



# 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 5 Sep-Oct, 2018

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

## OPAS Programs for September and October

by Bob Boekelheide & Marie Grad

### September 19, 2018 Program

Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 Hendrickson Road, Sequim WA.

Potluck Dinner at 6 p.m.; Membership Meeting at 7 p.m.

**"My Favorite Birds of California, Mexico, and Sequim: Herons, Egrets, Pelicans, and more"**, Presented by Judy Larimore



Judy Larimore

Judy Larimore has been an avid photographer since she was 12 years old. Her photographs currently hang in several collections, including the Indonesian Embassy in Washington DC, the Hewlett Packard headquarters, and the Monterey Beach Hotel. Five of her photos appear in a new book, *Art*

*State: Washington*, highlighting 33 artists in Washington. One of her photos shows the Dungeness River in Sequim, where Judy has lived for the last 16 years.

While living and traveling in California and Mexico, Judy photographed a variety of birds, including stately herons, flashy egrets, and, perhaps the most photogenic of them all, pelicans. You will really appreciate Judy's lovely photos of these lovely birds.

### October 17, 2018 Program

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

**"Understanding Shorebirds: The Miracle of Migration"**, Presented by Tim Boyer

How does a Sanderling that weighs an average of 2-ounces fly 3,000 miles from Alaska to Hawaii? How does a Bar-tailed Godwit fly from Alaska to New Zealand in eight days without stopping? Tim Boyer will discuss the epic migration of shorebirds, focusing on six of the 42 species of shorebirds commonly found in Washington. He will cover where they migrate, why they migrate, and how they are able to travel so far.

Tim Boyer is a professional nature photographer focusing on the birds of North America. Shorebirds are his favorite birds, so he spends many weekends pursuing shorebirds on the Washington coast. Tim leads photography workshops throughout the year, is a graduate of Seattle Audubon's Master Birder Program, and is the author of the book,



Tim Boyer

*Learn the Art of Bird Photography, the Complete Field Guide for Beginning and Intermediate Photographers and Birders*. He will provide insights not only about amazing shorebirds but also about how he gets his spectacular photos.

*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@olyopen.com](mailto:agift@olyopen.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@olympen.com  
*Field Trips*, Denny Van Horn, 360-775-6695; Judi White, 206-641-1842  
*Hospitality*, Clare Hatler, 360-582-6451  
*Newsletter*, Bob Hutchison, 253-293-3801 rbrycehut@wavecable.com  
*Publicity*, Sara-Ellen Peterson, 360-681-6325  
*Webmaster*, Mary Porter-Solberg, 360-683-8072.  
*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



Fall is upon us bringing the promise of lots of OPAS activities. Our OPAS Board met for their annual retreat in July, generating plans for new activities and ways to enhance tried and true favorites!

OPAS is sponsoring a book club which will meet monthly beginning in late September. We are also busy planning an upcoming Birds and Brews night! OPAS is lucky to have new members Lori Moilanen and Judi White step up to coordinate these new activities. Judi has also joined the OPAS Board and will be helping Denny Van Horn organize field trips this year. OPAS has a treasure of institutional knowledge in former field trip chair Bob Iddins, who recently co-led an Ocean Shores Shorebird trip with Judi. We are also thrilled to have Rhonda Coats helping Ken Wiersema organize the OPAS Backyard Birding programs. OPAS' "Beginners and Newcomers" bird walks will resume this fall under the guidance of Marie Grad. OPAS is mentoring two Sequim High School students in Board participation. We need volunteers for web page design, conservation committee chair and leading field trips.

Our community science projects have been very successful this year. Most recently, Ken Wiersema and Dow Lambert's Purple Martin Nest Box team has reported record numbers of Purple Martins. OPAS supported the Pigeon Guillemot breeding survey with funding for a data coordinator and by providing a cadre of volunteer observers, who are gaining knowledge of the behavior of these charismatic birds and the nearshore habitat that sustains the PIGU. Joyce Volmut reported that there were three sites that had multiple broods of Western Bluebirds using OPAS provided nest boxes.

The Dungeness River Audubon Center Capital Campaign Committee for enlarging the Center has raised 40% of its funding goal. OPAS committee representatives Kendra Donelson and Enid Phreaner are anxious to speak with you about supporting our expansion to 'Inspire Wonder'. OPAS congratulates the Dungeness River Management Team for thirty years of cooperative stewardship of water resources that set the standard for Washington.

The Audubon Council of Washington will be held October 13 at Brightwater Community Center in Woodinville, WA. The theme is "Through a Local Lens". The agenda will include Audubon WA support for the November ballot Initiative 1631 that will propose a carbon fee while supporting clean air and clean energy.

For more information about these and all upcoming events, please follow the OPAS website (olybird.org) or OPAS Facebook page which Mary Porter-Solberg does a wonderful job of updating regularly.

**Wild Birds Unlimited**

Bring this add in for \$5.00 off any purchase over \$25.00!

THE FRESHEST SEED AVAILABLE

BIRD FEEDERS

NATURE GIFTS

**YOUR BACKYARD BIRDFEEDING SPECIALIST!**

275953 Hwy 101, Gordiner WA 98382 PH: 360 797 7100

Open: 10AM to 6PM Mon. to Fri., 9AM to 6PM Sat. & Sun.



Pacific Golden-Plover  
Photo by Tim Boyer

Tim Boyer Photography

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

### Neah Bay Pelagic Outing No. 3

*Date and Time:* Saturday, September 15, 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 items, as desired; prepare for possible rain showers; NO scopes.

*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

## OPAS Field Trips in September

by Denny AMFJ Van Horn & Judith White



### Wednesday Bird Walks

*Date and Time:* 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.

### Dungeness Rec Area

*Date and Time:* Saturday, September 1, 8 a.m.

*Leader:* Stacey Fradkin

*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 resident adults and fledglings outing.

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

### Shorebirds

*Date and Time:* 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 8

*Leader:* Bob Boekelheide

*Meeting Place:* Dungeness Landing Park.

*Features:* Celebrate World Shorebird Week (Sept 5-12) with OPAS. On the 8th, the tide comes in fast in late morning, so we'll catch shorebirds as they move up with the tide. We start at Dungeness Landing, move to 3 Crabs, then back to Dungeness Landing. Bring scopes if you have them.

### Fall Birding for Beginners and Newcomers

*Date and Time:* Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30 a.m.

*Leader:* Marie Grad

*Meeting Place:* Outside the Dungeness River Audubon Center

*Features:* Interested in the new birds coming to your area? Seen something you want to identify? Join local bird enthusiasts for a walk in the park. All levels welcome, bring binoculars if you have them (some are also available to borrow).

*Further Information:* Contact Marie Grad <mlgrad53@gmail.com> 360 620-4035

**[Editor's Note: As of 8/30, there have been no OPAS field trips submitted to the HH Newsletter for October, 2018.**

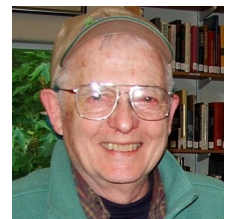
**Check the OPAS website for updated information.]**

## Education Notes

by Ken Wiersema

Hope y'all enjoyed the summer and took in an OPAS field trip or a class. We have a full schedule of events coming up this year, with a renewed and updated Backyard Birder series and the merging of several of our bird classes into the River Center's *Focus On* series. Please take a look at our offerings and mark your calendars for those events you want to attend. The full year of Backyard Birding is shown below.

(Continued on next page)



## Harlequin Happenings

If you want a subject presented that is outside of these topics please drop me an email (wiersema@olympus.net) or a text and suggest it. I'll try to work it in to a planned class, or we can create a new class. We also need new presenters. Last year we had three new folks step forward. I thank them. If you have an interest in helping with these classes, please contact me. Your help and talents are welcome.

“**Focus On**” -- Programs for Sep and Oct offer two new presentations:

**September 15, Slugs & Snails** -- an overview of our local gastropods. Most of what you find on the internet tells you how to rid your yard of them. Come and learn their place and value to our ecosystem. Presenter - Jenna Ziogas

**October 20, Rodents** – Delve into the lives of the most plentiful wild mammals that live on and share our Olympic Peninsula. From voles to beavers, many live unnoticed and close to us. Please leave your pet rodents, and any captured in your yard at home. Presenter Ken Wiersema

[Note: *Focus On* programs start at 10 a.m. at the River Center on the dates indicated, and collect a fee to support education programs at the Center.]

**River Festival** – This year the festival has been revised to include an evening, plus a following day event. Starting on Sept. 27 at 4 p.m., exhibits will be open to families and other attendees. There will be a food vendor and music in the River Stage amphitheater. Then, on Friday, Sept. 28, local school classes will be the primary attendees. OPAS will again be in the River Center, and acting as guides to the exhibits. We'll be recruiting volunteers to take a shift on either Thursday evening or Friday. Please step forward and give us a hand. It's fun! More information at our Sept. meeting and on our web site. You can also contact me for info.

### Backyard birder program schedule for OPAS year 2018-2019.

[Note: Programs start at 10 a.m. in the River Center.]

Date	Subject	Presenter(s)
Oct 6	Landscaping for Birds	Joe Holtrop <i>Clallam Cons. Dist.</i>
Nov 3	Being a Birder	Denny Van Horn
Dec 1	Winter Bird Feeding and Watering	Christie Lassen <i>Co-Owner, Wild Birds Unlimited, Gardiner</i>
Jan 5, 2019	Birdscaping – Inviting Birds to your Yard	Carolyn Wilcox
Feb 2	Bird Nesting & GBBC	Ken Wiersema & Nina Sarmiento
Mar 2	Birds: The Inside story <i>Bird anatomy &amp; biology</i>	Shirley Anderson & Ken Wiersema
Apr 6	Migration	Tomás Setubal
May 4	Spring Sounds	Dow Lambert & Ken Wiersema
Jun 1	Out of the Nest	Ken Wiersema & Nina Sarmiento
Jul 6	Gulls & Local Shore-birds	Bob Boekelheide

## Conservation -- Update on Marbled Murrelet Strategy

by Mary Porter-Solberg



On September 4, 2018, Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plans to release a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) on eight alternatives for the Long-Term Conservation Strategy of the Marbled Murrelet. The release of the Revised DEIS will trigger a 60-day public comment period. OPAS will share this information on our website, and will provide our members a link to comment on the RDEIS.

In December, 2016, the DNR released a draft EIS on six alternatives. Many conservation groups, including OPAS, submitted comments during the public comment period supporting a seventh option known as the “Conservation Alternative.” However, the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) selected Alternative D as their preferred alternative, a disappointing choice to the conservation community, that believes this alternative did not comply with the *Endangered Species Act* requirements.

Since 2016, the DNR has run more analyses, reconsidered public comments, and reviewed the economic impact of each alternative on the counties and trust beneficiaries whose budgets rely on timber-revenue tax. In June, 2018, the Board added

Alternative G and revised Alternative D, now known as Alternative H or the Preferred Alternative.

Why is the Long Term Conservation Strategy so important? Our state forest lands in western Washington are biologically significant for the survival and recovery of Marbled Murrelets. These state forest lands are in closer proximity to marine waters than federal lands, especially in murrelet "hot spots" in Southwest Washington and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

## Purple Martin Report

By Ken Wiersema

Evidence supports that our work to establish a sustainable Purple Martin colony in proximity to the 3 Crabs restoration site is succeeding. This year we repaired and re-marked eighteen nest boxes to install on the 3 Crabs pilings, and another six boxes for the sites on Protection Island NWR. At the end of June, we erected four new boxes next to the tidal lagoons adjacent to the pilings. These boxes were over land rather than over water, as were our boxes on the pilings. We had successful nests in every box but one of the last ones installed.

On our August 10 field trip to the pilings, we counted 46 adult birds in and around the boxes on the pilings and another seven birds on the overland boxes. This was before we noted this year's chicks fledged from the boxes. On August 28, Bob Boekelheide counted 70 Martins around the 3 Crabs parking area and on the wires overhead. This count included both adult birds and this year's fledglings. This is the highest count of Martins recorded in Clallam County.

Wallace Teal, who lives at Diamond Point, reported that he had three successful nests in his yard this year, and Anita McMillan had a successful Martin nest in a box we installed on her property at the mouth of Morse Creek. Additionally, both Michael Barry and Gary Bullock reported Martin sightings over



and around their yards. Purple Martins were seen for the first time on an August Wednesday morning bird walk at the Audubon Center.

We know that these birds prefer to nest and feed in proximity to fresh water, but they also will forage for food 15 to 20 miles away from their nests. With the surge in population we had this year, we expect that birds returning next May will be searching for nest cavities. We need to be vigilant watchers for where we might usefully install new nest boxes, or increase the number of boxes we have at existing sites.

Many thanks to the dedicated team of OPAS volunteers who have built boxes, performed nest checks, and recorded data. The current team includes: Dow Lambert, Gary Bullock, Bob Phreaner, Bob Boekelheide, Laura Davis, Alan Smith, and Carl Sever.

Dow Lambert has a series of photos on his web site <http://mastdog.com/DowMar/Birding/>, that document his last box check on 12 Aug.

## Other Events

### Puget Sound Seabird Survey: Go birding and make a difference!

Are seabirds in the southern Salish Sea increasing or decreasing in numbers? Which species are changing their range? Help us find out. The Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) is a community and citizen science project managed by Seattle Audubon that empowers volunteer birdwatchers to gather valuable data on wintering seabird populations across the southern Salish Sea.

This season we will be expanding the project, this time north to the Canadian border and the San Juan Islands. We received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program through the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to add 15-30 new survey sites, to develop an oil spill plan, and to train volunteers on how to react to a spill.

*(Continued on next page)*



*Purple Martins on new boxes, June 27, 2018  
Photo by Dow Lambert*



*White-winged Scoter  
Photo by Doug Schurman*

## Harlequin Happenings

You can contribute to this vital seabird science by joining the twelfth season of this exciting project. We are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Training on survey methodology will be provided at a location near you in September and early October. Volunteers should ideally be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute survey. But, if determining between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. To help us determine each volunteer's seabird identification skills, visit [www.seabirdsurvey.com](http://www.seabirdsurvey.com) to take our quick, fun Seabird ID quiz. Learn more, including training dates, at [www.seabirdsurvey.org](http://www.seabirdsurvey.org) and email Toby Ross, Senior Science Manager [tobyross@seattleaudubon.org](mailto:tobyross@seattleaudubon.org) if you would like more information or to take part.

## Announcing the OPAS Book Discussion Group!

Do you enjoy reading and discussing books about the natural history, conservation, and appreciation of birds? If so, we've got great news. In response to member feedback from a recent activity survey, OPAS is in the process of organizing a book discussion group focused on bird-related titles. We hope you'll join us as we explore a variety of buzzworthy new books, literary prize winners, and influential classics.

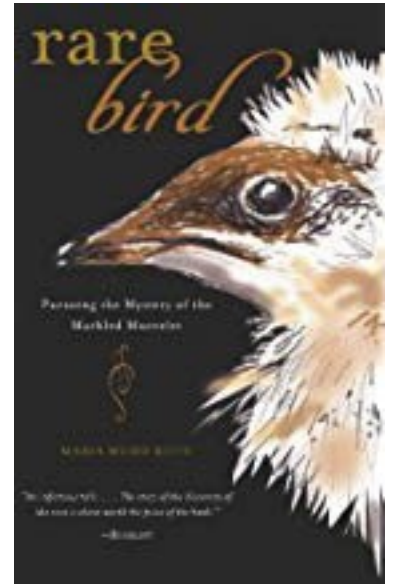


Starting in September 2018, the group will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month (no meeting in December) from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC). Links to the scheduled titles, book summaries, and discussion questions will be posted at [olybird.org](http://olybird.org) under Events, OPAS Book Discussion Club. We anticipate spirited discussion and encourage thought-provoking input from participants.

Books on the discussion list may be available directly, or via inter-library loan through your local NOLS branch. Alternatively, please consider purchase options that directly benefit OPAS or DRAC. Titles can be purchased in multiple formats through Amazon Smiles ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)); select Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society or Dungeness River Audubon Center as supported charity, or ordered in print format from DRAC (which benefits their

educational programs), by stopping in, or calling (360) 681-4076 with your credit card information. Additional information on these purchase options is provided at the link above.

We are currently recruiting book suggestions and discussion leaders for monthly meetings in 2019. Please contact Lori Moilanen to suggest a title and/or volunteer to facilitate discussion. If you're interested in being a discussion facilitator, but need title suggestions, don't worry, we've compiled a list of highly rated recent and classic titles to help you out. For more information on the OPAS Book Discussion Group contact Judith White ([drwhitej@gmail.com](mailto:drwhitej@gmail.com)) or Lori Moilanen ([lori\\_moilanen@wavecable.com](mailto:lori_moilanen@wavecable.com)).



Here are the book selections for 2018:

**September 25**, *Darwin Comes to Town: How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution.* Menno Schilthuis. 2018. 287pp.

*Discussion Facilitator:* Lori Moilanen

**October 23**, *Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet.* Maria Ruth. 2013. 320 pp.

*Discussion Facilitator:* Judith White

**November 27**, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History.* Susan Kolbert. 2014. 336 pp.  
*Discussion Facilitator:* Bruce Fryxell

## Dungeness River Festival Sept 27-28, 2018

Inspiring understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship of the Olympic Peninsula's unique natural and cultural resources is a pillar of the work we do at, and for, the River Center. Along with accessibility it is also behind what makes the River Festival such a special event for our community. The River Festival highlights those "resources" by providing a free platform for organizations and agencies to share their work and inspire all generations to what an amazing story the



Dungeness River can tell!

Like many watersheds, the Dungeness has a complex ecological story that has to be told and experienced by many different people to understand. The River Festival gives people the chance to hear from the people that are both exploring and creating the story of the Dungeness. US Forest Service, NOAA, National Park Service, PTC, Back Country Horsemen, Clallam County, BEACH, and NOLT are just a few of the many agencies that will be on hand to share, demonstrate, and answer questions about our watershed and the Olympic Peninsula's natural resources. Please mark your calendar and plan to come down and learn even more about the area you love. If you have questions about the festival, are interested in helping out, or you know of group that would be a good fit at the festival, please contact the River Center at 360-681-4076, or email [RiverCenter@olympus.net](mailto:RiverCenter@olympus.net).

This year, join us for "Community Night" on Thursday, an evening of food, music, and celebration of our river that provides so much for us!

*Where:* Railroad Bridge Park

*When:* 4:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. Thursday, September 27, & 10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. Friday, September 28

*Cost:* FREE!



After the booths shut down for the River Festival on Thursday's 'Community Night,' we will present a screening of the film, *The Memory of Fish*, a documentary of a man, the wild salmon he loves, and his fight to free a river. Dick Goin, a pulp mill worker and master fisherman-turned-salmon-advocate, uses his memories and persistence to battle for the biggest dam removal project in U.S. history. His goal: bring the salmon home. Co-producer of the film, Emma Jones, will be attending the screening, and will host a question and answer session after the film.

*Where:* Dungeness River Audubon Center (Inside the Center, or outside in amphitheater, weather permitting)

*Date:* Thursday, September 27

*Time:* 7:00p.m.



## Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide

It has been a warm dry summer, highlighted by horrid smoky air in August from wildfires in British Columbia, eastern WA, and right here on the Olympic Peninsula. The smoke peaked on 8/20, as brown skies reduced visibilities to less than one mile. The period May-August may also go down as the driest ever recorded in western WA, which certainly doesn't help the fire situation. NWS climatologists also say Seattle beat a heat record this year for the most



*Semipalmated Plover*  
Photo by Bob Steelquist

days at 85 degrees or more in a year, with 31 through the end of August. How do birds respond hot dry summers? Of course every species is different, but in general it looks like nesting songbirds at RR Bridge Park quickly finished their nesting efforts in June with few attempts later in the summer. *(Continued on next page)*

## Harlequin Happenings

The general rule is that as insect populations decline during drought, so, too, do birds decrease their breeding efforts as insects dwindle.

One exception is Purple Martins at 3 Crabs, which apparently had a very successful nesting season. Dow Lambert and Ken Wiersema, using a nifty endoscope, peered into the boxes on the old 3 Crabs pier on 7/12 and found that every one of the 18 established nest boxes had eggs or chicks. Their average clutch size was 4.4 eggs per nest, right about average for Purple Martins throughout North America. Confirming their data, on 8/27 the 3 Crabs Bird Monitoring team tallied the highest count of martins for Clallam County, with 70 martins perched on power lines or at the nest boxes. Martins, being aerial insect specialists that focus on prey like dragonflies and damselflies, must have been able find food this summer.

Other swallows may not have done so well this year, particularly Tree Swallows. Charlotte Watts wrote to say how few Tree Swallows she has seen this year up Chicken Cop Road. Charlotte says the normal ratio of Tree to Violet-green Swallows at her place is 5 to 1 in favor of Trees, but this year only one nest box had Tree Swallows and that pair abandoned their young in June. Tree Swallows had some fledged young near the Old Dungeness School House on 6/23, but otherwise the summer mix of swallows at 3 Crabs has been almost entirely Violet-greens and Barn Swallows. What happened to the Tree Swallows? In other swallow news, many observers reported a wayward



*Baird's Sandpiper*  
Photo by Michael Barry

Bank Swallow at Kah Tai Lagoon on 7/29, the only one we know about this summer.



*Painted Redstart*  
Photo by Carolyn Wilcox  
of Geert Van de Vijver's camera screen

The rare bird of the summer, perhaps of the year, has to be the Painted Redstart located by Carolyn Wilcox and others at Cape Flattery on 8/25. Painted Redstarts, often called Painted Whitestarts, mostly nest in the mountains of Mexico, with some nesting in Arizona and New Mexico. Carolyn found her bird foraging with a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets near the overlook at Cape Flattery, as far northwest as you can get in the continental US. Prior to this, Painted Redstarts were only recorded once north of California, one lone bird near Vancouver BC in 1973. Good work, Carolyn! The redstart continues to be seen as I write this report, so maybe it will stick around.

While looking for the redstart, birders have found other unusual species. Ryan Merrill reported a Tennessee Warbler in Neah Bay on 8/29. An anonymous eBird observer reported a Lapland Longspur at Neah Bay on 8/27.

Carolyn Wilcox, along with Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, also spotted a female Barrow's Goldeneye with 7 chicks at Heart Lake on 7/15. It's good to know that Barrow's continue to nest at some lakes in the Olympic high country, since some of their nesting spots disappeared with the removal of dams on the Elwha River.

A Black Merlin, the dark *Suckleyi* subspecies that nests in dark coastal forests, appeared at RR Bridge Park on 7/25, seen by the Wednesday Birdwalkers. Another one showed at Rialto Beach on 8/15, seen by Jamie Simo.





*Western Sandpiper*  
Photo by Bob Steelquist

Migrant shorebirds return from their breeding grounds very quickly, arriving at the mudflats and beaches of the Olympic Peninsula during July and August. This summer, however, the shorebird migration has been good, but not great. Sprightly Semipalmated Plovers joined the lovely juvenile Western Sandpipers on the mudflats through August. Baird's Sandpipers peaked in late August, showing up at several locations on the Clallam coastline. Michael Barry had the high count of Baird's, with 5 at Jamestown Beach on 8/25. Lesser Yellowlegs peaked in early August, with a high count of 2 at 3 Crabs on 8/10, seen by the 3 Crabs Bird Monitors.

A very interesting banded bird was seen on the OPAS Backyard Birder gull and shorebird field trip on 7/7. While viewing sandpipers at 3 Crabs, we discovered one Semi-



*Barrow's Goldeneye and Chicks*  
Photo by Carolyn Wilcox



*Western Kingbird*  
Photo by Gary Bullock

palmated Sandpiper with a lettered flag on its left leg and a yellow color band on its right leg. We dutifully read the letters on the flag (HCK), double-checked them amongst ourselves, and sent the info to the Bird Banding Lab. We subsequently received word that this sandpiper was banded in Delaware Bay in May, 2004, making it at least 15 years old and perhaps older, likely one of the oldest surviving Semipalmated Sandpipers on record. It is also the first Semipalmated Sandpiper banded in Delaware Bay to be resighted in the Pacific Northwest. Imagine the life this bird has lived, flying back and forth from the Arctic as far as South America every year.

The Port Townsend Marine Science Center trips around Protection Island, in addition to finding Tufted Puffins, found a Yellow-billed Loon on 7/10. Michael Barry discovered a large flock of 270 Surf Scoters off Jamestown Beach on 7/4, a surprisingly large group for summer. These are likely young birds that didn't go north for the nesting season.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Harlequin Happenings

The OPAS pelagic trips to Swiftsure Bank have turned up thousands of Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters, along with thousands of Sabine's and California Gulls. The 8/18 trip also spotted 24 Cassin's Auklets and 26 Tufted Puffins in the fog north of Tatoosh Island. The jaeger of the trip was Pomarine, with at least 12 observed on 8/18. Michael Barry spotted a lone Ancient Murrelet on the 7/14 pelagic trip. Dan Waggoner spotted a Manx Shearwater offshore of Beach 6 in Olympic National Park on 8/26, another tantalizing sighting of a Manx during the nesting season. They must be nesting out there somewhere.



*Common Nighthawk*  
Photo by Mary Wallace

Mary Wallace, who lives at 900 feet elevation up O'Brien Road, is lucky to have nesting Common Nighthawks, with at least 2 nests this year. You may have heard nighthawks with their "peenk" calls flying overhead this summer. Patti Gotz, who lives west of Port Angeles, reported 6 Evening Grosbeaks at her feeder on 8/23, including at least 2 juveniles being fed by parents. It's been a very slow year for Evening Grosbeaks, so it's good to know at least some are



*Clark's Nutcracker*  
Photo by Robert Hutchison

out there.

If you think there are lots of Anna's Hummingbirds around, you're right. The RR Bridge Park Wednesday morning bird walk tallied 18 Anna's on 8/22, a high count for the last 17 years of bird walks.

Summer is the time to see Golden Eagles in the high country of Olympic National Park, and this summer is no exception. Dan Waggoner recorded one near Obstruction Point on 7/8, and John Gatchet and Bob and Leslie Bagwell recorded one in the same area on 7/28. At the other end of Hurricane Ridge, Bryan Hanson and Iris Winslow spotted individual juvenile Golden Eagles at Hurricane Hill on 8/2 and 8/4, respectively.

Other mountain species included Clark's Nutcracker, bluebirds, and Pine Grosbeaks. Michael Barry found one nutcracker east of Obstruction Point on 6/27, John Gatchet and Bob Bagwell found one more nutcracker at Deer Park on 7/14, K.C. Anderson found another at Hurricane Ridge on 7/19, and Jane Nicholas had a close encounter with one at Hurricane Hill on 7/24. Scott Gremel spotted a group of bluebirds at Hurricane Hill on 7/23, identifying one as a Mountain Bluebird, but the others disappeared before Scott could nail down their ID. I hate it when that happens. Pine Grosbeaks appeared at Hurricane Ridge on 7/10,



*Pine Grosbeak*  
Photo by Robert Hutchison

seen by David Poortinga, and on 7/14, seen by John Gatchet and Bob Bagwell. John and Bob also reported 2 possible pure Hermit Warblers at Hurricane Ridge on 7/28, although researchers caution that nearly all Hermit-types in the northern Olympics are likely Hermit-Townsend hybrids.

Lastly, Gary Bullock spotted an unusual summer Western Kingbird at Port Williams Rd on 7/4, flycatching from the wires and trees. And Bruce Paige, while walking near Salt

Creek County Park, spotted 6 Northern Bobwhites feeding along a hedgerow exactly where he saw some three years ago. A local resident told Bruce that several young bobwhites were raised in the area this year, so we'll see how long they stick around.

Fall migration is here! Email Bob Boekelheide at [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net) or call 360-808-0196 when you see something interesting or unusual. Thank you very much for your sightings!

## Ocean Shores Field Trip Summary

by Judi White

Under the experienced leadership of Bob Iddins, eight OPAS members enjoyed good birding, good company and good fun on the Ocean Shores field trip August 28 and 29th. After early fog cleared by mid-morning the first day, weather was pleasant and the group visited several of the excellent birding locations in the area. Point Brown North Jetty and nearby ponds, Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge and Bowerman Basin, Bottle Beach and Tokeland Marina were all productive, and over 50 species were seen over the two-day trip, including large flocks of Sooty Shearwaters and Brown Pelicans. Highlights included a dozen Willets, Marbled Godwit, Spotted Sandpiper, several Black Turnstones, Wandering Tattlers, as well as Western and Least Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, and Dowitcher. The adventurous group also enjoyed seeing amphibians and river otters.



OPAS Birders at Ocean Shores  
(Bob Phreaner, Judi White, and Jim Karr)  
Photo by Enid Phreaner

## Get Ready, Get Set, WALK & FUN



Mark your calendars for the 14th Annual Clinic Fun Walk and Health Fair, Saturday September 8, 2018! The walk will be a 5k (3.1 mile) walk like last year, starting at Trinity United Methodist Church going through Carrie Blake Park and part of the Discovery Trail.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m., but NEW THIS YEAR the walk is FREE! Yes, it's still the clinic's ONLY fundraiser, so we ask that you donate if you can. Warm-up stretches will begin at 8:45 a.m. and the Walk will start at 9:00 a.m.

The Walk is non-competitive, for teams, families and individuals. There is some competitive fun however, The Team Competitions. The first is for the team with the most walkers. Team members must check in with their teams that morning to be counted. The second is for the team who raises the most money. Last year Team Akaloo from Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church took home both awards with 38 walkers and raising \$3,610. Thank you again Team Akaloo!!

After the Fun Walk, head back into the church to visit our Health Fair. We will have screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar and oxygen saturation. Olympic Medical Center will have a variety of health & wellness information and services. There will be Yoga and Massage just to mention a few other things.

And don't forget the Door Prizes! Your furry friends are welcome on the walk, just remember they must be on a leash and please make sure to pick up after them. We will have pet sitters on hand to play with them while you enjoy the activities inside the church.

For more information, contact 'Kendra Donelson' <[kendrad46@gmail.com](mailto:kendrad46@gmail.com)>, 360-683-7793.

**Help us meet our goal of \$35,000 for this year's Fun Walk and Health Fair**

# 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)  
\_\_\_ 6 Year Membership (\$90.00, saves \$30)      \_\_\_ Lifetime Membership (\$250.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Payment Options:

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

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Three digit Security Code from back of card \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**For OFFICE USE ONLY** Process Date \_\_\_\_\_ Record ID \_\_\_\_\_ Forms Note ID \_\_\_\_\_