

The Klamath Bird

Newsletter of the Klamath Bird Observatory, Fall 2011



State of the Birds on Public Lands and Waters

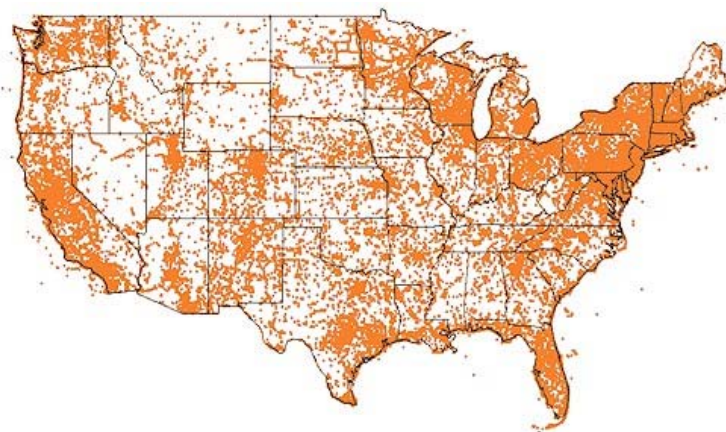
John Alexander, KBO Executive Director

Klamath Bird Observatory was part of a collaboration to produce the *State of the Birds 2011 Report on Public Lands and Waters* (www.stateofthebirds.org). This year's report provided the nation's first assessment of the distribution of birds on public lands. This third annual *State of the Birds* report highlights declining populations as a measurable indicator of how public resource management agencies are doing as stewards of our environment, and warns that greater conservation efforts on public lands are needed. The report also identifies the tremendous potential that federal lands hold for bird conservation.

The report identified the important role the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) play in managing western forests. In the west, 55% of forest lands are managed by federal agencies, and together, the Forest Service and BLM are responsible for nearly 45% of all birds identified as "western forest obligates." The 2011 report identified the restoration of fire regimes, which are a vital component of healthy forest ecosystems, as the greatest challenge for forest managers in the western United States. The report called for more effective

collaboration between agencies and other partners as an essential step towards restoring natural processes, ensuring functional and resilient ecosystems, and improving conservation outcomes for our shared birds.

Over the past three years, the *State of the Birds* reports have called for innovative strategies and large-scale conservation planning and implementation through broad partnerships between public agencies and other stakeholders. The 2011 report suggests that agency-specific



Over 622,000 bird observations entered into eBird by citizen scientists from 2004-2009 were used in analyses for the 2011 *State of the Birds* report. This map shows 107,000 unique locations within the contiguous U.S. where these data were collected. To learn more about eBird, visit www.ebird.org/klamath-siskiyou. Map courtesy Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

research and monitoring, including inventories, surveys, and monitoring programs, are needed to assess conservation needs and understand how birds are responding to human activities. The report identifies important roles for science-based NGOs in transferring knowledge to

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those charged with day-to-day decision making. These NGOs can help assure that conservation goals are met at relevant scales, and that conservation goals transcend private-public, inter-agency, state, and international borders.

Klamath Bird Observatory's long-standing partnerships in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion, comprehensive long-term datasets, and collaborative approach to delivering relevant results from our research and monitoring efforts, position us to help land managers meet the challenges identified in the 2011 *State of the Birds* report. Together with our resource management partners, we are working to ensure a more sustainable future for our shared birds.

The President's Perch

Dick Ashford, KBO Board President

Long-time readers of this column have probably detected a recurring theme of mine: "In my humble opinion, things look good for KBO." Sound familiar? For several years, this has been my message, based on the following measures—your support has been growing (thank you!), revenues have grown, workload has grown, staff has grown, we continue to be honored by our peers, etc. So, why mention it? Well, this time my message is "things look good for KBO, but..." Say what? But? What's going on? Simply stated, we have been doing so well that we now have a critical need for a new home. As many of you know, we've tried to solve the growth "problem" by locating some of the KBO team at Jefferson Nature Center (JNC) while others remained at our traditional Willow Wind site. This has worked, but it also has costs, both tangible (rent, mileage) as well as intangible (communication inefficiencies, productivity lost due to transit time). Those costs are non-trivial. So, what to do?

Quite frankly, we had always viewed the two-campus arrangement as temporary, and more recently were hoping to expand our presence at JNC. Due to changes at JNC, this will not happen. Again, what to do?

The classic answer would be to mount a capital campaign to purchase or build a new facility to house this world-class organization (it deserves it!). While we consider the feasibility of such a capital campaign, our current need is immediate. That's why I'm reaching out to you, our faithful followers.

Simply stated, we need your assistance in finding a new home. Here, we outline the basic physical needs. Please take a look and see if they stimulate some of your creative thinking. Don't know what to do with that old barn? Do you have a commercial rental property that is sitting vacant, waiting for a long-term reliable tenant? Do you know of someone who does? Any other thoughts? KBO's future continues to be promising. I can assure you that the KBO board and staff alike are highly motivated to continue our good works. But remember, we couldn't have gotten this far without you. I hope we can continue to count on you as we move forward.

As always, thank you for your support. The birds need it and deserve it.

Cheers,

Dick

KBO is Looking for a Home!

KBO has an immediate need for a facility in the Rogue Valley of southern Oregon that can house 15 to 20 staff. Our longer-term need is for a permanent home in this area that can serve multiple purposes, including on-site scientific research and educational programming.

Interested? Ideas? Think you can help?

Please contact us at 541-201-0866 and let us know you're interested in talking about KBO's new home.

Thanks in advance!



Our immediate needs:

- Office capacity for 15
- High-speed internet
- Conference Room
- Indoor storage and shelving
- Parking

In addition to the needs above, a permanent home will include some or all of the following:

- 4+ acres or adjacent to public land
- Riparian (streamside) and other native habitat
- Storage for boats and trailers
- Indoor classroom
- Bunk house with facilities for 20 interns
- Visitor's center
- Energy efficient 'green' buildings
- Nature trail and picnic areas
- Landscaping with native plants
- Garden
- Outdoor amphitheater

Note from the Executive Director

John Alexander, KBO Executive Director

Klamath Bird Observatory has grown into a world class conservation organization by staying true to its mission of advancing bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships. We use birds as the lens through which we see the world around us. Using an integrated approach to science and education, we deliver scientific results to our partners, thus helping inform important decisions about how to protect the natural resources on which we all depend.

Our effectiveness depends on our partnerships—partnerships among the staff, interns, contractors, and board that make up KBO. These internal partnerships form the core of this organization. Partnerships with many collaborating individuals, organizations, and agencies are also essential. They help us apply our approach to meeting the challenges of today and tomorrow. Perhaps most importantly, partnerships with the people who go out of their way to support KBO's work are critical to our continued success.

KBO's success depends on the support we get from the community around us. The investments people make when they support KBO are investments well made. These contributions represent an investment in KBO's proven model of conservation science, and they are an investment in a community of people who work tirelessly

towards our mission. Together, we can work towards a better tomorrow, by keeping common birds common today, and letting them guide us into a more sustainable future.

Staff Spotlight: Jaime Stephens

At the 2011 Wings and Wine Gala, KBO Research and Monitoring Director Jaime Stephens received KBO's first Outstanding Employee Award. Jaime started with KBO in 2002 as a graduate student and quickly became an invaluable member of our staff and leadership team. With exceptional guidance and vision, Jaime has served as a driving force in making KBO's growth and success happen. Thanks for all you do, Jaime!



Jaime Stephens at KBO's 2011 Wings and Wine Gala with her Outstanding Employee Award, an original Gary Bloomfield illustration depicting a Mountain Bluebird (Jaime's favorite) perched on a KBO hat weathered by field work.

Bird Bio: Hermit Warbler

Liz Williams, KBO Education and Outreach Project Leader

During the breeding season, the Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) can be found in coniferous forests along the west coast of Oregon, Washington, and California, in the Cascade mountains of western Oregon and Washington, and in California's Sierra Nevada mountains. This species winters in montane pine, pine-oak, and cloud forests of Mexico and Central America through Nicaragua. A small, insectivorous warbler, it has a yellow head, white underparts, and gray upperparts. Males have black throats, while females' throats are grayish, with some black. The species is known to hybridize with Townsend's Warblers, resulting in birds with plumage characteristics of both species.

The Hermit Warbler is a habitat specialist. During breeding it is most often found in the interior of cool, moist, mature coniferous forests, from sea level into the mountains. It is most abundant in stands over 30 years old, and is not generally found in stands under 20 years old, or in stands that have been extensively thinned. As the Hermit Warbler usually resides high in the canopy, it

is more often heard than seen. The male's variable song is multi-part, consisting of 3 or 4 buzzy notes—"zeegle zeegle zeegle"—; followed by a rising-and-falling ending phrase—"zee-o-seet."



A Hermit Warbler on its wintering grounds in Guerrero, Mexico. Photo by Jim Livaudais © 2011.

Bird Bio: Hermit Warbler *continued*

The Hermit Warbler is a *State of the Birds* western forest obligate species, meaning that it is dependent on coniferous forest habitats. It is also a Partners in Flight Watchlist Species. Partners in Flight's *Conservation Strategy for Landbirds in Coniferous Forests of Oregon and Washington* identifies the Hermit Warbler as a focal species for mature, multi-layered, closed canopy forests. Through improving habitat conditions for Hermit Warbler, it is thought that other species that depend on older coniferous forest habitats will also benefit.

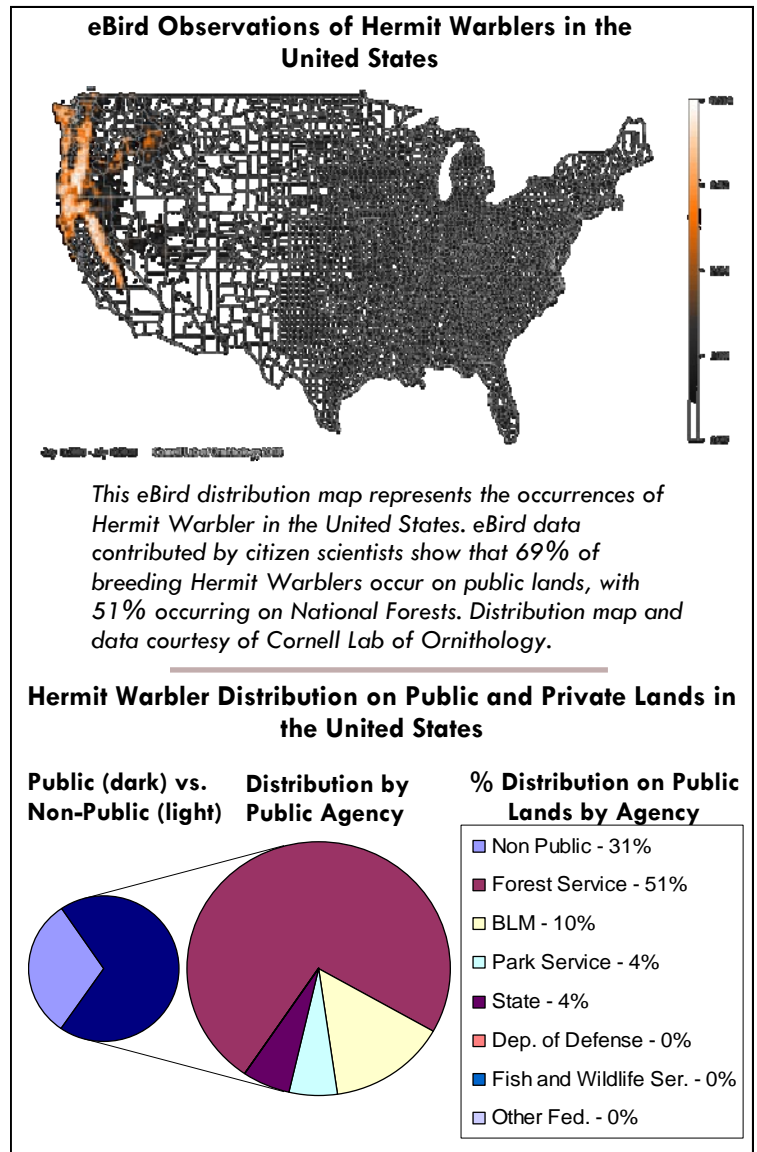
There is concern that the Hermit Warbler may be declining due to extensive loss of mature forest habitats. The 2011 *State of the Birds* report indicates that National Forests support 51% of Hermit Warblers breeding in the United States. This high level of stewardship responsibility provides the U.S. Forest Service with a unique opportunity to reverse potential declines in Hermit Warblers through appropriate forest management that will, in turn, improve habitat conditions for a variety of western forest obligate species.

Protecting and restoring the Hermit Warblers' habitat throughout its breeding range will require collaborations among non-governmental organizations like KBO, the Forest Service, and other public and private forest managers in Oregon, Washington, and California. Broader collaborations among international partners will also be necessary to ensure connectivity between Hermit Warblers' breeding, migratory, and wintering habitats.

A Series of Stories Highlights Conservation Success

Jaime Stephens, KBO Research and Monitoring Director

The BTP cover image illustrates the adaptive management process. Learn more about adaptive management on the next page.

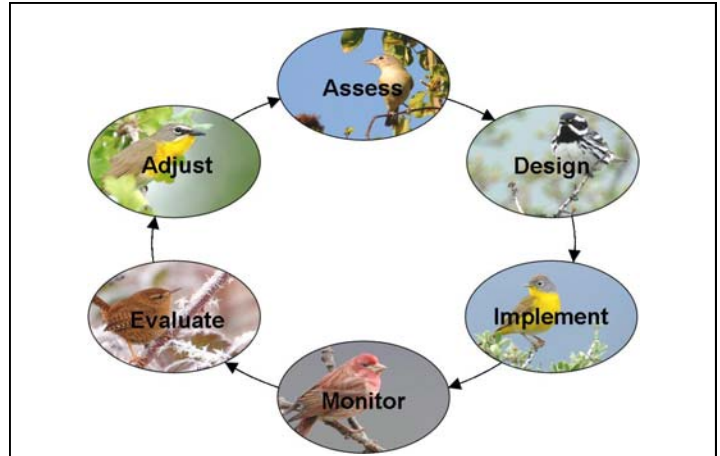


KBO played a lead role in the latest US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Technical Publication (BTP), entitled *Informing Ecosystem Management: Science and Process For Landbird Conservation in The Western United States*. This document provides a series of bird conservation "success stories." The goal of the publication is to demonstrate the science of bird monitoring and the process of integrating this science into land management decision making. KBO worked with a diverse array of partners to gather stories that show how common resource management obstacles can be overcome to realize on-the-ground conservation results. This series will resonate with federal, state and private land managers, conservation practitioners, and ornithologists. There is great potential for these audiences to use bird monitoring and research to identify opportunities for improving the 'state of the birds'.

A Series of Stories *continued*

Informing Ecosystem Management: Science and Process For Landbird Conservation in The Western United States is available online at <http://library.fws.gov/BTP/information-ecosystem-management-2011.pdf>. An excerpt from the preface provides an overview of the publication:

In this publication, we present ten examples illustrating both the process and science behind bird conservation throughout the western United States. We begin with a series of papers that describe integrating bird conservation and effectiveness monitoring into land management guidelines and emphasize the importance of partnerships. This is followed by a series of case studies which highlight bird monitoring within the adaptive management framework. We emphasize the science of monitoring and the process of its integration into land management because both are necessary in order for effectiveness monitoring to fully impact decision making.



The Adaptive Management Process

The above image illustrates the concept of adaptive management. Adaptive management is a learning-based process by which land management practices can continually improve through assessment, evaluation, and modification. Ecosystem conservation can benefit greatly from bird monitoring results that are used to inform decision making through the adaptive management process.

Developing a Strategy for Bird Monitoring in Oregon and Washington

Jaime Stephens, KBO Research and Monitoring Director

In conjunction with Partners in Flight conservation plans, results from bird monitoring and research efforts provide a framework for implementing bird conservation in Oregon and Washington. However, many questions remain about the ‘state of our birds’. For example, we know that Orange-crowned Warblers are declining, but we do not know why. It could be that they are not breeding successfully in areas of their summer range; it may be that the places where they stop during migration to “fuel up” are lacking sufficient food resources, or they may be limited during the winter months. Answers to these types of questions are essential to reversing declining population trends.

In addition to the need for more information about individual species, monitoring is important because birds serve as an excellent indicator of ecosystem health. One reason for this is that many common bird species are habitat “specialists,” meaning that their presence in an area is closely linked to a specific aspect of an ecosystem. For example, on their breeding grounds, Orange-crowned Warblers are associated with deciduous shrubs and trees. By assessing the entire community of birds, we can determine whether

aspects of a functioning ecosystem are missing. Also, because birds respond relatively quickly to external stressors, and because individual species respond differently to changes in their environment, they provide a good metric for understanding ecosystem change.



While we have a solid foundation in place for informing bird conservation, there are also many pressing information needs. KBO is working with the Oregon/Washington Chapter of Partners in Flight to develop a bi-state strategy for bird monitoring. Informed by bird conservation initiatives and a network of partners, this bi-state monitoring strategy will document the most urgent bird monitoring needs. By implementing priorities outlined in this strategy, we will improve overall monitoring coverage of the bi-state area and work to fill existing information gaps regarding population trends, demographics, effectiveness monitoring, individual species, and habitats. In addition, the strategy stresses the importance of data management and identifies opportunities for meta-analyses of existing data to answer pressing questions. Combined with existing long-term data, information generated from continued bird monitoring is at the forefront of improving our understanding of the natural world and furthering conservation of the natural resources on which we all depend.

Monitoring Methods for Landbirds on National Wildlife Refuges

Josée Rousseau, Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory Program Director

C. John Ralph, KBO Research Advisor and US Forest Service Research Ecologist

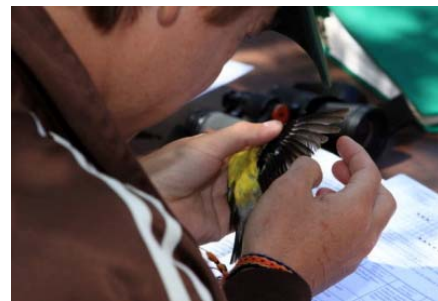
While many bird monitoring projects focus their efforts during the breeding season, it is equally important to collect data during the migration and non-breeding periods. These data can help us understand where and when bird populations are limited, as well as answer important questions about birds' movements, habitat selection, timing of migration, and more. In order to answer a given management or research question, it is important to select the appropriate survey method. Counting birds in the non-breeding and migration seasons is challenging, as birds are not singing then, but there are chinks in their armor of invisibility that allow them to be detected and counted.

KBO and the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory are involved in a project in collaboration with the US Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station's Arcata Laboratory to assess landbird populations migrating through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges in the Northeastern United States. As shown in the 2011 *State of the Birds* report, National Wildlife Refuges carry significant stewardship responsibility for landbirds and provide critical habitat for many birds, especially during migration. Many of the refuges involved in this study contain extensive shrubby vegetation where migrants load up on fruit to fuel their fall migration.

To assess migrant population levels on these refuges, and to develop protocols for migration monitoring, we compared the results of four types of bird survey techniques: area search, audio lure, eBird, and banding. Area searches, which involve recording all birds seen and

heard within a specific area and time frame, tell us about the abundance of birds. Audio lures can help surveyors detect less vocal or visible birds. For example, when audio lures that broadcast the sound of chickadees defensively mobbing a Pygmy Owl are played, many songbirds come out of hiding to investigate the commotion, making them easier to detect. These two survey techniques, often used in tandem, have the advantage of containing detailed 'effort' information (i.e., time spent surveying a specific area). eBird is an online citizen science resource (www.ebird.org) offering a huge number of bird observation records freely available for use by researchers and refuge managers. Finally, bird banding brings a unique component to this suite of monitoring techniques, because it is the only method that provides information about the health of birds through measures of body condition. Banding also provides metrics on productivity and survivorship.

Results from this research effort will support monitoring programs on Fish and Wildlife Service refuges by helping managers make informed decisions that balance monitoring goals, project priorities, and budgetary constraints. When used appropriately, these methods can help us assess bird populations and inform management decisions on our National Wildlife Refuges.



Bird banding is one of several methods used to monitor birds during fall migration.

KBO Interns: Hellos and Goodbyes

This fall, KBO welcomes Research and Monitoring Intern Jenna Curtis! Jenna will be assisting KBO staff in data management as well as providing field support and conducting avian surveys. After growing up in Oregon, Jenna received her B.A. in Biology and Fine Arts from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Her senior thesis investigated how changes in flock structure affected social behavior in Kori Bustards at the Smithsonian National Zoo. Her interests include avian ecology, evolutionary biology, and the selective pressures facing bird populations. Welcome, Jenna!



Also this fall, KBO fledges the 2011 bird banding crew. Rachel Kilby, Erin Rowan, David Hodkinson (Senior Banding Intern), Caleb Walker, and Amy Beich (above, left to right), and Todd Alleger and Jorge Leitón (below) did a fantastic job as they participated in an intensive training program and collected banding data on thousands of birds throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. We thank you for your hard work, dedication, and excellent attitudes, and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!



State of the Birds: Connections & Sustainability on our Public Lands and Beyond

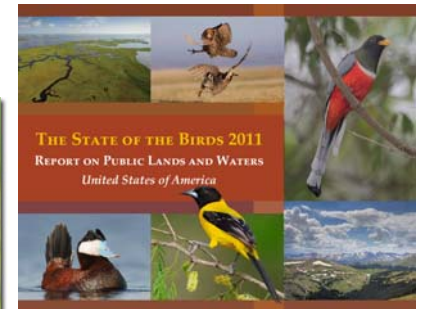
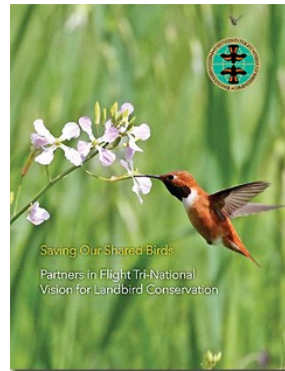
Annie Kilby, KBO E&O Program Manager

Birds serving as indicators of ecosystem health has long been a message of the Klamath Bird Observatory. The first *State of the Birds* report in 2009 relayed the same message:

Birds are a priceless part of America's heritage. They are beautiful, they are economically important, and they reflect the health of our environment. This State of the Birds report reveals troubling declines of bird populations during the past 40 years—a warning signal of the failing health of our ecosystems. At the same time, we see heartening evidence that strategic land management and conservation action can reverse declines of birds. This report calls attention to the collective efforts needed to protect nature's resources for the benefit of people and wildlife.

This take home message remains central to the newly released *State of the Birds 2011 Report on Public Lands and Waters*. By overlaying eBird citizen science data with maps from the Protected Areas Database for the United States, this report estimates the percentage of bird populations on public versus private lands and the percent of “ownership” of birds for public land management agencies in eight key biomes. In our western forests, where 55% of the public land is publically owned, the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manage the majority of lands used by breeding birds, demonstrating a huge potential for stewardship of our birds. KBO works with these agencies in our bioregion to ensure that bird conservation is an integral part of the management of these public lands.

While the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM have stewardship responsibility for many of our western birds, it is important to remember that many of these birds are migratory, and that conservation measures must be implemented throughout these birds' ranges. In 2010, Partners in Flight released *Saving Our Shared Birds: Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation*, which highlights the importance of working with partners across North America to protect birds throughout their ranges. This report focused on the relationships between the resident birds of Mexican pine-oak, tropical deciduous, and evergreen forests, and the migratory birds that winter in these biologically diverse habitats. Many resident species within these ecosystems are of high conservation concern. Through protecting habitats for these residents, we also meet the conservation needs of migrants that winter in the tropics. These links highlight not only the shared conservation needs of resident and migratory birds, but also the connections between our

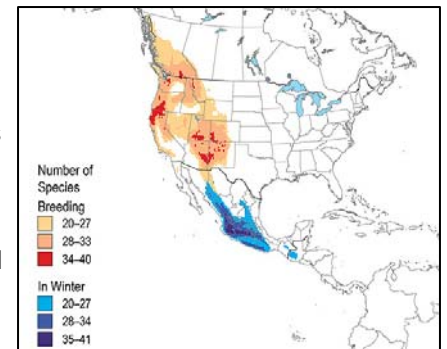


Saving our Shared Birds (left) is available at www.savingoursharedbirds.org, and the *State of the Birds 2011 Report on Public Lands and Waters* (above) is available at www.stateofthebirds.org.

countries and communities, and the critical role we all play in bird conservation.

This fall and winter, KBO is working on two projects that tie the connectivity of birds to a growing movement in sustainability education. The first project, being supported by the City of Ashland and the Kinsman Foundation, is a brochure that will educate community members in Ashland, Oregon about their sister city of Guanajuato, Mexico, while highlighting the conservation challenges faced by our shared birds. A focus of the brochure will be the Hermit Warbler, which breeds in the coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest and winters in Mexican pine-oak forests. Hermit Warbler populations are threatened due to habitat loss. By understanding both the connections between the Hermit Warbler's breeding, wintering, and stopover habitats, as well as the economic and social equity issues that are interconnected with natural resource management issues in these areas, we can begin to address conservation concerns for this species.

The second project, being developed in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service International Programs, is a geography curriculum for elementary students focusing on migratory birds and the conservation challenges that they face across the North America. The resulting education materials will challenge students and community members to consider not only the full lifecycle of bird conservation, but also how environmental, economic, and social equity issues impact bird conservation throughout North America.



Many migratory birds that breed in temperate western forests winter in western Mexico. Map courtesy of Partners in Flight.

KBO's 4th Annual Wings and Wine Gala: Thank You!

Annie Kilby, KBO Education and Outreach Program Manager

On September 17th, friends and supporters of Klamath Bird Observatory gathered at Historic Hanley Farm in Central Point, Oregon, for KBO's 4th annual *Wings & Wine Gala*. This event celebrated KBO's science-based work to benefit birds and their habitats in our bioregion and beyond. KBO works to deliver science to natural resource management and policy decision makers in the Klamath Siskiyou Bioregion and serves as a model for shaping bird conservation throughout the Americas. Testaments to our success are the Partners in Flight Leadership Award, U.S. Forest Service Wings Across the Americas International Partnerships Award, and the Joint Fire Sciences Best Scientist-Manager Partnership Award, all of which KBO has received in recognition of our partnership-based approach to conservation science.

Locally, KBO works to build strong relationships with our communities, connecting them with the natural world and educating them about the importance of birds as vital indicators of environmental health. We were deeply touched by the attendance of our KBO community—KBO members, new friends, and program partners—at the event, and by the support we received from the many businesses and individuals who donated to the Gala. Proceeds from the *Wings & Wine Gala* support KBO's ongoing efforts to advance bird and habitat conservation and share the wonder of birds with people of all ages.

Listed below are the 2011 *Wings and Wine Gala* event sponsors, supporters, and donors. Thanks to all who participated in this year's event!

2011 Wings and Wine Gala Donors: Thank You for Your Support!

Event Sponsors: **People's Commerce Bank of Ashland** **Shop 'Kart**

KOOL 103.5

Conscious Wine

Ace Hardware
Ashland Art Center
AZ Catering
Bear Creek Animal Clinic
Best of the Bioregion wineries
Birdiebags
Bloomsbury Books
Brother's Restaurant
Caldera Pub
Chanticleer Inn B&B
CJ & Carol Ralph
David Williams
Denis Vroman
Dick Ashford
Egg Tooth Originals Jewelry
Enchanted Florist
Frank Lospalluto
George & Sharon Alexander
Grange Co-op
Gwyneth Ragosine
Hakatai Enterprises
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Innovative Market Designs
Jefferson Public Radio
Jhenna Quinn Lewis
Jim & Stephanie Carpenter
Jim Field
Jim Livaudais
Karl & Ann Wenner
Katrina's Cards
Katy Reed
Kim & Jason Margulis
Kokopelli
LaQuinta Inn



From top: Siskiyou Summit perform at the *Wings and Wine Gala*; delicious food provided by AZ Catering; Gala guests enjoy bird-friendly wine.

Marine Discovery Tours
Marissa Buschow
Morning Glory
Music Coop
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Patina Soul
Patricia O'Connell
Paula Fong
Porters Dining at the Depot
Quiltz
Rewind
Rogue Rock Gym
Rogue Valley Cycle Sport
Rogue Valley Roasting Co.
Roxy Ann Vineyards
Running Y Ranch Resort
ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum
Scissorhead
Seven Feathers Casino
Shannon Mayorga
Siskiyou Field Institute & Deer Creek Center
Siskiyou Summit
Standing Stone
Stefan Savides
Stephanie Quinn
The Human Bean
The Ledge
Umpqua Bank
Valley View Auto Repair
Vince Zauskey
Vintage Goods
Wedding Flora
Wild Birds Unlimited
Wildlife Images
Yogurt Hut

KBO's Best of the Bioregion Wine Competition

Annie Kilby, KBO Education and Outreach Program Manager

KBO's 2nd annual *Best of the Bioregion* Wine Competition was again a success! This unique wine competition features vineyards and wineries that are working to practice sustainable and wildlife friendly farming and grape production practices in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of southern Oregon and northern California.

The *Best of the Bioregion* wine competition demonstrates that fine wine and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive. Through their sustainable farming and viticulture practices, these wineries improve the ecological condition of their land and provide habitat for a variety of bird and wildlife species. In turn, they benefit from the many ecological services that birds provide, such as pollination and pest control.

This year, participants were asked to demonstrate how their farms and vineyards are managed to benefit soil, water, and wildlife. All *Best of the Bioregion* participants demonstrate environmentally friendly practices, and some carry special certification. Local wine experts judged wine entries that competed in four categories—red varietal, white varietal, red blend, and white blend.

Congratulations to Cowhorn Vineyard and Garden, the 2011 recipient of the *Best for the Birds* award, and to all of the participating wineries: Brandborg Vineyard and Wine, Cliff Creek Cellars, Crater Lake Cellars, Del Rio Vineyards, EdenVale Winery, Eliana Wines, Foris Vineyards Winery & Cuckoo's Nest Cellar, Ledger David Cellars, Pebblestone Cellars, Philanthropic Wine, Quady North, Troon Vineyard, Slagle Creek Vineyard, Trium Wine, Valley View Winery, and Velocity Cellars. As special thanks to Ashland's Shop 'N Kart and Conscious Wine for partnering with Klamath Bird Observatory for this year's event.



Cowhorn Vineyard and Garden was the recipient of the 2011 *Best for the Birds* award.



KBO's 2011 Wings & Wine Gala guests enjoyed the *Best of the Bioregion's* winning wines.

Each winery also competed for the *Best for the Birds* award, an overall recognition of outstanding efforts in sustainable and wildlife-friendly viticulture. Among the criteria considered for this award were special certifications, permaculture or polyculture practices, water conservation practices, alternative energy use, native plant landscaping, ponds and habitat areas, nest boxes, raptor perches, retention of standing dead trees, community education and engagement, and more.

Support Bird-Friendly Viticulture: Visit a Winning Winery!

In a changing world, we must care for the resilient ecosystems that provide us with the natural resources we need to support our way of life today and into the future. The wineries and vineyards participating in the *Best of the Bioregion* wine competition are working towards this end through more sustainable farming practices that not only benefit birds and their ecosystems, but also enhance the health and productivity of their farms. Please help support these bird friendly vineyards by visiting participating *Best of the Bioregion* wineries. Bring your binoculars to bird their vineyards and tasting rooms, and tell them you are there for the birds! To learn more about the competition and to view a map of participating wineries, visit www.KlamathBird.org. Be sure to call and confirm tasting room and visiting hours in advance.

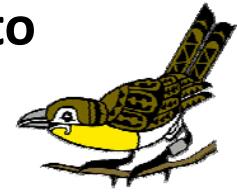


Best of the Bioregion art © Gary Bloomfield 2011

SOLD OUT!!
NEW TRIP ADDED
MAY 30 - JUNE 3

Klamath Bird Observatory Field Trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

June 6-10, 2012



Join KBO for spring birding at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge!

Join professional birding guide and KBO board member, Harry Fuller, and hawk expert and KBO President, Dick Ashford, for our first annual field trip to this world-renowned birding destination and the largest wetland in eastern Oregon. We will look for Bobolink, Eastern Kingbird, Sage Thrasher, migrant songbirds, waterbirds, raptors, and more!



Eastern Kingbird (left) and Swainson's Hawk. Photos © Jim Livaudais, 2011.

Cost: \$300

Includes expert guide service, three nights of lodging at the Malheur NWR Field Station, and a \$200 tax-deductible contribution to KBO's award-winning science and education programs. Trip cost also includes interactive presentations by Harry Fuller on the Birds of Malheur NWR, and by Dick Ashford on Raptors of Malheur NWR.

Meals not included; kitchen facilities available at the field station.

This trip will fill quickly, so register today!

For questions or to register, call KBO at 541-201-0866.

Membership & Contributions

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

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please select one and make your tax-deductible donation payable to KBO. Mail to KBO, PO Box 758, Ashland, OR 97520.

_____ Student Membership \$15

_____ Regular Annual Membership \$35

_____ Family Membership \$50

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

Fall 2011 Newsletter

Calendar—Join KBO for Winter 2011/2012 Events

March 3rd, 2012: KBO Hawk Field Trip

Join local raptor expert and longtime KBO board member Dick Ashford for this all-day outing to the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuges and nearby agricultural areas. Dick will scout the route in advance and plan a day that will give us our best chance of seeing Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Great Horned Owl, American Kestrel, Golden and Bald Eagle, and LOTS of Red-tailed Hawks in a variety of color forms. Depending on water and weather conditions, there may also be excellent opportunities to view tens of thousands of migratory waterfowl.

This is always a popular trip, so be sure to register in advance.
Cost: \$25 non-members, \$15 members. To register, call 541-201-0866.



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

Saturday, November 5th: KBO Bird Walk to the Ashland Pond

Join local birder Forrest English for an exploration of the Ashland Pond and the Bear Creek Greenway. Enjoy the fall colors as 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: KBO Bird Walk to TouVelle State Park

Join KBO board member and professional birding guide Harry Fuller for an outing to TouVelle State Park along the Rogue River. TouVelle is a busy place in the late fall and winter, hosting birds like American Dipper, Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and a variety of duck species. Resident songbirds are active in the oak woodlands of the park, and possible woodpecker species include Acorn, Downy, Hairy, and Lewis. 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 bird walk leader and Northwest Nature Shop employee Terence Philippe 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. 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.

Saturday, February 4th: KBO Bird Walk to the Shasta Valley

Join Terence Philippe for an all-day outing to the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area in California. This diverse area, situated at the base of Mt. Shasta, contains Great Basin juniper woodland, riparian forest, and seasonal wetlands

and ponds. We will see waterfowl including possible sightings of Blue-Winged Teal and Ruddy Duck, a variety of raptor species, and resident songbirds like Bewick's Wren. Bring a lunch and plan to return to Ashland in the afternoon. Meet at 9:00 am at the Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-482-3241.

Saturday, February 11th: KBO Bird Walk to Agate Lake

Join KBO Program Manager Karen Hussey for late winter birding at Agate Lake. Beat the winter blues with us as we look for Ruddy Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon and other wintering ducks. We may see raptors like Bald Eagle and possibly a wintering Ferruginous Hawk (last year one was spotted near Agate Lake throughout the winter). We will also look for Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, songbirds like Western Meadowlark and Western Bluebird, and woodpeckers. Meet at 8:00 am at Wild Birds Unlimited in Medford. Limited to 15 participants. To register, call 541-770-1104.

Winter Wings Festival: February 17-19, 2011

The 33rd Annual Winter Wings Festival promises to be one of the best yet. Join birders and nature enthusiasts from around the nation this President's Day weekend to explore and celebrate the fantastic winter bird life of the Klamath Basin and its six National Wildlife Refuges. In addition to many exciting field trips, the Festival will feature keynote speaker Kenn Kaufman, famed birder and author of Kingbird Highway, and renowned wildlife photographer Darrell Gulin, who is a member of the Canon Explorers of Light program. Learn more and register starting in December 2011 at winterwingsfest.org

KBO's Community Events Calendar is online. Visit www.klamathbird.org and click on "Community Programs."

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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Robert Frey—*Biologist & Banding Project Leader*
Kim Hollinger—*HBBO Banding Project Leader*
Karen Hussey, MS—*Research & Monitoring Program Manager*
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