

The Klamath Bird

Newsletter of the Klamath Bird Observatory, Summer 2011



Restoration and Bird Monitoring for Ecosystem Health: Not Just "For the Birds"

Liz Williams, KBO Education and Outreach Project Leader

As one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world, the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else on earth. The oak woodland and savanna, mixed conifer, alpine and subalpine, coastal redwood, and serpentine habitats of this region, and the wildlife species they support, are priceless resources that we all share and enjoy.

Over the past century, some of these habitats have been degraded through unsustainable land use practices such as fire suppression, overgrazing, or clearcutting. Dam construction has altered riverine ecosystems, and invasive species have become a major natural resource concern in some areas. In recent years the field of restoration ecology has expanded, as land managers, landowners, and scientists seek to restore habitats and ecosystems that have been degraded. The Society for Ecological Restoration defines ecological restoration as an "intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its health, integrity, and sustainability."

KBO's comprehensive bird monitoring in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion over the past two decades has resulted in hundreds of thousands of observations that are helping to inform our understanding of bird populations and advance bird conservation in this region. According to the 2011 State of the

KBO intern and Oregon State University masters student Kate Halstead conducts a point count in an oak woodland habitat in the Umpqua Valley during Spring 2011. Bird monitoring is a cost-efficient way to measure the effectiveness of ecological restoration efforts.



Birds Report on Public Lands and Waters (www.stateofthebirds.org), "The state of our birds is a measurable indicator of how well we are doing as stewards of our environment." Birds are excellent indicators of ecological health, and monitoring birds is an inexpensive and highly effective way to assess whether the goals of ecological restoration are being met.

On Restoration Ecology:
"Here is the means to end the great extinction spasm. The next century will, I believe, be the era of restoration in ecology."
-E.O. Wilson

As part of the Klamath Bird Observatory's applied research and monitoring efforts, we partner with land managers, restoration professionals, and landowners to monitor birds before, during, and after habitat restoration efforts. We then use our science to help these partners make decisions and design ecosystem restoration projects that benefit birds,

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habitats, and people. In this *Klamath Bird*, you will learn about several restoration and monitoring projects that Klamath Bird Observatory is currently involved with. Through a partnership with the American Bird Conservancy and Oregon State University, KBO is monitoring birds in oak woodlands throughout southern Oregon to assess the success of oak woodland restoration on private lands. In northern California, KBO is monitoring birds along the Trinity River to assess the effectiveness of intensive restoration efforts. KBO is also involved with bird monitoring along the Rogue River near the former site of the Gold Ray Dam to better understand the effects of dam removal on the riparian ecosystem. Through these and many other projects, KBO is helping to further the goals of ecological restoration and ensure a better future for our shared birds and the habitats on which we all depend.

The President's Perch

Dick Ashford, KBO Board President

Dear Friends,

This issue of the *Klamath Bird* highlights the importance of restoration. But why talk about it? KBO doesn't "do" restoration, do we? That is true, if one considers restoration to be the on-the-ground work of planting, removing, dam breaching, etc. However, in order to know that a habitat or ecosystem has been truly restored, we need to know that natural processes that have at one time been disrupted are back to functioning naturally (key word).

How do we determine that is the case? By monitoring and measuring a habitat's biodiversity in order to determine whether it has indeed returned to its natural state. That is where KBO comes in. Birds are excellent indicators of biodiversity and KBO is world renowned for its expertise in monitoring birds and their habitats. We all know that KBO's science is used by land managers to make decisions regarding landscape use (or non-use). That same science is used by managers to verify their decisions are working (or not). If we didn't

provide that feedback loop, there would be no way of knowing whether the balance of nature (an old-fashioned, but apt term) has been restored.

Monitoring restoration efforts contributes to KBO's mission of advancing bird and habitat conservation. It is important work. The Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion is one of the richest pockets of biodiversity on earth, and we are proud to be part of keeping it that way. As always, thank you for your continuing support. The birds need it, and deserve it.

Cheers,



Dick Ashford

Note from the Executive Director

John Alexander, KBO Executive Director

As much as the Klamath Bird Observatory is about birds, it is also about people—people who want to leave a better world for generations to come by being informed about how we live, how we use our natural resources, and how we give back to ensure a more sustainable existence. These people include our staff, partners, contractors, board, and members. Together, we all make KBO's efforts, such as restoration monitoring (the focus of this newsletter), possible.

Each day I come to work I am honored to collaborate with and learn from our incredibly committed and hard working staff. Each KBO staff member maintains a network of partners that contribute time, expertise, and resources to support our work in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion and beyond—these partnerships are often long lasting and become valued friendships. Expert biologists serve KBO as seasonal employees and contractors, setting a high bar as they practice the art of bird monitoring, surveying birds and habitats throughout the rugged terrain of southern Oregon and northern California. Volunteers are a critical part of KBO's success. Each summer dedicated volunteers take part in our academic internship program, learning to collect sophisticated data to help us understand how population

trends are driven by reproductive rates and the ability for birds to survive throughout their lifecycle. Community volunteers are also a part of the team, helping to spread their love of birds by serving as bird walk leaders.

KBO's Board of Directors and our Research Advisor have dedicated their time and leadership to help KBO stay on track and maintain excellence in all aspects of running a science-based non-profit organization. They assure that the investments people make when they support KBO are investments well made. Finally, there are our supporters who continue to help KBO persist. I can speak for each member of the KBO team in expressing how we are all humbled and motivated every time you make a donation—we know that what we do is important, and we are gratified that you find it important too. Together, we are all working for a better tomorrow, by keeping common birds common, and letting them guide us into a more sustainable future.

Thank you again for your continued support for KBO. We hope to see you for our *Wings and Wine* Gala on Saturday, September 17th at Historic Hanley Farm, as we celebrate another year of advancing bird conservation through science, education, and partnerships!

The Board's Wisdom

Diana Samuels, KBO Board Member

A passion for environmental education and getting our youth outdoors watching birds was what originally attracted me to the KBO Board two years ago. I continue to be impressed by the work of KBO's education staff with programs such as *Protecting Wetlands, Water, and Waterbirds*, which raises awareness of, and appreciation for, wetlands and waterbirds for students in the Klamath Basin. During my last two years on the KBO board, I have also grown to appreciate the role that KBO plays in local, regional, national, and international bird monitoring and science delivery partnerships. During the 2011 field season, KBO is involved with several applied research and monitoring projects:

1. Quercus and Aves. Oregon State University masters student Kate Halstead is working with KBO collecting data on birds and vegetation in the Rogue and Umpqua Basins to examine the effects of oak restoration on local bird communities. Partners include the American Bird Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and many private landowners.

2. Trinity River. In partnership with the US Forest Service Arcata Laboratory and Mad River Biologists, Ian Ausprey is leading efforts to collect and analyze data on bird communities and vegetation along the Trinity River as part of the Trinity River Restoration Project.

3. Gold Ray Dam. KBO is studying the effects of removing the Gold Ray Dam along the Rogue River on riparian bird communities and the riparian ecosystem. KBO Research and Monitoring Director Jaime Stephens is

collaborating on this project with the Rogue Valley Council of Governments and many other partners.

4. Long-term monitoring. KBO is conducting point counts throughout the Klamath Siskiyou Bioregion as part of KBO's long-term monitoring efforts in cooperation with the National Park Service and other partners. KBO's crew of banding interns, supervised by Robert Frey, are collecting long-term bird banding data across northern California and southern Oregon from May through October in cooperation with three National Forests, two BLM Districts, and a National Monument.

5. Aquatic Bird Monitoring. As part of the Oregon Coordinated Aquatic Bird Monitoring Program, Karen Hussey is leading crews surveying tree and ground-nesting colonial waterbirds, such as herons, egrets, pelicans, cormorants, gulls, and terns. These data will contribute to the development of a west-wide colonial waterbird atlas. Partners include American Bird Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Intermountain West Joint Venture.

A total of 28 dedicated individuals, including staff, contractors, graduate students, interns, and volunteers, are involved in these efforts. Which brings me to my final point: Grants are not available or sufficient to fund all of the science and environmental education programs that KBO is delivering in our region. We need KBO members and supporters to help bridge the gap for activities that are not grant funded. The 4th annual *Wings and Wine* Gala fundraiser provides a venue for the public to meet the dedicated staff and volunteers who are the backbone of the organization and to support their work. I hope to meet you at Historic Hanley Farm on Saturday, September 17th!

Bird Bio: Swainson's Thrush

Robert Frey, KBO Biologist and Banding Project Leader

One of the most commonly heard, although seldom seen, birds of its range is the sedately plumed and melodic songster Swainson's Thrush. It was named for William John Swainson, a much-accomplished English (and later in life a New Zealander) ornithologist, malacologist, entomologist, and artist. Mr. Swainson has had nine bird species named for him (Swainson's Francolin, Hawk, Toucan, Fire-eye, Antcatcher, Flycatcher, Thrush, Warbler, and Sparrow).

The western-breeding *Catharus ustulatus ustulatus* group has a more russet color tone to its upperparts plumage. The boreal- and eastern-breeding *C. u. swainsoni* group is more brownish-olive. All have pale buffy

Note the pale buffy "spectacles" on this Swainson's Thrush.

"spectacles" and sing a wonderful ascending-note, flute-like song.

Swainson's Thrushes nest across the boreal regions of North America, throughout much of the intermountain west, and along the Pacific Northwest coast.



Trinity River Restoration Program: Using Birds as Indicators of Riparian Restoration Success

Ian Ausprey, KBO Research Biologist

The Trinity River in northern California historically sheltered a vibrant riverine and riparian community. Salmon returned to spawn in the river's deep, cool pools, and birds like the Yellow-breasted Chat nested in willow thickets along its banks. During the past 150 years, however, the Trinity endured multiple human-induced stressors that have severely compromised its ecological integrity. This year KBO has joined an interdisciplinary team attempting to restore the river's ecological function.



A riparian floodplain on the Trinity River.

During the California Gold Rush of the 1850's, the upper Trinity River near Weaverville, California became a center of gold mining activity. Much of the riparian area was severely degraded after miners used hydraulic water cannons to extract gold from surrounding hillsides. The construction of the Trinity and Lewiston Dams in the 1960's drastically reduced average annual water flows, allowing the accumulation of sediment along the river's edge, which further restricted the channel of the river.

Historical floodplains were lost and salmon populations dropped to a fifth of their estimated historic levels due to acute changes in water temperature, water flow, and in-stream habitat structure.

The Trinity River Restoration Program began in 2001 to restore riverine and riparian habitat for anadromous fish and wildlife. Since 2002 the US Forest Service Arcata Laboratory has been monitoring the riparian and riverine bird communities along the Trinity. KBO, working with Mad River Biologists, is now taking an increased role in continuing the work, beginning with field research this summer. Using focal species that act as indicators of intact riparian ecosystems, such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warbler, and Black-headed Grosbeak, we are assessing whether restoration on the Trinity River provides sufficient habitat for a healthy riparian bird community.



A restoration site along the Trinity River. Mine tailings were first leveled to form a riparian floodplain, followed by plantings of willows and cottonwoods.

Bird Bio: Swainson's Thrush (Continued from Page 3)

They are associated with deciduous woodlands and riparian habitats in our region, specifically with a dense shrub layer; a habitat affinity shared by the Wrentit. They are also common in mixed conifer/deciduous forests. Western populations winter in Mexico, while boreal and eastern populations winter southward to Amazonia and further into Argentina's southern lowlands – some traveler!

Although this species is numerous, with an estimated population of 100,000,000, there is evidence of Pacific Northwest populations declining since 1966. There is also evidence that the Swainson's Thrush is particularly vulnerable to building strike mortalities, especially during migration.

Interestingly, the root word of Mr. Swainson's family name, swain, is an Old English term for a male lover or admirer, or a country boy. We can't say that this suits William John very well, but it may just be a wonderful occurrence of word evolutionary convergence for the sweet-singing son of swain thrush!

Sources: Altman, B. 2000. *Conservation strategy for landbirds in lowlands and valleys of western Oregon and Washington*. PIF; Gruson, E. S. 1972. *Words for birds: A lexicon of North American birds with biographical notes*. Quadrangle Books, Inc., New York, New York; Marshall et al, eds. 2003. *Birds of Oregon: A general reference*. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, Oregon; Rich et al. 2004. *Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York.

A Bird's Eye View of Dam Removal

Jaime Stephens, KBO Research and Monitoring Director

Many bird species depend on healthy aquatic systems and the riparian habitat associated with the interface of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Birds that use these systems include aquatic birds (e.g. Wood Duck, Mallard), terrestrial fish-eating birds (e.g. Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron), and landbirds associated with riparian areas (e.g. Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow). Such habitats are prevalent along the Rogue River, including the area surrounding the Gold Ray Dam in southern Oregon. The removal of the dam in August 2010 resulted in changes to both the river and the adjacent upland habitat, both above and below the old dam site.

Klamath Bird Observatory is collaborating with a team of specialists to assess the affect of dam removal on wetlands and riparian forests and to evaluate the effectiveness of riparian revegetation. Active restoration is underway above the old dam site to stabilize soils, deter invasive plants, and jumpstart the regeneration of important riverine habitats. Using bird monitoring as a tool, we are tracking Partners in Flight riparian focal species as indicators of restoration success. Results from monitoring conducted before dam removal were indicative of a healthy riparian ecosystem. The presence of the same bird species in similar numbers in the future will suggest successful recovery of the river's ecosystem post dam removal.



KBO contractor Frank Lospalluto conducts a point count along the Rogue River during spring 2011.

Kelly Slough: Before and After

The area upstream of the dam, known as Kelly Slough, was thick with riparian vegetation and rich with bird life before the dam was removed. As we return to that site this year, the riparian vegetation is still present, as well as the birds associated with that habitat. However, the slough now holds only pooled, rather than flowing, water. With continued bird monitoring and collaboration with our partners who are tracking other aspects of the ecosystem (e.g., hydrology), we will continue to watch and see if the riparian vegetation will persist in this area over the long-term, and how the bird community will respond over time.

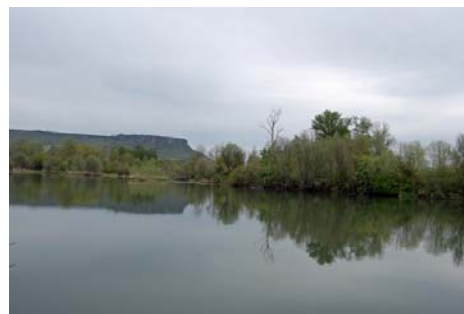
Gold Ray Dam: Before and After



Before and after photos of the Gold Ray Dam site. Photos by Frank Lospalluto © 2011.



Kelly Slough : Before and After



Kelly Slough before dam removal, 2010.

Kelly Slough after dam removal, 2011.



Quercus and Aves: Monitoring Oak Woodland Restoration in Southwestern Oregon

Katherine Halstead, KBO intern and Oregon State University Masters Student

Southwestern Oregon is known for the beautiful and ecologically diverse woodlands and savannahs of Oregon White Oak, California Black Oak, and Canyon Live Oak that grace the hillsides and lie in the valley floors. Unfortunately, only a fraction of the oak habitats that once existed in Oregon occur today. More continue to be lost to fire suppression, development, diseases, and mismanagement. The implications are profound for the web of species dependant on them, including migratory and resident birds.



Oregon White Oak (Quercus Garryana) flowers. Oak habitats support an intricate web of species and biological processes.

Much of the oak habitat that exists today could benefit greatly from restoration activities, such as thinning encroaching conifers, reintroducing fire, and replacing invasive plants with native plants. Interestingly, most of the oak habitats left in the Rogue and Umpqua Basins are in private ownership, which creates an excellent opportunity for landowners to make a real difference in conservation. Groups like Lomakatsi Restoration Project in Ashland are currently working side-by-side with private landowners to make their oak habitats healthier and better able to support the species that depend on them.

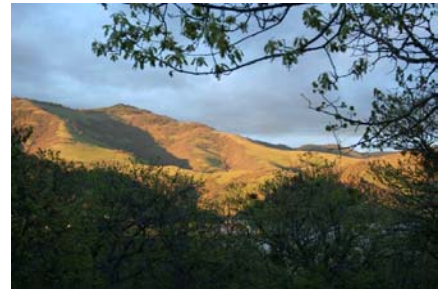
What is a Partners in Flight Focal Species?

Liz Williams, KBO E&O Project Leader

Many of KBO's applied research projects, including the Gold Ray Dam and Quercus and Aves projects, use Partners in Flight focal species to measure the effectiveness of ecological restoration efforts. What is a focal species, you might ask? Focal species are species that are associated with, or sensitive to, important habitat attributes in a given ecosystem, and thus serve as indicators of ecosystem health. When selecting focal species, declining or difficult to monitor focal species are often paired with more abundant species with similar habitat requirements. Together, a suite of focal species should represent a range of successional stages and habitat conditions within a functioning ecosystem. By managing landscapes for habitat attributes that are important for these focal species, many other species and elements of biodiversity will benefit.

How do we know that oak restoration activities are having the desired effect? KBO, in partnership with the American Bird Conservancy, is working to determine the effect that restoration of oak habitats has on bird communities thanks to a grant for the Quercus and Aves project (oaks are in the family Quercus and birds are in the class Aves) through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Act. I am excited to be helping to design and conduct this study as part of my graduate work at Oregon State University with Dr. Matthew Betts. With the help of Lomakatsi, US Fish and Wildlife Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Medford District Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, and generous landowners, we are conducting bird and vegetation surveys within oak habitats in various stages of restoration in the Rogue and Umpqua Basins.

Sunrise viewed from an oak habitat near Emigrant Lake in Ashland, Oregon.



The information we gather will contribute to a *Landowner's Guide to Bird Conservation in Oak Habitats of the Pacific Northwest*, which will specifically address how private landowners can manage their own oak woodlands for the benefit of our diverse local bird communities. I look forward to giving updates on our progress!

*The Yellow-breasted Chat is a Partners in Flight focal species for **Riparian Habitats: Dense Shrub Layer** in lowlands and valleys of Western Oregon and Washington. Efforts to conserve this habitat will benefit chats and many other riparian species including Song Sparrow and Yellow Warbler. Photo by Jim Livaudais © 2011.*



Source: Lambeck, R. J. 1997. Focal Species: A Multi-species umbrella for nature conservation. *Conservation Biology* 11 (4): 849-856.

Birdify Your Yard! Habitat Landscaping for Birds

Liz Williams, KBO Education and Outreach Project Leader

Restoration is not just for public lands and large landowners—you can restore habitats in your own backyard to benefit birds and other wildlife. Attracting native birds to your yard will beautify your surroundings and provide natural pollination and pest control. Habitat landscaping for birds can also provide critical nesting and foraging habitat for declining local species such as Purple Finch. Here are some tips for making your backyard more bird friendly.

Habitat Landscaping for Birds

- Use native plants. If you are unsure what native plants to use, contact your local native plant nursery or Native Plant Society.
- Create structural diversity by planting a diverse selection of plants growing at different heights.
- Minimize disturbance such as mowing and spraying during the nesting season from mid-April through July. If you must mow, begin doing so in early April to discourage birds from establishing nests.
- Keep pet food indoors and trash and compost covered to minimize feeding sites for predators.
- Leave brush piles or pruning debris in your yard during the winter to provide cover for winter residents such as White-crowned Sparrow.

Selective Bird Feeding

- Choose selective bird feeders that attract native species such as chickadees and finches while discouraging feeding by predators and non-native species.
- Keep feeders away from shrubs where predators may be hiding. Do not feed birds if you have cats in your yard.
- In order to prevent window collisions, feeders should be located either within 3 feet of a window or 30 feet from a window.
- Keep in mind competition and preferences for different feeding levels. For instance, goldfinches, house, and purple finches feed at shrub level, while nuthatches, titmice, chickadees, and woodpeckers feed at tree level.



Selective bird feeders are often caged and have small perches.

Cats and Wildlife

- Keep housecats indoors. Housecats are a major source of mortality for native birds.

Creating Safe Nest Boxes

When designing nest boxes for songbirds, know what birds you are trying to attract. Always think about nest box design, placement, predation avoidance, monitoring, and cleaning.

- **Design:** Correct size and shape of a nest box will exclude non-native species such as European Starling and House Sparrow. Entrance holes should be less than 1 1/8" in diameter. The box should be approximately 14" tall with the hole near the top. This design prevents predators from reaching the eggs or young birds. A hinged side will allow for easy cleaning and monitoring. Include ventilation holes or slits in the top or side of the box.



Tree Swallow in nest box.

- **Placement:** Individual box placement varies by species' habitat needs. Do not place nest boxes in areas with outdoor cats or where pesticides are sprayed.
- **Predation:** Install a predator guard on the nest box post to prevent predators from climbing to the nest box hole. Do not use perches as they allow predators access to the nest.
- **Monitoring:** Know what is using your nest box! Monitor the box and contribute your data to the scientific community through the Cornell Birdhouse Network.
- **Cleaning:** Nest boxes should be cleaned after the breeding season. Remove all old nesting material and clean the box with a 10% bleach-water solution.

Additional Resources

KBO offers many online resources for habitat landscaping to guide you in your efforts to make your backyard more wildlife friendly. To access these resources, visit www.KlamathBird.org/education and click on "Home and Landowners." Find additional bird-friendly landscaping resources here:

- Cornell Birdhouse Network: www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse
- National Audubon Society Bird Feeding Basics: www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/bird_feeding/index.html
- Nest Watch: www.nestwatch.org
- OSU's "Build Nest Boxes for Wild Birds:" www.extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1556.pdf
- PRBO Conservation Science: www.prbo.org
- Project Feeder Watch: www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw

2011 Wings and Wine Gala: Celebrating Conservation

Annie Kilby, KBO Education and Outreach Program Manager

As Klamath Bird Observatory wraps up another successful field season with the motto “Have a Field Day” in our minds, we certainly have cause for celebration. KBO’s 4th annual FUNraiser, the *Wings and Wine Gala*, will be held on Saturday, September 17th at Historic Hanley Farm in Central Point, Oregon. We hope that you will be able to join us! This event brings together our community and the KBO family with an evening of live music from Siskiyou Summit, delicious foods from AZ Catering and Event Planning, and a Not-So-Silent auction featuring unique items from across the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion.

This year, we are celebrating bird conservation in the bioregion and beyond. It has been a busy year! KBO’s John Alexander and KBO research advisor CJ Ralph were awarded the US Forest Service’s Wings Across the Americas Award for their role in the development of

the Costa Rica Bird Observatories, a KBO affiliate, and the Costa Rica Bird Monitoring Network. In May, The State of the Birds 2011 *Report on Public Lands and Waters* was released, with KBO playing a key role on the report’s Science Team. In the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion, we continue to work with many partners, using the science of bird monitoring to inform improved land management practices. Through these projects, and many others, Klamath Bird Observatory is continuing to advance bird conservation and foster collaboration and partnerships throughout the Americas. We invite you to “Have a Field Day” with us on September 17th and celebrate KBO’s local, regional, and international efforts to advance bird conservation!

We look forward to seeing you there!



2011 Best of the Bioregion Wine Competition

Annie Kilby, KBO Education and Outreach Program Manager

At this year’s *Wings and Wine Gala*, Klamath Bird Observatory will once again host the *Best of the Bioregion Wine Competition*, featuring wineries from across southern Oregon and northern California. In its second year, the competition focuses on wineries and vineyards with environmentally bird friendly environmentally sustainable practices. The idea is that “What’s good for the birds will be good for the grape.” KBO is partnering with Conscious Wines and sponsor Shop ‘N Kart of Ashland to coordinate the affair. A panel of local experts will judge regional wines in four categories: Red Varietal, White Varietal, Red Blend, and White Blend, as well as an award for Best in Show. New this year will be a “Best for the Birds” award, selected by KBO and Conscious Wines, that will highlight one vineyard for its bird friendly practices. Winners will be unveiled at the event, and guests will be able to sample some of the finest wines of the region from vineyards dedicated to sustainable practices!

Save the Date!

Wings and Wine Gala

Saturday, September 17th from 6—10pm

Historic Hanley Farm in Central Point

Not-So-Silent Auction from 6—9pm

Complimentary Wine and Tasty Bites

Live Music by Siskiyou Summit

**Taste Winners of the
Best of the Bioregion Wine Competition**

Get your tickets today!

\$45 (\$55 at the door)

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



Calendar—Join KBO for Fall 2011 Events

Thursday, December 8th and Sunday, December 11th:

KBO Hawk Class and Field Trip

Join KBO Board President and hawk enthusiast Dick Ashford for this popular hawk class and field trip. The Thursday class will focus on beginning to intermediate hawk identification. Sunday's field trip to The Lower Klamath Basin or Butte Valley in California—both renowned winter hawk viewing destinations—will give participants the chance to test their new identification skills. You will be wowed by Dick's enthusiasm and vast knowledge of hawks and their natural history.

This class fills quickly, so register today! Limited to 15 participants.

Cost: \$35 non-members, \$25 KBO members. To register, call 541-201-0866.



Rough-legged Hawk. Photo by Jim Livaudais © 2011.

Saturday, August 13th: Bird Walk to Agate Lake

Join KBO's Karen Hussey for an exploration of this habitat that is critical for many Rogue Valley bird species. We will look for waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors as well as some early fall migrant songbirds. Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Spotted Sandpiper, Lewis's Woodpecker, and American Pipit are all possibilities. Meet at 8:00 am at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-770-1104.

Saturday, September 3rd: Bird Walk to Emigrant Lake

Join Terence Philippe for an exploration of the trails on the backside of Emigrant Lake. We will travel to the east end of the lake and follow spur roads to the lakeside trails. During this outing we may see interesting migrants like Pine Siskin, Black Phoebe, and Common Yellowthroat, as well as residents like White-breasted Nuthatch and Oak Titmouse. Meet at 8:00 am at the Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-482-3241.

Saturday, September 10th: Public Banding Demonstration

Travel with KBO staff to Upper Klamath Lake to visit one of KBO's long-term ecological monitoring and bird banding stations. At the Seven Mile Guard Station on the Fremont-Winema National Forest, we will visit a KBO banding station, view fall migrant songbirds up-close, and learn about how bird banding contributes to an understanding of bird populations and informs on-the-ground conservation. Meet at 8:00 am at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford. Limited to 15 participants. Cost: \$25 non-members, \$15 KBO members. To register, call 541-770-1104.

Saturday, October 1st: Bird Walk to Iron Gate Reservoir in California

Join veteran KBO bird walk leader Vince Zauskey for an exciting fall outing to the Iron Gate Reservoir in northern California. This reservoir provides habitat for waterfowl such as American White Pelican and Western and Pied-billed Grebe. Other possible species include Townsend's Solitaire, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Osprey. Lewis's Woodpeckers may be seen in nearby oak trees. Plan to bring a lunch and return to Ashland in the afternoon. Meet at 8:00 am at the Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-482-3241.

Saturday, October 8th: Bird Walk to Lower Table Rock

Join KBO Research Biologist Ian Ausprey for this popular bird walk to Lower Table Rock. This diverse ecosystem hosts a variety of species including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Oak Titmouse, and several woodpeckers. We may also see species such as Lewis's Woodpecker, Black-headed Grosbeak, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Chipping Sparrow. Meet at 8:00 am at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-770-1104.

Saturday, November 5th: Bird Walk to Ashland Pond

Join local birder Forrest English for an exploration of the Ashland Pond and the Bear Creek Greenway. Enjoy the fall colors while we look for Wood Duck, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, wintering sparrows (and, if we're lucky, a White-throated Sparrow) and raptors like Red-shouldered Hawk. Meet at 8:00 am at the Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-482-3241.

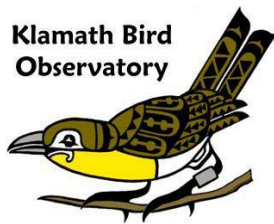
Saturday, November 12th: Bird Walk to Touvelle State Park

Join KBO bird walk volunteer Harry Fuller for an outing to Touvelle State Park. Touvelle is a busy place in late fall and winter, hosting waterbirds and raptors like American Dipper, Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, and Bald Eagle. Possible woodpecker species include Acorn, Downy, Hairy, and Lewis's. Meet at 8:00 am at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-770-1104.

Saturday, December 3rd: Bird Walk to the Scott Valley

Join KBO Volunteer Terence Phillippe for an outing to the Scott Valley in northern California. In this beautiful agricultural valley, we will look for a variety of wintering hawks including Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk in a variety of color morphs, Golden Eagle, and Rough-legged Hawk. We will be carpooling for this auto tour. Bring a lunch and plan to return to Ashland in the afternoon. Meet at 8:00 am at the Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-482-3241.

NOTE: School and community groups are invited to schedule a visit to a KBO banding station, a classroom visit, or a KBO presentation. For more information, email KBO@KlamathBird.org or call us at 541-201-0866.



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Klamath Bird Observatory

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