



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 4 Jul-Aug, 2017

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

OPAS Programs

[Editor's Note: The next OPAS program will take place on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 W. Hendrickson Rd., Sequim, WA.]

OPAS Field Trips in July and August

by Denny AMFJ Van Horn

Note: Except where noted, there is no cost to attend OPAS field trips. Bring binoculars, scopes, and personal accoutrements, as desired.



Well, with six months of 2017 gone and six to go, Clallam County is doing great for species documented so far - currently we're up to 253! For me, the most exciting time for birding is just coming on: mid to late summer. This is when shorebirds and gulls return, passerines start moving around, and rarities begin showing up. And we've a few outings planned that may give you the opportunity to 'tick' or 'check-off' some great birds, or just get out and spend some time with our local fauna, while wandering through and enjoying what you find. See you out there!

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.

Shorebirds & Gulls

Date & Time: Saturday, July 8, Noon

Leader: Bob Boekelheide

Meeting place: Dungeness Landing Park

Features: What gull is that? And for that matter, what shorebirds are those? We will attempt to facilitate ID'ing each and every species you find out there on Dungeness Bay - just for you. We'll work Dungeness Landing; then head over to 3 Crabs on an incoming tide - so the viewing should be excellent! Come join us.

Further information: Contact: Bob Boekelheide, <bboek@olympus.net> / 360 808-0196

Pitship Pocket to Port Williams

Date & Time: Saturday, July 22, 9 a.m.

Leader: Gary Bullock

Meeting place: South parking lot at John Wayne Marina
Features: A mid-summer scoping of the bay and environs for anything and everything. By this time of year, most nesting species have fledged their young and are returning to waters where they normally hang-out all year; and there's a decent chance to find something very special.

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

Neah Bay Pelagic Trip

Date & Time: Saturday, August 5, 8 a.m.

Leaders: Denny Van Horn & Bob Boekelheide

Meeting place: Neah Bay, Boat Dock, M/V Windsong

Cost: \$160 per person

Features: This is an RSVP trip, so PLEASE contact Denny for reservations. Aboard the M/V Windsong, we will venture out into open ocean; first north into the Strait; (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@olypen.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.

OPAS Board of Directors

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Treasurer, Barbara Johnson, 360-582-9962
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Field Trips, Denny Van Horn 360-406-1584
Hospitality, Clare Hatler, 360-582-6451
Newsletter, Bob Hutchison, 253-293-3801 RobBHut@gmail.com
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Hear Ye!

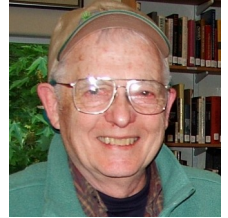
Join us for our Potluck Dinner meeting, September 20, 2017.

Dr. Jim Karr will be telling us about the **Birds of Cuba**.

Potluck will begin at 6 p.m.; general meeting will start at 7 p.m.

President's Notes

By Ken Wiersema



Leaving the Presidency of OPAS

As you read this, I'll have been ex-president of OPAS since June 30th. Back in 1997-2000, it was my privilege to first serve as your President, and then I agreed to be recycled and serve from 2014-2017. Each year contained many similar challenges and also carried its own set of unique new ones. I've been fortunate to have some of OPAS's best folks to serve alongside me as officers and committee chairs. I'm hesitant to name names, as this would become a roll call of super folks and I'd surely leave a deserving soul out. -- Field trips, bird classes, bird counts, BirdFests, conservation advocacy and policy writings, board meetings, membership meetings, Audubon Center functions, State and National Audubon support, etc., resulted in significant contributions and accomplishments. Most of the OPAS leadership volunteered to run our Chapter because they enjoy and want to learn more about birds, and they bring with them well-honed skill sets from their past education, training, and working lives. You and I as OPAS members owe them our gratitude and respect for the time and effort they voluntarily gave. And, as I always ask, we need folks to step forward to fill out our board, staff committees, and help with a wide array of projects. Please ask me or any board member, listed in this newsletter, how you can volunteer and help make a difference!

New and Returning Leaders

Starting on the 1st of July, Bob Phreaner will be our new President, Bob Boekelheide will return as a Co-Vice President, together with Marie Grad, who will be a new Co-Vice President. Enid Phreaner returns as Secretary, and Barbara Johnson will be the new treasurer. Some of these folks have served on the Board in other roles and will need replacement; so be aware of the need. Look over the list of board members and vacancies, and note where you might fit?

A personal note of thanks

As many of you know, Nancy, my wife of 57+ years, died on May 1st. Your outpouring of condolences, notes, support, and remembrances has been overwhelming. Our family and I have been buoyed up in a time of great loss by your responses and contributions in her name. We thank OPAS members, the members of our River Center, and Jamestown S'Klallam partners, as well as the Sequim Community. And a big appreciation to our OPAS leaders for stepping up to fill needs during the past 6 months, when you had a part time president.

OPAS Field Trips *(Continued from page one)*

then NW into Swiftsure Bank; then turn S towards Juan de Fuca Canyon, with a final leg back towards Neah Bay around Tatoosh Island. Last year's trip was unbelievable - thousands of shearwaters, gulls, and auklets; Humpback Whales were so numerous we couldn't count them all; and, oh yes - those two Brown Boobies - amazing! Also, if interested - request a flyer from Denny.

Further Information: Contact Denny Van Horn, <dennyvanhorn@gmail.com> / 360 406-1584; or Bob Boekelheide, <bboek@olympus.net> / 360 808-0196

Dungeness Rec Area

Date & Time: Thursday, August 17, 8 a.m.

Leaders: Stacey Fradkin & Michael Barry

Meeting place: 1st parking lot to left after you drive through gate.

Features: This is a walk-about for local land birds. Sparrows, chickadees, thrushes, warblers, vireos, and flycatchers all nest in this unique ecosystem; and with fledging done, many species are wandering about. This will be a listening, looking, and searching out mid-summer resident adults and fledglings outing.

Further Information: Contact Stacey Fradkin, <fstacey3@msn.com> / 505-670-3153

Carrie Blake Park

Date & Time: Sunday, September 3, 10 a.m. – Noon

Leader: Cindy Fullwiler

Meeting place: Parking lot near Doggie Play Ground

Features: Cindy Fullwiler will be leading this OPAS outing. Besides doing a walk-about for birds, Cindy might be toting along her photo arsenal, so you will have a chance to watch, see, and ask questions from a local Birder who is also an outstanding photographer. This is an easy outing - level ground with a chance to find some good mid-summer species frequenting the area.

Further Information: Contact Cindy Fullwiler, <cfullwiler@hotmail.com> / 951 501-9257

Neah Bay Pelagic Trip

Date & Time: Saturday, September 9, 8 a.m.

Leaders: Denny Van Horn & Bob Boekelheide

Meeting place: Neah Bay, Boat Dock, M/V Windsong

Cost: \$160 per person

Features: This is an RSVP trip, so PLEASE contact Denny for reservations. Aboard the M/V Windsong, we will venture out into open ocean; first north into the Strait, then NW into Swiftsure Bank; then turn S towards Juan de Fuca Canyon, with a final leg back towards Neah Bay around Tatoosh Island. Shearwaters, storm-petrels, auklets, jaegers, gulls, and -

just possibly - we'll finally get into those elusive albatrosses! Mammals: Humpback Whale, Steller and California Sea Lion, Harbor Seal, and Sea Otter are all possible. Also, if interested, request a flyer from Denny.

Further Information: Contact Denny Van Horn, <dennyvanhorn@gmail.com> / 360 406-1584; or Bob Boekelheide, <bboek@olympus.net> / 360 808-0196

Other Events

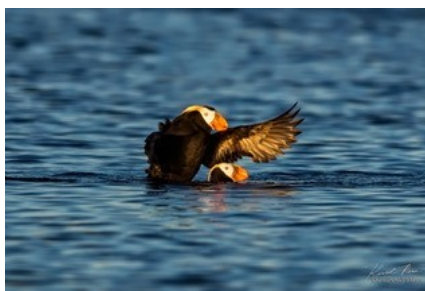
Backyard Birding

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. The cost of each session is \$5 and is free for anyone under 18.

The final class of the series, '**Gulls and Shorebirds**', will be on Saturday, July 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, presented by Bob Boekelheide.

They're not just seagulls, and they're not just sandpipers. Of the 20 species of gulls and 48 species of shorebirds that have been recorded in Clallam County, nearly all are migrants, nesting either in the Arctic or in the interior of North America. Following nesting, they flock to the Salish Sea, where they fuel up in preparation for further flights to winter habitats. Bob will discuss the species that occur here, how they use local bays and shores, and a few tidbits from their fascinating life stories.

For more information, contact: **360-681-4076** / rceducation@olympus.net



Tufted Puffins

Puffin Sunset Dinner Cruises

Cruise on the 55 passenger, 65-foot Glacier Spirit around Protection Island for a narrated program on marine bird life and marine mammals found between John Wayne Marina in Sequim and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Expect to see Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, and other sea birds. *(Continued on next page)*

Harlequin Happenings

This is a two hour tour. Included is a dessert. Wine can be purchased on board. Casual dress, bring a warm jacket.

Where: Leaves from John Wayne Marina in Sequim
Date: (2 cruises) Friday, July 21st and Saturday, July 22nd
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Cost: \$75 per person

For reservations call 360-681-4076, or email rcoffice@olympus.net. There is a limit of 55 people per cruise.

Western Bluebird Climate Watch

by Joyce Volmut

Seventeen volunteers participated in the National Audubon Climate Watch Survey from June 1-15. This consisted of a 5 minute survey in assigned squares identified by National Audubon, where expansion of the Western Bluebird range is projected by the Audubon Climate model.

With the help of volunteers, we were able to expand survey coverage to three additional squares, for a total of 70 surveys in eight squares. Our goal is to select squares or blocks within the OPAS Chapter Area where greatest expansion of the Western Bluebird range is anticipated. Twelve points within these squares where habitat is most suitable are then identified, and it is at these points where the 5 minute survey is conducted.

Although a breakdown of data, including all birds identified, has not been completed, We can share the data we have on the Western Bluebird. Twenty-one Western Bluebirds were reported at nesting sites, and 13 individual adult birds were reported that were not associated with nesting activity. Nesting sites included six pair of adult male/female Western Bluebirds. Five fledglings were reported at one of the nesting sites, with a second brood that included five eggs. In total, five nesting sites were confirmed; this includes the nest box placed by OPAS volunteers on DNR property. One site on private property east of Port Angeles was abandoned after nest completion; no eggs were reported at this site. One site ended sadly: Following nesting completion, a beautiful male Western Bluebird was found dead in the nest box.

The next survey period for Climate Watch will be in January. The OPAS Western Bluebird Program does ask, however, that any Western Bluebird sightings be reported to the pro-



Western Bluebird

gram coordinators Joyce Volmut (joyce.volmut@gmail.com) 785-554-6379 or Doris Causey (306-301-5724).

Conservation Award

by Mary Porter-Solberg and Bob Phreaner

Each year the OPAS conservation committee recommends to the Board an individual or group deserving of recognition for noteworthy contributions toward improving and protecting the habitat and the wildlife that share our Olympic Peninsula with us.

For 2017, OPAS proudly presented this award to one of our members, Jim Karr, at our meeting on June 21. Jim was recognized for his advocacy and assistance aimed at restoring the aquatic ecosystems in our community. Jim provided his academic scientific background, technical expertise, and a



Jim Karr (left), Ken Wiersema (President) and Conservation Committee Co-chairs Mary Porter-Solberg and Bob Phreaner

proven scientific process, which resulted in funds enabling Clallam County Streamkeepers to adopt his Benthic-Index of Biological Integrity (B-IBI) sampling method. The data from those samples were used to prioritize protection and restoration, secure funds, track stream health, and identify watersheds requiring remediation under the Federal Clean Water Act. Citing the analogy that the B-IBI is as critical to a river as a physical exam is to a patient, Jim encouraged the Dungeness River Management Team to resume B-IBI sampling on the Dungeness River. Using the B-IBI in Adaptive Management, the effectiveness of restoration projects can be objectively measured for the best possible outcomes.

As a leader in the Dungeness River Audubon Center's "Ecology of the Dungeness River" classes, Jim made the applied science of macro invertebrates accessible and understandable to every student. Jim's scientific knowledge and extensive experience, voluntarily contributed, have proven

invaluable in improving stewardship of the Dungeness River Watershed, and his ecology background has enriched our conservation committee. Our community is in his debt for his contributions.

Conservation Matters

by Mary Porter-Solberg and Bob Phreaner

Forest panel will focus on Marbled Murrelet and timber harvests

Hilary Franz, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner of Public Lands, plans to assemble a panel of experts to help plan for the future of state forests. Commissioner Franz is bringing together a broad set of voices to develop a strategy to sustainably harvest timber and protect the habitat of the Marbled Murrelet. She believes that it is time for DNR to try to attain a resolution of the “long-standing divide” in timber management that has gone on for over a generation. Commissioner Franz and her staff will appoint a forest panel of conservation groups, recreation groups, school districts, industry, and rural counties that depend on state lands to develop a long-term strategy that results in a win for our environment, our natural resource economies, and our communities. The forest panel will help address social, economic and environmental impacts of the final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Marbled Murrelet. This will also affect the 10-year sustainable harvest calculation plan, which is closely related to the outcome of the final HCP for the Marbled Murrelet. The final decisions will impact timber harvests and the environment for years to come. Commissioner Franz is aware of the concerns that the proposed alternatives in the HCP could have significant economic repercussions for rural communities, while not doing enough to save the murrelet. She has asked her staff to work with diverse stakeholders to develop additional solutions that would offset the economic and community impacts of the plan, and to find creative ways to improve murrelet conservation.

The next step in the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) timeline for the Marbled Murrelet long-term conservation strategy is to choose one of the six proposed alternatives, or to consider the “Conservation Alternative” that was recommended and supported by conservation groups in March 2017. The BNR plans to choose a preferred alternative in September 2017.

In early 2018, DNR plans to submit an amendment to the Habitat Conservation Plan to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for



murrelet conservation that meets the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and its own state trust mandate.

To stay informed and learn about the long-term conservation strategy of the Marbled Murrelet and the sustainable harvest calculation, please visit our Conservation News page of the OPAS website at <http://olympicpeninsulaudubon.org/conservation/conservation-news/>.

Birdathon Wrap-up and Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide & Denny Van Horn

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the 2017 OPAS Birdathon/ International Migratory Bird Count on May 13. In total, 57 people submitted bird sightings for the count, tallying 18,630 birds of 170 species.

170 is well below our high species count of 202 recorded in 2012, partly because we had fewer people helping out this year, and partly because we didn't have an offshore boat to pick up pelagic species lurking offshore. Consequently we missed species such as albatrosses, shearwaters, and puffins that undoubtedly are out there, but they won't come to us if we don't go to them. We also missed a good number of species that we usually find in low numbers on the spring count, such as Eurasian Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Black Turnstone, Western Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. With fewer people counting and fewer party-hours counted, it's not a good combination if we want to tally more birds.

Despite fewer counters, some species still set record or near record counts this year. Gadwalls have been particularly visible, with their highest count since 2007. After several years of relatively low numbers, Harlequin Ducks, the well-chosen symbol of OPAS, also showed well, with their highest count since 2002. Red-breasted Mergansers blew away their old record, with a flock of approximately 750 offshore of Jamestown and Graysmarsh. At the west end of Clallam County, both Red-throated Loons and Black Swifts appeared in high numbers. Warbling Vireos are having a good year, with their highest counts since 2002. Both Cliff and Barn Swallows tallied far above their average counts for the last 24 years. Several groups reported flocks of American Pipits still migrating through the lowlands. Lastly, it was a record year for Chipping Sparrows, a species that seems more and more visible around here.

Some species tallied very low numbers, likely because we just missed them, or maybe because they had moved on by the
(Continued on next page)

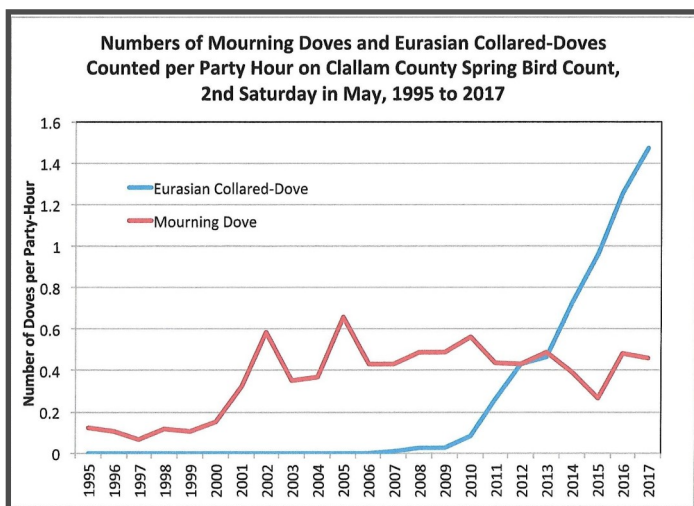


Harlequin Happenings

time of our count. For one, Northern Shovelers tallied their third lowest number for the last 24 years. Horned Grebes really disappeared in early May, with only one seen on the count at Neah Bay. Both Sharp-shinned Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks had their lowest numbers since 1994. Mew Gulls had migrated out of here, with only one tallied on count day. Unfortunately we didn't have a counting party at Cape Flattery, so our numbers didn't include the breeding murrelets or puffins at Tatoosh Island. Surprisingly, Steller's Jays had their lowest count ever, but they always become mysteriously quiet during their nesting season. Lastly, Townsend's Warblers had very low numbers, possibly because fewer people tallied these birds in their forest homes, but maybe because they are genuinely fewer in number this year.

Which species truly represent the breeding avifauna of Clallam County? Granted, our survey is not scientific, but it still gives some clues to important species in our area. The most abundant species on the count that also nest here, in decreasing order, were Glaucous-winged/Olympic Gull (2,473), American Robin (719), Rhinoceros Auklet (653), Barn Swallow (515), crow (384), European Starling (382), Red-winged Blackbird (378), Cliff Swallow (355), Violet-green Swallow (348), Song Sparrow (319), and Mallard (300). But just because a certain species shows up more in our count may not mean it is the most abundant, it may just mean that it is more visible for our counters.

Our counts also provide some interesting historical data. One curious tidbit is changes in dove populations over the years. The accompanying graph shows changes in numbers of Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared-Doves counted over the last 24 years. Mourning Doves were never abundant here until 2001, reaching their peak numbers on both the Spring Birdathon and our Christmas Count between 2002 and 2007. Collared-Doves first appeared on these counts in 2007, and have since skyrocketed. Mourning Doves have gradually ta-



pered off on our surveys, but there are still areas in the foothill forests that have more Mourning Doves than Collared-Doves.

The Neah Bay area again came up with some very unusual species on count day, thanks to sharp-eyed Ryan Merrill and Brad and Dan Waggoner. They found a Eurasian Skylark at Hobuck Beach, only the second skylark record for Clallam County. They also found a beautiful male Hudsonian Godwit hanging out with a Marbled Godwit in Neah Bay. Even though we didn't have an offshore boat this year, they still found some "pelagic" species in Neah Bay, including Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and Red-necked Phalaropes.

Remember, International Migratory Bird Day is always the second Saturday in May. Please put May 12, 2018 on your calendar right now to join the Clallam County count, because we need your help next year. Please join us!

Many, many thanks to the following people who counted birds in Clallam County on May 13:

Kathy Bush, Steve Koehler, Sharle Osborne, Laura Davis, Alan Smith, David Price, Don & Missi Baker, Denny Van Horn, Carol & Bruce Von Borstel, Kris Lether, Millie Marzec, Michael Barry, Mark Salvadalena, Bob Boekelheide, Jim & Audrey Gift, John & Diana Anderson, Kate, Annette, & Peter Buenau, Nancy Kohn, Scott Gremel, Sherrie Rogers, Jon Purnell, Carol Greenstreet, Carolyn Wilcox, Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, Wendy Feltham, Nan Evan, Marcia Schwendiman, Pat Rothman, Leianne Niccoli, Judy Collins, Colleen Ostrye, Ian Barker, Mary Robson, Judy Mullally, Marie Grad, Sue Nattinger, Coleman Byrnes, Keith Brady, Powell Jones, Adrienne Akmajian, Jon Scordino, Ryan Merrill, Brad & Dan Waggoner, + 7 unnamed others.

In other bird sightings, once again this year groups of American White Pelicans cruised by the north Olympic Peninsula in late spring, including 35 first seen by Iris Sutcliffe and Tom Butler in Port Angeles on 6/5. Another group of 14 appeared off 3 Crabs on 6/17, spotted by Lee Bowen, then the next day they landed in Sequim Bay, and finally Protection Island and Discovery Bay. The first Brown Pelicans of the year included 5 spotted by Levi Grudzinski off Cape Alava on 6/14. While studying birds at Protection Island, Gordon Atkins spotted a Yellow-billed Loon near the island's marina on 5/20, and it ended up staying close to the island until at least 5/27.

More incredible shorebird news: The lovely Hudsonian Godwit first discovered at Neah Bay on 5/13 attracted another one, so there were two Hudsonian Godwits, a male and a female, on 5/16, photographed by Adrienne Akmajian. While staying at the New Dungeness Lighthouse, David Price discovered a very unusual Snowy Plover hanging out with Sanderlings.

A Semipalmated Sandpiper hung out at 3 Crabs between 6/3-5, first spotted by Michael O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis, and Alexander Patia. Stacey Fradkin discovered a flashy female Wilson's Phalarope at Helen's Pond on 5/31, and another on 6/16. Mark Salvadalena and Bob Boekelheide spotted a Pacific Golden-Plover at 3 Crabs on 5/2. Michael Barry, along with Don and Missi Baker, found a Pectoral Sandpiper at 3 Crabs on 5/27. Denny Van Horn heard a Lesser Yellowlegs on 6/23, making you wonder whether this bird is already returning from its northerly nesting areas.



Rock Wren
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

It's been an excellent spring and early summer in the mountains. Michael Barry discovered a Rock Wren singing along Obstruction Point Road on 5/28, where it remained until at least 6/23, last seen by John Gatchet. Michael spotted 2 Pine Grosbeaks at Hurricane Ridge on 5/28, also tallied by Sierra Hemmig and Alexander Patia on 6/4. Several people reported Ruby-crowned Kinglets singing at various places around Hurricane Ridge in early June, where they likely nest. Tom Unsicker reported at Clark's Nutcracker at Hurricane Ridge on 5/29.

In the lowlands, Michael Barry spotted a female Yellow-headed Blackbird at the Hogback swamp on 5/2, then another showed up in Dow and Marlene Lambert's backyard in Dungeness on 5/20. Lots of Western Kingbirds this spring: 2 seen on 5/4, one at Towne Rd by Dow Lambert and one at Dungeness by Denny Van Horn; one on 5/13 at Dungeness seen by Denny; one on 5/20-21 at Tsoo-Yess, seen by Eric Heisey and Annika Willette, and one on 5/31 seen by the Wednesday morning bird walk at RR Bridge Park. The Wed am bird walk also spotted 20 Black Swifts soaring high in the sky over the Dungeness River on 5/17. Red-eyed Vireos turned up at Archawat Beach near Neah Bay on 6/10, reported by Adrienne Akmajian, and at

Jimmy-Come-Lately Creek estuary on 6/26, photographed by Alexander Patia.

The Bird Surveys at 3 Crabs turned up some interesting birds. On 5/11 and 5/26, 2 Arctic Terns sat on driftwood stumps west of 3 Crabs, suggesting they may be nesting somewhere on Dungeness Spit this year. A flock of 16 Blue-winged Teal, made up of 15 males and one female, flew around 3 Crabs marshes on 5/26, a very high number for our area.

At the west end of Clallam County, Brad and Dan Waggoner discovered a Bank Swallow sitting on the wires with other swallows at Neah Bay on 5/12. At the Quillayute Prairie, a beautiful male Lazuli Bunting appeared at Dave Geiger's bird feeder on 6/4. Bahokus Peak continued to turn up interesting raptors in early May, including 14 Golden Eagles, 2 Swainson's Hawks, and 2 Broad-winged Hawks on 5/4, seen by Keith Brady and Alexander Patia. Lastly, Eric Heisey and Annika Willette found the last Palm Warbler of the spring on 5/20 at Hobuck Beach.

One last amazing bird: On 5/17, Michael Barry photographed a small gull at Hobuck Beach, called it a Bonaparte's Gull, and posted the photo with his eBird report. Weeks later, Isaiah Nugent looked through Michael's eBird report and noted that the bird really looked like a Little Gull, the smallest gull species in the world. Isaiah then reported the bird to Ryan Merrill, who confirmed that the bird was really a Little Gull. There are very few Little Gulls nesting around the Great Lakes, but the center of their distribution is really vast areas of Siberia. Without Michael's ebird photo and Isaiah's close observation, this record would have disappeared forever. Thank you, Michael, and thank you, Isaiah!



Little Gull
Photo by Michael Barry

Fall migration has already begun. The nesting season is winding down and all those young birds are wandering your way. Please go birding and let us know what you find at bboek@olympus.net. Thank you for your observations!

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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)

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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 _____