



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 5 Sep-Oct 2015

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

OPAS Programs in September and October

by Bob Boekelheide & Tom Butler

September 16, 2015, Program — "Birding the Prairies of Northeastern Colorado"

Presented by Pete Walker

Potluck dinner at 6 p.m.; program at 7 p.m., at the Dungeness River Audubon Center

Northeastern Colorado may look desolate, but underneath that sparse exterior is a fantastic and unique avifauna that few outsiders know exist. Willa Cather described it as "...meadowlarks singing contiguous with the horizon."



Yellow-headed Blackbird
Photo by Robert Hutchison

Pete and Nancy Walker lived in Fort Morgan, CO, for 30 years, compiling a list of about 300 species of birds, including regional specialties such as Cassin's Sparrows, Burrowing Owls, Ferruginous Hawks, and Upland Sandpipers.



Twister in Ft. Morgan, CO

Pete's career as a fishery biologist, fish pathologist, and serious birder in Maine and Colorado taught him many lessons about natural and human history. Pete and Nancy retired to Sequim in 2013, where he is now a regular attendee of our Wednesday morning bird walks.

So if you think Colorado is just tall mountains, fancy ski

resorts, and the Denver Broncos, make sure you attend Pete's talk about the "other" Colorado and the fascinating birds of the High Plains.

October 21, 2015, 7 p.m. — "Dams and Dirt: Shoreline and nearshore response to the Elwha dam removals"

Presented by Dr. Ian Miller

Dr. Ian Miller is Washington Sea Grant's coastal hazards specialist, working out of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, as well as the University of Washington's Olympic Natural Resources Center in Forks.



Dr. Ian Miller

He will present **"Dams and Dirt: Shoreline and nearshore response to the Elwha River dam removals"**, in which he will describe the morphology changes to the delta and changes to the observed sub-tidal ecosystem.

A skilled science communicator and media spokesperson, Dr. Miller works with coastal communities on the Olympic Peninsula to increase their ability to plan for and manage coastal hazards, including tsunami, chronic erosion, coastal flooding and hazards associated with climate change. To accomplish this, he uses a suite of tools including outreach, applied research, synthesis of existing science, and coordination to help coastal communities access funding and expertise to achieve their goals and implement their plans.

Harlequin Happenings is published six times a year. Consider "going green". Receive your newsletter electronically, in living color, by contacting the OPAS Membership Chair, Audrey Gift, at 360-681-2989, or email agift@q.com.

The *Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society* meets monthly (except July, August, and December) on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 Hendrickson Road, Sequim, WA. The public is welcome.

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President's Notes

By Ken Wiersema

First off, I thank Jim Gift for his excellent leadership over the past 2 years. OPAS accomplished much and also enhanced its role as a premier birding and environmentally responsible part of our community. Jim handed over the bins to me with a good array of continuing programs to carry forward, and - I'm sure - some new, yet to be revealed, challenges to take on.

We have a super group of officers and board members, and I thank them for agreeing to offer their skills and energy to OPAS in the forthcoming year. We met in mid-August for our annual planning retreat, where we drafted our programs, objectives, reviewed field trip plans, and framed a budget. I can report to you that our Chapter is in good shape and prepared for the upcoming year. Thanks to those who participated. Those members who have suggestions to improve or add to our programs, or recommend other changes, please contact me or others of our board.

At the end of September, OPAS will again have a booth at the annual Dungeness River Audubon Center's River Festival. Shirley Anderson is organizing a group of members to setup and operate our booth. I encourage y'all to sign up and pitch in. The Center will also need volunteers to help put on the Festival, and you can sign up at the Center.

Those of you who can recall back to 1997, know that I served as President from then until 2000 – the only one (so far) to lead OPAS in 2 centuries. Wow what a factoid! Recycling exemplified. Look forward to seeing you at our annual Sept. potluck and membership meeting on the 16th. Good Birding.

OPAS Field Trips in September and October

by Bob Iddins

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.



Ediz Hook and Port Angeles Harbor

Date & Time: Saturday, September 12, 2015, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Leaders: Judy Mullally and Bob Iddins

Meeting place: In the area of the boat launch or restrooms at the end of Ediz Hook.

Features: Water and shorebirds of Port Angeles harbor and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Bring: Optics (scope if you have one), water, snacks and appropriate cloth-

ing for the weather.

Further information: Bob Iddins, 360-681-2840, rriddins@olympen.com.

Local Bays and Shores

Date & Time: Friday, October 9, 2015, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Leaders: Jim Gift

Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park

Features: Winter water and shorebirds of Sequim & Dungeness Bays

Bring: Optics (scope if you have one), water, snacks and appropriate clothing for the weather.

Further information: Jim Gift, 681-2989, jjgift14@olympen.com

Neah Bay (*Note: rescheduled from August 21 & 22*)

Dates & Time: Friday & Saturday, September 18 & 19, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Note: Although this is a 2 day trip, participants are welcome to attend either day or both (starting times and places are the same for each day). Everyone is welcome to join Denny at Hobuck CG (\$20 per night) for an evening of birds, campfire, beer, wine, and just good bird babbling.

Leader: Denny Van Horn

Meeting place: Washburn's Hardware Store on Hwy 112 in Neah Bay.

Cost: Field trip is free, however a Makah Nation Recreational Pass (\$10 and good for one year) is required for each vehicle. It can be purchased at Washburn's.

Features: Denny's favorite hot spots. Anything is possible.

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

Further information: Denny Van Horn 360-390-8128, dennyvanhorn@gmail.com.

Neah Bay

Dates & Time: Thursday and Friday, October 29 & 30, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Note: Although this is a 2 day trip, participants are welcome to attend either day or both (starting times and places are the same for each day). Everyone is welcome to join Denny at Hobuck CG (\$20 per night) for an evening of birds, campfire, beer, wine, and just good bird babbling.

Leader: Denny Van Horn

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Conservation Matters

by Mary Porter-Solberg



One year ago, Audubon released its ground-breaking *Birds and Climate Change Report* highlighting the potential impacts of climate change on birds in North America. The data is sobering. It is projected that more than half of the 518 North American bird species studied will lose 50% of their current climate range by 2080, and in Washington State, the data pinpoints 113 "climate-endangered" bird species that may lose 50% or more of their habitat by 2050. Many of these species could go extinct without decisive action to protect them by increasing conservation efforts to safeguard critical habitat and curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Warmer and drier conditions are leading to more frequent droughts, which add significant stress to birds during migration and breeding seasons. Climate change will alter Northwest forests by increasing wildfire risk, insect and disease outbreaks, and by forcing longer-term shifts in forest types and species. Many impacts will be driven by water deficits, which increase tree stress and mortality, tree vulnerability to insects, and fuel flammability.

The number of marine birds wintering in the Salish Sea has declined significantly in the last 30 years. While many naturally occurring and human-driven factors are potentially responsible for these trends, the degradation of breeding and foraging habitat and changing ocean conditions are attributed to climate change.

Studies have documented ways birds are responding to and being impacted by a changing climate. For example, many species are shifting their ranges and some are laying eggs earlier in the year. Range shifts could expose birds to unsuitable habitat, new diseases, and increased competition with species with which they have not coexisted historically.

Birds' life cycles may become out of sync with the availability of food sources. For example, if hummingbirds start migrating earlier in the year because of warming temperatures, they may arrive in their summer territories before nectar-rich flowers bloom. (*Continued on next page*)

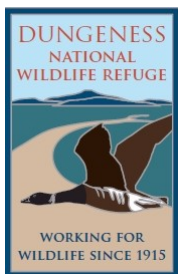
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The suggestions below provide many ways all of us can make a difference for birds. We can:

- Protect the places where birds live and raise their young by creating a bird friendly backyard. Healthy birds will be better equipped to face the challenges of a warming world. Commit to creating safe spaces for birds at your home and community by using fewer pesticides, letting dead trees stand, installing bird baths, and converting lawns and gardens to drought resistant native plants. Native plants are critical because they support many times the biomass of native insects compared to non-native plants. These insects provide the protein source necessary for birds to rear their young.
- Support habitat restoration and increase our involvement with Important Bird Areas (IBAs). IBAs offer us opportunities to restore habitat, protect them from encroaching development, and advocate for adequate water and proper land management.
- Volunteer for bird-related citizen science projects, such as our yearly Christmas Bird Count, Purple Martin nest box project, winter Swan Study, and the Puget Sound Seabird Study.
- Decrease our use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels continue to increase greenhouse gas emissions, leading to a warmer climate, and contributing to bird population declines across North America.
- Support policies that lower emissions. Urge leaders at the local, state, and national levels to enact policies that lower greenhouse gas emissions and support clean energy such as a carbon tax or a cap and trade policy
- Inform and educate our legislators, county leaders, wildlife agencies, parks departments, forest service, and other groups that manage our natural resources to illustrate how global warming imperils birds.
- Sign up to receive conservation alerts when they are posted on our website by emailing mportersolberg@gmail.com.

It's time for us to act to reduce the impact we're having on our planet, and to preserve the habitat remaining for birds in a climate-challenged future. To read more about the Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report, please visit <http://climate.audubon.org/>.

Other Events



DNWR Events in September and November

The Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge celebrates 100 years with activities throughout 2015. Activities scheduled for September and November are:

- September 25-26, Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Celebration of 100 years with the Dungeness River Bridge and Klahhane Hike Club as part of the annual River Festival at the Dungeness River Audubon Center.
- November 21, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.— Migrating waterfowl walk on the refuge led by Bob Boekelheide of OPAS. Participants will meet in the parking area.

Backyard Birding restarts in October!

“**Landscaping for Birds**”, first in the series of eight classes in “Backyard Birding” is from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, October 3, at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park. **Joe Holtrop, Executive Director of the Clallam Conservation District**, will present important aspects of a bird friendly yard, including food, water, and shelter, with emphasis on the use of plants native to this area. There will be an optional field trip (a two-mile hike at the Dungeness Recreation Area) to see native plants and where they are growing, following the class.

The series of classes, hosted by members of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, is intended for residents of this area who are interested in knowing more about birds seen locally each season of the year and learning how to develop good habitats for wild birds.

“Backyard Birding” can be taken either as individual classes or in a series. The cost of each session is \$5 and is free for anyone under 18. After the completion of five sessions, participants will be offered free membership in OPAS for one year.

The following is a list of the other classes in the Backyard Birding Series: October 3, “Landscaping for Birds”; November 14, “What Bird Is That?”; December 5, or 12, “Winter Care and Feeding of Birds”; January 9, “What Bird Was That?”; February 6, “Nesting”; March 5, “Migration”; April 9, “Landscaping for Birds”; May 14, “Enjoying Spring Sounds”; June 11, “Out of the Nest”.

Birding for Beginners & Newcomers

Date & Time: Saturday, October 17, 2015, 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. Limit 16 people.

Birding for Beginners & Newcomers II

Date & Time: Saturday, November 7, 2015, 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. Limit 16 people.

Cruise the San Juans while benefitting the Dungeness River Audubon Center

Dates: September 22-24, 2015



Photo by Doug Schwarz

Join Puget Sound Express and the Dungeness River Audubon Center for an exciting 3 day cruises through the San Juan Islands in Washington State. Selected by National Geographic as one of the World's Top 3 destinations, the waters around the San Juan Is-

lands are home to orcas (killer whales), minke whales, gray whales, humpback whales, stellar sea lions, porpoise, otters, and a dizzying array of seabirds. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Dungeness River Audubon Center!

Package price: \$850 pp dbl occ/\$925 per single person, includes three days aboard Glacier Spirit, lunch aboard the vessel, and two nights' accommodation at Roche Harbor Resort.

To sign up, go to PugetSoundExpress.com and click RESERVE ONLINE or call (360) 385-5288. Enter code "RIVERCENTER" as you order and PSE will give a portion of the proceeds to the River Center!

Railroad Bridge Trestle Replacement -- Update

In February 2015, the Railroad Bridge Trestle across the Dungeness River was damaged. Since then, the Tribe and many of its partners have been working in consideration of both fish and humans to address the broken link across the river. Since February, the Tribe, which owns Railroad Bridge Park, the Howe Bridge Truss, and trestle, has sought funding and worked with design engineers to determine the best fix for the trestle, which was built in the 1960s. The best fix for the damaged Railroad Bridge Park Trestle has been determined to be a total replacement. In preparation for the full replacement, and in order to avoid conflict with pink and chinook salmon spawning in the project area (expected to begin by mid-August), five pile bents that were in contact with the river channel were removed on August 1st and 2nd.



Prior to undertaking this work in the river, the Tribe conducted its well-established internal environmental review process (according to the Tribal Environmental Policy Act or TE-

PA), used to identify and mitigate potential environmental impacts. From a biological perspective, the fish window for work in contact with the Dungeness River channel is very short. Until mid-July steelhead (listed as Threatened under ESA) fry are emerging from the gravel. Fry emergence is a sensitive life stage and so work must wait for that period to finish. Then between mid-July and mid-August there is a brief time slot where instream work is less harmful.

It is expected that work will begin in late August. Total replacement of the trestle will remove the 38 creosote timber pile bent supports from the river bed to allow the river to move more naturally through this reach and create high quality salmon habitat. It will also restore the Olympic Discovery Trail Dungeness River bike/pedestrian crossing with a trestle of modern materials that is structurally sound.

For more information contact Annette Nesse, Chief Operations Officer, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe by email at anette@jamestowntribe.org or by phone at 360-681-4620.

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Harlequin Happenings

Puget Sound Seabird Survey

by Toby Ross, Science Mgr., Seattle AS

Want to contribute to vital seabird science in the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca? The ninth season of Seattle Audubon's Puget Sound Seabird Survey kicks off on October 3rd, 2015, and we are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Volunteers should be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to con-



Lesser Scaup
Photo by Doug Schurman

duct a 30-minute seabird survey. Training on survey methodology will be provided at the end of September. If determining between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. Learn more,

including training dates, at www.seabirdsurvey.org, and email Toby Ross, Science Manager (tobyross@seattleaudubon.org) if you would like more information or wish to take part.

Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide

There is an ominous feeling to the Olympic Peninsula this summer, the hottest and driest summer in western WA history. Seasonal snowfields are long gone from the bare Olympic Mountains. Peninsula rivers flow at record low levels, far below past records. Not only that, the "Blob" of hot ocean water continues off our coast, with record high ocean temperatures despite occasional upwelling near the coastline. Next in line is a strong El Nino, predicted to affect the Pacific NW through the winter with continued dry weather and warm ocean conditions. Our Goldilocks weather may be becoming a nightmare.

How are birds affected by the drought and warm ocean? Always a good question, but always hard to answer. Studies have shown that drought years are usually poor nesting years for many songbird species, due to low insect populations. El Ninos are famous for causing catastrophic food conditions for seabirds, particularly in coastal upwelling ecosystems like off the west coast of North America. Poor ocean

productivity during El Ninos causes marine food webs to collapse and prey populations to disappear.

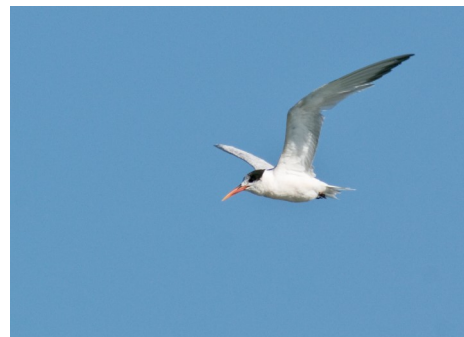
Stressful conditions elsewhere may cause unusual species to range far from their normal haunts. Already this year Elegant Terns have appeared in Clallam County, seen on 8/16 at 3 Crabs by Dow Lambert, Michael Barry, and Bob

Boekelheide, and the same day at Dungeness NWR by Hans and Kristi de Grys. Dow Lambert refound and photographed three Elegants at Dungeness Spit on 8/18. Elegant Terns rarely wander north of California, except in very warm water years. The largest Elegant Tern nesting colony by far is at Isla Raza in Mexico, an amazing island in the Gulf of California that also houses the world's largest nesting colony of Heermann's Gulls.

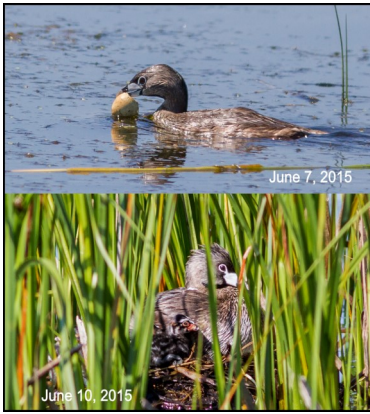
Similar to last summer, a number of sun-faded Brant remained in Dungeness Bay into August this year, likely non-breeding immatures that didn't return to breeding areas during their first year. In other Brant news, one banded Brant viewed at 3 Crabs on 3/18/15 turned out to be a male banded as an adult in 2000 near Prudhoe Bay, AK. The bird may have been making at least his 15th round trip between Alaska and the Outside.

It seemed to be a good nesting year for local Ruddy Ducks. John Gatchet spotted 10 fledgling Ruddies at the Diamond Point lagoon on 7/18. Michael Barry reported 8 Ruddies at Kitchen-Dick Ponds on 7/25, including a female with 4 ducklings. One female Cinnamon Teal with two grown chicks appeared for Bob Boekelheide at Helen's Pond on 7/30 and Denny Van Horn on 7/31.

Helen's Pond also provided nesting habitat for a pair of Pied-billed Grebes that hatched 9 chicks starting on 6/7, and fledged at least 5 by early August. At a surprisingly young age, the chicks seemed quite capable of diving and capturing small fish in the pond. Many thanks to Chris Perry, Lois White and Doris Causey for keeping tabs on their progress. Both Virginia Rails and Soras were also visible at Helen's Pond this summer, putting on a show for Doris Causey and Michael Barry on 7/25.



Elegant Tern—Photo by Dow Lambert



Pied-billed Grebe at Helen's Pond
Photo by Chris Perry

Robin Baird rode the M/V Coho ferry on 8/5 and spotted a Manx Shearwater 2 miles north of Ediz Hook. Manx Shearwaters are now regular off the west coast of WA, but rarely reported from the Salish Sea. Bob Brezak, visiting from Texas, photographed a single Ancient Murrelet with Common Murres off Cape Flattery on 8/18, adding to our records of summertime Ancient

Murrelets along the Clallam coastline. Ryan Merrill also spotted an Ancient Murrelet off Neah Bay on 7/23, along with 81 Marbled Murrelets, 48 Tufted Puffins, 9 Cassin's Auklets, and 6 Black Swifts. Perhaps most bizarre, John Gatchet reported a wayward Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel offshore of Clallam Bay in mid-July, always noteworthy to see in the Strait.

Golden Eagles made their summer appearances in the mountains, first for Michael Shepard at Badger Valley on 6/28, then for Ben Zequeira near Obstruction Point on 8/16. Merlin Sellard reported a Golden Eagle at Cape Flattery on 8/6.

Denny Van Horn recorded the local high count of Great Blue Herons, with 79 in Dungeness Bay on 8/11, split between 47 at Dungeness Landing and 32 at 3 Crabs. Where do these birds come from? The closest large heronry I know is at Beacon Hill Park in Victoria, but they undoubtedly flock here from other heronries in the Salish Sea.



Surfbird
Photo by Dow Lambert

This is shorebird migration time, always a good time to spot a strange bird. A Willet showed up for the OPAS field trip at 3 Crabs on 7/31, then stayed around Dungeness Bay for at least two weeks. Two as-of-yet unconfirmed shorebirds include a possible Hudsonian Godwit seen by Denny Van Horn at Dungeness Landing Park on 8/9, and a Red-necked Stint recorded by Dave Parent at Sand Point near Lake Ozette on 8/7. Denny Van Horn also recorded a Baird's Sandpiper among the other sandpipers at Dungeness Landing Park on 8/6, and Michael Barry reported 3 more Baird's at Dungeness Landing on 8/7. The one local American Golden Plover this summer was reported by Denny Van Horn, Gary Bullock, and Mike Crim west of 3 Crabs on 7/24, a bird in breeding plumage with full black belly and undertail coverts. Two beautiful juvenile Pacific Golden Plovers walked among the Black-bellied Plovers at Dungeness Bay on 8/20, seen by Bob Boekelheide and Lynette and Bill Baughman. Red Knots made a brief appearance on 7/24 at 3 Crabs, seen by Bob Boekelheide, Michael Barry, and Ryan Merrill, along with a Marbled Godwit and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Ryan Merrill reported a Long-billed Curlew at Hobuck Beach on 8/13. A Wandering Tattler showed up at Clallam Bay on 8/9, seen by Megan and Jason Billingsley.

An all-white hummingbird visited Patricia Wolczko and Richard Kemp's home near Hogback Road on 7/13, startling them as it flew by their window, then allowing a good look while it sampled their crocosmia flowers. The bird's white colors included the bill, but Patricia and Richard couldn't see its eyes and feet well enough to say if it was a total albino. Certainly not a coincidence, on 7/14-15 Dick and Lily White reported a similar white hummingbird nearby at Ridge View Dr. Be on the lookout!

Few people are as lucky as Judy Mullally, who had Vaux's Swifts nesting in her chimney once again this year. On 7/10, Judy Mullally wrote: "Good news! This morning I heard the insistent begging of voices in my chimney. "My" Vaux's Swifts have hatched."

Mandy Holmgren found an American Three-toed Woodpecker in Olympic National Park on 6/26, where they have been regularly spotted this year. John Gatchet reported a female Red-naped Sapsucker from his yard in Gardiner on 7/15, which he says was last seen flying towards Clallam County.

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Harlequin Happenings

John Gatchet also spotted a Bank Swallow mixed in with other swallows at 3 Crabs on 8/12, seen again by others later that day and early the next morning. Bank Swallows nest very few places in western WA, perhaps far up the Skagit River, but the largest groups in Washington are definitely east of the Cascades. Look closely among the swallow flocks for Bank Swallows, but be very careful they aren't juvenile Tree Swallows.

Dave Jackson and Marie Grad reported a Red-eyed Vireo singing during the Wednesday morning bird walk in RR Bridge Park on 7/9, the first heard there in at least a couple years.

It seems like a particularly good summer for Rock Wrens in local mountains. Following sightings earlier in June, Michael Shepard found one Rock Wren at Klahane Ridge on 6/30 and Graham Montgomery and Jay Love watched a Rock Wren at Hurricane Hill on 7/7. Also in the mountains, Carolyn Wilcox spotted a pair of Western Bluebirds at the Hurricane Ridge parking lot on 7/3.

What's with the reports of Golden-crowned Sparrows here in summer? Mandy Holmgren first reported one Golden-crowned Sparrow in the Olympic high country on 6/26, which suggests they might be nesting in the Olympics, something never confirmed. Then, Marian Rutledge reported a full breeding-plumage adult Golden-crowned with big black eyebrows and a yellow crown at RR Bridge Park on 8/5. Mandy's surveys of bird use in the Olympic backcountry also found Lazuli Buntings singing on territories up the Dosewallips River and in the Upper Dungeness, suggesting these normally eastside birds may be nesting on the dry side of the Olympics this year.

If you have any interesting bird sightings, please contact me at bboek@olympus.net, or 360-808-0196. Thank you for your sightings.

Dungeness River Festival Celebrates Railroad Bridge's Centennial

The 16th Dungeness River Festival, September 25-26, in Railroad Bridge Park will mark the 100th anniversary of our iconic railroad bridge. Model trains and a giant map of the Milwaukee Road railroad right of way will help you envision days when log and passenger trains regularly crossed the bridge. The community celebration to commemorate the bridge's first 100 years will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday in the River Stage amphitheater. The festivities will include unveiling a plaque proclaiming the inclusion of the bridge on National Register of Historic Places, followed by music, and refreshments.

The two-day River Festival is a time to view salmon in the river and construction of the new trestle. In addition, the Festival is an opportunity to spread your wings with the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, print a fish on paper or cloth (bring a t-shirt, pillow case, etc.) , jump like a frog doing the Animal Olympics and sample the music, walks, talks, food, and festivities each day. The festival hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and admission is free. In conjunction with the River Festival, the Olympic Driftwood Sculptors will hold its sixth anniversary show on Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27, in the River Center.

The interactive nature exhibits and activities on Friday and Saturday will feature nearly all the local, state, federal, tribal and non-profit entities active on the north Olympic Peninsula including several that are also celebrating their 100th anniversary.

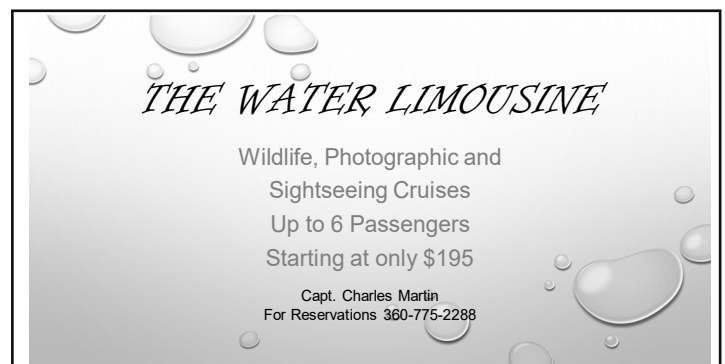


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Many volunteers are needed for an event this large. If you'd like to help with set-up on Thursday afternoon (Sept. 25) or during the Festival, please contact Tom Butler at rceducation@Olympus.net or call at the River Center, 681-4076.

2015—2016 OPAS Field Trip Calendar

Sept 12 (Sat)	Ediz Hook & PA Harbor	Judy Mullally & Bob Iddins	8 a.m.-noon, boat launch adjacent to CG Station
Oct 9 (Fri)	Local Bays & Shores	Jim Gift	8 a.m.-noon, Dungeness Landing
Oct 17 (Sat)	Beginning Birders & Newcomers	Dave Jackson	
Oct 29 & 30 (Thu & Fri)	Neah Bay	Denny Van Horn	8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Washburn's Store
Nov 7 (Sat)	Beginning Birders & Newcomers	Dave Jackson	
Nov 21 (Sat)	Ediz Hook & PA Harbor	Judy Mullally & Gary Bullock	8:30 a.m., boat launch
Dec 5 (Sat)	CBC Warmup	Bob Boekelheide	8:30 a.m., RR Bridge Park
Jan 16 (Sat)	Elwha River Mouth (for gulls)	Denny Van Horn	9 a.m. - noon
Jan 16 (Sat)	Schouten's Dry Creek Waterfowl	Bob Phreaner	1 - 3 p.m.
Jan 22 (Fri)	Sequim & Discovery Bays	Gary Bullock & Bob Iddins	9 a.m., Longhouse
Feb 13 (Sat)	Local Bays & Shores	Jim Gift & Gary Bullock	9 a.m., Dungeness Landing
Feb 23 & 24	Skagit Flats	Bob Iddins	Tue & Wed, Pre-registration required
Mar 4 (Fri)	Nisqually NWR (9:30 am)	Bob Iddins & Gary Bullock	Pre-registration required
May 7 (Sat)	Birdathon Warmup	Bob Boekelheide	8:30 a.m. Railroad Bridge Park
May 7 (Sat)	Neah Bay	Denny Van Horn	9 a.m., Washburn's Store
Jun 7 (Tue)	Lost Mountain	Gary Bullock & Bob Iddins	7:30 a.m., Walmart
Jun 28 (Tue)	Hurricane Ridge	Bob Iddins	8 a.m., lower visitor's center
Aug 1 (Mon)	Three Crabs (Purple Martins)	Ken Wiersema	8:30 a.m.
Aug 27 (Sat)	Neah Bay	Denny Van Horn	9 a.m., Washburn's Store
Aug 30 & 31	Ocean Shores	Bob Iddins	Tue & Wed, Pre-registration required

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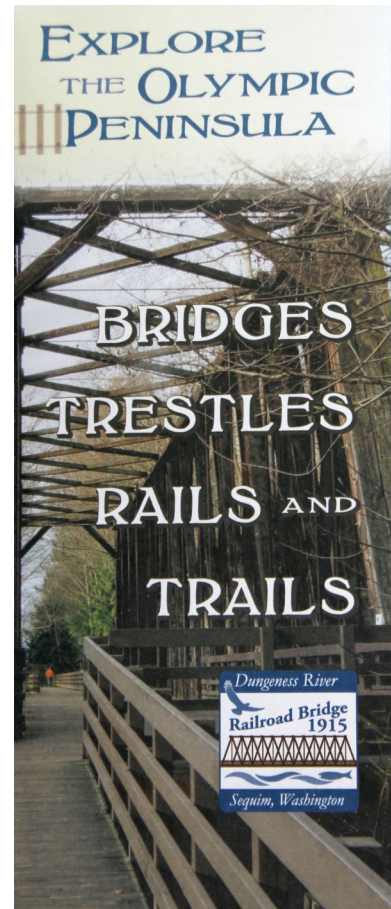
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New Brochure Features Self-guided Tour

The release of the 'Bridges, Trestles, Rails and Trails' brochure marks another milestone in the Dungeness River Audubon Center's year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Dungeness River bridge in Railroad Bridge Park. The brochure features a self-guided tour of historic stops along the former Milwaukee Road railroad and a timeline from the 1890s, when the first train tracks were laid on the North Olympic Peninsula, to the present. The tour map highlights 12 stops from Port Townsend, where freight cars were loaded onto a barge for transit to Seattle, to Forks. In Forks, Stops 11 and 12 are the Shay steam engine in Tillicum Park and the Forks Timber Museum. Most of the tour stops are on the popular Olympic Discovery Trail and all are readily accessible by car. Free copies of the brochure are available at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 W. Hendrickson Road, in Sequim, as well as other outlets including Visitor Centers in Sequim, Port Angeles, and Port Townsend.

"The Bridge 100th Anniversary Committee created the brochure as a lasting way to encourage Olympic Peninsula visitors and residents to explore the rich history of our area," says Committee Chair Lyn Muench. We are grateful to Margie Palmer for her diligence in compiling the text and photos for the brochure and for the support our partners in this effort provided. Thanks to Laurie Tanguay of Lo-Bo Design for her graphic artistry; to the North Olympic Railroaders, Milwaukee Road Historical Association, Peninsula Trails Coalition, Clallam County Historical Society, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society for their help; and to the Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau, for a grant to produce the brochure.



Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

P.O. Box 502
Sequim, WA 98382-0502

NAS Code Y08

Date: _____

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