

Washington: Olympic Peninsula Tour Species List



June 1 - 9, 2019

Washington: Olympic Peninsula

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Compiled by Woody Wheeler

Summary: We encountered a wide array of species on this tour, reflecting the three distinct biomes we travelled through: Temperate Rainforest, Coastal Intertidal, and Alpine. We also spent time in freshwater and salt-marsh ecosystems. Thus, our species ranged from deep-sea-diving alcids, including Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Common Murre, Tufted Puffin and even the threatened Marbled Murrelet; to marine mammals like Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions; to River and Sea Otters; to regional “oddball” species such as Banana Slugs and Rough-skinned Newts; to the endemic Olympic Marmot. The beauty and pristine nature of the landscapes on the Peninsula cannot be overstated.

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)= Introduced

(E)= Endemic

BIRDS 110 species recorded, of which 3 were heard only

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (11)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*—Seen daily on lawns, in meadows and grasslands

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*— A nice look at a mother and her ducklings on ponds at entrance to Olympic NP

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*— Seen at Nisqually NWR and in the Sequim/Port Townsend area

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*— Seen almost every day on ponds, rivers and in park lands

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*— Several spotted at Hoquiam Ponds, Bowerman Basin NWR

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*— Both Scaup species seen at Hoquiam Ponds, Bowerman Basin NWR

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*— Both Scaup species seen at Hoquiam Ponds, Bowerman Basin NWR, along with Greater Scaup

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*— Great looks at this showy duck at Seal & Sail Rocks and at Ediz Hook

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*— Found in calm waters at Nisqually NWR, Olympic NP entrance ponds and at Kah Tai Wetlands in Port Townsend

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*— Seen on three days at Nisqually NWR, Lake Quinault and Lake Crescent

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*— A small group seen at Kah Tai Wetlands in its largest pond

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

California Quail *Callipepla californica*— Spectacular looks at adults and a family covey of these quail at Dungeness River Audubon Center

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Sooty Grouse *Dendragapus fuliginosus*— Two roadside appearances: one by Lake Quinalt, the other near Forks

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3)

Rock Pigeon (1) *Columba livia*— Seen on five days, especially in cities and towns

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*— Great looks at Nisqually NWR, Hoh River and on road to Cape Flattery

Eurasian Collared-Dove (1) *Streptopelia decaocto* – Heard and seen at John Wayne Marina, Sequim

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*—Several flitting over grounds of Lake Crescent Lodge

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (2)

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna*— Seen on first day at Jack Block Park well, then again at Nisqually and at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*— Multiple great looks at Nisqually NWR with more on next five days

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)

Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*— Two emerged from reeds at Kah Tai Wetlands Park in Port Townsend

American Coot *Fulica Americana*— One seen in roadside pond on the way to Dungeness NWR

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)

Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus bachmani*— Great look from Cape Flattery; other sightings along rocky Pacific Ocean beaches

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (2)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*— Several juveniles found at Three Crabs Beach near Sequim

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous*— Seen well at Hoquiam Ponds

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (1)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*— Good looks at several on near shore of Hoquiam Ponds, Bowerman Basin NWR

AUKS, MURRES, AND PUFFINS: Alcidae (5)

Common Murre *Uria aalge*— Huge raft of Murres spotted near Tatoosh Island off of Cape Flattery

Pigeon Guillemot *Cephus Columba*— A common, colorful (especially their feet) sighting in salt water bays

Marbled Murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus*— Good looks at this threatened species at Ediz Hook and especially, at John Wayne Marina while we were having a picnic lunch

Rhinoceros Auklet *Cerorhinca monocerata*— Best seen from Dungeness Spit, and again at Fort Worden State Park

Tufted Puffin *Fratercula cirrhata*— Just two seen from Cape Flattery near Tatoosh Island in heavy surf

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (5)

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—A number at Nisqually NWR and at Ediz Hook, Port Angeles

Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*- Seen on or near Pacific Ocean on six days of journey

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*— Seen on six days of journey, especially in Puget Sound and in Straits of Juan de Fuca

Western/Glaucous-winged hybrid - This increasingly common gull seen on four days of journey

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*— Many seen on first day at Jack Block Park, Seattle; others spotted at Cape Flattery and at Kingston Ferry Dock.

LOONS: Gaviidae (2)

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*— Beautiful looks at this gorgeous loon from Beach #4 on Pacific Coast and from Dungeness Spit

Common Loon *Gavia immer*— Several good looks from west side of Dungeness Spit in Straits of Juan de Fuca

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (3)

Brandt's Cormorant *Phalacrocorax penicillatus*— A few seen mixed with Harlequin Ducks on floating logs at Ediz Hook, Port Angeles

Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*— Seen on four days in salt water environs with best looks along ocean beaches where they were nesting on sea stacks

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*— Seen at Nisqually NWR in McAlister Slough

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (1)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea Herodias*—Seen on four days in calm waters and wetland areas

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Primarily a roadside bird seen on drive from Olympia to Pacific coast and on day 8 in the Port Townsend area.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*— Great looks at Jack Block Park Seattle in flight with fish; seen again at Lake Quinault

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (3)

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*— Seen flying low over grassy meadows at Dungeness NWR, also memorably, strafing a Bald Eagle in the same refuge

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*— Nearly a daily occurrence with many around Neah Bay and especially close looks at Jack Block Park Seattle, and as we were leaving Dungeness NWR

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*— Seen at Nisqually NWR and on two days in Sequim area. Best view was at Dungeness River Audubon Center where one soared majestically along the river directly above the bridge we were walking over and then perched in a nearby cedar.

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Great Horned Owl (HO) *Bubo virginianus*—Heard in Neah Bay behind Makah Tribal museum

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*— Seen at beginning of journey at Jack Block Park, Seattle, and again at Dungeness NWR

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (3)

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*— Seen at Nisqually NWR and at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus*— One heard on Hurricane Ridge

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*— Seen or heard on five days of the journey

FALCONS: Falconidae—(1)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*— Fantastic show by adult and juvenile at Ruby Beach in Olympic NP

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (5)

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*— Nice look at one perched on branch while hiking Hurricane Hill Trail

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*— Best seen at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*— Seen and heard multiple times at Nisqually NWR

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondii*— Seen and heard often in Lake Quinault area on old-growth hikes

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*— First seen at Nisqually NWR, then found on 6 consecutive days

VIREOS: Vireonidae (1)

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*—Seen and heard often in deciduous trees.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (6)

Canada Jay *Perisoreus Canadensis*- Especially tame and visible at Hurricane Ridge picnic area

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*— Common jay in forested areas throughout journey

California Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma californica*— One spotted just west of Kah-Tai Wetlands, Port Townsend

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Seen often on first four days and last day of journey

Northwestern Crow *Corvus caurinus*— Common at Cape Flattery and along Straits of Juan de Fuca

Common Raven *Corvus corax*— Seen every day we were on the Olympic Peninsula; not in Seattle area

LARKS: Alaudidae (1)

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*— Great look at one that perched on walkway at Hurricane Ridge

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*— A few in open areas of Nisqually NWR
Purple Martin *Progne subis*— Found near martin nesting boxes at Kah-Tai Wetlands in Port Townsend and at Kingston Ferry Dock
Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*— Seen on three days of journey but especially abundant at Nisqually NWR
Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*— Most commonly seen swallow on outer Pacific coast
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— Seen on seven days of journey, starting with Nisqually NWR
Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*— Best seen at Nisqually NWR where they nested under viewing shelters

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*— Found at beginning and end of journey, mostly in deciduous trees

Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens*— Primary chickadee of Olympic Peninsula coniferous forests

BUSHTITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*— *Small family groups* seen well on first day at Jack Block Park, Seattle and then again at Dungeness River Audubon Center

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta Canadensis*—Finally seen well, after being heard often, at Lake Crescent and Dungeness River Audubon Center

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Brown Creeper *Certhia Americana*— Seen on temperate rainforest hikes near Lake Quinault; heard often

WRENS: Troglodytidae (2)

Pacific Wren *Troglodytes pacificus*— Some said it was the “trip bird” due to its spectacular singing performances – especially in the temperate rainforest near Lake Quinault

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*— Appropriately found in marshy areas at Nisqually NWR and Kah-tai Wetlands, Port Townsend

DIPPERS: Cinclidae (1)

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*—Two flew up and down Barnes Creek on Marymere Falls Trail, Olympic NP

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*— Two flashing their golden crowns simultaneously on Quinault rainforest trail!

THRUSHES: Turdidae (4)

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*—A few brief sightings along the Pacific coast; lots of vocalizations heard

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*— Another especially memorable trip bird that sang and perched conspicuously in forested settings.

Hermit Thrush (HO) *Catharus guttatus*— Its ethereal song was heard often on Hurricane Hill trail

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*— Had a perfect attendance record, seen in every kind of habitat we visited

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris*— Also seen daily in a variety of settings

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*— Outstanding looks at Nisqually NWR eating berries and on four other days

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (4)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*— Encountered on five days, generally in more civilized areas

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus*— Seen and heard on Olympic Peninsula in coniferous forests, memorably sang from the top of a Douglas Fir next to the world's largest Sitka Spruce

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*— Seen on feeders at Dungeness River Audubon Center

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*— Seen on first two and last day of journey in open, grassland/meadow areas

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (6)

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerine*— Seen and heard in coniferous forests near Pacific coast

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*— Common bird of the outer Pacific temperate rainforest

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*— Seen every day and heard often

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*— Seen at Nisqually NWR and at Dungeness River Audubon Center

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*— A common bird seen on six days. Has darker morph than people who live east of the Cascades are accustomed to seeing

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*— Seen at Nisqually NWR and often at Dungeness River Audubon Center

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (3)

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*— Seen on most days in cat tail marshes

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*— Abundant at Nisqually NWR and Dungeness River Audubon Center

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*— Seen on three consecutive days on northern Olympic Peninsula

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (8)

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata*— Nice looks when they emerged from dense vegetation and sang along Pacific Coast beaches

MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei*— One good look along trail to world's largest Sitka Spruce

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*— Had good looks at Nisqually NWR, including one male that sang on the top of a Tree Swallow nesting box

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechial*— A number seen and heard on hike through Nisqually NWR
Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronate*— Seen on day 4 in the temperate rainforest near Pacific coast
Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens*— Also seen on day four and heard on day five in coastal temperate rainforest habitat
Townsend's Warbler (HO) *Setophaga townsendi*— Heard on Hurricane Ridge
Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—One of most common warblers of trip; seen on six days in forested areas

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (2)

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*—Brief looks high in conifers in the temperate rainforest; heard almost daily
Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*— Frequently heard, finally seen well at Lake Quinault Lodge and at Dungeness River Audubon Center

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus*— Seen on last three days in urban areas

MAMMALS (11 species recorded):

Eastern Cottontail (I) *Sylvilagus floridanus*— Seen on three days of journey, especially at Nisqually NWR
Townsend's Chipmunk *Tamias townsendii*— Also seen on three days, all on the Olympic Peninsula
Douglas' Squirrel *Tamiasciurus douglasii*— A denizen of conifer trees, we saw and heard it often on five days spent on the Olympic Peninsula
Eastern Gray Squirrel (I) *Sciurus carolinensis*— Seen at Nisqually NWR and at Lake Quinault
Olympic Marmot (E) *Marmota olympus*— Seen in the only place where this endemic species can be found: in the alpine meadows of Olympic National Park
Black-tailed Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* - A common trip sighting, especially along the road to Hurricane Ridge and at Nisqually NWR where two fawns were resting in the grass only 15 yards away from us
Coyote *Canis latrans*— One spotted at Nisqually NWR
Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris*— Had good looks at these swimming on their backs, and/or playing with others along the Pacific coast at 4th Beach and Cape Flattery
River Otter *Lontra canadensis* – A frisky, playful group appeared in the ponds at the entrance to Olympic National Park at the Hoh River Rainforest area
California Sea Lion *Zalophus californicus* – First seen from Jack Block Park, Seattle; then on three days in the Pacific Ocean and the Straits of Juan de Fuca
Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina*—Seen on five different days in salt water environs, including two who watched us intently as we were walking along Pacific coast beaches

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (4) species recorded:

Common Slider (I) *Trachemys scripta*—Seen hauled out at Nisqually NWR on its multiple ponds
American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus*— Heard often at Nisqually NWR
Pacific Tree Frog *Pseudacris regilla* – Had a close-up look of one perched on a matching leaf at Nisqually NWR

Rough-skinned Newt *Taricha granulosa* – Moved one off of the road to prevent it from being killed by cars, then found several more along trail to Dungeness Spit

MOLLUSKS (1) species recorded:

Banana Slug *Ariolimax columbianus* – Outstanding specimen found climbing a tree on Quinault Rainforest trail

BUTTERFLIES (3) species recorded with identification:

Cabbage White *Pieris rapae* – Found in open meadows, grasslands, farms and parklands

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* – Spotted in meadows, parks and gardens on Olympic Peninsula

Western Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio rutulas* – This denizen of rural woodlands and riparian areas was right at home at Nisqually NWR where we saw several