President’s Message

Dear KBAS Friends,

Are you getting tired of winter? I certainly am even though I know it is giving us the much needed moisture for our lakes, streams, agriculture and hopefully our refuges.

One of the best parts of winter for me is when we have a heavy snow like we did at the beginning of January. I love to go outside first thing in the morning and enjoy the quietness of the snow. It is so peaceful with the snow all around you and I love seeing the Goldfinches and sparrows sitting patiently on the branches waiting for food. By the time I get back to the porch I can hear many of birds beginning to chatter happily, almost sounding like a chorus of tweeting, chirping, and squawking. It’s a wonderful sight that I hope you all have experienced as well. Did you know there is a reason why it is so quiet when it snows? Go to www.scienceworldreport.com/tags/snowflake.

Cy and I have driven along Stateline road recently and like many of the reports I see on Facebook and KBBN, the swans, geese, waterfowl and eagles are there just past the entrance to the Lower Klamath Refuge heading west. Saturday we drove around the refuge in search of eagles and found at least 16 at North end of the English Channel plus a variety of 24 other species for the day. Now that the weather is better I encourage you to get out and look for birds and then make a report to KBBN (Klamath Basin Birding News) or on E-birds so that this information can be passed along to field trip leaders and photographers.

Hopefully our weather will continue to cooperate for the next 2-3 weeks to give us a wonderful Winter Wings Festival. Diana Samuels and Anne Wenner have been working hard along with a key group of volunteers to tie up any loose ends to make this an enjoyable time for all visitors.

Beth Phillips, KBAS president

Refuge Visitor Center

We’ve had a good respond for help at the refuge visitor desk from our members. Sherry Pollock and Beth Phillips will be there on Feb 4 and Mary Ellen Sargent has volunteered for March 4th. If you would like to help at the desk on a different Saturday than the first, you may do that by contacting John Fitzroy at the refuge, john_fitzroy@fws.gov or 530- 667-2231.
Winter Wings Festival 2017
by Diana Samuels

Registration Update
As of January 29th, we have 370 registered, some fewer than last year at this time. We think all of the snow has contributed to some visitors delaying their registration. There are still openings in several field trips, particularly on Sunday, Feb. 19th. If you haven’t registered, don’t delay and go to www.WinterWingsFestival.org.

Refuge update
We were pleased to learn that in January, Lower Klamath Refuge received a supplemental delivery of 20,000 acre-feet of water. Water and habitat conditions are some of the best in years. Some of our bird scouts report seeing thousands of waterfowl flying in and over 100 Bald Eagles sighted in one day.

Below is a map provided by USFWS showing the conditions of the Refuge as of January 24, 2017.

2017 Photo Contest
The “Put a Bird IN It!” Photo Contest is back for 2017 with support from Steve Spencer at Leo’s Camera Shop. Winning images will be featured on our website and winners get credit towards future festival registrations. Rules can be found at winterwingsfest.org/photocontest/.

Holliday Jewelry
We have a new Winter Wings Festival sponsor! Holliday Jewelry contacted us and donated 48 sterling silver necklaces for us to sell at the Festival. They have a Bald Eagle pendant and the words Klamath Falls under the eagle. Consider purchasing one of these special custom necklaces at the KBA sales table. And if you go into their store, please be sure to thank them for making this major donation to KBAS.

A few more volunteers are still needed for the Winter Wings Festival. Activities at OIT where additional help is need include the Thursday evening Keynote and Saturday’s Live Bird Presentation. Also, we can use a couple advisors for young birders at the Favell Museum on Saturday for Birding Bingo. If you are interested in helping please contact one of our volunteer coordinators:

Suzanne Moser: 541-880-4691
(suziemoser@gmail.com)
Virginia Bary: 541-340-3812
(Virginia.bary@gmail.com)
WWF Free Family Activities

by Anne Wenner

We will have a great line up of free family activities during this year’s Winter Wings Festival.

10 am on Saturday February 18

Zoologist, Animal Behaviorist, and Wildlife Educator Karl Anderson (aka the Oregon Birdman) will educate and entertain you with 15 live parrots, including Conures, Cockatoos, Amazon Parrots, Macaws and other colorful surprises! This presentation will cover their natural history, specific behaviors, care in captivity, and responsible pet ownership. Doors will close promptly at 10:00 am and no late arrivals will be allowed in.

1-3:30 pm Saturday February 18

In addition, on Saturday from about 1-3:30 pm the birds and the Birdman will be on hand for up close observation, information, and photo ops after the show. Don’t forget to bring your camera!

Creative Hands-On Activities

Key volunteer Akimi King has put together a wonderful selection of free, creative hands-on activities for kids of all ages at OIT.

Favell Museum Bingo

Also, bring your kids to the Favell Museum in downtown Klamath Falls for a Young Basin Birders Bingo. Both of these are open on Saturday from 10 am-3:30 pm.

People of all ages will enjoy these free activities as well:

Vendors and Exhibits

Fri. 12 - 6:00 pm, Sat. 10 am - 6:00 pm, OIT College Union Main Floor
Sales of camera and birdwatching gear, artwork, photography, crafts, and birding supplies. Also, non-profit group and agency exhibits.

Socials and Keynoter Book Signings

Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 4:45 - 6:00 pm, OIT College Union Main Floor and upstairs outside the Crater Lake Complex
No-host bar each day. Book signing opportunities: Paul Bannick - Thursday, Scott Weidensaul - Saturday.

Winter Wings Wine and Warm-Up
Sat. 4:00 - 6:30 pm, Favell Museum
Hosted wine tasting and social with information about the Klamath Falls Blue Zones Project (free but RSVP required through Blue Zones at http://whoozin.com/D9H-YKN-GKDN)

Barry, the Barred Owl

by Darrel Samuels

In the August/September issue of The Grebe I wrote a piece about the joys of backyard birding and the thrill of a new or interesting species showing up. I’m sure that many birders never go beyond identifying their yard birds, and that’s just fine. The many levels of participation are what make birding such a popular avocation. I have the deepest admiration for the intense and
Field Trips
by Kevin Spencer

Tule Lake NWR, Saturday, March 18

Geese and Ducks, Tule Lake NWR, Saturday, March 18: The peak of waterfowl numbers when they are on their northward quest, but staging before moving on. We will search out some larger impressive geese flocks, but will also enjoy other waterfowl and passerines. Meet at the USF&W parking lot on California Street, Klamath Falls, and leaving at 9 AM. This will be an all-day field trip, so bring snacks, lunch, and water. The trip will last at least until 3 PM.

Lower Klamath NWR, Saturday, April 29

Shorebirds, Lower Klamath NWR, Saturday, April 29: It’s a time when many species of shorebirds are building up energy before continuing on their way north. Seeing more than 12 species would be great. Raptors and other wetland birds will be enjoyed also. Meet at the USF&W parking lot on California Street, Klamath Falls, and leaving at 9 AM. This will be an all day field trip, so bring snacks, lunch, and water. The trip will last at least until 3 PM.

Field Reports
by Kevin Spencer

Tule Lake CBC, January 2

The Tule Lake Christmas Bird Count finished the day, January 2nd, with 87 species seen. That number is about the average for the count, which has been done since 1979. Some prescribed burns, and one summer fire changed the habitat many years ago, with losses of juniper trees in the southern part of the count circle, which in turn, affected forest bird species that were sometimes observed, and are now very scarce for this count. Despite that change, participants still seem to find ways to come across unusual or interesting finds for the area, along with keeping track of normally occurring bird species.

The day after New Year’s began with a frigid low of 13 degrees F. But with just some short periods of winds, it turned out to be a nice day in the field. Most groups expressed how slow it was, and that’s sort of how it is in the southern part of the Basin during the heart of winter. But, as it turned out, the League of Nations had the most waterfowl. That’s a first for me, as I have experience in other many years, waterfowl are packed into “potholes” in the ice in Sumps 1A and 1B. But, as witnessed by Dave Haupt, Alan DeMartini, and
myself, we saw over 10 thousand birds, mostly American Wigeon, feeding in residual grain in a unit in the League of Nations, on the Modoc side of County Line Road in that area. We were able to also view Snow and Ross’s Geese, numerous Eurasian Wigeon, and several other species. One goose was an immature “blue goose”. Without wind noise, and in close proximity, we could actually hear wing noise and padding of feet through the grain, and it sounded like a stampede was taking place. In another area, near the A Dike Road, we also saw a concentration of waterfowl in one of the only open water canals in that area. Seen among the waterfowl, a single American White Pelican was attempting to survive our winter here. Nearby a couple thousand blackbirds had a few Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and several Brown-headed Cowbirds. We saw most of the Tricolored Blackbirds for the day as they came to a roost on the north side of the Sump 1A along the Lost River. Sump 1B reported two Yellow-rumped Warblers, a rare winter bird, and later, on the way home from the compilation, a Western Screech Owl was seen near Devil’s Homestead. Sump 1A and Hill Road observers reported a single Western Bluebird, a Say’s Phoebe, and hearing a single Chukar upslope on Sheepy Ridge, from the Lower Klamath Lake Road side. Horned Larks were seen in numerous locations, but just two Lapland Longspurs were singled out. One interesting comment involved the interactions between a Loggerhead and Northern Shrike that were near one another and apparently were defending each other’s presumed area. Views of each species were well seen as one followed closely behind as one chased the other. One Black Phoebe, sometimes seen on the count, usually around Discovery Marsh, was seen over on the NE side of Sump 1B, over in Modoc County. This is a very rare occurrence for this species not only for the county, but especially during the winter. It seemed like it was in a frenzy to find bugs. Raptors included two Ferruginous Hawks, 47 Bald Eagles (42 adults), nine Golden Eagles, and seven Prairie Falcons.

Special thanks go to the intrepid participants: Randy Paylor, Steven Sheehy, Kevin McKereghan, Jon Johannsen, Dave Haupt, Alan DeMartini, Frank Lospalluto, Bob Hunter, and myself. Hope to see more participants next year. It’s such an expansive area with many surprises at this time of year. Happy New Year!

Klamath Falls CBC, December 17

The Klamath Falls CBC tallied 102 species on December 17th. Unusual species either for the count, or for winter season included: GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE- 1, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD - 1, Cackling Goose-2, Wood Duck - 1, Black Phoebe -2, which seems to be year round now, but in reduced winter time numbers, Clark’s Grebe-1, Double-crested Cormorant -2, Least Sandpiper -4, Yellow-rumped Warbler- 4, Peregrine Falcon- 1, and a Pink-sided Junco. Count Week Birds were: Rock Wren, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

The area was covered by 6 teams numbering 10 people: Dave Hewitt, Dave Haupt, Wes Stone, BJ and Andy Matzen, Mary Ellen Sargent, Sherry Lindley, Julie Van Moorhem, Howard West, and myself. Applause goes to all of those brave birders embarked out early during those frigid first few hours, and feeder watchers: Lois Phillips, John Fortune, and Kathryn Halmos. Thanks!

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Board Members Needed

Our board is looking for a new board member to replace Ron Cole. Ron was a great help to the board in the past few months as we worked to create our comments for the CCP. We thank him for his time and knowledge while on our board. If you are interested in being a board member or want to know more about it, please contact Beth Phillips 530-908-3412 or one of our board. Our board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Chamber of Commerce in their conference room from 3-5 P.M. We are also looking to fill the Education chair which has been empty for a while. Since our group is involved in several community activities, an Education chair would be a big boost.
Upcoming Programs
By Rick Hardy, Programs Chairman

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

Bob Frey, Klamath Bird Observatory, March 9

As Klamath Bird Observatory’s Banding Program Coordinator, Bob Frey manages a network of long-term monitoring stations and our bird banding training program. Bob joined KBO in 2003 as a Staff Biologist. He has banded 100,000+ birds and trained bird banders throughout the Americas since 1993. Bob graduated from Humboldt State University with a BSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation. He has served as Training Committee Chair for the North American Banding Council, developing bander certification testing materials and a songbird banding curriculum.

Why We Band Birds

The presentation will explain what bird banding is, how it is done, and why it is done. People may question why it is necessary to capture wild birds - the answer is that there is so much that we learn about these birds in the hand that is otherwise unavailable to science. From population demographics, full life cycle monitoring, and habitat use ... to education, genetics study, and wildlife disease surveillance, banding is at the fore of conservation science. We will look at Klamath Bird Observatory’s long-term monitoring banding efforts and bander training in the Klamath Basin and beyond, including some surprising species that have shown up in our nets.

Scott Grants - Deadline January 31
By Jim Rooks, Grant Review

The process for awarding Scott Grants is coming to a completion for this year. January 31 is the deadline with 15 applications in at this time. Most of the monies are applied to funding outdoor schools including KOSS, OMSI Outdoor School and Shady Creek Outdoor School in CA. Other uses of grant money included the building and placing of bird houses and feeders.

The funding of the KBAS/Scott School Grant Program is a key part of our chapter’s outreach to provide an opportunity for our youth to experience and appreciate our region’s wildlife, focusing on birds and other natural resources. Quoting two recent grant applicants “Each year, you offer this grant. Each year, it presents one of the best opportunities the teachers can have for providing their students with projects, activities, and in our case, field trips, that we otherwise could not afford. We appreciate you; and, want you to know, it does make a difference for our kids.”
Birding Weekend with Noah Strycker
at PLAYA March 24-26, 2017

Spend three days and two nights exploring the Summer Lake Basin with renowned birder, Noah Strycker. Stay in your own luxurious cabin at PLAYA, overlooking Summer Lake. Watch birds, have fun, and hone your identification skills with three days of bird walks in Summer Lake and lively presentations led by world birding expert Noah Strycker. Noah will help participants learn where and how to look for different species of birds, and how to identify species by sight and sound. Call 541-943-3983 for pricing and to reserve your space. **Space is limited. Includes two nights lodging, meals and field workshop.**

Noah Stryker is Associate Editor of Birding magazine, author of *Among Penguins* (2011), *The Thing With Feathers* (2014), and an upcoming book about his record-breaking 2015 world **Big Year** (2017). He is a regular contributor to bird magazines, a popular speaker and blogger, and a naturalist guide for expedition cruises to Antarctica and the Arctic. Based in Oregon, he has studied birds on all seven continents, and in 2015 set a world **Big Year** record. Visit his website at [www.noahstrycker.com](http://www.noahstrycker.com).

$985.00 Single Occupancy or $1870.00 For two
Select option below.

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**TRUMPETINGS**

*Voice of the Trumpeter Swan Society*

12615 Rockford Rd., Plymouth, MN 55441-1248

715-441-1994

[www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org)

[trss@trumpeterswansociety.org](mailto:trss@trumpeterswansociety.org)

Since 1968: Assuring the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans

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**The Trumpeter Swans arriving at Judson Lake needed help and you made a difference!**

If you receive *Enews*, you learned the Trumpeter Swans that are arriving to winter at Judson Lake, MN urgently need help. Judson Lake is a known source of lead poisoning.

An “exclusion zone” of biodegradable poles was installed in 2009, but is now in need of replacement ASAP.

While maintenance has been performed each year in the exclusion area, many of the remaining poles are rotten or broken and the original triangular grid has been lost. Initially, the exclusion zone resulted in a 62% reduction in lead-caused swan deaths compared to the previous 5-year average from 2001-2006. However, the last two winters have seen an unusually high number of swan deaths in the region of Sumas Prairie, Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties. Is this troubling increase due to the deterioration of the exclusion zone, or is there a new source of lead pellets in the region that swans are ingesting? That’s what our members are helping to find out, thanks to your generous donations to “Buy a Pole.”

With new poles and a reconstructed exclusion zone, plus monitoring by webcam of swans using the lake, we will learn how successful the repaired exclusion zone is in keeping swans away from the lead “hot zone.” By continuing to monitor this winter’s swan deaths, we may discover if there may be another source of lead poisoning. Thanks to your generosity and the generosity of our partners, 2,400 poles at Judson Lake are being replaced before the swans arrive this winter season. If you would like to help the swans at Judson Lake, you can donate online ([www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org)) to make a donation to help monitor and maintain the exclusion zone.
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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

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
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 Thursday of the Month  
Time 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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

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 March 9. See page 6. No meeting in February.

Website: www.klamathaudubon.org  
KBAS e-mail address: klamathauduboninfo@gmail.com