

The Klamath Bird

Newsletter of the Klamath Bird Observatory, Summer 2009



Southern Oregon Viticulture: Sustaining Wings, Wine and Wildlife

Annie Kilby, KBO Youth Education Project Lead

This summer Klamath Bird Observatory is celebrating the tradition of science and conservation at our second annual *Wings and Wine Gala*. The Gala is being held on August 22, at RoxyAnn Winery, in Medford. Holding this celebration at a winery prompted us to consider opportunities for bird conservation through sustainable wine production practices. In recent years, many southern Oregon vineyards and wineries have become more conservation minded, taking measures to promote wildlife on their property.

Rogue and Applegate Valley vineyards, including RoxyAnn Winery, Agate Ridge Vineyard, Bridgeview's Applegate Vineyard, and Weisinger's of Ashland share their barns and warehouses with Barn Owls and swallows. These birds provide ecological services for the vineyards by helping to control insect and rodent pests that could be harmful to grape production.

Some regional vineyards are working to benefit wildlife through conservation oriented farming techniques and certifications. Low Input Viticulture and Enology (LIVE) certifications are awarded to vineyards that meet standards of sustainable viticulture. Trium Wines in Talent is LIVE certified; they use native cover crops, practice alternate row mowing, and use drip irrigation as part of their sustainable grape production.

Wineries that share their property with a stream can become Salmon-Safe certified. Such vineyards are

dedicated to protecting and restoring habitats for anadromous fish populations through restoration, the control of run-off, and natural methods of pest control. Troon Vineyards in Grant Pass is Salmon-Safe certified and their conservation



Raptor perches are installed at Cowhorn Vineyard to attract raptors such as this Red-tailed hawk to patrol for rodents which can damage the roots of grape vines. Photo: Jim Livaudais

measures include preserving a riparian corridor for wildlife. Cowhorn Vineyard in the Applegate Valley has been certified as both biodynamic and organic. This vineyard minimized the need to transport natural resources from outside of the area by building their tasting room with timber and rocks from the property. The vineyard's 117 acres are interspersed with 15 acres of "habitat breaks." These habitat breaks promote and attract insects and birds, facilitating the ability of these animals to provide ecological services for the vineyard as pollinators and pest controllers. Eleven raptor perches were installed encouraging hawks to hunt in the vineyard. Now Cooper's and Red-

Inside this Gala issue:

| | |
|---|----|
| President's Perch | 2 |
| KBO and Stable Isotope Research | 2 |
| Otis Swisher and the Birds of Roxy Ann | 3 |
| Riparian Fuel Management | 4 |
| Bird Bio: Yellow-breasted Chat | 4 |
| KBO Events Calendar | 5 |
| Education and Outreach Transition | 7 |
| 2009 Science Interns | 7 |
| Wetlands, Water and Waterbirds Open House | 8 |
| The Call to Wings | 9 |
| Staff and Board List | 10 |

tailed Hawks are seen on the perches looking for a meal. Nest boxes for Barn Owls, Western Bluebirds, and bats are also part of this farm's biodynamic approach. Cowhorn Vineyard also restored two acres of the farm by removing invasive plant species and cultivating natives plants.

In the face of global climate change and population growth we must seek opportunities for better stewardship of the resilient ecosystems that provide us with the natural resources we will need in the future. The wineries and vineyards mentioned above are working towards this end through more sustainable farming practices that not only benefit birds and their ecosystems, but will also enhance the health and productivity of these farms into the future.

Don't Miss KBO's
Wings and Wine Gala!
Aug. 22, 09 at RoxyAnn Winery
(Visit: www.KlamathBird.org for details)

President's Perch

John Alexander, KBO Executive Director (standing in for Margaret Widdowson)

The Klamath Bird Observatory is rooted in the tradition of natural history and field biology. Many of us who have worked at the Klamath Bird Observatory studied science following traditional natural history methods that now are taught by fewer and fewer universities in this era of emphasis on microbiology and lab sciences. While these later disciplines are invaluable, the world is still desperately in need of scientists trained to investigate and interpret life in situ and at a macro level. In summer, the season of biological production in the Northern Hemisphere, our President, Margaret Widdowson is immersed in her work as a professional botanist, so I am making the proclamation from the President's Perch. The call for this season is that of honoring this tradition of field natural history.

The study of natural history involves scientific research of plants and animals that is based on observational approaches. It has been said that wildlife management is

a discipline that started as applied natural history. Therefore it is with pride, and honor for those who taught us, that we carry on this tradition by employing hands on methods of biology in the field to produce scientific results that advance conservation. We also offer environmental education programs that introduce the conservationists of tomorrow to the science of natural history. We teach field biology to our interns and younger employees and bring opportunities to learn standard field methods for monitoring birds through our international training programs. Through our work at the Klamath Bird Observatory we perpetuate our heritage of natural history. Our aim in this newsletter, and during our second Wings and Wine Gala, is to celebrate the tradition and art of natural history. Please join us in the celebration by attending our Gala on August 22, or supporting our work through your tax deductible contribution.



KBO Executive Director

KBO Contributing to the Advancement of Stable Isotope Research

Keith Larson, KBO Associate

Over the past decade stable isotopes have emerged as a new tool for understanding foraging ecology and movement of animals. The vast majority of migratory birds are too small to carry traditional radio and satellite transmitters. Since 1997, the use of stable isotopes for tracking animals across landscapes has been pioneered by Dr. Keith Hobson of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Beginning in 2006, KBO biologists have partnered with Dr. Hobson to better understand isotopic landscapes, develop new methods for understanding how to apply what isotopes can tell us to ecological studies, and tracking birds from the Nearctic to the Neotropics and the Palearctic to Africa.

As the majority of western Nearctic-Neotropical migrants winter or stop-over in Mexico, understanding the patterns of isotopic hydrogen, which vary across the landscape, has the potential for greatly enhancing our knowledge of migration patterns. As migrants move across landscapes their feathers and body tissues incorporate the isotopes unique to the areas where they forage, creating a kind of chemical map of their route. We have recently completed an ambitious project to describe the entire country of Mexico using hydrogen isotopes collected from well water and House Sparrow feathers. Two papers have been accepted in leading scientific journals describing this research.

With the assistance of two KBO interns, we also partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Forensics

Laboratory, in Ashland Oregon, to salvage over 800 birds collected by wildlife investigators and rehabilitation clinics and study patterns of isotopes in a range of tissues. In another partnership with Wildlife Images in Merlin, Oregon, we are studying the effects of diet on isotopic patterns in feathers of several raptor species. Additionally we are working with local ornithologist Barbara Massey using hydrogen isotopes to study the altitudinal migration of several short-distance migrant species that winter in the Rogue Valley.

Keith Larson, KBO Associate, began his PhD at the Department of Animal Ecology at Lund University, a leading institution in the study of animal movement. Keith's research involves connecting populations of Swedish migrants with their wintering grounds in Africa using stable isotopes. His research focuses on patterns of evolution in migratory behavior across a migratory divide and the process of speciation in the Willow Warbler. It involves collecting feathers from birds in Europe and Africa as well as exciting field work in sub-Saharan Africa collecting insects and vegetation to characterize this region's isoscape (i.e., variation in isotope patterns across the landscape). As KBO continues to collaborate with researchers globally to better understand the entire annual cycle of avian migrants and the evolution of migratory behavior using stable isotopes, we inform the conservation of migratory species through the integration of traditional field biology with advanced chemistry.

Otis Swisher and the Birds of Roxy Ann

Lauren Kemple, Education Specialist (AmeriCorps)

As we head to RoxyAnn Winery for our second annual Wings and Wine Gala, we are celebrating conservation and reflecting on a tradition of field biology which has been at the heart of conservation success stories in the United States. Field biology is also at the heart of what we do at the Klamath Bird Observatory. As we consider our roots in field ornithology, we honor the early conservationists of the Rogue Valley and remember Roxy Ann Peak, and its place in this history. The striking peak looks over the RoxyAnn Winery where our Gala will be held on August 22.

In 1969, Otis Swisher began the Rogue Valley's legacy of bird conservation informed by science, studying the birds of Roxy Ann. Roxy Ann was a wild place in those days—1,000 acres of city park, covered in poison oak, and with a road closed to the public. Otis' eyes twinkled as he recalled the site, describing it as marvelous for wildlife.

Otis chose Roxy Ann as a site for studying birds through bird banding, because it, and Cherry Lane (about a mile south of Roxy Ann), were the only places in Oregon at that time where Blue-gray Gnatcatchers could be regularly found. He became the first Oregonian to band gnatcatchers. In 1970, Otis' records showed four pairs of gnatcatchers on Roxy Ann, with two of the birds banded. In addition to gnatcatchers, Otis' data identified Roxy Ann as an early host to Black Phoebes (quite uncommon at the time), Black-throated and Black-chinned Sparrows, and Common Poorwills.



The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a rare sight when Otis began his surveys of Roxy Ann Butte in 1969. Photo: Jim Livaudais

When asked how Roxy Ann has changed in the last 50 years, Otis' face saddens. With so much poison oak and white oak removed, and development all around Roxy Ann, he says that the habitat is not nearly as good for wildlife. He hopes "large enough spaces for passive recreation" and wild areas will increase throughout the valley. Though he has seen so much loss of habitat, Otis is hopeful about the future for local birds.

As a long time supporter of Klamath Bird Observatory, he praises KBO's work, saying that the science staff produces skilled banders who bring an essential sensitivity to their work. Knowing that KBO works both locally and abroad with international interns and training programs, he is hopeful that the tradition of excellence in field ornithology will be maintained and continue to spread throughout the world.

Though Otis is no longer banding birds, he is still active in ornithology. He recently created an account with Klamath-Siskiyou eBird (www.ebird.org/klamath-siskiyou), where he can continue to contribute valuable data to bird conservation. KBO is incredibly grateful for the data and strong scientific foundation that Otis set for our current work in the the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion and beyond.

Let your spirits soar at
Klamath Bird Observatory's

Wings and Wine Gala

Saturday, August 22nd 6pm–10pm
RoxyAnn Winery in Medford, Oregon

Flying into the future, celebrating a tradition of conservation
Benefitting birds...
ecosystems...
our quality of life

- Complimentary wine and delicious local food
- Not-So-Silent Auction from 6pm-9pm
- Live Music from ONE HORSE SHY

Get tickets now – LIMITED AVAILABILITY
\$45 (\$55 at the door)

- Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland
- Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford
- Or call 541.201.0866

The ingenious motifs of artist Gary Bloomfield symbolize KBO's 2009 Wings and Wine Gala. Not only beautiful, the images carry hidden meaning. Look for the KBO Yellow-breasted Chat, also created by Bloomfield, with its bander's pliers shaped coverts, leg band, and stylized Tlinget ornamentation. The elegant grape vines partially hide the skulking chat and twine into the peak of Roxy Ann (site of the RoxyAnn Winery, host to this year's KBO Gala).

Riparian Fuels Management: KBO Partners with the Medford District BLM to Inform a Pressing sManagement Question

Jaime Stephens, Research and Monitoring Director

Four years ago KBO and the Medford District BLM received funding from the Joint Fire Sciences Program to begin a study to inform a pressing management question. The BLM was posed with a decision regarding whether or not to include riparian areas in fuel reduction treatments. Fuel treatments involve reducing the risk of severe wildfires through the removal of small trees and shrubs and the reintroduction of fire were it is a natural component of the ecosystem. Past studies in southwestern Oregon suggest that many mixed-conifer forest riparian areas historically burned with similar frequencies and intensities as associated upland areas, and that naturally burning low severity fires that occurred every 1 to 35 years played an important role in maintaining these areas.

Our Joint Fire Sciences study assessed the effectiveness and ecological effects of fuel reduction and prescribed fire in riparian areas associated with perennial and intermittent streams. The research represents an interdisciplinary collaboration between the BLM's fire management team and a team of field ecologists, serving as a model for designing, implementing, and monitoring the effects of fuel reduction projects within the

adaptive management framework. It is only through a strong commitment of partners that it is possible to conduct scientific research as a part of land management programs. Results from this study are now available in the form of a Decision Support Tool, and have been formally presented at workshops hosted by the Medford District BLM, and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, and at the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecology Conference.

Adaptive Management can be described as an information feedback loop through which ecological monitoring informs the design of management and restoration efforts, and is then used to measure ecosystem management outcomes. Through adaptive management scientists and managers work together to develop and continually improve sustainable land use practices that contribute to the restoration and maintenance of resilient ecosystems. **A Decision Support Tool (DST)** is an instrument used for conveying scientific information that informs decision-making through synthesis and interpretation of quantifiable and repeatable scientific data. DSTs can be broadly defined as the process through which decisions are made (e.g., adaptive management itself) or as something used in the process e.g. a pamphlet or interactive computer program.

Bird Bio: Yellow-breasted Chat

Lauren Kemple, Education Specialist (AmeriCorps)

Wandering down the Bear Creek Greenway, a yellow flash of movement caught my eye. Stopping for a better look, I peered deep into the riparian shrubs. Yes, it was still there, skulking but only partially hidden. It had olive-colored wings and back and a yellow throat and breast. The bird's belly was white, its tail very long, and the white "spectacles" around its eyes were quite distinct. This is my first year birding, and just as I was getting to know all the local birds, spring arrived with an influx of yellow confusion. So many migrants showed up, their warm colors seeming to carry the tropical climate of their wintering grounds into the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. Determined to identify this bird, I pulled out my field guide and flipped through. Of course! It was a Yellow-breasted Chat, the very bird depicted through the art of Gary Bloomfield in KBO's logo.



Yellow-breasted Chat
5/31/02, Denman Wildlife Area

Looking something like a tanager and sounding something like a thrasher, the taxonomically contentious Yellow-breasted Chat is currently placed by most with the Wood-warblers in the family Parulidae. Photo: Jim Livaudais

Often found in willow thickets or bushy tangles, chats winter in the lowlands of Mexico and Central America and breed throughout the Eastern United States and various parts of the West, including much of northwestern California, eastern Oregon, and the Willamette, Umpqua, and Rogue River valleys. In California, where populations have declined in much of their historical range, the chat is designated as a Species of Special Concern.

References:

The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.) www.bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/575; The riparian bird conservation plan: a strategy for reversing the decline of riparian associated birds in California. www.prbo.org/calpif/pdfs/riparian.v-2.pdf; Peterson Field Guides: Warblers, 1997, Jon L. Dunn and Kimball Garrett.

Calendar—Join KBO for Summer and Fall Events

August 8th: Bird Walk to Mt. Ashland. Bird the high country, Mt. Ashland and vicinity. We will look and listen for upper elevation birds, such as Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Quail, Purple and Cassin's Finch, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-headed Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak, and Cooper's Hawk. Bring a lunch if you'd like to eat in the picnic area. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Vince Zauskey, KBO Volunteer and Member. To register, call 541-770-1104.

August 14th: KBO Family Day at Jefferson Nature Center with Spanish Translators. Children and parents, join us for a fun-filled morning of learning about birds. We'll explore the site of Jefferson Nature Center and nearby locations along Bear Creek in south Medford. You'll view a variety of songbirds up close and learn about bird research and conservation with KBO biologists. Spanish speaking families are welcome, we will have translation. Meet at 9 am at the Jefferson Nature Center. Leader: Rachel Werling, KBO Education & Outreach Director. To register, call 541-201-0866.

September 5th: KBO Birding by Boat at Howard Prairie Lake Glide past rafts of migratory water fowl, scurrying shore birds and soaring raptors while floating the blue waters of Howard Prairie Lake. Bring your kayak or canoe, or reserve a canoe to rent at the Howard Prairie Resort (3 available):

<http://www.howardprairieresort.com/html/marina.html>. Meet with your boat, a bag lunch and binoculars at 7:30am at Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland) to caravan to Howard Prairie Lake. Leader: Harry Fuller, KBO volunteer & member. To register, call 541-482-3241.

September 12th: KBO Bird Walk to Agate Lake. View raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders surrounding the lake and songbirds in the fields and oak woodlands. Bring your scope. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leaders: Harry Fuller & Steve Runnels, KBO volunteers & members. To register, call 541-770-1104.

September 18th & 19th: Siskiyou Field Institute. Discover what researchers are learning through the Klamath Bird Observatory's extensive bird banding efforts. Visit a mist netting station along the Rogue River, capturing birds and learning techniques of aging, sexing and banding. Practice data collection and take an optional tour of Wildlife Images. This is an excellent opportunity to see migrating and resident birds up close.

Friday September 18th 7pm at the SFI Deer Creek Center. Saturday September 19th at Wildlife Images: \$50. To register and for more information visit www.thesfi.org or call 541-597-8530

October 3rd: KBO Birding for Beginners along the Bear Creek Greenway in Ashland. If you want a casual introduction to birding with an experienced guide, this is the walk for you. We'll walk along the Bear Creek Greenway where we'll see resident and fall migrants that inhabit this riparian corridor. Binoculars and field guides available to borrow. Meet at 8am at Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland). Leader: Steve Runnels, KBO volunteer & member. To register, call 541-482-3241.

October 10th: KBO Bird Walk to Lower Table Rock. Go birding on the trails of Lower Table Rock. Look for Oak Titmice, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, and California Towhee. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). To register, call (541) 770-1104. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Steve Runnels, KBO volunteer & member. To register, call 541-770-1104.

October 17th: KBO Bike and Bird the Bear Creek Greenway. Lets see more of what the Greenway has to offer in bird habitat by using our bicycles! It's a great time to enjoy the fall colors, stopping along the way to search for migratory warblers, as well as clever resident species, well camouflaged in the yellow leaves. Meet at the Ashland Dog Park off of W. Nevada St. with your bicycle and a snack, 8am. Leader: David MacHamer. Suggested donation \$5-\$10. To register, call 541-201-0866.

November 7th: KBO Bird Walk to Iron Gate Reservoir, N. California. Visit this beautiful Siskiyou County Lake for some great birding. Dress for fall weather and bring a lunch. We'll depart by 8AM from Northwest Nature Shop (Ashland). Leader: Vince Zauskey, KBO volunteer & member. To register, call 541-482-3241.

November 14th: KBO Bird Walk to Lynn-Newbry Park and the Talent Greenway. This riparian area is bustling with birds in the fall. We'll look and listen for Fox Sparrows, Wrentits, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Ring-necked Ducks in the ponds. Meet at 8am at Wild Birds Unlimited (Medford). Leader: Frank Lospalluto, KBO contract biologist & member. To register, call 541-770-1104.

November 19 & 21st: KBO Hawk Class and Field Trip with Dick Ashford: see insert on page 9 for details.

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.

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KBO Education and Outreach Transition

By John Alexander

The Klamath bird Observatory's model of success involves our Education and Outreach Team working closely with our Research and Monitoring Team to deliver our message of science-based conservation to diverse audiences that include our partnering land management agencies, our community, and our children. Our approach has been recognized

internationally and is a model now being replicated by organizations and bird conservation networks throughout the Western Hemisphere. This summer the leadership of our Education and Outreach Team has transitioned from Ashley Dayer to Rachel Werling.

At the end of June, Ashley Dayer fledged from her position as KBO Education and Outreach Director after three and a half years of service. On behalf of our staff and board I am grateful for Ashley's contribution to the growth of our Education and Outreach program. Ashley's efforts resulted in excellent success and continued regional and national recognition of KBO as a leader in bird conservation. Among many accomplishments, Ashley led the design of our conservation science education program for youth, multiple place-based birding trail curricula, a banding interpretation manual and toolbox, and a bird walk leader manual and expanded bird walk program. Ashley brought expertise in social science to KBO, integrating evaluation components into our education program, conducting surveys for the Partners in Flight bird conservation initiative, and publishing manuscripts and conference proceedings. Ashley completed her certificate in Nonprofit Management while at KBO, applying new knowledge and skills to the organization. Ashley also spearheaded tremendous enhancement of the community's awareness of KBO helping to increase the financial support we receive from our members. Ashley will be pursuing her PhD in Natural Resources from Cornell University. With a strong commitment to bird conservation, Ashley will maintain the leadership roles she began at KBO including Bird Education Alliance for Conservation Chair (www.birdedalliance.org) and Partners in Flight Education and Communications Working Group Chair (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/PIF/).



Ashley enjoys a visit with partners from Universidad de Guadalajara as part of their collaboration on Partners in Flight's trinationl assessment of landbird conservation needs.

Rachel Werling joined KBO's capable Education and Outreach team director just before Ashley's departure, and is now running the program as our new Education and Outreach Director. Rachel brings a diverse breath of experience to KBO. She graduated from Humboldt State University with a BS in Environmental Biology. She obtained



Rachel Werling on a tour of the Biscuit Fire area during the 2009 Klamath-Siskiyou Ecology conference.

a MS from Arizona State University in Plant Biology. Rachel served in the Peace Corps in Ecuador where she initiated a project to save an endangered rainforest; her efforts resulted in the creation of the Bilsa Biological Station. She lived for twelve years in Oaxaca, Mexico where she partnered in running a cultural and ecological tourism company, creating educational and entertaining journeys through the rich cultural and biological diversity of southern Mexico. Rachel studied

White-tailed Kite as an undergraduate and has worked in the Pacific Northwest conducting Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk and botanical surveys for the US Forest Service and others. Throughout Rachel's career, birds have been a continual interest. Rachel is passionate about inspiring conservation through education, and finds KBO's work and mission a perfect match. On behalf of our staff and board I welcome Rachel to the KBO family.

KBO Welcomes 2009 Science Team Interns

Bob Frey, KBO Banding Project Leader and Jennifer Bruce, KBO Biologist

—Each summer the KBO staff are excited to introduce our next cohort of Science Team student interns!

We have an excellent intern crew lined up this year. Adam Beeler, Senior Intern and Banding Project Field Crew Leader, is from Ohio and an Ohio State University graduate. He began working with us last year as a KBO intern working with the Redwood Sciences Laboratory (RSL), our closest partner. Adam recently returned from the KBO-RSL Tortuguero Bird Monitoring Project in Costa Rica. Todd Jones, also from Ohio and currently a senior at Ohio State University comes to us after banding birds with former KBO intern Ian Ausprey, working on the Ohio Riparian Project.

Interns continued next page

Protecting Wetlands, Water and Waterbirds – A Community Open House

Lauren Kemple, KBO Education Specialist

On Thursday, May 28, third through fifth grade students at Chiloquin Elementary School demonstrated their skills and knowledge as ecologists. At their *Protecting Wetlands, Water, and Waterbirds* open house, students showed community members how the scientific method works, how to identify birds using field guides, and what the presence of macroinvertebrates means about water quality. Colorful student graphs and drawings were displayed, showing results from their investigations of local habitats. The highlight of the evening was “Buzzing Birders,” a habitat and bird identification gameshow where students, teachers and family members teamed up, demonstrating how fun science can be! These student ecologists have been a part of the *Protecting Wetlands, Water, and Waterbirds* program since January 2008. Through this program, students visited the Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge each fall and spring to study birds, test water quality, learn about mist netting and bird banding, and explore the wildlife habitat by foot and canoe. Educators also led students in studies of the Sprague River’s riparian habitat behind their school.

During one spring field trip, a third-grade student exclaimed, “This doesn’t seem like school ‘cause we’re outside having fun!” His classmate responded, “But we’re learning cool stuff about this place!”

This program, yet another celebration of field biology and conservation, was made possible by a Nature of Learning Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Klamath Basin Audubon Society, Eagle Optics and AmeriCorps Northwest Service Academy and local volunteers.



KBO educators and Chiloquin fourth and fifth graders explored the Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge by canoe during the final field trip for *Protecting Wetlands, Water and Waterbirds*. Photo: KBO file.

Interns (continued)

Karl Fairchild, a returning intern, is a native Oregonian from Philomath, and a recent graduate of Oregon State University. He began birding when he was eight years old and has considerable experience in avian surveys. Stuart Fety is also a native Oregonian, from Rogue River, and returns to KBO after a previous internship with a KBO nest-searching project in 2006; this spring Stewart graduated from Kenyon College.

In a continuing partnership with the National Park Service Oregon Caves National Monument and Park Flight Program, we are pleased to have William Garcia of Belize join us as our 2009 Park Flight Intern. William became interested in birds while working at the Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental

Education, has since worked with various projects in Belize over the past three years, and joins us to master his banding and bander-training skills.

This past winter we were happy to have Whitney Haskell on

board with us as a Data Management and Banding Intern. Whitney is from New York and recently graduated from the University of Vermont. She left in early spring to contribute to a bat study in Kansas, but we are looking forward to her return for our fall migration monitoring efforts. Danielle Morris, from Illinois, joined us in May as an Aquatic Bird and Data Management Intern after

graduating with her second B.S., this one from Michigan State University. Daphne Swope joined us later in the season, also coming from Michigan State.

These interns will contribute substantially to the work that KBO will accomplish in the coming year and their dedication and hard work is appreciated.

Through their

internship, they carry forward a tradition of field biology that is at the heart of successful conservation. Welcome 2009 interns!



This season’s KBO interns and staffers enjoy a break in the Klamath Siskiyou Ecology Conference activities. Left to right: William Garcia, Rachel Werling, Jennifer Bruce, Danielle Morris, Jaime Stephens, Karl Fairchild, John Alexander, Stuart Fety, Adam Beeler, Todd Jones. (Not pictured is our newest intern Daphne Swope.)

1.5 day KBO Hawk Class and Field Trip to Butte Valley and Lower Klamath Basin.

November 19th & 21st: Hawks and eagles have captured our imagination like few other birds. Easily seen, they push our primal poetic buttons. Want to observe them with an expert? Here's your chance: join Dick Ashford for an informative Thursday evening class followed by a Saturday guided outing to Butte Valley (near Dorris, CA) to search for these majestic raptors. In late November, Butte Valley usually has better raptor viewing than its more famous neighbor to the north, the Lower Klamath NWR. We'll try to see as many hawks and eagles as we can. Past KBO hawk trips have seen Red-tailed Hawks in a variety of color morphs, Rough-legged Hawks, Ferruginous Hawks and Golden Eagle, Northern Harriers and Merlin. Throughout the day, we'll examine the natural history of hawks and their allies, including behavior, habitat and adaptations for survival. At the end of the outing, we'll be certified raptor enthusiasts!

Thursday November 19th, 7-8:30 pm at the Jefferson Nature Center for an interactive presentation on raptors to prepare you for the field trip. **Saturday November 21st,** meet at 7:45 am at Shop N Kart in Ashland to carpool for the field trip. Return at 4:30pm. Advance registration required (limit: 20). **\$35 Member, \$55 nonmembers.** To register, call 541-201-0866.

A Call to Wings!

Dear Friends and supporters of the Klamath Bird Observatory, there is a lot of talk these days about the economic crisis. We all know it is being felt in nearly every home and field of work. The world of non-profits is no exception; our funding is down. We are doing better than many, and are grateful for that, but we could be facing difficult decisions if things don't improve. Since coming on board with KBO, I have been tremendously impressed by the level of personal commitment and donation that the staff make every day to this cause. Doing more with less isn't really an option, as we are already at full bore. We are looking for innovative solutions. Part of my personal background involves educational tourism. To me, the idea of paying to do something you enjoy and want to learn about makes sense. As a spin off on this, our outreach program is developing more fee based programming: from unusual local birding outings, to trips to the coast and even international offerings. We are experimenting with this structure and hope you will be supportive, as the fees you pay will help the Klamath Bird Observatory continue to offer its full range of activities to promote birds, research, habitat and environmental education in your community. We will continue to offer our free bird walks, and family days with the help of our partners and skilled volunteer walk leaders, but in addition watch for some exciting new events in upcoming newsletters and on our website. See you there! Rachel Werling, KBO Education and Outreach Director

BE A KBO VOLUNTEER!! KBO is looking for committed individuals with a will to help. Among other things we could use a newsletter layout artist, help with website maintenance, experienced birders for walk leaders, an occasional computer troubleshooter, and a volunteer-volunteer coordinator. We can offer you training if you don't have the skill and we have many more possibilities. KBO offers you experience in the nuts and bolts of NGO function and also special opportunities for participating in the amazing worlds of field science and community environmental education. Call us! 541-201-0866

Membership & Contributions

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

Name _____ Address _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

Please select one and make your tax-deductible donation payable to: Klamath Bird Observatory or "KBO". Send to KBO, PO Box 758, Ashland, OR 97520.

_____ Regular Annual Membership \$35 _____ Student Membership \$15
_____ Family Membership \$50
_____ Supporting Membership \$100 or more _____

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

This year we have a grant from an anonymous donor to match our membership retention. Please keep your membership current! It is worth double its value to KBO!

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