



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 4 July-August, 2019

“Volunteer educators and stewards for birds and habitat conservation”

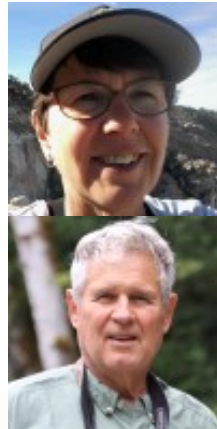
OPAS Programs

[Editor's Note: There will be no general meetings of OPAS during the summer months. Join us September 18, 2019, for our Fall kick-off program.]

OPAS Field Trips in July and August

by Marie Grad and John Gatchet

[Note: Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society is instituting a new policy for all field trips with the exception of the Wednesday Bird Walks. We are asking field trip participants to sign a liability release form for the trip. This signed form will be good for future field trips. Visit the OPAS website at <https://olympicpeninsulaudubon.org/> and click on the Field Trips tab, where you can review, download, and print the form in advance.]



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 suitable clothing.

Hurricane Ridge

Date and Time: Sunday, July 14, 8:00 a. m.-2:30 p.m.

Leader: John Gatchet

Cost: Free; however, a park pass is required.

Meeting Place: Olympic National Park HQ Parking Lot

Features: We will walk trails at ONP Headquarters and in the Hurricane Ridge area. There will be stops at pullouts on the

way up to Hurricane Ridge. The emphasis will be on forest and alpine birds. A number of species will be identified by sound. Hiking should be planned for some uneven surfaces. **Bring:** Binoculars, water, snacks, lunch, and appropriate clothing and footwear for hiking and the weather. Participants will need a park pass or car pool with those having one.

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

Purple Martin Outing -- August 2019

Date & Time: Friday, Aug 2, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Leader: Ken Wiersema

Meeting place: 3 Crabs parking area

Cost: Free

Features: This outing focuses on our local Purple Martin colony out on the three new steel pilings that replace the old wooden Dungeness Pier. This spring, we installed 22 new tube-type nest boxes to accommodate the Martins. By August, some Martin young will have fledged, but it's an opportunity to watch adults and fledglings interact before they stage-up and migrate to South America for the winter.

Bring: Binocs, scopes, calf

level boots (We will be walking onto wet, sand tide flats for a close look at the Martin nest colony.), and personal items as desired.

Further Information: Contact Ken Wiersema wiersema@olympus.net / phone 360 460-5515 (Go to page three)



Purple Martins
Photo by Dow Lambert

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.

OPAS Board of Directors

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Education, Ken Wiersema, 360-460-5515
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Newsletter, Rob Hutchison, 253-293-3801 rbrycehut@wavecable.com
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President's Notes

by Judi White



In July, I will take over the Presidency of OPAS from Bob Phreaner. It is a daunting responsibility to take over the presidency of an organization so well loved and tended. Bob coordinated with other Audubon Washington representatives and diverse conservation coalition groups to achieve the major conservation victory in May 2019, Senate Bill 5116, which puts Washington State on a path toward 100 percent clean electricity by 2045. The law also creates conservation standards for large new buildings, phases out harmful hydro-fluorocarbons, sets new efficiency standards for appliances, and places Washington State in a leadership position in the national clean-power movement. In other good legislative news, DRAC expansion received a \$1.5 million Washington State Capital Budget Appropriation. We are grateful for the representation and leadership of Representatives Steve Tharinger (Chair of the House Budget Committee), Mike Chapman, and Senator Kevin Van De Wege.

Bob Phreaner will be returning to chair the OPAS Conservation Committee to continue his hard work, and has asked Conservation Committee member Pete Walker to assist him as vice-chair. Other OPAS Officers have generously offered to remain in their positions, including Bob Boekelheide as Vice-President, Enid Phreaner as Secretary, and Wendy Hirotaka as Treasurer, and I thank them for bringing me up to speed and assisting with this transition. Marie Grad has accepted the co-chair position on the Field Trip Committee with John Gatchet, who recently joined the OPAS Board and has led numerous excellent OPAS field trips. Marie will continue the quarterly "Beginners and Newcomers" bird walk series. Our other OPAS Board members and committee chairs have also agreed to remain in their positions, too numerous to name, but please see the Board listing. Their contributions are very valuable, but we also encourage new members to volunteer and become more involved with OPAS. One such is Sandy Boren, who has offered to co-chair the Publicity committee with Sara-Ellen Peterson. Sandy came to Sequim three years ago. As a keen nature lover and gardener, she is enjoying her retirement and especially appreciates OPAS and DRAC for making it easy to find the local activities she loves: birding, wildflower walks, and the book club. She spent most of her working life as a software engineer and is facile with social media.

Three years ago was also the time I first came to Sequim, and after completing cancer treatment in fall 2017, I decided to retire from my medical practice and pick up my binoculars to see what birds I could find besides those who had faithfully visited me at my back yard feeder during my treatment. Eventually, I discovered the Wednesday morning bird walks and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, a group of most generous, organized, and committed volunteers, with a mission to promote birding and habitat conservation through science-based education, advocacy, and stewardship. OPAS has certainly inspired my wonder, and I feel the responsibility to serve the organization as President as a means to say "thank-you" for the caring, and the birding, and conservation education I have received. To borrow from the National Audubon slogan "You are what hope looks like to a bird". I would also add "A bird is what hope looks like to you": hope for a sustainable future, including birds and the places they need in a healthy society.

Hear Ye!

Mark your calendar now
for
Birathon 2020

Saturday, May 9, 2020

OPAS Field Trips in July and August *(Continued from page one)*

Dungeness Recreation Area—Free

Date and Time: Friday, August 9, 8a.m. to 12 noon

Leader: Stacey Fradkin

Meeting Place: 1st parking lot to left AFTER the main 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 outing will be about listening, looking, and searching out resident adults and fledglings. The trail is moderately strenuous, with some hills.

Bring: Binoculars, snacks, and clothing for the weather.

Further Information: Contact Stacey Fradkin, fstacey3@msn.com, 505 670-3153

Neah Bay

Date and Time: Sunday, August 25, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Leader: John Gatchet

Meeting place: Washburn's Store on Highway 112 (Bay View Ave.) in Neah Bay

Cost: Free; however, a Makah Nation Recreation Pass (\$10 and good for one calendar year) is required for each vehicle, and can be purchased at Washburn's Store or the Mini Mart

Features: The best hotspots in the Neah Bay area will be covered with an emphasis on both water and land birds. Expect the unexpected and 70 or more species. There will be some walking on the beach. This will be a day of birding and we will finish with a drive up Bahokus Peak for those with high clearance vehicles suitable for travel on logging roads.

Bring: Binoculars, spotting scope, water, snacks, lunch, and clothing and footwear for the weather conditions.

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

Ocean Shores

Dates: Monday and Tuesday September 16 and 17

Meeting place & time: 8:00 a.m. Monday in the parking lot of the Brown Point Jetty at the south end of Ocean Shores Boulevard. Tuesday's starting time and place will be determined later.

Cost: Free but participants pay for own lodging and meals

Leader: Judith White

Features: Migrating shorebirds of Grays Harbor and other Pacific Coastal spots. Rarities are always a possibility.

Activity level: Walking on uneven surfaces in dunes and marshes. There will be driving between birding locations.

Bring: Optics, water, lunch for both days, footwear for walking, especially on beaches, and clothing for any weather changes.

Preregistration required!: Contact Judith White (206) 641-1842 drwhitej@gmail.com.

Other Events

Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS)

By Jennifer Lang

Conservation Science Coordinator, Seattle Audubon Society

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.



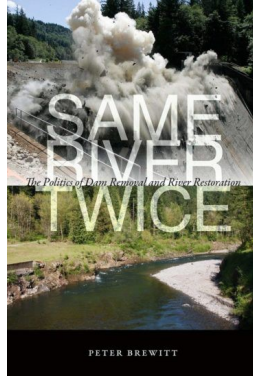
*Mew Gull
Photo by Mick Thompson*

You can contribute to this vital seabird science by joining the thirteenth 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 your seabird identification skills, visit www.seabirdsurvey.com to take our quick, fun Seabird ID quiz. Learn more, including training locations, at www.seabirdsurvey.org and email Toby Ross, Senior Science Manager toby@seattleaudubon.org if you would like more information or to take part.

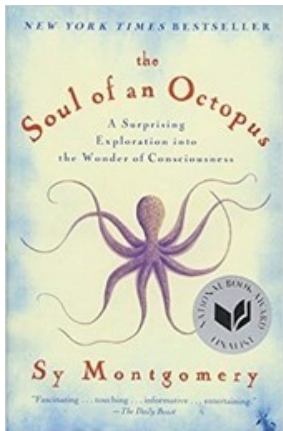
Harlequin Happenings

OPAS Book Discussion Group Takes a Summer Vacation *By Lori Moilanen*

The OPAS Book Discussion Group will take a summer holiday in July and August – no book discussions are scheduled for these months. We will resume our regular monthly schedule on September 24 with a discussion of the just-published book *Same River Twice: The Politics of Dam Removal and River Restoration* led by Judi White. This book tells the story of three major Northwestern dam removals by examining the politics, people, hopes, and fears associated with the rivers and their communities. Of special interest is that one of the case studies in the book examines the dam removal on the Elwha River.



In October, we will join other Clallam County book discussion groups in reading *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness*, in preparation for a visit by author Sy Montgomery to the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) in November. NOLS will provide free lending copies of this acclaimed book to the OPAS



discussion group as part of their outreach event. The OPAS book discussion is scheduled for October 29.

The OPAS Book Discussion Group meets from 4:00 – 5:30 PM at the Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC) on the fourth Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Links to the currently scheduled titles, book summaries, and discussion questions are posted at olympicaudubonsociety.org, on the Book Group tab. For more information contact lori_moilanen@wavecable.com.

Kudos to Laura, Liam, and Dow Conservation Award 2018-2019

By Mary Porter-Solberg and Ken Wiersema

Each year the OPAS Conservation committee nominates individuals for their contributions and achievements in studying and improving the conservation of our local birds. This recognition can be presented to OPAS members or others in our community who perform a noteworthy act or make lasting contributions over many years. This year we acknowledged the accomplishments of three of our members: Laura Davis, Liam Antrim, and Dow Lambert

Liam and Laura were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in leading the 2018-2019 OPAS Trumpeter-Tundra

Swan study. They stepped forward to schedule weekly data collection teams and added two additional areas of study. They arranged monitoring to establish where swans were going to night roosts and where they were at risk to strike power lines. Their organizational skills and competence overcame challenging winter conditions, requiring frequent rescheduling and logistic adjustments. Liam initiated new contacts with property owners to allow volunteers to access and count swans on lands that were hidden from the road. Laura's comprehensive weekly reports provided timely study data to volunteers and OPAS members. Their study data became an important part of the State's Priority Habitat and Species Database and was also shared with the Northwest Swan Conservation Association and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Laura and Liam's leadership strengthened and expanded this



Conservation Award recipients, from left: Dow Lambert, Bob Phreaner (outgoing President), Laura Davis, and Liam Antrim

longstanding OPAS community science project.

Dow Lambert earned recognition for over 9 years of stellar contributions to our Chapter's Purple Martin Project. He has volunteered countless hours to design, build, install, repair, and maintain an array of over 35 nest boxes located at the 3 Crabs restoration site, on Protection Island NWR, and near Port Angeles. He readily contributes his photographic skills to catalog the progress of the breeding activity and document the annual cycle of Martin reproduction successes. His commitments include working in adverse weather, hanging nest boxes from atop a 15 ft. ladder, midnight box recovery from tideflats in mid-winter, and acceptance of personal health risks when handling bird waste. Dow also generously contributes many excellent photographs and videos to our education and funding programs. Dow is fun and inspirational to work with and an

exemplary example of volunteering to provide safe nesting spaces for migrating birds.

Marion is a Treasure!

Harlequin Award 2018-2019

By Audrey Gift and Bob Boekelheide

Annually, past Harlequin awardees who have remained active as OPAS leaders solicit nominees from our board and mem-



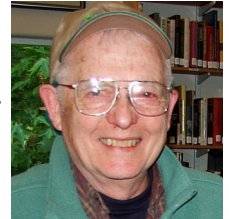
Marion Rutledge receives Harlequin Award from Ken Wiersema
Photo by Bob Phreaner

bership for a member who has made outstanding contributions to our programs and mission. This year, **Marion Rutledge** has been recognized for her invaluable contributions to OPAS and the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

She has been one of the most forthcoming and dependable volunteers for Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society for many years, working behind the scenes to support both OPAS and the Dungeness River Audubon Center with uncounted invaluable accomplishments. Marion was one of the first to embrace the concept that OPAS and the Center should have a shared on-line database. She worked tirelessly to help create the database, becoming one of the first to be trained in its use. She continues to teach others and to resolve inevitable glitches as they occur. She has been a reliable and omnipresent BirdFest volunteer. She communicates with Audubon societies throughout the country, making sure our festival is promoted far and wide. She masterfully coordinates volunteers for BirdFest events, and happily volunteers herself to lead and assist early-morning bird trips. Marion is a frequent co-leader of the Wednesday morning bird walks at Railroad Bridge Park, shar-

ing her knowledge and ensuring each person feels welcome. For several years she has stepped forward to help compile bird sighting data on the bird walks. Through it all, she shares her wisdom and diligent work ethic with a happy smile, spreading good feelings that encourages others to participate and support our organizations.

Many Thanks to Marion Rutledge for her many years of stellar service to the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society and the Dungeness River Audubon Center.



Education Notes

By Ken Wiersema

Backyard Birder

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**. Bob will explain his frequently repeated mantra, "there is no species named Seagull." Come learn how to identify the more than a dozen species of gulls, gull-like birds, and the multitude of their shorebird associates who call the Olympic Peninsula home, visit us in their migration, or breed here. The program is richly illustrated with regional photographs, and we welcome your questions and comments. Bob will lead a short field trip after the class to a local shoreline.

Backyard Birding can be attended either as an individual class, selecting programs of interest from the series. Or you may attend the entire series. The cost of each session is \$5. Admission is free for anyone under 18. For participants attending five sessions within the annual series, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) offers a one-year membership at no additional cost.

Backyard birding programs will be on hiatus for August and September. New and revitalized programs will return on Oct 5th. Watch for them!

We invite new presenters to be part of our Backyard birding programs. If you have a topic you'd want to present or know of a speaker who'd be interested in doing a class, please let me or Rhonda Marks-Coats (remarksedits@gmail.com) know and we'll follow up. And if you wish to suggest a new or revised bird subject we should offer, also let us know. A list of the speakers and class topics for the 2019-20 programs will be in the next edition.

And a big Thank You to **Denny Van Horn**, many years a Backyard Birder speaker, who plans to move away from Sequim this fall and will be absent from our list of next year's speakers. We'll miss you. (Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Learn by the Light of the Moon

By Ken Wiersema and Jenna Ziogas, Ed. Coordinator, DRAC

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. (Continued on page 6)

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?). If raining, the program moves into the Center building.

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

Perhaps no other behavior so defines cougars, as their ability to subdue and kill prey many times their size. And its no doubt that their unique weapons and hunting strategies make them scary. Join Mark Elbroch of Panthera for a visual and anecdotal presentation on the Peninsula's largest carnivore, the cougar. Through research and visual imagery, Mark will discuss how cougars hunt, which prey they prefer, and how often they feed. He'll also discuss how cougar hunting behaviors fit into our larger ecosystems. Appropriate for all ages.

Major fundraising milestone reached to expand the Dungeness River Audubon Center

By the Capital Campaign Committee



The woodpecker now perches at 90% of the goal reached on the Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign banner. Representing the volunteer Capital Campaign Committee are (L-R) Darcy McNamara, Annette Hanson (Chair), Powell Jones (Center Director), Kendra Donelson, Wanda Schneider, and Tuttie Peetz (in front).

The expansion of the Dungeness River Audubon Center is much closer, thanks to a grant of \$1.5 million from a State Capital Budget Appropriation. The planned expansion includes a new access road and parking lot, addition of a new wing, and remodel of the current building located in the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's Railroad Bridge Park on the Dungeness River in Sequim. The project is now at 90 percent of its total goal of approximately \$3.6 million. A "Bridge the Gap" initiative has begun to raise the remaining funds through a combination of grants, fundraising events, and contributions from individual and businesses. Funds raised by River Center volunteers will expand the current building to add a classroom, 150-seat community multipurpose room, commercial kitchen, restrooms, office space, gift shop, and concession stand. Remodeling the existing building will provide enhanced and larger exhibit space, children's discovery corner, library, and bird-viewing area. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council has purchased 4.5 acres of land east of the Center and has made significant commitments to build the new road, parking lot, and site improvements. Recent grant funding also has been awarded by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and the First Federal Community Foundation.

Incorporated in 1994, the Dungeness River Audubon Center has become a unique resource for educational activities that connect people with nature. It is run by three partner organizations: Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC), the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS).

Construction of a new entry road and parking lot off Hendrickson Road will begin this summer. Work on detailed architectural plans for the new building wing and remodel of the existing building is underway. Construction of the new wing will begin as soon as the funding goal is complete.

To contribute and learn more about the campaign, including a video, visit www.dungenessrivercenter.org. "Bridge the Gap" campaign volunteers are looking for groups interested in hearing more about the project. Contact Capital Campaign Chair Annette Hanson at 360-670-6774.

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Birdathon Report and Bird Sightings

By Bob Boekelheide



The Clallam County Birdathon, always held on World Migratory Bird Day on the second Saturday in May, is in significant transition partly due to the growth of eBird, the online bird records app. In the past, Birdathon participants counted birds at many Clallam locations and submitted paper tally sheets with their records. eBird instead provides an electronic tally sheet, and anyone who submits eBird records in Clallam County on Birdathon day essentially becomes a Birdathon participant, as long as the compiler (me) can find their data in eBird. Are the two methods comparable? Yes and no.

This year 79 people in 42 parties counted 15,429 individual birds of 177 species. This is a very respectable species count for any county in Washington, but still far below the record Clallam count of 203 species seen in 2012. The species count is also below the average of 181 species for the last 26 years. Our total number of individual birds is well below the record total of 33,537 birds observed in 2010, and also below the average total (23,760 birds) for our mid-May count.

This year's Birdathon data includes eBird tallies from a group of birders riding on the Star Princess, a repositioning cruise ship traveling from Los Angeles to Vancouver BC. This group counted birds approximately 30-35 mi west of La Push, technically within Clallam County according to the way that eBird tallies offshore birds. Consequently we ended up with high counts of species like Black-footed Albatross, Pink-footed Shearwater, and Red-necked Phalarope. But other than the cruise ship, the only species setting a record high count on land this year was Sora.

Unfortunately there were fewer people counting in fewer places this year, particularly at the west end of Clallam County. This led to lower counts than typical for several species. Species with low counts this year included Brant, Surf and White-winged Scoters, California Quail, Common Loon, Brandt's and Double-crested Cormorants, Black Oystercatcher, Western Sandpiper, Mew and Western Gulls, Caspian Tern, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Vaux's Swift, Rufous Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Tree Swallow, and Pacific Wren. In addition, we totally missed several species typically on our list, including



Sora
Photo by Judi White

Merlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Western Screech-Owl, and Great Horned Owl.

The most unusual Birdathon species was a migrating Broad-winged Hawk that passed over the Old Dungeness Schoolhouse, seen by Mark Salvadalena and Bob Boekelheide.

No matter how the data are recorded, our goal remains unchanged -- to produce a one-day snapshot of the avifauna of Clallam County on World Migratory Bird Day, the second Saturday in May. Please put next year's Birdathon on your calendars right now -- Saturday, May 9, 2020.

Many thanks to our Birdathon participants: Lee Bowen, Laura Davis, Alan Smith, Bruce & Carol Von Borstel, Marsha Wiles, Bob Iddins, Karen Parker, Kate, Peter, & Annette Buenau, John & Diana Anderson, Audrey Gift, Kathy & Otis Bush, John Gatchet, Trudy Wegehaupt, Ken Wiersema, Powell Jones, John Woolley, Alan Selig, Arnold & Debbie Schouten, Michael Barry, Judy Mullally, Steve & Sandy Bengtson, Tom Butler, Lee Leddy Scott Horton, Bob Boekelheide, Mark Salvadalena, Judy White, Pete Walker, Jean Siesener, Ida Domazlicky, Bob & Enid Phreaner, Iris Winslow, Heidi Pedersen, Ally Simons, Sandra Boren, Marie Grad, Denny Van Horn, Bruce Paige, Myra & Ed Koszykowski, Karen Holtrop, Derek Buchner, Sue Nattinger, Coleman Byrnes, Judy Collins, Adrienne Akmajian, Kristen Johanson, Kendra Donelson, Killian White, Star Princess Cruise Ship -- WINGS tour, NatureScape tour, Matt Dufort, and others.

(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Among other bird sightings, an interesting story comes from Stacey Fradkin, who on 6/14 spotted a Trumpeter Swan through the trees near Quilcene, as she zoomed by on Highway 101. What is a Trumpeter Swan doing here in mid-June? A few days later a single Trumpeter Swan mysteriously appeared down the road at Crocker Lake, seen by Dan Waggoner and John Gatchet. Is it the same bird?

A male Blue-winged Teal visited Charlotte Watts' pond at Chicken Coop Hollow Rd on 5/29; only the second time in 30 years she has seen a Blue-winged Teal at that spot. Bruce Paige found a very late Greater White-fronted Goose still mixed in a Canada Goose flock at Schmuck Road on 5/25.

There was a lovely wave of early-returning shorebirds in Dungeness Bay on 6/23-24, including Western, Least, and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Marbled Godwits, Semipalmated Plovers, and one Long-billed Curlew. The bird that created the most interest, however, was an unusual Hudsonian Godwit found at 3 Crabs by Richard Baltierra on 6/24. This godwit, possibly a post-breeding female, remained in Dungeness Bay until at least 6/26, and was seen by several observers.



*Hudsonian Godwit (right) flying
with Marbled Godwit
Photo by John Gatchet*

John Gatchet and Bob Bagwell spotted a banded Snowy Plover at Tsoo-Yess Beach on 5/22. John heard back that this bird was banded as a chick in San Luis Obispo County, California, in 2018, and it was last seen near San Luis Obispo in March 2019. Spencer Hildie found a Wandering Tattler at Dungeness Spit on 6/3, an unusual spot for a tattler. One Willet showed up for the OPAS field trip to 3 Crabs on 5/4, possibly a different bird than the one that stayed here during winter. Red Knots

remained later than usual, with up to 10 knots at 3 Crabs through 6/6.



*Snowy Plover
Photo by John Gatchet*

The lone immature Glaucous Gull that has been wandering around Dungeness since March was last seen by Bruce Paige at 3 Crabs on 5/8.

It is now typical for birders and birding companies looking for offshore seabirds to ride on repositioning cruise ships. The spring trips usually start in Southern California and head to Seattle or Vancouver. Other than the Star Princess mentioned above, birders on a different ship spotted 7 Murphy's Petrels about 75 mi SW of La Push on 5/2. Murphy's Petrel is a dark gadfly petrel that nests on remote southern hemisphere islands in French Polynesia. They occur often enough off our coast to suggest that they migrate by here every year.

Joel Brady-Power boated off the west Clallam coastline in late May, seeing a nice variety of offshore birds. He reported a Flesh-footed Shearwater mixed with other birds on 5/27 about 28 mi west of Cape Alava, and a Brown Booby on 5/29 about 18 mi west of Cape Alava. Closer to shore, Ken Brown reported a Thick-billed Murre in the surf off Tsoo-Yess Beach on 5/4, seeing all the field marks that separate Thick-billed from Common Murre.

Pelicans in the news: On 5/13, a group of 24 American White Pelicans roosted at dawn on the shore of Dungeness Bay, part of a trend of white pelicans appearing in the Salish Sea during spring. On 6/3, Bob Bagwell spotted 5 more white pelicans north of Protection Island in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Be on the lookout for Brown Pelicans during this El Nino summer -- Tom Leschine spotted a pair of Brown Pelicans from the ferry in Admiralty Inlet on 6/22.



White Pelicans
Photo by John Gatchet

Spring is the time to visit Bahokus Peak near Neah Bay for migrating raptors and Sandhill Cranes. Reports this year include multiple Golden Eagles, Swainson's Hawks, and Broad-winged Hawks. Single Sandhill Cranes showed up elsewhere in Clallam County in May, including 4 flying over Bob and Leslie Bagwell's home at Blue Ribbon Farms on 5/13, one that passed over Kathleen Kleinschmidt's home in Port Angeles on 5/18, and another seen by Jean Siesener and others at Schmuck Road from 5/19-21.

Sally Harris photographed a lovely female Northern Bobwhite at her home near Sequim on 6/7. Other recent Bobwhite sightings come from the usual areas near Joyce, where Bruce Paige heard 2 males calling on 5/2 and Sue Nattinger found 2 others on 5/24. Sue spoke to the owner of the property, who confirmed that the birds escaped this winter when snow collapsed fences on his property.

It's been a good winter and spring for Red-naped Sapsuckers in Clallam, including one found at Mora campground by Kathleen Kleinschmidt on 5/2.

The best mountain bird report comes from Jordan Gunn, who hiked to Marmot Pass and Buckhorn Mountain on 5/26. Jordan saw at least 5 Clark's Nutcrackers, 4 Pine Grosbeaks, and 2 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches. He says the nutcrackers were very social, calling and cavorting as if in courtship. Michael Heaney reported a singing Pine Grosbeak in Olympic National Park on 6/15. Not in the mountains, Sue Nattinger found a lowland Pine Grosbeak near Joyce on 5/23.

One California Scrub Jay has taken up residence on the west side of RR Bridge Park, seen on Wednesday morning bird walks on 6/5 and 6/26.



California Scrub Jay
Photo by Judi White

In other songbird news, the Bagwells reported a very late Northern Shrike at their yard in Blue Ribbon Farms on 5/28. Western Kingbirds popped up at several places: seen by Randy Hill on 5/2 at Diamond Point, seen by Judi White on 5/13 at Dungeness Landing Park, and seen by Bruce Paige on 6/14 at the Waatch River Valley. Judi White also photographed a late female Mountain Bluebird at Helen's Pond on 6/5. Will Brooks and Justine Jones found a "gorgeous" male Lapland Longspur in breeding plumage at Hobuck Beach on 5/9. Joel Brady-Power found a Clay-colored Sparrow at the jetty at Neah Bay on 6/4, along with a singing Fox Sparrow nearby. Bruce Paige also spotted a Fox Sparrow at Neah Bay on 6/14, where they likely nest.

Thank you for your sightings! Summer is upon us, so if you see or hear any interesting birds, please call Bob Boekelheide at 360-808-0196, or email bboek@olympus.net.

Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Present



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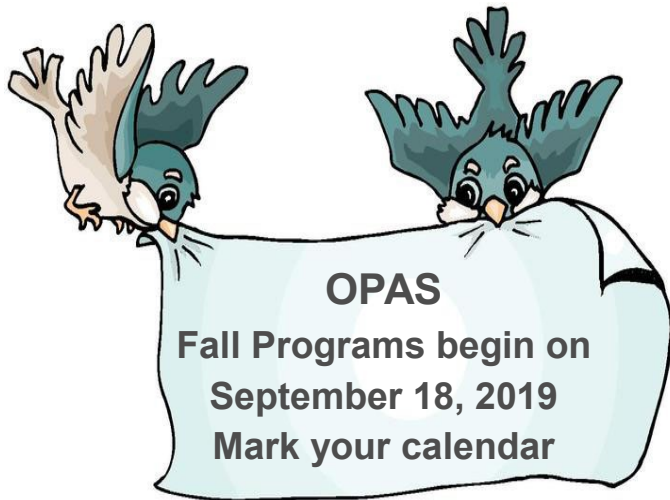
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