



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 Sept—Oct 2016

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

OPAS Programs for September and October

by Bob Boekelheide

September 21, 2016 (Potluck Dinner starts at 6 pm, Meeting and Program begins at 7 pm). Hoatzins and Harpies: Birding the Amazon"

Presented by Dr. Jim Karr, Professor Emeritus of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences, University of Washington



*Dr. Jim Karr
in his natural habitat*

Dr. Jim Karr is a renowned expert on tropical birds and a lifelong naturalist and teacher. Jim spent many years studying forest birds in Central and South America, including a stint as Deputy Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. Besides birds, he is also a noted ecologist and creator of the Index of Biological Integrity, which uses fish and stream invertebrates to assess the health of waterways. His recent adventures include guiding Smithsonian Journeys to the Amazon Basin, where he shares exotic wildlife and unique birds with his lucky passengers. But no need to go all the way to South America; just come to Jim's talk and you'll be enlightened about the birds in this fabulous part of the world.

October 19, 2016 (Meeting begins at 7 pm).

"Native Birds and Active Volcanoes: Birding on the Big Island of Hawaii" Presented by Christina Heliker, retired USGS Vulcanologist

Besides being an expert on Hawaiian volcanoes, Christina Heliker is also a skilled photographer, particularly of Hawaiian birdlife. In her 28 years as a geologist documenting Kilauea's eruptions, Christina had a front-row seat watching the birds of native Hawaiian forests, from showboating 'I'iwis to gentle 'Oma'os. Habitat changes, introduced species, and avian malaria have created havoc for most native Hawaiian songbirds. Many species are now listed as threatened or endangered, and most are difficult to find in high-altitude rain forests. Come hear Christina's talk and become more familiar with these species found no-

where else on Earth. If we're lucky, Christina might share some good volcano stories as well.



Christine Heliker, Vulcanologist

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

Well it's near fall—Our summer migratory birds are getting restless, though this warm spell will give them a bit of pause. Hope folks have had a busy and fun summer. We have an active schedule of programs and events planned for the next few months. We'll launch our '16-'17 program year with our traditional potluck supper and an excellent program presented by an OPAS member, Jim Karr, with photos and discussion of the birds from his recent trip to Amazonia. We also have several fine field trips organized by our new field trip Chair, Denny Van Horn. I encourage you to participate in as many of these events as you can. I'm certain you'll enjoy 'em and improve your bird knowledge. At the end of September we'll participate with our partners and many local groups and vendors in the annual River Festival at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Shirley Anderson is organizing folks to help with our OPAS booth at the Festival. Please consider offering your time to make the event a success -- and have a bit of fun. I encourage you to scan thru the other parts of this newsletter for dates & times, places, and event descriptions.

OPAS Board Retreat—Most of our Board participated in a multi-hour review of last year's goals, income and expenses; National Audubon's new strategic plan; and our planned activities for this next year. Once the minutes are approved at our Sept. Board meeting, they will be posted on our web site. Big thanks to Julie Jackson, President of the River Center Board, for attending and discussing her Board's upcoming plans, and strengthening our partnership. And an enormous THANKS to our OPAS officers and Board for giving up a beautiful August day to lead us onto the new year.

It'll soon be Nov—As with every 4yr election, it will be a pivotal event for our state, our nation, and our birds. While OPAS will not weigh into partisan political issues, we can and do take and endorse or oppose actions that we, and the best available science, indicate will be good or bad for birds. As far as individual politicians and offices, we urge you to study the issues and the positions candidates take and evaluate how they might be helpful or harm birds and their habitats. Please consider your vote in that context—and **Vote**—don't sit this election out. Elections are too important to let organized minorities set the course for our future. In the Conservation part of this newsletter is a discussion of **I-732**. Please read it through. Your OPAS conservation committee and Board support the passage of I-732. Audubon Washington and the majority of Chapters in WA also support it. We believe its enactment would be far better for birds than its defeat. Washington could be the 1st state to take action to reduce as well as set a price on atmospheric carbon emissions.

OPAS Field OPAS Field Trips in September and October



by Denny AMFJ Van Horn

And so we begin another season of OPAS field trips on the Olympic Peninsula. First though, I want to take a moment here to thank Bob Iddins for the intensity and dedication of his past years doing this section of HH. It's not an easy task, as I've quickly learned these past few weeks, trying to anticipate what outings our OPAS members might be willing or wanting to participate in. We definitely will maintain some of our regular outings, but some of the traditional long-distance outings have been set aside (for the time being), as we reevaluate our overall concept of field trips. However, we've created new ones and reinstated outings that we used to do. I'd like to put out a request for others who'd like to create a new trip, take over a long standing one, or participate as co-leader with another. We need this! We have a local core-cadre of birders who do an excellent job of guiding, but 'newness' is always a boon and benefit to making positive changes. Please contact me, if you're interested. And again, thank you Bob Iddins, I hope I can maintain your tenacity and desire to foster field trips worthy of OPAS.

Wednesday 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.

Local Bays & Shores

Date & Time: September 3, 8a.m.

Leader: Bob Boekelheide

Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park

Cost: No charge

Features: Migrants! Locals! And possibly something really good. Shorebirds will be the primary focus, but gulls will also hold sway. And out on the water early returners just might give a few 'ohhhhs' and maybe a couple "Way out there, by the 2nd piling, it's a . . ."

Bring: Binos, scopes, and personal accoutrements, as desired

*Further Information: Bob Boekelheide
<bboek@olympus.net> / 360 808-0196.*

Neah Bay Pelagic

Date & Time: Sept 10, 8a.m.

Leaders: Denny Van Horn & Bob Boekelheide

Meeting place: Neah Bay Marina, Neah Bay

Cost: \$160.00 per person

Features: Off-shore on the MV Windsong into Swiftsure Bank, where the possibilities include alcids, shearwaters, storm-petrels, jaegers, gulls, terns, and just maybe an albatross or two.

Bring: Binos, lunch, sunscreen, rain gear, brimmed hat, and personal accoutrements.

Please contact Denny Van Horn for details, specifics, and confirmation of registration <dennyvanhorn@gmail.com> / 360 406-1584.

Dungeness Bay Shorebirds

Date & Time: Sept 17, 9a.m. - Noon

Leader: Denny Van Horn & Someone Else

Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park

Cost: No charge

Features: Shorebirds! This is a sit-down, stand-up outing with a specific goal of looking at and understanding the ID and behavioral characteristics of local shorebirds.

Bring: Binos, scopes, and personal accoutrements as desired.

*Further Information: Denny Van Horn
<dennyvanhorn@gmail.com> / 360 406-1584.*

Neah Bay Pelagic

Date & Time: Saturday, October 8, 8a.m.

Leader: Denny Van Horn & Bob Boekelheide

Meeting place: Neah Bay Marina, Neah Bay

Cost: \$160.00

Features: Way off-shore on the MV Windsong into Swiftsure Bank, where the possibilities include alcids, shearwaters, storm-petrels, jaegers, gulls, terns, and just maybe albatross.

Bring: Binos, lunch, sunscreen, rain gear, brimmed hat, and personal accoutrements

Please contact Denny Van Horn for specific details and confirmation of registration <dennyvanhorn@gmail.com> / 360 406-1584.

Ediz Hook & PA Harbor

Date & Time: Saturday, October 15, 8:30a.m.

Leader: Judy Mullally & Gary Bullock

Meeting place: Boat launch area E end near Coast Guard Station on "The Hook"

Cost: No charge

Features: This is a search for alcids, loons, grebes, gulls, (Continued on next page)

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shorebirds as well as the possible strange looking dicky-birds hanging out on The Hook

Bring: Binos, scopes, and personal accoutrements as desired.

Further Information: Judy Mullally < judyemull@yahoo.com > / 360 452-5797.

Sequim - East Side Bays

Date & Time: Saturday, October 29, 8:30a.m.

Leader: Gary Bullock & Bob Phreanor

Meeting place: South parking lot at John Wayne Marina

Cost: No charge

Features: Here we go! All the winter birds should be out there on the bays. Barrow's Goldeneye at JWM, Eared Grebes at Port Williams, and . . .

Bring: Binos, scopes, and personal accoutrements as desired.

Further Information: Gary Bullock < gbullockak@hotmail.com > / 360 797-4556.

Putting a Price on Carbon – Why OPAS Supports I-732

by Mary Porter-Solberg & Ken Wiersema

Washington state voters are presented with an opportunity to act on behalf of birds and people this fall by supporting Initiative 732 – a tax on the consumption of fossil fuels that is balanced with reductions in the state sales tax for consumers and the business and occupation (B&O) tax for manufacturers. We could be the first state in the nation to implement a tax on carbon pollution and lead the way toward a clean energy future.

Initiative 732 works in this way:

- **Taxes pollution, not people.** I-732 imposes a significant (\$25/ton) tax on carbon emissions. This tax rises every year, to a maximum of \$100/ton (in 2016 dollars) after 40 years. It is the most aggressive carbon pricing policy in the world and signals to the nation that it is possible to have meaningful climate policy that will reduce carbon emissions.
- **Pay less at the cash register.** I-732 will reduce the state sales tax by one percentage point, putting hundreds of dollars a year back into households in Washington.
- **Fund an Earned Income Tax Credit for working families.** I-732 funds the Working Families Tax Rebate to provide up to \$1,500 a year for 460,000 low-income households. It is the most progressive change to the Washington tax code since 1977.



Reduce the Business & Occupation tax on manufacturing.

I-732 will keep living-wage jobs in Washington by effectively eliminating the Business and Occupation Tax on manufacturing.

OPAS believes I-732 provides swift and effective action NOW to reduce carbon pollution. Throughout history, birds have been indicators of human and environmental health. Now it is time to pay attention to how birds are responding to a shifting climate.

Audubon science shows that climate change is the number one threat to North American birds, including 189 species at risk in Washington State. Birds have specific sets of environmental requirements governed by climate and, during the past 50 years, more than 60 percent of wintering North American bird species have shifted their winter ranges northward and some are laying eggs earlier in the year. Range shifts could expose birds to unsuitable habitat, new diseases and increased competition with species they have not coexisted with historically.

As advocates for birds, there are two things we can do today to protect birds from the threat of global warming: 1) protect the places on the ground that birds need to be resilient in a warming world, both now and in the future, and 2) prevent additional warming by reducing carbon emissions.

A tax on carbon emissions is a proven method to reduce the carbon pollution causing climate change, as experienced by British Columbia when a carbon tax was enacted in 2008. By putting a price on the sale or use of certain fossil fuels and fossil-fuel generated electricity, I-732 will promote the use of clean, renewable energy sources, effectively reducing the amount of carbon pollution emitted in the state.

While this initiative will not complete the work that needs to be done, I-732 will help move Washington forward as a leader on enacting the solutions that birds and other wildlife need to have a chance in a warming world. When birds thrive, we thrive. Let's take action now for future generations of people and birds.

Be sure to view the Conservation News and Conservation Matters on our website for links to additional information about I-732.

Other Events

Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS)

Would you like to participate in the largest citizen-science-driven seabird census in the Pacific Northwest?! The new season of Seattle Audubon's landmark **Puget Sound Seabird Sur-**

vey (PSSS) kicks off on October 1st, 2016, and we are currently recruiting enthusiastic, skilled, and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. This truly regional effort provides a significant data set on marine bird populations from the south end of Puget Sound all the way across the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Your work will strengthen Seattle Audubon's bird census database and serve as a foundation to support the implementation of new strategic plan, *Seattle Audubon 20/20*, during our organization's 100th anniversary year.

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 conduct a 30-minute seabird survey. Training on survey methodology will be offered at numerous locations in September. If determining between Eared and Horned Grebe is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. If you love birding and want to help ensure we're doing all that we can to support Puget Sound's seabird populations, this is your opportunity to make a lasting contribution to Seattle Audubon's work in our second century of conservation achievements.

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 to take part.

Dungeness River Festival at Railroad Bridge Park

SAVE THE DATE! September 23-24, 2016 Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Olympic Driftwood Show, Sat. & Sun., Sep. 24 - 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Help celebrate the watershed that keeps the Sequim-Dungeness Valley alive.

There will be activities for kids and adults, music, art, food, and much more! We need help organizing this big event, so please contact the River Center if you wish to help. In addition, explore the works of the Olympic Driftwood Sculptors in the River Center on Saturday and Sunday.

Cruise the San Juan Islands— September 26-28, 2016

Cruise the San Juans while benefitting the Dungeness River Audubon Center! Join Puget Sound Express and the River



Center for an exciting 3 day cruise 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 Islands are home to orcas (killer whales), minke, gray, and humpback whales; Steller 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 Earthbox Inn and Spa in Friday Harbor.

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!**

Nature Mart Celebrates 10th Year

This November 18-19, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nature Mart, a popular and much anticipated event, celebrates its 10th anniversary at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 W. Hendrickson Rd. in Sequim, WA. In 2015, thanks to our crafters who generously donated their time, talents, and supplies, Nature Mart raised a record of nearly \$10,000.

Over the years, the number and type of items has grown as our crafters continue to develop new ideas and concepts, from fresh wreaths to personal holiday cards; from hand-made suet feeders to bird feeders from wine bottles with the Railroad Bridge Red label. And don't miss our delicious bake sale with special items, such as fresh homemade pies, breads, cookies, fudge, Grand Marnier brownies (hard to resist!), to mention only a few. NEW THIS YEAR, you can purchase an item from our bake sale and have it delivered locally by our Director, Powell Jones -- great as a "thank you" to your doctor, insurance agent, or a teacher at school.

Also available this year are several boards from Railroad Bridge, saved when the bridge was recently paved with concrete -- truly a "collector's item".

Each year Nature Mart offers a special item for raffle. This year is no exception. Tom Butler, one of our talented members, will donate a custom made table, hand crafted from boards saved from the Dungeness River Railroad Bridge. This promises to be a very special and lovely item.

(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Inside the River Center we will offer many exciting items, including clothing, knitted items, ornaments, decorative items, woodworking, plants, and more. Our Nature Mart Committee and our crafters are already working hard to develop new ideas and concepts. If you would like to help with this exciting and fun event as a crafter, a woodworker, or with an idea, or as a volunteer, please contact either of our co-chairs, Shirley Anderson (sanderson22@olympen.com) or Tuttie Peetz (trpeetz@tfon.com).



Backyard Birding

The Backyard Birding 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 as 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.

First in the series of ten classes is “**Fall Landscaping for Birds**”, from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, October 8 at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park. Joe Holtrop, Executive Director of the Clallam Conservation District, will present important features of a bird friendly yard, including food, water, and shelter, with an emphasis on the use of plants native to this area. Following the class will be an optional field trip, a two-mile hike at the Dungeness Recreation Area, to see native plants and where they are growing.

The table below shows the full slate of classes in the Backyard Birding Series.

Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide & Denny Van Horn

It's been another wet spring, followed by a hot, dry summer, but fortunately the weather prognosticators say the weather will soon change back to clouds and showers. For those of us who love Pacific NW weather, it couldn't come too soon. I'm sure you'll all agree that hot and sunny weather, like what we've seen for most of July and August, might be good for Purple Martins, but it's not good



Backyard Birding Series of Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
October 8, 2016	Fall Landscaping for Birds	Joe Holtrop
November 12	Being a Birder	Denny Van Horn
December 10	Winter Care & Feeding in the Garden	Christie Lassen
January 14, 2017	Inside Story	Shirley Anderson & Ken Wiersema
February 11	Nesting	Ken Wiersema
March 11	Spring Gardening for Birds	Joe Holtrop
April 15	Migration	Ken Leuthold
May 13	Sounds of Spring	Dow Lambert & Ken Wiersema
June 10	Out of the Nest	Ken Wiersema
July 8	Gulls & Shorebirds	Bob Boekelheide

for birders. As everyone who comes to Wednesday morning bird walks at RR Bridge Park knows, clouds are good.

Ken Wiersema reports that Purple Martins nesting in the OPAS nest boxes on the 3 Crabs pilings had a very good year, with nests in every one of the 18 nest boxes. Ken says in good years the 18 boxes could potentially fledge 40-45 chicks, maybe more. We've watched martins carrying big dragonflies to nests this summer, a favorite prey item for big chicks. We know that cold windy summers result in poor nesting success for martins, so does that mean that warm sunny summers are good for them?

Despite warm dry weather, the nesting season seems to have progressed fairly well for local songbirds. Although I have no specific data, fledgling robins, waxwings, and goldfinches have been very conspicuous at times in RR Bridge Park. This summer we've seen big flocks of fledgling Bushtits in the bushes, along with good numbers of creeping creepers and newly-hatched nuthatches.

Summer is the time to go to the mountains. There have been several reports of Pine Grosbeaks from the Olympics this summer, suggesting that they, too, had a good nesting year. Scott Gremel found one Pine Grosbeak at Deer Park on 6/29, Joe Gardner found another at Hurricane Ridge on the same day, and John Gatchet found another at Obstruction Point on 7/6. Ryan Merrill also found a group of up to 7 Pine Grosbeaks at the Marmot Pass trail on 7/30 & 7/31. In the lowlands an anonymous birder reported one wayward Pine Grosbeak at the Pysht River on 7/28.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Photo by Robert Hutchison

A small population of Ruby-crowned Kinglets nests in the Olympic Mountains, but curiously Joe Wing reported one Ruby-crowned at Heart O' the Hills campground on 7/2. This is a very low elevation compared to their usual subalpine haunts. Kerry Grim heard one singing at Hurricane Ridge on 7/25, where they're expected to be.

Scott Atkinson photographed a nice Hermit Warbler near Dungeness Forks campground on 7/17, likely a hatching-year female. Scott also found a Western Kingbird at Hurricane Hill on 7/17, a very good bird for July anywhere in Clallam County. Chris Charlesworth spotted another Western Kingbird at Sekiu on 6/22, sitting on a fence at Olson's Resort.



Peregrine Falcon
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

Summer is also the time to see bluebirds in the mountains, where they may nest as well. Michael and Alex Barry found 4 Western Bluebirds at Hurricane Ridge on 8/24. John Gatchet had a great look at a Mountain Bluebird at Hurricane Hill on 8/27.

Summer and early fall are good times to find raptors in the mountains. Dasha Gudalewicz photographed an immature Golden Eagle while she walked up Hurricane Hill on 7/30. Bob Boekelheide spotted an immature Northern Goshawk perched on a log along the Obstruction Point Road on 7/15. Michael and Alex Barry spotted a couple migrant Sharp-shinned Hawks at Hurricane Ridge on 8/24, and there were several reports of upslope Cooper's Hawks as well. *(Continued on next page)*

Harlequin Happenings

At lower elevation, Ryan Merrill and Bill Tweit spotted an immature Broad-winged Hawk hunting on the slopes of Bahokus Peak near Neah Bay on 8/20-21. That bird should be in Wisconsin right now! Bill also reported one Black Merlin, the Merlin subspecies that nests in Clallam County, at Neah Bay on 8/20, being chased by crows.



Pectoral Sandpiper
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

Chuck Johnson and Jeanelle Gerber, who live at Diamond Point, reported a juvenile Peregrine Falcon sitting in a tree by Discovery Bay, perhaps from a nest somewhere on the north Olympic Peninsula.

Once again this summer, shorebirds returning from the north provided lots of interest. It was a great August for Stilt Sandpipers throughout the Northwest, along with one juvenile seen 8/20 at Neah Bay by Ryan Merrill and Bill Tweit, then another juvenile seen 8/21 at Helen's Pond by Bob Boekelheide and many observers. Michael Barry discovered a solitary Solitary Sandpiper at Pitship Pocket estuary on 8/26. Four Pectoral Sandpipers appeared at 3 Crabs on 8/28, seen by Michael Barry and Charlie Wright. One or more Baird's Sandpipers hung around 3 Crabs for a couple weeks, last spotted by Michael Barry on 8/28. Scott Atkinson also found a Baird's Sandpiper at Bullman Beach on 7/17, and Alex Patia found a Baird's Sandpiper at Ediz Hook on 7/26. The big Baird's Sandpiper prize, however, goes to Ryan Merrill, who spotted 3 at Hobuck Beach on 8/20 and 5 at Tsoo-Yess Beach on 8/21. Ryan also found 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Tsoo-Yess

Beach on 8/20. Other Semipalmated Sandpipers hung out with peeps at Ediz Hook on 7/17, and at 3 Crabs on 8/28, seen by Bob Boekelheide. Brad Waggoner found a single Red Knot at Dungeness Landing on 8/9. For the second summer in a row, one Willet has been hanging out in Dungeness Bay, first seen by Michael Barry in early August and still present on 8/28.

Summer is also time for migrant gulls. As usual, thousands of California Gulls are making their way through the Salish Sea on their way from inland nesting areas to wintering sites in California and Mexico. Good numbers of Heermann's Gulls are here from their nesting areas in Mexico, standing out in the crowd with their red bills and dark gray bodies. Some Franklin's Gulls have also been spotted, including one on 7/17 at Point Wilson, seen by Gus van Vliet, and one on 8/17 at Neah Bay, found by Ruth Richards. The Neah Bay bird stuck around until at least 8/19. A young Glaucous Gull has been hanging



Semipalmated Sandpiper
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

around Ediz Hook this summer, first reported by Greg Meyer on 7/1 and seen again by Bob Boekelheide on 7/17.

Among saltwater birds, Bill Tweit and Ryan Merrill found a breeding-plumaged Eared Grebe at Neah Bay swimming with Horned Grebes on 8/20-21. Bob Boekelheide and birders from Florida found a Western Grebe swimming by Dungeness Spit on 7/18, unusual for summer. Neil Callister reported a nice Ancient Murrelet below Cape Flattery on 8/10. Michael Barry spotted an immature Brown Pelican at Freshwater Bay on 8/21, the furthest into the Strait we've heard about a pelican this summer. Not on saltwa-



Heermann's Gulls
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

ter, but John Gatchet found a Green Heron at Lincoln Park in Port Angeles on 7/13, a species occasionally found in summer and fall on the north Olympic Peninsula.

Once again, Chipping Sparrows nested successfully somewhere near Scott Gremel's backyard in Port Angeles, where he saw 2 adults and 2 juveniles on 7/9. Chipping Sparrows were also present in the mountains, with 3 seen on 7/16 by Bob Boekelheide at Hurricane Ridge, and 5 seen on 7/17 by Scott Atkinson at Hurricane Hill. Bullock's Orioles apparently nested at Carrie Blake Park once again, where Neil Burkhardt spotted a beautiful male oriole on 6/29. August is the time to see Common Nighthawks chasing flying insects in the evening skies. Gary Bullock reports 2 nighthawks flying over East Sequim Bay Road on 8/23.

Caspian Terns apparently failed to nest at Dungeness Spit again this year, but Michael Barry and Bob Boekelheide found 3 banded Caspians at 3 Crabs on 6/24, and reported the band sightings to the Bird Banding Lab. It turns out that one of the terns was banded as an adult at East Sand Island on the Columbia River in 2010, another tern was banded as a chick at East Sand Island in 2008, and a third tern was banded as a chick at Dungeness Spit in 2005. 2005 is one of the years when over 1000 Caspian Terns nested on Dungeness Spit. It's so nice when a bird "reterns" to its home! [Sorry about that!]

Michael Barry spotted 2 Tufted Puffins from Ediz Hook on 7/17 along with all the Rhino Auklets, a very good sighting in the central Strait. Michael also scoped a suspicious tern at Dungeness Landing Park on 7/10 that could possi-

bly have been an Elegant Tern. Michael says it was smaller than the adjacent Caspians, its bill was lighter and thinner, it had lighter gray mantle, and it had a white forehead and yellow legs. Some juvenile Elegant Terns sometimes have orangey-yellow legs, so Michael has put the sighting into his "maybe" category. Michael also provided the only owl news of the month, finding a young



Fork-tailed Storm Petrels
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

Northern Pygmy-Owl on 8/20. Last but not least, Michael found a female Ruddy Duck with 7 fluffy chicks at Kitchen-Dick Ponds on 7/10.

Denny Van Horn led a wonderful pelagic trip on 8/13 on the M/V Windsong out of Neah Bay. The highlight of our day was finding thousands of birds and many humpback whales feeding at a huge patch of krill and baitfish at the southern margins of Swiftsure Bank. Krill darkened the water and silvery baitfish jumped everywhere around us. Humpback Whales plowed sideways through the middle of the swarm, mouths wide open, inhaling everything in their paths. One humpback let out a big red poo, telltale sign of krill for breakfast. Shearwaters and gulls made up the bulk of the flocks, wheeling back and forth, plunging into the water, and sitting in large flocks nearby. Several times we watched jaegers and a skua chase down gulls and shearwaters, and in turn watched the gulls chase the jaegers. One of our lingering images is seeing hundreds of beautiful Sabine's Gulls all taking flight at once, like snowflakes fluttering over the dark water. Numbers for the day included 6800 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 1850 Sooty
(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Shearwaters, 4 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, 48 Red-necked Phalaropes, 1 South Polar Skua, 3 Pomarine Jaegers, 2 Parasitic Jaegers, 86 Cassin's Auklets, 93 Tufted Puffins, 1900 Sabine's Gulls, 2 Arctic Terns, and 1 Brown Pelican.

Denny has scheduled more pelagic trips out of Neah Bay, one on 9/10 and one on 10/8. Contact Denny at <dennyvanhorn@gmail> to sign up for these trips, so we can fill the boat.

Much more late summer and fall migration is on its way. If you see something noteworthy, please email Bob Boekelheide at bboek@olympus.net. Thank you very much for your sightings.



Kudos to Gretha Davis and the Broom Busters

by Julie Jackson

Even though Gretha Davis and the River Center Rally Broom Busters team raised over \$2,500 for the River Center in April by pulling Scotch Broom along the Olympic Discovery Trail, she didn't rest on her Scotch Broom laurels. She entered Clallam County's "Show us your weed" scotch broom photo contest. Her photo of Broom Busters Chuck Preble and Dan Rugh at work won first place, and Gretha won dinner for two at Wildfire Grill in Port Angeles. As described in the Peninsula Daily News, Gretha's photo "features two citizen activists removing towering 10-foot tall blooming scotch brooms from a hillside wilderness area among endangered beneficial native plants that favor wildlife habitat." May Gretha and the Broom Busters keep up the good work!



*Broom Busters Chuck Preble and Dan Rugh at work
Photo by Gretha Davis*

Providing a Safer Yard for Birds

by Mary Porter-Solberg



Hanging birdfeeders, providing birdbaths, and growing native plants are among the best ways to provide food, water, and shelter to birds as they migrate across an increasingly developed continent. If homeowners want to attract and provide refuge for birds, they must also safeguard their yards against threats such as windows, toxins, and cats.

Let's talk primarily about window collisions and ways to prevent them. Window strikes at people's homes kill at least 150 million birds each year in the U.S. Reflections of vegetation or landscape attract birds to collide with glass. Birds tend to collide with windows in rural yards with trees and birdfeeders—the very picture of bird-friendly habitat. Many people hang birdfeeders in a tree close to their house so they can easily watch the birds from a window. This is the worst place to put them. It draws birds close to windows while also giving them space to gain the necessary flying speed to hurt themselves. Place feeders and birdbaths within three feet of the nearest window so that birds don't hurt themselves upon liftoff; or place them more than 30 feet away so that feeding birds have plenty of space to clear the house.

Window solutions:

- Window screens are a great deterrent. If your windows don't have screens, there are some netting options you can purchase to install over the top of your windows to keep birds from injuring themselves.
- Install *Acopian BirdSavers* or make your own with 1/8-inch diameter parachute cord. Hanging strings, ribbons, or cords in front of your window is an inexpensive way to help birds avoid your windows. Bird collisions tend to cluster around certain times of year particularly during migration and when chicks are fledging. Once you identify those months with heavy bird traffic in your yard, you can hang and remove them accordingly.
- Hanging vertical exterior translucent tape stripes across the window at 4 inches (10 cm) intervals can be a good deterrent.
- Use lots of decals. Many forest birds readily dart between branches and leaves, so a single decal will not deter them. The barrier needs to be dense, as if it were

impenetrable foliage. UV-reflecting decals are recommended.

- Apply horizontal-pattern bird safety film to the outside of your window.

If you hang feeders or otherwise invite birds into your yard, you need to make sure you've considered all threats. Lights directed upward can disorient birds when they migrate at night, so make sure any exterior lights are covered. Don't use pesticides or other toxins on your property that could injure or kill birds. And while windows are a big problem, they come in second to cats as the biggest killers of migrating birds. Keeping pet cats indoors is a positive for cats and native bird populations.

To read more about the current citizen science research about window collision risk at houses and to find out more about the products mentioned in this article, please go to <http://www.audubon.org/news/think-you-have-bird-friendly-backyard-think-again> or <https://abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass/>.

Bluebird Watch Update

by Joyce Volmut

We are continuing our study of the Western Bluebird in Clallam County. There are currently three volunteers working in the program, which is called Bluebird Watch. We are interested in any Bluebird activity or sightings. The long term goal is to increase the number of Bluebirds that nest or winter in the area. In order to do that we need your help. Most reports appear not to be from Audubon members, so if you are aware of any birding friends, please spread word of the project.

Bluebird Activity reported this year:

- Individual site reports - 12
- Number of birds reported - 14 adult Western Bluebirds; 1 Mountain Bluebird; 2 Western Bluebird fledglings
- Reported Area with the most activity - Miller Peninsula, Knapp Rd and Thompson Rd, between Sequim and Port Angeles, Deer Park, and Hurricane Ridge.

For more information or to report any Bluebird activity please contact Joyce Volmut, 785-554-6379, or Doris Causey, 360-301-5724.

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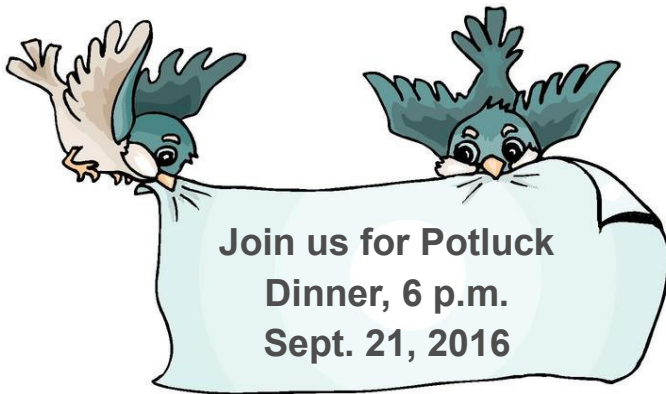
Photos by Sue Crickman



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