

WASHINGTON: SEPTEMBER MIGRATION IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

SEPTEMBER 2-10, 2009

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Early September means exciting birding in western Washington and nearby British Columbia. Migration is underway in nearly all habitats—seabirds, shorebirds, and songbirds are all on the move in numbers. Birding is often at its best near the outer coast and along the inshore marine waters near Puget Sound and Boundary Bay as migrations of seabirds offshore and shorebirds along the tidal edge bring a rich mix of species into birding range. It is an ideal point in the season to catch up with such North American rarities as Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff, or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper—all of these species have been seen numerous times on the tour. While the presence of such rarities in any given year cannot be guaranteed, the tour devotes ample time to covering several of the most likely spots. Foraging over the rocky habitats of the marine shoreline are such overwintering visitors as Surf-birds and Black Turnstones, plus migrant Wandering Tattlers. Elegant Pacific Golden-Plovers (as well as American Golden-Plovers) are often encountered as migrants. Other rarities are possible, especially among the shorebirds, as we cover the best spots on the upper Pacific Northwest coast from Willapa Bay in Washington to Boundary Bay in British Columbia.

The tour includes a full-day pelagic trip out of Westport on the Pacific coast, at an ideal point in the migratory season. We should encounter scores of Black-footed Albatross, four or five species of shearwaters (including Buller's and Pink-footed), Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, Northern Fulmars, often all three species of jaegers, Red and Red-necked phalaropes, alcids (including Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Common Murre), plus beautiful Sabine's Gulls and a handful of Black-legged Kittiwakes. South Polar Skua and Flesh-footed Shearwater are seen on many trips, and Laysan Albatross is possible. Rare pelagic sightings (for the region) on the tour have included Murphy's Petrel, Manx Shearwater, Xantus's Murrelet, Horned Puffin, and Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Lots of loons, cormorants, and gulls will be on hand, and often a few porpoises or whales.

Excellent birding is not the only reason to head to the Pacific Northwest in September. The tour traverses some of the most scenic spots in the region, from the forested Puget Sound area and the rugged Pacific Coast to charming Victoria, British Columbia. The countryside is stunningly green, the weather typically moderate. In addition to a fine array of birds and a prime season for rarities, the region boasts a great natural beauty and superb cuisine.

Beginning in Seattle, we will bird the Puget Sound lowlands before making our way out toward the coast, searching for a fine cast of migrants and Northwest specialties. Red-breasted Sapsuckers are resident, as are Northern Pygmy-Owls, Band-tailed Pigeons, Hutton's Vireos, Winter and Bewick's wrens, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Purple Finch, Western Scrub-Jay, and Spotted Towhees, among others. A host of departing nesting species is possible, such as Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Wilson's and other warblers; Vaux's Swift; Warbling Vireo; and Willow Flycatcher. Other migrants are arriving from the north, including Golden-crowned, Fox, and Lincoln's sparrows.

Black Swifts are possible too. We will likely turn up a sample of these songbird migrants on a number of the tour days, as we explore assorted habitats in a variety of geographic locales.

Next are two full days on the Pacific Coast, where we will devote one day to a pelagic trip out to the edge of the Continental Shelf and take another day to concentrate on the best shorebird spots. Here we will spend our nights at Westport and range up and down the coast to key estuaries. On Day 5 the tour moves back inland and then north along an extensive series of marine bays—encompassing a wide array of bird possibilities from shorebirds to woodpeckers to puffins—before arriving at Port Angeles. We will devote a full day to this area, divided between the high subalpine country at Hurricane Ridge (at 5200 feet) in Olympic National Park and the diverse marine and lowland environs along the edge of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, from Port Angeles to Sequim and areas south. With clear weather at Hurricane Ridge, one has an epic overlook onto Vancouver Island and the San Juan islands to the north. This can be an excellent place for watching passing migrants—from eagles, accipiters, and falcons to southbound landbirds following the mountain ridges. Red Crossbills are a good bet, and Sooty (formerly Blue) Grouse and the shy Varied Thrush are seen on most tours.

The shoreline along the Strait of Juan de Fuca promises flocks of shorebirds, the loud whistles of Black Oystercatchers, an assortment of sea ducks, and all sorts of diving birds, including five species of grebes. During this season many thousands of migratory ducks are arriving, often including one or two Eurasian Wigeons. Harlequin Ducks have returned to the protected bays, as have scoters, mergansers, and the first southbound Mew Gulls. Pigeon Guillemots frequent the same bays, a few Marbled Murrelets should be around, and Tufted Puffins are possible. Loons are in good supply, especially Common and Red-throated. Raptors such as Peregrine Falcon are likely, as are Merlin (including “Black Merlin”), accipiters, harriers, and others.

Taking a morning ferry across the Strait from Port Angeles to Victoria, B.C., we’ll bird en route for more species on the water. In the Victoria vicinity we will search out Sky Larks at their one stronghold in North America and take some time to enjoy Victoria’s scenic downtown waterfront. Ferrying on to the mainland a half hour south of Vancouver, B.C., we will have another full day to sample its great birding potential. The Iona Ponds and Boundary Bay have a stunning track record for shorebird rarities and Reifel Sanctuary is a birder’s paradise. After a final morning near Boundary Bay, we return to Seattle in time for early afternoon departures.

September 2, Day 1: Arrival in Seattle. Participants should make arrangements to arrive in Seattle today and transfer to the *Marriott Sea-Tac Airport Hotel*, which has complimentary shuttle service from Sea-Tac airport. Please plan to meet in the hotel lobby at **6:30 p.m.** for orientation prior to a get-acquainted dinner.

NIGHT: Marriott Sea-Tac Airport, Seattle

September 3, Day 2: Seattle and the Puget Sound Lowlands to the Coast. The day’s birding begins south of Seattle near the south end of Puget Sound, where nearby habitats offer a good chance for such resident lowland species as Band-tailed Pigeon, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Hut-ton’s Vireo, Winter and Bewick’s wrens, Western Scrub-Jay, Spotted Towhee, and Bushtit. A host of departing nesting species is possible, such as Wilson’s, Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, Townsend’s, and other warblers; Vaux’s Swift; and Willow Flycatcher. Other migrants should be beginning to arrive from the north, including Golden-crowned, Fox, and Lincoln’s sparrows. Flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and Cedar Waxwings are moving through. We may also encounter a sample of these migrants almost anywhere along the tour route in ensuing days. Northern Pygmy-Owl has been quite regular here too.

Our afternoon route takes us west along the Chehalis Valley toward the Pacific coast, ultimately to Westport, on the south rim of the huge estuary of Grays Harbor. Time permitting, we will first visit Tokeland at the mouth of Willapa Bay, one of the most important estuaries on the Pacific Coast. Some of the best autumn shorebirding can often be found along the north end of the Bay near Tokeland, where large shorebirds such as godwits, whimbrels, curlews, willets, and yellowlegs concentrate. This is our best chance for seeing a Bar-tailed Godwit among hundreds of Marbled Godwits.

At Westport, flocks of rock-loving shorebirds forage over the rocky jetties and groins here, particularly Surf-birds, Black Turnstones, and a few migrant Wandering Tattlers en route for Hawaii. Cormorants, including Brandt's and Pelagic, work close to the shoreline. At this time of year the south side of Gray's Harbor often features an ever-changing and mobile cast of alcids, loons, gulls, sea ducks, and terns. If a special rarity has been seen nearby along the coast in recent days, we may make that our afternoon focus. The early start for the next day's pelagic trip recommends an early dinner tonight.

NIGHT: Chateau Westport, Westport

September 4, Day 3: Westport Pelagic Trip. From the Chateau Westport, it's just a short drive to Westport Harbor, where we'll board the boat for our pelagic trip early this morning, taking lunch along with us. The boat typically works its way about 35-40 miles out to sea and to the edge of the Continental Shelf. This pelagic birding tour consistently rates as one of the most productive in North America. At times the birding action is almost continuous. Regular early September species include Black-footed Albatross (sometimes by the hundreds!); Buller's, Sooty, Pink-footed, and perhaps Short-tailed and Flesh-footed shearwaters; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; Long-tailed, Pomarine, and Parasitic jaegers; Red and Red-necked phalaropes; Northern Fulmar; Black-legged Kittiwake; Cassin's Auklet; Arctic Tern; and the strikingly patterned Sabine's Gull. South Polar Skua is seen on many trips at this season, and Laysan Albatross seen occasionally. A wide variety of marine mammals is also possible, such as Dall's porpoise, gray whale, or Northern fur-seal. The waters close in are good for loons, cormorants, and other near-shore divers. Docking late afternoon, we may have time to track down some other species in the Westport to Tokeland area.

NIGHT: Chateau Westport, Westport

September 5, Day 4: Coastal Birding with a Focus on Shorebirds; Tokeland to Ocean Shores. Today we will concentrate on the most likely spots and recent reports in search of migrant shorebirds. Some of the best spots for these birds are on the Ocean Shores peninsula, on the north side of Grays Harbor. Shorelines and mud-flats are a favorite migrant stop for many shorebirds, including both Pacific and American golden-plovers, rarities like Ruff or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper are possible here (as is Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a fairly rare straggler in this region), as well as a host of more typical species like Baird's, Pectoral, Western and other sandpipers, plus both species of dowitchers and yellowlegs. Lapland Longspurs are often moving through in September, and in general it is a prime season for wandering species and avian surprises. Jetties and rocky edges are often frequented by Black Turnstones, Surf-birds, and Wandering Tattlers. Expect a good bit of walking today to get into the best shorebird spots.

NIGHT: Holiday Inn Express, Ocean Shores

September 6, Day 5: Ocean Shores to Port Angeles. Today is a travel day, which also has many good bird possibilities. Leaving Westport this morning (another shorebird stop is possible), we'll work our way inland toward the marine bay named Hood Canal, and on to the northwestern rim of Puget. The rivers running down from the Olympic Mts. offer good spots for American Dippers and sometimes migrant groups of Vaux's and/or Black swifts. Farther north, on Discovery Bay and Sequim Bay, we should see Pigeon Guillemots and Rhinoceros Auklets, as well as other waterbirds, and there is a chance for Tufted Puffins and Marbled Murrelets. We will reach our lodging in Port Angeles in time for dinner.

NIGHT: Best Western Olympic Lodge, Port Angeles

September 7, Day 6: Hurricane Ridge (Olympic National Park) and Port Angeles to Sequim/Dungeness.

Today will be divided between the high, subalpine country at Hurricane Ridge (near 5000 feet) in Olympic National Park and the diverse marine and lowland environs of the Port Angeles to Sequim-Dungeness area on the U.S. side of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. (Sequim is pronounced “skwim”). Clear weather at Hurricane Ridge and along the drive up gives one an epic overlook onto Vancouver Island and the San Juan islands to the north.

In the morning we will work our way up toward the high subalpine realms of Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. The road up transects a series of habitats, from the towering cedars and ancient maples of Heart of the Hills Campground (where we may find such birds as Varied Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, and Winter Wren) to the narrow spires of Subalpine Fir and the droopy olive arms of Yellow Cedar near the top. Shy Sooty Grouse reside here; Red Crossbills and other finches may be moving through; Gray Jays, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Golden-crowned Kinglets frequent the evergreens; and Northern Pygmy-Owls are a fair possibility. We may turn up migrant songbirds and birds of prey anywhere along the road up, or at the top.

After lunch, we will explore the Port Angeles waterfront along Ediz Hook and possibly the Dungeness waterfront, where a wide range of species are possible. Potential shorebirds include Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, possibly Surfbird, flocks of Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, and other shorebirds. Peregrines and Merlins follow this shorebird buffet, and Harlequin Ducks paddle by at close range among log rafts and curious Harbor Seals. Red-necked grebes are beginning to return to winter on these protected waters, as well as loons and a varied mix of scoters and other diving birds. Gulls should include Mew, Heermann’s, California, Western, and Glaucous-winged.

NIGHT: Best Western Olympic Lodge, Port Angeles

September 8, Day 7: Port Angeles to Victoria and on to the Vancouver Area. A two-hour ferry crossing northward across the Strait of Juan de Fuca, from Port Angeles in Washington to Victoria on Vancouver Island, begins today’s activities. As we bird from this massive ferry, we may encounter many seabirds en route: loons, rafts of Common Murres, Rhinoceros Auklets, scoters, cormorants, and others. Harbor Porpoise, Dall’s Porpoise, and other marine mammals are possible. Just north of Victoria we will search for Sky Larks, where a small population has held on for over one hundred years, and look for other species as time permits. The waterfront near Victoria offers more chances to find Marbled Murrelets, Black Oystercatchers, and other birds of the rocky shoreline, while nearby parks offer songbirds and possibly Anna’s Hummingbirds.

In the afternoon we board another huge ferry out of Swartz Bay, crossing the Strait of Georgia and winding through the lovely and scenic Gulf Islands to Tsawwassen (pronounced “sawassen”), about half an hour south of Vancouver. Depending on what the birding news is on the mainland, we’ll time the ferry crossing accordingly. Once again, we have the option of birding from the bow.

NIGHT: The Coast Tsawwassen Inn, Tsawwassen, B.C.

September 9, Day 8: Vancouver Vicinity. Tsawwassen makes an ideal base for birding the south Vancouver area. Nearby are the Iona Ponds and Reifel Sanctuary, the most likely spots south of Alaska to turn up Sharp-tailed Sandpipers on a regular basis, with the odds improving in mid-September. The carefully birded Iona Ponds have turned up a whole host of other shorebird rarities over the years, and the Boundary Bay tidal edge is an equally productive shorebird area. Pacific-Golden Plover and Ruff are as likely here as any good shorebird site on the tour. We will follow up on any reported rarities as possible. Peregrine Falcons are on hand at this point of the season, the last swallows linger on, and a wide range of other shorebirds, waterfowl, and landbirds are possible.

Reifel Sanctuary is equally rich in birdlife, with good shorebirding in fall and additional chances for a rarity. The sanctuary hosts the northernmost roost of Black-crowned Night-Herons, and is a likely spot for Wood Ducks and other waterfowl, as well as many songbirds.

NIGHT: The Coast Tsawwassen Inn, Tsawwassen, B.C.

September 10, Day 9: Return to Seattle & Departures. The morning offers an hour or two to follow up on additional birding possibilities en route to Sea-Tac airport. Please book departing flights for **1:30 p.m.** or later.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 7 participants.

TOUR LEADER: Bob Sundstrom

Bob Sundstrom has led VENT tours since 1989 to destinations including Hawaii, Mexico, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Iceland, Papua New Guinea, the Southwest Pacific islands, Antarctica, the Bering Sea, and many destinations throughout North America. Bob takes a strong interest in both the natural and cultural settings of his tours. He earned his doctorate at the University of Washington. Bob and his wife Sally live in the rural Scatter Creek Valley south of Olympia, Washington. Bob lived in Seattle for more than two decades, continues to teach birding workshops, and leads a program of short, regional tours that begin in the Seattle area. During two seasons of work in the Pribilof Islands, he helped chronicle the occurrence of North American bird rarities. A skilled birder with a special interest in bird song, Bob has served on the boards of several nature and conservation organizations, is a member of the Washington State Bird Records Committee, and is a co-author of *The National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest*. When not on tour, Bob keeps busy as the lead writer for the daily public radio program *BirdNote*, which is archived at www.birdnote.org.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for the tour is **\$2955** per person in double occupancy from Seattle. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 9, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, pelagic trip on Day 3 (weather permitting), gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Seattle and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$640**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$300** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation penalties and refunds are based on the following schedule: If cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, the deposit less **\$150** per person is refundable. If cancellation is made between 120 and 90 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 90 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. *We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.*

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$150.
Between 120 and 90 days before departure	No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance will be refunded.
Fewer than 90 days before departure date	No refund available.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE: A brochure and application form for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. **We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. VENT recommends “Travel Insured International” as our preferred insurance provider.** Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available however stipulations apply; usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause among others. **Contact “Travel Insured International” prior to registration for details.** Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than “Travel Insured International”, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

BAGGAGE: Luggage space in the vans is somewhat limited. Soft luggage is much preferable to rigid suitcases for making the most of the van’s storage capacity. Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized duffel or soft-sided bag and one carry-on.

CLOTHING/WEATHER: The potentially coolest and most exposed conditions are likely to be encountered on the pelagic trip, and you will want to be well prepared. Although it may be sunny, don’t count on it! You will be best prepared if you have on hand a good layering system: light-weight long underwear, a warm turtleneck, a pile jacket or warm sweater, warm (and ideally waterproof) gloves, a warm hat, and, most importantly, a good windproof and waterproof outer shell such as a Gore-Tex parka, plus waterproof pants. Depending on the weather, you may find these clothes handy for the morning in the Olympic Mountains and for birding on the long ferry crossings, too. For most of the tour, expect very comfortable weather. The coastal weather in Washington in late September is typically mild, with temperatures ranging from the low 50s to the mid-70s F. Light-weight field clothing combined with a sweater or pile jacket and a rain/windbreaker for layering would generally be sufficient. However, a good breeze along the coast is possible, so be sure you also have a warm hat and gloves handy even when birding on land. Sunscreen and sunglasses are recommended, too.

DOCUMENTS: Citizens of the United States are now required to have a passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure for international crossings between the United States and Canada. Non United States citizens should check with their consulate/embassy for instructions.

FOOTWEAR AND HIKING: Some outings may involve a mile or two of walking, mostly over level ground. During the course of the tour you will likely be walking on forest trails, along sandy beaches, as well as across expanses of intertidal vegetation and dunes. A pair of lightweight hiking boots will be essential. Waterproof footwear is optional (such as rubber Wellington's), but could potentially come in handy both for shorebirding and for a possibly breezy pelagic trip where some spray may be encountered.

HEALTH: If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line 877-FYI-TRIP (394-8747) or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

OTHER NEEDS: It is strongly recommended that you bring a small daypack and a water bottle for your general use during the tour. On some short hikes you may be away from the van for two to three hours, and the boat trip is a full-day affair. There will be few mosquitoes, and no chiggers or other such invertebrate pests to worry about. Your leaders will have a spotting scope, but you may wish to bring your own. The shorebirding part of the tour lends itself to a good bit of scope use, so having a few additional scopes can be a real asset. You will, of course, need binoculars. There may be some good photo opportunities, especially on the pelagic trip where albatrosses and other birds may be attracted very close to the boat, and expect some fine scenery and nature shots.

SUGGESTED READING: Our website, www.ventbird.com offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers, including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You may also visit such other online stores such as www.amazon.com, and for those out-of-print or hard-to-find titles, www.abebooks.com or www.buteobooks.com which specializes in ornithology books.

Birds:

Choate, Ernest A. *The Dictionary of American Bird Names*. Boston: Harvard Commons Press, 1985.

Dunn, Jon. L. *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America: Revised & Updated*.

Fourth Edition. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2002.

Kaufman, Kenn. *Lives of North American Birds*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996.

Jewett, Stanley A., et al. *Birds of Washington State*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1953. Out of print:
Try www.abebooks.com.

Paulson, Dennis. *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998.

Paulson, Dennis. *Shorebirds of North America: The Photographic Guide*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*. New York: Knopf, 2003.

Wheeler, Brian K. *Raptors of Western North America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Zimmer, Kevin J. *Birding in the American West: A Handbook*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2000.

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Bird Sound Recording: A general search on the internet using the title of the recording will produce the name(s) of companies selling these products.

Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Western Region. Kevin J. Colver with Donald and Lillian Stokes. Time Warner Audio Books, 1999. (CDs or cassettes)

A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992 (3rd. ed.). Consists of three cassettes or CDs.

Nature Sounds of the Northwest. K.J. Hall and P.R.B. Ward. N. Vancouver, B.C.: Total Recording Co. A series of three cassette tapes.

Bird Songs of the Pacific States. Thomas G. Sawder. Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Consists of two cassettes or CDs.

Birding by Ear: Western. Richard K. Walton and Robert W. Lawson. Peterson Field Guide No. 41. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Recently reissued on CDs.

Other Natural History:

Alden, Peter, Dennis Paulson, Amy Gregoret, Richard Keen, Daniel Mathews, Eric A. Oches, Robert Kruckeberg, Arthur R. *The Natural History of Puget Sound Country.* Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1995.

Alden, Peter, Dennis Paulson, Amy Gregoret, Richard Keen, Daniel Mathews, Eric A. Oches, Robert Sundstrom, and Wendy B. Zomlefer. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998.

Pojar, Jim and Andy MacKinnon. *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast.* Redmond, WA: Lone Pine Press, 1994.

Schultz, Stewart T. *The Northwest Coast: A Natural History.* Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1990.

Whitney, Stephen. *The Pacific Northwest. A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide.* San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1989.

TIPPING: Tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

RESPONSIBILITY: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on December 19, 2008 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.