

# Western Washington Birding Tour

Organized by Seven Ponds Nature Center & Sea Quest Adventures

*"Birding the Scenic Pacific Northwest"*

September 3-12, 2021

## LEADERS & GUIDES

- **Daryl Bernard** (Executive Director - Seven Ponds Nature Center)
- **Scott Atkinson** (SeaQuest Expeditions)

## PARTICIPANTS

- **Christine Andrews** – Bruce Township, Michigan
- **Jan Giesken** – Lapeer, Michigan
- **Sigrid Grace** – Rochester Hills, Michigan
- **Sue Keener** – Oxford, Michigan
- **Yvonne Lentner** – Lake Orion, Michigan
- **Anita Spencer** – Lapeer, Michigan
- **Colleen Vogler** – Ann Arbor, Michigan
- **Nancy Tazzia** – Dryden, Michigan

## LODGING

**Abby Creek Inn** – *Winthrop* – September 3

**Quality Inn** – *Sequim* – September 4 & 5

**Comfort Inn** – *Ocean Shores* – September 6

**Mariner's Cove Inn** – *Westport* – September 7 & 8

**Belfair Motel** – *Belfair* – September 9

**Fairfield Inn & Suites** – *Yakima* – September 10

**Hampton Inn & Suites** – *SeaTac* – September 11



## DINNERS

**Three Fingered Jack's Saloon** – *Winthrop* – September 3

**Sirens Pub** – *Port Townsend* – September 4

**48 Degrees North** – *Port Angeles* – September 5

**Bennett's Fish Shack** – *Ocean Shores* – September 6

**Taqueria Franco** – *Aberdeen* – September 7

**Merino's Seafood Market** – *Westport* – September 8

**The Rice Bowl** – *Belfair* – September 9

**Cowiche Canyon Kitchen & Icehouse** – *Yakima* – September 10

**Sharps Roadhouse** – *SeaTac* – September 11



## **BIRDING LOCATIONS**

### **Friday, September 3**

- **County Line Ponds** (Skagit County)
- **Newhalem** (Whatcom County)
- **Diablo Lake—Thunder Arm** (Whatcom County)

### **Saturday, September 4**

- **Rainy Pass** (Skagit County)
- **Hardy Burn parking lot** (Skagit County)
- **Newhalem Agg Ponds** (Whatcom County)
- **March Point** (Skagit County)
- **Port Townsend-Keystone Ferry** (Island Co. & Jefferson Co.)

### **Sunday, September 5**

- **Salt Creek County Park** (Clallam County)
- **State Route 112/Salish Sea** (Clallam County)
- **Sekiu** (Clallam County)
- **Middle Point** (Clallam County)
- **Ediz Hook** (Clallam County)

### **Monday, September 6**

- **Jimmy Come Lately Road—Olympic National Forest** (Clallam County)
- **Palo Alto Road—Olympic National Forest** (Clallam County)
- **Olympic National Park—Heart o' the Hills Campground & Morse Creek Overlook** (Clallam County)
- **Olympic National Park—Meadow Creek Trail/Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center** (Clallam County)
- **Olympic National Park—Hoh Rain Forest—Hall of Mosses** (Jefferson County)
- **Ocean City State Park** (Grays Harbor County)

### **Tuesday, September 7**

- **Weatherwax Trail** (Grays Harbor County)
- **Ocean Shores--Oyhut Wildlife Area** (Grays Harbor County)
- **Ocean Shores--Damon Point** (Grays Harbor County)

### **Wednesday, September 8**

- **Westport Seabirds pelagic trip** (Grays Harbor County)
- **Westport Marina** (Grays Harbor County)

### **Thursday, September 9**

- **Johns River Wildlife Area** (Grays Harbor County)
- **Bottle Beach** (Grays Harbor County)
- **Hoquiam Sewage Treatment Ponds** (Grays Harbor County)
- **Belfair View Estates** (Mason County)

### **Friday, September 10**

- **Belfair View Estates** (Mason County)
- **Lake Wilderness Park/Cedar River Trail** (King County)
- **Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park--Interpretive Overlook** (Kittitas Co.)
- **Getty's Cove & Huntzinger Boat Launch** (Kittitas County)

### **Saturday, September 11**

- **Yakima Sportsman State Park** (Yakima County)
- **Popoff Trail** (Yakima County)
- **Thrall Road/Vantage Highway/Brown Road** (Kittitas County)
- **Robinson Canyon** (Kittitas County)



## **BIRDS (168)**

**Greater White-fronted Goose** - We had two birds in the scope at the Hoquiam Sewage Treatment Ponds.

**Canada Goose** - Seen multiple days at several locations.

**Wood Duck** - We saw Wood Ducks on a few stops, most prominently along the Popoff Trail on our final day.

**Cinnamon Teal** - A pair seen in flight and then on the water at the Hoquiam Sewage Treatment Ponds.

**Northern Shoveler** - There was a distant flock of four shovelers on the pelagic trip, then a larger number at the Hoquiam Sewage Treatment Ponds.

**Gadwall** - We saw a lone individual Gadwall on two occasions: the Newhaven Agg Ponds on day one, and again at the Hoquiam STP later in the tour.

**American Wigeon** - Seen at Bottle Beach and again at Hoquiam STP.

**Mallard** - We saw Mallards on at least four different days at several locations, most numerous at Hoquiam STP, where we tallied well over 100.

**Northern Pintail** - Another dabbling we saw in a small distant flock of on our pelagic, and again at Hoquiam STP, with a larger number seen at Bottle Beach.

**Green-winged Teal** - A small flock was reported on the pelagic trip, and we had a dozen or so at Hoquiam STP.

**Lesser Scaup** - Four females gave good looks in the scope at Hoquiam STP.

**Harlequin Duck** - Although we never had these beautiful ducks at close range, we did see them a few times along the coast, including Middle Point and Ediz Hook in Clallam County.

**Surf Scoter** - These sea ducks were seen a few times, including on our pelagic. We had a large raft of them in Ocean Shores at the Oyuhut Wildlife Area.

**White-winged Scoter** - A few individuals were picked out of the large flock of Surf Scoters at Oyuhut Wildlife Area.

**Black Scoter** - A lone bird was spotted amongst the Surf Scoter flock at Oyuhut Wildlife Area.

**Barrow's Goldeneye** - We put a distant flock of these western ducks in the scope on day one at Diablo Lake/Thunder Arm.

**Hooded Merganser** - A lone female was spotted during our time on the sand at Oyuhut Wildlife Area.

**Common Merganser** - Thirteen mergies were tallied at Middle Point in Clallam County.



**Mountain Quail** - After an evening spent searching and sleuthing a mountainside neighborhood near Belfair, we were finally able to hook up with one of these elusive birds, although only by call as it responded to our playback.

**California Quail** - Unlike their elusive mountain cousins, we found several flocks of these fun birds during our final day in Washington, notably at the Popoff trail and again along some of the roads in the area.



**Sooty Grouse** - We had close up views of a half-dozen Sooty Grouse just below the parking lot at the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center in Olympic National Park.

**Spruce Grouse** - The group that made it all the way up the Rainy Pass trail in the North Cascades was rewarded with an up-close-and-personal encounter with a lone bird, completely unexpected in this area.



**Chukar** - A flock of eight of these birds surprised us in the light rain at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park. Unfortunately, some of the group were still in the visitor center and missed them.

**Wild Turkey** - On the last day of the tour we had our first sighting of Wild Turkeys in a farm pasture along Robinson Canyon Road.

**Pied-billed Grebe** - Seen twice on the tour; first at the lake near the Weatherwax Trail, then again at Hoquiam STP.

**Horned Grebe** - Good looks at three birds at Ediz Hook but seen nowhere else during the tour.

**Red-necked Grebe** - Another grebe we only saw at Ediz Hook, and again it was three birds.

**Western Grebe** - Five of these large grebes were seen beyond the break wall at Oyhut Wildlife Area.

**Rock Pigeon** - Seen on the tour more often than reported on checklists, usually from the van while traveling.

**Band-tailed Pigeon** - We never had great looks at this species. A large flock flew high over the van State Route 112 in Clallam County; another bird was a quick flyover at Belfair View Estates (where we were searching for Mountain Quail); our final bird sat perched on a high snag in poor lighting at Lake Wilderness Park/Cedar River Trail.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** - Widespread but sporadic during our tour, we saw and heard these non-native doves several times; seen more often than reported on checklists.

**Mourning Dove** - Not overly common but seen several times.

**Common Nighthawk** - At first mistaken for Black Swifts in the fading light at Diablo Lake, we saw at least seven of these crepuscular aerial insect hunters.

**Black Swift** - First seen by a few of our group at Newhalem, a better look was had just outside the visitor center at Hurricane Ridge; missed by those unfortunate few who were inside the building during the brief time the birds flew overhead.

**Vaux's Swift** - We saw these small swifts overhead on at least four different days: Newhalem, Newhalem Agg Ponds, Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park, and along the Popoff Trail.

**Anna's Hummingbird** - We had fairly good looks at these hummers at a few locations, including the parking lot area of Oyhut Wildlife Area, Lake Wilderness Park, and Yakima Sportsman State Park.

**Rufous Hummingbird** - Seen briefly by at least one member of our group during the tour.

**American Coot** - A lone coot was seen among the ducks at Hoquiam WTP.

**Black Oystercatcher** - Our only encounter with oystercatchers was at a stop along SR-112 near Sekiu, where we saw two individuals on a rock out in the water.

**Black-bellied Plover** - Seen in good numbers at three different locations: Ediz Hook, Damon Point, and Bottle Beach.



**Pacific Golden-Plover** - It took a while to sort this bird out from the large number of Black-bellied Plovers, but we finally had satisfying looks at Damon Point.

**Semipalmated Plover** - Although we never had these small plovers in large numbers, we did see a lone bird at Oyhut Wildlife Area and five more at close range on the tidal flats at Bottle Beach.

**Killdeer** - Most notably seen at Oyhut Wildlife Area, where we tallied 8 birds. Also had them on our final day at the Popoff Trail (heard only).

**Whimbrel** - Two birds gave us nice scope views at Ediz Hook. We had at least four more among the hordes of Marbled Godwits at the Westport Marina.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** - Two of these continuing rarities showed for us among the roosting flock of 1,000+ Marbled Godwits at the Westport Marina, observed aboard the *Monte Carlo* compliments of Captain Phil Anderson.



**Marbled Godwit** - We saw a wall of Marbled Godwits roosting on the break wall inside the Westport Marina. The flock also contained a few Willets, two Bar-tailed Godwits, and at least one Willet.

**Black Turnstone** - We saw these west coast shorebirds a handful of times, including Middle Point, Ediz Hook, Oyhut Wildlife Area, and along the jetty as we returned to the Westport Marina from our pelagic trip.

**Sanderling** - We spotted seven of these cute little shorebirds while walking the shoreline at Damon Point.

**Baird's Sandpiper** - Originally thought to be a Semipalmated Sandpiper, we later ID'd this bird as a lone Baird's Sandpiper resting along the floats at Ediz Hook.

**Western Sandpiper** - Thanks to Yvonne for counting this large flock of resting shorebirds at Damon Point.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** - Two dowitchers were seen and photographed (thanks Chris!) among some Black-bellied Plovers at Damon Point. Close scrutinization and expert consultation resulted in them being named Short-billed.

**Red-necked Phalarope** - Seen during our Westport Seabirds pelagic trip.

**Spotted Sandpiper** - We had close looks at a lone spotty when we stopped to scan Diablo Lake for Barrow's Goldeneye. Another bird was seen the following day at the Newhalem Agg Ponds.

**Wandering Tattler** - Five tattlers were seen on the Westport jetty as we returned from our pelagic adventure with Westport Seabirds.

**Greater Yellowlegs** - We saw a lone yellowlegs on the latter half of our tour during our early morning Barn Owl walk at Johns River Wildlife Area.

**Willet** - A lone Willet was picked out by some among the large flock of godwits on the Westport Marina break wall.

**South Polar Skua** - We saw an incredible total of SIX of these impressive birds during our time at sea with Westport Seabirds, with one bird crossing just over the boat.

**Pomarine Jaeger** - A total of five poms were seen from the deck of the *Monte Carlo* during our pelagic trip.

**Parasitic Jaeger** - Three of these jaegers were seen during our Westport Seabirds trip.

**Common Murre** - First seen by the group during our ferry ride from Keystone to Port Townsend, we got better looks during our pelagic trip, where the crew tallied well over 100 Common Murres.



**Pigeon Guillemot** - The only PIGU we tallied was the lone bird we saw at Ediz Hook.

**Cassin's Auklet** - We saw large numbers of these small alcids during our Westport Seabirds pelagic trip.



**Rhinoceros Auklet** - A lone bird, possibly sick, swam by us at close range along the beach at Oyhut Wildlife Area; we saw dozens more from the boat during our pelagic trip - lacking their namesake "horn" that they sport during the breeding season.

**Tufted Puffin** - All it takes is one, and one is all we got! Seen off the starboard side of the boat during our pelagic trip.

**Sabine's Gull** - A couple dozen of these graceful sea gulls graced us with fly-bys during our Westport Pelagic.

**Bonaparte's Gull** - While scanning the ducks at the Hoquiam WTP, we spotted this small gull out on one of the ponds, sporting transitional post-breeding plumage.



**Heerman's Gull** - Small, gray, and beautiful, we had these west coast gulls multiple times during our time along the coast, including the ferry trip, Sekiu, Ediz Hook, and during our pelagic trip.

**Short-billed Gull (formerly Mew Gull)** - Less than satisfactory looks a lone bird during our ferry trip, then an immature bird at the Hoquiam WTP.

**Ring-billed Gull** - On the way to our ferry ride we made a short drive along March Point, where we spotted at least two Ring-billed Gulls among the many other gulls and cormorants.

**Western Gull** - We had good looks at these large, dark, west coast gulls on three occasions: Ediz Hook, Oyhut Wildlife Area, and Hoquiam WTP.

**California Gull** - Seen at several spots, most notably at Ediz Hook as well as the hordes following our boat during the near-shore portions of our pelagic trip, where they were almost exclusively immature birds.

**Iceland Gull** - A lone bird was seen by some birders during our pelagic trip offshore.

**Glaucous-winged Gull** - There were no shortage of these large gulls, but finding pure GWGU, as opposed to Glaucous-winged Gull X Western Gull hybrids, was a bit more of a challenge. It seems that most of the large gulls on Washington's coast are hybrids.

**Caspian Tern** - Lone birds seen at March Point and Oyhut Wildlife Area.

**Common Tern** - Birds most likely missed by most of our group, two very distant Common Terns were seen during our Westport Seabirds pelagic trip.

**Red-throated Loon** - Great looks at three of these slender loons at Oyhut Wildlife Area.

**Common Loon** - We saw Common Loons in small numbers (ones or twos) at multiple locations, including March Point, State Route 112, Middle Hook, Ediz Hook, Oyhut Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach, and Hood Canal near Belfair.

**Black-footed Albatross** - A battleship among light cruisers, we enjoyed very close-up looks at multiple albatrosses during our pelagic trip as they fed on the chum behind the boat and gracefully glided around the boat. Simply wow!

**Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel** - Another bird seen in large numbers during our offshore adventure. Small, fast, and low flying, they were often challenging to get in the bins.

**Northern Fulmar** - Numerous fulmars passed close by our boat during the pelagic trip, stocky-looking compared to the sleek Sooty and Short-tailed shearwaters.



**Pink-footed Shearwater** - We saw many of these larger shearwaters as they cruised around the boat with the Sooty, Buller's, and Short-tailed shearwaters.

**Buller's Shearwater** - We only had a couple of these less-common shearwaters, which prompted shouts and callouts by the Westport spotters.

**Sooty Shearwater** - Usually the most prominent shearwater on west coast pelagic trips, these birds were far outnumbered by their Short-tailed relatives during our offshore trip.



**Short-tailed Shearwater** - Normally absent during September pelagic trips in the Pacific Northwest, we were graced by well over a thousand of these dark sea birds.

**Brandt's Cormorant** - We saw these coastal cormorants at Middle Point and again when we passed the jetty coming in from our Westport pelagic trip.

**Pelagic Cormorant** - We saw these slender cormorants on a number of occasions, including March Point, Keystone-Port Townsend ferry, Middle Point, Ediz Hook, Oyhut Wildlife Area, and on the jetty returning from our pelagic trip.

**Double-crested Cormorant** - Numerous throughout our tour and seen at several locations.

**American White Pelican** - Spotted one of these large birds out on an island sand spit from the Huntzinger Boat Launch on the Columbia River.

**Brown Pelican** - Numerous along the coast and seen from the Monte Carlo during our pelagic trip.



**Great Blue Heron** - We saw GBHE several times throughout our tour, including March Point, Salt Creek County Park, Middle Point, Oyhut Wildlife Area, Johns River Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach, Belfair, Getty's Cove, and Huntzinger Boat Launch.

**Great Egret** - Our only egret of the trip was a distant bird seen from the van out on the oyster beds when returning from our Barn Owl attempt.

**Turkey Vulture** - Not overly numerous in the area, we did see small numbers of vultures throughout the trip.

**Osprey** - Although we saw many nests, we only tallied a single Osprey during our tour - from the van on Vantage Highway near Gingko Petrified Forest State Park.

**Northern Harrier** - We spotted a couple harriers: once soaring overhead at Oyhut Wildlife Area, and again at Hoquiam WTP.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** - One sharpie was seen silhouetted bird perched atop a snag at Yakima Sportsman State Park, and another was seen during our drive/hike up Robinson Canyon.

**Cooper's Hawk** - Like the sharpie, we saw two Coops: near the visitor center at Hurricane Ridge, and at Oyhut Wildlife Area.

**Bald Eagle** - We had a lone eagle at Sekiu, seen from the van, and a distant bird on the tidal flats at Bottle Beach.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** - Chris had her eyes to the skies and spotted a few raptors overhead at Oyhut Wildlife Area, including one (uncommon for the region) red-shouldered.

**Swainson's Hawk** - Spotted from the van, we saw two Swainson's Hawk during our final day of birding while slow-driving Thrall Road farmland on the eastern flank of the Cascades.

**Red-tailed Hawk** - Regular throughout the tour, we saw a large number in the rural fields of Kittitas County after coming down from Robinson Canyon.

**Western Screech-Owl** - Heard well but not seen during our early morning owling session along Jimmy Come Lately Road in Olympic National Forest, and then heard briefly by some during our early morning in Belfair View Estates.

**Northern Pygmy-Owl** - We heard two competing pygmy-owls during our owling session on Jimmy Come Lately Road in Olympic National Park.

**Belted Kingfisher** - We saw one or more Belted Kingfishers most days of our trip; locations included County Line Ponds, March Point, Salt Creek County Park, Middle Point, Ocean City State Park, Weatherwax Trail, and Popoff Trail.



**Red-breasted Sapsucker** - One of our key target birds, as they are only found in a narrow strip down the Pacific Coast, we finally hooked up with a bird at the Newhalem Agg Ponds, though the looks were rather unsatisfying. We found another bird several days later at Bottle Beach. We got our best looks at a cooperative sapsucker at Lake Wilderness Park on the next to last day of birding on our trip.

**Lewis's Woodpecker** - Credit to the sharp eyes of Chris, we got distant but good looks at a Lewis's Woodpecker flycatching during our short stop at the Hardy Burn parking lot after our hike up to Rainy Pass.



**Downy Woodpecker** - We saw these familiar small woodpeckers at a few locations, notably Oyhut Wildlife Area and Lake Wilderness Park.

**Hairy Woodpecker** - Heard or seen on a few occasions, including Weatherwax Trail and Lake Wilderness Park.

*Christine Andrews*  
TRUE LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Pileated Woodpecker** - We never put our bins on a Pileated, but we heard their familiar call after our owling adventure on Pali Alto Road in the Olympic National Forest.

**Northern Flicker** - Numerous and regular throughout our trip, we were able to see the red shafting of the western version of our familiar flicker.

**American Kestrel** - We saw our first kestrel on a utility pole along the Columbia River in Kittitas County, then saw several more from the van on our final day while driving the farmland east of the Cascades.

**Peregrine Falcon** - Some members of our group were able to see the Peregrine Falcon spotted by the Westport Pelagic crew as we made our way back to the boat slip in the Westport Marina.

**Western Wood-Pewee** - We got a good look at a solo pewee in Robinson Canyon.

**Willow Flycatcher** - Seen by most of our group during our walk at Bottle Beach.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** - Seen and heard in Robinson Canyon.

**Warbling Vireo** - We got our bins on this bird - our lone vireo of the tour - at the Popoff Trail.



**Canada Jay** - We had fun with a bold group of these camp robbers at the Rainy Pass parking lot, where they readily took our snacks and fed from our hand, with one particularly brave and ambitious bird that stole Anita's sandwich! We also saw them at several stops in Olympic National Park (Heart o' the Hills Campground, Morse Creek Overlook, Meadow Loop Trail at Hurricane Ridge, and Hall of Mosses at Hoh Rain Forest). Always fun birds!

**Steller's Jay** - Although we saw these jays at several locations, we never tired of their curious antics. Seen by the group first on Scott's driveway, then again at Newhalem, Pali Alto Road in Olympic National Forest, several spots at Olympic National Park, Oyhut Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach, Lake Wilderness Park, and Robinson Canyon.

**Black-billed Magpie** - Our first magpie flew over the van, only seen by Anita and Daryl. The next day we saw many more working the rural fields in Kittitas County.

**Clark's Nutcracker** - Perhaps only seen well by Daryl and Sigrid as they descended the Rainy Pass trail.



**American Crow** - We saw crows. Lots of crows! Also saw plenty of (formerly) Northwestern Crows up along the shoreline in Clallam Count - a life bird we don't get to count on our official lists.



**Common Raven** - These large corvids seemed to be just about everywhere we were, as they were seen and/or heard every day of our trip besides our pelagic day in Westport. We had a nice encounter with an individual raven on the way up to Hurricane Ridge who had an abundance of personality.

**Black-capped Chickadee** - Seemingly less common in the Pacific Northwest than back in Michigan, we still came upon these small cheery birds on several stops.

**Mountain Chickadee** - We encountered these alpine chickadees during both our treks through the Cascade Range, at the start of the trip on the Rainy Pass trail, and near the end of the trip in Robinson Canyon.

**Chestnut-backed Chickadee** - The common western chickadee, we heard them more than we saw them, but did get good looks at small band working the greenery along the Lake Wilderness Park trail.

**Purple Martin** - A surprise fly-by group passed overhead when we finished our first walk at Oyhut Wildlife Area.

**Violet-green Swallow** - The common swallows of the western US, we saw these birds several times, sometimes in very large numbers. Notably at Newhalem, Diablo Lake, and Gingko Petrified Forest State Park - where we were able to look down on them as they flew along the cliffside along the Columbia River.

**Barn Swallow** - We saw these familiar swallows just about every other day of the tour.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** - Always tricky to see and even harder to photograph, we did come upon these energetic mini-birds a couple times early in the tour, at both Rainy Pass and during a brief stop along the Olympic Peninsula just before we were forced to turn around.



**Red-breasted Nuthatch** - Seen/heard a few times during our tour, including Rainy Pass and Robinson Canyon.

**Brown Creeper** - Heard a few times, but perhaps never seen. The cryptic creeper of the northwest woods!

**Rock Wren** - A few members of our team got a very brief glimpse of this bird below the parking area at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park. The bird was also heard by a few members of our group.

**House Wren** - A lone wren was seen by some of our group during our walk at the Newhalem Agg Ponds.



**Pacific Wren** - We played hide-and-seek with a pair of Pacific Wrens on the Rainy Pass trail, then got good looks at the Weatherwax Trail - but as is the norm with this bird, it was more often heard than seen.

**Marsh Wren** - A lone Marsh Wren called but never showed itself when we were walking the trail at Johns River Wildlife Area after our search for Barn Owl.

**Bewick's Wren** - Good looks at this western wren were had by all on a few occasions: Oyhut Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach, Yakima Sportsman State Park, Popoff Trail - multiple birds were heard/seen at each location.

**American Dipper** - We had two dippers during the tour, both seen at the County Line Ponds.

**European Starling** - Yes, we saw starlings.

**Gray Catbird** - One, possibly two birds, seen briefly along the Popoff Trail.

**Western Bluebird** - The best we could do with this bird was a backlit treetop bird at Popoff Trail on the final day of the tour.



**Swainson's Thrush** - Regularly heard, we finally put our bins on this reclusive thrush while walking the shoreline at Bottle Beach, where it was skulking in the shoreline shrubbery.

**American Robin** - Plenty of robins on the tour! Fun to see them in an alpine environment like Rainy Pass.

**Cedar Waxwing** - Multiple views (Oyhut Wildlife Area, Johns River Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach, Yakima Sportsman State Park), a good-sized flock of ~40 birds at Popoff Trail.

**House Sparrow** - Rather inconspicuous during the tour given our generally remote setting, but we did have a small flock at Ediz Hook, and a few more in Westport.

**American Pipit** - Most prolific at Hurricane Ridge, but also observed at Oyhut Wildlife Area and Johns River Wildlife Area.

**House Finch** - We reported eight birds at both Oyhut Wildlife Area and Yakima Sportsman State Park.



**Purple Finch** - We saw one or two Purple Finches at four different locations, including Oyhut Wildlife Area, Johns River Wildlife Area, Yakima Sportsman State Park, and Popoff Trail.

**Red Crossbill** - We watched a flock of eight birds circle and land several times near the large brush pile at Newhalem Agg Ponds.

**White-winged Crossbill** - Our group saw and heard a large number of these crossbills while hiking up the Rainy Pass trail, though we never got stellar looks.

**American Goldfinch** - We ticked goldfinches on several walks, most numerous at Hoquiam WTP. Despite our desire and best efforts, we couldn't pull a Lesser Goldfinch from the flocks.

**Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)** - Juncos of the Oregon subspecies abound in the Pacific Northwest, and we saw them at several locations. Our closest encounters were along the paved road at Lake Wilderness Park, where they were very accommodating.

**White-crowned Sparrow** - One of the most prominent sparrows on the trip, we saw these little birds at Newhalem, Rainy Pass, Newhalem Agg Ponds, Bottle Beach, Yakima Sportsman State Park, Robinson Canyon, and Popoff Trail - where they numbered 35 or more.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** - We just caught the arrival of these birds from the breeding grounds much farther north, and the juvenile bird we spotted at the Rainy Pass parking area was our only Golden-crowned of the trip.

**Vesper Sparrow** - Seen by most members of the group near the large brush pile at Newhalem Agg Ponds.

**Savannah Sparrow** - Recorded by our group at three different stops: Hurricane Ridge, Oyhut Wildlife Area, and Johns River Wildlife Area.



**Fox Sparrow** - Detected via multiple photos from our first walk at Oyhut Wildlife Area.

**Song Sparrow** - Like our Song Sparrow, but darker! We saw or heard these sparrows at many locations, including Newhalem, Newhalem Agg Ponds, Ocean Shores State Park, Weatherwax Trail, Oyhut Wildlife Area, Damon Point, Johns River Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach, Wilderness Lake Park, and Popoff Trail.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** - One bird popped up for a few seconds at Rainy Pass, and that was our only Lincoln's Sparrow of the trip.

**Spotted Towhee** - Secretive but vocal, we heard more than we saw. Locations included Newhalem, Weatherwax Trail, and Belfair View Estates (during both our evening and morning explorations there).

**Red-winged Blackbird** - After not seeing any Red-wings during our first six days of the trip, we had them every day after that. First at Hoquiam WTP, then again Yakima Sportsman State Park, Lake Wilderness Park, and Popoff Trail.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** - Not overly abundant, we did see cowbirds from the van on a Westport roadside after our pelagic, and again in the rural fields of Kittitas County in mixed blackbird flocks.

**Brewer's Blackbird** - The common blackbird during our birding trip, we saw these sleek and glossy birds at Ediz Hook, Westport, and out in Kittitas County.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** - One of the few warblers we had on the tour, we saw Orange-crowns along SR-112 in Clallam County, then again at Bottle Beach. Our largest showing for them as at Popoff Trail.

**Common Yellowthroat** - We had yellowthroats on our first full day while birding at the Newhalem Agg Ponds, and again later in the tour at Johns River Wildlife Area and Bottle Beach.

**Yellow Warbler** - Seen by part of the group early in the tour on a stop along SR-112, we had better looks at multiple birds during our first stop at Oyhut Wildlife Area.

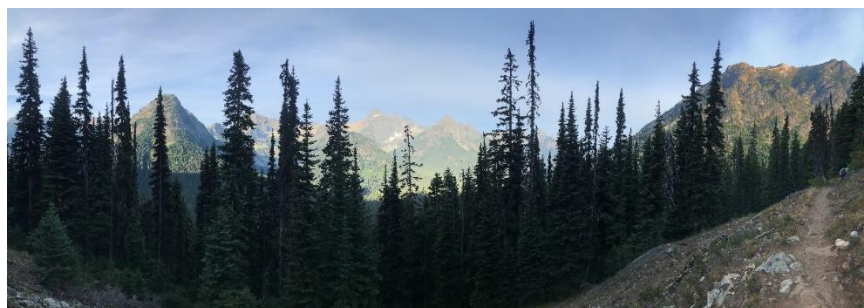
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** - The very common and very numerous warbler of the tour. Seen at Rainy Pass, Hardy Burn parking lot, Meadow Loop Trail on Hurricane Ridge, Yakima Sportsman State Park, Popoff Trail (where we had 150-200 YRWA), and in Robinson Canyon, where we estimated another 50.

**Townsend's Warbler** - Sigrid and Daryl had good looks at a couple Townsends while descending the trail at Rainy Pass. Others caught a glimpse of one or two birds in Robinson Canyon.

**Western Tanager** - After a hearing a bird at Yakima Sportsman State Park and never getting a satisfactory look, we finally saw this bird well at Popoff Trail.

**Black-headed Grosbeak** - Sue and Anita may have been the only two to get on this bird in Robinson Canyon.

**TOTAL BIRDS SEEN/HEARD BY OUR GROUP: 168** (your personal total may differ)





## **MAMMALS**

California Sea Lion  
Steller's Sea Lion  
Harbor Seal  
Humpback Whale  
Dall's Porpoise  
Elk  
Mule Deer  
Little Brown Bat  
Golden-mantled Ground  
Squirrel  
Chickaree Squirrel  
(Douglas's Squirrel)  
Townsend's Chipmunk  
Yellow-pine Chipmunk  
Eastern Gray Squirrel  
Olympic Marmot

## **ADDITIONAL FAUNA**

Ocean Sunfish  
Pacific Treefrog  
Northwestern Garter Snake  
Banana Slug  
Purple Beach Crab  
Other crab species  
Rock Prickleback  
Sea Anemone  
Gooseneck Barnacle  
California Mussel



## **Photo Credits**

**Christine Andrews** - California Quail, Spruce Grouse, Pacific Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Tufted Puffin, Heerman's Gull, Black-footed Albatross, Lewis's Woodpecker, Swainson's Hawk, Steller's Jay, Pacific Wren, American Dipper, Red Crossbill, Humpback Whale

**Anita Spencer** - Cassin's Auklet, Pink-footed Shearwater, Canada Jay (with Chris Andrews), Golden-crowned Sparrow, Olympic Marmot

**Daryl Bernard** - Skagit River at Newhalem, park & restaurant signage, Sooty Grouse, Rainy Pass Trail at North Cascades, Mule Deer

