

**SEPTEMBER PACIFIC NORTHWEST
September 6 – 14, 2005**

Leader: Bob Sundstrom

ITINERARY

- **Day 1** September 6: Get-acquainted dinner in Seattle. Night in Seattle.
- **Day 2** September 7: After breakfast in Seattle, drove south to spend the morning birding in the Tenino/upper Scatter Creek area and at Bob's house. Stopped, enroute to the coast, for lunch at Savory Faire in Montesano. Continued west and south to the coast, birding at Bottle Beach, North Cove and Tokeland. First of three nights at Chateau Westport.
- **Day 3** September 8: Full day pelagic trip (6:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) out of Westport to approximately 35 miles offshore to Grays Canyon; came in to the harbor a bit early as weather predicted to get more windy. Late afternoon break at hotel, then birding along Westport shoreline. Second night at Chateau Westport.
- **Day 4** September 9: Drove to Ocean Shores for breakfast – with stops enroute at Bottle Beach and Hoquiam Ponds – and then birded along the Ocean Shores peninsula at Damon Pt. area and Pt. Brown jetty. Breakfast and lunch at Home Port. Afternoon return to Tokeland and Bar-tailed Godwit. Third of three nights at Chateau Westport.
- **Day 5** September 10: Left Westport, stopping briefly at Bottle Beach before breakfast in Aberdeen. Drove east and north via McCleary, and made a few brief stops along Hood Canal before birding up Mt. Walker and at Quilcene hatchery. Lunch in Quilcene, then on to Diamond Pt. Late afternoon run up Hurricane Ridge. Dinner at Café Garden; first of two nights at Best Western Olympic Lodge in Pt. Angeles.
- **Day 6** September 11: Morning birding in Olympic National Park up to road to Hurricane Ridge. After lunch at Chestnut Cottage, birded along Ediz Hook in Port Angeles, then optional late afternoon trip to Dungeness waterfront and ponds along Kitchen-Dick Rd. Dinner at Café Garden. Second of two nights in Pt. Angeles.
- **Day 7** September 12: Took first morning Black Ball Ferry across the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Pt. Angeles to Victoria, B.C., birding from the deck. In the Victoria area we birded in the Saanich farm fields for Sky Larks, finding the birds by lunch time. Lunch in Central Saanich, then birded at Rithet's Bog, leaving in time to catch 3:00 p.m. ferry from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen. Late afternoon birding along Boundary Bay in Delta at the end of 104th St. First of two nights at Tsawwassen Inn.
- **Day 8** September 13: After breakfast at White Spot, birded toward Boundary Bay along 72nd St., then drove north to bird the Iona Ponds. After lunch in at Ossie's in Tsawwassen, birded Reifel Sanctuary and then made optional late afternoon return to Boundary Bay as the tide came in. Second night in Tsawwassen.
- **Day 9** September 14: Departed south from Tsawwassen in the morning, crossing into the U.S. and birding briefly in the woods on a side road off Bow-Edison Road. Arrived at SeaTac Airport around 11:30 a.m.

BIRD LIST

[unexpected/unusual sightings in *italics*; rarities in ***bold italics***]

LOONS:

Red-throated Loon – birds still with colorful throats in Grays Harbor, Ocean Shores

Pacific Loon – several seen on the ferry crossing of the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Common Loon – seen nearly every day, some still in fancy plumage

GREBES:

Pied-billed Grebe

Horned Grebe – a few at Ocean Shores

Red-necked Grebe – still very much in breeding plumage, we saw quite a few on the waters adjacent to the Olympic Peninsula

TUBENOSES

Black-footed Albatross – about thirty total for the pelagic trip, with a few very close to the boat

Northern Fulmar – also seen very close to the boat during the chum over Grays Canyon

Pink-footed Shearwater – a fairly regular sight throughout the pelagic trip

Flesh-footed Shearwater – close views of a single bird sitting on the ocean and then flying by the boat; a species that is present here in only very small numbers

Buller's Shearwater – terrific looks at this beautifully patterned seabird

Sooty Shearwater – at least 10,000 for the day!

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel – superb views of a few, including one pattering off the stern

PELICANS:

Brown Pelican – hundreds summering near Gray's Harbor and south

CORMORANTS:

Double-crested Cormorant

Brandt's Cormorant – at the mouth of Gray's Harbor

Pelagic Cormorant – the delicate, glossy cormorant, seen on marine waters throughout the tour

BITTERNES & HERONS:

Great Blue Heron – a daily sight

Great Egret – one at the mouth of the John's River along Gray's Harbor

Black-crowned Night-Heron – at their northernmost Pacific coastal sight, and adult and immature were scoped at Reifel Sanctuary in British Columbia

AMERICAN VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS:

Cackling Goose – one at Reifel Sanctuary, among much larger Canada Geese

Canada Goose

Wood Duck – seen best at Reifel Sanctuary, a gem among ducks

Gadwall

Eurasian Wigeon – Janet spotted one among a large flock of American Wigeons at Dungeness

American Wigeon

Mallard

Northern Shoveler

Northern Pintail – flocks along Grays Harbor

Green-winged Teal

Ring-necked Duck

Greater Scaup
Harlequin Duck – at least forty along Ediz Hook, bobbing on the water or roosting on log booms
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter – a beach bird at Ocean Shores got an assist back into the ocean
Bufflehead – unexpected for the season was a female at Iona in B.C.
Common Goldeneye – also unexpected so early in the season, a female at Hoquiam
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck

EAGLES, HAWKS & ALLIES:

Osprey – just a couple
Bald Eagle – the best views were of an adult pair along the Dungeness waterfront
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk – nearly a daily sight

FALCONS:

American Kestrel – an uncommon species here, one flew over the Sky Lark fields
Merlin – three sightings, mostly on the move as they hunted over the fields
Peregrine Falcon – three sightings, the best being one Diane spotted that sat on the ground eating a duck or large shorebird at the Iona Ponds

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS:

Blue Grouse – After much watching of roadsides and good hike at Hurricane Ridge, Jo spotted a twosome right near the Hurricane Hill trailhead. They foraged through the subalpine vegetation almost at our feet.
California Quail – around Sequim-Dungeness and on Vancouver Island

RAILS & COOTS:

Virginia Rail – heard on two occasions
American Coot

CRANES:

Sandhill Crane – heard by all and seen by some at Reifel Sanctuary

PLOVERS:

Black-bellied Plover – in a whole range of plumages and at several sites, we saw more than 1000 along the Boundary Bay shoreline on Sept. 13
Pacific Golden-Plover – good scope views of gold-plated juveniles, both at Ediz Hook and in the tulip/gladiolus fields north of Victoria (where there was also a molting adult)
American Golden-Plover – carefully studied at Ocean Shores and along Boundary Bay
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES:

Black Oystercatcher – a threesome at Ediz Hook was entertaining visually and aurally
Greater Yellowlegs – in close comparison with Lesser Yellowlegs at Reifel Sanctuary
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper – one in a ditch along the farm road out to Boundary Bay
Willet – a dozen or more at Tokeland
Wandering Tattler – scoped as it foraged on the Ocean Shores coastal jetty
Whimbrel – a few at Tokeland

Bar-tailed Godwit – A juvenile hunkering among hundreds of Marbled Godwits at Tokeland was diagnosed by its pale eyebrow, pale belly, and differently patterned back.

Marbled Godwit – approximately 500 in the big flock at Tokeland

Ruddy Turnstone – just a couple for the tour, one on each side of the border

Black Turnstone – seen most days of the tour

Surfbird – each successive scope view was much closer: Westport, Ocean Shores, Ediz Hook

Red Knot – a juvenile along Boundary Bay on our final afternoon visit there

Sanderling – spiffy juveniles along Boundary Bay

Semipalmated Sandpiper – one or two scoped in detail at the Iona Ponds

Western Sandpiper

Least Sandpiper

Baird's Sandpiper – handsome, buffy juveniles along Boundary Bay

Pectoral Sandpiper – cumulatively, hundreds along Boundary Bay and at the Iona Ponds

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – one among Pectorals was scoped in detail along Boundary Bay

Dunlin – seen by Janet along the ocean beach behind the Chateau Westport

Stilt Sandpiper – a scaly juvenile at Reifel Sanctuary, an uncommon treat for the area

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – a candidate for the most attractive shorebird of the tour, we watched a very tawny juvenile at very close range along Boundary Bay the final afternoon

Short-billed Dowitcher – juveniles with orange-striped tertials

Long-billed Dowitcher – plainer looking juveniles

Wilson's Snipe – lurking at the Iona Ponds

Red-necked Phalarope – from the boat on the pelagic tour

JAEGERS, GULLS, & TERNS:

South Polar Skua – an amazing 11 were seen on the pelagic trip, a couple very close at hand

Pomarine Jaeger – good views of a couple spoon-tailed adults on the boat trip

Parasitic Jaeger – an amazing view of a barred immature that flew right over us at the Ocean Shores jetty; an adult was seen very well from the bow of the ferry to Victoria

Bonaparte's Gull

Heermann's Gull – hundreds of these dark, reddish billed gulls

Mew Gull – a few of this petite gray-and-white gull species

Ring-billed Gull

California Gull

Thayer's Gull – one flew by the bow on the ferry from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen

Western Gull

Glaucous-winged Gull

Black-legged Kittiwake – an adult in Gray's Harbor, near the end of the Westport jetty

Sabine's Gull – great views of a lovely gull species on the pelagic trip; 10 or more seen

Caspian Tern

Arctic Tern – one flew by well offshore on the pelagic trip

AUKS:

Common Murre – a common sight on the pelagic trip and ferry crossings

Pigeon Guillemot – best views were at Diamond Point

Marbled Murrelet – very lucky to find at the season, we got good views of a probable immature along Hood Canal during the drive north to Pt. Angeles

Cassin's Auklet – decent views on the pelagic trip

Rhinoceros Auklet – on the pelagic trip and ferry crossings

PIGEONS & DOVES:

Rock Pigeon (formerly Rock Dove)

Band-tailed Pigeon – best views of this forest pigeon were at Hurricane Ridge

Mourning Dove – local and uncommon in the tour area, we saw them around Bob’s house and near Sequim-Dungeness

OWLS:

Northern Pygmy-Owl – a very accommodating owl near Scatter Creek, the first morning

SWIFTS:

Vaux's Swift

HUMMINGBIRDS:

Anna's Hummingbird – at Rithet’s Bog north of Victoria, B.C.

Rufous Hummingbird – still a couple of late visitors to Bob’s yard

KINGFISHERS:

Belted Kingfisher – another nearly daily species

WOODPECKERS & ALLIES:

Red-breasted Sapsucker – seen the first morning near Tenino, and even better in Olympic National Park where Georgia spotted one coming to sap wells

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker – a mix of red-shafted and hybrids of yellow and red-shafted

Pileated Woodpecker

FLYCATCHERS & ALLIES

Willow Flycatcher – one in Bob’s yard the first morning

Hammond's Flycatcher – a late season surprise, one at the campground near Mt. Walker

VIREOS

Cassin’s Vireo – singing near Tenino

Hutton's Vireo – seen near Tenino

JAYS, MAGPIES & CROWS:

Gray Jay – a very confiding species, especially at Hurricane Ridge

Steller's Jay

Western Scrub-Jay – around Tenino primarily

American Crow

Northwestern Crow

Common Raven

LARKS:

Sky Lark – At the species only resident area in North America, we had very good scope views of one, and others seen flying over the gladiolus fields north of Victoria.

Horned Lark

SWALLOWS & MARTINS:

Violet-green Swallow

Barn Swallow

TITMICE through CREEPERS:

Black-capped Chickadee

Chestnut-backed Chickadee – seen various places, our best views of this Northwest specialty were along Hurricane Ridge

Bushtit – in the small trees lining the dikes at Reifel Sanctuary
Red-breasted Nuthatch – up close views along Hurricane Ridge
Brown Creeper

WRENS & DIPPERS:

Bewick's Wren
Winter Wren – this tiny wren was literally at the group's feet the final morning.
Marsh Wren – seen nicely along with a Bewick's Wren along the trail to Bottle Beach
American Dipper – on the Quilcene River, near the hatchery

KINGLETS:

Golden-crowned Kinglet – flocks of both species in the short trees atop Hurricane Ridge
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

THRUSHES & ALLIES:

Townsend's Solitaire – half a dozen at least along Hurricane Ridge, somewhat unexpected
Hermit Thrush – one or two feeding alongside a Varied Thrush
American Robin
Varied Thrush – good views of one in the Heart of the Hills Campground enroute to Hurricane Ridge

STARLINGS & ALLIES:

European Starling

WAGTAILS & PIPITS:

American Pipit – seen especially well along Boundary Bay

WAXWINGS:

Cedar Waxwing

WOOD WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler – several in the trees lining the Iona Ponds
Yellow Warbler – considerable numbers were flocking as migrants at most our stops near Boundary Bay and the Fraser River mouth
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler – some very nice views, including one that Tom spotted in a beach-side shrub at Bottle Beach
Townsend's Warbler – two the first morning near Tenino
MacGillivray's Warbler – also near Tenino the first morning
Common Yellowthroat

SPARROWS & ALLIES:

Spotted Towhee
Savannah Sparrow – the brightly marked regional form was a regular sight during the tour
“Sooty” Fox Sparrow – seen well along the path to Bottle Beach
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow – nice views near Boundary Bay, among many migrants pouring in
White-crowned Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Lapland Longspur – we had very detailed, close scope views of a trio of longspurs in the dunes near Ocean Shores

BLACKBIRDS & ALLIES:

Red-winged Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird

FINCHES:

Purple Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak – a flock or two flying over

OLD WORLD SPARROWS:

House Sparrow

MAMMALS, HERPS & OTHERS:

Harbor Porpoise – a few on the ferry crossings
Dall's Porpoise - right next to the boat on the pelagic trip
Harbor Seal - ubiquitous on the marine edge
California Sea Lion
River Otter – a group of five in the inlet at the base of Ediz Hook
Coyote – a beauty, standing in a field near Boundary Bay
Black-tailed Deer - the regional form of Mule Deer
Olympic Marmot – endemic to the Olympic Mts. of Washington
Douglas's Squirrel
Townsend's Chipmunk
Eastern Gray Squirrel
Eastern Cottontail
Northwest Terrestrial Garter Snake
Common Garter Snake
Painted Turtle
Red-eared Slider (turtle)
Pacific Chorus Frog
Blue Shark - at the chum on the pelagic trip
Ocean Sunfish/*Mola mola* - a giant disk of a fish on the pelagic
Banana Slug – the large, native slug of the forest