



# Harlequin Happenings

Newsletter of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

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

Clallam County, Washington

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Issue 4 Jul-Aug 2012

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

## Birdathon Sets New OPAS and Washington State Record

### Birdathon Wrapup and Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide

The 2012 OPAS Birdathon will go down in history as one of the most extraordinary counts in WA state history. [See results on page 13] On May 12, 2012, 60 observers in 37 parties spent 244 party-hours birding in Clallam County, tallying a record 202 species, 9 more than Clallam's previous record set in 1999 and a new one-day record for any county in WA.

What's our secret? First was incredibly cooperative weather. It was one of those sparkling spring days with light winds, few clouds, and great visibility. Second was our dynamite counters who worked extra hard to find birds in all the nooks and crannies of this county. Denny Van Horn started his day at Cape Alava at 2 a.m. and finished at the Makah Fish Hatchery at midnight, picking up an outrageous list including three species new to our Birdathon -- Am. White Pelican, N. Mockingbird, and Palm Warbler. Scott Horton, who combines birdathon with halibut fishing off La Push, came back with a great list of pelagic species we'd never see from land: albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels, and more. Several intrepid groups braved snowy mountains to see things like Golden Eagles and Pine Grosbeaks. Just as important, many folks stayed home and let the birds come to them, recording lots of backyard birds and a few unique things like the W. Scrub-Jay that visited Bob Iddins and Kathy Bush on the Miller Peninsula.

The most abundant species within taxonomic groups don't change much between years. For example, Bald Eagles have led the raptors for many years, as have Am. Robins with the thrushes and Violet-green Swallows with the swallows. A couple changes this year: Orange-crowned Warbler was the most abundant warbler, with Wilson's Warbler, its usual competitor, a close second. Similarly, this year White-crowned Sparrow was the most abundant sparrow, followed closely by Song Sparrow, which usually leads the pack. Hutton's and Warbling Vireos compete each year for number one; this year Warbling won out. The vagaries of spring weather and the timing of migration may have some influence on this, but our survey is not nearly precise enough to tell the difference.

*(Continued on page 8)*



### Save These Dates!!!!

>>Railroad Bridge Park 20th Birthday Celebration -- Outside In the Park on August 17 (Friday), at 4:30 p.m.

>>River Festival -- In Railroad Bridge Park on September 28-29 (Friday and Saturday)

>>Olympic Driftwood Sculptors' Show -- In the River Center on September 29-30 (Saturday & Sunday)

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## OPAS FieldTrips in July and August

by Bob Iddins

### Purple Martins and Shorebirds

*Date & Time:* Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 8:00 am

*Leaders:* Ken Wiersema and Bob Boekelheide

*Meeting place:* 3 Crabs Restaurant, Sequim

*Cost:* Free

*Features:* A walk out on the tide flats to view nesting Purple Martins, and then a search for shorebirds on the local tidelands. Waterproof boots that protect to at least calf level are advised for the tide flats.

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

*Further information:* Ken Wiersema 360-683-4763

[wiersema@olympus.net](mailto:wiersema@olympus.net) or Bob Boekelheide

360-681-4867 [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net)



### Hurricane Ridge & Obstruction Point

*Date:* **Tuesday**, July 24, 2012

*Leaders:* Bill Parker & Idie Ulsh (Washington State Butterfly Association)

*Meeting place:* 9:00 AM ONP 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!)

*Features:* The Hurricane Hill trail has wildflowers that attract butterflies and is a good site for ridge patrolling butterflies. A variety of swallowtails, Parnassian, checkerspots, and blues are expected. Butterfly expert Idie Ulsh will be available for butterfly questions. There are usually a few warblers on territory and singing, as well as American Pipits and Horned Larks. Picnic lunch usually attracts Gray Jays. Sooty Grouse hens and chicks are often found at the picnic area, as well as the endemic Olympic Chipmunk. After lunch we will visit other areas. Last year the snowpack prevented our access to Obstruction Point. It will be a target for us if the weather and road crews cooperate.

*Bring:* Optics, bird, wildflower & butterfly guides, lunch, & sunscreen. Be prepared for any weather changes.

*Further Information:* Bill Parker 360-504-2391 Email-

[whparker@surfbirder.com](mailto:whparker@surfbirder.com) or Idie Ulsh at (206) 364-4935.

## Dungeness Bay

*Date & Time:* Saturday, Aug 11, 2012, 8:00 am

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

*Leaders:* Judy Mullally and Mary Robson

*Cost:* Free

*Features:* Shorebirds feeding on the rising tide and anything else we can find.

*Bring:* Snacks, water, optics and appropriate clothing.

*Further information:* Judy Mullally 360-452-5797

(Continued on next page)



Photo by Bob Iddins

## Ocean Shores

**Dates:** Thursday & Friday, August 23-24, 2012

**Meeting place & time:** 8:30 AM **Thursday** outside the Silver King Resort, 1070 Discovery Ave SW, Ocean Shores (approx. 5 miles from center of town).

**Leaders:** Bob Iddins & Judy Mullally

**Cost:** Free but participants pay for own lodging and meals.

**Features:** Migrating shorebirds of Grays Harbor and other Pacific Coastal spots. Rarities are always a possibility.

**Bring:** Optics, lunch for both days, footwear for walking, especially on beaches.

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

**Note:** A pelagic trip will leave from the Westport marina at 6:00 am, Saturday, August 25, 2012.

The trip is operated by Westport Seabirds

([www.westportseabirds.com](http://www.westportseabirds.com)) phone 360-268-9141 (See their website for all details, registration information, etc.). Space is limited and preregistration is required. The cost is \$135 per person.

## River Center Events

### Wednesday Bird Walks

**Date:** Every Wednesday morning

**Time:** 8:30 to 10:30 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.



Photo by Robert Hutchison

### Lavender Festival Puffin Dinner Cruises

**Dates:** Friday, July 20, and Saturday, July 21

**Time:** 7 to 9 p.m., each evening

**Location:** John Wayne Marina

Two-hour-long cruise to Protection Island to view Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, and other bird and marine species. Enjoy a relaxing cruise and dinner aboard the MV Glacier Spirit. \$65.00 per person. Pre-register at the River Center, 360-681-4076.

### Early Shorebirds and Gulls

They're back! The focus of these intermediate classes will be on returning adult shorebirds and early gulls.

**1st Session:** Thursday, Jul 19, 12 - 4 p.m. \$10 donation requested.

Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park. Limit 16 people.

**2nd Session:** Saturday, Jul 21, 12 - 4 p.m. \$10 donation requested.

Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park. Limit 16 people.

Please register for these classes by calling the River Center at 360-681-4076 or email Powell ([rivercenter@olympus.net](mailto:rivercenter@olympus.net)) or Valerie ([rcoffice@olympus.net](mailto:rcoffice@olympus.net)). (Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

### Art in the Park - Call for Artists

The fifth annual "Art in the Park" event at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim, will take place from August 1- 5, 2012.

In this multimedia, non-juried show, artists are invited to interpret the natural features of the Olympic Peninsula. This is a fundraising event supporting River Center educational programs and there is a \$20 entry fee. Because of limited exhibit space in the River Center, only one piece can be accepted from each artist. Each piece must be for sale, with 25% of the price donated to the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

A photograph of the piece of art to be exhibited must accompany each application. Display space is limited to about thirty pieces; therefore, artists are encouraged to submit entry forms and photographs as soon as possible. The entry fee will be accepted when the piece is brought in for the exhibit. Once the exhibit space is full, entries can no longer be accepted.

Artists are also invited to display additional work and to demonstrate their skills outside in the courtyard on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> and/or Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Pieces sold must donate 25% of the sale price to the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

Detailed information and application entry forms are available at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, as well as at the website: [www.DungenessRiverCenter.org](http://www.DungenessRiverCenter.org)

### Middle Shorebirds and Gulls

These intermediate classes will focus on returning adult and juvenile shorebirds, along with mid-migrating gulls.

1st Session: Thursday, Aug 16, 11 - 4 p.m. \$10 donation requested.  
Dungeness Landing County Park. Limit 16 people.

2nd Session: Saturday, Aug 18, 11 - 4 p.m. \$10 donation requested.  
Dungeness Landing County Park. Limit 16 people.

Please register for these classes by calling the River Center at 360-681-4076 or email Powell ([rivercenter@olympus.net](mailto:rivercenter@olympus.net)) or Valerie ([rcoffice@olympus.net](mailto:rcoffice@olympus.net)).

### 'Enchanted Heron' Raffle

River Center Board member and award-winning driftwood artist Tutti Peetz has generously donated her unique sculpture 'Enchanted Heron' to the Dungeness River Audubon Center for a raffle. Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold for the sculpture, which is valued at \$700. Tickets are \$20, and they are on sale at the River Center. The drawing will be held at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, November 17, 2012, at the River Center's annual holiday Nature Mart. The winner need not be present at the drawing.

Tutti created 'Enchanted Heron,' from a piece of old Douglas Fir found in a clear-cut south of Forks and spent about four months completing the sculpture. The base is unfinished red cedar, and the other material on the base (giving it a look of reeds or grass) is composed of dried kelp. The dimensions are approximately 27" by 15". 'Enchanted Heron' won the People's Choice Award in 2011 at the River Center's annual Art in the Park.

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Photo by Sue Chickman

In 2008, she and former OPAS President Stuart MacRobbie (2002-2004) were among the founding members of Olympic Driftwood Sculptors (ODS), which held its first show in the River Center that year. Tuttie says, "Stuart MacRobbie introduced me to the River Center, and I immediately fell in love with the Park, the Center, and the concept of a place where everyone can go to connect with and learn about nature and our environment."

As witnessed by her donation of 'Enchanted Heron,' Tuttie turns her love into action. During Dungeness Spring Fling (May 1-31), she spent 93 hours sanding driftwood and raised more than \$3,000 for River Center education programs and to maintain Railroad Bridge Park. She has been doing driftwood sculpture for about 15 years, and has been an instructor for about 9 years.

Her work can be seen during the Lavender Festival at an ODS show in the Sequim Prairie Grange (July 20-22), at the River Center during Art in the Park (August 1-5), and at the ODS show September 29-30 during the River Festival. Her driftwood sculptures have won numerous awards -- most recently first place and third place in the Large Division in the Northwest Driftwood Artists juried show in Seattle in May, 2012.

## Spring Fling Highlights

by Julie Jackson

Since the River Center started Dungeness Spring Fling in 2009, this "feel good fundraiser" has raised over \$65,000 to support the Center's education programs and to maintain Railroad Bridge Park. This year's goal of \$20,000 is now within sight, and donations are still coming in. As of mid-June, Spring Fling's 48 participants had raised nearly \$18,000 with the help of more than 200 donors.



The Spring Fling organizers and River Center Board want to publicly thank the OPAS Board for its generous donation of \$2,000 and OPAS members for their participation and support. This year the River Center partnered with the Jamestown Clinic and Olympic Medical Center (OMC) to launch Spring Fling with a Fun Fair on April 28. The cool rainy weather didn't diminish the enthusiasm of the more than 400 visitors who did Animal Olympics, zumba, and all sorts of other activities that day.

Spring Fling participants had fun and accomplished amazing things:

The **Healthy Heart Throbs**, led by Emily Smith of OMC's Cardiac Services was the largest and most diverse new team. Its seven members biked, hiked, danced, and raised \$860. Another new team, Tom Guobis and Joan McDermott, the **Walla Walla Winers**, biked 497 miles each! Powell Jones and Greg Voyles are members of **Dirty Face Racing**; their team biked 19 laps (248 miles) in one 24-hour race. Dave, Ann, and Waverly Shreffler, the **Loco Lobos** kayaked 50 mi, biked & swam 30 mi, ran 40 mi, respectively, and raised \$300. **Life is Good**, Doug & Gretha Davis, hiked over 125 miles each and raised \$1,032 – 36% more than last year.

Lyn Muench and her 14-member team, **Spring Strollers**, walked 933 miles and raised over \$2,500 – almost 3 times as much as last year. **Skookum Woman**, Shelly Ament, spent 52 hours hiking, biking, dancing & snorkeling and raised \$440. **Green Gardeners**, Sue Chickman raised over \$800 for the 56 hours she and Bob Lynette spent gardening. The five-person birding team, **Swift Swallows**, led by Dave Jackson, identified 195 species and raised over \$4,000. But, Tuttie Peetz of **Sand Dollars** is the Spring Fling Champion for 2012. She sanded driftwood for 93 hours and raised over \$3,000 – 3 times as much as last year.

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## Conservation Matters

by Mary Porter-Solberg

### Three Crabs Land Acquisition

Dungeness Bay is a spectacular estuary at the mouth of the Dungeness River, one of the prime birding areas of the North Olympic Peninsula. Deemed an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society, it is rich in birdlife throughout the year. Waterfowl gather here by the thousands, including Brant, who feed on eelgrass during migration and in winter. At the right tide, shorebirds feed in easy view, along with eagles and falcons. In spring, Purple Martins return from their winter home in South America and nest in boxes on offshore pilings just north of the 3 Crabs restaurant. In recent news, it was announced the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission (WDFW) has approved a \$1 million wetland conservation easement purchase of about 52 acres of land along Dungeness Bay, which includes the 3 Crabs restaurant.

WDFW will seek funding for the current proposals from state and federal grants administered by the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The acquisition is part of the Dungeness Basin Coastal Wetlands project, which seeks to protect and restore key coastal wetlands important for fish, shellfish, and wildlife.

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society will partner with WDFW by offering in-kind support for the grant application to provide long-term monitoring of bird use of the project area, including Christmas Bird Counts, and Spring Migration Counts.

As part of our support for this project we requested:

1. No net loss of Purple Martin nesting boxes on offshore pilings. We recognize the old, creosoted pilings will have to be removed, but we requested a few suitable replacements made of non-toxic material. Allowing continued access across the mudflats to monitor and maintain nest boxes.
2. Clearly marked parking areas, beach access, trails, and discretely placed wildlife viewing sites so the public can view birds and other wildlife yet not cause significant disturbances.
3. Clearly designated closed areas that limit significant human disturbances to birds and other wildlife.
4. Restoration of habitat should not occur during the birds' nesting season.

The 3 Crabs restaurant will be demolished and the property will become part of the North Olympic Wildlife Area, managed by WDFW not only for habitat preservation and wildlife viewing, but also for hunting and fishing.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Powell Jones' Family Welcomes New Member



On May 16, 2012, Eleanor Gould Jones joined the family of River Center Director, Powell Jones. Weighing in at 8 lbs. 4 oz., she measured 20.5 in. Pictured with their new daughter and sister are Powell, Eleanor's mother Laura Gould, and their son Erwin (he goes by Win, though). OPAS and many others join in celebrating this joyous event.

## New Federal Guidelines for Bird-Friendly Wind Energy Development

The U.S. Department of the Interior released guidelines on March 23<sup>rd</sup> designed to help wind energy project developers avoid and minimize impacts of land-based wind projects on wildlife and their habitats. The voluntary guidelines, which OPAS supports, will help shape the smart siting, design and operation of the nation's growing wind energy economy.

Audubon strongly supports properly-sited wind power as a clean alternative energy source that reduces the threat of global warming. The bad news is that wind turbines sometimes kill a lot of birds. Some early wind projects are notorious for killing many raptors, including golden eagles. Modern wind turbines are much safer for birds than their predecessors, but if they are located in the wrong places, they can still be hazardous and can fragment critical habitat. In cases where the birds affected are already in trouble, such as sage grouse in windy parts of the plains states, the turbines could push them closer to extinction.

Audubon worked collaboratively for three years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, other conservation groups, tribes, and wind energy interests to hammer out science-based, practical guidelines for siting wind energy projects. These guidelines are intended to set a new industry standard for bird protection by steering wind turbines away from vital habitat, including Audubon's Important Bird Areas, and toward land already marked by development. They give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a place at the table for siting decisions; they help protect sites with high potential risk for birds; and they minimize habitat fragmentation.

## OPAS Presents Conservation Award

At the May 16<sup>th</sup> OPAS membership meeting we presented Ken Wiersema our Conservation award for 2012. This year we recognized Ken's many years of conservation advocacy and service to OPAS and our community. His notable contributions stretch from 1995 to present and include: building and servicing Purple Martin nest boxes at Three Crabs and Protection Island; presenting information programs on Purple Martins, swallows and Corvids; teaching Beginning Birding & Being a Backyard Birder seminars; leading nest box construction classes; assisting in counting migrating raptors at Neah Bay; participating in Ocean beach clean ups; designing and building a reusable educational model septic system for Clallam County Health Department.

In 1998, to support the WDFW he organized OPAS volunteers to work to identify the concentration levels of lead pellets in the hunted portion of the Dungeness Recreation Area, Clallam County Park. The data collected resulted in the State of Washington banning the use of lead ammunition for every type of bird hunting in the Park. *(Continued on next page)*



**2012 Conservation Award presented to Ken Wiersema  
by Conservation Committee Chair Jim Gift**

Ken has also served in an array of leadership roles in OPAS as well as in Audubon Washington. He has been a member of the OPAS Conservation Committee since 2003. For these and many other activities Ken is a leader in conservation and awareness for our natural environment. He is a credit to OPAS and our community.

Note: This award can be presented each year to recognize individuals in our Chapter or other members of our community, for either a singular act of conservation significance or for an extended aggregation of many conservation works over a number of years. Each year the OPAS Conservation Committee recommends a recipient to the OPAS Board.

## Birdathon Wrapup and Bird Sightings (Continued from page one)

Species well above their long-term averages this year (n= 19 years) = Cackling Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-footed Albatross, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Whimbrel, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Barred Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, and Yellow Warbler.

Species below long-term averages for our spring count = Wood Duck, Harlequin Duck, Western Grebe, Pelagic Cormorant, Killdeer, Rock Pigeon, and Pine Siskin.

"Unusual" species observed this year:

Canvasback – 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Birdathon, seen by Denny in Neah Bay.

Am. White Pelican – 6 birds seen by Denny flying off Neah Bay, the first ever on Birdathon. Not coincidentally, 6 white pelicans showed up in Dungeness Bay on 5/19/12, one week after Birdathon.

Green Heron – 5<sup>th</sup> occurrence for Birdathon

N. Goshawk – found by Scott Atkinson on the south side of Bear Mtn. near the Dungeness River, 5<sup>th</sup> occurrence for Birdathon.

Long-billed Curlew – one found by Sue Thomas at Dungeness Spit and two found by Denny mixed in with a big flock of 155 Whimbrels at Hobuck Beach. 4<sup>th</sup> occurrence on Birdathon.

Heermann's Gull – One found by Denny at gull roost in Neah Bay, 4<sup>th</sup> occurrence on Birdathon.

Black Swift – Six flying by coastal bluffs at Capes Alava and Flattery, 4<sup>th</sup> occurrence on Birdathon

Calliope Hummingbird – Denny found two, one along the Cape Alava trail and one at Ozette campground, and Scott Atkinson found one near the Dungeness Forks campground.



*Photo by Dow Lambert*

W. Scrub-Jay – First ever on Birdathon, seen by Bob Iddins at Diamond Point the day before Birdathon and again at 6 a.m. during Birdathon. Later the same day it showed up at Kathy Bush's house, about 2 miles away, presumably the same bird.

Mountain Bluebird – 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence on Birdathon, at the Waatch River.

N. Mockingbird – First ever for Birdathon, seen by Denny at Waatch River Valley.

Nashville Warbler – Five at Neah Bay seen by Denny, 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence on Birdathon

Palm Warbler – One at Makah Bay seen by Denny, first ever on Birdathon.

Pine Grosbeak – Three seen by Hank and Raedell Warren along the Hurricane Ridge Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence for Birdathon.



*Photo by Dow Lambert*

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"Possible" species we missed this year (so more are possible!):

Eurasian Wigeon – first miss in 10 years

Barrow's Goldeneye – first miss since 1995. Removing Elwha River dams may have extirpated the local breeding population.

Jaegers

Bonaparte's Gull

Horned Lark

Western Bluebird

Townsend's Solitaire

2012 Birdathon set a standard that may not be broken for a long time. Many, many thanks to all who helped make it possible. We'll do the same thing next year on the second Sat. in May, so please join us!

This year's intrepid counters:

West End, La Push, Neah Bay, Ozette, Clallam Bay, Sekiu - Denny Van Horn, Coleman Byrnes and Sue Nattinger, Scott Horton, Jim Henry, Dave Christensen and Dave Cole. Mountains = Bob Boekelheide, Jerry Freilich, Dave & Julie Jackson, Hank & Raedell Warren, Scott Gremell, Scott Atkinson. Port Angeles – Dave and Julie Jackson, Bob Boekelheide, Jerry Freilich, Sherrie Rogers & Jon Purnell, Steve & Sandy Bengtson. Sequim/Carlsborg vicinity: Barb & Norrie Johnson, Kris Lether, Jim & Audrey Gift, Sue Thomas & Sue Mayo (DNWR), Janie & Ken Leuthold, Margaret Levitan, Barbara VanderWerf, Mary Marsh, Judy & Mike Bromell, Marie Grad, Carol von Borstel, John & Diana Anderson, Susan & Gary Mortimore, Scott Atkinson, Joe & Fran Dieu, Nancy & Ken Wiersema, Don Chesebro, Jim Bates, Larry & Barbara Rymon, Jack & Brenda Landstrom, Michael Barry, Shirley Anderson, Bob Boekelheide, & Jerry Freilich. Miller Penin - Bob Iddins, Quenn Charrier, Beth MacBarron, Kathy Bush, Gene & Jean Spargo, Judy Price, Chuck Johnson, Jeanelle Gerber



Photo by Dow Lambert

## Bird Sightings

Beyond Birdathon, May and June provided lots of interesting birds in Clallam County. In the interest of space, here's a brief report:

4/29/12 - Mike McCleskey reported that 20-30 Sandhill Cranes landed in the 3 Crabs estuary.

4/29/12 – Ken Lane, fishing for sablefish about 30 miles off La Push, reports one Laysan Albatross along with over 250 Black-footed Albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels, and a Sabine's Gull.

5/2/12 – Dow Lambert photographed 2 Lesser Yellowlegs at 3 Crabs.

5/5/12 – Sue Christensen spotted 40+ Gr White-fronted Geese in Dungeness.

5/6/12 – Both Nigel Ball and Denny Van Horn independently reported a Sage Thrasher at Hobuck Beach.

5/6/12 – Nigel and Denny also independently reported a 1<sup>st</sup> year Glaucous Gull at Neah Bay.

5/6/12 - Denny Van Horn located a Semipalmated Sandpiper in a flock of Westerns at Neah Bay.

5/6/12 – Denny found a pair of Mountain Bluebirds at the Waatch River near Neah Bay.

5/6/12 – Denny found a single Vesper Sparrow at the Waatch River Valley

5/7/12 – Approx. 200 Vaux's Swifts rescued from a chimney in Mains Farm by Spring Fling birders, including Michael Barry, Dave Jackson, and Marion Rutledge.

5/8/12 – First Blue-winged Teal of the year reported by Denny Van Horn at 3 Crabs.

5/8/12 – Mark Salvadalena found a Heermann's Gull hanging out at Ediz Hook.

5/13/12 – Nigel Ball discovered a Western Kingbird at Hobuck Beach campground (like Denny's on 5/12?)

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## Harlequin Happenings

5/19/12 – Michael Barry and M.Ob. spotted at least 18 Pectoral Sandpipers together at Helen's Pond. 5/19/12 – Six Am. White Pelicans turned up in Dungeness Bay. Considering that 6 white pelicans were seen by Denny Van Horn flying by Neah Bay during Birdathon on 5/12, we believe they are the same birds. Last seen by Al Ruffner on 5/21 flying over Port Williams.



Photo by Robert Hutchison

5/20/12 – Joy Maxion found a Yellow-headed Blackbird at 3 Crabs, and later Denny Van Horn and Dow Lambert discovered 3 YHBL in the area.

5/20/12 – Denny Van Horn spotted a female Redhead at the pond at Kirner and Woodcock Rds.

5/21/12 – Mark Salvadalena discovered a breeding plumage Franklin's Gull during the Big Half Day, in Dungeness Bay. It remained until at least 5/25, seen at Dungeness Spit by Dow Lambert.

5/21/12 – Nigel Ball discovered a likely Brewer's Sparrow near the Hobuck Beach campground, along with three pale Horned Larks and two peeps he thinks were Semipalmated Sandpipers.

5/21/12 – Amy Willoughby found a beautiful adult Lark Sparrow on the beach at the east side of Neah Bay.

5/22/12 – Denny discovered a Grasshopper Sparrow at the Waatch Valley, a first record for Clallam County, and took photos along with Ryan Merrill on 5/23/12.

5/23/12 – Denny found a Lazuli Bunting near the Hobuck Beach campground.

5/24/12 – Denny found 4 Wilson's Phalaropes in the ponds along the Waatch River near Neah Bay, 2 Western Kingbirds near Hobuck Beach, and one Stilt Sandpiper near the Waatch River bridge.

5/25/12 – Denny located a Stilt Sandpiper at the Quiliyute River near La Push.

5/25/12 – Denny watched 2 Am. White Pelicans flying by Rialto Beach.

5/25/12 – Denny found a singing Cassin's Finch at the Quileute Prairie.

5/27/12 – Denny found one Stilt Sandpiper at 3 Crabs.

5/30/12 – Denny located an Am. Golden-Plover at Dungeness Landing.

5/30/12 – Nigel Ball reported a female Wild Turkey beside Hwy 112 near Joyce.

5/30/12 – Tonja Signor reported a very out-of-season Rough-legged Hawk near the mouth of the Clallam River.

5/30/12 – Holly Vannoy reported a Common Tern at the Dungeness Spit.

6/1/12 – Denny heard Am. Bitterns galumping in the marsh along 3 Crabs Rd.

6/2/12 – Nigel Ball found 3 Western Kingbirds at Hobuck Beach

6/2/12 – Denny found a bright male Lazuli Bunting in Jamestown.

6/3/12 – Mary Frances Mathis found a Lazuli Bunting in a clear cut on Jimmycomelately Rd.

6/4/12 – First of year Common Nighthawks reported by Denny over the Dungeness Recreation Area.

6/5/12 – Michael Barry located a Nashville Warbler at Dungeness Recreation Area, and found it the next day.

6/6/12 – 28 Whimbrels reported by Denny at 3 Crabs and Dungeness Landing Park.

6/7/12 – Denny spotted a Common Tern flying by 3 Crabs.

6/12/12 – Bruce Moorhead watched adult and juvenile Red Crossbills at his feeder south of Port Angeles.

6/23/12 – Bob Boekelheide and the Birding by Ear class found a Red-eyed Vireo singing at RR Bridge Park.

6/24/12 – Jane Stewart reported adult and juvenile Red Crossbills at McComb Gardens near Sequim.

6/25/12 – Scott Gremel reports a Red-eyed Vireo singing by the Elwha River



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Results of OPAS Clallam Co. Birdathon/International Migratory Bird Count, May 12, 2012

Gr. White-fronted Goose	22	<u>No. Goshawk</u>	1	Band-tailed Pigeon	145	Am. Robin	880
Brant	500	Red-tailed Hawk	43	Eur. Collared Dove	<u>105</u>	Varied Thrush	68
Cackling Goose	<u>66</u>	Golden Eagle	<u>2</u>	Mourning Dove	<u>105</u>	<u>N. Mockingbird</u>	1
Canada Goose	250	American Kestrel	2	Barn Owl	6	European Starling	316
Wood Duck	4	Merlin	2	W. Screech Owl	5	Am Pipit	10
Gadwall	91	Peregrine Falcon	4	Great Horned Owl	2	Cedar Waxwing	15
American Wigeon	84	Virginia Rail	7	N. Pygmy Owl	<u>9</u>	Orange-cr. Warbler	195
Mallard	390	Sora	1	Spotted Owl	cw	<u>Nashville Warbler</u>	5
Blue-winged Teal	5	Am. Coot	12	Barred Owl	<u>18</u>	Yellow Warbler	<u>124</u>
Cinnamon Teal	<u>12</u>	Sandhill Crane	cw	N. Saw-whet Owl	<u>8</u>	Yellow-rumped Warbler	158
N. Shoveler	49	Black-bellied Plover	91	<u>Black Swift</u>	6	Blk-throated Gray Warbler	19
N. Pintail	19	Sempalmated Plover	13	Vaux's Swift	100	Townsend's Warbler	98
Green-winged Teal	18	Killdeer	37	<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	3	Hermit Warbler	1
<u>Canvasback</u>	2	Black Oystercatcher	17	Anna's Hummingbird	<u>28</u>	Hermit X Twnsnd's W.	4
Ring-necked Duck	1	Greater Yellowlegs	7	Rufous Hummingbird	180	<u>Palm Warbler</u>	1
Greater Scaup	128	Lesser Yellowlegs	<u>3</u>	hummingbird sp.	1	MacGillivray's Warbler	19
Lesser Scaup	6	Wandering Tattler	<u>2</u>	Belted Kingfisher	21	Com. Yellowthroat	43
Harlequin Duck	25	Spotted Sandpiper	3	Red-brsted Sapsucker	15	Wilson's Warbler	172
Surf Scoter	770	Whimbrel	<u>208</u>	Downy Woodpecker	23	warbler sp.	36
White-winged Scoter	333	<u>Long-billed Curlew</u>	3	Hairy Woodpecker	21	Western Tanager	21
Black Scoter	9	Marbled Godwit	6	N. Flicker (unk. type)	27	Spotted Towhee	179
Long-tailed Duck	7	Ruddy Turnstone	5	"Red-shafted Flicker"	21	Chipping Sparrow	2
Bufflehead	112	Black Turnstone	6	Pileated Woodpecker	11	Savannah Sparrow	258
Common Goldeneye	7	Surfbird	13	woodpecker sp.	7	Fox Sparrow	2
Hooded Merganser	5	Red Knot	10	Olive-sided Flycatcher	9	Song Sparrow	338
Com. Merganser	62	Sanderling	273	W. Wood-pewee	6	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Red-br. Merganser	213	Western Sandpiper	1046	Hammond's Flycatcher	29	White-crwnd Sparrow	357
Ruddy Duck	6	Least Sandpiper	40	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	108	Golden-crwnd Sparrow	108
Ring-Necked Pheasant	2	<u>Pectoral Sandpiper</u>	2	W. Kingbird	1	Drk-eyd (Ore.) Junco	232
Ruffed Grouse	10	Dunlin	133	Cassin's Vireo	2	Black-headed Grosbeak	40
Sooty Grouse	35	Short-billed Dowitcher	29	Hutton's Vireo	17	Red-winged Blackbird	505
California Quail	100	Long-billed Dowitcher	21	Warbling Vireo	18	Brewer's Blackbird	186
Red-throated Loon	3	dowitcher sp.	5	Gray Jay	13	Brown-headed Cowbird	148
Pacific Loon	242	sandpiper sp.	2	Steller's Jay	98	Bullock's Oriole	4
Common Loon	63	Wilson's Snipe	1	<u>W. Scrub-Jay</u>	1	<u>Pine Grosbeak</u>	3
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>7</u>	Red-nckd Phalarope	176	crow sp. (Amer. & NW)	406	Purple Finch	80
Horned Grebe	17	Red Phalarope	cw	Com. Raven	118	House Finch	237
Red-necked Grebe	26	<u>Heermann's Gull</u>	1	Tree Swallow	295	finch sp.	5
Western Grebe	3	Mew Gull	26	Violet-green Swallow	922	Red Crossbill	135
Black-footed Albatross	<u>50</u>	Ring-billed Gull	5	N. Rough-wgd Swallow	56	Pine Siskin	103
Northern Fulmar	cw	California Gull	24	Cliff Swallow	246	Am. Goldfinch	649
Pink-footed Shearwater	10	Herring Gull	1	Barn Swallow	449	Evening Grosbeak	64
Sooty Shearwater	250	Thayer's Gull	3	swallow sp.	3	House Sparrow	118
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	75	Western Gull	20	Purple Martin	12		
<u>Am. White Pelican</u>	6	Glaucous-winged Gull	429	Black-capped Chickadee	54	<b>No. parties</b>	37
Brown Pelican	<u>13</u>	W. X Gl.-wng Gull	1118	Chestnut-backed Chick.	189	<b>No. participants</b>	60
Brandt's Cormorant	7	Glaucous Gull	1	Bushtit	31	<b>Hours foot</b>	102.8
Double-crstd Cormorant	122	large pink-legged gull	1284	Red-breastd Nuthatch	90	<b>Miles foot</b>	72.75
Pelagic Cormorant	167	Sabine's Gull	75	Brown Creeper	14	<b>Hours car</b>	46
cormorant sp.	1	gull sp.	228	Bewick's Wren	22	<b>Miles car</b>	607
Am. Bittern	cw	Caspian Tern	212	House Wren	7	<b>Hours bicycle</b>	1
Great Blue Heron	<u>91</u>	Common Murre	5505	Pacific Wren	155	<b>Miles bicycle</b>	2
Green Heron	2	Pigeon Guillemot	225	Marsh Wren	47	<b>Hours boat</b>	13
Turkey Vulture	80	Marbled Murrelet	58	American Dipper	3	<b>Miles boat</b>	83
Osprey	8	Ancient Murrelet	6	Gold-crowned Kinglet	97	<b>Hours owling</b>	10.25
Bald Eagle	208	Cassin's Auklet	113	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	16	<b>Miles owling</b>	71.5
Northern Harrier	17	Rhinoceros Auklet	1428	<u>Mountain Bluebird</u>	3	<b>Feeder hours</b>	71
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Tufted Puffin	9	Swainson's Thrush	12		
Cooper's Hawk	10	Rock Pigeon	60	Hermit Thrush	24		
						<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	28263
						<b>NO. OF SPECIES</b>	202

Underlined species = unusual species, recorded infrequently on count

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

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