



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 5 September-October 2021

“Volunteer educators and stewards for birds and habitat conservation”

[Editor’s Note: September membership program cancelled. Detailed notice on page nine.]

OPAS Program for October

By Tom Butler, Vice President

“Ecology, Behavior, and Conservation of Salmon and Trout”, presented by Thomas Quinn, University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Wednesday, October 20, 2021, Dungeness River Nature Center, at 7 p.m.

Professor Thomas Quinn will present on the ecology, behavior, and conservation of salmon and trout as indispensable inhabitants of the Salish Sea and beyond. The fortunes of these iconic fish are inextricably linked to the destinies of birds and the greater ecosystems they inhabit.

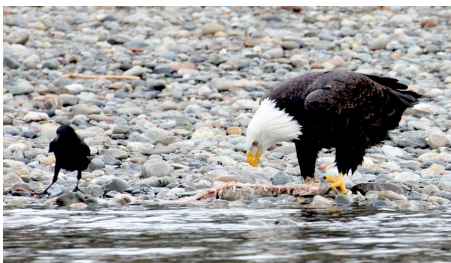


Photo by Jason Ransom
North Cascades NP

An engaging speaker and winner of a number of academic awards, Professor Quinn is a widely published author of scientific articles and texts. He is a widely renowned expert on

Pacific fish with an encyclopedic knowledge of salmon and trout. The presentation will take place in the newly constructed Dungeness River Nature Center.

OPAS Field Trips

By Marie Grad, Field Trip Chair

Field trip and registration details can be found on the Events Calendar of the OPAS website. On the [event details](#) page, be sure to review our current COVID-19 guidelines.



Shorebirds

Date and Time: September 6 at 8:00 a.m.

Cost: Free

Limit: Ten participants, Sign up at <https://olympicpeninsulaudubon.org> Events Calendar

Leaders: Bob Boekelheide and Marie Grad

Meeting Place: 3 Crabs parking area

Features: Let’s celebrate World Shorebird Day with a walk out on the mudflats at 3 Crabs. It’s a great way to see the Shorebirds and other returning waterfowl as they migrate through to their winter habitat.

Bring: We will be walking out on the tide flats, so bring your rubber boots, optics including scope if you don’t mind lugging it a mile or two. As always wear weather appropriate clothing.
Special requirements: Must be able to walk 1-2 miles in sand, mud and 1-2 inches of water.

Liability Form: This can be done through the OPAS website and is good for any future OPAS Field Trips
COVID considerations: Please preregister for trip. We will ask attendees to self-notify the trip leader on your vaccination status and we will maintain social distances. Optics will not be shared. Trip size limited to 10. If the trip is full when you register, a waitlist option is available on Eventbrite. If you need to cancel, please let the trip leader know so that a person on the waitlist can be contacted.

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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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President's Notes

by Ken Wiersema



Welcome back from summer folks. Lots occurred and lots of things in progress. As you'll note in this edition, we have been busy.

Board retreat -- Aug 12th

Our board met in person in my garage, masked, with doors open. First time we'd seen each other in person since 2020. We'll shortly have a revised and updated edition of our bylaws to present to the membership, as well as our goals for 2022. Thanks to our dedicated board members who agreed to carefully meet in these COVID times.

Dungeness River Audubon Center construction

The building and grounds are really taking shape. Work continues on interior finishing, painting, installation of equipment, and operating systems. Watch for announcements of a "soft" opening this fall. We're tentatively scheduling our first OPAS membership meeting in the Center for Oct 20th. COVID-19 may kibosh it, so please watch our web and facebook post for most current info.

As you'll see in a fuller article in this edition, we'll cease using Audubon in the name of the Center starting in September. The new name embraces a sense of place and conveys an inclusive scope of programs, of which birds remain an inseparable part. OPAS continues as a partner in supporting and operating the Center as will Audubon Washington.

Call for Volunteers.

As the Center nears completion, we'll be reaching out to our OPAS members to help with finishing and other cost saving tasks. Fence building, landscaping, installing shelves, unpacking and assembling furniture, etc. If you'd like to take part, please send me your name and an indication of the skills you have. We'll do training too!

Swan Safe Project

Big OPAS thanks to John Acklen who has been our point person for accomplishing this project this summer. Also, I send our thanks to the behind the scenes folks who made this project go. Mary Porter-Solberg who set up and managed the GoFundMe program on our website, Wendy Hirota our treasurer, who opened the new accounts and managed the funds, Marie Grad and Audrey Gift who wrote thank-you letters to donors, Kendra Donelson who did the mail pickups. It really does take a village to make good things happen. Please consider joining our team. Many of us are aging out of being productive contributors. Our birds need you!

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OPAS Field Trip *(Continued from page one)*

Further Information: Contact Bob Boekelheide
 bboek@olympus.net 360-808-0196 or Marie Grad
 mlgrad53@gmail.com 360-620-4035

Conservation Matters: Power Lines are Gone!

By John Acklen, Project Swan Safe Manager



On Monday, August 9, construction crews completed the road cut across Kirner Road, and utility crews began installing conduit through which power line conductors and WAVE cable would subsequently be pulled. By the end of Tuesday, the trench had been cut along the west side to the corner of Kirner and Woodcock, remaining conduit installed, and the excavation backfilled. About 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, Clallam County PUD switched electric power flow from the overhead lines on the east side of Kirner Road to new buried conductors. Later that afternoon, they removed the de-energized lines which had caused injury and death to swans. These acts, achieved a major goal of Project Swan Safe, organized by the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS). Granted, the project is not quite done. Today, the WAVE broadband cable still hangs from an unneeded power pole but these vestiges will soon be removed, and the threat to swans from these overhead power lines is gone.

the winter of 2017-2018 that the true scope and scale of the problem became clear ... through the efforts of Bob Phreaner, who showed up before dawn most winter mornings from early November through late January to observe and record swans leaving the pond to forage in the area. Bob started photographing swans roosting on Kirner Pond in 2017, and began discerning some patterns, like their tendency to take off into the wind regardless of the threat of the power lines. In December of 2019, he began to make daily video recordings.

Bob Phreaner video recorded all westbound take-offs for 89 mornings, from early November of 2020 until early February of 2021, when the swans moved their roosting location to Gie-



*Power line burial
 Photo by John Acklen*



*Trumpeter Swans flying near power lines
 Photo by John Gussman*

This threat became well known in the last several years, with at least nine mortalities reported to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) since 2014. The number of mortalities alone did not tell the complete story. It was not until

rin Slough (Graysmarsh). The most interesting result of reviewing the videos in slow motion was seeing the number of line strikes, where a bouncing wire provided evidence that a wing had clipped a wire. Often birds would strike the line and limp off or even fly off, only to die later from their injuries. Before the videos, we only knew about the dead or injured swans found near the power lines.

On December 9, on a drizzly 39-degree overcast dawn with little wind, there were 112 swans present roosting on Kirner Pond before dawn. At 08:30, in one of the last flights to take off, a group of 5 headed west, but one swan was electrocuted. Bob called Shelly Ament of WDFW who arrived soon thereafter to pick up the dead swan. The following day Shelly, Bob, Mike Hill, and a PUD crew met at Kirner Rd and placed 50 additional diverters; but all agreed after reviewing Bob's video of the electrocution that diverters were not the solution. The lines needed to be buried. (

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Martha Jordan of Northwest Swan Conservation Association notified local award-winning videographer John Gussman of the problem, and he flew his drone camera over Kirner Pond for five mornings starting on 12/11. Using this footage, John made the *Sudden Impact* video in which he included some of Bob's collision videos.

Bob Phreaner shared his data with the OPAS Conservation Committee in early January, and they immediately agreed to recommend raising funds to bury the Kirner Road power lines to the OPAS Board. This was a first for OPAS as they'd never sponsored a GoFundMe campaign before. It was also in January that I offered to help with the project, as I had recently retired from the utility industry as an environmental professional with a specialty in avian protection. Thus, Project Swan Safe was born. In April 2021, just three months after beginning fundraising, Project Swan Safe had raised the estimated \$65,000 to bury the power lines underground!

The successful completion of Project Swan Safe is a unique accomplishment, not only for OPAS, but for our community and our coalition of dedicated project partners. In my experience as a utility environmental professional, utilities usually undertake projects such as this primarily either to reduce liability or to increase reliability. Funds are rarely obligated to mitigate collision risk to wildlife. This is especially true for a public utility like our PUD where every project is paid for directly by rate payers.

To have PUD come up with all the funding for this project would have been extremely difficult. The real catalyst and major backing for this project are our donors. More than **290** of you-contributed to the Swan Safe GoFundMe campaign to make it go. You are the heroes in this story. Our heartfelt thanks.

Read the New Blog Page on the OPAS Website

The OPAS website has a new Blog page that replaced the News page.

Each Blog post tells a story in more detail and with photos to enhance your enjoyment. Be sure to visit the [Blog](#) page today so that you don't miss out on the latest OPAS updates and news.

You can also view a preview of each Blog post on the [Home](#) page of the website. Once you read the selected story, be sure to "like" it at the bottom of the story.

Along with donor funding, other private and public entities contributed to the success of this project. PUD stepped up and contributed not only partial construction funding but project design services and management as well. Mike Hill, PUD Engineering Manager, followed through on every facet of this project from initially hanging bird diverters through the design of the underground system, obtaining easements and permits, to scheduling. WDFW provided regulatory backing, support, and, perhaps even more importantly, Shelly Ament's time and energy as a key project proponent, partner, and problem solver. Clallam County Roads engineers permitted us to open-cut the road, rather than have to use a much more expensive boring operation. C&J, our excavation contractor, went above and beyond, not only reducing their administrative burden on the project, but coordinating with the irrigation ditch company and landowners to offer innovative solutions to sticky issues that threatened project design and schedule. WAVE Broadband reduced earlier project estimates, helping us to bring the project in on budget. This public-private-non-profit coalition is unique and may be the first of its kind. It certainly is in my experience.

Although the dust has yet to settle, this project appears to have come in on budget and within the critical summer scheduling window when the swans are still on their northern nesting grounds. This winter, it will be a joy to watch swans flying into and leaving Kirner Pond without having to run the gauntlet of lethal power lines. Thanks to our innovative community coalition, the power lines are gone!

Dungeness Data - "Wish they all could be California Gulls"

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. Please join eBird and add your own sightings, as well.

One of the most overlooked bird migrations in the Pacific Northwest is happening right now, right on our doorstep. Hundreds of thousands of birds participate in this migration, but most people don't even notice. The birds aren't songbirds that migrate surreptitiously under the cover of darkness. The birds aren't shorebirds that hide out on beaches and mudflats, only visible with expensive optics. No, these birds are easy to see,

bold and boisterous, flying right in front of our noses during broad daylight.

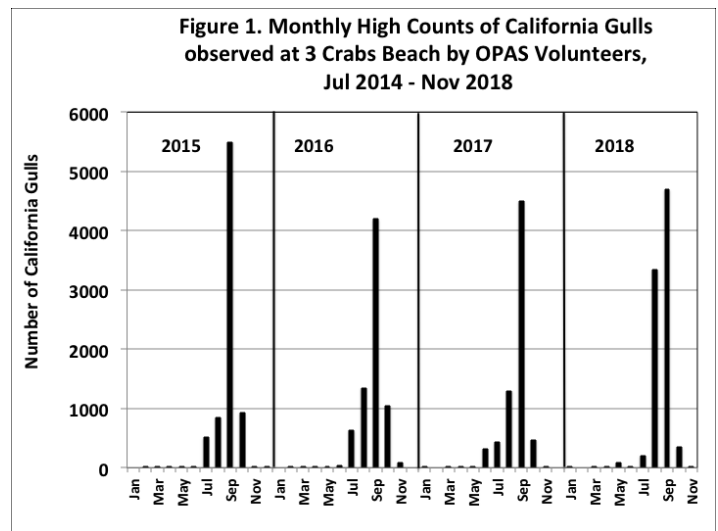
I'm talking, of course, about California Gulls (CAGU). The incredible post-breeding migration of CAGUs is one of the most unappreciated bird movements in the Pacific NW, perhaps because they are just "seagulls." This time of year CAGUs line coastal river mouths, spits, mudflats, beaches, log yards, breakwaters, and parking lots. They are scrappy little beggars that look askance at your lunch one moment, then become the main component of pelagic feeding flocks at the continental shelfbreak the next.



Adult California Gull (CAGU) in late August
Photo by Bob Boekelheide

Two OPAS community-science projects show the timing of CAGU migration very well. First, from 2014 to 2018, OPAS cooperated with North Olympic Salmon Coalition to count Bbirds as part of the Three Crabs Restoration Project. Remember the old Three Crabs restaurant? Our goal was to see if the project caused any changes to bird populations using habitats near the mouth of Meadowbrook Creek, including birds on the mudflats visible from Three Crabs Beach. OPAS volunteers counted birds three times each month within 10-day periods, adjusting our counts for time of day, tides, and weather.

Figure 1 shows the monthly high counts of CAGUs roosting and feeding at Three Crabs during the four years from 2015 to 2018. Every year looks remarkably similar. CAGU numbers in Dungeness Bay start picking up in June and July, peak at several thousand in August and September, then quickly decline through October. By the time we hold our Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count in mid-December, they are long gone. For the entire 45-year history of the SDCBC, our record count for the whole Sequim-Dungeness area is only 22 CAGUs.



Another OPAS community-science project that clearly shows the post-breeding migration of CAGUs is our offshore surveys of birds within the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve (PIAR). The PIAR is an area of biological importance established by WDNR in the waters around Protection Island, from the mouths of Discovery and Sequim Bays to about 5 miles north of Protection Island. Since 2016, OPAS volunteers have cooperated with Port Townsend Marine Science Center and WDNR to do monthly boat surveys in the PIAR, covering a 25-mile route each time. We count birds within a 200-m wide transect, which we then use to calculate densities of birds within the Aquatic Reserve.

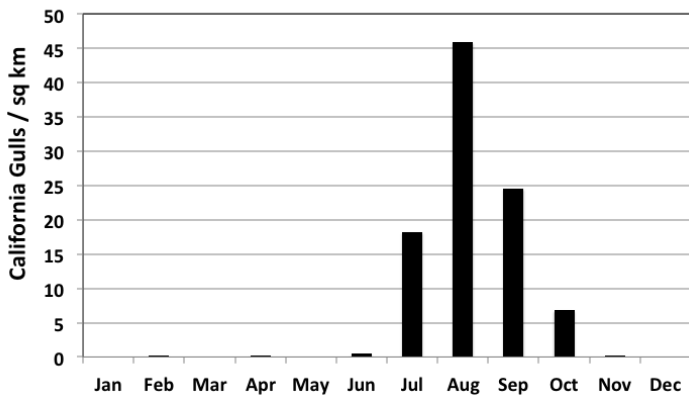
Just like at Three Crabs, the PIAR data (Figure 2) show that migrant CAGUs start arriving in June, peak in late summer, then quickly disappear through October and November. By multiplying the highest densities of CAGUs observed on our surveys (up to 80 CAGUs/sq km) by the total area of the PIAR (96.23 sq km), we can estimate that about 8000 CAGUs occur on one day within the PIAR during peak passage in late summer.

It's curious that the peak densities in the PIAR show on the graph during August, whereas the peak numbers on the surveys at Three Crabs occur in September. I suspect this might be an artifact of our sampling, because we counted total numbers every 10 days at Three Crabs, but we only surveyed once per month at PIAR, usually near the middle of the month. This shows the danger of lumping data into human time periods we call "months," which does not apply to birds that live day to day.

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Figure 2. Annual Cycle of California Gulls observed on Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Surveys, based on monthly mean densities (birds/sq km) Nov 2016 - Jul 2021



Suffice it to say, the passage of CAGUs is miraculous. From June through October, the gulls move constantly through our area. We don't know how long individual birds stay in specific areas, but the movements of gulls at Three Crabs and Dungeness Spit suggest that they keep moving from east to west. The age composition of flocks changes as well during their migration. In early July, the CAGUs here are heavily weighted towards immature pre-breeders, mostly subadult birds that probably don't return all the way to nesting colonies. Adult birds predominate during peak passage in August and September, probably fresh from nesting. The very first fledglings from the nesting season appear in late July, then hatching-year birds steadily pick up during fall, sometimes outnumbering adults in September.



California Gulls at Dungeness Spit.

Photo by Bob Boekelheide

The adult in the middle shows its brighter yellow bill with red and black feeding spots. The darker speckly birds, two to the right of the adult and one in front of the adult, are second-cycle immatures. The two on the left of the adult with gray wings and backs, along with dark tips to their bills, are third-cycle immatures

Where do the CAGUs come from and where are they going? CAGUs nest in the interior of western North America, nearly all on islands in big lakes. According to *Birds of the World*, six of the nine largest nesting colonies in the world are found at lakes in Alberta, to the east of the Canadian Rockies. Their nesting range extends from the Northwest Territories of Canada through Alberta, Manitoba, Montana, and the Dakotas, down to Great Salt Lake in Utah and Mono Lake in eastern California. The largest U.S. colony is typically at Great Salt Lake. Low water levels due to drought may seriously threaten CAGUs if their nesting islands stop being islands, making them accessible to terrestrial predators such as coyotes.

After nesting, CAGUs fly from inland colonies over the Rocky Mountains, then down the Columbia and Fraser Rivers to salt-water. Birds nesting at Mono Lake fly over the Sierra Nevada. California Gulls are renowned for their high-altitude flights, soaring over the high peaks with no problems. I remember sitting on mountaintops in Yosemite National Park and being amazed at flocks of CAGUs circling around in the sky at 13,000 ft, heading west after nesting at Mono Lake. The northern populations, including many from the big colonies in Alberta, apparently fly over the Rockies then down the Fraser River valley to the Salish Sea, heading straight towards the Strait of Juan de Fuca and our front door in Clallam County.

In late summer many years ago, I tried to do a California Gull/Clallam County Big Day, counting all the CAGUs I could find on only one day roosting at river mouths, harbors, and other sites in coastal Clallam County. Starting at Dungeness Bay and ending at Hobuck Beach, my one-day count was over 35,000 CAGU. I likely missed more than I saw, because I couldn't get to many roost sites and I didn't even make it to La Push. Regardless, the number of CAGUs passing Clallam County each summer certainly numbers in the hundreds of thousands. This is a significant portion of the world population, which *Birds of the World* estimates to be between 500,000 and one million.

Other places where you can see big numbers of CAGUs in western WA is at offshore feeding flocks, both in the Salish Sea and off the west coast of WA. In fact, CAGUs are often the most numerous components of these giant feeding flocks, not only in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca, but even at places like at the continental shelfbreak miles off the coastline. On one of our September pelagic boat trips to Swiftsure Bank, 15 mi west of Cape Flattery, we estimated a whopping 20,000 CAGU feeding and loafing in one area around the southern edges of the bank. There were probably many more. What are they eating in the feeding flocks? Small fish is the likely answer, possibly sandlance and herring.



California Gulls at Swiftsure Bank 10 mi WNW of Cape Flattery.
 Photo by Bob Boekelheide
 Nearly all the gulls in the photo are CAGUs, but not all.
 Can you identify the other gull species?

What else do the CAGUs do while they're here? Other than eating all they can, one very important job in summer and fall is molting feathers. The juveniles don't need to molt, because they already have brand new feathers. But all the other age classes go through heavy molt this time of year, replacing all their feathers all over their bodies. Piles of dropped gull feathers stack up on beaches and spits, providing a big hit of carbon and nitrogen into local biogeochemical cycles.

By November each year, the big numbers of CAGUs are gone. They mostly spend the winter in California, where they become one of the most abundant gull species throughout the state. From the Bay Area to the Central Valley to the Salton Sea, CAGUs line the fields, lawns, and beaches. On most Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Counts we're lucky to tally even ten.

Curiously, there is no equivalent spring migration of CAGUs past Dungeness. It appears CAGUs mostly fly straight inland from California to their nesting areas in the interior of North America, without passing through the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The one exception is CAGUs can be found in good numbers at herring spawns in the Salish Sea in February and March, along with other gull species. Unfortunately, with the decline of herring in Dungeness and Sequim Bays, they don't stop here much anymore.

As all birders know, gull plumages can be confusing, so how do you know you're looking at a CAGU? First, focus on adults. During nesting, CAGU are fairly unique because the "feeding spot" near the tip of their bill is both black and red. They are medium sized - clearly smaller and with a thinner bill compared with our local-nesting Glaucous-winged Gulls, but larger and

larger-billed than either Ring-billed or Mew Gulls. A flashy CAGU breeding adult has medium-gray back and wings, yellow legs, and dark eyes.

This is the time -- go enjoy the wonder of the California Gull migration right now in Dungeness Bay.

River Center Makes Changes—A New Mission, Name and Logo

Media release from Dungeness River Nature Center

On September 1st, the Dungeness River Audubon Center will change its name to the "Dungeness River Nature Center."

The new name reflects the River Center's educational mission to teach children and adults about the natural environment of the Dungeness River watershed--from its headwaters in the alpine meadows of the Olympic Mountains to its estuary entering the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The expansion and remodel of the Center is five times larger than the original building at Railroad Bridge Park and will integrate the natural history and the S'Klallam culture of the Olympic Peninsula. The River Center's partners, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and the State and National Audubon Societies, support the name change. It was introduced and approved by the Center's Board of Directors.

"We were prompted to change the name, so people understand that the work we do is to celebrate all natural and cultural resources of the Dungeness River watershed," says Powell Jones, River Center Director and Park Manager. "Although we want to continue to be a go-to place for birds, we want visitors to come learn about the Dungeness River's unique ecosystems and inhabitants that include salmon, mammals, insects, and plants." *(Continued on next page)*



DUNGENESS RIVER NATURE CENTER

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Additionally, we want to be a place where people come to learn about the special relationship that the Jamestown Tribe has had with this watershed for time immemorial.” Jones says.

While “Audubon” has been part of the River Center’s name and logo since 1997, the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe has been an active partner since 1994. The River Center sits in the 75-acre Railroad Bridge Park, owned by the Tribe. The Tribe provides a full range of maintenance, repair, and Park and Center facilities upgrades; including caring for the historic railroad bridge that crosses the Dungeness River.

“Our Tribe is very excited about this expansion of the Dungeness River Center,” says W. Ron Allen, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Chair and CEO. “The new name and logo reflect a turning of the page in this Tribal/community program’s purpose. One that will enlighten many generations about the importance of the river and habitat for fish and wildlife to our community. The Center will truly become a destination site honoring the beauty of the Olympic Peninsula.”

“The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society will continue to sponsor and present bird-centric programs, field trips, Bird-Fest, and classes as core components of the Center’s expanded offerings,” says Ken Wiersema, OPAS President. “We have been active partners in the designs and capabilities built into the expanded Center. As an entirely volunteer organization and the smallest of the local partners, we’re energized and ready to get into the Center and do our part. We’re delighted to see the Pileated Woodpecker in Salish art, in the new logo.

While we’ll miss the Audubon name on the Center, the new name represents a more inclusive commitment from each of the partners to the understanding and stewardship of our natural environment. The National Audubon Society and their State office will continue to work in partnership with the Center to achieve our shared goals.” says Wiersema.

The River Center Board also decided to write a new mission statement: “To inspire understanding, respect, and stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.”

“Because the River Center covers such a wide range of subjects that include everything from wildflowers, trees, insects, coyotes, hummingbirds, and everything in between; we felt that it was also important for our mission statement to be reworked to include and describe best what we do,” says Jones.

The expanded and remodeled facility includes a 150-person meeting room, small conference/classroom, exhibit room, new office, gift shop, commercial catering kitchen, concession stand, wildlife viewing room, atrium, and a large patio for outdoor activities. The Tribe bought the land when it became available to expand the River Center facilities. After five years of a capital campaign that raised more than \$5 million to expand and remodel the River Center in Railroad Bridge Park, the new building will open to the public in the Fall.

“The first ‘Sequim Natural History Museum’ was founded by volunteers in 1984 in a single classroom in the old high school building,” says Annette Hanson, current President of the Board and co-founder. “In 1994, our first board members envisioned a place where we could teach about the natural history of our area and the importance of respecting and preserving our wildlife and environment. We wanted to showcase the complexity of the Dungeness River. We imagined and planned for a center where all people could visit, learn, and feel welcome in the beautiful and natural setting of Railroad Bridge Park.

Our vision was big, but we started small in 2001 with the opening of the first River Center building. Fast forward—now the timing is right—our vision is becoming a reality! We are so thankful for our partners, our community, and donors who are helping our shared vision come true. We’re almost there,” says Hanson.

Coast Salish art, used in the River Center’s new logo, features a pileated woodpecker clinging to the trunk of a substantial tree, head poised to hammer out a new nest.

Artist’s Statement

By Bud Turner –Jamestown S’Klallam House of Myths

As I was working through the various ideas that could be displayed for the Dungeness River Nature Center logo, knowing that I would be using the Salish art form, one idea kept coming to mind: To use the Pileated Woodpecker as its symbolic image.

The woodpeckers are unique from the other birds. They do not collect twigs to make their nests. They carve them into the sides of trees with their strong beaks. They carve small holes to find food; they carve large holes for their nests. Their smaller holes are used by insects such as wild bees that pollinate the wildflowers and trees. The larger nesting cavities are reused by many other birds and mammals to nest and raise their young inside the safety of the tree.

The Salish art form that you see in this logo was traditionally done through the chiseling and carving of wood. Many examples of that art form can be seen on totems, on house panels and screens, on canoes, on bentwood boxes, and on ornate spindle whorls, used for weaving, that were intricately carved with images of animals, birds, and also human and supernatural figures. These images were carved with simple shapes inside of the form, such as the crescent, trigon, and the circle that you see in your logo that make up the image of the woodpecker.

The Pileated Woodpecker, poised with his claws in the bark and his strong tail bracing him against the tree to carve out his nest, is at the center of the logo, encompassing most of its space. Between the woodpecker and the tree is a long flowing blue arc that represents the Dungeness River. The river's banks form both the outline of the tree and the woodpecker. Above the woodpecker is branch that reaches out from the tree that touches the other side of the logo to create a strong line, a canopy, for the image. Its leaves are a silhouette against a field of green.

The colors are simple but striking to the eye, from the green of the trees that you see throughout Railroad Bridge Park and the River Center, and the blue of the river. The only red you see in the logo is the crested head of the woodpecker, its color singled out from the rest of the colors just as you would spot the woodpecker in the wild. The last color you see is a spot of yellow that makes up the crescent of the woodpecker's eye.

The colors of the logo are warm and inviting to the viewer, which stands above or next to the word Nature Center, inviting all to come inside to explore and learn all about the complex watershed of the Dungeness River.

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.

PROGRAM NOTICE:

We have cancelled our regular September OPAS membership meeting, which we would have held on September 15th. We decided to do this for several reasons including: new surge of COVID-19 infections, schedule slip-page for the meeting room availability in the Center's expansion project, Zoom fatigue on the part of our potential speakers, low attendance at our most recent Zoom membership meetings.

We plan for and fully intend to resume our regular monthly - in person - membership meetings on October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Center's main meeting room. We'll likely be on old chairs and tables and using a portable projector and screen, but the room is expected to be usable by then. We'll plan to park in the new parking area, east of the building. It may not be paved, but it will be usable. Please watch our OPAS web site and Facebook pages for additional information on the status of the new building and its facilities. We'll plan on having brief guided walk throughs of the new building, as a pre-ambule to our October meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Again, watch for further electronic info on the October meeting as the date gets nearer. Thanks again for your patience and support over the past year and a half. We will be back and better!

And, we're unclear on how to plan for the fall and winter changes due to COVID -19 protocols and mandates. Public Health conditions may again press us back into virtual programs? Masks? Social distancing? regardless of the status of the new building.

Look forward to seeing y'all again soon!

Ken Wiersema

Music on the Patio at the Dungeness River Audubon Center

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021

4 pm-8 pm

**A new and original Capital Campaign event to help finish
the interior and exhibits**

Music, wine, food, and more

Be among the first to explore the new facilities, mingle with friends and enjoy concert seating on the patio of the new River Center building



Featuring music by John Hoover and the Mighty Quinns playing
your favorite John Denver and other hits

Introducing **SEVEN SWALLOWS** wine by Camaraderie Cellars
Bottled exclusively for the River Center to benefit the Capital Campaign

Presenting some special auction opportunities

\$75 per ticket

Tickets are limited

To purchase yours, go to <https://dungenessrivercenter.org/>

Harlequin Happenings

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



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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)

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Street _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Email _____

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Card Number: _____ Expiration Date _____

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OPAS is an Internal Revenue Service Section 501(c)(3) organization (membership gifts are tax deductible)

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