



# 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 2 Mar-Apr, 2020

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

## OPAS Programs for March and April

by Bob Boekelheide

### March 18, 2020 Program

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

#### "Birdsong, Cobbles, and the Language of Rivers: A Reading and Conversation with poet Kate Reavey"

How does our home, the Olympic Peninsula, influence writers and their writing? Through her poetry and readings, writer and professor Kate Reavey will explore how the wildlife, forests, and waters of the Olympic Peninsula provide an essential backdrop to her work, life, and family. This is a special opportunity for OPAS members to go beyond their field guides and birding apps to reflect on how the spirituality of our beautiful area helps drive what we see and do.



Kate Reavey

Kate Reavey has taught composition, literature, and creative writing on the Olympic Peninsula for more than thirty years. In addition to publishing three books of poetry, her works have also appeared in several literary journals and collections. Her academic experiences range from African Studies to teaching creative writing in Florence, Italy. She holds a PhD in Humanities



and Culture, and currently serves as an English professor at Peninsula College.

### April 15, 2020 OPAS Program

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

#### "Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary: A Conservation Story on the Coast of Washington", presented by Nicole Harris

The National Marine Sanctuary program began in 1972 to provide protection and research for marine areas having special ecological, historical, and cultural values for our country. Our local marine sanctuary, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, extends up to 40 miles offshore from the west coasts of Clallam, Jefferson, and Grays Harbor Counties. The OCNMS includes fabulously productive marine ecosystems, important seabird and marine mammal feeding areas, historic shipwrecks, thriving Indian tribes, and unique flora and fauna found only on its continental shelf and submarine canyons.



*(Continued on page three)*

*Harlequin Happenings* is published six times a year. Consider "going green". Receive your newsletter electronically, in living color, by contacting the OPAS Membership Chair, Audrey Gift, at 360-681-2989, or email [agift@olyopen.com](mailto:agift@olyopen.com). The *Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society* meets monthly (except July, August, and December) on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 Hendrickson Road, Sequim, WA, (360) 681-4076. The public is welcome.

### OPAS Board of Directors

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Bruce Fryxell, 360-797-1564  
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## President's Notes

by Judith White



Despite the soggy winter weather, there's been a lot happening at OPAS! Thanks to Christina Heliker for organizing (and rescheduling due to snow) the January "OPAS Members Photo Night" with bird photos from all over the world. Our community science projects continued a series of presentations, including the Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Survey presented by Ed Bowlby in January, and the Swans of the Sequim-Dungeness Valley by Liam Antrim and Laura Davis in February.

Have you had a chance to check out the new website Olybird.org? Thanks to Mary Porter-Solberg for creating this useful and beautiful resource for OPAS. Here's a few ways to explore: Click the "Take Action" tab and scroll down to "Action Opportunities are Listed Below" – these links use Audubon's Action Center, which asks for your name, zip code and e-mail address and composes "Fast Action" e-mails, targeted at pressing environmental issues both statewide and nationally. While representing OPAS and Audubon Washington at Environmental Lobby Day in Olympia last week, I was pleasantly surprised when the staff at our Representative Steve Tharinger's office recognized my name from those communications! Both Representative Mike Chapman and Senator Kevin Van De Wege also met with our group. Meeting with our legislators and sending e-mails MATTER for the legislative issues we care about – birds and the places they need.

Upcoming events and field trips are easy to find on the website by scrolling down on the home page, or using the Events Calendar. Under the Conservation tab, OPAS' Community Science Projects are summarized, a valuable resource that the Peninsula Daily News used as reference material for their January 26<sup>th</sup> article "Wings of Winter: Swans flock to the Peninsula", highlighting the role of the many OPAS volunteers in the Trumpeter/Tundra Swan Study.

If winter finds you more in a mood to read by the fire, OPAS' Book Club under the direction of Lori Moilanen is enjoying some fabulous reads and discussions. Additionally, Jim Karr's ongoing monthly lecture/discussion of the evolution of birds using the book "Ascent of Birds" as a starting point is phenomenal.

Birdfest (April 17-19) promises delightful events. Don't forget to sign up early for the banquet catered by Kokopelli Grill, it is a sell-out every year! Dr. Scott Pearson will be the banquet speaker presenting "A Tale of Two Puffins". Check out [olympicbirdfest.org](http://olympicbirdfest.org) for more event information.

## Hear Ye!

December 31st, 2019, was the deadline for renewing your annual OPAS membership

Wild Birds Unlimited

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

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## OPAS Programs for March and April

(Continued from page one)

With a BA in Environmental Policy and a minor in Environmental Science from Western Washington University's Huxley College, Nicole Harris serves as the Education Specialist for the OCNMS. Prior to OCNMS, Nicole worked as a nearshore biologist studying at the central coast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Nicole's talk will enable OPAS members to understand the legacy of the OCNMS, right here in our own backyard.

## OPAS Field Trips in March and April

by John Gatchet & Marie Grad

### 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.



### Carrie Blake Park

**Date and Time:** Thursday, March 12, 8:30 to 11:15 a.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Leader:** Bob Boekelheide

**Meeting Place:** Carrie Blake South Parking Lot in the Dog Park Area



*House Finch*  
Photo by John Gatchet

**Features:** A walk around and through Carrie Blake Park will provide views of lingering winter resident birds. There are usually Eurasian Wigeon among other duck species in the park. This is a good location for warblers and Purple Finch. We may even find some early migrants.

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

**Further Information:** Contact Bob Boekelheide  
bboek@olympus.net, 360-808-0196

### Spring Birding for Beginners and Newcomers

**Date and Time:** Saturday, March 21, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Leader:** Stacey Fradkin

**Meeting Place:** Outside the Dungeness River Audubon Center



*Common Redpoll*  
Photo by John Gatchet

**Features:** Spring has arrived, and the birds are singing. The winter birds are getting ready to head north, and others are beginning to arrive from their winter homes. Seen or heard something you want to identify? Join local birders for a walk in Railroad Bridge Park. All experience levels welcome. Afterward, stay for the Focus On talk on Bats in the River Center at 10 a.m.

**Bring:** Binoculars, if you have them; some loaners may be available. We will be walking along the Olympic Discovery Trail and on the Railroad Bridge, so wear comfy shoes. As always, dress for the weather. Spring can be fickle.

**Further Information:** Contact Stacey Fradkin,  
Fstacey3@msn.com, (505) 670-3153

### Robin Hill County Park

**Date and Time:** Sunday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Leader:** To be announced

**Meeting Place:** Parking Lot from Pinnell Road on the north side of the park

**Features:** This will feature walking in the park and along the edges for passerines, ducks and forest birds found in this area. This area is a productive birding spot and should produce 40 plus species for this time of year.

(Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

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

*Further Information:* To be announced

## Tom Montgomery Steps Away from OPAS Board

by Judith White

After 14 years of consistent and unwaivering service, Tom Montgomery has stepped down from OPAS Board. Kendra Donelson writes "Tom's calm voice of reason will be sorely missed on the board. He was/is very generous with his knowledge and understanding of the law". Tom was the 2018 recipient of the Harlequin Award, awarded to OPAS members for their "outstanding and generous contributions of time, talent and effort to the conservation of the Olympic Peninsula's environment through scientific, educational and/or political endeavors." Tom served two terms as President of OPAS, in 2011 and again in 2012. He also wrote "Did You Know" articles on the history of Sequim, the Dungeness Valley, and Clallam County for the Sequim Gazette. If you see Tom, please thank him for his service to OPAS, our birds, and the places they need.

## Education Notes

by Ken Wiersema

### Big Thanks to Tom Montgomery

At the beginning of this year Tom left his long-held seat on our OPAS board. Tom has been a stalwart member for 20 years. He and Helga were in one of my earliest beginning birds classes, and are sustaining supporters of OPAS and the Center. As a real estate broker, he contributed a portion of his commissions to OPAS for every sale resulting from an OPAS member. His service as our President and as a member and Chair of the Clallam County Planning Commission set a high standards of performance. All the best to you and Helga, Tom.



## Backyard Birder Programs

**Saturday, March 7, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. — *Birds: The Inside Story (Bird Anatomy and Biology)***

Sixth in the series will be *Birds: The Inside Story*, presented by Shirley Anderson with tech support from Ken Wiersema.

Shirley launched the Backyard Birder program six years ago, and we're again fortunate that she'll present a revised program with new illustrations. This seminar is packed with information on the physical features and biology of birds—how they eat, digest, breathe, sing, reproduce, and fly. You'll learn from a collection of bird skeletons, feathers, and feet, along with

graphic illustrations and recorded sounds. Come increase your understanding and enjoyment of our local feathered friends!

**Saturday, April 4, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. — *Spring Sounds***

*[Note the Change in schedule. We'd planned to present **Migration** on this date, but to accommodate a personal request, we've moved **Migration** to May and moved **Spring Sounds** into April.]*

The 7<sup>th</sup> in this year's series, **Spring Sounds** will refresh your knowledge of the bird songs and calls of spring. Presented by Dow Lambert, assisted by Ken Wiersema, we rely on Dow's excellent local photos and sound recordings. We bring you the songs of our local yards, fields, forests, and shores. You'll be able to hone and renew your identification skills for the sounds of our mating and nesting season. We'll have some new videos of birds singing, so you'll see the energy and spirit birds bring for us to enjoy. This is a popular annual program; please join us.

## Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Speaker series for 2020

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has cultivated ecosystems on the North Olympic Peninsula since time immemorial. In honor of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and their efforts of reestablishing a native plant prairie and traditional harvesting practices east of the River Center, they are hosting a speaker series that will look deeply at the ecology of prairies, the tribe's historic connection with prairies, and their plans for working prairies in the future.

This annual series of talks, presented by tribal members and staff, provides OPAS members a close-up perspective of Tribal heritage. I recommend that you put these programs on your calendars. All programs will be held at 6 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, and are free of charge.

**March 5th — "*nax'släyám' Prairies: Cultural Ecosystems*"** presented by ʔ'əw'cen Mackenzie Grinnell & Lisa Barrell, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe: Traditional Foods and Culture Program

**March 12th: "*Of People and Prairies, Looking Back to See Ahead*"**, presented by Dave Peters, US Forest Service Prairie Ecologist

**March 19th: "*Archaeology of the Sequim Prairie*"** presented by David Brownel, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe: Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

**Focus on Series**

**March 21: 10 a.m. to Noon**

**Bats**

Join Powell Jones for a presentation at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. **Cost:** \$5 for DRAC members/ \$10 for non-members. Often characterized more by the myths surrounding them, bats are increasingly threatened, despite being essential components of ecosystems around the world. Learn about their adaptations, allowing them to thrive in the darkness of night, and why we should be inviting them into our yards. For more information, contact: **360-681-4076**, [rceducation@olympus.net](mailto:rceducation@olympus.net)

**Conservation Matters:  
Wild Olympics Bill  
Reaches a Milestone**

*by Mary Porter-Solberg*



The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society is a participating member of the Wild Olympics Campaign, a coalition working to protect watersheds on the Olympic Peninsula. In 2011, OPAS submitted a resolution to the WA State Audubon Conservation Committee in support of Wild Olympics, where it passed unanimously with support from other state chapters.

For five years, the Wild Olympics Campaign reached out to local stakeholders to build support, listen to concerns, and get feedback on the draft proposal. Campaign members met with timber interests, local elected officials, tribes, conservation groups, recreation groups, businesses, shellfish growers, community leaders, fishing interests, and other local residents. To address stakeholder concerns, several refinements have been made since the original proposal. Congressman Norm Dicks and Senator Murray introduced the Wild Olympics and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act into the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate in June of 2012.

On February 12, 2020, a milestone was reached when the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (H.R. 2642). The bill, introduced by Representative Derek Kilmer, passed the House with bipartisan support as part of a package of bills called the Protecting America's Wilderness Act. It would permanently protect more than 126,000 acres of public land as wilderness, and 19 rivers and their major tributaries as Wild and Scenic Rivers. U.S. Senator Patty Murray has introduced a companion bill in the Senate. It's important to note that this legislation will not close, decommission, or otherwise restrict access to any existing forest service roads or trailheads, it will not affect any private property rights, and it

will not impact how the Washington Department of Natural Resources manages state-owned lands.

You can read more about the Wild Olympics campaign on our website at <https://olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org/wild-olympics-campaign>.

**Other Events**

**Olympic BirdFest 2020 - Come Bird with Us**

Grab your binoculars and join the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **Olympic Bird-Fest** celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim, Washington, **April 17-19, 2020**.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips to Sequim Bay, Dungeness Spit, wooded areas to view songbirds, and boat trips to Protection Island.

New BirdFest trips this year include:

**Birds & Beauty - Elwha to Salt Creek:** leader, Jenna Ziogas; Fri & Sat, 8:30 a.m.to 4:30 p.m.

**Birding Elwha Beach Lake & Estuary:** leader, Carolyn Wilcox; Fri, 8:30 -11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

**Birding Ediz Hook & Port Angeles Harbor:** leader, Judy Mullally; Sat, 1-4 p.m.

Five seminar-style presentations will be given at the River Center, covering:

- >Owls
- >Stories from the Evolutionary World of Birds
- >Raptors of Washington's Olympic Peninsula
- >Hummingbirds
- >Corvids of Washington's Olympic Peninsula

A **photography workshop** will be taught by Tim Boyer, professional nature photographer and author.

(Continued on next page)



*Scott Pearson  
Birdfest Banquet Keynote Speaker*

## Harlequin Happenings

At our gala **Banquet**, the featured speaker this year is **Scott Pearson**, researcher in Ecology, Marine Biology and Zoology at the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, who will present “**A Tale of Two Puffins**”, and will draw comparisons between Tufted Puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets based on his research.

Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular **San Juan Islands** on April 15-17. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get cruise information and register online at: [www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon](http://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon).

Extend your Birdfest weekend with the **Neah Bay post-trip**, April 19-21 ... two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington ... a region rarely seen by birders.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ... you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out all the offerings by going online at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).

For further information, contact us at 360-681-4076,  
E-mail us at [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org) ,  
Or write to us at:  
Dungeness River Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 2450  
Sequim, WA 98382

## Groundbreaking for Dungeness River Audubon Center Expansion

by Kathy Steichen & Annette Hanson

Partner members are invited to a groundbreaking celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm. This event celebrates the official beginning of the construction of the River Center expansion, the new access road, and new parking lot. It will recognize and thank the many individuals, foundations, businesses, organizations, and government entities who have so generously contributed to the successful Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign.

The event will feature speakers from the partners who co-manage the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park, including representatives from the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Dungeness River Audubon Center, and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society. After the formal presentations, guests are invited to participate in a ‘virtual tour’. The Center expansion and parking lot features will be delineated on the ground and labeled. Volunteers will be stationed throughout the area and will share specific details about these exciting projects.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Groundbreaking for the Center’s Expansion

Monday, April 13th, 2020, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Dungeness River Audubon Center

2151 West Hendrickson Road, Sequim, WA

INSPIRE WONDER



The expansion of the River Center will include adding a 150-seat community multipurpose room, a meeting room, commercial kitchen, restrooms, office space, gift shop, and concession stand. Following the expansion construction, the existing building will be remodeled to provide a larger exhibit space, children’s discovery corner, library, and wildlife viewing area.

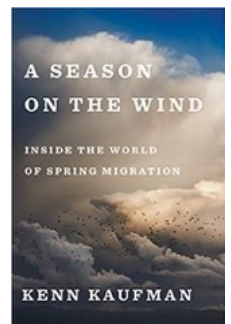
The Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign work continues toward completion of the expansion, then the focus shifts to raising funds for the design and fabrication of new exhibits, commercial kitchen equipment, and other furnishings. Read more about the Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign at [www.dungenessrivercenter.org](http://www.dungenessrivercenter.org).

## OPAS Book Discussion Group

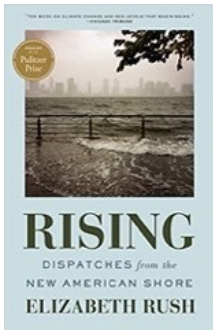
by Lori Moilanen

Are you a reader? The OPAS Book Discussion Group meets monthly to discuss a bird-related title in a friendly and congenial atmosphere.

On **March 31** (note date change), Lori Moilanen will lead a discussion of ***A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration*** by well-known field guide author Kenn Kaufman. This book provides a close look at one season in one key site that reveals the amazing science and magic of spring bird migration, and the perils of human encroachment. It’s recently been listed in several “Best Bird/Nature Books of 2019” compilations.



On **April 28**, Joyce Volmut will lead a discussion of ***Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*** by Elizabeth Rush. It’s growing clearer that rising seas are transforming the coastline of the United States in irrevocable ways as a result of climate change. In this book, Elizabeth Rush guides readers through some of the places where this change has been

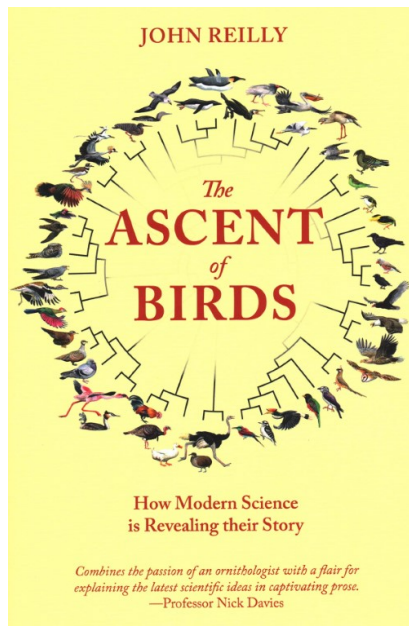


most dramatic, by weaving firsthand testimonials of residents with profiles of wildlife biologists, activists, and other members of vulnerable communities. *Rising* was a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in General Fiction, and awardee of the National Outdoor Book Award.

The OPAS Book Discussion Group is free and open to all readers. It meets from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center on the fourth Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. The 2020 schedule is posted at <https://olympicpeninsulaudubon.org/book-group>. Links to the book summaries and discussion questions are posted by date on the Events page at <https://olympicpeninsulaudubon.org>. For more information contact [lori\\_moilanen@wavecable.com](mailto: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 at Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 W. Hendrickson Rd., Sequim, WA, on the second Tuesday of the month from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is free.



Date: Mar 10

The **Owl's Story:** *Nightlife* (Hearing and head shape.)

The **Oilbird's Story:** *Evolutionary Distinctiveness* (Echolocation, but not a bat.)

Date: Apr 14

The **Hummingbird's Story:** *A Route of Evanescence* (1200 heart beats a minute; 363 species!)

The **Parrot's Story:** *Vicariance and Dispersal* (Unexpected kinships.)

For more information: Contact Jim Karr ([jrkarr@olympen.com](mailto:jrkarr@olympen.com)), (360)-681-3163

### Survival by Degrees The Impact of Climate Change on our Birds in the Olympic Peninsula



by Judith White

As the climate warms, birds are forced to adapt by searching for suitable habitat and climate conditions elsewhere. When the places where they live (their ranges) shift, they may not adapt quickly enough to survive. The new *Survival by Degrees* publication from the National Audubon Society models, with precision down to 1 kilometer, how each bird species' range will likely shift from climate change and other human impacts. The study takes advantage of 140 million observations by birders and scientists, and 70 data sources including the US Geological Survey, eBird, and the North American Breeding Birds Survey.

This model breaks down vulnerability by degrees of climate warming. At 3 degrees Centigrade (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) temperature rise, of the 157 species of our local summer birds included in the study, 56% face high to moderate threat, losing more than half their current seasonal range.



Red-breasted Sapsucker  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

One example of a highly threatened species is the Red-breasted Sapsucker. Living in temperate coastal Pacific habitat, it is the least migratory of the sapsuckers. (Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings

In the Pacific Northwest, coastal birds may be permanent residents. The model predicts 93% of their current summer range will be lost if global warming reaches 3 degrees C, and on the Olympic peninsula they will likely move up in elevation where they will gain 10% new range amid the highest peaks of the Olympics.



*Savannah Sparrow*  
Photo by Judith White

Thirty-six highly threatened summer species include 5 species of waterfowl, several shorebirds, many flycatchers, 3 thrush species, White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows, and 3 warbler species. Moderately threatened summer species are even more numerous, including the Harlequin Duck, Common Loon, Pigeon Guillemot, crows, jays, and most gulls, several swallow species, and most other waterfowl.

What summer birds are less threatened or stable? Turkey vultures, Brown Pelican, Killdeer, herons, most hawks, falcons, woodpeckers, blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Pacific and Bewick's Wrens are predicted to be stable.

The model for 165 species of winter birds identifies 11 highly vulnerable birds at 3 degrees C global warming, including the American Dipper, California Quail, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Barrow's Goldeneye, Townsend's Solitaire and Canada Jay.

The Brant is projected to lose 84% of its current U.S./Canadian summer range, gaining only 17% of new summer range. No other geese nest as far north in the high Arctic, and Brant are under Special



*Brant*  
Photo by Judith White

High Risk from sea level rise. The Brant in the Pacific Flyway gather in large numbers at Izembek Lagoon in Alaska after breeding, and depart together for a long overwater migration, flying at altitudes of several thousand feet, until

dispersing to their wintering areas on the Pacific Coast. On their wintering grounds, 52% of their U.S./Canadian range is projected to be lost. The remaining 48% of their maintained winter range includes the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, using detailed projections.

Overall, 2/3 of birds in the US face increased risk of extinction from climate change. By habitat, the birds most at risk are arctic, boreal and western forest birds, and waterbirds - encompassing many of our summer and winter birds here in the Olympic Peninsula.

These projections are especially concerning because overall bird populations have declined significantly since 1970. In "Decline of the North American Avifauna" published in the October 24, 2019 volume of the prestigious journal *Science*, Rosenberg and colleagues found that 29%, or about 3 billion fewer birds were found in the US and Canada compared to 1970.

The Survival by Degrees model offers hope. If we are able to keep climate change in the 1.5 degrees C range, we can improve the chances for hundreds of bird species. Birds are resilient, and only 3 winter species in our area will remain highly vulnerable under a 1.5 Centigrade degree warming scenario— Rock Sandpiper, Clark's Nutcracker and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. In summer, our Red-breasted Sapsucker and Barrow's Goldeneye remain highly vulnerable.



*Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch*  
Photo by Bob Phreaner

Simple ideas to help birds include making windows safer from collisions by using screens or films, reducing lawn and planting native plants, and avoiding pesticide use. For more simple steps, take a look at <https://www.3billionbirds.org/7-simple-actions>.

To find out more about the Survival by Degrees model, and the specific information for each of our bird species, go to <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees/county?zipCode=98382>



## A message from Varn Brooks, member of Admiralty Audubon Society:



X-ray of swan showing ingested fishing gear

trash (including fishing gear) at Anderson Lake, I found a dead bushtit entangled on fishing gear and hanging from an alder limb over the water.

Just a reminder that if you like to fish (as I do), please be careful with your gear. When I first found the swan, I immediately thought that either it had been shot or it had ingested lead shot. It was disappointing to discover that it had been killed with fishing gear.

On 12/21/19, I found a dead swan at Anderson Lake State Park, just north of the boat ramp. With permission, Darrell and Lorna Smith collected the bird and delivered it to Shelly Ament in Sequim for necropsy. Greywolf Veterinary x-rayed the carcass and discovered it had fishing gear including lead sinkers in its digestive system.

On 7/29/2019, while picking up



Bushtit found hanging from fishing line at Anderson Lake State Park

## Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide



It is with great sadness that I report the death of Terry Martin, a wonderful friend and birder. Terry participated in bird walks and classes at the Dungeness River Audubon Center for many years, until he had a stroke a few years ago. Of all the birders I've met, Terry had the most joyful enthusiasm, always curious and full of wonderment about birds and nature. He was particularly interested in the history of early ornithologists, giving a talk at the River Center about J. K. Townsend of Townsend's Warbler. Terry was a great man who spread joy to everyone who went birding with him. We will miss you, Terry.

It has been a wet start to 2020, with Seattle tying the record for the most days in January with measurable rainfall. Some areas of western Washington experienced serious flooding, although fortunately floods spared the north Olympic Peninsula. The big snow event this year occurred in mid-January, with Sequim/Port Angeles getting one to three feet of snow on 1/14-15. By the second half of February it's beginning to feel like spring.

Trumpeter Swans wintering in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley seemed to have peaked for the year, with the high count so far of 189 on 2/26. They may still increase through early March, but it's doubtful they will come close to the all-time high count of 258 reached in Feb 2017. The percent of juvenile swans in the flocks this year seems about typical, mostly between 15 to 20 percent of swans.

Other big waterfowl this winter include scattered numbers of Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Cackling Geese at Neah Bay, the Elwha River, Schmuck Rd, and Gardiner. John Gatchet scored the recent high count of Snow Geese with 10 still present at Gardiner Beach in late Feb.

In other waterfowl news, Ida Domazlicky, along with Delia Scholes, Ed Newbold, and Brian Pendleton, found a possible American Wigeon X Green-winged Teal hybrid at 3 Crabs on 2/21. The bird, a male, had a rich chestnut head with green eye patch, reminiscent of a GW Teal, but otherwise the size and markings of a wigeon. For the third winter in a row, a male Cinnamon Teal is wintering in the marshlands between Towne Rd and the Dungeness River, found by Bob Boekelheide on 2/15. Bruce Paige reported a possible first-year male Redhead at Roberta's Pond on 2/13, but it was a puzzling plumage. (Continued on next page)

**SDCBC Update by Bob Boekelheide:** Just want to let you all know that I have adjusted the Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count total species count from 139 to 140. After some discussion with Brad Waggoner about his photos of flying ducks at Jamestown, we have decided that one of the birds is a Redhead, whereas the other is a Canvasback. Initially Brad listed them both as Redheads. So I have moved Canvasback from count week (seen by Judi White at the same location a couple days later) to count day, adding it to the official species total.

If you're interested, we have tallied Canvasback on the SDCBC in 20 different years (over 44 SDCBCs), whereas we have tallied Redhead in only 7 different years.

## Harlequin Happenings



*Possible Am. Wigeon X Green-winged Teal*  
*Photo by Ida Domazlicky*

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This is the time of year that Hooded and Common Mergansers begin wandering up rivers and into new areas, such as the Hoodie that visited Patti Gotz's pond west of Port Angeles on 2/3.

Sue Nattinger once again found a Northern Bobwhite at Wasankari Rd on 1/12, correctly labeling it a "domestic release."



*Female Anna's Hummingbird on nest*  
*Photo by Bob & Enid Phreaner*

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Spring has seriously sprung for Anna's Hummingbirds, which actually begin laying eggs in winter. Bob and Enid Phreaner found the early nest this winter, with an Anna's female sitting on eggs at their home in Dungeness on 2/25. Who will win the coveted First Rufous Hummingbird award this year? They are on their way north, arriving any day.

Among shorebirds, once again one Pacific Golden-Plover is over-wintering in Dungeness, hanging with the Black-bellieds. This is the fourth winter in a row for a golden-plover in the Dungeness area, quite possibly the same bird. Sometimes it is seen in fields, such as at Lamar Rd where Sherrie Rogers and Jon Parnell saw it on 1/24, and sometimes on the mudflats by the Dungeness River mouth, where Bob and Leslie Bagwell saw it on 1/18. It is very unusual for a Pacific Golden to winter this far north; four years in a row is unprecedented.



*Willet*  
*Photo by Bob Boekelheide*

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Speaking of persistent shorebirds, this is the fifth winter in a row that a Willet has hung out in Dungeness Bay. It, too, may be the same bird year after year. Unfortunately this winter it hasn't had it's usual Marbled Godwit buddies to hang out with.



*Black Turnstone*

Sue Nattinger tallied the high count of Black Turnstones this period, with 50 at the Hoko River mouth on 2/15. Michael Barry found the only Ruddy Turnstone hanging with Blacks at Beach 4 on 2/9. Naomi Himley found one Spotted Sandpiper at Shine Tidelands on 2/14, where Debbie Sutherland again found it on 2/23.



*1st cycle Glaucous Gull*  
*Photo by Rick Klawitter*

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Rick Klawitter discovered a first-cycle Glaucous Gull at Ediz Hook on 2/14, where it still hangs out with garbage gulls near the restrooms at the end of February. This is the third Glaucous Gull of the winter, with earlier ones seen at the Elwha River and Neah Bay. The lone Caspian Tern finally departed Dungeness Bay, last seen by Ida Domazlicky and Deb Schiell on 12/28.



*Fork-tailed Storm Petrels*  
*Photo by Bob Boekelheide*

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Among other seabirds, there was a flurry of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels around the Salish Sea this winter. Local sightings included 4 storm-petrels seen by Melisa Pinnow in the Strait of Juan de Fuca between Victoria BC and Dungeness on 1/25, and one seen by Mike Melton from the Port Townsend ferry on 2/14. Yellow-billed Loons are out there, including one seen by

Bruce Paige from Diamond Point on 2/10, one by the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve survey north of Protection Island on 2/10, and one by John Gatchet in Discovery Bay on 2/12.

The coveted First Turkey Vulture award is shared this year by John Gatchet and Barb and Bob Boekelheide. Barb and Bob spotted their TV flying over Sequim-Dungeness Way at 11:10 am on 2/11, and John spotted his TV at Knapp Rd at 11:29 am on the same day. Same bird? Likely not.

Does it seem like fewer Eurasian Collared-Doves are here this spring? Charlotte Watts watched a Cooper's Hawk pick off a collared-dove in downtown Sequim on 1/7, not an uncommon observation. Are the predators really making a difference with the dove population? Bob and Leslie Bagwell reported a dark phase Rough-legged Hawk near the lower Dungeness levee on 1/11, a color-phase rarely reported in our area. Established Bald Eagle pairs start laying eggs in early March, so start checking your local eagle nest to see when the female is incubating.



*Northern Pigmy Owl*  
*Photo by Judith White*

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Short-eared Owls continue in the Sequim area, with 2 seen by Susan Savage at Dungeness Rec Area on 2/18 and one seen by John Gatchet at Schmuck Rd on 2/8. John also found several owl species in the foothills of the Olympics on 1/6, including one screech-owl, one pygmy-owl, and one Great Horned Owl. (Continued on next page)

## Harlequin Happenings



*Evening Grosbeak*  
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

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The Great Horned Owls are likely on eggs or have chicks by now, including the pair near Port Williams hooting together on the morning of Great Backyard Bird Count, heard by Bob Boekelheide on 2/15.

At least two California Scrub-Jays continued through the winter, one in Dungeness tracked by Laura Davis and one in Carlsborg tracked by Marie Grad. Laura says her bird stayed for exactly 3 months, arriving on 11/15 and last seen on 2/15. Marie's has been around for a few years. It's probably just a matter of time until most of us have scrub-jays in our neighborhoods.

The First Swallow Award goes to ... John Gatchet, who found a Barn Swallow at Knapp Rd on 2/10. Bruce Paige recorded the first Tree Swallow at 3 Crabs on 2/13 and the first Violet-green Swallow at Jamestown Beach on 2/24.

Late February is when Western Bluebirds visit established nesting territories, so be on the lookout. Bruce Paige spotted a pair of Western Bluebirds off Holland Rd on 2/26, where they nested last year. Gary Bullock found two pairs off River Rd on 2/27, where they might have nested last year.

It is a perplexing finch year. Red Crossbills are non-existent in Clallam this winter. Through mid-February there were more than a hundred Pine Siskins on Wednesday morning bird walks at RR Bridge Park, then the bottom dropped out and we're now seeing less than 5. Where did they go? Evening Grosbeaks have been consistent around Sequim and Port Angeles, with a high count of 52 seen by Bruce Paige at Lotzgesell Rd on 2/11. Enjoy them while they last.

White-throated Sparrows have been scarce this winter as well. Judi White found one in Dungeness on 1/13, Alan Selig found

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one in Port Angeles on 1/15, and Margie Palmer photographed a beauty near the mouth of McDonald Creek on 2/4.



*White-throated Sparrow*  
Photo by Margie Palmer

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The icterid of the winter is a Rusty Blackbird found at Maple View Farm by Bruce Paige on 1/8. The challenge is picking this bird out of the flocks of about 1000 other blackbirds and starlings -- good luck! The high count for Western Meadowlarks goes to Bruce as well, who counted 17 at Schmuck Rd on 1/16. Stray meadowlarks also showed up at Ediz Hook, Hobuck Beach, Tsoo-Yess Beach, and the Dungeness delta. The two Bullock's Orioles stuck around their Neah Bay feeder until at least 1/19, last seen by Judi White.



*Wilson's Warbler*  
Photo by Judith White

It has been a fairly lean winter for warblers, unless you're with Carolyn Wilcox and Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin in Port Angeles. On 1/16, they recorded 3 Townsend Warblers and 2 Orange-crowned Warblers. Judi White recorded the high count for Yellow-rumped Warblers, with 4 at Jamestown on 1/9.

Early spring migrants are flapping north right now, so get ready. Who will win the coveted First Rufous Hummingbird award? Who will hear the first songs of Orange-crowned Warblers and Common Yellowthroats? Lots of wintering species are singing right now, so it is time to tune up your listening skills. Clean out your bird boxes. Don't let the nesting season slip away without experiencing the full intensity of spring -- go birding! Please call Bob Boekelheide at 360-808-0196 or email [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net) when you see something interesting or unusual. Thank you very much for your sightings.

## Results of the Port Angeles CBC

(from Dec 28, 2019)

*By Barb Blackie (Compiler for PA CBC)*

THANK YOU all for your efforts this CBC - we had a great count, I think, with fab people and good coverage. Even with a few fewer people than usual, I felt like we covered a LOT of ground! Thanks to everyone for contributing to a great day of birding! Special thanks to the boat crew who got us on the water - we really appreciate the help, support, and contributions from you and all the "boat people" who have helped in the past! And welcome to all first time PA CBCers!

The grand total of species we saw was 114 (115 with a count week sighting of a Cedar Waxwing). Several species had only one or two sightings, so that should remind you how important counting every bird really is!

You probably noticed that Pine Siskins were back in numbers! There were 1636 counted! Area 5 had the most species seen in one area -- 79 in all (2 groups). It was the only area where we saw Hermit Thrushes this year. You are welcome to go to the CBC site and look at our data in more detail: (<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>). If you can't find what you want, let me know and I can send you more info.

Thanks again and have fun preparing for NEXT CBC!!!! See you in December ... and hopefully before!

# Harlequin Happenings

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



## Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

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