



# Harlequin Happenings

Newsletter of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

[www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org](http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org) ([www.olybird.org](http://www.olybird.org))

Clallam County, Washington

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Issue 1 Jan-Feb 2013

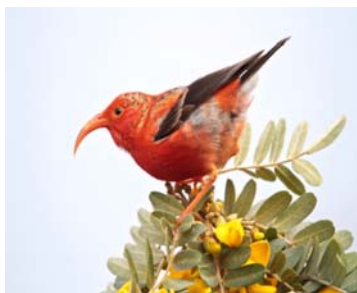
*"Promoting Birding and Conservation  
as Community Educators, Volunteers, and Stewards"*

## OPAS Programs for January and February

by Loretta Flanders and Bill Parker

### Native Birds and Active Volcanoes: Backyard Birding in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

presented by Christina Heliker on January 16, 2013, at the River Center, 7:00 p.m.



'Iwi - Photo by Christina Heliker

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is renowned for its active volcanoes, but many people also go there to see the native birds, which include several endangered species. Christina Heliker will talk about conservation efforts in the park and about the effect of the 29-year-long eruption of Kilauea Volcano on the birds' habitat. Christina is a geologist who recently returned to the northwest after 28 years on the Big Island, where she worked



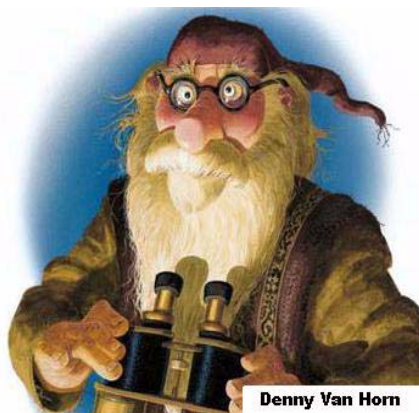
'Amakihi on Mamane  
Photo by Christina Heliker

at the U.S. Geological Service Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. She lived at the summit of Kilauea, where Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park was her backyard. Christina now lives in the Sequim area and is a member of OPAS.

The January meeting will be at the Dungeness River Audubon Center on January 16, 2013, at 7:00 pm.

### Tall Tales, Almost Truths, and Dubious Disparages: The Big Year Two Years Later

presented by Denny Van Horn on February 20, 2013, at the River Center, 7:00 p.m.



Denny Van Horn

With permission from  
Icelandic Glacial Water

Have you ever run across Denny Van Horn while birding at 3-Crabs or Dungeness Landing or La Push? You must then recognize him in this portrait. Our fanatic birder/storyteller will entertain us at our February meeting with a talk he describes as follows:

*An evening's talk sharing stories on birding, birders, and birds in Clallam County from the slightly skewed perspective of a fanatical birder. Or to put it another way: Why birding is a way of life to me.*

The February meeting will be at the Dungeness River Audubon Center on February 20, 2013, at 7:00 pm.

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**President's Message**

by Tom Montgomery



Valerie Wolcott, our Administrative Services Coordinator, has submitted her resignation and plans are underway to fill her position. We all wish Val our very best for the future and thank her for her dedicated and successful years of service. Another open position continues to be that of Secretary of our Board. If you or someone you know might be interested please let me know. We are all looking forward to a busy and productive year in 2013. Among other events, our Birdfest Committee planning is in full swing, and a special committee has been formed to plan for a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this September. Finally, on behalf of the Board, I wish to extend special thanks to our many talented and dedicated volunteers for their valuable contributions to the numerous activities and events that took place during 2012. You are essential to the accomplishment of our mission.



Valerie Wolcott seated near Railroad Bridge

**Save the Date!!**

**Volunteer Appreciation Brunch**  
Sunday, January 13, 12 Noon  
Red Cedar Hall, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal  
Community Center

RSVP, January 8; spouses & partners welcome  
[rivercenter@olympus.net](mailto:rivercenter@olympus.net), or 681-4076

## OPAS FieldTrips in January and February

by Bob Iddins

### Local Bays and Shores

*Date & Time:* Friday, January 11, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

*Fee:* Free

*Features:* Enjoy our many regular species of wintering seabirds while looking for rare visitors (Snowy Owl?)

*Leaders:* Bob Iddins and Jim Gift

*Bring:* Snacks, water, optics and appropriate clothing for weather changes.

*Meeting place:* Dungeness Landing County Park (Oyster House)

*Further information:* Bob Iddins, 360-681-2840, cell 360-775-5945 [rriddins@olyphen.com](mailto:rriddins@olyphen.com)



### Ediz Hook and Port Angeles Harbor

*Date and Time:* Saturday, February 9, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

*Cost:* Free

*Leaders:* Judy Mullally, Bob Iddins

*Features:* Returning winter water and shorebirds of Port Angeles harbor and the Strait of Juan de Fuca and anything else we can find.

*Meeting place:* At the end of Ediz Hook in the area of the restrooms or boat launch.

*Bring:* Optics (scope would be helpful, if you have one), water, snacks, appropriate clothing for the changing weather conditions.

*Further information:* Bob Iddins 360-681-2840 [rriddins@olyphen.com](mailto:rriddins@olyphen.com)

### Skagit & North Snohomish Counties

*Date:* Wednesday & Thursday, February 27-28, 2013 (Note: We have moved this traditional weekend trip to weekdays to cut down on traffic problems at some of the popular birding sights).

*Cost:* Free. Participants make own lodging arrangements (Mt. Vernon, Burlington, Anacortes) and are responsible for their own meals both days.

*Leaders:* Bob Iddins and Judy Mullally

*Features:* A very popular annual trip to the Samish Valley & Skagit Flats. Swans, snow geese and wintering raptors are the stars.

*Meeting place:* Take the 8:00 a.m. ferry at Port Townsend for Coupeville (**reservations are strongly recommended**). If you don't join us on the bow of the lower car deck, meet at the parking area for the boat ramp adjacent to the ferry terminal. Turn **right** after exiting ferry.

*Bring:* Optics (scopes are helpful) and lunch for both days. Dress warmly and be prepared for inclement weather. We will probably do some car pooling on site. Participating cars will need a Discover Pass for access to state lands.

*Further information:* Bob Iddins, home phone 360-681-2840, cell phone 360-775-5945, [rriddins@olyphen.com](mailto:rriddins@olyphen.com)

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## Education and Outreach - Being a Backyard Birder (BBB)

by Shirley Anderson

The series of nine monthly classes is intended for anyone interested in knowing more about the birds seen locally each season of the year, as well as learning how to make your homes good habitats for wild birds. "BBB" can be taken as individual sessions or as a series. Each class costs \$5 for adults, but is free for ages 10 to 18. After the completion of any 5 sessions, participants will be offered membership in the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS). More information is available by calling 681-4076.

The first class meeting of the new-year will be held on January 12 at the River Center. Ken Wiersema and Shirley Anderson will present "Birds-the Inside Story", anatomy and physiology unique to birds.



## Conservation Matters - Tribute to Eleanor Stopps

by Mary Porter-Solberg

### Tribute to Eleanor Stopps

Protection Island is nesting habitat for 70% of seabirds in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The island was granted National Wildlife Refuge status due to the efforts of **Eleanor Stopps**, who was the founder of Admiralty Audubon and a tireless advocate for wildlife. She lobbied for over a decade and testified before the Washington State Legislature and US Congress to achieve Refuge status for the island in 1982. It was the only Refuge authorized and funded during the Reagan Administration, according to a 2005 interview with Eleanor.

Eleanor Stopps died on April 25, 2012 at the age of 92. She wanted no funeral or memorial service but she willingly agreed to the idea of a memorial sculpture as long as it was a tribute to Protection Island. The sculpture will also serve as testimony that one person can make a difference.

Fundraising is underway for Eleanor's memorial sculpture of the seabirds of Protection Island by wildlife sculptor Tony Angell. Admiralty Audubon has established an account at First Federal Bank to accept donations. For a Paypal link that allows credit card donations go to <http://eleanorstopps.blogspot.com>. Checks can be sent directly to the bank made out to:

AAS Memorial Fund (Admiralty Audubon Society Memorial Fund)  
First Federal Bank  
P.O. Box 1510  
Port Townsend, WA98368

*Admiralty Audubon is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS code.*

If you would like to know more about Eleanor Stopps and this effort to honor her legacy, check the OPAS website or <http://eleanorstopps.blogspot.com>.

*(Continued on next page)*



*Eleanor Stopps in her official USFW jumpsuite, ready for one of her many trips to Protection Island.*

## Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge CCP

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is asking for your comments on a draft 15-year Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (DNWR). It is extremely important that we support one of the draft management alternatives outlined in the Plan. The DNWR provides habitat for a wide diversity of wildlife species – more than 250 species of birds and 41 species of land mammals. Not only is the DNWR recognized as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society, but the Refuge is internationally significant because many of the birds that stop here breed as far north as Alaska and migrate as far south as South America. The Dungeness area is additionally important as a spring staging area for Black Brant and other waterfowl. The needs of wildlife and their habitats come first on refuges, in contrast to other public lands that are managed for multiple uses. Comments can be sent by U.S. mail or email by January 28, 2013. To view the draft CCP, please go to this link: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/wa/docsdungeness.htm>. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact Mary Porter-Solberg by email [hikernut@live.com](mailto:hikernut@live.com) or phone at 360-683-8072.

## Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count and Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide



### 2012 Christmas Bird Count Results

The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Sequim-Dungeness CBC occurred December 17, 2012. The weather initially looked questionable, with a large low-pressure system coming ashore during the morning and predictions for a major windstorm. But the show must go on! Even though much of the day was windy, rainy, and snowy, the weather improved by afternoon and finished with a beautiful sunset. Several groups had to limit their time in the field, particularly in the snowy Olympic foothills and on coastal routes where winds gusted over 40 mph, but nevertheless we did exceptionally well.

Despite conditions, our count tallied 143 species this year, about average for the past 15 years, but eight fewer species than our record set last year. Total number of individual birds was 46,416, well below the average of about 63,000 birds for the last 15 years. Eighty-six hardy field observers and 19 determined feeder watchers participated in the count. (See table, P. 8)

The top ten most abundant species were Am. Wigeon (4,994 individuals), Pine Siskin (3,643), Bufflehead (2,691), Mallard (2,554), Am. Robin (2,364), Brant (2,203), large pink-legged gulls (pure Glaucous-winged and hybrid Olympic Gulls combined) (2,120), Northern Pintail (1,692), Surf Scoter (1,478), and Eur. Starling (1,451). These 10 species made up over 54% of all birds on our count.

Only 9 species set record high-counts this year for the 37-year history of the SDCBC, far fewer than the 22 species that set record counts last year when the weather cooperated so well. Record counts this year occurred for Cackling Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Greater Scaup, Black-crowned Night Heron, Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fox Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. Many species scored far below average, some with the lowest counts for the last 15 to 30 years, including Am. Wigeon, Mallard, Black Scoter, Pacific and Common Loon, Horned and Red-necked Grebe, Am. Kestrel, Pileated Woodpecker, and Savannah Sparrow. The windy weather prevented representative counts of many birds, particularly coastal species. We picked up 8 owl species, of which only one, N. Saw-whet, was recorded exclusively at night.

Unusual species for the SDCBC seen this year:

Redhead - 3 at different ponds; Yellow-billed Loon - 1 found by our stalwart boat crew who braved the high seas; Black-crowned Night Heron - 2 present at roost tree in Dungeness, including 1 adult and 1 immature (this is at least the third year the adult (aka "Gale") has been present in winter); Red Knot - 1 at Dungeness  
(Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

Bay, first seen 12/8; Snowy Owl - 1 at 3 Crabs, present for several weeks; Burrowing Owl - 1 near the entrance to Sequim Bay, present since at least 12/4; Townsend's Solitaire - 1 at outer Miller Peninsula; White-throated Sparrow - not real unusual, but a high count of 7 birds was notable, some staked out at feeders; and Yellow-headed Blackbird - 1 bird near Dungeness Recreation Area.

We missed several species on count day but recorded them "count week" (CW), including Barrow's Goldeneye, Black Turnstone, W. Screech Owl, Tropical Kingbird (still at 3 Crabs on 12/14/12), Am. Pipit, Swamp Sparrow, and Common Redpoll. Other hoped-for species that we missed entirely included Black Oystercatcher, Horned Lark, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Considering the weather, we did very well on this year's CBC. Many, many thanks to everyone who participated, and particularly to landowners and agencies that gave us access to their land. Looking ahead, the 2013 SDCBC will likely occur on Monday, 12/16/13, so mark your calendars.

Many thanks to our intrepid Christmas Bird Counters: Ken & Nancy Wiersema, Don Chesebro, Sue Nattinger, Ed Chadd, Daniel Walker, Denny Van Horn, Dow Lambert, Shirley Anderson, Kris Lether, Scott Gremel, Mark Salvadalena, Mandy Holmgren, Sara Cendejas-Zarelli, Becky Morgan, Joe Cress, Lee Bowen, Dan Waggoner, Brad Waggoner, Sue Chickman, Pat MacRobbie, Bob Boekelheide, Anne Winskie, Jerry Freilich, Robin Berry -Graysmarsh, Steve Acker, Vince Lucas, Bob Norton, Jim & Audrey Gift, Bob Hutchison, Margaret Levitan, Devan Miller, Kate Buenau, Nancy Kohn, Nikki Sather, Bruce & Carol Von Borstel, Dan McDougal-Treacy, Judy Mullally, Powell Jones, John Woolley, Katherine Bush, Bob Iddins, Laura Busby, Bruce LaBar, Charlie Wright, Ryan Merrill, Durkee Richards – boat, Lorenz Sollmann-USFWS, Sue Thomas-USFWS, Janis Burger, Lucia Napolitano, Lew Brantley, Barb Blackie, Heidi Pedersen, Bill & Karen Parker, Dick Hahn, Loretta Flanders, John Bridge, John & Diana Anderson, Kendra Donelson, Quenn Charrier, Pat McGuire, Sherry Anderson, Tom Guobis, Joan McDermott, Margie Palmer, Marty Campbell, Barb Vanderwerf, Marie Grad, Becca Nissley, Dan & Valerie Stahler, Michael Barry, Eftin Strong, Ingrid Strong, Pat Holden, Christina Helicker, Gary Bullock, Enid and Bob Phreaner, Kevin Froese, Paul & Verla Priest, Dave & Julie Jackson, Kate & Grace Goshen, Marion Rutledge, Dave & Patricia Mattingley, Mary Robson, Hank and Raedell Warren, + anonymous feeder watchers.

## Bird Sightings



*Tropical Kingbird*  
Photo by Dow Lambert

It's been an outstanding fall for unusual birds in Clallam County, ranging from Tropical Kingbirds to Snowy Owls. Keeping track of all the Tropical Kingbirds and Snowy Owls has not been easy, with multiple sightings of both species – many thanks to Denny Van Horn for keeping the records straight. Suffice it to say there have been at least four and possibly seven Tropical Kingbirds seen in Clallam



*Snowy Owl*  
Photo by Dow Lambert

County this fall, plus several Snowy Owls seen around 3 Crabs, Dungeness, and as far away as Neah Bay. The maximum count of 11 or 12 Snowy Owls occurred on Dungeness Spit in mid-November, reported by Michael Barry and others. It's not unprecedented for Snowy Owls to irrupt two years in a row, but the magnitude of this two-year irruption is extraordinary. Better see one now, because it might be several years before another shows up around here.

*(Continued on next page)*



Another extraordinary owl made headlines in December, a Burrowing Owl first spotted by Glen Goschen on 12/4 with a nifty burrow under a beach log near the tip of Gibson Spit. We found remains of prey items near the burrow, including what looked like Dunlin wings and white tail feathers possibly from Horned Larks or pipits, both of which flew nearby. After taking photos, we also noticed the little owl had bands on both legs, so we corresponded with Burrowing Owl researchers in the Pacific Northwest and discovered the owl is a male banded as a chick in July 2011 near Kamloops, British Columbia, as part of a restoration program to return Burrowing Owls as a nesting species where they were nearly extirpated in the 1980s. They say this bird is one tough cookie, having displaced his father in his first year and claimed his father's nesting territory. Hopefully he'll survive and prosper at his wintering spot near the mouth of Washington Harbor as well; he was still hanging out at his "burrow" in late December.



*Burrowing Owl*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

Neah Bay and environs was a real hotspot this fall. Among a wide variety of species too numerous to list, Brad and Dan Waggoner added an Orchard Oriole and a Clay-colored Sparrow to the county's year list on 10/21, and Ryan Merrill and Brad Waggoner added a Tennessee Warbler on 11/12. Neah Bay has incredible potential as the vagrant bird capital of WA. As more and more capable birders make the long trek out there, even in the cold and stormy fall months, the possibilities are phenomenal.

Michael Barry turned up two good birds in November at disparate locales, a Northern Goshawk at Hurricane Ridge on 11/2 and a Rock Sandpiper hanging out with other shorebirds on logs in Port Angeles Harbor on 11/5. Vince Lucas spotted two Rock Sandpipers at Ediz Hook on 11/20 – it would be great if they stick around for the PACBC.



*Palm Warbler*  
Photo by Dow Lambert

It was a good fall for Palm Warblers. Dow Lambert photographed a beautiful Palm Warbler at 3 Crabs on 11/6. Ryan Shaw, Charlie Wright, and Bill Tweit spotted another Palm at Neah Bay on 11/10 while watching a Clay-colored Sparrow.

It was also a great fall for northern passerines, with multiple sightings of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. Along with the multitudes of Pine Siskins were a few Common Redpolls, including ones seen or heard by Nigel Ball at the Wa'atch Valley on 11/14, by Denny Van Horn at 3 Crabs on 11/15 and 11/21, and by Vince Lucas at 3 Crabs on 11/25.

Swamp Sparrows, another species that nests to the north of us in the boreal forests of Canada, made a good showing, with one seen at Neah Bay on 11/12 by Ryan Merrill and Brad Waggoner, one seen at Neah Bay on 11/16 by Bruce Paige, one at the Kitchen-Dick Ponds on 11/25 by Bruce Paige, and at least one that stuck around the marsh at 3 Crabs from 11/14 to 12/14, long enough to be included as a count week bird on the SDCBC.

It looks like Clallam County will finish 2012 with 285 species recorded in the county during the year, perhaps a record for any county in WA. This number represents almost 77% of all the species recorded in Clallam County since records have been kept, and compares to 280 species recorded in 2010 and 283 species in 2011. Can we break this record in 2013? Are 300 species possible? Yes, but only if lots of people get out and find birds. When you find something interesting, please contact me at [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net), or 360-808-0196.

# Harlequin Happenings

## RESULTS OF 2012 SEQUIM-DUNGENESS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	22	Dble-cr Cormorant	352	Mourning Dove	163	Y-r (Aud) Warbler	7
Brant	2203	Pelagic Cormorant	74	Barn Owl	5	Y-r (Myr) Warbler	7
Cackling Goose	<u>75</u>	cormorant sp.	10	W Screech Owl	CW	Townsend's Warbler	1
Canada Goose	457	Great Blue Heron	60	Great-horned Owl	2	Spotted Towhee	335
Trumpeter Swan	<u>111</u>	<u>Black-cr Night-Heron</u>	2	Snowy Owl	1	Savannah Sparrow	2
Tundra Swan	4	Bald Eagle (ad.)	95	N Pygmy Owl	1	Fox Sparrow	<u>317</u>
Wood Duck	3	Bald Eagle (imm.)	25	<u>Burrowing Owl</u>	1	Song Sparrow	653
Gadwall	77	Bld Eagle (unk. age)	7	Barred Owl	5	Lincoln's Sparrow	13
Eur. Wigeon	8	Northern Harrier	38	Short-eared Owl	1	Swamp Sparrow	CW
Am. Wigeon	4994	Sharp-sh Hawk	14	N. Saw-whet Owl	1	Wht-throated Sparrow	<u>7</u>
Mallard	2554	Cooper's Hawk	11	Anna's Hummingbird	63	Wht-crowned Sparrow	110
N. Shoveler	119	accipiter sp.	2	Belted Kingfisher	19	Golden-crwnd Sparrow	852
N. Pintail	1692	Red-tailed Hawk	51	Red-brstd Sapsucker	4	sparrow sp.	8
Green-winged Teal	649	American Kestrel	1	Downy Woodpecker	27	Dark-eyed Junco (Or)	1220
<u>Redhead</u>	3	Merlin	6	Hairy Woodpecker	9	Dk-eyd Junco (SI-col)	1
Ring-necked Duck	58	Peregrine Falcon	<u>21</u>	N. Flicker	54	Red-winged Blackbird	541
Greater Scaup	<u>1265</u>	hawk sp.	2	Red-shafted Flicker	58	W. Meadowlark	2
Lesser Scaup	18	Virginia Rail	2	Intergrade Flicker	1	Yellow-hdd Blackbird	1
scaup sp.	1	American Coot	98	Pileated Woodpecker	1	Brewer's Blackbird	1283
Harlequin Duck	87	Black-bellied Plover	213	<u>Tropical Kingbird</u>	CW	blackbird sp.	26
Surf Scoter	1478	Killdeer	34	N. Shrike	3	Purple Finch	10
Wh-winged Scoter	184	Marbled Godwit	3	Hutton's Vireo	4	House Finch	402
Black Scoter	4	Black Turnstone	CW	Gray Jay	7	finch sp.	30
Long-tailed Duck	681	Red Knot	1	Steller's Jay	106	Red Crossbill	92
Bufflehead	2691	Sanderling	326	crow sp.	694	Common Redpoll	CW
Com. Goldeneye	285	Dunlin	1279	Com. Raven	202	Pine Siskin	3643
Barrow's Goldeneye	CW	W. Sandpiper	1	Black-cppd Chickadee	230	Am Goldfinch	16
goldeneye sp.	5	sandpiper sp.	360	Chnt-back Chickadee	319	Evening Grosbeak	12
Hooded Merganser	30	Wilson's Snipe	3	Bushtit	230	House Sparrow	89
Com. Merganser	57	Bonaparte's Gull	1	Red-brstd Nuthatch	108		
Red-Br. Merganser	798	Mew Gull	576	Brown Creeper	13		
Ruddy Duck	4	Ring-billed Gull	4	Bewick's Wren	16	<u>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</u>	46416
duck sp.	43	California Gull	2	Pacific Wren	139	<u>NO. OF SPECIES</u>	143
Rng-Nckd Pheasant	3	Herring Gull	1	Marsh Wren	24		
Ruffed Grouse	3	Thayer's Gull	3	wren sp.	1	No. of Observers	86
Wild Turkey	3	Western Gull	34	American Dipper	7	No. Feeder Watchers	19
California Quail	54	Glaucous-winged Gull	327	Golden-crwnd Kinglet	610	No. of Parties	37 to 40
Red-throated Loon	21	W. X Glauc-wing Gull	1793	Ruby-crwnd Kinglet	178	Miles on foot	92
Pacific Loon	41	gull sp.	1085	kinglet sp.	35	Hours on foot	127.3
Common Loon	18	Common Murre	169	<u>Townsend's Solitaire</u>	1	Miles by car	425
Yellow-billed Loon	1	Pigeon Guillemot	518	Hermit Thrush	4	Hours by car	67.75
loon sp.	1	Marbled Murrelet	22	Am. Robin	2364	Miles by boat	18
Pied-Billed Grebe	8	Ancient Murrelet	123	Varied Thrush	213	Hrs by boat	2.5
Horned Grebe	61	Rhinoceros Auklet	7	European Starling	1451	Miles bicycle	19.5
Red-necked Grebe	13	alcid sp	35	Am. Pipit	CW	Hours bicycle	5
Eared Grebe	5	Rock Pigeon	269	Cedar Waxwing	75	Hours owling	8.5
Western Grebe	97	Band-tailed Pigeon	6	Orange-crmd Warbler	1	Miles owling	30
Brandt's Cormorant	17	Eurasian Collar-Dove	<u>212</u>	Yellow-rmpd Warbler	1	Feeder Hours	31

CW = Count Week (seen within three days before or after the count, but not on count day)

Underlined species = unusual species, recorded infrequently on count

Underlined numbers = extraordinary number of individuals for Sequim-Dungeness CBC, since 1975





## Birdfest Update

by Marjorie Palmer

April 5 through 7 will see our tenth annual Olympic Birdfest!

The Birdfest Planning Committee is meeting regularly and making exciting progress. Our latest banquet news features the food. Michael and Candy McQuay, owners of Kokopelli Grill in Port Angeles have agreed to sponsor the event by offering their catering service. We look forward to a wonderful evening, Saturday, April 6, sharing fun and friendships with a fabulous dinner and enjoying Kevin Schafer's photography and talk "In the Company of Animals." Mark your calendars for April 6!

Also, this year, Robert Amaral will be offering a bird art class—watch for details later. Many of you have attended one or both of the great classes Robert has given through the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

We always welcome more help for jobs large and small. If you want to get involved, contact the Dungeness River Audubon Center, 681-4076, or Margie Palmer, [grblheron@wavecable.com](mailto:grblheron@wavecable.com). We have special volunteer opportunities with banquet organization and silent auction preparation. Check our website <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org> for updates and registration as work progresses.

## Wanted!

### Birdfest Silent Auction items

Looking for donations of **WONDERFUL ITEMS** such as guided trips, art creations, one-of-a-kind items/experiences, time shares, birder/birding-related treasures...

Contact Margie Palmer, [grblheron@wavecable.com](mailto:grblheron@wavecable.com), 360-417-9574.

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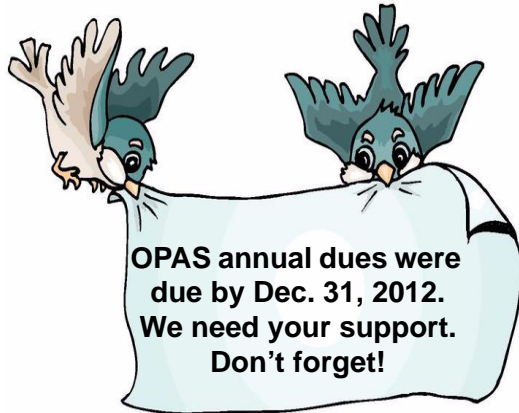


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