

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 1 Jan-Feb 2012

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

OPAS Programs for January and February

by Loretta Flanders and Bill Parker

**Elwha River Restoration,
presented by ONP Superintendant Karen Gustin, Jan 18 at the River
Center, 7 p.m.**



Please join ONP Superintendant Karen Gustin for a presentation on the ins and outs of the Elwha River Restoration project, the largest dam removal project to date. Removal of both dams is currently underway, and Superintendent Gustin will be on hand to answer questions on all aspects of the project.

Prior to Olympic National Park, Karen has served as park manager at a variety of locations, including an archeological site in Iowa called Effigy Mounds National Monument, in Alaska at Kenai Fjords and Katmai National Parks, the Pacific Islands at War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and Big Cypress National Preserve. She has a B.S. in Outdoor Recreation from Colorado State University.

**Wild Olympics Campaign,
presented by Jon Owen and Jim Gift, Feb 15 at the River Center, 7 p.m.**

Jon Owen is a member of the Campaign for America's Wilderness, one of ten conservation and recreation groups in the Wild Olympics Campaign. Along with OPAS' Conservation Committee Co-Chair Jim Gift, Jon will present highlights of the spectacular ancient forests and wild rivers in the Wild Olympics proposal, and describe OPAS's role in the multi-year local stakeholder consultation process that led to the broad peninsula support Wild Olympics enjoys today. They will also provide a coalition progress report, and highlight the recent historic announcement by Congressman Norm Dicks and Senator Patty Murray regarding their own draft watershed conservation plan for the North Olympic Peninsula.

Jon Owen has nearly two decades of experience assisting locally led wilderness conservation efforts in the northwest. He is one of several professional staff and spokespersons lending time and expertise to OPAS and the other all-volunteer peninsula conservation groups involved in the Wild Olympics Campaign.

Jim Gift is a long-time OPAS member and Co-Chair of the OPAS Conservation Committee.



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President's Message

by Tom Montgomery



A heartfelt thanks to all of our many volunteers for their amazing contributions of time and talent that have been so essential in carrying out the successful OPAS and River Center programs last year. Also, many thanks to the continued dedicated performance of River Center staff: Bob Boekelheide, Valerie Wolcott, and Powell Jones.

This coming year will present special challenges to staff and volunteers because of the decision to operate the River Center, for the time being, with just two full time staff: Powell and Valerie (Bob will be available for selected activities, as a volunteer). We hope to carry this out with no significant reductions in the various programs that have been developed over the years. This means that our reliance on volunteers next year will intensify. I have every confidence that our volunteer needs will be met and that our 2012 programs will be as successful as ever. I'll close with an anticipatory thanks to you all!

Planning is Underway for Birdfest 2012

by Marjorie Palmer

We are looking forward to a fabulous Birdfest this year on March 30, 31, and April 1 (Friday through Sunday). It will offer the same wonderful field trips as last year, including the San Juan Island Wildlife Cruise on April 1-3. Also, this year, a wine tasting event for Friday evening is in the works. Watch for updates on the website www.olympicbirdfest.org.

The Birdfest 2012 committee is working hard and doing well, but could always use more help. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Audrey Gift at agift@q.com, 681-2989, or Margie Palmer, grblheron@wavecable.com, 417-9574. Another way to help Birdfest in its fundraising mission is to donate silent auction items suggested below.

Wanted!

Birdfest Silent Auction items

Looking for donations of WONDERFUL ITEMS such as guided trips, art creations, one-of-a-kind items/experiences, time shares, birder/ birding-related treasures...

Contact Gretha Davis, gretha.d@wavecable.com, 360-477-5407.



OPAS Field Trips in January and February

by Bob Iddins



Local Bays and Shores

Date & Time: Saturday January 14, 2011 9:00 A.M. start

Cost: Free

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

Leaders: Bob Iddins and Judy Mullally

Bring: lunch, water, optics

Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park (Oyster House)

Further information: Bob Iddins, 360-681-2840



Trumpeter Swans - Photo by Robert Hutchison

Skagit & Snohomish Counties

Date: Tuesday & Wednesday, February 7 & 8, 2012

(Note: We have moved this traditional weekend trip to weekdays to cut down on traffic problems at some of the popular birding sights).

Cost: Free. Participants make own motel reservations at Mt. Vernon or Burlington. Also responsible for restaurant meals Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.

Leaders: Bob Iddins, Judy Mullally, Jim Gift

Features: A very popular annual trip to the Samish Valley & Skagit Flats. Swans, Snow Geese and wintering raptors are the stars.

Meeting place: Take the 8:35 AM ferry at Kingston for Edmonds. If you don't join us on the bow of the lower car deck, meet at the boardwalk for the Edmonds Marsh.

Turn right after exiting ferry (prior to railroad tracks), turn left on Dayton and make an immediate right. Proceed

straight through business area to parking lot for the marsh.

Bring: Scopes are helpful. Bring lunch for both days. Dress warmly and be prepared for inclement weather. We will probably do some car pooling on site. Participating cars will need a Discover Pass for access to state lands (Note: Current Vehicle Use Permits will be honored on WDFW lands for the balance of the license year-through March 31, 2012).

Further information: Bob Iddins, home phone 360-681-2840, cell phone 360-775-5945.

Local Bays and Shores II

Date: Saturday February 18, 2012, 10:00 AM

Cost: Free

Leaders: Dave Jackson, Judy Mullally

Meeting place: John Wayne Marina (north end)

Features: See wintering seabirds and raptors and anything else we can find.

Bring: Lunch, water, optics (scope if you have one), appropriate clothing.

Further information: Dave Jackson 360-683-1355 (H); 360-477-1358 (C); email:

djackson@wavecable.com.

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

Being a Backyard Birder (BBB) Session 4: "Birds the Inside Story"

Date: Sat Jan. 7th. *Time:* 10a.m. to noon.

Features: "BBB" can be taken as individual sessions or as a series. Each class will cost \$5 for adults, but is free for ages 10 to 18. After the completion of any 5 sessions, participants will be offered membership in the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS).

More information is available by calling 681-4076

Last Thursday Work Parties

Date: Jan 19

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Three short hours each month to 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.

Corvids in Winter

Date: Sat. Jan. 28; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person

Features: Ken Wiersema leads this special class to explore the fascinating lives of crows, ravens, and jays in winter. Come learn to identify corvids by behavior, ranges, vocalization, as well as hear anecdotes about these intelligent creatures. The class begins with a presentation at the River Center followed by field trip.



Merlin - Photo by Robert Hutchison

Raptors in Winter: A Special Presentation with David Drummond

Dates: Fri. evening talk, Feb. 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Sat. field trip, Feb 11, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m

Cost: \$30 per person

Features: Join Merlin researcher and raptor expert David Drummond for this special two-day class about the eagles, hawks, and falcons of our area, their adaptations for hunting and survival, and their fascinating lives during winter. Please pre-register: limit 18

(Continued on next page)

Great Backyard Bird Count

Dates: Fri., Feb. 17 through Mon. Feb. 20

Features: Every year at President's Day weekend, people are asked to count birds in their backyards and everywhere else, to assess how populations are changing in North America. Be part of the count! Go to www.birdcount.org for more information.

Annual Bird House/ Nest Box Building Class

Date: Sat, Feb 25; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per person, \$12.50 per person for 2 or more participants

Features: Learn how to build a birdhouse, then take one home by the end of the class. This is our annual class to design and construct birdhouses. By the time you leave you will have a birdhouse ready for swallows, chickadees, or, if you're lucky, bluebirds. Please pre-register: limit 16 people.

Being a Backyard Birder (BBB) Session 5: "Gardening for Birds"

Date: Sat Mar. 3rd Time: 10a.m. to noon.

Features: "BBB" can be taken as individual sessions or as a series. Each class will cost \$5 for adults, but is free for ages 10 to 18. After the completion of any 5 sessions, participants will be offered membership in the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS). More information is available by calling 681-4076

Change in Leadership at the River Center - Retrospective

by Ken Wiersema

To supplement the many well earned and deserved accolades that have appeared in local media and the Dungeness River Audubon Center's *River Current*, I was asked to write a brief salute to Bob's 10 years as Director of the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Bob has been a member of OPAS since 1995, and we can share a sense of pride in his accomplishments as the Center's director. Though he leaves the Center, he plans to continue in his role as OPAS's Chair for Bird Sightings & Bird Counts. He has developed that portfolio since the middle '90s, and his data and records bring great credit to the volunteer citizen-science of OPAS and the Center (See 2011's record CBC results on page 8). We can modestly say that OPAS has "loaned" Bob to the Center for 10 years in order to get it launched.

No longer having his skills and leadership on the Center's staff, we might feel a sense of loss; however, we can balance that loss with an appreciation and respect for what he has accomplished. We can also support him as friend and colleague as he takes on new challenges in his life and career. He and his family will remain in their home and will, as OPAS and Center volunteers, be part of our community.

I well recall sitting with members of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Staff, the then *Rainshadow Foundation* leaders, and National Audubon Society (NAS) staff in 2001, as we interviewed and evaluated an array of well-qualified applicants to lead our new Center. Bob's application and interview stood out. The NAS concept of "Centers" was yet to gel, and ours was to become the first Audubon Center in Washington.

(Continued on next page)



Olympic Birdfest 2012

March 30-April 1, 2012

Sequim, WA

A bird watching vacation for beginners to experts, from leisurely strolls to active hikes. Bird for a few hours, or all day...from the dawn chorus to the evening owl prowling. We will wake you with coffee, nourish you with locally grown organic food, and celebrate at a gala banquet.

Enjoy the show, from guided birding trips, boat tours, a silent auction, banquet, and many other presentations.

Our festival has a full slate of extraordinary offerings awaiting you.

Also this year! Stay on for a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands.

BirdFest program information and registration can be found at

www.olympicbirdfest.org

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Did we want our center's leader to be: Organizer? Naturalist? Research Biologist? Environmentalist? Fund raiser? Manager? Educator? The answer, of course, was yes! So, we asked next: "Which skill set shall be primary and which becomes supportive?" We went with "Educator" as the primary, and I continue to believe it was, and is, the best way to go. Bob accepted our contract and proceeded to build a high-quality, education-based, natural science program. And in so doing, he established our Center's future. He integrated his ornithology skills, experience in research, as well as classroom teaching skills to develop the Center. Today our programs offer solid science for many ages, interest levels, and backgrounds. He believes that creating a natural science, outdoor-focused array of offerings made the best future for the Center.



Fund raising was not a role that Bob relished as one of his tasks. Nevertheless, he honed his grant writing talents, and together with a loyal coterie of supporters and donors developed the resources the Center needed. He succeeded with the initial supporting funds from the NAS, and then as NAS phased out their support, he fashioned sustaining resources with grants, program income, local partnerships gifts, endowment earnings, and local membership giving. The development of an endowment proved to be a capstone accomplishment. Here again, I'd point out that the generosity at the core of the endowment is our donors' recognition of the quality of the offerings the Center provides to our community. I don't mean to diminish the work of every partner and the OPAS and River Center Boards, but it has been in the main, Bob's consistent leadership, optimism, dedication, and spirit that have earned the reputation of excellence the Center enjoys.

We welcome Powell Jones' selection to become our Center's new director. Powell brings continuity as well as a complementary education and experience background to the Center. He remains dedicated to the development and maintenance of high quality education programs as the foundation of the Center. I'm sure that our OPAS members will support Powell in his new role and will participate in the Center's programs and continue to be generous with their contributions to the Center and its events.

Web Corner

by Dave Jackson



Development of a joint RC-OPAS membership database was a year-long effort in 2011. The database became operational in October, and it contains current information on the status of River Center memberships. As we go to press, comparable data on OPAS memberships date to mid September.

Our uses of the new database go beyond mere tracking of membership status. You will soon have the opportunity to specify your activity interests, which we will record in the database. Doing so will place you on lists for email notification of upcoming events. Watch on the Home Page of our website (olybird.org) for a notice that we have started collecting these data.

Conservation Matters

by Mary Porter-Solberg

Wild Olympics Campaign

On November 15, 2011, Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Norm Dicks issued an announcement of their own draft proposal to establish new Wilderness, Wild and Scenic River, and willing seller National Preserves on the Olympic Peninsula. The Path Forward on Olympic Watersheds Protection Proposal cuts nearly in half — to 20,000 acres — the amount of private land that Wild Olympics had proposed for additions to Olympic National Park Preserves. *(Continued on next page)*



While this draft proposal does not include everything Wild Olympics proposed, it is a significant and historic milestone for Olympic Peninsula conservation.

In December, staff for Senator Murray and Congressman Norm Dicks held four public workshops ... in Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Shelton, and Hoquiam. The various aspects of the proposal were explained at *(Continued on next page)*

several tables with legislative staff members on hand to help clarify the details. People were given index cards and encouraged to comment and provide feedback. Overall, the workshops were well-received and legislative staff were pleased with the results.

The offices of Senator Murray and Congressman Norm Dicks will continue to gather public input as the process moves forward. Please call, email, or write your Senator and Congressman urging support for the Olympic Watersheds Protection Proposal.

Congressman Norm Dicks	Senator Patty Murray
1019 Pacific Ave, Suite 806	2988 Jackson Federal Building
Tacoma, WA 98402	915 2nd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98174
253-593-6536	206-553-5545
Toll-free: 800-947-6676	Toll-free: 866-481-9186



Photo by Doug Schwarz

**San Juan Islands
April 1-3, 2011, Sequim, WA**

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this spring for a three-day cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island State Park, and cruise home via dramatic Deception Pass. Contact 360-681-4076, or email info@olympicbirdfest.org.

Washington State Audubon Conservation News

The Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC) is composed of conservation chairs of the 26 independent Audubon chapters in Washington. WSACC was formally chartered in 2001 to coordinate and prioritize legislative lobbying and other policy efforts by the Audubon flock to protect habitat for birds and other wildlife through conservation action.

Beginning in 2003, WSACC signed on to a slate of environmental legislative priorities, jointly crafted by a coalition of conservation groups within Washington. The combined groups formed the Environmental Priorities Coalition, which has listed its top three Environmental Priorities for 2012:

1. *Toxic Free Kids*: Protecting children's health from cancer-causing flame retardants and helping to put businesses on the path to using chemicals that won't harm the environment or their bottom line.
2. *Fulfill our Clean Energy Initiative*: Sustaining the success of I-937, our state's voter-approved clean energy initiative, in bringing investments, jobs, and economic development throughout Washington.
3. *Pollution Free Prosperity*: Preventing attempts to weaken, delay, or roll back state environmental laws and programs that are critical for clean air, clean water, and healthy communities

Environmental Lobby Day will be held January 25th from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM in Olympia, Washington. This year, Christi Norman, Audubon's Program Director for the Great Washington State Birding Trail, will kick-off lobby day by unveiling the Puget Loop, the 7th and final *(Continued on next page)*

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map in the series. After the unveiling event, the state's leading conservation groups will push for the passage of the Environmental Priorities Coalition's 2012 legislative package. If you would like more details about Lobby Day, please visit this website: <http://environmentallobbyday-epcweb.eventbrite.com/>.

Trumpeter Swan Survey

Once again, wintering Trumpeter Swans and some Tundra Swans can be found in the surrounding fields of the Sequim-Dungeness area eating leftover grains and vegetables harvested by farmers. OPAS has partnered with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Swan Stewards of the Trumpeter Swan Society to conduct a swan survey during the winter of 2011 - 2012.

As we begin our third month of the survey, many dedicated volunteers have spent numerous hours and traveled many miles searching for these magnificent birds. Citizen science volunteers must fill out data sheets and mark exact locations on maps. Later, this information will be compiled and entered into a data base to track swans and perhaps gain important information if fatalities occur.

When observing swans, please remember always to park your car in a safe place off the road, respect private property, and do not approach the swans. Binoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto lenses are important to prevent disturbing their normal activities. Be sure to enjoy the swans while they are here, because by March most will have left our area to fly north until next November.

If you are interested in participating in this survey or if you just want to observe swans, please feel free to contact Mary Porter-Solberg at 360-683-8072, or Email: hikernut@qwest.net, for information on the Swan's whereabouts and where to pick up a swan survey kit.

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge Update

See and hear about what changes are being considered for the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge! U.S Fish and Wildlife will hold two public open house meetings to learn about the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan that may impact the Refuge. The meetings will be held Thursday, January 19, 2012, from 12–2 p.m. and from 6–8 p.m. at the Sequim Prairie Grange Hall, 290 Macleay Road in Sequim.



2011 Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count

by Bob Boekelheide

December 19, the appointed day for the 2011 Sequim-Dungeness CBC, turned out to be spectacular, both for weather and birds. Calm winds, high clouds, and superb visibility helped out all day, a real contrast to the last couple years.

The count tallied 153 species, three more than our previous high count, and a record for WA CBCs. The total number of individuals was 85,777, surpassing the old SDCBC record of 85,221 set in 2009. 135 people participated in the count, combining field observers and feeder watchers.

The most abundant species this year, as is typical for this count, were dabbling ducks. The top three species were Am. Wigeon (14,675), Mallard (9,898), and N. Pintail (6,399). Other abundant species, in decreasing order of abundance, were Ancient Murrelet (4099), large pink-legged gulls (Glaucous-winged Gull and Olympic Gull hybrids, 3766), Brant (3145), Am. Robin (2468), Dark-eyed Junco (2145), Eur. Starling (1996), and Golden-crowned Kinglet (1772). These top ten species comprised about 59 percent of all the birds seen on our count.

A remarkable 22 species set record high-counts for the 36-year history of the SDCBC, including Brant, *(Continued on next page)*

N. Shoveler, Yellow-billed Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Common Murre, Ancient Murrelet, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Barred Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, N. Flicker, Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Fox, Lincoln's, and White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, and Am. Goldfinch.

One of the most impressive landbirds was Lincoln's Sparrow -- the count of 80 Lincoln's this year more than doubled our previous high count. The mild fall weather and lack of any storms perhaps helped survival of small forest birds, like chickadees and kinglets, or at least kept them in the area. The perfect weather really helped our esteemed boat party, which found record numbers of Yellow-billed Loons (10!), Common Murres (1826), and Ancient Murrelets (4099!).

Several species continue their recent increases, like Eurasian Collared-Doves, Barred Owls, and Anna's Hummingbirds. Eurasian Collared-Doves first appeared on our count in 2007 with 4 birds, then 13 in 2008, 44 in 2009, 106 in 2010, and 183 this year. The sky's the limit! The first Barred Owl seen on this count occurred in 1989, it was mostly missed for the next 20 years, never exceeded one bird until 2008, and this year reached 7. The first Anna's Hummer occurred in 1994, never exceeded three birds until 2006, and this year reached 81.

It was a perfect night and day for owling. We recorded 8 owl species, with multiple individuals of every species, including 3 Snowy and 2 Short-eared Owls.

Unusual species for our count:

Black-cr Night-Heron – 1 bird at Dungeness, present this winter and last, named "Gale" by Coffee Miklos, who owns the tree where it roosts, because it arrived during a gale.

Buteo sp., not Red-tailed Hawk – A close fly-by described by Denny Van Horn, Dow Lambert, and Mark Colombino that most closely matches Swainson's Hawk. We're being careful with this one because Swainson's Hawk winters in South America and is virtually unknown on Christmas Counts anywhere in the U.S. Without a photo, the record will probably be rejected. We do note, however, that a possible Swainson's Hawk was mentioned at the Victoria BC CBC as well.

Golden-Plover sp. – Seen by Denny with Black-bellied Plovers in Dungeness Bay. It was smaller than the BB Plovers, with smaller bill and no black axillaries, so it fits a golden-plover, but which one? It perhaps fits American Golden-Plover best because it had distinct superciliary line, but, again, Am. Golden-Plovers winter in southern South America and are much less likely than Pacific Golden-Plover.



Snowy Owl - Photo by Dow Lambert

Slaty-backed Gull – 1 at Dungeness Bay, closely described by Denny.

W. Bluebird – 5 birds at Gardiner, seen by Dan Greenman.

Townsend's Solitaire – 1 near Dungeness, seen by Dave and Julie Jackson and Marion Rutledge.

Am. Tree Sparrow – 2 birds at Three Crabs, still present on 12/22, seen by Scott Gremel and Mark Salvadalena.

Harris's Sparrow – 1 bird with other crowned sparrows along Olsen Rd., seen by Scott Atkinson.

Common Redpoll – 3 traveling with siskin flocks in alders near the mouth of the Dungeness River, seen by Scott, Mark, and Denny. (Continued on page 11)



Townsend's Solitaire - Photo by Robert Hutchison

RESULTS OF 2011 SEQUIM-DUNGENESS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL
Gr. White-fr. Goose	1	Great Blue Heron	133	Barn Owl	6	Y-r (Myr) Warbler	<u>24</u>
Brant	<u>3145</u>	<u>Black-cr Night-Heron</u>	1	W Screech Owl	3	Townsend's Warb.	4
Cackling Goose	19	Bald Eagle (ad.)	109	Great-horned Owl	8	warbler sp.	1
Canada Goose	647	Bald Eagle (imm.)	32	Snowy Owl	3	Spotted Towhee	459
Trumpeter Swan	54	Northern Harrier	47	N Pygmy Owl	2	<u>Am Tree Sparrow</u>	2
Wood Duck	5	Sharp-sh Hawk	15	Barred Owl	<u>7</u>	Savannah Sparrow	24
Gadwall	62	Cooper's Hawk	23	Short-eared Owl	2	Fox Sparrow	<u>298</u>
Eur. Wigeon	22	accipiter sp.	6	N. Saw-whet Owl	2	Fox Sparrow (SI-col)	1
Am. Wigeon	14675	Red-tailed Hawk	<u>102</u>	owl sp.	2	Song Sparrow	1107
Mallard	9898	<u>Buteo sp., not RT Hawk</u>	1	Anna's Hummingbird	<u>81</u>	Lincoln's Sparrow	<u>80</u>
N. Shoveler	375	American Kestrel	5	Belted Kingfisher	46	<u>Harris's Sparrow</u>	1
N. Pintail	6399	Merlin	9	Rd-brstd Sapscker	10	White-throated Spar.	1
Green-wgd Teal	1133	Peregrine Falcon	<u>19</u>	Downy Woodpecker	57	Wh-crwnd Sparrow	<u>173</u>
<u>Canvasback</u>	3	hawk sp.	5	Hairy Woodpecker	29	Gldn-crwnd Sparrow	730
Ring-necked Duck	102	Virginia Rail	11	No. Flicker	<u>121</u>	sparrow sp.	51
Greater Scaup	216	Sora	1	Red-sh. Flicker	90	Dk-eyed Junco (Or)	<u>2143</u>
Lesser Scaup	58	American Coot	90	Yellow-sh. Flicker	1	Dk-eyd Junco (SI-col)	2
scaup sp.	3	Blk-blld Plover	<u>707</u>	Intergrade Flicker	1	Rd-wgd Blackbird	1080
Harlequin Duck	218	<u>Golden Plover sp</u>	1	Pileated Woodpecker	13	W. Meadowlark	<u>48</u>
Surf Scoter	1187	Killdeer	17	N. Shrike	3	Brewer's Blackbird	1766
Wh-winged Scoter	170	Black Oystercatcher	4	Hutton's Vireo	10	Brown-hdd Cowbird	4
Black Scoter	47	Greater Yellowlegs	1	Gray Jay	12	blackbird sp.	102
Long-tailed Duck	927	Black Turnstone	3	Steller's Jay	237	Purple Finch	50
Buffhead	1728	Sanderling	<u>824</u>	crow sp.	824	House Finch	652
Com. Goldeneye	387	Dunlin	1670	Com. Raven	197	finch sp.	58
Barrow's Gldneye	39	W. Sandpiper	2	Blk-cpd Chickadee	<u>396</u>	Red Crossbill	<u>340</u>
goldeneye sp.	17	sandpiper sp.	1	Chnt-bk Chickadee	<u>577</u>	<u>Common Redpoll</u>	3
Hooded Merganser	52	Long-blld Dowitcher	1	chickadee, sp.	3	Pine Siskin	1025
Com. Merganser	29	Wilson's Snipe	3	Bushtit	192	Am Goldfinch	<u>102</u>
Red-Br. Merganser	1316	Mew Gull	<u>1035</u>	Red-brstd Nuthatch	140	Evening Grosbeak	15
Ruddy Duck	3	Ring-billed Gull	1	Brown Creeper	29	House Sparrow	149
duck sp.	17	California Gull	3	Bewick's Wren	30		
Rng-Nckd Pheasant	12	Herring Gull	4	Pacific Wren	192	<u>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</u>	<u>85777</u>
Ruffed Grouse	6	Thayer's Gull	6	Marsh Wren	91	<u>NO. OF SPECIES</u>	<u>153</u>
California Quail	157	<u>Slaty-backed Gull</u>	1	American Dipper	11	No. of Observers	111
Red-throated Loon	38	Western Gull	72	Gld-crwnd Kinglet	<u>1772</u>	No. Feeder Watchers	24
Pacific Loon	248	Glaucous-wng Gull	705	Rby-crwnd Kinglet	338	No. of Parties	44 to 52
Common Loon	93	W. X Glauc-wg Gull	<u>3061</u>	kinglet sp.	15	Miles on foot	136
Yellow-billed Loon	<u>10</u>	gull sp.	1100	<u>W. Bluebird</u>	5	Hours on foot	169.5
Pied-Billed Grebe	4	Common Murre	<u>1826</u>	<u>Townsend's Solitaire</u>	1	Miles by car	384
Horned Grebe	410	Pigeon Guillemot	1005	Hermit Thrush	5	Hours by car	70.25
Red-necked Grebe	100	Marbled Murrelet	49	Am. Robin	2468	Miles by boat	41.75
Eared Grebe	11	Ancient Murrelet	<u>4099</u>	Varied Thrush	85	Hrs by boat	11
Western Grebe	151	Rhinoceros Auklet	10	European Starling	1996	Miles bicycle	35
Brandt's Cormorant	51	alcid sp	23	Am Pipit	1	Hours bicycle	11
Dble-cr Cormorant	<u>1156</u>	Rock Pigeon	<u>847</u>	Cedar Waxwing	68	Hours owling	15
Pelagic Cormorant	117	Band-tailed Pigeon	3	Orange-cr Warbler	3	Miles owling	49.25
cormorant sp.	47	Eurasian Collar-Dove	<u>183</u>	Yellow-rmpd Warb	6	Feeder Hours	62
Am Bittern	2	Mourning Dove	297	Y-r (Aud) Warbler	1		

Underlined species = unusual species, recorded infrequently on count
 Underlined numbers = extraordinary number of individuals for Sequim-Dungeness CBC, since 1975

Christmas Count (Continued)

Other species recorded this year that we often missed in past years: Gr. White-fronted Goose, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Am. Bittern, Sora, Gr. Yellowlegs, W. Sandpiper, LB Dowitcher, Band-tailed Pigeon, Hermit Thrush, Am. Pipit, Orange-crowned and Townsend's Warblers, White-throated Sparrow, and Red Crossbill.

The only likely "miss" is Bonaparte's Gull, a species consistently recorded on this CBC 10-20 years ago, but not seen for 5 of the last 7 years. All-in-all, a great day with great weather and great observers. Many thanks to all participants!!

Dungeness Spit-Jamie Acker, George Gerdt; Dungeness Rec. Area-Ken & Nancy Wiersema, Coleman Byrnes, Sue Nattinger, Ed Chadd, Jette & Jim Monahan; Dungeness Bay, W. Dungeness-Denny Van Horn, Dow & Marlene Lambert, Mark Colombino, Shirley Anderson, Dale Erz, Nell Backus; 3 Crabs-Scott Gremel, Mark Salvadalena, Bruce Moorhead, John Willits; Jamestown-Dan Waggoner, Brad Waggoner, Sue Chickman, Pat MacRobbie; Graysmarsh-Bob Boekelheide, Anne Winskie, Jerry Freilich, Robin Berry; Port Williams, Washington Harbor-Roger & Cat Hoffman, Steve Acker, Bruce Paige, Ron Miller & 5 feeder watchers; W. Sequim Bay, John Wayne Marina-Jim & Audrey Gift, Bob & Jo Norton, Barb & Norrie Johnson, Ron Garton, Bob Hutchison, Margaret Levitan, Dave Schreffler, Carol Von Borstel; Battelle -Kate, Annette, & Peter Buenau; E. Sequim Bay, Miller Pen.-Judy Mullally, Dan McDougal-Treacy, Powell Jones, John Woolley, Francisco de la Cruz, Katherine Bush; Diamond Point, Gardiner-Bob Iddins, Paula Vanderheul, Lucia Napolitano, Dan Greenman, Bjorn Danaan-Devas, Jean Spargo, Judy Price; Offshore boat-Durkee Richards, Bruce Von Borstel, Bruce LaBar, Charlie Wright, Ryan Merrill; Protection Island-Rod Norvell, MarySue Brancato, Ed Bowlby, Janis Burger, Eric Page, Lorenz Sollmann, Sue Mayo; Chicken Coop Rd-Dan Greenman, Bjorn Danaan-Devas, Charlotte Watts, Powell Jones; Palo Alto Rd, Woods Rd-Bill & Karen Parker, Quenn Charrier; Happy Valley, Burnt Hill, Bell Hill, SE Sequim-John Bridge, Sara Zarelli, John & Diana Anderson, Kendra Donelson, Betty Kennedy, Mike Kennedy, Myron Nelson, Chuck & Naomi Burke, Pat Carr; W. Happy Valley, Dung River S of 101, E of river-Kathe Smith, Clare Hatler; W of Dung River, S of Hwy 101-Scott Atkinson, Joyce Hershberger, Dann Oppfeldt, Amy Oppfeldt, Norrie & Barb Johnson; Carlsborg, Robin Hill, McDonald Ck, W. Dung River- Marie Grad, Ron Good, Lisa Vaughn, Bob & Ann Sextro, Sherry Anderson, Tom Guobis, Joan McDermott, Barb Vanderwerf, Margie Palmer, Sheila Kee, Eftin Strong, Ingrid Strong, Pat Holden, Phyllis Wenger, Betty Kramp; Sequim, E of Dung River-Paul & Verla Priest, Pat DeMarco; E of Dung River, Towne Rd-Dave & Julie Jackson, Kate & Grace Goshen, Marion Rutledge, Richard Bloomer; Sunland-Sandy Schlecter, Jim Bates; RR Bridge Park-Mary Robson, Hank and Raedell Warren, Jinx Bryant.

Special thanks to property owners and agencies who allowed access for the count, including USFWS, Olympic Game Farm, Dungeness Farms and Habitat, Graysmarsh, Maple View Farm, Battelle, WA State Parks, WA DNR, Clallam Co. Parks, and more. Great thanks also to Durkee Richards for providing the offshore boat, and to our esteemed observers who came great distances to help with the count.

Note:

A report in from Barb Blackie indicates that 38 participants in the Port Angeles CBC, which took place on Saturday, December 31, 2011, recorded a total of 114 species. Congratulation PACBC!



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Bird Sightings in November and December

by Bob Boekelheide

Clearly, the biggest bird news this fall and winter is the invasion of Snowy Owls. The floodgates opened when Dow Lambert and Rod Norvell found the first local Snowy at Dungeness Spit on 11/15. By the following weekend, Snowys popped up all along the Dungeness shoreline, with at least 3 and possibly 5 sitting on rooftops along Marine Dr and 3 Crabs Rd. They showed up in towns - the most observed owls were the ones that sat on the Olympic National Park headquarters building in Port Angeles on 12/14 and another on the Sunrise Dental rooftop across from WalMart in Sequim on 12/20.



(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

They could show up anywhere - on 12/22 one sat on a rooftop in the neighborhood east of the ONP visitor's center, and on 12/29 one sat on a rooftop in Sunland north of Sequim. The most reliable place to see them continues to be Dungeness Spit, although by early January we received reports that people did not see them there. But continue your vigilance and let me know when and where you find these magical birds.



Snowy Owl - Photo by Dow Lambert

The other birds of interest this winter are bluebirds. Dan Greenman found 5 Western Bluebirds together at Gardiner during the CBC on 12/19, but they weren't the only ones around. John Bridge found a W. Bluebird earlier just west of the Dungeness River mouth on 11/29. A female-type Mountain Bluebird hung around 3 Crabs for over a week in late December, first seen on 12/23 by Denny Van Horn and still present on New Years Day. Nigel Ball discovered another Mtn. Bluebird at Neah Bay on 11/24.

Fortunately Nell Backus spotted a White-throated Sparrow in her backyard for the SDCBC on 12/19, the only one on the count, but other WTSPs have been around. Judy Mullally had one in her backyard in east Port Angeles on 11/25, Bruce Paige reported one at Sun Meadows east of Sequim on 12/8, and Bob Norton had one in his backyard near Joyce on 12/14.

Along with the Snowy Owls, other northerly invaders include Snow Buntings and Common Redpolls. The redpolls seen on the SDCBC hung out with Pine Siskins, so scan the siskin flocks closely for redheads. Bob Norton discovered a Snow Bunting on Ediz Hook on 11/25, and four more were present on the Ediz Hook Coast Guard base for the Port Angeles CBC on 12/31, seen by Bob Boekelheide, Ken Wiersema, and Bruce Moorhead. Bruce Paige reported another Snow Bunting at Port Williams on 11/28 and Dow Lambert flushed one at 3 Crabs on 12/8.

Lastly, Sue Chickman and Bob Lynette were disappointed not to find a Snowy Owl on Dungeness Spit on 12/31, but to make up for their disappointment two Emperor Geese flew within 100 feet of them, parallel to the spit. They got great views and clearly saw field marks. Remarkable!

Days are lengthening and birds are beginning to sing. Please report your interesting bird sightings to me at bboek@olympus.net or 360-681-4867. Have a birdy 2012!



Snow Bunting - Photo by Robert Hutchison

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