



Washington's Olympic Peninsula June 10-18, 2017

Participants: Al, Ann, Connie, Don, Milt, Pat



Sooty Grouse

Guide: Woody Wheeler
Species List

BIRDS

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* – Seen in Seattle, at Nisqually and near Lake Crescent

Gadwall *Anas strepera*— At Nisqually NWR and in Kah Tai Lagoon

American Wigeon *Anas Americana* – Only a few seen at Kah Tai Lagoon

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* – Seen almost daily in wetlands

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* – At Nisqually NWR

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* – One at Hoquiam Ponds

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* – Several at Hoquiam Ponds

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* – Half-a-dozen at Cape Flattery

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* – Sizeable flocks off Pacific coast and Dungeness Spit NWR

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* – Big, linear flocks off Pacific coast

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* – Just a few at Nisqually in eclipse plumage

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* – Seen at Lake Crescent

- Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* – One at Sequim roadside pond; two at Kah-Tai Lagoon
- California Quail** *Callipepla californica* – At least a dozen at Dungeness River Audubon Center
- Sooty Grouse** *Dendragapus fuliginosus* – One mildly displaying male and one female along road to Hurricane Ridge, Olympic Mountains
- Red-throated Loon** *Gavia stellata* – A flock seen off Pacific Coast from Beach #4
- Common Loon** *Gavia immer* – Several feeding in open ocean/strait side of Dungeness Spit
- Brandt's Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax penicillatus* – Two in flight at Fort Worden State Park; one juvenile on piling at Kingston ferry dock
- Pelagic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* – Seen on four days on Pacific an Straits of Juan de Fuca coastal areas
- Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* – A few in Seattle, at Nisqually NWR, and nesting at Cape Flattery
- American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* – Just one seen in flight with huge flock of Great Blue Herons referenced below at Nisqually NWR
- Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* - A few in Seattle; a large flock in flight at Nisqually NWR; several more at Fort Worden State Park
- Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—Roadside bird near Lake Quinault; seen from above at Hurricane Ridge
- Osprey** *Pandion haliaetis* – Remarkably only one seen in Seattle at Jack Block Park
- Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* – Seen every day but one – the day in the high Olympics at Hurricane Ridge. At least a dozen seen in town of Neah Bay
- Red-tailed Hawk** *B. jamaicensis*—a roadside bird seen on first two days and again at the end of the trip, mostly in agricultural or urban areas.
- Virginia Rail** *Rallus limicola* – One heard repeatedly by group then seen by Ann at Kah-Tail Lagoon
- American Coot** *Fulica americana*—Several in roadside ponds near Sequim
- Black Oystercatcher** *Haematopus bachmani* – Small family units seen along Pacific Coast in rocky areas
- Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferous* – Heard and seen at Jack Block Park, Seattle and at Nisqually NWR
- Common Murre** *Uria aalge* – Over 100 seen near Tatoosh Island from Cape Flattery
- Pigeon Guillemot** *Cephus Columba* – Seen most days in salt water, including a group nesting on cliffs at Dungeness Spit NWR
- Rhinoceros Auklet** *Cerorhinc monocerata* – Small groups at Cape Flattery and off of Dungeness Spit NWR
- Tufted Puffin** *Fratercula cirrhata* – Two seen very well swimming and diving along the coast at Cape Flattery
- Heerman's Gull** *Larus heermanni* – A few at Point Wilson, Fort Worden State Park
- Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* – Just a few at Hoquiam Ponds
- Western Gull** *Larus occidentalis* – Common on all days along the Pacific coast
- Glaucous-winged Gull** *Larus glaucescens* – By far the most common gull of the trip, including its hybrid cousin the Western/Glaucous-winged Gull



Tufted Puffin

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* – Seen at Jack Block Park, Seattle; Nisqually NWR; and at Dungeness Spit NWR

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—In towns and cities including Seattle, Aberdeen/Hoquiam, Port Angeles and Port Townsend

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata* – Especially good looks at Nisqually NWR, at the giant Sitka Spruce

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—Seen in urban or agricultural areas in Seattle, Neah Bay and Sequim

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* – Two juveniles alternately perching and pouncing on prey in Nisqually NWR

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* - Small airborne groups seen flitting around at Lake Quinault and Hoh River forested areas near water

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna* - A few chasing one-another at Jack Block Park, Seattle

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* – Seen every day often except on the first and last days in Seattle

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* – Seen first from window of Salty's Restaurant in Seattle, and again at Hoh River Rainforest, Neah Bay, and at Dungeness Spit NWR

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* – At Nisqually NWR and Dungeness River Audubon Center

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* – Seen and heard on four days of the trip

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* – Great look at Quinault Rainforest, where he drummed right over our heads on a large snag!

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – Excellent scope view of one perched high in a Sitka Spruce above Ruby Beach

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* – Seen and heard making its “Fitz-pew” song simultaneously several times at Nisqually NWR

Pacific Slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis* – Good look on trail to world's largest Sitka Spruce

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* – Heard often singing in deciduous trees in coastal areas

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* – Seen just about every day in forested areas

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* – A daily visitor, except at Cape Flattery where we had the other species of (NW) Crow

Northwest Crow *Corvus caurinus* – Quite a few seen on the one day we dipped into the southern part of their range at Cape Flattery

Common Raven *C. corax*—The morning “song” heard at Lake Quinault Lodge; also seen at Cape Flattery and on Hurricane Ridge and

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— Two perched on a limb near Railroad Bridge over the Dungeness River while others flew up and down the river

Purple Martin *Progne subis* – About a half-dozen were fly-catching and calling above us at Kah-Tai Lagoon, where nesting boxes have been set up for them

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* – Common near water on most days of our journey

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* – Seen six days of the journey

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Seen most days of trip, often nesting on buildings

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* – Seen once on trip, near twin barns. Nisqually NWR

Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens* – We were in good habitat for this denizen of coniferous forests, and therefore saw it on five days of our trip

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta Canadensis* – One on feeders at Dungeness River Audubon Center
Pacific Wren *Troglodytes troglodyte* – Heard most days of trip; finally seen at Dungeness River National Wildlife Refuge

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—Seen at Nisqually NWR and at Fort Worden State Park

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus* – Spectacular looks at a family of three on Marymere Creek in Olympic National Park feeding, perching, swimming and food-begging



American Dipper

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* – One came close to us at Quinault Rainforest, its golden crest on full display

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* – Seen and heard most days in forest environs

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*— Seen daily in every kind of habitat we visited

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius* – One good look at creek crossing near giant Sitka Spruce

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*— Seen most days

except in deep forest and turbulent coastal areas

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*— A few in meadows at Hurricane Ridge

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* – Frequent flocks moving through berry patches almost every day of journey

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata* – Wonderful close looks at this species in Salal patches at Beach #4 and Ruby Beach along Pacific coast

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*—Heard and seen often at Nisqually NWR

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* – At Nisqually NWR and Ruby Beach

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* – Seen and heard at Quinault rain forest

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*—The most common warbler of the trip, seen and heard on six consecutive days in riparian vegetation on the Olympic Peninsula

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*—Seen and heard in alpine meadows on Hurricane Ridge

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* – Nearly a daily sighting, including one that nested in the flower box outside Woody's room at Lake Crescent Lodge

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— One of the most common bird songs heard on the trip, and nearly a daily sighting

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* – Seen every day but one on the trip



Orange-crowned Warbler



Fox Sparrow

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* – Had a glorious look at one singing and perching close by on trail to Ruby Beach

Spotted Towhee *P. maculatus*— Heard often but not seen until Dungeness River Audubon Center where we saw a dozen in a few hours. We then saw them the next two days.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* – Had a beautiful look of one on the Quinault rainforest trail. Another spotted at Fort Worden by Milt.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*—Its exuberant song heard often, and its appearances made most clearly at Lake Quinault Lodge feeders and at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* – Seen and heard on six days of journey – especially at Nisqually NWR, Dungeness River Audubon Center and Kah-Tai Lagoon

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—Common at Nisqually NWR, at Lake Quinault Lodge grounds, and at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* – One seen well in Black Cottonwoods at start of Nisqually NWR hike

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*—Seen on last three days of the trip

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus* – Heard repeatedly at several locations, then finally seen briefly at Dungeness River Audubon Center

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis* – A common denizen of grassland areas seen five days of our journey

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—Common in towns throughout journey

MAMMALS



Roosevelt Elk

Townsend's Chipmunk *Tamias townsendii* – Found only in the alpine meadows of Hurricane Ridge

Douglas Squirrel *Tamiasciurus douglasii* – A common, animated and vocal visitor in conifer forests

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* – Common in urban areas and at Nisqually NWR

Brush Rabbit *Sylvilagus bachmani* – Several seen at grassy entrance to Nisqually NWR trail

Nutria *Myocastor coypus* – One seen clearly at Nisqually NWR



Olympic Marmot

Black-tailed Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* – Seen frequently in habitats ranging from river estuaries, to forest, to the streets of Port Townsend

Roosevelt Elk *Cervus roosevelti* – Had a beautiful look at two crossing the road and one wading through a pond near entrance to Hoh River rainforest visitor center

Olympic Marmot *Marmota Olympus* – Excellent look at one basking in sun at Hurricane Ridge

Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris* – Marvelous looks at two swimming and floating near Cape Flattery

Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina* –

Seen in several bays and estuaries

Harbor Porpoise *Phocoena*

phocoena – A few seen from Beach #4, another from the Kingston/Edmonds ferry

California Sea Lion *Zalophus*

californianus – Nice looks at Seal and Sail Rocks in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and at Cape Flattery



Sea Otters

HERPS AND OTHER VERTEBRATES

Red-eared Slider (Turtle) *Trachemys scripta elegans* – Many resting on logs in Nisqually NWR ponds

AMPHIBIANS

American Bull Frog *Lithobates catesbeianus* – Heard at Nisqually NWR

BUTTERFLIES

Cabbage White *Pontia protodice* – Seen along trails and roadways

Monarch *Danaus plexippus* – Seen at Nisqually NWR

Western Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio rutulus* – Several seen at Nisqually NWR



MOLLUSCS

Banana Slug *Ariolimax columbianus* –
Found in Quinault Rain Forest

CRUSTACEANS

Pacific Rock Crab

Cancer antennarius –

Abundant in shallow pools in Nisqually
NWR tidal flats



List compiled and all photos taken by Woody Wheeler