ABSTRACT BOOK

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**USING A LONG-TERM DATASET TO UNDERSTAND REGIONAL BLACK TERN (CHLIDONIAS NIGER) POPULATION STATUS AND IMPROVE MONITORING METHODOLOGIES**

It is believed that Black Tern (Chlidonias niger) populations have declined over the past four decades. Therefore this species has been listed as endangered, threatened, or of conservation concern in multiple U.S. states and Canadian provinces. However, regional population information is lacking in many parts of its range, including the Klamath Basin of southern
Oregon. In addition, common monitoring methods throughout North America, such as the Breeding Bird Survey, do not provide sufficient population measures. The need for effective Black Tern monitoring has been identified as a priority by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Intermountain West Joint Venture, and others. In response, we conducted 13 years of breeding season surveys in the Klamath Basin. We summarize these data and consider annual patterns of distribution and abundance along with hydrologic data to improve our understanding of monitoring methods, sampling design, and regional population status and trends.