

Washington: Pacific Northwest Birding
Aug 15-24, 2020

Itinerary

Day 1: Sat Aug 15—Arrive in Seattle

Depending upon arrival time we will try to get some birding in during the day. If arrival is later in the day we will meet at the hotel lobby at 6 P.M. to go to dinner and get to know each other.

Day 2: Sun Aug 16

We will spend the morning birding in a few Seattle hotspots, such as Discovery Park, Ballard Locks, and Golden Gardens. We will take a ferry over to Bainbridge Island to have lunch and bird our way over to the Port Angeles/Sequim area. We will bird Dungeness National Wildlife refuge and a couple other spots before spending the night in Port Angeles. Birds we will hope to see today are Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Stellar's Jay, Bushtit, California Gull, Heerman's Gull, Pelagic Cormorant, and much more

Day 3: Mon Aug 17

This morning we will get up early and head up to Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. We will climb to roughly 5200 feet from sea level. If it is a clear day the sweeping views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Mountains will be amazing. We will spend the morning looking for some high elevation specialties. The afternoon will be spent at various hot spots around Port Angeles. We will for sure visit Ediz Hook in Port Angeles where we will search for Sea Birds, Shore Birds, and anything else that happens to be there. Birds we hope to see today are Sooty Grouse, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Canada Jay, Hammond's Flycatcher, Whimbrel, Rhinoceros Auklet, Vaux's Swift, and many more

Day 4: Tue Aug 18

Today we will wind our way down the Olympic coast. We will visit the numbered beaches and Hoh Rainforest of Olympic National Park. The beautiful scenery is sure to impress. We will end up in Westport and if we have time will check the beach and wharf in Westport for any rarities that may be around. Birds we hope to see today are Townsend's Warbler, Varied Thrush, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and many more.

Day 5: Wed Aug 19

Today we take to the ocean on an all-day pelagic tour. We will look for sea going birds including Black-footed Albatross, South Polar Skua, Red Phalarope, Tufted Puffin, Sabine's Gull and several species of Shearwater. We will also be looking for marine mammals such as whales, seals, sea lions and porpoise. If we have energy at the end of the day we will head down to Grayland Beach State Park for a little more sea watching.

Day 6: Thu Aug 20

Today we will start our trek inland. We will leave early to head over to Mt. Ranier National Park. We will spend the majority of the day in the park taking in its scenery and birds. We will travel from the Nsiqually entrance to Paradise to the Grove of the Patriarchs. The final leg of the day will take us Yakima where we will set up to bird the dry side of the state. Birds we hope to see today are Sooty Grouse, Gray-crowned Rosyfinch, Vaux's Swift, Clark's Nutcracker, Western Tanager, Chestnut-backed and Mountain Chickadee and Flycatchers.

Day 7: Fri Aug 21

Today we tour the dry side of Washington, traveling southeast searching for specialties of the dry country. We will head to Othello and Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, ending in the Tri-Cities (Kennewick, Richland, Pasco) before heading back to Yakima. Eastern Washington is known for its fascinating geologic formations and diverse bird life. Birds we may see today are Sage Thrasher, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Clark's Grebe, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon. We will also try for the uncommon Tri-colored Blackbird.

Day 8: Sat Aug 22

Today we will head North to the Leavenworth area, a quaint little German village, where we will visit a multitude of different habitats. We will travel over Stevens Pass to search for some high elevation birds such as Gray Jay and Pine Grosbeak on our way back toward the coast. Traveling up the mountain we will try for nesting Harlequin Ducks on Icicle Creek, White-headed Woodpecker, Anna's Hummingbird, American Dipper, white-throated Swift and more. We end the day in a great position to travel to the islands in the morning.

Day 9: Sun Aug 23

Today we take a ferry to the glacially tilled island of San Juan. The ferry winds through dozens of small islands on the way out to San Juan. This island is home to the only whale watching state park in the country where people search Haro Strait for local Orca pods. We will explore this wonderful island for most of the day, looking for some great birds such as Rhinoceros Auklet, Pigeon Guillemot, Black Oystercatcher, Marbled Murrelet, Black-throated Gray Warbler and many more. We will head back on the ferry tonight and make our way to Seattle to set up for a morning departure.

Day 10: Mon Aug 24

Departure