

The Klamath Bird

Newsletter of the Klamath Bird Observatory, Winter 2017

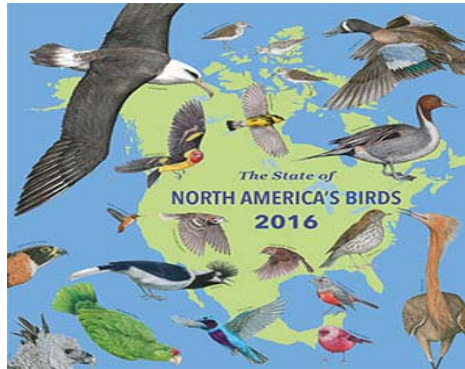


Conservation Through Partnerships

Jaimie Stephens, KBO Science Director

Not so long ago our conservation work was limited by lack of knowledge. However, over the past two decades the bird conservation community has compiled an impressive body of science posing a new challenge. How can the people who are faced with making daily decisions be confident that they understand the most current science? And how can we make sure that KBO's science is relevant, timely, and applied? It is all about partnerships—partnerships for birds, for oaks, for river restoration, for everything we do!

It is through partnerships that we translate KBO's science into on-the-ground bird conservation. This is why we actively engage with numerous networks to apply our science, along with a wealth of additional relevant information, to advance bird conservation locally, nationally, and internationally. Our science programs, including long-term monitoring and



The 2016 State of North America's Birds at www.stateofthebirds.org

applied research, seek to fill information gaps so that our most pressing conservation challenges can be better overcome through more-informed decision making.

At international, national, and regional scales we work through two primary partnership-driven initiatives. We contribute to the North American Bird Conservation Initiative in many ways, including collaborating on the *State of the Birds* reports.

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In this issue ... a look back at 2016 and ahead to 2017, Tales From the Field, the Olive-sided Flycatcher: a bird in trouble, Mountain Bird Festival news, Words on the Wind, and more!

Field Day Tales

Observations from Our Biologists Afield

Ornithologists are aware of the different habitats and weather that birds face in different latitudes and how these differences drive contrasting community compositions. But do ornithologists know what to expect when they are the ones facing these huge differences? I thought I did—until I had the coldest and busiest banding morning in my life at Wood River Wetland near Chiloquin, Oregon.

I first trained to band birds in the Brazilian Amazon forest and was adapted to warm tropical mornings. We rarely captured more than 20 birds using many mist nets.

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Note From the Executive Director *John Alexander*

With this first newsletter of 2017, we look back to chronicle some of our 2016 successes, and to celebrate field biology and the observation based science that is at Klamath Bird Observatory's core. As we do this, we set our sights towards the future and the opportunities and challenges to come. Looking forward we remain committed to our mission of advancing bird and habitat conservation through science, education and partnerships. Fundamental to our mission is the belief that our sustainable future will depend on forward thinking, informed decision making—decision making informed with science. With this in mind, I proudly share with you a statement about the future of science recently written by KBO's Science Director, Jaime Stephens ...

Peer-reviewed science is nonpartisan. While science is non-advocacy in nature, scientific results ensure fact-driven debate and informed decision making. In this time when our colleagues are being silenced, science is being dismissed, and funding is being cut, Klamath Bird Observatory remains steadfast in standing up for science. And today, right now, science needs you. Your support is more important than ever.

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Report from the Upper Klamath Field Station ... KBO's 2016 Banding Project

Robert Frey, *KBO Biologist*

The 2016 long-term monitoring banding project started off in May and continued through the end of October, with eight interns learning to fly on their feet—mastering banding skills such as mist net use, bird handling, ageing and sexing techniques, and other survey methods. All while collecting a mountain of data key to our long-term population monitoring.

Four of the team arrived as 2015 KBO family members. Jaclyn Tolchin and Eva Leach joined us for the fall migration season that year (following their work with other KBO projects), Pedro Martins for several summer weeks, and Luiza Figueira for that entire season. In 2016 Luiza and Pedro returned from Brazil and Ingrid Tello López from Mexico joined us as exchange research scholars in our continuing partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service International Programs, Oregon State University's International Scholar and Faculty Services, and the Universidad de Guadalajara. Genevieve Day, Steve Dougill, Heather Kenny, and Janelle Lopez also joined the team in August for our 2016 fall migration season.



2016 banding team—front: Ingrid Tello López, Heather Kenny; middle: Genevieve Day, Jaclyn Tolchin, Pedro Martins, Luiza Figueira; Back: Bob Frey, Janelle Lopez, Steve Dougill (not pictured: Eva Leach). Photo: KBO © 2016

We operated a network of nine long-term monitoring banding stations and opened nets to catch birds 154 times, capturing 6,135 birds of 87 species. During the banding operations, 297 area search surveys, 78 vegetation surveys, and 871 plant phenology surveys were completed (these latter contributed to the National Phenology Network).

Public bird banding demonstrations were presented in May at Ashland's North Mountain Park (as part of the Rogue Valley Bird Festival) and in August at our Upper Klamath Field Station. Also in August, we hosted a week-long Fundamentals of Banding Workshop at our Upper Klamath Field Station. Our research scholar banders Luiza and Pedro taught a similar workshop with new partner Tennessee River Gorge Trust Bird Observatory at Chattanooga, Tennessee. In October, most of our banding team completed the rigorous testing and skills

evaluation for North American Banding Council certification. This resulted in one certified at the Bander Assistant level, six at the Bander level, and three of these also at the Bander Trainer level—congratulations newly certified banders!

Counting the Morning Chorus ... the 2016 Point Count Field Season

Ellie Armstrong, *KBO Field and Data Manager*

KBO's point count program focuses efforts in May and June during the breeding season when songbirds are most vocal and most reliably detected. Point counts are used to monitor breeding bird diversity, abundance, and distribution by counting all birds detected (by sight and sound) at many specific points within a five-minute survey period in the early morning.

This past spring five biologists completed 2,035 point count surveys throughout southern Oregon and northern California. This year much of KBO's point count work occurred in oak habitats where restoration has taken place. We also surveyed in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, revisiting sites now 10 years after livestock grazing was curtailed. Surveys were conducted along the Rogue River in the area where the Gold Ray Dam was removed in 2010. In addition, we continued our long-term monitoring programs on the Trinity River and in the National Parks Klamath Network at Crater Lake National Park and Oregon Caves National Monument.



KBO field technician Rebecca Loeb conducting point count in oak woodland. Photo: KBO © 2016

Trinity River Restoration Program Monitoring

Sarah Rockwell, *KBO Research Biologist*

The Trinity River crew had a fun and successful field season in 2016. We found 107 nests of our focal bird species this season! The first of our study focal species to begin building nests and laying eggs were the resident Song Sparrows, followed by the early-arriving migrant Tree Swallows, and shortly after by Yellow Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Black-headed Grosbeaks.



Yellow-breasted Chat with color leg bands and a geolocator. Photo: KBO © 2016

We also color-banded 141 individuals of these species on our plots. We do this by setting up a mist net within a bird's territory with the song of a territorial male played on a speaker placed under the net. Then we wait for the territorial male to come challenge what he perceives as an intruder. When the defending male gets caught in our net, we quickly untangle the bird and place a unique combination of color bands on his legs.

The color leg bands make it possible to track that individual over time without recapturing it. This helps us to learn about his survival, site faithfulness, and specific habitat use. This information also helps us learn about what habitat features are best for each species, information that guides habitat restoration. We also attached miniature light-sensitive geolocator devices to Yellow-breasted Chats in a continuing tri-national full life

-cycle study (see *Opening Doors* on Page 5).

When the breeding season wound down with nests fledged and birds dispersing, our crew switched over to doing mostly vegetation surveys in order to track habitat use of these riparian birds.

The crew (and the birds) enjoyed a relatively cool and moist field season in the notoriously hot Trinity County summer—with only a few days over 100°F!



Song Sparrow with color leg bands. Photo: KBO © 2016



2016 Trinity River Nest Searching Team (L to R): Katie Temple, Sarah Rockwell, Ellie Armstrong, Tyler Winter, Kim Geissler, Armand Caan, Florence Masson. Photo: KBO © 2016

Note From the ED—from Page 1

Our science provides the foundation for conservation of our most at-risk bird species and the habitats on which all wildlife depend. In the last six months alone, our science has influenced state policy to eliminate red tape for oak restoration on private lands, informed the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and contributed to the petition to list the Oregon Vesper Sparrow under the Endangered Species Act. These are just a few examples of how our work is having an impact. But there is so much more to do!

—Jaime Stephens, *KBO Science Director*

With all this in mind, please consider continuing and increasing your support, support that ensures Klamath Bird Observatory's science is at the table when decisions are being made. Your contributions provide staff time to put our science in front of decision makers at all levels. With your help we will continue to stand up for science!

Conservation Partners—*from Page 1*

Regionally and locally, we work with private companies and landowners, non-governmental organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies—making things happen on the ground in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion and throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network is one of our exemplary regional collaborations. This group of non-governmental organizations, local, state and federal agencies, private citizens, and watershed-based groups is working to conserve oak habitats on private and public lands in southern Oregon and northern California by sharing resources, engaging in partnerships, and collaborating on various restoration projects.

We also work with a number of similar networks that are not all necessarily focused on birds, but do provide substantial opportunities to integrate practices that benefit birds and other wildlife into large scale restoration programs. Through broad partnerships we ensure Klamath Bird Observatory's work is relevant for bird and habitat conservation in our backyards and across the broad geographies critical to migratory species.



Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan at www.PartnersInFlight.org

Mountain Bird Festival Success!

Ben Wieland, *KBO Mountain Bird Festival Assistant* & Marcella Sciotto, *KBO Assistant Director*

Klamath Bird Observatory hosted the third annual Mountain Bird Festival in Ashland, Oregon this past May 20-22, 2016. The Festival is a community event designed to raise funds for bird conservation while celebrating the role citizens play in conservation as well as the glory of the birds, wildlife, and landscapes of southern Oregon and northern California.

We were once again delighted with the Festival turnout – 140 individuals registered for the full Festival, some attending from as far away as Mississippi, Arkansas, Michigan, and the United Kingdom. Festival and field trip registrations raised almost \$18,000 for bird conservation. We sold 140 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation (Duck) Stamps through registration, thereby raising \$3,500 to expand and protect the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit of wildlife, natural areas, and people. Local Mountain Bird Festival sponsorships added an additional \$6,000 for the birds.

Attendees of the 2016 Festival had their choice of 26 field trips ranging all over the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion, from Mount Ashland to Crater Lake, and from the wetlands of the Upper Klamath to the sweeping vistas of the Shasta Valley – all led by local experts who graciously volunteered their time. The weather was variable and at times challenging, with snow and wind

encountered in the mountains, and rain showers down low, but the birds were as unfazed as the birders, and made a great showing. By the time everyone was home safely in Ashland on Sunday they had observed (and eBirded!) a total of 177 species of birds. Birders were treated to a full array of local specialties, including White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed Towhee, Calliope Hummingbird, and Mountain Quail. KBO Board Member Harry Fuller and Biologist Sarah Rockwell each led their group to the Hyatt Lake area and found the huge though often elusive and cryptic Great Gray Owl.



Mountain Bird Festival artwork by Gary Bloomfield © 2016

The Klamath Bird

Festival Success—from Page 4

Friday evening activities included a showing of the new bird conservation film *The Messenger*, generously sponsored by the Rogue Valley Audubon Society, and enjoyed by all. Saturday evening entertainment included a fun Science Talk entitled *Quick Three Beers* which focused on this year's featured bird, the Olive-sided Flycatcher, and was accompanied by local beer tasting generously supplied by Swing Tree Brewery. Doug Robinson of Oregon State University presented a keynote talk *Birding That Counts*. Brand new for the Festival were *Birding by Ear* and *A Beginner's Guide to eBird* workshops.



Birds and smiles on a Mountain Bird Festival field trip. Photo: KBO © 2016

Looking back, the most remarkable and heartening aspect of the Festival was the community support. Over 40 generous supporters tallied over 600 volunteer hours; local businesses provided valuable sponsorships, goods, and services; the City of Ashland again awarded KBO a grant in support of the Festival, helping us raise additional foundation support; and Festival attendees from the Rogue Valley and afar came out to advance bird conservation with gusto. We are truly grateful to all those who participated and helped make our Festival a success!

What's Ahead For the Mountain Bird Festival?

In 2017 the Mountain Bird Festival will be taking the year off. After careful reflection on our first three years of putting on the Festival, we believe a hiatus will help us find the right steps to take that will markedly improve the Festival and ensure that its benefit to conservation and the community continue to grow.

During this furlough, KBO will continue to advance the mission of the Festival, Citizens, and Science

Advancing Bird Conservation through our Community Education Program. With the spirit of this mission in mind, we will host Mountain Bird Night on September 23, 2017, with keynote speaker Noah Strycker, special field trips, and the unveiling of our 2017 Conservation Stamp Set, including the 2017 Klamath Bird Observatory Conservation Science Stamp and the 2017-18 Duck Stamp. This event is open to the public with the purchase of the Conservation Stamp Set, the proceeds of which will go directly to advancing conservation locally and nationally. See *Upcoming Events* Page 11 for more details.

Our Community Education Program will also continue to remain active with the popular Talk and Walk class series, other special events and trips, and community celebrations, such as Rogue Valley Bird Day. We appreciate your faithful support and understanding. We are certain our next Festival will be well worth the wait!

Opening Doors Robert Frey, *KBO Biologist*

Klamath Bird Observatory is forging new partnerships and building upon existing ones in 2017. These exciting collaborations open new doors into important applied research, long-term monitoring, and education. By working together, the impact of bird and habitat conservation efforts is so much greater.

Building on our partnership with Crater Lake National Park, we will establish a new monitoring station within the Park with bird and habitat conservation education programs for park visitors during banding operations. The collaboration will include similar interpretive programs for park visitors at another nearby KBO monitoring station on Fremont-Winema National Forest.

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Crater Lake National Park vista. Photo: Frank Lospalluto © 2016

Words On the Wind

A celebration of birds in literature

The Crane Wife 3

By Colin Meloy

And under the boughs unbowed
All clothed in the snowy shroud
She had no heart so hardened
All under the boughs unbowed

Each feather, it fell from skin
'Til thread bare while she grew thin
How were my eyes so blinded?
Each feather, it fell from skin

And I will hang my head
Hang my head low
And I will hang my head
Hang my head low

A gray sky, a bitter sting
A rain cloud, a crane on wing

All out beyond horizon
A gray sky, a bitter sting

And I will hang my head
Hang my head low
And I will hang my head
Hang my head low

And I will hang my head
Hang my head low

And I will hang my head
Hang my head low, low, low

Editor's note:

These lyrics of *The Decemberists'* song are an interpretation of the last part of a Japanese folk tale known as *The Crane Wife* which has several versions. All too briefly in a common telling ... a man rescues a crane from certain death in a trap. Soon after, during a great snow storm, a beautiful young woman (secretly the crane) comes to his door asking for shelter. The man takes her in and she looks for ways to repay him for saving her life. They soon marry and she begins to weave a precious cloth, secretly from her own feathers, greatly admired in their village and all that she can think of to give. When the man's curiosity gets the better of him and he looks in on her to discover how she is creating the beautiful silken cloth with no thread or materials other than her loom, he realizes the

heartbreaking truth. Finding the crane pulling her feathers out to weave the cloth, he realizes she is the grand bird he saved. He confronts and releases her from her perceived obligation. Watching her fly away he is filled with regret and shame knowing the great harm she suffered—despite his love for her. Oh my.

Field Day Tales—from Page 1

On that memorable morning at Wood River Wetland, the first thing I noticed was the temperature. For the first time in my life I saw a thermometer showing 0° C—freezing! Then we captured 74 birds using just nine nets in just a few hours. Something unimaginable for someone used to the tropics! It was amazing to have such new experiences in just one day and it was just the beginning of the banding season!

—Pedro Martins *Banding Project Intern*

It was a chilly misty morning along the Trinity River as I walked to my first study plot of the day. I had mentally prepared myself to not be bamboozled by this particular Song Sparrow. I had heard of her mischievous activities a couple days before and I had an itching to find her nest! Charged up, I slipped through the thorny blackberries to a more open area to serve as my observation deck. But to my surprise, what I found was a black bear! The bear quickly sprinted off without hesitation – so fast to my disappointment. Despite of the dangers they may pose, and I'm well aware of these, trained in measures to prevent an altercation, I had hoped for a better look. Despite my view was mostly composed of its rear end, it was the first bear that I had seen in the wild. It was a special day in the field indeed!

—Armand Caan *Trinity Nest Searching Project Intern*

On a warm sunny day in July, I realized something was different. Two coworkers and I were camping at our banding site on the upper Klamath River. We had been there many times already this season. But on this particular afternoon, it seemed to be a different place. At first I couldn't say what was different—what was there that wasn't before or what was missing. I was feeling quite peaceful at the calm and quiet riverside spot. Strangely quiet in fact. And that was it! There was no more of the

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Field Day Tales—from Page 6

usual fervid bird song all around. I closed my eyes to pay attention, and all I heard was a persistent Yellow-breasted Chat singing and an American Robin 'peek' call.

The songbird singing season had all but come to a sudden ending. Since the spring and a daily chorus, they had found their mates, built nests, then laid and incubated eggs. They were now very busily taking care of their soon-to-fledge nestlings, with little time for song. I will for sure miss the long days filled with music-like bird song. But I will be amused to see the engendered wings flying around from now on.

—Luiza Figueira Rodrigues *Banding Project Intern*



Yellow-breasted Chat singing his heart out. Photo: Jim Livaudais © 2016

Hard work is rewarded in mysterious ways when you are nest searching. You may spend days fighting through blackberries, squatting for hours in uncomfortable positions, just to find that the bird you were pursuing is long gone. After spending almost two weeks without finding a nest, I woke up one morning determined to find one. I had nothing planned that day except nest search and surely I could find one Song Sparrow nest, right?

Well, as I wandered through the mazes of blackberry trails, I heard a faint chip and thought 'this is it'. For the next four hours I tried several approaches including lying on my back in a patch of blackberry hoping she wouldn't notice me spying with my binoculars. Unfortunately, all of my ideas proved to be unsuccessful. Her

behavior confused me and I was sure I would never find her nest. I gave up and started walking towards the river until something occurred to me—maybe I was too close. I turn back, ran to the first place I saw her, and looked over my left shoulder. Hidden behind little leaves of blackberry was the nest, with four tiny speckled eggs inside.

I truly believed that nothing in the world could make me feel more content and satisfied, until I found two more nests on my way back to the car. What a field day.

—Florence Masson *Trinity Nest Searching Project Intern*

Journal entry June 30: Wispy clouds above are tinted with pink and a Black-headed Grosbeak sings the evening away from a Ponderosa Pine. I'm sprawled beside the Klamath River with a tired smile and claw marks on my hands from the day of banding. American Robins scurry home as evening winds down. First star out there in the southeast. There's another. My concept of time as a bird bander is distorted, with pre-dawn wake-up times and early to bed, but subtle seasonal changes keep me on track. Wild strawberries are fruiting, Washington Lily blooming, the lake receding. And the birds are confirming that summer is well underway. Mornings are quieter now as everyone is busy feeding their young and thinking about re-nesting. We are seeing wing molt as birds prepare for migration already! It's a unique way to witness the passage of time and the changing of seasons. It's hard to fall asleep these days ... too eager to see what tomorrow has in store.

—Jaclyn Tolchin *Banding Project Intern*



Yellow-breasted Chat nest on hatch day . Photo: KBO © 2016

Catalyzing the Next Century of Stewardship

in the National Park Service's Centennial *Jaime Stephens, KBO Science Director*

This past August 2016, the National Park Service celebrated its 100th anniversary. As we recognize the conservation successes of our Park partners, we also look toward the next century of stewardship of our public lands. National Park Service lands comprise 3% of all federal lands in the west, a meaningful contribution of lands committed solely for stewardship and public engagement. With increased pressures on our protected lands that include climate change and political questions about our country's commitment to publicly held lands, relevant science that informs natural resource management decision making will become even more valuable.

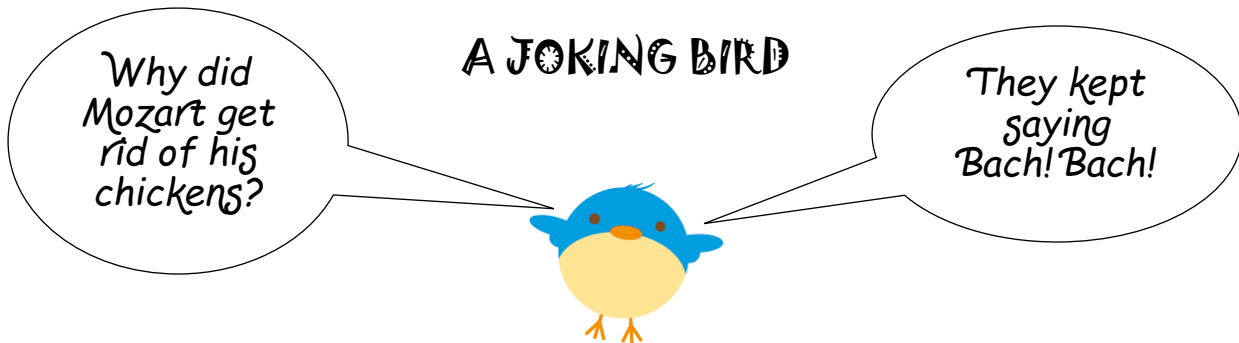
Such science is generated through the National Park Services Inventory and Monitoring Program. Our local partnership with the Klamath Network Inventory and Monitoring Program facilitates long-term bird monitoring at the six National Parks in our region. In 2016, Klamath Bird Observatory completed our 9th year of long-term point count monitoring at all six parks and the 15th year of bird banding efforts at Oregon Caves National Monument. While contributing to the National Park Service program, this regional work is also an important part of KBO's long-term efforts that help us understand how birds are faring. Our monitoring on protected lands provides a reference for comparison to bird trends across the broader region.

species that are experiencing concerning population declines, such as birds that inhabit grasslands and oak woodlands, have relatively little habitat on protected lands within the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. These new results are contributing to local and regional efforts to identify priority areas for management, restoration, and conservation. This information was recently used by Oregon's Senators and the Obama Administration in their decision to expand the Bureau of Land Management's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which complements our region's National Parks by protecting oak woodlands and grasslands.

As we continue ongoing monitoring projects over the next decade, we are excited to begin operating a new bird banding station at Crater Lake National Park in 2017. This expanded partnership will provide an opportunity to further our understanding of bird populations while enhancing public interest in science, bird conservation, and National Parks through ranger-lead outreach programs to the banding station. Programs such as this will contribute to the next century of stewardship of the National Parks, leveraging partnerships to inform long-term bird population monitoring while enhancing visitors' experience and appreciation for our protected lands.



KBO's science from within and outside of National Park Service lands was used in an analysis that revealed an important gap in our region's protected lands. Many bird



President's Perch Shannon Rio, KBO Board of Directors President

The movie *The Messenger* was shown on the first night of the Mountain Bird Festival and its message has stayed with me. It brought to light some of the many ways bird populations are declining, including large glaring windows in big cities, outdoors cats, and lights from tall buildings interrupting migrating birds. The film was informing and compelling, and raised a big question among many—what can WE do as individuals to help?

I would suggest that one way to help is by contributing to Klamath Bird Observatory as it collects the science to provide to agencies that are charged with managing and protecting birds and their habitats.

I ask you to think about how you personally respond to this question and send me your thoughts and replies – I will compile them as a list of things the everyday person can do. Perhaps I could hand it out at KBO Community Education events and we can have dialogue around it. For example: use native plants in your yard that provide food and refuge for birds and butterflies, keep your cat safely inside, take your friends and families to places in nature to develop the love of nature that engenders wanting to protect it. Email your responses to Shannon Rio at shannonrio@aol.com.

Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground. –Rumi

Opening Doors—from Page 5

With American Bird Conservancy and Center for Natural Lands Management, we will begin marking Oregon Vesper Sparrows with color leg bands in order to garner much-needed habitat use and nesting success information. The color bands allow habitat-use observational tracking without the need of recapture.



Oregon Vesper Sparrow.
Photo: Jim Livaudais © 2016

This work builds upon recent collaborative survey efforts in Oregon and Washington that documented critically low numbers of this once common bird. These surveys provided supporting evidence for the petition for listing the Oregon Vesper Sparrow under the Endangered Species Act.

Wintering Yellow-breasted Chats on the Mexico Pacific Coast are being marked with color bands through our collaboration with Environment Canada, University of British Columbia, Universidad de Guadalajara, and San Pancho Bird Observatory. In this on-going full life cycle study, we hope to establish whether these chats return to the same place each year. Further investigations will involve attaching light-level sensitive geolocators to track their movements between breeding and wintering grounds. This work expands the group's effort to docu-

ment chat population connections between breeding, migration, and wintering areas and habitats.

And we have joined in the collaborative Common Nighthawk Migratory Connectivity Project led by University of Alberta, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Environment & Climate Change Canada and with many non-profit, government, and academic partners across this bird's North America range. The Project's primary objective is to learn more about the distribution of this little-understood species. Initially, collaborators (including KBO) will be attaching satellite transmitting tags to Common Nighthawks during the nesting season in order to track their migrations and wintering habitat selection.



Common Nighthawk
8/27/06, Anahuac NWR Texas

Common Nighthawk Photo: Jim Livaudais © 2016

Bird Bio: Olive-sided Flycatcher Robert Frey, KBO Biologist

It's a favorite for many birders ... "quick three beers!" of the Olive-sided Flycatcher. Sung out loud from treetop haunts, the simple song has signaled many birding outings' eventual repast or cheering retreat.

The somewhat staid Olive-sided Flycatcher is a familiar bird during its nesting season throughout North America's great boreal forests, and also the west's mountain ranges and the Pacific Northwest's coastal forests. It is a long-distance migrant wintering mostly in the Amazonia region of northern South America.

This flycatcher catches flies! It also preys upon many other flying insects—especially bees. It sallies forth from and returns to favorite perches. It is a relatively large flycatcher with olive-gray plumage above and extending to its flanks (sides) and breast. The underparts have white to whitish that extends to above the tail for the appearance of a white rump. The longest known living wild Olive-sided Flycatcher was a bird captured and banded during mist netting operations in California and recaptured 11 years and 1 month later.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher's scientific and English names were coined by French ornithologist Charles Lucien Bonaparte (nephew to Napoleon I) who lived and worked in the United States for a brief time (1822-1826). As is often the case, a bird's names make some attempt at describing the bird and to honor a colleague. Its English name is certainly descriptive—it indeed has olive sides and does catch flies. The genus name *Contopus* is Latinized Greek for "short-footed" from *kontos* (short) and *pous* (foot)—a reference to its short legs (a characteristic it shares with its congener wood-pewees). The species name *cooperi* is of course an honor bestowed upon William Cooper, the nineteenth-century American zoologist, Recording Secretary of the New York Lyceum of Natural History (later the New York Academy of Sciences) in its formative years, and an important collaborator to many scientists of the day including Bonaparte, Audubon, Gambel, Torrey, and DeKay.

Unfortunately, this bird is in trouble. Although widespread, it is experiencing range-wide declines of 3.3% per year between 1966 and 2014 resulting in a cumulative decline of 81%, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Partners in Flight estimates a global breeding population of 1.7 million, with 49% breeding in the US, 2% in Mexico, and 51% in Canada where it is already listed as threatened. This all highlights the need for collaboration across borders in conservation efforts.

Conservation concerns include habitat alteration or loss in both nesting and wintering grounds, and sharp declines in bees—one of its major prey sources. Many other aerial insectivorous (that is, flycatching) species are experiencing similar declines.

The recently published Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan lists the Olive-sided Flycatcher as a WatchList Species (species that are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered without conservation action). The Conservation Plan also characterizes conservation risk using a practical metric called Population Half-life which is measured in years

to which 50% of its current numbers will be lost at the current rate of decline. The Olive-sided Flycatcher half-life to extinction is 24 years. That is 24 years until there are half as many of this special bird in our world. Quick, three beers! With emphasis on the "quick".



Mountain Bird Festival artwork featuring the Olive-sided Flycatcher by Gary Bloomfield © 2016

Opening Doors—from Page 9

These collaborative endeavors are applying different approaches and methods to reveal what birds are telling us. To inform science and inform people of that science are the objectives—opening doors to informed decisions.



Join KBO At Upcoming Events

Mountain Bird Night—September 23, 2017!

Klamath Bird Observatory is proud to announce the 2017 Mountain Bird Night. Join us for a keynote by Noah Strycker (see below), food, art, premium field trips, and the unveiling of our 2017 Conservation Stamp Set, including the 2017 Klamath Bird Observatory Conservation Science Stamp and the 2017-18 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp. This event will be open to the public with the purchase of the Conservation Stamp Set with premium field trips at an additional cost, the proceeds of which will go directly to advancing conservation locally and nationally.

Mountain Bird Night Keynote: *Birding Without Borders: An Epic World Big Year*—Noah Strycker

In 2015, Oregonian bird nerd Noah Strycker became the first person to see over half of the world's bird species in a single, year-long, round-the-world birding trip. Anything could have happened and a lot did. He was scourged by blood-sucking leeches, suffered fevers and sleep deprivation, survived airline snafus and car breakdowns and mudslides and torrential floods, skirted war zones, and had the time of his life. Birding on seven continents with just the pack on his back and his binoculars, Strycker enlisted the

enthusiastic support of local birders to tick more than 6,000 species, including Adelie Penguins in Antarctica, a Harpy Eagle in Brazil, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and a Green-breasted Pitta in Uganda. He shared the adventure in real time on his daily blog (www.audubon.org/noah), and now he reveals the inside story. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Mr. Strycker's epic World Big Year will leave you with a new appreciation for the birds and birders of the world.

Noah Strycker is Associate Editor of *Birding* magazine, the author of two well-regarded books about birds—*Among Penguins* (Oregon State University Press, 2011) and *The Thing with Feathers* (Riverhead Books, 2014), and contributing author to major bird media. Strycker set a World Big Year record in 2015 and is writing a book about the experience, which will be released in fall 2017. Strycker has studied birds on six continents and works as a naturalist guide on expedition cruises to Antarctica and Norway's Svalbard archipelago.

More Community Education Events, including the popular Talks & Walks series, are in the works—stay tuned!

We would like to hear from you about the Klamath Bird Newsletter. Do you have a suggestion, comment, or complaint? Please tell us all about it at kbo@klamathbird.org (include "newsletter comment" in subject line).

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