

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 Sep-Oct 2011

*"Promoting Birding and Conservation
as Community Educators, Volunteers, and Stewards"*

OPAS Programs for September and October

by Loretta Flanders and Bill Parker



September 21, 2011, 7 p.m. - Wings of Beauty



Photo by Idie Ulsh

Idie Ulsh will present a fast moving, fun program on butterflies. She will cover the natural history of butterflies, butterfly gardening, and will identify many butterflies that occur in the Sequim and Olympic Mountains areas. Through her photographs, she will show the stages of the butterfly life cycle and a butterfly emerging from a chrysalid. This program is designed for all ages. Her unique ending will delight all who are fascinated by nature.

Idie Ulsh is the founding president of the Washington Butterfly Association, Past President of Seattle Audubon, freelance nature photographer, and an independent college counselor.

Come enjoy a potluck supper at the River Center at 6 p.m. before the program.

October 19, 2011, 7 p.m. - Swans of Winter

Come experience the majestic beauty of the largest waterfowl in the world. **Martha Jordan**, widely-known swan biologist, will present a slide program on Washington's native Trumpeter and Tundra swans. You will learn about their life history, biology, and a few swan identification tips. She will shed light on the problems and controversies these birds face on their wintering grounds, and what is needed to insure their future. Pick up a free Swan Identification Pamphlets at the meeting. Share the facts, myths and legends of the swans of Washington's winter.

Martha Jordan has a degree in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. She began to look at swans in the late 1970s and by 1984 had contributed much information to state and federal agencies on the status of trumpeter swans in Washington State, including the first swan management plan. She was a Board member of The Trumpeter Swan Society (TTSS) for more than 15 years and chairs the Washington Swan Stewards, the local group for TTSS.



Photo by Martha Jordan

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President's Message

by Tom Montgomery



I am honored to have been elected President of OPAS and look forward to working with the many talented and dedicated Board members and other volunteers over the next twelve months. The OPAS President becomes, ex officio, a member of the River Center Board and Executive Committee. I have embarked upon those responsibilities and similarly look forward with enthusiasm to participating in the activities of that OPAS partner.

We received notice recently that our beloved Center Director, Bob Boekelheide, will be resigning as Director at the end of this year (although he will still reside in Sequim and participate in some of the OPAS and River Center activities as a volunteer.). Look for more about this in the coming months. Meanwhile the process of selecting a new Director has commenced.

Your Board has two immediate needs:

1. **Board Secretary**-principal responsibility is to take minutes of Board meetings and participate fully as a Board member. This is a very important and valued function.
2. **Birdfest Chairperson**-this individual will have the pleasure and satisfaction of coordinating one of the main annual events of OPAS with the help and guidance of many experienced volunteers and will also participate fully as a Board member.

Please call me at 360-460-3796 if you would be willing to join our team for either (or both) of these positions. The OPAS/River Center community will be extremely grateful to you for having done so.

Tom Montgomery

Did You Know?

Most back yard birds fledge their young, yet continue to feed them for a period of weeks while the youngsters learn to forage for themselves. It can be very entertaining to watch the young birds chase after their parents, begging to be fed. However, it is probably tiresome to the parents.





Schedule of OPAS Field Trips for 2011-2012

by Bob Iddins

Date(s)	Destination	Leader(s)
Sept 10 & 11	Ocean Shores	Jim Gift
Sept 23 & 24	River Festival	
Oct 3-5	San Juan Island Cruise	
Oct 15	Beginning Birder & Newcomers	Dave Jackson
Oct 22	Bainbridge Island Cruise	Eftin Strong
Nov 12	Ediz Hook & PA Harbor	Judy Mullally & Mary Robson
Nov 12	Beginning Birder & Newcomers	Dave Jackson
Dec 10	CBC Warmup	Bob Boekelheide
Dec 19	Sequim-Dungeness CBC	Bob Boekelheide
Jan 14	Local Bays & shores	Bob Iddins & Judy Mullally
Jan 28	Corvids in Winter	Ken Wiersema
Feb 7 & 8	Skagit Flats	Bob Iddins, Jim Gift & Judy Mullally
Feb 18	Local Bays & Shores	Dave Jackson & Judy Mullally
Feb 17-20	Great Backyard Bird Count	
Mar 6 & 7	Nisqually & Ridgefield NWRs	Bill & Karen Parker & Judy Mullally
Mar 30-Apr 1	OPAS Bird Fest	
Apr 10 & 11	Reifel Bird Sanctuary, B.C. & Pt. Roberts, Wash	Bill & Karen Parker
Apr 28	Dungeness Rec Area & Bay	Ken Wiersema
May 5	Birdathon Warmup	Bob Boekelheide
May 12	Birdathon	Bob Boekelheide
May 19	Swallow class-Spring Fling	Ken Wiersema
Jun 2	Bogachiel State Park	Bill Parker
Jun 9	Lost Mountain	Bob Iddins & Terry Martin
Jun 19	Neah Bay	Bob Iddins & Judy Mullally
Jul 17	Martins & Shorebirds, 3 Crabs	Ken Wiersema & Bob Boekelheide
Jul 24	Hurricane Ridge	Bill & Karen Parker
Aug 11	Dungeness Bay	Judy Mullally & Mary Robson
Aug 23 & 24	Ocean Shores	Bob Iddins & Judy Mullally
Aug 25	Pelagic Trip w/Westport Seabirds	

Note:

There are several field trips that are taking place midweek instead of the traditional weekend. All dates are tentative and may be cancelled or changed. Verify on the OPAS website, Harlequin Happenings Newsletter, or with the trip leader.

Get your Harlequin Happenings Electronically!!

Now is a good time to put yourself on the list to receive an email notice that the newsletter is available from the OPAS website online. Help us to save printing costs by downloading your copy of the HH in living color from the OPAS website. Contact Dave Jackson (djackson@wavecable.com) to help you set it up.



OPAS Field Trips in September - October

by Bob Iddins



Ocean Shores

Dates: Saturday –Sunday, September 10 & 11, 2011

Cost: Free, but participants pay for own lodging and meals

Leaders: Jim and Audrey Gift

Features: Migrating shorebirds of Grays Harbor and other Pacific Coastal spots. Rarities are always a possibility.

Bring: Optics, lunch for both days, footwear for walking, especially on beaches.

Meeting place: 8:30 AM, Saturday, outside the Silver King Resort, 1070 Discovery Ave SW, Ocean Shores (approx. 5 miles from center of town).

Further Information: Jim Gift 360-681-2989 or Bob Iddins 360-681-2840 cell 360-775-5945

Birding for Beginners & Newcomers

Date & Time: Saturday, October 15, 2011, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Cost: Free

Leader: Dave Jackson

Meeting place: Carrie Blake Park

Features: For beginning birders or residents new to the area. Familiarization with birding techniques. Meet some of our local birds.

Bring: Binoculars, bird book, scope if you have any of these. A few loaner binoculars will be available.

Pre-registration and further information: Dave Jackson 360-683-1355 (H); 360-477-1358 (C); email: djackson@wavecable.com. Limit 16 people.

Bainbridge Island Cruise

Date: October 22

Contact Eftin Strong for details (eftin@olyphen.com).

River Center Events

Wednesday Bird Walks

Date: Every Wednesday morning

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

Meet at the River Center for a weekly walk to see and hear the birds of the lower Dungeness riparian forest. Information from these ongoing walks helps us understand the annual cycle of the birds of Railroad Bridge Park.

Last Thursday Work Parties

Date: Sep.22 (River Festival Prep)

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Three short hours each month to keep RR Bridge Park looking bright and beautiful! Bring your work gloves to assist with gardening, cleaning, trail maintenance and other chores that make our park shine. Sep. 22 we setup for the Dungeness River Festival. *(Continued on next page)*



Photo by Robert Hutchison

Natural Science Study Group

Date: Sep. 12

Time: 10 a.m. to noon.

This adult discussion group focuses on the natural world of the north Olympic Peninsula, including climate, weather, rivers, geology, botany, and wildlife. Discussion topics vary with group interests. Come gain some knowledge.



Photo by Robert Hutchison

Introduction to Birds and Birding: A Class for Beginners

Dates: Six Tue. Evenings, Sep. 20 to Oct. 25

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Cost: \$40 River Center partners; \$60 non-partners

Want to find out about birds, but afraid to ask? This six-week class for beginning birders provides basic lessons about the types of birds in our area, bird identification, field guides, and birding optics. Includes two field trips to local birding areas. Limit: 16 people. Please pre-register at the River Center.

Dungeness River Festival (See article, page 10)

Dates: Sep. 23-24.

Help celebrate the watershed that keeps the Sequim-Dungeness Valley alive. There will be activities for kids and adults, music, art, food, and much more. We need help organizing this big event, so please contact the River Center (360-681-4076), if you can help.

Education and Outreach

by Shirley Anderson

Several volunteers met during the summer to share ideas about the second grade "Bird of the Month" and third grade "Mammal of the Month" that were presented at Helen Haller, Greywolf, and Olympic Christian Schools during the past school year. Cindy Moore and Lyn Muench have added poetry writing, Deborah Fischer has adapted parts of the reading portion, Sally Holm and Bill Parker have added power point presentations, original stories and more activities. Sharlene Miller, Laura Anderson and Shirley Anderson continue adapting activities, stories and art work. We are excited to implement new ideas during this coming winter and spring school years, part of the OPAS and River Center outreach to the community. The presentations begin in February and occur once a month through May. Consider participating this year!



Last winter Bill Parker made a large paper banner displaying five local raptor silhouettes, enabling second graders to measure their "wingspans" against the actual dimensions of these birds of prey. Bill and Sally Holm's classes discovered that "It takes two second graders to equal a Bald Eagle!" This inspired the making of a weatherproof replica of the display to use during the River Festival, the last weekend in September.

Laura Anderson, one of the creators of the salmon costumes a few years ago, was invited to assist in the design and preparation of three banners, each with two birds displayed, which will stand along the bridge, greeting visitors during the festival this year as part of the OPAS festival activity.

Check your calendars and plan to greet children and adults at the OPAS exhibit on Friday and Saturday, September 23 and 24. Contact Shirley Anderson, sanderson22@olympen.com or 681 - 3950, if you can help. A sign up sheet with 2 hour shifts will also be available at the OPAS meeting on September 21.

Become a Backyard Birder

by Shirley Anderson

Starting Saturday, October 1, 2011, 10 am to noon, you can begin a new class, "Being a Backyard Birder (BBB)". The series of nine monthly classes is intended for anyone interested in knowing more about the birds seen locally each season of the year, as well as learning how to make their homes good habitats for wild birds.

"BBB" can be taken as individual sessions or as a series. Each class will cost \$5 for adults, but is free for anyone under 18. After the completion of any 5 sessions, participants will be offered membership in the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS).



Photo by Doug Schwarz

San Juan Islands October 3-5, 2011, Sequim, WA

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island State Park, and cruise home via dramatic Deception Pass.

Contact 360-681-4076, or email

rcoffice@olympus.net.

Details at:

www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org

The class was developed by members of the OPAS Education Committee, Ken and Janie Leuthold, Margaret Levitan, Audrey Gift, Bob Boekelheide and Shirley Anderson. Shirley and Janie will chair the new class, which will be taught by OPAS birders and the staff of the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

Following are dates and topics for the class sessions:

Date	Subject
October 1	What Bird is That?
November 5	Winter Bird Feeding
December 10	Christmas Bird Count
January 7	Birds: The Inside Story
February 18	Great Backyard Bird Count
March 3	Gardening for Spring Birds
April 7	Bird Migration
May 5	Bird Songs and Calls
June 2	Out of the Nest

Financial Planning Seminar Series: Introduction to Trusts...and More

On Thursday, November 10, 2011, Certified Financial Planner and River Center endowment advisor James D. Hallett will

present the fourth in a series of financial planning programs sponsored by the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Please join him for an informative program about trusts. The following topics will be discussed:


- > When trusts are advisable
- > Types of trusts
- > How to select one that's right for you
- > Additional ramifications of trusts
- > Strategies for navigating market volatility
- > How to design financial plans that work regardless of economic circumstances

(Continued on next page)

This free program will be offered at two times: 3:30-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:30 p.m. To register for either the afternoon or the evening session, contact Sue Chickman, (360) 477-4123 or organicallysue@olympen.com. Pre-registration is advised as seating is limited.

Olympic Theatre Arts Presents

**Special Reception & Performance
for River Center Partners & Friends**



**A MURDER GAME
IN TWO ACTS**

**Monday, September 26th
Reception at 6:30, Curtain at 7:30
Tickets \$20.00
Available at Dungeness River Audubon Center**

Conservation Matters - Wild Olympics Campaign

by Jim Gift



The Wild Olympics Campaign is pushing forward with continued meetings with Native American Tribes, Timber Companies, and other interested parties. Throughout the process, the campaign has listened to all interested parties and modified the program to continue to protect the Olympic Peninsula watersheds, but deal with many of the issues raised by some of the groups that we have met with. We have changed the willing-seller additions to Olympic Peninsula National Park from National Parks designations to National Preserves. This change in designation will protect the areas from development but permit hunting and fishing in these areas.

There has been concern expressed by timber and port interests about the potential jobs which would be lost if all the proposed additions would occur at the same time. First, this would never happen. Most of the proposed land is privately owned and only would be sold if the owner wanted to sell the land. All the

proposed additions are willing-seller transactions. The land will remain in private ownership. The proposed program would give the Park an option bid on the land if the owner decided to sell. Consequently, any land lost from the timber base would occur over decades, and only when the timber companies wanted to sell the land.

You will hear more about the campaign in the coming weeks. This program is designed to protect the important watersheds on the Olympic Peninsula and your support is important.

Volunteers Needed for Trumpeter Swan Study

by Mary Porter-Solberg

In the July/August issue of Harlequin Happenings, Jim Gift asked for volunteers to participate in a study to monitor Trumpeter Swans this winter. We haven't yet reached our goal of a dozen volunteers.

Last year, five Trumpeter Swans in Sequim were found dead from lead poisoning. The Trumpeter Swan Society has a grant to monitor the swans three times a week between November, 2011 and March, 2012, to identify feeding and night time roosting areas. Training will be provided to participants.

Please consider volunteering for this important study. Audubon encourages participation in citizen science as a way for you to generate vital information for the conservation of birds. Our visiting Trumpeter Swans need your help and if you can volunteer this winter, please contact Mary Porter-Solberg (683-8072) or Jim Gift (681-2989).



Bird Sightings

by Bob Boekelheide

While surveying Merlins at the Quillayute Prairie on 6/23, David Drummond heard a warbler singing low in some small spruces and firs, then, to his great delight, out popped an adult male Blue-winged Warbler. David says it traveled in and out of the trees, giving him several views over several minutes as it responded to his pishing. Blue-wings are normally a bird of brushy forest edges in the eastern U.S., where David knew them from his youth. If accepted by the WA Bird Records Committee, it would be the second Blue-winged Warbler record for WA, following one spotted in Anacortes in September 1990.



[Clipart from Clipartheaven.com](http://ClipartfromClipartheaven.com)

The WA Ornithological Society (WOS) met in Port Angeles in mid-August, running birding trips across Jefferson and Clallam Counties, including pelagic trips west of Neah Bay and La Push. As we hoped, this group of intense birders found several noteworthy birds in our area, including a White Pelican at the Quillayute River on 8/20, a Great Egret at Discovery Bay on 8/20, a Green Heron at Neah Bay on 8/21, N. Goshawks at Hurricane Ridge on 8/19 & 8/20, Golden Eagles at Hurricane Ridge on 8/19 & 8/20, a Wandering Tattler at Clallam Bay on 8/19, at least three Red Knots at Dungeness Bay from 8/19 to 8/21, a Baird's Sandpiper at Dungeness Bay on 8/19, a Stilt Sandpiper at 3 Crabs on 8/21 (which was still present on 8/27/11), 950 Sabine's Gulls on a pelagic trip west of Cape Flattery on 8/20, Clark's Nutcrackers at Hurricane Ridge on 8/20 & 8/21, several Mountain Chickadees at Hurricane Ridge on 8/20 & 8/21, and a flock of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches at Hurricane Ridge on 8/20.

Manx Shearwaters continue to be seen off La Push during summer, strongly suggesting they're nesting somewhere along the Olympic coastline. Ryan Merrill spotted Manx on 7/6 and 7/7 during Marbled Murrelet surveys off La Push, plus one on 7/18 with Bill Tweit and Bob Boekelheide during a Marine Sanctuary seabird survey. Could they be nesting on Destruction Island or somewhere else along our coast?

Seabird surveys turned up several other interesting sightings this summer. Ryan Merrill and Charlie Wright spotted four Flesh-footed Shearwaters on 6/13 mixed with other tubenoses west of La Push, along with several seen by Ryan Merrill, Bill Tweit, and Bob Boekelheide on 7/18. Several South Polar Skuas were present on both surveys as well.

Horned Puffins continue in the news, with one photographed by a Marbled Murrelet survey crew (Corey Clatterbuck, Lisa Sztukowski, and Tom Bloxton) 2 miles east of Pillar Point on 7/14, and one seen by Scott Atkinson off the Miller Peninsula on 6/12. Scott Atkinson and Ann Winskie also located a basic-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon off Graysmarsh on 6/12, in the same area where one was seen in early May.

While traveling to the WOS meeting, Adam Sedgley found a snazzy breeding Tufted Puffin just 30 ft offshore at Diamond Point on 8/18. The Protection Island Puffin cruises were a great success, seeing about 11 puffins on 7/15 and at least 15 puffins on 7/16, mostly concentrated on the island's west side by Kanem Spit, but at least one on the east side by Violet Spit.

Even though Denny Van Horn isn't repeating his Clallam County Big Year like 2010, he's still finding nearly as many species as last year. His recent sightings include a Green Heron on 6/29 at the Sol Duck Fish Hatchery, a Baird's Sandpiper on 7/1 at 3 Crabs, and a Semipalmated Sandpiper on 7/8 at 3 Crabs.

Shorebird migration has been excellent in Dungeness Bay throughout July and August. The shorebird migration attracts predators as well, including a Peregrine Falcon capturing and devouring a Western Sandpiper above Dungeness Landing on 8/28, watched by Barb and Bob Boekelheide. Paul Priest scored big on 6/4, watching a fly-by N. Goshawk on Forest Service Rd 28 near Bear Mountain, suggesting goshawks might be nesting nearby.

(Continued on next page)

The WOS owl prowl on 8/21 did well, getting excellent responses from N. Pygmy, W. Screech, N. Saw-whet, and Barred Owls in the Olympic foothills, along with Barn Owls at the Hwy 101 bypass in Sequim. Mark Crawford reports a Long-eared Owl hooting at Heart of the Hills campground on 6/28, a remarkable location for Long-eareds in the middle of Barred Owl habitat. What is the status of Long-eared Owls in the Olympics?

Just before the WOS meeting on 8/18, Denny Van Horn and Dow Lambert discovered a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak traveling with an immature Black-headed Grosbeak in a big tree at Sequim-Dungeness Way and Palmer St. in Dungeness. Unfortunately neither grosbeak showed itself during the WOS field trips.

Scott Atkinson visited Hurricane Ridge on 7/31, finding a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch and the county's first Cassin's Finch for 2011, west of the Visitor's Center with the usual pipits, Horned Larks, and Sooty Grouse.

Terry Vogel, who lives just east of the Dungeness River near Old Olympic Highway, continued to have Bullock's Orioles come to her feeder during July, following their first appearance in May, so we presume the orioles nested nearby in the river's riparian forest.

The nesting season is mostly finished, except for aerial insectivores like late swallows and Purple Martins. The martins in 3 Crabs nest boxes are apparently still feeding chicks even in late August. Judy Mullally, who has hosted nesting Vaux's Swifts in her chimney in Port Angeles for several years, believes the swifts had two nests and may have fledged upwards of six chicks this year.

Fall migration is happening, so please call Bob Boekelheide at 681-4076, or email at rivercenter@olympus.net, if you have any interesting sightings. Remember to put the Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count on your calendar, this year on Monday, December 19.

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12th Dungeness River Festival, September 23-24

by Julie Jackson

The Dungeness River Festival began nearly 20 years ago as a one-day event to help students and adults understand the importance of our watershed. Today, the Dungeness River Audubon Center and its partners present a River Festival each year during the last week-end in September. Festival hours are from 10-4 each day in Railroad Bridge Park



Photo by Gretha Davis

Last year, attendance at this community-wide celebration reached nearly 3,000, including about 800 students. As you can imagine, many volunteers are needed for an event this large, and Gretha Davis (681-8013) and Julie Jackson (683-1355) are recruiting. If you'd like to help with set-up on Thursday afternoon (Sept. 22), or during the Festival, please contact them.

Exhibits on Friday and Saturday feature nearly all the local, state, federal, tribal and non-profit entities active in the Dungeness watershed. Each exhibitor is asked to provide an educational activity related to nature and the environment. Although the Festival is open to the public each day, activities and entertainment on Friday will be geared to the hundreds of students attending that day.

Additional features:

- > Legends of the Jamestown S'Klallam, Elaine Grinnell (Fri., Sept. 23, 2:00 p.m. in the River Center)
- > Mike Kamphaus and his one-man band & musical show, *Me, Myself, and I* (Sat., Sept. 24, 10:30 in the amphitheater)
- > Cort and Kia Armstrong, playing mountain blues and country music in the Park (Sat., Sept. 24, 1:00 p.m.)
- > Olympic Driftwood Sculptors will hold their third anniversary show in conjunction with the River Festival (Sat. & Sun. 10-4 in the River Center)

The complete Festival schedule is available on the River Center web site, www.DungenessRiverCenter.org.



Photo by Gretha Davis

Happy 10-years-old, Dungeness River Audubon Center!



*Join the Dungeness River Audubon Center
To celebrate its 10-year Anniversary*

Friday, October 21

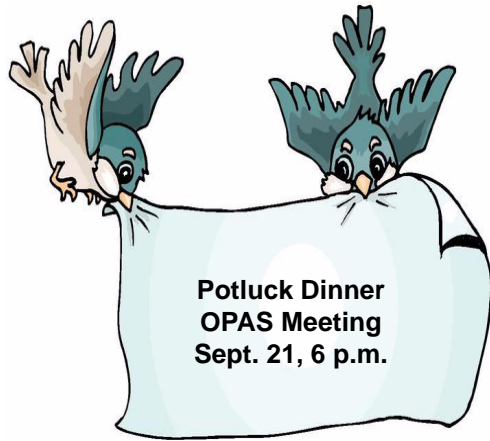
Open House 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Reception 4 to 7 p.m.

At Railroad Bridge Park 2151 Hendrickson Rd, Sequim, 360-681-4076

Harlequin Happenings

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
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Sequim WA 98382-0502

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Let OPAS be your one-stop Audubon membership initiator. Just check one of the options below:

Date: _____

Local OPAS Memberships, include subscription to the *Harlequin Happenings* bi-monthly newsletter:

- Annual Membership (\$20.00) 3-Year Membership (\$50.00, saves \$10.00)
 6-Year Membership (\$90.00, saves \$30.00) Lifetime Membership (\$250.00)

Combined Local OPAS and National Audubon Society Membership, includes subscriptions to the *Harlequin Happenings* & Audubon Magazine: \$40.00 initial membership; \$35.00 initial membership for seniors and students. Subsequent renewals of National Audubon Society memberships should be arranged directly with National Audubon Society.

Name _____ Phone _____
Street _____ E-Mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Master Card or Visa payment: Card Number/Expiration Date _____ / _____

Authorized Signature _____

Please make your check payable to **OPAS** and mail with this form to **Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, P.O. Box 502, Sequim, WA 98382.**

Check here if you would like to be contacted concerning volunteer opportunities at the River Center and/or OPAS.