



HARLEQUIN HAPPENINGS

Newsletter of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

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

Clallam County, Washington

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Issue 3 May-June 2021

"Volunteer educators and stewards for birds and habitat conservation"

[Editor's Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person OPAS activities have been postponed or canceled until further notice.]

OPAS Programs for May and June

By Tom Butler

Meetings will be held via Zoom. OPAS will address a few updates, with the presentation to follow. See insert later in this newsletter for registration information.

May Program

Wednesday, May 19, at 7.00 p.m.

"The Mysterious Decline of Western and Clark's Grebes"
Presented by Anne Yen, University of Idaho.

Western Grebes are diving birds that nest in the inland Northwest but they winter along saltwater coasts. University of Idaho graduate student Anne Yen will present the results of current research regarding the plight of Western and Clark's Grebes in the inland northwest. These grebes face various threats at their breeding and wintering sites, and the North American Breeding Bird Survey reports a 75% population decrease since 1966; however, no data or past studies are available to assess which of the various threats are responsible for the declines. Moreover, threats to Western and Clark's Grebe populations may vary regionally and declines may not be attributable to just one causal factor. Western and Clark's Grebes have declined in Idaho more than those in other regions, and only two large breeding colonies remain. The drivers of the decline is the focus of her research.

Anne Yen is a graduate student in Wildlife Sciences and Graduate Student Mentor with the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Collaborative at the University of Idaho in Moscow. She was born and raised in suburban Detroit, Michigan, and received her B.S. in Resource Ecology from the University of Michigan. Prior to attending the University of Idaho, she spent about 14 field seasons working with various federal and state agencies as well as non-profit organizations across the continental US and the Hawaiian Islands. Her family lives in King County and she calls Washington State her home state. Anne is also an artist and has a Certificate in Natural Science Illustration at the University of Washington.



Western Grebe and Chick
Photo: Renda Glick/Audubon Photography Awards

(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. 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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Interim President's Notes

by Ken Wiersema



Hope y'all have been outside enjoying our invigorating spring weather. As Bob B reminds us, we're past the early migrants phase and into the midst of many migrant species arriving in numbers to nest and reproduce.

It's with a heavy heart that last week, I asked Mary to post a notice on our OPAS website of Kurt Grinnell's untimely and tragic passing. Kurt was a member of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal council, a leader of their fisheries enterprise, and a supporter of the Dungeness River Audubon Center. He and his family welcomed us to the JST campus on the occasion our Statewide Audubon Council meetings, and were hosts at several of our BirdFest banquets. We mourn and send our condolences to Kurt's family and to his Tribe that he personified as a truly Strong member of "The Strong People".

For those who have been by the Center recently, you've witnessed great progress. The new addition has been tied into the existing building and you can see the facilities taking shape. Before our next newsletter goes to press, the entire building will be roofed, sided, and doors and windows will be in place. Interior work is proceeding: electrical, audio-visual, and plumbing are being roughed in. Exterior colors have been selected. Those that have been following the work are excited as each phase occurs. For those that would be interested in contributing some "sweat equity" to the project you'll soon have the chance to be volunteers in constructing a new cedar fence along the property lines. Maybe not the fun of whitewashing Tom Sawyer's fence, but we'll try. We'll be putting out the call for workers in the near future for both fence construction and landscaping.

Swan Safe project update --Thanks to the work of Shelly Ament, WDFW; Mike Hill, Clallam PUD; and John Acklen, our OPAS lead, we have full expectation that we'll have the Kirner Road powerlines buried before November of 2021. We also extend our thanks to our many donors from the community, the State, and many others who have raised the funds to accomplish the work. We also recognize the support and cooperation of the property owners who have allowed the lines to be buried on their land.

Later in this newsletter you'll get information on Birdathon 2021. You'll also be getting a letter in the mail asking for you to participate and contribute to OPAS programs and operations. Let's go birding on May 8th, and support OPAS with your \$. Thank you for your continued membership and generous support.

An advertisement for Wild Birds Unlimited. On the left, a vertical logo reads "Wild Birds Unlimited" in a stylized font. The main image shows a small bird perched on a flower. Text in the center says "Bring this add in for \$5.00 off any purchase over \$25.00!". On the right, a small box lists "THE FRESHEST SEED AVAILABLE", "BIRD FEEDERS", and "NATURE GIFTS" with a small house icon. At the bottom, it says "YOUR BACKYARD BIRDFEEDING SPECIALIST!" followed by the address "275953 Hwy 101, Gardiner WA 98382" and phone number "PH: 360 797 7100". Hours are listed as "Open: 10AM to 6PM Mon. to Fri., 9AM to 6PM Sat. & Sun."

OPAS Programs

(Continued from page one)

June Program

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

“Wildfire, Habitat Recovery,
and the Greater Sage-Grouse”

Presented by Dr. Lizz Schulyer, Oregon State University



Greater Sage-Grouse
Photo by Dr. Lizz Schulyer

Although wildfire is a natural process in sagebrush ecosystems, fire severity and frequency have changed substantially in recent years. The interaction between fire suppression, certain land-management practices, and the invasion of non-native grasses has led to an increase in the frequency of wild-

fires that has significant impacts on sagebrush-dependent species such as the Greater Sage-Grouse. Grouse are members of the bird family that includes quail, turkeys, chickens, and pheasants.

Dr. Lizz Schulyer of Oregon State University has been studying the effects of a large scale wildfire on Greater Sage-Grouse in the Trout Mountains of Oregon and Nevada. She is a veteran of many field seasons, studying how habitat disturbances and climate influence population dynamics of harvestable species such as deer and grouse. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16th for this informative program.

OPAS Field Trips: An Update

By Marie Grad, Field Trip Chair



Your OPAS Board is currently assessing how we can restart OPAS-sponsored Field Trips. I am working on lining up Field Trip Leaders, locations, and dates. I expect that at our next Board meeting we will finalize guidelines for our trips that address: use of face masks, social distancing, attendee limits, staying within Clallam County, and compliance with CDC and State Covid-19 requirements for outdoor activities. Once we have the guidelines in place and trips lined up, they will be posted on the OPAS website, and Facebook page. Hope to see you outside watching birds soon!

Conservation Matters

By Bob Phreaner, Conservation Co-chair



One morning a week, shortly after sunrise, I am lucky enough to spend a tranquil hour on Port Williams beach observing the breeding behavior of Pigeon Guillemots (PIGUs). It is a very rewarding and peaceful experience. Dan Stahler and Ed Bowlby (PIGU Co-leads for Clallam County), provided the following information:

Overview and training

The Salish Sea Guillemot Network monitoring program began with the Whidbey Audubon Society in 2003. It has grown into a region-wide program. This last year the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife began incorporating the years of data into their state-wide system. There are many Regional partners in the effort. For a full list visit the home page of the project's website: pigeonguillemot.org. Clallam County's efforts are sponsored and managed by the Clallam County's Marine Resources Committee (MRC). Last year over 30 volunteers monitored 8 nesting colonies along county shorelines. OPAS and MRC members are active in the volunteer ranks. With COVID, volunteer training is being done online. Videos and Zoom meetings have worked well to keep everyone informed. Training dates will be announced soon for this year. (Continued on next page)



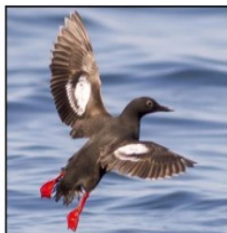
Dr. Lizz Schulyer and Friend

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To get an idea of how the observations work, you can see last year's training videos at: [Survey Training Videos](#).

Observers at Pt. Williams are assigned a viewing location between the surf and the bluff. We become familiar with our positions and the PIGU burrows above us. We try to blend into the beach and record the birds that fly from the water to the bluff with fish for their growing chicks. Sometimes their routine is interrupted by predators like Bald Eagles.

Some beach walkers ask our team of observers about our objectives and our concern for the preservation of this important bluff. Jean Siesener, whose station is the first encountered by north bound walkers, developed the idea of an informational sign to alert the public to Pigeon Guillemot's sensitive nesting sites along the bluffs; together with Ed Bowlby, approached Clallam County Parks for their approval. Parks' staff will be placing the sign at Marlyn Nelson Park this month. Your OPAS contributions and the Clallam MRC shared the expense of this welcome addition to preserving PIGU habitat.



Photos: Chris Perry

STAY OFF BLUFFS!

PRESERVE PIGEON GUILLEMOT HABITAT AND STAY SAFE

PIGEON GUILLEMOTS are seabirds that nest in holes and cavities of cliffs and sandy bluffs. The unmistakable breeding guillemots have jet-black plumage, white wing patches, and red feet.

Guillemots nest alone or in colonies, often reusing the same nest sites. Bluff burrow nests protect the eggs, chicks, and incubating adults from predators such as eagles, gulls, and coyotes. In March, guillemots begin visiting nest sites and in June they usually lay two eggs, incubated by both parents. Adults catch small fish up to a mile offshore to feed their young. The chicks grow in the burrows for a month, and from August to September they leave their nests.

Volunteers from Clallam County Marine Resources Committee and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society monitor these birds from June to August.

Stable populations and breeding success are indicators of nearshore health.

Protect breeding Pigeon Guillemots. Preserve fragile coastline.

Stay off bluffs. Keep dogs on leash.

For more information visit: www.clallamcountymrc.org/projects/pigeon-guillemot-survey/



Volunteers are needed for this year's survey

Observers volunteer one morning per week, and observations are for one hour between 6 and 8 AM. The 10 week observation season will begin in early June. To become a volunteer, or for more information, contact Ed Bowlby edbowlby2@gmail.com

For details about the project visit: pigeonguillemot.org and <https://www.clallamcountymrc.org/projects/pigeon-guillemot-survey/>.

Western Bluebird/ Climate Watch Update

By Joyce Volmut, Coordinator, WEBL/Climate Watch



Once again the Western Bluebird is making its presence known in Clallam County. Several sightings were reported during March and April around select areas where the Western Bluebird has been seen in the past few years. These include the Lower Elwha region, Dungeness and the 3 Crabs area, the Fish Hatchery Rd, River Rd, Thompson Rd, Black Diamond Rd, Olympic National Park, and the Railroad Bridge.

To add to the excitement, Mountain Bluebirds were also sighted. The powdery blue of Mountain Bluebirds is always an eye-opener, and this year the Mountain Bluebirds lit up the 3 crabs area with the flutter of wings to the delight of many onlookers.

Because we anticipated an increase in WEBL nesting this year, the OPAS Western Bluebird/Climate Watch Program prepared 10 new bluebird nest boxes for installation. A real team effort went into the project. Dan Stahler and Bob Phreaner skillfully crafted the boxes, Susan and Craig Paulsen and Gary Siesner assisted Dan and Bob in installing the boxes, and Doris Causey and Cindy Fullwiler helped with funding. Nine of the boxes, plus two donated boxes have already been installed on both public and private land, and a bluebird trail was established on private property with the help of several landowners.

To date, five WEBL pairs have been spotted checking out the boxes, and four seem to have settled in. The Climate Watch surveys have been limited this past year because of the COVID pandemic. Thankfully, the spring-summer survey that begins May 15-June 15 is full speed ahead. As in the past, it is a stationary five-minute survey in which all the birds sighted within the five minutes count period are reported to me through either eBird or a Climate Watch tally sheet.



Male Mountain Bluebird - 3 Crabs
Photo by Cindy Fullwiler



Western Bluebird pair on nest box
Photo by Dow Lambert

During the May-June survey period, in addition to regularly scheduled survey sites, I would like to hone in on a few areas where WEBL have been seen in the last few years but where we have little data. These areas include the Lower Elwha, along Fish Hatchery Rd, Carrie Blake Park, and Lake Farm Rd.

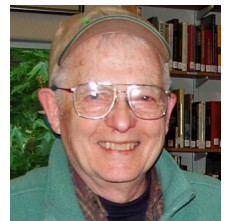


Female Mountain Bluebird - 3 Crabs
Photo by Cindy Fullwiler

If you are interested in any of these areas, or if you would like to volunteer for Climate Watch, please contact me. This is a fun and easy survey to do. It can occur any day that falls within the survey period. For more information about the program, or to report a bluebird sighting - contact joyce.volmut@gmail.com.

Purple Martin update

By Ken Wiersema



Between March 26th and April 16th, our Purple Martin team installed nest boxes for the 2021 nesting season. The installation included 4 boxes in the Port Angeles Yacht Basin, 26 boxes at 3 Crabs and on Dungeness Farms, 7 Boxes on Protection Is. NWR dock, and 12 gourds at Diamond Point. We confirmed that each of these sites, with the exception of Port Angeles, had Purple Martins on or in the boxes within days of installation.



Purple Martin Female
Photo by Dow Lambert

The ones on Protection Is. were occupied within minutes of being secured to the pilings. Thanks to our team and a special thank you to Lorenz Sollmann, USFWS, for getting the PI boxes up. Our volunteers are still not allowed on the Refuge due to COVID regulations.

(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings



*Dungeness Farms Installation
6 April 2021
Photo by Laura Davis*

Clallam County Birdathon and World Migratory Bird Day, May 8, 2021

By Bob Boekelheide

The second Saturday in May is World Migratory Bird Day, when OPAS traditionally holds its Clallam County Birdathon. We'd like everyone to get outside and count birds in Clallam County on May 8, helping to raise money for OPAS projects.

Some locations in Clallam County are still closed due to COVID-19, but fortunately many others are open, particularly for outside activities like birding. No matter where you live or visit in Clallam County, please find some birds on May 8. You can go to your favorite birding spots, go for walks around your neighborhood, or simply tally birds in your yards and at your



feeders. If you know a birdy park or shoreline that's open nearby, please go count some birds.

On May 8, please keep track of the species and numbers of birds you see, along with where you count and the miles and hours you travel. This helps make comparisons between years, which is particularly important. If you have a feeder, enter the high count you see during the day; so for example, if you see 8 House Finches at 8 a.m. and 5 House Finches at 9 a.m., list 8 House Finches with your count.

There is a Birdathon tally sheet available either in Harlequin Happenings or at the [OPAS website](#). After the count, email your lists to me at bboek@olympus.net, either by scanning them or by just typing out the species and numbers in the body of your email. Or you can be old-fashioned and mail the tally sheet to the address on the back, but I prefer email. Or, enter your data on eBird on count day, but please send me an email with the URL of your eBird lists, so I know they exist.

Money raised during Birdathon helps support many OPAS necessities, from printing and internet costs, to insurance for field trips, to supporting conservation programs. People sponsor the Birdathon with a pledge based on total count results, or some get their own sponsors to support their individual tallies, or others just send a generous donation with their Birdathon letter. Because of COVID, we will not hold a pre-Birdathon field trip before the count.

Please email [Bob Boekelheide](mailto:bboek@olympus.net) to sign up to count, or simply do your count and send your tallies right away when finished. If you prefer, you can now donate online to Birdathon on the [Donate page](#) of our website Thank you!

Kudos to Clallam Transit System

By Dee Renee Ericks

Each morning, with a Fitbit watch strapped to my wrist, I head out for a brisk walk about town in pursuit of my 10,000-step daily goal. Last summer, confined by COVID-19, this activity became especially important for sanity and solace.

On one of my walking routes, I was alerted by a fellow Audubon member of a bird strike at a three-sided glass bus shelter near Peninsula College. We observed that a junco had flown headlong into the glass, and lay dead on the concrete below.

The shelter had transparent glass on three sides. Nearby was decorative landscaping, bushes and trees. The problem was obvious. I began making routine walking trips past the two clear-glass bus shelters close to Peninsula College. I began noticing areas where spits of feathers clung to glass from previous bird impacts. *(Continued on page nine)*

With concern, I reached out to Clallam Transit System in an email, and was put in touch with Maintenance Manager Mike Oliver. He kindly explained that the bus shelters



*Clear Glass Bus Stop
Photo by Dee Renee Ericks*

were undergoing a design change in part to address bird strike issues. New shelters would be built with a perforated material, reducing significantly the amount of transparent glass. With a capital replacement schedule, replacement to older shelters would occur as funding became available.

On a walk ten days later, I spied a dead robin on the turf outside the second bus shelter, an obvious casualty of clear glass. Using information that OPAS had compiled for prevention of window strikes, Mike Oliver and his team came up with a plan to more quickly remedy the impacts. Glass treatments were ordered for the two shelters. Markers were installed on one shelter before winter set in. This April, the second shelter was marked during the wave of warm temperatures, and at the beginning of spring migration.

There have been no new bird strikes detected on the two marked bus shelters. I can now walk by with a light step, and enjoy the bird songs knowing they are safer!

Dungeness Data - Anna's vs. Rufous Hummingbirds

By Bob Boekelheide

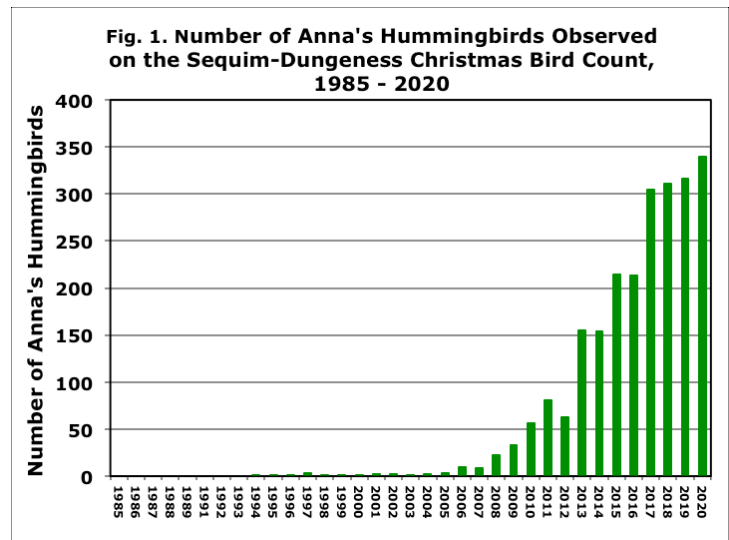


(In place of the former Bird Sightings column, Bob is exploring data from OPAS Community-Science Projects. If you are interested in local bird sightings, check out eBird at <https://ebird.org/explore>, then under "Explore Regions" enter Clallam or Jefferson County.

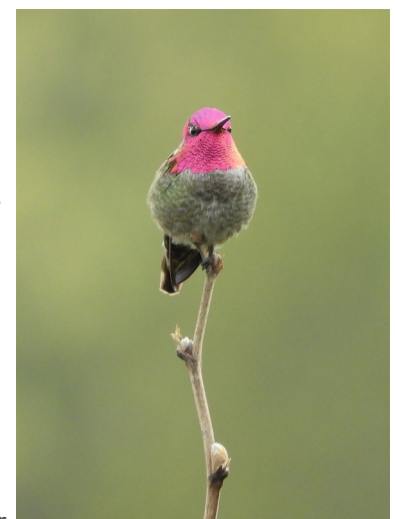
One of the biggest changes to the avifauna of the Pacific Northwest during the last 50 years is the phenomenal increase of Anna's Hummingbirds. In a tiny eye-blink, these little birds have skyrocketed from nonexistence to one of the most abundant backyard birds in our area.

There is no doubt that Anna's Hummingbird numbers have exploded, as shown very well by the Sequim-Dungeness

Christmas Bird Count (SDCBC), held each year in mid-December (see Figure 1). When the SDCBC started in 1975, Anna's Hummingbirds were considered a rare bird in western WA, and the very first Anna's did not occur on the SDCBC until 1994. From 1994 to 2005, Anna's were still very hard to find, with only one to three recorded each CBC. The Anna's count surpassed 10 for the first time in 2006, then blew through 100 by 2013. The number contin-



ues to climb, setting new records every year for the last five years, reaching 340 in 2020. Cities such as Victoria BC record over 1000 Anna's on their CBC. How could this little hummingbird move north so quickly? Some people credit climate change, thinking that warming climate has allowed this species to move north in just a few years. Climate change may influence some of their recent movements, but the records show that Anna's Hummingbirds have been moving north for almost a century.



*Anna's Hummingbird (Male)
Photo by Bob Boekelheide*

In *Birds of America*, one of the early classics of popular ornithology published in 1917, William Finley describes Anna's Hummingbird as "quite restricted in its range, living through central and southern California mainly west of the Sierra Nevadas."

(Continued on next page)

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But by 1944, in their landmark book "*The Distribution of the Birds of California*," Joseph Grinnell and Alden Miller describe a different scenario: "Because of human settlement of open valleys and plains and the clearing of woodland, with extensive gardening and the planting of flowering, non



Anna's Hummingbird (Female) on nest
Photo by Dow Lambert

-native trees, the numbers of Anna Hummingbirds now no doubt greatly exceed those comprised in original aggregate population. An important factor is the presence now of plants which flower abundantly all through the quiescent period for the most native kinds of shrubs, roughly, October to January. This means that the rigors of a minimum food period in the annual cycle have been abated."

My major professor in college, Miklos Udvardy, liked to tell the story about Anna's Hummingbirds spreading into northern California with the planting of eucalyptus and acacia trees. As Udvardy explained, these trees bloom in the winter, providing a nectar source for year-round Anna's Hummers. The trees are also an insect source, attracting swarms of gnats around the flowers. Even in 1917 *Birds of America* says "One may often find this hummingbird nesting in the eucalyptus." There aren't many eucalyptus trees around western WA, so what allows Anna's Hummingbirds to stay here all winter? One contributing factor is backyard hummingbird feeders. The appearance of hummingbirds and hummingbird feeders goes hand-in-hand. Previously we took down our feeders after the last Rufous Hummer migrated away in late summer, but now we keep the feeders up year-round, giving resident Anna's Hummingbirds a ready food source. Many of us even accommodate Anna's by heating our feeders at sub-freezing temperatures. It is no coincidence that the highest numbers of Anna's Hummingbirds observed on Pacific Northwest CBCs occur in the largest cities like Seattle, Vancouver, and Victoria,

where hummingbird feeders also concentrate. In 2017, Vancouver, B.C. even voted Anna's Hummingbird their official "City Bird," beating out quintessential Northwest species like Varied Thrush and Spotted Towhee. Ironically, Anna's Hummingbird was a very rare bird in Vancouver B.C. only 40 years ago, as shown by their CBC data.

One twist to this story is that some male Anna's Hummingbirds sit on their territories all winter, far from the nearest feeders even on the coldest days with ice and snow. This is true at RR Bridge Park, where our Wednesday morning bird walks record Anna's males perched on their territories when there is snow on the ground and temperatures in the teens and 20s. Curiously, Anna's have been recorded flying over a kilometer to reach feeders, so is that how the RR Bridge Park birds survive cold snaps? Anna's Hummingbirds are also well known for entering torpor when temperatures drop at night, by allowing their body temperatures and heart rate to drop precipitously. Clearly they have the physiological means to survive cold temperatures as long as they can find food.

If they're not drinking nectar, what do they eat? Anna's Hummingbirds likely have the highest proportion of insects and spiders in their diet compared with other hummingbirds. Even during winter we see insects in RR Bridge Park, particularly swarms of gnats. There are also spiders, which the hummers pick out of webs. I'm sure the hummingbirds are far better at finding insects and spiders than we are, so if we see them, the hummingbirds undoubtedly do, too.

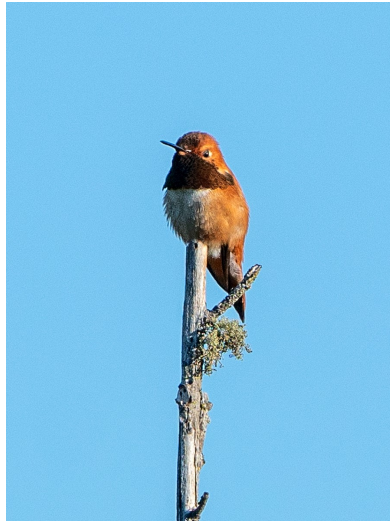
Another question is how do Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds relate to one another? Do they compete for food and territories? As Anna's increase in abundance, what has happened to the numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds?

First, the annual cycle of these two hummingbird species could not be more different. Around here, Anna's Hummingbirds appear to be year-round residents, although evidence suggests that they disperse during their non-breeding season. The Anna's Hummingbird we see at RR Bridge Park in the summer may not be the same Anna's Hummingbird we see at RR Bridge Park in the winter. Anna's also nest very early, even laying their first eggs during winter.

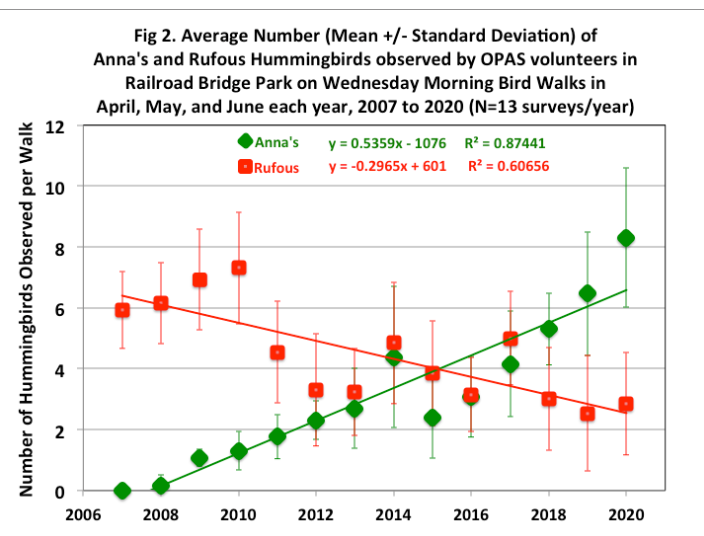
Rufous Hummingbirds, in contrast, are the most migratory of all hummingbird species, migrating as far north as Alaska during the nesting season and as far south as southern Mexico and the US Gulf Coast for winter. In Sequim, the first Rufous males appear on territories in early March and are mostly gone by the end of June. Most females arrive later in March and the last females and young migrate away by the end of July. After nesting, Rufous

Hummingbirds may even fly inland to the Rocky Mountains to get nectar from mountain wildflowers. This means that Rufous are here for only four months or so each year. Do Anna's have an advantage simply because they are here all year?

The only local data we have for changes in the relative abundance of the two hummingbird species comes from our community-science Wednesday morning bird walks at RR Bridge Park, which celebrate their 20-year anniversary this coming September. Figure 2 uses bird walk data to show the average numbers of the two hummingbird species counted on the walks during the three-month period (April to June) in which Rufous Hummers are present each year, for the years 2007 to 2020. In Figure 2, Anna's are represented by green symbols and Rufous are the red symbols.



Rufous Hummingbird (Male)
Photo by Dow Lambert



resented by green symbols and Rufous are the red symbols.

Figure 2 reveals amazing changes in the abundance of these two hummingbird species over the last 15 years. First off, Anna's Hummingbirds did not regularly occur in RR Bridge Park until 2008. From 2008 to 2011, Rufous clearly outnumbered Anna's, averaging 6 to 8 Rufous per walk compared to less than two Anna's. From 2012 to 2017 the two species tracked fairly close, although Rufous still held the edge. From 2018 to 2020, Anna's easily surpassed Rufous, climbing in 2020 to an average of over eight Anna's seen per walk compared to less than three Rufous.

The regression lines for each species in Figure 2 tell an ominous tale. The slope of the green Anna's line shows an increase on our walks of about 0.5 birds per year, whereas the slope of the red Ru-

fous line shows a decrease of about 0.3 birds per year. Does this mean that Rufous Hummingbirds are being pushed out by the Anna's?

Maybe, maybe not. These data just look at disturbed habitats in RR Bridge Park that may favor Anna's over Rufous. Rufous Hummingbirds are still more abundant in many surrounding habitats, particularly away from human habitation such as in the foothills and the Olympic Mountains. Some people believe that Rufous are the more aggressive species at feeders compared to Anna's, but, despite that, Rufous appear to be declining in the lowlands where feeders are located, perhaps because of the pervasive presence of Anna's. A better question might be: What is happening to the Rufous Hummingbirds?

Finally, let's return to the other question about whether Anna's Hummingbirds are increasing in the Pacific Northwest due to climate change. Anna's Hummingbirds are unquestionably increasing in the northern part of their range, but does that mean they are simultaneously declining at the southern part of their range, like in Southern California, with its drought, fires, and unrelenting heat? It turns out that Anna's are still abundant in Southern California as shown by CBC data, likely attracted to feeders just like here in the Pacific Northwest. Whether they are equally abundant in their native chaparral habitat is uncertain. Regardless, it suggests that their increase on the north Olympic Peninsula is just as likely because of cooperative humans like OPAS members who provide year-round sugar water as it is to climate change. It will be most interesting to see what happens over the next 50 years.

Excuse me while I go fill my hummingbird feeder.

**Interested in attending an
OPAS virtual event?**

All events can be found on the [OPAS website](#) under Events, Event Calendar. Click on the event you're interested in attending, and a Register button will appear. That's easy! A registration message will be sent to you, with information on how to log in to Zoom for the event. It's a good idea to register at least a day before the event.

If you are not sure how to use Zoom or are uncomfortable with how to get started, please contact us (president@olympicpeninsulaudubon.org). We can walk you through the steps and send you a practice invite, where we can work out the "kinks" before the meeting. This is a good opportunity to learn about Zoom in a friendly environment; we are here to help you fly into the modern communication era.

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**.

___ Annual Membership (\$20.00) ___ 3 Year Membership (\$50.00, saves \$10.00)
___ 6 Year Membership (\$90.00, saves \$30) ___ Lifetime Membership (\$250.00)

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Payment Options:

1. **Credit Card** Master Card or Visa Payment

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date _____

Authorized Signature _____ Amount Paid \$ _____

Three digit Security Code from back of card _____

2. **For Checks:** Make payable to OPAS and mail with this form to address above

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