

2008

Executive Director of Klamath Bird Observatory Presented with International Award for Bird Conservation

North American Bird Bander

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Good weather, good flights, and skilled volunteer trapper/banders conspired to achieve these good results.

We also banded a partial albino Red-tailed Hawk; a bird that had the trappers guessing until they removed it from the trap and saw the tail color. I have attached a photo of one of our volunteers, Noreen Weeden, holding the Red-tail.

Buzz Hall

BHull@ParksConservancy.org

**Executive Director
of Klamath Bird Observatory Presented
With International Award
for Bird Conservation**



Klamath Bird Observatory's Executive Director John Alexander received a *Partners in Flight Leadership Award* at the International Partners in Flight Conference in McAllen, TX, on 16 Feb 2008. Partners in Flight awards recognize outstanding contributions to the field of bird conservation. Leadership awardees further the goal of protecting migratory and resident landbirds and their habitats through innovative leadership.

For over 15 years Alexander has dedicated himself to accomplishing bird conservation in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of northern California and southern Oregon, and beyond. Along with C. John Ralph of the United States Forest Service's Redwood Science Laboratory, Alexander founded the nonprofit Klamath Bird Observatory, an award-winning organization dedicated to bird conservation. Alexander and Ralph were also instrumental in the development of the Klamath Bird Monitoring Network, which is one of the most comprehensive regional bird monitoring and research programs in the world. They continue to collaborate to maintain this network, as well as the Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas, which is a collaborative that fosters international bird monitoring partnerships. Presently John serves the president of the Western Bird Banding Association as its representative to the North America Banding Council.

Through his partnerships with local land managers and his involvement with the California and Oregon/Washington Partners in Flight chapters, Alexander has been a leader in carrying out an effective bird conservation implementation strategy. The strategy has resulted in integration of bird conservation objectives into state wildlife action plans and local and regional land management practices. Alexander also serves on several national-level conservation committees, promoting the role of science in national and international conservation and management programs. Further, Alexander founded an education and outreach program at Klamath Bird Observatory that serves as a national model. The program reaches thousands of school children, community members and land managers annually, building broad awareness of bird conservation and its basis in science, education and partnerships.

Partners in Flight was launched in 1990 in response to growing concerns about declines in the populations of many land bird species. Partners in Flight is a cooperative effort involving partnerships among federal, state and local government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community, and private individuals. To learn more about Partners in Flight, visit www.partnersinflight.org

Klamath Bird Observatory advances bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships. The observatory conducts scientific studies to monitor and inventory bird populations,

contributing towards the Partners in Flight International Bird Conservation Program's efforts to "keep common birds common." Working in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of southern Oregon and northern California, and beyond, Klamath Bird Observatory provides information to help federal, state, and local land managers better protect and enhance bird populations and their habitats. Klamath Bird Observatory also reaches out to local communities and schools, connecting people with science and conservation. To learn more about Klamath Bird Observatory, visit www.klamathbird.org or call (541) 201-0866.

We Catch the Wind

By Susan Craig

On overcast mornings, we open the nets.
It's quiet and dark, the grasses are wet.
Before the sun rises we hear the first notes.
Suspended like ghosts, small passerines float.

From the dawn sky they tumble, all manner of birds
-As the soft net enfolds them we work without
words.

Red, yellow and blue ones - birds
common and rare.

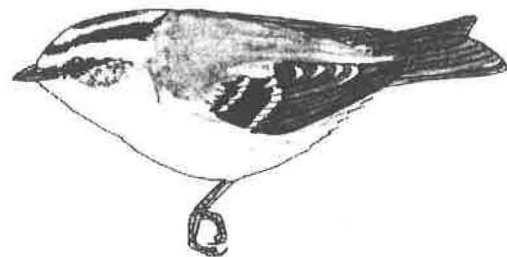
Old ones and young ones with plumage so fair.
Kinglets and thrushes, warblers and wrens -
We're delighted to see them, just like old friends.
We measure and weigh them (remember to band!)
Then opening fingers, release from the hand.

All over the world, we pluck birds from the sky.
We leave warm beds and families, and shoes that
were dry. And once in a while we pull down the
prize -The one bird that brings a bright spark to our
eyes.

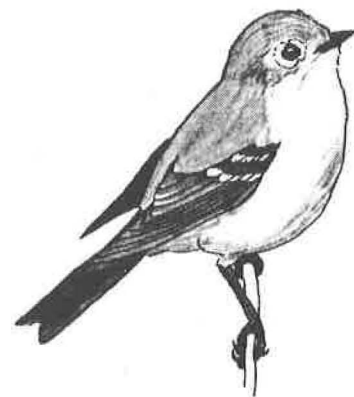
Maybe a Red Knot with bracelet so worn.
Maybe a hummingbird, lost and forlorn.
Perhaps it's a falcon from some foreign land
Blown off her course and into our hands.

With wingbeats so sure, from our grasp they fly
And thus they return to the care of the sky.
Migration will take them to lands far away.
Winter is coming - with us they can't stay.

Creatures of wind, creatures of air -
Flying through weather both wretched and fair.
From the sky we are given these prizes to band,
Catching the wind right here in my hand.



Golden crowned Kinglet



Ruby crowned Kinglet

Drawings by George West