



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 2016

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

OPAS Programs in January and February

by Bob Boekelheide & Tom Butler

January 20, 2016, Program — "Swans of the Dungeness Valley", 7 p.m. at Dungeness River Audubon Center. Presented by Bob Boekelheide and OPAS swan volunteers

Nearly hunted to extinction in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Trumpeter Swans now number several thousand in Washington during winter. First recorded on the Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count in 1982, these giant white birds with their bellowing voices are now regular winter residents of the north Olympic Peninsula, thrilling birdwatchers wherever they occur.



Photo by Martha Jordan

In 2011, under the direction of Martha Jordan of the Swan Society, Shelly Ament of WDFW, and Mary Porter-Solberg of OPAS, a select group of volunteers began

counting local swans to determine the birds' preferred foraging locations and habitats in our area. The project began because several swans had been found dead of lead poisoning, possibly because they ingested lead shotgun pellets as they foraged in the muddy fields.

After four years of surveys, Bob Boekelheide asked if he could compile the swan numbers to see if any patterns showed up. In this presentation, Bob will try to answer some basic questions, like how do swan numbers change through each season, and where do the swans go while they're here? OPAS swan volunteers will also assist with the presentation, sharing how they collect data during their regular surveys.

Bob is the former director of the Dungeness River Audubon Center and current Bird Count Compiler for OPAS. He often spends way too much time playing with Excel files, hoping to make sense of columns and rows with nifty graphs and charts. We love data!

February 17, 2016, Program — "OPAS Member's Photo Night 2016", 7 p.m., at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Moderated by Dow Lambert



Snowy Owl

Photo by Dow Lambert

This is your chance to show your bird photos to other appreciative bird-lovers.

(Continued on page three)

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

I hope everyone had a great 2015 Holiday season with family and friends. I took down my 2015 calendar this afternoon, and glanced thru to see what our OPAS members have done and contributed to over the past year ... truly actions and events of which we can each be proud. I send my appreciation and thanks to our officers and Board and the invaluable contributions they have made over the past year, and their commitment to lead into 2016.

In 2015, Several noteworthy events come to mind:

- Our recent CBC record count, described in this edition. Great job again by Bob Boekelheide, both in organizing and compiling the results. Bob took over the CBC in 1995, so 2015 became his 20th CBC year of leading the Sequim Dungeness count. We now also support a CBC in Port Angeles and a trial CBC at Neah Bay.*
- The winter Swan count is well underway in its 5 year. Attend our January meeting and see the data and trends revealed by this citizen science project. Each year, Mary Porter-Solberg has carefully put the teams together and monitored results. Well Done!*
- BirdFest 2015 was a super event again this year. Many folks did superb jobs in making it happen. Thanks to Vanessa Fuller for herding us ducks into a row.*
- Field trips galore. Once more, Bob Iddins put together a varied and comprehensive set of trips, and folks got to see and learn about a large array of birds. Plan to come along on several trips in 2016!*
- Conservation matters are a prominent part of being an Audubon Chapter. Bob Phreaner and Mary have delved into complex and important issues, advocated positions that support bird habitat, environmental protection, and conservation. Please consider taking part in their actions in 2016. And special thanks to Coleman Byrnes for agreeing to serve as our representative on the newly formed Clallam County Trust Lands Advisory Committee. More on that group as its scope and actions develop.*
- Bird classes at the Dungeness River Audubon Center -- please add some of these to your plans for 2016. Many of the classes repeat each year, and the Backyard Birder programs are revised and refreshed each year. So, if you want to hone your skills for the next field trip, and better enjoy the birds in your yard or neighborhood, these classes are for you.*

Each of these events and many others asked you, our members, to step forward and participate. You did in large numbers. Thanks. Last, but not in any manner least, the Railroad Bridge, closed due to storm damage in February 2015, was re-opened on 30 December 2015. Our THANKS to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe for their leadership and perseverance to restore a river crossing that lets the River live in its entire flood plain and support a rich array of fish and wildlife. Ron Allen, Tribal Chair and CEO; Annette Nesse, Tribal COO; and Hansi Hals, Environmental Planner, identified the funding and made it happen. OPAS is proud to be a partner with the Tribe in support of our Audubon Center. Now, the Wednesday morning bird walks can go back across the River; and you'll watch the Dungeness River restore and nourish its unrestrained floodplain bird habitat.

OPAS February Program (Continued from page one)

Many of you have bird photos worthy for others to see, and we want to see them, too. Please submit your bird photos to Dow Lambert, who has generously offered to be our technical advisor and assist us projecting the images. In January he will email guidelines to those who have submitted images in the past, so the evening flows more smoothly. If you wish to offer your photos for the evening, please contact Dow so you can get the information you'll need at dow.lambert@wavecable.com.

This is NOT a contest. Photos will not be judged or critiqued. We ask that you submit no more than 8-10 photos each, to allow as many members as possible to participate. You'll be asked to say a few words about your photos, like to identify the bird, location, and time of year. The program will allow you to share your unique views of birds and their behaviors.

All bird photos are welcome, but should we receive too many photos for the evening we will give priority to local birds. This year we'll also ask for permission to display your credited photos on our web site. Please submit your bird photos and come enjoy the evening. Even if you don't submit photos, come watch the show!

OPAS Field Trips in January and February

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.

Elwha River Mouth

Date & Time: Saturday, January 16, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Leader: Denny Van Horn
Meeting place: Trailhead for access to the Elwha River mouth (Turn north off of Hwy 112 at Place Road, continue 1.8 miles and turn right.).
Features: Lots of gulls, alcids, and water birds...and more gulls!
Bring: Optics (including scopes if available), snacks, water, and appropriate clothing for all kinds of weather.

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

Dry Creek Waterfowl

Date & Time: Saturday, January 16, 2016, 12:45 p.m.
Cost: Free
Leader: Bob Phreaner
Meeting Place: The Park and Ride lot on Hwy 101 just east of the junction with Hwy 112.
Features: This is a Double-Header field trip day! We will carpool to Dry Creek Waterfowl. You will see the sea duck park that OPAS members Arnold and Debbie Schouten have created, and be able to view many of the birds, like scoters and long-tailed ducks that you might have seen through a spotting scope in the morning at the Elwha with Denny. We picked this time of year to catch many of the birds in breeding plumage. This is a rare opportunity to visit a private establishment.
Bring: Cameras, walking shoes, and rain gear.
Further information: Participation limited to OPAS members on a first-come first-served basis. Pre-registration required. Call Bob Phreaner at 360-504-2110, phreaner@aol.com

Diamond Point & Discovery Bay

Date & Time: Friday, January 22, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Leaders: Gary Bullock & Bob Iddins
Meeting place: Longhouse Market and Deli, 271030 Hwy 101, Blyn.
Features: Winter water and land birds of Sequim & Discovery Bays and Diamond Point.
Bring: Optics (scope if you have one), water, snacks, and appropriate clothing for the weather.
Further information: Bob Iddins, 360-681-2840, riddins@olympen.com



Local Bays and Shores

Date & Time: Saturday, February 13, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Leaders: Gary Bullock & Jim Gift
Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park.
Features: Winter water and shorebirds of Sequim & Dungeness Bays. (Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

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

Further information: Gary Bullock 360-681-8611 gbullockkak@hotmail.com



Trumpeter Swan
Photo by Chris Perry

Skagit & North Snohomish Counties

Dates: Tuesday & Wednesday, February 23 & 24, 2016.

Cost: Free. Participants make own lodging arrangements (Mt. Vernon, Burlington, Anacortes) and are responsible for their

own meals both days.

Leader: Bob Iddins

Features: A very popular annual trip to the Samish Valley & Skagit Flats starring a plethora of swans, snow geese, wintering raptors, and occasional surprises.

Meeting place: Take the 8:00 a.m. ferry at Port Townsend for Coupeville (reservations are strongly recommended). If you don't join us on the bow of the lower car deck, meet at the parking area for the boat ramp adjacent to the ferry terminal. Turn right after exiting ferry.

Bring: Optics (scopes are helpful) and lunch for both days. Dress warmly and be prepared for inclement weather. We will probably do some carpooling on site. **Participating cars will require a Discover Pass for access to state lands.**

Further information: **Preregistration required!** ... Bob Iddins, home phone 360-681-2840, cell phone 360-775-5945, rriddins@olypen.com

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Date & Time: Friday, March 4, 2016, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting place: Nisqually NWR entrance and Visitor's Center (for directions- <http://www.fws.gov/nisqually/visit.html>).

Leaders: Bob Iddins & Gary Bullock

Cost: Field trip is free; however, the refuge requires an entrance fee for those without passes (Interagency Annual Pass, Senior Pass, etc.).

Features: Nisqually NWR features lots of waterfowl with a possibility of Great Horned Owl with young and American Bitterns.

Bring: Optics, field guides, water, lunches and snacks, and appropriate clothing for iffy weather.

Further information: **Preregistration required, contact:** Bob Iddins, 360-681-2840, rriddins@olypen.com

Other Events

Backyard Birding - What Bird Is that?

"What bird is that?!", the third in the series of classes in Backyard Birding will be from 10 am to noon on Saturday, **January 9** at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park. Bob Iddins and Denny Van Horn will provide information about getting started on a "Birding Year".

A variety choices of both binoculars and field guides will be available and use of websites describing species in the area and ways to keep records are included.



"Nesting": the Saturday, **February 6**, session of Backyard Birding will meet at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park, from 10 am to noon. The class will be presented by Ken Wiersema. Because it is time to think about birds and spring, attendees will learn about bird nests, how and where birds nest,

the care and maintenance of nests and nesting boxes. The class will also be shown how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a national annual census of bird populations, sponsored by both the Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Following a short field trip to tally birds in Railroad Bridge Park, you will learn how to enter data in the GBBC computer database. The GBBC census occurs over President's Weekend in mid-February. You may participate by counting species in your own garden and backyard feeding areas, for a minimum of 15 minutes, or as extensively as you wish.

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.



What bird is that?
Photo by Robert Hutchison

“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 remaining classes in the Backyard Birding Series are: March 5, “Migration”; April 9, “Landscaping for Birds”; May 14, “Enjoying Spring Sounds”; June 11, “Out of the Nest”.

Olympic Birdfest 2016 is coming soon

Grab your binoculars and join the 12th annual **Olympic BirdFest 2016** celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 15-17, 2016.

The stage is set... quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tour, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker this year is noted artist Tony Angell, “Revealing the Secret Lives of Owls”. Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ... you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online (www.olympicbirdfest.org).



Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular **San Juan Islands** on April 12-14, 2016. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get cruise information and register online at: www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon.

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Railroad Bridge Trestle Reopens to the Public

by Tom Butler



*New Bridge Trestle
Photo by Tom Butler*

It's a little different from the old one, but then so is the river. The bridge is reopening within a year, which is lightning fast in these days of building permits and codes. We owe a debt of gratitude to the staff of the Jamestown S'Klallam

Tribe's Natural Resources Department for shepherding the process through the unavoidable regulatory snarl and to Nordland Construction for their construction knowledge and skill. The truss bridge will need to be closed for a week or two sometime later this winter for resurfacing, thanks to generous funding from First Federal.

For interested people and other fellow nerds: A five gallon bucket of silty water was collected during one of the many floods last fall. At a flow rate of about 4000 cubic feet per second, it appears the Dungeness was transporting about 31,000 pounds of *suspended* sediment per minute. That's the really fine flour-like stuff that just travels with the water. Of course water collected from the surface of a calm spot on the side of the river surely carries the least amount, so the actual load is assuredly something much more. And then there is the sand, gravel and boulders flowing downhill along the bottom, so who knows how much mountain and valley gets delivered to the sea during a flood?

Conservation Matters: Winter Swan Study Report

by Mary Porter-Solberg

Each winter birders look forward to the return of swans to the Dungeness Valley. But did you know that along with simply enjoying their presence, OPAS members are also counting Trumpeter and Tundra Swans as part of an ongoing citizen science project, partnering with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Northwest Swan Conservation Association (NWSC)?
(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Recent swan sightings by volunteers have been reported in the 60 - 70 count range, but on December 31 their numbers jumped upward to 108! The 2015 November – December count has produced a shift in the swans' historic winter feeding grounds from fields near Lamar, Schmuck and Anderson Roads to a corn stubble field northeast of the Sequim Valley Airport.

Trumpeter and Tundra Swans numbers have been increasing, but swan populations face many challenges in their breeding and wintering habitats. The Audubon Climate Change report warns that their numbers may eventually decrease as global warming affects their ability to adapt. The Pacific population breeds primarily in Alaska and northwest Canada. Their summer range is currently expanding northward, which lengthens time for breeding, hatching, and cygnet-rearing. However, if they continue to expand north, there will eventually be a mismatch of food needs and availability. The other issue is melting of the permafrost. While the number of ice free days may increase, the loss of permafrost also allows for the wetlands to dry up faster. This impacts the swans' ability to raise their brood when wetlands dry up during the rearing period. Additionally, there is a growing loss of nesting habitat in Alaska to recreation, farming, mining, drilling, and harvesting of natural resources.

Loss of quality winter habitat continues in Washington State due to the conversion of freshwater and saltwater areas to

development and housing. Another negative impact to winter habitat is the loss of farm lands where crop residues such as corn have been important winter food resources. There is now more competition for food among multiple waterfowl species, including swans, on shrinking farm lands.

Other factors that can endanger swans are deaths by lead poisoning, power line hits (3 deaths last year in Sequim), and a reduction in funding by agencies to address swan management and restoration issues, secure quality habitat, and swan research.

OPAS began the study in November of 2011 with a large group of volunteers that were able to count swans 3 to 4 times a week and enter important information on data sheets. We now have a smaller group of dedicated volunteers that count once a week, but the same data is entered and then sent to WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) program. PHS is the principal means by which WDFW provides important fish, wildlife, and habitat information to local governments, state and federal agencies, private landowners, consultants, and tribal biologists for land use planning purposes.

PHS transfers fish and wildlife information from resource experts to those who can protect habitat.

Be sure to attend the January 20th OPAS general meeting at 7 PM for a special presentation by Bob Boekelheide, who has reviewed and graphed all of our swan study volunteers' data since 2011. Come and learn the results of Bob's findings!

A reminder if you choose to observe these magnificent birds in our area – respect private property, observe from a distance with binoculars or a scope, and park your vehicle off the road in a safe location. Please call if you observe sick, injured, or dead swans. Contact numbers: Shelly Ament, cell phone (360) 477-0123, or Anita McMillan at WDFW District Office (360) 457-4601. You can also call Martha Jordan at cell phone (206) 713-3684 or home/office (425) 787-0258.

DUNGENESS RIVER Audubon CENTER at Railroad Bridge Park

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

American Crow, Sequim, '15
Photo by Chris Perry

Corvids In Winter

They talk about & watch you!
Program enhanced and revised for its 10th anniversary

Join this class and Learn to Enjoy and Understand local Ravens, Crows & Jays. Bring your questions and stories about this family of intelligent, crafty, and pesky birds

Led by Ken Wiersema

Sat Jan 23rd 2016 -- 10 AM
Dungeness River Audubon Center
90 Min seminar & 2 hr local field trip
Tuition \$10 (funds toward Ed pgms at Center)
Please pre-register Call 681-4076

Common Raven, Dungeness NWR '11
Photo by Dow Lambert

American Crow, Sequim, '15
Photo by Chris Perry

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Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count and Bird sightings

by Bob Boekelheide



Note: Preliminary tabulation of the Jan 2d PA CBC compiled by Barbara Blackie, and with a few count sheets yet to be turned in -- the species count stands at 124. Fine job by each of the counters and the compiler.

The 40th Sequim-Dungeness CBC occurred on a lovely partly-cloudy day with light winds, a striking contrast to the three weeks before our CBC, when a series of strong Pacific storms brought lots of rain and wind to coastal Washington.

In total, we ended up with 154 species, three more than our previous record and a new record for Washington CBCs (see accompanying table). Total number of individual birds was 62,267, slightly higher than our average for the past 20 years and our highest number since 2011. A wonderful group of 112 counters, in 38 to 46 field parties, along with 23 feeder watchers, participated in the count.

The most abundant species was American Wigeon, followed in the top ten by Mallard, Northern Pintail, Glaucous-winged/Olympic Gulls, Dark-eyed Junco, Brant, Bufflehead, American Robin, European Starling, and Song Sparrow. These 10 species made up over half the birds we tallied.

The nice weather and observant counters helped establish high counts for many species, particularly woodpeckers and sparrows. All-time high counts included Cooper's Hawk, Eur. Collared-Dove, Barred Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, No. Flicker, Merlin, Steller's Jay, Brown Creeper, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, and Evening Grosbeak. Species setting their second-highest counts for our CBC included Cackling Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Yellow-billed Loon, Virginia Rail, Marbled Godwit, California Gull, Pigeon Guillemot, Rock Pigeon, Pileated Woodpecker, Bushtit, White-throated Sparrow, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Sparrows as a group were extraordinarily abundant this year, particularly Song Sparrows. We tallied 1630 Song Sparrows, far more than our previous record of 1365 set in 2008. Several parties commented about the extraordinary number of Song Sparrows. In some brushy areas there were sizable roving flocks of Song Sparrows, very different

from how we normally encounter this species. Nearly all looked like our typical Pacific NW coastal Song Sparrows.



*Song Sparrow with meal
Photo by Robert Hutchison*

Eurasian Collared-Dove and Anna's Hummingbird numbers continue to increase. This year we recorded 342 collared-doves, well beyond the previous record of 310 seen in 2013. Collared-doves were first recorded on this CBC in 2007, just 8 years ago. This year we also recorded 214 Anna's Hummingbirds, well beyond the previous record of 155 set in 2013. Anna's Hummingbirds were first recorded on this CBC in 1994, and they only reached 10 birds as recently as 2006.

Very few species set record low numbers. One exception is White-winged Scoter, which continues to decline in our area. This year we only recorded 36 White-winged Scoters, the lowest ever. Up until 2007 we regularly recorded hundreds of this species in our circle, with a high count of 1374 in 1993. In contrast, Surf Scoter numbers this year rebounded to above average for the last 20 years.

Count-week species, missed on count day but seen three days before or after the count, included Canvasback and Swamp Sparrow. We totally missed Ring-necked Pheasant and Band-tailed Pigeon, species we see most years. The WDFW is not releasing pheasants for hunting around here, obviously affecting their count.

Species of interest on the CBC included four seabird species that may have been displaced by recent ocean conditions or storms -- Northern Fulmar, Leach's and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, and Black-legged Kittiwake.

(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Other unusual species included northerly migrants that often show up in western WA, but are unusual seen on one CBC -- Rough-legged Hawk, Lapland Longspur, Harris's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, and Common Redpoll. We also picked up some migrant passerines that typically are long gone by CBC time, such as House Wren, Western Bluebird, and Wilson's Warbler. The Willet and Rusty Blackbird were stakeouts that have been here for several months. Winter records of Pine Grosbeaks have increased lately, possibly indicating that this species may be doing well nesting in the Olympic Mountains. Several of these birds continue to be seen through December, so keep looking.

In other bird news, it continues to be a phenomenal year at Neah Bay, where unusual birds seem to be reported every week. Several species reported earlier in the fall continued to be seen, including Hooded and Palm Warbler. Brad Waggoner reported the last Clay-colored Sparrow and Tropical Kingbird in the Neah Bay area on 11/19. Paul Lehman reported the first Summer Tanager ever for Clallam County on 11/4, and Greg Haworth reported the second-ever Black Phoebe on 11/20.

The very first Neah Bay Christmas Bird Count, a trial run on 12/13, recorded many noteworthy species. The Tufted Duck seen earlier this fall was present during the CBC both at the sewage treatment ponds and at Hobuck Lake, apparently flying back and forth. Most extraordinary were numbers of Fork-tailed and Leach's Storm-Petrels seen not only in Neah Bay, but all along the coast both south and east. At least 25 Leach's were seen at one time, very unusual for this pelagic species. The CBC also listed at least one very late Pomerine Jaeger, one Heermann's Gull, and one Kumlien's-type Iceland Gull, along with a Swamp Sparrow and 5 Pine Grosbeaks.

Following the Brown Booby seen in Dungeness Bay in October, Brandon Reo reported another (same?) one flying around Port Angeles Harbor on 11/18. John Gatchet and Bob Bagwell spotted a Clark's Grebe among the many Western Grebes off Cape Flattery on 12/20. John also reported a very high count of 93 Ring-necked Ducks at Gaskell Slough (aka Kirner Pond) on 11/15. Short-eared Owls seemed to peak around here in mid-November, with 3 flying together around the Dungeness River delta on 11/14.

Jane Stewart found the last local Tropical Kingbird on 11/16 at Simdars Rd and East Washington St, a new location for this fall wanderer.

A Rock Wren continues to hide out in the rocks at the Port Angeles Boat Haven breakwater, first seen by Roger Hoffman on 11/22. A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch is hanging out at Ediz Hook, first spotted by Larry Lang on 12/17. Fanter Lane reported a first-year Glaucous Gull at the Elwha River mouth on 12/12. Hopefully all these birds will stick around for the Port Angeles CBC.

For some reason, Wilson's Warblers continued to stay later than normal this fall. Besides the Wilson's Warbler seen on the Sequim CBC, other Wilson's were reported by Ryan



*Peregrine Falcon at lunch
Photo by Robert Hutchison*

Merrill near the Sekiu River on 11/18, by Scott Gremel in Port Angeles on 11/22, and by Bob Brezak in Port Angeles on 12/7.

Predators also take note of oddball species. Ryan Merrill watched a Sharpshinned Hawk kill the

Wilson's Warbler near the Sekiu River on 11/18. Charlie Wright noted that one of the Leach's Storm-Petrels he tallied during the Neah Bay CBC was "in the talons of a Peregrine Falcon coming off the Strait." Perhaps individual birds struggling to survive in new and unfamiliar locations are more susceptible to predation.

Lastly, Cindy Fullwiler photographed a Cackling Goose with a neck collar in the big flocks of Cacklers along Schmuck Rd on 11/10. She sent the collar info to the Bird Banding Lab and found out that the bird is a female banded as an adult in July 2011 in Chevak, AK. Chevak is in the middle of the Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta in western AK, one of the greatest nursery grounds for waterfowl in the world. Thank you, Cindy! 2016 has begun, along with your chance to get out and look at birds. If you see something interesting, please call me at 360-808-0196 or email bboek@olympus.net. Thanks very much for your sightings!

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John L. Scott
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Nest Box class “2016”
Saturday, February 20th
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In its 15th year, OPAS, in support of the Dungeness River Audubon Center, will present a class and “hands on” workshop to build a nest box which you can take home and install. We will cover hole sizes, heights of installation, orientation of box, and species of bird that uses which type box. Materials, cutting, boring, fastening tools, and experienced craft helpers will be provided. This is a fun program for the whole family. Come and take home a complete nest box that is sure to attract residents! Please sign up early so we know the amount of materials to buy.

Class fee: \$15 per person; \$12.50 per person for 2 or more participants.



Nest Boxes '16
 In its 15th year

Learn why we build boxes
 How to build a box
 Take a new box home to install
 Materials, tools, and expert assistance provided!

Saturday Feb 20th 2016 - - 10 AM to 1 PM

Dungeness River Audubon Center
 \$15 per person; \$12.50 per person for 2 or more
 (funds cover materials & aid Ed pgms at Center)
 Please pre-register Call 681-4076



North Olympic Climate Change Preparedness Plan

Hear the best current science regarding future local climate change effects and adaptation.

Saturday, January 16, 1:00 pm

Dungeness River Audubon Center

North Olympic Peninsula climate change projections

North Olympic Peninsula areas most vulnerable to climate change

Top preparedness strategies

- Ecosystems
- Water Supplies
- Critical Infrastructure

Sponsored by:
 North Olympic Group Sierra Club &
 Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

North Olympic Climate Change Preparedness Plan Presentation

The presentation includes data from the University of Washington’s Climate Impact Group, NOAA, NASA, the National Climate Assessment, Adaptation International, SeaGrant WA, as well as localized research.

Presenting this information will be Dr. Ian Miller, Coastal Hazards Specialist, Washington Sea Grant Oceanography Instructor, Peninsula College, and Cindy Jayne, Project Manager of North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development.



Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

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

NAS Code Y08

Date: _____

Local OPAS Membership, includes subscription to the *Harlequin Happenings* bi-monthly newsletter and other programs and birding trips. For more information see our website at <http://www.olybird.org>. To join, complete application below and **mail to address above**.

___ Annual Membership (\$20.00)

___ 3 Year Membership (\$50.00, saves \$10.00)

___ 6 Year Membership (\$90.00, saves \$30)

___ Lifetime Membership (\$250.00)

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Street _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Harlequin Happenings Newsletter: You will receive an e-mail notice when posted in full color on our website. If you wish a black and white printed copy instead, check box here: Send printed copy

Payment Options:

1. **Credit Card** Master Card or Visa Payment

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date _____

Authorized Signature _____ Amount Paid \$ _____

Three digit Security Code from back of card _____

2. **For Checks:** Make payable to OPAS and mail with this form to address above

OPAS is an Internal Revenue Service Section 501(c)(3) organization (membership gifts are tax deductible)

For OFFICE USE ONLY Process Date _____ Record ID _____ Forms Note ID _____