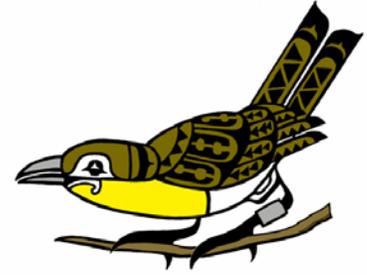


The Klamath Bird

Newsletter of the Klamath Bird Observatory, Spring 2007



Our History Continues—KBO Soars

John Alexander, KBO Executive Director

In the last two editions of *The Klamath Bird* I have chronicled our history as an organization. Reminiscing about the partnerships and projects that have made KBO a successful and nationally recognized scientific and educational institution has reaffirmed my belief in and commitment to our approach to bird and habitat conservation. With that, I share our third installment in this series of articles, focusing on the future of KBO, which lies in the hands of our current staff, a group of dedicated science and education specialists.

Jaime Stephens came to KBO in 2002 as a graduate student at Southern Oregon University, working on a Masters thesis studying birds to inform timber industry efforts for wildlife-friendly management practices. Now Jaime directs KBO's extensive monitoring and research of the restoration of habitats and bird communities associated with historic fire regimes. As the chair of the Oregon-Washington chapter of Partners in Flight, Jaime advances our efforts to use science to integrate bird conservation and land management at regional and national levels. Jaime is also taking the lead in KBO's efforts to develop a coordinated monitoring program for aquatic birds, while also working with the National Park Service to design a long-term monitoring program for the Klamath Inventory and Monitoring Network.

Bob Frey joined KBO in 2003 after working with our close partner, US Forest Service Redwood Sciences Laboratory. Bob runs KBO's long-term monitoring efforts by maintain-

ing our extensive regional network of constant-effort mist-netting stations where we collect data that will aid efforts directed at declines in bird populations. Bob also leads our banding intern training program and continues to provide practical experience to students from throughout the Americas. As co-chair of the North American Banding Council Education and Training Committee, Bob advances bird banding ethics and skills across the continent.

Keith Larson first started working with KBO in 2002 and joined the staff full-time in 2006. Prior to that after holding positions with the Long Point Bird Observatory and Hawk Watch International. Keith is working on a series of projects in cooperation with the Canada Wildlife Service. This winter Keith sampled isotopes from bird feathers throughout Mexico, which will help us learn about birds on their wintering grounds that we monitor in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion during migration. Finally, Keith is helping KBO and the Redwood Sciences Laboratory initiate our node of the Avian Knowledge Network, as well as developing tools to help the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network cooperators analyze bird banding data.

Ashley Dayer joined the staff in 2006, bringing social science expertise to the organization, as well as bird-focused education experience from Hawaii and the Oregon coast. In just a year Ashley has increased the number of education internships offered to masters students. Our education programs are reaching more and more students within southern Oregon and northern California, and the scope of our community

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programs is growing rapidly. Ashley is also helping KBO package our scientific results into formats that aid land managers in protecting bird populations and habitats. Additionally, Ashley is taking a lead in regional and national environmental education efforts.

Lisa Buttrey also joined KBO in 2006 and as Administrative Assistant is helping our staff with our many projects. A person with many talents, Lisa aids us in better communication with our members and partners, management of everyday operations, and increased efficiency of all of our activities.

With the support from this wonderful and dedicated staff, I continue to work with partners to assure that science-based information gets into the hands of people who can make conservation happen on the ground. I serve on several regional and national committees, injecting KBO's science into the conservation planning and implementation process and keeping KBO efforts in line with the priorities and objectives of the greater bird conservation community. Best of all, I am working on a daily basis with an incredibly talented team of people on an exciting and important array of science and education projects.

El Dia Grande 2007 in Costa Rica

Ian Ausprey & Cara Lovell, KBO Tortuguero Interns

In January, two of KBO's 2006 banding interns headed to Tortuguero, Costa Rica to volunteer with KBO and Redwood Science Laboratory's Tortuguero Integrated Bird Monitoring Project. This project is a long-term monitoring study of neotropical migrant and resident landbirds with the collaboration of Costa Ricans to further the knowledge and understanding of Costa Rican birds.

A big day in Tortuguero, Costa Rica is a bit different than the typical North American Bird-a-Thon. For one thing, you zip around in boats or boots, not cars, because the region is accessible only by canals and rivers. And then, birds like toucans, tityras, trogons, oropendolas, Boat-billed Herons, and White-necked Jacobins are nothing unusual—still special, but not unusual.

El Dia Grande 2007 of the Tortuguero Integrated Bird Monitoring Project had great help spotting the 116 species on the list in the caños in and around Tortuguero National Park. Local guide Darryl Loth and long-time Tortuguero bander Dan Van Den Broek led a group from Portland (Oregon) Audubon Society, and members of Global Vision International kept their eyes out for any local rarities near the Caño Palma Biological Station.

With all forces combined, we managed to see many of the local stars, along with life birds for everyone! As for us, we found a pair of Blue Dacnis and came upon a couple Red-

throated Ant-Tanagers lurking on the forest floor of the park. We were able to enjoy some of the antics of the tropical birds as well. We were lured in by the raucous calls of Purple-throated Fruitcrows, and were able to watch them display their red throats. Earlier, Masked Tityras skirmished with a Social Flycatcher near their nest. We also watched several male manakins lekking, hopping inordinate distances with a sharp snap of the wings. The White-collared Manakins danced in tiny, cleared lekking areas on the forest floor, while the Red-capped Manakins jumped between branches.

It would not be a day in Tortuguero without boats, rain, friends, and loads of birds, and we felt fortunate to have all of these for the Dia Grande 2007. See the full trip report at: www.klamathbird.org/Projects/CRT07Acc.htm Please support our efforts to conserve songbirds in Costa Rica by making a donation at www.KlamathBird.org/bat.htm



White-collared Manakin
Photo: KBO file

KBO Members Assist with Bird Conservation on Midway Atoll

Nat Seavy, KBO Associate

This spring, I had the opportunity to travel to Midway National Wildlife Refuge to serve as volunteer for the Fish and Wildlife Service. On the four and a half hour flight from Honolulu I began chatting with Dave Potter, another volunteer. It didn't take long to figure out that we shared a connection to KBO: I had done my dissertation work with KBO, and Dave, who lives in Klamath Falls, had volunteered for KBO leading bird hikes during Klamath Falls International Migratory Bird Days.

Midway Atoll is a remote set of islands in the middle of the Pacific. It is home to some of the largest breeding colonies of Laysan and Black-footed Albatross in the world. It also is home to a number of endangered species, including Hawaiian monk seals and Laysan Ducks. A breeding population of Laysan Ducks, America's rarest waterfowl, was translocated from nearby Laysan Island in 2004. They have been breeding successfully on Midway, and the population is now about



Nat Seavy (left) and Dave Potter at Midway National Wildlife Refuge (Hawaii)

100 individuals.

While on Midway, we worked on a variety of projects, including habitat restoration, monitoring of Laysan and Black-footed Albatross reproduction, radio-tracking Laysan Ducks, and maintenance of the field facilities. We also participated in a visit to the refuge by First Lady Laura Bush and the Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorn.

Perhaps one of the most exciting moments was the opportunity to stand in one spot and observe all three species of north Pacific albatross: Laysan, Black-footed, and the extremely rare Short-tailed Albatross. As Dave summed up the experience "What a major coincidence and fun time crossing paths with Nat and then being assigned to the same house on Midway for five weeks. KBO was well-represented in the middle of the Pacific Ocean"

To learn more about bird conservation at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, visit: www.fws.gov/midway

Education

Riparian Outdoor School: Partnering to Teach about Bear Creek

Emily Molter, KBO Wildlife Education Specialist

This April and May KBO hosted Riparian Outdoor School for Medford and Ashland schools at the Willow Wind Community Learning Center. Through a partnership with Jefferson Nature Center, Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Bear Creek Watershed Education Partners, Healthy Waters Institute, and Bear Creek Watershed Council, over three hundred students learned about the importance of riparian areas. The goal of the program is to increase students' knowledge about riparian areas and watersheds with the vision that they will become water stewards and protect our riparian areas.

Ask any of the students who participated to define a riparian area and discuss why they are important. You will quickly learn that riparian areas are the lush swaths along creeks, rivers, and lakes. Riparian areas provide food, nesting sites, cover, and migration corridors for wildlife that inhabit the area. Riparian areas are crucial to bird conservation because they provide the highest diversity and productivity of landbirds of any terrestrial habitat type in the western United States. Additionally, riparian areas provide riverbank protection, erosion control and

improved water quality important for fish habitat, as well as numerous recreational and aesthetic values.

During Riparian Outdoor School students participated in six field stations. They learned about data collection and observation while mist netting riparian birds. Sampling aquatic life and conducting water tests, they monitored water quality. They explored local riparian bird species and habitat needs and common riparian mammals using binoculars, field guides, and skulls. Grinding acorns, students learned about cultural history and native plant uses. With large watershed maps, students gained skills in mapping and understanding topography. Students left with a full understanding of this habitat thanks to the expertise of all of the partnering organizations!



Students test the turbidity of Bear Creek Photo: Ashley Dayer, KBO

Students Restore Habitat and Monitor Birds

Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director

Braving rain, sleet, snow, and mud, 100 5th grade students from Wilson Elementary and Orchard Hills Elementary contributed to the restoration of wetland habitat on private lands and learned about bird monitoring of such restoration efforts. The first week in May students planted 3,500 willow cuttings at Willow Witt Ranch near Grizzly Peak (Ashland, Oregon) and then conducted a bird survey. Willow Witt Ranch is a 440 acre goat ranch owned by KBO members Suzanne Willow and Lanita Witt.

Willow shoots for plantings were harvested earlier from existing willows on the land. The willow cuttings were stored in the barns and kept dormant until the planting week. Students first prepared the willows by macerating the end to encourage root growth. They then scalped out multiple planting sites along the stream bank. Using rebar to create holes in groups of five, willow shoots were placed a foot deep in the mud.

To begin their bird monitoring exercise, the students assessed the offerings of the conifer forest and wetland habitat for birds and then conducted a bird survey. Bird species highlights included Red-tailed Hawk, Mountain Quail, Tree Swallows, and Western Bluebirds. Mountain Chickadees establishing a nest in a hole in a snag were watched closely through many pairs of binoculars. Signs

of an active Red-breasted Sapsucker were noted in woodpecker holes on the tree trunk aligned in neat rows.



A Wilson Elementary student records bird monitoring data with Education and Outreach Director Ashley Dayer Photo: Rory Finney

A visit to the ranch

would not be complete without a tour of the barns. The students learned about the sustainable agriculture practices undertaken at the ranch. Baby goats nibbled on their fingers, and the chickens' boxes were checked for eggs.

To learn more about Willow Witt Ranch, visit www.willowwitranch.com. Join Klamath Bird Observatory on a bird walk on the ranch on July 7th, leaving from Northwest Nature Shop at 8am.

Bird Conservation through Education

Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director

KBO recently participated in *Bird Conservation Through Education: A National Gathering*. The conference provided a forum for leaders in bird conservation and education to come together to discuss the present and future of bird conservation education on a national scale. The conference, held February 5-8, 2007 in Austin, Texas, drew 155 participants from an unprecedented 106 organizations, making it the largest and most diverse gathering of bird education provider groups in history. The meeting provided a tremendous opportunity for strengthening the network of organizations, programs and individuals involved in bird education. Representatives from federal government agencies, state agencies, large NGOs, and bird observatories, as well as many organizations that operate at the local level, including zoos and nature centers, gathered to exchange ideas and forge new partnerships.

KBO's efforts were highlighted at the conference through three invited presentations. The presentations included a plenary panel on implementing Partners in Flight conservation messages in education programs, a talk on bird banding as a component of KBO's mission-driven education, and a discussion forum on connecting communities with their birding trails and birds through creating K-12 education programs.

Bird Bio: Purple Finch

Emily Molter, KBO Wildlife Education Specialist

The Purple Finch is a sexually dimorphic species with the adult males washed in a rosy color that looks like it has been dipped in raspberry sauce. By contrast, the adult females are quite different, exhibiting a brown, drab color with a white moustache stripe. Young Purple Finches of both sexes resemble adult females. The males do not acquire a colored plumage until their 2nd breeding season. Purple Finches are common across the northern United States, southern and central Canada, and the west coast of North America. The Purple Finch lives primarily in coniferous woods and mixed forests as well as park-like areas.

According to the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Purple Finches have experienced significant declines throughout their range in both the East and West since 1966 when the survey began. Reasons for the declines are unclear but may be partly explained by competition with introduced House Finches, House Sparrows, and other similar species. In aggressive encounters, the House Finch nearly always displaces the Purple Finch.

KBO's regional long-term bird monitoring data also show

To build upon the momentum established during the conference, many participants, including KBO, plan to participate in a national bird education working group to develop a national plan to guide the direction of bird conservation education into the future. Collectively, conference participants passed the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BIRD EDUCATION:

Participants urge that education about birds designed to bring about action to protect and enhance birds and their habitats be supported strongly and that such education be emphasized in the formal school curriculum and given high priority in agency and organization education programs.

RESOLUTION FOR DEVELOPING A BIRD EDUCATION

PLAN: *Participants recommend that a comprehensive plan for education about birds and their conservation be developed, and that this plan set priorities and recommend the most practical and effective strategy for implementing a dynamic program of bird education.*

(Information from [Birds of Oregon](#) edited by D.B. Marshall, M.G. Hunter, & A.L. Contreras; [The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior](#) by D.A. Sibley; [The Birds of North America](#) by G.R. Geupel and G. Ballard)

declines in both breeding and migrating Purple Finch populations of the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion, corroborating the BBS data. Our research efforts have identified oak woodland restoration efforts that benefit Purple

Finches. This information is being used for conservation planning efforts in southern Oregon and northern California that are intended to help managers meet continental and regional conservation objectives to reverse Purple Finch population declines.



Purple Finch
Photo: Jim Livaudais

KBO Calendar—Join KBO for Spring & Summer Events

May 12: International Migratory Bird Day

Ashland. Join KBO and partners in celebrating migratory birds at North Mountain Park from 8am-noon. Take a bird walk and visit KBO's newest ecological monitoring site where we mist net and band birds.

Klamath Falls. Join OSU Extension, KBO, and partners in celebrating migratory birds at Veterans' Park from 9am-3pm. Take a bird walk at a Klamath Basin Birding Trail site, check out live raptors, participate in kids' activities, and watch KBO mistnet and band birds.

Montague, California. Join Klamath National Forest, KBO, and partners for bird watching at Shasta Valley Wildlife Area from 8am to after lunch. For more info, 530-468-1207.

May 19: Tule Lake Migratory Bird Festival

Take a refuge bus tour, airboat ride, or mistnet to see the local birds. Learn to better identify birds of the Basin. Klamath National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center from 8am to 4pm. For more info, 530-667-2231.

June 2-3: Birding by Ear Workshop

Enhance your birding experiences by improving your birding by ear skills with Rogue Valley Audubon Society and KBO at a weekend workshop. Cost \$50, lunch included. For more info, 541-858-7048.

June 9: KBO Birdwalk at Jefferson Nature Center

View songbirds that rely on the Bear Creek Greenway at the future Jefferson Nature Center site. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Dick Ashford. To register, 541-770-1104.

June 22: Nuts & Bolts of Bird Research

Visit KBO's ecological monitoring station at North Mountain Park & observe scientists mistnetting and banding songbirds. Then participate in hands-on activities to learn more about research and conservation. 8:30am-11:30am. To register, 541-488-6606.

July 7: KBO Birdwalk at Willow Witt Ranch

Learn more about birds and habitat restoration on private lands while visiting a hotspot for conifer forest birding. Optional afternoon hike at Grizzly Peak. Meet at 8am at North Mountain Park (Ashland). Leader: Ashley Dayer. To register, 541-482-3241.

July 14: KBO Birdwalk at Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

View over 202 bird species at this area protecting our bioregion's diverse plants and animals. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: KBO Staff. To register, 541-770-1104.

August 4: KBO Birdwalk at Mount Ashland

Explore the highest peak of the Siskiyou. Climbing from the valley to nearly the top of the 7532 foot mountain, visit birding sites at a variety of elevations. Meet at 8am at North Mountain Park (Ashland). Leader: Frank Lospalluto. To register, 541-482-3241.

NOTE: School and community groups are invited to schedule a visit to a KBO Banding Station, a classroom visit, or a KBO presentation. Email KBO@klamathbird.org or call 201-0866, ext 3.

Trivia Corner—Q&A

Emily Molter, KBO Wildlife Education Specialist

Recent studies show that climate change can affect birds by

- A. Shifting their distributions or range
- B. Altering their migration behavior and habitat
- C. Diminishing survivability
- D. All of the above

Source: *The Birdwatcher's Guide to Global Warming* by American Bird Conservancy and National Wildlife Federation

According to a new report published by American Bird Conservancy and National Wildlife Federation, recent studies indicate that climate change could affect birds in many ways including all of those listed. As the climate and weather patterns change over time, many of the songbird species throughout the United States are shifting their ranges and migrating earlier. This phenomenon can make it more difficult for birds to find food and suitable habitat, thus undermining the birds' long-term survival. It is predicted that at least 55 bird species found in Oregon may have a future climatic range that will exclude the state or decrease within the state. This could mean that we will have to travel to another state to see some of our favorite backyard birds like the American Goldfinch.

You can take small steps to help not only birds, but the global environment, by increasing energy efficiency in homes, walking and biking, and landscaping for wildlife.

Partnerships

KBO Summer Camps Coming to ScienceWorks

KBO will be offering two summer camps in partnership with ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum in Ashland.

Radical Raptors (July 9-13) will explore the fascinating world of Birds of Prey. We will learn how to hoot like an owl, tear apart owl pellets and put back together rodent skeletons, and search out raptors in natural areas.

Partners In Flight (July 30-August 3) will answer what can I do to help protect birds? Campers will visit a bird banding station, clean up a local bird habitat, plant native plants, design bird houses, and create bird conservation posters.

To register a young ornithologist (ages 7-10) for summer camp, visit www.scienceworksmuseum.org

Leaders in State, Regional, & National Organizations

KBO proudly announces three new leadership roles for KBO staff and board members. Dick Ashford, KBO Board President, was elected to the prestigious American Birding Association Board of Directors at their annual conference in April. Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director, joined the Board of Directors of the Environmental Education Association of Oregon in April as well. John Alexander, KBO Executive Director, took the lead as President of the Western Bird Banding Association at the end of 2006.

Jim Livaudais: Outstanding Contributor

KBO would like to thank local wildlife photographer Jim Livaudais for his outstanding contribution of thousands of digital photographs of local and international bird species. These photographs will be used by KBO to enhance education and outreach programs. Currently, the photographs are jazzing up our newsletter, the Klamath-Siskiyou eBird pages, flashcards for students learning about local birds, and presentations for community members, scientists, and land managers.

Jim is a KBO member and resident of Medford. He works with the US Army Corps of Engineers. He travels the world in his spare time photographing birds and their amazing behavior in natural settings.



Jim Livaudais's woodpecker photos from Mexico and the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion: Golden-cheeked and Lewis's Woodpeckers

Membership & Contributions

Your contributions help KBO advance bird and habitat conservation. Additionally, we are able to leverage dollars from matching grants and demonstrate public support when applying for new grants. Check out www.KlamathBird.org/donate to see how you can contribute through an in-kind donation, endowment donation, or planned giving.

Name _____

Address _____

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Please select one and make your tax-deductible donation payable to: Klamath Bird Observatory or "KBO"

_____ Regular Annual Membership \$35 _____ Student Membership \$15

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Please contact me with more information regarding planned giving or endowment donations.

Send to KBO, PO Box 758, Ashland, OR 97520

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Lisa Buttrey—*Administrative Assistant*
Ashley Dayer, MS—*Education & Outreach Director*
Bob Frey—*Biologist*
Keith Larson—*Biologist*
Emily Molter—*Wildlife Education Specialist (AmeriCorps)*
Jaime Stephens, MS—*Biologist*

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Amy Busch
Kerissa Fucillo

Field

Amanda Cornell
Christine Roy

Banding

Ana Maria Gonzalez
Chris Samuels
Hernan Arias
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Contribute to the conservation of birds and habitat.

Become a member and your tax-deductible contribution will support KBO's research and education programs. KBO is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

<http://www.klamathbird.org/Join/signup.html>