

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 4 July - August 2011

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

OPAS Board of Directors

Officers:

President, Tom Montgomery,
683-8230 helgatom@olympen.com
V-Pres, Lorretta R. Flanders,
683-8717 eaglessoar@live.com
Treasurer, Nancy Bargar, 775-7667
nbargar@wildblue.net
Secretary, OPEN

Board-at-Large:

Ken Wiersema, 683-4763
wiersema@olympus.net
Ken Leuthold, 683-6368
leutholdkj@gmail.com

Committees:

Bird Sightings, Bird Counts,
Bob Boekelheide, 681-4076
rivercenter@olympus.net

Conservation, Jim Gift, 681-2989
jgift42@msn.com

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

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

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

Development, Eftin Strong,
417-3994, eftin@olympen.com

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

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

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

Website, Dave Jackson, 683-1355
djackson@wavecable.com

President's Message

by Audrey Gift



It's summer! At least that's what the calendar says. OPAS does not hold meetings over the summer, but we do have a few birding trips planned and would like to invite you to join us. One is a trip to Neah Bay; then later in July, there is our trip to Hurricane Ridge. See details of the trips on the following pages. In August we will be hosting the Washington Ornithological Society annual meeting. There will be field trips each day from August 18 through the 22nd and a banquet with speaker on Saturday evening. They have excellent leaders for their birding trips that include some of our own OPAS trip leaders. If you have never been to one of their meetings and love to bird, you might want to check out their website, <http://www.wos.org>, for more details.

Last winter, you may remember that several swans were found dead in our area. The cause of death was found to be lead poisoning. In order to track down the source, Martha Jordan, Director of the Swan Society, has organized an effort to monitor the habits of the swans this coming winter. The monitoring will begin sometime in November and continue until they leave to return to their breeding grounds in the spring. I want to encourage you to join in this effort by letting Jim Gift, our Conservation Committee co-chair, know of your interest and availability. He can be contacted at jjgift76@gmail.com.

It's hard to believe that this is my last president's message. It has been a pleasure working with all of you for the past two years. Your enthusiasm and commitment to birding and the protection of their environment has meant a great deal to me. Tom Montgomery has been elected as our next President and I look forward to working with him.

Farewell,

Audrey Gift

OPAS Officers for the Coming Year:

President - Tom Montgomery
Vice-President - Loretta Flanders
Treasurer - Nancy Bargar
Secretary - Open

OPAS Field Trips in July and August

by Bob Iddins



Neah Bay

Date & Time: Thursday, July 7, 2011, 9:00 am

Leaders: Judy Mullally & Bob Iddins

Meeting place: Washburn's Hardware Store on Hwy 112 in Neah Bay.

Cost: Field trip is free; however a Makah Nation Recreational Pass (\$10 and good for one year) is required for each vehicle. It can be purchased at Washburn's.

Features: Gulls, shorebirds and raptors. newly arrived songbirds in the forest on the walk to Cape Flattery (about 1 mile). Tatoosh Island (visible from Cape Flattery) is an important breeding spot for seabirds (Common Murres, etc.).

Bring: Optics (including scopes if available), snacks, water, lunch and appropriate clothing for all kinds of weather

Further information: Bob Iddins 360-681-2840, Cell 360-755-5945, Email- rriddins@olympen.com

Hurricane Ridge & Obstruction Point

Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Leaders: Bill Parker & Judy Mullally

Meeting place: 9:00 AM Olympic National Park Visitors' Center, Race Rd. south of Port Angeles. Plan to be out until mid afternoon.

Cost: Free (Pass or admission fee required for entry into Olympic National Park!)

Concert for the Birds

Songs from Opera, Jazz & Broadway



Saturday, July 9, 7:00 p.m.

Kathleen Wayne, Soprano

Dan Wayne, Tenor

Linda Dowdell, Pianist

Dungeness Schoolhouse

2781 Towne Road, Sequim

Tickets: \$20 - Proceeds go to the Dungeness River Audubon Center
Buy tickets at Pacific Mist Books in Sequim, Odyssey Bookshop in Port Angeles, or at the door

Features: This will be a special outing to try to avoid crowds on top of the mountain with a Tuesday outing. Usually there are not too many birds but many native flowers and butterflies. We have invited the **Washington Native Plant Society and Washington State Butterfly Association** to join us. They have listed our outing in their newsletters and websites. Idie Ulsh plans to bring some "butterfliers" from Oregon. This should be a good chance for the birders to learn some plants and butterflies and show off their birding skills. We plan on a picnic after the morning and then go to Obstruction Point in the afternoon if the road is open. Let's hope enough snow melts.

Bring: Optics; bird, wildflower & butterfly guidebooks; lunch & sunscreen. Be prepared for possible weather changes.

Further Information: Bill Parker 360-504-2391, Email- whparker@surfbirder.com

Note: There are no OPAS field trips currently scheduled for August, 2011!!

Sequim Bay State Park - Saturday Evening Summer Talks

Saturday	Name	Topic / Title
25-Jun-11	Jerry Freilich	A Walk Along the Elwha River
2-Jul-11	Clare Hatler	What Would you do if you found a mastodon in your front yard?
9-Jul-11	David Jackson	Birds of the Olympic Peninsula
16-Jul-11	Jim Gift	Water Birds
23-Jul-11	Larry Rymon	Fish Eating Birds
30-Jul-11	Robert Iddins	Birds of the Olympic Peninsula
6-Aug-11	To be announced	
13-Aug-11	To be announced	
20-Aug-11	Ken Wiersema	Swallows of the Olympic Peninsula
27-Aug-11	Bill Parker	"Moths - Jewels of the Night" (PowerPoint and bait & hunt and lure with UV light)
3-Sep-11	Carolyn Cooper	Birdwatchers Don't Wear White: Tips on how to actually spot & identify wildlife while you're here

River Center Events

Wednesday Bird Walks

Date: Every Wednesday morning

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

Meet at the River Center for a weekly walk to see and hear the birds of the lower Dungeness riparian forest. Information from these ongoing walks helps us understand the annual cycle of the birds of Railroad Bridge Park.

River Center Work Party

Dates: July 28 and August 18, 1 to 4 p.m. (contact River 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.

(Continued on next page)



Photo by Doug Schwarz

San Juan Islands October 3-5, 2011, Sequim, WA

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island State Park, and cruise home via dramatic Deception Pass.

Contact 360-681-4076, or email

rcoffice@olympus.net.

Details at:

www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org

Lavender Festival Totem Tour, Salmon Dinner, and Stories by the Bay

Date and time: Fri., July 15, 6:00 p.m.
Experience Northwest Indian stories, northwest native dinner, and culture at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's beautiful community center overlooking Sequim Bay. Visit the Tribe's totem pole carving shed, and hear Elaine Grinnell's timeless stories about animals and the S'Klallam people. Salmon dinner prepared the traditional way to highlight the evening. Call the Tribal office at (360) 681-4600, or email Anika Kessler, akessler@jamestowntribe.org, to order tickets.

Lavender Festival Bird Walk

Date and time: Sat., Jul. 16, 8:30 a.m.
Cost: Free
Features: If you're tired of crowded lavender fields, come on a relaxing bird walk through the riparian forest by the Dungeness River. Bring your binoculars and bird books to see what feathered beauties we can find. One mile, two hours.

Ecology of the Dungeness River

Dates and times: Six Thursday mornings, Jul. 14 to Aug. 25, 9 a.m. to noon.
Cost: \$50 for River Center Partners; \$75, others.
Features: The Dungeness River plunges over 7000 feet in less than 35 miles, one of the steepest rivers in North America. This six-week class investigates the geology, plant and animal communities, and how humans have changed the river during the past 150 years. First session at River Center; other sessions in the field. Class includes five field trips to locations on the river, from the estuary to the mountains.

Conservation Matters - Sequim Swan Population

by Jim Gift



A group of 50 -70 Swans over-winter in the fields North of Sequim each year. These swans are mostly Trumpeter Swans, but sometimes include a few Tundra Swans. Last year five of the swans were found dead. Washington DNR studied the dead swans and found that all died from lead poisoning. One of the concerns is: Where are they picking up the lead shot? Lead shot has been banned for waterfowl hunting since the early 1990's, but is still permitted for upland hunting. The OPAS Conservation Committee has met with Martha Jordan, Director of the Swan Society, who has submitted a grant to help cover study expenses for a monitoring program to study the Sequim swans. The Committee has told Martha that we will work with her on this program if we can get enough locals interested in the study.

The swans are here from November through March. The study proposes to monitor the swans three times
(Continued on next page)

Dungeness River Audubon Center
and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

Present:

Protection Island Puffins and Dinner Cruise



Friday, July 15 & Saturday, July 16
7 to 9 p.m.

Enjoy birding and scrumptious dinner aboard the Glacier Spirit as we circumnavigate Protection Island, home to Tufted Puffins, Rhino Auklets, and others. This trip leaves from John Wayne Marina, designed to see puffins and rhinos as they loaf by the island at dusk.

Cost: \$65 per person per trip.
Phone 681-4076 or email rivercenter@olympus.net
for information and to register for a trip.

a week with the objective of identifying in what areas they feed, and what areas are used as a night time roost. We hope to get a least a dozen people to commit to the study. There will be training so that the data can be collected in a consistent manner. Please consider participating in this study. We are looking to put together a dedicated team to conduct this study. If you are interested or have further questions, please contact Jim Gift (681-2989).

Art in the Park

Reception & Music

Friday • July 29 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Dungeness River Audubon Center • 2151 W. Hendrickson Rd. • Sequim



Come
Meet the Artists
*at the opening reception
and unwind to the
mountain blues and
country music of
Cort & Kia Armstrong.*

*Suggested \$10 donation
includes first glass of wine,
chocolate, cheese & fruit.*

Music & Wine on 7/29 only.



ART IN THE PARK

Fri, July 29 - Tues, August 2

10:00am - 4:00pm

Art Exhibit & Demonstrations

Estate Planning programs at the Dungeness River Audubon Center



By Sue Chickman

Are you one of the 55% of Americans who have put off your estate planning? Do you know what happens if you have no will? Over fifty local area residents came to the Dungeness River Audubon Center last May to find out. They attended a seminar to learn the basics of estate planning. The Center offers these free programs as a part of our outreach to the community.

We invited Alan Millet, a Sequim attorney for over 30 years, to answer questions, define basic planning documents, discuss what probate is, and provide the latest information on estate and gift taxes.

Seminar attendees filled out an evaluation form at the end of the session. Most stated that the presentation was helpful to them. More than half of the visitors wanted to be notified when the next financial planning seminar would be held (sessions are offered twice a year).

Guests told us that they would like the topic for the next session in the fall to be a detailed discussion of **trusts**. If you would like to be notified for the next session, please send a note to organicallysue@olympen.com and we'll put you on our notification list.

Opportunity To Verify Your Membership Data

The Dungeness River Audubon Center and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society are developing a new database system to help each organization improve its capability to communicate with members. We are updating the data and fixing as many errors as possible before the new system becomes operational. You now have the opportunity to verify your personal profile, which we will send to you via email. We encourage you to participate. We'll try to fix promptly any errors you report. Questions? Please contact Julie Jackson at 360-683-1355 or juliejackson@wavecable.com

Thanks to a Good ol' Rig

by Sue Chickman

What does being a former OPAS president, having an old family truck, and caring deeply about protecting the environment have in common? Legacy, you answer? OK, let's connect the dots. Can you remember when Fred Hudson reigned as OPAS president back in the 90's? He and his wife, Shirley, were strong advocates for habitat protection. They purchased wetlands in the Sequim area to preserve it as wildlife habitat. That legacy still remains.



Photo by Shirley Hudson

Their trusted Chevy truck was part of their family for years and remained with them until this year, when Fred and Shirley sold it and donated the proceeds to the Dungeness River Audubon Center's endowment. They said:

"We donated the funds from the sale of our 'Good ole Rig' to the River Center and Olympic Audubon Society. They are really effective in helping kids and the community relate to nature. We know and trust the dedicated staff and volunteers and fully support their very important work."

So now, Good Ole Rig's memory will live on for Fred and Shirley as another living legacy for this beautiful area.

OPAS and the River Center are grateful for its many friends and generous supporters. Please contact 360-681-4076 or any of OPAS's or the Dungeness River Audubon Center's officers or staff if you wish to learn more about offering a living legacy.

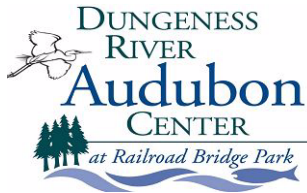
Harlequin Award Goes to Clare Hatler

by Audrey Gift

Most of you know Clare in her capacity as Hospitality Chair for many years at regular Audubon chapter meetings. She is frequently in charge of the cash drawer and credit cards at both River Center and OPAS events. Much of her early work, contributions, and interest were focused on getting the River Center built and operating. She and her family donated the skylights in the Center. She was co-secretary of OPAS with Pat MacRobbie in 2000, and worked with Annette Hanson since the early '80s when the Rainshadow Foundation was forming. Clare provided important support during Stuart MacRobbie's recent illness, and organized his farewell celebration. As a vice-president of the League of Women voters, she arranged a celebration and film of Hazel Wolf. She often gives free slide shows about the Manis Mastadon, and certainly the town of Sequim owes her a debt of thanks for preserving the local history of elephants & natives. Quietly there when help is needed, Clare Hatler is our deserving winner of the Harlequin Award for 2011.



Photo by Bob Boekelheide



Lavender Festival Photo Workshops

at Purple Haze Farm

July 15, 16 & 17; 10 a.m., 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.



Photo by Sue Chickman

Grab your camera and capture your finest lavender images ever. Sign up for photo workshops held right in the field at Purple Haze Farm each day during the Lavender Festival, July 15-17. You'll get lots of hot image-making tips from some of the finest photographers in the area. Select from three sessions each day. Limit: seven people per session.

Cost: \$20/session. All proceeds benefit the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

Pre-register: at the Audubon Center or call 360-681-4076.

Meet: at Purple Haze Farm at the Audubon Center booth 10 minutes before class begins.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, July 15th

10:00-11:00 AM "The Art of Photography," led by **Ernst-Ulrich Schafer**, master black-and-white photographer (he does color too); voted "Best on the Peninsula" in 2009 and 2010.

1:00-2:00 PM "Seeing Photos through an Artist's Eye and Mind," led by **Bob Schechter**. Having produced art through many forms for most of his life, Bob selected photography as the medium to express his art.

3:00-4:00 PM "Feel What You See and See What You Feel," led by **Harry von Stark**, Director of Long Gallery at The Landing in Port Angeles. Harry has a Graphic Design degree from Platt College, and studios in Port Angeles and Quilcene.

Saturday, July 16th

10:00-11:00AM "Composition and Movement: How to Move the Eye Through the Picture," led by **Don Wallace**, author, winemaker, and photographer.

1:00-2:00 PM "Composition and Movement," led by **Don Wallace** (see 10AM class).

3:00-4:00 PM "Seeing Flower Power," led by **Randall Tomaras**, a 40-year professional photographer and member of Best USA Photographers. See his work at www.RandallTomaras.com/Flowers/FlowerPictures.html.

Sunday, July 17th

10:00-11:00 AM "A New Perspective," led by **Powell Jones**, Education Coordinator at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Powell majored in photography in college and has been a photographer for most of his life.

1:00-2:00 PM "Capturing What You See and Feel," led by **Stephen Cunliffe**, a national award-winning nature photographer living in Port Townsend. You can see his work at www.admiraltyimages.com.

3:00-4:00 PM "Capturing what you See and Feel," led by **Stephen Cunliffe** (see 1PM class).



Birdathon Report and Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide

This year's Clallam County Birdathon, held on May 14, 2011, was right about average, with 78 people in 43 parties counting 24,538 individual birds of 176 species, all figures that come within 5% of our long-term averages for the period 1994-2011. This is a very respectable species count for any county in Washington, but still quite below the record Clallam count of 193 species seen in 1999. Our total number of individual birds was below the record number of 33,537 birds observed in 2010, but still very close to average for our mid-May count.

We added one new species for our Birdathon, a Red Phalarope mixed in with 250 Red-necked Phalaropes seen by Scott Horton while halibut fishing off La Push. Red-necked Phalaropes occur on this count more than half the years, but this is the first Red Phalarope ever. Scott also set record high counts for Black-footed Albatrosses, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, and Ancient Murrelets.

Other species setting record high counts were an eclectic group: Canada Goose, Ruddy Duck, Red-throated Loon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, N. Pygmy-Owl, Marsh Wren, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Some of these high counts may be due to extra effort given by counters this year, but some of them, such as collared-doves, continue their long-term increase in our area. Collared-doves haven't surpassed Mourning Doves yet, but at their current rate of increase it could be in the next couple years. Pretty amazing, considering that the first collared-dove ever seen in Clallam County was only five years ago.

We missed several species that usually show up on our Birdathon, including Lesser Scaup, Pied-billed Grebe, Merlin, Herring Gull, Am. Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, W. Meadowlark, and Red Crossbill.

As you may recall, spring 2011 felt more like winter, setting records for coldest average temperatures nearly every month. Most temperatures ranged from hardly spring-like 30s into the 50s, with significant overcast and frequent precipitation. Snowfall in the Olympics reached 200% of normal. As a consequence, leafing-out of deciduous trees and shrubs, along with spring flowers, was quite delayed. The big push of spring migrants were also late, but a series of clear nights on 4/29-5/1 opened the floodgates, bringing big flocks of all the western warblers along with vireos, flycatchers, sparrows, and other migrants.

Among other important sightings in Clallam County this spring, Bruce Paige spotted a very unusual Say's Phoebe feeding along Port Williams Road on 4/26. Joe and Karen Zook found an "interesting visitor" in their backyard along Old Olympic Highway on 5/2, a wayward Northern Mockingbird. On 5/5, Dan Vandebroek and Doris Valencia spotted a White-throated Sparrow among the Golden-crowned Sparrows at RR Bridge Park. Scott

(Continued on page 10)



[Clipart from Clipartheaven.com](http://ClipartfromClipartheaven.com)

Olympic Theatre Arts Presents

**Special Reception & Performance
for River Center Partners & Friends**



SLEUTH
BY ANTHONY SHAFER

A MURDER GAME
IN TWO ACTS

Monday, September 26th
Reception at 6:30, Curtain at 7:30
Tickets \$20.00
Available at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Results of OPAS Clallam Co. Birdathon/International Migratory Bird Count, May 14, 2011

Brant	401	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Rock Pigeon	226	Western Bluebird	2
Cackling Goose	1	Cooper's Hawk	3	Band-tailed Pigeon	154	Townsend's Solitaire	2
Canada Goose	347	accipiter sp.	3	Eur. Collared Dove	<u>69</u>	Swainson's Thrush	2
Wood Duck	17	Red-tailed Hawk	33	Mourning Dove	115	Hermit Thrush	28
Gadwall	90	American Kestrel	3	Barn Owl	8	Am. Robin	882
Eurasian Wigeon	4	Peregrine Falcon	2	W. Screech Owl	5	Varied Thrush	97
American Wigeon	150	raptor sp.	2	Great Horned Owl	4	European Starling	309
Mallard	457	Virginia Rail	3	N. Pygmy Owl	<u>8</u>	Orange-cr. Warbler	129
Cinnamon Teal	6	Sora	1	Spotted Owl	2	Yellow Warbler	21
N. Shoveler	20	Am. Coot	6	Barred Owl	5	Yellow-rumped Warb.	79
N. Pintail	9	Black-bellied Plover	58	N. Saw-whet Owl	5	Blk-thrted Gray Warb.	10
Green-winged Teal	89	Semipalmated Plover	18	Vaux's Swift	15	Townsend's Warbler	62
Ring-necked Duck	3	Killdeer	63	Anna's Hummingbird	14	Hermit X Twnsnd's W.	1
Greater Scaup	135	Black Oystercatcher	25	hummingbird sp	1	MacGillivray's Warbler	13
scaup sp.	10	Greater Yellowlegs	3	Rufous Hummingbird	97	Com. Yellowthroat	12
Harlequin Duck	235	Wandering Tattler	1	Belted Kingfisher	18	Wilson's Warbler	209
Surf Scoter	554	Spotted Sandpiper	11	Red-brsted Sapsucker	24	warbler sp.	1
White-winged Scoter	123	Whimbrel	11	Downy Woodpecker	22	Western Tanager	11
Black Scoter	4	Marbled Godwit	1	Hairy Woodpecker	22	Spotted Towhee	225
Long-tailed Duck	32	Black Turnstone	2	N. Flicker (unk. type)	20	Savannah Sparrow	217
Bufflehead	155	Red Knot	cw	"Red-shafted Flicker"	29	Fox Sparrow	28
Common Goldeneye	21	Sanderling	15	"Yellow-shafted Flicker"	1	Song Sparrow	366
Barrow's Goldeneye	4	<u>Semipalm. Sandpiper</u>	1	Pileated Woodpecker	13	Lincoln's Sparrow	<u>12</u>
Hooded Merganser	5	Western Sandpiper	49	Olive-sided Flycatcher	7	White-crwnd Sparrow	289
Com. Merganser	90	Least Sandpiper	5	Hammond's Flycatcher	4	Golden-crwnd Sparrow	160
Red-br. Merganser	123	Dunlin	66	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	54	Drk-eyd (Ore.) Junco	364
Ruddy Duck	<u>13</u>	Short-blld Dowitcher	16	Cassin's Vireo	1	Black-headed Grosbeak	84
duck sp.	4	dowitcher sp.	12	Hutton's Vireo	4	Red-winged Blackbird	532
Ring-Necked Pheasant	6	sandpiper sp.	8	Warbling Vireo	11	Brewer's Blackbird	158
Ruffed Grouse	3	Wilson's Snipe	1	Gray Jay	12	Brown-headed Cowbird	99
Sooty Grouse	14	Red-nckd Phalarope	250	Steller's Jay	95	<u>Yellow-hdd Blackbird</u>	1
California Quail	94	<u>Red Phalarope</u>	1	crow sp. (Amer. & NW)	576	Purple Finch	70
Red-throated Loon	<u>26</u>	shorebird sp.	1	Com. Raven	90	House Finch	162
Pacific Loon	36	Bonaparte's Gull	4	Tree Swallow	266	Pine Siskin	269
Common Loon	40	Mew Gull	2	Violet-green Swallow	608	Am. Goldfinch	512
Yellow-billed Loon	1	Ring-billed Gull	3	N. Rough-wgd Swallow	26	Evening Grosbeak	72
Horned Grebe	6	California Gull	22	Cliff Swallow	87	House Sparrow	96
Red-necked Grebe	2	Thayer's Gull	4	Barn Swallow	234		
Western Grebe	44	Western Gull	42	swallow sp.	90	No. parties	43
Black-footed Albatross	<u>40</u>	Glaucous-winged Gull	498	Purple Martin	1	No. participants	78
Northern Fulmar	2	W. X Gl.-wng Gull	792	Black-capped Chickadee	77	Hours foot	106.55
Pink-footed Shearwater	4	Ig. pink-legged gull	1120	Chestnut-backed Chick.	205	Miles foot	86.2
Sooty Shearwater	50	Sabine's Gull	100	chickadee sp	2	Hours car	62.5
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	<u>150</u>	gull sp.	674	Bushtit	20	Miles car	860.56
Brandt's Cormorant	12	Caspian Tern	178	Red-breastd Nuthatch	64	Hours boat	8
Double-crstd Cormorant	143	Common Murre	5066	Brown Creeper	14	Miles boat	70
Pelagic Cormorant	397	Pigeon Guillemot	430	Bewick's Wren	13	Hours owling	12
cormorant sp.	17	Marbled Murrelet	71	House Wren	4	Miles owling	80
Great Blue Heron	38	Ancient Murrelet	<u>40</u>	Winter Wren	110	Feeder hours	74.25
Turkey Vulture	45	Cassin's Auklet	50	Marsh Wren	<u>56</u>		
Osprey	3	Rhinoceros Auklet	1098	American Dipper	7	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	24538
Bald Eagle	117	Tufted Puffin	9	Gold-crowned Kinglet	38	NO. OF SPECIES	176
Northern Harrier	13	alcid sp.	8	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6		

Underlined species = unusual species, recorded infrequently on count

Underlined numbers = record number of individuals for Clallam Co. Spring Bird Count

**Western Field Ornithologists Conference:
Sierra Vista, AZ August 17-21, 2011**

If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Besides a program of speakers and workshops, we will offer field trips to all the southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties like Scaled and Montezuma Quail; Gray, Short-tailed, and Zone-tailed Hawks; a dazzling variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers; Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Cassin's, Botteri's, Rufous-winged, and Five-striped Sparrows, and much more. To register and see full details go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page. You will probably want to download the Conference Details document and review before you begin registration.

Atkinson discovered at singing Palm Warbler near the entrance to the Dungeness Recreation Area on 5/8. Scott also spotted a possible Horned Puffin off the Miller Peninsula on 6/12. A beautiful male Lazuli Bunting visited the River Center's feeder on 5/11, spotted by Bob Boekelheide. Jacob Haverfield, while birding at Ediz Hook, discovered a male Lapland Longspur on 5/14. Also on 5/14, Denny Van Horn found a Vesper Sparrow singing at Beaver. Denny also watched 2 Common Terns at Dungeness Bay on 5/19, and located a Nashville Warbler at 3 Crabs on 5/22. Also on 5/22, Mark Salvadalena found a W. Kingbird sitting on wires along Towne Road. Mark spotted a N. Goshawk flying over the Wolf Creek trail on 5/17, and Paul Priest saw a goshawk flying over Forest Service Road 28 in the upper Dungeness watershed on 6/4. Gretha and Doug Davis found 8 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches feeding in the snow along the

Hurricane Hill-Elwha River trail on 5/19. Three Black Swifts soared in the drizzle over the Wed AM birdwalk at RR Bridge Park on 5/25. Last, Terry Vogel reports Bullock's Orioles visiting her feeders near the Dungeness River starting on 5/20 and continuing into June, so hopefully they're nesting nearby.

Many thanks to the following Birdathon Counters:

Karen & Bill Parker, Dave & Julie Jackson, Coleman Byrnes & Sue Nattinger, Janet Lamont, Miriam Bobkoff, Sally Parker & Jasmine Palmer, Scott Horton, Denny Van Horn, Marty Johnson, Bob Boekelheide, Sherrie Rogers & Jon Purnell, Carolyn Cooper, Mary Robson, Rhea Sheffield, Tommie Schwent & Dorrie Rehr, Janet Lamont, Judy Mullally, Bob & Sharon Cox, Terry Martin, Jerry & Helen Freilich, Hank & Raedell Warren, Kris Lether, Clare Hatler, Larry & Barbara Rymon, Marie & Brian Grad, Sue Chickman, Joyce Ryba, Pat MacRobbie, Michael Barry, Jim Gift, Susan & Gary Mortimore, Mark Salvadalena, Paul & Verla Priest, Carol & Bruce von Borstel, Ruth Messing & Mary Jo Cain, Barbara VanderWerf & Bernadette McGovern, Sharad, John & Diana Anderson, Judy & Mike Bromell, Jack & Pat Fletcher, Norrie & Barb Johnson, Terry Vogel, Steve Stripp, Don Chesebro & Carlene Moberg, Barry & Susan Kantowitz, Kathy Bush, Quenn Charrier, Charlotte Watts, and others unidentified (sorry if I missed your name!).

Did you know?

The White-crowned Sparrow is the sound of late spring and early summer in our brushy and weedy habitats, as well as in and around human habitation, such as shrubs along the borders of shopping center parking lots. Its voice begins with clear whistles, then a series of buzzes or trills on different pitches. The cadence can be roughly characterized by the phrase "See ME, pretty-pretty me". The appearance of its striped head changes as crown feathers are raised and lowered.



Photo: Bob Hutchison

What's in a Name?

by Nina Routh, Denver Field Ornithologists (by permission)

Nucifraga Columbiana/Columbia (River) Nut-breaker is known to us as the Clark's Nutcracker. Captain William Clark (1770-1838) was the namesake of this familiar bird, after he sent a specimen to Thomas Jefferson, who in turn sent it to Alexander Wilson for description. In 1811, Mr. Wilson (we know his warbler) gave the bird its common name after Capt. Clark.

The other half of the dynamic duo was Captain Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809). In 1805, while on the famous expedition with Capt. Clark, he collected the beautiful woodpecker near Helena, MT.

Capt. Lewis was the manager of his family's plantation and served as an officer in the army before becoming T. Jefferson's secretary. The President chose him to lead the expedition because of his botany, natural history and astronomy knowledge, all around good character, and familiarity with Native Americans. Capt. Lewis chose his army friend Wm. Clark to accompany him on the trek.

The rest, as they say, is history. An interesting note: the actual Lewis' Woodpecker specimen is thought to be the only bird specimen left from the expedition and currently resides at Harvard.

Good birding to all,

Nina

[Source: "Whoose Bird - Bo Beolens and Michael Watkins"]



Photo: Bob Hutchison

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