



THE KLAMATH BIRD

www.KlamathBird.org



The Official Newsletter for the Klamath Bird Observatory

Summer 2001

The Summer Edition

Thank you for reading the Klamath Bird Observatory's summer edition of the *Klamath Bird*, our second official newsletter. We are excited to be including the *Western Wingers* Summer 2001 edition within this newsletter; *Western Wingers* is the newsletter of the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network.

I'd like to emphasize the invitation to visit our new headquarters in Ashland, Oregon and our Field Stations in the Upper Klamath Basin. I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Klamath Bird* and if you are not already a member of KBO, we invite you to join using the membership form which is attached to the back of the Newsletter.

John Alexander, KBO Director

Rare Birds In The Upper Klamath Basin

The Klamath Bird Observatory is running 13 constant effort mist netting stations in southern Oregon to collect demographic information about bird populations which breed and migrate throughout our region. In addition to capturing southern Oregon's common birds at our stations, our bird banders periodically catch or detect birds which are rarely observed in our region. During July our banders captured three rare birds.

On July 2, 2001 KBO biologist Ben Wieland captured a second year male Prothonotary Warbler at our Odessa Creek station on the west side of Upper Klamath Lake. KBO volunteer-intern Jim Field captured an adult Chestnut-sided Warbler in breeding condition on July 11, 2001 at our mist netting station on 7 Mile Creek near the northwest side of the Upper Klamath Lake. On July 16, 2001 Ben captured a Black and White Warbler at our Wood River station near Agency Lake.



Prothonotary Warbler

The summer range for these three species is generally east of the Rocky Mountains. For more specific information about these birds and where they were captured please contact us at (541) 201-0866 or email us at KBO@KlamathBird.org.

John Alexander, KBO Director



Come Visit The Klamath Bird Observatory

We have recently moved into our new Headquarters at the Willow Wind Community Learning Center in Ashland, Oregon, and we are continuing to operate our field efforts out of our newly-expanded Upper Klamath Basin Field Station. KBO runs constant effort mist netting and census operations at all of our facilities, and we invite members, partners, friends and interested parties to come visit, meet our field crews, learn more about our program, and enjoy a morning of bird banding. To schedule a visit please contact us at KBO@KlamathBird.org or call (541) 201-0866.

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Come Visit...(continued)

Willow Wind Headquarters

The Klamath Bird Observatory has entered into a partnership with the Ashland Public School District and we have set up our headquarters in the upstairs of the farm house on the District's 44 acre Ashland property, Willow Wind. Willow Wind has many natural features, including an expansive natural area along Bear Creek. Here, riparian restoration efforts are underway through the planting of native trees, shrubs and grasses. KBO has established a constant-effort mist-netting and area search census station along Bear Creek and we have begun to monitor bird community response to restoration efforts. In general we are open to the public for short demonstrations of banding and censusing at 9 a.m. each Saturday. Please phone ahead to confirm, as we can handle only a few people at a time.



Banding at Willow Wind

As a part of our partnership, KBO is offering environmental education opportunities through which we are teaching District students about birds, bird monitoring, and conservation. We are working with teachers, parents and students to integrate our monitoring efforts with their continued restoration and monitoring efforts. As we expand our monitoring program at Willow Wind we look forward to involving District students and teachers

by assisting them in establishing various monitoring projects.

Willow Wind is a wonderful resource for the Ashland School District's elementary, middle and high schools. In addition to the natural area Willow Wind has newly enhanced gardening areas. The schools of Ashland are working together to develop ways of taking advantage of this outdoor classroom and KBO hopes to facilitate this process by continuing to develop a bird-oriented outdoor education curriculum.

Willow Wind is also the home of the Ashland School District Home Schooling Partnership's innovative Community Learning Center, a program that assists families who choose to educate their children through home schooling. The Community Learning Center is a group of students, parents, community members and District staff working together to provide a variety of learning activities to supplement home school curriculums. For more information about the CLC contact Debra Shaeffer Pew at (541) 488-2684.

Upper Klamath Basin Field Station



Upper Klamath Lake

As a part of our extensive partnership to maintain a comprehensive bird monitoring program in the Upper Klamath Basin of southern Oregon, our enthusiastic field crew works out of a field station with two buildings on the west-side of Upper Klamath Lake. At one, we are in our sixth year of residence in the US Fish and Wildlife Cabin on...

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Come Visit...(continued)

...the Upper Klamath Lake Wildlife Refuge, at Rocky Point, Oregon. At this cabin we run a Constant Effort Monitoring Station with nets that reach out into the marsh near the Refuge's Canoe Trail. In addition to a great variety of nesting and migrating landbirds, this part of the marsh and adjacent old-growth forest is home to nesting Bald Eagles, Spotted Owls, American Bitterns, Black Terns and White Pelicans. We often hear Sandhill Cranes during our Area Search efforts at this monitoring station.

This year we have also established a field headquarters at the Seven Mile Guard Station where we have been operating another Constant Effort Monitoring Station for the past 5 years. This picturesque cabin is located several miles up stream from the Upper Klamath Lake on Seven Mile Creek. The mist-netting station at this site is in a cottonwood stand where there is lots of evidence of beaver activity. Seven Mile is an excellent training station as we catch many *Empidonax* flycatchers and *Selasphorus* hummingbirds which can be a challenge to identify in the hand.

Both the Fish and Wildlife Cabin and the Seven Mile Guard Station are provided to KBO through our partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Klamath Refuges, the Winema National Forest, and Crater Lake National Park. These facilities are key to the success of our Upper Klamath bird monitoring efforts and we thank these cooperators.

Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory

KBO's counterpart, the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory (HBBO), is located north of Arcata California adjacent to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Constant Effort Mist Netting stations have been operated at HBBO for nineteen years. Kim Hollinger continues to run these stations throughout the year, and annually Kim

coordinates the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network's spring training workshops at HBBO.

We hope to see you in Ashland, at the Upper Klamath, or in Arcata some time soon !



Environmental Education at Ashland School's Willow Wind Community Learning Center

The Klamath Bird Observatory has the great fortune of entering into a partnership with the Ashland Public School District here in Ashland, Oregon. KBO has established a headquarters at the School District's Willow Wind Community Learning Center, and plans to monitor bird populations there, while providing educational opportunities at the property. The Learning Center is located along Bear Creek, at 1497 East Main Street, in Ashland. We have established a bird monitoring station at the site where, with students from Ashland, we are studying bird populations using various techniques throughout the year. This provides an opportunity to contribute data towards our regional monitoring network and track the effects of riparian restoration efforts as we provide students with hands-on experiences in field biology.

Through our partnership with Ashland Public Schools we will assist our local schools in taking advantage of the unique educational opportunities available at the Willow Wind. Biologists at the Observatory have adopted materials from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory's Environmental Education Program to develop a site specific curriculum that focuses on bird identification, monitoring and conservation. The ultimate goal of this program is to provide local schools with the training and support necessary...

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Environmental Ed...(continued)

...to conduct their own bird monitoring efforts at the Willow Wind. KBO biologists and interns have started to conduct outreach classes within the School District, spreading the word about the Partners in Flight bird conservation program. As we expand the curriculum, we have used it in local classrooms, and during field trips to the Willow Wind bird monitoring station, and to Ashland City Parks North Mountain Park Nature Center.

The Klamath Bird Observatory is excited and honored by the opportunity to work with the students and teachers of the Ashland Public School District, and we are positive it is the perfect opportunity to combine conservation science and education in a meaningful manner.

Ben Wieland, KBO Biologist



Getting The Word Out:

KBO Presentations, Field Trips and Workshops

While we have been preparing for and implementing our 2001 field season, the Bird Observatory has been busy attending and presenting papers at meetings, giving presentations for partners, leading field trips and teaching at bird monitoring training workshops. Through our efforts we are bringing our results to the scientific community, informing partners of our progress, informing the general public about bird monitoring and conservation, and raising the level at which we conduct bird monitoring efforts in northern California and southern Oregon.

We started the year by giving a presentations in Hood River, Oregon where the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region and Oregon/Washington Partners In Flight put on a workshop for Forest Service Employees which

focused on integrating Partners In Flight bird conservation strategies into the land management process. The focus of our presentation was how data collected by the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network provides information to managers at both landscape and local scales.

In March we presented two papers at the Riparian Habitat Floodplains Conference put on by the California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture in Sacramento, California. At this meeting KBO Biologist Glenn Johnson presented a paper which compared bird species richness and bird abundance in grazed and ungrazed meadows of the Marble Mountains of northern California. The second paper we presented at this meeting compared the productivity of the Partners In Flight Riparian Conservation Plan focal species at seven of the mist-netting stations of the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network.

Most recently, in June we attended the Klamath Basin Fish and Water Management Symposium in Arcata, California and presented a paper and poster about using wide-scale landbird monitoring to determine landbird distribution and productivity in conifer forests of the Klamath Bioregion.

This spring we also had the opportunity to visit with the Leadership Teams from the Winema and Fremont National Forests to update them about our Upper Klamath Basin bird monitoring efforts. We also met with the biologists from the Klamath National Forest to present our accomplishments from ten years of bird monitoring on that forest and update them on our 5-year effort to monitor the influence of controlled burns on mixed-conifer birds. The Observatory gave a presentation at a Rogue Valley Audubon meeting, and at a workshop for environmental educators which was put on by the Klamath Falls Extension of Oregon State University.

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Getting the Word Out... (continued)

The Observatory continued to build our partnership with Ashland Parks and the Rogue Valley Audubon Society by leading birding field trips for Jackson and Josephine County community members. We took part in the winter and spring birding tours at North Mountain Park, and, with help from Bob Claypole, we led a trip to Tree Of Heaven on the Klamath River in northern California for the Audubon's Spring Into Birding Workshop.

This May John Alexander and C.J. Ralph were invited to present talks and demonstrations about using constant-effort mist-netting as a part of comprehensive bird monitoring programs at the annual Oregon/Washington Partners In Flight Bird Monitoring Workshop in Bend. Our involvement in this workshop was coordinated by Barbara Kott of the Forest Service, and Steve Dolan of the Bureau of Land Management.

In June we teamed up with the Siskiyou Field Institute and Buckhorn Springs to put on a two-day "Birds, Bed and Breakfast" workshop. During this event we demonstrated our rapid ornithological inventory and small owl monitoring techniques.

Additionally we got together with folks from our coastal counterpart, the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory and the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station's Redwood Sciences Laboratory, to hold the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network annual bird banders training. Kim Hollinger of the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory, and Bob Frey of the Forest Service coordinated this workshop.

We really enjoy getting the opportunity to meet people, and get the word out about the Klamath Bird Observatory by attending meetings and workshops, giving presentations and leading field trips. We are looking forward to attending the Western Bird Banding Association meeting in Spokane, Washington and the Partners In Flight Western Working Group meeting in Fallon, Nevada

later this year.

If you know of any groups who would be interested in having the Klamath Bird Observatory give a presentation or lead a field trip please contact us at (541) 201-0866 or at KBO@KlamathBird.org.

John Alexander, KBO Director



Comprehensive Bird Monitoring In The Little Applegate Valley

We have started a new project with the Rogue National Forest, the Applegate River Watershed Council, and many additional partners, to implement a comprehensive bird monitoring project throughout the Little Applegate watershed in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area.

Our objectives include: (1) collect baseline data on breeding bird distribution and demographics using our standard census and demographic monitoring techniques; (2) use baseline data to identify opportunities for incorporating Oregon/Washington Partners in Flight Conservation Plan Objectives into the Adaptive Management Area management plan; (3) use baseline data to identify groups of birds that should be encouraged and monitored as indicators for the Area; (4) to develop a long-term bird monitoring plan within the adaptive management process to measure the influence of management projects on bird distribution and productivity; and (5) to implement effectiveness monitoring to track the progress of conservation and restoration efforts.

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Applegate...(continued)

We will include privately owned and managed lands as part of the project, while involving Applegate residents in the program through employment, volunteer programs, and educational outreach.

By combining baseline data collected during this first field season with Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network data, we will be able to assess the relative importance of the watershed for birds in our region. We will use large-scale trends in bird population distribution, abundance and productivity to help develop conservation strategies for the Little Applegate. In addition we will assess the cumulative effects of land management in the region to identify bird conservation opportunities within the watershed.

The Little Applegate bird monitoring project will be implemented over a 5 year period with the first year emphasizing the collection and analysis of baseline data, the development of management recommendations and effectiveness monitoring strategies, and the completion of a document outlining the long term bird monitoring strategy for the area. In subsequent years we will implement the monitoring strategy within the framework of adaptive management effectiveness monitoring goals.



Applegate Valley; By Michael Clegg

We worked with National Forest and Watershed Council project leaders, along with private land owners, to identify target study areas. These areas include high elevation meadows associated with the Upper Glade Project, an estimated 1000 acres targeted for the reintroduction of fire, seven 1000-acre Late Succession Reserves, and an estimated 40 miles of riparian habitat. In addition to conducting efforts on federally-managed lands, we are also working on private land holdings.

As with other aspects of the Little Applegate Watershed management planning process, this bird project will act as a model for incorporating bird conservation strategies into the adaptive management planning processes which include both agency and private land managers. We have engaged several partners for this project which include: Applegate River Watershed Council, Threatened and Endangered Little Applegate Valley, Dakubetede Environmental Education Programs, World Wildlife Fund, Southern Oregon University, Evergreen State College, Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory, Institute For Bird Populations, USDA Redwood Sciences Laboratory and others. The Little Applegate Project provides a unique opportunity to involve multiple agencies and landowners into the land management and monitoring process which directly fits into and the Klamath Bird Observatory's objective of developing comprehensive bird monitoring programs to better inform land managers of bird conservation opportunities.

John D. Alexander, KBO Director





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Opening Day In Seiad Valley

May 12th was the opening day for our constant-effort mist-netting season at the PCT1 station, which is located in Seiad Valley, California on the Klamath River at the Pacific Crest Trail. The station is located at the confluences of Seiad Creek which flows from the Siskiyou Crest and Grider Creek which originates in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. The banding volunteers for our opening day were Sam Cuenca, Laura Finley and Cliff Oakley. These three recently returned from a month of banding in the El Ocote Reserve, Chiapas, Mexico. Future banding will include private land owner Brian Helsaple.

Opening day numbers were good, with 50 birds captured. In past years, we have often broken 100 birds on opening day! The primary species were Yellow-breasted Chats, MacGillivray's Warblers, Yellow Warblers and Song Sparrows. This included quite a few recap MacGillivray's Warblers. One of this spring's recaptured MacGillivray's Warblers was a breeding male which was first captured at the station as a hatch-year in 1995. This bird has been captured seven times since then and we conservatively estimate that this bird has migrated over 18,000 since it was first banded.



Yellow Warbler

This year we appear to have missed the early flush of Western (Pacific-slope) Flycatchers which have added to our higher first day numbers of past years. Having just banded in the jungle of Chiapas has provided us with a unique opportunity to see our migrants at either end of their route. This really strengthens the perspective of the incredible journey that these birds make.

Sam Cuenca, Klamath National Forest Biologist



Klamath River Bird Finder Is In the Works

Picture a man meticulously organizing over twenty years worth of handwritten notes of his bird observations along the Klamath River. This is exactly what Bob Claypole is engaged in this year, in preparation for his forthcoming book, *Klamath River Bird Finder*.

Bob is probably known to some of you already. Bob is currently working with the Klamath Bird Observatory conducting point count censuses in southern Oregon and northern California. Bob has been involved in Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Counts and some mist netting, and in 1996 he published (with the help of the California Department of Fish and Game) his annotated checklist, *Birds of the Klamath River California, Irongate Dam to Weitchpec*. He has been a keen and dedicated observer and relentless note-taker since moving to Siskiyou County, California in 1975. Bob supplemented his 25 years of observations with information from Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network census and mist netting data to determine arrival and departure dates for many of the listed migrant bird species.

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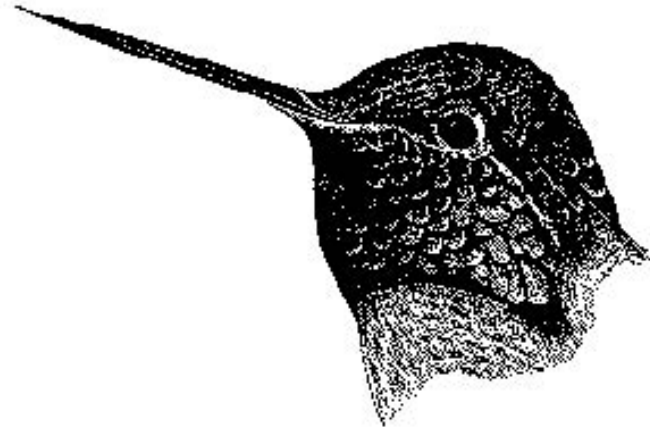


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Klamath River...(continued)

Bob is working with regional publisher Living Gold Press to ready his manuscript for publication within the next year. Besides a revision and expansion of "the list" the publication will include a number of birding Tours complete with maps, road logs, details of what to look for and what species one might expect to see at particular times of the year. The tours will cover a variety of habitats.



Anna's Hummingbird; By: Joey Russel

Additionally, for each of the regularly occurring species Bob will distill his knowledge into a one or two paragraph writeup. This will be quite a comprehensive book! Drawings by another local birder, Joey Russel (who lives in Big Springs in the Shasta Valley, California) will help to make it an attractive book as well.

Should you wish to contact Bob about his ongoing project, you can do so by way of the publishers' email jandk@livinggoldpress.com who will pass the message along, or write or call Bob (PO Box 38, Klamath River, CA 96050; phone 530-465-2370.) We will keep you posted!

Jill Livingston, Living Gold Press

The Story of a Point Counter

The first bird song of the morning comes before the first sign of light, it usually is the American Robin or the Western Wood-pewee that's doing the singing. About a half an hour after these early birds begin comes the first sound from the point counter camp, "beep beep beep.....beep beep beep....beep beep...beep beep," followed by a tired groggy, "already?" These sounds are usually repeated 2 to 3 times at an interval of 8 or 9 minutes.

After the morning song is over a burst of activity involves putting away bedding, getting clothes and boots on and getting a daypack together. A quick bite to eat and a drink, and off to work. For the first 3-4 hours a point counter resembles a cross between a fast-moving warbler and a roosting owl. Dashing from point to point through the woods and collecting data at an astounding pace, yet also sitting completely still for 5 minutes at a time, being completely aware of every sound and movement that takes place.

Upon arriving at the first point of the day, off comes the backpack, out with the clipboard, start the watch and for the next 5 minutes every sound from squirrel to frog, from car to coyote is identified. Of course those aren't birds so into the background they go, and what's left is nothing but a chorus of birdsongs, sounding at times like a 52 piece orchestra that at other times is surprisingly quiet. Starting close by and working out toward the edge of hearing range, all the different birds are noted along with their distance away from the point and the type of noise (call, drumming, song, etc.) by which they were identified.

Some bird songs are really easy to pick out, some are so difficult they are left unidentified. Most fit somewhere in between and as they sing, onto the data form they go. Five minutes ends...

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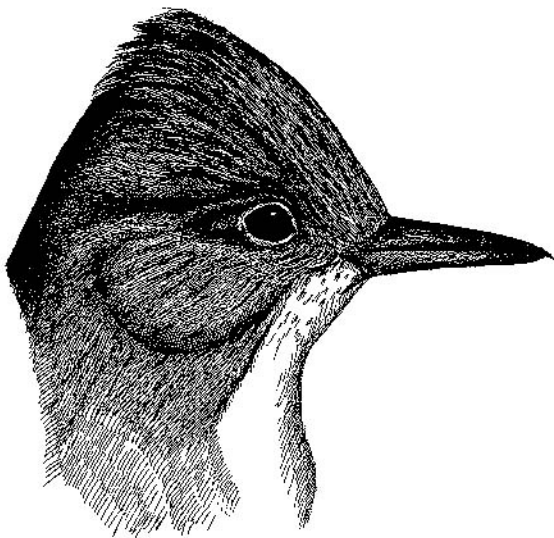
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Point Counter (continued)

...and it's onto the next point. It's still before 6 a.m. and it's good to be moving, warming up in the chilly morning air; 5 minutes sitting still on a north-facing slope can be cold even in June and July. As each point is done it's flagged, mapped and a quick GPS location is taken.

It's now 9:30 a.m., the sun has warmed the air up and between 15 and 25 points have been counted. The last point is just being finished, there is not as much singing as early in the morning, some species have quit singing and others have started singing more. Upon finishing the last point the clock is put away and the compass is taken out, the data sheets change and birds fade into the background. Now the focus is on the vegetation at each point.



Western Wood-pewee; By: Joey Russel

Following the route backwards each point is re-visited. The types of trees along with their heights, densities and sizes are recorded, and then the same is done for all the shrubs in the area, followed by a list of all the plants in the herb layer. A quick elevation and slope reading is taken and onto the next point.

Arriving at the truck hot and sweaty in early afternoon, its time for a quick bite to eat and onto the road, heading off to find the next days census route. This usually involves following crude directions and a whole lot of maps. Sometimes this is the toughest part of the day, driving idly around looking for a hidden turn and torn down signs, when you're just ready to relax a bit.

Reaching the next day's start point and finding a patch of shade its time to finish off paperwork from the morning. Now an hour or two of free time to do as you please, which strangely enough seems often to be looking at birds and plants some more.

Dinner time and out comes the cook gear and food, to make a good amount of food that doesn't take two hours to prepare. This is the only real meal of the day so eat up. Dishes done, an hour to digest and walk around in the cooler evening air and it's off to bed. Wait a minute the sun hasn't set, but it's 8:30 and 8 hours of sleep are preferred, especially when, "beep beep beep... beep beep beep—already?" comes so soon, and it's off on the point counts again.

James Lawrence, KBO Bird Census Specialist



The Klamath Bird is the official news letter for the Klamath Bird Observatory, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We can be reached by mail at PO Box 758, Ashland, OR 97520 or by email at KBO@KlamathBird.org. Our phone number is (541) 201-0866 and our home page is located at www.KlamathBird.org.



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Landbird Monitoring News

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BACK ON SCHEDULE

Our apologies for the lateness of this edition of Western Wingers. We will strive to get this out to folks on a more timely basis this summer.

NABC MANUALS

The Redwood Sciences Laboratory has completed the editing of the North American Banding Council's (NABC) manuals. Final versions of the North American Banders' Study Guide, the Banders' Manual for Passerines and near Passerines, the North American Banders' Manual for Banding Hummingbird, the North American Banders' Manual for Raptor Banding Techniques, and Instructors' Guide to Training Passerine Bird Banders in North America have been sent to the NABC for publication. Copies are available from us for all Network member stations for reproduction for their crew. Please contact us for a hard copy. CD versions will be available shortly from the Bird Banding Lab.

NEW 'TABULAR PYLE' NOW AVAILABLE

Just as we went to press, copies of the new edition of the Tabular Pyle, are now available. Single copies are available for Network members, with one copy for each banding kit. Additional copies are available from the Klamath Bird Observatory (www.klamathbird.org). As most of you know, the Tabular Pyle enables a bander to quickly reference the voluminous material in Peter Pyle's new "Identification Guide to North American Birds". We have summarized more than 130 species, including most species caught in California and Oregon, as well as several caught at our Costa Rica stations. The volume was edited by Walter Sakai and C.J., with substantial contributions from several other folks, especially Kim, and Tina Fabula. Walter, as many of you know, spent his sabbatical with us last year from Santa Monica College. We were very grateful for his hard work at the banding

sites, helping get the owl monitoring protocol established, as well as his herculean work on the Tabular Pyle. If you want to see a sample of it, check it out at <http://www.rsl.psw.fs.fed.us/pif/tabpylems.htm>.

Additional copies are available through the Klamath Bird Observatory for \$45, to cover postage and reproduction costs.

NETWORK'S ANNUAL FALL REVIEW SESSION AND GATHERING

Some 35 folks participated in the Network's traditional gathering last October 15-16 in Arcata to celebrate the finale of another successful season. At the review of the season, many folks presented their results of the past season, including censuses, Area Search, small owl surveys, and mist netting, including breeding and migration season. As part of the gathering, a practice Bander's Certification Evaluation Session was held on the grounds of the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory. The sessions were conducted by Certified Trainers: Bob Frey (Redwood Sciences Lab [RSL]), Kim Hollinger (RSL and HBBO), Dennis Vroman, and C.J. Ralph (RSL).

During the session a written test was administered. Then the bander-applicants took a 14- station practical, using frozen birds where appropriate. In addition, they were give typical station records to edit. At two banding stations, groups of applicants circulated between a band removal, a bird measurement station, and three processing stations. Approximately 60 birds were captured during the morning, including a wide range of species such as hummingbirds, sparrows, flickers, wrentits, warblers, towhees, and others. Each of the five Trainers circulated among the groups in order to encounter each applicant in as many situations as possible. A study skin preparation workshop was presented by Walter Sakai, on sabbatical from

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Santa Monica College. The presentation was designed to stress the importance of proper processing of specimens encountered.

THE YEAR 2000 NETWORK T-SHIRT

Last year's t-shirt for all cooperators of the Network by Gary Bloomfield featured an Eastern Kingbird flying over Tortuguero - our coastal monitoring station run in cooperation with the Carribean Conservation Corporation and others in Costa Rica. Anybody who hasn't received a t-shirt yet, please contact Kim or C.J. to get yours. Anyone who wants to order additional ones, send the size needed, and \$10 for a short-sleeved t-shirt, \$12 for a long-sleeved one, and \$18 for a hooded sweatshirt. We also have a very limited number t-shirts available from past years.

NATIONAL DATA BASE OF POINT COUNTS

Each year, the Klamath Network contributes a few thousand censuses to what we estimate about a million point counts that are taken annually of landbirds in North America. Many of these valuable data are quickly lost or filed away, never to be seen again. In an effort to allow these data to be preserved, efforts are underway to set up one or more permanent data bases, at least for the United States. While it is relatively simple to set up such data bases for censuses, and that effort is underway, since virtually everyone takes very similar data (species, distance bands, and numbers), the concomitant vegetation data base is much less uniform. In an effort to allow the vegetation data to be preserved along with the census data, we are trying to reduce the number of common vegetation variables taken at each census station down to a few, well-established ones, such as canopy cover and average height of trees, shrubs, and grass or herbs. Some other structural and floristic variables will be considered. If anyone is interested in the results of a ongoing series of National meetings to

reach some consensus, contact C.J. for more information

A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE AND THE KLAMATH RIVER BIRDING HOMEPAGE

PCT1 is a Klamath River riparian mist netting station, located on private land in Seiad Valley, California, near the foot of the Pacific Crest Trail. When I bought the property in 1975, the only value I saw for this 12-acre piece was its springtime morel mushrooms and the beaver dam. In 1994 by volunteering with the mist netting operation in Seiad I got hands-on experience learning about songbirds which has influenced my involvement in developing new opportunities for ecotourism along the Klamath River. Up until '94, for me, birding had been limited to getting ducks onto a dinner plate and raising pheasants for a like purpose. Banding with John Alexander (now of the Klamath Bird Observatory) sparked my interest with a new appreciation of dicky birds and birding. Can you possibly imagine the inner gratification of discovering one of the first Willow Flycatcher nests to be found in this forest, in my own front yard? How about documenting the return of the same banded pair of Willows during the following season, and the filming their four chicks? After the summer and fall monitoring seasons are over, I continue birdwatching in the area hoping to sight banded birds. Nearly 1000 birds left PCT1 with bands last year, 106 of these were Spotted Towhees. During a weekly feeder count I saw 12 Spotted Towhees in the tree at onetime; none wore a band even though PCT1 is only 2000 feet away. This winter my back yard records show only one banded Bushtit. Though sightings are hard to come by in the winter, we will see many of our banded birds this spring as they return to their breeding grounds, and our nets. As founder of the Jefferson Chamber, I am a participant in many brain-storming activities to list ideas about how to make the

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Klamath River corridor a tourist destination. Bird watching tops the list. Combined with rafting, hiking and mountain biking, birding can help promote non-destructive uses of our forest. What was needed was a way for us to announce that this special place existed. Working with the Siskiyou Visitors Board, we determined that an inexpensive avenue for promoting ecotourism along the Klamath River was the Internet. Sam Cuenca (Klamath National Forest) suggested that birding should be one of the recommended activities for travelers in our area. I developed some web pages describing the birding and recreation options along the Klamath. The most recent addition to this birding web page, one that is sure to gather a following, is the "Bird Tale of the Week." It will deal with some rather inventive ways of bird watching. Many of these you bird banders will find most interesting, and certainly you will have exciting contributions yourselves. Please visit and spread the word: <http://www.sisqtel.net/~brian/1birdingpage.html>. A productive banding season to you all.

Brian J. Helsaple

KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST SISTER FOREST PROJECT

During 1999 and 2000, the Klamath National Forest continued to develop a long-term avian monitoring program with our Sister Forest partner, Selva El Ocote in Chiapas, Mexico. In 2000, we received our second National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, allowing us to continue data collection through 2001, in addition to local environmental education and involvement with shade coffee. Our efforts have been aided by California Partners in Flight grants in 1997 and 1999. The applied avian studies program at El Ocote was initiated in January 1998 with an intensive bird study techniques workshop put on by Point Reyes Bird Observatory, cooperators in this program. Using the workshop as

a springboard, we began data collection at three MAPS stations and numerous point counts (undisturbed tall forest, disturbed low forest, and shade coffee). Although slowed by the extensive wildfires that swept through El Ocote and much of southern Mexico in 1998, data collection is now carried out on a monthly basis by the Reserve ornithologist, assisted by volunteers from PRBO, USFWS, and USFS. The winter of 1999-2000 was been exciting in terms of new species recorded in the reserve (species number now stands at 428), and numerous recaptures of North American migrants including Wood Thrushes, Swainson's Thrushes, Kentucky Warblers and Canada Warblers banded in 1998 and 1999. We added another MAPS station in high-elevation shade coffee, and nocturnal acoustical survey transects for forest owls. We are also expanding our efforts at fostering production of organic shade coffee and maximizing local profits through assistance with specialty markets. Coffee at El Ocote is grown under the best of conditions; under dense, old multistoried forest of diverse tree species. This program incorporates appreciation of birds and their habitats into the local communities, through the economic channel of shade coffee and its added value, and ecotourism.

Sam Cuenca

SPRING 2001 MONITORING TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

The Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network's annual Spring training workshop was held Friday and Saturday June 1-2 at the Humboldt Bay Bird observatory in Arcata, California. We reviewed landbird monitoring techniques including mist-netting and banding, census and habitat assessment. Four NABC certified banding trainers attended the session. More than thirty participants attended the workshop. Highlights were sessions on Zen and the Art of Distance Estimation, the new Tabular Pyle,

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update on the ABC (Aquatic Bird Community) research program on the dipper, and a brisk pace of captured birds to test the participants' mettle. A major highlight of the spring at HBBO is the virtual absence of mosquitoes this year, due to the dry spring! Visiting the workshop was also a nice male Baltimore Oriole, a first for the dunes. It was great to have this special bird around the nets (but unfortunately not in them) most of the two days. An added attraction was a pair of Black Swifts, only the second record for the dunes. During the weekend a strange geology sighting was made of a structure that was found out on the beach... you can see it at <http://www.humboldt1.com/~theralphs/dunemystery.jpg> Our next workshop will be in southern Oregon, probably in late July. Please contact Kim or C.J. for more information.

THE KLAMATH BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Klamath Bird Observatory, a nonprofit research and educational organization based in Ashland, Oregon, began operations in 2000. As closely affiliated with the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network, Our primary purpose is to identify and investigate factors that affect bird populations by conducting high quality scientific studies in monitoring and inventorying populations, primarily in northern California and southern Oregon. Our efforts will produce results for scientific publications and will provide information for federal, state, and local land managers to better protect and enhance bird populations and their habitats. We will also focus on providing opportunities for students to incorporate scientific bird monitoring and inventory into undergraduate and graduate programs. During the 2000 field season we collected demographic data about the Region's bird populations by capturing nearly 9,000 birds. As well as capturing the region's common flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, sparrows, and

finches our efforts turned up several rare species, including: Least Flycatcher, Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. In addition to our southern Oregon monitoring efforts, we also are working with the Forest Service's Region 5, Partners In Flight Steering Committee, the Klamath National Forest, the Yreka field office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, and many others to operate a comprehensive bird monitoring program in Siskiyou County, California.

As a part of this effort, we completed our 8th year of constant-effort mist netting in Seiad Valley on the middle Klamath River. We also initiated a 3-year project to investigate the effects of prescribed burning on land-bird distribution. KBO collaborates with the Redwood Sciences Laboratory on a project to analyze data from over 7,000 point count census stations submitted to the Network by various partners. The analysis will demonstrate how the wide range of habitats in the Klamath/Siskiyou Province contribute to diverse bird communities, and the overall biodiversity of this important Ecoregion. We are also collaborating the Redwood Sciences Laboratory in the development and testing of Rapid Ornithological Inventory method, and a small owl monitoring protocol. The Klamath Bird Observatory has a diverse board made up of directors from the research, agency, education, and business communities of Oregon and California.

For more information about KBO, or to become involved with our organization or with our internship program please visit our website at <http://www.klamathbird.org>, or contact us at kbo@KlamathBird.org or at 541 201-0866, and at P.O. Box 758, Ashland, Oregon 97520.

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WONDERFUL WORLD, BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE AND FANTASTIC BIRDS: A SEASON OF BIRD MONITORING IN COSTA RICA

On October 5, 2000, I arrived at the Caribbean Conservation Corporation's Tortuguero Research Station and began the most interesting two months of my life. My first venture to the Tropics was to participate in the joint RSL and CCC's Landbird Monitoring Project. I found exciting work, amazing nature and wonderful people, all in a beautiful place.

The project, now in its seventh year, uses methods that are standard in the North and are becoming so in the Central and South in order to monitor bird populations throughout the Americas. These mist-netting capture and censusing methods have proven very effective in building accurate demographic, abundance, migrational movement, and habitat use databases. I had long wanted to follow the migrant birds that I've studied and worked with in various regions of North America. The added opportunity to observe and study the Tropical resident species that I'd only seen in books made the decision an easy one and off I went. My anticipated excitement was immediately surpassed by real life as soon as I got there.

I had come for the second half of the fall migration season - the period of time when millions of southbound birds are concentrated by the constricted landmass of Central America. What a rewarding coincidence that such an important place to monitor birds happens to be one of the most fascinating on earth! Any waking moment brought new experiences with the flora and fauna those first few weeks (this tapered off to only many every day thereafter) and I was living a biologist's dream.

The natural wonders I encountered at first were simply overwhelming and impossible to describe here in this brief account, but in a nutshell, it was awesome in the truest sense. Initially, everything seemed arranged around the will of the multitude of ant populations everywhere . plants that depended upon them and the antbirds, ant-shrikes, ant-tanagers, ant-thrushes that followed them - wow! Then a couple days after my arrival, we saw a major migration movement with some 130 birds captured and 50 species encountered in a single six-hour effort (that's a lot!). About half of the captures were North American-breeding thrush species. One of these, the Gray-cheeked Thrush, had recently piqued the interest of everyone involved with the project. One had been captured at a mist-netting site outside of Toronto, Ontario in May 1998 that had been originally captured and banded at CCC in October of 1996 . this is the sort of occurrence that bird banders live for - to learn with certainty that a bird has traveled from this place to that, to have been found using this habitat and that and to have survived all the obstacles in all that traveling - wow. I hope we see this world traveler (and many more like it) again soon.

After my initial shock of constant amazement eased, I was able to channel my excitement toward the great job at hand. Opening mist nets, and conducting area searches, and migration counts became my daily schedule. White-collared Manikins, Slaty-tailed Trogons, Chestnut-mandibled Toucans, Great Green Macaws - the list goes on and on - all the tropical birds injected a newfound fascination for me. The brilliant butterflies, frogs, snakes, and monkeys of the rainforest kept my eyes wide open . I can't count the times that I could only utter "wow". And I will never forget being thrown back on my rear by a Green Sea Turtle while attempting to measure its

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carapace while assisting a turtle research team - what a thrill!

October's end brought the 25th anniversary of the Parque Nacional de Tortuguero and the weekend-long celebratory festivities that included a boat parade. CCC's good ship Doña Lavinia was decorated with a huge Green sea turtle atop her cabin - a beautiful adult female that was laying eggs! I felt compelled to represent the bird project and decorated myself as a very large parrot using heliconia and palm leaves and fern fronds for plumage and a giant cardboard bill taped to my mosquito helmet. I was helped aboard Doña Lavinia's aft deck where for the next two hours I squawked and beat my palm-leaf wings like a crazed psittid and had great fun . especially with the laughing kids and surprised tourists on shore and in boats. We all were very proud and pleased to be awarded the trophy for best of parade.

The beginning of November brought us fewer birds, as migration wound down. But odd stragglers and interesting species continued to show up . most exciting were the three White-eyed Vireos and two Black-throated Blue Warblers captured... and the Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher observed - all of these with only a handful of records in Costa Rica (and the flycatcher only the second sighting ever at Tortuguero). Of the species captured or detected during censusing efforts, 33 are listed as priority species on the Partners In Flight / Audubon Watch List in one or more of the United States and seven of these on the U. S. National List.

The people I met at Tortuguero are what really made my time there so memorable. What an exceptional group that made up the turtle research crews . talented biologists from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, India,

United States and Uruguay . all working, playing and living together as a family with great dedication, respect and gusto. It was a complete joy to assist with the turtle projects. And the joy was greater, if possible, having these folks assist with the bird efforts. The wonderful people who make the research station such an enjoyable and productive place to work cannot be praised enough. Fredy, Zelmira, Gloria, Alex, William, and "Pajarito" all made my (and I'm certain everyone else's) stay at Tortuguero a very ssspecial one - they are dear people who became friends.

The project enjoyed a successful field season. From August 9 through December 11, crews captured 2,414 birds of 97 species. An additional 50 species were encountered during 163 Area Searches and 535 Migration Counts. Uncountable amazing ecological encounters occurred. So many new friends entered my life. Immeasurable joy was experienced in a far too short time. What an enriching time of my life those months became . I know I will return because part of my heart stayed behind when I left.

Those of you who would like to join us, please get in touch with me or CJ, as we are filling up fast with folks for the coming fall!

Bob Frey

Western Wingers is a newsletter of the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network and is printed at the Redwood Sciences Laboratory. Western Wingers welcomes contributions of landbird monitoring news. Articles submitted will be refereed by the editors prior to acceptance. Please keep articles and notes brief. If you have any news please contact Kimberly Hollinger, C. John Ralph, or Sherri Miller at the following address:

U. S. Forest Service Redwood Sciences Laboratory
1700 Bayview Drive Arcata, CA 95521
Telephone (707)825-2900 FAX: (707)825-2901
cralph@fs.fed.us



THE KLAMATH BIRD

www.KlamathBird.org

The Official Newsletter for the Klamath Bird Observatory

Summer 2001



Klamath Bird Observatory-Membership Sign-up Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Check One:

_____ -I would like to become a member of the Klamath Bird Observatory.
Regular annual membership dues-\$35.

_____ -I would like to become a Student Member of the Klamath Bird Observatory. I am currently enrolled at
_____. Student annual membership dues-\$15

_____ -I would like to become a Supporting Member of the Klamath Bird Observatory. With an annual
donation of over \$100 Supporting Memberships will receive a hat embroidered with KBO's logo.

_____ -I would like to become a Lifetime Member of the Klamath Bird Observatory. With a one time
donation of over \$1,000. This donation will provide a KBO Intern Student with housing and a stipend for one
month. Lifetime Members will receive a hat embroidered with KBO's logo, and a Lifetime Membership
Certificate.

I have included a check made payable to the Klamath Bird Observatory in the amount of

\$_____.

Please mail this Klamath Bird Observatory Membership signup form, with annual dues to: Memberships,
Klamath Bird Observatory, PO Box 758, Ashland, OR 97520