

Dusu Mali Band brings West African song, dance to Fort George Brewery on Sunday

ASTORIA — Fort George Brewery welcomes the West African music of Dusu Mali Band, performing at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. All ages are welcome, and there is no cover for the performance. Fort George is located at 1483 Duane St.

“Dusu” means “gentle heart.” The band plays original music; most songs are written by Timbuktu-born band member Ibrahim Kelly and developed as a group. Others are based on traditional song and dance from various regions of Mali and West Africa. The music is a universal medium to be embraced and enjoyed across all cultures of the world.

Formed in 2010, the band traveled to Mali, West Africa



Submitted photo

Dusu Mali Band performs at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20 at Fort George Brewery.

ca in January of 2012 for an epic, life-changing trip. They

spent the month of January traveling far across Mali to a number of spots including Sereva, Mopti, Dogon Country, and even to one of the most remote music festivals in the world, Le Festival au Desert, in Timbuktu. They carried guitars and drums and played music everywhere they could. They met a lot of people, saw a lot of amazing things, connected with friends, and were served a heaping dose of life’s lessons.

Dusu Mali Band has performed at many festivals and venues on the West Coast, including the Joshua Tree Music Festival, Breitenbush Hot Springs, the Alladin Theater, Mississippi Studios, and Roseland Theater. Dusu has also opened for successful Malian artists such as Tinariwen and Vieux Farka Toure.

Wildlife viewing opportunities abound Gray whales, snowy owls and swans among the mix to see this winter, spring on the Long Beach Peninsula

LONG BEACH PENINSULA, Wash. — Annual migrations as well as seasonal changes bring wildlife viewing opportunities to Washington’s Long Beach Peninsula from December 2015 through April 2016. Wildlife enthusiasts can spend a day or more spotting numerous bird and mammal species including gray whales, trumpeter swans and peregrine falcons.

“This is a great time to view wildlife on the Long Beach Peninsula,” said Andi Day, executive director of the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau. “Opportunities to see less common species from easily accessible viewing sights make the region ideal, particularly on clear weather days.”

Migrating gray whales heading south can be seen from vantage points such as the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center at Cape Disappointment State Park in Ilwaco from mid through the end of December. In March, returning gray whales can be spotted more easily as they tend to stay closer to the shoreline with newborn calves.

The acrobatic humpback whale is making a comeback in the region. Several were seen feeding in the Columbia River near the Washington side of the Astoria-Megler Bridge in the fall of this year. Cetacean lovers anticipate their return during their northward migration in the spring.

“A great deal of migrating waterfowl including mallards, pintails, American widgeon, green-winged teal, Canadian geese and shorebirds, sandpipers, dunlins, godwits and more are using the estuaries of Willapa Bay, Port of Ilwaco and the Columbia River right now,” says Jackie Ferrier from Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. “Quite a few raptors, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, northern harriers are present as well.”



Submitted photo by Jonathan Bates

Snowy owls have made a showing for the last couple of years. notforsale

According to Ferrier, winter is a good time to visit snowy plover habitat at Leadbetter Point and beaches to the south, as the birds are more mobile in the winter. From March 15 to Sept. 30, the beach in the refuge and state park is closed to public access to protect snowy plovers during nesting while vulnerable chicks are running around.

Trumpeter swans are predicted to make their annual return to Black and Loomis lakes in late December. Snowy owls have made a showing for the last couple of years and a return is hoped for this year as well.

For excellent wildlife watching opportunities, nature and bird observer Suzy Whitley recommends Hines Marsh, accessed by the Martha Jordan Birding Trail.

“Hines Marsh is a unique, natural treasure,” says Whitley. “The area is an important biological interdunal ‘island’ for wildlife and birds between Willapa Bay and the Pacific Ocean.”

Whitley adds that Hines Marsh is thought to be the largest interdunal, freshwater wetland remaining in North America. It provides important habitat for the trumpeter swan as well as over 100 species of birds including songbirds, raptors and waterfowl. Many mammals like otter, deer, elk

and black bear also live in the area.

“The best times to bird the area is between September and April, or when the mosquitoes hatch,” adds Whitley.

The Martha Jordan Birding Trail parking lot, located 2.7 miles north of Oysterville Road on Stackpole Road on the northern tip of Washington’s Long Beach Peninsula, affords access to the marsh. After crossing the short boardwalk from the parking lot, the marsh is reached by walking about half a mile on a flat, two-track gravel road. Beyond the marsh is private property.

Interested birders are invited to join in Audubon’s Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19 by emailing Whitley at suzy@reachone.com with “Leadbetter CBC” in the subject line. The Leadbetter Count Circle includes the Long Beach Peninsula from N. 185th St., Willapa Bay and the east side of the bay to Bay Center.

With several distinct eco-systems in a span of 28 miles, the Long Beach Peninsula boasts over 300 species of birds and includes Pacific Ocean seashore and marshland, lake, inland waterway, wetland, Columbia River and Willapa Bay habitat. For updates on winter birding, visit www.facebook.com/willapa-NWRcomplex

Crossword Answer

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