

# Klamath Bird Observatory



Advancing bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships

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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

### **Bird Populations Depend on Private Lands**

A new national report released on Tuesday by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (access the full report at [www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org)), and contributed to by local science-based non-profit Klamath Bird Observatory, highlights the considerable extent to which native bird populations in the United States depend on private lands. Significantly, the *2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands* also demonstrates that conservation action on private lands is not just for the birds; landowners and the general public benefit from conservation actions that result in cleaner air and water and more resilient and productive landscapes.

Throughout our nation, some two million ranchers and farmers and about 10 million woodland owners look after 1.43 billion acres, or roughly 60% of the land area of the United States. These private lands support more than 300 forest-breeding bird species, and several grassland birds have more than 90% of their distribution on private lands. Waterfowl also depend heavily on private lands. Innovative conservation partnerships are changing the face of private lands conservation as private landowners see real benefits and neighbors follow suit through so-called “contagious conservation.” In our own backyard, Klamath Bird Observatory is partnering with Lomakatsi Restoration Project, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and private landowners, and using birds to guide restoration on 2,000 acres of private oak woodlands in southern Oregon and northern California. This unique collaboration—the Central Umpqua-Mid Klamath Oak Conservation Project—received the 2012 Department of Interior Partners in Conservation Award and is restoring one of the West Coast’s most imperiled and biologically rich habitats, benefiting Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Klamath Bird Observatory advances bird and habitat conservation in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion and beyond, and has contributed to the high-profile annual State of the Birds reports since the initial report in 2009. Klamath Bird Observatory believes that bird conservation is relevant to every American because the same landscapes that support diverse and abundant bird communities also provide vital services to humans.

Staff from Klamath Bird Observatory and Lomakatsi Restoration Project will discuss the *2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands* on Jefferson Public Radio’s news and information program Jefferson Exchange on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am until 10:00am. Tune-in to learn more about what birds tell us about the state of the environment; how these local organizations are working with private landowners to provide benefits for landowners, wildlife, and society; and how America’s famous land ethic—articulated by Aldo Leopold—is being realized.

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Klamath Bird Observatory's work focuses in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of southern Oregon and northern California, and extends throughout the western United States and beyond to impact conservation across the Americas. Sound science, with an emphasis on bird monitoring and applied research, forms the core of our programs. Central to our approach are collaborations among scientists, decision makers, and educators that enhance the use of bird monitoring within the adaptive management framework by assuring scientific results target and inform the specific decisions natural resource managers face. Also, recognizing that conservation occurs across many fronts, we nurture an environmental ethic in our communities and the next generation through our outreach activities and educational programs. Learn more on our website, [www.klamathbird.org](http://www.klamathbird.org).