

The Klamath Bird

Newsletter of the Klamath Bird Observatory, Winter 2008



KBO 2007 Science Year in Review

Bob Frey, KBO Banding Project Leader and Jaime Stephens, KBO Research & Monitoring Director

KBO's Science Team is busy wrapping up another year of research, monitoring, training, and outreach. We continued our long-term bird monitoring programs during 2007, collecting bird and associated habitat and conservation data while providing training and outreach opportunities for aspiring ornithologists. Many of our shorter-term research projects also continued this past year, and several new projects were initiated.

As part of our long-term bird monitoring, we operated 15 ecological monitoring stations throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion, including a new station in the Ashland Creek Watershed. Integrated monitoring conducted at these stations includes capture by mist net, banding and release for demographic monitoring; area search for inventory and trend analyses; vegetation survey for habitat association studies; and tissue sampling for DNA, stable isotope and avian influenza studies. Our effort

begins each year at the onset of the landbird breeding season in May and continues through October, inclusive of the fall migration. Our flagship station at the Willow Wind Community Learning Center in Ashland, an outdoor classroom, is operated throughout the year.

A total of 10,541 birds of 99 species were studied in the hand. During 277 morning shifts, 586 area search surveys were completed. Thirteen student interns from Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, and the US made this season a success. KBO provided training to these interns, regional biologists, and community volunteers; training included a banding technique workshop and ongoing experiential monitoring education. Our data are contributed to several databases, including the USGS North American Bird Banding Program, Institute for Bird Populations, Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas, UCLA's Center for Tropical Research, Avian Knowledge Network, and of course, KBO's own research, education and outreach

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programs.

Surveys using point count methodology and the corresponding vegetation surveys also contribute to KBO's long-term monitoring. Areas monitored include Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes and the Upper Klamath Basin, and the Bear Creek Greenway bike path in Ashland. KBO staff and 6 seasonal Field Technicians also conducted bird and habitat surveys for long-term monitoring and avian inventory.

Continued, see Science in Review page 3

KBO 2007 Education Year in Review

Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director

2007 was a year of enhancement and growth for Klamath Bird Observatory's education and outreach program. We reported in the winter 2007 issue of *The Klamath Bird* that 2006 was a year of firsts; 2007 was a year of extending and improving these. With each accomplishment, KBO contributed to its mission of educating people about birds, their habitats, and the link between science and conservation.

In the five education and outreach programs, major accomplishments

included:

Delivering scientific information to land managers and assisting them in integrating bird and habitat objectives into land management practices

- Presented bird conservation information to land managers at numerous meetings and conferences
- Completed oak woodlands Decision Support Tools
- Designed new template for landowner and birder Decision Support Tools

Educating the public about birds, their environments, and the link between science and conservation

- Initiated and managed new Klamath-Siskiyou eBird application
- 23 bird walks in the Jackson and Klamath Counties with 301 participants
- 21 mist netting and bird banding demonstrations for the community
- Festivals and events throughout the bioregion, reaching over 2500 people
- Numerous community presentations and workshops with over 600 participants

Continued, see Education in Review page 8

President's Perch

Dick Ashford, KBO Board President

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope every reader enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. It's that time of year that I'm reminded of Janus: the Roman god of gates and doors, beginnings and endings. Janus was usually depicted with two faces, one looking to the past, one to the future. In modern culture, he is best remembered by his namesake, January. For many, January is a time to look forward as well as reflect upon past accomplishments. No matter which way I turn my gaze, things look good for KBO.

First, the past: 2007 was a VERY good year. KBO continued to be recognized by peers and partners for promoting the conservation of birds and bird habitat, and rightfully so, in my opinion. This issue of the Klamath Bird provides some examples of our fine staff and volunteers' accomplishments in 2007, ranging, from "doing" science to educating children and adults about birds and bird conservation.

The future: 2008 promises even more. We are embarking upon new scientific endeavors, and our environmental education program continues to grow, both in quality and in scope. Both the organization and individual staff

Advancing Conservation

John Alexander, KBO Executive Director

In 2007, KBO met our mission to advance bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships. One of the primary ways in which we address our mission is through an integrated process of bird-focused research and monitoring, peer-reviewed publication, decision support tools, and application to the conservation process. Our field work in 2007 was designed to answer questions brought to us by our federal land management partners: *Are we reaching our desired ecological conditions (e.g., the restoration of pre-settlement characteristic)? How are various management actions affecting birds? How can we integrate bird conservation into ongoing management projects?*

Our analyses focused on answering these questions, and by publishing our results in peer-reviewed scientific journals, our results and conclusions are held to the highest scientific standards. In a manuscript that was published in *Forest Ecology and Management*¹, an international journal that encourages communication between scientists and forest managers, we demonstrated how bird monitoring can be used as a tool to measure the success of land man-

agement activities. In addition, this paper identified ways for managers to reduce the probability of severe fires in oak woodlands while benefiting birds of conservation concern. Another paper, published in *Northwest Science*², a journal dedicated to regional scientific topics, describes how reducing or eliminating cattle grazing in oak woodlands in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument will support bird conservation objectives and benefit neotropical migrant birds.

members have been honored with leadership positions in the bird conservation community, which will help us continue our efforts in both research and education.

As you've heard me say before, we couldn't do it without you. YOU helped make 2007 our best fundraising year in history. Please read this issue's insert and you will see that YOU exceeded our fundraising goal, YOU set KBO records for numbers of donors and for new donors. Simply stated, WOW!

We value your membership and support, not only because it helps provide the resources we need, but because it motivates us. It's inspiring to know you care. I can assure you that the KBO board and staff are highly motivated to continue our good works. As always, thank you for your continuing support. The birds need it and deserve it.

Cheers,



Dick Ashford
KBO Board President

Once our work passes scrutiny of our scientific colleagues, it must be applied to challenges that our land management agency partners face in order to truly contribute to conservation. Decision support tools (DSTs), produced in various formats (e.g., interactive computer programs, brochures and pamphlets, white papers) use our scientific findings to link priority land management challenges and bird conservation objectives in a usable format for agency decision makers and private land owners. KBO actively produced such DSTs in 2007. These DSTs offer suggestions from our research about the best means to accomplish bird and habitat conservation outcomes.

Continued, see Conservation, page 11

Science

A Christmas Bird Count Story

Jaime Stephens, KBO Research & Monitoring Director

This year marked the 108th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), the oldest and largest citizen science effort in the Americas. Birders of all levels count birds within a section of a Christmas Bird Count Circle on a given day between December 14 and January 5. The resulting dataset addresses numerous research topics, including those related to species distribution and population trends. National Audubon and the American Bird Conservancy recently used CBC data to identify species of conservation concern. Some of the CBC count circles in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bio-region are located in Shasta Valley, Klamath Falls, Medford, and the Applegate Valley.

I participated in the Medford Christmas Bird Count with my teammates, Jeff and Rowan Heglie and Frank Lospalluto. The day started with some rain, but cleared to a beautiful afternoon. We completed a section of the count circle at the outskirts of Jacksonville and Central Point, in oak and conifer habitats near several ponds. The highlight for our team was the sighting of a Snow Goose sitting conspicuously amongst a flock of Canada and Cackling Geese (see photo p. 3). After the count, participants convened for pizza and stories, and to tally the results. To learn more

Science in Review, continued from page 1

During the spring 2007 breeding season, KBO surveyed 121 routes including 1762 stations and 130 visits, for a total of 1843 point count surveys completed. In addition, KBO surveyed 58 routes in 67 survey days, consisting of 425 fall area search surveys completed during the dispersal and migration season of 2007. In addition to long-term monitoring, KBO implements both point count and area search surveys to answer specific short-term project questions.

KBO's fire research focused on fuels reduction projects at a number of sites within the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion during 2007, to help determine how fuels reduction can affect birds' habitat. We have continued our research within several project areas, all at different stages of implementation, within the Rogue-Siskiyou and Winema-Fremont National Forests and Medford and Lakeview Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Districts. We also returned to the Quartz Fire area to repeat surveys at locations that were visited before the fire in in 2001.

KBO continued to study the effects of several restoration projects, including a parcel of parcel of private property in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument that was fenced in 2004 to exclude cattle. This represents part of



Snow Goose
2/7/04, Hammel Road

Snow Goose. Photo: J. Livaudais

about this year's Christmas Bird Count highlights and also how you can kick off the next holiday season counting birds, visit www.audubon.org/bird/cbc

our ongoing work to evaluate the effects of grazing within bird communities. We also maintained our monitoring efforts within the BLM's Wood River Wetland restoration project. The data collected in this important area, and as part of our broad-scale long-term monitoring program in the Upper Klamath Basin, will continue to provide valuable information about the effectiveness of wetland rehabilitation at Wood River.

During the spring and summer of 2007, KBO completed the second year of field work for the Riparian Fuels Treatments in the Applegate River Sub-basin project funded by the Joint Fire Sciences Program. This is a large-scale, collaborative study assessing the effects of fuels reduction in riparian areas on hydrology, macroinvertebrates, botany, herpeta, fauna, and fuels. We completed bird point count surveys, as well as spot mapping and breeding behavior surveys to determine the effect of these fuels treatments on bird composition and diversity, as well as reproductive success of six riparian species. We look forward to working with our many partners and continuing our research and monitoring program in 2008, now the longest-running and most comprehensive in the region.

Science

Why House Sparrows Matter: Birds Are What They Eat!

Molly Schreiner, KBO Banding Intern

"I don't know about you guys, but I am just not getting a good chicken vibe in this town," Keith Larson, KBO Research Biologist, said as we bumped down a dirt road outside of Guerrero Negro, Baja California Sur, Mexico. This was not good news. Our job was difficult without chickens. Suddenly, like music to our ears, we heard the call of a rooster and knew that a trapping location was near.

Why would a Ph.D. student and his intern search for chickens in Mexico? Because chicken coops, with chicken feed and shelter from the sun, make great House Sparrow trapping sites. But why choose the Baja Peninsula and Northwest Mexico to trap House Sparrows if these species are common in almost any populated area in the Americas? The answer actually relates back to the neotropical migrant birds seen all over the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion during the breeding and migration seasons.



House Sparrow Photo: M. Schreiner, KBO

Working with Dr. Keith Hobson of the Canadian Fish and Wildlife Service, Keith uses a relatively new technique called stable isotope analysis to track movements of birds that are too small to carry satellite transmitters. When rain falls, the proportion of hydrogen isotopes (deuterium) in the rainwater is unique to the area in which it occurs. The rainfall with this unique deuterium marker travels into the water table and then is used by plants, which are then consumed by birds or the insects that birds eat. The plant or insect food is incorporated into the birds' feathers, along with the unique deuterium signature, as the feathers are replaced. Hence, they are what they eat! These feathers can then be analyzed to determine where the birds spend their winters.

This process enables us to trace the wintering location of a migrant species by comparing the deuterium found in the newly grown feathers to the deuterium in rain water. By collecting well water samples in more than 60 locations in Mexico, Keith has begun to create a deuterium base map. Similar maps already exist for the rest of North America, but do not exist for Mexico, the winter location of many Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion migrant species.

Although rainwater is essential to this study, it is only half

the equation. House Sparrows are important because they are resident species in Mexico and so we know that their feathers incorporate deuterium from their local, year-round habitat. By collecting feather samples from these birds and comparing the deuterium levels to those within ground water from the same location, we will be able to deduce the wintering location of different migrant species from Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion, such as the Yellow Warbler and Lazuli Bunting.

While the project provides exciting new techniques for tracking migrant birds, the field work is also fun and rewarding! In two weeks we drove over 3,000 km in Mexico, ate about 400 fish tacos, met many wonderful people, camped on the beach, introduced House Sparrows to many children in the villages where we mist netted, and I saw more than 70 life birds, including Pink-footed Shearwaters, Pacific Loons, Xantus' Hummingbird, and Grey Mockingbird.

Although the domestic chickens and House Sparrows are usually not of much interest to many birders, I know that after my experiences working on this project, both species have a special place in my heart. Right next to the fish tacos!



Keith Larson and Molly Schreiner with children in a community in Mexico where they conducted research Photo: KBO File

Calendar—Join KBO for Winter and Spring Events

Birding by Ear Field Trip with John Alexander on June 14, 2008

Enhance your skills and grow your appreciation of the birds in the area. Learn calls and songs of birds of the Rogue Valley in oak woodland and conifer habitat. Join John Alexander, KBO Executive Director, in exploring his favorite birding by ear loop through the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Learn to identify warbler, sparrow, thrush, and flycatcher vocalizations and distinguish sound-alike species such as Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak. Meet at 7am at Shop N Kart in Ashland to carpool. Return by 1:30 pm. Advance registration required, limit: 15. Call 541-201-0866 to register. Cost: \$25 nonmembers, \$15 KBO members.

February 9: KBO Birdwalk to Agate Lake.

View raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders and songbirds of the fields and oak woodlands. Bring your scope. Meet at 8am at Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland). Leader: Harry Fuller, KBO volunteer and member. To register, call 541-770-1104.

February 15-17: Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls.

See www.winterwingsfest.org

February 22-24: Birding and Blues Festival in Pacific City.

See www.birdingandblues.com

February 28: Hawks: Masters of the Sky!

Presentation by Dick Ashford on the hawks of our region. Headwaters Building, 84th St., Ashland. 7-8:30 pm. Sponsored by Northwest Nature Shop.

March 1: Early Birders Get the Worm: KBO Family Birdwalk in Lithia Park.

Children ages 5-12 and their parents, join us for a fun-filled morning of birding. Learn how to use binoculars and field guides to spot our local feathered friends. Meet at 10am at Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland). Return at Noon. Leader: KBO Staff. To register, call 541-482-3241.

March 8: KBO Birdwalk to Denman Wildlife Area and Tou-Velle Park.

Enjoy a Great Blue Heron rookery and birds of the Rogue River riparian habitat. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Frank Lospalluto, KBO Contract Biologist. To register, call 541-770-1104.

March 15: Hawks and Waterfowl! All-Day Field Trip to Klamath Basin with Dick Ashford.

Don't miss your final chance of the season to enjoy the many raptors of the Klamath Basin, now with the influx of migratory waterfowl in the area. Meet at 8am at Shop N Kart in Ashland to carpool. Return at 4:30pm. Advance registration required (limit 15). Call 541-201-0866. \$25 nonmembers, \$15 members.

March 28-30: Aleutian Goose Festival in Crescent City.

See www.aleutiangoosefestival.org/

April 5: KBO Bird Banding Demonstration & Lomakatsi Restoration Tour at KBO's Headquarters .

Visit a KBO ecological monitoring station where we mist net and band birds. View a variety of songbirds up close and learn about bird research and conservation with KBO biologists. Evaluate long-term restoration efforts on the site, through a guided tour with Lomakatsi staff. Learn how riparian restoration and bird monitoring go hand-in-hand. Meet at 8am at Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland). Leader: Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director. To register, call 541-482-3241.

April 12: KBO Birdwalk to Roxy Ann Butte.

Explore the chaparral along the road leading to and the trail up Roxy Ann Butte. Spot migratory songbirds returning to the Rogue Valley. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: KBO Staff. To register, call 541-770-1104.

March 18-20: Godwit Days in Arcata, California.

See www.godwitdays.com

May 3: KBO Birdwalk to Lower Table Rock .

Go birding on the trails of Lower Table Rock. Look for Orange-crowned Warbler, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, and California Towhee. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: KBO Staff. To register, call 541-482-3241.

May 10: International Migratory Bird Day in Ashland, Oregon; Klamath Falls, Oregon; and Yreka, California.

Celebrate the "Tundra to Tropics" migrations of birds with bird walks, bird banding demonstrations, and kids activities. Learn more about the amazing migrations of birds.

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.

KBO Thanks 2007 Contributors

We thank our many contributors in 2007. We are inspired by the generous support of bird and habitat conservation that came in through our annual campaign. Thank you!



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Contribute in 2008



Please join us in our efforts; together we can help KBO advance bird and habitat conservation in 2008. There are many ways you can contribute to KBO in 2008. For more information on any of these opportunities, visit www.KlamathBird.org/donate or contact us at KBO@KlamathBird.org or (541) 201-0866.

Endowment

Klamath Bird Observatory's Bird Monitoring and Education Endowment was established in 2006 with a generous gift from the Baldwin Family Trust in memory of Paul and Sarah Baldwin. The endowment will support KBO's efforts to advance bird and habitat conservation through science and education into perpetuity. You too can invest in Klamath Bird Observatory's future and contribute to the endowment.

Gift and Estate Planning

Join the Legacy Club. You can provide now for a future gift to Klamath Bird Observatory by including a bequest provision in your will or revocable trust. Another option is to designate KBO as a beneficiary or partial beneficiary of an IRA or other qualified retirement plan. Planned gifts to Klamath Bird Observatory are about planning for the future: your future and the future of birds and habitat.

Wish List In-Kind Donations

KBO maintains a long "wish list" of used and new items and needed contributions of skills and volunteer time. Used office equipment, frequent flier miles, an out-board motor, and vehicles are just a few of the items we need. Additionally, a website designer, bird walk leaders, skilled birders for surveys, and those interested in teaching children about birds are needed as volunteers. Check out our full list online to see how you can help!

Bird Banding Sponsorship

You can help support the day-to-day expenses of KBO through two NEW bird banding sponsorship programs. Bird banding is a method of bird research to track bird population and demographic trends over time. Bird banding allows KBO to explore why bird populations are declining. The results can then help us focus land management practices to better aid in effective bird and habitat conservation. Adopt a Bird or Adopt a Day!

Membership & Contributions

Your contributions allow us to accomplish our program goals. Additionally, we are able to leverage dollars from matching grants and challenge cost-shares and demonstrate public support when applying for new grants. Members receive KBO's quarterly newsletter, invitations to events, & reduced prices on programs and field trips.

Join today by returning this form or donate online at www.KlamathBird.org/donate

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

Education

Education in Review, continued from page 1

Increasing K-12th grade students' awareness and knowledge of birds, nature, and conservation while increasing interest in birds, science, and stewardship



Students record their own data during a Songbirds, Science, & Schools field trip

- Creation of the Basin and Range Birding Trail education curriculum and kits
- 90 classroom visits, reaching over 2100 students, including
- 38 classes in Jackson County as part of Songbirds, Science, and Schools;

- 25 classes in Klamath County as part of Klamath Basin Birding Trail education program;
- 23 classes in Modoc County as part of Basin & Range Birding Trail education program;
- 4 classes outside of the Bioregion
- 37 ecological monitoring station field trip visits from Jackson County schools as part of Songbirds, Science and Schools program and two visits from Klamath County classes
- 30 Field Ecology class sessions for Willow Wind Learning Center Middle School students
- 2 week long summer camps offered at ScienceWorks Hands-on Science Museum: Radical Raptors & Partners in Flight
- 290 additional students reached through partner organizations' summer camp and after-school programs

Providing bird and habitat conservation training for biologists and educators

- 24 field biology and environmental education interns trained in education and interpretation
- 4 AmeriCorps members supported and mentored in the education program
- Mentored 2 Southern Oregon University Environmental Education Masters Degree candidates in KBO graduate project and thesis
- Workshop conducted at the Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (CA)

Conducting social science research on education effectiveness and conservation-related attitudes and behaviors

- Publication of a KBO-affiliated social science manuscript in a peer-reviewed scientific journal
- Design and data collection for graduate thesis project evaluating Songbirds, Science, and Schools educational program for 4th and 5th graders.

- Investigation of non-formal environmental education programs in Southern Oregon conducted on behalf of Regional Environmental Education Leaders

Additionally, the education and outreach team contributed to the success and growth KBO through major success in the following areas:

Improving the visibility of KBO through community outreach, public relations, and media

- KBO Open House for the community attended by more than 150 visitors
- Three Jefferson Public Radio "Jefferson Daily" segments, including a one-hour interview
- Front page article in the Ashland Daily Tidings and additional feature articles in Klamath Falls, Ashland, Medford, and Yreka newspapers
- One Medford TV news segment on Songbirds, Science, and Schools

Enhancing the image of KBO through printed materials and our website

- New KBO brochure
- New KBO display for events and festivals
- New KBO sign at headquarters
- New website structure in development, to be implemented in 2008

Providing leadership in conservation education regionally and nationally

- Board of Directors position with the Environmental Education Association of Oregon
- Steering Committee position with the Bird Education Alliance for Conservation
- Four presentations to the North American Association for Environmental Education conference
- Three presentations to the national Bird Conservation Through Education conference

These efforts would not be possible without the drive and motivation of all of the members of the Education and Outreach Team, the close working relationship with the Science Team, the support of KBO's Executive Director and Board of Directors, the strong partnerships with organizations throughout our bioregion and the nation, and the participation and interest of KBO supporters. We hope that you will enjoy participating in our education and outreach activities in 2008!

Education

Education/Outreach Team Attends Environmental Education Conference

Amy Busch, KBO Education Intern

KBO's education and outreach team attended the 36th annual North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) conference in Virginia Beach from November 13-17. NAAEE is a network of professionals, students, and volunteers working in environmental education throughout North America and in over 55 countries.

At the conference, KBO highlighted our environmental education work, and that of our partners in the region. KBO's four presentations focused on our curriculum development, regional partnerships, bird education networks, and program evaluation.

KBO's Ashley Dayer, along with Terry Rich, Partners in Flight National Coordinator, chaired a roundtable discussion on the newly-formed National Bird Conservation Education Network. Ashley also presented research she has conducted in southern Oregon with the Regional Environmental Education Leaders (REEL). This innovative study assesses teachers' needs for non-formal education support in southern Oregon by exploring offerings of 20 environmental education organizations. Ashley's talk generated a great deal of inter-

est among the standing room-only crowd.

KBO also supported two Southern Oregon University (SOU) Environmental Education graduate students and KBO interns in showcasing their work. Elizabeth Burris shared a model of place-based education along birding trails developed at KBO. Amy Busch discussed her thesis, which pertains to evaluating changes in students' knowledge, awareness, and conservation intentions regarding birds as a result of KBO's *Songbirds, Science, and Schools*.

The presenters received numerous requests to share parts of their educational curriculum and evaluation tools from educators who attended the conference. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to share the work KBO and graduate programs at SOU have accomplished in the field of environmental education. The Education and Outreach team is already looking forward to next year's conference in Kansas. In addition, Ashley Dayer, who sits on the Environmental Education Association of Oregon board of directors, is leading the planning committee for the 2009 NAAEE conference, to be held in Portland, Oregon.

Bird Bio: Spotted Towhee

Jonathan Berti, KBO Banding Intern

Many of the bird species that grace this area during the summer months and fall migration have disappeared. To the birding enthusiast, the winter slump in bird diversity may bring dismay. However, it does allow us to appreciate species that choose to rough it through the winter here in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion.

The Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*, is a bird whose company we can enjoy in southern Oregon all year long. Although its breeding range extends throughout western North America, from southern Saskatchewan and British Columbia to the highlands of Guatemala, where populations winter, it is found primarily west of the Cascades and in small numbers throughout eastern Cascade lowlands. Distinguished from the Eastern Towhee as a unique species, our rufous-sided resident is distinct, with spotty wings and a characteristic red iris which develops with maturity. It typically inhabits willow thickets and dense growth near a riparian zone, scratching away at the ground loudly as it



Spotted Towhee. Photo: J. Livaudais

forages for seeds and berries, or builds its cup-shaped nest, which it usually cuddles in to a nicely formed shallow depression in the earth.

KBO banding interns are well acquainted with the Spotted Towhee, as it is a common capture at most of our regional bird monitoring stations. Nevertheless, Oregon Breeding Bird Survey routes report a 1.0% decline in

the Spotted Towhee during the last 4 decades. The Spotted Towhee is not considered threatened in our state, but is known to be sensitive to land-use patterns, such as grazing in riparian areas. Given this, KBO's monitoring programs are keeping a close eye on resident species like the Spotted Towhee, and are acquiring data that may help ensure that this commonly encountered bird retains habitat locally, and stays common.

Information from [Birds of Oregon](#) edited by D.B. Marshall, M.G. Hunter, & A.L. Contreras; [The Sibley Guide to Birds of North America](#) by D.A. Sibley; [The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of Birds of North America](#) by P. Ehrlich, D.S. Dobkin, D. Wheye

Education

Build Your Klamath-Siskiyou eBird Skills

Melissa Molzahn, KBO Education Specialist and Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director

Created in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, eBird is an online citizen science project that contains a wealth of data and information on bird abundance and distribution. The data are largely collected from the birding community. This international effort develops a better understanding of birds and bird conservation needs for landowners, educators, ornithologists and conservationists.

Here at the Klamath Bird Observatory, we manage a regional eBird application, Klamath-Siskiyou eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/klamath-siskiyou/>). With K-S eBird, contributors can keep track of bird lists and explore a wealth of data collected in this region, both one's own and those of other contributors. The site is updated frequently with news and articles on Klamath-Siskiyou birds.

Would you benefit from a tutorial on how to best use K-S eBird? KBO will offer eBird Skills-Building Workshops at Aleutian Goose Days and Godwit Days Festivals this spring (see the calendar on page 5). During a hands-on workshop

and field trip, we will go eBirding at local hotspots and provide an eBird tutorial in the classroom. You will gain the skills to turn your birding adventures into eBird data, explore your data and begin supporting conservation now. Learn how you and the birds will benefit when you become an eBirder!



Trivia Corner—Q&A

Melissa Molzahn, KBO Education Specialist

How old is the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory?

- a. 12 years old
- b. 43 years old
- c. 5 years old
- d. 25 years old

The Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2007. Established in 1982 by C. John Ralph and Carol Pearson Ralph, bird monitoring and research have been conducted here continuously, making it one of the longest running ornithological stations in the nation. The Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory is located next to the Lanphere Dunes Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, west of Arcata, California. In 2000, Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory became part of the Klamath Bird Observatory as Dr. C. John Ralph founded the collaborative nonprofit organization, along with Executive Director John Alexander, to promote bird conservation throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion, which includes Arcata.

There is a great diversity of habitats at Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory, including dune forest, riparian, open pasture, and wetland. These habitats support many bird species, such as Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red Crossbill, Western Flycatcher, Purple Finch, and Wrentit. Monitoring is conducted at the station throughout the year. Volunteer opportunities are available to observe and learn about birds, and be trained in bird monitoring and research techniques. For more information, see www.klamathbird.org/About/About.htm#hbbo

Partnerships

Rogue Valley Audubon Society and KBO: Partners in Education

Ashley Dayer, Education & Outreach Director

For a second year, KBO has partnered with the Rogue Valley Audubon Society (RVAS) to advance bird conservation through education. During the 2006-7 school year, KBO coordinated and supported the work of Southern Oregon University (SOU) Environmental Education graduate student and education intern, Elizabeth Burris, as she promoted RVAS's education programs. Burris created outreach materials for RVAS, including an educational display and banner, developed and implemented a scout education program, and coordinated RVAS's participation in the field program for Rogue Valley Schools, the Riparian Outdoor School. This year the partnership is again thriving, reaching many students and community members.

RVAS is supporting SOU Environmental Education graduate student and education intern, Amy Busch, as she integrates a second field activity into KBO's Songbirds, Science, and Schools program, which aids Rogue Valley teachers in meeting state-wide science education benchmarks. Students who participated in the program at KBO's banding station this fall learned how to monitor birds using the area search method. Over 300 fourth through

Conservation, continued from page 2

In 2007, KBO staff continued to engage our land management partners through various forums. We communicated one-on-one with key decision-makers as important decisions were being made. We presented our results at professional meetings where land managers learned about how the latest science informs current management challenges. Additionally, we continued with our leadership roles in regional and national scientific, management and conservation programs, such as the Partners in Flight Land-bird Conservation Initiative, actively pursuing opportunities to advance conservation through sharing our findings.

KBO's science and education teams work synergistically to maintain focused research and monitoring efforts, produce results through the peer review process, link those results to priority management challenges, effectively communicate information, and actively engage our partners at local, regional and national levels. This is the award-winning model that helps us advance bird and habitat conservation through research, education and partnerships.

¹Alexander, J.D., Seavy, N.E. & Hosten, P.E. (2007). Using conservation plans and bird monitoring to evaluate ecologic effects of management: an example with fuels reduction activities in southwest Oregon. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 238, 375-383.

²Alexander, J.D., Stephens, J.L., & Seavy, N.E. (2008). Livestock utilization and bird community composition in mixed-conifer forest and oak woodland in southern Oregon. *Northwest Science*, 82(1), 7-17.

eighth graders learned how to use binoculars, identify local birds, and tally their numbers in a given area. Every student was given their very own binoculars to use during the lesson. For many this was the highlight of the day. One teacher shared how their students never get the opportunity to have their own binoculars and therefore had never even used binoculars prior to this.

"Due to RVAS's support, schools can now bring an entire grade at one time for a field trip, which reduces bussing costs that can be prohibitive for area schools. Teachers love how the two activities complement each other," shares Amy.

This partnership will continue into the spring of 2008 as more schools look forward to the combined field activities. Additionally, our Scout education program continues to reach area Boy and Girl Scouts during a Christmas Bird Count event completed in December and bird merit badge workshops planned for March. Amy will also coordinate RVAS's involvement in Riparian Outdoor School in April and May. If you are interested in volunteering for these efforts, please contact Amy at school@KlamathBird.org.



Education Intern Amy Busch

SOAP!

Bowerbird & Company's Klamath Bird Observatory
Juniper and Sage Soap
is now available online:

www.bowerbirdandco.com/pl/kbo.html

See KBO's Fall 2007 newsletter for further information
about Bowerbird handcrafted soaps and their
generous support of KBO.

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