President’s Message  
By Darrel Samuels

As you might imagine, life at the Samuels’s house is dominated by the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Winter Wings Festival. Diana and Anne have devoted a few thousand hours (and a few sleepless nights) working to coordinate one of the consistently best birding festivals in the country. Of course, it is the labor of over 125 volunteers working together that produce the four day event, but I continually marvel at the scores of decisions and details that these two ladies deal with in their preparation that began nearly a year ago.

The headliners for this year’s Festival are an impressive trio. George Lepp returns after several years to wow us with his superlative photos and engaging presentation. Pepper Trail, recently featured in Audubon magazine, also returns to share stories in the field of forensic wildlife investigation. And Julie Zickefoose makes her first appearance at the Festival to share her engaging observations on the lives of birds. I can’t wait to hear their talks!

I would like to thank all of you who have volunteered to make this event a success. I believe we produce the largest all volunteer festival in the country (Try to prove me wrong!). Klamath Falls does have a “can do” spirit and nowhere is it more evident than at Winter Wings. The stage is set and the curtain is about to open, so make...
sure you have a ticket! There are still a few volunteer opportunities available and spaces in the workshops and field trips, so don’t forget to register.

Lastly, a special thank you goes to Marshal Moser, our Conservation chair, for his work in spearheading the “Birds of the Winter Wings” weekly feature in the Herald and News. Those articles should spark more community interest in the birding treasure we have in the Basin. See you at WWF!

In Memorium: John Federhart

We note with sadness that one of our longstanding KBAS members, John Federhart, passed away in his Keno home on Dec. 18. He was predeceased by his wife of 38 years, Peggy. Until the last few years John and Peggy were regular attendees at our monthly meetings and active within our chapter. Here is the obituary published Dec. 21, 2018, in the Herald and News:

John Albert Federhart, 86, of Klamath Falls, Ore., and Ophelia, Va., died Dec. 18, 2018, at his home in Keno, Ore. A gifted wildlife artist known for paintings with carved ducks and geese attached, he enjoyed the outdoors in every way. He flew and owned many airplanes his entire life, creating the Federhart-Ophelia Airstrip on the farm he purchased in 1966.

He is predeceased by his wife of 38 years, Margaret (Peggy) Federhart, and survived by his daughter, Margaret Federhart, Boone, N.C.; stepsons, Tupper Hyde, Severna Park, Md., and William Hyde, Seattle, Wash. He will be buried with Peggy in Richmond, Va., in the spring. Memorials are requested to be made to the Audubon Society.
Heidi Anderson

My interest in birding began with my federal career as a backcountry ranger with the National Park Service in Kings Canyon National Park. Spending several seasons in the backcountry, I became attuned to my surroundings including birds, animals, plants and amazing scenery. I have also been fortunate to volunteer on several of the Channel Islands performing restoration projects to improve the habitat for birds and improving conditions for native plants.

Since moving to Klamath Falls two years ago from Ventura, California, I have been amazed on a daily basis at the variety of birds in the local area. One of my favorite activities is photographing birds while hiking in the Klamath Basin and Tule Lake Wildlife Refuge. Presently, I work for the Bureau of Land Management on the Klamath Resource Area as the Outdoor Recreation Planner. Very excited to be a new board member for the KBAS.
Are you ready to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Winter Wings Festival Feb. 14-17th? We have some great keynoters and a wonderful group of leaders and presenters sharing their birding and photography skills. So far about 375 have registered as of 1/21/2019, a bit behind last year’s registrations at this time. Several activities have openings, particularly on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 14th and 16th. Tule Lake NWR has a good number of waterfowl and Bald Eagles. Our area raptor route scouts report really good numbers and diversity of raptors. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the government shutdown is over by mid-February and no adjustments are needed to the program. We would like to see all KBAS members come out and support the festival by attending an activity or volunteering.

**Varied Thrush theme**

Our 2019 featured bird, the Varied Thrush, was originally created by local artist Myra Sche on one of the pelicans at Discover Klamath. She subsequently did a painting of the bird for Winter Wings that was photographed by
Steve Spencer and used by Leigh Ann Vradenburg for our promotional materials and the t-shirt design below. T-shirts will be available for purchase at the KBAS sales table in limited sizes/styles.

At the Sip and Paint at the Favell Museum workshop on Friday from 4-6 pm you can draw a Varied Thrush. Basin youth were challenged to draw a Songbird of the Cascades for the 2019 Children’s Art Contest and their entries will be on display at the Festival on Friday - Saturday. See the bird, paint the bird, and take home a souvenir t-shirt. Our bags and pens this year will also feature orange and black color theme.

KBAS Sales Table

We are expanding the KBAS sales table this year to include more consigned items. We have new puzzle vendors, bird house vendors, and animal puppet vendors. We have ordered more plastic coated ID guides on waterfowl and raptors will be available at a very reasonable price. We still have a few copies of the Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl autographed by Richard Crossley. In addition, we will have several great donations for silent auction closings: a Vortex spotting scope, the varied thrush painting by Myra, a carrier for camera gear, to name a few. Please stop by the sales table often and make your bids.

Photo Contest

**Welcome Meet and Greet**

Please consider dropping by the Waffle Hut bar area on Wednesday night, Feb. 13th from 6-8 pm. Meet visitors from out of the area and welcome them to the festival.

**Potatoes are Back!**

Staunton Farms is once again donating bags of organic potatoes to Winter Wings registrants. Quantities are limited so make sure you register and drop by early to get yours.
The Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) is probably the most recognizable and charismatic bird in the United States. Not only our national emblem and a sacred bird to native tribes, the Bald Eagle is also a spectacular example of wildlife conservation efforts. Due to trapping, shooting, poisoning, and reproductive failure primarily due to DDT, their numbers were reduced to fewer than 500 nesting pairs in the 1970’s. In 1978 the species was listed under the Endangered Species Act. The first Bald Eagle Conference was held in Klamath Falls in 1980 where researchers and professionals worked to find solutions to the eagle’s dwindling numbers. The nearby Bear Valley contained hundreds of roosting Bald Eagles and in 1978 was designated the Bear Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Gradually their numbers increased and in 2007 they were removed from the Endangered Species list. Current estimates are that nearly 10,000 pairs can be found throughout North America. The Bald Eagle Conference continued until 2005 when it was expanded and renamed the Winter Wings Festival.

The Klamath Basin is home to the largest concentration of wintering Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states. Many follow the ducks, geese, and swans that funnel through the Basin on their annual migration. While Bald Eagles are not at all picky about their food, they concentrate on waterfowl as a mainstay of their winter diet. Weak, sick, or injured ducks and geese are preferred prey, but eagles will also take small mammals and fish where there is open water. I once counted 65 Bald Eagles in a flooded field on Stateline Road feasting on voles and mice that had been flushed from their burrows. They will also scavenge and steal food from other birds, notably fish from Ospreys. Ben Franklin despised that aspect of the national bird’s behavior, and wrote, “I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly…”

Bald Eagles are long lived: a lifespan of 20-25 years is typical and the record for a wild bird is 38 years. Males weigh 8-10 pounds while females are larger at 10-14 pounds. The characteristic white head and tail feathers and yellow beak do not fully develop until at least 4 and as late as 6 years. From a distance juvenile Bald Eagles are sometimes confused with Golden Eagles. Distinguishing characteristics include a larger beak in relation to head and white mottling under the wings for the Bald and fully feathered legs on the Golden. The preferred habitat for the Golden Eagle is dry open grassland and rocky cliffs while Bald Eagles frequent forests near open water.

Bald Eagles mate for life, often returning to the same nest year after year. They lay 1-3 eggs which hatch in about 35 days. Young eagles take their first flight in 10-12 weeks. Current threats to their population include lead poisoning, collisions with motor vehicles and wind turbines and loss of nesting and roosting habitat. It is estimated that 247 Bald Eagles died from oil exposure from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Birds of the Winter Wing Festival (WWF) is a weekly article about birds that have been observed during the 39 years of the festival, held each year at the time of Presidents Day Weekend in February. The 40th WWF is produced by the Klamath Basin Audubon Society and will take place in Klamath Falls at OIT, February 14-17, 2019. [http://winterwingsfest.org/](http://winterwingsfest.org/)
Scott Education Grant Update
Jim Rooks, Scott Grant Review Coordinator

The Scott Educational Grant application process is expected to increase in activity during the next few weeks leading up to the deadline on January 31. Based on feedback from local elementary teachers, the next few weeks should be busy. After the deadline, the board looks at a summary of the applications and decides if each meets the criteria for acceptance. Recipients are notified by February 15. The other grant program supported by our Chapter offers grants of up to $2,000 to support local individuals or nonprofit groups that are working on projects that further the mission of the Society, namely, providing opportunity for all to experience and appreciate our region’s wildlife, focusing on birds and other natural resources. Presently, there are no grant applications under consideration by the board.
Grab your binoculars and join the 16th annual **Olympic BirdFest 2019** celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 12-14, 2019.

The stage is set…quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready …Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tour, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker this year, John Marzluff, is a professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington and a noted author.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula …you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online ([www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)).

Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular **San Juan Islands** on April 9-11, 2019. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort.

Extend your Birdfest weekend with the **Neah Bay post-trip**, April 14-16, 2019: two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders.

**Contact us by phone,** at 360-681-4076
**E-mail us at** info@olympicbirdfest.org
**Or write to us at:**

Dungeness River Audubon Center
P.O. Box 2450
Sequim, WA 98382
UPCOMING PROGRAMS
NOTE: Due to the Winter Wings festival in February, there will be no general meeting for this month.

FIELD TRIP: Ground Hog Day: Swan Watching field trip!
Saturday, February 2, 2019, let’s meet at the US Fish and Wildlife Service Office parking area (California Streets in Klamath Falls) at 8 AM for an auto tour down to Tule Lake. The carpooling tour will last until noon. The plan is to search for flocks of overwintering Tundra Swans and Snow Geese. This has been an odd year for geese and swans in Klamath Basin. They are more scattered out with some concentrating south of Tule Lake. The agricultural fields along Highway 140 from Lake Shore Drive to Howard Bay have not been flooded. So, let’s go searching for overwintering birds as precursor for the Winter Wings Festival. Our final stop will be Petroglyphs Point – a place I saw a ground hog (Yellow-bellied marmot) a few winters ago on Ground Hogs Day. Contact Gary Vequist for more information.

March 12, 2019
Presenter: Christine Beekman, Interpretative Specialist, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Join us in March to learn about the vast area of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Some of you may not remember what the monument is, where it is, what there is to see and do. “The Monument is a very large area of forest, woodlands, grasslands, wet meadows and interior desert. It is an ecological rarity as the only national monument set aside specially for its biodiversity. “ (Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument).
(Note: Due to the current government shutdown, information from Christine is not yet available but we hope for an update before our program. Watch for an email).
April 9, 2019

January Bill will present a program about the Duck Hospital that was set up last summer and early fall at Lower Klamath to take care of hundreds of water birds that were sick. She will talk about what they did, why the birds were sick and how they helped them and what we can do if needed in the future.

May 14, 2019

Martyn Kenefick from the Naturalist Journey will present a program about the wonderful birds in Trinidad and Tobago.
We had a great turn out in December for our holiday potluck with many delicious side dishes, wonderful ham provided by Emily Strauss and barbequed turkey breast cooked by Darrel Samuels and lots of yummy desserts. Following our dinner, Joe Liebezeit from the Audubon Society of Portland, presented a program on Bird conservation on the Oregon Coast. Joe sends out emails to Audubon societies in Oregon when there is concern for an issue involving habitat problems, or threat to species along the coast. KBAS signs on to many of these letters of support. Being so far away from the ocean, those of us that live inland, it’s helpful to have a refresher on just what is going on with fish, bird and plants along coast.

Joe talked about five reserves along the coast that Portland monitors and helps out with surveys. These reserves are very different in habitat from fish, to tide pools, seals, kelp beds and sea weed. The reserves are: Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua, and Redfish Rocks. You may have visited one or more of these reserves, if not sounds like a good idea for a spring or summer trip.

In January, we were fortunate to have Katrina Smith give a program about bats at the Lava Beds. With the government shutdown she wasn’t able to use her work computer but pulled together a very informative presentation. At the Lava Beds they are currently working in 322 caves and can only enter each of them one time per year. That is a short time to collect data. Hibernating bats likes temperatures like almost freezing, but not quite and they like to cluster which makes it impossible to count them in the dark caves. For non- hibernating bats they use an acoustic bat monitoring system they place out in a field. They can tell by listening which bats are flying by. That sounds amazing! She can use our help if you are interested, in counting bats or watching a monitor. You may contact her at: katrina_j.smith@nps.gov. (no response until government is open) Call or email me if you want her phone number. Also with this program, Tom Essex, our vice president, brought a very large bat house to demonstrate what bats really want in a home. It had room for 300 bats to hibernate and raise their young. Tom told us how to hang a bat house, where to hang it and what direction, all the best information. Thank you to Joe, Katrina and Tom for these great programs.

Self-guided Field Trip
Klamath Falls Link River
by Gary Vequist

Freezing winter weather has resulted in a decline in open water across Klamath Basin. As the chill of winter freezes over lakes, ducks flock to open water stretches on area rivers. Common and Hooded Mergansers are certainly concentrated now in streams and lakes of Klamath County. Yet, ask any resident on the streets of Klamath Falls: What is a merganser? They would likely shrug their shoulders. Even now in January, male hooded mergansers are flashing the white-feathered cap in advance of the breeding season.

Birdwatching even in winter is an enjoyable outdoor activity. The Link River Trail is an excellent place to hike and look for birds. So, I suggest get with friends and any would be bird watchers; and take a walk along the Link River. Start downtown at Veterans Park and scope the many birds next the boat ramp. On New Year’s Day, large numbers of diving ducks including buffleheads, goldeneye and hooded mergansers were observed lingering at the mouth of the Link River. So, make a new year resolution to go on a self-guided bird walk - a cure for winter cabin fever.
Bird watchers do not need a bird guide to find common mergansers since they are common year-round residents of the Klamath River and its tributaries. Mergansers are piscivorous (fish-eaters) that dive completely underwater for their fishy prey. Common mergansers streamlined shape and distinctive slender serrated bill with toothlike points is good for catching slippery fish. They drift through rapids into clear pools putting their face underwater looking for fishy prey. Go watch!

**KBAS Book Sales at WWF**

We're looking for anyone who has nature related non-fiction books to donate to our Used Book Sale at the KBAS sales table for WWF. One book or a 100, we can use them all! If you need to have someone pick up books, contact Mary Ellen Sargent, 541-363-2976, leave a message and I'll get back to you. Alternatively, you can give books to one of the Board or Committee members listed in the back of the Grebe. We'll be accepting books at the KBAS sales table on Thursday, Feb. 14th also.

**Poetry of Birds**

The House Sparrow  
(*passer domesticus*)  
Emily Strauss

i.  
they roost, always near us  
in barns, stables, storehouses  
electric boxes  
entwined with our lives  
constant little brown birds  
fighting at the feeder.

ii.  
introduced in Central Park  
from Europe in 1851  
a gesture of nostalgia  
for a familiar figure  
along with the starling  
effervescent black sprite,  
both now ubiquitous.

iii.  
old world songbird  
takes dust baths  
has its own pecking order  
like barnyard chickens,  
our most visible town caller  
littering branches, fences  
ditches, flying mice in drab.

iv.  
dumb little birds, eat anything  
pick our garbage anonymously  
they ignore our antics, edify  
parks and alleys.  
In China not a single one left—  
a billion people at Mao's command  
crushed them all  
for stealing  
precious grains of rice.

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.
World Migratory Bird Day is undergoing a molt and will be fresh and new at Veteran’s Park on May 18, 2019. The US Fish and Wildlife Service met with the KBAS board at the November 7th meeting to discuss a renewed vision of experiential education and partnership. Leigh Ann Vradenburg, the new coordinator for WMBD, explained how the event will be remodeled to better serve the educational objectives of the USFWS and to provide a greater service to the youth and families of Klamath Falls. The vision for Klamath Falls WMBD is a family-focused event that features high-quality, experiential education to celebrate and explore the unique features of our national wildlife refuges and other public lands for meeting the needs of migratory birds. The Refuge, KBAS, and participating partners will bring activities that are accessible, novel, and directly related to increasing participants’ understanding of birds and their habitats.

Leigh Ann, and John Fitzroy, Visitor Services Manager for the Klamath Basin Refuges, invited KBAS to co-sponsor the event, bringing energy, ideas, and local birding knowledge to the planning team. "The partnership between KBAS and the USFWS is a natural fit for this event, and it will serve to make it more relevant and locally driven," Leigh Ann explained to the board. Over the next few months, she will work with KBAS and other partners from around the Basin and beyond to plan a special anniversary celebration of wetlands and migratory birds. If you have any questions or comments, you can reach Leigh Ann at kfallswmbd@gmail.com. For more information: https://www.migratorybirdday.org/

### ABOUT WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

**What is it?**

In 1993, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center created International Migratory Bird Day. This educational campaign focused on the Western Hemisphere and celebrates its 25th year in 2018. Since 2007, IMBD has been coordinated by Environment for the Americas (EFTA), a non-profit organization that strives to connect people to bird conservation.

In 2018, EFTA joins the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) to create a single, global bird conservation education campaign, World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD). Continuing our tradition with IMBD, WMBC celebrates and brings attention to one of the most important and spectacular events in the Americas – bird migration.

EFTA will continue to coordinate events, programs, and activities in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean at protected areas, refuges, parks, museums, schools, zoos, and more. As many as 700 events and programs are hosted annually to introduce the public to migratory birds and ways to conserve them.

**When is it?**

WMBD officially takes place the second Saturday in May for the U.S. and Canada, and in October for Mexico, Central/South America, and the Caribbean. But we recognize this date doesn’t work well for all bird events, bird festival organizers, or for migratory birds themselves. Birds don’t migrate on the same day. We remedied this problem by removing the month and day from our bird education and festival materials, leaving only the year. Now, every day is Bird Day and WMBD is celebrated year-round!

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) was created in 1993 by visionaries at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. From 1995 to 2006, the program was under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Because of its consistent growth, these organizations sought a new home for the program. In 2007, IMBD found its “forever home” at Environment for the Americas (EFTA), a non-profit organization that connects people to bird conservation through education and research.
**History**

Over the years, EFTA has made changes and improvements to International Migratory Bird Day. We developed the concept of a single conservation theme to help highlight one topic that is important to migratory bird conservation. Over the years, these educational campaigns have been integrated into numerous programs and events, focusing on topics including the habitats birds need to survive, birds and the ecosystem services they provide, the impacts of climate change on birds, and the laws, acts, and conventions that protect birds, such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Convention on Biodiversity.

We also removed a specific date from the event. Once celebrated only on the second Saturday in May, we recognize that migratory birds leave and arrive at breeding and non-breeding states at different times, depending on many factors. They also stop at different sites across the Western Hemisphere to rest and refuel, providing opportunities to engage the public in learning about birds and their conservation. Today, we maintain traditional event dates on the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October, while encouraging organizations and groups to host their activities when migratory birds are present.

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**MEMBERSHIP NEWS,** Myki Spindle

KBAS currently has 57 local chapter memberships - 32 of these are individual memberships and 25 are family memberships. In addition, there are 93 National Audubon memberships assigned to our local chapter - 85 of these are individual memberships and 8 are family memberships. The total number of memberships is 150. (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 thirteen 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!**

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<tr>
<th>New Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sheila Martin</td>
<td>Glenn &amp; Jesse Justus</td>
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<td>Kay Parrish &amp; Bill Overman</td>
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<td>David &amp; Carol Rugg</td>
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<td>Emily Strauss</td>
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![Image of birds resting on a perch.](image-url)
## Klamath Basin Audubon Society Officers and Board Members 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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## Klamath Basin Audubon Society Committee Chairs

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## 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
February - March, 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