OPAS Field Trips in July and August
by Bob Iddins

Bird Walks
Date: Every Wed. morning; Time: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Meet at the River Center for a lovely walk to see and hear the birds of the Dungeness riparian forest. Information from walks helps us understand the annual cycle of birds in RR Bridge Park.

Local Bays & Shores
Date & Time: Saturday, July 12, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
Leaders: Bob Iddins & Jim Gift
Meeting place: Dungeness Landing County Park
Cost: Free (Discovery Pass could be helpful)
Features: Whatever we can find. Extremely low tide might require venturing into other areas.
Bring: Optics, field guides, water, sunscreen, snacks and clothing for uncertain weather
Further information: Bob Iddins, 360-681-2840, riddins@olypen.com

Hurricane Ridge & Obstruction Point
Date & Time: Tuesday, July 22, 2014, 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Bill Parker
Meeting place: ONP Visitors’ Center, Race Rd. south of Port Angeles. Plan to be out until mid afternoon.
Cost: Free (Pass or admission fee required for entry into Olympic National Park!)
Features: The Hurricane Hill trail has wildflowers that attract butterflies and is a good site for ridge patrolling butterflies. If the weather cooperates, a variety of swallowtails, Parnassian, checkerspots, and blues are expected. While the birds at lower elevations are usually quiet this time of year, there are usually a few warblers on territory and singing. American Pipits and Horned Larks can usually be found on this trip. The rustle of potato chip bags at the picnic lunch usually attracts Gray Jays. Sooty Grouse hens and chicks are often found at the picnic area. Without much searching you should also find the endemic Olympic Chipmunk and Marmot. After lunch we will visit other areas.
Bring: Optics, bird, wildflower & butterfly guides, lunch, water & sunscreen. Be prepared for weather changes.
Further Information: Bill Parker 360-504-2391 whparker@surfbirder.com

(Continued on next page)
OPAS Board of Directors

Officers:
President, Jim Gift, 681-2989 jjgift@q.com
Co-V-Pres, Bob Boekelheide, 681-4867, bboek@olympus.net;
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rriddins@olypen.com

OPAS Field Trips in July and August
(Continued from page one)

Purple Martins

Date & Time: Monday, Aug 11, 2014, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Ken Wiersema
Meeting place: 3 Crabs, North end of Sequim-Dungeness Way
Cost: Free (Discover Pass required to park here since the acquisition of the property by WDFW)
Features: A walk out on the tide flats (rubber boots might be advisable although the minus tide should allow easy access) to view nesting Purple Martins.
Bring: Optics (including scopes if available), snacks, water and appropriate clothing for all kinds of weather
Further information: Ken Wiersema 360-683-4763 wiersema@olympus.net

Ocean Shores

Dates: Monday & Tuesday, August 25-26, 2014
Cost: Free but participants pay for own lodging and meals
Leader: Bob Iddins
Features: Migrating shorebirds of Grays Harbor and other Pacific Coastal spots. Rarities are always a possibility.
Bring: Optics, water, lunch for both days, footwear for walking, especially on beaches, and clothing for any weather changes.
Meeting place & time: 8:30 a.m., Monday, in the parking lot of the Silver King Resort, 1070 Discovery Ave. SW, Ocean Shores (approx. 5 miles from center of town).
Further Information: Bob Iddins 360-681-2840; cell 360-775-5945
Conservation Matters - Pit-to-Pier Proposal
by Mary Porter-Solberg

The Jefferson County Department of Community Development (DCD) has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Thorndyke Resource Central Conveyor and Pier project, commonly referred to as “pit-to-pier.” The proposal would move gravel from an upland extraction area along a 4-mile-long conveyor belt to a 1,000-foot pier on the Hood Canal where it would be loaded on barges for shipping.

The proposal would mainly affect Jefferson County, but could impact all Olympic Peninsula residents with an increase in Hood Canal Bridge openings and the potential risk of a barge or ship colliding with the bridge. OPAS is particularly concerned about the likely denigration of marine and terrestrial habitats and ecosystems. For example, extensive eelgrass beds in and near the project area that provide productive habitat for many forms of marine life likely will be disturbed or removed by the construction and operation of the pier and loading facility. Salmon fisheries and shellfish beaches would be affected. Storm water run-off and potential contamination of petroleum and other spills would impact marine life, fish and bird species.

The OPAS Conservation Committee is currently reviewing the DEIS. More information will be posted on the OPAS Conservation website as we sort out the project details and mitigation action plans.

A Public Open House will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, August 4, 2014, at the Port Ludlow Bay Club, 120 Spinnaker Lane, Port Ludlow, WA.

Email written comments to: t roc@co.jefferson.wa.us by 5p.m. Monday, August 11, 2014. Email comments must include a complete current return mailing address.

River Center Rally - a Success
by Julie Jackson

Thank You OPAS!

In May 2009, the OPAS Board helped the River Center launch Dungeness Spring Fling, a month-long activity-based fundraiser. The objective was two-fold: to raise much-needed funds to help support the Center’s education programs and maintain Railroad Bridge Park, and to raise awareness and appreciation of the benefits outdoor activities provide. With the help of OPAS members and the OPAS Board, Dungeness Spring Fling raised over $100,000 in its first five years! In addition, both the participants, who did their own thing, such as, hiking, biking, birding or gardening, and the sponsors who paid them to do it, had the satisfaction of knowing that their contributions supported a worthy cause.

This year, although the name changed from Dungeness Spring Fling to River Center Rally, the objective of this ‘feel good’ fundraiser did not. Since May 1, 2014, the River Center Rally has raised more than $24,000, and donations designated for it are still trickling in. As in previous years, OPAS members and the OPAS Board deserve much of the credit for this success. The preliminary total includes a generous $2,000 gift from the OPAS Board, which Ken Wiersema presented on June 14th at the River Center Romp celebration. The River Center Rally would not have reached this level of success without your participation and support. Thank you!
Connie Gallant: OPAS Conservation Award Winner for 2014  
by Mary Porter-Solberg

Each year the Conservation Committee considers nominations of both members and others in our community who have made invaluable contributions to conserve and protect our natural environment. This year we recommended to the OPAS Board that Connie Gallant receive the award. It was presented at our June meeting by Jim Gift, President of OPAS.

We recognized Connie for her environmental leadership on the Olympic Peninsula with emphasis on her stellar accomplishments as Chair of the Wild Olympics Campaign. Connie worked collaboratively with diverse groups of local stakeholders to secure support for the Wild Olympics Campaign. Connie’s leadership resulted in legislation being introduced to protect the Peninsula’s watersheds and forests. She is respected and known for her consensus building and willingness to listen and work with others. As an adjunct to her leading Wild Olympics, Connie is President of Olympic Forest Coalition, which promotes the protection, conservation and restoration of natural local forest ecosystems. Additionally, Connie and her husband, JD, regularly monitor dissolved oxygen in Quilcene Bay, Dabob Bay, and Hood Canal through their non-profit organization, Greenfleet Monitoring Expeditions. She states, "My focus is to try to help here on the Olympic Peninsula - to restore what we have lost and to protect what we have." Connie’s actions speak even more vibrantly than her words. -- Well done!

Jim and Audrey Gift: OPAS Harlequin Award Winners for 2014  
by Ken Wiersema

Each year, those past OPAS Harlequin awardees, which remain active in the Chapter, nominate, and recommend to our Board deserving recipients. The Harlequin award is earned by sustained and meaningful contributions to the Chapter and its goals over many years. This year Audrey and Jim Gift were recognized for their many and invaluable works that advanced OPAS and its value to our members and to our community.

Audrey served 2 years as our President, one of which she also chaired the annual BirdFest. Then she went on, with great success to chair BirdFest for a 2d year. She has also served as our Secretary, and is in her 2d year as Membership Chair. For many years she prepared the annual appeal letter sent to members as part of Birdathon, which has become a primary source of OPAS operating income. Audrey is a tireless, dedicated OPAS leader in whatever role she commits to take on. In her "spare" time, Audrey chairs the board of the Dungeness Valley Health & Wellness Clinic, as well as presenting and leading nursing seminars.

(Continued on next page)
Jim has been our President for the past year and has agreed to serve for a 2d year. He was our past Conservation Chair and Co-Chair. He has been and continues to be a community leader in helping craft and build support for the regional Wild Olympics Campaign. Jim is an avid painter and photographer, and has been known to spend time fishing and crabbing in our local waters. Some of Jim’s artwork can be seen on the decorated bench, which adorns the front porch of the River Center.

As a family team Jim and Audrey have represented OPAS at regional, statewide, and national Audubon events. They are skilled birders who regularly participate in field trips, WOS meetings, and River Center programs. They share their skills with newcomers and folks who are building their knowledge of birds. Their warmth and outreach to our community have brought many new members and leaders to OPAS.

Other Events

Fall ACOW Meeting - Save the Date

Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) is busy planning another great meeting – please mark your calendars and join us this fall in beautiful Ocean Shores for a day of conservation sharing and fellowship!

Hosted by: Grays Harbor Audubon Society and the Southwest Region
Date: September 20, 2014
Location: Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores, WA (http://www.shiloinns.com/search_results.asp?PI=coswa)
Agenda: Coming soon.
Registration: http://acow2014.brownpapertickets.com
Accommodations:

>>Shilo Inn: (360-289-4600) A block of rooms is being held under "Audubon" for Friday and Saturday nights @ $99.00/night. All rooms are waterfront view. Double Queen or Single King rooms available.

>>Quality Inn: (360-289-2040) Located next door to the Shilo Inn, this is one of many hotel options along the ocean front strip. Rates start at $89.00/night. No block is being held.

(Continued on next page)
Harlequin Happenings

**WSACC Meeting:** Currently scheduled for Friday evening 6 - 8 pm at the Shilo Inn. Details forthcoming.

All information is available on the Audubon Washington website at [http://wa.audubon.org/chapter-meetings](http://wa.audubon.org/chapter-meetings), and will be updated on the webpage as details formalize.

**Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival 2014**

Pateros, WA (City Park), Saturday, September 13, 2014; 8:00 am – 3:00 p.m.

Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International this fall for the fifth annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival! This family event combines free activities in Pateros Memorial Park with trips to the Chelan Ridge site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. The festival takes place in Pateros Memorial Park and will have vendors, live raptors, birding field trips, and projects for kids. The trip to and from Chelan Ridge lasts 4 hours and includes seeing raptors as they are banded and released. Pre-registration is required.

More information and on-line registration is available at [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org).

**Birdathon Report and Bird Sightings**

*by Bob Boekelheide*

The 2014 International Migratory Bird Count and Clallam County Birdathon once again provided lots of fodder for local birdbrains. On May 10, 2014, 61 people in 38 parties counted 20,887 individual birds of 182 species, very close to the long-term average number of 180 species for the last 21 years. Our total number of individual birds, however, was well below average for our mid-May count. Why fewer birds? For one, fewer counters participated this year because of other conflicts, and second, our usual La Push offshore boat couldn’t go out because of bad sea conditions, so we missed all the pelagic species. [See the tally sheet in this issue].

High counts occurred this year for Cackling Goose, Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Sandhill Crane, Lesser Yellowlegs, Mew and California Gulls, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Anna’s Hummingbird, and House Wren. Large numbers of Cackling Geese, scaup, cranes, and yellowlegs were solely due to flocks counted by Denny Van Horn on his route at the west end of Clallam County. Ruddy Ducks continue their multi-year increase, particularly at Diamond Point and Kitchen-Dick Ponds. Mew Gulls put on a good show along the central Clallam coastline, especially at the Elwha River mouth, and California Gulls have been higher than normal in our area all spring. House Wrens were very conspicuous during May migration this year, but seemed to dwindle in numbers through June. Lastly, collared-doves and Anna’s Hummingbirds continue their spectacular increases, both almost doubling their former high counts.

The increase in Collared-Doves is perhaps the Clallam County avian story of the decade. Our very first spring Birdathon record of Collared-Doves was three birds in 2007. Now, seven years later, their count is up to 172, and there are undoubtedly many more that aren't being tallied. The question always comes up whether the increase in Collared-Doves is affecting Mourning Doves. This year is the first spring count in which Collared-Doves outnumbered Mourning Doves, but a check of the data shows that the number of Mourning Doves this year was right about average for the last 21 years. Mourning Doves themselves were not a conspicuous member of the Clallam County avifauna until the 1990s, missed more often than not on Christmas Bird Counts in the 1970s and 1980s. Mourning Doves had a population explosion of their own during the late 1990s, and have now plateaued. It seems like Mourning Doves may have become more local in their distribution, concentrating at wayward locations such as the south end of Sequim Bay. Is this due to Collared-Doves? It will be particularly interesting to see what happens to these populations in the future.

*(Continued on next page)*
Low counts occurred for several species: White-winged Scoter, California Quail, Dunlin, Steller's Jay, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Pine Siskin. The siskins are particularly having a very low year, essentially missing from our area all winter. Fewer WW Scoters have been recorded throughout the Salish Sea, but is this because the species is declining, or are the birds just somewhere else? Several people have commented that quail flocks were fewer in their backyards this winter, indicating poor survival of last year's broods. Other species may have low counts just because we missed them, or perhaps the timing of migration this year may have influenced counts such as Dunlin and Golden-crowned Sparrows. As always, a few unusual species showed up for our count. Denny Van Horn scored big at the west end of Clallam County, seeing the only Snow Goose and Trumpeter Swans. He also located a Swainson's Hawk flying over the Waatch River, where a few stragglers pass during spring migration. This is the first record of Swainson's Hawk for our spring count (Thank you, Mary Mira!). Denny's other unusual species included a single Calliope Hummingbird and a Vesper Sparrow, always a treat to find in the county. Scott Atkinson located a single Cassin's Finch in the upper Dungeness drainage, where they sometimes show up in the spring. Michael Barry photographed a lovely Solitary Sandpiper in Dungeness, only the second one ever on our spring count.

There were several other interesting bird sightings in May and June worth mentioning. First, Michael Barry observed a swift flying over the Hurricane Hill trail on 6/3 that clearly had white throat, face, breast, and sides. He says it was larger than Vaux's Swifts, and definitely a swift, not a swallow. Then, completely independent of Michael, Vince Lucas observed two swifts with similar coloration near the Switchback Trailhead on 6/5, zipping over the slopes. Their descriptions clearly point to White-throated Swifts, a species never before recorded in Clallam County. It's actually somewhat surprising that White-throated Swifts haven't been recorded here, given their long-distance flights and relative abundance east of the Cascades. Good work, Michael and Vince!

Michael also took some lovely photos of an American Three-toed Woodpecker along the Deer Park Road on 5/15. Michael heard it drilling, saying it sounded "different." Three-toeds are infrequent in the Olympics, seen once or twice a year, if we're lucky.

Also in the Olympics, Luke Jacobsen photographed a family of Pine Grosbeaks near Silver Lake, southwest of Mt Townsend in Buckhorn Wilderness on 6/18. He recorded a singing male grosbeak, along with parents feeding one fledgling. Luke is 16 and one of the rising birder stars of the next generation. John Bridge is the Pine Grosbeak man, finding 12 on Baldy on 4/4, and says his record is 75 all at once on Mt Townsend on 12/8/13. (Continued on next page)
Another mountain tale: You may remember that last year Charlie Miller and Hank and Raedel Warren discovered Great Blue Herons nesting in Olympic National Park south of Lake Dawn, far uphill in a Douglas-fir forest. They returned to the area this year and found at least one active heron nest in the same trees.

Shorebirds passed to the north very quickly this spring, providing few sightings of interesting migrants. A Long-billed Curlew remained at 3 Crabs for several days, first seen on 5/23 by Ryan Merrill. Dow Lambert photographed 6 Red Knots on Dungeness Spit on 5/13. Les Jones reported two Marbled Godwits at 3 Crabs on 5/15. John Gatchet found two displaying Wilson’s Snipes at Knapp Road on 5/20, a new snipe nesting location for Clallam County. Ryan Merrill also spotted a Common Tern and a Bank Swallow at 3 Crabs on 5/23, and Les spotted the male and female Blue-winged Teal hanging out at 3 Crabs in mid-May.

If the threatened El Nino develops this year expect lots of Brown Pelicans and Heermann’s Gulls, along with possible Elegant Terns and other seabirds that normally nest in Mexico. Dow Lambert saw the first Heermann’s Gulls of the summer at Dungeness Spit on 6/10.

Kathy Bush reported the first Common Nighthawks at Miller Peninsula on 6/7. Greg Haworth, who lives in Portland, OR, and visits Clallam County every year, reports a likely Yellow-breasted Chat singing along the Towne Road levee on 5/18. Unfortunately we couldn’t relocate the bird, but the habitat is perfect for chats along the Dungeness riparian forest. Jim Karr, who took regular walks in RR Bridge Park this spring, reports a lovely Hermit Warbler there on 5/12.

At Neah Bay on 4/30 and 5/1, Brad Waggoner stumbled upon one of the great raptor migration days at Bahokus Peak near Neah Bay. Over two days, Brad recorded 10 Swainson’s Hawks and 6 Broad-winged Hawks soaring overhead, along with immature Golden Eagles and other raptors. This is shades of the raptor surveys conducted by OPAS in the 1980s and 90s, when numbers of these raptors were recorded during spring migration. Nearby at Cape Flattery, Jim Owens, Sarah Pedan, Jeanelle Richardson, and Debbie Dain spotted the first Black Swifts of the year on 6/7.

There have been lots of Chipping Sparrows in western WA this spring, including in Clallam County. Becca Nissley photographed one at the Dungeness River Audubon Center feeder on 6/3. Scott Gremel says they are at least 4 to 5 Chippers on territories on the west side of Port Angeles, singing regularly. At Neah Bay on 5/1, Brad Waggoner observed one Brewer’s Sparrow and one Vesper Sparrow, along with two Yellow-headed Blackbirds on the school football field.

(Continued on next page)
Lastly, the banded Burrowing Owl that overwintered on Gibson Spit two winters ago, known as 09/U, is still alive and well. He returned to his nesting territory at Kamloops, BC, this spring and raised 7 fledglings.

Remember that next year's Birdathon coincides with the International Migratory Bird Day, which always occurs on the second Saturday in May. Please put next year's count on your calendar right now, for May 9, 2015 - we need you!

Many thanks to our fabulous Birdathon Counters:


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Office Phone: (360) 683-4131 - E-mail: thomasm@johnlscott.com
### Results of OPAS Clallam Co. Birdathon/International Migratory Bird Count, May 10, 2014

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<th>Total Individuals</th>
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**Underlined species** = unusual species, recorded infrequently on count
**Underlined numbers** = record number of individuals for Clallam Co. Spring Bird Count

**cw** = observed during count week (3 days before to 3 days after), but not on count day

**L** = low number compared with previous 20 years of Birdathon data

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 20887

NO. OF SPECIES: 182

**Am Pipit** 5
**Cedar Waxwing** 3
**Orange-crowned Warbler** 146
**Yellow Warbler** 18
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 52
**Blek-throated Gray Warbler** 14
**Townsend’s Solitary Sandpiper** 1
**Savannah Sparrow** 108
**Golden-crowned Sparrow** 15 L
**Drk-eyd (Ore.) Junco** 205
**Red-headed Grosbeak** 49
**Red-winged Blackbird** 365
**Brewer’s Blackbird** 136
**Brown-headed Cowbird** 120
**Purple Finch** 59
**Cassin’s Finch** 1
**Red Crossbill** 20
**Pine Siskin** 11 L
**Am. Goldfinch** 388
**Evening Grosbeak** 24
**House Sparrow** 92
**Miles foot** 43.2
**Hours owling** 10
**Miles owling** 30.5
**Feeder hours** 114.25
Local OPAS Membership, includes subscription to the Harlequin Happenings bi-monthly newsletter. To join, complete application below and mail to address above.

Indicate if ____ new or ____ renewal of membership

___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 ___________________________________________

Harlequin Happenings Newsletter: You will receive an e-mail notice when posted in full color on our website. If you wish a black and white printed copy instead, check box here □ Send printed copy

Payment Options: 1. Credit Card   Circle: Master Card or Visa
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

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

Process date_______________________   Record ID__________________________   Forms Notes number__________________________