



The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society

February/March 2009

KBAS General Meetings

Thursday, February 12
Scott Girdner

Crater Lake Updates on the Park and Research on the Lake.

Scott is a ranger in the Park and will show slides and will update us on the National Park and research in the lake.

Thursday, March 12
Bob Claypole

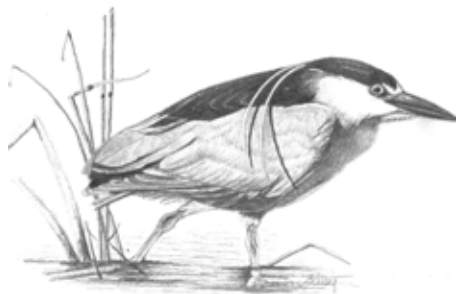
Birds of the Klamath River. Bob will show us pictures of species found in the Klamath River Canyon and tell us the locations where they can be found.

Bob is the author of a book titled, "*Birds of the Klamath River.*"

April 9
Harry Niehls

As author of "*Birds of the Northwest,*" Harry has recently published "*Birds of the Inland Northwest and Northern Rockies.*" Harry will share his pictures and knowledge of species common to these areas.

General Meetings: Klamath County Courthouse, Lower Level, 316 Main Street, Klamath Falls 7:00 p.m.



Thursday,
President's Message . . . Darrel Samuels

Welcome to 2009! No one can complain that 2008 was boring, but perhaps we need a little less drama in 2009. Here's hoping for better times ahead! One event that promises to be bigger (and better!) is the 2009 Winter

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Field Trips/Events

February 13-15: Winter Wings Festival 30th Anniversary
February 21: Winter Wings Follow-up to Birding Hot Spots
March 14: Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab
March 28: Birding Nuss Pond
April 25: Klamath River Canyon
April TBD: Walking Wetlands
May 15: Wood River Wetlands

Wings Festival. I know how much work that Julie, Marilyn and Diana expend in coordination of the Festival, and we should be proud of their effort as well as the community support the Festival is generating. Increased sponsorships, new active volunteers, and an

expanded and varied program will make this special 30th anniversary very special. If you have not registered yet, I urge you to do so. Remember, you can register online at www.winterwingsfest.org. As I write this column in early January, already several sessions or field trips have been filled!

As a former elementary teacher, I am acutely aware of the curriculum demands placed on teachers and the restricted funds at their disposal for science related activities. That is why I am proud that our chapter annually provides grants to teachers in the Klamath Basin to further instruction in environmental education with an emphasis on hands-on activities. This year, using funds generated from the Wayne and Lois Anne

Scott endowment as well as KBAS chapter funds, we are able to provide assistance to seventeen elementary teachers in Klamath Falls, Bonanza, and Malin. Jim Rooks, grant coordinator, Jerry Ingram, education chair, and I reviewed all applications and were impressed with

the activities students will pursue, including field trips to outdoor schools, bird watching in the refuges, and raising trout, salmon or chicks in the classroom. Grant recipients and their students will be providing us with photos and reports of their activities and we will be sharing those at next September's general meeting.

At the December potluck meeting we recognized several KBAS members for their significant volunteer contributions. As additional opportunities become available this year, I hope you will choose to be involved; it's great fun! See you at Winter Wings!



Treasurer's Report . . . *Paul Alley*

Audubon Checking Acct:	\$11,159
Scott Fund CD: (School grants for nature-related projects)	\$22,234
General-Purpose CD: (mixed funds – see below)	\$9,122
PAX Fund Balance: (funds for birding guide revision)	\$3,712

Notes:

- 1) The changes in the checking account balance since the last report are due to:
 - a. Transfer of \$6000 funds from the account to a new General-Purpose CD account;
 - b. Transfer of \$2150 to the account from one Scott Fund CD in preparation for Audubon Awards;

- c. Deposit of \$950 temporarily to the account for eventual transfer to Winter Wings operating funds;
- 2) The change in Scott Fund CD amount since the last report represents a closing of one of the CDs at maturity and the transfer of funds to the checking account (~\$2150) and to the newly-opened General-Purpose CD account (~\$3100).
- 3) The change in value of the PAX Fund balance is due to market conditions.

Board Meetings

January – May: Klamath County Courthouse, Lower Level, 316 Main Street, Klamath Falls

All members are welcomed at Board meetings (first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.)



Winter Wings Festival 2009 *30th Anniversary Celebration!*

Volunteer... Yes, volunteers are still needed. Contact JoAnn Clifton jcneskowin@aol.com or Kyra Eberle kvesail@aol.com 541-850-9212. Rewards are many including lots of great people!

Sign up... Register on-line for those favorite classes before they are full! Several have already closed.
www.winterwingsfest.org

Take Note . . .

- Pete Dunne, renowned in the birding world, Keynote Speaker. Not to be missed! Also a bountiful reception preceding the talk.
- Canon Photography Workshop and Photo Safari – Check out the latest Canon equipment and return for a demonstration of printing products and feedback on your images.
- Other Photography Opportunities: W9 Canon Explorer of Light, Adam Jones slide show; F15 Refuge Discovery Photography with Dave Menke and Jack Noller of Steven Colbert, Jr. A-46 fame!
- Many new offerings: F8 Hawks for Beginners; W3 Not in My Field Guide!; M3 Why Klamath Basin? Which Birds? Which Habitat?;
- M4 American Birding Milestones; M5/M9 No Child Left Inside; W4 The Art of Pishing – **Pete Dunne**; M7/M13 Saving the California Condor; M8/M12 Harpy Eagles and Other Neotropical Raptors; W6 Birding by Ear; W7 Field Guides and Stewardship; W8 What Can I Do With A Beak Like This?; M10 Who was Steller?
- Receptions and social events unique to the Klamath Basin: Aerie Afternoon; Taste of the Arts; and Breakfast with Eagles plus the Keynote Speaker Reception.
- www.winterwingsfest.org
- Registrar: Todd Christian 541-850-0084 or singingbear@charter.net

eBird Festival: Winter Wings 2009 – 30th Anniversary

We are pleased to announce that the Winter Wings Festival will be using eBird to contribute data to science and conservation in 2009. All bird walks at the festival will be eBird walks.

Festival bird walk leaders will be provided with instructions and forms specially designed by Klamath Bird Observatory to ensure that their checklists are appropriately prepared for submission to the online Klamath-Siskiyou eBird database

(www.ebird.org/Klamath-Siskiyou).

Klamath Bird Observatory and Klamath-Siskiyou eBird partners will host an eBird booth at the festival, where bird walk checklists will be continually submitted and the latest eBird festival data will be displayed. By entering eBird data at the booth, we will keep track of our festival bird checklists, share them with participants, and explore bird observation data from throughout the region. Further, we

will contribute to conservation science by contributing data to the Avian Knowledge Network (www.avianknowledge.net) through Klamath-Siskiyou eBird. Also at the booth, festival participants will be able to create their own accounts and receive one-on-one eBird training. Our goal is to recruit 50 new eBirders at the festival!

Please join us in supporting these eBird festivals as we contribute to bird conservation.

Field Trip Reports – Christmas Bird Count (CBC). . . *Kevin Spencer*



Highlights for the count, which found 108 species, included: an **American White Pelican** (probably either sick or injured), a few **Cackling Goose**, **GREATER SCAUP-2**, **Hooded Merganser-218** (highest number ever recorded for count), **WHITE-WINGED**

The Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count had a fun and interesting count this year, again. Luckily the count day, Saturday, December 20, was blessed with good weather, considering significant snowfall and below zero weather preceded it for the two weeks prior. A number of counts in Oregon were postponed or cancelled due to weather, so it was fortunate that the weather cooperated. The weather for the count included a low of 23 degrees and a high of 34 degrees F. The best part was the lack of wind.

SCOTER-1 female, seen in previous 2 weeks and photographed and persisted long enough to make the count (usually a coastal species), only **86 Black-crowned Night-Heron**, which seemed low, **Red-shouldered Hawk-4**, **Ferruginous Hawk-7**, **Merlin-6**, which tied the count's high mark, **LEAST SANDPIPER-**

17, an unusual winter appearance, **Wilson's Snipe- 127**, the highest number ever recorded for count, **EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE- 16**, a species that has recently expanded into county but whose numbers have just started to take off, **Mourning Dove- 447**, a very high count, and although not the highest ever, the high number

suggests that the limiting factor that aided this species to be year round residents is tied more to available food from feeders than to temperature. Twenty years ago Mourning Dove was a very scarce occurrence. Other species included: **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER- 2, BLACK PHOEBE-1, Black-capped Chickadee-4, Rock Wren-1,**

Hermit Thrush-4, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD-1, seen at the northern end of Link River below the dam, **AMERICAN PIPIT- 2,** an unusual winter appearance seen in the canal near Klamath Irrigation District's headquarters, **CALIFORNIA TOWHEE-4,** an usual species for the count, but has been detected on previous counts in lower numbers, **Golden-crowned Sparrow- 284,** the most ever seen for the count, **Yellow-headed Black-bird-1, Lesser Goldfinch-540,** the highest number ever seen for the count, and **American Goldfinch- 96,** also the most seen for the count. Some

Field Notes . . . *Julie Van Moorhem*

of the increases is attributed to increased use of Black Niger seed at residential feeders, which has definitely had positive impacts on the goldfinch population.

Twelve participants in six areas covered the count circle, and several feeder watchers turned in results including **Lois Phillips,** along Lakeshore Dr., and **Richard Mencarini,** who lives in the newer area of South View along Hwy 140.

Field Participants included: **Marilyn Christian, Julie Van Moorhem,** and **Dave Potter** covering the Lost River area, **Rick**

Hardy and **Wes Stone** covering the Lake Ewauna area, **Dave Haupt** and **Dave Menke** in the Moore Park/Link River area, **Dave Larson** and **Dave Hewitt** at Miller Island, **BJ Matzen** and **Glenn Smith** down in the Spring Lake area, and **Kevin Spencer** covering

the neighborhoods of town. After the count, results were compiled along with warming up and eating at **Julie Van Moorhem's** home. Thank you **Bill and Julie** for your hospitality.

Most participants have previously participated in Christmas counts. There is a special satisfaction from spending a whole day observing birds and then finding a retreat to share the encounters from the other counters and is a reason why many return year after year. A good way to have a good time during a cold winter day is to practice identification skills during the warmer months. There are numerous field trips sponsored by Klamath Audubon where identification skills can be enhanced or learned. Join Klamath Basin Audubon during their warm weather field trips and be sure to join in on next year's Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count. See you next December. Kevin Spencer, rriparia@charter.net

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

White-winged Scoter, 1, Dec. 8-- 20, Putnam's Point (DM)



Long-tailed Duck, female, Nov 29, Putnam's Point, (DH)
Red-breasted Merganser,

male, Dec 30, near bridge at north end of Link River Trail, (DM)

Red-shouldered Hawk, 1, Dec 22, Straits Drain, (MC, JVM); 1, Miller Island WMA, Dec. 30, (MC, JVM); 1, Jan 18, Putnam Pt. (MC, JVM)

Wilson's Snipe, 127, Dec. 20 CBC, throughout count area, (MOB)

Northern Pygmy Owl, Jan 18, Old Fort Rd, (JVM, MC)

Northern Saw-whet Owl, 1, Nov. 26, across the road from the Tule Lake Refuge visitor center, (DM)

Williamson's Sapsucker, female, Nov. 26—Dec 1, joined

by male on Nov 30, Rocky Pt. residence (JVH); 1, Dec 20, Wiard Park (WS, RH); 1, Dec. 20, Moore Park, (DM, DH))

Black Phoebe, 1, Dec 8, Wingwatchers Trail, (DM); 1, Dec. 20 CBC, Reeder Rd/Hill Rd jct along the dike to Horseshoe dam, (MC, DP, JVM)

American Dipper, Nov 22 Link River near dam, (DM)
Northern Mockingbird, Dec. 20 CBC, Link River Trail, (DM, DH)

American Pipit, 1, Dec. 20 CBC, Crystal Springs Rd. (DP, MC, JVM)

California Towhee, 2, Nov 23, Link River near the dam, (DM); Dec 20 CBC, Mann Rd, (BJM); Jan 1, Pacific Heights area, (KS, MC, JVM); Jan 16, Mann Rd (MC, JVM); Jan. 10, Link River Trail, (DM)

Contributors: Marilyn Christian (MC), Rick Hardy (RH), Dave Haupt (DH), Many Observers (MOB), BJ Matzen (BJM), Dave Menke (DM), Dave Potter (DP), Wes Stone (WS), Jean Van Hulzen (JVH), Julie Van Moorhem (JVM)

Field Trips Schedule . . . *Dave Potter, Chair*

**Saturday, February 21, 2009:
Winter Wings Festival
Follow-up to Hot Birding
Spots**

Leader is Ken Johnston. Meet at the FWS office at 9:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch/ snacks and plan to carpool.

**Saturday, March 14, 2009
Fish and Wildlife Forensics
Laboratory, Ashland 8:00 a.m.**

This is a repeat of a very special trip to the Lab, one of a kind in the world and normally off limits to the public. There is a limit of 20 participants. Email or call Dave Potter [Page 7] to reserve a place. Lunch at a restaurant brew pub after the tour? Meet at the FWS office at 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday, March 28, 2009
Local Birding on Nuss Pond
Conservation**

. . .*Dave Potter*

**[Beginning
Birding Program]**

Leaders Bob & Cary Kinkaed, phone 882-4910. Meet at the FWS office at 9:00 a.m. Bring water and snacks.

April 25, 2009, Klamath River

Canyon Leader: Rick Hardy
Meet at FWS office at 8:00 a.m. The road is rough and a high clearance vehicle is advised. Carpooling. Bring snacks/ lunch/water, sunscreen and insect repellent. Poison oak will be present. With proper precautions, this is an opportunity to see a very unique environment Wildflowers should be abundant.
rhardy11@charter.net

April [date to be determined]:

Walking Wetlands of Tule Lake

and Lower Klamath NWR. Refuge staff will lead. Meet at FWS office at 8:00 a.m. Contact Dave Potter [page 7] for date and other info.

Saturday, May 16, 2009:

Birding the Wood River Wetlands. Leader: Kevin Spencer [page7]. Meet at the FWS office at 7:30 a.m. for morning birding at this very productive site. Bring snacks, water, sun screen, etc.

FWS: Fish & Wildlife Office is located at 1936 California Ave., off the on-ramp to Hwy 97 South from Nevada/ Oregon Ave

To paraphrase former House Speaker Tip O'Neill: All conservation is local. What each of us does - or does not - has a major impact on our community which impacts our County which....you get the idea.

Our Mayor has highlighted the mess "free range" plastic shopping bags make in fields and trees. He has generated lots of good publicity urging avoiding plastic by packing your own heavy duty carrying bags or, at least, re-using old plastic bags.

Re-using items, whether plastic bags, grass clippings or old doors and windows [donate yours to a charity and take a tax deduction, by the way] is great recycling. Recycling is a well known practice and every human should...and more so.

Looking at going another step forward in personal conservation. Want to conserve on the amount and expense of your pills and feel mentally sharper?...Exercise,

exercise, exercise. Park it; peddle it; hoof it. Ride the bike paths for more than exercise. Around town for shopping, visiting, banking and other business: park, peddle, hoof. Bike path not quite to your destination and too much car traffic - and exhaust - to ride the streets? Chain your bike to a tree or sign post and walk the blocks to your store. Unsteady on a two wheeler? Invest your expected medical savings and buy a three-wheel bike. Back problems, don't we all? The recumbent bikes are great for bad backs.

Focusing on walking or biking: Don't fail to write, telephone or speak at meetings before city, county or state leaders or park managers regarding them not neglecting maintenance. Keep alert for the times to lobby in support of new paths like the Lake Ewauna Trail and the westerly extension of the OC&E Trail and the eventual purchase of the Link River Trail. Applaud good work such as city efforts moving ahead under new Parks Manager Mr.

Hay. Be concerned about dwindling efforts such as is happening on the O,C&E Trail because of the fading away of the volunteer group caused by loss of our long term, dedicated Volunteer Get-Things-Done Manager Art Sevigny.

Lastly, take ownership of the many other daily conservation practices such as keeping your tires properly inflated, buying more energy efficient machines next time, putting your computer into standby or shut-off when not in use, making sure all your bottles go back.

Thinking of our wonderful, historic, Oregon bottle bill: Speak out this legislative session to support planned efforts to extend the bottle bill to wine, booze and all other drink bottles.

Nationally, we voted "Yes We Can"; locally we should live "My Family Will".

New "Housing Development" at Miller Island WMA . . .*Julie Van Moorhem*

Don't worry—it's not a human housing development! On November 22, 2008, fifteen (15) people gathered at Miller Island to put up the nest boxes that were made the week before. Fortunately the weather was good. After a brief informational meeting led by Lanny Fujishian, Miller Island WMA manager, about where the boxes should be placed and which directions they should face, we

formed groups. Then we gathered the nest boxes from Jean and Al Van Hulzen's truck, grabbed our tools and headed out to put the boxes on posts, tree, etc. It only took an hour or so to put them up with fifteen people working. Now, when the swallows return in the spring they will have some new nest boxes to use.

We will start another round of nest box production in the spring or summer and place them in late summer or fall. We had a great time making the boxes so we hope more people will join the next production group. Look for an announcement in the Grebe or the H&N. Thanks to all who helped with this project.

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers & Board Members			
President	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Vice-President	*Kevin Spencer	884-5739	rriparia@charter.net
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	*Mary Ellen Sargent	850-3926	sargentme5@aol.com
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	Diana Samuels	850-5832	dsamuels@charter.net
	Julie Van Moorhem	882-4488	jvanmoo@sisna.com

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 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

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 _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Klamath Basin Audubon Society - Chapter Code T 60

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



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Klamath Falls OR 97601
February/March 2009

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Great Backyard Bird Count (Same Weekend as the Winter Wings Festival!)



Looking for a free, educational activity that makes a difference? Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count during Presidents Day Weekend, Feb. 13-16, 2009. Visit www.birdcount.org for easy-to-follow instructions. Count the birds you see, wherever you choose to count. Write down the highest number of individuals you see at once. After at least 15 minutes of bird watching in one place, report your results on-line at the website. Repeat the process at the same or other sites; just keep a separate list of counts for each day and /or location.

Have fun and contribute valuable information for science and conservation. It's a great way to connect kids with nature.

Godwit Days: April 16 - 22, 2009 in Arcata, CA, www.godwitdays.com another eBird Festival see page 3

Olympic BirdFest 2009: Sequim, Washington, April 3-5, 2009 Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours; and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center. Experience the spectacular

landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula. Also this year! Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 5-7, 2009. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org> or 360-681-4076, or E-mail us at info@olympicbirdfest.org