



# 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 6 Nov-Dec, 2018

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

## OPAS Program for November

by Bob Boekelheide & Marie Grad

[Note: There is no chapter meeting in December. Happy Holidays! Also, our November meeting will take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month, or November 28, because of Thanksgiving occurring in the third week. After November, our next OPAS membership meeting is Wednesday, January 23, 2019.]

### November 28, 2018 Program

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

**"BIRDING IN THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE"** Presented by Dan Streiffert.



Dan Streiffert

Called "America's Serengeti" for its tremendous biological productivity, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the most intact and untouched ecosystems in America. It is home to over 160

species of birds, nearly all long-distance migrants that nest during the long days of the Arctic summer then migrate as far away as South America and the South Pacific.

Dan Streiffert, a retired power systems engineer, now photographs wildlife and volunteers for both Sierra Club and the Audubon Society. He will show exceptional photos he took during a 12-day adventure in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, rafting down the scenic Marsh Fork through the rugged Brooks Range to its confluence with the Canning River.

## OPAS Field Trips in November and December

by 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.

### Ediz Hook

*Date & Time:* Saturday, November 3, 12 noon to 2:30 p.m.

*Cost:* Free

*Leader:* Judy Mullally

*Meeting place:* In the area of the boat launch or restrooms at the end of Ediz Hook (just before the Coast Guard entry station)

*Features:* Returning winter seabirds and shorebirds of Port Angeles harbor and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

*Bring:* Optics (scope if you have one), water, snacks, and appropriate clothing for the weather.

*Further information:* Judy Mullally 360 452-5797

*(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@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

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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  
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*Website Support Team*, Mary Porter-Solberg, Bob Hutchison, and Chris Perry  
*Social Media Support Team*, Mary Porter-Solberg, and Enid Phreaner

## President's Notes

by Bob Phreaner



On October 12 and 13, the OPAS delegation of Ken Wiersema, Judi White, Enid Phreaner and Bob Phreaner participated in the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) annual meeting held at the Brightwater Center in Woodinville, WA. Ken spoke at the Education Seminar, and I represented OPAS at the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC). Seventeen Audubon chapters approved a WSACC resolution asking the WA State Legislature to increase the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Budget for the biennium of 2019-2020. In addition, the resolution requests that the legislature identify permanent long-term funding, which would support the WDFW mission to conserve all Washington species and their habitats. The long term funding will help replace the declining revenue from hunting and fishing licenses.

ACOW attendees heard National Audubon's Chad Wilsey discuss birds as the storyteller of Climate Change in the National Parks. On average, 23% of bird species found in a given national park could be completely different by 2050 if carbon emissions continue at their current pace. New research led by the National Audubon Society and National Park Service, and published in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS ONE, supports our mission to safeguard and manage protected lands for birds and wildlife in a changing world. Parks will host more over-wintering species because of temperature and precipitation changes. In Olympic National Park, we are predicted to lose Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and seasonally, Common Loons. You can read more about the results of this study at [www.audubon.org/climate/nationalparks](http://www.audubon.org/climate/nationalparks).

On the lighter side, about 20 delegates, including the four from OPAS, showed up with our binoculars in front of the Brightwater Treatment Plant on Saturday at 7:30 a.m. for a "field trip". When the leader arrived, she was wearing a hardhat, safety glasses, and a reflective vest. We were given the underground tour of the Brightwater sewage treatment plant. The bird list was limited, but we learned a lot about fertilizer.

OPAS has many events coming up in the next couple of months. Be sure to take advantage of the OPAS Birds and Beverages event at Wind Rose Cellars on the second Tuesday of each month (11/13 and 12/11). The Book Discussion Group will meet on November 27, where Bruce Fryxell will moderate a discussion of the Sixth Extinction. The OPAS Board implemented these new activities this year so that you can meet your fellow members and enjoy bird-related conversations. We met Rainier Audubon's Dan Streiffert at ACOW and can assure you of a great presentation at the November 28 OPAS meeting where he will take us rafting in the Arctic National Wildlife refuge. Plan to attend the Dungeness River Audubon Center's Nature Mart on November 16 and 17 for your holiday shopping pleasure. To celebrate the season you can participate in the Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count on December 17 and the Port Angeles CBC on December 29th.

## Hear Ye!

**December 31st is the  
deadline for renewing  
your annual OPAS  
membership**

## OPAS Field Trips in November and December *(Continued from page one)*

### Robin Hill Park

*Date and Time:* Sunday, November 18, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

*Cost:* Free

*Meeting Place:* Robin Hill Park entrance, 141 Dryke Rd. Sequim

*Leader:* John Gatchet

*Features:* The park has a variety of habitats that allow for a diversity of species. Plan to walk on the trails in the park. Depending on the size of the group, we may stop at Kitchen-Dick Road ponds.

*Further Information:* Contact John Gatchet, <jfgatchet@gmail.com> / 503 781-5043

### CBC Warm-up Sequim-Dungeness

*Date:* Saturday, December 8

*Cost:* Free

*Leader:* Bob Boekelheide

*Meeting place:* 8:30 a.m. at RR Bridge Park, and 11 a.m. at Dungeness Landing

*Features:* This is an out-and-about, scouting for the upcoming SD-CBC [December 17]. We'll begin at the River Center at RR Bridge Park, then meet later at Dungeness Landing as the tide comes in. We might finish off at 3 Crabs, depending on weather and people's stamina. Make sure all your feathers are aligned, feeders are prepped, and binoculars are polished. So come join us!

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

### CBC Sequim-Dungeness

*Date:* Monday, December 17

*Cost:* Free

*Leader:* Bob Boekelheide

*Meeting place:* Your meeting place is your specific count area of the CBC.

*Features:* Find birds, count birds, tally birds throughout the day, and then come to the River Center at dusk and share the post-count jubilation, as well as good food and good company, as tales are told, species counts are tallied, and laughter abounds.

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

### Winter Birding for Beginners and Newcomers

*Date and Time:* Saturday, December 22, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

*Cost:* Free

*Leader:* Marie Grad

*Meeting Place:* Outside the River 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 may also be available to borrow).

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

## Harlequin Award for 2018 Goes to Tom Montgomery

*by Audrey Gift*

The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society established the Harlequin Award in 1982. Its purpose is to recognize Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) members for their "outstanding and generous contributions of time, talent and effort to the conservation of the Olympic Peninsula's environment through scientific, educational and/or political endeavors." Past recipients of the award who are currently active in OPAS do the nominating and voting on the candidates.

This year it is our pleasure to recognize **Tom Montgomery** for his many years of leadership and support of OPAS and our community. Tom has been an OPAS board member for 15 years, and a past president – serving two terms. He has offered many years of free legal advice to the OPAS board and long advocated for board and program participant liability insurance. He has been a generous contributor to Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society and to the Dungeness River Audubon Center.



*Tom Montgomery accepts Harlequin Award from President Bob Phreaner  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide*



## Harlequin Happenings

### Education Notes (Nov, Dec &

early Jan)

by Ken Wiersema

Fall and winter are an opportune time to hone your birding skills, the better to enjoy watching and learning about our winter residents and our migrating visitors. Please come out and join and share your knowledge and interest with others. Come to our weekly Wednesday morning bird walks and re-tune your ears and eyes to the winter's voices and muted colors of birds.

Several programs which should be on your schedules:

**Backyard Birding programs** – 10 a.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** -- **Denny Van Horn** will discuss his special perspective on studying and learning about birds. Denny has been our Field Trip Chair for numerous years and is considering moving to eastern WA. This may be your last chance to share a morning with Denny and experience his devotion to monitoring, observing, identifying, and recording the birds seen in Clallam County. He'll also cover field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes..

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – **Christie Lassen** Co-owner of Wild Birds in Gardiner will present an annual favorite on winter feeding and caring for birds in your backyard. Christie is a special friend of OPAS and a longtime sponsor of our annual BirdFest. She'll share her knowledge and an array of new products that will make feeding and watering birds easier and more in tune with our habitat. From feeding Woodpeckers to Hummingbirds this is an excellent chance to get up to date.

**Jan 5<sup>th</sup>** – **Carolyn Wilcox** is a skilled Olympic Peninsula wildlife guide, who lives in urbanized Port Angeles. She presents a perspective on how to design your backyard landscaping and viewing opportunities from your home. She is prepared to consult with folks on unique conditions in your yard. Watch for the media announcements on this class, which will be out before our next newsletter.

**Focus On Series** – 10 a.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center

**Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, Powell Jones**, Director of our Audubon Center, will do an in-depth program on our local array of **Hérons and Kingfishers**.

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, Jenna Ziogas**, Education Coordinator of the Center, will do a new program on the unique environmental niche occupied by **Raccoons**. Please fit these fun and useful programs into your winter schedule.

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**January**, Yours truly will be bringing back an updated and revised program on **Raptors**. Watch websites, media, and Facebook for details.

In addition to our education programs, please join us at our monthly meeting, and mark your calendars for **Nature Mart** on November 15 & 16. And, at least do one CBC! Enjoy the upcoming holiday season, and plan to be part of these events.

## Christmas Bird Counts are Coming!

By Bob Boekelheide



The Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count (SDCBC), our annual attempt to tally as many birds as possible in the Sequim-Dungeness area, will occur this year on Monday, Dec.17. This is one of the richest bird areas in the Pacific Northwest, holding the record for the most species seen on a WA CBC with 154 species in 2015.

The SDCBC, like all CBCs, covers a 15-mile diameter circle. We split our circle up into about 30-35 separate areas, each covered by a different party. Other people count their backyards or neighborhoods, if they live within the count circle. The center of the SDCBC circle is near the intersection of Brown and Port Williams Roads, so the SDCBC includes north to Dungeness Spit, south to the Olympic foothills, west to MacDonald Creek, east to Diamond Point and Protection Island, and includes the towns of Sequim, Gardiner, Blyn, Dungeness, and Carlsborg.

CBCs need many participants, including anyone reasonably familiar with local birds. If you live in the count area, we really need "feeder watchers," in which you count your feeder or stroll around your neighborhood sometime during the day. No matter where you count, you must keep close track of your times and mileages, to make comparisons with other counts and other years. To prepare, or if you are not familiar with local birds, please join birdwalks at RR Bridge Park on Wednesday mornings and go on OPAS field trips, in addition to looking at birds as much as possible this fall. If you wish to participate in the SDCBC, contact Bob Boekelheide at [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net) or call 360-808-0196.

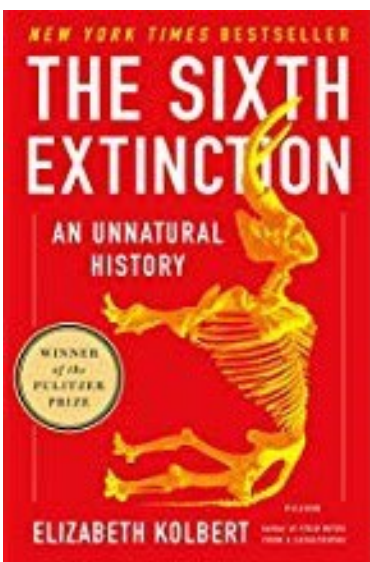
Other CBCs on the north Olympic Peninsula include Port Townsend (Dec 15), Neah Bay (Dec 16), and Port Angeles (Dec 29). The compiler for Port Angeles is Barb Blackie ([blackieb@olympen.com](mailto:blackieb@olympen.com), 360-477-8028), the compilers for Port Townsend are Rick and Debbie Jahnke ([rjahnke@att.net](mailto:rjahnke@att.net)), and the compiler for Neah Bay is Charlie Wright

(cwright770@gmail.com). Please contact these compilers if you can help with these counts. And get those birds!

## Other Events

### 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.



The group meets 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 Lori Moilanen ([Lori\\_Moilanen@wavecable.com](mailto:Lori_Moilanen@wavecable.com)) or Judith White ([drwhitej@gmail.com](mailto:drwhitej@gmail.com)).

**November 27**, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*.

Susan Kolbert. 2014. 336 pp.

*Discussion Facilitator*: Bruce Fryxell

### Birds and Beverages

**Birds and Beverages** is an informal gathering of birders of all abilities, organized by the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society. If you're interested in birds, you're invited. You can meet other birders, ask where to find birds, share your favorite spots, ask bird feeding questions, share bird photography tips, discuss research you may be working on - the sky's the limit. It's low key and it's fun. Gather at 4 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month (11/13 and 12/11) at Wind Rose Cellars, 143 W Washington St., Sequim. Beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and snacks will be available for purchase. For further information, contact Judith White ([drwhitej@gmail.com](mailto:drwhitej@gmail.com)), or Lori Moilanen ([lori\\_moilanen@wavecable.com](mailto:lori_moilanen@wavecable.com))



*Wind Rose Cellars Gathering  
Photo by Lori Moilanen*

### OPAS/DRAC Holiday Nature Mart

It's that time again, our Holiday Nature Mart will be held at the River Center November 16th and 17th. This marks our 12th annual Holiday Nature Mart. We will be open 10a.m. – 7p.m. on Friday, 11/16, and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, 11/17. Note the expanded Friday hours, come shop and enjoy the lights on the bridge.

Come shop for unique handcrafted gifts and treasures made by our numerous crafters. You will find something special for friends, family, pets and native birds. You will be able to purchase fresh wreaths and table arrangements, or you can make your own. Add a personal touch by bringing your own cuttings, although local natural materials will be provided.

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## Harlequin Happenings

Our popular photo booth will be available. Have a picture taken with one of the Center's native animals. Use your own camera or have a photo taken by a volunteer. A \$5 donation is suggested.

We will also have a bake sale offering sweet and savory goodies from our local bakers. Do you like to bake or make candy? Have a favorite cookie, pie, or holiday dessert recipe? The Nature Mart Bake sale would like to have your wrapped donated item for our sale. Pies are always in demand, as are snack-sized items, and breads. Baked donations will be accepted at the River Center beginning on Thursday afternoon, 11/15, and throughout the sale. Please include an ingredient list with your donation. Questions? Contact Marie Grad at [mlgrad53@gmail.com](mailto:mlgrad53@gmail.com), or phone 360-620-4035

Raffle tickets are currently on sale through the gift shop at the Center. This year we are offering two items for raffle. "Laverne" the amazing Lavender Stork that has called the River Center her home for the last several months could still be yours! The Dungeness River Audubon Center is currently running a raffle for this "code 5" yard bird that will end in mid-November during Nature Mart. Come support the River Center and get a timeless bird to display indoors or outdoors that has the lowest care level of any bird we know! Tickets are \$5 each.



"Laverne"

We are happy to have a beautiful wood sculpture of an eagle donated by local artist Joyce Volmut. This piece is valued at \$700, a limited number of raffle tickets are being sold at \$20 each. The drawings for the items will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 17th. The winner need not be present to win. All proceeds from the Holiday Nature Mart benefit educational programs provided through the River Center.

## Bring Nature Home for the Holidays at the OPAS/DRAC Holiday Flock Party!

Look no further than Wild Birds Unlimited this holiday for gifts suitable for beginners or seasoned bird enthusiasts - as well as gifts for nature lovers of all ages.



As a Thank You to the amazing Olympic Peninsula Audubon Members, Wild Birds Unlimited is hosting a Holiday Flock Shopping Party just for you! Save 20% OFF your entire

purchase (excluding sale items) on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 2p.m. We will have holiday cookies, cider & hot chocolate to enjoy as well.

Discover unique gifts and stocking stuffers, made-in-USA feeders, and the best hanging or mounting hardware available. From optics to nature, and birding books to accessories just right for the home and garden, they're all available at our store!

You really can complete your entire holiday gift-giving list at Wild Birds Unlimited. Our Certified Birdfeeding Specialists are ready to help you bring people and nature together this holiday season. All of us at Wild Birds Unlimited wish you and yours a joyous Holiday! *Christie, Marc, Jessica, Michelle & Luther— Wild Birds Unlimited, Gardiner*

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway January 23 – 27, 2019, Chico CA

Let Us Take You Under Our Wing & Show You the Magic of the Pacific Flyway! Our action-packed 5-day event celebrates the remarkable journey of millions of waterfowl and raptors along the Pacific Flyway that call the Northern Sacramento Valley their home during the winter months.

### Field trips—Workshops—Activities—Art Show

Choose from over 70 field trips and workshops that are sure to appeal to a wide variety of interests. Free nature activities are offered for youth, as well as armchair adventures for all. View impressive art at our Wildlife Art Exhibit at our new venue MONCA (Museum of Northern California Art).

### Banquet & Silent Auction

Special Guest & Keynote Speaker: Naturalist and Birding Guide David Wimpfheimer. A resident of Point Reyes since the early '80s, David will outline some of the factors that result in the dramatic diversity of the migratory and breeding birds in his lively presentation, "Point Reyes and the Farallon Islands: A Mecca for Birds and Birders." He will examine trends and

changes and share stories of special birds that have been seen over the decades.

For more information visit [www.snowgoosefestival.org](http://www.snowgoosefestival.org) or contact: Jennifer Patten, Event Coordinator, [info@snowgoosefestival.org](mailto:info@snowgoosefestival.org) (530) 592-9092.

## Bird Sightings

by Denny AFMJ Van Horn

"Holy mucilage, Batman . . . Clallam County ROCKS!" And does it ever!! Why? Well, just ask Carolyn Wilcox about her sighting of Washington's first Painted Redstart out at Cape Flattery, or any of the many who found Washington's second record of a Phainopepla. That's why! But wait . . . that's not all, for just another look-see you too could've seen the American Golden Plover, or the Tennessee Warbler, or the Northern Waterthrush, or the Buff-breasted Sandpiper; and then there's the Lazuli Bunting and the . . . Whoaaaaa! I better take a breath, slow down a bit, and take a more laid-back approach to reporting these past two month's sightings. So, here we go!



*Painted Redstart*  
Photo by Mike Charest

Since it's that time of the year when Neah Bay goes bonkers with 'Good birds!', let me revisit Wilcox's Painted Redstart, which continued it's early morning show at Cape Flattery. The last sighting was 9/17. Neah Bay birding continued it's magic with a Solitary Sandpiper found by Ryan Merrill in the Wa'atch Valley [8/29]. He and Charlie Wright also located a Tennessee Warbler that same day near the Makah Museum. And then Alexander Patia turned up a Northern Waterthrush in the swampy woods along Ba'adah Village Loop road. He was clued in by the bird's loud chip notes; then photographed it as it popped up into view. And if that wasn't enough, Alex was



*Northern Waterthrush*  
Photo by Alex Patia

"shocked" to find a Buff-breasted Sandpiper out on Hobuck Beach . . . both of these rarities only hours apart on 8/30. Adrienne Akmajian had a Red-eyed Vireo in her backyard at the mouth of the Wa'atch River; while just across the river Nadine Drisseq found a single Snowy Plover foraging along the beach [9/1]; another was photographed on Rialto Beach by Jake Bramante [9/22]. Cara Borre found the year's first Stilt Sandpiper along the low tide-line near the Warmhouse restaurant. While walking



*Snowy Plover*  
Photo by Mike Charest

the Boom Road, sifting through the hundreds of warblers that were inhabiting the woods, Sarah Peden and Jordan Gunn found a Chestnut-sided Warbler and an American Redstart, along with seven other warbler species [9/5] giving them an unprecedented nine-warbler day. The redstart was the second one found in the area that week - Brad Waggoner ticked the first one.

*(Continued on next page)*



## Harlequin Happenings

So now, let's toss in a female Yellow-headed Blackbird [9/6] that showed up at Akmajian's seed feeder.



*Red-shouldered Hawk*  
Photo by Charlie Wright

Charlie Wright and Ryan Merrill photographed a Red-shouldered Hawk in the Wa'atch River valley [9/8] ... a "good bird" anytime or anywhere for the county. Something else they saw that is always amazing to witness were at least sixty Black Swifts doing aerial dances - in their words, "Big clouds and passing rain showers presumably concentrated these birds; just about any time we looked up [we] had several dozen in view at once." And to top the day off, they documented a second Tennessee Warbler near the



*Long-tailed Jaeger*  
Photo by A. B. Calk

Sea Watch overlooking the bay. Nick Glover tallied 100 Brown Pelicans at Cape Alava [10/1]. Noah Sanday noted a flock of 113 Black Oystercatchers from the lookout at Cape Flattery [10/9]. And an oddball African Collared Dove [aka Ringed Turtle Dove] was found in the village by Ryan Merrill [8/29].

Several outings from La Push and Neah Bay onto ocean waters scored big with pelagic species. First though, while taking the M/V Coho across to Victoria, Bryan Calk photographed the year's first Long-tailed Jaeger [9/01] ... a beautiful adult with a streaming tail. On a pelagic survey out of La Push, Ryan Merrill recorded the year's first Buller's Shearwater and South Polar Skua [9/5]. Then on 9/06, he documented two Flesh-footed Shearwaters; again, first records for the year. Scott Schuette, birding 20 miles W of Cape Flattery, added the year's first Leach's Storm-Petrel and Short-tailed Shearwater. Ken Lane added a Laysan Albatross, as it flew passed his boat while



*Flesh-footed Shearwater*  
Photo by Brad Waggoner

fishing off the Cape [10/3]. Then on 9/15 the M/V Wind-song made its third pelagic trip of the year out onto the waters off Cape Flattery. I'm just going to list noted species and jaw-dropping numbers. California Gulls are back from their northern breeding grounds; we found a few--22,400! And what else? Sooty Shearwater [9,550], Pink-footed Shearwater [1,266], Flesh-footed Shearwater [2, maybe 3], Buller's Shearwater [56], Sabine's Gull [1,670], Pomarine Jaeger [20], Parasitic Jaeger [2], Long-tailed Jaeger [2], jaeger species [2], South Polar Skua [1], Red-necked Phalarope [47], Black Oystercatcher [69], AND one black Merlin that came ripping past the boat only feet off the water - heading towards the Cape. We were miles off shore when that one went by! And 29 Sandhill Cranes that were



coming south from Vancouver Island. And that leads me into their migratory numbers this fall.



*California Gulls*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

drake Canvasback at Dawn Lake [10/21]. Bruce Paige had 42 Great Blue Heron at Jimmy-Come-Lately Creek [9/16].



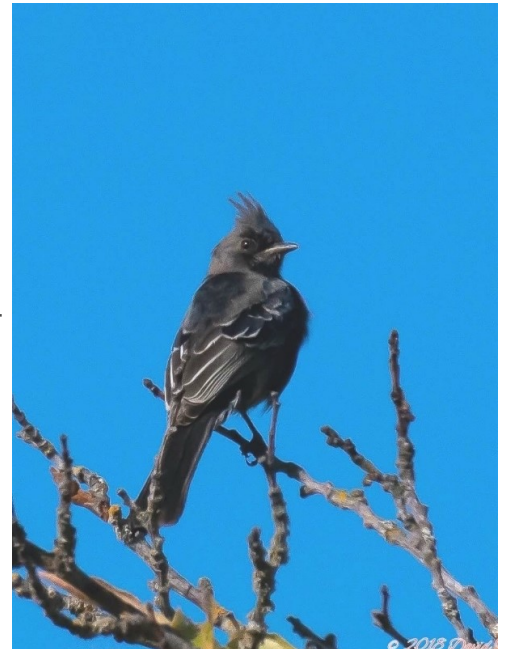
*Golden Eagle*  
Photo by Scott Gremel

The first Sandhill Cranes noted moving south were on 9/14 when the Waggoner brothers "... [were] first alerted to their presence by the rattling bugle like call. One flock of eight joined another flock of eight that were rising in a kettle. After obtaining sufficient height, they continued their migration south." And for the first time in years, good numbers of cranes were seen flying south from other locations in the county besides Neah Bay. Almost daily from the first sighting until early October cranes flew over heading south. The highest daily tally was 145 [9/23]; total numbers recorded were 815 cranes. These are just the birds we know of; how many others passed unseen/unheard is a guess. When compared to the northward migration totals [3,285, 3/30 to 5/2] these fall numbers represent only a small fraction of the spring migration.

I've kind of spent most of this time out to the far west end of the county. Guess I ought to bring this report back inland a bit. How about this: Michael Barry sighted a Red-shouldered Hawk near the Creamery on Towne road [9/12]. And then there's Bob Boekelheide's Ruff [9/11]. That bird was so far out there on the tide flats that even at 60x it was nothing more than a speck of fluff behaving like a Ruff [or a Reeve]. How's that for ID characteristics? And then the long spate of sightings of Pacific Golden Plovers at 3 Crabs, Dungeness Landing, and Ediz Hook. And toss in an American Golden Plover [9/11 & 9/18]. An adult Golden Eagle back in the Olympics; Scott Gremel and Mandy Holmgren twitched that one [10/23]. Paulette Ache had a

And how about them Swallows! Not many birders are aware that by the second week of September, swallows leave en masse! And nowhere is this more evident than out in Dungeness

where they stage in massive numbers. Here's a sampling. On 9/5 off E Palmer, Barn Swallow [1,050], Tree [25], Cliff [140], Rough-winged [12], Violet-green [28], Purple Martin [22] ... and this was on just two sets of telephone wires at the end of the culdesac. On 9/12 there were an estimated 2,850 swallows on wires at 3 Crabs and on 9/13 there were none! Always hate to see them leave.



*Phainopepla*  
Photo by David Hoder

(Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

And that brings me to this bird: Phainopepla! I'll simply leave this sighting in the words Bob Boekelheide posted on 9/19 to eBird, "On this morning's Wednesday bird walk at RR Bridge Park, we discovered a male Phainopepla in a scrubby area on the west side of the Dungeness River fly-catching and eating berries as it perched in an elderberry bush. It seems quite territorial, even trying to supplant wax-wings from the bush: CC's first, WA's second.' For weeks the bird hung at that location. At last estimate over 200 birders made the trip to look-see, photograph, tick, tally, and oogle. It was last seen on the afternoon of 10/23.



*Birders gathered to see Phainopepla  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide*



*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Photo by Ann Nightingale*

Darn, almost forgot these gems: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher [9/14], Lark Sparrow [9/15], Palm Warbler [9/29], Snow Bunting [10/21], Prothonotary Warbler [10/22], and Clay-colored Sparrow [10/22] ... all out at Neah Bay. Meanwhile, the Dungeness Bay Willet continues to be seen every now and then.

I have to close this column now, but I'll do it with one more sighting. A few days ago, out at Neah Bay up on Bahokus Peak in the thick of trees and clearcuts, Mike Charest flushed a Wilson's Snipe! If that doesn't confirm Robin's claim that "Clallam County Rocks!", then I don't know what does. Good Birding, my friends.

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