



# 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 November-December, 2019

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

## OPAS Program for November

By Bob Boekelheide

[Note: There is no chapter meeting in December. Happy Holidays! After November, our next OPAS membership meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2020. The January meeting will be the annual OPAS members photo show, so get your best bird photos ready for submission to Christina Heliker in early January.]



Claudio Vidal, who lives in Punta Arenas, leads extraordinary nature explorations in Patagonia, Chile, and South America, through his company Far South Expeditions. He has a particular interest in seabirds and marine mammals occurring in the Humboldt Current, Patagonia, and Antarctica. Claudio is an author of *Birds of Chile*, *Oceanic Islands and Antarctic Peninsula*, and is co-author of more than 20 books, including the acclaimed *Birds of Patagonia*, *Tierra del Fuego*, and *Antarctic Peninsula*.

November 20, 2019

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

**"Birds and Wildlife of Patagonia, from Magellan to the 21st Century"**, Presented by Claudio Vidal

2020 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magellan's voyage. One of Magellan's most important "discoveries" was Patagonia and the Magellan Straits at the southern tip of South America.



Claudio Vidal  
at the Parque Nacional Patagonia

Claudio Vidal, Chilean bird expert, will explain the natural history of this enigmatic region, looking at the birds and wildlife through the eyes of Magellan and other explorers, from Cook and Bougainville to Fitzroy and Darwin.



## OPAS Field Trips in November and December

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. (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.

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## President's Notes

by Judith White



As fall brightens the hillsides, and Dark-eyed Juncos and other "elevation migrants" return to our lower elevation, we have a broad range of OPAS activities to make the most of this beautiful season. The new "Ascent of Birds" Lecture and Discussion series continues on November 12<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> (second Tuesdays) at 4 PM at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Led by Jim Karr, OPAS Conservation Committee member and University of Washington Professor Emeritus, the series explores the book by John Reilly – *The Ascent of Birds: How Modern Science is Revealing Their Story* (2018), with illustrations, photos, and maps. Jim is a great speaker, and this is a series not to be missed!

Looking for other activities? Thanks to Stacey Fradkin, Judy Mullally and John Gatchet, we have numerous upcoming field trips. The Christmas Bird Count is also around the corner on December 16. Marie Grad continues her "Beginners and Newcomers" birdwalks in December; her September 21<sup>st</sup> walk drew 25 enthusiastic new Sequim area residents, including a bird house builder and his wife, who promptly joined OPAS. With new residents moving to Sequim, help us spread the word about OPAS and why you are a member. Invite new folks to our membership meetings, classes and bird walks.

Birds have been in the news, and even those of us who try to stay up to date on conservation issues were stunned by the new data from Rosenberg et al., published in the well-respected journal *Science*. The number of birds in the United States and Canada has declined by 3 billion, or 29 percent, since 1970. National Audubon called the findings "a full-blown crisis", and the NY Times wrote a September 19, 2019 article "Birds are Vanishing from North America." Also in October, a new study from National Audubon Society revealed climate change is the number one threat to birds. Here in Clallam County, 56% of our bird species are vulnerable to climate change on our current trajectory. The good news is that the model also shows that if we take action now we can improve the chances for the majority of species at risk from climate change. For more information on this new National Audubon study, please take a look at the Conservation article in this issue of Harlequin Happenings.

See you on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the next Membership Meeting.

## Hear Ye!

**13th Annual River Center  
Holiday Nature Mart  
Nov 22 & 23, 10am to 4pm  
Red Cedar Hall  
Jamestown Tribal  
Community Center**

Wild Birds Unlimited

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

THE FRESHEST SEED AVAILABLE  
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275953 Hwy 101, Gardiner WA 98382 Ph: 360-797-7100  
Open: 10AM to 6PM Mon. to Fri., 9AM to 6PM Sat. & Sun.

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

*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.

### Eastern Bays

*Date and Time:* Friday, November 8, 8:30 a.m.

*Cost:* Free

*Co-Leaders:* Gary Bullock and Stacey Fradkin

*Meeting Place:* North parking lot John Wayne Marina

*Features:* Come check out the arriving winter waterfowl and other winter feathered visitors. The trip is focused on the action at Sequim Bay, Pitship Pocket, Washington Harbor, Schmuck Rd. and Port Williams.

*Bring:* Wear weather appropriate clothing. The trip involves a short walk to Pitship Pocket, so walking shoes are recommended. Bring your binoculars, and a scope if you have one. You might also want to bring a snack and water.

*Further Information:* Contact Gary Bullock, [gbullcockak@hotmail.com](mailto:gbullcockak@hotmail.com) 360-797-4556; or Stacey Fradkin, [fstacey3@msn.com](mailto:fstacey3@msn.com) 505-670-3153

### Gardiner and Diamond Point

*Date and Time:* Thursday, November 14, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

*Cost:* Free

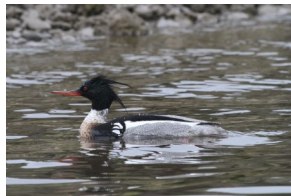
*Leader:* John Gatchet

*Meeting Place:* Gardiner Beach Boat Ramp Parking Lot

*Features:* Salt water, shoreline, field and forest bird species will be the focus of this field trip. The trip will include watching bird feeders and a variety of locations to maximize bird species. It will include Cat Lake Road in hopes of seeing Western Bluebird. There will be some walking on mostly level ground.

*Bring:* Binoculars, spotting scope, water and snacks as well as appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather.

*Further Information:* Contact John Gatchet, [jfgatchet@gmail.com](mailto:jfgatchet@gmail.com), (503) 781-5043



### Ediz Hook

*Date and Time:* Saturday, Nov.23, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

*Cost:* Free

*Leader:* Judy Mullally

*Meeting Place:* At the far end of Ediz Hook, near the boat launch and restrooms (just before the entrance to the Coast Guard Station)

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

*Bring:* Binoculars, scope if you have one, water, snack, and appropriate clothing for the weather

*Further Information:* Contact Judy Mullally, 360-452-5797



### Dungeness Landing/Three Crabs

*Date and Time:* Sunday, December 8, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

*Cost:* Free

*Leader:* John Gatchet

*Meeting Place:* Dungeness Land-

ing Parking Lot

*Features:* Salt water, shoreline, and marsh bird species will be the focus of this field trip. A few shorebirds and many waterfowl are expected. There will be some walking on the beach and in the parking lot area. These two locations are two of the most productive in the Sequim area.

*Bring:* Binoculars, spotting scope, water, snacks, as well as appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather.

*Further Information:* Contact John Gatchet, [jfgatchet@gmail.com](mailto:jfgatchet@gmail.com), (503) 781-5043

### CBC Warmup

*Date and Times:* Saturday, December 7, 8:30 a.m. (River Center); 11 a.m. (Dungeness Landing Park)

*Cost:* Free

*Leader:* Bob Boekelheide

*Meeting Places:* Dungeness River Audubon Center (8 a.m.); and Dungeness Landing Park (11 a.m.)

*Features:* CBC warmup birding for landbirds at the Railroad Bridge Park, and for shorebirds at Dungeness Landing Park

*Bring:* Binoculars, spotting scope, water, snacks, as well as appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather.

*Further information:* Contact Bob Boekelheide, at [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net), or call 360-808-0196

### Birding for Beginners and Newcomers

*Date and Time:* Saturday, December 21, 8:30 a.m.

*Cost:* Free

*Leader:* Marie Grad

*Meeting Place:* Dungeness River Audubon Center

*Features:* Interested in the birds that you see in your yard or on your walk? Seen something you want to identify? Join local birders for a walk in the Park. All levels welcome.

*Bring:* Binoculars if you have them; some loaners may be available. We will be walking along the Olympic Discovery Trail up to the Railroad Bridge, so wear comfy shoes.

*Further Information:* Contact Marie Grad, [MIgrad53@gmail.com](mailto:MIgrad53@gmail.com), 360 620-4035

## Harlequin Happenings

### Other Events

#### Christmas Bird Counts Are Here

The Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count (SDCBC) occurs this year on Monday, Dec. 16. Like all CBCs, the SDCBC covers a 15-mile diameter circle, running from Diamond Point on the east to MacDonald Creek on the west, and from Dungeness Spit on the north to the Olympic foothills on the south. This area includes the "towns" of Sequim, Gardiner, Blyn, Diamond Point, Dungeness, and Carlsborg, along with all the fields, forests, water, and parks within the circle.

If you live within this area and know the birds, please help by becoming a "Feeder Watcher," tallying up the birds that come to your backyards and neighborhoods on count day. In addition to feeder watchers, we also have 30-35 "Field Parties" that cover specific regions of the count circle. No matter how you count, we ask that you keep close track of your times and distances, to allow us to make comparisons with other counts and other years. If you wish to participate in the SDCBC, please contact Bob Boekelheide at [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net) or call 360-808-0196.

A great way to prepare for Christmas Counts is to join the Wednesday morning birdwalk at RR Bridge Park, every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. starting at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Also go on OPAS field trips this fall to learn what birds are here, in addition to looking at birds around your houses as much as possible. The CBC warmup field trip occurs Saturday Dec 7, starting at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at 8:30 a.m. for landbirds, then meeting at Dungeness Landing Park at 11 a.m. for waterbirds. If you see any birds out of the ordinary before the CBC, please let Bob know.

Other CBCs on the north Olympic Peninsula include Port Townsend (Dec 14), Neah Bay (Dec 15), and Port Angeles (Dec 28). 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 ([dbjahnke@att.net](mailto:dbjahnke@att.net)), and the compiler for Neah Bay is Charlie Wright ([cwright770@gmail.com](mailto:cwright770@gmail.com)). Please contact these compilers if you can help with these counts.

#### Birds and Beverages

An informal gathering of birders of all abilities. If you want to meet new OPAS members and interested area residents, you're invited to share your favorite spots, share bird photography tips, discuss research you may be working on – the sky's the limit. Birds and Beverages is low key and it's fun.

*Date and time:* November 13, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

*Where:* Gather at Wind Rose Cellars, 143 W. Washington St. Sequim, WA. Beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and snacks are available for purchase.

*Additional information:* Contact <http://www.windrosecellars.com/>

#### River Center Holiday Nature Mart

The 13th Annual River Center Holiday Nature Mart offers unique, high quality, hand-crafted, nature-related items that set it apart from other holiday bazaars. Features include gifts & ornaments, wreath making & table arrangements, sweet & savory baked goods, holiday photo ops, and a raffle. All proceeds support Railroad Bridge Park & the Dungeness River Audubon Center Education Programs.



*Date and Time:* November 22 & 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Location:* Red Cedar Hall, Tribal Community Center, 1033 Old Blyn Highway, Sequim (On the waterside of HWY 101, just east of the Long House Market & 7 Cedars Casino)

*Note:* This a temporary venue while the new road & parking lot are being constructed at Railroad Bridge Park for the expansion of the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

#### Bake Table volunteers Needed

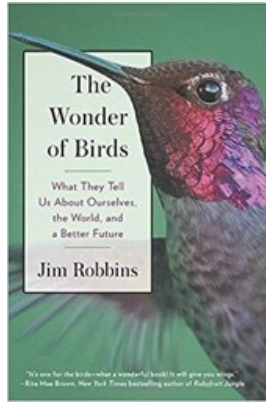
Your help is needed in donating baked goods to sell at this year's River Center Holiday Nature Mart. If you could prepare baked goods, such as pies, cakes, cookies, breads, candy, or some savory items, we would greatly appreciate your donation. Items should be in clear plastic wrap or clear bags, labeled, and not require refrigeration. Please list any common allergy ingredients, or if they are gluten free (always welcome).

Because this year's Nature Mart will be at a new location, we will be able to accept baked good donations at the River Center (outside only) from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, November 21. Otherwise, please bring them anytime during the event at the Red Cedar Hall, Tribal Community Center, 1033 Old Blyn Highway.

If you can volunteer to donate baked goods or have any questions, please contact Wanda Schneider at 281-468-3259 or email at [w.schneider105@yahoo.com](mailto:w.schneider105@yahoo.com). Thanks

**OPAS Book Discussion Group**

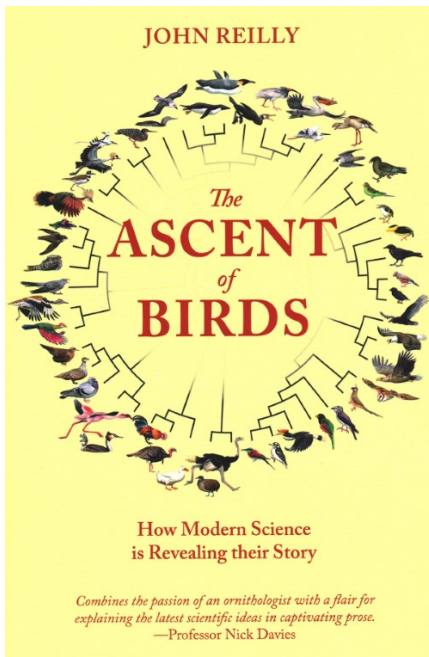
On Tuesday, November 19 (note: third Tuesday), Bruce Fryxell will lead discussion of *The Wonder of Birds: What They Tell Us About Ourselves, the World, and a Better Future* by Jim Robbins. This engaging book highlights qualities unique to birds that demonstrate how invaluable they are to humans both ecologically and spiritually. The author weaves scientific data and historical information into an eloquent explanation of why we must fight to save imperiled bird populations and the places they live for the sake of both the planet and humankind.



The OPAS Book Discussion Group meets from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC) on the fourth Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. [There will be no book discussion meeting in December. A possible organizational meeting may be arranged in December, if the discussion group is to continue into the new year. Look for details on the OPAS website.] Links to the currently scheduled titles, book summaries, and discussion questions are posted at olympicaudubonsociety.org, under the Book Group tab. For more information contact lori\_moilanen@wavecable.com.

**The Ascent of Birds : An Invitation to the Spectacular Diversity of Birds**

Join **Jim Karr**, University of Washington Professor Emeritus, for a lecture and discussion series stimulated by a pioneering new book by John Reilly – *The Ascent of Birds: How Modern Science Is Revealing Their Story* (2018). Each session will explore key concepts in the evolution of a bird species or group. All discussions are richly illustrated with photos, maps, and other visual material. Read one or two average ten-page chapters for each session. All sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of the month.



*Where:* Dungeness River Audubon Center  
*Dates:* November 12th – The Waterfowl’s Story: Refugia, High Living, and Sex. (How to fly over the Himalayas and more)  
 December 10th – The Hoatzin’s Story: An Improbable Voyage (They always have a bad hair day!)  
*Time:* 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
*Cost:* Free  
*For more information:* Contact Jim Karr (jrkarr@olympen.com), (360)-681-316

**Backyard Birding Series: Landscaping for Birds with Native Plants**

*Date & Time:* November 2, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon  
*Cost:* \$5  
*Location:* Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park, Sequim WA 98382  
*Features:* This second in the series program will be *Landscaping for Birds with Native Plants*, presented by Joe Holtrop, Executive Director of the Clallam Conservation District. Joe will discuss important aspects of designing and developing a bird-friendly yard — including food plantings, water, and shelter. He’ll emphasize the use of plants native to our area.  
*More Information:* Contact Dungeness River Audubon Center, 360-681-4076



*Backyard Cedar Waxwing  
 Photo by Mick Thompson*

The third program in the series will be *Winter bird feeding and watering. New bird feeding accessories*, presented by Christie Lassen, Co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Gardiner, WA.. The date and time of this presentation will be Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Watch the OPAS website for further details. (Continued on next Page)

## Harlequin Happenings

Presented by members of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS), this monthly series of 10 classes focuses on improving the knowledge of residents and those new to the Olympic Peninsula, about local wild birds. We seek to expand understanding of birds, while retaining and improving native bird habitat and its relationship to seasonal climate variations.

Backyard Birding can be taken either as individual classes or in a series. The cost of each session is \$5. Admission is free for anyone under 18. For participants attending five sessions in the annual series, OPAS offers a complementary one-year membership.

### Beginning Birds and Birding Course

A class designed for beginning birders and new residents who wish to learn and recognize our local birds, and anyone who wants to better understand birds. Seminars cover basic bird identification, types of birds, bird behaviors and adaptations, bird sounds, field guides, nest boxes, and birding optics.

**Where:** Dungeness River Audubon Center

**When:** Tuesdays; November 5th, 12th, 19th (**No class on the 26th**), and December 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$60 for members/ \$100 for nonmembers

### Holiday Flock Party

Bring nature home for the holidays at the OPAS/DRAC Holiday Flock Party, hosted by Wild Birds Unlimited at 275953 Hwy 101 in Gardiner, WA, 360-797-7100. Save 20% off your entire purchase (excluding sale items) on Wednesday, December 4th, from noon to 2 p.m. Check out the poster on page 13.

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 WBU. All of us at Wild Birds Unlimited wish you and yours a joyous Holiday.

## Dungeness Bay Supports Seabirds of the North Pacific

by Judith White



Tufted Puffin, the charismatic and iconic seabird of the Pacific Northwest, has the best of both worlds. It can fly above AND below water. The alcid family of diving seabirds in the Dungeness area also includes Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot,

Rhinoceros Auklet, Ancient Murrelet and Marbled Murrelet. These seabirds have strong, short wings that can propel them at speeds up to 50 mph under water, while diving to depths of up to 600 feet, and most of them seem more comfortable and graceful under water than



*Tufted Puffin*  
Photo by Judith White

Similar to penguins of the Southern Hemisphere, alcids in the Northern Hemisphere have compact bodies and short necks. Unlike penguins which cannot fly, today's alcids retained the ability to fly in the air. Their rapidly whirring wings propel them at high speed in the air, but they cannot soar.

Protection Island supports one of the largest breeding colonies of Rhinoceros Auklets in the world, as well as significant breeding populations of Pigeon Guillemots, and is one of the last two breeding sites for Tufted Puffins in the Salish Sea. These seabirds excavate burrows for nesting, and most return to the open sea after breeding. Protection Island, part of the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, can be seen from the Dungeness Spit, New Dungeness Lighthouse, and Marlyn Nelson County Park at Port Williams.



*Rhinoceros Auklet*  
Photo by Judith White

Even though they do not nest in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, thousands of Common Murres migrate in August and September into the Strait from nesting colonies along the outer Pacific Ocean, perhaps from as far as Oregon and California. In late

summer, Common Murre chicks jump from their nesting cliffs when they are only about one-fifth the mass of their parents, and unable to fly. After jumping, the little chicks swim away to sea with their fathers, calling and begging to be fed. The adults also molt their flight feathers at the same time and become flightless as well. All the murrees then migrate by swimming hundreds of miles along the coast into the Strait, ending up in large flocks in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca. They are one of the main participants in local feeding flocks. From August to November, Common Murrees far outnumber local-nesting Rhinoceros Auklets and Pigeon Guillemots in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca.



*Common Murre*  
Photo by Judith White

Marbled Murrelet's nesting sites were more of a mystery, only discovered in 1974. These diving seabirds nest along the Pacific Coast, high in broad moss-covered branches of large trees greater than 200 years old. Both parents fly inland up to 50 miles each way to these rare nest-trees, carrying one small fish for their young chick, several times a day. Once the young bird is able to fly, it flies directly to



*Marbled Murrelet*  
Photo by Judith White

nearshore waters and begins diving for small fishes on its own.

Diving seabirds are especially dependent on small fishes, often termed "forage fish", to provide the concentrated energy they need for diving, flying,

and rearing healthy chicks. The waters of the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca and Admiralty Inlet provide fertile forage fishing grounds. These nutritious schools of forage fish are a crucial link in the food chain, supporting not just birds but a wide range of larger fish and marine mammals. Monitoring and restoration of forage fish populations in the Salish Sea is an area of intense environmental and legislative action.



*Pigeon Guillemot*  
Photo by Judith White

One of the most important Salish Sea forage fish is the Pacific herring, which spawn in eelgrass beds. Native eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) is a flowering shallow water plant that needs soft-sediment habitat like that found in the Dungeness Bay. As the Dungeness River travels down from the mountains bringing soil and nutrients to the Bay, it mixes with salt water to create one of the premier Pacific Northwest estuaries, the Dungeness Bay. Here, one of the largest eelgrass beds in the Greater Puget Sound is found. Eelgrass beds are so important to the ecology of the Greater Puget Sound that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources closely monitors and protects eelgrass beds through the Nearshore Habitat Program and Submerged Vegetation Monitoring Project, but despite this protection, the eelgrass beds and local herring populations have declined in Dungeness Bay. In addition to the spawning Pacific herring, Dungeness Bay eelgrass stabilizes shorelines and supports young salmon and steelhead, crab, shrimp, shellfish, and thousands of Brant geese and other over-wintering waterfowl, which prefer it as a food source.

The nutrient-rich Dungeness River, our premier Dungeness Bay estuary and eelgrass beds, and the Washington Maritime National Refuge Complex together support the iconic Greater Puget Sound ecosystem from Puffins to marine mammals. Protect and enjoy this magnificent resource.

## Conservation Matters –Survival by degrees

by Bob Phreaner



July, 2019 was the hottest month ever recorded on Earth. 389 North American bird species are at increasing risk of extinction from climate driven shifts in temperature, precipitation, and vegetation. Climate change is impacting the availability of habitat, food sources, and nesting.

Audubon scientists took advantage of 140 million observations, recorded by scientists and birders like you, who enter data on eBird and participate in Christmas Bird Counts, to describe the range of 604 North American bird species. They then used the latest climate models to project how each species' range will shift as climate change and other human-caused effects advance across the continent.

According to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Earth will have an average temperature increase of 2 degrees Celsius by 2050, and 3 °C by 2080, if carbon emissions continue to increase at the current rate. Audubon scientists used three scenarios of temperature increase. In the most optimistic 2019 model, by adopting clean energy policies, there could be no change in CO<sub>2</sub> annual output by 2050 and Earth will have a temperature increase of 1.5 °C. As CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increase, we will see an increase in temperature and with it increases in catastrophic weather events, heat waves, sea level rise and wildfires. These phenomena were predicted in the 2014 Climate Report to displace half the birds in North America. In 2014 there were 44,000 observations and the resolution of the climate model was 12 sq. kilometers. In 2019, the sensitivity of the model is now improved to 1 sq. km!

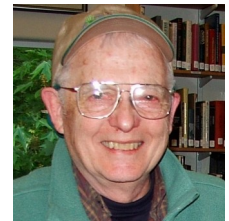
Go to [olybird.org](http://olybird.org), Conservation tab, and under the Conservation News you will see the article "Survival by Degrees" you can enter your Zip code and select from three scenarios of temperature increase: 1.5 °C, 2 °C, and 3 °C. At 1.5 °C in Clallam County, the model predicts the loss of Barrows Goldeneye and the Red-breasted Sapsucker from 98382. Crows might increase, because generalists with more flexible diets and habitat requirements fair better than specialists. Check out the site and be alarmed by the species predicted by two ornithologists to be impacted by climate change in our backyard.

OPAS representatives watched Dr. Gary Langham introduce the 2014 Audubon Birds and Climate Change report at the Audubon Council of Washington meeting in Ocean Shores. I remember feeling helpless as if there were few actions we could take to mitigate the coming calamity.

When the 2019 Survival by Degrees report was released on October 10<sup>th</sup>, it included strategies for mitigation. Birds can't fight Climate Change. We Can. Washington State is a leader in adopting 100% Clean Electricity generation by 2045. Investing in renewable energy is critical. Look around at all our OPAS members driving electric or hybrid vehicles. I haven't seen enough lawns being replaced by native plants to sustain birds, but we are spreading the word. Remember, the National Audubon mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

## Education Notes

by Ken Wiersema



Well its fall again folks, and an array of excellent indoor and outdoor programs are here. So, get out there and improve your birding knowledge and enjoy our crispy mornings and sunny afternoons. Please look through the different programs that are highlighted in our OPAS schedule of events and those of the River Center's.

### Backyard Birding programs

The next Backyard Birding class will be on Saturday, November 2d at 10:00 a.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park, Sequim.

This second in the series of programs will be *Landscaping for Birds with Native Plants*, presented by Joe Holtrop, Executive Director of the Clallam Conservation District. Joe will discuss important aspects of designing and developing a bird-friendly yard -- including food plantings, water, and shelter. He'll emphasize the use of plants native to our area.

Our December Backyard Birding class will be on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park, Sequim.

We'll feature Christie Lassen, co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Gardiner. Christie will be presenting *Winter Care and Feeding of birds in your Garden*. She'll discuss every-



thing from feeders for humming birds to seeds for wintering song birds to suet for woodpeckers. She will offer recommendations on what to feed wintering birds and why. She'll also have items for sale to put under your Christmas tree.

Backyard Birding can be taken either as individual classes or in a series. The cost of each session is \$5. Admission is free for anyone under 18. For participants attending five sessions in the annual series, OPAS offers a complementary one-year membership.

**Focus On series**

The next two *Focus on* programs will be on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Railroad Bridge Park, Sequim. These programs delve into the unique features and behavior of various birds or animals. In November, Jenna Ziogas explores the families of Geese and Swans that visit or reside in our communities. In December, Powell Jones will present a discussion of just one unique animal, the Coyote. Check the poster on page 13.

Attendees are enjoying these programs. And this year, you'll get to vote on which animal or bird you want to be featured in March 2020. Attend and vote, or go to the River Center Facebook page and vote.

**Special programs on the evolution of birds.**

Jim Karr, one of our OPAS members has generously offered to do a series of programs on selected Chapters from the recent book *"The Ascent of Birds"*. He leads an informal discussion of families of birds and how they have evolved. His initial program was in October; it was excellent! Next one will be on Nov 12 at 4 p.m. Check the OPAS web site for details.

Much more going on ... weekly bird walks, field trips, monthly meetings ... get out and expand your enjoyment and knowledge. See everyone at Nature Mart on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ocean Shores Field Trip Report**

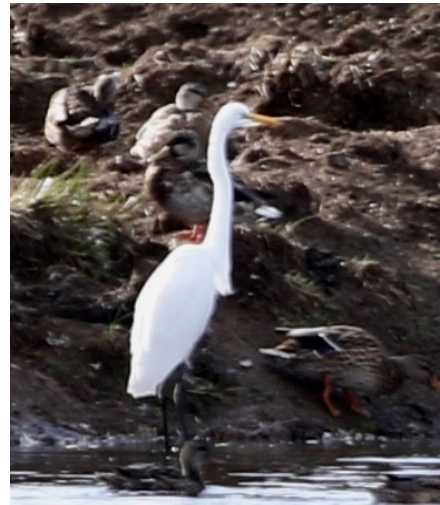
*By Judith White*

**Ocean Shores Field Trip**

The OPAS Ocean Shores field trip was enjoyed by all again this year. More than a dozen adventurers enjoyed gorgeous weather on Monday, September 15, and braved a near-gale on Tuesday in Tokeland, so things averaged out OK weather-wise.

Of the 65 species and 2 taxa seen, highlights included rock birds on Point Brown Jetty, including Wandering Tattler,

Surfbirds, and Black Turnstone; shorebirds including Marbled Godwit, Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitcher, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Whimbrel, Pectoral, Spotted, Western and



*Great Egret  
Photo by Judith White*

Least Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, and Sanderling.

A Great Egret welcomed us at Gray's Harbor National Wildlife Refuge as we arrived on Sunday. A good assortment of ducks, geese, grebes, loons, mergansers, gulls, terns, and cormorants kept us busy as the Brown

Pelicans wheeled overhead and dove for fish. On land, American Pipits, Lapland Longspurs, and a flock of a hundred Cedar Waxwings were highlights.

**Bird Sightings**

*By Bob Boekelheide*

It has been an incredible two months for birds and birding on the north Olympic Peninsula. As more and more birders flock to Clallam County, it's hard to keep up with all the bird sightings. But here we go...



Trumpeter Swans are back! Stacey Fradkin found two early Trumpeters at Schmuck Rd on 10/24. Snow Geese are back! Bruce Paige found one Snow Goose in east Sequim on 9/2, but the local land owner says it had been around for a week before that. Another Snow Goose, perhaps the same one, hung out with Cackling and Canada Geese at Schmuck Rd in mid-September. Speaking of Cackling Geese, the high count for Cacklers at Schmuck Road was 3700 on 10/20, counted one-by-one by Bob Boekelheide.

Several birders found a lingering female Blue-winged Teal on 10/10 at Dungeness Landing Park. Cindy McCormack spotted the first returning Long-tailed Duck at Dungeness NWR on 9/14, then Judy Mullally found two Long-taileds at Ediz Hook on 10/6. Rita Johnson spotted a very early

*(Continued on next page)*

## Harlequin Happenings

Black Scoter off the Dungeness Rec Area on 8/27. The first Common Goldeneye of the fall appeared for Paulette and Mary Ache at Diamond Point on 10/18.



*Cackling Geese*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

Gary Bullock has been tracking nesting Pied-billed Grebes at Kirner Pond off Woodcock Road. On 9/5, Gary spotted two adult PB Grebes feeding four tiny chicks, likely only a week or two old. According to *Birds of North America*, a late pair like this likely relayed a new replacement clutch after losing their first clutch. On 9/16, Bob Boekelheide counted two adults and only three chicks, then on 10/4 Gary found two adults and only two chicks. By mid-October the two chicks were as big as the adults, but they still had their striped faces.

Sandhill Cranes made an appearance, first one bird on 9/9 at Old Olympic Hwy and Kitchen-Dick Rd, seen by Sherrie Rogers. The high crane count goes to Brad, Dan, and Kevin Waggoner, who spotted 93 Sandhills flying over Neah Bay on 9/28.

Band-tailed Pigeons have mostly flown the coop, but John Gatchet may have spotted the last two for the year on 10/15 at Gardiner Beach. Leslie and Bob Bagwell have the high BT Pigeon count for the fall at Blue Ribbon Farms, with 153 flocking there on 9/10.

An amazing assortment of shorebirds appeared in Clallam during the last two months. First, and perhaps foremost, the second Little Stint ever for WA State occurred near Neah Bay on 8/31, found by Adam Crutcher, Jason Vassallo, Adrian Lee, and Will Brooks. This bird is a classic case of a long-distance migrant wandering off-

course, because Little Stints nest in Arctic Europe and Siberia, and typically winter in Africa and around the Indian Ocean. Adam Crutcher also discovered 8 Black-necked Stilts standing in the Elwha River near its mouth on 9/7. Unfortunately neither the Stint nor the Stilts stuck around for long.

What's with all the golden-plovers? Several Pacific Golden-Plovers appeared in Dungeness Bay from August through October, with a high count of 3 on 9/13. Most of these birds were juveniles, but one was a post-breeding adult that looks very similar to the Pacific Golden-Plover (s) that wintered here over the last three years, making us wonder if could be the same bird. Another two Pacific Golden-Plovers showed up at Ediz Hook, first seen by Carolyn Wilcox and Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin on 8/11, and last seen on 9/4. Another Pacific Golden-Plover appeared at Tsoo-Yess Beach on 10/26, reported by Roger Isbert. One American Golden-Plover appeared at Tsoo-Yess Beach from 8/31-9/1, seen by many observers, then another American appeared at Hobuck Beach from 10/1-2, first seen by Bruce Paige and Michael Barry.



*American Golden Plover*  
Photo by Michael Barry

Eric Guzman discovered a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Dungeness Spit on 8/30, where John Gatchet found it the next day. Also on 8/30, Darcy McNamara found a likely Pectoral Sandpiper in a pasture near the Olympic Discovery Trail on the east side of the Dungeness River.

Michael Barry and Bruce Paige recorded a Stilt Sandpiper near the Dungeness Creamery on 9/1, then Judi White found another Stilt Sandpiper at Neah Bay on 9/8. Bruce Paige and Eric Guzman found a wayward Ruff at Three Crabs on 9/3.

A very accommodating Bar-tailed Godwit is still present off Dungeness Landing Park, where it was first found by Rick Klawitter on 10/9. An equally accommodating Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is hanging out at the mouth of Meadowbrook Creek at 3 Crabs, found by Bob Boekelheide on 10/26.



*Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*  
Photo by Rick Klawitter

In other shorebird news, Michael Barry wins the high count for Whimbrel, with 42 at Dungeness Spit on 9/1. Bob and Leslie Bagwell win the high count for Marbled Godwit, with 41 at Dungeness Landing on 9/15. There's an on-again, off-again Willet hanging around Dungeness Bay, or perhaps several individuals moving through the area. The last Willet was reported by Judi White and Blair Bernson at Dungeness Landing on 10/26.

Two out-of-the-ordinary gulls appeared in the area, one from the Atlantic Ocean and one from the Far East. First, Roger Hoffman and Bob Boekelheide spotted an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at 3 Crabs on 9/1, a species more at home in the north Atlantic. Second, Andy Bridges photographed an immature Black-tailed Gull at Port Townsend on 10/17, a species more at home in Japan.

100s of Pacific Loons have been feeding in Discovery Bay and the waters around Protection Island. John Gatchet reports 350 Pacific Loons feeding off Gardiner Beach on 10/15, and the Protection Island Aquatic Re-

serve bird survey turned up hundreds in feeding flocks with gulls and murrens on 10/24. The PIAR survey also found 3 Yellow-billed Loons north of Protection Island, where they regularly hang out.



*Lesser Black-backed Gull*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

As expected, many people reported big flights of Turkey Vultures in the last week of September, particularly on 9/28. Ron Sikes reports the last TV so far, with one flying off Point Willson on 10/22.

Three Northern Goshawk reports in the period: 1) 9/19 by Scott Atkinson near the Upper Dungeness Trailhead, 2) 10/1 by Dave Manson north of Lake Crescent, and 3) 10/22 by John Gatchet near his home in Gardiner. Bahokus Peak and the Waatch Valley produced several migratory raptor sightings, as usual: 1) a Broad-winged Hawk on 9/7 by Scott Atkinson at Bahokus Peak, 2) A Rough-legged Hawk seen on 9/29 by the Waggoner brothers in the Waatch River Valley, 3) a Red-shouldered Hawk seen on 9/21 by Jordan Gunn and Sarah Peden in the Waatch Valley, and 4) a Golden Eagle on 10/25 seen by Bruce Paige in the Waatch Valley. Another Golden Eagle appeared at Hurricane Ridge on 10/6, seen by Brad Waggoner. Also at Hurricane Ridge, Eric Guzman spotted a Swainson's Hawk on 8/27.

Among unusual herons and egrets, Sue Nattinger watched a Black-crowned Night Heron flying over Onella Road on 9/24. Grace Oliver found a Great Egret at the Shine Tidelands near the Hood Canal Bridge on 9/16.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Harlequin Happenings

Good news! It apparently was a good nesting year for Northern Saw-whet Owls to the north, so be on the lookout for these migratory owls this winter. Owls are quite vocal right now, setting up pairs and territories, so listen for their hoots at night.

Dark falcons in the news: Bob Boekelheide spotted a Black Merlin, the coastal subspecies, at Schmuck Road on 9/14. Bob also watched a large, dark Peale's Peregrine Falcon hunt at Dungeness Landing on 10/11. Peale's Peregrine is the subspecies that nests along the Pacific Coast.

The most interesting flycatcher of the period was an Ash-throated Flycatcher found by Carre Borre at Neah Bay on 10/19. The bird stuck around until at least 10/24. Tropical Kingbirds appeared in Neah Bay on 9/30 and 10/19, with one at Cape Alava on 10/14, seen by Jesse Christensen. Late Pacific-slope Flycatchers showed up well into October, with the last seen by the Wednesday morning birdwalk at RR Bridge Park on 10/9. Bruce Paige found a late Willow Flycatcher on 9/24 at the Dungeness Rec Area.



*Tropical Kingbird*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

A big migration concentration of swallows occurred at 3 Crabs on 9/24 and 9/25, when approximately 1000 swallows perched on the power lines and cattails. Most of the swallows were Violet-green and Barn Swallows, with small numbers of Tree and Cliff Swallows. One Bank Swallow also mixed in, seen by Bob Boekelheide on 9/24. Purple Martins finally made their escape to southern climes, last seen on 9/12 by Carolyn Wilcox with 5 at 3 Crabs and by Bob Boekelheide with 2 at Dungeness.

The California Scrub-Jay continued at RR Bridge Park, last seen on 10/2, but the species continues its westward march. Iris Winslow found a Scrub-Jay in Port Angeles on 10/7-9, and another appeared in Neah Bay on 10/27. Will they eventually be a common backyard bird in Clallam County?

Two Northern Mockingbirds showed up, with one seen by Donald Sutherland at the Cape Flattery trailhead on 9/5, and another seen by Scott Olmstead at La Push on 10/19. Jordan Gunn and Bruce Paige found a Gray Catbird at Neah Bay on 10/23, near the aptly named "Rarity Corner." Also in Neah Bay was one immature male Indigo Bunting hanging out at Butler's Motel from 10/12-19, and a Lazuli Bunting and Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen by Will Brooks, Adam Crutcher, and Jason Vassallo on 9/1. Tim Wootton, while studying at Ta-toosh Island near Neah Bay, reported a Lark Bunting on 8/28, along with a high count of 51 Tufted Puffins.

Gary Bullock reported a big warbler fallout near his home on Community Lane on 9/20, estimating about 300 Yellow-rumped Warblers and 2 Yellow Warblers filling the trees. He believes the majority of Yellow-rumped were Myrtle types. In other warbler news, Ryan Merrill and others found a Blackburnian Warbler traveling in a warbler flock at Neah Bay on 9/22. Will Brooks and others spotted a Northern Waterthrush and an American Redstart with similar warbler flocks on 8/31 and 9/1. John Gatchet and Bob Bagwell reported a Nashville Warbler at Neah Bay on 9/6. Ryan Shaw found a Palm Warbler at the Waatch River on 10/22, and Sue Nattinger spotted a late Wilson's Warbler at Onella Road near Joyce on 9/28.

At least three remarkable orioles appeared at Neah Bay, seen by many observers. A Hooded Oriole hung out at hummingbird feeders between 10/19-22. At least two and maybe three Orchard Orioles were there between 9/22 and 10/25. Hopefully some of these will stick around for the Christmas Count.



*White-throated Sparrow*  
Photo by Robert Hutchison

Gary Bullock spotted a Yellow-headed Blackbird among Red-wingeds on 9/18, where it was seen by several others up until 9/25.

Sharp-eyed Stacey Fradkin spotted a White-throated Sparrow on the Wednesday am bird walk at RR Bridge Park on 9/25. Gary Bullock found another near his home west of the Dungeness River on 9/26. Neah Bay has been good for wayward sparrows, with 1) a Lark Sparrow there on 9/21-22 first seen by Jordan Gunn and Sarah Peden, 2) a Chipping Sparrow on 10/20 reported by Charlie Wright, 3) at least one Swamp Sparrow at Butler's Motel from 10/19-25, and 4) a Clay-colored Sparrow at Butler's Motel from 10/20-24. Abby Haight and Monica Fletcher reported another Lark Sparrow at North Beach near Port Townsend on 10/8.

Lastly, the bird of the month is a Eurasian Tree Sparrow currently at Neah Bay, first seen on 10/27 by Chris Warlow. What the heck is a Eurasian Tree Sparrow doing in Neah Bay? Eurasian Tree Sparrows are common in East Asia, particularly Japan, but are generally considered non-migratory. They have been transplanted to North America around St Louis. Could it have gotten here on its own?

The Christmas Bird Counts are coming up, so now is the time to be out birding. If you see anything interesting, please email Bob Boekelheide at [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net). Thanks very much for your sightings.



### 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.

And as a Thank You to our amazing Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society & Dungeness River Audubon Center Members we are hosting a Holiday Flock Shopping Party just for you! Save 20% OFF your entire purchase (excluding sale items) on Wednesday December 4th from noon to 2pm. We will have holiday cookies, cider & hot chocolate to enjoy as well.

Discover unique gifts and stocking stuffers, made in the USA feeders, & 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!

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DUNGENESS RIVER  
**Audubon**  
CENTER  
*at Railroad Bridge Park*

# FOCUS ON Series

Photo: Dow Lambert

Photo: Leslie Mundy

Photo: Keith Ross

Photo: Dow Lambert

Photo: Marioris Palmer

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**Join us as we take a deep look at the behaviors, adaptations, habitats, conservation status, and much more of some of the interesting creatures we share our home with.**

**October 19th: Weasels, Otters, and Fishers**

**November 16th: Swans and Geese**

**December 21st: Coyotes**

**January 18th: Alcids**

**February 15th: Wildflowers**

**March 21st: Mystery!! Cast your vote on our facebook page!**

**For more info 360-681-4076  
[rzeducation@olympus.net](mailto:rzeducation@olympus.net)  
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**10a.m. - Noon  
\$10(\$5 for members)**

# Harlequin Happenings

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



## Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

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

NAS Code Y08

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

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

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