



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, 2018

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

OPAS Programs for January and February

by Bob Boekelheide



January 17, 2018 Program

Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 Hendrickson Road, Sequim, WA at 7 p.m.

"Wild Alaska: The Last Frontier", presented by Ken and Mary Campbell.

Besides being OPAS members and Port Angeles residents, Ken and Mary Campbell are also award-winning wildlife photographers. They have traveled the world searching for extraordinary wildlife, recording superb images of birds, mammals, and the habitats where they are found. Their photographs have been published in many local and national magazines, brochures and calendars.



Mary and Ken Campbell
and Friends

In addition to seven other trips to Alaska, Ken and Mary recently traveled to the North Slope of Alaska to view the Aurora Borealis and Arctic animals in the fall. Their presentation will highlight images from this trip, along with other photos showing the incredible grandeur and amazing wildlife of the 49th state. Please join us for this armchair journey to the Last Frontier.



White-crowned Sparrow
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

February 21, 2018 Program

Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 Hendrickson Road, Sequim, WA at 7 p.m.

"OPAS Members' Photo Night 2018", moderated by Christina Heliker.

It's time to choose your best bird photos to show our appreciative OPAS audience. This year please submit your bird photos to Christina Heliker, who has generously
(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

Officers:

President, Bob Phreaner, 360-504-2110
Co-Vice-Pres, Bob Boekelheide, 360-681-4867; Marie Grad, 360-620-4035
Treasurer, Barbara Johnson, 360-582-9962
Secretary, Enid Phreaner 360-504-2110

Board-at-Large:

Tom Montgomery, 360-683-8230
Kendra Donelson, 360-683-7793
Bob Iddins - 360-681-2840
Nancy Bargar, 360-775-7667
Ken Wiersema, 360-460-5515

Committees:

Bird Sightings/Counts, Bob Boekelheide, 360-681-4867
Conservation Co-chairs, Vacant — please volunteer to fill this position
Education, Ken Wiersema, 360-460-5515
Membership, Audrey Gift, 360-681-2989, agift@olympen.com
Field Trips, Denny Van Horn 360-406-1584
Hospitality, Clare Hatler, 360-582-6451
Newsletter, Bob Hutchison, 253-293-3801 rbrycehut@wavecable.com
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Webmaster, Mary Porter-Solberg, 360-683-8072.
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Social Media Support Team, Mary Porter-Solberg, Enid Phreaner, and Laura Alisanne

President's Notes

By Bob Phreaner



With the New Year upon us, it is time to review last year's accomplishments and next year's challenges. Please indulge me as I reflect.

Let's start with our citizen science programs. OPAS was the first Audubon chapter in Washington to participate in the Climate Watch Study, with the Bluebird breeding survey managed by Joyce Volmut. The Swan Study, coordinated by Mary Porter-Solberg, has tripled observer participation and is finding record numbers of Trumpeter Swans this season. Mary has been our olybird.org website and Facebook manager and continues to keep us posted on breaking news and conservation alerts. The OPAS Facebook page now has 140 followers. OPAS received an Audubon collaborative grant which we matched to fund a data compiler for a Pigeon Guillemot breeding study organized in Clallam County by Ed Bowlby.

The Wednesday morning bird walk, led by Bob Boekelheide, is in its seventeenth year! It is very popular with locals and visitors alike. And it's still free! Did you know that Bob also leads a crew of observers who have been collecting data on the bird population at 3 Crabs before, during and after the NOSC restoration? Bob also leads pelagic trips for BirdFest and Neah Bay outings with his shipmate, OPAS Field Trip coordinator Denny Van Horn. We appreciate that Denny has organized at least one field trip every month in 2017, and it looks like 2018 will be just as active and interesting. Have you attended any field trips? Would you consider leading one to your favorite birding spot?

Ken Wiersema assumed the role of Education coordinator this year and has continued in the tradition of Shirley Anderson by providing entertaining and informative Back Yard Birder classes. We also greatly appreciate the support of Jane Stewart and Mike Barnes in making BYB classes possible.

The OPAS Conservation Committee had a notable achievement this year, when the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC) unanimously adopted OPAS's resolution to ask the Washington Legislature to change the law so that our state can cease leasing aquatic lands for Atlantic Salmon net pens in its marine waters.

Membership Chair Audrey Gift reports that we now have a ten year high of 350 OPAS members. Annual memberships expired December 31. So if you haven't renewed, you can find a membership form at the end of the newsletter.

2018 presents us with challenges. The OPAS Conservation Committee needs a Chairperson. Ken Wiersema will mark twenty years of nurturing the Purple Martin colony at 3 Crabs and is now facing the proposed removal of the pilings that host their nest boxes. And speaking of new nests, plans for the Dungeness River Audubon Center expansion depend on your support. It takes many volunteers to provide quality programs, and if you would like to give back we would welcome your participation on one of our many committees.

On behalf of the OPAS Board, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy 2018, and I hope to see you at the next OPAS general meeting.

Hear Ye!

Time to renew your
annual OPAS
membership
Due date: Dec. 31, 2017

OPAS Programs *(Continued from page one)*

offered to be our technical advisor and assist us projecting the images. If you wish to offer your photos for the evening, please contact Christina so you can get the information you'll need, at cheliker@olympen.com.

This is not a contest, there are no judges, and there are no prizes. We ask that you submit no more than 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.

In January Christina will email guidelines to those who have submitted images in the past, so the evening flows more smoothly. All bird photos are welcome, but should we receive too many photos for the evening we will give priority to local birds and/or reduce the number of photos per person. Even if you don't submit photos, you must come watch the show!

OPAS Field Trips in January and February

by Denny AMFJ Van Horn

January's weather is cold, blustery, wet - but at times, sunny and warm. February is usually the same. Nevertheless, this is one of the most exciting times to be out birding around the Olympic Peninsula, as winter species are active and usually cooperative, as Birders search, find, and list. We've two of our regular outings posted [JWM & CBP]; and two special ones [Gardiner Beach & Skagit]; and a sharing about a chance to participate in a citizen-science project that is just plain fun!



Wednesday Bird Walks

Date: Every Wednesday morning, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: Outside the Dungeness River Audubon Center

Features: Easy guided bird walk through Railroad Bridge Park to see birds of the Dungeness River riparian area.

Carrie Blake Park Walk-around

Date: Sunday, January 21, 9-11 a.m.

Leader: Cindy Fullwiler

Meeting Place: The SE parking area near the Doggie playpens.

Features: Cindy will be leading this OPAS outing, and it should be a good one for several reasons. First, Cindy's a "dang-good" birder and really enjoys sharing her knowledge. Second, she'll have her camera with its mega-long lens with her, so it'll be a chance to watch, look-see, and ask questions with someone who is an outstanding photographer. And third,

it's an easy walk-around in this area on good ground with lots of habitat where typical winter species can easily be found and approached.

For further information: Cindy Fullwiler
<cfullwiler@hotmail.com> / 951-501-9257

Eastside Bays

Date: January 27th, 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Gary Bullock

Meeting Place: South parking lot of John Wayne Marina
Features: Sequim Bay, Pitship Pocket, Washington Harbor, Schmuck Road, and Port Williams always give up some great birds and Gary is a real gem at finding them.

For further information: Gary Bullock
<gbullockak@hotmail.com> / 360-797-4556

Gardiner Beach & Diamond Point

Date: February 18th, 8:30 a.m.

Leader: John Gatchet

Meeting Place: Gardiner Beach boat launch
Features: Discovery Bay and the waters between the beach and Protection Island offer an incredible array of water-birds, as does the delightful variety of ecosystems across Diamond Point. Also, you'll have the chance to bird from John's backyard (yard-list of 100+ species) as an extra added attraction to this field-trip.

For further information: John Gatchet
<jfgatchet@gmail.com> / 503-781-5043

Great Backyard Bird Count

Dates: February 16th - 19th

Features: The GBYBC, created in 1995 by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, is an online citizen-science project, which collects information on bird populations world-wide and displays these data in real-time. You are invited to participate on one or more days of the count from any location - for us here on the Olympic Peninsula, these data give us a great look into species occurrence and population numbers in our local area. So, come out and play.

Further Information: - Go here <<http://gbbc.birdcount.org>> and click on *Sign in or click or Register as a New User* to participate in this wonderful adventure. Also, if further local info is needed, contact Bob Boekelheide <bboek@olympus.net> / 360-808-0196, or Denny Van Horn <dennyvanhorn@gmail.com> / 360 406-1584 (texting is best).

Skagit Flats & Samish Valley

Dates: Monday & Tuesday, February 26 & 27, 2018

Leader: Bob Iddins

(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

[Note: Pre-registration is required - see below]

Costs: No charge for outing; however, participants make their own lodging arrangements (Mt. Vernon, Burlington, Anacortes), and are responsible for their own meals both days.

Meeting place: Take the 8:00 a.m. ferry from Port Townsend to Coupeville (reservations are strongly recommended). Upon exiting the ferry, we'll meet at the parking area for the boat ramp adjacent to the ferry terminal. Turn right after exiting ferry. For those going early or coming from other areas, we'll meet at the parking lot for the Farmhouse Restaurant at the intersection of HWY 20 and La Connor Whitney Road (between Mount Vernon and Anacortes) at about 10 a.m.

Features: A very popular trip to the Samish Valley & Skagit Flats, starring a plethora of swans, snow geese, wintering raptors and occasional surprises. (There have been recent sightings of a Blue Jay and a Painted Bunting.)

Bring: Optics (binocs &/or scopes) and lunch for both days. Dress warmly and be prepared for inclement weather. We will probably do some car-pooling on site. Participating cars will require a Discover Pass for access to state lands

Further information: Bob Iddins, home: 360 681 2840; cell: 360 775 5945; eMail: <rriddins@olypen.com>

In Memorium: Dr. Bob Norton, 1930-2017

by Bob Boekelheide

With sadness, we share that Dr. Bob Norton, one of the greats of Clallam County birding, died on November 29, 2017. Born in Grinnell, Iowa, Bob received his medical training at Harvard Medical School and became a public health surgeon. Early in his career he served two years as surgeon at the US Coast Guard Academy and two years as a medical officer in Vietnam. Bob eventually specialized in plastic surgery with the US Public Health Service, working to repair birth defects and injuries such as cleft palates and other deformities. For 30 years he lived in Arizona with his wife Jo and family, performing innumerable life-changing operations.

Bob recalled watching birds in high school while he worked as a carpenter roofing buildings. He saw birds sailing around his head and began asking questions about what they were and what were they doing. From that beginning, Bob became consumed with birds. He was a leader in many birding projects, particularly in Arizona where he maintained bird lists for Maricopa County and participated in numerous breeding bird surveys, field trips, and bird counts throughout the state.

After retiring, Bob and Jo settled near their daughter Sharon's family in "the frost pocket of Joyce," as Bob called his home area. For years he fastidiously kept bird records for Clallam



Dr. Bob Norton

County, back when BirdBase was the hot new computer program. As record keeper, he faithfully submitted detailed seasonal reports of county bird sightings to *American Birds* and *Audubon Field Notes*. Lugging around his big Questar spotting scope, he led many birding trips for OPAS and other groups, touching many lives sharing birds with others. With Sir Walter Raleigh pipe smoke curling around his head, he loved to pursue "good birds," as he called any birds out of the ordinary that might appear on his lists. For many years Bob was a fixture in local Christmas counts, field trips, rare bird chases, and anything else that would get him outside birding. Even when he was inside his house he was still birding; he often sat around with binoculars around his neck, so he wouldn't miss a bird he spotted out the window. With a twinkle in his eye and deep curiosity about the birds he observed, he was the consummate birder, a role model for the rest of us.

There will be a celebration of Bob Norton's life at the Dungeness River Audubon Center on **Sunday January 21, 2018, at 1 p.m.**

Former OPAS Leader Suffers Loss

By Rob Hutchison

In October, Jim and Barbara Richard, who now live in Montana, suffered the loss of their youngest son Barry to heart complications following treatment for cancer of the lymphatic system. Jim was a dedicated, hard-working OPAS President, and a committed conservation advocate, helping out among other projects with our Purple Martin boxes project at 3 Crabs for several years. For those of us who knew Jim and Barbara

while they lived in Sequim, and who would like to reach out to them to express condolences, their address is Box 749, White Sulphur Springs, Mt 59645; their email is <jimerichard2@yahoo.com >.



Jim Richard

Other Events

Backyard Birder programs for January and February

by Jane Stewart

Backyard Birding is a series of classes hosted by members of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and is intended for residents of the area who are interested in knowing more about birds seen locally each season of the year, and in learning how to develop good habitats for wild birds. All sessions are at the Dungeness River Audubon Center in Railroad Bridge Park from 10 am until noon. The public is invited to attend any or all of the sessions. **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. org. After the completion of five sessions, participants will be offered free membership in OPAS for one year.

January 6th Class -- 10 am to noon.

Backyard Birds -- The Inside Story

To start the new year, Shirley Anderson and Ken Wiersema will lead a discussion of the biology and physical features of birds -- how they eat, digest, breath, sing, reproduce, and fly. This session will include the showing of a collection of bird skeletons, feathers, feet, new illustrations, graphics, and sounds. It will enhance your enjoyment and understanding of birds in our

local area. Please join us; bring your observations and questions.

February 3rd Class -- 10a.m. to noon

Bird Nesting

With spring on the horizon, we offer a favorite program on bird nesting. We'll show attendees where and how local birds nest, and how nesting is an integral part of pair bonding. Ken Wiersema will lead the presentation, offering examples of the nests of many different species. The program also has a "how to" walk through on how bird watchers of every age and skill can be part of the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb 16-19 2018.

SAVE THE DATE: Olympic Birdfest

April 13-15, 2018.

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: Claudio Vidal will talk about Patagonia & Chile: Birds & Mammals at the End of the Americas. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2018, and extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 16-17, 2018: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit www.olympicbirdfest.com.

Join Project FeederWatch

Do you love watching birds? Join the **Project FeederWatch** citizen-science project which is just getting underway. Participants count the birds at their feeders between November and early April. By submitting their reports, FeederWatchers help monitor birds across North America, and learn a lot along the way. You can spend as much or as little time as you like counting...the schedule is completely flexible. The FeederWatch BirdSpotter photo contest, sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited (<https://feederwatch.org/birdspotter2017-18>), is also taking place and is offering some great prizes. Sign up for FeederWatch at <https://feederwatch.org/>.

Great Backyard Bird Count is coming

Itching to Count Birds? Greetings from the Great Backyard Bird Count team at Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada! We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the 21st GBBC, coming up **February 16 through 19, 2018**. Meanwhile, you can use your GBBC login information to record your sightings with eBird, any day of the year.

Pacific Shorebird Partners and Citizen Scientists

This is an invitation to join the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey for 2017. (Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

This coordinated, multi-partner project, led by Point Blue Conservation Science, will help guide shorebird conservation. You will be part of a team helping to protect shorebirds and wetlands from Canada to South America through monitoring, research, and outreach. We need your help, as a biologist, a land steward, or a citizen scientist to help make this project a success. We will be firming up dates for each area (Columbia River Estuary, Willapa Bay, and Grays Harbor) and sending out a doodle poll. This year we will conduct a 2-hour survey, which may include multiple survey sites around our local bays and estuaries.

Please contact us if you have availability and are interested, so that we can include you in the doodle poll to select dates. It should be another great year for shorebirds and an excellent opportunity to get outside! If you are not feeling confident in your shorebird ID skills, we can always pair you up with a previous observer. See our poster in this issue for additional information and contacts.

Snow Goose Festival

Join us for the **19th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway** this coming **January 24-28, 2018, in Chico, California**. Registration is now OPEN, so go online and register for your favorite trips and events today at <http://www.snowgoosefestival.org/>.

- Over 70 exceptional field trips, including many NEW excursions
- Wide variety of informative indoor workshops and presentations
- Saturday evening banquet featuring keynote speaker, Jon L. Dunn
- Snow Goose Festival Wildlife Art Exhibit & Friday night reception featuring impressive wildlife and habitat artwork
- FREE EVENTS for all to enjoy...especially the kids

2017 Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count Results

by Bob Boekelheide



Once again, the Sequim-Dungeness CBC set the standard for Washington CBCs. On December 18, 2017, our valiant group of 116 field observers and 32 feeder watchers found a grand total of 143 species within the Sequim-Dungeness circle. The species count is right about average for the last 25 years, but quite a bit lower than our all-time record of 154 species set in 2015. We have equaled or surpassed 140 species in 19 of the last 20 years, a remarkable record for a Washington CBC.

The total number of individual birds this year was 59,642, significantly lower than the all-time high count of 85,777 seen in 2011 (see CBC results table).

The most abundant species this year, as usual, was American Wigeon, with 10,621 total. Other abundant species, in decreasing order of abundance, were American Robin (6936), Mallard (6014), Glaucous-winged/Olympic Gull (2724), Dunlin (2420), Dark-eyed Junco (2129), Bufflehead (2042), European Starling (1504), Brewer's Blackbird (1355), and Red-winged Blackbird (1275). Notice all these species form large flocks, hence their abundance. These top-ten species comprised about 62 percent of all the birds seen on our count.

Species with particularly high counts this year, either all-time records or close to it, were California Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Merlin, Hutton's Vireo, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Purple Finch, and Common Redpoll. For the seventh year in a row Barred Owl was the most abundant owl species.

Anna's Hummingbird is a particularly astonishing story. The first Anna's Hummingbirds ever recorded on our CBC was one lone bird in 1994, 19 years after the SDCBC started. For the next 12 years we never tallied more than 3 Anna's in any given year. After 2007, however, their numbers increased exponentially, now over 300 this year. They are everywhere -- this year, 11 separate field parties counted 10 or more hummingbirds each. The high count goes to the ladies who canvassed south of Washington Street in Sequim, tallying 32 hummingbirds visiting neighborhood feeders. At this rate of increase, Anna's Hummingbirds may become one of the top-ten species in the next few years.



Pine Grosbeak
Photo by John Gatchet

One other species, Eurasian Collared-Dove, continually set new abundance records over much of the last 10 years, but this year it actually decreased for the second year in a row. Some field groups even commented that collared-doves seemed relatively scarce this year. Could predators such as Cooper's Hawks and falcons finally be making a dent in the collared-dove population? Maybe not coincidentally, this year these predators all tallied above their long-term averages.

This is also an irruption year for some finch species, likely because cone crops failed in other regions. Common Redpoll set a record for our CBC with 54 total, far above the old record of 16 seen in 2001. The Three Crabs group alone counted 51 redpolls. The Diamond Point/Gardiner group photographed 6 Pine Grosbeaks, another finch species that seems more widespread this fall. Lastly, Evening Grosbeaks, a species that has been virtually absent through 2017, appeared in good numbers for groups counting south of Hwy 101.



Black-and-White Warbler
Photo by Scott Gremel

Of interest, we recorded lower than average numbers of several dabbling duck species, including Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Northern Pintail. The warm weather prior to the count may have something to do with this, because unfrozen freshwater allows dabblers to spread out where we might not count them.

Other species that recorded low numbers this year compared to long-term averages included Barrow's Goldeneye, American Coot, Pileated Woodpecker, and Northern Shrike. We entirely missed several species we always hope to see -- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse,

Eared Grebe, and Hermit Thrush. Ring-necked Pheasants may be becoming a species of the past, unable to replace themselves now that WDFW has stopped dumping them for hunting in our area.

As always, we found several unusual species. Most amazing of all was a truly wayward Black-and-White Warbler found by the group at 3 Crabs. What is an eastern Warbler that normally spends the winter between Florida and South America doing at 3 Crabs in December? Fortunately all the 3 Crabs group saw and photographed the bird, hopefully helping to ease the approval of regional editors.

Other noteworthy birds included a Snow Goose at Jamestown, a male Cinnamon Teal and female Yellow-headed Blackbird north of Sequim, a female Redhead at Simdars Pond, a Black-crowned Night Heron at 3 Crabs, 2 Yellow-billed Loons seen by the boat party, and count week California Scrub-Jay at Carlsborg.



Redhead (Female)
Photo by Pete Walker

The 2018 Christmas Bird Count will be Monday, December 17, 2018 -- Put it on your calendars now!!

Special thanks to property owners and agencies who allowed access for the count, including USFWS, Olympic Game Farm, Dungeness Farms and Habitat, Willits family, Graysmarsh, Maple View Farm, Battelle, WA State Parks, WA DNR, Clallam County Parks, and more. Great thanks also to Durkee Richards for providing the offshore boat, and to Gary Poor for ferrying counters to Dungeness Spit. To our esteemed observers who came great distances to help with the count, we couldn't do it without you. And of course huge thanks to all the great cooks who provided food for the compilation dinner, and to the Dungeness River Audubon Center for hosting the compilation. (Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Many thanks to our Christmas Bird Count Participants:

Dungeness Spit-Jamie Acker, George Gerdt, Gary Poor (boat); Dungeness Rec. Area-Ken Wiersema, Coleman Byrnes, Sue Nattinger, Emma Montague, Nancy Montague, Ron Hansen; West Dungeness-Denny Van Horn, Dow Lambert, Daniel Froehlich, Shirley Anderson, Laura Davis, Alan Smith, Carol & Tim Fleming, Barb Boekelheide; Three Crabs-Scott Gremel, Mandy Holmgren, Blaine Dalton, Sara Cardejas-Zarelli, Ken & Fanter Lane, Dave Manson, Tom Butler, Rodger Johnson, Lee Bowen; Jamestown-Brad & Dan Waggoner, Jennifer Standish, Connie Bickerton; Graysmarsh-Bob Boekelheide, Michael Barry, Ted Stadtmueller; Port Williams/WA Harbor-Bruce & Sharon Paige, Roger Hoffman; E Sequim fdrs-Sandy Schlechter, Dana Scott, Ron Miller, Sue Fowler; Battelle-Nancy Kohn, Liam Antrim; W. Sequim Bay-Jim & Audrey Gift, Bob Hutchison, Margaret Levitan, Susan Savage, Bob Blush, Bruce & Carol Von Borstel, Linda Falconer; E. Sequim Bay-Judy Mullally, Dan McDougall-Treacy; Miller Penin-Powell Jones, Greg Voyles, Kathy, Rick, & Otis Bush; Diamond Point/Gardiner-John Gatchet, Bob Bagwell; Off-shore boat-Charlie & Linnaea Wright, Bruce LaBar, Mike Crim; Durkee Richards (boat); Protection Island-Sue Thomas, Juliana Merluccio, Mary Sue Brancato, Ed Bowlby, Pat Willits, Lorenz Sollman; Chicken Coop-Charlotte Watts; Palo Alto-Carolyn Wilcox, Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, Nancy & Bill Shaw; Burnt Hill-John Bridge, Brian Berg, Tim McNulty, Matt Duchow; Bell Hill-John & Diana Anderson, Jim & Audrey Gift, Judy Burr-Chellin, Sandra Boren, Nancy Kohn; S Sequim/Happy Valley/Dung Mdws-Peter Walker, John Acklen, Juanice Reyes, Kevin & Susan Magner, Kendra Donelson, Pat MacRobbie, Doris Causey, Bev Swaringen, Kristiana Nielsen, Fish Hatchery/Taylor Cutoff-Quenn Charrier, Norrie & Barb Johnson, Sally Holm; Sally Harris, Anna

& Josie Johnson, Atterberry/Cassidy Ck-Barb Blackie, Tom & Linda Stumbaugh, Paul & Mary Farley; Robin Hill Park/Solmar-Barb Blackie, Aissa Wise, David & Judith Morris; McDonald Creek/Kitchen-Dick-Tom Guobis, Joan McDermott, Margie Palmer, Sheila Kee, Betty Kramp; McDonnell Creek Ranch-Sarah Bird, Carol Young; Carlsborg-Marie Grad, Dennis Dixon, Severne Johnson; Heath-Dan & Valerie Stahler, Jane Stewart, Carl Siver, Tan Ebert; Ridgeview/Hogback-Steve & Forest Koehler, Sharle Osborne; Blue Ribbon Farms-Pat Schoen, Janet Bruening, Janet Oja; N Sequim, Carrie Blake Park-Bob Iddins, Karen Parker, Cindy Fullwiler, Nancy & Alan Wolmuth; Woodcock/Old Oly Hwy/Sunland-Enid & Bob Phreaner, Sarah Miller, Jim Karr, Joy Bertman; Dungeness Levee/Towne Rd-Marion Rutledge, Stacey Fradkin; Railroad Bridge Park, Applegate-Mary Robson, Jenna Ziogas, Mindy Mayfield, Terri Tyler, Lisa & Keith Decker, Michael Chase. If I forgot anyone, sorry about that, and thank you very much!

Marbled Murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy Update

By Mary Porter-Solberg



The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a long-term conservation strategy for the Marbled Murrelet.

Once the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) approves a long-term strategy, DNR intends to amend the State Trust

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John L. Scott
REAL ESTATE

Lands 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan, subject to DNR’s fiduciary responsibility to the trust beneficiaries. DNR will then apply for a new incidental take permit for the Marbled Murrelet under the Endangered Species Act.



*Nesting Marbled Murrelet
Photo by Tom Hamer*

During the November 7, 2017 BNR meeting, the board chose their preferred alternative for the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy. Unfortunately, the board voted 5-1 to approve the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff-proposed alternative, which is a modified version of Alternative D. This alternative plan does not pre-

serve enough older forest habitat to stabilize the declining Marbled Murrelet population.

The Marbled Murrelet Coalition had put forward a Conservation Alternative that used the best available science to create a plan that would allow the Marbled Murrelet populations in Washington State to stabilize. There was additional support by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Environmental Protection Agency to analyze the Conservation Alternative after the comment period in July. OPAS also wrote comments in support of the Conservation Alternative during the same comment period. Although the BNR did not choose this plan, the coalition will continue to push back on DNR and BNR as the process continues.

The Marbled Murrelet Coalition members are hopeful that they can encourage Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, and the board to move toward a science-based conservation strategy, one that preserves more habitat for the murrelet.

In addition, the Marbled Murrelet Coalition released a statement that reads in part, “It is important to acknowledge that many rural communities are affected by State management plans. We believe that wildlife protections and healthy rural communities can coexist, and we look forward to participating at the Solutions Table convened by the Commissioner of Public Lands to chart a better path for wildlife and these communities. We are hopeful this table will create better outcomes for wildlife recovery as well as income to the trust beneficiaries.”

You can stay updated on the Marbled Murrelet long-term conservation strategy on the Conservation News page of the OPAS website.

Education Notes

by Ken Wiersema

New Birding programs. Hope 2018 finds you well and happy. I’d ask you to note the new and revised “Focus On” bird programs offered by the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Powell, Jenna and I laid out these special programs based on what many folks have asked about and what skills and resources we had available to present them. Currently we have three folks preparing the classes. We want to expand our bird and wildlife offerings, in a way that fits well with our successful Backyard Birding programs. So for the first 6 months of 2018, we’ll have Backyard Birding in the 1st Saturday of each month, and the “Focus On” programs on the 3rd Saturday. The dates and topics are:

- January 20th Corvids
- February 17th Woodpeckers
- March 17th Ducks
- April 21st Hummingbirds
- May 19th Swallows

All classes will be held at the Dungeness River Audubon Center from 10a.m. - 12p.m. Classes will be taught by Powell Jones, Jenna Ziogas, and Ken Wiersema. Registration is not required; however, \$10 for non-members, or \$5 for all members paid at the door. For more information, contact Jenna at rceduca-tion@olympus.net or 360-681-4076.

Look over the offerings; if you wish suggest other programs that interest you, or to join our corps of presenters, please talk with Powell, Jenna, or me, or drop us and email. These classes are designed to attract folks to our Center, build support in our community for its operation, and create a modest funding stream. Powell’s initial program in the series, in Dec, attracted over 70 folks. Mark them on your calendar and plan to attend a few.

Backyard Birding. In January, Shirley Anderson and I present “Birds the Inside Story” We will lead a discussion of the biology and physical features of birds -- how they eat, digest, breath, sing, reproduce, and fly.

In February, I will present a program on bird nesting: where and how local birds nest, and how nesting is an integral part of pair bonding. Come join us.



December 16th - Owls



JAMESTOWN
SKLALLAM
TRIBE



January 20th - Corvids

Focus On

Series

Family friendly
exploration of unique
adaptations,
habitats, and life
history.



February 17th - Woodpeckers



March 17th - Ducks



April 21st - Hummingbirds

\$5 for members/
\$10 nonmembers

For more information call
360-681-4076

rceeducation@olympus.net
dungenessrivercenter.org



May 19th - Swallows

photos by Dow Lambert, Ron Parker, Marjorie Palmer



DUNGENESS RIVER
Audubon
CENTER
at Railroad Bridge Park

Focus On Series
CORVIDS

Smart? Pesky? Raucous?
Come and bring your Crow stories...

Presented by Ken Wiersema
For all ages
Saturday, January 20th
10 am - Noon
\$10 (\$5 for members)
Optional field trip 12:30 - 2 pm

for more info
360-681-4076 or
rceeducation@olympus.net
www.DungenessRiverCenter.org

photo by Dow Lambert

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