



# 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 1 Jan-Feb, 2019

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

## OPAS Programs for January and February

by Bob Boekelheide & Marie Grad

### January 16, 2019 Program

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

"OPAS Members Photo Night" Organized by Christina Heliker.

It's time to choose your best bird photos to show our appreciative audience. This year, please submit your photos to Christina Heliker, who will be our technical advisor and assist us projecting the images. Christina will email guidelines to those who have submitted images in the last couple years. If you haven't shown your images in the past, please, contact Christina so you can get the information you'll need, at [che liker@olypen.com](mailto:che liker@olypen.com).



*Bewick's Wren*  
Photo by Robert Hutchison

this program, we ask you to limit your selections to local birds. Be prepared to say a few words about your photos, identifying the bird, location, and time of year.

Even if you don't wish to submit photos, be sure to come and enjoy the show!

### February 20, 2019 Program

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

"The Amazing Wildlife of Brazil's Pantanal" Presented by Ken and Mary Campbell.

Ken and Mary Campbell have been photographing nature for more than 35 years, making trips to all seven continents in search of extraordinary wildlife. Their particular passion is watching and photographing wildlife in their natural habitats. Ken and Mary travelled to Brazil twice in the last 3 years, specifically to view animals in the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland.

The Pantanal Conservation Complex, often called the "Serengeti of South America," is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve of spectacular beauty and diverse ecosystems. Traveling by riverboat, land cruisers, and on foot, the Campbells encountered 28 species of mammals and 220 species of birds in this wildlife-rich area. Their beautiful photos and interesting stories showcase the amazing birds and mammals of South America.



*Blue and Yellow Macaw*  
Photo by Ken and Mary Campbell

*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@olypen.com](mailto:agift@olypen.com). The *Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society* meets monthly (except July, August, and December) on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 Hendrickson Road, Sequim, WA, (360) 681-4076. The public is welcome.

### OPAS Board of Directors

#### Officers:

President, Bob Phreaner, 360-504-2110  
Co-Vice-Pres, Bob Boekelheide, 360-808-0196; Marie Grad, 360-620-4035  
Treasurer, Wendy Hirota, 360-683-7141  
Secretary, Enid Phreaner 360-504-2110

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Kendra Donelson, 360-683-7793  
Ken Wiersema, 360-460-5515  
Bruce Fryxell, 360-797-1564

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*Bird Sightings/Counts*, Bob Boekelheide, 360-808-0196  
*Conservation Co-chairs*, Vacant — please volunteer to fill this position  
*Education*, Ken Wiersema, 360-460-5515  
*Membership*, Audrey Gift, 360-681-2989, agift@olympen.com  
*Field Trips*, Judith White, 206-641-1842  
*Hospitality*, Clare Hatler, 360-582-6451  
*Newsletter*, Bob Hutchison, 253-293-3801 rbrycehut@wavecable.com  
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*Webmaster*, Mary Porter-Solberg, 360-683-8072.  
*Website Support Team*, Mary Porter-Solberg, Bob Hutchison, and Chris Perry  
*Social Media Support Team*, Mary Porter-Solberg, and Enid Phreaner

## President's Notes

by Bob Phreaner



It's a New Year so I'm taking this opportunity to highlight some "New" activities in OPAS.

First, OPAS has reached a membership of 370! We have achieved this largely through efforts of our membership chair Audrey Gift, as well as on-going activities like the Backyard Birder series, the Wednesday Morning Bird Walks, and some 2018 innovations.

Several of our newer members deserve recognition and special thanks for their accomplishments and for assuming responsibility for OPAS activities. Lori Moilanen and Judi White started a new and popular Birds and Beverages get together 4 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Wind Rose Cellars. Lori facilitates the new Book Discussion Group that meets at 4 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Judi stepped up to be the OPAS Field Trip Chair, organizing regular bird walks to familiar as well as novel birding sites, and tirelessly exploring Clallam County seeking new field trip opportunities. Judi has worked with OPAS Co-VP Marie Grad to offer a new quarterly Beginning and Newcomers Bird Walk in Railroad Bridge Park. OPAS Past-President Ken Wiersema was recently selected to reprise his role as the Regional representative to WA Audubon.

While the OPAS Trumpeter Swan Study is not new, the coordinators are. For years Mary Porter-Solberg effectively organized these weekly surveys. This fall, Laura Davis and Liam Antrim began coordinating this Community Science Project and have done a great job keeping the Swan Study running smoothly. The last survey of the year conducted December 26 revealed 150 swans in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley. Our 2019 challenge is to learn where these magnificent birds roost.

OPAS members are busy preparing for the Olympic BirdFest. When you go to the [OlympicBirdFest.org](http://OlympicBirdFest.org) website to register you will find a number of new bird walks and activities here too!

I greatly appreciate all the OPAS members who help keep our chapter strong and growing. If you would like to be part of this vibrant group, we are constantly on the lookout for new ideas and leaders, I would appreciate hearing from you. Specifically, our Conservation Committee needs a chairperson to organize the agenda for their monthly meetings. This is a vital role enabling OPAS members to be informed stewards of our environment. Together we can better promote birding and protect birds and their habitat in Clallam County.

## Hear Ye!

**December 31st, 2018, was the deadline for renewing your annual OPAS membership**

# OPAS Field Trips in January and February

by Judith White

## Wednesday Bird Walks

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

*Meeting Place:* Outside the Dungeness River Audubon Center

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

## Three Crabs and Dungeness Landing

*Date and Time:* 8:30-10:30 a.m., Sunday, January 13

*Leader:* John Gatchet

*Cost:* Free

*Meeting Place:* Three Crabs parking lot

*Features:* Shorebirds, Waterfowl, Gulls, Raptors and a range of other species. Beginning at Three Crabs, then moving to Dungeness Landing. Minimal walking, some uneven sand and gravel.

*Bring:* Scopes if you have them; dress for the weather.

*Further Information:* Contact John Gatchet

<jfgatchet@gmail.com> / 503 781-5043

## Ediz Hook

*Date & Time:* 10 a.m. - noon, Saturday, January 26

*Leader:* Judy Mullally

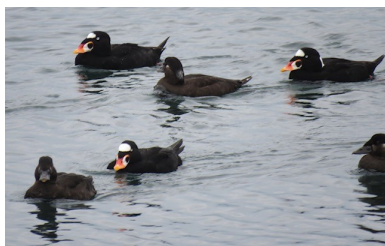
*Cost:* Free

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

*Features:* Returning winter water and shorebirds of Port Angeles harbor and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This field trip is appropriate for those with limited mobility.

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

*Further information:* Judy Mullally 360 808-2736



Surf Scoters

*[Ediz Hook Field Trip Report, Saturday November 3rd. Under calm but overcast skies, Judy Mullally led a group of twelve enthusiastic birders to the best birding spots on Ediz Hook. They were rewarded with good views of Long-tailed Ducks,*

*Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklet, White-winged and Surf Scoters, Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Harlequin Ducks, three Grebe species, Loons, Cormorants, Sanderling, Common Murre, three Gull species and more.]*

## Carrie Blake Park

*Date and Time:* 8:30-10:30 a.m., Sunday, February 17

*Leader:* John Gatchet

*Cost:* Free

*Meeting Place:* Carrie Blake Park parking lot, near the Dog Park

*Features:* Resident and Wintering Waterfowl, and a range of other species. This is a walk around the park on varied level surfaces.

*Bring:* Binoculars, dress for the weather.

*Further Information:* Contact John Gatchet

<jfgatchet@gmail.com> / 503 781-5043

## Skagit and North Snohomish Counties

*Date:* Monday & Tuesday, February 25 & 26, 2019

*Cost:* Free. Participants make their own lodging arrangements (Mt. Vernon, Burlington, Anacortes), and are responsible for their own meals both days.

*Leader:* Bob Iddins

*Features:* A very popular trip to the Samish Valley & Skagit Flats, starring a plethora of swans, snow geese, wintering raptors, and occasional surprises.

*Meeting place:* Take the 8:00 a.m. ferry at Port Townsend for Coupeville (reservations are strongly recommended). Upon exiting we'll meet at the parking area for the boat ramp, adjacent to the ferry terminal. Turn right after exiting ferry. For those going early or coming from other areas, we'll meet at the parking lot for the Farmhouse Restaurant, at the intersection of HWY 20 and LaConnor Whitney Road (between Mount Vernon and Anacortes) at about 10 a.m.

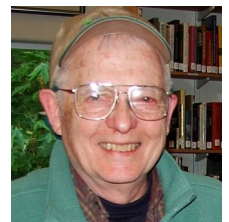
*Bring:* Optics (scopes are helpful) and lunch for both days. Dress warmly and be prepared for inclement weather. We will probably do some car-pooling on site. **Participating cars will require a Discover Pass for access to state lands.**

*Further information:* **Preregistration required! (Please provide contact information in the event of late-breaking developments or severe weather conditions requiring a late cancellation.) Appropriate for participants with limited mobility. Contact Bob Iddins, home phone 360-681-2840, cell phone 360-775-5945, riddins@olympen.com**

## Education Notes

by Ken Wiersema

Now that you've mastered writing 2019 on your checks, use these long nights and the cold of winter to take a class and improve your knowledge of birds and our Olympic Peninsula's unique habitats. As mild as this winter has been (so far?), by late February we could see some of our early migrants returning from their southern vacations. Please come out and share  
(Continued on next page)



## Harlequin Happenings

your knowledge and interest with others. Be at our members photo night on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Come on our weekly Wednesday morning bird walks and re-tune your ears and eyes to the changing voices as early nesting birds select and establish their pair bonds for the season and their nesting territories.

Add these programs to your schedule:

### Backyard birding programs – at the Dungeness River Audubon Center

**Jan 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to Noon – "Birdscaping"** —Inviting Birds to Your Yard, presented by Carolyn Wilcox, owner and guide for Experience Olympic Tours on the Olympic Peninsula. In this class, Carolyn will launch a new community outreach winter campaign to invite birds into our yards. She will touch on topics such as general wildlife ecology, invasive bird and plant species, feeders and nest boxes, snags and other dead wood habitat, landscape planning, cats and window strikes, and discouraging rats. Don't let your friends, family, and neighbors miss the unique opportunity for free one-on-one wildlife consulting by Carolyn in your own yard and garden this January and February 2019.

**Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. to noon -- "Bird Nesting"**, Ken Wiersema will present a program on Bird Nesting, and combine it with a short discussion of how you can participate in the **Great Backyard Bird Count**, which occurs on 15 -18 Feb.

**Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. to noon -- Nest Boxes '19**, Learn why we build boxes. Watch a box being assembled, and then -- build one yourself! Take your new box home and install it! *Materials, tools, and "expert" assistance provided!*

### Focus On Series:

**Jan 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. -- Raptors** of our winter skies will be presented by Ken Wiersema. Keen eyesight, large talons, and strong beaks make these avian hunters important parts of our environment. A short local field trip follows the class.

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. -- Jenna Ziogas**, Education Coordinator of the Center, will do a new program on the unique environmental niche occupied by **Raccoons** (rescheduled from Dec 15<sup>th</sup> due to a power outage at the Center)

These are fun and useful programs. Please fit them into your winter schedule. Watch websites, media, and Facebook for details.

### Jamestown S'Klallam Speaker Series (new for 2019)

Dungeness River Audubon Center is a proud partner of Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Known as 'the Strong People' the S'Klallams created a rich culture of art, spirituality, traditional knowledge, and self-reliance that continues today. In honor of Jamestown S'Klallam recognition day on February 11th, we are dedicating the month of February to learning more about the people who have lived and prospered on the Olympic Peninsula for more than 10,000 years. S'Klallam's rich culture is

interdependent with the abundant natural resources of the Northwest Coast. A predominate resource being the Western Red Cedar tree. This series takes a deeper look at the Tribe's deep connection with "The Tree of Life."

**Where:** Dungeness River Audubon Center

**Time:** 5:30 p.m., preregistration not required, no fee

**Dates:**

**Friday, February 8th:** "*Western Red Cedar, Importance to Salmon*", Robert Knapp - Environmental Planning Program Manager

**Friday, February 15th:** "*Historical Relationships Between S'Klallam People and Cedar.*", David Brownell - Cultural Resources Specialist

**Friday, February 22nd:** "*Ḫpáy – Western Red Cedar, the Tree of Life*", Lisa Barrell & Mackenzie Grinnell - Traditional Foods Program

In addition to these education programs please attend our monthly meetings, and mark your 2019 schedules for the excellent array of OPAS field trips planned by Judi White, found in this newsletter.

## Other Events



Olympic Peninsula April 12-14, 2019  
**BirdFest**  
Come bird with us!

- ▣ San Juan Island Cruise
- ▣ Neah Bay Birding Excursion
- ▣ Guided Birding Trips
- ▣ Bird Art Classes
- ▣ Photography Workshop
- ▣ NAS Photography Exhibit
- ▣ Auction & Raffle
- ▣ Gala Banquet with Speaker:  
**John Marzluff**

Located in Sequim, WA  
For more information:  
[www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)  
[info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org)  
or 360-681-4076

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society | JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE | KASPER GRILL | DUNGENESS RIVER Audubon CENTER | 111 at Railroad Bridge Park | First Federal | FUNDRAISER

**SAVE THE DATE: Olympic Birdfest, April 12-14, 2019.**

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: John Marzluff, professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington and author. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 9-11, 2019 or extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 14-16, 2019: three days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).

**You'd Be Nuts to Miss the GBBC!**



Save the Date! Greetings from the Great Backyard Bird Count team at Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada! We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the 22nd GBBC, coming up **February 15 through 18, 2019**.

**OPAS Book Discussion Group**

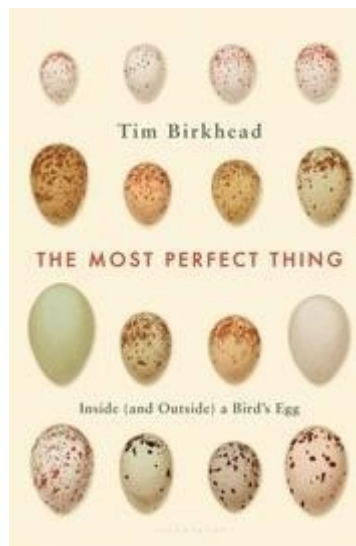
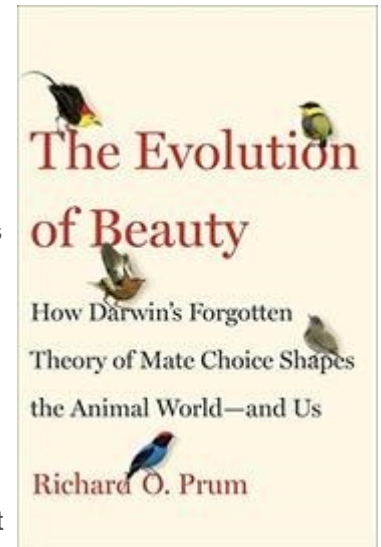
Do you enjoy reading and discussing books about the natural history, conservation, and appreciation of birds? If so, we've got great news. Our monthly book discussions will resume on January 22. We hope you'll join us as we explore a variety of popular new books, literary prize winners, and influential classics.

The group meets from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC). Links to the currently sched-

uled titles, book summaries, and discussion questions will be posted at [olympicaudubonsociety.org](http://olympicaudubonsociety.org), under Events, OPAS Book Discussion Club. The 2018 sessions featured some great discussion among participants, and we expect this trend to continue in 2019.

Books on the discussion list may be available directly or via inter-library loan through your local NOLS branch. Alternatively, please consider purchase options that directly benefit OPAS or DRAC. Titles can be purchased in multiple formats through Amazon Smiles ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com); select Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society or Dungeness River Audubon Center as the supported charity). Books may be ordered in print format from DRAC (which benefits their educational programs) by stopping in or calling 360-681-4076 with your credit card information. Additional information on these purchase options is provided at the link above.

We are currently recruiting discussion leaders for monthly meetings in July through November 2019. Please contact Lori Moilanen ([lori\\_moilanen@wavecable.com](mailto:lori_moilanen@wavecable.com)) to suggest a title and/or volunteer to facilitate a discussion. If you're interested in being a discussion facilitator but need title suggestions, don't worry, we've compiled a list of highly rated recent and classic titles to help you out.



The upcoming book selections are:

**January 22 - *The Evolution of Beauty: How Darwin's Forgotten Theory of Mate Choice Shapes the Animal World—and Us*. Richard O. Prum. 2017.** This highly acclaimed book explores how mating preferences—what Darwin termed “the taste for the beautiful”—create the extraordinary range of ornament in the animal world. Named to multiple “Best of 2017” booklists. Discussion Facilitator: Bob Phreaner.

***The Most Perfect Thing: Inside (and Outside) a Bird's Egg*. Tim Birkhead. 2011.** This book explores the evolution of bird eggs, from their structure and function to their appearance and the role of mate choice in their development. It is a highly accessible and informative read for anyone interested in birds and evolution.

(Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

**February 19** - *The Most Perfect Thing: Inside (And Outside) a Bird's Egg*. Tim Birkhead. 2017. The author, an expert in the reproductive biology of birds, takes readers on an entertaining outside-to-inside journey through an egg. Of note to folks working on the Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring Project, the author studied guillemots in the UK for 40 years and a number of his explanations feature guillemot eggs. Discussion Facilitator: Dan Stahler.

## Birds and Beverages



*Wind Rose Cellars Gathering  
Photo by Lori Moilanen*

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 (January 8 and February 12 coming up). Beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages and snacks available for purchase. For further information, please contact Judi White (drwhitej@gmail.com) or Lori Moilanen (lori\_moilanen@wavecable.com)

## Beginning Birds & 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:** Every Tuesday of February (Feb 5th, Feb 12th, Feb 19th, Feb 26th)

**Time:** 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$50 for members/ \$70 for nonmembers  
Must pre-register.

**Contact:** Jenna Ziogas to register, or for more information, 360-681-4076, or [rceeducation@olympus.net](mailto:rceeducation@olympus.net)

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

## 2018 Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count Results

by Bob Boekelheide



The 43rd Sequim-Dungeness CBC, held on December 17, tallied 145 species this year. This is above average for the last 25 years, but still lower than our all-time high of 154 species in 2015. The total number of individual birds this year was 71,187, also above average, but lower than the all-time high count of 85,777 individuals in 2011. We had 104 valiant field observers in 36 to 43 parties, along with 20 feeder watchers. The weather cooperated for about half a day depending on which route you counted, starting with clear skies and calm winds for owling, then turned windy and eventually rainy by the end of the day.

The most abundant species, as usual, was American Wigeon, with 11,020. Other abundant species, in decreasing order of abundance, were Mallard (9449), Cackling Goose (5400), American Robin (4716), Pine Siskin (3493), Northern Pintail (3389), Glaucous-winged/Olympic Gull (3122), Dunlin (2674), Brant (1742), and Bufflehead (1657). These 10 species made up about two-thirds of all the birds seen on our count.

Big numbers of Cackling Geese have really put on a show in Dungeness this fall, with huge flocks flying around and ganging up on fields along Anderson Road, Schmuck Road, and others. We also set record counts for Greater White-fronted Goose and Snow Goose. Other species that



*Greater White-fronted Goose*  
Photo by Robert Hutchison

posted high counts this year, or close to it, were Cooper's Hawk, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Barred Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, House Finch, and American Goldfinch.

Bushtits were a notable standout, far surpassing the previous high total and seen by over half our field parties. Our Dungeness Greens party found a large concentration of Yellow-rumped Warbler visiting myrtle bushes. The Dungeness Schoolhouse party recorded an amazing 363 goldfinches, three times more than the previous high count for our entire CBC. Could the mild fall weather have allowed some of these birds to stay further north this year?

Species with very low numbers this year included White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Mew Gull, and, perhaps most interesting,

European Starling. White-winged Scoter scored the lowest count ever with only seven birds, down from hundreds just 15 years ago. Even though starlings tallied above 1000 birds, their count was still the lowest in 36 years. Another introduced species, Eurasian Collared-Dove, seems to have plateaued in numbers after reached their all-time high count in 2015



*Willet & Marbled Godwit*  
Photo by Dow Lambert

Unusual species for this CBC included 1) two Rough-legged Hawks in Dungeness, 2) a Sora calling at dawn with Virginia Rails at Graysmarsh, 3) the fourth straight year a Willet is wintering in Dungeness Bay, 4) the first Ruddy Turnstone since 2007 at Dungeness Spit, 5) two Yellow-billed Loons seen by our boat party, 6) a photographed immature Gyrfalcon at Graysmarsh beach, 7) a continuing Tropical Kingbird near Port Williams, 8) a back-



*Rough-legged Hawk*  
Photo by Chris Perry

yard California Scrub-Jay, 9) one lovely Townsend's Solitaire, (Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

10) three Palm Warblers at 3 Crabs, and 11) a record six Swamp Sparrows seen by three different parties. It is an exceptional year for both Swamp Sparrows and Palm Warblers in western WA; curiously both these species nest in similar boggy habitats across the boreal forests of Canada.



*Swamp Sparrow*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

Special thanks to property owners who allowed access for the count, including USFWS, Olympic Game Farm, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Dungeness Farms and Habitat, Willits family, Graysmarsh, Maple View Farm, WASTate Parks, WADNR, Clallam County Parks, and more. Great thanks particularly to Durkee Richards for providing the offshore boat, and to Gary Poor for ferrying counters to Dungeness Spit. To our esteemed observers who traveled long distances to help with the count, we particularly thank you. And of course huge thanks to all the great cooks who provided food for the compilation dinner, and to the Dungeness River Audubon Center for hosting the compilation. If I forgot anyone, sorry about that, and thank you very much!

Dungeness Spit-Jamie Acker, Al Westphal; Dungeness Rec. Area- Ken Wiersema, Coleman Byrnes, Sue Nattinger, Matt Montague, Scott Horton; West Dungeness-Denny Van Horn, Dow Lambert, Marlene Lambert, Laura Davis, Alan Smith, Enid Phreaner, Barb Boekelheide, Shirley Anderson, Trudy Wegehaupt; Three Crabs-Scott Gremel, Mandy Holmgren, Blaine Dalton, Eric Guzman, Dave Manson, Tom Butler, Lee Bowen, Sue Guilleland; Jamestown-Brad & Dan Waggoner; Graysmarsh-Bob Boekelheide, Michael Barry, Ted Stadtmueller; Port Williams/WA Harbor-Bruce Paige, Sharon Paige, Dana Scott, Ron Miller, Steve & Nancy Smith; W. Sequim Bay-Susan Savage, Bob Blush, Jim & Audrey Giff, Bob Hutchison,

Margaret Levitan, Bruce & Carol Von Borstel; Olympic Discovery Trail E-Carolyn Wilcox; E. Sequim Bay-Judy Mullally, Dan McDougall-Treacy; Miller Peninsula-Powell Jones, Greg Voyles, Katherine & Otis Bush; Diamond Point/Gardiner-John Gatchet, Bob Bagwell, Jean Spargo, Sharman Richardson, Brenda Landstrom; Offshore Boat-Charlie Wright, Linnaea Wright, Bruce LaBar, Mike Crim; Durkee Richards; Chicken Coop-Bob Steelquist; Palo Alto Rd-Andy & Ellen Stepniewski; Burnt Hill-John Bridge; South Sequim-Kendra Donelson, Pat MacRobbie; Happy Valley-Peter Walker, Judi White, John Acklen, Juanice Reyes, Clare Hatler, Suzanne Anaya, Ken Kennedy; W of Dungeness Riv./S of Hwy 101-Quenn Charrier, Norrie & Barb Johnson, Sally Holm, Pat McGuire, Jane Nicholas, Mary Morgan & Tim McNulty; Robin Hill Park/Solmar-Barb Blackie, Heidi Pedersen; Olympic Discovery Trail W.-Kathe Smith, Sue Taylor, Stuart, Pat Willits; McDonell Creek-Tom Guobis, Joan McDermott, Margie Palmer, Richard Bloomer, Debbie Turner, Barbara Vanderwerf; Carlsborg/W. Dungeness-Marie Grad, Laura Pollock, Dan & Valerie Stahler, Jane Stewart, Neil Burkhardt, Jim & Diane Luoma, Steve Koehler, Sharle Osborne; Sequim neighborhoods-Bob Id-dins, Cindy Fullwiler; North Sequim to Dungeness-Enid and Bob Phreaner, Gary Bullock, Kevin Froese, Marion Rutledge, Stacey Fradkin, Grace & Kate Goschen; Railroad Bridge Park-Mary Robson, Jenna Ziogas, Keith Lehn, Allyson Simons, Tom Backe; Sequim feeders-Joy Bertman, Sara Blake, Bev Swearingen, Doris Causey, Pat Schoen, Annette Hanson; Swans-Bob & Ann Sextro.



*Brewer's Sparrow*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide



In other bird sightings, it has been another busy fall at Neah Bay. Besides more Palm Warblers and Swamp Sparrows, some of the more interesting birds included an Arctic Loon first seen 12/1 by Michael Barry, a Northern Goshawk spotted on 12/24 by Michael Barry and Bruce Paige, and a female-type Indigo Bunting at Butler's Motel found on 12/15 by Ryan Merrill. Judi White photographed a Nashville Warbler at Neah Bay on 11/23, then up to 2 were found in mid-December, so perhaps at least one stuck around for a few weeks.



*Gyrfalcon*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

Speaking of Neah Bay, the Neah Bay Christmas Bird Count occurred on 12/16, its fourth year. Charlie Wright, the Neah Bay CBC compiler, says the species total came to 124 this year, 3 of which were count-week birds. Seven species were new to the count: Canada Goose, Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Bewick's Wren, American Goldfinch, Nashville Warbler, and the Indigo Bunting mentioned above. The Arctic Loon also stuck around to be counted, for the second year in a row.

In eastern Clallam, John Gatchet discovered a Brewer's Sparrow in his yard at Gardiner on 10/24, but within a few days it moved down the street to the Gardiner boat launch, where John last recorded it on 12/2. Ken Roberts, while walking at Port Williams on 12/12, photographed a very late Tropical Kingbird, which thankfully stuck around for the Sequim CBC. Bruce Paige found a female Mountain Blue-

bird by the Sequim airport on 12/9, but unfortunately it did not stick around for the CBC.

While walking the back roads of Joyce on 12/5, Sue Nattinger watched six very late Turkey Vultures sail overhead at Onella Road. She later discovered an American Tree Sparrow at Wasankari Road on 12/23, perhaps the first for Clallam County this year.

Long-eared Owls are kind of a mystery in Clallam County, infrequently heard and even less often seen. Several observers recorded Long-eared Owls in the Waatch Valley between 10/13-11/11, starting with Will and James Brooks. This is the same area where Long-eared Owls have been recorded over the last 3 years. Sam McCollough, farm manager for Nash's Farms, discovered a dead Long-eared Owl at the haybarn along Schmuck Road on 12/3, where he had seen one alive just days before.

Day lengths are getting longer, so it's time to go birding and share your sightings with the world. Please send your interesting bird sightings to Bob Boekelheide at [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net). Thank you for your sightings.

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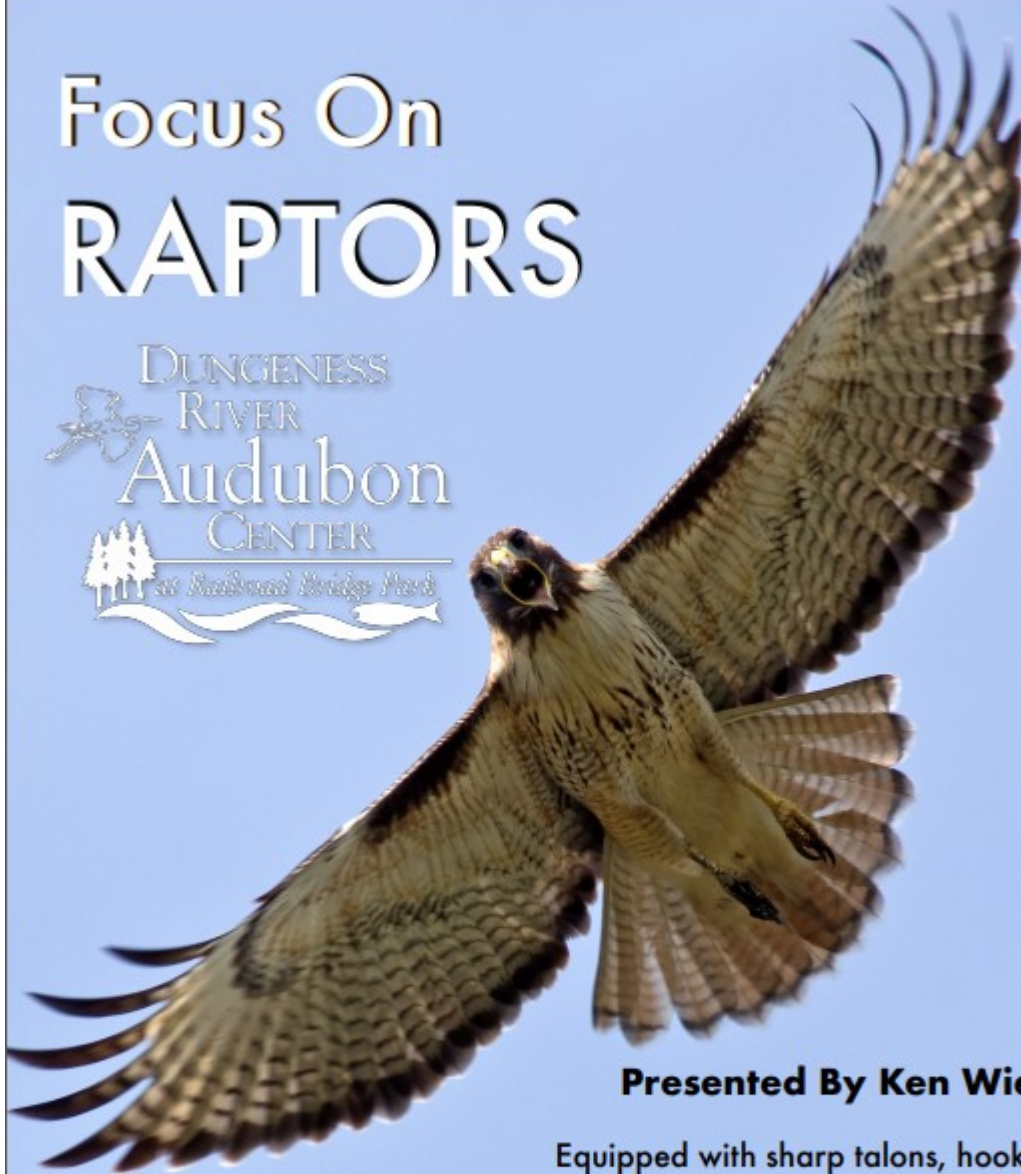
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