



May 2022

Taking Wing

Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc. Newsletter, Klamath Falls, OR

It's happening! New Entrance to the Ken Hay Trail

The new entrance to the Ken Hay trail (in the Discover Klamath parking lot at 205 Riverside) is now in process and will be completed with signage by our 30th anniversary celebration on August 26. The movement of the trailhead will allow Wingwatchers to meet its goal of wetland education on our trail. As the new 400' trail winds its way to join the existing Ken Hay trail, there will be 5 signs to help people appreciate this wetland area. There will also be a new wayfinding sign, and the kiosk will move to the new trail entrance. By

August 26, we will install Wingwatcher history panels on the back of the kiosk. The new trail and signage will exist because of the support and teamwork of Klamath Falls City Parks, Healthy Klamath, US Fish and Wildlife Refuge Visitor Services, and the Mennen Environmental Foundation, all partners with Wingwatchers on this project. Want to help make this happen? **BIG WORK DAYS:** Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4. Come to help spread bark, move the kiosk, move signage, put in the culvert.

ANYTIME between 9 am - 3 pm both days. Lunch will be provided by Healthy Klamath. If you have gloves, please bring them. Wear work clothing (no open-toed shoes!). Need more info - email Leslie at inharmony46@charter.net



New Website!

We launched a new website at klamathwingwatchers.org

Check it out and let us know what you think.

SPRING BIRDING BONANZA

Because of the scarcity of wetland habitat, wetlands along the Klamath Wingwatchers Trail have been bird watching hot spots this April and early May. Both informal bird walks like mine and group walks led by experts like Elijah Hayes and Kevin Spencer have produced many interesting and unusual bird observations. For example, Elijah saw or heard 84 species on one visit from 7 a.m. to noon.

Starting with waterfowl: Addition to our typical species, lesser seen waterfowl include wood duck, canvasback and redhead duck. Elijah photographed a shoveler - cinnamon teal hybrid [two species interbreeding.] Also exciting was at least four Canada goose broods on one walk in late April and another time seeing four more, active goose nests.

The farm field mudflats along the trail's south boundary have been a bonanza of numbers and species of shorebirds. The impressive list includes black-necked stilts, American avocets, dunlin [mid size, a big black belly patch], long-billed dowitchers [sewing machine-like up and down bill action probing mud], smaller sandpipers such as the least [with yellow legs] and Western sandpipers [with black legs] in flocks of hundreds, semipalmated plover [looking much like killdeers who are also present], greater yellowlegs, spotted sandpiper, and common snipe. A flock of white-faced ibis flew over one day.

Among the zooming sky birds are five species of swallows [cliff, barn, tree, rough-winged, bank] and our only swift, Vaux's swift [very fast, shallow wing beats, body like a flying cigar.]

Warblers streaming north. Six species seen May 3 [Nashville, yellow, yellow-rumped, yellowthroat, Wilson, orange-crowned] flitting often in willows.

Of course turkey vultures [rocking in flight, wings held above the horizontal], red-tailed hawks and bald eagles are often seen. Once in a while, a red-shouldered hawk or great horned owl shows up. Same with a peregrine falcon; one seen making two passes through a large shorebird flock - without catching dinner.

And lastly is the news that a pair of osprey [fish eating hawks] are hanging around...maybe going to nest in or near the Trail? Some years ago they nested here including a nest I saw in a light tower overlooking the KU high school football field.

Want to take a look? Elijah Hayes is leading bird walks May 7 and 21 and the third Saturdays of June and July. Meet at the Tourism Center, 205 Riverside Drive at 9:30 a.m. More details: email kpottermom@yahoo.com.

By Dave Potter

VOLUNTEERING

It takes a team to improve the trail and maintain it.

YOU can help by: volunteering your time, paying your dues, making donations, writing a newsletter article, sharing your trail pictures, picking up trash as you walk, etc.

WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM?

Contact Dave Potter 541-205-3293
kpottermom@yahoo.com

There are new projects and regular maintenance chores. Every effort helps take care of the trail.

Klamath Wingwatchers Board meetings are held at the Healthy Klamath Office in the Herald & News building at 2701 Foothills Blvd.

Our meetings are open to everyone. They are scheduled at 5:30pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. If you wish to be included in any of our Board meetings, please send your email to inharmony46@charter.net with "Include me in KWW meetings" in the subject line. You will receive a copy of our minutes from the previous meeting and the Agenda. **Please get involved and support the trail you enjoy.**

WINGWATCHERS TRAIL REPORT

The Wingwatchers Trail continues to be the place to be for incredible species diversity! On Saturday, I led a small group on a shorebird-focused trail walk. Despite poor weather at the start, we had good luck with the shorebirds, finding BLACK-NECKED STILTS, AMERICAN AVOCETS, KILLDEER, LEAST SANDPIPERS, WESTERN SANDPIPERS, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, and a SPOTTED SANDPIPER within scope and binocular range. We were out for around two hours and saw a total of 50 species - check out the eBird list for a summary:
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S109234434>

The next walk along the Wingwatcher's Trail will be in two weeks, on Saturday the 21st! The weather will hopefully be nicer then, so I hope to see some more folks at 205 Riverside Drive at 9:30 am! There will be another walk on the third Saturday of June at the same place, and I am considering another walk on the first Saturday of June at a different location - maybe Moore Park or the Link River trail.

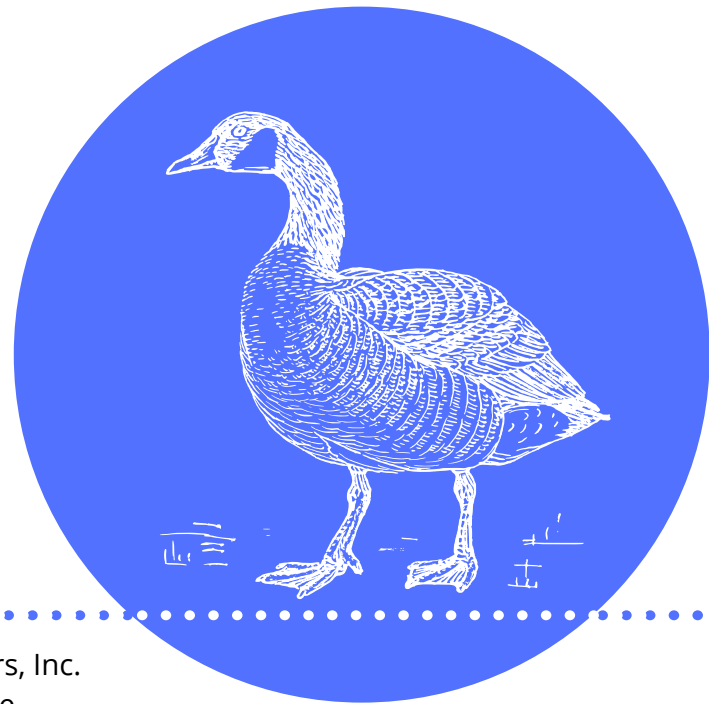
Yesterday, I put in over four hours on the trail and was rewarded with a total of 89 species. The

Please see TRAIL REPORT on page 4

BE THE WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS

Consider donating to the trail or becoming a Klamath Wingwatchers Member to help support us and all we do. All Donations are tax deductible, including Membership Dues.

An easy way to help us is through Amazon Smile. Sign up at smile.amazon.com/ch/943143814. Every time you buy, Amazon sends 0.05% to Wingwatchers. Or you can also sign up for [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#) program and select Wingwatchers as your charity.



Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc.
 8880 Tingley Lane
 Klamath Falls, OR 97603

I wish to join the Klamath Wingwatchers. All memberships are tax deductible. I would like to begin receiving the Taking Wing Newsletter. My email is _____
 I don't have email, so please send to:

MY MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE:

___ Student/Senior...\$10 ___ Individual...\$15 ___ Family...\$25 ___ Business...\$35

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

TRAIL REPORT

highlight was a pair of RED-NECKED PHALAROPES (photo below), seen in full breeding plumage on Lake Ewauna right in front of Veteran's Park. As I returned to my car, they were just off the docks, spinning on the water. A male GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE was singing between the two ponds on the main trail, and I also had a PEREGRINE FALCON unsuccessfully hunting over the flooded field at the end of the trail. Other notable sightings - 3 RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS and two additional hummingbirds I didn't see well enough to ID, a VIRGINIA RAIL in the open as it ran into the marsh along the Ken Hay trail, a SORA, also in the open along the second pond, shorebirds including all birds seen on the trail walk as well as

DUNLIN and WILSON'S PHALAROPE, both further back in the field, flycatchers including WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE, WILLOW, GRAY, and DUSKY, and large numbers of YELLOW, ORANGE-CROWNED, and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS. Here's the full list: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S109495071>

Today I visited just the flooded field at the back of the trail and found a MARBLED GODWIT and another PEREGRINE FALCON unsuccessfully dive bombing the continuing shorebird flocks.

By Elijah Hayes



Above: A photo of a Red-Necked Phalaropes taken by Elijah.

Critter facts

Did you know that Ferrets being very active are also become a BUSINESS of ferrets? Geese on water are generally called a gaggle but when flying can become a SKEIN of geese.

And a group of toads can be called a KNOT of toads. And a European starling is given a somewhat appropriate name of a CHATTERING of starlings but I would propose when in a feedlot they become a POOPERY of starlings.

By Ralph Opp,
Retired Wildlife Biologist

HELP OUT AND
VOLUNTEER
JUNE 2ND AND 3RD

Meet at the South
Portal Building parking
lot at 205 Riverside
Drive at 9:30am.

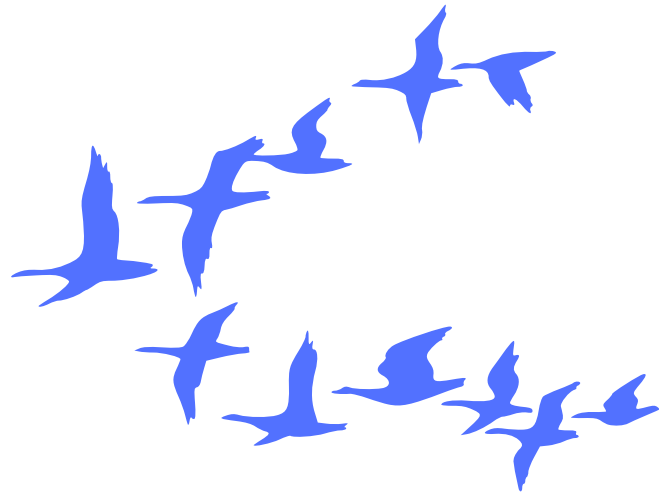
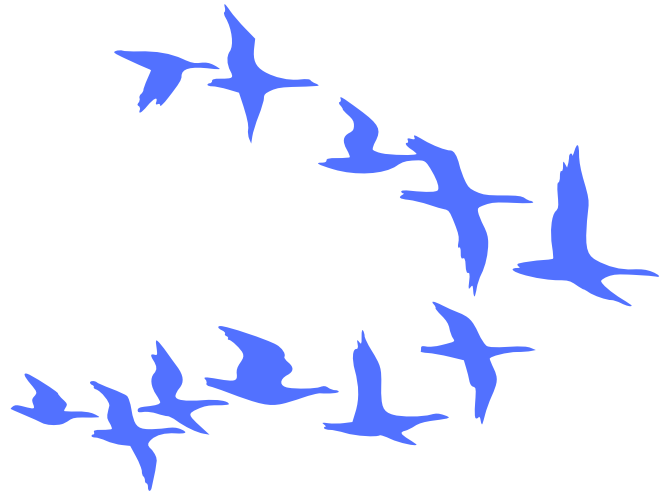
SAVE THE DATE

30th Anniversary BBQ Celebration

August 26th, 2022 at 4:30 PM

South Portal Visitor Center

Have ideas to help Wingwatchers celebrate or want to be involved in planning? Then email inharmony46@charter.net.



JOIN US FOR

TRAIL WALKS

WANT TO WALK THE TRAIL?

If you're interested in walking the Klamath Wingwatchers Trail with a group of people, please email jessie.wilkie@healthyklamath.org to learn more.

Photo Contest

The Klamath Wingwatchers are running a photo contest in honor of our 30th anniversary. Check out the trail and bring your camera or smartphone to capture photos of the landscape and the wildlife. All submissions must be taken on the trail.

There will be a first (\$100), second (\$50) and third (\$25) prize for each of the landscape and wildlife categories given on August 26th, 2022.

1. **Walk the trail**
2. **Snap a photo**
3. **Email it to bluezonesproject@healthyklamath.org**
4. **Share it to social media with the hashtag #kww30**

Judged by Stefan Savides and Jack Noller