



# 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 2 Mar-Apr 2013

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



## Register Now for the Tenth Annual Olympic Birdfest, April 5-7!

by Marjorie Palmer, Event Coordinator

Don't miss BirdFest 2013, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 5-7! Then, on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>, join the naturalist-led cruise through the San Juan Islands. In addition to guided birding trips to the area's best sites with wonderful local guides, BirdFest offers opportunities to go on a Totem Tour, take a class in bird drawing or nature photography, visit a waterfowl breeding sanctuary, or go on a guided birding cruise. And this year, the Saturday night banquet will be in the stunning Red Cedar Hall of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe campus in Blyn. It will be catered by Kokopelli Grill, and feature a talk by nationally renowned wildlife photographer Kevin Schafer. Kevin's photos have appeared in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, *National Wildlife*, *Audubon*, and other major magazines. He will share some of his images and experiences "In the Company of Animals".

You can also treat yourself and support BirdFest by bidding on fabulous silent auction items, and by buying raffle tickets for a great pair of 8 x 32 HD binoculars, valued at over \$600. Wild Birds Unlimited has generously donated the binoculars for the raffle. Tickets will be on sale either at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim, or at the Banquet on April 6.



Poster Created by Chris Perry



Photo by Robert Hutchison

You can also experience the First Friday Sequim Art Walk on April 5 from 5-8 pm. Visit Wind Rose Cellars to enjoy the beautiful work of BirdFest's art instructors. Stephen Cunliffe's photography will be on display, as will Robert Amaral's watercolors. And join the fun of BirdFest Bird Quest as you tour the Sequim downtown shops featuring local student bird-related art. On Sunday, April 7, the MV Glacier Spirit sails for a three day naturalist-led cruise through the San Juan Islands to Roche Harbor, providing excellent viewing of water birds, seals, whales, and other marine creatures. Register for this trip at <http://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/whale-watching-and-wildlife-tours/audubon/> or call 360 385-5288.

BirdFest is pleased to thank our major supporters: the Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau, First Federal, the City of Sequim, Kokopelli Grill of Port Angeles, and the Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce.  
(Continued on next page)

**OPAS Board of Directors**

**Officers:**

President, Tom Montgomery,  
460-3796 [helgatom@olyopen.com](mailto:helgatom@olyopen.com)  
V-Pres, Loretta R. Flanders,  
683-8717, [toucanetoz@gmail.com](mailto:toucanetoz@gmail.com),  
Treasurer, Nancy Bargar, 775-7667  
[nbargar@wildblue.net](mailto:nbargar@wildblue.net)  
Secretary, OPEN

**Board-at-Large:**

Ken Wiersema, 683-4763  
[wiersema@olympus.net](mailto:wiersema@olympus.net)  
Ken Leuthold, 683-6368  
[leutholdkj@gmail.com](mailto:leutholdkj@gmail.com)  
Kendra Donelson  
683-7793, [kendrad@q.com](mailto:kendrad@q.com)  
Powell Jones, 681-4076  
[rivercenter@olympus.net](mailto:rivercenter@olympus.net)

**Committees:**

*Bird Sightings, Bird Counts,*  
Bob Boekelheide, 681-4867  
[bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net)  
*Conservation,* Jim Gift, 681-2989  
[jjgift76@gmail.com](mailto:jjgift76@gmail.com)  
Mary Porter-Solberg, 683-8072,  
[hikerhut@qwest.net](mailto:hikerhut@qwest.net)  
*Education,* Shirley Anderson,  
681-3950,  
[sanderson22@olyopen.com](mailto:sanderson22@olyopen.com)  
*Membership,* Audrey Gift 681-2989  
[agift@q.com](mailto:agift@q.com)  
*Field Trips,* Bob Iddins, 681-2840  
[rriddins@olyopen.com](mailto:rriddins@olyopen.com)  
*Hospitality,* Clare Hatler, 683-6967  
[donclare@olyopen.com](mailto:donclare@olyopen.com)  
*Newsletter,* Bob Hutchison,  
683-7265  
[rbrycehut@wavecable.com](mailto:rbrycehut@wavecable.com)  
*Publicity,* Sara-Ellen Peterson,  
681-6325  
[saraellen.mn@gmail.com](mailto:saraellen.mn@gmail.com)  
*Website,* Dave Jackson, 683-1355  
[djackson@wavecable.com](mailto:djackson@wavecable.com)  
*Birdfest,* Marjorie Palmer, 417-9574,  
[grblheron@wavecable.com](mailto:grblheron@wavecable.com)

For more information and registration, visit the Birdfest website [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org), call 360-681-4076, or email [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org).

*Olympic Birdfest is a partnership of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Dungeness River Audubon Center and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Proceeds from this festival help support the educational programs of the Dungeness River Audubon Center, a leader in outdoor nature education.*

**OPAS Field Trips in March and April**

*by Bob Iddins*

**Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**

*Dates: Wednesday & Thursday, March 27 & 28, 2013*

*Times and Meeting places: 8:30 Wednesday morning at the River "S" unit of the Ridgefield NWR (for directions- <http://www.fws.gov/ridgefieldrefuges/ridgefield/index.html> ). The itinerary of day two of this trip has yet to be determined.*

*Leaders: Bill and Karen Parker*

*Cost: Field trip is free however the refuge requires an entrance fee for those without passes (Interagency Annual Pass, Senior Pass, etc.). There is a possibility of a visit to an area requiring the Washington State Discover Pass Thursday. All lodging, meals and fees are the responsibility of each participant.*

*Features: Ridgefield NWR has a plethora of waterfowl including Cinnamon Teal. A variety of raptors and Sandhill Cranes can be expected. Note: This is stop number 29 on the Southwest Loop of The Great Washington State Birding Trail.*

*Bring: Optics, field guides, water, lunches and snacks and appropriate clothing for iffy weather.*

*Further information: Bill or Karen Parker at 360-504-2391 or [whparker@surfbirder.com](mailto:whparker@surfbirder.com) .(Several participants will be staying at the Lewis River Inn (<http://lewisriverinn.com/index.html> )in Woodland.)*

**Point No Point**

*Date: Saturday, April 27, 2013*

*Time and Meeting place: 8:00 am at the Longhouse (Chevron station and market. Just east of the Seven Cedars Casino on 101.) We will be carpooling from there.*

*Leaders: Judy Mullally and Bob Iddins*

*Cost: Free*

*Features: A variety of water birds, gulls and terns with an occasional Parasitic Jaeger harassing them. There is also a 1 mile trail through the forest. Note: This is stop number 32 on the Puget Loop of The Great Washington State Birding Trail.*

*Bring: Binoculars (spotting scope if you have one), snacks, water, lunch and appropriate clothing for any weather changes.*

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

## OPAS Programs for March and April

by Loretta Flanders and Bill Parker

### Wanna' see hawks – LOTS o' hawks? Visiting a hawk watch

presented by Bill Parker on March 20, 2013 at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park, 7:00 pm



Peregrine Falcon  
Photo by Bill Parker

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX (Sep. 26, 2006) - The Broad-winged Hawk count at Hazel Bazemore County Park reached 128,388 today. Now before you get too excited - the day before and the day after that they counted even more (139,563 and 164,723). Hawk watches are located just for watching and counting birds – especially raptors. If you enjoy combining travel and birding – and want to do some planning – you might see a lot of birds and meet some other birders. The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) website contains count data and site profiles for over 200 North American hawk watch sites. We will look at how mining data from that site can help you find a good date to go to Smith Point, TX, for Swallow-tailed Kites (338 in the first 15 days of November last year), or Allegheny Front, PA, for Golden Eagles (188 in November last year – yes, Golden Eagles in Pennsylvania), or Kiptopeke at the tip of Virginia's eastern shore for American Kestrels and Osprey (1595 and 1638 in September last year).

A lot has changed since the first hawk watch was established at Hawk Mountain, PA, in 1929. Back then the Pennsylvania Game Commission paid a bounty of \$5 for a Northern Goshawk's head. Today that is the trail fee for SENIOR admission. Hawk watches have contributed

information on the migration behavior of raptors in North America. Most of the data is collected by volunteer birders. The dedicated counters usually enjoy sharing the fun with visitors. We'll share some of our experiences helping at the Allegheny Front and talk a little about hawk migration.

### Western Sandpipers with a Latin Beat

presented by Jim Chu, April 17, 2013, at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park, 7:00 pm

The Dunlin we see on our local beaches and in muddy fields on the OPAS outing to the Skagit Flats in February will join with about 5 million other Dunlin, Western Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, and other shorebirds at the Copper River Delta in Chugach National Forest in Alaska. For two week in May the Copper River Delta fills with these birds, gorging on food before dispersing to breeding grounds for the summer. This stopover allows them to refuel after their trip north. Protecting these birds in Alaska will be futile without similar efforts abroad.

Conservation of migratory birds that span many borders depends on international cooperation. Jim Chu will discuss their journey and the international efforts to protect their winter grounds, in places such as Panama, as well as their stopover and breeding grounds in Alaska.



Skagit Dunlin  
Photo by Bill Parker

Jim Chu is a biological scientist with the US Forest Service International Programs in the Wings Across the Americas Program. He has been the coordinator for the Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative since 2004.

## River Center Events

### Bird Walks

*Date: Every Wed. morning; Time: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.*

Meet at the River Center for a lovely walk to see and hear the birds of the Dungeness riparian forest. Information from walks helps us understand the annual cycle of birds in RR Bridge Park.

### Work Party

*Date: Variable During Winter (contact center to be added to contact list)*

The volunteers of Railroad Bridge Park and the River Center need help to maintain the beauty of the Park and River Center. Please join us anytime snow removal is necessary.

### BBB Series – “Bird Migration”

*March 16th, 10am*

*Cost: \$5 Free for kids 10 to 18 year old*

*Place: River Center*

“Bird Migration” Why, when and how birds migrate by Bill Parker and Terry Martin. From short distance to marathon migrants, many birds make the dramatic trek from areas of low resources to areas of high resources during different times of the year. Which bird gets the long distance award? Which bird gets the gold in the migratory sprint? What’s an irruption year? Come and find out!

### Olympic Driftwood Art Show

*Date: Sat. and Sun, Mar. 23rd and 24th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

Olympic driftwood sculptors present prize-winning pieces and recent works by members, plus demonstrate sculpture techniques. Driftwood products available by order will also be present.

### Introduction to Birds and Birding

*Date: Tue., Apr. 2, 2013 through Tue., May 7, 2013*

*Time: 7 to 9 p.m.*

*Fee: River Center Partners: \$40; non-partners \$60.*

*Sponsor: Dungeness River Audubon Center*

This class, taught by Dave Jackson, is designed for beginning birders, new residents who wish to learn and recognize our local birds, and anyone wanting to better understand birds. Classes include bird identification, feeders, houses, field guides, and optics. Two field trips. Limit: 16 people. Please pre-register with the River Center.

### BBB Series - Gardening for Spring Birds

*April 20th, 10am*

*Cost: \$5 Free for kids 10 to 18 year old*

*Place: River Center*

“Spring Gardening for Birds” Plants and settings to attract migrating and resident birds by Bob Boekelheide. As we head into springtime, you may be wondering which plants to add to your garden to attract a variety of  
(Continued on next page)

## FREE SEMINAR

### Will Your Will Make a Difference?



Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Two times:** 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Dungeness River Audubon Center  
at Railroad Bridge Park  
2151 West Hendrickson Road, Sequim

Ted Ripley is a well-known Clallam County attorney, who has focused on Estate Planning for the past 15 years. He understands that meaningful planning comes from knowing your values and reflecting those values in your estate plan.

In this sixth of a series of financial planning seminars, you will learn about:

- Why You Should Plan
- Estate vs. Legacy Planning
- Basic Planning Documents
- Estate Planning Process
- Doing a Values Exercise

Pre-registration is advised for this FREE program.

To register, contact Sue Chickman

360-477-4123 or [organicallysue@olympen.com](mailto:organicallysue@olympen.com)

migrating and resident birds. In this session of Backyard Birding, bird expert Bob Boekelheide will share the best plants and arrangements to attract a wide variety of birds! There will be an optional field trip to McComb Road Garden to look at excellent examples of stellar gardens for birds.



## Education and Outreach

by Shirley Anderson

Volunteers Joan Henry, Sue Gilleland, and Cindy Moore have presented the first of the

“Connections” programs in the fourth grades at Haller and Greywolf Schools. Interactions of insects, birds, mammals, including people, with the Western Red Cedar is the first class. The second will be connections with the Black Cottonwood.

Second grade presentations about native birds will resume with ducks in February and hummingbirds in March. Volunteers at Haller are Bill Parker and Becca Nissley; Shirley Anderson and Sharlene Miller at Greywolf.

Third grade presentations of native mammals have started and will run February, March, April, and May. Volunteers at Haller are Cindy Moore and Lyn Muench; Laura Anderson and Shirley Anderson at Greywolf.

Backyard Birds had 14 in attendance on January 12 for “Birds - The Inside Story” presented by Ken Wiersema and Shirley Anderson. Ken W. will lead the session on care and maintenance of Nest boxes this Saturday, 2/9. “Bird Migration” will be presented by Bill Parker and Terry Martin on March 16.

There will be a student art exhibit at MAC during the month of March, sponsored by Sequim Arts. Pat MacRobbie is responsible for OPAS’ involvement in this exhibit. She will identify judges and organize the awards. Judging is Sunday afternoon, February 24. OPAS will award three cash prizes in the category of Bird Art, to be presented by Tom Montgomery at the ceremony, 6 pm on March 1. The student pieces will be on exhibit at the Sunshine Café for the month of April, which includes BirdFest. and the First Friday “Walk” on April 5.



## Conservation Matters

by Mary Porter-Solberg & Ken Wiersema

### OPAS comments on the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (DNWR), Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)

In Dec 2012, the members of the Conservation committee began reviewing the CCP that will, when implemented, become the operating document for the DNWR for the next 15 years. We met with members of the Refuge Staff, OPAS members who volunteer on the Refuge, and studied the documents prepared by the USFWS. We also asked to meet with Rep Kevin Van De Wege, in order to clarify and understand recent statements attributed to him. In the media, he had indicated a possible intent to introduce legislation to remove part of the tidelands currently under operational management of the Refuge and return it to State management. We believed it was necessary to discuss his proposed legislation and to  
*(Continued on next page)*

## BirdFest Needs Your Donations!

The BirdFest silent auction is a large contributor to this fundraiser’s bottom line as well as the fun we all share at the banquet.

Of course, the greater the quality and quantity of donations, the better. Perhaps you can help by contributing an item or sharing a skill. Do you have a special interest? Others might appreciate an outing with an enthusiast of wildflowers, or butterflies or insects or photography. If you are a good cook, consider offering a special occasion homemade meal. Or perhaps you could offer a lesson in something you do well. If you have a membership somewhere, consider taking a guest or giving a tour.

Contact Margie Palmer by March 29 with items, ideas, or questions at [grblheron@wavecable.com](mailto:grblheron@wavecable.com).

**Thank You!**

## Harlequin Happenings

express our concerns for protection of the bird habitat, adjacent tidelands, and nesting sites for birds on the Dungeness Spit. We urged him not to attempt to diminish or fractionalize the protection of habitat and bird species in the existing DNWR.



## BIRDFEST RAFFLE \$3 a ticket

**8x32 Vortex Viper HD Binoculars valued at \$659**

*Donated by Christy & Marc Lassen Wild Birds Unlimited Gardiner, WA*

Drawing held on Saturday, April 6th, during BirdFest's Banquet at Jamestown Tribal Center's Community Room, Red Cedar Hall.  
You do not need to be present to win.

Moneys raised benefit the educational activities of the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park.

Rep. Kevin Van De Wedge expressed:

- > His dedicated, continuing commitment to having public lands in Washington open to public visits and uses, so long as the public's visits and uses do not conflict with the purpose of government ownership of the lands.
- > His willingness to understand better the rules needed to allow public visits.
- > His openness to participate in and facilitate negotiations on rules for public visits to the DNWR, which would provide both public safety and protect wildlife and its habitat.
- > His wish to continue to allow both horseback riding and jogging on DNWR controlled lands, provided such activities could be done safely and with minimal wildlife disturbance

OPAS representatives emphasized:

- > The critical importance of the refuge with adjacent State-owned and USFWS-managed tidelands to migrating and nesting birds and mammals.
- > The continuing need for the USFWS to oversee and protect the wildlife and their habitat.
- > The designation of the DNWR as an internationally recognized *Important Bird Area*.
- > Importance of public visitation, behavior, and understanding of the mission and responsibilities of the DNWR and its small, fulltime staff and over 100 volunteers.

We discussed the potential of developing an alternative access for horseback riding access to the beach portion of the DNWR that would eliminate the safety risks of joint use by visitors of the narrow steeply sloped foot path. We agreed to participate with Rep Van De Wege in the drafting of a joint press release addressing these issues. We also proceeded to prepare a detailed set of comments on the CCP, which were submitted to the USFWS in Feb 2013. Members may read our comment letter which will be posted to the OPAS web site for the month of March 2013.

We want to encourage our members to consider becoming a volunteer at the Refuge. There is a small fulltime staff, and an expanding need for volunteer workers. Annual training will be offered for new volunteers in April. Date and location of the training will be posted on the OPAS & River Center websites.

### Wild Olympics Update

Senator Patty Murray plans to reintroduce Wild Olympics legislation that would expand the wilderness area in the Olympic National Forest by more than 126,000 acres, and would create a protective buffer around Olympic National Park. The legislation also would create Wild and Scenic River protections for 19 Olympic Peninsula rivers. Senator Murray and Representative Norm Dicks introduced this legislation in the last session of Congress, but the bill died as the 2012 Congress adjourned. Derek Kilmer replaced Norm Dicks  
(Continued on next page)

as our newly elected representative for the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, but he has yet to take a position on the Wild Olympics legislation.

OPAS supports reintroduction of this carefully crafted legislation, which represents four years of work by Congressional staff and local stakeholders to come to a balanced proposal that does not impact jobs. We ask OPAS members to consider offering your support to the bill by contacting Senator Murray and Representative Kilmer. Representative Derek Kilmer can be contacted at (360) 373-9725 (Bremerton) or <https://kilmer.house.gov/contact/email-me>. Senator Murray can be contacted at (866) 481-9186 (Toll Free) or <http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>.

## Bird Sightings

by Denny AFMJ Van Horn

January was gray with heavy winds but not much rain. February hasn't been much better. The up-side of this has been above normal temperatures and the birds seem to have responded in kind. We've had some interesting rarities; some early arrivals; and a lot of courting going on with Anna's hummingbird already on nests with eggs in several locales.



*Ryan Merrill 2013*  
Long-eared Owl

**Clallam County Code 5 Birds** - Possibly the most serendipitous sighting in years was Ryan Merrill's Long-eared owl found at dusk at the corner of Lotzgesell and Kitchen-Dick on Jan. 28. Briefly and paraphrased, the story goes like this: "we drove up to the corner about 5:30pm, got out, an owl flew over us, landed in a tree, and I took it's picture!" The owl has been seen by several others since, but it's an elusive sighting at best. The second unique sighting were two Kumlien's Iceland Gulls at La Push [Jan. 29, R. Merrill]. A difficult gull to identify, Ryan's party found and photographed both a 1st cycle and 2nd cycle gull as they perched along the breakwater in the harbor. The Gibson Spit Burrowing Owl was seen fairly consistently until mid-January when it seemed to disappear. On Feb. 21, it was seen again by Glen Goshen and has been observed several times since. The Thick-billed Murre, first found on the Port Angeles CBC, Dec. 30, continues to be seen by many people. The Dungeness Black-crowned Night Herons continue to use their day roost. Again, the uniqueness of this occurrence is the fact that there is an adult and a juvenile at the roost. At Neah Bay, Charlie Wright found a female Cassin's Finch in the Soos River beach area. This is a very noteworthy sighting for both it's occurrence and the date.

**Waterfowl** - A small flock of White-fronted geese continue using areas along Schmuck road [B. Paige]. Along with the White-fronts and, often seen flying with them or Cackling geese, is a Snow goose. The goose was first noted by Bob Iddins on Jan 16. Our local flocks of swans are moving around. It seems they've devoured Nash's carrots; have fed on corn debris in fields off Lamar, and continue to nibble the grass-fields off Schmuck road. Tundra swans have always been the rare swan in the area, however on Jan 19, 17 adults and three juveniles were found near the vegetable patch on Schmuck road by Greg and Mary McDonald. The swans seem to be using three water-roost sites: a hidden pond west of Schmuck road, the bay off the mouth of Dungeness river; and Les Jones' ponds off 3 Crabs. High numbers of swans coming in at dusk included 112 to the Dungeness river on Jan. 19; 118 into Les Jones' on Jan. 27; with a high count on Feb. 1  
(Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

of 128 Trumpeters and seven Tundra. The oddest sighting of a Trumpeter swan was at Sandy Point on the coast in the Olympic NP on Feb. 17 [Randall Martin].

Ducks! The usual suspects are hanging out in their usual places. The unusual ones include Ruddy duck [x2] seen on Kitchen-Dick ponds [Jan 1] and three at Neah Bay [Jan 27, R. Merrill]. Bruce Paige found two female and a male Wood duck at the Fish Hatchery, Neah Bay. On Feb 11, three Canvasback were found on Dungeness Bay. They were among a flock of Scaup and stood out by their characteristic shape.

**Loons to Herons & Rails** - Several sightings of Yellow-billed loon have been noted. On Jan. 4, one was seen south of John Wayne Marina; on Jan. 6 a second was found off Gibson Spit [R. Merrill]. In Neah Bay off the north Jetty in the Strait another was observed [Jan. 27, R. Merrill]. A Clark's grebe was seen off Gardiner Beach on Jan. 16 [observer unknown]. Pied-billed grebes have shown up in several locations, but the most unusual sighting were two birds seen on salt-water north of JW Marina [Jan. 21, M.

Barry]. Several reports have been posted of shearwaters off Cape Flattery [Jan. 13 & 18] between the cape and Tatoosh Is. At this time of year, these were probably Sooty shearwaters [unkwn obsvr]. Tonia Signor reports a Green heron seen along Backtrack road, Neah Bay [Feb. 23]. A Sora was heard late evening at the 3 Crabs marshes [Jan. 1].



1st Cycle Kumlien's Gull



Thick-billed Murre

**Raptors & Owls** - Turkey vultures have shown up! A single bird was seen soaring over the Dungeness River near Nash's carrot fields [Feb. 8, M. Barry & B. Paige]. A very early date for this bird. Another was seen over PA by V. Lucas and D. Gatchet [Feb. 21]. Scott Gremel reported a single vulture over PA [Feb. 27]. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks continue to snack at our feeders. But what is unusual is the high number of accipiters compared to past winters. Is this a facet of the mild weather we've experienced? On Feb. 19 a single Rough-legged Hawk was seen late afternoon hunting the fields along Schmuck road. Bald Eagles are courting and beginning to repair, add to, or start new nests from Neah Bay to Diamond Point. Merlins, both light and dark phases, have been reported by several observers. All three Peregrine Falcon subspecies [Peale's, Anatum, & Tundra] have also been reported. Kestrels, not a common winter falcon here, have been seen along Old Olympic [M.

Barry], along Evans road [Terry Martin], and Hogback road [Dow Lambert]. Lastly, a possible Gyrfalcon was observed on Jan. 25 as it flew a long, powerful flight east to west over the 3 Crabs marshes. Field notes were taken; the jury is still out.

Snowy owls continue in at least five locations: 3 Crabs area, Graveyard Spit, Bell Hill [Jim Gift], Schmuck road [Andy Stepniewski], and Wa'atch Valley. Great-horned owls are on nests. A Western screech owl was (Continued on next page)

heard in Gardiner [Feb. 21]. A Northern Pygmy owl was calling in Tonia Signor's yard in Clallam Bay [Jan. 4].

On Feb. 21 late in the evening, the Long-eared owl was seen interacting with a Short-eared owl at Dungeness Rec Area. This observation, along with a Snowy owl seen earlier in the afternoon along 3 Crabs, set up a 24-hour owl chase. The results of that endeavor are as follows: Snowy, Long-eared, Short-eared, followed by Barred Owl along Ward road; then Barn Owl along Towne road; Great-horned Owl calling in Dungeness; a Western Screech Owl was called out around 9pm along Holland road; a Northern Saw-whet Owl on Woods road finally answered at 10pm; at dawn two Northern Pygmy Owls responded to calling along Palo Alto road; and lastly, the Burrowing Owl was found at it's burrow at dawn. Ten owls in 24 hours!

**Gulls, Shorebirds, & Alcids** - Besides the Iceland Gull already noted, other gulls of interest include Thayer's, Herring, Ring-billed, and Glaucous Gulls at the mouth of the Elwha River. A single 1st cycle Glaucous Gull was found foraging along with many pink-legged gulls at Woodcock and Evans road; another 1st cycle Glaucous Gull was seen in La Push along the harbor [Jan. 29, R. Merrill]. Also seen that day in La Push was a Glaucous x Glaucous-winged Gull along with a single Black-legged Kittiwake. In Neah Bay 21 Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed [Jan. 27, R. Merrill]. Several Bonaparte's Gulls were reported off Cline's Spit by Emma Ruggiero [Feb. 17]. Off shore from Jamestown, a Jaeger [Parasitic?] was seen harassing gulls [Feb. 17].



*Female Bullock's Oriole*  
Photo by Gracie Lambert

Shorebird sightings, besides the usual Dunlin [x3,000], Sanderling [x150], and Black-bellied Plover [x200] include a Red Knot found on Cline's Spit [Jan. 1]. Marbled Godwits [x6] were reported by Andy Stepniewski at Dungeness Landing [Feb 17]. A Least Sandpiper and several Western Sandpipers were seen at low tide at 3 Crabs [Feb 2]. A Rock Sandpiper was observed by many as it foraged with Black Turnstones, and a Ruddy Turnstone on Ediz Hook [Jan. 6]. A Surfbird was reported from PA harbor [Jan. 26]. Surfbirds were also found in good numbers in Neah Bay at Soos River [Jan. 27, R. Merrill]. Semi-palmated Plovers were found in La Push on Jan. 29 [x1] and Dungeness Landing on Feb. 1 [x1].

**And all the other birds** - The early-occurrence of a female Bullock's Oriole has intrigued many who've seen her at the Lambert's feeders. Several other early arrivals include an Orange-crowned Warbler at Port Williams [Jan. 7] and another at the Lambert's feeder [Feb. 17]. A lone unidentified swallow was seen flying over the 3 Crabs marshes moving west to east [Jan. 20]. A 'Yellow-shafted Flicker' was at Michael Barry's feeders [Feb. 22]. Townsend's Warblers have been seen in Dungeness [Jan. 4] and at the paper mill on Ediz Hook [Jan. 6]. Swamp Sparrows have shown up from Neah Bay [Feb. 15, B. Paige] to Kitchen-Dick ponds [Feb. 15., M. Barry]. Another was found [Feb. 21] at the 3 Crabs marshes. White-throated Sparrows have been seen in Clallam Bay [Jan. 9, T. Signor], Jamestown [V. Lucas, Feb. 18], another in Dungeness [Feb. 21]. Common Redpolls haunted the alders in Dungeness from mid-January through mid-February. And lastly, two Snow Buntings were found on Graveyard Spit on Jan. 11.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dungeness Spring Fling Starts May 1

by Julie Jackson

Since 2009, Dungeness Spring Fling has raised over \$80,000 to help support education programs of the Dungeness River Audubon Center and maintain Railroad Bridge Park. Won't you join our effort to raise \$25,000 in May for this worthy cause?



**>Broom Busters**, Leaders: Gretha & Doug Davis, [gretha.d@wavecable.com](mailto:gretha.d@wavecable.com). Our goal is to raise funds for the River Center by yanking out Scotch Broom along the Olympic Discovery Trail in Blyn and at White Feather Way. We plan to do a weekly BROOM BUSTING in May, and we'd love your help. We need donations of dollars and time, loan of weed wrenches, and your blessings! We're still working out the schedule so contact us for broom busting times.

**>Dirty Face Racing**, Leader: Powell Jones, [rivercenter@olympus.net](mailto:rivercenter@olympus.net). We raise environmental awareness and funds for River Center educational programs and also build a long needed rapport with environmental groups and mountain bikers. We race through the summer, and in May, we'll compete in a 24-hour Mountain Bike Race in Spokane, WA. Our name is a tribute to the Dirty Face Loop, one of our favorite mountain bike trails in Olympic National Forest. Won't you join Voyles Insurance and Mikes Bikes in pledging your support?

**>Green Gardeners**, Leader: Sue Chickman, [organicallysue@olypen.com](mailto:organicallysue@olypen.com). For every hour Sue's husband, Bob, spends gardening during May (typically four hours per day), she'll donate \$1.00 to the River Center. You can join her team by pledging an amount of your choice for Bob's gardening hours; keep track of your own gardening hours and pledge your own amount; or donate a lump sum to sponsor the Green Gardeners team. C'mon all you gardeners out there. You, too, can help!

**>Sand Dollars**, Leader: Tuttie Peetz, [trpeetz@tfon.com](mailto:trpeetz@tfon.com). I plan to sand three hours daily on a driftwood sculpture for the entire month of May – that's a LOT of sanding! Whether you start your own project or sponsor me, we'll be working for a good cause.

**>Spring Strollers**, Leader: Lyn Muench, [lynmuench@olypen.com](mailto:lynmuench@olypen.com). Lyn says, "This team is for those who do not have the time, stamina or knees for serious hiking." Just commit to walk 30 miles in 30 days – and get your family and friends to support you. Treadmill walking counts. Also, join us for a group walk, such as our walk on the Olympic Discovery Trail, Tuesday mornings at 9:30 from the River Center to Carlsborg and back. Your participation and pledges are welcome.

**>Swift Swallows**, Leaders: Dave & Julie Jackson, [juliejackson@wavecable.com](mailto:juliejackson@wavecable.com). We raise funds for the River Center while having fun birding, and so can you. Species you find anywhere in North America count including those found on the River Center's Wednesday morning bird walks.

Check the River Center web site, [www.DungenessRiverCenter.org](http://www.DungenessRiverCenter.org), for Dungeness Spring Fling details. If you can't participate, how about matching donations for one of the teams above? That's another great way to contribute.

OLYMPIC PENINSULA AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESENTS

## Three-day Wildlife Cruise to the San Juan Islands



April 7-9, 2013  
Naturalist-led  
Birdwatching,  
Island Cruising,  
Historic Sites,  
and Parks.

Cost:  
\$600 per person  
(double occupancy)

\$675 per person  
(single occupancy)

Accommodations in  
spacious waterfront  
condos with kitchen and  
living room.

Limited number of hotel  
rooms available for the  
physically challenged.

Final payment due  
March 15, 2013



- 3 days/ 2 nights roundtrip cruise from Sequim, WA, aboard the M/V Glacier Spirit.
- Small-ship cruising through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago and Deception Pass.
- Personal ship-board naturalist providing in-depth information about birds, whales, porpoises, history, and the islands.
- Overnight accommodations at historic Roche Harbor Resort and bus tour to San Juan Island National Historical Park.
- Costs include: Sea and land travel, lunches onboard, shore-excursion, lodging and breakfasts at Roche Harbor Resort.

Reservations: Call 360-681-4076, or visit [www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon](http://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon) for more information.

Proceeds from this trip help support the education programs of the Dungeness River Audubon Center

OPAS reserves the right to cancel the trip and refund payments in the unlikely event of low registration. Photos by Bob Boeckelheide, Hal Everett, and Michael Packer

### “Sequim to the San Juan Islands Cruise” April 7-9, 2013

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day cruise through the San Juan Archipelago. The dates are April 7-9, 2013. We will depart from John Wayne Marina aboard the MV Glacier Spirit (a 65-foot motor yacht, well known from our many cruises around Protection Island), and cruise to Roche Harbor Resort for the first night, touring various sites on San Juan Island for either birding or sightseeing. We will cruise onward for a mid-day visit to the state park Sucia Island for a walk-about and picnic lunch, returning to Roche Harbor Resort on San Juan Island for the second night. Finally, we will cruise back home again to John Wayne Marina by way of spectacular Deception Pass, pausing for a close look at Smith Island for birds and sea mammals. Reservations on our web site ([www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon](http://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon)). For additional info, contact 360-681-4076.

### Choose a Realtor Who Shares Your Conservation Values

I'll make a \$300 contribution to OPAS in your name for every commission I earn that results from OPAS members selecting me as their realtor, or referring me to friends or acquaintances who select me as their realtor. I want to share my success with OPAS! Just give me a call!

## Thomas E. Montgomery

The Sequim Realtor with a Background of Distinction

BANKING – LAW – COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP – OPAS BOARD MEMBER

Office Phone: (360) 683-4131 - E-mail: [thomasm@johnlscott.com](mailto:thomasm@johnlscott.com)



**John L. Scott**  
REAL ESTATE

# McComb Gardens

751 McComb Road Sequim, WA 98382 360-681-2827

[www.McCombGardens.com](http://www.McCombGardens.com)

*Our Gardens are Bird Friendly!*

Wild Birds Unlimited

\*\*Limit 1 Coupon per Household per Newsletter\*\*



**BRING IN ORIGINAL ADD FOR \$5.00 OFF NON SALE PURCHASE OVER \$25.00**

THE FRESHEST SEED AVAILABLE

BIRD FEEDERS

NATURE GIFTS



**YOUR BACKYARD BIRDFEEDING SPECIALIST!**

275953 Hwy 101, Gardiner WA 98382 [www.gardiner.wbu.com](http://www.gardiner.wbu.com)  
360-797-7100 Open Daily 9AM to 5PM. Summer Hours till 6PM

# Harlequin Happenings

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society  
P O Box 502  
Sequim WA 98382-0502

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Sequim, WA  
Permit No. 23



## Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

P.O. Box 502  
Sequim, WA 98382

NAS Code Y08

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Join OPAS and "Bird with Us".

**Local OPAS Membership**, includes subscription to the *Harlequin Happenings* bi-monthly newsletter

\_\_\_ **Annual Membership (\$20.00)**

\_\_\_ **3 Year Membership (\$50.00, saves \$10.00)**

\_\_\_ **6 Year Membership (\$90.00, saves \$30)**

\_\_\_ **Lifetime Membership (\$250.00)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Harlequin Happenings Newsletter: Check delivery type desired:  e-mail notification  Send printed copy

**Payment Options:** 1. **Credit Card** Master Card or Visa Payment,

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. **For Checks:** Make payable to OPAS and mail with this form to address above

*OPAS is a Internal Revenue Service Section 501(c)(3) organization(membership gifts are tax deductible)*

---

**For OFFICE USE ONLY** Process Date \_\_\_\_\_ Record ID \_\_\_\_\_ Forms Note ID \_\_\_\_\_