



HARLEQUIN HAPPENINGS

Newsletter of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org (www.olybird.org)

Clallam County, Washington

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Issue 3 May-June, 2019

"Volunteer educators and stewards for birds and habitat conservation"

OPAS Programs for May and June

by Bob Boekelheide & Marie Grad

May 15, 2019 Program

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

"The Birds of Neah Bay", Presented by John Gatchet

A retired educator, John Gatchet began watching birds at the age of six, inspired by the birds near his family home in Discovery Bay. Following his career, John returned to his roots at Discovery Bay, and has become one of the most avid birders on the north Olympic Peninsula, including many birding trips to Neah Bay. John is an excellent birder and photographer, leading many field



John Gatchet

trips for the American Birding Association, Audubon Societies (including OPAS), and others.

The Neah Bay area is a favorite location for Washington birders, renowned as the best place in the state to spot wayward birds. Birds from Asia, Central America, and eastern North America grace the list of vagrant

species seen at Neah Bay, delighting birders who flock there to spot the latest rarity. Join John as he shows his excellent

photos of common and unusual birds that show up in this birders' Mecca.

June 19, 2019 Program

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

[NOTE: June is OPAS's traditional month to hold a potluck dinner before the monthly meeting, but due to recent insect infestations we cannot have food inside the Audubon Center. Therefore there will be no potluck dinner in June and the monthly meeting starts at 7 p.m.]

"The Seabirds and Marine Mammals of the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve", Presented by Bob Boekelheide

Starting in 2016, a valiant band of researchers has been surveying seabirds and marine mammals of the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve

in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Aquatic Reserve includes over 37 sq. mi. of marine waters around Protection Island, the largest seabird-nesting colony in the Salish Sea. Their research has focused on "who, when, and where," trying to determine the annual cycle of seabirds using offshore waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and which areas of the Aquatic Reserve are most important for their use. Bob Boekelheide, OPAS vice-president and bird sightings chair, presents the most recent information about seabird distribution and abundance right out our back door.



Yellow-billed Loon in Protection Island Aquatic Reserve

Photo by Bob Boekelheide

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. 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.

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President's Notes

by Bob Phreaner



The 16th Annual Olympic BirdFest was a resounding success. It was our biggest and best by just about every measure. We had nearly 300 registrants and early estimates suggest approximately \$30000 raised to support the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Thank you to the BirdFest Committee (Chris Perry, Bob Boekelheide, Audrey Gift, Ken Wiersema, Shirley Anderson, Sara Ellen Peterson, Stacey Fradkin, Gretha Davis, Liz Bumgarner, Enid Phreaner, Diane Luoma, Lori Moilanen, and co-chairman Marion Rutledge) and all the trip leaders, raffle donors, and volunteers, whose hard work made this event possible. Vanessa Fuller deserves special recognition for her professional organizational skills. Outstanding.

Birdathon is May 11th. This is your annual opportunity to support your Audubon chapter and enjoy a day of birding while gathering data on birds in Clallam County. Birdathon is the sole fundraiser supporting OPAS' operating budget, which includes insurance, printing, mailing, etc. Please consider making a flat donation or pledging to contribute a per species amount and then get out there counting birds! (See Bob Boekelheide's article in this issue.)

May 11th is also the Celebration of Science and Technology at Feiro Marine Life Center on Port Angeles City Pier from 10-4. Once again OPAS members will share a booth with the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

May 9 at 6:30 p.m. will be your opportunity to receive orientation or refresher training in the Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Survey at DRAC. Please see our website for more information.

We need you to participate in Audubon advocacy by following Conservation news posted on our website. While you may think globally, you can act locally by responding to alerts and informing elected officials and agencies of your concerns

You can also participate in community science projects throughout the year, and be a steward for the habitat and birds you love by attending the OPAS Conservation Committee meetings.

Due to the concern for insect damage to the specimens in the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Powell has instituted a "no food" policy in the building. Therefore the June 19 meeting will not be a potluck this year but we will still vote on officers and have an interesting speaker.

Hear Ye!

WA Legislature passed Capital Budget on 28 Apr. Includes many \$\$\$\$ for DRAC addition. Gov. needs to sign. Check OPAS website for updates.

OPAS Field Trips in May and June

by Judith White

Wednesday Bird Walks

Date and Time: Every Wed. morning, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: At the Dungeness River Audubon Center

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

Bring: Binoculars, water, snack and appropriate clothing for the weather.

Birdathon Warm-up

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Bob Boekelheide

Meeting Place: Railroad Bridge Park at 8:30 a.m., Dungeness Landing Park at 11 a.m.

Features: Prepare for Birdathon with a warm-up field trip starting at Railroad Bridge Park at 8:30 a.m. for songbirds, followed by Dungeness Landing Park meeting at 11 a.m. for waterbirds. There's an incoming tide through late morning and afternoon that will hopefully bring shorebirds into view. Bring scopes if you have them. Railroad Bridge Park has a paved accessible trail for walking. Dungeness Landing Park has a covered viewing platform, rest rooms, and paved parking lot. Minimal walking may be involved on uneven surfaces adjacent to the parking lot.

Bring: Binoculars, water, snack and appropriate clothing for the weather.

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

Birding by Ear

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Leader: Judy Mullaly

Meeting Place: To be determined (please check <https://olympicpeninsulaudubon.org/> website for details as available, depending on local migrating bird locations closer to trip date).

Features: A forest walk concentrating on bird songs and calls. Forest trails may be inclined, muddy, rocky and uneven, and this trip may not be appropriate for those with limited mobility.

Bring: Binoculars, water, snack and appropriate clothing for the weather.

Further Information: Judy Mullaly 360 452-5797

Sequim Bay and Woods Road

Date & Time: Sunday, May 19, 8:30-11:30 a. m.

Leader: John Gatchet

Cost: No Charge

Meeting Place: Meet next to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Community Center, 1033 Old Blyn Highway, Sequim; Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center Wayside along Highway 101.

Features: There will be a quick look at Sequim Bay and a walk of the area. Emphasis will be on water and edge species. The group will car pool from there and drive Woods Road to locate forest birds. There will be numerous stops at pull outs along the way. Some surfaces may be uneven.

Bring: Binoculars, scopes and appropriate clothing and footwear, insect repellent if desired.

Further information: Contact John Gatchet jfgatchet@gmail.com / (503) 781-5043

Gardiner Beach and Diamond Point

Date and Time: Sunday, June 9, 8:30-11:30 a. m.

Leader: John Gatchet

Cost: No Charge

Meeting Place: The Gardiner Beach Boat Ramp parking area
Features: Water, forest and field species will be abundant in the area at this time of year. The variety of places visited including bird feeders will ensure a diversity of bird species. This trip will include stops between Gardiner Beach and Diamond Point to locate specific birds in nesting habitats. Minimal walking, some uneven sand and gravel.

Bring: Binoculars, scopes and appropriate clothing and footwear

Further information: Contact John Gatchet, jfgatchet@gmail.com/ (503) 781-5043

Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue Field Trip

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 11, 1-2:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue, 1014 Parkridge Dr., Port Townsend

Leader: Judith White

Cost: Free

Features: A behind-the-scenes look at Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue (DBWBR), a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation center located in Port Townsend that accepts birds from across the Olympic Peninsula. Injured birds are rehabilitated and released back to the wild. For this event, some of their non-releasable raptors will be on hand for us to see up close and learn about their natural history and individual stories. Director Cindy Daly will lead an informative discussion. Donations to DBWBR are appreciated. This facility is outdoors, so dress for the weather. RSVP is required; group size is limited.

Further Information: Judith White drwhitej@gmail.com 206 641-1842. For carpooling, please send info on whether you would like to drive or are looking for a ride.

Summer Birding for Beginners and Newcomers

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

Leader: Marie Grad

Meeting Place: Outside the Dungeness River Audubon Center (Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

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. Railroad Bridge Park has a paved accessible trail for walking, and rest rooms. All birding 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

Other Events

Washington State's Audubon Chapters Memorial Day Weekend Field Trip

The 56th Annual Wenas Audubon CampOut takes place on Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27, 2019). Find us at The Hazel Wolf Bird Sanctuary at Wenas Creek Campground (SW of Elensburg).

This casual and friendly gathering offers a variety of activities, including birding field trips, wildflower walks, field sketching, owl prowls, and campfire presentations PLUS special guest speaker, corvid researcher Dr. Kaeli Swift, Ph.D. You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend. All are welcome to this family-friendly event! Primitive camping on site (no water), other lodging in the area. Discovery pass required. wenasaudubon.org for more information. Carpooling from Sequim may be an option, please contact Judi White if interested in offering or finding a ride (drwhitej@gmail.com) 206 641-1842.

OPAS Book Discussion Group



Our monthly book discussion group meets from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC). Links to the currently scheduled titles, book summaries, and discus-

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sion questions will be posted at <https://olympicpeninsulaudubon.org/>, under Events > Book Group.

Upcoming book selections include:

May 28. *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative.* 2017. 288 pp. Discussion Facilitator: Sandra Boren.

June 25. *Beaks, Bones and Bird Songs: How the Struggle for Survival Has Shaped Birds and Their Behavior.* Roger Lederer. 2016. 282 pp. Discussion Facilitator: Jim Karr, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington.

Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds, WA

Mark your calendars for the 15th Annual Puget Sound Bird Fest on September 13-15, 2019, in Edmonds, WA. This fall tradition is for nature lovers throughout the Pacific Northwest and features three days of speakers, guided walks, field trips, boat tours, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults.

The 2019 event kicks off Friday evening with a keynote address by award winning nature photographer and Master Birder Tim Boyer. His program will be “*Understanding Shorebirds: The Miracle of Migration*”. Pre-registration will be required. For more information visit the Bird Fest website at www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org, or contact Jennifer Leach, Environmental Education and Sustainability Coordinator, <jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov>, 425-771-0227.

Birds and Beverages

An informal monthly gathering of birders of all abilities, organized by the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society. It's low key and it's fun, and a good way to get to know new birders and members. Gather at Wind Rose Cellars, 143 W Washington St. in Sequim on the second Tuesday of each month from 4-6 pm (May 14 and June 11 coming up). Beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages and snacks available for purchase. More info? Contact Judi White (drwhitej@gmail.com), or Lori Moilanen (lori_moilanen@wavecable.com)

Conservation Matters

Reinstalling our Purple Martin Colony

by Ken Wiersema

Those of you that have been to the 3 Crabs beach and tide-lands since Easter will note that we've installed our redesigned Purple Martin (PUMA) nest boxes on the three steel pilings placed on the location of the nearly 200 creosote-impregnated, timber pilings that were removed last October. We've also installed some new boxes over the wetlands adjacent to the parking area.



Installation Team
Photo by John Gussman

Several of our PUMA team have worked this winter to determine how to use the steel pilings and affix our new tubular boxes, so we could be ready for the PUMA to return for nesting this spring. We

knew that our old wooden boxes were too heavy and bulky to fit the new pilings, and we would have had a riskier setup for our team to install, maintain, and monitor.

Designing as we went, and spending some uncomfortable days in my unheated shop, we produced 18 new boxes and the installation equipment needed to hang them. We had help from Geoff McClain, the WSDOT regional sign foreman, who educated us on the equipment and supplies we'd need to put flat boards on round steel posts; and Paul Tucker, owner of Independent Plumbing, who loaned us eight feet of 8" diameter plastic drain pipe to perfect our design and practice installation. We also thank the North Olympic Salmon Coalition for purchasing the tools and materials we used to hang our boxes.

We had a superb dedicated OPAS team: Dow Lambert and Dan Wilson did much of the box cutting and assembling of boxes, and served as the climbing team that strapped the boxes on the pilings from ladders 14ft above the tideflats. Laura Davis neatly painted the markings on the tubes, and, along with Alan Smith, Gary Bullock, and Bob Boekelheide, formed the "Sherpa" team that hauled the equipment & tools out onto the tideflats, and handed it up the ladders. Chris Perry and John Gussman provided the photo documentation of the project.



Returning PUMA Tenants
Photo by Chris Perry

The most rewarding part of our installation day occurred five minutes after we hung the 1st six boxes and moved to the next pilings -- four Purple Martins showed up, sang to us a bit, and perched on the new boxes. We can't quite claim "mission accomplished", but we appear to be on a success path. Many thanks to our team and those that helped us along the way.

OPAS Western Bluebird/Climate Watch Winter Survey Status Report

by Joyce Volmut

This is a status report of the joint OPAS Western Bluebird/ National Audubon Climate Watch program winter survey. There are two survey periods each year, one during the winter months, and one during the summer months, which is the breeding season. OPAS started its program, the Western Bluebird Watch program, about 4 years ago to collect data on nesting habits of Western Bluebirds in the OPAS chapter area. Around the same time, National Audubon began the Climate Watch program, and chose the Bluebird as their target species. At that time, OPAS partnered with National Audubon in collecting data.

According to Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report, over half of North American bird species will lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2080, including the Marbled Murrelet, Trumpeter Swan, Horned Grebe, Hooded Merganser, Townsend Solitaire, and the Red-breasted Nuthatch to name a few. The purpose of the National Audubon Climate Watch Program is to test these predictions by documenting species' responses, in this instance the Western Bluebird, to the changing climate. We are testing the model by collecting data during these specific periods.

Volunteers are assigned to an area where they conduct a 5-minute survey of all the birds they see during that 5-minute interval. The winter survey encompasses about 4 weeks, but volunteers only do a one-time, 5-minute count. This 5-minute period can take place any time during the 4-week survey interval and the survey is completed.

A total of 56 species were identified; 1,499 individuals. 47 checklists were submitted to ebird. Most abundant was the American Robin, with 603 identified; also in greater numbers was the Canada Goose (350) and the Dark Eyed Junco (165). For the first time in our winter count this year, 14 Western Bluebirds were reported. We'll be watching in our Spring/Summer survey period to see how this number might translate into nesting for Western Bluebirds this summer. (Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Other birds of interest included:

Species Name	No.
Red-breasted Nuthatch (a Climate Watch bird)	11
Anna's Hummingbird	16
Northern Flicker	29
Bald Eagle	20
American/Northwest Crow	83
Common Raven	34
Varied Thrush	15
Song Sparrow	58
Red-winged Blackbird	66
Red Crossbill	5
Trumpeter Swan	72

In addition to the survey results, a fourth nest box was installed by Dan Stahler and Bob Phreaner at the DNR property where we have installed nest boxes in the past. Last year, for the first time, Western Bluebirds attempted to nest in two of the boxes; unfortunately, in one we found the female dead and 4 eggs unhatched. The first box, where they have successfully nested before, managed to produce two broods.



Bob Phreaner and Dan Stahler install Western Bluebird nest box at DNR site east of Sequim

The Spring/Summer Climate Watch Survey is coming up, from May 15-June 15. A Western Bluebird/Climate Watch training class was held at Wild Birds Unlimited in Gardiner on April 27th. For more information, contact joyce.volmut@gmail.com

Citizen Scientist Volunteers Needed – Pigeon Guillemot Breeding

by Ed Bowlby

If you like to watch seabirds along beaches, please consider joining a team this summer to monitor Pigeon Guillemots as an indicator species for nearshore health. It only requires one hour of your time one day per week (to be completed before 9 a.m.), from June through August.

This is an ongoing project, co-sponsored by Clallam County Marine Resources Committee and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society. We realize people can't always be available (vacations, etc.), so we try to train more citizen scientists to backfill for each other.

You will receive protocol training to record bird attendance at their burrow nest sites on sea bluffs, to note fish prey that they deliver to their chicks, and to record any disturbance (e.g., eagle fly overs). The training date is May 9, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center with Ed Bowlby and Jeff Ward as the trainers. If you are interested, please reserve a seat with Ed Bowlby (edbowlby2@gmail.com) with your contact info. He will relay more details for both the training as well as protocols to follow. Returning volunteers should also attend as a refresher, since there have been slight modifications in protocols as well as a new field data card (easier to use). Also, please relay any sightings of Pigeon Guillemot concentrations near beaches for potential new monitoring sites.



Pigeon Guillemots

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Education Notes

By Ken Wiersema



Backyard Birder May – July

May 4th --10:00 a.m. at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Eighth in the 2019 series will be **Sounds of Spring** presented by **Dow Lambert**; assisted by Ken Wiersema. Please come a bit early to get your seat at this ever-popular program featuring slides, videos, and audio recordings of the songs & voices of our local birds. You will be able to hone and renew your identification skills by learning the songs and calls of the birds that live and fly through your backyard and over our local fields, marshes, and shorelines.

June 1 -- 10:00 a.m. at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Ninth in the 2019 series will be **Birds out of the Nest** presented by Ken Wiersema. This program includes a parent bird's role in protecting, feeding, and teaching young birds. Learn how the food needs of young birds change, become aware of their vulnerabilities, and learn how to make your property less hazardous to young fledglings. Learn how different species play different roles in raising their young. Come with your questions and observations. New insights will be revealed.

July 6 -- 10:00 a.m. at Dungeness River Audubon Center

The tenth and last in this year's series will be the ever-popular **Gull** program presented by **Bob Boekelheide**. Watch for full details in the July—August *Harlequin Happenings* and on OPAS web site.

Learn by the Light of the Moon

These programs return for 2019 with a whole new lineup. The talks are offered without fee and will happen once a month, on the evening of the full moon. The series provides an opportunity to hear from local naturalists and scientists, working to better understand our world. Presented in the Center's outdoor amphitheater, you can use the padded seating on the amphitheater benches, or feel free to bring lawn chairs and a flashlight (and blankets?). No rainchecks (if raining, the program moves into the Center building).

May 18, 7 p.m. -- *“From the subalpine to the sea: Assessing the status and trends of key natural resources within Olympic National Park”*, presented by **Dr. Rebecca McCaffery**, Wildlife Biologist, USGS.

June 17, 7 p.m.: -- *“A Look into the Beach Lake Conservation Area Nearshore Restoration Project”*, presented by **Jamie Michel**, Nearshore restoration biologist, Coastal Watershed Institute.

July 16, 7 p.m. -- *“Hunting Behaviors of Cougars”*, presented by **Mark Elbroch** Ph.D., Director & Lead Scientist, Puma Program – Panthera

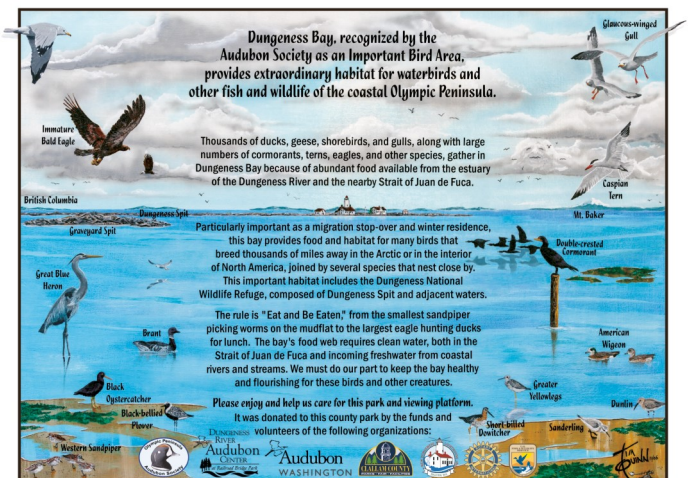
Focus On Series

A joint program of OPAS and the River Center is on hiatus till October. It will return with a series of six new programs. Watch for it!

For more details, go to the River Center's web site. And while you're there, note the excellent array of new and returning programs on Wildflowers; Nature Journaling; and summer camps for kids → Invite your grandkids to visit and spend part of their day learning about our local natural world.

Bird Graphic at Dungeness landing

Folks have noticed the seascape painting of local coastal birds on the bird viewing platform at Dungeness Landing County Park is gone. This painting, commissioned by OPAS in 2006 was done on plywood by artist Tim Quinn. *(Continued on next page)*



Chris Perry's restoration of Tim Quinn's art work.

Harlequin Happenings

Tim also did the murals in the Center. Its surface was fading in the sunlight and paint was cracking and starting to peel. Chris Perry, via some software juju and reference to photos of the original mural, has restored the color and repaired most of the damage. We hope to have it reinstalled by end of May this year.

Dungeness River Audubon Center—An Invitation to help “Inspire Wonder”

by Annette Hanson

The Dungeness River Audubon Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with a capital campaign to expand the building and create better access to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s Railroad Bridge Park near Sequim. Thanks to the partnership of the Center, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; we’re more than halfway to our fundraising goal of \$3M.

We were recently awarded a “last-in” \$300K grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust – which means we won’t get the money if we can’t complete the rest of the campaign. If you’ve been one of the thousands of people who have visited the Center and Park, for BirdFest or otherwise, we hope you’ll consider making a gift to help us meet this challenge.



Artist's Rendering of East View Concept

View a video to see the Center and Park and how they interact with visitors...and contribute through the website at dungenessrivercenter.org. For more specific questions, please contact Center Director Powell Jones at 360-681-4076.

Helen Engle 1926-2019

It is with great respect and sadness that we note the passing of Helen Engle. Since their inception, Helen had been an ardent supporter of OPAS and the River Center. She championed our visions and achievements as a member of the National Audubon Board and of the Washington State Board, and saw to it that our resource needs were met during some fragile periods. She earned respect as an environmentalist, who built coalitions and consensus among elect-



Helen Engle

ed leaders, governmental agencies, environmental NGOs, and Tribal communities. Her accomplishments remain numerous and long-lasting. I had the privilege of serving with her on the State Board and on a study team to reestablish the Audubon Washington State office. She will long be remembered with fondness and admiration for her determination and commitment to protecting our natural world.

Ken Wiersema, April 2019

Nature Photography: Have You Checked Your Field Ethics Lately?

By Cindy Fullwiler Nature Photography, www.cnature.net

With nesting season in full swing, you may be tempted to get “up close and personal” to photograph chicks in their nests, and unknowingly cause harm to your favorite subject in the process. As nature photographers, we all want to get “the shot,” but if you truly love birds and wildlife, it is critical to practice good field ethics.

Birds live a life of stress and survival 24/7. When nesting season arrives, their stress to protect and feed many hungry beaks only magnifies. Some birds, like hummingbirds, do not have the benefit of a mate to help with parenting duties, so any interruption in the female’s routine can have deadly consequences. No matter how much we would like them to reciprocate our affection, birds do not see us as friends—we are just another potential threat to their precious chicks.

Practicing some simple, ethical guidelines will help the survival rate of our birds and other wildlife, and help you get a great shot. The following “do’s and don’ts” can be abided by anyone who enjoys and values the outdoors.

DO:

- Have empathy for your subjects during nesting season by keeping your distance. Ask yourself: is a photo for social media worth risking the lives of birds or animals?
- >Wear muted clothing, such as gray, brown or camouflage. Bright or solid dark colors will scare off the birds.
- Try blending in with your environment by sitting quietly behind bushes or standing against a tree so you do not appear to be stalking your subject. Sometimes birds will initially fly away, but once they feel safe, they will return.
- Be patient. Patience is key for great wildlife photography. Sometimes you have to sit for a very long time before the magic happens, and sometimes you have to return many times.
- Use a blind to get closer bird shots without disrupting natural bird behavior. Your vehicle can work well as a blind, especially if the sun visor is pulled down like a blind window.
- Use a longer super telephoto lens if you want a close photo. However, even a 600mm will not fill the frame with small birds.
- Think about and practice wildlife landscape photography. There are many fine examples online of this beautiful art, such as the work of Moose Peterson, Art Wolfe, and Tom Mengelson.

DON'T:

- Use a ladder to peer into a nest for a photograph. This is the equivalent of a grizzly bear towering over a baby crib. You may also be showing predators exactly where they can find a meal.
- Break off branches to get a better view or photograph of the chicks, which makes it easier for predators to access them. Bird parents take great care to build the best nests and defenses against predators. Don't be an accomplice in their demise.
- Get too close for long periods of time, which may frighten off adults, and cause them to abandon their nests and vulnerable chicks.
- Use a flash or flashlights, which startles the birds. Imagine being woken up in the middle of the night with a blinding light flashed in your eyes. Pretty stressful!
- Forget that not all birds nest in trees! Ground nests and eggs can be destroyed by walking on deer trails rather than designated park trails.
- Let your dogs run off leash. Off-leash dogs are a great

threat to wildlife in general. Once a dog injures a bird or animal, it cannot be undone with an apology. Follow leash laws and ordinances.

- Use pre-recorded bird calls. If the vocalization you're using is a predator to other birds nesting in the area, the call could cause them to abandon their nests and young.
- Make quick movements toward birds. If you want to get closer but keep a safe distance overall, try meandering in a zig-zag pattern, and don't make eye contact with birds. Let them get used to your presence and understand you are a not threat.
- Share bird nest locations on social media. Only share with people you know practice impeccable field ethics.

Demonstrate your love of birds and wildlife by regularly reviewing your actions and choices while enjoying the outdoors, and by adopting and practicing good field ethics. Have fun, have empathy, be responsible, and be inspired!

2019 Clallam County Birdathon/ World Migratory Bird Day

by Bob Boekelheide

Saturday, May 11th, is the 2019 OPAS Clallam County Birdathon and World Migratory Bird Day count. This is a day for everyone to have a fun time going birding in Clallam County, tallying all the birds we see and hear. It also raises money for important OPAS projects on the north Olympic Peninsula.

The World Migratory Bird Day count is different from the Christmas Bird Count, because it includes all birds counted in Clallam County in one day. We have a grand tradition here in Clallam County, tallying over 600,000 birds of 265 species over the last 25 years. No matter where you live or visit in Clallam County, please go birding and keep a tally of the birds you see.

You can help whether you count all day, just a few hours in morning or evening, or hang out around your house and count your yard and feeders. **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO COUNT BIRDS!** There are many out-of-the-way places in Clallam County that need coverage, so please go exploring and find some new birds. If you need some ideas about places to go, please email for suggestions.

During the count please keep track of where you count plus the miles and hours you travel. After the count mail the tally sheet to me ASAP at the Audubon Center's address on the back. *(Continued on next page)*

Harlequin Happenings

Even better, just scan and email your list to me, at bboek@olympus.net. If you wish you can enter your data using eBird, but please let me know if you plan to do that.

Money raised during Birdathon helps support many OPAS necessities, from printing costs, to insurance for field trips, to supporting conservation programs. Please sponsor the Birdathon count with a pledge based on our count results, and/or please send a generous donation when you receive your Birdathon letter.

Before the Birdathon, please join us on Saturday, May 4, for a field trip to review common May birds and their songs. We meet at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park at 8:30 a.m. to see and hear songbirds of the local forests, then travel to Dungeness Landing Park at 11 a.m. to see birds of shorelines and bays.

Please email Bob Boekelheide to sign up for the Birdathon, or just do your counting and send the tally sheet back right away when finished. Thank you very much for your help!

Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide



Following a very cold February, temperatures returned to above average in March and April, with lots of sunshine and few major storms. Even though we like these lovely spring days, it may not bode well for river flows later this summer. This is the time of year that snow needs to accumulate in the mountains, not melt away. Near the end of April, snow-pack measuring stations at Waterhole and Mt Crag in the Olympics measured well below average, with no storms in sight. Compared to the rest of North America, however, we have nothing to complain about; for example, blizzard warnings in the northern Rockies to catastrophic floods in the Mississippi River Valley.

Bird migration floodgates really opened in the second half of April. Western warblers led the torrent, with lots of Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, and Townsend's leading the way. Wilson's, MacGillivray's and Yellow Warblers, typically considered later arrivals, are already back at some of their respective locations. Sue Nattinger reported the first Yellow Warbler at Wasankari Rd on 4/22, a bright yellow male with beautiful red breast streaks. Institute of Bird Populations researchers found at least 3 MacGillivray's males singing near the parking lot of the Olympic Adventure Trail on Dan Kelly Rd on 4/28. Kirsten Tucker recorded the first Black-throated Gray Warbler on 4/14 near Morse Creek in east Port Angeles.



White-throated Sparrow
Photo by Robert Hutchison

Bruce Paige reported the first local Chipping Sparrow at his feeders near Holland Rd on 4/4, along with the first House Wren in the same area on 4/11. Otis Bush also photographed another Chipping Sparrow on the Miller Peninsula on 4/24, where Chippers might nest. Judy White spotted a late White-throated Sparrow at 3 Crabs on 4/21. Jean Siesener found a spring Townsend's Solitaire sitting on a fence post along Hologerson Rd on 4/26. Sue Nattinger reported two very early



Anna's Hummingbird chicks in nest
Photo by Gary Bullock

Vaux's Swifts at Wasankari Rd on 4/7. The Wednesday morning bird walk at RR Bridge Park recorded two early Pacific-slope Flycatchers and a little-late Cassin's Vireo on 4/24. Kathy Bush had a Canada Jay visiting her feeder near the north end of Miller Peninsula for about 10 days in April, far down in the lowlands for this normal montane species.

Anna's Hummingbirds have already fledged

their first clutches and are moving to clutch number two.

Gary Bullock tracked an Anna's nest at his home in Sequim, seeing two chicks in the nest on 3/22, then successfully fledged on 4/13.

Swallows are back with a vengeance, showing up throughout Clallam County through March and April. The first Purple Martin appeared back at 3 Crabs on 4/2, a single female-type that flew overhead and kept on going, seen by Bob Boekelheide. When the OPAS martin crew led by Ken Wiersema installed the new martin nest boxes at 3 Crabs on 4/21, martins already flew around and landed on the boxes, as if to say "It's about time!" While installing the martin boxes, Gary Bullock spotted 4 Mountain Bluebirds hopping on beach logs nearby. The bluebirds stuck around for a couple days, allowing several people to view them. Western Bluebirds are back on territories and likely laying eggs by now. Enid Phreaner spotted a male Western Bluebird on DNR land near River Road on 3/21, the same area where she saw a male in April 2017. Please keep track of bluebirds if they nest in your area, and let Joyce Volmut know where they are.

Could escapee Northern Bobwhites be nesting in Clallam County? Sue Nattinger twice reported bobwhites near Wasankari Road, with 10 there on 3/6 and 2 on 4/22. Sue Nattinger and Coleman Byrnes last reported their winter-over American Tree Sparrow in the same area on 2/28. When the snow left, so did the Tree Sparrow. Speaking of snow, Scott Rose reported the only Snow Bunting of late winter on 3/19, apparently getting grit on Hwy 112 near Salt Creek Rd.

Among shorebirds, Leslie and Bob Bagwell last spotted the winter-over Willet at Dungeness Bay on 3/5, the fourth straight winter that one Willet remained in Dungeness Bay, possibly the same bird. Stacey Fradkin and Marion Rutledge reported 2 Pacific Golden-Plovers in alternate plumage at 3 Crabs on 4/1, where Bob Boekelheide found a different one in basic plumage on 4/2. Curiously, one Pacific Golden-Plover also wintered over during the past two winters, but other than these sightings they haven't been seen so far this winter. Where are they hiding?

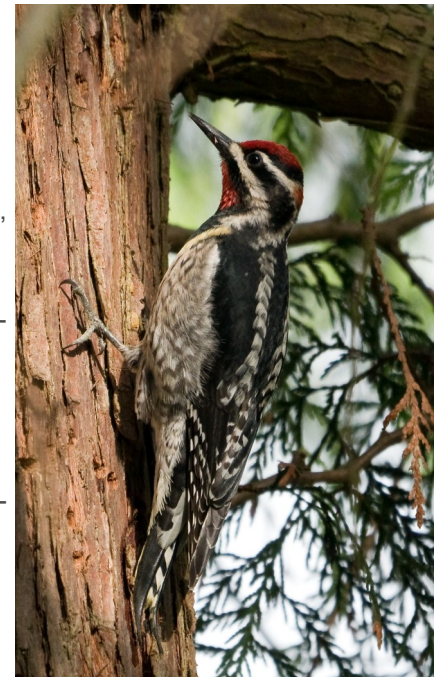
Bingo! Michael Barry finally saw a Wandering Tattler in Clallam County, discovering one at Shipwreck Point on 4/28. Lastly, Cindy Fullwiler spotted at least 3 Dunlin at 3 Crabs that were missing feet, walking around with stumps on one leg. Cindy asks: How could Dunlin lose feet? Don't know.

One or possibly two very white immature Glaucous Gulls has been lurking around Dungeness through March and April. Barb and Bob Boekelheide found one Glaucous with other gulls in a pasture by the Dungeness River on 3/22. John Gatchet found a very similar Glaucous Gull at Roberta's Pond on 4/24. Same bird? Don't know.

There was a wonderful movement of Sandhill Cranes in mid-April. The Neah Bay BirdFest field trip watched several big flocks pass overhead at Neah Bay. Later, Ida Domazlicky watched 24 Sandhill Cranes fly over RR Bridge Park near Sequim on 4/19, the same day that Bob and Barb Boekelheide watched 25 Sandhills flying over Dungeness. The Boeks also watched 217 Greater White-fronted Geese and 19 Cackling Geese at Dungeness Bay the same day.

Yellow-billed Loons appear to be a fixture during winter in waters near Protection Island. The Protection Island Aquatic Reserve surveys spotted 5 Yellow-billed Loons on 3/29, the high count for this winter. Sarah Peden and Pam Cahn found one off Diamond Point on 4/7, and John Gatchet spotted one near Gardiner on 3/1 and 4/8. The BirdFest Gardiner field trip also discovered one at Diamond Point on 4/14. Leslie and Bob Bagwell found another Yellow-billed Loon in Neah Bay on 3/2.

Among sensitive species, there are two reports of Great Gray Owls in Clallam County this spring, one on the Miller Peninsula on 4/8 by John Woolley, and one in west Clallam County on 4/21, viewed by a visitor from Texas. Cindy Fullwiler reported the last sighting of the wintering-over Gyrfalcon on 3/8, northeast of Sequim, likely the same bird first seen on the Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count. Another Red-naped Sapsucker appeared this spring, this one for the Wednesday Morning Bird Walk in RR Bridge Park on 4/3. It stuck around for at least two days, seen and photographed by several people.



Red-naped Sapsucker
Photo by Dow Lambert

Much more spring migration is on its way, so get out there and find some birds. The month of May brings more flycatchers, Swainson's Thrushes, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, and much more. Watch the mudflats and shorelines for flashy shorebirds rushing north to the Arctic. Go to the mountains for pipits, Horned Larks, and rosy finches. Then email Bob Boekelheide (bboek@olympus.net) when you see something interesting or unusual. Thank you very much for your sightings.

Orca Forum in Port Angeles Friday, May 10, 2019

Where: Elwha Heritage Center (401 E 1st St, Port Angeles, WA 98362)

When: 1-4 p.m., May 10, 2019

Cost: Free

Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended by contacting Helle Andersen at hander-sen@co.clallam.wa.us.

The Marine Resources Committee (MRC) of Clallam County invites you to attend a free public forum about Southern Resident Orca Whales at the Lower Elwha Heritage Center, Port Angeles on May 10 from 1 to 4p.m. Four members from the Governor's Orca Recovery Task Force will be on-hand to highlight the current status of our Southern Resident Orcas and some of the Task Force recommendations. Specifically, they will discuss how the decreasing availability of Chinook salmon is impacting our orcas; the need to reduce toxins in our waters; funding for continuing restoration efforts; and how we can reduce noise or acoustic disturbance affecting the whales. Panelists include:

- Dr. Rich Osborne, Whale Museum/Soundwatch/UW; Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership board, Science Seat on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council
- Dr. Todd Hass, Chair, Puget Sound Partnership, Vessels Task Force
- Dr. Scott Veirs, Chair, Puget Sound ecosystem monitoring program (PSEMP) Marine Mammal Work Group
- Donna Sandstrom, Founder and Executive Director of The Whale Trail and member of Vessel Impacts Working Group

Celebration of Science and Technology, Saturday, May 11, 2019

The Orca Forum on May 10 is followed by the annual Celebration of Science and Technology from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 11 at the Port Angeles City Pier and Feiro Marine Life Center Center (315 N. Lincoln St, Port Angeles, WA 98362). This is a free, family-friendly event, host-



*Orca Breaching near
San Juan Island*

ed by Feiro Marine Life Center, Olympic Climate Action, and Sierra Club North Olympic Group. People of all ages and interests are invited to engage with scientists at booths and presentations, and “meet” other scientists in our community through a poster display. To put a face on science in the community, Science on Display provides profiles of local active and retired scientists and science educators.

This year's opening speaker is Dr. Nick Bond, a WA climatologist. His presentation is “*Are Salmon Doomed? Hatching a Plan to Save a Northwest Icon. From climate change to pollution, taking a deeper look at the past, present, and future of salmon in Washington State.*” In addition, the Annual GeekOut Favorite, “Einstein's Hair-Raising Story” will be presented by Paul Kolesnikoff, who has a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics, and has been involved with the design and construction of antennas and Radar Cross Section test facilities.

Come learn about birds, bugs, tea, trees, water, and how to capture power from the sun. Visit with some of our favorite local scientists as they show you how they use science in their work and lives.

For additional information on the Celebration of Science & Technology event, contact Melissa Williams, melisaw@feiomarinelifecenter.org, (360) 417-6254; or Krestine Reed, NOPVoices@att.net, (360) 397-3420.

Harlequin Happenings

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



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NAS Code Y08

Date: _____

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