Klamath Basin Audubon Society

The Grebe

June/July 2019

TOGETHER GREEN, ACT TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

President's Message

By Darrel Samuels

As this is the last issue of The Grebe before the summer break, I would like to thank the folks who have contributed to KBAS's success and impact over the past year. It has been a privilege to work with the Board and Committee chairs since last July and I would like to thank them individually.

Emily Strauss: Many thanks to Emily who stepped forward after our chapter was "Grebe-less" for many months to produce a newsletter we all can be proud of.

Marshall Moser: As Conservation Chair Marshal has taken great initiative to stay informed on local and state issues and to make his well-reasoned recommendations to the Board. He is also my go-to when visitors request a local birding guide.

Jim Rooks: For several years as Grants Chair Jim has advertised, screened, and presented candidates for the KBAS/Scott Grants program. We have supported about 15 local teachers every year in their environmental education endeavors.

Myki Spindle: We could not ask for a better Membership Chair as Myki has taken initiative to increase new membership and reach out to existing members.

Jamie Blankenship: For many years we did not have an Education Chair until Jamie stepped forward and took a lead role in outreach activities especially at public events.

Sherry Lindley: Our general meetings are warm and welcoming thanks to Sherry, ably assisted by husband Jim!

Gary Vequist: An active outdoor enthusiast, Gary has worked hard to organize a variety of field trips

to local birding hot spots.
Tom Essex: Tom's local knowledge and carpentry skills (nest boxes, bat boxes, etc.) are a real asset to the chapter. He cheerfully fills in when I can't make a board or general meeting.
Molly Russell: As treasurer Molly has kept impeccable records of our finances and dealt effectively with a minor crisis or two! She has been instrumental in helping to choose registration systems for the Winter Wings Festival.
Debra Davis: Thanks to Debra we have a new and fresher looking KBAS website to present our resources and events to the members and public at large.
Mary Ellen Sargent: Her publicity of upcoming events across a variety of platforms is remarkable! As secretary she has kept a meticulous record of Board meetings.
Ron Larson: His background in USFWS has proven invaluable to the Board. He has also taken the lead in several local and state conservation issues.
Rick Hardy: Rick's knowledge of the local environment and his background with USFWS have make him a top asset to the chapter.
Heidi Anderson: A relatively new addition to the Board, Heidi's background with several agencies and her willingness to accept new opportunities is much appreciated!
Beth Phillips: Beth's commitment to the chapter is incredible and much appreciated! The variety and quality of the programs this year is a testament to her efforts.
Anne Wenner & Diana Samuels: These two have put our chapter on the national birding community's radar with the incredibly well-organized Winter Wings Festival every year. Their contributions to the local community are immeasurable!

In summary, we have a truly outstanding group of folks actively involved in KBAS and it is a distinct pleasure to work with them all!

Nominations and Open Board Positions

Molly Russell

2019 – 2020 Board position election:

President – Darrel Samuels
V President – Tom Essex
Secretary – Vacant
Treasurer – Molly Russell
Board – Beth Phillips
Board – Rick Hardy
Board – Ron Larson
Board – Heidi Anderson
Board – Vacant

Committee Chairs:
Conservation – Marshal Moser
Education – Jamie Blankenship, Sabrena Pitcher
Field Trips – Gary Vequist
Grebe Editor – Emily Strauss – until December 2019
Hospitality – Vacant

Membership – Myki Spindle
Programs – Beth Phillips
Publicity – Mary Kelley
Grant Review – Jim Rooks
Winter Wings – Diana Samuels and Anne Wenner
Webmaster – Debra Davis
Used Book Sales- vacant

We still have a vacancy for Secretary who is in charge of taking minutes at the board meetings. Also we are looking for one more at large board member. Our board meets once a month on the first Wednesday of each month from Sept to May and also has a planning meeting in the summer.

We also need a couple of committee chairs. Hospitality signs people in at the general meetings and coordinates volunteers for refreshments. Mary Ellen has been doing a great job with our Used Books sales. Currently we have sold approximately $450 worth of books at our general meetings and Winter Wings Festival. She is stepping down and we will need someone to coordinate this project. We will also need a Grebe Editor starting in January 2020.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Darrel Samuels or any board member.

ANNUAL KBAS SUMMER PICNIC

We have been graciously invited to have our annual summer picnic at Jean and Al Van Hulzen's place in Rocky Point on August 3rd. Al will cook his wonderful tri tip steak and shrimp and we are to bring a side dish or dessert. Please bring your own plates and utensils and beverage. Jean will provide ice tea or lemonade. We will eat around noon but you are welcome to come earlier to bird at ll a.m. Please RSVP to Jean and Al, jeanatrockypoint@gmail.com. For questions or directions you may call Jean at 541-810-2110. This is always a fun time birding in their beautiful yard and eating a wonderful picnic.

Link River Festival
June 1, 2019

KBAS will be present at the Link River Festival on June 1, 2019 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. We will have a table with binoculars and a scope at Putnam's Point for viewing the Clark and Western Grebes doing their courting ritual and we may see babies by that time. KBAS will also be assisting with a spotting scope on the river trail for viewing and learning about the area wildlife and habitat. Check out the day's activities on face book and watch for articles in the Herald and News. There will be entertainment and food on the trail.

Here is the schedule of workers:

Set up: Jamie, Sherry and Beth 9:00 a.m. at Putnam's Point

Putnam Point: 10-12 p.m. Sherry Lindley, Beth Phillips & Jamie Blankenship,

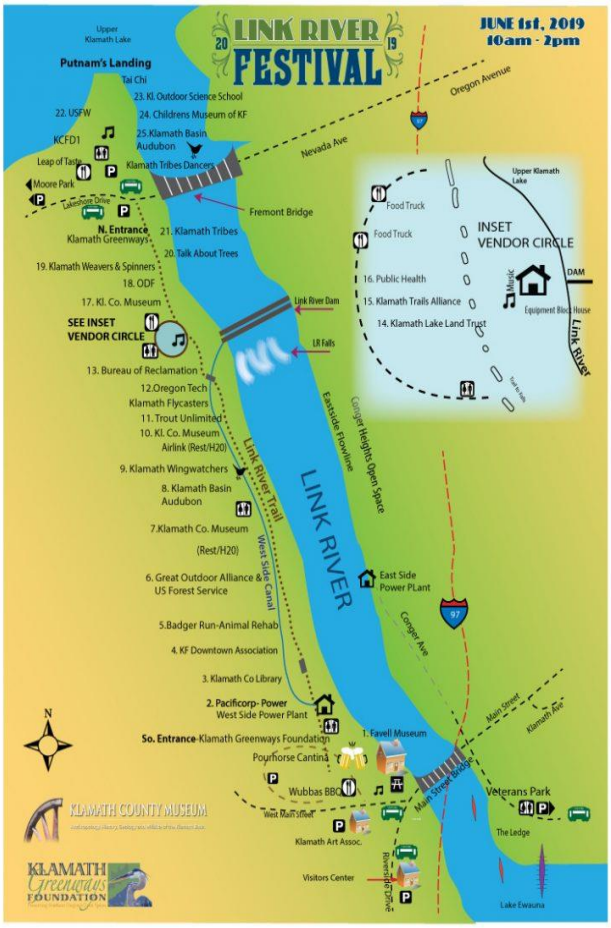
12-2:30 p.m. Jan Clark, Molly Russell

Link River Trail: 10-11 a.m. Myki Spindle, 11- 12:30 p.m. Ron Larson, 12:30 -2 p.m. Tom Essex.

Break down: Tom Essex at 2 P.M.

For questions email Beth at pidgeco@gmail.com or cell 530-908-3412

For further information: http://www.klamathgreenways.org/?page_id=104



A Brief Review of the Water Crisis at Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge

Ron Larson, PhD
Klamath Basin Audubon Society Board Member

Historic Situation

Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (LKNWR or Refuge) is the country's oldest waterfowl refuge, but almost from its inception, securing enough water to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other water-dependent birds, including bald eagles, has been a recurring problem that has recently gotten worse. When the refuge was established in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt, it was meant to protect migratory waterbirds from market hunting and killing of egrets and Eared Grebes for their showy plumes. Oregon conservationist, William L. Finley, was instrumental in getting protection for the Refuge.

Historically, Lower Klamath Lake was a huge, shallow, tule marsh with open water, equaling Upper Klamath Lake in size. It got water from the Klamath River during spring flood conditions and some water returned to the river as the floodwater receded. In years when there was enough water in Lower Klamath Lake and in its connection to the river, small steamboats ferried people and supplies between Klamath Falls and the south shore of Lower Kamath Lake. However, construction of a railroad causeway between the river and lake in 1909, and closing of a water-control structure in 1913 that maintained flow to the lake, cutoff the only significant water source

to the Refuge. The situation was so dire, that during the "Dust Bowl" drought of the 1930's, the peat soils on the Refuge caught fire and smoldered for some years.

Not only did the Refuge have a water supply problem, but it was further threatened by farming, when the Bureau of Reclamation's Klamath Project (Project) was authorized and funded by Congress shortly after passage of the Newlands Reclamation Act in 1902. Soon afterwards, the states of California and Oregon ceded all unappropriated water rights from nearby rivers to the federal government for use by the Project. Although the Project included LKNWR, and the adjacent Tule Lake NWR, established later in 1928, the Project's purpose never included wildlife management. That oversight setup a conflict between the two Interior Departments, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, that had widely different and sometimes conflicting mandates that continues today without a clear resolution in sight.

The Refuge's water situation improved somewhat in 1942, as a result of construction of the "D-Plant" by Reclamation, which allowed excess water from Tule Lake to be pumped to the east side of the LKNWR. Flooding in the Tule Lake Basin in 1929 and 1930, created considerable damage, and prompted the construction of the D-plant. The Refuge was also able to get water from the Klamath River via the Ady Canal when Reclamation determined it was in excess of Project needs. Dependence on Reclamation for water left the Refuge without a way to adequately plan and manage waterfowl habitats.

Current Refuge Water Crisis

Fast forward to the current situation. Beginning with the federal Endangered Species Act listing of the threatened Bald Eagle in 1973, the endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers in 1988, and the threatened coho salmon in 2008, water issues in the Klamath Basin got further complicated. Those listings setup a requirement that Reclamation operate the Project to avoid jeopardy to these species and required terms and conditions to minimize their take. As a result, more water was required to be left in Upper Klamath Lake and higher flows were mandated in the Klamath River. Consequently, less water was available for the Project. This resulted in Reclamation having to prioritize water deliveries to Project water users in drought years, that seemed to be getting worse. Reclamation's water-delivery priority system is complex and partially based on legal contracts with water users, some of which go back nearly a century. Because the Refuge lacked a contract for water, and wildlife management was not a Project purpose, Reclamation determined that it could not legally deliver water to the Refuge if higher-priority water users did not get a full supply. That determination combined with continuing drought has resulted in less water getting to the Refuge and has caused fewer waterfowl and bald eagles to use the Refuge.

In 2005, multiple parties, including Indian tribes, salmon fishermen, Klamath Basin farmers, Pacific Power, environmentalists, and others, met in an effort find a solution to the complex water issue facing the Klamath Basin in both Oregon and California. The effort was called the "Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement" (Restoration Agreement). For the first time, these diverse groups developed trust and shared a common goal of resolving the water issue, including providing some water to the Refuge on an on-going basis. The Restoration Agreement was finally signed into law in 2010 and was seen as a landmark effort and was heralded as an example of how controversial water issues could be amicably resolved. Unfortunately, Congress did not fund the Restoration Agreement, and it was never implemented, and has since expired. Consequently, the Refuge is once again without a dependable water supply and birds and wetlands have suffered.

Resolving the Refuge's Water Crisis

The Refuge's water crisis problem is complex and polarizing, and developed over many decades, and would have been solved long ago if there was an easy solution. Basically, there is not enough water in the Klamath Basin to meet everyone's perceived needs, and climate change seems to be making the situation worse. If there is a solution, it will only be developed by a bottom-up effort among diverse, affected parties, like what was done for the Restoration Agreement. Because some excellent solutions were considered and incorporated into the Restoration Agreement, that would be a logical starting place to find a solution. To get that started, birders and other concerned citizens need to encourage elected officials to provide funding to jumpstart the effort, but politicians need to back off, so affected parties can find a doable, non-political solution.

References

Various authors. 2008. *Wings that Fill the Sky. America's First Waterfowl Refuge*. Shaw Historical Library, Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, OR. 152 pages.

Scott Education Grant Update

Jim Rooks, Scott Grant Review Coordinator

Board Approves 2018-2019 School Grant Applications

At the February 6 meeting, the board approved applications from twenty-one local elementary teachers that included a total expenditure of $6,945.

Eighteen of the activities will involve the students in outdoor learning whether it be a local day trip to Shoalwater Bay, Wood River, Crater Lake, Moore Park or Lake Ewauna. Longer duration field trips include a visit to OMSI in Portland and multiple-day stays at Klamath Outdoor Science School near Sun Pass State Forest.

For the longer duration trips, Grant funding supplements a much larger expenditure. Three of the classes will be building nest boxes and feeders. Follow-up activities will be to observe the birds attracted to the nest boxes and feeders.

Malin Historical Society Museum

Beth Phillips

The Malin Museum is open Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. It is located in an old stone building on Broadway in downtown Malin across from the Malin Diner. Look for the large neon drug store sign

Some notable displays are: (1) a. 12,000 year old mammoth tusk and related bones and teeth, (2) b. a Modoc war display, (3) c. the medals and story of one of the most decorated soldier of WW II who spent most of his life around Malin plus a great deal of information about the history of Malin.

Come on down to Malin for a beautiful drive and go birding along the way. There are two restaurants open on Sundays. Private tours of 3 or more people are available other than Sunday by calling Cy Phillips at 530-908-3132 or for further information.

PROGRAM REVIEWS

Beth Phillips

April Program

January Bill was our speaker for April. She is co-founder of Bird Ally X and has worked with many oiled birds in danger. She was contacted by the KNWF last summer to set up a hospital to care for the birds that were sick from avian botulism.

She said each day they learned something new with the birds. The birds were stressed so they had to let them rest for a day or two before they began to evaluate their condition. They bought anti-fatigue mats to place the birds on, with a towel under their keel or chest to prevent more damage, also to protect their feet. The birds were given medication and fluids and as they progressed they were placed in areas with small water ponds so they could get in the water. This helped them recover quicker as it made them move around. They were fed duck weed which was very nutritious for them and common in their normal environment.

The hospital was set up in a carport at the LKWR. The photos were amazing to see how they managed to set up this treatment area. January called in many of her friends that had bird background to help but also asked for

help from the Klamath communities as well. The volunteers worked in shifts to care for green winged teals, shovelers, mallards, dowitchers and gadwalls. They treated 494 birds in total.! January said the botulism may be a recurring problem with too many birds in areas with reduced water flow which spreads the disease. January can be reached at jb@birdallyx.net.

May Program

We were fortunate to have Martyn Kenefick visit KBAS on Tuesday the 14th to present a program about the beautiful birds and wildlife from Trinidad and Tobago. He showed us many photos of the beautiful birds that live on these islands including 18 species of hummingbirds, as well as butterflies, bats, and nesting turtles. His descriptions of the birds were delightful with his humorous comments in his English accent. Many of these birds are visible from your room or porch and can be viewed before breakfast.
Martyn has made four trips to the US this year to visit many Audubon groups to invite folks to visit Asa Wright Nature Preserve. If you are interested in more information you may contact Martyn at martynkenefick@hotmail.com. I also have a brochure if any one would like one of them.

Kestrel Banding

Beth Phillips

Cy Phillips will be working with biologists Chris Vennum and Matt Stuber in June to band young kestrels in the Tule Lake and Malin area. If you would like to go with them to see how they do that, you may call Cy at 530-908-3132 or email raptorcounter@gmail.com.

He says it is very interesting and those kestrels have sharp talons on their feet.

2019 Klamath Falls World Migratory Bird Day

We had a good group of KBAS volunteers that braved the elements on Saturday at Veteran's Park . In spite of the wind, and cold temperatures we helped quite a few children decorate canvas tote bags with marking pens, paint and stickers. It was a fun activity with eager parents and children determined to be creative with their bags. We sold some books from Mary Ellen's used book collection.
Thank you to Molly, Heidi, Tom and Rick for set up and take down and to Jamie and Sabrena for organizing the activity for Saturday and to Heidi, Mary, Mary Ellen, Jan, Beth and Sabrena for helping at our tables.

KBAS Book Sales

Mary Ellen Sargent

Even though it's spring/summer, don't forget the Klamath Basin Audubon when cleaning out books. Contact any of the Board members if you have a lot of nature related books to donate. Or, bring your collection to the first meeting of the new season in September. Nature related DVDs or other related items are also welcome!

Poetry of Birds

Dripping Water

Emily Strauss

a thousand feet of ravine
so steep the road insinuates
itself back and forth climbing

the dry ground a tangle
of overgrown brush, wild
peas, pines, half-dead oaks

the stream long dried
it flows only in the wettest
years, a few hours at most

the land parched despite
the daily fogs that rise,
and birds— quail, jays

juncos must forage beside
rabbits and squirrels for
water to sustain them—

how in this wide vista
they know the one tiny drip
of a broken garden hose

and land one by one to sip
carefully from this small leak—
my silent form immaterial.

*originally published at: VerseWrights, April, 2017

Emily Strauss has an M.A. in English, but is self-taught in poetry, which she has written since college. Over 450 of her poems appear in a wide variety of online venues and in anthologies, in the U.S. and abroad.

Plastic Pollution A Global Threat to Birds

by Leigh Ann Vradenburg, WMBD Coordinator

The theme for the 2019 World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is: "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution." The following article was released by Environment for the Americas regarding the threat that plastics present to birds around the globe, from aquatic to terrestrial environments, and across multiple guilds. For the Klamath Falls celebration on May 18th, we will use some of our activities to encourage participants to reduce, reuse, and recycle their plastics. You can see some of the great events we are planning at www.klamathwmbd.com, and you can learn more about the WMBD focal species by visiting our display at the Klamath County Library. Please plan to join our Festival, and to make a pledge to curb your plastic habits for the health and safety of our feathered friends!

Reprinted from www.migratorybirdday.org:
"The accumulation of plastic and plastic pollution has become a worldwide epidemic and a primary threat to birds across the globe. An estimated 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic have been produced since its introduction in the 1950s. Only 9% of plastic waste has been recycled, and an estimated 79% of plastic waste accumulates in landfills or the natural environment (Geyer et al. 2017). Most of these plastics exist indefinitely, fragmenting into smaller and smaller pieces over time. As exposure to plastics grows, birds and their environments are facing increasingly detrimental consequences.

The 12 focal bird species selected for World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2019 represent diverse groups of birds, the habitats they use, and their foraging behaviors. Despite their differences, each of these birds and their habitats have been impacted by plastic pollution. Reducing the use of plastic and cleaning up the waste that is currently contaminating our natural environments is essential to migratory bird conservation.

By making changes individually and within our communities, we can make a difference in the fight against plastic pollution! WMBD invites you to participate as a host site by using the theme to introduce your communities to the impacts of plastic on bird populations and the importance of adopting an eco-friendly lifestyle. We encourage involvement in habitat restoration activities, such as trash cleanups, to improve the local environment and motivate participants to continue efforts that contribute to a plastic-free world."

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Myki Spindle

KBAS currently has 53 local chapter memberships - 31 of these are individual memberships and 22 are family memberships. Due to system problems at the National Audubon Society offices, their membership data has not been updated since March. At that time, there were 87 National Audubon memberships assigned to our local chapter - 79 of these were individual memberships and 8 were family memberships. The total number of memberships based upon this data is 140. (Note: KBAS members who hold both a local KBAS and a National Audubon membership are reflected only in the KBAS numbers shown above, to avoid overstating total membership figures. There are fourteen of these.)

To encourage increased membership, we invite each of you to ask friends to join us at any of our monthly meetings or scheduled activities.

Thank you to our New and Renewing KBAS Members!

New Members	Renewing Members	Allan & Leslie Lowe
	Paul & Shirley Alley	Marlene Montgomery
	Jan Clark	Linda Opocensky
	Dave Hewitt	Geraldine Sloss
	Mary Williams Hyde	

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members 2019-2020			
President	Darrel Samuels		
Vice-President	Tom Essex		
Secretary	vacant		
Treasurer	Molly Russell		
Board	vacant		
Board	Ron Larson		
Board	Heidi Anderson		
Board	Rick Hardy		
Board	Beth Phillips		
Committee Chairs			
Conservation	Marshal Moser		
Education	Jamie Blankenship, Sabrena Pitcher		
Field Trips	Gary Vequist		
Grebe Editor	Emily Strauss		
Hospitality	vacant		
Membership	Myki Spindle		
Programs	Beth Phillips		
Publicity	Mary Kelley		
Grant Review	Jim Rooks		
Winter Wings	Diana Samuels Anne Wenner		
Web Master	Debra Davis		
Used Book Sales	vacant		

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

Date: _____

◯ Individual: $20

◯ Student and Senior (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_____ Email _____

Note: You will receive The Grebe at this email address

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

June- July, 2019

Klamath Basin
Audubon Society
P. O. 354
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Meeting Schedule

Board Meetings
Where: Chamber of Commerce
205 Riverside Dr. Ste. A
When: First Wednesday of the Month
Time: 3 pm - 5 p.m.

General Meetings
Where: Fisher Nicholson Realty
Office, 403 Main St.
When: 2nd Tuesday of the Month
Time 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

The Grebe is posted bi-monthly on the website
WWW.KLAMATHAUDUBON.ORG

KBAS general meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month except February, June, July, and August.

Website: www.klamathaudubon.org
KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com
KBAS phone number: 877-541-2473