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**Naturalist Journeys**  
**Washington Winter Birding Tour**  
**February 16-22, 2013**

**Guide: Woody Wheeler, with four participants: Bill, Denise, Richard and R.T.**

**2013 Species List**

**BIRDS**

1. Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* – thousands in Skagit Flats
2. Brant *Branta bernicia* – groups seen at Ft. Flagler and Ediz Hook
3. Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* – roadside bird near Port Townsend, then seen again in numbers in Reifel Refuge in BC
4. Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus* – Three found mixed with Trumpeter Swans in farm fields east of LaConner
5. Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator* – Hundreds in Skagit Flats and Fraser delta
6. Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* – Close looks at a dozen in Reifel Refuge, B.C.
7. American Wigeon *Anas americana* – Seen daily in large numbers
8. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* – 4 seen mixed with American Wigeons on Skagit Flats
9. Gadwall *Anas strepera* – Seen most days in coastal areas, lakes and ponds
10. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* – 100s in coastal areas, lakes, ponds and on farm fields
11. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* – Seen on most days in coastal areas, lakes and ponds
12. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* – Same as above
13. Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* – “ “ “
14. Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* – 4 paddled up to us at Reifel Refuge, BC
15. Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* – A few off Olympic Peninsula; more at Reifel Refuge, BC
16. Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* - Flocks seen off Olympic coast
17. White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* – Small groups seen off Dungeness Spit and ferry to Whidbey Island
18. Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* – Multiples seen at Fort Flagler, Ediz Hook, along Olympic Peninsula and Whidbey Island shores
19. Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hymalis* – Good looks at Point Wilson, John Wayne Marina and at Dungeness Spit
20. Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* – Common diving duck in ponds, lakes and saltwater bays
21. Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* – Seen most days in coastal bays and ponds
22. Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* – In protected bays and ponds at Kah Tai Wetlands, John Wayne Marina, Ediz Hook, Reifel Refuge and other locations
23. Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* – Seen most days in coastal areas and lakes
24. Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* – Seen often in salt water areas
25. Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* – Large groups at Kah Tai Wetlands and Crockett Lake

26. Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* – Exotic waterfowl seen off Coupeville pier
27. Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* – One flying across road near Coupeville
28. Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* – Seen in saltwater locations at Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit and West Beach, Deception Pass
29. Pacific Loon *Gavia arctica* – Also seen in deep saltwater passages and bays, primarily on Olympic Peninsula
30. Common Loon *Gavia immer* – Seen most days on Olympic Peninsula and Whidbey Island in winter plumage
31. Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* – Found in several fresh water ponds and lakes
32. Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* – Abundant in salt water bays and coastal areas
33. Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* – Groups seen off Edmonds Ferry, Salisbury County Park, at Fort Flagler, Ediz Hook and other salt water locations
34. Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* – Flocks seen off Edmonds Ferry and Olympic Peninsula
35. Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* – 2 seen in Straits of Juan de Fuca at Point Wilson
36. Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* – Common in all saltwater locations
37. Brandt's Cormorant *Phalacrocorax penacillatus* – 3 seen well near former Keystone ferry dock on Whidbey Island, with other two species of cormorants on wooden platform
38. Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* – Seen daily in salt and fresh water; often perched on pilings
39. American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* – Impressively spotted by Denise under logs in tidal channel at North Fork of Skagit River estuary
40. Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* – Seen daily, including along highway stretches
41. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* – 3 at Reifel Bird Refuge, BC
42. Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* – 328 seen over the course of the trip, including 37 in one Black Cottonwood tree in Skagit Flats
43. Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter gentilis* – One seen at Isthmus Bay on Marrowstone Island
44. Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* – Several on journey, including good looks in Edison
45. Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* – Common in all plumages from Whidbey Island north
46. Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* – Common roadside bird seen in various morphs
47. Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus* - This blonde-headed buteo seen in Skagit Flats and Fraser delta
48. American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* - Seen near Sequim, in Skagit and Fraser deltas
49. Merlin *Falco columbarius* – Several seen in Skagit Flats, and one at Boundary Bay
50. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – First seen enroute to Dungeness River Audubon Center; another well spotted in the far distance by RT at Rosario Beach, Whidbey Island
51. Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola* – First heard by Woody, then responded to Richard's recorded calls at Kah Tai Wetlands
52. American Coot *Fulica americana* – Frequently seen in salt and fresh water harbors
53. Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* – Seen up close and personal at Reifel Refuge, BC
54. Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – Many seen on grassy area at Fort Flagler
55. Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous* – Several seen and heard during course of journey
56. Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus bachmani* – This charismatic shorebird first seen at Ediz Hook and later in rocky areas on the Whidbey Island coast.
57. Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* – First seen at Oak Bay, then Marrowstone Island and lastly, at Reifel Refuge, BC. The resonant “Tu-tu-tu-tu” call heard in all places
58. Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* – 2 found amid Black Turnstones at Ediz Hook
59. Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala* – First spotted by Richard at Ediz Hook where many were present along the near shoreline
60. Sanderling *Calidris alba* – Many at Fort Flagler & other locations on Olympic Peninsula
61. Dunlin *Calidris alpina* – Most common shorebird of journey. Seen in large flocks on Olympic Peninsula, Whidbey Island and Fraser Delta.

62. Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* – 3 roadside birds seen on Whidbey Island near Crockett Lake.
63. Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* – Several seen from Edmonds ferry
64. Mew Gull *Larus canus* – Seen in all coastal areas. One of our trip's most common gulls.
65. Western Gull *Larus occidentalis* – A few at Ediz Hook and Dungeness Spit
66. Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens* – Abundant; seen most days along with many Glaucous-winged/Western hybrids
67. Common Murre *uria aalge* – Point Wilson, Fort Warden State Park; Ediz Hook
68. Pigeon Guillemot *Cephus columba* – Seen most days in salt water areas
69. Marbled Murrelet *Brachyramphus brevirostris* – Good looks in nice lighting of this threatened species in Ediz Hook harbor; brief looks on ferry to Whidbey Island
70. Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* – Seen most days in towns and around ferry docks
71. Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* – Seen in Edison and on Fraser delta
72. Barn Owl *Tyto alba* – One seen at dusk near Boundary Bay, BC
73. Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* – Four seen in Skagit Flats; one at Boundary Bay, BC
74. Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* – 12 of these majestic arctic owls at Boundary Bay, BC
75. Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus* – 3 at Reifel Bird Refuge, hidden in fir trees.
76. Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna* - Seen several times, including behind Bishop Hotel in Port Townsend, and perched on rock fountain at Dungeness River Audubon Center
77. Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* – Seen most days, primarily in salt water bays
78. Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* – One male seen directly overhead in deciduous tree in Reifel Refuge
79. Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* – Members of the red-shafted race seen most days. One tree in Reifel Refuge had four Northern Flickers on it at once.
80. Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* – One first heard then seen flying overhead at Isthmus Bay, Marrowstone Island
81. Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor* – One spotted by Bill at Crockett Lake, Whidbey Island
82. Steller's Jay *Cyanotta stelleri* – First heard repeatedly on Marrowstone Island, then finally seen well by all on our last day in Skagit Flats.
83. American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* – Seen and heard often on first few days of tour
84. Northwest Crow *Corvus caurinus* – Common on northern portions of our tour
85. Common Raven *Corvus corax* – First spotted by Richard at Oak Bay, then seen again on Whidbey Island, Skagit Flats and in the Fraser delta.
86. Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus* – Common in deciduous forest areas and towns throughout tour
87. Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens* – Common in coniferous forest areas, particularly on Olympic Peninsula and on Whidbey Island
88. Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* – Spotted by RT and seen by all in Reifel Refuge, BC
89. Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea* – Common throughout trip, seen at close range at Reifel Refuge, BC
90. American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus* – At dusk on Dungeness River below Railroad Bridge near the Audubon Center in Sequim
91. Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* – Emerged from brush for good looks at Reifel Refuge, BC
92. Pacific Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* – Seen and heard briefly in Port Townsend behind hotel and in Reifel Refuge, BC
93. Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* – Seen and heard in several areas, but best at Fort Worden State Park, where Lori "pished" them out.
94. Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* – The same goes for this species of kinglet
95. Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* – One hopped out onto road entrance to Reifel Refuge
96. American Robin *Turdus migratorius* – Common and ubiquitous throughout our journey

97. Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius* – Glorious looks at John Wayne Marina, Dungeness Spit, Reifel Refuge and on last day in Skagit Flats
98. European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* – Abundant, daily species
99. Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronate* – One recorded by RT and Woody at entrance to mansion near Boundary Bay while owling at dusk.
100. Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* – Abundant and vocal throughout journey; especially at Reifel Refuge where we saw dozens of them.
101. Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* – Seen almost daily, and often puzzled people with its dark, ruddy tones.
102. Fox Sparrow *Passerella illaca* – Abundant at Reifel Refuge, BC
103. Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla* – Often seen on ground
104. White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* – In Skagit and Fraser valleys
105. Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* – A daily occurrence
106. Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* – Abundant and vocal
107. Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* – Many seen in Skagit Flats
108. House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus* – Seen and heard on most days
109. Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus* – One seen well at Dungeness River Audubon Center
110. Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus* – Bill spotted 4 in Reifel Refuge
111. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* - Nesting on Bishop Hotel, Port Townsend

#### Oddball Bird Species:

- Mallard/Northern Pintail hybrid at Reifel Refuge

#### Mammals:

- Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina* - Seen in large numbers at Fort Flagler and Ediz Hook
- Northern Sea Lion *Eumotopeas jubatus* – Spotted alongside ferry to Whidbey Island
- Eastern Cottontail *Lepus floridanus* – Found by Richard at North Fork Skagit delta
- Black Morph Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* – Several at Reifel Refuge, BC