



Klamath Basin Audubon Society

The Grebe

August/September
2016

TOGETHER GREEN, ACT TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

President's Message

I hope you're all enjoying a great summer. My goal was to do more birding which I did but mainly in Malin. A group of us witnessed the tenacity of a pair of killdeer as they did their fake broken wing routine to keep all intruders away from their rocky nest placed in a parking lot. A friend took a picture of the four little speckled eggs and put it on Facebook which created much interest while we all waited for them to hatch. Only two fledged but it was a delight to see those two camouflaged little heads in the rocks and a challenge trying to explain to fb friends to look for their beaks and eyes. By the end of the day, those two little puffs of fluff had gone on their way looking for food.

These are exciting times for us birders and nature lovers because the refuge remodel is nearing completion

and there are new staff members there. I have met John Fitzroy and Ken Griggs and was impressed with their eagerness to talk with visitors and to provide our first program for our general meeting on September 8th with a presentation by John Vradenburg, Wildlife Biologist. Please note change in meeting location. Hope to see you there.

I'm looking forward to the fall when the temperatures change and we begin to see the beginning of the fall migrations of shore birds, waterfowl and raptors. Hopefully we will have some early moisture to entice them to the Basin.

Beth Phillips,
KBAS President.

Meeting Schedule

Board Meetings

Where: Chamber of Commerce, 205 Riverside Dr. Ste. A
When: First Wednesday of the Month, except September which will be held on August 31.
Time: 3 pm - 5 p.m.

General Meetings

Where: Fisher Nicholson Realty Office, 403 Main St.
When: 2nd Thursday of Month
Time 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
September Topic: John Vradenburg, Wildlife Biologist



KBAS Board

The following list of this year's board officers and committee chairpersons.

We still need volunteers for next year's committees. Please call Tom Essex (541-273-7442) or Molly Russell (541-884-3868) for information pertaining to any of the open committees.

Officers for Next Year:

President - Beth Phillips
Vice President - Molly Russell
Secretary - Darrel Samuels
Treasurer - Sherry Lindley

Board Members:

Tom Essex
Mary Ellen Sargent
Carol Westfall
Rick Hardy
Ron Cole

Committees:

Conservation - Marshal Moser
Grebe Editor - Shirley Alley
Field Trips - Kevin Spencer
Hospitality - Sherry Pollock
Membership - Sandy Vequist
Publicity - Mary Ellen Sargent
Grant Review - Jim Rooks
Winter Wings - Diana Samuels,
Anne Wenner

We still need:

Education
Historian



Winter Wings Festival 2017

by Diana Samuels

Announcing two of the three 2017 Winter Wings Festival Keynoters



On Thursday, **Paul Bannick** of Seattle kicks off our keynote series with "Owl". This award-winning photographer uses his intimate yet dramatic images to illustrate four different nesting owl species—Northern Pygmy, Burrowing, Great Gray, and Snowy—throughout the course of the year. A past viewer says: "Paul brings passion and expertise to everything he does".



Making his second Winter Wings appearance is author and researcher **Scott Weidensaul** of Pennsylvania. Scott will share the story of Project SNOWstorm — how a huge, collaborative research effort focused on snowy owls came together in a few frantic weeks to learn more about these mysterious Arctic hunters. He is one our most popular keynoters and will be center stage on Saturday, February 18th.

We hope to be able to announce our Friday night photography keynoter soon.

Diana Samuels
dsamuels@charter.net
541.850.5832 (home)
541.274.0161 (cell)

If you have other program suggestions for 2017, please contact Anne Wenner or Diana Samuels.

2017 Winter Wings Festival
February 16-19, 2017

Program Schedule available
in mid-November 2016

1-877-541-BIRD
info@winterwings.org

www.winterwingsfest.org

For all field information

Contact: Kevin Spencer
Field Trip Chair

541.880.8015, rriparia@charter.net

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

Field Trips

by Kevin Spencer

KBAS Annual Picnic August 20, 2016

Summer Picnic!!! On Saturday, August 20th, starting around noon for appetizers, come hang out to view hungry and thirsty birds at Jean and Al Van Hulzen's home near Rocky Point, and enjoy some tasty treats yourself. They have an array of bird feeders and a beautiful view! Take Hwy 140 west towards Medford. Turn north onto Westside Road and after 1/4 mile look for mailboxes and their driveway on the west, or left side of the road. After turning, continue on the unpaved road to their home. Please bring an item for the potluck: for last names A-I = salad, I-O = dessert and P-Z = entree. Rogue Valley Audubon members are invited to attend. All attending: please RSVP at 541.810.2110, and bring own beverage and a chair. Birding before noon is welcome. See you there!

September 3, Day Trip Shorebirds

Head out to mudflats, or flooded fields to look for returning shorebirds. Learn to distinguish those peeps, or just be amazed at how tight they fly together in a group. Hopefully we will see a good mix species. Some walking may be required. Meet at the USF@WS building on California St. Klamath Falls; leaving by 8 AM. Bring a lunch, water,

sunscreen. Field guide, binoculars, and a good scope if you have one. We will carpool and return by mid-afternoon. Contact Kevin Spencer at rriparia@charter.net, or 541.880.8015 with any questions.

September 17 10-3 Celebration of Public Lands at Klamath Basin NWR, Hill Rd.

Cindy Deas is working with the refuge staff to organize this new event. It will feature bus tours to Tule Lake, free activities for kids, food and entertainment. KBAS will do 2-3 guided bird walks down by the marsh and can use some volunteers for this. If you are interested in helping, contact Molly, russellX1@msn.com or Beth, pidgeco@gmail.com.

September 23-25 Arts on the Flyway

This is another new event that will run for 3 days with music, art and outdoor activities for families. We will have a table on Saturday the 24th in downtown Klamath Falls. This will be a good opportunity for KBAS to share information about our chapter's activities including WWF and hopefully gain some new members. We'll need volunteers for our table plus an activity or demonstration. Please email Beth Phillips at pidgeco@gmail.com if you would like to help with this event. For further information about this event go to www.artsontheflyway.com

October 22, Day trip Forest Birds

We will visit a few types of woodlands, walking, and enjoying our local resident birds including nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, and our only creeper. Of course, late migrants will be appreciated. Early fall is a great time to be out. Meet at the USF@WS building on California St., Klamath Falls; leaving by 8 am. Bring a lunch, water, sunscreen field guide, binoculars, and a good scope if you have one. We will carpool and return by mid-afternoon. Contact Kevin Spencer at rriparia@charter.net, or 541.880.8015 with any questions.

November 19, Day trip Raptor Rally, Butte Valley!

This is the perfect time for viewing these beauties. It's before winter sets in and there must be plenty of food as that area has high numbers for some species. Specific details will be in the next Grebe.



Notes on Summer Birding

by Kevin Spencer

A field trip with just you, your eyes and ears, and a field guide is all that is needed for a great trip. It can be anywhere. Watching what might be in your backyard, a walk around the neighborhood, a hike along Link River or around Moore Park, or a longer trip to places such as Wood River Wetlands, Tule Lake NWR, or even Lower Klamath NWR can all be equally worth your time. In your yard you might have hummingbirds that are already increasing their numbers around feeders; mostly with the likes of RUFIOUS and ANNA's. Or, you could have a lingering WESTERN KINGBIRD family roaming the neighborhood calling to each other as they go. Nesting season is winding down, and

family units are busy making a living at finding food, or even moving towards their winter home. Shorebirds have begun to trickle into the Basin, but finding patches of water that attracts them is key to finding them; KILLDEER are still commanding open gravel areas, and I recently saw a photo of a SPOTTED SANDPIPER in fresh juvenile plumage. Is there still time to observe nesting behavior? It's winding down, but I saw a LESSER GOLDFINCH carrying nesting material today, July 27th. Woodpeckers are done with their cramped quarters during nesting season, but if you hear some tapping, move towards it and chances are good you'll be treated to an adult and youngster exchanging food. Yes, late July might seem quiet, but pay attention to your eyes and ears and you are apt to find something.



Earlier in the summer, and spring, observers out in the field visiting interesting habitats were treated to some unusual species, or even rare finds. Looking through diving ducks such as LESSER SCAUP, or RING-NECKED DUCK, Dave Hewitt spotted a TUFTED DUCK along the Straits Drain on Lower Klamath NWR. Found on April 2nd, it's a rare Asian visitor, and was Klamath County's first photographed record. A single SNOWY PLOVER was seen moving about the alkaline shores of a small lake along Old Midland Road, on May 4th, by Kevin Spencer and Dave Haupt. This might be a location worth keeping an eye on since White Lake, along Stateline Road does not seem to be as white as it was in previous years, and the lack of open alkaline areas might be the best reason why they have not been seen there in recent years. Down in the Klamath River Canyon, a female PHAINOPEPLA was recorded on June 29th, a couple of miles downriver from the campground, by Russ Namitz. Remarkably, this is the second record

for the species in the county, as a male was seen nearby last summer. Paying attention to sounds helped Kevin Spencer and Dave Haupt identify a LEAST FLYCATCHER, with its nearly constant loud "che-bek" calls, on June 18th, at Wood River Day Use Area. This bird persisted many days at that location and was easily found by others that sought to enjoy its calls. And Steve Dougill's report of possible nesting of WRENTIT in the Basin is supported with the netting and banding of two juveniles on July 25th, down in the Klamath River Canyon. This news has long been suspected, but is now confirmed with this report.

So, getting out has many ways of being enjoyable, and useful. Getting out can only be just you, or with a small group. It can be at home, or just a short distance away. Your findings can include nesting behavior, or you might even encounter an unusual species. In any case, you can't beat getting out in the Klamath Basin. I look forward to hearing, or reading, about what you find.

Backyard Birding Bonuses

By Darrel Samuels

Like other birders, Diana and I delight in the variety of birds that frequent our yard during the year. Three species of Nuthatches, 5 species of Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadees, House Finches, California Quail, etc. favor us with their year round company, and we can mark the seasons by the arrival and departure of Grosbeaks, Tree Swallows, Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanagers, and Turkey Vultures to name a few. But over the years we have been chosen by the gods of bird distribution to be witnesses to some pretty amazing avian sights.

One winter about seven years ago there was a few inches of snow on the ground and a group of a dozen or so California Quail sauntered by my ground level study window, not more than four feet from me and one of our cats who sat in the window sill. The quail were intent on scratching for whatever seeds had



fallen from our bird feeders, and their actions drove the cat into a frenzy of chatters and whimpers. They also attracted the attention of a Sharp Shinned Hawk who dropped onto the back of one of the quail. Only a few feet from me (and less from the cat), the hawk proceeded to pluck feathers from the very much alive quail. After a few minutes the hawk apparently had had enough of the observers, and it dragged the quail (still alive) further into the back yard. I ran upstairs with my binoculars to see how this would end, but never expected to see what came next. As I watched the small hawk just beginning to tear into the now dead quail, a large Red-Tailed Hawk swooped in, knocked the Sharp off the quail and carried the pre-plucked prize away. Sometimes in nature, it appears, bigger is better!

Fast forward a few years when Diana looked out the same windows onto our backyard and noticed a large chicken size bird meandering in the foliage. I thought it was a grouse, but couldn't tell which species, so I took a photo and posted it on KBBN. With the help of more experienced birders, we identified a Sooty Grouse, not seen before or since to my knowledge here at the Running Y.



A few years later I walked through our living room and glanced at an incense cedar that grows next to our deck and one that we drape with several feeders, especially during the winter. On a lateral branch at about my eye level sat a Barred Owl, doing his (or her) best stuffed owl imitation. We have had numerous Great Horned and Barn Owls roost in our trees, but this was a first, probably for the Running Y as well.

Our latest “backyard bonus bird” appeared on June 3 of this year. I walked into our front yard to investigate an angry mob of Scrub and Steller’s Jays who were most unhappy with another visitor. I suspected either an owl (Great Horned or Barn) or a hawk (Red-tailed or Red Shouldered) had dared to perch on one of the cedars without the Jays’ permission. Shocked would be an understatement to describe my reaction when I saw a Great Gray Owl peering down at me. I was amazed it didn’t fly as its head feathers were being constantly attacked by the aggressive Jays. Over the course of the next ten hours or so the owl moved to three different trees but stayed in full view of a parade of more than a dozen visitors who arrived after my KBBN post and phone calls. It was truly amazing that this GGO sought refuge in our yard of all the places it could have landed. It’s also amazing that the “Golden Bird” James Currie (and Harry Fuller, Kevin Spencer, etc.) sought unsuccessfully for the “Birding Adventures” show at Winter Wings paid a surprise visit here! When I sent James a photo of the bird, his response was, “So incredible!! By the way, we have received so many favorable comments about the Klamath episode. We hope this really drives some more business to next year’s festival! It was a pleasure working with you and your team...”

After these incredible experiences Diana and I always have our binoculars at the ready, waiting for our next “Golden Backyard Bird!”



Field Reports

By Mary Ellen Sargent

June 11, 2016
Redband Ranch

Thirteen people joined Anne & Karl Wenner at their ranch. The day was sunny and warm. Not only did we see many wonderful birds (such as Black Tern, Vaux Swift) but the Wenner's also provided a history and ecology of the property. Remnant structures from previous owners gave us an idea of the past, while the restoration of creek, with the help of governmental agencies provides hope for the future. Everyone enjoyed the day!

July 16, 2016
Williamson River/Goose Bay

Heather Hendrixson of The Nature Conservancy welcomed about 15 kayakers and 1 canoe to TNC's property. Gary Vequist coordinated this trip with the Basin Outdoors Group. He went over safety procedures, while Heather talked about the history of the property and what TNC is trying to accomplish. Watercraft put in at the ramp on the Williamson River and the 'parade' paddled along the shores and marshes of Upper Agency Lake, seeing lots of birds. The day was warm and sunny and a good time was had by all.

Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge CCP

By Molly Russell, Vice President

For the past few months, members of the board have been meeting with Refuge staff and reviewing the CCP document for comment. The comments to the document outline a comprehensive response that supports the Refuge and USFWS but also brings up our concerns regarding how the Refuge is managed in the future. We had hoped to have the final document ready for this newsletter but it is still being reviewed and then will go to the board for a vote before submitting by the deadline of August 4th. When the final document is ready, we will email it to our members.

Thank you to all who have helped in this process. I know I have learned a lot more about the Refuge and empathize with the constraints and restrictions they are under to bring water in for waterfowl and manage the habitat. It is not an easy job and the new staff is very dedicated to making the Refuge a place we can all be proud of. They have been very responsive to all our questions and we appreciate their time and knowledge as we tried to do our due diligence before we submitted our comment.

Meet the People

Meet all the Family at Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex

by John Fitzroy

The tradition of resource preservation continues at our nation’s first waterfowl refuge with the addition of five new staff members. There is a long history of dedicated resources managers at Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge and we know new team members Ken Griggs, John Vradenburg, Dustin Taylor, Tracy Hart, and John

Fitzroy will walk in their shadow and shine.

Deputy Refuge Manager Ken Griggs most recently held the same title at Humboldt Bay NWR. Prior to that, he worked as a Wildlife Biologist at San Luis NWRC in the San Joaquin Valley of CA. He serves on the Department of the Interior's National Burned Area Emergency Response Team to prepare wildfire emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plans following large fires on public lands throughout the US and abroad. Ken is a California native, born and raised in Orange County, CA. He is a graduate of Humboldt State University. He and his wife January enjoy camping and fishing with their children ages 1 and 5 yrs.

Supervisory Wildlife Biologist John Vradenburg joined the team in July 2015. He previously served in the same position at Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico for 9 years. The Minnesota native spent his younger years in Northern Minnesota and his teens in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri. Always eager to accomplish more for wildlife, John was recognized as Employee of the Year in 2015 for his management plan for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse before it was listed in 2014, and for providing opportunities for youth to learn on the refuge. He and his wife Leigh Ann enjoy bird watching and fishing with their 3 children ages 21, 7, and 6 yrs.

Biologist and Integrated Pest Management Specialist Dustin Taylor came to the refuge in April of this year. Previously a Wildlife Biologist at Sequoyah NWR in Oklahoma, Dustin's job responsibilities included: wetland and waterfowl management, farming program manager, and invasive species management. Born and raised in New Mexico, he's an alumnus of New Mexico State. Dustin and his wife Sara enjoy hiking and waterfowl hunting.

Budget Technician Tracy Hart joins the team from the Department of the Defense (DOD) where she worked as a budget analyst for 13 years. Tracy is an award winning photographer and has been recognized by DOD with an

Administrative Team Award in 2014. A self-described Montana country girl, Tracy is an avid photographer and enjoys spending time with her husband Jim and her grandson.

Visitor Service Manager John Fitzroy joined us just this month from Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in VA where he served as a Park Ranger. John was born and raised in Brooklyn NY and is a graduate of Brooklyn College. In 2015 he was awarded the Visitor Services Professional of the Year Award; he was being recognized for providing underserved communities access to relevant and meaningful educational programs, and for developing and nurturing partnerships to accomplish public use projects. He and his wife Yoko enjoy camping, fishing, and skiing with their three girls ages 8, 6, and 2.

Resources Managers move around a lot, and although there are vast public lands, widely distributed, the staff of the management agencies and organizations remain one big small family; a family dedicated to preserving and protecting our nation's natural resources; a family that prides itself on the degree in which it effects positive change on our natural resources and in the communities they serve. Thank you for making them feel at home.

Meet Rick Hardy New Board Member

I was born and raised in western North Dakota. My dad farmed on his father's homestead and was part owner of a farm equipment and automobile dealership. I graduated from Washington State University in 1975 with a BS in Wildlife Biology and worked for the Forest Service from 1975 - 2001 in Montana and eastern Oregon. My duties included spotted owl and bald eagle management, range management, recreation management, firefighting and some trail maintenance and law enforcement. In 2001 I switched agencies and began working for the U S Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services branch in Klamath Falls. I retired from that position in 2009. I have been involved with

Klamath Basin Audubon since I moved to Klamath Falls in 1987. My hobbies are travel, birding, hunting, fishing, and reading. The Klamath Basin has been a good home base for those hobbies and I am happy to see we will have airport service again.

Meet Carol Westfall New Board Member

Carol Flores Westfall was born and raised in Eureka, California

Married 28 years to Kevin Westfall also born and raised in Eureka.

We have three beautiful children Brenden (24) Erin (23) & Sterling (20)

Kevin is a Building Contractor and I am an Interior Designer.

We were tired of the coastal fog and rain and in need of sunshine so we moved to Klamath Falls 12 years ago. It has been an adventure. We purchased a farm, storage units, apartments a ranch and opened a coffee shop / recreation business renting out Kayaks.

Our passion is the outdoors. We are always striving to enhance and encourage habitat for wildlife on our property.

I am a Master Gardener. Kevin and I are Master Woodland Management graduates through OSU Extension.

We are truly blessed to live here in this beautiful Klamath Basin. I enjoy learning and sharing all I can about the birds that visit us on this fantastic Fly Way!



Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members

President	Beth Phillips	530.908.3412	pidgeco@gmail.com
Vice-President	Molly Russell	541.884.3868	russellX1@msn.com
Secretary	Darrel Samuels	541.850.5832	dsamuels@charter.net
Treasurer	Sherry Lindley	541.205.5269	shadylin@aol.com
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Board	Carol Westfall	541.810.1866	ourlakeshorelanding@gmail.com
Board	Rick Hardy	541.882-3169	rhardy11@charter.net
Board	Ron Cole	541.281.5525	rcolej4@gmail.com
Board	Tom Essex	541.273.7442	Tomkathy_1@charter.net

Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Conservation	Marshal Moser	541.880.4269	marshalmoser@gmail.com
Education	OPEN		
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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.

The Board of Directors meets 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce offices, 205 Riverside, Klamath Falls. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For **address changes**, please contact both National Audubon Society and KBAS, Attn. Sandy Vequist, 11218 Merganser Rd., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Comments and information to **The Grebe Editor** are welcomed and encouraged. Send to Grebe Editor, 6212 Osprey Lane Klamath Falls, OR. 97601 or s.alley@charter.net

Check our website:

www.klamathaudubon.org

KBAS e-mail address:

klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com

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

I do not have an email address. Please mail my copy

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

August/September
2016

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

Or Current Occupant

KBAS general meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month except June, July, and August. The next meeting will be **September 8**. Details on page 1.

Website: www.klamathaudubon.org

KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com