992, and were able to locate Green-tailed Towhee, and Lazuli Bunting (female). Many other interesting plants, animals, geology, and other features were seen during the day. It was fun and interesting.

Field Trips Schedule... Dave Potter, Chair

Saturday, October 11: Moore Park [Beginning birding]: Meet at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, snacks plus insect repellent and sun screen. Leader: Dave Potter [850-3808] **Note:** The Fish & Wildlife Office is located at 1936 California Avenue, off the on-ramp to Hwy 97 South from Nevada/Oregon Avenue.

Sunday, Oct. 12: The Big Sit! The object of the day will be to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard in one day. The

Big Sit! has been dubbed "Birding's most sedentary event" because it is held in one place, with observers inside a circle 17 feet in diameter. Birdwatchers remain in the circle for a few hours to as much as 24 hours, counting all the bird species seen and heard from the circle. The Big Sit! can be an educational experience for anyone participating. Plus you save gas from a regular field trip and it is extremely relaxing! You can find more information on The Big Sit! and register your circle here:

<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirds/bigsit/bigsit.aspx> and here...
<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/birding/happening.html>

Note: Julie Van Moorhem (882-4488 jvanmoo@sisna.com) and Marilyn Christian (850-0084 mchristian1@charter.net) are organizing a Big Sit! at Miller Island. If you would like to participate, please contact them.

Conservation & Education

Local Conservation... **"HIGHEST AND BEST USE"...**Ralph Opp, Conservation Co-Chair

I like that term, not because I coined it but frequently borrow it as a good thought provoker: you can't have everything, everywhere and that everything is connected to everything else. If we want to maintain our wildlife diversity and abundance and Oregon's charm we simply have to have separate and special places for most of it. The term surfaced strongly back in the early 1970s when Oregon's Governor, Tom McCall, initiated Comprehensive Land Use Planning. We were the first state to initiate such wise planning for not only utilizing but sustaining our state's many natural resources for future generations.

With Oregon's growing population, by birth and by

migration, we still experience continuing problems with people wanting to live just about everywhere despite our fairly comprehensive Land Use Planning laws. We have to ask ourselves... is it the "highest and best" use to intersperse houses and people in increasing numbers in what is otherwise key habitat for wildlife?

We now see conflict with people living in areas historically subject to frequent wild fires. Someone recently said that it is not so much a problem of range fires but more a problem of people living in the wrong place and subsequent hampered fire control management.

We witness the flooding and loss of property in areas subject to hurricanes. We increasingly understand that people impacts have much to do with the changes to or elimination of flood lands which served as buffers against damage from such storms.

We recently saw sudden interest in holding speed boat racing (again) on both Upper Klamath Lake and Lake Ewauna, primarily due the fact that Willamette Valley citizens said "no" to the proponents because of wildlife and environmental impacts. It was deemed not the "highest and best" use of those upstate areas.

Local conservationists pleaded with City of Klamath Falls

officials that there were much higher and better uses for Lake Ewauna than speed boat racing. A use permit there was thankfully denied. From a compatibility and economic standpoint: wildlife rearing and viewing, habitat protection, slower and quieter types of boating and year round tourist-friendly uses, are already producing greater numbers of less consumptive consumers and community income than more environmentally impacting motor sports.

A new destination resort application in the forested area in northern Klamath County, (Crescent Creek), complete with two golf courses, 2000 single family residences, and heavy water needs again raises the highest and best use question. Concerns of

compounded traffic problems, already diminished ground water resources, people safety and forest fire management questions are keeping the issue quite hot.

Of special note is that our own local Fremont/Winema National Forest, along with other national forests, are being told to switch other land management funds over to covering fighting forest fires elsewhere, to the tune of over one million dollars. Catch 22 is that it will take funds away from forest and range fuels management and road maintenance and programs.

Things like let burn policies for forest and range management, and flooding as a natural wetland building and buffering process, are better understood as long term necessities. But, with human

habitation increasing throughout those areas it is hard to let nature have the upper hand especially for the short term. With money in short supply for land management uses, the problem can only get worse. We really need to firm up our consideration of the "highest and best" uses of our key resource areas for our future generations and just where it is best to put our people today.

An important look at evaluating Oregon's Land Use Planning process was scheduled for Klamath Falls September 23rd. 1000 Friends of Oregon is hosting the special Task Force on Land Use Planning around Oregon to help us plan for the projected growth in Oregon of up to 1.7 million people in the next 30 years.

Conservation & Education. . . Continued

National Conservation... Dave Potter, Conservation Co-Chair

Major issues are well presented at National Audubon's web site [google "Audubon"] where everyone can sign-up to receive Audubon Advisory and Alerts, and write emails on these most important issues. National

Audubon's latest call is for personal messages opposing the push to drill in the Arctic Refuge, off the Oregon [and other] coastlines and in other supposedly protected areas. The birds can not write; we must!

Board Schedule/Location

Please call the host/hostess for directions (phone numbers on page 11). All members are welcomed at Board meetings (first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.)

Date	Location/Home
October	Beth Phillips
November	Darrel Samuels
December	Marilyn Christian
January – May	Klamath County Courthouse, Lower Level, 316 Main Street, Klamath Falls

Treasurer Report. . .Paul Alley

We can be proud of our healthy financial position. Our bank accounts show the following as of September 3, 2008:

Checking Account \$14,742
Scott Grant: 2 CDs \$27,241

PAC Fund: \$ 4,996
(For revision of the birding guide)

Welcome to New Board Members

Beth Philips, Secretary

My husband Cy and I moved to the Klamath basin in 2005 after several trips to the area where we discovered what a wonderful treasure the area was with all the refuges and constantly changing bird life. Cy wanted to be really close to the refuges so we bought a house in Malin.

After running our own videos transfer business for 18 years in Woodland, Ca it was nice to have the time to do the fun things we always wanted to do such as bird-

watching and traveling. We joined KBAS to learn more about the area and to meet new people and haven't been disappointed yet.

As your secretary and board member I am very excited about the educational goals we have set for our group this year for this community. Along with Winter Wings I think this will be a banner year for Klamath Basin Audubon Society

Winter Wings Festival 2009 Update . . .

The program is nearly complete, the brochure is in its final stage prior to printing and the website will be updated soon . . . Wow! One of the premier birders and authors in the US will be the keynote speaker and offer a special birding trip – Pete Dunne. . .Wow! Canon will again offer it's much sought after classes and loan state-of-the-art equipment AND bring their Explorer of Light, Darrell Gulin for a special session . . . Wow! Lots of "Wows" for this 30th Anniversary. Get on board and be a player in this exciting event, Presidents' Day weekend, February 13 – 15, 2009. Volunteers are still needed in a number of key roles. Contact one of the following Co-coordinators with your offer to help: Marilyn Christian, 850-0084 or mchristian1@charter.net; Diana Samuels, 850-5832 or dsamuels@charter.net; Julie Van Moorhem, 882-4488 or jvanmoo@sisna.com Thanks!

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Vice-President	*Kevin Spencer	884-5739	rriparia@charter.net
Secretary	*Beth Philips	723-2161	pidgeco@gmail.com
Treasurer	*Paul Alley	273-2957	p.alley@charter.net
Members	*Marilyn Christian	850-0084	mchristian1@charter.net
	*Ken Johnston	883-7671	kjohnston7671@charter.net
	*Ron Cole	882-3456	Ron_Cole@fws.gov
	*Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	sargentme5@aol.com
	*Sherry Perry	882-1980	sherryperryphd@msn.com

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Conservation	Ralph Opp	882-8488	kfopps@q.com
	Dave Potter	850-3808	kpottermom@yahoo.com
Education	Jerry Ingram	281-5033	jdi_1@charter.net
Field Trips	Dave Potter	850-3808	kpottermom@yahoo.com
Grebe Editor	Marilyn Christian	850-0084	mchristian1@charter.net
Historian	Ralph Opp	882-8488	kfopps@q.com
Hospitality	Sherry Perry	882-1980	sherryperryphd@msn.com
Membership	Kathy Essex	273-7442	Tomkathy_1@charter.net
Programs	Ken Johnston	883-7671	kjohnston7671@charter.net
Publicity	Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	sargentme5@aol.com
School Grants	Jim Rooks	851-0209	runningyrooks@charter.net
Winter Wings	Marilyn Christian	850-0084	Mchristian1@charter.net
	Diana Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
	Julie Van Moorhem	882-4488	jvanmoo@sisna.com

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, P.O. 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

KBAS MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

Local Membership Dues

- Individual: \$20
 - Student and Seniors (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 _____

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
August/September 2008

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

Klamath Wingwatchers Trail Project work

Our trail will eventually connect with Moore Park, the Link River Trail, the City trail yet to be developed on the other side of Lake Ewauna, and the Rails to Trails, and take folks all the way out to Bly.

Get your exercise while visiting with friends, trimming trees, pulling weeds, digging in the earth, and so forth. We are hoping to recapture the eroding bank so we can increase the wetland habitat on the trail and open up a new pathway for walking and running.

Bring heavy work gloves, water, lunch, and a willingness to help on any of the following dates for any length of time. Park at Vets Park or at the trail head. Walk from the start of the trail to the kiosk, where the first work party will begin. Whether you can share an hour or a full day, we would love to have your help.

Contact Leslie Lowe for further info at inharmony46@charter.net or call 882-6509

First Volunteer Work Party: September 27 and 28, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 4 pm

Second Volunteer Work Party: October 4 and 5, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 4 pm

Third Volunteer Work Party: October 11 and 12, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 4 pm

Fourth Volunteer Work Party (if needed): October 18 and 19, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 4 pm

San Juan Islands Birding – October 6-8, 2008

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day cruise October 6-8, 2008, through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Look for registration materials on our website (www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org). For additional information, contact 360-681-4076, or email rcoffice@olympus.net.