

BIRD TREKS

VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA for *EURASIAN SKYLARK & LOTS MORE!*

Dates Thursday, 17 August through Monday, 21 August 2017: 5 days and 4 nights

We'll visit The **Saanich Peninsula** on **Vancouver Island**, stronghold of the **Eurasian Skylark**.

Ferry rides to **Vancouver Island** and among the **Gulf Islands** of the Strait of Georgia, in search of **Marbled Murrelets**, **Orcas**, and other pelagic species.

There is an optional visit to the world-famous **Buchart Botanical Garden**.

A sampling of Pacific Northwest Specialties includes . . .

Pacific Loon	Parasitic Jaeger
Pelagic Cormorant	Heermann's Gull
Cinnamon Teal	California Gull
Harlequin Duck	Glaucous-winged Gull
California Quail	Common Murre
Pacific Golden-Plover	Pigeon Guillemot
Black Oystercatcher	Rhinoceros Auklet
Wandering Tattler	Vaux's Swift
Black Turnstone	Anna's Hummingbird
Surfbird	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Wilson's Phalarope	Bushtit



Wilson's Phalarope - - David Nelson

Our major target species is the very local **EURASIAN SKYLARK**.

We will make every possible effort to obtain satisfying looks at this long-established species.

To see a **map of the tour route**, click on the following link:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1ZqEgJ0T5UE-TVRa8hcmelydwyqo>

[Day-by-day itinerary is on page 2]

VANCOUVER ISLAND for EURASIAN SKYLARK

17 - 21 AUGUST 2017

<u>DAY</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
1	You may continue directly from the Washington Tour, or plan to arrive at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport by noon, 17 August, if you are joining us just for this extension. We'll drive north and make the ferry crossing to Vancouver Island, departing from Port Angeles. During our crossing of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, we'll watch for Parasitic Jaeger , Sooty Shearwater , and perhaps even an Orca ! Overnight in Saanichton, north of Victoria.
2	Eurasian Skylark is reliable near the Victoria Airport and in some tulip bulb fields very close to our motel. I will be in touch with Barbara Begg and hopefully, she will be available to join us for the morning. Barbara knows more about the habits and habitats of the resident Skylarks than anyone else on Vancouver Island. We'll spend the remainder of the day birding other areas on the Saanich Peninsula in search of California Quail , Anna's Hummingbird , and a nice variety of waterfowl . Several productive coastal stops near Victoria may yield Black Oystercatcher , Black Turnstone , Harlequin Duck , Mew Gull , Arctic Tern , and perhaps a Parasitic Jaeger , Yellow-headed Blackbird , or Cassin's Auklet as in past years. One year we were invited into a gentleman's backyard from which we could watch a feeding Gray Whale , and we also saw Pileated Woodpecker and Anna's Hummingbird - - what for a combination! A second night in Saanichton, at the sign of the Waddling Dog.
3	We'll take an early ferry through the San Juan Islands, exploring an island for as long as we wish, then moving on to another one. We will save plenty of time to look for Orcas from one of the best vantage points in the entire Pacific Northwest. This will give us more opportunity to find additional seabirds . We'll return to Vancouver Island and bird some new areas before retiring for our third night at the same motel in Saanichton.
4	We'll take yet <i>another ferry ride</i> across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to return to Washington, then search for Mountain Quail near Belfair State Park. This will give us the opportunity for some additional woodland birding before working our way back to Seattle, where we'll spend the night near the SeaTac Airport. A nearby park and lake often produce some good birds that may include Red-breasted Sapsucker , Rufous Hummingbird , and perhaps Western Screech-Owl .
5	Flights home can be planned as early as you desire, as the hotel is an easy ride from the SeaTac Airport.

[Final details are on page3]

Leader This specialty trip to **Vancouver, British Columbia** in search of **Eurasian Skylark** will be led by **Bob Schutsky** or **John Puschock**. Both leaders have successfully located this and other local species many times in the past. This tour is limited to eight participants.

Price \$2175 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$295. We will take a maximum of seven participants. On rare occasion we may extend the maximum to ten participants.

Includes Expert guide service, lodging for four nights, **ALL meals**, entrance fees, ferry rides, and ground transportation from Seattle. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader(s). Does not include the cost of airfare to and from Seattle. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, gladly help you obtain the best possible airfare. Also not included are the cost of alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 32 years of experience in the travel industry. Contact her through Bailey Travel - Travel Time at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail her at **lori@baileytravel.com**. Lori's direct phone line is **717-855-2128**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There will be a small fee for these services.

Deposit A \$500 deposit assures your spot on the tour. The balance is due 17 June 2017.

Refund and Cancellation Policy With written notice more than 60 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$75 service fee. With 30-60 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS, ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com** or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.



A pair of
Hooded
Mergansers.

- - Tom Amico