



Klamath Basin Audubon Society

The Grebe

December 2017
January 2018

TOGETHER GREEN, ACT TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

Winter Wings Festival 2018



We are so excited about the 2018 Winter Wings Festival Program. Check out the program tab on the website, www.WinterWingsFest.org, to see what's available. Online program registration begins on December 16th at 9AM PST.

Exciting News for Winter Wings! The Lodge at Pico Bonito in Honduras has donated a 6-night stay for two to use in our raffle. It includes meals, transportation from the airport, guided tours within Pico Bonito National Park, and the lodge grounds. Check out their website: picobonito.com for photos and more information. We will be selling raffle tickets at OIT during the festival February 15-17 and will choose the lucky winner on the evening of February 17th.

- **MOST** Activities in 39-year history - over 60! Go into the field or enjoy our indoor workshops and presentations
- **NEW** Keynoters: Stephen Shunk (woodpecker expert), Moose Peterson (Nikon Ambassador), Dr. Kevin McGowan (Cornell Lab educator and author)
- **NEW** Overnight field trips to Winema Lodge and Crystalwood Lodge in the Basin
- **GREAT** Habitat conditions at Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge at this point
- **4 FREE** Refuge-sponsored field trips
- **NEW** App workshops: from eBird to NestWatch, to Merlin, to iBird, to Larkwire, to Kea.
- **NEW** Sip and Paint activity
- **NEW** Drone workshop and wildlife photography field trip
- **NEW** Keynote pass to attend 3 keynotes at a discount

Starting **Saturday, November 18th** you can register offline for the Into the Woods trip at Crystalwood Lodge by calling

volunteer Val Paulson. See the program pre-festival and post-festival birding trips tab for details.

In addition, we have:

- **NEW** Animal Ambassador appearance by Wildlife Images from Merlin, Oregon on Saturday
- **NEW** host hotels with shuttle service or on demand rides to OIT on a schedule TBA
- **EARLY** Registration Desk opening on Thursday, February 15th

For all field trip information

Contact: Gary Vequist
Field Trip Chair

402.290.6592, garyvq@gmail.com

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

Winter Wings Volunteers

Needed

We welcome your participation and have all sorts of volunteer opportunities depending on your interest and availability. For instance we have volunteers working at the registration table, checking wristbands for various events, assisting with workshops, presentations and field trips; also, helping with setup prior to the festival, and many other tasks. It's a fun event and we all have a great time working with the festival! Please contact one of our volunteer coordinators for more information.

Suzanne Moser: [541-880-4691](tel:541-880-4691) suziemoser@gmail.com

Virginia Bary: [530-340-3812](tel:530-340-3812) virginia.bary@gmail.com

Oregon Audubon Council Conservation Meeting

Each Fall, the Oregon chapters get together to discuss conservation issues in the State and determine priorities to work on in the coming year. This year we set a large number of topics to focus on. Here is an update on those we have been working on and also new issues to be addressed.

Update of 2017 Priorities:

Defense of Federal Environmental Laws and Federal Lands - We are working with National Audubon to make our voice heard at the state and federal level concerning forest and fire management, environmental laws that are being reviewed for rollbacks and climate change.

Protect and Restore Terminal Lakes (Klamath, Abert, Summer and Warner) -

- Klamath Refuges - The CCP was released in January and has several lawsuits pending from environmental groups including Portland Audubon. KBAS has not signed on to any of these. Lower Klamath Lake Refuge received 40,000 acre feet of water this year and hopes to receive another 10,000 by the end of the year. On October 31st this year an aerial survey spotted 730,000 ducks and geese over the Refuges which is the most seen since 1999.
- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge - All of the Refuge staff left after the takeover and are being replaced with new staff. Portland Audubon has budgeted for one staff member to help with volunteers, field trips and ecological work next year. The Refuge is now open.

Elliott State Forest - Saved from sale but the Forest Protection Reform Act has stalled.

Forage Fish - Making great progress on forage fish protection which is a large component of the ocean bird food supply.

Horned Streaked Lark Recovery program - Draft plan expected in 2018.

Greater Sage Grouse - The plan reached last year is under review for a rollback and funding has been reduced by 90%.

Cormorants on East Sand Island - Portland Audubon won the lawsuit to stop killing the cormorants on the Columbia River but the judge then agreed to let USFWS continue to shoot the cormorants. The colony failed after 60,000 left in 2016 and only 140 came back in 2017.

Bird Friendly Vineyards - Several chapters met with local vineyards to develop strategies for non-lethal control of birds. There are certifications from LIVE and Demeter that require sustainable practices.

Climate Change - Advocated to stop or stall new fossil fuel facilities and promote location priorities for wind and solar farms.

NEW priorities:

Hazards - Lead, light pollution and window hazards.

Participate in FEMA flood plain Biological Opinion discussions

Advocate for environmental and sustainable practices when restoring forests affected by wildfires.

KBAS has signed up to work on the Klamath Lake Refuge, Lake Abert and Sage Grouse priorities. If you would like to be involved with any of these, contact Molly Russell at russellx1@msn.com.

Put a BIRD in it!

Andy Lee

Jordan Jones

Jane A. Prestegard

**Winter Wings Festival
2018 Photo Contest**

Accepting entries of images taken during the festival, February 15-18, 2018.
Rules are available at the registration desk or on our website: winterwingsfest.org/photocontest/

Save the Date:

- Olympic Bird Fest
- Come Bird with Us!
- Sequim, WA
- April 13-15, 2018

Grab your binoculars and join the 15th annual

Olympic Bird Fest 2018

Celebration at the Dungeness River

Audubon Center

April 13-15, 2018

www.olympicbirdfest.org

19th Annual
SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL
of the Pacific Flyway • Chico, CA
January 24-28, 2018

Exciting field trips, birding walks, naturalist hikes, informative workshops and fun, free activities for the entire family

"Gathering of Wings" Banquet with keynote speaker, Jon L. Dunn, Chief Consultant and Editor of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*

Register online:
snowgoosefestival.org
530 592-9092

President's Message

We had a very informative program October 10th about Cavity Nesting Birds After a Fire, given by Teresa "Bird" Wicks. Teresa works for the Great Outdoor Alliance which is a nature based collaborative managed by the Klamath Watershed partnership. She told us there were two basic groups of nesters, the Primary Cavity Nesting Birds like woodpeckers, and the Secondary Cavity Nesting birds such as blue birds, swallows, owls, kestrels. She stated that some fires burn really hot and destroy most of the tree, while others fires are slow burners and leave more of the tree and vegetation after the fire moves on. Some birds like a softer wood where they can re-sculpt the hole to their liking and others are not so picky and will just move in. Timing can be an issue depending on the bird and type of tree it needs and how long the dead tree has been standing.

Thank you, Teresa for your presentation. I know I will look at fire burned trees with new interest and many questions.

I would like to commend Diana Samuels and Anne Wenner who have worked with the program committee, to put together another great Winter Wings Festival for 2018 with many new activities, field trips and workshops. They have worked very hard writing grants and soliciting donations from many businesses, groups and sponsors. I encourage all of you to visit the web site and sign up early for one or more of the activities or field trips.

www.WinterWingsFest.org

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with lots of birding trips in the coming year!

Beth Phillips,
KBAS President

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

Just a reminder that we have changed our meeting day to the second Tuesday of each month. The December meeting is December 12th, featuring a potluck dinner. The January meeting is January 9th And will feature Kenneth Doult, Outreach Coordinator at Klamath County Museum, who will be presenting a program about National Wildlife Refuges.

December Potluck

December 12th, 6:00 P.M.

We don't have a program in December but we do have a holiday potluck. Please join us for some wonderful food at FNR at 6 p.m. We already have a ham and some turkey lined up and if you would like to bring a dish to share here is a suggestion.

A-L can bring a side dish (potatoes, vegetable or salad), M-Z appetizers or Desserts.

Glen Justus has graciously agreed to entertain us with Christmas music. Sherry Pollock, our hospitality chair will provide the plates, cups, napkins and silverware. Please bring a serving utensil for your dish. This would be an excellent time to invite friends or new comers to the basin, the more the merrier. Any questions, contact Beth Phillips at

pidgeco@gmail.com or

530-908-3412.



2018 WINTER WINGS
BIRD ART

DAVE HAUPT, ARTIST

National Audubon Society Report #3: Citizen Science Initiatives

By Mary Ellen Sargent

Whether you are home bound or able to climb Denali, there are ways you can help conserve our valuable wildlife. From something as simple as putting flowering potted plants or a bird feeder on an apartment balcony to creating a native plant backyard, there's always something you can do! National Audubon has 4 national citizen science programs: The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Hummingbirds at Home and Climate Watch. These 4 programs not only provide valuable data for scientists, but also provides participants with unique wildlife experiences in nature. We've all heard about the CBC: a one-day-see-as-much-as-you-can-see count within the Klamath Falls count area. Most routes are by car (so you stay warm) but a couple have a little walking. Try it! It's December 17th this year. Contact Kevin Spencer, rriparia@charter.net. Check the website: christmasbirdcount.org. The GBBC is even simpler, just look out your window or enjoy your favorite park for just 15 minutes, just once or everyday over President's Day weekend. Report your observations at eBird.org. See the website birdcount.org. This is a great way to involve family and get rid of the mid-winter blues. Hummingbirdsathome.org is a way to observe those high energy birds in your yard or favorite park. Audubon has a free mobile app to record data. Climate Watch is the Audubon effort to predict how climate change impacts migrating birds. This activity takes place in January and June. See audubon.org/climatewatch.

Currently bluebirds and nuthatches are deemed to be the best predictors of range changes. A little known Audubon program encourages ranchers and farmers to become more bird friendly: Audubon.org/ranching.

Locally, there are other activities you can participate in. Try growing native plants, using the audubon.org/nativeplants website as a starting point. This is an interactive database based on your zipcode. Also consult with the local Oregon State University Master Gardeners. Some local Audubon chapters have programs such as Nature in the City or bluebird nest box projects (www.wasatchaudubon.org). Our local chapter has members who are Master Naturalists and who are interested in projects such as providing plants and feeders to community areas, such as senior residential facilities. Contact Molly Russell (russellx1@msn.com) for ways you can participate in conservation in the Klamath Basin. The East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) sponsors a winter raptor tally during December, January and February- one day each month. Contact Jeff Fleischer at raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com. It's a day of your choosing to enjoy nature in winter.

Finally, there are several websites that may help provide ideas for you to become a citizen scientist: works.audubon.org, climateaction@audubon.org, Audubon.org/news.

Christmas Bird Count By Kevin Spencer

The Klamath Falls CBC, Christmas Bird Count, will be on Sunday, December 17th, 2017. This count area has seven sections, covering a variety of habitats, and has different ways of covering the terrain, from driving, to stationary, to walking, both hilly to flat and mild, and averages about 105 species. The count also has numerous very knowledgeable bird enthusiasts who welcome anyone who wishes to join in the count. It's always a great day when there's time to view and discuss birds! At dusk, everyone meets for warmth, good potluck food, and to countdown the day's results. It's a great way to end the day. The potluck will be at Kevin Spencer's home. Email if you are interested: rriparia@charter.net. Let me know your preference by vehicle, or by foot, and terrain. Hope to see you there!

The Tule Lake CBC will be on January 1st, 2018, so it'll be a great way to start the 2018 new year. This count averages about 89-90 species per count. With three area covering the entire circle, it's a challenge, and fun, to participate in this count. At dusk, participants meet at Tulelake Elementary School, for warmth, good potluck food, and the countdown. Contact Kevin Spencer if interested at: rriparia@charter.net



Lake Abert 2017 Update - Waterbirds Show Some Recovery

Ron Larson, PhD,
Klamath Falls
(rlarson@ccountry.net)

Lake Abert, in southcentral Oregon, is known as a shorebird hotspot, with tens to hundreds of thousands of avocets, phalaropes, sandpipers, and other shorebirds coming to the lake after breeding to fatten up on brine shrimp and alkali flies before migrating south. Since 2011, East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) members and other volunteers have counted birds there every summer. In 2014, that all changed, the lake nearly went dry and salinities reached lethal levels, and shrimp and flies were gone and few birds were seen, and the lake turned red from the abundance of red-pigmented, hypersaline-adapted bacteria (Figure 1).

Little changed in 2015 and 2016, but finally in 2017, inflows increased and shrimp and flies started to rebound. However, numbers of birds were still relatively low but were higher than in 2014-2016 (Figure 2).

Two peer-reviewed reports (Larson et al. 2016, Moore 2016) found evidence that upstream water diversions and drought had caused

the low inflows. Predictions of the effects of climate change include future droughts in mid-latitude regions being more prolonged and intense

(drought.unl.edu/DroughtBasics/ClimateChange.aspx), and that has serious implications for waterbirds using Lake Abert and other habitats in western North America. Combined with other threats, such as rising sea level flooding shorebird habitats in the Arctic, loss of Lake Abert and similar habitats could drive more shorebirds towards extinction.

Unfortunately, the State of Oregon is unprepared for dealing effectively with droughts, especially the adverse effects on wildlife. The Oregon Water Resources Department has responded to droughts by issuing more permits for groundwater extraction, which can adversely affect wetlands and streamflows, thus exacerbating ecosystem effects. Oregon needs to develop and implement a plan to sustainably deal with drought in the

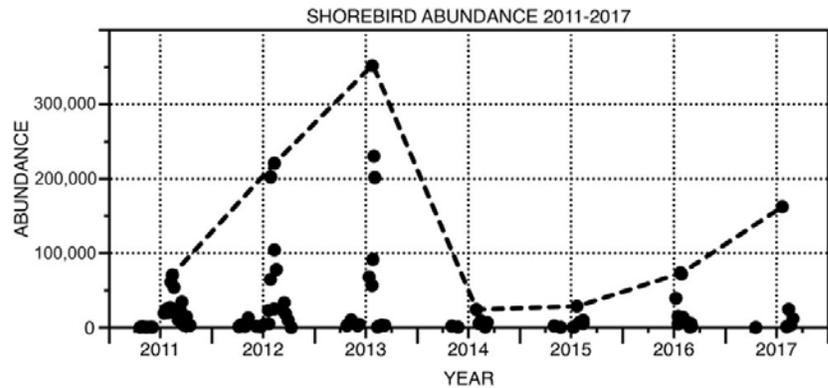


Figure 2. Graph of Lake Abert shorebird abundances with a dashed line going through the highest counts, Data from ECAS.

face of climate change that includes environmental water needs.

For more information, see National Audubon Society's new initiative "Birds and Water in the Arid West," www.audubon.org/conservation/western-water.

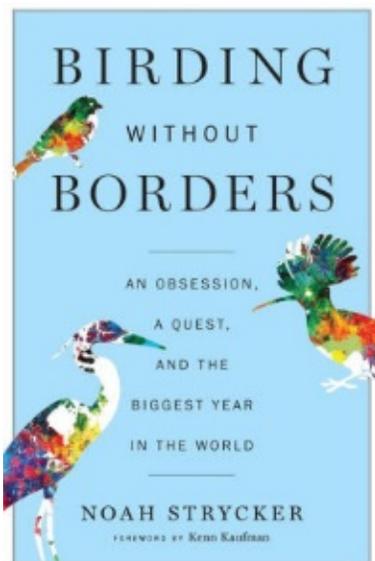
References

- Larson, R., J. Eilers, K. Kreuz, W.T. Becher, S. DasSarma, and S. Dougill. 2016. Recent Desiccation-related Ecosystem Changes at Lake Abert, Oregon. *Western North American Naturalist* 76(4):389-404. <https://doi.org/10.3398/064.076.0402>
- Moore J. 2016. Recent desiccation of Western Great Basin Saline Lakes: Lessons from Lake Abert, Oregon. *U.S.A. Science of the Total Environment* 554-555:142-154. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.02.161>



Figure 1. Aerial vies of Lake Abert during the 2014 extreme salinity event when bacteria turned the lake red. Photo by Ron Larson.

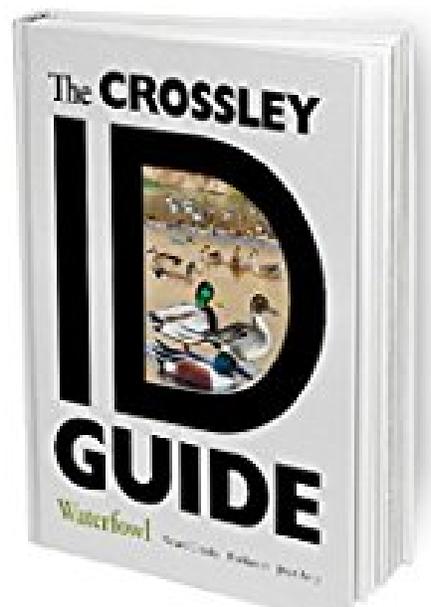
BOOKS OF INTEREST TO BIRDERS



TRAVELING TO 41 COUNTRIES IN 2015 WITH A BACKPACK AND BINOCULARS, NOAH STRYCKER BECAME THE FIRST PERSON TO SEE MORE THAN HALF THE WORLD'S 10,000 SPECIES OF BIRDS IN ONE YEAR!



THIS BOOK FEATURES LARGE, LIFELIKE SCENES THAT ARE "PAINTED IN PIXELS". NEARLY 300 PAGES OF WATERFOWL SCENES - SHOWING WATERFOWL IN A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS.



January 9th KBAS Meeting Program Information

Bio: Kenneth Doult graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a degree in History, French, and Museum Studies in 2012. After working as an archaeologist at Historic St. Mary's City, he moved across the country in 2013 to begin an internship with the National Park Service at the Tule Lake Unit. During three seasons as an interpretive ranger educating the public about the incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II, Kenneth's passion for forming connections between history, people's personal experiences, and current events through museum education solidified. Since 2017, Kenneth has been working as the Outreach Coordinator for the Klamath County Museum and is continuously on the lookout for ways to form powerful connections.

Program Description:

While the reaches of the Klamath Basin extend as far as the Pacific Ocean, only six designated refuges lie within this unique boundary. Learn about the history of these refuges, why they were designated, and how they play such significant roles in our community today!

| Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
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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: Myki Spindle, mykispin@gmail.com

Comments and information to **The Grebe Editor** are welcomed and encouraged. Send to Grebe Editor, 4702 Horned Lark Dr, Klamath Falls, OR. 97601 or jcars@prodigy.net

Check our website:

www.klamathaudubon.org

KBAS e-mail address:

klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com

Thank You to Our New and

Returning Members:

Mary Kelley

Glenn & Jesse Justus

Cy & Beth Phillips

Shannon Rio

Jim & Amy Rooks

Marilynn Sutherland

Dennis & Beverly Taugher

Kirby & Virginia Flanagan (new members)

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

December 2017
January 2018

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

KBAS general meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month except June, July, and August. The next meeting will be December 12. Details on page 4.

Website: www.klamathaudubon.org

KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com