



Harlequin Happenings

Newsletter of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org (www.olybird.org)

Clallam County, Washington

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Issue 6 Nov-Dec 2013

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



OPAS Program for November

by Bob Boekelheide and Ken Wiersema

November Membership Meeting

Speaker: Jennifer Brown-Scott USFWS



November 20, 7:00 pm at The Dungeness River Audubon Center

Jennifer Brown-Scott, the newly appointed Manager of the Washington Maritime National Refuge Complex, will discuss the recently approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge. She will outline how the CCP's objectives are adopted, and how they will be implemented together with continuing programs and new projects.

Jennifer has been settling her family near Sequim over this past summer, having moved here from being the Refuge Manager at Deer Flat NWR in Idaho. She is a native of western Massachusetts and is a '99 graduate of U Mass in Biology and Communications. However, she is not new to WA, as she worked at Ridgefield NWR from 2003 to 2010.

Please join us in welcoming Jennifer to our community. The most visited of the complex of USFW Refuges she manages is our local Dungeness Refuge, where many of our members volunteer. Her talk will also outline plans and projects being considered for the Dawley property on the SW shoreline of Sequim Bay, which is part of the local USFWS holdings.



Jennifer Brown-Scott USFWS
Manager, Washington Maritime
National Refuge Complex

Reminder: There is no December membership meeting.

Special Events November and December

- >Holiday Nature Mart, Friday and Saturday, November 15 & 16, DRAC
- >Raptor Class, DRAC, Saturday, November 23, 9:30 a.m. Call 681-4076 to register.
- >OPAS pre-count local birding, Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.
- >Backyard Birder program, Saturday, December 7,
- >Sequim-Dungeness CBC, Monday, December 16
- >Port Angeles CBC, Saturday, December 28

Encourage your neighbors, friends, and family to participate in these holiday events.

OPAS Board of Directors

Officers:

President, Jim Gift, 681-2989
jgift@q.com

Co-V-Pres , Bob Boekelheide,
681-4867, bboek@olympus.net;

Ken Wiersema, 683-4763
wiersema@olympus.net

Treasurer, Nancy Bargar, 775-7667
nbargar@wildblue.net

Secretary, Deborah Ritter,
504-2398, debbier@eclipse.net

Board-at-Large:

Kendra Donelson
683-7793, kendrad@q.com

Powell Jones, 681-4076
rivercenter@olympus.net

Committees:

Bird Sightings, Bird Counts,
Bob Boekelheide, 681-4867
bboek@olympus.net

Conservation Co-Chairs, Mary
Porter-Solberg, 683-8072,
hikerhut@qwest.net

Bob Phreaner,
blueball431@gmail.com

Education, Shirley Anderson,
681-3950,
sanderson22@olympen.com

Membership, Audrey Gift 681-2989
agift@q.com

Field Trips, Bob Iddins, 681-2840
riddins@olympen.com

Hospitality, Clare Hatler, 683-6967
donclare@olympen.com

Newsletter, Bob Hutchison,
683-7265
rbrycehut@wavecable.com

Publicity, Sara-Ellen Peterson,
681-6325
saraellen.mn@gmail.com

Webmaster, Selmarie Stacy,
504-2872,
stacys72@hotmail.com

Web Support, Dan Stahler,
504-2414, dan_stahler@yahoo.com

President's Message

by Jim Gift

OPAS celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a great program on the 18th of September.

Many current and former members attended. Ken Wiersema presented an illustrated history of the Chapter with many great pictures from the past. We also had an excellent presentation on shore birds by Dennis Paulson.

Our new website built by Grace Lambert is up and running. Grace is training Selmarie Stacy, our new webmaster, and Dan Stahler her backup, on how to add new material to the website. OPAS has had many positive comments from other chapters whose members have viewed our new site. Everyone likes all the bird pictures.

OPAS had a great meeting on the 16th of October which included bird photos from many of our members. We have a number of excellent bird photographers in the chapter. What I would like to see is more individual's bird pictures included in our website.

Enjoy our fall bird migration. Keep birding and get ready for the OPAS Christmas Bird Count on Monday, December 16th.



Christmas bird counts are coming!

by Bob Boekelheide

Attention! The annual Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count (SDCBC) will take place this year on Monday, Dec. 16, and the Port Angeles Christmas Bird Count (PACBC) will be on Saturday, Dec. 28.

We need your help! Regardless of your birding experience, you can join one of our stalwart groups to cover a special section of a Christmas Bird Count circle. Even if you can only count birds at your feeder or stroll around your neighborhood for an hour or two (assuming you live in a count circle), you can help out. Everyone must also keep close track of our times and mileages, to make comparisons with other counts and other years. Contact a CBC compiler (info below) if you're interested.

Christmas counts cover a 15-mile diameter circle. The center of the SDCBC circle is near the intersection of Brown and Port Williams Roads, so the circle includes Dungeness Spit to the foothills south of Sequim, and from Diamond Point to MacDonald Creek. The PACBC center is in the Olympic foothills south of Port Angeles, so it includes Port Angeles Harbor, several miles of the Elwha River on the west to Morse Creek on the east, and all the way up to Hurricane Ridge, a huge elevation range for any CBC. Technically, CBCs take place from midnight to midnight on the appointed day, so you're welcome to get up before dawn or stay up late to listen for owls as well.

To learn the ropes, join us for the pre-CBC warm-up field trip on Sat., Dec 7, starting at 9 a.m. at Railroad Bridge Park, then continuing at 12 Noon at Dungeness Landing Park. To prepare, please join bird walks at the River Center on Wednesday mornings and participate in OPAS field trips, in addition to going birding on your own as much as possible this fall. *(Continued on next page)*

Last year, the PACBC tallied its all-time record number of species at 127, and the SDCBC tallied 143 species, the highest number of species recorded in WA State. With your help, we hope this year turns out to be equally or more productive. You can check results for past CBCs and read more info by going to the National Audubon website: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

If you are interested in participating in the SDCBC, please call Bob Boekelheide at 360-681-4867 or email bboek@olympus.net. To sign up for the PACBC, call Barb Blackie at 360-477-8028 or email blackieb@olympus.com. And be sure to join us for the grand, famous, post-count, semi-potluck chili feed at the River Center, starting at about 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 16th!

OPAS Field Trips in November and December

by Bob Iddins

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.



Birding for Beginners & Newcomers II

Date & Time: Saturday, November 9, 2013, 9:30 a.m. - noon

Fee: Free

Leader: Dave Jackson

Features: For beginning birders or residents new to the area. Meet some of our local birds; become familiar with birding techniques.

Meeting place: Carrie Blake Park (9:30 a.m.). Meet at small pond next to main entrance.

Bring: Binoculars, bird book, scope if you have any of these. A few loaner binoculars will be available.

Pre-registration and further information: Dave Jackson 360-683-1355 (H); 360-477-1358 (C); email: djackson@wavecable.com. Limit 16 people.

Local Bays and Shores

Date & Time: Saturday, November 30, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

Fee: Free

Features: Enjoy our many regular species of wintering seabirds while looking for rare visitors.

Leader: Denny Van Horn

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

Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park (Oyster House)

Further information: Denny Van Horn 360-390-8128, dennyvanhorn@gmail.com

Christmas Bird Count Tuneup

Date & Time: Saturday, December 7, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - ?

Fee: Free

Leader: Bob Boekelheide

Meeting places: 9:00 a.m. at Railroad Bridge Park and noon at Dungeness Landing County Park.

Features: Get prepared for the annual Christmas Bird Count (Monday, December 16, 2013) and go birding with the expert!

Bring: Optics, field guide, water, snacks and appropriate clothing.

Further Information: Bob Boekelheide 360-681-4867 or bboek@olympus.net



Conservation Matters - WSACC/ACOW Report

by Mary Porter-Solberg



The Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC) met October 4th in Bellevue, Washington. Projects linked to the National Pacific Flyway were shared with the chapters, including the Puget Sound Seabird Survey, which has been expanded to include OPAS and Whidbey Audubon. Eastern Washington chapters are monitoring various aspects of Greater Sage-Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse and obligate song bird habitats and populations.

Two new resolutions were passed:

1. Support for proposed Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plan changes based on Spokane Audubon's field experiences and peer-reviewed science to increase long-term Greater Sage Grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse viability that also benefits the eco-system.
2. Support for science-based Marbled Murrelet conservation planning, policies and strategies.

A summary of 2013 legislative outcomes was presented, as well as proposed 2014 priorities currently being considered by the Environmental Priority Coalition (EPC)

members. Audubon Washington is a member of the Environmental Priorities Coalition, a network of over 20 leading environmental groups in Washington State that influence policy at the state level.

On October 5th, representatives from 21 of Washington Audubon's 25 chapters attended the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) for an interesting day of speakers and workshops.

Kathy Dale, National Audubon Society's (NAS) Director of Citizen Science, began with an overview of NAS Citizen Science Programs and showed some inspiring videos of network involvement: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), and the newest NAS Citizen Science program in 16 years, Hummingbirds at Home (H@H).

Kathy spoke about the value of the data collected through these citizen science programs and how it is being used by federal and state government agencies, local organizations, university researchers, and writers to compose documents like the State of the Birds Report, discuss changes in bird populations, and identify species of conservation concern.

Kathy also introduced National Audubon's forthcoming Climate Change Model. Unique to Audubon, this powerful new tool uses over 100 years of CBC data and historic climate data to project the future range of
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birds under three emissions scenarios and time frames. The model will allow us to predict where habitat will remain stable, and where we can manage to help birds survive imminent climate change threats – the greatest limiting factor for bird populations today.

Dr. Trina Bayard, Audubon Washington’s Director of Bird Conservation, introduced an emerging Coastal Stewardship initiative focused on marine birds and habitats. As part of the Pacific Flyway Marine Birds Campaign, this program focuses on improving forage fish/food supplies for coastal bird species through fisheries management, spawning ground protection and restoration, and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Key potential outcomes of the Marine Birds Initiative in Washington include:

- >Maintain sufficient levels of forage fish prey that will support the needs of birds and other predators;
- >Maximize protection afforded under Marine Protected Areas (MPAs);
- >Establish a strong and aligned voice for birds in a region focused on fish; and
- >Engage new audiences to appreciate and enjoy marine bird life and the sense of being connected to a larger, flyway concept.

Eastside Audubon graciously hosted both the WSACC and the ACOW events and we extend our thanks and appreciation for providing outstanding facilities for our meetings.

Education Committee

by Shirley Anderson



Backyard Birding Series

Backyard Birding is a series of eight classes intended for people who are interested in knowing more about birds seen locally throughout the year. Classes are held on Saturdays from 10-12 at the Dungeness River Audubon Center in Railroad Bridge Park on Hendrickson Road, Sequim. The cost of each class is \$5, but is free to anyone under 18. After the completion of any five classes, a participant is offered free membership in OPAS for one year.

The first class of the series was held on Saturday, October 5th. Bob Iddins and Ken Leuthold described varieties of binoculars and bird field guides with 23 participants from the community. Use of several birding websites and methods of keeping annual records were also discussed.

Christie Lassen of Wild Birds Unlimited presented “**Winter Bird Feeding and Care**”, the November 2 program for the series. Her presentation covered general bird feeding, including types of feeders and different feeds for attracting specific birds, with an emphasis on our over-wintering species. She included specific ideas for providing continuing winter water supplies, and meeting the needs of the Anna’s Hummingbird which has started staying here throughout the year. She addressed specific questions from participants.

“**Birds - The Inside Story**”, third in the series of Backyard Birding classes will be from 10 am to noon on Saturday, December 7, at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park. Shirley Anderson and Ken Wiersema will illustrate and lead a discussion about the unique anatomy, physiology and behaviors of birds. The following table presents the full series for 2013-2014:

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
Oct 5	“What Bird is That?!?”	Bob Iddins and Denny Van Horn
Nov 2	“Winter Bird Feeding and Care”	Christie Lassen
Dec 7	“Birds: The Inside Story”	Shirley Anderson and Ken Wiersema
Feb 1	“Bird Nesting”	Ken Wiersema
March 1	“Spring Gardening for Birds”	Enid and Bob Phreaner
April 12	“Bird Migration”	Bill Parker and Terry Martin
May 3	“Enjoying Spring Sounds”	Dow Lambert and Ken Wiersema
June 7	“Out of the Nest”	Ken Wiersema

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Other Education Committee News – School Education Program

The presentation of native birds will begin near the end of October with hawks and owls at Greywolf School. Each second grader will feel the difference between the feathers of daytime and nighttime hunters, as well as learn unique adaptations of native raptors.

HELP WANTED!! EDUCATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Special attention is needed for two community events coming in the spring of 2014. OPAS offers cash prizes for:

1. Bird Art in The Student Art Show sponsored by Sequim Arts.
2. A short Environmental Video sponsored by the Sequim Education Foundation at a "Film Festival" in April.

OPAS members are invited to select the winners of each of these contests. The Co-Chair of the OPAS Education Committee would oversee the community education events, and Shirley Anderson will continue to oversee the school education programs. Please let either Jim Gift or Shirley Anderson know if you would like to co-chair the OPAS Education Committee.



OPAS 40th Anniversary Celebration

by Lorette Flanders, 40th Committee Chair

This year OPAS reached a significant milestone, the beginning of its fourth decade as a chartered chapter of Audubon. To mark the occasion, our September 18 general meeting was a celebration of accomplishments, recognition of, and thank you to the many members who contributed to these achievements over the years. Judging by comments during and after the event, such as “I don’t like attending a meeting with so many people, but this was different,” and by the audience’s reaction to those on the program, including a standing ovation for the featured speaker, the attendees really enjoyed and appreciated this once in forty years “bash.” A few memories of the event are collected below.

Following the opening social with catered appetizers, OPAS president, Jim Gift, got the one hundred plus attendees settled down, gave a program overview and introduced Annette Nesse, Chief Operations Officer, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. Annette welcomed us to the Tribal Center and spoke to the long-standing relationship between the Tribe and OPAS. Next on the program was Ken Wiersema, longtime member, leader, and “unofficial” historian of OPAS. With photos, words, humor, and brevity, he gave an overview of some accomplishments (e.g., 37 years of Christmas Bird Counts, Homer Frazier Internship for local high school students, Dungeness River Audubon Center partner, annual Olympic Bird Fests since 2004) and a tribute to the people of OPAS.

Ken pointed out that over the years, many members have been willing to serve in leadership positions, with twenty-three individuals having served as president, and another fifty plus folks as other chapter officers or as committee chairs. In Ken’s presentation and the one to follow, the HD projector used had just arrived and is OPAS’s latest gift to the Dungeness River Audubon Center. He also used it to demonstrate the capabilities of the new OPAS website.

Bob Boekelheide then introduced our very special guest speaker, Dennis Paulson, a nationally recognized biologist and naturalist with special interests in shorebirds and dragonflies and damselflies. Dennis’ presentation, “Birds of the Wind—The Lives of Shorebirds,” spoke to their long and complicated migrations, their great flocks, their fascinating feeding adaptations and nesting biology, and their crying need for good conservation strategies. Dennis illustrated his key points with photos he had taken, many of which were
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stunning. His presentation provided an educational, as well as an enjoyable experience for birders of all levels in the audience, and was a fitting conclusion to the celebration.

The OPAS 40th Committee (Audrey Gift, Sara Ellen Peterson, Karen Parker, and I) wish to extend a special thanks to the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe for providing their Red Cedar Room, complete with setup/takedown of tables and chairs by their staff. We're also grateful that the online Brown Paper Tickets site permits no cost use of their system for event registration. The OPAS website was used to publicize the event and as a link to registration on brown paper tickets, about 85 percent of the 110 "tickets" were taken prior to the great publicity OPAS received in articles in the *Peninsula Daily News* and the *Sequim Gazette* in September.



Legacy Circle Inaugural Meeting

by Sue Chickman & Julie Jackson



The Dungeness River Audubon Center established a Legacy Circle this year to help ensure the sustainability of the Center and Railroad Bridge Park. The Legacy Circle provides a way for people, who are deeply interested in the long-term success of the Center and Park, to pledge (in a non-binding way) gifts that will support the Center and Park in the future.

Legacy Circle members will receive an invitation to periodic special events, recognition (with permission), and perhaps most importantly, the satisfaction that comes from knowing they are making a lasting contribution. Membership in the Legacy Circle is open to individuals who have included, or intend to include, the Center in their financial and/or estate plans, such as through their wills or other planned giving vehicles. There are no fees or obligations.

Since the Center and Park are not supported by local or state taxes, donations help keep these community treasures open to visitors, and legacy gifts to the endowment, established in 2006, help ensure their long-term financial stability. "Our mission is to inspire understanding, enjoyment and stewardship of the Olympic Peninsula's unique natural and cultural resources with emphasis on birds, rivers, fish, and people," says Director Powell Jones, "and we want future generations to enjoy the Center and Park as we do today."

When the nature and interpretive Center opened in 2001, it was the first Audubon Center in Washington, and the first in the United States with Native American partnership. The nonprofit River Center operates in partnership with the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

The Dungeness River Audubon Center and OPAS are each nonprofit, 501 (c) 3, membership organizations, and many people belong to both. The Center continues to support the founding principles of an Audubon Center and remains an affiliated center within National Audubon network, eligible to compete for program supporting grant funding and to use the Audubon name.

If you would like to attend the first gathering of the newly established Legacy Circle on November 10th or wish to learn more about it, please contact Julie Jackson, juliejackson@wavecable.com or (360) 683-1355.

Bird Sightings for September and October

by Denny AFMJ Van Horn

Do The Dance!! Why? Well, we added not one, but TWO County Firsts in this reporting period. On Monday morning [9.02], I was down at 3 Crabs checking on what was there, and just off the riff-raff was a small flock of Short-billed Dowitchers and a godwit that was just different. Not Marbled. Not Bar tailed. I watched. Then, startled, they all flushed and I saw the white rump band: Hudsonian Godwit! Needless to say, The Dance was danced.



Painted Bunting
Photo by John Isacoff

And then phone calls were made. The 2nd newbie was found out in Neah Bay [9.27]. Dan & Brad Waggoner, Ryan Shaw, and John Isacoff came across a bunch of juncos with a strange bunting amongst them. It was first thought to be an Indigo, but after others examined photos, it was ID'd as a Painted bunting. I know these four didn't do The Dance, but I know they were thrilled. Unlike the "Hudwit", which stayed in the area for weeks, the bunting was seen only that one moment in time.

These two were exhilarating, yes! But they weren't the only code 5s that have decorated our county this fall. A Northern Mockingbird was found by Bill Parker in Jamestown [9.03]. A third sighting for the year of a Bar-tailed Godwit at 3 Crabs happened three days later [9.06]. The godwit offered up
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an opportunistic hat-trick a day later when three godwits [Marbled, Hudsonian, & Bar-tailed] were seen together on the tide flats off 3 Crabs.

On the outer Oregon and Washington coasts, Elegant Terns have been moving north. In late July several were seen in Neah Bay. Then on Sept 7, east of Dungeness Landing, sitting amongst gulls and a few Caspian Terns hunkered along the shore, two Elegant Terns were found. The birds stayed in the area for several days. Next came an Upland Sandpiper flying high in the dense fog over Hobuck beach [9.13]. Recognizing the bird's call, a parabolic reflector and recorder were used for a 55 second recording. A day later, a second Upland Sandpiper was heard by Scott Atkinson as the bird flew, again, high in the fog over the Wa'atch valley. This delight was followed by Nigel Ball's Buff-breasted Sandpiper he found on Hobuck beach [9.14]. The last Buffy for the county was Bob Norton's down at Blyn in '96. Then topping that sighting was Dow Lambert practically stepping on another Buff-breasted Sandpiper while wandering along Dungeness Spit [9.16]. This Buffy stayed on the Spit for another day, then was seen west of 3 Crabs, then last seen on the Spit [9.19]. And if that wasn't enough excitement for one day, a Ruff was found on the 3 Crabs tide flats mixing it up with plovers and peeps. This was a sweet sighting, as the bird hung in the area long enough to give Bob Boekelheide the opportunity to relocate it with Dennis Paulson and Netta Smith the morning after Dr. Paulson's keynote address at the OPAS 40th year celebration. The next interloper of significance was a Gray Catbird [9.26] found by Jay Love as the bird worked its way through brush and brambles at the Storm King Ranger Station on Lake Crescent.



Hudsonian Godwit
Photo by Jackie OneTree



American Avocet
Photo by Jen Kunitsugu

The next feathered wonder was probably the same bird seen over in Jefferson county a week before, and two weeks before that in Kitsap county: an American Avocet! Jen Kunitsugu, visiting our area from across the pond, was at 3 Crabs when she found this basic plumed male standing along the shore just over the rocks at the end of the road. She said it flushed, flew out and landed in amongst American Wigeons. This bird hung in the area for almost a week giving many good looks and opportunities to photograph. But wait, the rush of rarities wasn't even close to being over. Next came a Lark Sparrow followed by a Rock Wren found on the same day [10.06]. Where? Neah Bay again. Who? Ryan Shaw and Dan Waggoner, again. The Lark Sparrow was found along the Tsoo-Yess river road across from Makah beach. The Rock Wren was, quite appropriately, found at the rock quarry behind the sewage treatment plant. The sparrow wasn't

relocated, but the Rock Wren is still at the quarry as of Oct 28. The Red-shouldered Hawk out in the Wa'atch Valley was last seen on October 4. Are we done yet? Nope. A Lewis' Woodpecker was found in Jamestown by Scott Atkinson [9.12]; he also had a Bobolink near the Long Hedge on Schmuck road [9.12]. Steve Pink heard a Scrub jay in Forks [10.13], but never saw the bird. Then on Oct 18th, a Scrub jay showed up in Dungeness; this jay is still visiting several feeders in the area. Keeping this incredible tally of code 5s going was a Tropical Kingbird seen by Fanter and Ken Lane out at Hobuck CG in Neah Bay [10.20]. And there's still more. An apparent 1st year Vega Herring gull was found at 3 Crabs by Waggoner, Wright, Merrill, and Shaw on 10.26. And lastly, out on Hobuck Beach, Neah Bay the next day, these four found a Kumlien's Iceland Gull at the mouth of the Wa'atch river. A spectacular gull.

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Harlequin Happenings



Western Scrub Jay
Photo by Jackie OneTree

The code 4s have also put in a good appearance. On Sept 6, a Franklin's Gull was found west of 3 Crabs amongst the hundreds of California gulls. Flushed repeatedly by eagles flying overhead, the gull was not relocated, partly due to the dense fog that persisted for several days. Then Palm Warblers showed up. Scott Atkinson found



Kumlien's Iceland Gull
Photo by Ryan Shaw

one out at Neah Bay [9.14]; Brad Waggoner found one in Jamestown [9.18]; another was found in the woods near the Makah Mini Mart [10.06] by Waggoner and Shaw; another was found in shrubs at Tsoo-Yess estuary [10.08]; and Bruce Paige tallied another along the Tsoo-Yess river road [10.10]. A single American Golden Plover was seen on Cline's Islet [10.05] by Wagoner and Shaw as they passed through Dungeness on their way to Neah Bay and their other finds there a day later. Snow Geese made their appearance spectacularly when six dropped into the Schmuck Triangle Pond with thousands of White-fronted and Cackling Geese [10.07]. But the exciting tally of Snow Geese came from Bruce Paige, while he watched two flocks [x25, x65] just minutes apart, flying N to S along Hobuck beach. These are probably the largest flocks documented for the county. A juvy Stilt Sandpiper put in a one afternoon appearance in the marshes south of 3 Crabs [10.18]. And lastly, over on Towne road at the Delta Farm and the Creamery, Yellow-headed Blackbirds – a male and female – were found mixed in with about 2,000 Redwing and Brewer's Blackbirds [10.19 & 20].

Now with that being said, let's revisit our ONP Chukar that was found [7.05] by Mark Salvadelena on High Divide eight miles south of Crescent Lake – a place where no sane Chukar should be for any reason. This bird has been re-seen by several back country hikers who've reported its occurrence to both ONP and OPAS. The last sighting was Sept 18th. Are we going to get to claim and tally it as a county bird? No. That won't be allowed by the gurus who "control" the official tally sheets. Nevertheless, you have to admire this bundle of gray and black feathers for persisting for whatever reason back there in the wilds. Maybe if it's found next year – having proved itself worthy – we'll get to "tally" it to the list.

Ok, so let's take a look-see at the semi-exciting, shall we. Let's start with Lapland Longspur. This sparrow has put in appearances from Neah Bay [9.11 & 10.14], to Schmuck road [10.07 & 10.14 (Bruce Paige)] and up to Hurricane Ridge where Sue Chickman photographed a single bird [10.18]. White-throated Sparrows made their appearance in Neah Bay on Oct 6; two more – a tan stripe, and a white stripe – are coming to a feeder in Dungeness; another was found on the Dungeness Dike [10.14, Bruce Paige]. Nigel Ball found a Pomarine Jaeger off the jetty in Neah Bay [9.08], and a Parasitic Jaeger was seen off 3 Crabs by Phil Wegener [9.14]. Brown Pelicans in impressive numbers put on a display along the outer coast up into the Strait with a high of 80 seen off Neah Bay by Nigel Ball; and x45 off Rialto Beach by Mike Charest. California Gulls literally invaded the Strait! The highest one-day estimates came from La Push [2,000], Neah Bay [x5,000], Sekiu [x500], Clallam Bay [x1,200], Twin Rivers [x2,000], and Ediz Hook to Dungeness [x4,000]. Sandhill Cranes finally ceased passing over the north end of the peninsula around Oct 12 with x45 flying over Discovery Bay. Cackling and White-fronted Geese put on an rousing migration display the last
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weeks of September and early October. The highest count for Cacklers was about 5,000 in the Schmuck road area [Bruce Paige, 10.06], and some 2,500 White-fronts in the same area on Oct. 7.

The other impressive migration movement took place with warblers out in Neah Bay the last week of September and first week of October with eight species moving down the coast [& two subspecies]: Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, Myrtle, Audubon's, Yellow [a high of x36 (9.25)], Palm, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's, and Townsend's. Other movers, but really late in doing so, were Common Nighthawk [9.08], Caspian Tern [10.12], Cassin's Vireo [10.05, Judy Mallally], and Black-headed Grosbeak [10.12], With those migrating south, came those moving into our area. The first fall Trumpeter Swan award goes to Jannie Norvell, who watched three fly over from Schmuck road [10.07]. Since then swans have been seen in Neah Bay [x9, 10.27] and 3 Crabs [x2, 10.27] by Mike McClesky. The oddest movement into our area is this: Gary and Lee Bullock found three American Bittern [10.24] standing in the salt-grass in the area just south of 3 Crabs. As they watched, the bitterns rose and flew NE, dropping back into sedge and disappearing. An incredible sighting! Black-legged Kittiwakes showed up in Neah Bay on Sept 15. The first fall [9.16] Brant was found out at Seal Rocks by Michael Barry. He also found the first Rough-legged Hawk [10.24] up on Hurricane Ridge. American Wigeon showed up sometime during a night in early October, with an estimated 3,400 now on Dungeness Bay [10.14]. This number will treble by the CBC. Northern Shrikes made their appearance, also. Gary Bullock found the first near Helen's Pond [9.30]. We don't often think of Flickers as movers, but they do. There've been three sightings of Yellow-shafted Flicker in the Dungeness area. The first sighting was of a Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted on the same tree seen by Dow Lambert [10.03]. The first Short-eared Owl sighting goes to Bruce Paige [10.26] over at the DRA; with a 2nd sighting from the 3 Crabs area. And to close this all out, I leave you with this - there are two incredible mixed flocks of blackbirds in our area at present. An estimated 2,000 are hanging in the area of Delta Farm and the Creamery on Towne road; the other is at Maple View Farms at the south end of Schmuck road [~2,500]. The Delta Farm flock has already produced x3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Now someone [w/ camera] please go find and photograph a Rusty blackbird from those masses, eh? Good birding everyone!



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