



# 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 5 Sep-Oct 2012

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

## OPAS Programs for September and October

by Loretta Flanders and Bill Parker

### "Members' Megapixel Menagerie"

**September 19, 2012 – 6 p.m. Potluck Dinner – 7 pm general meeting at the Dungeness River Audubon Center**

The September 19 OPAS meeting starts with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation of favorite bird photographs taken by our own members.



*"I'm the Leader of the Band"*

*Photo by Bill Parker*

We are fortunate to have a number of talented bird photographers in our group. Whether you are a pro, serious amateur or casual photographer, please consider sharing a few of your favorite bird photos and tell us why they are special to you. This is not a competition and there is no prize for the best photograph. Whether it is a common backyard bird or an exotic rarity, if the image is special to you it will likely be special to the rest of us. Bring a few of your favorites and let us all enjoy them with you. Dow Lambert will moderate. Bring a flash drive or CD with some digital photos to show after the potluck dinner. If you plan on bringing some photos to share, contact Dow at (360-477-4725) or ([dow.lambert@wavecable.com](mailto:dow.lambert@wavecable.com)).

### "Protection Island's Pigeon Guillemots: Nesting Numbers and Breeding Success Project"

**Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 7 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center**

Sue Thomas, Wildlife Biologist for the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, will present preliminary findings on a Pigeon Guillemot nesting success study and an island-wide burrow count on Protection Island. The project aims to determine approximate abundance of nesting guillemots on the island since refuge establishment, and to compare nesting success between natural cavities, such as driftwood and dense grasses, to that of nest boxes. This project is an extension of Lee Robinson's 17-year study of success in nest boxes on Protection Island NWR. *(Continued on page two)*



*Pigeon Guillemot*

*Photo by Dow Lambert*

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## President's Message

by Tom Montgomery



Your Board held its annual planning retreat in July. Among new items we will be developing an improved OPAS website with some interesting bells and whistles—details to follow. In addition, we noted that next year will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Birdfest; we'll have a special dinner speaker to help celebrate. This provides me with a segue into Eftin "Father of Birdfest" Strong. Eftin has decided to resign from the Board after many years of service. We all know Eftin as one of our most creative thinkers and sources of new ideas, especially about raising money. His unbridled enthusiasm has been infectious. Birdfest was indeed Eftin's idea, which he developed and nurtured over the years with the help of many volunteers. Eftin will continue to play an important role for both OPAS and the River Center—so it's not goodbye but thank you to Eftin for all you have done for us!!

As you can see on the left, our Board needs a Secretary. Many thanks to Kendra Donelson (who will continue as a Board member-at-large) for handling the position last year. The duties are mainly taking minutes at our monthly Board meetings. Fancy computer skills are not required. Please let me know if you are interested. You will earn the instant gratitude of our entire organization!

Finally, please note that Powell Jones, our River Center Director, has joined the OPAS Board as a full voting member—welcome Powell!

## OPAS Programs for September and October

(Continued from page one)

Sue Thomas has a degree in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Rhode Island. She has worked for the Refuge Complex for the past three years with a focus on seabird conservation within the six Refuges in the Complex. Prior to that, she served as the Regional Shorebird Biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs for the Pacific Region for ten years. She cut her eye teeth working for the US Forest Service and HawkWatch International for six years where she conducted forest-wide raptor, migrant raptor, passerine, bat and carnivore studies.

### Save These Dates!!!!

>>Clinic Fun Walk -- United Methodist Church, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. See announcement on page 12

>>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)

## OPAS Field Trips for 2012-13

Date	Location	Leader(s)
Sept 15	Salt Creek & vicinity	Bob Iddins & Mary Robson
Sept 28 & 29	River Festival	
Oct 18 <b>(Thursday)</b>	Nisqually NWR	Bob Iddins & Mary Robson
Oct 20	Carrie Blake Park	Dave Jackson
Nov 10	Ediz Hook & PA Harbor	Judy Mullally & Bob Iddins
Nov 17	Carrie Blake Park	Dave Jackson
Dec 8	CBC Warmup	Bob Boekelheide
Dec 17	Sequim-Dungeness CBC	Bob Boekelheide
Jan 11 <b>(Friday)</b>	Local Bays & shores	Bob Iddins
Feb 9	Ediz Hook & PA Harbor	Judy Mullally & Bob Iddins
Feb 17-20	Great Backyard Bird Count	
Feb 27 & 28 <b>(Wednesday &amp; Thursday)</b>	Skagit Flats	Bob Iddins & Judy Mullally
Mar 27 & 28 <b>(Wednesday &amp; Thursday)</b>	Ridgefield NWR & Sauvie Island	Bill & Karen Parker
Apr 5-7	OPAS Bird Fest	
Apr 27	Point No Point, etc.	Judy Mullally & Mary Robson
May 4	Birdathon Warmup	Bob Boekelheide
May 11	Birdathon	Bob Boekelheide
Jun 5-7 <b>(Wednesday – Friday)</b>	Yakima, Toppenish & Vicinity	Bob Iddins, Joe & Karen Zook
Jun 22	Lost Mountain	Bob Boekelheide
Jul 11 <b>(Thursday)</b>	Neah Bay	Bob Iddins & Judy Mullally
Jul 30 <b>(Tuesday)</b>	Hurricane Ridge	Bill & Karen Parker
Aug 6 <b>(Tuesday)</b>	Martins & Shorebirds, 3 Crabs	Ken Wiersema & Bob Boekelheide
Aug 22 & 23 <b>(Thursday &amp; Friday)</b>	Ocean Shores	Bob Iddins & Judy Mullally

## OPAS FieldTrips in September and October

by Bob Iddins

### Salt Creek & vicinity

*Date & Time:* Saturday, September 15, 2012, 8:30 am

*Cost:* Free

*Leaders:* Bob Iddins & Mary Robson

*Meeting place:* Salt Creek County Park- restrooms adjacent to the RV parking area

*Features:* Possibly early migrating Turkey Vultures from Canada, shorebirds & alcids, etc.

*Bring:* Optics, water, snacks, sunscreen (?), and appropriate clothing for weather changes.

*Further information:* Bob Iddins 360-681-2840 Cell 360-775-5945 [briddins@olympen.com](mailto:briddins@olympen.com)

(Continued on next page)





Northern Shrike  
Photo by Robert Hutchison

### Nisqually NWR

**Date & Time:** Thursday, October 18, 2012, 9:00 am

**Cost:** Free- however the refuge charges an entrance fee for those without Federal Interagency Passes (Golden Age, etc.)

**Leaders:** Bob Iddins & Mary Robson

**Meeting place:** Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge visitors center, 100 Brown Farm Road Northeast, Olympia, WA.

**Features:** The following was reprinted from the Nisqually NWR website for October highlights: *Waterfowl numbers increasing. Wintering songbirds start arriving (Northern shrike, winter wren, ruby-crowned kinglet, golden-crowned kinglet, varied thrush, yellow-rumped warbler, and sparrows). Peregrine falcons, merlins, and American kestrels arrive to forage on wintering birds. Bald eagles hunt waterfowl flocks.*

**Bring:** Optics, water, snacks, lunch and appropriate clothing for any weather changes.

**Further information:** Bob Iddins 360-681-2840 Cell 360-775-5945 [briddins@olympen.com](mailto:briddins@olympen.com)

### Birding for Beginners & Newcomers

**Date:** Saturday, October 20, 2012, 9:30 a.m. - noon

**Cost:** Free

**Leader:** Dave Jackson

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

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

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

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

## 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.

### RRBP Work Parties

**Dates and Times:** Sat., Sep. 15: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Thurs., Sep. 27, 12 to 4 p.m.

Help keep RR Bridge Park looking bright and beautiful! Bring your work gloves to assist with gardening, cleaning, trail maintenance and other chores that make our park shine. On Sep. 27 we set up for the Dungeness River Festival and really need your help!

*(Continued on next page)*



Photo by Robert Hutchison



Photo by Robert Hutchison

### Dungeness River Festival

*Date:* Fri & Sat, Sep 28-29

*Time:* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Help celebrate the watershed that keeps the Sequim-Dungeness Valley alive. There will be activities for kids and adults, music, art, food, and much more. We need help organizing this big event, so please contact the River Center (681-4076) if you can help.

*(See article on page thirteen)*

### Olympic Driftwood Sculpture Show

*Dates:* Sat. and Sun., Sep. 29 to 30

*Times:* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m

Explore the works of the Olympic Driftwood Sculptors in the River Center on Saturday and Sunday.

## Making Charitable Gifts in 2012

by Sue Chickman, River Center Board Member

We asked the River Center's Endowment investment advisor, Jim Hallett, to share his thoughts when it comes to considering charitable donations for 2012. Here is his response:

*"Perhaps the only sure thing in life is uncertainty. Although death and taxes are still with us, 2012 seems especially afflicted with an abundance of mixed signals. With the elections, economics, and stock market adding anxiety to the mix, it is difficult to see any clear direction when it comes to financial and estate planning.*

*Nevertheless, all of these unknown variables provide us with a wonderful opportunity to refocus on what matters. For example, are your legal documents in order (do you even know what you need)? Whether or not congress addresses the estate tax (by the way, the estate tax in our state will impact many more people than the federal tax), now is the time to review all ownership and beneficiary arrangements.*

*Are your investments meeting your needs? It's quite likely interest rates will remain at historic lows for the foreseeable future. Federal income tax rules will be different; we just don't know the precise impacts.*

*And yet, by considering a thoughtful approach to philanthropy, you could improve your investment income, diversify your portfolio, reduce your income taxes and align your estate plans with your values. One thing is for sure, you can enjoy these benefits no matter how the future unfolds. What are you waiting for?"*



### Discovering Your Legacy

You have an opportunity to hear Jim Hallett and four other excellent professionals during a free, 2-hour event on "Discovering your Legacy." The River Center has collaborated with 11 other organizations to help people in our community learn the possibilities available for leaving an enduring local legacy. There will be information tables from all 12 organizations and an assortment of appetizers. Please join us!

Location: Keegan Hall, Room 125, Peninsula College

Date: Thursday, September 13, 2012

Time: 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Information: Sue Chickman, 477-4123, [organicallysue@olypen.com](mailto:organicallysue@olypen.com)



## Register Now for Fall 2012 ACOW

Register now for the 2012 annual meeting of Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW), hosted by Kitsap Audubon Society. This one-day meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 6th**, at the new Poulsbo City Hall. The keynote speaker is David Yarnold, President and CEO of National Audubon Society (photo right). The new Pacific Flyway director, Michael Sutton, will also speak.



Highlights of the day include a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new and final Puget Loop map of the Great Washington Birding Trail, with Poulsbo Mayor

Becky Erickson and Birding Trail Director Christi Norman.

The annual ACOW brings together leaders from the 26 Washington State Audubon chapters and Audubon Washington staff for workshops and presentations on a host of topics of interest to Audubon members throughout the state. There will be regional breakout sessions to exchange information and review progress at the state and chapter level.

Additional events are planned for those arriving on Friday or staying through Sunday, including field trips to local birding hotspots, an evening presentation on the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project, and a meeting of conservation chairs to discuss shared priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

A block of rooms with special rates from \$79-98 per night is being held at the Poulsbo Inn & Suites, conveniently located right on State Hwy 305 as you enter Poulsbo. Hotel reservations may be made by calling 360-779-3921 or email [manager@poulsboinn.com](mailto:manager@poulsboinn.com). Audubon ACOW is the group name.

To [register online](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/263251) for the ACOW meeting, go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/263251> - password is audubon. Registration cost is \$30 and includes morning and afternoon snacks, plus a boxed lunch. To register by check, please contact Joseph Manson at (206) 652-2444 x100 or [jmanson@audubon.org](mailto:jmanson@audubon.org).

## Education and Outreach

by Shirley Anderson

### Bill Parker Conducts Summer Programs During National Moth Week

Two National Moth Week events were organized this summer. The first was hosted by the Dungeness River Audubon Center on July 24, 2012, with 15 attendees. The second was a campfire program at Sequim Bay State Park on July 28, 2012. There were 63 attendees – 27 adults and 36 children.



Brian Grad Entertains

Brian Grad started both events by playing his guitar and singing some nature and moth songs. A slide program then showed moths and butterflies, including many of our local species. Volunteers for the program wore moth and butterfly wings to demonstrate the difference between the two families. After the formal presentation we looked for moths attracted to UV lights and baited boards. The most common moth was the Western Tent Caterpillar Moth (*Malacosoma californicum*). We are having a significant outbreak of them this year.



Western Tent Caterpillar Moth

(Continued on next page)

## DRAC participates in First Teacher Dungeness Kids Fair

On July 14, 2012, the Dungeness River Audubon Center took part in the First Teacher Dungeness Kids Fair, held at Carrie Blake Park. The following is a thank-you letter from Cynthia D. Martin, Ph.D., Executive director, Parenting Matters Foundation:

August 14, 2012

To Our Friends at Dungeness River Audubon Center:

On behalf of the children of Clallam County, their families and caregivers, thank you so much for joining us at the First Teacher Dungeness Kids Fair. You were part of a wonderfully diverse group of exhibitors, which made the day not only lots of fun for kids but informative for parents as well. Your support of Parenting Matters Foundation and the First Teacher program in this way is invaluable, and makes it possible for us to continue our mission of helping parents do an excellent job as their child's first teacher.

In organizing the First Teacher Dungeness Kids Fair, our goal was to provide the community with a free event that would bring families together, and we think it was a great success. Attendance was over 1,500, and the weather was perfect. From arts and crafts to squirting water on the "flames" in the Fire District's little house; from dance and gymnastics to clowns and games; from free children's books to piglets and calves – all combined to provide families a fun, free day at the park. In addition, there was information on community resources, preschools, and the library, as well as free car-seat checks and the child ID program.

At this time, Parenting Matters Foundation's main focus is on our monthly parent education newsletter and parenting classes. Parents are key to their child's success and we want to help them become the best parents possible. The newsletter costs \$35 per year per family, and we invite you to continue your support for First Teacher by providing one or several families with valuable parenting and child development articles. If you would like to consider a greater gift or know of anyone who might be interested in a greater gift, our kindergarten newsletter costs \$1,500 for each school, and I would be happy to talk further about it.

While the First Teacher Resource Room at the Sequim Community School is now closed, we still hope to find space to keep at least some portion of this resource open with the help of the community and volunteers. Our First Teacher newsletter will continue to be sent to families throughout Clallam County.

Once again, thank you for your support. We look forward to your future participation in the First Teacher Dungeness Kids Fair, and continuing to build our relationship with you to help Clallam County parents do an excellent job as their child's first teacher.

Warmly,

Cynthia D. Martin, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



## Conservation Matters - Marbled Murrelet Status

by Mary Porter-Solberg

Marbled Murrelet populations are continuing to decline at the rate of 7.4% annually in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and 6.5% per year for the Washington coast, according to studies from 2001-2010.

The Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) is a small sea bird about the size of a robin. It is the only tree-nesting bird in the Alcid family, which also includes puffins, guillemots and murrets.

Marbled Murrelets spend most of their time at sea feeding on fish, but nest inland in mature and old growth coastal rainforests. Murrelets do not build nests but rather rely on large tree branches with natural depressions and moss in which to lay their egg. Only mature and old growth conifers have branches large enough to accommodate their nesting needs. (Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

Murrelets do not nest every year. When Marbled Murrelet nesting occurs, it takes place between mid-April and September. The birds have high site fidelity, returning to the same tree or stand to nest. The female lays one egg and the male and female incubate the egg in shifts while the other bird feeds in the ocean. Typically, they switch shifts at dawn or dusk. Predominately due to the risk of predation, Marbled Murrelets tend to be very secretive when entering and leaving their nest sites, which makes it difficult to detect nesting birds.

The primary reason Marbled Murrelets are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is because of extensive logging of mature and old-growth forest over the past 150 years. Extensive logging has resulted in the fragmentation of murrelet nesting habitat, which affects population viability and size, and can lead to displacement, fewer nesting attempts, failure to breed, reduced fecundity, reduced nest abundance, lower nest success, increased predation and parasitism rates, crowding in remaining patches, and reductions in adult survival.

Additionally, habitat loss can lead to the increased risk of predation from corvids, like jays and ravens, which is a significant threat to murrelet populations. Significant murrelet nesting failure is due to predation from corvids who can fly into the edges of older forests. Murrelets need large interior forests to avoid nest predation.

Recently, a lawsuit was filed on behalf of Seattle Audubon and Olympic Forest Coalition against a proposed plan by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to log 12,000 acres of older growth high quality Marbled Murrelet habitat in southwest Washington. The lawsuit asks the court to require DNR to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for its proposal to conduct this logging that carefully considers long and short-term environmental impacts and alternatives.

## Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide

Audubon Alaska runs a yearly contest called the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge, in which teams of birders from March to May try to find species in their own states that also nest in the Arctic. This year a team representing the Dungeness River Audubon Center won the Arctic Challenge, thanks to the leadership of Denny Van Horn and team members Dow Lambert, Mark Salvadalena, Bruce Paige, Scott Atkinson, and Bob Boekelheide. In just Clallam County, the team recorded 142 species from the official list of Arctic-nesting species, blowing away the former record of 91 species. The best birds seen by the team included species like American and Pacific Golden-Plovers, Yellow-billed Loon, Northern Goshawk, and Tree Sparrow.



*Barrows Golseneye*

*Photo by Robert Hutchison*

With the removal of the Elwha dams, one concern is whether Barrow's Goldeneyes will decrease or disappear as a nesting species in Clallam County, since one of their consistent nesting areas was the backwaters of Lake Aldwell. Thanks to Mark Salvadalena's watchful eye, he found a female Barrow's hanging out on a pond near Deer Lake in early July, and discovered goldeneye ducklings with a female there on 7/23, so maybe the dire predictions won't come true.

Many people have commented about the Canada Geese flying around Sequim and Dungeness in August, including 300 to 350 that roost on the mudflats of Dungeness Bay.

*(Continued on next page)*



These are likely local breeders and their fledglings, rather than migrants from the north. The average Canada Goose clutch is 4 to 8 chicks, so if only 50 pairs of geese in our area fledged 4 chicks per nest, that could account for all the geese.

Ian Kilpatrick, a Navy sailor and birder, discovered and photographed a White-tailed Kite at the Dungeness Rec Area on 8/9. He watched the kite "kiting," or hovering, and witnessed harriers trying to harass it away from the area. Coincidentally, the last WT Kite seen in Clallam County was on 8/5/09, suggesting there's a pattern of kites showing up here in mid-summer.

Tim and Sylvia Copeland from Nampa, ID, visited Obstruction Point on Hurricane Ridge on 8/20, getting excellent looks at an adult N. Goshawk and both adult and immature Golden Eagles.

Denny Van Horn checked out the Wild Turkeys west of Joyce on 7/5, finding one female with 5 half-grown chicks. This is the same area where Nigel Ball found turkeys in May, apparently a resident population.

Ray Gelotte reported a wayward juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron along the Waterfront Trail in Port Angeles on 8/7, perched by the pond east of the Red Lion Hotel. Denny Van Horn discovered a single Great Egret at the south end of Discovery Bay on 8/13, the same area where one occurred last year about the same time.

Charlie Wright traveled to Neah Bay on 6/23, finding 3 W. Kingbirds and the first Bank Swallow and Swainson's Hawk recorded in Clallam County this year. Charlie also watched hundreds of Black Swifts foraging in the rain over the Hoko River Valley the same day. Nigel Ball traveled to Neah Bay on 7/8, discovering a Black Swift flying over the Waatch Valley and a male Am. Kestrel in the vicinity. It's possible that both these birds nested nearby, the swift along coastal cliffs and the kestrel in a nearby flicker hole. Denny Van Horn also reported kestrels at Neah Bay on 7/7 and 7/9, likely the same ones, and more Bank Swallows, three flying in the clouds of swallows at 3 Crabs on 7/23.

Nigel Ball also spotted an alternate-plumage Red-throated Loon in Neah Bay on 7/8, possibly a freshly-molted first-year bird that didn't go north for nesting. Bob Kiernan and Bob Boekelheide spotted 16 RT Loons at the Elwha River mouth on 8/21 in various stages of molt, from complete alternate to complete basic plumages.

The Lavender Festival Puffin Dinner Cruises to Protection Island found at least 5 Tufted Puffins on 7/20 and at least 9 on 7/21. Due to time and weather constraints, the boat could not circumnavigate the island, so it's possible that more were present.

Some interesting pelagic birds have been found dead at Hobuck Beach, including a Leach's Storm Petrel on 7/7 found by Denny Van Horn and a Cassin's Auklet on 7/8 found by Nigel Ball.

Southward migrating shorebirds are here as well, particularly at Dungeness Bay. An interesting Willet appeared at 3 Crabs on 7/15, feeding on the mudflats with Black-bellied Plovers. Adult Western and Least Sandpipers peaked in July, with smaller numbers of Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, and both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Two Whimbrels and 5 Semipalmated Sandpipers joined the Westerns on 7/20. Denny Van Horn discovered a Baird's Sandpiper at 3 Crabs on 7/25, hanging out with Westerns and Least. A brand new species showed up on Wed morning bird walks at RR Bridge Park, a Greater Yellowlegs on 7/11, followed by 3 more Greater Yellowlegs on 8/22.

*(Continued on next page)*



*Tufted Puffin*

## Harlequin Happenings

Speaking of Greater Yellowlegs, Denny checked the spot along the Quilayute River where he found yellowlegs with chicks in 2010, and found 2 adults present this year on 6/27 and one present on 7/6. This highly suggests they are again nesting here, possibly the only nesting pair in WA.

There was a different peep present on Dungeness Bay in mid-July that we can't identify. On 7/15, I watched a sandpiper feeding with Westerns that didn't fit anything I know. The bird was Western Sandpiper-size with black legs, but its bill was very small, thin, and straight, even smaller than the bill of Least Sandpipers feeding nearby. Its plumage appeared soft gray around its nape, darker brownish-gray on its crown, and its back wasn't so much striped as it was gently spotted. It had a white chest with some faint smudging under the wings. It fed on dry mud, staying away from puddles. The next day, Denny Van Horn spotted a similar bird at 3 Crabs, describing it almost exactly as I had seen. It still remains a mystery.

By mid-August, nearly all shorebirds in Dungeness Bay were juveniles, nearly all the same species as seen in July. Juvenile Red-necked Phalaropes made a showing at Ediz Hook on 8/21, with at least 20 feeding along kelp rafts on the north side.

Eurasian Collared-Doves are now a fixture in the Sequim-Dungeness area, but I was surprised at how ubiquitous they've become during my breeding bird survey between Port Angeles and Sequim on 6/17. The breeding bird surveys are 25-mile car routes with stops every half-mile, so 50 stops in all. The very first time I recorded collared-doves on the route was 2009, with 4 individuals at 2 stops. In 2010 there were 12 doves at 8 stops, but in 2011 the numbers decreased slightly to 8 doves at 5 stops. This year the numbers skyrocketed to 40 doves at 23 stops. Of interest, Scott Gremel, who does the breeding bird survey in the foothills above Port Angeles, says he has never recorded a collared-dove on his route.

Red-eyed Vireos showed up in June, first at RR Bridge Park on 6/23, heard by the Birding by Ear Class, and on 6/25, heard by Scott Gremel near where Little River flows into the Elwha River, while he did his annual breeding bird survey. The Elwha REVI stuck around until at least 7/11, heard and seen by many others. Scott says that Cassin's Vireos likely nested near his home on Blue Mtn Rd, singing through May and June. Two Cassin's Vireos sang their lazy songs at DNR land on Lost Mtn on 6/23 for the Birding by Ear class, suggesting they, too, nested in that area.

Amy Schillinger hiked the Shi Shi Beach trail all the way to Cape Alava from 6/26-6/29. She reported the trees were "dripping" with Wilson's Warblers and Brown Creepers. She observed the usual Black Oystercatchers, Harlequin Ducks, and eagles, but also noted several Whimbrels feeding along the shore and hundreds of Red Crossbills in the trees by the shore.

The stronghold for House Wrens in Clallam County continues to be young clearcuts in the foothills above Sequim and Port Angeles. Even though House Wrens seemed fewer and farther between in the lowlands around Sequim this year, they chattered away during the nesting season in clearcuts on Lost Mtn. Scott Gremel also found them singing in a young clearcut near Lake Dawn on 6/25, where they likely nest in woodpecker holes found in snags left behind after logging.

Denny Van Horn discovered a beautiful male Lazuli Bunting at Hobuck Beach on 7/6. Bob Boekelheide discovered at least 8 beautiful Bullock's Orioles in the Dungeness riparian forest near Towne Road on 7/8, including young males and females carrying food to chicks.

Thank you for your sightings! Fall migration is upon us; so if you see or hear anything unusual, please call Bob Boekelheide at 681-4867, or email [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net).

## Summer Memories

by Julie Jackson

### People's Choice Awards

Visitors to the Dungeness River Audubon Center voted two photos and a driftwood sculpture as their favorites in the recent Art in the Park exhibit. 'Into Silence,' a dramatic black and white photo by Angelina Reese, received first place. 'Silver Thread,' Dave Schreffler's amazing photo of salmon was a close second. Third place went to Award-winning driftwood sculptor Tuttie Peetz for 'Preening Swan.' [Editor's Note: At the time of printing, no photo was available for the third place winner.]



First Place - "Into Silence"  
by Angelina Reese

Peetz, whose driftwood sculpture 'Enchanted Heron' the first place People's Choice Award last year, turns her passion into action. She generously donated the unique sculpture valued at \$700 to the Dungeness River Audubon Center for a raffle. Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold. 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.



Second Place - "Silver Thread"  
by Dave Schreffler

The 2012 Art in the Park exhibit, August 1-5, featured 29 local artists, whose works ranged from paintings to fused glass and photographs to driftwood sculpture. "Many generous artists contribute to the success of Art in the Park," said Co-chair Shirley Anderson. The artists donated at least 25% of their sales to support River Center education programs.



Ken Wiersema Shares Memories

### Railroad Bridge Park Celebrates its 20th Birthday

Well-wishers gathered at the River Stage amphitheater in Railroad Bridge Park on Friday, August 17 to celebrate the Park's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The festivities included displays, refreshments, and historical highlights about the Park and the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT). Those sharing highlights and memories included Tribal Councilwoman Theresa Lehman of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Andy Stevenson, Co-President of the Peninsula Trails Coalition; OPAS and River Center board member Ken Wiersema, River Center Board President Lyn Muench; and guests Margaret Lotzgesell (Sequim) and Nina Carter (Olympia).

Buying the bridge was the very first step in building the ODT through Clallam County. Since opening in 1992, the Park has doubled in size to 22 acres and the ODT now extends east and west of that first half mile for more than 40 miles.

(Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

Development of the trail continues under the direction of the Peninsula Trails Coalition Clallam County, and other partners. These vibrant community resources are a living legacy of the visionaries who helped create them.

After train service to Sequim ended in 1985, concerned citizens and organizations worked together to purchase the Howe Truss Bridge (completed in 1915) and a half-mile of right-of-way to develop a trail for recreational use. Their achievements set in motion the creation of Railroad Bridge Park.

In 1993, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe accepted sponsorship of the Park, expanding it by 10 acres on the east side of the river, to provide a new home for the Sequim Natural History Museum. Community members formed a non-profit organization to manage and expand the Park and develop an educational center. Once called the Rainshadow Natural Science Foundation, the organization is now known as the Dungeness River Audubon Center. OPAS and the National Audubon Society joined the partnership in 1997. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, OPAS, and the Dungeness River Audubon Center jointly manage the Park and the Center.



*Nina Carter Recounts History*

## Clinic Fun Walk

Come join the Fun and join the Dungeness River Audubon Center's Clinic Fun Walk team and help support the clinic and the River Center at the same time, September 15th, registration 8:30 at the United Methodist church on 100 south Blake Ave. next to Carrie Blake Park. Please contact Kendra for more information, 683-7793.

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## Dungeness River Festival: Let's Go Green!



*Photo by Robert Hutchison*

“Let's Go Green” is the theme of the upcoming Dungeness River Festival, Friday and Saturday, September 28-29. Festival hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day and admission is free. In conjunction with the Festival, the Olympic Driftwood Sculptors will hold their fourth anniversary show on Saturday and Sunday in the River Center from 10-4.

A new event on Friday with special appeal to property owners and gardeners is “Landscaping with Nature.” The session led by Joe Holtrop, District Manager of the Clallam Conservation District, will begin at 2:30 p.m. with a presentation in the Dungeness River Audubon Center and continue with a plant walk in the Railroad Bridge

Park. In addition to his degrees in landscape architecture, Joe has been giving talks and teaching classes on sustainable landscaping for 18 years.

Exhibits on Friday and Saturday feature nearly all the local, state, federal, tribal and non-profit entities active in the Dungeness watershed. Another new attraction this year is the Nature Art Corner, which will feature demonstrations by artists including renowned local birder and artist Denny Van Horn. The OPAS activity for the River Festival will be the opportunity for people to measure their "wingspans" against the life-sized silhouettes of raptors that were constructed by Laura Anderson, Shirley Anderson and Bill Parker last summer. Bill is responsible for setting them up and taking them down from the Railroad Bridge Friday and Saturday of the festival, 9/28 and 29. Members of OPAS who would like to greet visitors at the exhibit are most welcome!

In addition to nature exhibits and activities for all ages on Friday and Saturday, the Festival will feature music, walks, presentations, story telling, food, and more. Highlights this year will include performances on Friday by the Five Acre School marimba band, the Sound Waves. On Saturday, the Jamestown S'Klallam drummers & singers will lead a traditional welcome ceremony at 10:00 a.m. and the Olympic Mountain Cloggers will perform at 11:00. Afternoon activities in the River Stage amphitheater will include Zumba and a drumming circle. On Saturday and Sunday (10-4) The Olympic Driftwood Sculptors will hold their fourth anniversary show in the River Center. The complete Festival schedule will be available on the River Center web site, [www.DungenessRiverCenter.org](http://www.DungenessRiverCenter.org).

Last year attendance at this community-wide celebration reached nearly 3,000, including about 800 students on Friday. As you can imagine, many volunteers are needed for an event. If you'd like to help with set-up on Thursday afternoon (Sept. 27) or during the Festival, please contact Gretha Davis, [gretha.d@wavecable.com](mailto:gretha.d@wavecable.com), or 477-5407.

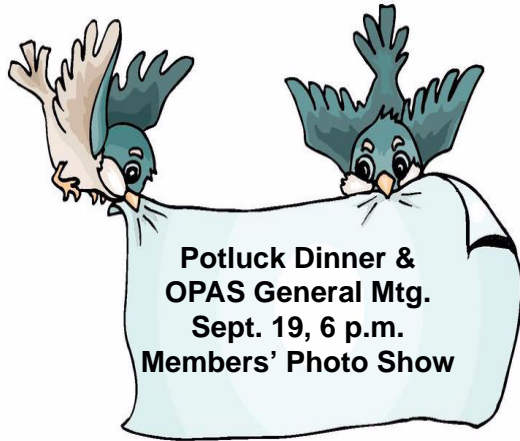


*Second graders check "wingspans"*

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