

The Klamath Bird

Newsletter of the Klamath Bird Observatory, Winter 2009



Advancing Conservation with Your Support

John Alexander, KBO Executive Director

In 2008 KBO's staff and board were inspired by the largest showing of support since our incorporation. Therefore, we commence our 2009 newsletters by extending our deepest thanks to our contributors and partners. Because of your support for our efforts in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion and beyond, we are contributing to an international vision for bird conservation.

KBO's efforts to advance bird conservation through science, education and partnerships have become internationally recognized. In our nine years as a nonprofit organization we have received national recognition from the Partners in Flight International Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative, Ducks Unlimited, the Forest Service, and the Joint Fire Sciences multi-agency research program. Our integrated approach to conservation is serving as a model for international efforts amongst numerous bird conservation movements. We are now working on Partners in Flight efforts to develop a continent-wide bird conservation strategy for Canada, the US and Mexico.

Science lays a foundation for our work. Our collaboration with the US Forest Service Redwood Science Laboratory has resulted in an ecological monitoring network in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion that is among the most comprehensive in the world. Through our long-term bird monitoring efforts we learn, species by species, how bird populations are faring. Working with partners we explore why populations are in decline, stable, or on the rise, helping



KBO's research has corroborated concerns about the decline of this common bird. We are studying management that is intended to restore fire adapted ecosystems and results show benefits for conservation focal species including Purple Finches. Photo: Jim Livaudais

us identify where conservation actions are most needed. Through KBO's research efforts we then identify management actions that benefit species of conservation concern.

With an unparalleled partnership between KBO's scientists and educators, we deliver this information to land managers and landowners who want to make more informed ecosystem management decisions. We also strive to educate the next generation who will be the face of future science and conservation efforts, along with those who want to take action now to ensure a future with healthy bird populations and habitats—people like you and me.

Globally, we are seeing an increased recognition that social, ecological, and economic based decisions that we make today will directly affect the ability of future generations to prosper. With this in mind, we at KBO, along with our partners, do our work with the vision of future generations celebrating the wonder of migration and the joy of abundant

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and diverse bird populations. As our ecosystems and society face increasing pressure, the work we do at KBO, and through the international bird conservation community, is becoming that much more relevant.

The information that we gather contributes to increased understanding of how ecosystems are responding to rapidly changing conditions. Birds are important indicators of ecosystem health, and the bird conservation objectives established by Partners in Flight are serving as a catalyst for maintaining and restoring resilient ecosystems. Such ecosystems will be needed to support the world's biodiversity and human populations in the face of climate change and population growth. Therefore, bird population indices are serving as important indicators of our social, ecological and economic well being.

KBO's success would not be possible without the support from our contributors and partners. We thank our many and diverse partner organizations for their collaboration and our community and members for their financial and in-kind contributions. Your support inspires us every day. Thank you!

President's Perch

Dick Ashford

Dear Friends,

I have enjoyed these past 30 months as Klamath Bird Observatory's president. It has been a great honor to serve KBO, to work (and play!) with the staff and to have a chance to help move the observatory forward.

As I prepare to step aside (but not too far! I'll continue to work as a KBO board member), I want to say as forcefully as I can that KBO is a world class bird observatory doing world class work. KBO is a great organization that is internationally recognized for its accomplishments for one simple reason: the wonderful people who work here. They each share a strong sense of mission. That mission, in its abbreviated form: "advancing bird and habitat conservation through science, education and partnerships."

Staff members believe in that mission. They also share a desire to do more than what is required by a position description, more than what is asked by a supervisor. They draw on their considerable talents for a cause. That cause? A KBO that is excellent in so many ways. A KBO that has strong education and science programs. A KBO that, through its teaching and through its research, reaches out to the larger world. It makes a difference in the quality of life of our local community by teaching young people and helping to protect our beautiful surroundings. And KBO's work makes a difference in how people live their lives everywhere in this hemisphere.

Over the past 2 ½ years, many of you have demonstrated that you share that sense of mission, that sense of pride in knowing we (you too!) are doing the right thing. Thank you for the support and thank you for caring about birds and their habitats.

So, KBO is in good hands. However, it would be a mistake to discount the challenges that lie ahead. The next few years will be a period of great consequence for KBO. The state of the world economy is such that the possibility of public agency funding budget cuts is very real. Many of our strongest partners will be doing what our own families are doing: tightening their belts. We will be working harder and smarter in 2009, but we will also be attempting to convince our partners and supporters that an investment in KBO is an investment in the future.

I am deeply honored to have had the opportunity to serve KBO, and I remain optimistic about its future. My successor, Margaret Widdowson, is a long-time board

member and superbly qualified to lead the observatory as we face the challenges that lie ahead. She will need the support and assistance of all KBO family members. She's got mine!

As always, thank you for your continuing support. The birds need it and deserve it.

Cheers,

Dick

Dick Ashford

The staff at KBO thanks Dick Ashford for the inspirational leadership he has provided during his term as KBO Board President. We have each been touched by his dedication to KBO and his interest in us as individuals, whether it be the hours at the coffee shop discussing education and outreach projects, late night phone calls to hear his sage advice on an issue, visits to the office to check in on our activities and discuss the latest in hawk sightings (or maybe a rare songbird in his backyard), engaging stories with meaningful punch lines, or his obvious passion for birds that leads him to donate hours to bird conservation. We have come to consider Dick to be our friend, our mentor, and a top-notch KBO supporter. Thank you, Dick!



Dick Ashford (left), recent Past President of KBO, presenting KBO interns with neotropical guidebooks donated by the American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange Program. Dick is pictured here with Banding Project Lead Bob Frey (center), Executive Director John Alexander (right), and intern students Christopher Samuels from Jamaica and Anna Maria Gonzales from Columbia.

KBO 2008 Science Year in Review

Jaime Stephens, KBO Research & Monitoring Director

2008 brought continued growth and success for the Klamath Bird Observatory's Research and Monitoring Team. Once again, we have had our most extensive field season ever! Last year, our aquatic bird monitoring program grew by leaps and bounds. Along with this, our staff had to grow too – with several seasonal field staff and a new Program Manager. Our field crews last summer included 17 academic interns from all over the world, including up and coming biologists from Canada, Columbia, Ethiopia, and Spain. These interns joined us to help promote bird conservation through field studies, and to learn the ins and outs of bird banding and behavioral studies. As in the past, we also had a skilled group of 11 field technicians who helped us complete our wide-spread research and monitoring projects. With all of these folks in the field studying birds, it is not a surprise that the area we covered expanded beyond the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. The substantial amount of birds that were counted and banded represented a broad spectrum of the western United State's avifauna.

Landbirds

Our long term landbird monitoring program includes Ecological Monitoring Stations and Point Count survey routes that have been established throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. At Ecological Monitoring Stations we learn about population trends, breeding success, and bird health and longevity. At these sites we use mist nets to capture, band and release birds while surveying the areas using area search and check list methodologies. KBO's efforts at these stations contribute to a broader understanding of migration through cutting edge stable isotope and genetics studies, as well as avian influenza sampling of migrant and resident populations. In 2008, we ran 17 Ecological Monitoring Stations during the breeding and fall migration seasons. In April we started a new station at the Jefferson Nature Center where we opened a second office. This new Ecological Monitoring Station will join our Willow Wind station as one of our

<u>Landbird Field Season Fast Facts</u>	
<i>Ecological Monitoring Stations</i>	
	17 locations
	322 banding days
	98 species
	11094 birds
<i>Point Counts and Area Search Surveys</i>	
	154 locations
	218 survey days
	243 species
	25086 birds

flagship monitoring sites that we run year round. Our long term landbird monitoring also includes spring breeding season counts that are completed at select point count and Breeding Bird Survey routes.

KBO continued research efforts to study fire ecology, wildfire, and fuels reduction with a series of studies that started within the last four years. We conducted our extensive research looking at the effects of fuels reduction on bird populations in the Klamath Basin, the Rogue River Basin, and the Ashland Watershed. Additionally, we completed our third and final year of a project in the Applegate Valley studying fuels reduction effects in riparian areas on bird abundance and reproductive success. Stay tuned for results from that study in future 2009 newsletters.

In 2008 KBO's efforts to track the effectiveness of restoration in oak woodlands and riparian habitats continued. Our restoration monitoring included two different private properties, within and adjacent to the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. These properties were recently fenced to exclude cattle grazing and are undergoing riparian planting. We are studying the bird communities in these locations to evaluate the success of the restoration efforts. We also started a new research project in and around the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument using stable isotopes to better understand short-distant altitudinal migration patterns.

2008 marked an increase in research on shrub steppe birds and took our field crews north through eastern Oregon and into Washington. Through this research we assessed bird density in varying shrub steppe habitats. Results of this study will inform Partners in Flight efforts to refine species population estimates for Oregon and Washington.



Biologists studied the Brewer's Sparrow in Shrub Steppe habitat in eastern Oregon. Photo: Jim Livaudais

Aquatic Birds

KBO has been monitoring Black Terns for 12 years, and in 2008 our aquatic bird monitoring program expanded. We laid the groundwork for statewide partnerships working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and others to start the Oregon Coordinated Aquatic Bird Monitoring Program. This partnership, which contributes to west-wide efforts, involved creating written site descriptions for important Aquatic Bird Sites throughout eastern Oregon. These sites, previously identified, are under varying ownership and represent opportunities to continue ongoing

Science in Review (continued)

monitoring programs and start new ones, filling needed information gaps about the status of the sites and their birds. The site descriptions include background information for each location with maps and water level details, along with information about aquatic bird distribution, and historic and current survey efforts. They will provide baseline

<u>Aquatic Bird Field Season Fast Facts</u>	
<i>Black Terns Surveys</i>	
36 locations	
84 survey days	
1649 birds	
<i>Secretive Marsh Birds Surveys</i>	
11 locations	
36 survey days	
6 focal species	
862 birds	

information as we expand coordinated aquatic bird monitoring in Oregon. As a part of this new effort we completed, in conjunction with our partners, Secretive Marsh Bird surveys at 11 sites in eastern Oregon.

Klamath Bird Observatory-Redwood Sciences Laboratory Avian Data Center

KBO again worked closely with the USDA Forest Service Redwood Sciences Laboratory in developing partnerships and promoting standardized bird monitoring networks that provide information needed to integrate Partners in Flight bird conservation objectives with land management programs. In 2008 the Klamath Bird Observatory - Redwood Sciences Laboratory Avian Data Center emerged with three nodes of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN): Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMNA); Klamath Bird Monitoring Network; and Klamath-Siskiyou eBird.

With cooperation from PRBO Conservation Science and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas data node became operational, making banding data collected from throughout the Americas available through the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The Klamath Bird Monitoring Network, a regional partnership, is now serving as an AKN node with datasets that span the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of southern Oregon and northern California. Klamath-Siskiyou eBird represents a partnership between local Audubon Chapters within the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion that promotes involvement of the local birding community.

Bridging the Gap: Science as Conservation

At the heart of KBO's research and monitoring work, is the delivery of scientific results to the people who can implement bird conservation on the ground. One venue for distributing our research results is through scientific publications. In 2008 the Science Team published 3 manuscripts in regional and national journals on our grazing and oak woodland studies. In addition to traditional publication, we strive to relay information at all levels:

1) locally, often directly with a land manager that helped pose our research questions and will use the results to make decisions and design projects that benefit birds and their ecosystems; 2) regionally, to those who use our results to better account for bird conservation in land management planning efforts; and 3) nationally and internationally, where we contribute to conservation efforts that span the entire ranges of the migratory birds that we study. In the delivery of our science, KBO's Science Team is fortunate to be able to swing our chairs around in the office, and work directly with our Education and Outreach Team to enhance the ways in which we can articulate and deliver the work that we do!

Leadership

KBO's progress and growth since our incorporation in 2000 has been due to the effective implementation of our mission to advance bird and habitat conservation through science, education and partnerships. Along with growth and success comes responsibility. KBO's Science Team has stepped up to this challenge by contributing to bird conservation in many arenas through participation in an array of research, management, and conservation organizations. In 2008, we co-authored 10 presentations at scientific meetings and attended 8 avian conferences at regional and national scales. This included hosting a symposium at the 4th International Partners in Flight conference in McAllen, Texas. Our involvement as leaders in these various arenas helps us to relay our applied science, and our lessons learned from the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion, to help carry bird conservation forward throughout the Western Hemisphere.

<u>Leadership Roles</u>
Partners in Flight: Science Committee; Implementation Committee; Oregon-Washington, Chair; California Executive Steering Committee
North American Bird Conservation Initiative Monitoring Sub-committee
USDA Forest Research Advisory Committee
Western Bird Banding Association (WBBA), President
North American Banding Council: WBBA Representative; Evaluation Committee, Chair; Training and Workshops Committee, Chair; International Committee
Avian Knowledge Alliance, Chair
Avian Knowledge Network Development Committee
Intermountain West Joint Venture Landbird Science Committee
Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas
Klamath Bird Monitoring Network
Western Hemisphere Banding Network
Costa Rica Banding Network

KBO Thanks 2008 Contributors

Below we list our 2008 contributors by total contributions to KBO. Thank you!



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Contributions of over \$25,000

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KBO 2008 Education and Outreach Year in Review

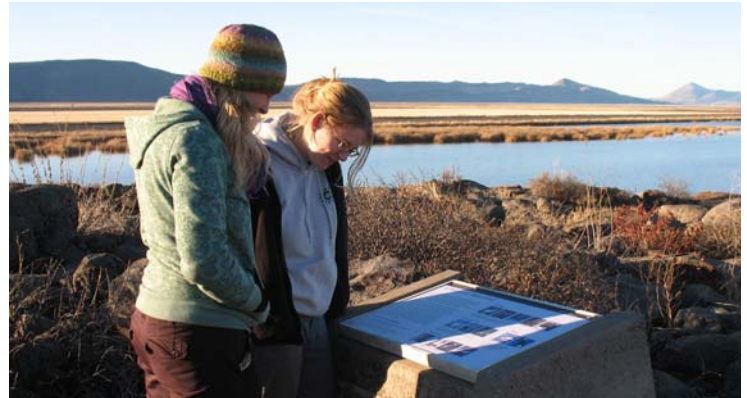
Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director

2008 was a year of great accomplishments and advancements in our ability to forward conservation through KBO education and outreach programs. Locally and regionally, we continued to see awareness of KBO and bird conservation increasing as we reached out to a variety of audiences. Nationally and internationally, our approach of educating people about birds, their habitats, and the link between science and conservation received growing attention, allowing us to take a lead in sharing our approach with others and extending conservation success beyond our region.

KBO's Education and Outreach Team works closely with our Science Team, delivering scientific information to federal and state agency land managers and private land owners to aid them in decisions about how they manage their land. In 2008, we again presented bird conservation information to land managers at numerous meetings and conferences. Additionally, we designed bird habitat conservation sheets for new audiences—bird enthusiasts and private land owners.

Our efforts to educate community members about birds, science, and conservation included field and classroom experiences in northern California and southern Oregon. In our second year managing the Klamath-Siskiyou eBird application, we implemented eBird walks and eBird workshops at festivals to further increase participation in this citizen science project. We hosted 36 bird walks in the Jackson and Klamath Counties with 341 participants joining us. Eight mist netting and bird banding demonstrations provided opportunities for the community to learn about our conservation science, watching our biologists in action. Our numerous community presentations and workshops, including our Board member Dick Ashford's well-received "hawk talks," reached over 350 participants. We participated in a variety of festivals and events throughout the bioregion, including new venues of the Ashland Growers' Market and Portland Sportsmen Show.

KBO conducts youth programming to increase students' knowledge and interest in birds, science, and stewardship, investing in the future of conservation and reaching more community members as students take their new knowledge home. In 2006, KBO designed bird education kits to aid educators in Klamath County in teaching science outdoors along the Klamath Basin Birding Trail. Given the unprecedented interest and use of these kits, we were once again supported to improve and expand these kits in 2008. The Klamath Basin Birding Trail education curriculum and kits now include more habitat and conservation lessons, improved



KBO Youth Education Projects Lead Annie Kilby and AmeriCorps Education Specialist Lauren Kemple study an interpretive panel at Lava Beds National Monument on a trip to research KBO's new curriculum.

background information, student journals and teacher answer keys. Additionally, we undertook the design and pilot testing of Crater Lake National Park and Lava Beds National Monument education curriculum and kits. Rangers will integrate these materials into their school programming in future years. Through another federal agency partnership and funding for National Wildlife Refuge education programs, we designed and implemented *Protecting Wetlands, Waterbirds, and Water Quality* for Chiloquin Elementary school at Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

As part of the piloting, testing, and training associated with these new programs and implementation of our popular and well-established schools programs, KBO educators inspired thousands of students and hundreds of teachers through conservation education in the classroom and field. We conducted 70 classroom visits, reaching over 1,630 students. In Jackson County, 50 classes participated in *Songbirds, Science, and Schools*, learning about birds, habitats, and science inquiry. In Klamath County, eight classes were visited as part of Klamath Basin Birding Trail education program, and nine classes took part in *Protecting Wetlands, Waterbirds, and Water Quality*. Continuing our partnership with The River Center and Modoc National Wildlife Refuge in Modoc County, we taught three classes using our Basin and Range Birding Trail education kits. KBO educators led 76 field trips reaching over 1,932 students and 220 teachers/chaperones. Forty-eight ecological monitoring station field trip visits from Jackson County schools occurred as part of the *Songbirds, Science and Schools* and *Riparian Outdoor Schools* programs. Students worked alongside biologists and naturalists for a full day, testing hypotheses they created in the classroom. A birding trail field trip to Crater Lake National Park allowed for testing of new lessons for this site. At Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge, students

Continued on next page

Education in Review (continued)

were given the opportunity to connect with wildlife and, for many, have their first opportunity to paddle a canoe. Lastly, Alturas Elementary and Middle School classes visited a birding trail site with KBO educators, counting birds and watching, with delight, Red-tailed Hawks on the nest.

At our headquarters at the Ashland School District Willow Wind Community Learning Center, KBO educators continued to offer school students semester-long field-based ecology classes. KBO designed and taught middle school students *Ecology and Conservation* in the spring followed by *Natural Area Managers* in the fall. Elementary students in *Wild About Birds!* met for learning games and hands-one classroom and field activities in the spring. During the fall *Eco-Investigations* engaged elementary students in ecology research and exploration.

KBO educators extended their conservation education efforts into the summer, making learning fun with three week-long summer camps offered at ScienceWorks Hands-on Science Museum. Through partner organizations' summer camp and after-school programs, over 200 more students learned about birds, science, and conservation.

As part of all of our education efforts, we train current and future biologists and environmental educators in education skills. In 2008, two AmeriCorps members were supported and mentored as part of our Education and Outreach Team. KBO's twenty field biology and environmental education interns were thoroughly trained in banding interpretation techniques. One Southern Oregon University (SOU) Environmental Education Masters Degree student, Amy Busch, completed her two year thesis project with KBO.

As a unique facet of education and outreach efforts, we conduct social science research and write manuscripts for publication.



Amy Busch, SOU MS student, presents her Masters thesis research at the North American Association for Environmental Education Conference in Wichita, Kansas.

In 2008, several entries written by KBO staff were published in the *Encyclopedia of Marine Tourism and Recreation*. One bird conservation education best practices manuscript and two evaluation manuscripts were included in conference proceedings. Analysis and

reporting of results from a comprehension evaluation of *Songbirds, Science, and Schools* was completed. We designed and implemented a survey on the satisfaction of Partners in Flight Conservation Plan users. Additionally, we conducted a well-attended workshop on education evaluation at the Partners in Flight International Conference in McAllen, Texas.

At KBO, the Education and Outreach Team contributes to the success and growth of KBO through improving the visibility of KBO and enhancing KBO's image. Accomplishments in this area included our first Wings and Wine Gala, which was attended by more than 165 community members. We held an Open House at Jefferson Nature Center for the community. KBO was highlighted in a front page article in the "Ashland Daily Tidings" and additional feature articles in Medford and Klamath Falls newspapers. Our quarterly newsletter's look was enhanced and its readership expanded to over 1,200.

As KBO strives for conservation results through education, we have an impact beyond our local communities through leadership at regional, national, and international levels and presentations sharing our approach, successes, and lessons learned. Our leadership roles in 2008 included Vice Chair of Regional Environmental Education Leaders of Southern Oregon; Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Environmental Education Association of Oregon; Chair of the North American Association for Environmental Education 2009 Conference Planning Team; Chair of the Bird Education Alliance for Conservation; Chair of Partners in Flight Education and Communications Working Groups; Writing Team for the Partners in Flight TriNational Vision; and Communications Team for the North American Bird Conservation Initiative Subcommittee on the State of the US Birds. We shared our work through 10 presentations at professional conferences; one invited presentation at the Bird Conservation Alliance bi-annual meeting in Washington, DC, and five invited presentations at Partners in Flight Science Committee, Implementation Committee, and Western Working Group meetings and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Bird Conservation Committee meeting.

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 hemisphere, and the participation and interest of KBO supporters.

We hope that you will enjoy participating in our education and outreach activities in 2009!

Calendar—Join KBO for Winter and Spring Events

February 7: KBO Bird Banding Demonstration & Bird Walk at Jefferson Nature Center

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. Meet at 8am at Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland). Leader: Nala Cardillo, KBO volunteer. To register, call 541-482-3241.

February 14: KBO Bird Walk to Touvelle and Denman

Enjoy birds of the Rogue River riparian habitat and learn about riparian conservation issues. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director. To register, call 541-770-1104.

February 13-15: Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls

See www.winterwingsfest.org

February 18: Hawks ID 101 with Dick Ashford

New to hawk-watching? Haven't even started? If so, this class is for you. Join Dick Ashford for an introduction to our local hawks including some tips on where, when and how to go hawk-watching in southern Oregon. North Mountain Park. 7-8:30. Call 541-488-6606. \$5.

February 21: 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 7: KBO Bird Walk to Whitehorse County Park (Josephine County)

Look for migrant and resident song birds. A Bald Eagle usually frequents the Rogue River in this area also. Dress for Oregon 'winter weather' and wear good walking shoes. Return in early afternoon. Bring a lunch. Meet at 8am at Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland). Leader: Vince Zauskey, KBO volunteer and member. To register, call 541-482-3241.

March 14: KBO Bird Walk to Emigrant Lake

Spot water fowl, waders, raptors, and songbirds wintering at this Ashland lake. Bring your scope. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Jennifer Bruce, KBO Research & Monitoring Program Manager. To register, call 541-770-1104.

March 21: Early Birders, Family Bird Activities

Children ages 5-12 and their parents, join us for a fun-filled morning of learning about birds. Try out binoculars and field guides and learn about our local feathered friends. Meet at Northwest Nature Shop. 10am-noon. Leader: Annie Kilby, KBO Youth Education Projects Lead. To register, call 541-482-3241.

April 4: KBO Bird Walk to Lower Table Rock

Go birding on the trails of Lower Table Rock. Look for Oak Titmouse, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, and California Towhee. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Frank Lospalluto, KBO Volunteer and Contract Biologist. To register, call 541-482-3241.

April 11: KBO Bird Walk to Agate Lake

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.

April 16-22: Godwit Days in Arcata, California

See www.godwitdays.com

May 2: KBO Bird Walk to Jacksonville Woodlands

Oak woodlands and riparian habitats of Jacksonville Woodlands and Jacksonville Cemetery provide numerous songbird species with breeding and nesting habitat. Try to spot breeding behavior and the songs of a variety of species. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Harry Fuller, KBO volunteer & member. To register, call 541-482-3241.

May 9: International Migratory Bird Day in Ashland, Oregon; Klamath Falls, Oregon; and Yreka, California

Celebrate this year's International Migratory Bird Day theme "Birds in Culture" with bird walks, bird banding demonstrations, and kids activities. Learn more about the amazing migrations of birds and their importance to human cultures.

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 541-282-0866.

eBirding with KBO in Review

Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director

KBO's community bird walks became eBird walks in 2008. We contributed checklists from our bird walks to citizen science and conservation efforts through Klamath-Siskiyou eBird. Further, eBird allowed us to better track our own bird walk data and explore it as the year came to a close.

In 2008, KBO led eBird walks in Jackson, Klamath, and Tillamook counties in Oregon and in Siskiyou and Humboldt counties in California. 179 species were listed on bird walk checklists. On these checklists, 9,223 individual birds were counted. Canada Goose was the species with the most individuals listed across all checklists. Twenty-five other species were rarely recorded on bird walks in 2008; only one individual of each was recorded.

Forty checklists were submitted by KBO bird walk leaders. In some cases more than one checklist was submitted per walk when multiple sites were visited. The species found on the most checklists was the Dark-eyed Junco, followed by the Yellow-rumped Warbler, and then the Northern Flicker and American Robin. Frequency of occurrence on checklists might reflect how common a species may be and/or might also reflect the habitats that we frequent most often during bird walks. For example, many of the species listed on only one checklist live in habitats at high elevations, which were less frequented during our 2008 bird walks. Some of the species found most often during 2008 are more widespread and found in a variety of habitat types, while some are more common in riparian areas—a habitat that is frequently visited during our bird walks.

eBird Festivals in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion in 2009

Ashley Dayer, KBO Education & Outreach Director

KBO and our Klamath-Siskiyou eBird partners have coined a new concept—the eBird festival. We are pleased to announce that the Winter Wings Festival (Klamath Falls, Oregon) and Godwit Days (Arcata, California) will be our first eBird festivals, using eBird to contribute data to science and conservation in 2009. All bird walks at these festivals will be eBird walks.

Festival bird walk leaders will be provided with instructions and forms specially designed by Klamath Bird Observatory to ensure that their checklists are appropriately prepared for submission to the online Klamath-Siskiyou eBird database (www.ebird.org/Klamath-Siskiyou).

Sign-up for eBird

You can keep track of and share your bird checklists and explore your data along with all of the eBird data that have been collected in this region by setting up a Klamath-Siskiyou eBird account. You will be able to review frequently updated news and articles about birding and our Klamath-Siskiyou birds! Follow this link to get involved with Klamath-Siskiyou eBird: www.ebird.org/Klamath-Siskiyou.

eBird walks with KBO in 2009!

Our upcoming bird walks are listed in our quarterly newsletter and online at www.KlamathBird.org. In the coming year KBO will now be able to share our eBird lists directly with our field trip participants! With eBird's new "checklist sharing" feature, we can share our lists with participants who simply give us the email address that they use with their eBird accounts.

KBO thanks our bird walk leaders for aiding us in capturing this critical information in 2008. Bird walk leaders in 2008 included John Alexander, Dick Ashford, Carolyn Breece, Nala Cardillo, Ashley Dayer, Harry Fuller, Annie Kilby, Lauren Kemple, Frank Lospalluto, Melissa Molzahn, and Vince Zauskey. If you are interested in volunteering as a KBO Bird Walk Leader, please contact Ashley Dayer at aad@KlamathBird.org.

We also thank our eBird partners: regional Audubon chapters, US Forest Service Redwood Sciences Laboratory and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

KBO and Klamath-Siskiyou eBird partners will host an eBird booth at both festivals, where bird walk checklists will be continually submitted and the latest eBird festival data will be displayed. By entering eBird data at the booth, we will keep track of our festival bird checklists, share them with participants, and explore bird observation data from throughout the region. Further, we will contribute to conservation science by contributing data to the Avian Knowledge Network (www.avianknowledge.net) through Klamath-Siskiyou eBird. Also at the booth, festival participants will be able to create their own accounts and receive one-on-one eBird training. Our goal is to recruit 50 new eBirders at each festival!

Please join us in supporting these eBird festivals and contribute to bird conservation.

KLAMATH BIRD OBSERVATORY
www.KlamathBird.org



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Contribute to the conservation of birds and habitat
Your tax-deductible contribution will support KBO's research and education programs. KBO is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. <http://www.KlamathBird.org/donate>

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