The Klamath Bird

Newsletter of the Klamath Bird Observatory, Winter 2016

In this issue: 2015 highlights—how and why we listen to birds, what we are hearing!

Conservation Impacts

Jaime Stephens, KBO Science Director

We live in a time of disappearing birds. Western forest birds have declined nearly 20% since 1970, a trend that has continued over the last five years. A recent KBO publication documented similar trends for a marsh associated species showing Black Tern numbers on Upper Klamath Lake declining 8% per year over the last decade. These numbers are staggering and emphasize the importance of KBO's work in conservation. However, as we continue to document the declines of western species, we are also heartened by the conservation outcomes that come to fruition as a result of our work.

By tracking long-term population trends and improving our understanding of bird response to habitat change at local and landscape scales, we address conservation challenges for the species and habitats that are most in need. Species dependent on a habitat that is limited or has experienced dramatic loss are most likely to be in decline. Therefore, KBO has focused much of our time and energy on adaptive management of these priority habitats.

Thirteen years of monitoring on the Trinity River in northern California has shown that some of the oldest and most robust restoration sites are providing habitat for focal species dependent on riparian features, and many of the younger sites appear to be on a similar trajectory (read more on page 3). With results that identify the most successful aspects of past restoration based on the response of birds, we are working with restoration practitioners to continually improve restoration project design on the Trinity.

We are also applying our science-based tools to guide conservation of critically imperiled oak habitats in the Pacific Northwest. By informing restoration, we are promoting the health of oak habitats and increasing their resilience to climate change. In 2016, we are embarking on a new project to answer a pressing management question — how do we balance such conservation with a need to preserve vitally important chaparral components of oak woodland ecosystems? The answer is lies ahead as we work with partners to develop a new paradigm for chaparral management as a component of oak restoration.

*… **Continued on page 10***

Vesper Sparrow © 2016 James Livaudais

In partnership with American Bird Conservancy, KBO's Ben Wieland studied Vesper Sparrows on the Cascades plateau east of Ashland during the spring of 2015. Each survey morning he followed individual birds around the open grassland to determine their numbers and also the size and extent of each pair's breeding season territory. This study builds on a range-wide inventory that indicates the Oregon subspecies of Vesper Sparrow is one of the most imperiled birds in the Pacific Northwest.

President's Perch

Shannon Rio, KBO Board President

Looking at birds is a simple pleasure. For many of us it offers a profound connection to the world of nature. When I teach classes about birds, participants often express a delight in learning about the birds around them. I hear remarks like "NOW we really listen to birds while we walk around the town or in our own yard!" Not only do I love teaching, I also have a deeper hope that when people connect and love nature, they will then want to protect it. And that is when I can talk about the Klamath Bird Observatory.

My involvement with KBO began years ago with birding classes and excursions, learning about hawks in the Klamath Basin among other adventures. The people I met who worked for KBO impressed me with their mission to use science to inform, doing so with unbiased data from bird banding, systematic counts, nest monitoring, and study of our birds' relationships to various habitats. I met interns who came from around the country and the globe who come to study with KBO specifically, so they could take the education back to their homes and continue to work for their birds and habitats.

Now, years later, I am the President of the Board with a commitment to teaching about birds and a commitment to KBO that has never been stronger. Feel free to contact me personally (shannonrio@aol.com) with a question or story about a bird or if you want to know more about KBO. And maybe I will see you in class or out in nature, looking at birds, enjoying this simple pleasure.

Note from the Executive Director

John Alexander, KBO Executive Director

Thank You All For KBO Success!

As we charge into 2016, I look back with appreciation for the many successes that characterized 2015, successes that are too many to list in entirety. However, the many people that were core to our success deserve recognition. KBO staff are performing with excellence and satisfaction — thank you for your hard work and leadership, for more scientific articles published in a single year than ever before, for more conservation partnerships using our science to restore and protect habitat for birds and people, and for the comradery and collaboration that makes our team a family.

Thank you KBO Board, for your support and trust, for your insight and oversight, and for your innovations that are helping to build and strengthen our KBO community. Thank you partners new and old, for your dedication to science and education and their use for better bird conservation … thank you for opening doors with us to improve the way we manage natural resources for the generations to come.

And thank you supporters, for investing in KBO… there are more of you, and your generosity continues to increase! This humbles and motivates us. I have spent my career working with KBO staff, board, interns, and volunteers; collaborating with partners; and getting to know more and more supporters who believe in what we do. For this I am thankful, and for each and every one of you I am appreciative.

KBO continues to be successful through a growing body of science, through broadening partnerships that allow for collaborative learning and improved stewardship that drives the conservation impact our is having. But we still face significant challenges in bird conservation. Western forest birds continue to decline. And the agencies responsible for much of these forests continue to operate with reduced resources and in some cases, there remains much work to do in adopting best practices based on the science we have invested in for improved and accountable management.

It is with all your support and our success to date that we remain committed to advancing bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships.

International Capacity Building for Migratory Bird Monitoring and Conservation

John Alexander, KBO Executive Director

Klamath Bird Observatory collaborates with the United States Forest Service International Programs and many others to advance partnerships that build international capacities and contribute to global migratory bird monitoring efforts. The objective of our international capacity building is to support bird monitoring programs throughout the Americas and support the work of the Forest Service to build the capacity of partners in monitoring and implementing coordinated bird conservation programs.

We do this by offering training opportunities for international biologists, supporting grass roots bird monitoring and conservation partnerships, developing international centers for bird banding training and long-term monitoring programs, and providing related education and outreach tools.

School group field trip to a Costa Rica Bird Observatory banding station led by biologist Jorge Leitón. Jorge completed a KBO banding internship in 2011.
Photo © 2016 KBO

Our model involves:

- Intensive training for international partners at our field station in the Upper Klamath Basin of southern Oregon
- Development of education tools for use by partners for domestic and international training and education
- Support for international training and collaborative network building sessions
- Mentorship for in-country leadership and support of emerging self-directed conservation science and education programs.

Klamath Bird Observatory is using this model to actively support the development of international conservation science and education programs in Mexico, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Brazil and throughout the Western Hemisphere.

In partnership with US Forest Service International Programs, we will be hosting four interns from Brazil and Mexico this year. Past KBO international interns are working with established, or have created new, bird conservation programs in Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Hungary, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, and United Kingdom.

Trinity River: A case study in adaptive management

Sarah Rockwell, KBO Research Biologist

Adaptive management involves a philosophy of land stewardship. It recognizes that conservation actions taken on the ground are like scientific experiments — they result in changes to the landscape that we can predict, measure, and then decide whether the desired target conditions have been created. The 'adaptive' part comes into play when land managers look at the outcomes and adjust the actions if necessary. Too often, this evaluation of a program's effects, through follow-up monitoring, is underfunded or overlooked. This creates a vacuum of learning about how well (or not) a program contributes to its conservation objectives and whether the effort and money are well spent. Adaptive management follows a repeating cycle: implement management actions, monitor and assess results, adapt or refine your techniques, then try implementing again!

One of Klamath Bird Observatory's most effective adaptive management projects involves our partnership with the Trinity River Restoration Program in northern California. This restoration program is restoring breeding habitat for salmonid fish that have been severely impacted by dams and changes to the natural hydrology and morphology of the Trinity River. By carving out new side channels and broadening floodplains to create salmon spawning grounds, the Program temporarily reduces the riparian vegetation available to birds and other terrestrial wildlife. This is a concern because these riparian corridors that provide critically important wildlife habitat are threatened and degraded throughout the West. However, the Trinity River Restoration Program restores these habitats, replanting native vegetation at a network of rehabilitation sites. Through adaptive management, based in part on bird monitoring, they are ensuring these areas grow into the highest quality habitat possible and that their approach to restoration continues to be refined and improved.

In partnership with the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, Klamath Bird Observatory's studies that monitor bird use of these restored habitats are core to the Trinity Program's adaptive management approach. Here is how it works. First, the Program designs and implements restoration areas with prescribed plantings of trees, shrubs, herbs, and grasses in specific configurations. Next, KBO monitors the area as vegetation starts to regrow and birds begin to return to the habitat. Eventually, we can say "Yes, this area has an abundance of birds and they are reproducing successfully," or "No, this area has very few birds," or "The birds here are experiencing low nesting success."

We also monitor several reference sites of non-manipulated, mature riparian habitat, to help us gauge the level of bird abundance or nest success that is expected in healthy riparian forests. If rehabilitated sites are not on the trajectory of becoming more like the reference sites, we can suggest improvements.

… Continued on Page 10

New cottonwood, alder, and willow plantings at a Trinity River Restoration Program site. Photo © Ian Ausprey

The Scott River has Beaver Fever (the good kind)! KBO is using bird monitoring as a tool for assessing the effects of riparian restoration in the Scott River Valley. Our partners at the Scott River Watershed Council are building PAWS — post-assisted woody structures that imitate beaver dams — in the main stem Scott and its tributaries. These structures are expected to improve water retention and increase the complexity of wildlife habitat. KBO is monitoring the impacts of PAWS on bird abundance and diversity to help evaluate their conservation effectiveness. And did you know that the Scott River, a tributary to the Klamath River in northern California, was once called the Beaver River?

A post-assisted woody structure on the Scott River. Recent high river flows caused some structural damage which beavers have repaired!

Photo © Scott River Watershed Council

Long-term Monitoring

Robert Frey, KBO Biologist

mon·i·tor *verb* gerund or present participle: monitoring
Def. To observe and check the progress or quality of (something) over a period of time; keep under systematic review.

… Hey, that's what we do!

This past May, KBO biologists set out upon trails at 10 long-term banding stations — several in the Klamath Basin, and others in the northern shadow of Mt. Shasta, on the banks of the Klamath and Rogue rivers, atop the Oregon Caves, and on Bear Creek in Ashland — following the footsteps of many who have walked this way before. These trails were first trod upon many years ago, some as much as 23 years earlier. Twenty three years of careful and consistent surveillance of birds in their habitats. By collecting information in the same way over time, the changes that reveal themselves will be that of the birds. This is the essence of long-term monitoring.

Some of the trails were under water at lake's edge in May, others frozen solid and by October beginning to freeze again. In between, the trails were trodden on song-filled mornings of the nesting season. One more monitoring season completed, and continued observation of the progress of birds in our world. And continuation of the data stream which began 23 years ago. An examination of some of this banding data for selected species has been completed and is currently in review for publication.

Western Grebe pair © 2016 James Livaudais

Since 2011, KBO has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducting waterbird surveys at Fern Ridge Reservoir and parts of Fern Ridge Wildlife Management Area. These waterbodies are important – as the only area west of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon known to consistently support breeding colonies of Black Terns and Western and Clark's grebes.

2015 Banding intern Luiza Figueira of Brazil inspects a Steller's Jay for molting feathers. Photo © 2016 KBO

Song Sparrow © 2016 James Livaudais

KBO's Banding Project captured 8,037 birds of 98 species in 2015 … the top five species captured were Song Sparrow (688), Dark-eyed Junco (631), Yellow-rumped Warbler (599), Fox Sparrow (541), and Orange-crowned Warbler (316).

Our recent analysis of long-term banding data looked at regional demographic trends for 12 species at 10 stations over the period 2002-2013. Declines were found in Audubon's Warbler, Oregon Junco, and Purple Finch – common species becoming less so.

We also continued long-term monitoring of bird populations at parks of the National Park Service Klamath Network. In 2015 surveys were completed in mixed-hardwood habitat at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and high elevation riparian and mixed-coniferous forest at Lassen Volcanic National Park. This project includes surveying six national parks, each visited on a three year rotation, with two parks being surveyed each year. Other parks in the network are Crater Lake National Park, Redwood National and State Parks, Lava Beds National Monument, and Oregon Caves National Monument - which includes a long-term banding station operated since 2002.

KBO is in the midst of a 10-year NPS Klamath Network bird monitoring plan – informing conservation for our national parks' continued health and legacy. The National Park Service is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year – go out and tell your favorite park Happy Centennial!

Species-Centered Habitat Modeling Informs Old Growth Forest Restoration

Kate Halstead, KBO Research Biologist

At KBO it is our job to figure out why bird populations decline or increase in response to natural and human-caused changes to their habitat. The reasons are often unclear and it would be great to be able to ask the birds to tell us what their habitat, and the threats they face, look like from their perspective. That is what we are trying to do, in collaboration with Oregon State University's Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, through the use of exciting new computer modeling tools.

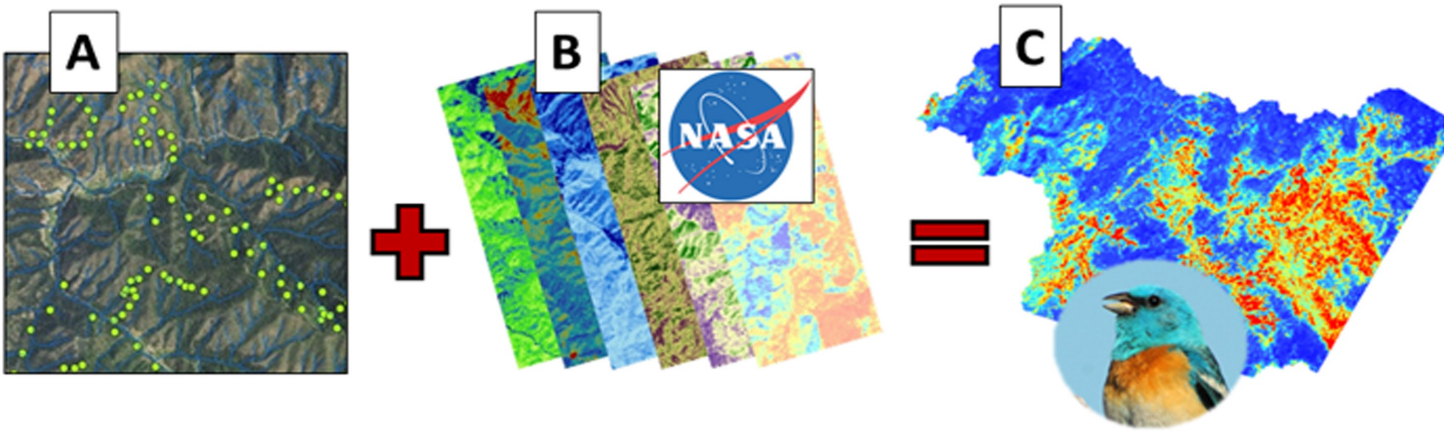
These tools utilize massive bird datasets, from the Avian Knowledge Network, combined with NASA high-resolution remote sensing satellite data. The tools create unique, species-specific maps of habitat structure and composition across the landscape. The species-specific habitat maps are then brought together to offer a much different picture of habitat than has been previously offered. More traditional approaches have involved researchers creating a single habitat definition, often based on coarse vegetation maps and single species, for groups of species. Together, the species-specific habitat maps result in a greater ability to predict both habitat conditions and species occurrence across space and time, while avoiding uncertainties relating to the misclassification of habitats, the omission of fine-scale habitat features, and subtle changes in vegetation structure and composition. Our "species-centered approach" allows each bird species to tell a unique story about how it responds to habitat change. Then, studying these stories together is helping us to comprehend and meet the conservation challenges these birds face.

One of the core tenets of KBO's work is that songbirds are effective indicators of the habitat changes that affect many wildlife species. We are now putting this to the test by using songbird communities to derive species-centered habitat maps that effectively predict habitat suitability for Northern Spotted Owls. In essence, composite maps integrate habitat conditions associated with many species within the forest bird community. These can offer a cost-effective set of metrics for measuring a low-to-high gradient of habitat conditions associated with Spotted Owl habitat suitability.

We are combining species-specific habitat maps derived for old growth associated species like Brown Creeper, Hermit Warbler, and Golden-crowned Kinglet with other songbird species associated with forest conditions likely to become old growth through forest succession such as MacGillivray's Warbler and Cassin's Vireo. This is resulting in composite maps designed for tracking the effectiveness of forest restoration intended to improve conditions for owls and other associated species and to ensure management planning, implementation, and spending is on the right track.

Through this work, we are showing how this innovative species-centered habitat modeling can be used as a highly effective and cost-efficient conservation management tool!

KBO is using species-centered habitat models to better identify site specific and landscape habitat characteristics that are most important for birds highly specialized on oak vegetation types. Such birds include Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, and California Towhee which have unique responses to the size, quality, and connectivity of habitat patches. Preliminary results indicate that oak-dependent birds respond particularly strongly to the quality, in comparison to connectedness, of local habitat areas.



Species occurrence data from point count surveys **(A)** is modeled as a function of raw Landsat satellite images **(B)**. The resulting model is used to map species-specific habitat suitability at fine scales across a landscape. In this example for the Rogue Basin (**C**), high habitat suitability for Lazuli Bunting is mapped in red (light) and low suitability in blue (dark). Such species-specific maps are being combined to generate species-centered maps that show various forest conditions such as those associated with oak woodlands or old growth conifer forests.

Professional Education

Robert Frey, KBO Biologist

ed·u·ca·tion *noun*
Def. The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction; an enlightening experience.

… and hey, that's what we do too!

Klamath Bird Observatory's research and monitoring projects have long benefitted from the excellent contributions of student volunteer interns who in turn received training in several bird-monitoring and research methods. Our Black-backed Woodpecker Nesting Study, Trinity River Restoration Program Bird Monitoring, and Long-term Banding projects combined recruited 15 interns in 2015.

KBO student interns learn the science and craft of collecting crucial bird monitoring and research data. The subtleties of finding and monitoring a secretive bird's nest without disturbing it do indeed require a special set of fine skills and patient dedication. The ability to find Black-backed Woodpecker nests, where no one knows whether they are there or not, may not call for the subtle approach but more a quiet persistence and keen observation skills. And all aspects of banding operations, including capture with mist nets, careful handling, measurements, and how a bird's age and sex are determined call for dogged study and an enduring six-month dedication.

Our student internship program hatched in KBO's earliest days. Each year since has seen another cohort of young intern biologists learning the how and why of what we do and taking their experience into conservation science and management careers.

KBO has hosted over 250 student interns since 1996 – from 25 states and 17 countries!

Banding interns at remote study site at sundown. Photo © 2016 KBO

Words in the Wind

A celebration of birds in literature

Introducing this new feature, we offer William Blake's beautiful and heartening back and forth account of two lost songbird lovers finding each other after a long winter's absence.

The Birds

He. Where thou dwellest, in what grove,
Tell me Fair One, tell me Love;
Where thou thy charming nest dost build,
O thou pride of every field!

She. Yonder stands a lonely tree,
There I live and mourn for thee;
Morning drinks my silent tear,
And evening winds my sorrow bear.

He. O thou summer's harmony,
I have liv'd and mourn'd for thee;
Each day I mourn along the wood,
And night hath heard my sorrows loud.

She. Dost thou truly long for me?
And am I thus sweet to thee?
Sorrow now is at an end,
O my Lover and my Friend!

He. Come, on wings of joy we'll fly
To where my bower hangs on high;
Come, and make thy calm retreat
Among green leaves and blossoms sweet.

Public Domain from The Rossetti Manuscript (c.1810)

In addition to the internship program, KBO presented a Fundamentals of Bird Banding course online through the National Conservation Training Center in January-February. The course participants were Canada Wildlife Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists. In May, we hosted a 5-day Bird Banding Techniques workshop for 15 participants at our Upper Klamath Lake Field Station.

The online bird banding course developed and presented by KBO last winter is being prepared for permanent posting at the National Conservation Training Center website for everyone to use.

Bird Bio: Western Scrub-Jay

Robert Frey, KBO Biologist

Western Scrub-Jay © 2016 James Livaudais

The scrub-jay lets you know it is nearby and if there's more than one you are in for it. What a raucous, raspy, shrieking bird!

Here in Oregon, and much of the west, we have the Western Scrub-Jay. There's also the Florida Scrub-Jay found only in Florida and the Island Scrub-Jay found only on Santa Cruz Island off the southern California coast. Both of these are in trouble due to small population size, habitat loss, and introduced predators, however the Western Scrub-jay seems to be doing well.

This is our blue jay of the West. The Western Scrub-Jay is a combined deep blue and dusty gray-brown and white. The rounded head sets it apart from the black crest of Steller's Jays. Its range partially overlaps the similar-looking Mexican and Pinyon jays, though the former differs by absence of a white throat and eyebrow and the latter by a blue belly and breast. The Western Scrub-Jay is a common year-round resident of lowland dry scrub-lands, oak and pine forests, and is a very conspicuous backyard visitor.

Jays are members of the *Corvidae* Family which includes magpies, crows, and ravens. This group has long been considered quite smart and adaptable, some with a capacity for tool use as well as tool manufacturing and are generally quite social. You may have seen jays, crows, or ravens dropping a hard nut onto a road surface in order to crack it, or dipping discarded human food in a puddle to soften it. Western Scrub-Jays, like several other corvids, are known to form long-lasting pair bonds. They are also known to be cooperative breeders with the offspring receiving help from parents and additional group members called helpers. There are accounts of jays gathering in small groups over the body of a recently killed comrade, in an apparent communal mourning event.

Its diet generally consists of fleshy fruits, invertebrates, small vertebrates, and bird eggs. In the nonbreeding season, nuts (especially acorns), fruits, and seeds are added. It also has the less than endearing habit of taking other songbird nestlings and fledglings to feed its own nestlings. The scrub-jay is known to steal from Acorn Woodpecker acorn caches. They are likely important seed dispersers of oak trees for all the cached acorns forgotten.

Owing to both a changing landscape and its own adaptability, the Western Scrub-Jay is expanding its range except in the most urbanized areas. In 2004, the total population was estimated at 3,400,000 and it was designated a Stewardship Species by Partners in Flight for the Pacific Avifaunal Biome. This means that it is representative of its primary habitat of scrublands in the biome and that long-term monitoring should continue.

This bird's name is derived from "scrub" referring to its favored habitat in scrubby woodland and "jay" from Old French *gay* and *iay*, descended from the Latin *gaius* or *gaia*. The scientific name *Aphelocoma* is from the Greek for "smooth hair" for the lack of a crest and *californica* for the origin of the type specimen. In the past it has also been known as the Long-tailed Jay and California Jay. A wild Western Scrub-Jay lived at least 15 years, 9 months following being banded.

Here's to our bluey jay of the West … zreeeeek! zreeeeek!

Western Scrub-Jay juvenile Photo © 2016 KBO

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Klamath Bird Observatory greatly appreciates every single donation and we take pride in ensuring every dollar counts. If you were a donor in 2015 and your name does not appear on this list please accept our sincere apology and please let us know by emailing admin@KlamathBird.org or by calling (541) 201-0866.

Mountain Bird Festival!

Marcella Sciotto, KBO Assistant Director

You know the feeling: the alarm rings, it's early, extremely early, well … birder early. The steam from your coffee curls in the crisp spring mountain air. You're ready for adventure, and who knows what the day will bring? It could be the quick streak of a Mountain Quail zipping into the underbrush, or the lightning fast dart of a Calliope Hummingbird. Maybe your breath will be stolen by the majestic flight of the Great Gray Owl, or your heartbeat will race in time with the pecking of the White-headed Woodpecker. Yes it's nearly spring and time for the Mountain Bird Festival!

The excitement is building at Klamath Bird Observatory, not only for the annual return of migratory birds, but for the 2016 Mountain Bird Festival. This unique conservation event has been gaining traction quickly. Space is limited so register early for this boutique festival to guarantee your spot. You are not going to want to miss what we have in store for 2016.

We are broadening our field excursions, adding more trips this year including a birding adventure geared for families and a special trip just for kids! Popular excursions return such as Mountain Lakes, Evening Owling, a banding station visit, and the "Best Boat Ramp in the World" where participants last year saw over 50 species while kicking back on the shore of Klamath Lake, plus many more. The list goes on and on; with 30 unique trips there is something for every type of birder. Workshops will also be offered for the first time this year — you can perfect your photography skills, learn how to turn your backyard into a bird haven, and work on your "birding by ear" skills. You can also join us for an exclusive screening of the much anticipated documentary The Messenger, free to registrants.

After the field trips, the pleasure doesn't stop; with local food trucks, Oregon microbrews, regional wine, and fine art the evenings are filled with as much beauty as the days. Whether you come to learn how to swim in birdsong, see a lifer, or get out into nature with your family, you are sure to have a marvelous time!

Artwork © 2016 Gary Bloomfield

Continued from Page 1 … ***Conservation Impacts***

In this edition of the Klamath Bird we have reviewed some of our 2015 accomplishments with a focus on how KBO's science programs are conservation-relevant. That is, all of our work is designed to help our partners make significant contributions to reversing the declines of birds in peril, ensuring our common birds remain common, and improving the habitats that we all depend on. Working with partners that are planting willows in degraded riparian areas, promoting old oak trees, or making land management decisions across western landscapes is core to our mission and essential to our success. Additionally, KBO is working with diverse partnerships nationally and internationally to share knowledge, advance conservation, and ensure we are addressing the needs of birds throughout their entire annual cycle.

In 2015, researchers from KBO published results from a 10-year study looking at the effects of the 2001 Quartz Fire that burned in southwest Oregon. They found that not only did the forest structure change dramatically over time, but also the bird community. Many species benefitted from the fire, a finding that was only obvious at the end of the 10-year period. In addition, the researchers documented the role of the fire's severity, showing that for half of the species affected by the fire, their response was more dependent on fire severity than simply whether the area was burned.

Continued from Page 3 … ***Trinity River***

By studying the vegetation characteristics of sites where birds choose to place their territories or nests, or patches where successful nests are found, we can suggest features that the Trinity Program may then add to future site designs.

Our monitoring results are informing suggestions about the number of given tree or shrub species to be planted, the specific density of plantings, or even changes in how patchy versus evenly spaced plantings should be. Then, we monitor the results from sites planted with these refined revegetation techniques. This process results in iterative cycles of adaptive management that hone in on plant arrangements and species compositions — leading to the best habitat for birds and other wildlife. This is science-driven adaptive management at work… and it works!

More than ever, KBO's science is making a difference. We work with diverse partners to do science that is relevant. Our goal is to guide natural resource management with science to ensure we reverse current declines of our western birds, keep common birds common, and leave a legacy of healthy habitats for the generations to come.

Join KBO on Upcoming Events

Klamath Bird Observatory's popular Talk and Walk classes continue through the winter and into Spring. The *Talks* are held on a Thursday evening (except for the Jacksonville Woodlands class) at the KBO headquarters in Ashland and the *Walk* on the following Saturday. To register contact Shannon Rio at Shannonrio@aol.com, registration fee is $25 for each class. Don't miss these fun and informative adventures in birding!

The Talk and Walk classes offer a great chance to learn about birds, go on an outing with a bird guide expert, and visit Klamath Bird Observatory's current headquarters. This workplace is offered to KBO through a partnership with the Ashland School District and provides our scientists and educators a space to work, collate our findings, apply for grants, and dream about how to best study and protect birds and their habitats. Part of our dream is to someday have a new home — a place to continue our work and hopefully a site for banding, for educating, and for furthering conservation.

Upcoming Trips and Events!

BIRDS OF A LOCAL ASHLAND HOT SPOT

MARCH 24, THURSDAY 6:30PM-8PM - Intro class at KBO.
MARCH 26, SATURDAY 9AM-2PM - *Outing is at a hillside home on the outskirts of Ashland with an impressive backyard bird list. We will bird the property then be served a delicious lunch. This is a great opportunity to learn about counting the birds in your yard, birds at feeders, and eBirding.*
LED BY KARL SCHNECK and SHANNON RIO

ROGUE VALLEY WOODLAND BIRDS

APRIL 6, WEDNESDAY 6:30PM-8PM - Intro class at KBO.
APRIL 9, SATURDAY 8AM-2PM - *Outing visits the birds of Jacksonville Woodlands. Please bring lunch and drinks.*
LED BY DENNIS VROMAN and SHANNON RIO

IN SEARCH OF THE GREAT GRAY OWL

MAY 5, THURSDAY 6:30PM-8PM - Intro class at KBO.
MAY 7, SATURDAY 2PM-6PM - *Outing is an afternoon in search of the Great Gray Owl upon the Cascades Plateau east of Ashland.*
LED BY LEE FRENCH and SHANNON RIO

MOUNTAIN BIRD FESTIVAL

MAY 20—22
Sign up for the Mountain Bird Festival email list and be the first to know when registration goes live and receive the latest news, by visiting our website at http://klamathbird.org/index.php/about-kbo/subscribe and select "Trips and Events".

Artwork © 2016 Gary Bloomfield

THE BIRDS OF MALHUER

SEPTEMBER 9—13
Join professional birding guide and KBO board member Harry Fuller with KBO Board president Shannon Rio for a trip to this world-renowned birding destination and the largest wetland in eastern Oregon. During this truly unforgettable trip we should see Bobolinks, Sage Sparrows, Sandhill Cranes, Eastern Kingbirds and many raptors. The cost is $600 (includes lodging, two dinners, three breakfasts, a bird presentation and a $300 tax deductible donation) Space is limited so sign up today! To register contact Marcella at 347-738-0022 or admin@klamathbird.org

Klamath Bird Observatory

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