

# BIRD TREKS

## WASHINGTON'S PACIFIC NORTHWEST

**Dates** Tuesday, 8 August through Thursday, 17 August 2017: 10 days and 9 nights

**We'll visit** Mount Rainier National Park, with 14,410-foot Mount Rainier, the highest point in all of Washington. Mount Rainier is permanently capped with snow and has **25 active glaciers!**

A full day **pelagic trip** with **Westport Pelagics**, some of the best offshore birding in North America. **Tokeland, Grays Harbor, and Ocean Shores** provide lots of good shorebirding from land.

**Hurricane Ridge** in **Olympic National Forest** and **Dungeness NWR** with its 7-mile sand spit reaching into the **Strait of Juan de Fuca**. **Dungeness Spit** is superb for seabirds and occasional rarities.

**A sampling of Pacific Northwest specialties includes . . .**

Common Loon	Glaucous-winged Gull
Black-footed Albatross	Common Murre
Pink-footed Shearwater	Pigeon Guillemot
Sooty Shearwater	Rhinoceros Auklet
Cassin's Auklet	Tufted Puffin
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	Band-tailed Pigeon
Brandt's Cormorant	Common Nighthawk
Cinnamon Teal	Rufous Hummingbird
Harlequin Duck	Steller's Jay
Golden Eagle	Clark's Nutcracker
Sooty Grouse	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
California Quail	Bushtit
Snowy Plover	American Dipper
Black Oystercatcher	Townsend's Solitaire
Wandering Tattler	Varied Thrush
Marbled Godwit	American Pipit
Black Turnstone	Warbling Vireo
Surfbird	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Long-tailed Jaeger	Wilson's Warbler
South Polar Skua	MacGillivray's Warbler
Heermann's Gull	Western Tanager
Mew Gull	Pine Siskin
California Gull	Red Crossbill
Sabine's Gull	Evening Grosbeak



**Black Oystercatcher** is found along rocky coastlines.

- - John Puschock

*[Day 1 begins is on page 2]*

Species lists from our previous tours are available at:  
<http://www.birdtreks.com/birds-previously-seen/WAPN.pdf>

We typically find 160-190 species during this 10-day tour.

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## WASHINGTON'S PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### 8 - 17 AUGUST 2017

<u>Day</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
1	Plan to arrive at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport by about noon. We'll go directly to Mount Rainier National Park, where our birding adventure begins. The wet lowland forest may yield species such as <b>American Dipper</b> , <b>Golden Eagle</b> , <b>Chestnut-backed Chickadee</b> , and <b>Townsend's Warbler</b> before we check into Cowlitz Lodge, our home for the first three nights. One year we saw <b>FOUR Black Bears</b> on our first afternoon!
2-3	We'll spend two full days on Mount Rainier with its volcanic peaks, expansive glaciers, and unending beauty. An early climb into the highlands at Paradise and at a location called Sunrise will be our best chance for <b>Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch</b> , <b>American Pipit</b> , and <b>Horned Lark</b> . Views of <b>FOUR White-tailed Ptarmigan</b> on a past tour were tremendous! The alpine meadows where we often find <b>Mountain Goats</b> will be in full fantastic bloom. We'll search for <b>Northern Pygmy-Owl</b> at Fryingpan Creek, along with <b>American Dipper</b> , <b>Harlequin Duck</b> , and <b>Vaux's Swift</b> . Additional species that we may find include <b>Violet-green Swallow</b> , <b>Mountain Chickadee</b> , <b>Hermit Warbler</b> , <b>Varied Thrush</b> , and <b>Black Swift</b> . <b>Townsend's Chipmunk</b> , <b>Hoary Marmot</b> , <b>Pika</b> , and <b>Mule Deer</b> are easily seen. Our lodge borders on the Cowlitz River, where a herd of <b>Elk</b> often grazes in the front yard and <b>Vaux's Swifts</b> roost in the lodge chimney. The 2010 tour group spotted <b>Black Swifts</b> every evening in the Cowlitz area. This is a very difficult species to find away from their nesting areas. Be certain to take your binoculars on the short walk to dinner!
4	Today we'll head for the coast, looking for a few new birds such as <b>California Scrub-Jay</b> and <b>Red-breasted Sapsucker</b> along the way. We'll get our first look at the Pacific Ocean and the many birds it has to offer: <b>Wandering Tattler</b> , <b>Black Turnstone</b> , <b>Brandt's Cormorant</b> , and <b>Pigeon Guillemot</b> are just a few. The Tokeland Peninsula may have hundreds of <b>Marbled Godwits</b> and has produced a <b>Bar-tailed Godwit</b> on some previous tours. After studying <b>Heermann's</b> , <b>Glaucous-winged</b> , <b>Western</b> , and <b>California Gulls</b> in the harbor, we'll have a nice dinner, then settle down for a good night's sleep at the Silver Sands Motel, in preparation for tomorrow's pelagic boat trip. We will be at the Silver Sands in Westport for three nights.

*[Day 5 begins on page 3]*

- 5 Today's agenda is highlighted by a full-day pelagic trip with Westport Pelagics. Our boat will take us offshore to see literally *THOUSANDS OF SEABIRDS*, which may include **Black-footed Albatross, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Common Murre, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Tufted Puffin, Pink-footed Shearwater, Long-tailed Jaeger, South Polar Skua, and Sabine's Gull**. On a previous tour a **South Polar Skua** had just appeared when we found a **RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**, one of very few Washington state records. Mammals that we may see include **Humpback Whale, Dall's Porpoise, Pacific White-sided Dolphin, and Elephant Seal**. **Leatherback Turtle, Ocean Sunfish, and Gray Whale** also occur. This is the pelagic trip of a lifetime. We often have time for some late day shorebirding upon returning to the dock. Our second night in Westport.
- 6 Midway Beach is a reliable spot for the diminutive **Snowy Plover**. We'll spend most of the day at Aberdeen and Ocean Shores observing large numbers of **shorebirds, loons, grebes, cormorants, sea ducks, gulls, and alcids**. This is our best chance for **Pacific Golden-Plover**. Past visits have yielded **American White Pelican, Great Egret, Lapland Longspur, Baird's Sandpiper, and 200 Harbor Seals**, basking in the sun. A return visit to Tokeland and other nearby coastal areas will give us plenty of time to find more shorebird species and search for any rarities that may have been reported. After a nice dinner at the Tokeland Hotel, we'll return to Westport for the night.
- 7 Another stop at Aberdeen and several small beach areas will be in order. We can usually find a few new species of **gulls, shorebirds, and waterfowl**, with a good chance for **Virginia Rail**. As we drive north we'll look for **Mountain Quail** at a small airport where we have found them previously. We'll try again on our final morning if necessary. The John Wayne Marina may have **Black Oystercatcher, Bald Eagle, and many alcids**. From there we'll look for **California Quail** in Sequim (pronounced 'squim'), our home for the next three nights.
- 8-9 One full day will be well spent at Dungeness NWR on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, named for a 16th-century Greek mariner. At Dungeness we'll expect good numbers of seabirds including **Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, and Rhinoceros Auklet**, plus upland species such as **Olive-sided Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Bewick's Wren**. Rarities that we've found there include **Tufted Puffin, Pacific Golden-Plover, and Yellow-billed Loon**. The view will include the snow-covered peaks of the Olympic Mountains and 10,000-foot high Mount Baker, an active volcano. Some nearby ponds are filled with **waterfowl** and may have **Virginia Rail and American Bittern**. Next day we'll be on Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. Target birds here include **Gray Jay, Red Crossbill, Townsend's Solitaire, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Northern Goshawk, and Sooty Grouse**. **Black Bear and Olympic Marmot** may be seen amidst the spectacular wildflower display. Ediz Hook is a good place to look for lots of **Harlequin Ducks** and an interesting assortment of **gulls, alcids, and shorebirds**. Both nights are in Sequim.

*[Day 10 and more details are on page 4]*

10 We'll do some early morning birding, probably at Dungeness, then work our way back to Seattle for the afternoon flights home.

**NOTE** We have the option of returning to Seattle late yesterday (Day 9) and spending the final night near the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. This will make things easier in case there are any early departures for flights home. I will make this decision as the tour date approaches.

**OR . . .**

Continue on for our extension to **VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA**, in our quest for **EURASIAN SKYLARK**.

Please see the separate itinerary for details of the Vancouver extension.

Click on the following link for a map of the Washington tour route:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1IZC2IQgZW6q4PkBs2rUyL6vgZfs>

We will find several species of loons, including the **Common Loon** shown here. On two previous tours we have found the very rare **Yellow-billed Loon**. **Pacific** and **Red-throated Loons** are likely.

- - Tom Amico



*[Final details are on page 5]*

**Leader** The **Washington-Pacific Northwest Tour** will be led by **Bob Schutsky** and/or **John Puschock**, who will give you a wonderful worry-free adventure in this incredibly beautiful area on Puget Sound. Bob has led many previous tours to this region, and John is a resident of Seattle and was the leader of the highly successful 2010 tour.

**Price** \$3495 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available at an extra charge of \$695. 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 nine nights, **ALL meals**, beginning with lunch on Day 1, entrance fees, pelagic trip and ferry rides, and ground transportation within Washington. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your boat crew and 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 and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel-Travel Time at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail her at this address: **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** An \$800 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. Your **EARLY RESERVATIONS** are helpful, so that we can secure a sufficient number of spots on the pelagic trip. The balance is due 8 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** and mention **BIRD TREKS, ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com** or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.

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