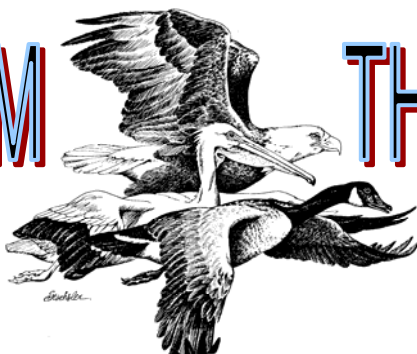


WORDS FROM

THE WETLANDS



WINTER



2008

NEWS FROM THE KLAMATH BASIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

The Klamath Restoration Agreement: A Challenge to Us All in Conserving Our Resources – Preserving Our Heritage

by Project Leader, Ron Cole

The Klamath River Basin has been the subject of intense controversy for decades. At the heart of this controversy is water. Not enough to go around for all who need it. There have been many attempts to solve these issues over the past quarter century, but each has fallen short of the mark. After so many failed attempts, some believe that in the Klamath Basin, we never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

That may all change. Details of the proposed Klamath Restoration Agreement (KRA) have just been announced. Over the past two years, provisions of this far-reaching agreement have been negotiated by twenty six parties with wide ranging interests in management of water resources in the Klamath Basin watershed. The provisions contained in the Agreement are both detailed and complex. They include a Hydropower Agreement to remove four dams, a Fisheries Restoration Program, a Water Resources Program, Regulatory Assurances for Landowners, a Power Resources Program, a County Program and a Tribal Program.

Folded into this agreement are the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges. I will attempt to summarize points contained in the KRA which have important, long-term impacts on the Klamath Basin Refuges (primarily Lower Klamath and Tule Lake). The proposed Agreement recognizes that the **Refuges are a purpose of the Klamath Reclamation Project** on an equal footing with agriculture which I feel is a significant and positive change from the past. As a result of this change and other provisions in the Agreement, the following will happen if the KRA is adopted:

Refuges will have a certainty of water allocation providing for sufficient water in all but the driest years. In the past, Refuges have suffered draught conditions in eight out of ten years; now, the Refuges will receive sufficient water for wildlife purposes in nine of ten years. Refuge managers will also have more flexibility to manage water than in the past.

Refuges will receive 20 percent of lease land revenues to support wildlife conservation on the Refuges.

Farming will continue on the Refuges with continued support of wildlife managers, environmental and agricultural interests to promote Walking Wetlands programs and other positive conservation efforts. These innovations have been introduced on lease lands and private lands within the Upper Basin in the past decade. In concert with conventional agriculture, these innovative conservation efforts are having a positive impact on Basin wildlife, water quality and rural economies.

The Refuges will be responsible for sharing the costs of pumping water from Tule Lake to Lower Klamath Refuge wetlands. In the past, these costs were paid by the local irrigation district. Along with sharing the benefits of being part of the Klamath project, the Refuges will be sharing some of the responsibilities too.

Finalization of the Agreement will involve legislation with funding to implement provisions of the KRA as well as negotiations with Pacific Corp calling for the removal of four dams on the Klamath River. Provisions of the settlement agreement are not without controversy; and much work lies ahead.

So why will this attempt to solve the Klamath Basin's most challenging issue be more than another missed opportunity? Because this proposed agreement is deeply rooted in the communities and lives of those who live in the Basin; communities rich in heritage and dependent upon the Klamath for their sustenance.

Continued on next page

Restoration Agreement (Continued from page 1)

I believe the Klamath Restoration Agreement will provide significant long-term benefits to Refuges which are in keeping with the vision and the promise of President Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt established the Lower Klamath Reservation in 1908 as the nation's first refuge set aside for migratory waterfowl and other marsh birds. With the support and participation of farmers, fishers, ranchers, Tribal governments, birders, hunters, teachers and others, we can restore and protect fish, wildlife and communities within the Klamath Basin for future generations. The diversity of individuals, groups, communities and governments must now reach common ground to save a common heritage.

Common Good

"There must be some force behind conservation more universal than profit, less awkward than government....something that reaches into all time and place where men live on the lands....a voluntary decency in land use exercised by every citizen and landowner out of a sense of love and obligation to that great biota we call America. This is the meaning of conservation...."

Aldo Leopold

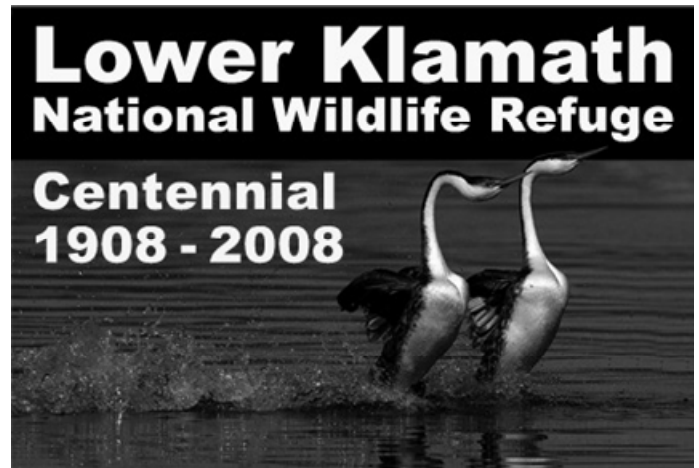
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## Centennial Events Schedule Kicks Off January 26th with 2008 Winter Refuge Raptor Rally

On August 8, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt established Lower Klamath as the Nation's first refuge set aside for migratory waterfowl and marsh birds. To celebrate the 2008 Centennial of Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, employees and friends of the refuge will host a monthly series of public events. In January, the public is invited to participate with teams of observers scouring Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuges to discover hawks, owls, eagles and other raptors on both areas.

This event is open to everyone including families and beginning birdwatchers who will be grouped with experienced raptor identification experts.

The field trip will help participants learn more about raptor identification, habits and the habitats in which they are found. Winter is the time when the highest number and greatest variety of birds of prey are seen in the Klamath Basin.



Participants will meet at the Lower Klamath Refuge entrance parking area at 8:15 am for the field trip which will depart promptly at 8:30 am. Those participating should bring a sack lunch, drinks, warm clothing and binoculars. Car pooling will be the first order of business. Spotting scopes and bird identification guides will be available for group use. After the lunch break at the Tule Lake Refuge visitor center and a sharing of sightings, teams will switch Refuge locations to complete the search for raptors. At 3:30 pm, observers may elect to go to Laird's Landing until dusk with an experienced guide to observe Bald Eagles coming into a night roost.

Species expected to be seen by teams include Bald Eagle, Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Great Horned and Barn Owls, Common Raven, Prairie Falcon, and Loggerhead Shrike. Other raptors which might be encountered include Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Red-shouldered and Ferruginous Hawks, Northern Shrike, Short-eared Owl and Northern Pygmy Owl.

For additional information call Dave Menke at (530) 667-2231. For a complete list of month-by-month Centennial events in 2008 visit the refuge web site at "fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges."

Can you identify the two closely related bird species shown below? See the answer on the Page 7 of this newsletter.



Bird A \_\_\_\_\_



Bird B \_\_\_\_\_

## Winter Wings Festival February 15-17, 2008

Klamath Falls hosts the 2008 Winter Wings Festival on February 15-17, 2008 at the Oregon Institute of Technology. This community event celebrates the return of Bald Eagles and other raptors and wintering flocks of waterfowl to the Klamath Basin. The Basin is home to the largest concentration of wintering Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states. The Festival arranges field trips to observe Bald Eagles as they fly in and out of their roosting area or forage in the nearby Klamath Basin Refuges and view the spectacular flocks of waterfowl. Reservations are being accepted now for the many field trips, workshops, mini-sessions and special events over the three-day festival.

Here are just a few of the events available by registration:

Trish Nixon, raptor specialist of the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise Idaho, makes her first appearance in Klamath Falls. She's a dynamic speaker who has considerable hands-on experience with raptors. Don't miss her keynote speech Friday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> on "Back by Popular Demand: California Condors and Aplomado Falcons in the American West." Her evening talk will be preceded by a reception and no-host bar.

Steve Spencer of Leo's Camera in Klamath Falls and Canon USA are sponsoring a Photography Workshop and Self-Directed Photo Safari on Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. Following the two-hour morning session you may check out the new Canon camera equipment that the Canon technicians have demonstrated and try it out on your own for 5 hours. Return to the classroom and see the technicians demonstrate printing products with your image and receive feedback.

(Continued on page 5)

## Employee Reunion Scheduled for August

We plan to hold an event to celebrate the Centennial Day of Lower Klamath Refuge on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Past employees and friends of the refuge will be invited to this event. If you know of past employees or family members and their address or contact information please call Dave Menke at 530-667-2231 and we will get them on the invitation list. The event on August 8<sup>th</sup> will include a picnic and presentation of Centennial mementos to all who attend! More information will be sent to invitees as plans for the event are finalized.

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## Klamath Marsh Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) Update

The development of the Klamath Marsh NWR (CCP) is progressing and continues to be a primary work focus for Refuge staff. The public scoping process was completed in March 2007 with over 180 people providing written or oral comments. The last CCP Planning Update was published in the summer of 2007 and provided a summary of public comments. This Planning Update can be viewed at the Klamath Basin Refuge website (<http://www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges/index.html>) or contact the Klamath Marsh NWR (541-783-3380) if you would like to have a hard copy mailed to you. Currently, the CCP team is developing draft management alternatives based on public comments. These alternatives will outline future management options for managing vegetation, cultural resources, and public recreation on the Refuge over next 10-15 years. The alternatives will be available for public comment when the draft CCP is completed in May 2008.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

*January 26, 2008*

*Winter Refuge Raptor Rally  
Field trip with experienced guides on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Refuges  
(see Article)*

*February 15 to 17, 2008*

*Winter Wings Festival and Refuge Visitor Center Open House (February 17)*

*March 22, 2008*

*Lower Klamath Refuge Tour  
Tour with Refuge Biologist to view eagles and discuss habitat management*

*April 19, 2008*

*Tour*

*of Historic Sites  
Sites including Conservation Corps Camp and Japanese American Internment sites*

*May 17, 2008*

*Tule*

*Lake Migratory Bird Festival*

*May 30 to June 01, 2008*

*Weekend Tour to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge*

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Klamath County Library Hosts Centennial Exhibit

A new colorful exhibit prepared for the Lower Klamath Refuge Centennial has been put up in the Klamath County library in Klamath Falls. Along with the attractive exhibit, are copies of the monthly Centennial schedule of events, Klamath Basin Birding Trail and Refuge leaflets and information about the Winter Wings Festival. If you live in or near Klamath Falls this can provide you one-stop shopping for all your local wildlife information needs!

Winter Wings Festival

February 15-17, 2008

Continued

Want to view Bald Eagles returning to their roost in Bear Valley and have a wonderful afternoon sipping wine or a microbrew while enjoying Oregon culinary delicacies? Then sign up for the Saturday, Feb. 16th Aerie Afternoon event, one of the most popular festival offerings. Frank Isaacs, a leading Bald Eagle researcher from Oregon State University, will be on hand to share insights and observations on Bald Eagles.

Dave Menke, National Wildlife Refuge Planner/Photographer will lead two field trips. On Friday Feb 15th join him for a day of Bald Eagles and birding hot spots around the Klamath Basin. On Sunday, Feb. 17th he will share photography techniques at his workshop that visits several blinds on the Refuge.

Pepper Trail of Ashland will take you on a behind the scenes virtual tour of the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics lab in his workshop "Avian CSI, Fighting Wildlife Crime" on Saturday, Feb. 16th.

John Muir Laws, San Francisco Bay area author and naturalist will make his first appearance at the Festival on Saturday, Feb. 16th. He will offer two sessions on nature sketching that are certain to appeal to nature lovers of all ages.

After a full day's activities, relax at Saturday evening's event, "Taste of the Arts". Nationally recognized bird sculptorist and taxidermist Stefan Savides hosts a wine and appetizer reception at his home and taxidermy studio. See his museum quality mounts and samples of his bronze work.

Dave Mauser, National Wildlife Refuge biologist will lead special behind the scene tour of the NWR on Sunday, February 17th. He will take you to observe wildlife on roads typically closed to the public.

Vendors will be on hand to share art, nature related products and information Friday afternoon and Saturday. During that time, families will also enjoy a whole area at the OIT College Union devoted to free family activities complete with live birds, hands-on nature activities, and the migration obstacle course that will allow participants to simulate the migration challenges that birds face.

On-line registration is available for the first time this year at a site powered by Active.com that is linked to the Festival website. Registrations postmarked or submitted by February 7, 2008 receive reduced rates.

Festival brochures are available at the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters in Tule Lake, California as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Travel Klamath in Klamath Falls. Festival participants enjoy reduced hotel rates at several partner hotels and transportation is provided on all of the major field trips.

To obtain more information, visit the Winter Wings Festival website at www.winterwingsfest.org or contact Travel Klamath at 1-800-445-6728 or 541-882-1501, or call Todd at 541-850-0084 or email him at singingbear@charter.net

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

2008 Centennial Events

January 26, 2008 **Winter Refuge Raptor Rally (two Refuge Team Counts with Laird's Landing eagles wrapup)**

The public is invited to participate on "teams" of observers scouring Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuge areas to view raptors on each Refuge. After a noon break and a sharing of sightings, teams will switch refuge locations to complete the counts. At 3:30 observers may elect to go to Laird's Landing with an experienced guide to observe Bald Eagles coming into the night roost. Call to confirm meeting locations and times.

February 15-17 2008 **Winter Wings Festival** – This winter celebration of the Wildlife in the Klamath Basin is held each President's Day weekend in Klamath Falls. The Festival features many field trips for wildlife observation and photography to Lower Klamath, Tule Lake and Bear Valley National Wildlife Refuges. Contact the web site "winterwingsfest.org" for a complete description of events and registration information. An open house will be held at the refuge visitor center from 10:00 to 3:00 on Sunday February 17th.

March 15, 2008 **Tour of Lower Klamath Refuge (Spring Migration)** – Join members of the Refuge staff to view the spring migration in progress and learn how wildlife habitats and water are managed on Lower Klamath Refuge to maximize benefits for wildlife. Two tours will be hosted starting at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. Call the Refuge for reservation as space is limited.

April 19, 2008 **History tour – C Camp, Capt Jacks, Internment Camp** – Participant will meet at the refuge visitor center to learn about some of the historic milestones which led to the establishment of Lower Klamath Refuge and many other parks and refuges established during the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. Following this talk the group will go through the CCC Camp, the Tulelake museum, the Japanese American Internment Camp, Petroglyph Point and Captain Jack's Stronghold on Lava Beds National Monument. Participants should plan on bringing a sack lunch.

May 17, 2008 **Tule Lake Migratory Bird Festival** – Airboat rides to Tule Lake Marsh, Refuge habitat tours, bird banding, and live bird demonstrations are just a few of the events that the public may take advantage of at the Festival which will be held at the Tule Lake Refuge visitor center. This year's event will include a historic look at the newly stabilized Mess Hall at the historic Civilian Conservation Corps Camp near the visitor center.

May 30- June 1, 2008 **Weekend Tour to Malheur Refuge** - Visit our sister Refuge which also celebrates its Centennial in 2008. Stops along the way will include Fort Rock, Christmas Valley and late afternoon birding at Malheur Refuge. Participants should plan to camp at the Narrows campground or obtain lodging at the Malheur Field Station (arrangements for 2 nights to be made by individuals). On Saturday meet at refuge headquarters at 8:00 for a full day tour of the Refuge led by expert birders. Sunday will be on-your-own.

July * **Clear Lake NWR** – Refuge employees will lead a tour which will include views of Clear Lake Refuge, wildlife viewing opportunities in this remote juniper sagebrush habitat and lunch an exploration of nearby Boles Creek.

Historic connection of this area to the Applegate Trail, the surrender of Captain Jack in 1872, and ranching history in the area will be discussed during the field trip.

(Continued on page 7)

2008 Centennial Events Continued

August 8, 2008 Employee and Friends Centennial Celebration (August 8) -- Past employees, friends and supporters of the Klamath Basin Refuges will be invited to a celebration of the Refuge Centennial Day. Events will include an Old fashioned picnic and ice cream social with a chance for all invitees to obtain a stamped envelope with a special cancellation and cache highlighting the Refuge Centennial.

Sept. 14, 2008 Refuge Open House — Expert birdwatchers, a world renowned taxidermist and a nature photography equipment specialist will demonstrate their skills, equipment and techniques in a series of short talks conducted during the morning and repeated in the afternoon. This event will be held at the Tule Lake Refuge visitor center. Contact the Refuge at (530) 667-2231 for a schedule which will be available early in July.

October 4, 2008 Lower Klamath Habitat Tour -- This tour will focus on the management of habitats and importance of water to Lower Klamath Refuge as options such as walking wetlands and rotational management continue into the Refuge's second century. The date may vary as hunting seasons are finalized.

November * Migration Peak Field Trip -- mid November – For the novice to moderately experienced birdwatcher – This field trip will focus on both waterfowl and raptor identification. Mid-November normally coincides with the peak of the fall goose migration with the possibility of observing 15 to 20 species of ducks, geese and swans. It is also a good time to observe raptors with the possibility of observing 8-10 species in a single day.

December * Mid-winter wildlife on Lower Klamath Refuge – Date to be the week prior to the annual Christmas Bird Count. Observers will document as many species as they can in a single day of bird watching on Lower Klamath Refuge and nearby. The numbers of each bird species will also be estimated. This will be an opportunity for people to get an idea of how bird counts are done on refuges and in other locations throughout the country.

*** Dates yet to be finalized Confirm dates and times by calling (530) 667-2231 or Visit “fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges” for updates to the Centennial Events Schedule.**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

TWO EGRET QUIZ ANSWERS

Bird A= Snowy Egret

Snowy Egret has yellow feet and a black bill.

Bird B= Great Egret

Great Egret has black feet and a yellow bill.

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Black Phoebe

Sayornis nigricans

By Michele Nuss—Park Ranger

On a cold winter day in mid-December, with snow boots laced tight, wool hat pulled down against the chilling wind, and walking through four inches of freshly fallen snow on the Discovery Marsh trail, one might not expect to view a Black Phoebe. Normally a warm-weather species, the occurrence of Black Phoebe in the Klamath Basin is rare. However, for those dedicated to the search, this medium sized flycatcher CAN be found, almost exclusively in riparian habitats. Discovery Marsh across from the Tule Lake Visitor Center is one of those places. The Black Phoebe breeds along the Pacific Coast northward to southern Oregon, in southern portions of the southwestern states, and through Central and South America.

The highly contrasting plumage of the Black Phoebe helps in identification, with its sooty black upper parts and white belly that extends onto the chest in an inverted “V.” The habit of wagging its tail is another helpful tip for identification. Both male and female plumage is the same.

Shorelines of lakes, marshy edges of ponds or along the banks of rivers and streams are typical areas to find a Black Phoebe. The diet of this riparian flycatcher consists of a higher percentage of insects than any other flycatcher – 99.4 percent. The Black Phoebe can be observed sitting on a low tree branch extending out over still water of the Discovery Marsh ponds. This patient flycatcher will sit serenely waiting for the chance to fly out low over the water, pluck a flying insect from the air and return to the same spot on the branch.

Besides its riparian feeding habits, the Black Phoebe breeds near water for the purpose of ensuring an adequate supply of mud for nest construction. Natural nest sites include rock faces, boulders along stream sides and tree cavities. The male engages in a display of “nest-site-showing,” often hovering in front of a likely spot for five to ten seconds. However, it is the female who makes the final decision about

where to place the nest and she does all the construction. The nest is made of mud mixed with moss and grasses and is lined with soft material such as plant fibers and often feathers. This species has also adapted constructing its nests to man-made structures such as bridges, eaves of buildings, culverts and even abandoned wells. In April of 1898, Florence Bailey wrote: “I found three

eggs in the nest of a Black Phoebe five feet down in a deserted well. Before the eggs hatched, a pump was put down the well and water pumped up every day, but the birds did not desert the nest.”

Pairs tend to reuse the same nest sites year after year. Both male and female incubate the clutch of four eggs for about fifteen days and share feeding duties. The chicks leave the nest after about three weeks. The young disassociate with the nest site after only a few days, and most exercise their independence a week after leaving the nest.



Photo Gallery

Winter Raptors



Photos:

Top Left: Adult Bald Eagles

Right: Immature Bald Eagle with duck

Bottom Right: Rough-legged Hawk

Below: Female Northern Harrier



KLAMATH BASIN WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION

Membership Application / Renewal

Name _____

Single \$15

Address _____

Family \$20

City / State / Zip _____

Sustaining \$35

Telephone _____

Benefactor \$50

E-Mail _____

*Mail to: Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge Association
4009 Hill Road, Tulelake, California 96134*

**US Fish and Wildlife Service
Klamath Basin NWR Complex
4009 Hill Road
Tulelake, CA 96134-9758
(530) 667-2231**

**Would you or a friend like to be on our free newsletter mailing list?
Write or call Refuge Headquarters.**