



The Grebe

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
www.klamathaudubon.org
October/November 2011

KBAS General Meetings

Thursday, October 13, 6:30 p.m.
“Don’t Mess With the Ravens”
by Dale and Elva Paulson, from
Roseburg, Oregon

This program recounts about a ten day wildlife event that occurred in Yellowstone National Park. It is the interactions of ravens with coyotes, bald eagles and wolves feeding on a couple of bison and an elk that a grizzly pulled from underneath the ice. The digital show will include a few other spring wildlife observations: Sandhill Cranes waiting for the ice to thaw, a red fox hunting, coyote puppies being puppies.

These interactions between the animals are often humorous and intriguing as they compete for meat at this bonanza during the harsh, early spring in Yellowstone country.

The Paulsons work as a team and have been making extended yearly trips to Yellowstone since 1984. Their time there is a combination of studying animal behavior, photographing and sketching. Elva is an accomplished wildlife artist and Dale is a retired National Forest Soil Scientist. Dale and Elva have been photographing wild things since 1971 and have been presenting wildlife related shows since 1980.

Thursday, November 10, 6:30 p.m. by Dr. Jim Litts
"Klamath Wetland Education & Research Institute: A basin organization moving to better understand our wetlands and their functions in our lives and those of our wildlife."

After a dozen years in agricultural cereal molecular biology and 17 years working to develop anticancer therapies, mostly based on immunotherapies, Jim decided to return to his roots in botany and work in the wetlands of the Klamath Basin.

He and his wife, Ali, are trying to develop an organization, KWERI, with programs that focus rigorous scientific research and high quality efforts in the humanities and the arts focused on the contributions that wetlands provide to us and the impacts we have on wetlands.

We hope to bring the young and old of the Klamath Basin into the effort, and to reach out to visitors to the basin to share our enthusiasm. Wetlands are a unique intersection among air, land, water and energy, until recently unappreciated for their importance to the Earth and

humanity. Let us learn to appreciate the unique role wetlands play in our world, our future.

Thursday, December 8, 6:00
KBAS Annual Holiday Gathering.
[note: change of time]

Potluck and more: Celebrate the Holidays and enjoy a great Audubon style party time! Good food by you! A Potluck dinner, photo-sharing, and silent auction are planned. More details will follow in the December/ January Issue. Save the date!

All meetings at the County
“Meeting Room,” at 4th and
Pine Streets, Klamath Falls

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Co-President's Message . . . *Dave Potter and Kathy McKeehan*

Dave Potter, Past Co-President

KBAS exists to foster members' and the public's enjoyment and understanding of birds and the outdoors and to protect birds and their living space [habitat.] We are a working club, not just a social club.

It's been gratifying to associate with so many people grabbing hold, doing KBAS mission-benefiting work. THANK YOU TO ALL!

Completing over two years of work, a unanimous membership vote approved the bylaws revisions. Special thanks to Robert Kinkead, Sherry Perry and Mary Kelley for so much devoted effort and B.J. Matzen for the legal review. Well done!

Good responses have come in regarding modernizing the newsletter to e mail - a most reasonable conservation accomplishment. As in the announcement, page 8, please give Marilyn Christian your e mail address so you'll receive a more colorful, clearer e-Grebe. If email is impossible, let her know.

Like Board Meetings, the first General Meeting ran on time so our guest speaker was not shorted on his presentation time.

And, finally, as required by bylaws and good practice, more members have joined our KBAS committees so each has at least two members. Need to complete this goal by getting a minimum of one additional person to help with Field Trips, Publicity, Membership and Newsletter. Help carry a part of the KBAS load!

September 29: Dave's resignation . . .

Giving freely, volunteering, lots of my time to KBAS leadership, I am no longer willing to live under the continuing stress and headaches. As of today, I have resigned as Co-President. It is quite a happy decision for me but brings one regret. I apologize most sincerely to Kathy McKeehan for having to take this step. Cheers, Dave Potter

[Dave will remain as Conservation Chair]

Kathy McKeehan, Co-President

What a great beginning to the year! There was a wonderful kick off picnic at the Van Hulzen's with lots of delicious food, beautiful view, birds, weather, and camaraderie with friends of like mind. Jean and Al, thank you for sharing your view, birds and home with us! They are willing and anxious to do it again next year. Watch for announcement of the date. Not to be missed!

Our first general meeting was a big success. There were new members, members, and friends that we haven't seen in a long time. The social time before the meeting was lively, with good food and good sharing.

Thanks to Jim Rooks (our program chair); we had a fun history lesson on how birds got their names. As someone told me, "if they had taught history like that in school, I would have learned and remembered more."

I am excited about this year. Ideas for programs have been presented and they all sound fabulous! With field trips targeted for the hard core birder through assisted living, there is something for everyone.

If you would like to volunteer with children, seniors, or like minded birders, we have something for you. There is a need to help take the assisted living folks on fieldtrips. Personally, this to be the most rewarding adventure in which I have participated. If interested, contact one of the Education chairs or myself.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact one of the officers/committee chairs. Enjoy nature around you.



Note: Kathy asks that all Board and Committee Chair try to attend the Board meeting on Thursday, October 6 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the County Meeting Room, 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. Thank you.

Field Trips Schedule for 2011-2012... *Kevin Spencer, Chair*

October

Saturday, October 1, Shasta Wildlife Area Leaders: Ray Ekstrom/Kevin Spencer

Join Ray Ekstrom for a day fieldtrip to Shasta Wildlife area. With migration in full swing, there should be more to view than just shorebirds. The trip will leave the USF&WS parking lot, California Ave., Klamath Falls at 7:30 a.m. to arrive at the wildlife area by 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, binos, and field guide. Plan to return later in the afternoon. Contact: Kevin Spencer

Wednesday, Oct. 5, USF&WS Forensics Lab tour in Ashland,

Leader: Pepper Trail. Leave KF to arrive by 3:00 p.m. sharp! Contact Kevin Spencer if you wish to attend. Spaces are limited.

Join Dr. Pepper Trail for a rare tour of the USF&WS Forensics Lab. This tour allows a closer view and understanding of what goes on during investigations. The forensics labs is an important level of protection for wildlife as it searches for clues in suspicious or criminal acts involving animals. The trip MUST leave KF before 1:00 p.m., as the group MUST be ready, at the lab's door at 3:00 p.m. The tour will last approximately 1 and half hours. Contact Kevin Spencer, to reserve your space. LIMITED SPACES!

Saturday, October 22, TNC Williamson River Delta; Leader Alix Lee, TNC Williamson River Delta.

The Nature Conservancy guide will lead the fieldtrip to various locations at TNC's Williamson River Delta. This area has undergone numerous changes to improve the upper basin watershed. The various habitats, and the fall bird migration should make this an interesting and fun trip. Carpools will leave from the USF&WS parking lot, California Street, Klamath Falls, at 8:15 a.m. It will last until noon. Bring snacks, water, hat, sunscreen, binos, and field guide. Contact: Kevin Spencer

November

Saturday, November 19, Butte Valley Raptors; Leaders: TBA

Observing several species of raptors with numerous plumage and age levels will make this widely popular trip very entertaining. The concentrations of raptors should be relatively high. Plan to meet at USF&WS parking lot. You may also meet the group across from the tall flagpole in Dorris, CA. Bring a lunch, hat, water, binoculars, scope, and field guide. Contact: Kevin Spencer, for exact times or website at www.klamathaudubon.org

December

Saturday, December 17, Klamath Falls CBC.

This annual all-day event usually nets the highest number of species seen east of the Cascades, with an average close to 107 species. Sometimes some real rarities have turned up. The count needs participants, and any with intermediate ID skills are teamed

with experience to make it an enjoyable day. A potluck compilation that tallies the day's birds ends the day. Contact Kevin Spencer for more info.

Saturday, December 31, 2011

Tule Lake CBC, [tentative]. Contact Kevin Spencer for information.

January: [second weekend] Crescent City Coast, Weekend/Overnight trip.

February: Winter Wings Festival

March: Clear Lake NWR

April: Moore Park Trail walk

May: Copco Reservoir

IMBD

NAMC

June: Running Y Caledonia Oaks Surprise Valley, Overnight/Weekend Trip

July: Wood River Botany and Birds

August: Chapter Picnic

More details on second half of the year to come.

For all field information, contact: Kevin Spencer, Field Trip Chair, rriparia@charter.net or 541-884-5739 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

USF&WS office is located at 1936 California Avenue, off the on-ramp to Hwy 97 South from Nevada/Oregon Ave. Times stated are START/LEAVE times.

Field Trip Reports . . . by Kevin Spencer

Goose Lake, Abert Lake, and Summer Lake were the stops on the August 19-21 weekend fieldtrip. The group of four, had fabulous campsites, and Dave Wenzel and Dee Benson joined us from Lakeview.

We saw a terrific sunset Friday evening, from Goose Lake State Park, along with numerous expected species of shorebirds. Saturday morning was quiet, though a family of Western Kingbirds was seen fly catching, but after leaving Goose Lake SP, we were able to get close-up views of Red-necked Phalaropes and then comparisons to Wilson's

Phalaropes in basic plumage, all at Lakeview Sewage Ponds.

After a lunch at Valley Falls, the day heated up rapidly. We traveled up the eastern side of Abert Lake on Hwy 395. The lake had completely refilled after being dry last year. Ring-billed and California gull species numbers were in the thousands, and there were stretches of considerable numbers of both Red-necked and Wilson's Phalaropes along the shore. Eared Grebes were not seen in the expected numbers, and were probably on the other side of the lake. The heat was quite high by mid-afternoon, and

after viewing thousands of gulls and phalaropes on Abert's north end mudflats, we headed for Summer Lake.

On Sunday, the highlights included views of Snowy Plover and immature Short-billed Dowitcher. Thanks to Al and Jean Van Hulzen, and Mary Kelley for bearing with the heat during the fine weekend trip.



TogetherGreen Grant . . . Darrel Samuels

In August our chapter was notified that we had received a \$19,500 TogetherGreen Grant to fund an innovative program involving several partners. The Toyota/Audubon TogetherGreen <http://www.togethergreen.org/> partnership offers grants to Audubon chapters who submit projects that address one or more of the following:

1. Conserve or restore habitat and protect species, improve water quality or quantity, and reduce the threat of global warming.
2. Engage new and diverse audiences in conservation actions.
3. Inspire and use innovative approaches and technologies to engage people and achieve conservation results.

In May our chapter submitted a grant application, largely conceived and written by Dave Ross, local USFWS Partners biologist that targets the improvement of 900 acres of Oregon White Oak habitat for the benefit of wildlife and people. Using equipment from the Keno Fire Department, encroaching junipers will be removed from a native oak forest allowing the oaks to develop mature acorn bearing canopies and reducing the fire danger in the woodlands. The junipers will be cut into firewood and given to low-income families in the Klamath Falls. Local high school science and art classes will also study the woodlands, getting some of our local kids outdoors. Partners in this project are

Klamath Bird Observatory, Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District, USFWS, and the Keno Rural Fire Protection District.

In early September I represented the grant team for four days of training at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. A national press release is planned by National Audubon in October. Toyota has invested \$20 million in the program over the past four years.

Incidentally, some of you might have read that KBAS member Liz Diver received a new truck for Badger Run Wildlife Rehab in Toyota's 100 Cars for Good program for non-profits.



In considering supporting or not supporting the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement [KBRA], the Board decided to hear what the membership thought. The Board tasked me to write on the topic to start membership considering it. At the October or November Board Meeting the Board will discuss things and decide.

First, space doesn't allow even a semi-complete summary of the KBRA. Read the various web sites - beware of slanted writings - for the overall picture.

Background: KBAS and the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges have always been closely associated. The Refuges and two other Audubon chapters began what is now Winter Wings Festival in 1980. KBAS started in 1983 and took on the Festival in 1984. One of the original organizers and signers, unless I recall incorrectly, of KBAS was Bob Fields, Refuge Manager. Lastly, our web site introduction, features the key importance of the Refuges to birds. KBRA has many complicated and controversial provisions. After many town meetings, public debate and newspaper articles, KBRA was approved by community vote.

Considering the major benefits to our premiere bird refuge, Lower Klamath Refuge, I think KBAS should support the KBRA. There are several reasons why. The most important being KBRA endorses passing legislation making "fish, wildlife and National Wildlife Refuges" a legal purpose of the Klamath Irrigation Project.

Presently, refuges are not an authorized purpose of the Project so have no legal right to water. Lower Klamath marshes exist solely on left-over water. Even in partial

drought years this literally leaves marshes and many bird species high and dry or crammed into limited wetland acreage. Fall 2010 saw Lower Klamath at all time record dry conditions.

Benefits for Lower Klamath's wetlands: KBRA would supply refuge water each year on an equal legal priority with irrigators. In normal years it would stipulate 48-60,000 acre-feet of "bird" water. [An acre-foot is the amount that floods one acre one foot deep.] In drought years this could be reduced to as low as 24,000 acre-feet and then additional water reductions are shared equally between refuge and irrigation deliveries.

Also, KBRA would enhance the Walking Wetlands Program Both agricultural and refuge water allocations would be used to flood these fields. KBRA would also move toward ecosystem management, a gold standard of environmental stewardship and sound wildlife management, by establishing a coordinating council to manage the watershed. In times of short water supplies, this would be very beneficial to all users.

As a "bird outfit," it seems to me KBAS taking a stand in support is entirely the right thing to do. Let the Board know your opinion.



33rd Winter Wings Festival . . . by Anne Wenner

The 33rd Annual Winter Wings Festival will take place February 17-19, 2012 but there is much work to be done in the months leading up to the actual event. Key Winter Wings Festival committee chairs has developed a list of immediate volunteer needs. If you would like to help with any of these, please contact Anne Wenner at 882-1219, 891-2319 or kcwenner@aol.com,

or Diana Samuels at 850-5832 or dsamuels@charter.net

1. **Publicity:** brochure streamlining; update TV/Radio ads; Snowflake Parade coordination; poster distribution
2. **Outreach:** write Cultural Grant to fund storyteller Denny Olsen; assist Kathy McKeegan with children's' art contest and assume leadership role in 2013
3. **Volunteer Coordination:** assist Joann Clifton and take over volunteer coordination in 2013
4. **Fundraising:** raffle prizes; solicit sponsors
5. **Hospitality:** assist Marilyn Christian with various hospitality events

The KBAS web site was recently updated and reorganized to make things easier to find. Check it out at www.klamathaudubon.org and let us know what you think.

KBAS Board Information

Treasurer Report . . . Mary Kelley, Treasurer

<u>Account</u>	<u>8/31/2011</u> <u>Balance</u>
KBAS Checking Account	14,559
Reserve CD 08	5,029
Reserve CD 82	10,118
Reserve CD 37	8,658
Sterling MM Savings(CD#3)	10,150
Sterling Savings Grant Administration	15,188
Winter Wings Festival Checking	8,544
Cash Box	0

PAX World Fund	5,325
Scott Endowment Fund	25,070
KBNWR Invoices(to be reimbursed)	<u>3,189</u>
TOTAL	\$105,830

Notes: CD#3 was cashed in and put in a Money Market Savings Account.

A savings Account was also created for KOSS Grant Funds and remaining funds were transferred from our checking account plus \$1,000 to maintain a minimum balance. This account is called Grant Administration.

Education... by Beth Zemke, Education Committee Co-Chair

The Beginners/Intermediate Birding clinic led by Dave Potter on Saturday, 9/18/11 at Moore Park was a real eye opener for me. As someone still on a readiness level in birding, I really appreciated the time, talent, and patience given by an advanced birder. Quoting Kenn Kaufman from his book Field Guide to Advanced Birding, page 17, "I believe that experts have a responsibility to handle these contacts with care and diplomacy, to avoid dampening the enthusiasm of the beginning bird watchers... We need millions of perpetual beginners who value our wildlife and who support conservation efforts." In this spirit, the education committee will be making the education of beginning Birders one of our major goals.

Co-chair, Ellen Minichiello, an experienced naturalist, will conduct 4 outings for beginners during October, for anyone 8 years and up. [Children must be accompanied by an adult]. Binoculars and field guides will be available. If you plan on attending any or all outings, phone Ellen or email her at 774-521-5468 or natureisit2@yahoo.com Please write BEGINNING BIRDING in the subject line.

Clinics for Beginning Birders (of all levels) are:

1. Monday, October 3, at 4:00 PM
North end of the Link River Trail
2. Tuesday, October 4, 10:00 AM
North end of the Link River Trail
3. Wednesday, October 12, 10:00 AM
North end of the Link River Trail [Parking off Lakeshore Drive at Putnam Point for #1-3]
4. Thursday, October 13, 4:00 PM
Wing Watchers Trail across the street from Favell Museum

Ellen will provide further directions if needed.

We hope other intermediate/advanced birders will join us as well. Current projects: making flyers advertising the Scott Grants and Winter Wings art contest; distribution to classroom teachers grades K-6 in the Klamath Basin; and sending grade 7-12 Winter Wings art contest flyers to the science and art teachers. Our committee will be looking for volunteers in KBAS for the Schoolyard Habitat Project. Stay tuned!

Scott Grants: During the 2010 – 2011 school year, we gave out 8 grants. For the first time we had all the participants give us a report as to what they used the money for and to thank us. These reports will be at the October general meeting for all to see. Take time at the social hour to look them over. They will be on the information/sign in table.

Butte Valley Friends of Library invites you to a Birds of Prey Tour on November 19 throughout the Butte Valley, led by Charlotte Kisling, 530-397-2770 or kiss@cot.net. Meet at Butte Valley Library, 800 West Third Street in Dorris, CA. The trip will be from 9:30 – 2:30 p.m. Bring binos, field guides, snacks/lunch, sunscreen and hats. Some binos available for loan. Open to all levels of birding enthusiasts! A \$15 donation to benefit the library is suggested.

Audubon Officers Klamath Basin Society & Board Members			
Co-President			
Co-President	*Kathy McKeehan	882-0291	berfert1@msn.com
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	Anne Wenner	882-1219	Kcwenner@aol.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.
- KBAS general meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July and August at the County "Meeting Room," 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls.
- The Board of Directors meets at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the County "Meeting Room," 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- For address changes please contact both National Audubon Society and KBAS, Attn. Kathy Essex, 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

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 \$ _____
- Please send **The Grebe** to me electronically [email below]
- 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 _____

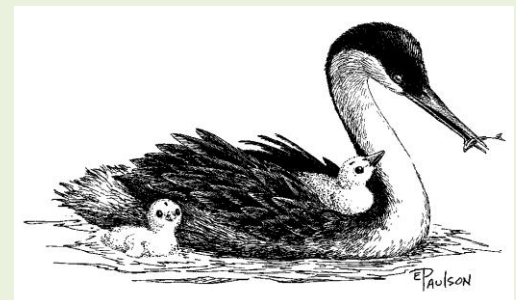
Klamath Basin Audubon Society - **Chapter Code C1ZT600Z**

Should you join as 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

Klamath Basin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 354
Klamath Falls OR 97601
October/November 2011

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

Or Current Occupant



IMPORTANT NOTICE



As noted in Dave Potter's column, KBAS is making significant progress in an electronic version of *The Grebe*. Many, many organizations have moved to electronic copies of their newsletter, sent by e-mail, and the KBAS Board feels that this is the direction we should take in the future.

Therefore, we urge you to: [1] send your email address to The Grebe Editor at MChristian1@charter.net or call her at 541-850-0084 or [2] notify her that you wish to continue receiving a paper copy. Note that *The Grebe* is also posted on the KBAS website. By the way, electronic versions are much more attractive: the pictures are more clear . . . and it's more colorful! Thank you.

- **KBAS General Meetings** are the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m., County Meeting Room, 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. The agenda:
 - 6:30-7:00 p.m. Gathering and refreshments
 - 7:00-7:20 p.m. Business/announcements
 - 7:20-8:30 p.m. Program
- **KBAS Board meetings** are the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m., County Meeting Room, 4th and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings.
- **Klamath Basin Bird News [KBBN] Reminder:** Klamath Basin Bird News is an informal email network (a mailing list) of over 100 bird enthusiasts in the Basin and elsewhere. You can learn more about the group at its web site (<https://sites.google.com/site/klamathbasinbirdnews>), and it is linked from the 'Birds' section of the KBAS web site. Please participate! Sign up online or contact Dave Hewitt at dhewitt37@gmail.com
- **The KBAS web site** was recently updated and reorganized to make things easier to find. Check it out at www.klamathaudubon.org and let us know what you think.