

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 3 May-June 2011

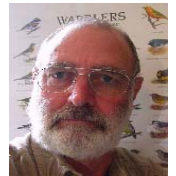
*"Promoting Birding and Conservation
as Community Educators, Volunteers, and Stewards"*

OPAS Programs for May and June

by Bill Parker

Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 7 p.m.

Bob Boekelheide presents *Changes in Our Coastal Bird Populations*



How have numbers of local marine birds changed during the last 35 years? Bob Boekelheide, Director of the Dungeness River Audubon Center, will show how data from recent coastal surveys and our own Sequim-Dungeness CBC compare with historical data collected during the 1970s in the MESA program. This work is sponsored by the Clallam Marine Resources Committee.

Our own esteemed River Center Director needs no introduction, so we're not going to give him one. Oh, all right ... Heeeeere's Bobby!

Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 7 p.m. (Potluck dinner at 6 p.m.)

Mike Pratt presents *Owls of Washington*.

Mike Pratt is Director of Wildlife Services at West Sound Wildlife Shelter on Bainbridge Island, and has over twenty years experience in wildlife

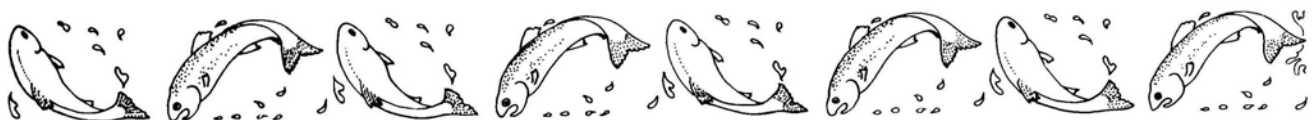
rehabilitation, avian captive management and training of program birds. He will share many stories about our local owls, both in the field and during rehab.

Mike joined West Sound Wildlife in 2006. He holds both federal and state wildlife permits. He has extensive experience in training bird handlers and other wildlife rehabilitators, performing public educational programs, and assisting the public with wildlife questions and problems. Mike has worked at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science Raptor Center where he served as Avian Curator. He was also Operation Manager at World Bird Sanctuary, and Supervisor at Missouri Wildlife Rescue in St. Louis, Missouri. Mike is a wildlife biologist and was a National Park Ranger before entering the wildlife profession.

Prior to this fascinating program, join us at 6 p.m. for our end-of-the-year **potluck dinner**. Bring your own place settings and a dish to share. A brief business meeting will precede the program, in which we will elect new OPAS officers for the coming year.



Photo: Dottie Tison



Clipart by Rosemary Gilbert Bell

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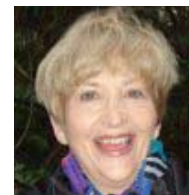
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President's Message

by Audrey Gift



Spring is here! The weather may not seem much like spring, but the sounds of birds singing lets us know that spring has arrived. It is so much fun to welcome the spring birds back to our area. Let's get out and bird! May 14th is International Migratory Bird Day, and for us it is our Birdathon Day, when we will be out looking for and counting birds in our area. Bob Boekelheide, chair of our Bird Count Committee, will be organizing this event again this year. Check Bob's article later in this issue for details. Last year we identified 192 species!!! You should have received a letter asking for your support of OPAS, either by contributing a set amount or by donating according to the number of species seen. If you do not receive this letter in the next few days, let me know and I will see that you are put on our list.

Spring is also a time when we have the opportunity to give awards to those who support our efforts to promote birding, conservation of habitat, and biological diversity. At our monthly OPAS meeting in April we awarded the Conservation Award to Christie and Marc Lassen of Wild Birds Unlimited for their work on a wide variety of conservation efforts (See more details elsewhere in this issue). In addition to their conservation efforts, Christie and Marc have been generous supporters of our fundraising efforts for the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Most recently they donated a spotting scope for our Birdfest Raffle, which contributed to the overall success of our Birdfest. Thank you, Christie and Marc!

Another award that we presented this spring was our student film festival award. It was given to Cameron and Kelley Bluthenthal for their film about the restoration of the Jimmy Come Lately Creek. We will be showing this short film at our monthly OPAS meeting on May 18th at 7PM. Join us in viewing this creative work of our youth.

Also, coming up at the May meeting is the Harlequin Award, which recognizes OPAS member(s) for their outstanding and generous contributions of time, talent, and effort to the chapter. The recipient of this award this year will be kept secret until our May OPAS general meeting. Be sure to join us on May 18th at 7PM to learn who will be receiving the award this year.

OPAS Officers

Nominees for OPAS officers for the coming year are:

President - Tom Montgomery
Vice-President - Loretta Flanders
Treasurer - Nancy Bargar
Secretary - Margaret Levitan

Submit additional nominations to *rbrycehut@wavecable.com*.
The election takes place at the June OPAS general meeting.
Be sure to be there!



OPAS Field Trips in May and June

by Bob Iddins



Birdathon Warmup

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2011

Time & Meeting places: 8:00 a.m. at Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park, and 11:00 am at Dungeness Landing County Park.

Cost: Free

Leader: Bob Boekelheide

Features: This is a preview of Birdathon which will take place on the following Saturday. You can expect to see and hear late spring migrants and other forest and grassland birds at Railroad Bridge Park. Later at Dungeness Landing County Park, gulls, waterbirds and shorebirds will be the featured attractions.

Bring: Binoculars, snacks, water and appropriate clothing for any weather conditions.

Further information: Bob Boekelheide 360-681-4076

Lost Mountain

Date: Saturday, June 11, 2011

Time: 8:00 am

Cost: Free

Leaders: Bob Iddins & Terry Martin

Meeting place: Graywolf Elementary School on Carlsborg Road just north of Hwy 101

Features: This is THE trip to see and hear the amazing array of land birds that breed on the North Olympic Peninsula! We expect Sapsuckers, MacGillvray's Warblers, House Wren, Olive-sided and Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Purple Finch and much more. We will carpool to DNR land off Olsen Place and make short walks along forest roads.

Bring: Binoculars, snacks, water, sun block and gear for any weather changes.

Further information: Bob Iddins 360-681-2840



FREE SEMINAR

Estate Planning Basics

With Sequim Attorney Alan Millet

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Two times: 4-5 and 6-7 p.m.

At the Dungeness River Audubon Center
2151 W. Hendrickson Rd, Sequim

Pre-registration is advised:
Sue Chickman 360/477-4123
organicallysue@olyopen.com

Upper Dungeness

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2011

Time: 8:00 am

Cost: Free

Leaders: Bob Iddins, Terry Martin, Joe Zook

Meeting place: The intersection of Hwy 101 and Louella Road

Features: We will check out the Dungeness Forks Campground and then proceed up to the parking lot at the trailhead for the Upper Dungeness Trail. We'll be looking for dippers along the river and warblers, flycatchers, woodpeckers etc. in the surrounding area.

Bring: Binoculars, snacks, lunch, water and weather appropriate clothing.

Further Information: Bob Iddins 360-681-2840

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.

Last Thursday Work Party

Dates: Last thursday of each month (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.

Natural Science Study Group

Dates: 2nd Mon. each month

Time: 10 a.m. to noon.

This adult discussion group focuses on the natural world of the north Olympic Peninsula, including climate, weather, rivers, geology, botany, and wildlife. Discussion topics vary with group interests. Come gain some knowledge.

Spring Fling

Dates: Month of May

DUNGENESS SPRING FLING is a month-long opportunity to have fun and get fit, while raising funds for a worthy cause: the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park.

SPRING FLING coincides with several nationwide efforts that, promote fitness, wellness, and literacy:

- > National Bike Month
- > National Physical Fitness and Health Month
- > National Family Wellness Month
- > National Get Caught Reading Month

You can participate as an individual, on a team, and/or as a sponsor. SPRING FLING activities and events are listed later in this newsletter. Additional information may be found at www.DungenessRiverCenter.org, as well as at the River Center.

Introduction to Birds and Birding


Date: Six Tue. evenings, May 3 to Jun. 7

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Cost: River Center Partners: \$40; non-members \$60.

Dave Jackson, OPAS bird expert, provides this class for beginning birders and new residents who wish to learn about local birds. These classes include field trips to special birding locations, bird identification, optics, bird books, and lots of other great tips. Limit: 16 people.

(Continued on next page)



Come to the
Dungeness River Audubon Center
2011 Annual Meeting

For RC members, supporters, and friends

Hors d'oeuvres Potluck
Bring your favorite finger food to share

Friday, May 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

At the Dungeness River Audubon Center
2151 W. Hendrickson Rd., Sequim

Meet the River Center 'family'
Business and elections
Interactive Planning Charette
Door Prize Drawing
Walk in the Park

Birds and Habitats of Peru, a special presentation by Doris Valencia.

Date: Wednesday, May 4

Time: 7 p.m.

Doris Valencia is founder and director of HabitatsPeru, an ecological travel company based in Cusco, Peru. A native of Peru, she is an expert on the jungles, wildlife, mountains, and culture of this fascinating country. \$5 donation requested at the door to help support River Center education programs.

Spring Birds of Railroad Bridge Park and Beyond

Date: Sat., May 7

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Time to warm up for our Spring Bird Count. Meet Bob Boekelheide at Railroad Bridge Park to hear breeding songbirds, then travel to Dungeness Landing Park at 11:30 a.m. to view shorebirds, gulls, and waterfowl.

International Migratory Bird Day/Clallam County Birdathon

Date: Sat., May 14

Time: Midnight to midnight

How many birds can we count in Clallam Co. in one 24-hour period? You can help by covering a special route, joining another group, or by just counting your neighborhood or backyard. Please contact the River Center to sign up for the count.



Birdfest: Excellent!

by Karen Zook

Birdfest 2011 was a great success! From the Dawn Chorus to the Owl Prowl, field trips were well attended and fun! Both of the Owl Prowls were full, as were both of the Nature Photography workshops and several of the field trips. Those of us who attended the Friday night raptor show got to meet The Northwest Raptor Center's latest addition, a beautiful Peregrine Falcon named Gaspar.

The banquet at Sunland Golf & Country Club was fun for all. Our thanks to Bob Boekelheide for once again being our emcee, keeping us all entertained and informed; to Bill Parker for stepping in as auctioneer and doing it with style; and to our banquet speakers Chris and Todd Peterson of BirdNote. Their program was interesting and informative, with beautiful photography and music as the icing on the cake.

Speaking of cake, several excellent bakers and dessert makers provided us with a scrumptious dessert buffet, with cupcakes, cobbler and "Death by Chocolate", as some of the offerings. A great way to top off our excellent dinner!



Photo by Joe Zook

Peggy Armstrong was the winner of this year's raffle of a spotting scope and tripod – congratulations, Peggy! *(Continued on next page)*

Harlequin Happenings



Gretha Davis & Eftin Strong
Photo by Sue Chickman

I have heard and received many positive comments about our Birdfest. The net income from Birdfest this year looks excellent, with the profit from the auctions and raffle at an all time high. Many thanks go out to all of the volunteers, donors and our local press, who help make Birdfest such a great experience.

The Birdfest committee is already looking ahead to next year. We would like to add new faces to the committee. This is a great opportunity to learn about something new, or to use skills you already have to help keep Birdfest growing and fun. We have opportunities in publicity, grant writing, event planning, field trips, and more. Please consider joining the Birdfest committee. You will get to work with great people, meet new people and maybe even learn something!

Best of all, you will be helping to raise funds for the Dungeness River Audubon Center to support their wonderful programs.

OPAS Says Farewell to a Founding Member - Gunnar O. Fagerlund (April 12, 1908 - March 23, 2011)

[Editor's Note: The HH thanks Bill Parker for the following obituary]

Gunnar O. Fagerlund passed away on March 23, 2011. In three weeks, he would have been 103. His passing concludes a unique life during a century of momentous events and change. His wife, Frances, passed away two years previously at age 100. Their partnership was the centerpiece of their lives.

Gunnar was born April 12, 1908, in Perth, North Dakota, to Gilbert and Marie Hammer. When he was five years old, his parents died of tuberculosis. Gust and Caroline Fagerlund from Rolla, North Dakota, then adopted him. Both families were immigrants and farmers, originating from Norway and Sweden, respectively. They began new lives in their adopted country in the late 19th century with farmland deeded through the Homestead Act. As a young man, Gunnar became interested in the natural environment. After high school, he went west to attend college at the University of Idaho and Utah State University; then to graduate school at the University of Michigan.

This occurred during the Great Depression. Gunnar was young, and his life included adventure as well as education. He "rode the rails", as he traveled the western states, worked with the CCC, traveled 400 miles on horseback through Idaho across the Sawtooth Mountain Range, worked many odd jobs to earn his way through college — and he was attacked by a mother grizzly bear while working a summer job at Yellowstone National Park.

He met Frances Vernon in Logan, Utah. They were married in 1936, after he obtained his first permanent job with the National Park Service at Colonial National Historic Park at Yorktown, Virginia. He then served in Hawaii National Park as Chief Park Naturalist from 1939 to 1947, with the exception of one year at Pearl Harbor as a horticulturist with the Navy. He came to Port Angeles in 1947 as the first Chief Park Naturalist for Olympic National Park, where he planned and implemented an interpretive program of talks, guided walks, nature trails, museum exhibits, and publications relating to the park. He authored the first National Park
(Continued on next page)



Frances & Gunnar Fagerlund, 2004
Photo by Sue Chickman

Service Handbook in a natural history series. While in Port Angeles, he participated in community study as Chairman of the Library Committee, and was later a member of the Clallam County Library Board. From 1957 through 1962, he was assigned to the National Park Service Branch of Natural History in Washington D.C., and then to the Western Regional Office in San Francisco, from which he retired in 1965 as Regional Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services. In 1966, he and Frances returned to their beloved Pacific Northwest. They built a house near Dungeness, traveled, tended their home and forest, went to school, wrote family stories and poetry, continued photography and welcomed friends and grandchildren.

Gunnar was a charter member of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society and its first president. He received the 1983 Harlequin Achievement Award from the Olympic Peninsula Chapter. Sons Jerry and Noel Fagerlund, their wives, Lisa and Sue, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive him. His two sisters, Bertha Lorenze and Gudrin Lorenze Powers, preceded him in death; both lived in California.

Gunnar will be remembered by family and friends for many things: his active and inquisitive mind, an unwavering interest and concern for the natural environment, his integrity, his sense of humor, the stories of his life as recorded in his book "Journeys", his photography of family and nature, and his precious relationship and life with Frances.

An informal "memorial gathering" was held on Saturday, April 23, 2011. We say farewell to a founding member of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society.



Conservation Annual Award - Christie and Marc Lassen

by Jim Gift

[Editor's Note: This year, OPAS presented the Conservation Award at the April general meeting. The Harlequin Award will be presented at the May general meeting.]

Christie and Marc have worked hard to promote backyard wildlife habitats. It was Marc's vision to redesign and create their own wildlife habitat at their store and home in Gardiner. They planted native plants and salvaged many plants from the original garden. Their garden is certified as a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary and Backyard Wildlife Habitat by state and national programs. Christie shares her knowledge of creating backyard habitats by speaking to many groups, clubs, and people in the community. Recently she began to consult with customers in their homes on how to attract more birds and wildlife to their backyards. Every year Christie and Marc hold several nature presentations. One popular talk is about the benefits of mason bees and how to attract them.

They support Jaye Moore and the Northwest Raptor Center by accepting donations of sheets, towels, and blankets. They collect cash donations, sponsor a raffle, and focus on them during their annual Earth Day Celebration by donating a portion of the proceeds. Their annual Earth Day event brings together the community with organizations that take action to conserve, rehabilitate, and restore native habitats and wildlife. Recycling is an important part of their conservation efforts. They recycle everything from cardboard, glass, metal and plastic, plus their large seed bags, which they encourage customers to return to the store. *(Continued on next page)*



2011 Conservation Award winner Christie Lassen with Conservation Committee Chairman Jim Gift.

Harlequin Happenings

Christie and Marc are always looking for ways to help their customers and their community to become closer to nature. The mission statement of their business is "We bring People and Nature Together", and they truly carry out that mission.



Education and Outreach

by Shirley Anderson

The Education Committee is planning a new class called "Being a Backyard Birder", which will meet monthly beginning in September. Families and individuals, who may not be able to commit to an entire series of birding classes, might be interested in this class. Each session can be taken individually, with its own special topic. Included in each session will be one bird species that can be expected to be common during that month, a short field trip at Railroad Bridge Park or a related area, and a specific topic such as planting your garden in the fall and again in the spring. Watch for details and scheduling!

The OPAS Education Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the Environmental Award at the Sequim Educational Foundation Film Festival, April 15, 2011. This spring, brothers Cameron and Kelley Bluthenthal collaborated in making a documentary about the restoration of Jimmy Come Lately Creek. Cameron is in the eighth grade and Kelley is in grade six. Their short work will be shown at the OPAS general meeting on May 18, 2011.

2011 Birdathon/ International Migratory Bird Count

by Bob Boekelheide

Saturday, May 14th, is the 2011 OPAS Clallam County Birdathon (BAT) and International Migratory Bird Count, time to go birding in Clallam County. The BAT also raises money for important OPAS projects on the North Olympic Peninsula.

The International Migratory Bird Count is different from the Christmas Bird Count, because it includes all birds counted in our entire county in one day. No matter where you live or visit in Clallam County, you can help out. Clallam County holds the record for the most number of species seen in one Washington county in one day, 193 species seen in 1999. Our 17-year average is 178 species.

Money raised during BAT helps support many OPAS projects, from printing Harlequin Happenings to supporting education programs at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Please send a generous donation when you receive your BAT letter, sponsor a BAT counter (like me!), or join us for a wonderful day of birdwatching for a great cause.

Please use the tally sheet included with this issue of Harlequin Happenings. During and after the count, tally the birds you see, keep track of the miles and hours you walk, drive, or boat, then mail the sheet as soon as possible after the count to me (Bob Boekelheide) at the River Center's address on the back of the tally sheet. You can help whether you count all day, just an hour or two in the morning or evening, or hang out around your house and count your yard and feeders. If you need some ideas about habitats we don't usually get to, please call for suggestions.

Please call Bob Boekelheide at 681-4076 to sign up for the BAT, or just do your counting and send the tally sheet back when finished. Thank you for your help!



Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide

Is it spring yet? This "spring" is one of the chilliest on record, with cool showery weather day after day. At Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim, during the first 33 days of spring (3/20 to 4/21) the highest high air temperature was only 57 °F. The average high air temperature for the period was only 50 °F and the average low was 37 °F. Although it never reached freezing, temperatures at RR Bridge Park dropped to 33 °F on four different days, but many outlying residents reported frost throughout April.

Snow pack levels are out of sight, reported at 190% of normal in the Olympics during April. The SNOTEL site at 5000 feet on Hurricane Ridge showed 12 feet of snow on the ground on 4/20. No worries about enough water in the Dungeness River this year, but what will Horned Larks and American Pipits do about nesting at Hurricane Ridge? Don't expect the Obstruction Pt. road to open anytime soon.



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

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.

How are birds responding to the cool temperatures, which have occurred throughout the western U.S.? First, migration appears to have been delayed for some species. Savannah Sparrows, which sometimes show up around here in the last week in March, mostly arrived this year in the second week in April. Orange-crowned Warblers, which usually arrive in late March or early April in RR Bridge Park, first showed on 4/8. It will be interesting to see how late spring migrants respond as well.

It's a clean sweep for Bob and Carolyn Iddins at Diamond Point. You may remember that last issue they won this year's prestigious First Swallow award and First Band-tailed Pigeon award. Now they have won the First Rufous Hummingbird award, having seen the first Rufous at their home on 3/6.

The excitement this spring was a Red-faced Cormorant reported by Coleman Byrnes, Sue

Nattinger, and Daniel Walker, seen swimming off Tongue Pt. in Crescent Bay on 3/17. They described its bright red face stretching across its forehead and around its eyes, along with a yellow bill. A similar bird was later seen on 3/18 by Judy Mullally and on 3/21 by Bill and Karen Parker, but a hoard of birders who descended on the spot never located the bird. This would be the second record of this north Pacific cormorant in WA, so it requires lots of good documentation, especially since Pelagic Cormorants also have bright red faces this time of year. The first record for WA occurred very close by, at the Elwha River mouth in May 1999.

Trumpeter Swans finally departed the lower Dungeness Valley in the first week in April, with 23 last seen hanging out in Nash Huber's carrot field west of the Dungeness River on 4/4. The WDFW officially reports that the five swans found dead in January in Dungeness were all poisoned by lead shotgun pellets. Lead shot has been outlawed for waterfowl hunting since 1991, but pellets apparently left over from the old days have killed hundreds of swans in WA, including the birds in our area. *(Continued on next page)*

Harlequin Happenings

Brant made an impressive show in Dungeness Bay this April. Lee Bowen estimated at least 2,000 Brant visible from 3 Crabs on 4/20, all talkin' up a storm as they gobbled eelgrass for their big flight to Alaska.

In the exotic goose category, Carol Hagger reported a Bar-headed Goose hanging out with Canada Geese at the Dominion Terrace pond in early April. Bar-headed Geese are famous for being one of the highest-flying birds, including migrating over the Himalayas, as seen in the movie "Winged Migration." They are also often kept in captivity, so it is a likely escapee from someone's aviary.



Short-billed Dowitcher
Photo by Bob Hutchison

Try to see the spring shorebird migration in Dungeness Bay, where thousands of shorebirds search the mudflats for tender sea creatures. Dunlin, Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Western Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, and Semipalmated Plovers reach peak spring numbers in late April and early May, so now's the time. Look for something different, like Red Knots. Most of the shorebirds are molting into their flashy breeding plumages right now, for an extra show. The spring shorebird migration is a quick one, so visit your local mudflat before the birds go north.

Weird gull news: Cassidy Gratton, who works in Olympic National Park, reported 70 Bonaparte's Gulls dipping for food at Lake Mills in mid-April. Bonaparte's Gulls are typical in flocks throughout the Salish Sea this time of year, but not

at mountain lakes. How could a flock of these gulls, which normally gather in feeding flocks around headlands in Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands, ever get up the Elwha River to find food in Lake Mills?

Owls are vocal this time of year. The BirdFest Owl Prowls picked up N. Saw-whet Owls and Barred Owls tootin' and hootin' in the Olympic Foothills. John Woolley reports a W. Screech Owl calling a long while at E. Sequim Bay on 3/18, the first he has heard where he lives. Powell Jones says Barred Owls hoot regularly during his nighttime bike rides at the Miller Peninsula, and Helen Schaaf reports Barred Owls hooting along Valley Creek in Port Angeles in mid-March. Bruce Paige heard a N. Pygmy Owl tooting at 9:30 a.m. in the Gieren Creek woodlands near Holland Road on 3/12.

Migrant songbirds in the news: As usual, Cassin's Vireos appeared again in mid-April, with one seen by Judy Mullally in Port Angeles on 4/15. Two Chipping Sparrows appeared, one seen by Betty Kramp on 4/14 near the Kitchen-Dick Ponds and one seen by Bruce Paige on 4/17 near Port Williams Rd. Three Townsend's Solitaires were reported on two days, one at RR Bridge Park on 4/21 and two on 4/22, seen by Bill and Karen Parker at Agnew and Bob Iddins at Diamond Pt.

Warblers provide lots of excitement during spring. Yellow-rumped Warblers have been particularly noticeable near Carrie Blake Park in Sequim, where Paul Priest had five at his suet block on 3/12 and Sherrie Rogers watched one on 3/14. Common Yellowthroats are back at the Dungeness Rec Area, reported by Dave Jackson and Don Wallace. The late-migrating warblers will be here soon, so let me know when you see the first Wilson's, MacGillivray's, and Black-throated Grays. *(Continued on next page)*



Townsend's Solitaire
Photo by Bob Hutchison

Among finches, it continues to be a low year for many species possibly due to poor cone crops in local conifers, although Evening Grosbeaks are still being reported in good numbers. Pine Siskins are on territories at RR Bridge Park, where they were missing much of the winter. House Finch numbers are very low, continuing the trend of the past two years, perhaps because of mortality from "house finch disease," which may be the result of either avian conjunctivitis or avian pox. Goldfinches are back, including 6 seen by Sherrie Rogers and John Purnell at Carrie Blake Park on 3/14. Jackie Ortelli discovered 3 Pine Grosbeaks at her home at 1200 feet on Township Road between Sequim and Port Angeles on 3/15, always a treat. Jackie said she's had 4 to 6 Gray Jays visiting her suet feeder as well.



Western Meadowlark
Photo by Bob Hutchison

Lastly, Bruce Paige struck meadowlark gold at Schmuck Road on 3/6, seeing a flock of 28, where they probably spent the winter. Barb and Norrie Johnson found a lone meadowlark at Ediz Hook on 3/17, along with the last report I received about the two Snow Buntings that spent the winter at the Hook.

Spring migration is happening! The month of May brings new warblers, flycatchers, Swainson's Thrushes, orioles, tanagers, and much more. Go to Cape Flattery to watch nesting seabirds. If and when the snow melts, go to the mountains for pipits, Horned Larks, and rosy finches. Please plan on helping with the Clallam County Bird Count on May 14th. Call Bob Boekelheide at 681-4867 (h) or 681-4076 (w) (email at rivercenter@olympus.net) when you see something interesting or unusual. Thank you very much for your sightings!

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John L. Scott
REAL ESTATE

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

This issue is being sent to a number of members who have let their membership lapse during the past few years. We invite you to rejoin and continue to participate in our birding trips, monthly speaker programs, and conservation efforts ... and, of course, the regular Harlequin Happenings articles. Please consider filling out and returning the membership application form at the end of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at our future events.

OPAS is currently updating its membership database. Watch the Home Page of our website (olybird.org) for upcoming opportunities to review your member information and to be included in special-interest mailings. Learn more about the new database on our website in May or in the next issue of this newsletter.



DUNGENESS
RIVER
Audubon
CENTER
at Railroad Bridge Park



Spring for Swallows

New -- for Spring Fling '11
Amazing acrobats in our skies and your backyards!



An illustrated seminar on Swallow nesting, breeding, diet, & migration -- includes a local field trip
-- See & learn to ID 6 different Swallows
that visit the spring & summer skies of our community
Presented by Ken Wiersema



Olympic Peninsula
Audubon Society

Saturday, May 21st 10 AM - 1:30 PM
New birders & Families welcome --
\$ 5 donation; pre-registration requested
Please register at the Center's office
or Call 681- 4076

3rd Annual Dungeness Spring Fling May 2011

Spring Fling participants have fun and get fit while doing good—last year they raised nearly \$25,000 for the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park. Spring Fling hikes and walks are open to all and free for Spring Fling participants. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested for others. You can become a Spring Fling participant, sponsor, or both. Won't you join us?

To learn more: www.DungenessRiverCenter.org * (360)681-4076 * 2151 Hendrickson Rd, Sequim

Sunday, May 1: Spring Fling Kick-Off from noon to 4pm! Taking place in Railroad Bridge Park at the Dungeness River Audubon Center with free workshops on biking, hiking, running, birding and more.... everyone invited!

Monday, May 2: Robin Hill Farm Park Hike (3+ miles RT) Contact Gretha/Doug Davis (360)681-8013 gretha.d@wavecable.com

Tuesday, May 3: Dungeness River in the mountains Hike, Camp Handy (6.4 miles round trip.) Contact John Bridge (360) 683-3151 jbridge@olympen.com.

Saturday, May 7: *World Labyrinth Day* "Walk as One at 1:00 p.m." Contact Pam Bedford (360) 683-6376 tbedford@olympen.com

Sunday, May 8: Railroad Bridge Trestle and Olympic Discovery Trail Walk (3 miles round trip) Contact Lyn Muench (360) 452-6100 lynmuench@olympen.com

Monday, May 9: Hike from Salt Creek to Striped Peak, (5 miles RT) Contact Gretha/Doug Davis (360) 681-8013 gretha.d@wavecable.com

Tuesday, May 10: Dungeness River in the mountains Hike, Lower Graywolf River (9.6 miles round trip) Contact John Bridge (360) 683-3151 jbridge@olympen.com

Tuesday, May 10: Bird Walk, Dungeness River Dike 2 miles round trip. Contact Dave/Julie Jackson (360) 683-1355 djackson@wavecable.com

Saturday, May 14: "River Center Run!" Contact Kristin LaMoure, (360) 477-1877 sequimgym@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 15: Johnson Creek Trestle to Sequim Bay State Park (3 miles round trip) Contact Lyn Muench (360) 452-6100 lynmuench@olympen.com

Monday, May 16: Hike on the Dungeness Spit to the New Dungeness Light Station (11 miles RT) Contact Gretha/Doug Davis (360)681-8013 gretha.d@wavecable.com

Tuesday, May 17: Dungeness River in the mountains Hike (7 miles round trip) Contact John Bridge (360)683-3151 jbridge@olympen.com

Tuesday, May 17: Bird Walk, Dungeness Recreation Area (3 miles round trip) Contact Dave/Julie Jackson (360) 683-1355 djackson@wavecable.com

Sunday, May 22: Morse Creek Trestle to Hollywood Beach (3 miles RT) Contact Lyn Muench (360) 452-6100 lynmuench@olympen.com

Monday, May 23: Hike the Miller Peninsula, (9 miles RT) Contact Gretha/Doug Davis (360) 681-8013 gretha.d@wavecable.com

Tuesday, May 24: Dungeness River in the mountains Hike, Deer Ridge (6 miles round trip) Contact John Bridge (360) 683-3151 jbridge@olympen.com

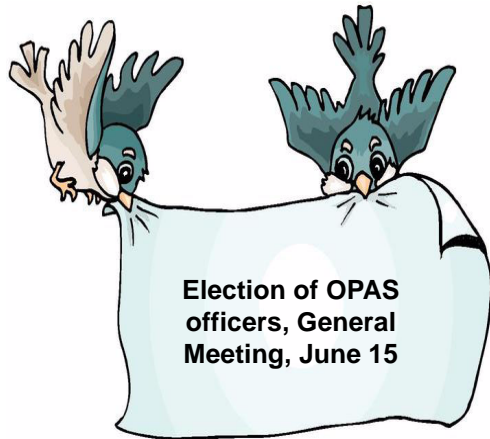
Monday, May 30: Fort Worden, Port Townsend. (5 miles round trip) Contact Gretha / Doug Davis (360) 681-8013 gretha.d@wavecable.com

***Mission Statement;** to inspire understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship of the Olympic Peninsula's unique natural and cultural resources, with emphasis on birds, rivers, fish and people.*

Harlequin Happenings

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
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Membership Application-----NAS Code Y087XCH

Let OPAS be your one-stop Audubon membership initiator. Just check one of the options below:

Date: _____

Local OPAS Memberships, include 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 \$30.00) Lifetime Membership (\$250.00)

Combined Local OPAS and National Audubon Society Membership, includes subscriptions to the *Harlequin Happenings* & Audubon Magazine: \$40.00 initial membership; \$35.00 initial membership for seniors and students. Subsequent renewals of National Audubon Society memberships should be arranged directly with National Audubon Society.

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ E-Mail (for electronic *HH*) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Master Card or Visa payment: Card Number/Expiration Date _____/_____

Authorized Signature _____

Please make your check payable to **OPAS** and mail with this form to **Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, P.O. Box 502, Sequim, WA 98382.**

Check here if you would like to be contacted concerning volunteer opportunities at the River Center and/or OPAS.