



# 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

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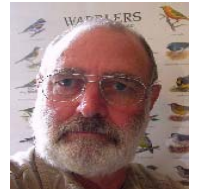
*"Promoting Birding and Conservation  
as Community Educators, Volunteers, and Stewards"*

## OPAS Programs for May and June

by Bill Parker

### May OPAS Meeting: "The Spotted Owl: Lessons After Twenty Years"

Meeting will be held at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 15, 2013.



Barred Owl  
Photo by Terry Martin

Twenty years of monitoring the Spotted Owl in Olympic National Park provide lessons for managing a threatened species in protected habitat. Scott Gremel of Olympic National Park will discuss gathering data, analyzing it, developing a plan to help maintain a population within the national park, and still keep the park "natural". Scott has his undergraduate degree in Natural History from Indiana University, where he studied the effects of clear-cut timber harvest on breeding bird communities. After moving to Washington, he did forest inventory work for the US Forest Service, before starting on the Spotted Owl monitoring project in Olympic National Park in 1994. Since then, he has worked on Spotted Owl conservation issues at the regional level, as well as



Spotted Owl  
USFWS - By Permission

researching the effects of Barred Owl competition on Spotted Owls for a masters

degree from the University of Washington.

### June OPAS Meeting: "Raising Sea Ducks – A 'Long-tail'"

Meeting at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park on Wednesday, June 19, 2013. The meeting will start with a **potluck dinner at 6 p. m.** Bring a dish to share. Main program begins at 7 p.m.

Arnold Schouten will present a program about his 36 years of working with various waterfowl species. He and his wife Debbie have created a special wildlife habitat at their home in Port Angeles, Washington, which they have opened on numerous occasions for OPAS outings. The Schoutens' collection of some 275 birds represents a variety of magnificent diving and specialized sea ducks. Arnold will talk about the many challenges, rewards and benefits of working with and raising waterfowl since 1976.

Arnold will talk about the many challenges, rewards and benefits of working with and raising waterfowl since 1976. After a major oil spill in the Port Angeles Harbor in 1985, Arnold focused his efforts primarily on the breeding and research of sea ducks. He has achieved excellent success in raising difficult species in captivity, such as Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequins, Eiders, White-winged Scoters, and Chinese and



Long-tailed Duck  
Photo by Marjorie Palmer

Red-Breasted Mergansers. (Continued on page two)

## OPAS Board of Directors

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## President's Message

by Tom Montgomery



The most important part of my message for this issue is to thank my fellow board members and the many other volunteers for their many contributions of time and talent to OPAS and our River Center partners. We have an organization full of vitality which deeply enriches the lives of Olympic Peninsula residents of all ages and also provides many reasons for visitors to enjoy their stay with us and want to return. Our recently concluded Birdfest is a great current example. I am sure you will want to participate in our upcoming Birdathon - financially and in other ways.

If you haven't yet done so, when you are next at the Center introduce yourself to Vanessa Fuller, our new Administrative Services and Volunteer Coordinator. She is embarking on her new position with enthusiasm and skill. In addition you will enjoy meeting Becca Nissley, Education Outreach Coordinator for the Center.

Finally, OPAS is seeking candidates for the offices of President and Vice President. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact me or any Board member.

## June OPAS Meeting: "Raising Sea Ducks – A 'Long-tail'"

(Continued from page one)

He has been a responder and contributor to oiled-wildlife care and rehabilitation during three major oil spills. Arnold's success in rearing difficult species has made him widely known in many circles for his keen knowledge and expertise in husbandry skills. He has worked locally and in Alaska on research projects with Harlequin Ducks and Steller's Eiders, as well as on projects in collaboration with state and Federal agencies, zoos, and universities. He was awarded the International Wild Waterfowl Association (IWWA) Southwick Memorial award in 1996 for successfully breeding and establishing the Long-tailed Duck in captivity in North America; and in 2003 the Jean Delacour Aviculture Award for his outstanding contribution to the betterment of aviculture. Arnold was elected President of the IWWA in 2012, and on October 13, 2012, at Crewe Hall in England, Arnold was inducted into the IWWA Waterfowl Breeders Hall of Fame.

## 2013 Clallam County Birdathon/International Migratory Bird Count

by Bob Boekelheide

Saturday, May 11th, is the OPAS Birdathon and International Migratory Bird Day, a great day to go birding and raise money for OPAS projects at the same time. Last year our Clallam County Birdathon set a record for the most number of species seen in one WA county in one day with 202 species, the first time

200 or more species had ever been seen in one WA county in one day. We learn a huge amount about birds of the Olympic Peninsula through this count, so please plan to hit the roads and trails to count our birds on May 11th.

(Continued on next page)

The International Migratory Bird Count is different from the Christmas Bird Count, because it includes all birds counted in Clallam County in one day. No matter where you are in the county you can help out, whether you live here or are just visiting. You can count all day, count a few hours, or just hang out around your house and count your yard and feeders. Or you could also find your own special out-of-the-way place to discover what birds are there. If you need some ideas about habitats and locations we don't usually get to, please call me for suggestions.

Please use the tally sheet included with this issue of Harlequin Happenings. During and after the count, tally the birds you see, keep track of the miles and hours you walk, drive, or boat, then email your information or snail-mail the sheet to me at the address on the back.

Before the Birdathon, we plan to have a field trip to review common birds and bird songs in our area. On Saturday, May 4th, meet us at Railroad Bridge Park at 8 a.m. to see and hear songbirds of the local forests, then travel to Dungeness Landing Park at 11 a.m. to see birds of shorelines and bays. If you're a late sleeper you can just meet us at Dungeness Landing.

Please call Bob Boekelheide at 681-4867 or email [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net) to sign up for the Birdathon, or just do your counting and send the tally sheet back when finished. And remember to line up some sponsors for your count, to help support OPAS, the River Center, and our wonderful programs. Thank you very much for your help!

## OPAS Field Trips in May and June

by Bob Iddins

### Birdathon Warmup

*Date:* Saturday, May 4, 2013

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

*Cost:* Free



*Photo by Robert Hutchison*

*Leader:* Bob Boekelheide

*Features:* This is a preview of the Birdathon which occurs Saturday, May 11. You can expect to see and hear late spring migrants and other forest and grassland birds at Railroad Bridge Park. Later at Dungeness Landing County Park gulls, waterbirds and shorebirds will be the featured attractions.

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

*Further information:* Bob Boekelheide 360-681-4076

### Toppenish and vicinity

*Dates:* Wednesday & Thursday, June 5 & 6, 2013

*Time:* 7:30 am Wednesday (Thursday's time and starting place will be determined later)

*Meeting place:* Main entrance of Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge at

Pumphouse Road and Highway 97 about 10 miles south of Toppenish.

*Cost:* Free, but a Discover Pass is required for entry into a state park. All lodging and meals are the participant's responsibility.

*Leader:* Bob Iddins

*Features:* A visit to the dry side of the state provides a different array of birds such as Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Loggerhead Shrike, Meadowlarks, Magpies, Lewis' Woodpecker, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Bobolinks.

We'll be visiting Toppenish NWR, Lateral "C" for Blackbirds, Bobolinks and displaying Wilson's Snipe and Fort Simcoe State Park (Lewis' Woodpecker, etc.)

*Bring:* Binoculars, plenty of water, snacks, lunch for both days, sunblock and insect repellent (it will be tick season).

*Pre-registration & further information:* Bob Iddins 360-681-2840 cell 360-775-5945 [riddins@olypen.com](mailto:riddins@olypen.com)

*(Continued on next page)*



*Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Photo by Robert Hutchison*



## Harlequin Happenings

### Lost Mountain

*Date:* Saturday, June 22, 2013

*Time:* 8:00 am

*Cost:* Free

*Leaders:* Bob Boekelheide & Bob Iddins

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

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

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

*Further information:* Bob Iddins 360-681-2840

## River Center Events

### Bird Walks

*Date:* Every Wed. morning; *Time:* 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Meet at the River Center for a lovely walk to see and hear the birds of the Dungeness riparian forest. Information from walks helps us understand the annual cycle of birds in RR Bridge Park.

### Work Party

*Date:* Variable (contact Center to be added to contact list)

The volunteers of Railroad Bridge Park and the River Center need help to maintain the beauty of the Park and River Center. Please join us anytime.

### Spring Fling for the Dungeness River Audubon Center

*Through the month of May*

Help keep the River Center and RR Bridge Park happy and healthy! This annual event raises funds for the programs of the River Center and to maintain our beautiful park. Join us by walking for wildlife, swimming for salmon, or biking for birds during the fundraising dates, then come to the Frolic on Jun 15 to celebrate our success. See the schedule of events in this issue, or go to our website at [www.DungenessRiverCenter.org](http://www.DungenessRiverCenter.org) for more details.

### On Artic Ground

*Date:* May 9th *Time:* 7p.m.

*Location:* Dungeness River Audubon Center

*Features:* Come to this special presentation by Dave Sheffler as he speaks about a photographic collaborative book detailing the artic ecosystem. The images in On Arctic Ground were contributed by thirteen talented wildlife photographers who have spent time in the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska observing the wildlife, getting to know the people, and understanding what makes this ecosystem vital to the health of our planet.

### International Migratory Bird Day/Clallam County Birdathon

*Date:* Sat., May 11

*Time:* Midnight to midnight

*Features:* How many birds can we count in Clallam Co. in one 24-hour period? You can help by covering a special route, joining another group, or by just counting your neighborhood or backyard. Please contact the River Center to sign up for the count (360) 681-4076.

### Dungeness River Audubon Center 2013 Annual General Meeting and Hors d'oeuvres Potluck

*Date & Time:* Friday, May 17, 5:30 p.m.

*Location:* At the River Center

River Center members and nonmembers are welcome to attend, however, only members may vote on Board members and By-laws changes. You may join at the door.

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5:30 to 6:00: Meet, Greet, and Eat. Please bring some tasty "finger food" to share. We'll provide beverages, plates, etc.  
6:00 to 6:30 : Attending to Business.  
6:30 to 7:00: Highlights and Goals.  
7:00: Door Prize Drawing. You may be the lucky winner!

### **Being a Backyard Birder - "Enjoying Spring Sounds"**

*Date:* Saturday, May 18

*Location:* Dungeness River Audubon Center

*Time:* 10 a.m.

*Cost:* \$5 (free to anyone under 18)

Dow Lambert and Ken Wiersema will present colorful slides, accompanying recorded sounds, to add a new dimension to spring for our local birders.

### **Being a Backyard Birder - "Out of the Nest"**

*Date:* Saturday, June 8

*Location:* Dungeness River Audubon Center

*Time:* 10 a.m.

*Cost:* \$5 (free to anyone under 18)

Ken Wiersema will describe what life is like for young birds when they become fledglings.



## **Education and Outreach**

*by Shirley Anderson, Education Committee Chair*

Awards for Bird Art at the student art show in March were selected by Pat MacRobbie, Dick Hahn and Judy Priest. Thanks for their organization of ribbons and cash awards for three area middle and high school students. Don Myers and Diane Johnson were responsible for selecting winners of the OPAS Environmental Film award at the annual Film Festival sponsored by the Sequim Education

Foundation.

### **Backyard Birding Series**

This series of eight Saturday classes is intended for anyone who is interested in knowing more about the varieties of birds seen locally throughout the seasons and learning how to develop good habitats at their homes for both resident and migrating wild birds. The series will conclude with the final two sessions in May and June (See descriptions above). After completion of any five classes, participants are offered a free membership in OPAS for one year.

Thanks to all the OPAS Leaders who have shared their interests with the classes this year: October "What Bird is That", by Bob Iddins; November "Winter Bird Feeding and Care", by the Leutholds and Christie Lassen of Wild Birds Unlimited; January "Birds: The Inside Story", by Shirley Anderson and Ken Wiersema; February "Bird Nesting", by Ken Wiersema; March "Migration", by Terry Martin and Bill and Karen Parker; April "Spring Gardening for Birds", by Ron Sikes of Admiralty Audubon.

Your ideas are welcome as we enter the third year of this series. If you would be interested in participating as a leader of a session, please contact Shirley Anderson, [sanderson22@olympen.com](mailto:sanderson22@olympen.com).

### **Classes for Children**

New last winter was the Dungeness Adventure Club for 2-6 year old children and their caregivers. Each 8 week session is \$80, or \$12 for a single class. The second session began in early March. Check the River Center website for information to pass along to family and friends with youngsters who would like a new way to explore outdoors!

The spring will conclude the presentations to children at Haller and Greywolf Schools. Bird of the Month presentations to second graders; Mammal of the Month to third graders; and "Connections" (interactions of insects, mammals (including people), and birds with native trees (western red cedar and black cottonwood) to fourth graders.

Fifth through 8th graders have visits in their classes and field trip time at the River Center and Railroad Bridge Park with the help of both staff and volunteers.

With the addition of the preschool ages in the Dungeness Adventure Club, your membership in OPAS helps to support local education that has the potential to touch all ages in Sequim, from two years though adults. Ideas for classes in the kindergartens and first grades are welcome! Please contact Shirley Anderson at [sanderson22@olympen.com](mailto:sanderson22@olympen.com), if you would like to assist with any of these programs in the local schools .

## Wenas Audubon Campout – 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary

by Doris Johnson, [dellenj@comcast.net](mailto:dellenj@comcast.net)

### Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27, 2013), Wenas Creek Campground (SW of Ellensburg)

You're invited to attend a celebration of birds, botany, and the beauty of spring in eastern Washington. The Wenas Audubon Campout will take place on Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27) at the Wenas Creek Campground. This three-day annual event invites campers to participate in a variety of activities, including birding field trips, flower walks, field sketching, and bat and owl prowls. You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend. All are welcome.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wenas Audubon Campout. In the spring of 1963, three women wandered into the Wenas Creek area while on a bird walk. Struck by the abundance of wildlife they found there, the women rallied to protect the area and reserve the site for bird-lovers to gather on Memorial Weekend for years to come. In 2013, the tradition continues. Event organizers have planned additional programming to celebrate the last half-century of Wenas Audubon Campouts, including a photo gallery and fireside presentation of the natural and homesteading history of the Wenas Valley. Commemorative t-shirts will also be available for purchase.

Visit the Wenas Audubon website ([www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org)) for directions, an outline of field trips, programming, and more information. Pre-registration is not required. The campout is free and open to all ages; however, donations are encouraged. In addition, every vehicle must display a Washington State Discover Pass (<http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>).



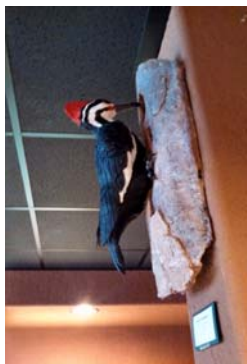
#### 2013 Birdfest Raffle Winner!

Sporting an unfortunate photo crew cut, Dick Hahn was the very happy winner of the **8x32 Vortex Viper HD Binoculars**, donated by Christie Lassen of Wild Birds Unlimited in Gardiner. Congratulations Dick!

## BirdFest BirdQuest – Hatching A New Tradition

by Sue Chickman

Field trips, sold-out banquet and silent auction, and classes—oh, my. The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society's BirdFest fundraiser on April 5-7 was a resounding success, thanks to the skilled leadership of Margie Palmer and an energetic team of dedicated OPAS and River Center volunteers.



Pileated Woodpecker

A new feature during BirdFest was BirdQuest, a fun contest that involved many Downtown Sequim merchants, First Friday Art Walk visitors, and Sequim High School ceramics art students. The BirdQuest contest was sponsored by the Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce Merchants Group. Game players walked around downtown—following bright yellow OPAS mascot signs—to 12 of the businesses that participate in Sequim's monthly Art Walk. Each business displayed a ceramic bird designed and crafted by the students in art teacher Jake Reichner's ceramics class. Players matched the species of bird to the name of the business in which the bird was displayed. Those who had named all 12 birds correctly became eligible to place their game card in a drawing box at That Takes the Cake. The winner received two tickets for the BirdFest Protection Island cruise on Sunday. Out of 43 correct game cards,



Shoebill Stork

the winner, whose name was drawn at 8:01PM on April 5<sup>th</sup>, was Mary Marsh of Sequim. Mary was thrilled to win the trip, and she and her companion thoroughly enjoyed it! Game players also voted for their favorite bird. The top three vote-getters received \$100 each, thanks to the generosity of the Sequim merchants and several individual donors.

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The following birds received the most votes:

>>Pileated Woodpecker, by Victoria LaCroix, 12<sup>th</sup> grade (displayed at Wind Rose Cellars)

>>Shoebill Stork, by Grace Trautman, 12<sup>th</sup> grade (displayed at the Blue Whole Gallery)

>>California Quail, by Brenna Neal, 10<sup>th</sup> grade (displayed at Heather Creek)



California Quail

[Editor's Note: There is some ambiguity about the name Shoebill Stork. Other sources give it's name as "Shoe-billed Stork". You may choose the one you wish.]

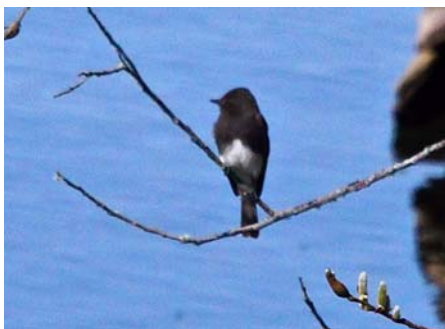
When you see the following merchants, please thank them for participating in BirdQuest and supporting BirdFest and the River Festival: Solar City \*\* Blue Whole Gallery\*\* LARC Gallery \*\* Pacific Mist Books \*\* Wind Rose Cellars \*\* Colors of Sequim \*\* That Takes the Cake \*\* Dropped Stitch \*\* Heather Creek \*\* Red Rooster \*\* Purple Haze \*\* Sunshine Café \*\*. The UPS Store donated paper and printing of the game cards.

Kudos to Gretha Davis of the BirdFest Committee and Diane Fatzinger of Clallam Co-op for developing this delightful activity. BirdQuest crossed the generational divide as people of all ages enjoyed the game. If you didn't play this year, don't miss the fun next year!

## Bird Sightings

by Denny AFMJ Van Horn

Clallam County Code 5s - Let's start with a 1<sup>st</sup> for the county: Black Phoebe! On 3.23 Jan Sleight found a single bird at the north end of First Pond on the dike-walk out to the mouth of the Elwha river. On 4/25 the Phoebe was re-found as it spent time flying off its perch catching insects and talking. The bird was not seen again after the 25<sup>th</sup>. Now for the second Code 5 of this report: Black-necked stilt. The Stilts were found on the morning of April 23 by Michael Barry. While scoping the far side of Washington Harbor from the turnaround at Batelle's, he found two birds working the tide-flats. This is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for the county.



Black Phoebe  
Photo by Jackie OneTree

**Waterfowl** – The questions here are who's left, who's still around, and who's arriving? American Widgeon are pretty much gone. Of the estimated thousands that over-winter, less than a few hundred are still along the face of the Strait from Diamond Point to Neah Bay. The same goes for Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Scoters, Goldeneye, and Bufflehead.



Black-necked Stilt  
Photo by Michael Barry

It seems that both Trumpeter and Tundra Swans departed en-masse overnight at the end of March, as not a single swan was found anywhere on April 1<sup>st</sup>. However, on the night of April 27, at least two Trumpeters came in to the ponds south of 3 Crabs and stayed overnight. Greater White-fronted, and Cackling Geese are still passing through in small numbers. The lone Schmuck Rd. Snow Goose was last seen on March 1. As to those who are still here, Canada Geese and Mallards have goslings and ducklings, already. Ruddy Ducks are courting on Kitchen-Dick pond. Harlequin Duck,  
(Continued on next page)



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## Harlequin Happenings

Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, and Hooded Merganser are seen on rivers running back into the mountains where they nest.



*Cinnamon Teal*  
Photo by Bruce Paige

As to arrivals, Cinnamon Teal were first observed by Bruce Paige along the lower Elwha River on March 26; since then they've been seen in numerous other locales. Gary Bullocks watched three Canvasback on Kitchen-Dick ponds on 4/02.

**Loons to Herons & Rails** –The most noteworthy facets here are that Gale and Windy [the Dungeness Black-crowned Night Herons] departed their wintering roost site at the end of March. Curiosity is now peaked: Will they return this coming fall? A single Yellow-billed Loon was found by Glen Gerada off Dungeness Spit [3.14]. Off-shore [3.09] Ryan Merrill and Scott Mills – during NOAA surveys - documented Manx Shearwater; a Code 5 that is being seen with some regularity. Also in this package they had Parakeet Auklet and Northern Fulmar. Michael Harrison, on similar surveys, reported Black-footed Albatross, Sooty Shearwater, Pink-footed Shearwater, and Northern Fulmar offshore [4.17]. Sandhill Cranes were first seen on March 17 in Beaver, where nine birds were standing in a

field during a snowstorm. On April 6, 80+ were seen heading north over the Wa'atch valley. On April 9, Adrienne Akmajian watched 80 fly north over Neah Bay, and another 20 over the Wa'atch valley. On April 17, 12 birds were seen flying north over Dungeness; and another nine going the same direction on April 21.

**Raptors & Owls** – Turkey Vultures continue to be seen in good numbers from east to west, with some kettles ranging as high as 80+ birds. Sue Nattinger watched 15 over Stripped peak at Salt Creek [3.13]; 30 were tallied over Bohokas peak at Neah Bay [3.11]; 65 over the School House at Dungeness [4.01]. And they continue to continue. A beautiful plumed Harlan's Hawk [subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk] was found by Michael Barry and Vince Lucas at Neah Bay [4.01]. A Rough-legged Hawk was seen consistently in the Schmuck Rd. area from Feb 19 through March 6. An Osprey was observed flying south over Gibson Spit on April 23. The first Spotted Owl report for the year was posted by Liz Graham and Emilie Kohler, NPS survey team [3.28]. Our Gibson Spit Burrowing Owl, 09/U, was reported to have made its way back to Kamloops, B.C. and has a mate at his burrow [3.12]. Will he return back to the Spit this Fall? And we still have at least two Snowy Owls in our area: A single bird is still hanging around up on Bell Hill; while the 3 Crabs owl is being seen almost daily. What are they eating? Well, the 3 Crabs bird likes waterfowl – it was seen feeding on a probable Mallard [4.13].



*Harlan's Hawk*  
Photo by Vince Lucas

**Gulls, Shorebirds, & Alcids** –A first cycle Glaucous Gull was found at Neah Bay [4.02]. Bonaparte's Gulls made appearances at Neah Bay [x3, 04.06], John Wayne Marina [~25, 4.07], and again at Neah Bay [x8, 04.13]. Michael Harrison tallied Bonaparte's, Sabine's Gulls [x3], and Black-legged Kittiwakes [x8] during off-shore surveys [04.17]. 140 Herring Gulls were reported from Neah Bay on April 6 [Shaw, Wright, Waggoner & Waggoner]. The first Caspian Tern was reported by Bruce Paige from 3 Crabs [04.01]. Since then, Caspian's have shown up in lower than usual numbers. Are they moving elsewhere to nest? A probable Arctic Tern was reported by M. Harrison [04.17]. And Common Terns [x4] were seen from shore at Jamestown as the birds flew west to east about 80m out.

In the Alcid collection, Cassin's Auklets [x3] were seen off Ediz Hook on March 1, and again in good numbers from offshore [M. Harrison, 4.17]. The Thick-billed Murre continued at PA Harbor until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March. The most unusual sighting in this group was a single Horned Puffin seen off Shipwreck Point [2.28] by Sue Nattinger. And then a single sighting of this Alcid off Ediz Hook by Diane Yorgason Quinn and Faye McAdams-Hands just three days later. The question is posed: Was this the same bird? Tufted Puffins, about to make their Protection Is. appearance, were reported offshore [M. Harrison, 4.17].

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Horned Puffin  
Photo by Diane Yorgason Quinn

Shorebirds are just hanging out there on the edge. Since March 1 though, 17 species have been tallied in the county. The year's first Spotted Sandpiper [3.30] was found by Mandy Holmgren at Freshwater Bay. The first Greater Yellowlegs was at Dungeness Landing [B. Paige, 3.18]. Willets [x3] were reported from Dungeness Spit by William Thacker [4.01]. Long-billed Dowitchers have become regulars again since March 1. Least Sandpipers seem to have made their appearance on April 21. Other goodies in this group included Surf-birds and Rock Sandpipers at Ediz Hook [3.01], Marbled Godwits walk the shores at Dungeness Landing regularly, and Whimbrel are being found in low numbers. The star in this group was the sighting of Red Phalaropes [M. Harrison, 04.17].

**And all the other birds** – There is a small flock of extremely wary and secretive Wild Turkeys that inhabits the Dungeness river area near the River Center. On March 1, two Toms were called up and responded with clucking and gobbling. Now to the Spring Arrivals in sequential appearance: Tree

Swallows at the Elwha river estuary [2.27, Sue Nattinger]; Violet-green Swallows at La Push [3.13, Sue Payne]; Rufous Hummingbirds in Clallam Bay [3.22, Tonia Signor]; Barn Swallows near DRA [3.25, Ken Wiersema]; Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Freshwater Bay [3.30, Scott Gremel & Mandy Holmgren]; Mountain Bluebirds at Neah Bay [3.31, Nigel Ball]; Say's Phoebe at Neah Bay [3.31, Nigel Ball]; Gray-crowned Rosy Finches on Blue Mountain [4.01, Mandy Holmgren]; Common Yellowthroats at Blyn [4.03]; House Wrens on Little Hoko river [4.03, M. Barry]; Chipping Sparrows in 100 Acre Woods off Schmuck Rd. [4.04]; Cliff Swallows over Palo Alto [4.04]; Townsend's Solitaire in Jamestown [4.05, Garry Bullocks]; Purple Martins in Dungeness [4.08]; Western Bluebirds west of Sequim [4.12, Larry Rymon]; Band-tailed Pigeons in good numbers all over [4.12]; Black-throated Gray Warbler at RR Bridge [4.21]; Yellow Warblers in Dungeness (early arrival) [4.27]; Pacific-slope Flycatcher at DRA [4.27, Dave Jackson]; Black-headed Grosbeak in Dungeness [4.27]; Western Tanager along Dungeness river dike-walk [4.27]; Wilson's Warblers along Dungeness river dike-walk [Terry Martin, 4.28]; and Hammond's Flycatcher along upper River Rd. [4.28].

And that's that!!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dungeness Spring Fling - Special Events

by Julie Jackson

**Dungeness Spring Fling** participants have fun and get fit while doing good. These events are open to all. You can become a participant, sponsor, or both. Won't you join us? To learn more, please see [www.DungenessRiverCenter.org](http://www.DungenessRiverCenter.org). Or stop by the Dungeness River Audubon Center 2151 W. Hendrickson Road in Sequim (360) 681-4076.



### Broom Busters

**Dates & Time:** Wednesdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 9 a.m. to noon

**Leaders:** Gretha and Doug Davis

**Location:** On the Olympic Discovery Trail, Blyn

**Features:** Dungeness Spring Fling Fund Raiser [www.DungenessRiverCenter.org](http://www.DungenessRiverCenter.org). Taking out Scotch Broom along the Olympic Discovery Trail, beginning in Blyn and ending in Sequim. Snacks and beverages provided by Peninsula Trails Coalition. Monies raised support Educational Programs at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park.

**RSVP & Details:** [Gretha.d@wavecable.com](mailto:Gretha.d@wavecable.com) or 360-477-5407.

### Explore Railroad Bridge Park

**Date:** Saturday, May 4

**Location:** Dungeness River Audubon Center

**Times:**

**9:30 to 10:15:** Stroll across the bridge over the river, walk the Olympic Discovery Trail to the end of the park and back (1 mile)

**10:30 to 11:00:** Explore undeveloped trails through the forest. Visit the new 27 acres we have just added to the park. Sturdy shoes required

**11:15-11:45:** Try out the Animal Olympics outdoor exercise challenge for all ages (*Continued on next page*)

Wild Birds Unlimited		<b>BRING IN ORIGINAL ADD FOR \$5.00 OFF NON SALE PURCHASE OVER \$25.00</b>	<b>THE FRESHEST SEED AVAILABLE BIRD FEEDERS NATURE GIFTS</b>
	<small>**Limit 1 Coupon per Household Per Newsletter**</small>	<b>YOUR BACKYARD BIRDFEEDING SPECIALIST!</b> 275953 Hwy 101, Gardiner WA 98382 <a href="http://www.gardiner.wbu.com">www.gardiner.wbu.com</a> 360-797-7100 Open Daily 9AM to 5PM. Summer Hours till 6PM	

## Harlequin Happenings

### Spring for Swallows

*Date & Time:* Sunday, May 5, 1 to 4 p.m.

*Location:* Dungeness River Audubon Center

*Leader:* Ken Wiersema

Learn to identify six different swallows that live in our spring and summer skies, plus a local field trip. Pre-register at the River Center. \$5.00 donation.



*Bob the Sodbuster  
Photo by Sue Chickman*

*Leader:* Dave Jackson

Walk along the Dungeness River Dike (2 miles round trip)

*Details:* Dave or Julie Jackson, (360) 683-1355 [djackson@wavecable.com](mailto:djackson@wavecable.com)

### Dungeness River Center Fun Run (5k)

*Date:* Saturday May 11

*Time:* 10:20 a.m.

*Location:* Downtown Sequim

*Features:* A fun run along the Irrigation Festival parade route. See details and register at <http://www.sequimgym.com/id67.html>, or call (360) 681-4076.

### Bird Walk

*Date & Time:* Thursday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.

*Leader:* Dave Jackson

Walk the Dungeness Recreation Area (3 miles, round trip).

*Details:* Dave or Julie Jackson, (360) 683-1355  
[djackson@wavecable.com](mailto:djackson@wavecable.com)

### Women on Wheels: Biking from Railroad Bridge Park

*Dates & Time:* Challenging hill rides, Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28; at 9:30 a.m.; Social rides, Fridays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, at 9:30 a.m.

*Location:* Both rides begin at Railroad Bridge Park, 2151 W. Hendrickson Rd, Sequim. (Gather in the turnaround near the Dungeness River Audubon Center.)

*For more information:* call Darlene, 360-681-3375.

### Dungeness Spring Fling Fun Walk from Blyn to Railroad Bridge Park for the Dungeness Spring Fling Frolic!

*Date & Time:* Saturday, June 15, 10:30 a.m.

*Leaders:* Gretha and Doug Davis

*Location:* Beginning at Blyn (do the entire 10.1 miles, or take segments)

Contact Gretha Davis [gretha.d@wavecable.com](mailto:gretha.d@wavecable.com). Awards and Root Beer Floats at Dungeness River Audubon Center in Railroad Bridge Park from 3:00-5:00pm.

**Green Gardeners**, Leader: Sue Chickman,

[organicallysue@olypen.com](mailto:organicallysue@olypen.com). For every hour Sue and her husband, Bob, spends gardening during May (typically four hours per day), Sue will donate \$1.00 to the River Center. You can join her team by pledging an amount of your choice for their gardening hours; keep track of your own gardening hours and pledge your own amount; or donate a lump sum to sponsor the Green Gardeners team.

**Sand Dollars**, Leader: Tuttie Peetz, [trpeetz@tfon.com](mailto:trpeetz@tfon.com). Tuttie plans to sand three hours daily on a driftwood sculpture for the entire month of May – that's a LOT of sanding! Whether you start your own project or sponsor Tuttie, you'll be working for a good cause. As an added incentive, any funds Tuttie raises will be matched, dollar for dollar, by her husband, Richard.

### Bird Walk

*Date & Time:* Thursday, May 9, 8:30 a.m.



*Bewick's Wren  
Photo by Robert Hutchison*

