



# The Grebe

**Klamath Basin Audubon Society**

**February 2010/March 2010**

## **KBAS General Meetings**

**Thursday, February 11, 6:30**

**p.m. Speaker: Ken Johnston**

**“Northern Fur Seals of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska”**

Ken worked there in the 1960’s as a Fisheries biologist when they were still harvesting the seals. He and Jo visited there this past summer to see what changes have taken place since they no longer commercially harvest the seals. The seal population continues to decline because fishing has replaced the fur seal economy of the natives, and competition for the fish affects both the seal population and the populations of marine birds nesting there including: Tufted Puffins, Horned Puffins, Red-faced Cormorants, Red-legged Cormorants, murrelets, and auklets.

Ken retired from teaching biology and life science for the county schools three years ago, and has worked as a biologist for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (Department of the Interior in the Pribilof Islands), and as a biologist and naturalist for the park service in several National Parks. He also served as president of Klamath Basin Audubon Society for several terms and as editor for the *Grebe*.

**Thursday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Heather Hendrixson,  
Director of the Williamson River  
Delta Project for The Nature  
Conservancy**

The mouth of the Williamson River historically flowed through ~2,200 hectares of contiguous emergent marsh wetlands that were bisected by the Williamson River and connected to Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) and Agency Lake. Beginning in the 1940’s, approximately 22 miles of levees were built around the Williamson River Delta and the wetlands were drained and converted to cropland. The Williamson River was straightened and channelized, and made to flow directly to UKL with no access to floodplain or delta wetlands.

Restoration of the Delta was identified as a critical project to restore habitat for two species of endangered fish that historically reared in the wetlands, as well as improve water quality conditions in UKL and economic stability of the region. The Nature Conservancy recently completed a three year, \$ 9 million wetland restoration project that removed the levees and re-established the hydrologic reconnection between

the delta and both the Williamson River and UKL. Restoration is expected to improve early survival of the two endangered suckers, and contribute to the future recovery of these species, as well as provide habitat for numerous bird species. The restoration of these deltaic lake-fringe wetlands provides a model for future restoration projects of similar scope and scale in both the Klamath Basin and throughout the west.

**Thursday, April 8 Speaker: Mac Brock, Chief of Natural Resources**  
Highlights of Crater Lake Research

General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. County Government Building, 305 Main Street, second floor Commissioners’ Room, Klamath Falls

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## President's Message . . . Darrel Samuels

As I write this column the 31st Annual Winter Wings Festival is less than a month away, and preparations are in high gear! With headliners Scott Weidensaul, Bill Clark, Rick Sammon, Larry Turner, and Susan Strauss, increased field trip and seminar offerings, expanded vendor hours, and increased publicity, this event can't help but be a roaring success. Grant McOmie, outdoor reporter for KGW-TV in Portland will be featuring the WWF on one of his segments, and Discover Klamath has become a major supporter.

I want to thank all of you in advance who have already volunteered or played a role in the planning of this year's festival. You should be very proud of being part of a huge volunteer effort promoting the Klamath Basin as one of the premier birding

destinations in the country! If you have not registered, please do so immediately as some events have already filled to capacity.

Also, let our volunteer coordinators know your preferences for assisting the event and the hours you might be available to help. Let's all cross our fingers and hope for great weather! The stage is set; the curtain about to rise!

Speaking of volunteers, our chapter will need several of you to step forward and assume leadership roles in the coming year. Specifically, the roles of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Board member will be available. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the KBAS Board and committee members over the past three years and doing what I could to promote and improve our

chapter. Similarly, Kevin Spencer, Beth Phillips, and Ron Cole have contributed in so many ways to our chapter, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with them on the Board. We will all remain very active in KBAS, but we are looking forward to different opportunities in the coming years.

Please contact our nominating committee, Tom Essex and Julie Van Moorhem, if you are interested in one of the positions. Our chapter needs your involvement!



## Treasurer's Report . . . Paul Alley

Account Balances:

Account	Bank Balance	Incl. Outstanding Checks/Deposits
Checking Acct	9717	6205
Scott Fund CD	25,075	
General CD	17,484	
PAX Fund*	4,357	

\* as of 9/30/09

Changes since December/January 2009 *The Grebe*:  
The checking account balance has decreased by \$3454:

Expenditures were primarily payment of Chamber of Commerce dues, Dec/Jan *Grebe* printing costs, insurance payment, bulk mail permit renewal, and Scott Grants. The last three items had not cleared the bank, accounting for the large difference between Bank Balance and Outstanding Checks/Deposits.

Income was from new and renewal memberships and December meeting fund-raising. No update of the PAX Fund value has been provided since last report.

Note: This accounting does not include separate Winter Wings Festival operating funds of approximately \$6000

**The KBAS Nominating Committee** is accepting nominations for the following offices: President, Vice President, Secretary and board member. If you would like to run for office or nominate someone to run for office, please contact Tom Essex at 541-273-7442 or Julie Van Moorhem at 541-882-4488. The slate of nominations will be presented for consideration at the April 2010 general meeting and elections will be held at the May 2010 meeting. Please consider supporting KBAS by running for one of these positions.

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

**Thursday Birding Bunch:** Winter schedule: leave from the Running Y Sports Center parking lot at 8:40 a.m. to carpool to Veteran's Park to meet others. Leave the Park at 9:0 a.m. Half day, unless we are seeing awesome birds! Contact Julie Van Moorhem [882-4488] [ivanmoo@sisna.com](mailto:ivanmoo@sisna.com) or Marilyn Christian [850-0084] [mchristian1@charter.net](mailto:mchristian1@charter.net) for more information, especially if weather is questionable. If neither is available, then the group will designate a leader and determine the destination(s).

**Saturday, February 20: Winter Wings Hot Sightings follow-up** Meet at the Fish & Wildlife Office at 9:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch/snacks and plan to carpool. Leader: Ken Johnston 883-7671 or [kljstn@msn.com](mailto:kljstn@msn.com)

**Saturday, March 20: Bluebird box checks and maintenance** Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the tennis court parking lot at Moore Park. Check Audubon installed boxes to record use, remove old nests and repairs, if necessary. Leader: Darrel Samuels 541-850-5832.

**Saturday, April 17: Nuss Pond for Beginning Birders** Meet at Veterans' Park at 1:00 p.m. for best light conditions. Leaders: Bob and Cary Kinkead, 882-4910 or [rkinkead@fireserve.net](mailto:rkinkead@fireserve.net)

**Saturday, April 24: Butte Valley Wildlife Management Area** Meet at Fish & Wildlife Office at 7:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch/snacks and plan to carpool. Leader: Dave Potter 541-850-3808

**Saturday, May 1: Flying T Salers Ranch** Meet at Klamath Community College South Parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to the ranch, near the town of Sprague River. It is an operating ranch of the hardy breed of cattle known as Salers. The owners try to operate the ranch in harmony with the natural ecosystem and would like Audubon's help in documenting the ranch's bird life. It contains a variety of grassland and farm habitats, plus Ponderosa and Juniper buttes, and a couple of bodies of water including a nice sized natural lake. Some of us may be hiking up onto the buttes and other areas of the property. Bring water and a picnic lunch. Leader: Marshal Moser. Cell Phone: 541/880-4629 E-mail: [MarshalMoser@gmail.com](mailto:MarshalMoser@gmail.com)

**Saturday, May 8: Migratory Bird Days**, Veterans' Park, Klamath Falls. Details to follow.

**Saturday, May 15: Migratory Bird Days**, Tule Lake. Details to follow

**Saturday, May 22: The Nature Conservancy's [TNC] Williamson River Preserve.** [A companion trip

to the March program] Meet at Fish and Wildlife Office at 7:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch/snacks and plan to carpool. Leader: Heather Hendrickson, TNC Director, and Dave Hewitt. This is a rare opportunity to visit the TNC property. The public may not visit without a TNC representative. Birding in the past has been extremely productive.

**Saturday, June 5: Sycan Marsh** [A companion trip to the January program] Meet at Klamath Community College South Parking lot at 7:00 a.m. or the Beaty Store at 7:45 a.m. to carpool to the Marsh. This is another unique opportunity in that the public may not visit The Nature Conservancy [TNC] property without a TNC representative. Bring water and lunch/snacks and plan to carpool. Leader: Craig Benz, Sycan Marsh Director.

**July:** No trips are scheduled at this time. Ideas?

Email Dave Potter, Field Trip Chair [kpottermom@yahoo.com](mailto:kpottermom@yahoo.com) or call 850-3808 if you can lead a field trip or have any suggestions or questions.

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

**Klamath Basin Birding News [KBBN]** Reminder: For some time now, Klamath Basin Bird News has been maintained as an informal email network (a mailing list) of about 50+ bird enthusiasts in the Basin. It is also accessible from the KBAS website. Contact Dave Hewitt [dhewitt37@gmail.com](mailto:dhewitt37@gmail.com) to sign up so you can know what birds are being seen and where to find them and contribute your own sightings! You determine how often you receive notices.

## Field Trip Reports



Daniel S. Kilby – Eared Grebe



Steven D'Amato – Virginia Rail



Daniel S. Kilby - Sora

### Klamath Falls Christmas Bird Count December 19 by Kevin Spencer

The Klamath Falls CBC ended up with 109 species for the day. It began at near 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and nearly reached 50! Some participants didn't feel that warmth however, as there was some persistent cold fog that didn't burn off until later in the day. The species total for Klamath Falls' CBC is usually the highest reported east of the Cascades for Oregon and Washington.

It seemed like overall, numbers for regularly expected passerines were lower than expected, but numerous, unusual for winter, species were found. Unusual species included: EARED GREBE, GREATER SCAUP, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (we'll see if they can make it to spring), CHUKAR, WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER, 2, BLACK PHOEBE, VIRGINIA RAIL, SORA (the rails were feeling the warm day!), NORTHERN GOSHAWK (immature, photo taken), RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, FERRUGINOUS HAWK, DOWITCHER, 6, (Long-billed, likely), LEAST SANDPIPER, ROCK WREN, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (2 in the same location as last year!), NORTHERN SHRIKE, HORNED LARK, CALIFORNIA TOWHEE, and PURPLE FINCH. Count week additions included: DUNLIN and DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. MOUNTAIN QUAIL made an appearance at Lois Phillips's feeder.

Also, Woodpecker numbers appeared to be down with HAIRY, DOWNY, and RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER either absent from both local counts, or noticeably down in numbers from past years. Gull numbers continue to decline, but that is probably due to the changes made at the landfill, which does not seem to be attracting the thousands of gulls like it has in the past.

Regularly occurring species that were missed included: Winter Wren and Brown-headed Cowbird.

The compilation and potluck for this count took place at Julie Van Moorhem's home, and a big thank you to both Julie and Bill Van Moorhem for their gracious hospitality! And thank you to all who participated: Robert and Cary Kinkead, Marilyn Christian, Julie Van Moorhem, (all covering the Lost River area of the circle), Dave Menke and Dave Haupt (the Link River/Moore Park area), B.J. Matzen and Glenn Smith (Spring Lake area), Mary Ellen Sargent and Dave Hewitt (Greensprings area), Dave Larson (Miller Island), Wes Stone (Lake Ewauna area), Lois Phillips (feeder report), and Kevin Spencer (Klamath Falls town).

### Tule Lake Christmas Bird Count, January 2 by Kevin Spencer

The Tule Lake CBC had a good weather day on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, with almost no wind, cloudy, and no precipitation. However, with the thawing temperatures came that sinking feeling when muddy, unpaved roads lose their bearing

strength, and vehicles slide. So, numerous areas went under counted. Still, all the areas were covered. Passerines were noted to be down, and if not for an amazing unfrozen hole in the ice on Sump 1B, waterfowl numbers would have been dismal. The misses were probably more noticed since the total species seen, 84, was towards the low end of the count's range.

Highlights for the count included: a single MOUNTAIN QUAIL, a new species for the count, along Gold Diggers Pass at the Lava Beds National Monument, not far from their known locations, a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, (a raptor that is being seen more regularly in the Basin), and high counts for: MERLIN, 4, NORTHERN PYGMY OWL, 1, GREAT HORNED OWL, 22, and EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, 249, [the last, all in Tulelake!]. Species not always seen on the count included: SHORT-EARED OWL, PINYON JAY, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, BELTED KINGFISHER, GREATER



Daniel S. Kilby – Short-eared Owl

YELLOWLEGS, EURASIAN WIGEON, and ROSS'S GOOSE. Misses included: CANYON WREN (first time missed), GADWALL, BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, GOLDEN EAGLE, WILSON'S SNIPE, and BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD. Count week additions included: FERRUGINOUS HAWK, DOWNY WOODPECKER, and BUSHTIT.

Some species went undetected probably due to habit changes from fires two year ago on the Lava Beds National Monument. Species missed likely due to that included: Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee, Bewick's Wren (only 1 showed up), Mountain Bluebird, American Goldfinch, and Cedar Waxwing. Sage Thrasher and American Tree Sparrow used to be found in greater numbers, but inexplicitly became absent several years ago. New locations where they might be wintering will need to be found.

Very special thanks go to the count's hardy participants: Marilyn Christian, Julie Van Moorhem, Anna Iwaki, David Hewitt, David Larson, Jason Mateljak, Frank Lospalluto, Jim Flett, Ray Ekstrom, and Kevin Spencer.

This count beckons you, right? It has the ingredients of large open areas to cover, many habitats, participants who come back year after year, and the possibility of finding unusual birds. Keep this count in mind for next year, and see you then!

### Tule Lake/Lava Beds/Lower Klamath NWRs by Darrel Samuels

Eleven folks joined Dave Menke and Charlotte Ann Kisling for a great day of birding Saturday, January 16, at Tule Lake/Lava Beds/Lower Klamath NWRs. Our group included Michael Blakely, director of Discover Klamath, who wanted to get a first hand look at the birding opportunities in the Basin. The weather was mild and partly cloudy with no rain.

The highlight of the trip, at least for me, was seeing between 50 and 60 Bald Eagles in a partially flooded farmer's field off Township Road. We could observe several feeding on rodents flushed from their burrows, and an aerial dogfight between an Eagle and a Raven over the Raven's rodent was a special treat. The Raven got to keep its lunch after several serious attacks by the eagle.

In all we estimate we saw approximately 200 Bald Eagles and at least two Golden Eagles, a Red-shouldered Hawk, a Rough-legged Hawk, many Northern Harriers, a Barn Owl, several Great Horned Owls, and countless Red-tailed Hawks during the day. Raptors were certainly in abundance! One of the parent Bald Eagles was perched above its nest in the willows near the exit of the auto tour route on Lower Klamath NWR. Other notables include a Prairie Falcon perched on lookout rocks at Lava Beds and several Eurasian Widgeon at Lower . . . Continue on page 6

## Conservation . . . Dave Potter

New year; new decade; what can we do for the birds and their living space [our living space?] Examples of people in action: Christmas bird counts in the 110<sup>th</sup> year. [KBAS folks worked two counts this year.] Thanks to activists greater sage grouse received better protection by BLM. Brown pelicans recovered enough to be removed from the endangered species list. Arkansas kids organized to reduce litter in wetlands. President Obama cited Gulf coast wetlands

restoration as highly important. EPA taking action on carbon emissions based on scientific findings. National Marine Fisheries Service proposed protecting 45 million acres of endangered leatherback turtle open ocean habitat, including off our Oregon Coast. Activists' challenges resulted in decisions preserving California habitat for bighorn sheep, marbled murrelets and desert tortoises.

Here at home, member Dennis Taugher is leading an effort to establish a hike and bike trail from Moore Park to Running Y. Other folks work each year on the Wing Watchers Trail. Our parks are looking better and better thanks to new management. KBAS is increasing educational offerings in the schools. We see people routinely walking trails and parks picking up litter. Ask yourself what you'd enjoy doing to contribute.

## Winter Wings Festival 2010



The Winter Wings Festival website is updated with the 2010 schedule (see [www.WinterWingsFest.org](http://www.WinterWingsFest.org)) and on-line registration began early January. Register soon for your favorite event – several are already filled!

**Friday Night Guest Speakers:** [1] [Bill Clark](#), a photographer, author, and lecturer with over 45 years experience working with birds of prey. Presentation is titled "Eagle Quest" [2] [Rick Sammon](#), Canon Explorer of Light photographer, in a special slide show "Exploring Wildlife and Nature Photography." Rick has published 34 books.

**Keynote Speaker:** Scott Weidensaul, a well-known wildlife writer, lecturer, and field researcher, will be the keynote speaker after the banquet on Saturday February 13. His topic: "Living on the Wind: The World of Migratory Birds", based on his book, [Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds](#). His talk will be preceded by a banquet dinner.

**Expanded Canon Photography Programs:** Back by popular demand is the Canon Photography Workshop, offered twice, beginning and advanced.

**New Offerings:** Additional photography workshops on Lightroom and Photoshop, Larry Turner photography field trip, Storyteller Susan Strauss, Lava Beds tour, Environmentally Friendly Desert Landscaping, Introduction to Falconry, Family Friendly Birding, and Bird Sketching to name a few!

**Want to volunteer?** Email Volunteer Coordinators, JoAnn Clifton at [jcneskowin@aol.com](mailto:jcneskowin@aol.com) or Kyra Eberle at [kvesail@aol.com](mailto:kvesail@aol.com) or call 541-850-9212 with your availability. They would very much like to hear from you!

## Field Trip Reports . . . Continued from page 5

Klamath. Tule Lake produced several thousand white geese in one large flock, Ruddy Ducks, and other assorted ducks. It was a

wonderful display of variety and a great day of birding! The stage is certainly set for next month's

Winter Wings Festival! A big thank you to Dave and Charlotte Ann for leading this trip!

### Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	*Darrel Samuels	850-5832	<a href="mailto:dsamuels@charter.net">dsamuels@charter.net</a>
Vice-President	*Kevin Spencer	884-5739	<a href="mailto:rriparia@charter.net">rriparia@charter.net</a>
Secretary	*Beth Philips	723-2161	<a href="mailto:pidgeco@gmail.com">pidgeco@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	*Paul Alley	273-2957	<a href="mailto:p.alley@charter.net">p.alley@charter.net</a>
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	*Ken Johnston	883-7671	<a href="mailto:kljstn@msn.com">kljstn@msn.com</a>
	Kathy McKeenan	882-0291	<a href="mailto:berfert@msn.com">berfert@msn.com</a>
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	*Sherry Perry	882-1980	<a href="mailto:sherryperryphd@msn.com">sherryperryphd@msn.com</a>

### Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Conservation	Dave Potter	850-3808	<a href="mailto:kpottermom@yahoo.com">kpottermom@yahoo.com</a>
	Ralph Opp	882-8488	<a href="mailto:kfopps@q.com">kfopps@q.com</a>
Education	Kathy McKeenan	882-0291	<a href="mailto:berfert@msn.com">berfert@msn.com</a>
Field Trips	Dave Potter	850-3808	<a href="mailto:kpottermom@yahoo.com">kpottermom@yahoo.com</a>
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School Grants	Jim Rooks	851-0209	<a href="mailto:runningyrooks@charter.net">runningyrooks@charter.net</a>
Winter Wings	Diana Samuels	850-5832	<a href="mailto:dsamuels@charter.net">dsamuels@charter.net</a>
	Anne Wenner	882-1219	<a href="mailto:Kcwenner@aol.com">Kcwenner@aol.com</a>

### 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 C0ZT600Z**

**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

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, 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 Government Building, 305 Main Street, second floor Commissioners' Room, Klamath Falls.
- The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. the Wednesday preceding the General Meeting at the Dynasty Restaurant. 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](mailto:mchristian1@charter.net).
- Check our website at [www.klamathaudubon.org](http://www.klamathaudubon.org)



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Klamath Basin Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 354  
Klamath Falls OR 97601  
February 2010/March 2010

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

Current Occupant or

**Travel Oregon:** Thanks to B. J. Matson who sent an article showing that fish and wildlife recreation in Oregon resulted in spending of \$2.5 billion statewide in 2008. Those numbers are broken down into 4 areas: wildlife viewing [e.g. bird-watching, etc.], hunting, fishing, and shellfishing. In the three expenditure categories, wildlife viewing came in #1 in two and #2 in one. So, of the \$2.5 billion, wildlife viewing travel-generated expenditures were 54%; wildlife viewing equipment expenditures were 36%; and wildlife viewing local recreational expenditures were 23% [the high in this category was fishing at 52%]. Interesting! The overall spending in Oregon travel spending mirrors the U.S. pattern.

**KBAS General Meetings** are the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m., County Government Building, 305 Main Street, second floor Commissioners' Room, 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 Wednesday of the month at Dynasty Restaurant and Lounge, 106 Main Street, Klamath Falls at 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

General Meetings

February 11  
March 11  
April 8  
May 13

Board Meetings

February 3  
March 3  
April 7  
May 5

**Olympic BirdFest 2010** celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 9-11, 2010. Olympic Peninsula. Contact by phone, at 360-681-4076; E-mail at [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org), or write to: Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382