



# HARLEQUIN HAPPENINGS

Newsletter of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

[www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org](http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org) ([www.olybird.org](http://www.olybird.org))

Clallam County, Washington

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Issue 4 Jul-Aug, 2018

*"Volunteer educators and stewards for birds and habitat conservation"*

## OPAS Programs

[Editor's Note: There will be no general meetings of OPAS during the summer months. Join us September 19, 2018, for our Fall kickoff program and potluck dinner.]

## OPAS Field Trips in July and August

by Denny AMFJ Van Horn



### Wednesday Bird Walks

*Date:* Every Wed. 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.

### Neah Bay Pelagic Outing No. 1

*Date & Time:* Saturday, July 14, 8 a.m.

*Leaders:* Denny Van Horn & Bob Boekelheide

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

*Cost:* \$160; fee collected when boarding

*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. Last year's trip was unbelievable: thousands of shearwaters, gulls, and auklets; Humpback whales were so numerous we couldn't count them all! *Bring:* Binocs and personal accruelements, as desired; prepare for possible rain showers; NO scopes.

*For further information, to make a reservation, or to request a flyer, contact:* Denny Van Horn

<dennyvanhorn@gmail.com> / 360 775-6695, or Bob

Boekelheide <bboek@olympus.net> / 360 808-0196

### Pitship Pocket to Port Williams

*Date & Time:* Saturday, August 4, 9 a.m.

*Leader:* Gary Bullock

*Cost:* No charge

*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 it's a decent chance to happen on something very special.

*Bring:* Scopes, binocs and personal accruelements as desired.

*Further Information, contact:* Gary Bullock

<gbullockak@hotmail.com> / 360 797-4556

### Purple Martin Outing

*Date & Time:* Friday, Aug 10, 8:30 a.m.

*Leader:* Ken Wiersema

*Meeting place:* 3 Crabs parking area

*Cost:* No charge

*Features:* Taking count! This outing focuses on our local Purple Martin colony out on the pilings off 3 Crabs. By now many Martin young have fledged and it's a sweet opportunity to watch adults and fledglings interact before they stage-up and head to South America.

*Bring:* Binocs, scopes, wear calf level boots (as we will be walking out on to the wet, soft, sand tideflats for a close look at the nest colony) and personal accruelements, as desired

*Further Information contact:* Ken Wiersema

<wiersema@olympus.net> / phone 360 460-5515

*(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](mailto: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, (360) 681-4076. The public is welcome.

### OPAS Board of Directors

#### Officers:

President, Bob Phreaner, 360-504-2110  
Co-Vice-Pres, Bob Boekelheide, 360-808-0196; Marie Grad, 360-620-4035  
Treasurer, Wendy Hirota, 360-683-7141  
Secretary, Enid Phreaner 360-504-2110

#### Board-at-Large:

Tom Montgomery, 360-683-8230  
Kendra Donelson, 360-683-7793  
Ken Wiersema, 360-460-5515  
Bruce Fryxell, 360-797-1564

#### Committees:

*Bird Sightings/Counts*, Bob Boekelheide, 360-808-0196  
*Conservation Co-chairs*, Vacant — please volunteer to fill this position  
*Education*, Ken Wiersema, 360-460-5515  
*Membership*, Audrey Gift, 360-681-2989, agift@olypen.com  
*Field Trips*, Denny Van Horn, 360-775-6695  
*Hospitality*, Clare Hatler, 360-582-6451  
*Newsletter*, Bob Hutchison, 253-293-3801 rbrycehut@wavecable.com  
*Publicity*, Sara-Ellen Peterson, 360-681-6325  
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*Website Support Team*, Mary Porter-Solberg, Laura Alisanne, Bob Hutchison, and Chris Perry  
*Social Media Support Team*, Mary Porter-Solberg, Enid Phreaner, and Laura Alisanne

## President's Notes

by Bob Phreaner



It's time to put a price on carbon pollution! Audubon Washington strongly believes that we need to take action now to address anthropogenic climate change. Audubon supported the I-732 Carbon Tax in 2016 and is endorsing I-1631 Carbon Fee this year. British Columbia and California have adopted different methods with positive results. Whether we have a tax on carbon or a cap-and-trade policy, we have a responsibility to future generations to take action.

\$250 million of the revenue from I-1631 will fund Washington's investment in clean air, clean water, healthy forests, and clean energy projects. Over 50 million metric tons of carbon would be reduced in 30 years. That is the equivalent of removing 10 million cars from the highways.

In 2014 National Audubon released its "Birds and Climate Report", which told us that climate change poses serious threats to 189 bird species in Washington. 60% of bird ranges have shifted North since 1980. If we do nothing will the birds we watch today be here for our grandchildren to enjoy? In the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Audubon Washington is actively promoting I-1631 because we are the stewards of birds in the 21st century. The OPAS Conservation committee considers climate change and other issues for protecting habitat, and we welcome anyone with these interests to join us.

OPAS is an all-volunteer organization with a love of birds and a desire to protect our environment. I would like to thank all of our Board members and Committee Chairs for their stewardship this past year, especially those not returning: Bob Iddins, Barb Johnson, Jane Stewart, and Nancy Bargar. OPAS is in need of a Conservation Chair, as well as social media assistance. You do not need to be a 'great birder' or have lived here a long time. There is a place on the OPAS team for you and your skill set, so please contact me or talk to one of our OPAS Board members about how you can help. As Bob Boekelheide tells his 3 Crab Survey team: "You get what you pay for; we do our best, and No guilt!"

## Birdathon Results!

Check out the  
Birdathon tally sheet.  
Click on the hot link  
on the OPAS website.

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## OPAS Field Trips *(Continued from page one)*

### Neah Bay Pelagic Outing No. 2

*Date & Time:* Saturday, August 18, 8 a.m.

*Leaders:* Denny Van Horn & Bob Boekelheide

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

*Cost:* \$160; fee collected when boarding

*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. This outing has the potential for albatrosses and thousands of shearwaters; along with Humpback whales.

*Bring:* Binocs and personal accrements, as desired; prepare for possible rain showers; NO scopes.

*For further information, to make a reservation, or to request a flyer, contact:* Denny Van Horn

<dennyvanhorn@gmail.com> / 360 775-6695, or Bob Boekelheide <bboek@olympus.net> / 360 808-0196

## Education Notes

by Ken Wiersema

Well, we're well into our summer season of field trips and conservation projects, with the Purple Martins at 3, Crabs and on Protection Island NWR, and the Pigeon Guillemot nest monitoring. On Jul 7<sup>th</sup>, Bob Boekelheide led an excellent class and field trip on gulls and local shorebirds. It's important for us who wish to study and enjoy birds to take full advantage of the excellent field trips and outings that Denny Van Horn has scheduled for the remainder of the summer. Classroom programs are one way to improve your birding skills, but there's never a substitute for getting out to observe and study birds in their natural habitat. We won't be offering Backyard Birding programs in August or September, but we'll restart this popular series in October.

A **BIG** thanks to Jane Stewart for her many years of acting as host for our Backyard Birding programs. She kept us presenters and organizers on task, edited media releases, collected class fees, got notices in the media, made coffee, and always had a welcoming smile for every participant. Well done Jane! And my thanks to Rhonda Coats for graciously agreeing to step in and replace Jane this fall.

Backyard Birding is a volunteer run program; our presenters volunteer their time and talents. If any member wants to "pitch in" and help, either as a class or field trip leader, or in hosting



or administering the program please contact me. And, if you have new subjects you'd want us to present, let me know to.

**Focus On** series starts again on August 18th when Powell Jones will lead a program on Bears. Watch the River Center web site for more information. And join many of us on the night of each full moon through October in the River Center amphitheater, the "River Stage", for these special programs:

### July 27th – Kim Sager-Fradkin (Wildlife Biologist, Lower Elwha Tribe)

"By the light of the Buck Moon: Research on Columbian black-tailed deer, mountain lions, and other furry or feathered wildlife"

### August 26th – Robert Steelquist (author, advocate)

"Deep Connection: Experiencing Nature and Finding the Explorer in Each of Us"

## Other Events

### Protection Island Sunset Cruise

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 (off Highway 101) and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge. Expect to see Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, and other sea birds. This is a two hour tour. Included is a dessert. Casual dress, bring a warm jacket.

Proceeds benefit the Education Programs of the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park.

For reservations call 360-681-4076 or email [rcode@olympus.net](mailto:rcode@olympus.net). There is a limit of 55 people per cruise.

**Where:** Leaves from John Wayne Marina in Sequim

**Date:** Two different cruises, July 20 & July 21

**Time:** 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$70 for members/ \$80 for nonmembers

<http://dungenessrivercenter.org/archives/event/protection-island-puffin-marine-sunset-dessert-cruise>



*(Continued on next page)*

## Harlequin Happenings

### Dine on the Dungeness



Join us for our most anticipated event of the year, Dine on the Dungeness. This annual event pairs the culinary delights of Kokopelli Grill with the tranquil beauty of the Dungeness River as participants are treated to a buffet dinner

atop the Dungeness Railroad Bridge. Tickets are currently available by the calling the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Space is limited. \$95/pp for buffet dinner and one drink and community-table seating OR, new this year, \$300/per couple for an exclusive “couple’s table”, which includes table-side dinner service and a free bottle of wine (only 4 couple’s tables available, so book fast.) No-host bar on premises; vegetarian options available by request.

**Where:** Railroad Bridge

**Date:** Friday, August 3rd

**Time:** 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$95 per person.

For more information or to register call 360-681-4076

## 2018 OPAS Birdathon/ World Migratory Bird Count Results

by Bob Boekelheide



OPAS held its 2018 Clallam County Birdathon/World Migratory Bird Count on May 12, a beautiful day to look for birds. On that day, 43 valiant observers counted birds in Clallam County, tallying 13,996 birds of 187 species. Our species total is slightly above the 24-year average of 181 species, but the number of birds counted is well below the average number of individual birds tallied over the last 24 years, at 24,093 birds. [See Table of Birdathon Results on P. 9.]

Unfortunately we had the lowest number of participants for Birdathon going back to 1994, with particularly very few feeder watchers this year. Perhaps it was such a nice day that fewer people stayed home to tally birds, but it’s not a good trend to have fewer people counting fewer party-hours. It was also foggy and breezy off the West End, so Scott Horton and his offshore boat did not search for pelagic birds. Consequently we missed species such as albatrosses and shearwaters that undoubtedly are out there.

Our surveys might not be rigorous science, but they still provide clues about important species in our area. The ten most abundant species, in decreasing order, were Glaucous-winged/Olympic Gull (1334), Rhinoceros Auklet (727), Common Murre (610), American Robin (562), Surf Scoter (431), American Wigeon (415), Violet-green Swallow (363), Brant (340), Pigeon Guillemot (277), and Barn Swallow (279). Three of these species, scoters, wigeons, and brant, do not nest here, so rounding out the top ten with species that do nest here are Crow sp. (273), Song Sparrow (263), and Red-winged Blackbird (256). Remember that just because we record higher numbers of a particular species does not necessarily mean it is more abundant; it just means it is more visible to our counters. If we could count all the passerines hiding out in the woods, then species like Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Pacific Wren, and Wilson’s Warbler might lead the pack.

Very few all-time high counts for individual species occurred this time. The only significant high counts were due to Denny Van Horn and Mike Charest at Bahokus Peak and the Waatch Valley, where they tallied 8 Broad-winged Hawks and 3 Golden Eagles passing over. Denny also tallied a remarkable number of owls between Lake Ozette and the Neah Bay area, with very high counts of Great Horned, Pygmy, and Barred Owls. California Gulls set an all-time high count as well, with surprising numbers of immature California Gulls appearing before their typical post-breeding exodus from inland nesting areas.

Some species tallied very low numbers, particularly when corrected for party-hours. What happened to Northern Shovelers? Following very low numbers last year, shovelers scored their lowest numbers ever for this count. Curiously, Steller’s Jays again had a very low count, following last year’s low numbers. Are Steller’s Jays in trouble, or are they just sneak-



Pacific Golden Plover  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

ing around in the woods like they do this time of year? Spotted Towhees, a common backyard bird, had its lowest count since 1995, perhaps because fewer people watched their feeders. Although no finch species recorded all-time lows, House Finches, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches all tallied well below their long-term averages, again perhaps because of fewer feeder watchers.

As always, some unusual species popped up for the count. The lone Snow Goose that thinks it's a Canada Goose was still here through May, tallied by Annette Hanson at Kirner Pond. There was a beautiful Pacific Golden-Plover in breeding plumage at Ediz Hook, spotted by Bob Boekelheide, Scott Gremel, Michael Barry, and Iris Winslow. Adrienne Akmajian scored a gull double-play, with both a Franklin's Gull and a Glaucous Gull at Neah Bay. Fortunately the California Scrub-Jay that's been hanging around Marie Grad's neighborhood stopped by her backyard for the count. Many thanks to Eric Guzman for hiking to the Griff Creek burn near Hurricane Hill, where he filled in good numbers of American Pipits, Townsend's Solitaires, and Horned Larks. Lastly, Denny Van Horn scored really big with a Long-eared Owl at the Makah Fish Hatchery and a Rock Wren at the Waatch quarry.

Remember, World Migratory Bird Day is always the second Saturday in May. Please put May 11, 2019 on your calendar right now to join the Clallam County count, because we need everyone's help, particularly feeder watchers.

Thanks to everyone who counted birds in Clallam County on May 12:

John Gatchet, Joyce Volmut, Bob & Leslie Bagwell, Richard Atteberry, Otis Bush, Mark Salvadalena, Michael Barry, Judi White, Keith Lehn, Ken & Mary Campbell, Kate Buenau, Nancy Kohn, Susan Savage, Bob Blush, Bob & Enid Phreaner, Laura Davis, Alan Smith, Carolyn Wilcox, T. R. Ryan, Sandy Boren, Marie Grad, Jane Nicholas, Bob Iddins, Dow Lambert, Annette Hanson, David Pearson, Robert Bowker, Iris Winslow, Judy Mullally, Kathe Smith, Sue Nattinger, Coleman Byrnes, Denny Van Horn, Mike Charest, Adrienne Akmajian, Nancy Scordino, Scott Horton, Cindy Fullwiler, Eric Guzman, & Bob Boekelheide.

## Conservation Award for 2017—18

by Ken Wiersema

This year our OPAS Conservation Committee recognized **Bob Boekelheide** for his many years of stellar dedication to the science of birds and bird study within our community. He was presented with a certificate which describes his salient contributions toward supporting the protection and conservation of wildlife habitat and biodiversity on the North Olympic Peninsula.



Bob Boekelheide receiving award from Bob Phreaner

Specifically noted were his enduring and significant accomplishments in preparing and leading us toward the use and development of accurate and documented bird population data. Bob's science leadership as a high school teacher, Director of the Dungeness River Audubon Center, and service on regional science advisory councils for both the Olympic

Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve are unsurpassed. Since 1995, he has compiled our Chapter's Christmas Bird Counts and Bird-athon. He has done breeding bird surveys, seabird studies, analyzed Trumpeter Swan counts, monitored bird population changes resulting from the 3 Crabs restoration, and established the Railroad Bridge Park Wednesday bird walk data base. We rely on his bird data and analysis to support our policy and advocacy correspondence on regional conservation actions. Bob generously shares his data, analysis, and knowledge toward enriching the birding enjoyment of our Chapter members and our community. He personifies being a teacher, conservationist, researcher, and scientist – but for us, he's our gull guy! --- Well done and well deserved.

## OPAS Board Says Goodbye and Thanks to Bob Iddins

by Ken Wiersema

This past week Bob Iddins informed our OPAS leaders that he is stepping away from being a member of our Board. He will be greatly missed; it will be difficult to replace such a stalwart. He ably filled many roles for OPAS over nearly 20 years. As our president he held the Chapter together in difficult times. He chaired our work during the years we worked with Audubon Washington to establish the Olympic Loop birding trail, and as our field trip chair for nearly 10 years, he enriched our birding experience with well-led and varied, adventurous trips. He thoughtfully represented OPAS at numerous regional and statewide conferences and in meetings with elected representatives. He even helped install Purple Martin nest boxes and rescue Audrey Gift from savage quicksand. We recognized his contributions with our Harlequin award in 2007.

(Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings



*Bob Iddins at Three Crabs  
Purple Martin Nesting Area*

I well remember having Bob in one of the first Beginning Birds classes I led, just after the Center opened; wow! did I learn a bunch from him. While we'll each miss his wise contributions, jovial presence, and wry humor at our Board meetings, he has more than earned the opportunity to step out of taking on OPAS leadership tasks and resume his role as a supporting member of our Chapter, nature photographer, and avid birder. We'll miss him....

However, as Bob Iddins steps away, there remain key roles in our Chapter yet to fill. Volunteer organizations must replenish their leaders by members standing up and agreeing to take on an array of enjoyable and self-fulfilling roles in OPAS. We have a

larger membership now than we've ever had. Every member brings their special set of skills and passions to our midst. Please let us know how you wish to help. You can...and together we'll continue to thrive.

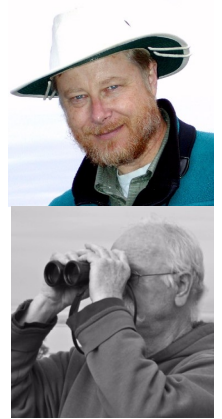


*Bob presenting a display copy of Olympic loop map to Quileute Tribal leaders in 2007*

## Bird Sightings

*by Bob Boekelheide & Denny Van Horn*

The weather has been quite psychotic this spring. First, April rainfall at Seatac scored the third wettest on record, with over half the days recording measurable rainfall. The bottom dropped out in May with only 0.12 in. of rain, which tied the driest May on record. May 2018 was also the warmest May ever recorded at SeaTac, with every day reaching a high temperature of at least 60 degrees F. The NWS says this is only the second May on record this has happened. Weather prognosticators say one of the possible outcomes of increased global temperatures and less sea-ice in the Arctic will be a locked jet stream, making weather systems sit longer in place. This may bring persistent storms and flooding to some areas, while unrelenting hot drought conditions sit over other places. Which do you choose?



In other bird sightings, that lone Snow Goose here much of the winter stuck around until at least 5/25, last spotted by Bob Bagwell flying away with the Canada Goose flock. Michael Barry scoped a large group of 270 Surf Scoters off Jamestown Beach on 7/4, likely first-year birds staying south for the nesting season. Also at Bahokus Peak, Brad Waggoner spotted a lone Sandhill Crane on 6/20.



*Western Kingbird  
Photo by Gary Bullock*

Brad Waggoner spotted a lone Manx Shearwater from Cape Flattery on 6/21. Brad says it flew surprisingly close to the rocks off-shore. Betsy Carlson and Bob Boekelheide, while surveying the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve on 6/7, discovered 20 American White Pelicans roosting on the south shoreline of the island, all clumped up on shore.



*Eastern Kingbird  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide*

The raptor migration at Bahokus Peak near Neah Bay finished with several good sightings, including Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks on 5/13, seen by John Gatchet and Bob Bagwell. Several Golden Eagles passed by Bahokus, along with one seen by Susan Savage and Marie Grad at Hurricane Ridge on 5/31. In the same area, Brad Waggoner spotted a lone Sandhill Crane on 6/20.

Spring shorebirds pass by quickly, requiring close vigilance. One of the best places in Clallam County for Snowy Plovers, which nest as far north as Ocean Shores, is Hobuck Beach, where several observers spotted an adult male Snowy on 4/28. That wayward Pacific Golden-Plover first seen on our 5/12 Birdathon at Ediz Hook stuck around for a few days, last seen by Eric Guzman on 5/15. Four Red Knots appeared on 5/18 at 3 Crabs, finally dwindling to 2 knots last seen 6/12 by the 3 Crabs Bird Monitors.

Time to head to the mountains! Michael Barry found an American Three-toed Woodpecker at Hurricane Ridge on 5/6, and P Albin reported a male and female together at the Hoh Rain Forest on 6/7. Eric Guzman found a pair of Rock Wrens near Marmot Pass on 5/28, suggesting they may nest up there. Eric also watched a group of 6 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches on snowfields of Mt Buckhorn on 5/27, saying they make a good case to be the loveliest bird of the high country.



*All-white Barn Swallow*  
Photo by Bonnie Bless-Boenish

It has been an exceptional spring for kingbirds in Clallam County. The most extraordinary was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher found by Em Scattaregia and Christopher Hinkle at Sand Point on 6/11, flycatching from an offshore seastack, the second record of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for Clallam County. Gary Bullock spotted a lovely Eastern Kingbird along his driveway east of the Dungeness River on 6/16. Several Western King-

birds appeared in May through June, ranging from Fort Worden on the east to Hobuck Beach on the west, with several in between.

Keep your eyes out for an all-white Barn Swallow flying around the Dungeness Valley. Bonnie Bless-Boenish

spotted it first on the west side of the Dungeness River on 6/22, then Michael Barry found it again on the east side of



*Red-eyed Vireo*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

the Dungeness. It looks to be a leucistic individual, all white but with dark eyes.

In vireo news, singing Red-eyed Vireos popped up a few places in mid-June. Christopher Hinkle and Em Scattaregia found one in the Waatch Valley on 6/9, David Poortinga found another at Lords Lake Loop on 6/15, and Michael Barry found one at the Elwha River near Little



*American Redstart*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

River on 6/19. We hear little about Cassin's Vireos this time of year, so it was good that Gary Bullock spotted one in his yard near the Dungeness River on 7/3.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Harlequin Happenings

It's been a good spring for American Redstarts throughout western WA. A redstart in immature plumage visited Adrienne Akmajian's home in the Waatch Valley on 6/19. Another showed up near Sequim on 6/21, also a first-year male still in immature plumage yet singing a full song, found by Bob Boekelheide.

In addition to the redstart, Adrienne has had a veritable parade of unusual species showing up at her home this spring. A female Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared on 5/20, the same day that a very late Golden-crowned Sparrow dropped by. Then, on 6/2, she spotted and heard a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak singing behind her house.

As if that's not all, she found a Common Grackle at her feeder on 6/7, with its big tail and big bill. Another very late Golden-crowned Sparrow appeared at Graysmarsh on 5/24, seen by Bob Boekelheide.

On 6/8, Christopher Hinkle and Em Scattaregia also found a Common Grackle in Neah Bay, hiding in a willow behind Butler's Motel. Could it have been the same bird as Adrienne's on 6/7? Christopher and Em searched Neah Bay and vicinity for several days, finding several noteworthy birds. Other than the grackle, they picked up a Lazuli Bunting in the Waatch Valley on 6/10, a remarkable gang of 68 Black Swifts sailing over the Waatch Valley on 6/10, and a singing Yellow-breasted Chat on 6/11.



*Mtn. Bluebird*  
*Photo by Bob Boekelheide*

Eric Guzman located our first Sage Thrasher of the year at the Dungeness Recreation Area on 5/15. A female Moun-

tain Bluebird also dropped by 3 Crabs on May 5, perching well for an OPAS field trip.

Lastly, two noteworthy observations from late April were a male Lapland Longspur feeding in a pasture at Hobuck Beach, seen by many observers, and a Brewer's Sparrow found by Mark Mizak along the Boom Road at Neah Bay, feeding with a group of Savannah Sparrows.



*House Wren*  
*Photo by Cindy Fullwiler*

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Charlotte Watts asks a good question - Are there fewer Tree Swallows this year? She says she typically has more Tree Swallows than Violet-green Swallows at her home off Chicken Coop Rd., but this year she only has Violet-greens. The 3 Crabs surveys have also shown a relative dearth of Tree Swallows this year, although there have been some. Ken Wiersema says Tree Swallows are doing fine at his home in west Dungeness. How are Tree Swallows doing near your home?" Fall migration has already begun. The nesting season is winding down and young birds are wandering your way. Please go birding and let us know what you find, at [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net). Thank you for your observations!



# Harlequin Happenings

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 502  
Sequim, WA 98382-0502



## Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

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

NAS Code Y08

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ Annual Membership (\$20.00)      \_\_\_ 3 Year Membership (\$50.00, saves \$10.00)  
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*OPAS is an Internal Revenue Service Section 501(c)(3) organization (membership gifts are tax deductible)*

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