

Vancouver 2013

A business trip to Vancouver allowed birding opportunities around work commitments.

Websites used in preparation for the trip

[Birding In British Columbia](#)

[eBird Vancouver](#)

[Birding In Vancouver blog](#)

[Liron's Nature Photography Blog](#)

Daily Diary

Sunday 27th January 2013

Vancouver Island – all day with local birding guide Jeremy Kimm.

Travelling to Vancouver Island by public transport.

I left my city centre Fairmount Hotel at 4.30am and walked to Vancouver City Centre Station where I bought a 3 zone Sky Train/bus ticket for \$5.50 and took a Skytrain southbound on the Canada Line. On arrival at Bridgeport station I caught bus 620 at stop 3 which took me to the Tsawwassen Ferry terminal where I boarded the 7.00am ferry to Swartz Bay, Victoria on Vancouver Island. As it was dark for the first 45 minutes, I had breakfast then birded from deck 5 for the crossing.



Two Orcas were seen as the ferry passed through Active Pass between Galiano Island and Mayne Island. Divers, Pelagic Cormorants, Mew Gulls and Auks (Guillemot, Pigeon Guillemot and Rhinoceros Auklet) were seen on route as were Long Tailed Duck, Common Goosander and Red Breasted Merganser. A Bald Eagle was seen sitting atop a waterside pine tree.

Jeremy Kimm (vanislebirder@yahoo.com) met me at the other side. Notable sightings during the day included -

Patricia Bay near ferry port - Common Goldeneye, North Western Crow, Glaucous Winged Gull, Slavonian Grebe, Bufflehead and Red Necked Grebe.

Panama Flats Marsh area - Bewick's Wren, Lincoln's Sparrow, Brewers Blackbird.

Martindale Flats (more specifically, Puckle Rd) farmland and Viaduct Flats Nature Pond - White Fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Gadwall, Ring Necked Duck, Canvasback, and Hooded Merganser.

St Stephen's Church churchyard – California Quail on the roadside, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Red Breasted Nuthatch, (Red) Crossbill, Varied Thrush & American Robin.

Cattle Point and Ten Mile Point Seafront – Anna's Hummingbird, Cooper's Hawk, Golden Crowned Sparrow, Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Harlequin, Brandt's Cormorant and Pelagic Cormorant.

Monday 28th January 2013

Stanley Park - lunchtime.

Took a walk down to Stanley Park via the seawall where I noted Glaucous Winged Gulls and North Western Crows. I then walked slowly around the Lost Lagoon. American Wigeons were noted on the lawns just outside the park. First bird was a Golden Crowned Kinglet, then Lesser Scaup, American Coot, Glaucous Winged Gull and Pied Billed Grebe. Passerines of note near the bridge at the sea end were Common Redpoll, Song Sparrow, Dark Eyed Junco, Fox Sparrow, Pacific Wren and Spotted Towhee. Racoons and an Eastern Grey Squirrel were seen with the latter being the same species as seen in the UK, except that it came as grey and black morphs. I wandered over to the sea where I found my first Barrow's Goldeneye, a bird that I would become very familiar with over the coming days. Although a Common Merganser was present, wildfowl numbers were generally low on the lake during the week. Ring Necked Duck was noted while Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser were common on the sea. Canada Geese and a party of five Varied thrushes were noted on the lawns as I made a quick visit to Beaver Lake where I noted a number of Wood Duck and Kinglets.



Tuesday 29th January 2013

Grouse Mountain

I got the coach across the Lions Gate Bridge up to Grouse Mountain and then the Gondola up to the top. Local ranger Devin Manky met me near reception and we went to have a look for the Steller's Jay which was soon on show at his feeding station. Devin had seen Gray Jay the previous day but Chestnut Backed Chickadee and Red Breasted Nuthatch were the only other two birds seen. A Douglas Squirrel kept me entertained.



Wednesday 30th January 2013

Stanley Park – extended lunchtime walk

During an extended lunch break I again returned to Stanley Park but this time completed the ring road in about 2.5 hours. The sea was very flat and exceptional views were had of Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin, Surf Scoter, White Winged Scoter (female), Slavonian Grebe, Pelagic Cormorant, Red Necked Grebe, Bufflehead, Green Winged Teal and Sanderling.



Thursday 31st January 2013

Queen Elizabeth Park and Stanley Park

I saw the sun today but generally another damp afternoon.

I caught the Skytrain to Queen Elizabeth Park via the Canada Line. It was damp, wet and pretty horrible. I went there to find a Red Breasted Sapsucker that had been reported recently and was getting very down and wet when I saw a couple of Red Breasted Nuthatches in a tree. I moved in for a look and couldn't believe that the Nuthatches were mobbing a Sapsucker. Complete fluke!! From then I was on a roll as 6 Pine Grosbeaks flew into an adjacent tree and an Anna's Hummingbird showed off its bright purple gorget.



I then returned to Stanley Park for a few hours and was on a roll as I managed to see a Virginia Rail in the marshy area of the Lost Lagoon.

Friday 1st February 2013

Prior to my flight home I visited Coquitlam River, Blackie Spit, Tasswassen Pier, Boundary Bay and Reifel Bird Sanctuary with Larry Cowen. lawrencecowan@shaw.ca

Notable sightings,

Coquitlam River - American Dipper, Bald Eagle.

Blackie Spit - Ring Billed Gull, Marbled Godwit & Greater Yellowlegs.

Tasswassen Pier - Black Oystercatcher, Brant, Slavonian Grebe, Great Northern Diver & Red Necked Grebe.

Boundary Bay - American Kestrel, Red Tailed Hawk, Coopers Hawk (imm), Northern Harrier, Long eared Owl, Short Eared Owl, Snowy Owl (12+ on the greenhouses), Purple Finch, Western Meadowlark, Snow Goose and many, many Bald Eagles.

Reifel Bird Sanctuary - Coopers Hawk, Rough Legged Hawk, Wood Duck, Golden Crowned Sparrow, Northern See What Owl, Shoveler & Pintail.

Larry dropped me off at the international airport well in time for the evening flight back to Heathrow. On the plane I was soon asleep and only woke as we were approaching Ireland!



Bird List

Red Throated Diver
Slavonian Grebe
Pied Billed Grebe
Pelagic Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Trumpeter Swan
White Fronted Goose
Canada Goose
Brant
Mallard
Gadwall
Shoveler
Lesser Scaup
Greater Scaup
Harlequin Duck
Surf Scoter
Common Goldeneye
Bufflehead
Red Breasted Merganser
Northern Harrier
Red Tailed Hawk
Bald Eagle
California Quail

Great Northern Diver
Red Necked Grebe
Brandt's Cormorant
Double Crested Cormorant
Black Crowned Night Heron
Mute Swan
Snow Goose
Cackling Goose
Wood Duck
Pintail
American Wigeon
Green Winged Teal
Ring Necked Duck
Canvasback
Long Tailed Duck
White winged Scoter
Barrow's Goldeneye
Common Goosander
Hooded Merganser
Coopers Hawk
Rough Legged Hawk
American Kestrel
Virginia Rail

American Coot	Sandhill Crane
Killdeer	Black Oystercatcher
Greater Yellowlegs	Marbled Godwit
Surfbird	Black Turnstone
Sanderling	Dunlin
Mew Gull	Ring Billed Gull
Glaucous Winged Gull	Common Murre
Pigeon Guillemot	Rhinoceros Auklet
Rock Dove	Band Tailed Pigeon
Eurasian Collared Dove	Long Eared Owl
Short Eared Owl	Snowy Owl
Northern See-whet Owl	Anna's Hummingbird
Northern Flicker	Downy Woodpecker
Red Breasted Sapsucker	Northern Shrike
Steller's Jay	Common Raven
Northwestern Crow	Black Capped Chickadee
Chestnut backed Chickadee	Bushtit
Red breasted Nuthatch	Brown Creeper
Berwick's Wren	Winter Wren
American Dipper	Golden crowned Kinglet
Ruby crowned Kinglet	American Robin
Varied thrush	European Starling
Spotted Towhee	Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow	Lincoln's Sparrow
Dark Eyed Junco	White Crowned Sparrow
Golden Crowned Sparrow	Western Meadowlark
Red Winged Blackbird	Brewer's Blackbird
Red Crossbill	House Finch
Purple Finch	Common Redpoll
Pine Grosbeak	House Sparrow

Mammal List

Raccoon	Grey Squirrel
Douglas Squirrel	Orca

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