



May 8 - 16, 2021

Washington: Spring on the Olympic Peninsula

With Steve Shunk and Carolyn Wilcox, and participants:
Nancy, Trish, Daniel, Henry, Lee, Jean, Jill, Kate, Fred, Dean, and Theresa

Compiled by Steve Shunk

(I) = Introduced

HO = Heard only, definitively, by guide and others

GO = Seen or heard and IDed by guide only

(#) = Number of days tallied for the 9-day tour (*note that we did not tally birds on departure day, so the maximum number of days for any bird would be 8*)

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

SP = State Park

NP = National Park

** = New bird for this tour route

Summary: We enjoyed a very productive trip with 150 bird species, 16 of which were new for this tour route. Highlights included: 25 different waterfowl and 13 shorebirds; daily Rufous Hummingbird, Pine Siskin, and Wilson's Warbler; 14 different mammal species; and a plethora of northwestern wildflowers.

BIRDS (150 species recorded, of which XX were heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (25 total)

****Greater White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*—(1) Several seen among Canada and Cackling Geese at Hoquiam Sewage Ponds.

Brant *Branta bernicla*—(1) Flock of about 15 seen flying through the fog from Dungeness Landing.

****Cackling Goose** *Branta hutchinsii*—(1) Flock of about 20 seen at Hoquiam sewage ponds.

Canada Goose *Branta Canadensis*—(7) Seen almost daily; most commonly seen waterfowl.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*—(2) Two seen at Nisqually NWR and a pair at Hoh rainforest.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—(1) Three males seen at Nisqually NWR.

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*—(1) Five seen at Nisqually NWR.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—(1) About 30 at Nisqually NWR.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—(2) Six tallied at Nisqually NWR and four at Three Crabs trail.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca Penelope*—(1) Two males seen at Three Crabs among hundreds of American Wigeon.

American Wigeon *Mareca Americana*—(2) Six seen at Nisqually NWR and hundreds at Three Crabs.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—(6) Seen most days in all wetland habitats.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*—(2) Four seen at Nisqually NWR and one at Three Crabs.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*—(2) Ten seen at Nisqually NWR, also at Three Crabs and Dungeness Landing.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*—(1) Several seen at Hoquiam Sewage Ponds with good comparisons to Lessers.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*—(1) Several seen at Hoquiam Sewage Ponds with good comparisons to Greater.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*—(1) A half-dozen inside the Port Angeles Harbor, seen from Ediz Hook.
Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*—(3) Hundreds seen on open coast, mostly beyond the surf zone.
****Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*—(1) Three seen from Ediz Hook on the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*—(2) One seen at Hoquiam sewage ponds and one at Lake Crescent.
****Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*—(1) Hoquiam sewage ponds.
****Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica*—(1) Pair seen close to shore at Lake Crescent.
Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*—(2) Adult with ducklings seen at Nisqually NWR.
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*—(3) Seen three different days, with the best looks at Elwah River.
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*—(1) Flock of seven seen flying north from Point Williams.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

California Quail *Callipepla californica*—(1) Seen outside of Sequim

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (2)

Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus*—(1) Display heard by one participant at Quinault forest.
Sooty Grouse *Dendragapus fuliginosus*—(1) Two males displaying and one female on the road to Hurricane Ridge.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—(1) One bird seen on Anderson Lake on one of our last birding outings.
****Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisagena*—(1) One individual seen on the first day at Seahurst Park.
Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*—(1) Seen by one participant at the coastal overlook near Kalalock Lodge.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (4)

Rock Pigeon (1) *Columba livia*—(5) Found in cities and industrial areas throughout.
Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*—(4) Seen in a handful of locations, with best looks at Ruby Beach and on Hurricane Ridge.
Eurasian Collared-Dove (1) *Streptopelia decaocto*—(2) Seen in Sequim and Forks
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—(3) Seen near our Seattle hotel and then at Port Williams and Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim.

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*—(3) Flock of 5 seen at Heart o' the Hills campground, with singles at Quinault forest and Kalalock Lodge.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna*—(2) Singles seen in Sequim, with a nest at Railroad Bridge Park.
Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*—(8) Seen throughout the trip, with best encounters at Kalalock Lodge.

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

Sora *Porzana carolina*—(1) HO at Nisqually NWR.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)

Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus bachmani*—(2) pairs seen at Ruby Beach and on the spit at Protection Island.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (2)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—(1) A dozen seen at Three Crabs and one at Dungeness Landing.
Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*—(1) GO seen through the fog at Three Crabs.
Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous*—

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (10)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*—(3) 32 seen at the Otter overlook, then a few at Hoquiam sewage ponds and Three Crabs.

****Surbird** *Calidris virgate*—(1) GO pair seen briefly at Ruby Beach before disappearing behind a giant rock.

****Sanderling** *Calidris alba*—(2) A few at Ruby Beach and then 2 on log boom at Ediz Hook.

****Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*—(1) Hoquiam sewage ponds

****Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—(2) Hoquiam sewage ponds and Three Crabs; likely many more at Three Crabs, as we counted at least 100 small sandpipers that could not be positively identified due to dense fog.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*—(3) A few on the beach near Hoquiam sewage ponds, then singles at Dungeness Landing and Ediz Hook; likely more at Dungeness Landing and Three Crabs (see above).

****Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*—(1) 10 seen at Three Crabs

****Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*—(1) Seen at Hoquiam sewage ponds

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—(1) One seen feeding at the stream on Ruby Beach.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—(2) 2 scoped at Nisqually NWR, 1 at Dungeness Landing.

AUKS, MURRES, AND PUFFINS: Alcidae (4)

Common Murre *Uria aalge*—(1) Seen flying beyond the lighthouse from Point Wilson.

Pigeon Guillemot *Cephus columba*—(4) Most common Alcid; a few from Ediz Hook, Point Wilson, and otter overlook; at least 30 at Port Williams/Nelson Park; and at least 50 on the Protection Island boat cruise.

Marbled Murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus*—(1) 2 seen from Ediz Hook.

Rhinoceros Auklet *Cerorhinca monocerata*—(3) GO from Ediz Hook, then hundreds seen outside Admiralty Inlet, both from Point Wilson and from the Protection Island cruise.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (7)

Mew Gull *Larus canus*—(1) Flock of about 20 seen hawking insects over Nisqually NWR.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—Hoquiam sewage ponds and Kalaloch Lodge overlook.

Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*—Hoquiam sewage ponds and Kalaloch Lodge overlook.

California Gull *Larus californicus*—Single bird at Kalaloch Lodge overlook.

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*—(6) Most common gull, seen in good numbers along the shore and lesser numbers inland; about 1,000 seen to, from, and at Protection Island.

****Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*—(1) Immature bird seen among other gulls from Kalaloch Lodge.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*—(4) A few seen at Seahurst Park, then a handful of other shoreline locations.

LOONS: Gaviidae (3)

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellate*—(1) 2 seen from the otter overlook.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*—(3) small numbers seen from Ediz Hook, Protection Island cruise, and Point Wilson

Common Loon *Gavia immer*—(3) GO twice, then by the group from Ediz Hook

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (3)

Brandt's Cormorant *Phalacrocorax penicillatus*—(2) Small numbers seen mostly in flight around Point Wilson

Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*—(3) Nesting activity at Ruby Beach, then several seen on the cruise.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—(2) Hoquiam sewage ponds and on the Pacific shores.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (1)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—(2) A few at Nisqually NWR and 6 at Three Crabs.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—(7) Seen almost daily in small numbers and in all habitats.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—(1) Adult seen on nest at Hoquiam sewage ponds.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (4)

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*—(1) One seen hunting along Three Crabs marshy habitats.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—(1) One seen during picnic lunch at Olympic NP visitor center

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—(5) Seen in several lakeside and shoreline locations, with 5 at Protection Island.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—(4) Individuals seen in several locations.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (3)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—Seen twice by individual participants then by the group at Point Williams/Nelson Park.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (5)

Red-breasted Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus ruber*—(2) Singles seen well by all at Elwah River and Anderson Lake.

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*—(4) HO 2 days, then seen at Hoh Rainforest and Elwah River nests.

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*—(5) HO 3 days, then singles at Hoh rainforest and Railroad Bridge Park.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*—(4) HO 3 days, seen well at Seahurst Park on day 1.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—(3) HO once, seen at Hoh Rainforest and Hurricane Ridge.

FALCONS: Falconidae (2)

****Merlin** *Falco columbarius*—One bird seen at Hoquiam sewage ponds.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—One bird seen at Hoquiam sewage ponds.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (3)

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*—(1) Seen well atop Hurricane Ridge.

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondii*—HO 3 days, seen at Elwah River.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*—(6) Frustratingly HO in many locations.

VIREOS: Vireonidae (2)

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*—(1) One bird seen well on the last day, at Anderson Lake

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*—(6) Seen at Seahurst Park, Nisqually NWR, Railroad Bridge Park, and other locations.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (6)

Canada Jay *Perisoreus Canadensis*—(2) HO one day, then seen well at Hurricane Ridge.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*—(5) Seen repeatedly in most forested areas from Quinault to Hurricane Ridge.

California Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma californica*—(1) Seen once flying over the freeway en route to Nisqually NWR.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—(8) Common and widespread throughout; see below.

Northwestern Crow *Corvus caurinus*—(X) No longer recognized by all authorities so not tallied separately, though several birds were seen that would be IDed as this species.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—(6) Seen easily, in small numbers, especially along the outer coast.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*—(2) Seen well at Nisqually NWR and Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens*—(7) HO 5 days from high in the canopy, seen at Seahurst Park and Railroad Bridge Park.

LARKS: Alaudidae (1)

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*—(1) 2 flyovers seen at Hurricane Ridge.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—(3) Seen once by one participant early in the trip, then a few seen at Point Williams/Nelson Park and over the Dungeness River at Railroad Bridge Park.

Purple Martin *Progne subis*—(1) 18 seen around nest sites at Three Crabs.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*—(3) Nisqually NWR, Kalaloch Lodge, and nesting at Railroad Bridge Park.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*—(7) Commonly seen throughout, with best looks at Port Williams/Nelson Park.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—(5) Seen frequently throughout.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—(3) Small numbers seen at Kalaloch Lodge and Three Crabs.

BUSHTITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*—(1) One bird seen at Railroad Bridge Park.

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*—(6) HO four days, then seen well at Railroad Bridge Park and Washington Harbor.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*—(4) HO 3 days then finally seen at Anderson Lake.

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*—(4) Seen at Nisqually NWR and Seahurst Park, then HO later in the trip.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (4)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—(1) HO, singing vociferously, but never seen at Dungeness Landing.

Pacific Wren *Troglodytes pacificus*—(7) HO in many locations throughout, seen well on Gatton Creek and Marymere Falls trails.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*—(1) Seen at Nisqually NWR.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—(2) Active nest found at Nisqually NWR, then HO at Dungeness Landing along with HO House and Pacific Wrens.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae (1)

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*—(2) 5 seen on Marymere Falls trail, then later that day on Elwah River, and also on Dungeness River at Railroad Bridge Park.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris*—(7) Seen almost daily throughout, mostly in developed locations.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (5)

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*—(1) One seen well at Hurricane Ridge.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*—(3) Very elusive, HO twice then seen at Hoh Rainforest.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*—(3) Even more elusive than above, HO all three days.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*—(1) One seen at Hurricane Ridge

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—(8) Perhaps the most common, or at least the most conspicuous, songbird of the trip.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—(1) Two seen actively flycatching at Anderson Lake SP.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus*—(6) Seen frequently in developed areas.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (1)

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*—(1) 2 seen at Hurricane Ridge

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (6)

Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus*—(1) HO in Quinault rainforest.

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—(4) Mostly seen around Sequim and Port Townsend

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus*—(5) HO 3 days, seen at Ruby Beach and Port Williams/Nelson Park.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*—(2) HO two days in the Quinault and Hoh Rainforests.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*—(8) HO 3 days and seen well on 5 days, though many were flyovers; very common.

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*—(4) HO 1 day, seen at Nisqually NWR and Hoh Rainforest.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (6)

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerine*—(3) HO all three days from Quinault Lodge to Crescent Lodge.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*—(6) Very common in a variety of habitats.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—(6) Very common in shrubby open habitats.

****Golden-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia atricapilla*—(2) Heard only at Nisqually NWR and seen by few at Lake Crescent.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*—(3) Singles IDed at Hoquiam sewage ponds, Schmuck Rd., and Three Crabs.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*—(7) HO 3 days, common and widespread.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—(5) HO 3 days, seen at Seahurst Park and Nisqually NWR.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*—(1) GO at Nisqually NWR; rattle call heard.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—(3) Seen at Nisqually NWR, Three Crabs, and Anderson Lake.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—(4) Not common but seen in a variety of habitats.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*—(4) Seen frequently later in the trip.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (8)

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata*—(4) HO 2 days, seen singing at Kalaloch, Ruby Beach, and Elwah River.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei*—(2) Seen at Elwah River, HO at Heart o' the Hills.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—(3) HO at Elwah River, seen at Nisqually NWR and Gatton Creek Trail.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechial*—(3) Sen at Nisqually NWR and Ruby Beach, HO at Anderson Lake.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronate*—(5) HO 2 days, seen at Hoh rainforest, Railroad Bridge Park, and both "Audubon's" and "Myrtle" subspecies seen at Nisqually NWR.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*—(5) HO 2 days, seen at Quinault and Hoh rainforests and Elwah River.

Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis*—(1) Found by one participant at Quinault rainforest.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—(7) HO 2 days, seen frequently all other days; most common warbler.

CARDINALS, GROSBILLS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (2)

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*—(5) HO 3 days, finally seen well at Washington Harbor and Anderson Lake.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—(3) HO 2 days, seen well at Anderson Lake; pair seen well carrying food at Railroad Bridge Park.

MAMMALS (14 species recorded):

Eastern Cottontail (I) *Sylvilagus floridanus*—(1) Seen at Nisqually NWR.

Townsend's Chipmunk *Tamias townsendii*—(1) Seen at Heart o' the Hills campground.

Douglas' Squirrel *Tamiasciurus douglasii*—(4) Seen 2 days, HO 2 days in forested habitats.

Naturalist Journeys, LLC PO Box 16545 Portal, AZ 85632 PH: 520.558.1146 Toll free 866.900.1146 Fax 650.471.7667

www.naturalistjourneys.com

Email info@naturalistjourneys.com

Eastern Gray Squirrel (I) *Sciurus carolinensis*—(1) Seen at Nisqually NWR.
Olympic Marmot *Marmota olympus*—(1) One seen well by all at Hurricane Ridge.
Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*—(6) “Columbian black-tailed” subspecies seen frequently, including on Protection Island.
Elk (Wapiti) *Cervus Canadensis*—(1) Herd of cows seen off Schmuck Rd.
Harbor Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*—(1?) Possibly seen at Ediz Hook; see below.
Orca *Orcinus orca*—(1?) One seen by one participant from Ediz Hook, though it may have been the above.
Raccoon *Procyon lotor*—(2) Seen once GO and once by others from the road.
Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris*—(1) Several seen from the sea otter overlook near Kalaloch Lodge.
Northern Elephant Seal *Mirounga angustirostris*—(1) One seen on Protection Island among harbor seals.
Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina*—(3) Seen off Seahurst Park and Point Wilson, and many at Protection Island.
Long-tailed Weasel *Neogale frenata*—(1) Seen by everyone but the guides at Nisqually NWR.
Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*—(1) Seen somewhere in the Quinault rainforest?

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (4 species recorded):

Northern Red-legged Frog *Rana aurora*—(1) Seen on Gatton Creek trail in Quinault rainforest.
Pacific Tree Frog *Pseudacris regilla*—(2) Seen at Nisqually NWR and heard elsewhere.
Common Garter Snake *Thamnophis sirtalis*—(1) Seen on Gatton Creek trail in Quinault rainforest.
Western Toad *Anaxyrus boreus*—(1) Seen at Anderson Lake.

Other notable critters (many species observed):

Pacific Banana Slug *Ariolimax columbianus*—(1) Several seen on the Gatton Creek Trail.
Chocolate Arion *Arion rufus*—(1) seen on the Gatton Creek Trail.
Almond-scented Millipede *Harpaphe haydeniana*—(1) Several seen on the Gatton Creek Trail.
Spittlebug *Superfamily* Cercopoidea—(1) Nymphs of the Hemipteran froghoppers.

Plus ... carpenter ants, thatching ants, and several unidentified butterflies (blues, whites, swallowtails, etc).