

Holiday Highlights
British Columbia
27 August – 8 September 2011

Leaders: Roy Atkins and Julian Sykes

Guests: Irene Phippen, Helen Galloway and Kim Blasco, Daphne and David Knight, Margaret and Michael Jupe, Val Mulder and Tony Corrigan, Mirian and Brian Holt, Mary and David Braddock

Day 1: We all meet up at the airport and after checking in and some shopping time we are on our way. The flight arrives a little late, then after sorting out the vehicles we are on our way for the half hour drive to the hotel. So far Northwestern Crow seems to be about the only bird of note though a few Glaucous-winged Gulls overhead as we drive are also noticed. After checking in at the hotel we have a bit of time to relax before heading out to a local diner for our evening meal then off to bed as it has been a long day.

Day 2: Those who take a short walk before breakfast find Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatch and lots of European Starlings! The rest of us gather at 7am for breakfast so we have time for a bit of local birding before catching the ferry over to Vancouver Island. Our first stop is to watch a Northern Harrier quartering the fields and at the same time a Red-tailed Hawk flies through landing in the top of a nearby tree. There are several Great Blue Herons here too plus a couple of Savannah Sparrows on the wires.

In one small area of bushes we find a nice collection of birds including Cedar Waxwing, American Robin, Yellow Warbler and Northern Yellowthroat. There are a few House Finches here too plus American Goldfinch and several Black-capped Chickadees. On the opposite side of the road is a big flock of Canada Geese - proper ones! We are so used to them being introduced feral birds it is hard to think of these as the real McCoy but when they are accompanied with a few Killdeer it definitely helps!

Our next stop is Roberts Bank where, despite the extensive areas of mud there are virtually no waders at all, though a small flock of Western Sandpipers fly over. There are large numbers of Pintail, smaller numbers of Mallard and a flock of Green-winged Teal, and on the shore several Ring-billed and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Three Shoveler join the ducks and a couple of Ravens fly over but some people find it hard to ignore an enormous train that is passing behind us as it leaves the cargo terminal,

it is colossal! There are other distant birds - scoters, Common Loon and cormorants but we decide to leave them until later when we will certainly get better views, then Kim spots a nice Caspian Tern flying by as we are getting back into the vans.

The weather is already warm as we arrive at the ferry terminal and spend a little while enjoying coffee or ice-cream in the shop before boarding the ferry. Once on board we head straight up to the top decks and scan the rocks below. There are a few Black Turnstones and a single Surfbird on the rocks as well as a nice group of Pelagic Cormorants with a couple of Brant's Cormorants in amongst them. There are lots of Glaucous-winged Gulls and a few California Gulls too and as we set off a Common Loon flies past.

The ferry crossing itself is surprisingly windy and quiet with few birds other than gulls seen, though Dave spots a Rhinoceros Auklet and we get a brief view of a couple of Harbour Porpoise and Common Seals. Once we are ashore we spot the occasional Turkey Vulture as we head round to our lunch spot not far away. We find a couple of Chestnut-backed Chickadees as we walk down to the shore to enjoy lunch sat on large logs that are washed up on the beach and scan the sea and rocky islands a little way offshore. There are plenty of Cormorants on the rocks including several Double-crested Cormorants amongst the Pelagics. We find two Black Oystercatchers, about half a dozen Pigeon Guillemots, and Julian finds two Western Grebes. There is a flock of Surf Scoters and several Common Seals. We sit and enjoy the warmth of the sunshine which even brings out a couple of butterflies such as Cabbage White and a lovely Mourning Cloak. There are lots of people enjoying the weather, either swimming in the sea or kayaking.

We now have a long drive to our hotel near Tofino and with glorious sunshine the views are terrific as we drive. The mountains are spectacular and occasional views of rivers and lakes are equally superb. We make a short stop at a rest area where we find several Steller's Jays which are just beautiful with such an intense blue colour. There are a few butterflies around including Lorquin's Admiral and Anise Swallowtail. We continue on the final leg of the journey arriving at around 6pm at our next hotel where we receive a wonderful welcome from Monique and meet Winston McDougal the Third - a huge St Bernard who is also very friendly. We have a break to settle in to our rooms but the lure of mudflats not far away is too much for some who find Osprey here. We meet up later in the bar for a run through the checklist and a chat about tomorrow before an excellent evening meal.

Day 3: We start the day with a layer of cloud and noticeably colder weather than yesterday. We gather at 7am and after watching a few Steller's Jays in the car park and a fly over Osprey we make the short down journey down to the local beach. Here we start with great views of a Bald Eagle perched on the bare branches above its huge nest where it is soon joined by one of this year's young. Val spots a couple of Semipalmated Plovers and as we watch them we notice there are birds out on the water too - Red-throated and Common Loon and a few Surf Scoters. A little flock of waders fly in and we check through them finding them all to be Western Sandpipers and Sanderling.

There are birds on the water in the bay to our left and we decide to try getting a bit nearer to check them out. We get distracted by gulls and Mary identifies a Glaucous-winged Gull but is struggling to put a name to a second bird - no wonder - it is one of the regular hybrids found here and probably a Glaucous winged x Western. The Western Sandpipers are much closer now and Julian picks out a lovely Baird's Sandpiper which shows very well. Out on the water there is a large flock of Surf Scoters and amongst them a couple of White-winged Scoters and a couple of smaller birds - Marbled Murrelets! We find several more with perhaps eight birds in all and in difference plumages - some still in breeding plumage and all dark with others almost black and white. Next we find a winter plumage Pacific Diver; very like Black throated in many ways but with a dark chinstrap and no white on the rear of the flanks. We find a group of three Black Oystercatchers then Kim spots a wader on the end of the rocks - a Wandering Tattler. We add Common Murre (or Common Guillemot) to the list before we finally have to drag ourselves away to head to breakfast.

After breakfast we drive round to Tofino for our first boat trip. We are soon struggling into red float-suits ready for the trip and once down on the jetty get aboard the two boats. Excited we head out into Clayoquot Sound making our first stop to admire a superb Bald Eagle on an island perched in the tree tops and looking very stately, the huge nest nearby in the trees. Then as we get further out there are birds everywhere and we soon find our first Heermann's Gulls, a bird on some seaweed and another on some rocks with Glaucous-winged Gulls and two Wandering Tattlers. We find large numbers of auks of various species but especially Pigeon Guillemots and Rhinoceros Auklets plus Common Murre. Here are a couple of very smart Red-necked Grebes and we find our first Sea Otters, wonderful and very inquisitive, watching us as we get nearer before losing their nerve and vanishing beneath the surface. We stop to look at the Cormorants on a large island and discover there are all three species together including large numbers of Brant's Cormorants and on the end of the island a flock

of Heermann's Gulls plus more on the water making perhaps thirty birds in all.

The clouds are now starting to break up and some sunshine coming through as we head out to where the Grey Whales tend to be. It is a fast journey to get there and as we arrive we spot the first blow followed instantly by a second nearby. Soon we realise that there are at least four whales here and we creep very slowly forwards then cut the engines and just let things take place as they will. The whales are moving around quite a bit and by just being patient we eventually get the most astonishing views as they come straight towards the boat at one point coming within just a few feet, the blow sounding incredibly loud up close. There are at least a couple more animals further away but it is the closer ones that keep our attention as they surface regularly and often lift the tail as they dive. They have almost lichen like markings and no dorsal fin, just a row of 'knuckles' on their backs, and each time they lift their tails to dive the cameras are clicking.

After watching them for a while we finally drag ourselves away as there is more to see and David picks out a Red-necked Phalarope as we leave. We head out into more open water and pass several more Sea Otters including a couple that allow quite a close approach. They are just so cute especially when they stick their feet up in the air to warm them!

There are enormous numbers of birds on the water with auks everywhere and we are delighted to discover a Tufted Puffin with a beak full of little sandeels. It is a stunning bird with a bright red bill and incredibly long ear tufts. We pause to admire a colony of Steller's Sea Lions on a cluster of small islands. They are huge and some of the males have enormous manes and are roaring at each other so that the name Sea Lion suddenly makes sense! In the water we then spot a whole bunch of fins sticking straight up and realise we have found a group of California Sea Lions as well. They are much darker animals with a high forehead and buffy coloured nose. There is a huge colony of Glaucous-winged Gulls and we pick out one or two Western Gulls amongst them, then as we head on towards the next cluster of islands we start seeing Sooty Shearwaters, at first just one or two then lots of them, some passing by very close to the boat.

There are more Sea Lions and lots more birds then we find a mass of gulls and auks in a feeding frenzy including another Tufted Puffin and large numbers of Heermann's Gulls. Time is running out and as we head back for Tofino a Bald Eagle flies over and we pass a couple more Sea Otters. We make a brief stop at an island to look at a group of Black Oystercatchers

and flush a couple of female Harlequin Ducks into the sea where they flap across the water before taking flight.

We finally head back to shore and with great big grins on our faces then back up to the centre where we hand back the float suits and negotiate the possibility of another bonus trip tomorrow!! The Black Bear boat trip has apparently been particularly good recently and for the first time ever they have been getting regular views of Wolves!! This would be an incredible bonus so after much discussion we decide that most of us would like to give it a try. We bid them farewell until tomorrow and head across the road for lunch at some picnic tables. We even manage to add Peregrine to the list while we eat.

So how do you follow a morning like that? Well perhaps a nice relaxing walk through some serene temperate rainforest - a beautiful habitat of tall trees hanging with mosses and lichens and surrounded by ferns and berry bushes. It does not take long to get there and we take a very well constructed boardwalk through some very nice forest to a beach. As we go we identify a few of the plants including the beautiful trees of Western Hemlock and Western Red Cedar. There are Salmonberry, Thimbleberry and Red Huckleberry plus large plants of Salal while the floor is carpeted in places with dense stands of Sword Fern and Hard Fern. It is extremely quiet for birds though eventually we do find a family of Pacific Wrens, and also get great views of an American Red Squirrel. The highlight though may be the superb Banana Slugs which are just astonishing! These large slugs may be greenish through to almost completely black but most are some mix of yellow and black like an over-ripe banana! We find one that is bright yellow with big black spots and others that are yellow at the front and black at the back! They are superb and no doubt the most impressive slugs anyone has encountered! (Not sure that is saying much but hey!)

At the far end of the walk we arrive at Schooners Cove. This really is a beautiful place with a lovely view out to the sea and the offshore islands. In the bay there are Red-throated Loons, Red-necked Grebes, Surf Scoters and we are delighted to find a flock of six Pacific Loons as well as a couple of couple of Common Loons making it twice in one day we have had all three species from the same spot. There is an Osprey circling overhead looking like it might take a dive and on the rocks are several Black Oystercatchers and a Black Turnstone. We see Bald Eagle, Western Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plovers then suddenly David says that he has just seen a blow! It is a big one and we watch for while before it appears again - a Humpback Whale!! It is rather distant and hard to see well with the

swell but in the end several of us manage to see its back as it surfaces along with a young one... a fabulous way to finish an incredible day.

Day 4: We wake to find a very pleasant morning, a little chilly with high cloud and some sunshine as we drive to Tofino for our second boat trip of the holiday. We are soon checked in and climbing into our red floater suits and we arrive at the jetty to find a steeper descent down to the boat due to the low tide, an essential aspect of the mornings outing as we need low tide for the bears to be feeding on the shore. By 7:30am we are on our way and almost immediately we find our first good bird with a close view of a couple of breeding plumage Marbled Murrelets then continue on our way towards the area where the Black Bears often come down to the water's edge.

As we travel John, our boatman, tells us that we will soon be passing the spot where they have been seeing the most wolf activity recently and then almost immediately gets a message over the radio - they have found one!! We speed up and dash as fast as we can to get there before it vanishes, but we needn't have rushed, it is still there as we approach and up ahead we can see it trotting along the shore. We are astonished to see how close it is to another boat just off shore but it seems completely unbothered and as we gradually get closer we are thrilled to spot a second closer animal and we stop to watch it for a while. Both Wolves are black and beautiful sleek animals but this closer one does not seem so keen to search for food as the other one and soon sits down to rest so we decide to follow the more active animal. This one soon finds what looks like a strip of fish skin. It picks it up and licks it then puts it on the ground and rolls in it!! We cannot believe we are getting such incredible views of this animal but this is just the beginning and as it trots further, almost down to the shoreline at times, we just run along at the same pace and enjoy the most unbelievable views. It climbs up over a rockier bit of shore and through some trees before suddenly freezing and staring ahead intently - it has spotted something. We look along the shore and discover a Bald Eagle sat there, but then suddenly realise that there are also River Otters on the shore!! This is a real bonus and we don't quite know where to look as these are delightful animals, but we still have a Wolf right here beside us! The wolf seems very interested in the otters and soon is trotting along the shore towards them and they all splash in into the water and swim away in the opposite direction. The Wolf quickens its pace but soon realises it won't catch them and starts rooting around amongst the weed on the shore instead. The otters seem to sense it has lost interest and start raising their head high up out of the water to check where the wolf is and what it is doing - so at times we can see all five otters and the wolf all in the same view!! We follow the Wolf as it continues along the shore and then through the trees before finally

it disappears amongst the conifers on a very steep section of shore and we decide to go and see what luck we might have with bears!! It seems hard to believe that we have just seen that!

We already feel incredibly privileged to have seen what we have seen so it is all the more over whelming to find a female Black Bear with two cubs just a few minutes later! There are two rather distant adult bears as well but we stick with the mother and cubs as they are right at the bottom of the shoreline and we slowly take boat closer. They seem completely unaware of us and soon we are just yards away - close enough to hear the sound of them turning over the rocks and crunching on the crabs that they are finding underneath! It is surprising to see the size of rocks that the little cubs are turning over - they are clearly pretty strong for their size! We spend a while watching them and at one point they walk past the end of the boat just ten a few yards away, then they head up the shore and wander slowly into the trees. We decide to move on and try a little further on and are delighted to find a second mother with two cubs. While she eats crabs (still on her main course) they are amongst the bushes eating berries (guess they are on dessert!). We enjoy more wonderful views before these bears too head into the bushes and we decide that perhaps we should start back as time is flying by. We make another stop to see the Wolf again as we head back and are amazed at how much ground it has covered since we last saw it. We also stop to check a large area of mud which gives us great close up views of a Great Blue Heron. We arrive back in Tofino still grinning from ear to ear and absolutely thrilled by what we have seen, then after thanking John profusely, head back for breakfast.

We are certainly ready for this and after munching perhaps not quite as noisily as the bears we decide to go back out for some birding. Our first stop is at the Wickaninnish Visitor Centre where we have time to have a look round the displays here, partake in some coffee and look out to sea from the balcony. There is a large flock of Surf Scoters and a smaller number of White-winged Scoters and in amongst them a few Red-necked Grebes and a Horned Grebe and further out Red-throated and Pacific Loons. At least two Humpback Whales are producing tall blows a long way out but with the swell we seem unable to see anything of the animal itself. A Steller's Sea Lion puts on a bit of a show jumping right out of the water then we spot a Common Seal on the rocks just offshore. The occasional Sooty Shearwater is flying through but little else is happening so we decide to move on.

From here we drive round to Amphitrite Point where we take our lunch down to the grassy slope near the lighthouse to enjoy eating with a view

of the sea. There are lots of Sooty Shearwaters flying past and Julian decides to do a count - 200 flying past in three minutes making a count of roughly 4,000 per hour!! We can't find anything else amongst them unfortunately but there are lots of auks in the bay to our left including rafts of Rhinoceros Auklets and about eight Marbled Murrelets as well as large numbers of Common Murre plus more divers and scoters too.

After we have eaten we take a short walk along the coastal path stopping to scan the rocks for shorebirds. It is incredibly quiet - far more so than we would have expected and there are not even any Black Oystercatchers a species normally easy to find here. We get fantastic views of Bald Eagle and Daphne brilliantly spots a female Harlequin Duck in the bay below. We suspect the weather is too nice and that the migrants that are often found here have simply flown through but we do find a nice flock of Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets. We try other areas of rocky shore but have no luck and in the end we give up and start walking back towards the car park. We find another mixed flock of kinglets and chickadees but little else.

Back at the vans we decide that with time flying by we should head back to the local beach. We pause to enjoy the sight of a mother Black-tailed Deer with two young in a garden eating the grass then continue on our way. We are well on way back when suddenly an animal crosses the road in front of us and to our complete astonishment we realise it is another black Wolf!! We just can't believe that we have had another Wolf sighting today!!

Back at the beach we soon find a large flock of shorebirds and spend a while working through them to see if there is anything different amongst the Western Sandpipers. At first it just seems to be this species plus Semipalmated Plovers but Mirian spots a smaller, darker wader amongst them - a Least Sandpiper, and gradually we find another three or four. There are one or two Sanderling as well but little else then as we start walking back we are delighted to see a Merlin fly in above the trees and perch in the top of a conifer. We finish with an Osprey before driving back to the hotel. With about an hour before we are meeting up again Michael and Margret take a walk down to the shore and are astonished to find yet another Black Bear - the ninth bear of the day.

Day 5: We have a relaxed start to the day with breakfast at 8am, but obviously a few of us can't resist a look at the mudflats behind the hotel before we leave. The first to get there are Dave and Mary and they have not been there long when to their complete astonishment a Wolf appears through the bushes and long grass just fifteen yards away! It stops and looks at them

causing their heart rate to increase somewhat then saunters off across the mudflat with a younger animal following behind!! They are completely bowled over but Mary managed some great photos and the rest of us can't help wishing we had got out of bed just a bit earlier and been there too.

By the time the rest of us arrive in ones and twos they are long gone and we have to make do with a couple of Ospreys, a Bald Eagle, some Green-winged Teal and a Hudsonian Whimbrel (now officially a split from Whimbrel - while we were away!) - until suddenly Roy spots the Wolves running across the sand, seconds later they disappear behind the island so not many people get onto them which is frustrating.

We decide to try walking a little way to see if we can see round the right of the islands but there is nothing visible, however, while we are looking Julian spots a Black Bear walking out over the mud. We get great views through the scope though after a short time it spots a group of people heading its way and dashes into the trees. And all before breakfast!

Once we have eaten we say our fond farewells to Monique, Olivia and Winston McDougal then we are on our way. It is a long drive to our next hotel but we break the journey after a couple of hours and take a short detour to a very pleasant provincial park where we hope to see some salmon! We park the vans and walk down the river to some waterfalls and rapids pausing as we walk to enjoy the sight of a very close American Dipper.

At the waterfalls there is a fish ladder and kneeling down and peering through the grill over the chambers you can see some huge fish beneath, all Chinook Salmon a good two feet long or so. It is an impressive sight and from the next viewpoint you can watch as a few of them try and leap the fall instead. It looks much easier to use the fish-pass!! The next viewpoint looks down into some deeper water and we watch a few really big fish as they swim round filling time before they head upstream. We enjoy watching them for a while and watching others leaping the falls before heading back to the car park to enjoy lunch at some benches by the river. It is all very pleasant and warm in the sunshine, watching Blue-eyed Darners flying around and in the river Mary finds a couple of Freshwater Mussels and a Red-legged Frog.

We travel on making our next stop at the McMillan Park, generally known as Cathedral Grove. This stand of enormous Douglas Firs has a wonderful atmosphere with huge trunks of trees all around, their branches blanketed with moss. The biggest of these trees is 76m tall and towers high above us, the trunk with a huge girth. It is most impressive but there are many other

trees that look as if they may be about as tall. We take a group photo beside the biggest tree but with little other wildlife here we are soon on our way again towards our next hotel.

We are soon on the faster inland highway with Turkey Vultures overhead and surprisingly a Wilson's Snipe flies over before we make a final stop at a spot on the coast. It looks rather empty at first but careful scanning starts us picking out birds and soon we have amassed quite a list! There is a lovely little flock of female/young Harlequin Ducks just offshore allowing us excellent views then we discover that there are dozens of Bonaparte's Gulls out on the water and the beach. There are Common Loons out on the sea and Julian picks out a little flock of Red-necked Phalaropes. Further out there are several Marbled Murrelets and a single Rhinoceros Auklet then again Julian strikes with a superb breeding plumage Pacific Diver. A flock of White-winged Scoters flies by and then Dave spots a passing Arctic Skua. There are few shorebirds around, Western Sandpipers, Grey Plovers and a few Black Turnstones and amongst the gulls we find California and Ring-billed Gulls. Tony suddenly shouts Orca!! There are a few moments panic as we try to get onto them and soon we all manage to see the enormous towering fin of a male plus the smaller fins of a female and a smaller one, perhaps a smaller male. They are distant but so distinctive we are thrilled to see them. Well pleased with our sightings, we are about to leave when a Merlin flies in behind us and lands on a tree the other side of the road looking great through the scopes.

Time is moving so we load back into the vans and head to our hotel, which is absolutely superb with lovely rooms and very tasty food.

Day 6: After breakfast we set off for our boat journey across to the mainland in search of Grizzly Bears. It is a rather grey start to the day as we arrive at the office and meet Garry who explains what we will be doing. After a run through where we are going and the arrangements for when we get there we are on our way. The boats are very comfortable covered boats and we go at a good speed over the incredibly calm water. We have hardly set off when we get a radio message that three Orcas have been sighted a bit to the north so we decide to head round to our destination via that route.

We pass remarkably few birds en route and after a good half an hour or so finally arrive at the area where the orcas were sighted. We soon spot them, two big males with enormous dorsal fins and a female. We enjoy some superb views as they surface quite close by and the cameras are clicking away as we excitedly watch them, identifying the female as A12 - a well loved Orca being the oldest female in the whole area at an astonishing 68

years old. The two males are brothers, A38 and A37 identified by the shape and markings of their dorsal fins and markings on their backs plus any nicks and scratches or other markings on them, which you can compare with a book on board. This has pictures of all the known Orcas in the area and it is amazing how distinctive some of them are. This is a resident group of Orcas and seen here reasonably regularly.

We travel on, heading up through the various channels between the many islands. We pass Rhinoceros Auklets, a Marbled Murrelet, Common Loon and a few Common Murres and Surf Scoters. In some areas there are incredibly rough areas of sea where there are rapid currents pulling through the narrow gaps between islands. There are standing waves, whirlpools and areas that look like they are boiling, making the boat judder or jerk to one side or the other - all very exciting! Where there are upwellings like these there are hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls picking up tiny fish at the surface. As we enter the main inlet we pass a couple of Dall's Porpoises and a more distant group of Orcas, perhaps another four or five animals. We have a time schedule so we have to leave them behind but perhaps we'll see them on the way back.

We arrive at the small bay where we are alighting and transfer to a minibus that will take us to the platforms from which we will be looking for the bears. The first thing we notice on arriving at the platforms is the enormous number of salmon in the river!! Surely this must be a good sign as this is what the bears are looking for but the Salmon themselves are actually rather entertaining. These are Pink or Humpback Salmon and we watch as a big male guards a female that is beginning to dig a redd to lay her eggs. He has hooked jaws, a humped back and white streak down his flanks, a superb looking fish. He keeps very close to her side and swerves away periodically to chase off any other males that are hanging around nearby. There are also several Chum Salmon here, bigger and slimmer with purple vertical barring on the flanks. It seems bizarre in the extreme that no Grizzly Bears seem to be taking advantage of the situation as there seems plenty of food here for them. Garry suggests that these salmon have only just arrived and the bears may wait for them to become more tired and easier to catch. We see American Dipper feeding on the gravel and a superb Bald Eagle as well as Ravens and both Vaux's and Black Swifts. We change platforms but still no bears appear and there only bird of interest is an American Herring Gull.

After about two and a half hours we are out of time and disappointed we get back into the van and head back to the boats for the journey back to the island. Again we hear that there are Orcas to go and see and this

time it is almost an hour before we catch up with them. There are about eight animals this time with a superb male and this time they are a transient pod, the males fin a touch curved over at the tip. Again we enjoy some fabulous close views of them as they surface but they are travelling in rather an unpredictable path as transients often do and so hard to get in the right spot for when they surface. They look absolutely superb with mountains of the British Columbia coastline as a backdrop. It is interesting to hear about how there are both Transient groups and resident groups in the area and how they behave, the residents eating fish while the transients are mammal killers making different sounds and homing in particularly on the Common Seal colonies.

We see the same birds on the way back and Gary points out numerous other things such as the sawmills, first nation villages and tug boats pulling enormous barges loaded with containers and even vehicles from Seattle destined for Alaska. Back at the hotel we have a short break before our evening meal where we meet Dave, a naturalist from Victoria who to be our guide for tomorrow.

Day7: After breakfast we pop round to the back car park to view some trees where Kim found a few warblers and other birds first thing this morning including a Black-throated Gray Warbler. There is little there now though we do get excellent views of Brown Creepers as we walk round and in the trees themselves a Yellow Warbler and a brief Orange-crowned Warbler are seen.

With noting else happening we set off but we have not gone far when a Pileated Woodpecker flies across the road in front of our vans. We throw the vans onto the curb and soon locate it in the nearer trees where it shows well though briefly, soon flying on to the trees behind and out of sight. Going from big to small we next find two Downy Woodpeckers feeding very close by, giving superb prolonged views and in the same area find a flock of Chestnut-backed Chickadees with a couple of Orange-crowned Warblers amongst them and in the scrub lower down both Song and Lincoln's Sparrow. As we are about to leave the Pileated Woodpecker flies over again.

It is horribly noisy birding by the main road so we decide to move on and head down to the mountains where we take the road higher and higher, parking at the top to take a walk. Even as we get out of the vans Common Crossbills fly over and very close to the car park we also add Spotted Towhee. We hear a Red-breasted Nuthatch calling and try playing a bit of the call which brings it in very close straight away. There are large

numbers of Chestnut-backed Chickadees in the subalpine firs and with them are several Golden-crowned Kinglets and lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers. A pair of Olive-sided Flycatchers is calling from the tree tops and we even see them feeding young, a good sighting.

We have not gone much further when suddenly a Gray Jay appears. Then another. Then another! They come flying in and land on the trees very close – as in three feet away! Roy asks if anyone has any food with them and Helen produces a small bag of raisins and fruits bits and tips a few on her hand. Soon they are coming in one after the other and perching on her hand to take the offerings... and soon everyone wants a go! The Gray Jays are doing very well and enjoy a feast, with now at least ten birds coming back and forth to take bits of food from outstretched hands. Although a bit naughty really (I don't think you are meant to feed the birds in the parks) it is a wonderful experience and the look on Helen's face is a pleasure in itself!

We follow the board walk round and the Gray Jays follow us too. We get superb views of Dark-eyed Junco of the very pretty Oregon race, and the scenery is wonderful with open meadows of alpine flowers in the clear areas between the very narrow fir trees. We identify a few flowers such as False Hellebore, Shooting Star, Arctic Lupine, White-flowered Rhododendron, Pink and White Mountain Heaths, Bunchberry and others.

We pass a pool with several fish just below the surface, which later Roy identifies from photos as Cutthroat Trout due to the black spots and white line on the fins. There are a few dragonflies over the water including Blue-eyed Darners, what looks like Downy Emerald if it was in the UK so is almost certainly American Emerald and further on a superb Hudsonian Whiteface which looks very similar to our White-faced Darter. Small blue damselflies known as Northern Bluets abound and we get lovely views of a Zereine Fritillary.

The Gray Jays continue leading us round the walkway and are joined by a couple of Steller's Jays and we get brief sightings of a Western Tanager but nothing else new as we walk back to the car park where we enjoy lunch in the lovely warm sunshine. There is not a cloud in the sky as we eat enjoying both food and the view, Julian glimpsing a Rufous Hummingbird.

We head back down the road towards the coast making our next stop at a lovely spot where we see Great Horned Owl, Pygmy Owl, Barred Owl, Cougar and several more species that would be far more noteworthy were they not stuffed! We leave the visitor centre with ice creams and coffee

then take a walk through the woodlands towards the beach. Amongst the trees are yet more chickadees and we stop to look at a strange plant called Indian Pipe. We find little else until as we arrive at the coast Dave and Mary call us back to the trees - they have found a Red-breasted Sapsucker! The bird puts on a great display pecking noisily at the tree trunk while we watch through the scopes - superb!

We walk back out towards the coast again and scan the waves and shoreline picking up three American Wigeon, a whole line of Harlequin Ducks and a few other birds - but we soon become distracted by the sound of a Northern Flicker calling nearby. Kim tries playing a bit of the call on his mobile phone and we are delighted when it comes bounding in and lands in the tree tops looking absolutely superb with all the spots, bars and red bits! (technical language!)

We walk round to view the beach and discover plenty of birds here. There are lots of Black Turnstones and Black-bellied Plovers (Grey Plovers), Western Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper and couple of Sanderling but then suddenly Dave asks if you get Pacific Golden Plover here! We are soon all on his bird and very pleased to discover that is exactly what it is! As we enjoy superb views of this bird and Roy points out the salient features that split it from American Golden Plover then as he starts scanning further round finds another bird close by that shows all the features he just pointed out!! Surely we can't have both species virtually side by side can we??!! Well, yes we can and what a treat it is to be able to compare these two notoriously difficult species - the Pacific Golden having more yellowy colour and short primary projection, the American looking greyer and with longer primary projection. It is obvious from Dave's reaction that he is very excited and he says this will be well worth putting on the rarities website.

Well pleased with these finds we have a good look to check we are not missing anything else and find Red-necked Grebes, a female Scaup, Common Loon, more Harlequin Ducks and both Ring-billed and Mew Gulls amongst their California and Glaucous-winged relatives.

We realise that time is flying by and that perhaps we should make a move or we won't get to go anywhere else today - so we walk back to the vans and make our way to our next site... a nearby river mouth. Here after a walk through the trees we come out at the river mouth and scan the birds here. There are lots of Canada Geese and gulls and quite a few ducks too. The gull flock appears to be completely Glaucous-winged and California Gulls in large numbers while the ducks include many Harlequin Ducks, Common Mergansers (Goosander) and a female Pintail. There are a few

Killdeer but little else so after a final scan around we start back to the vans and the hotel for a relaxed and very tasty meal.

Day 8: Breakfast at 8am starts the day with sunshine streaming in through the windows. A few folk do a little birding round the hotel grounds before breakfast finding such goodies as Bewick's Wren, Northern Flicker and Brown Creeper. After we have eaten we head round to the nearby river mouth. There are Purple Martin nest boxes here and we enjoy some good views of Purple Martins as they fly around above them and perch in the trees. The tide is right in so there is no mud showing which is a shame as it means no shorebirds but we do get a brief view of a Merlin and a Belted Kingfisher and in the bushes find a few immature White-crowned Sparrows. There are a few of the usual common gull species, a couple of Pintail fly through as do some Common Mergansers then as we walk back to the vans we add Brewer's Blackbird to the growing list. There is a superb shiny male and a rather plain female as well. We say goodbye to Dave and thank him for all his help then we are on our way north. We make a brief stop as we leave so people can have a look at the totem poles and we are amazed to find two adult Bald Eagles, their heads gleaming in the sunshine, in a dead tree beside the poles!

We have about a three hour drive ahead of us and once on the main road make good progress making one U turn to check if a Ruffed Grouse at the side of the road is staying put - but it flies before we get back to it. We stop after an hour or so for a toilet stop and coffee at a service station. There are several Black Swifts flying around above us and they provide our best views of this species so far. There is little else happening so we continue on our way stopping for lunch at some picnic tables. As we eat we are joined by a few Steller's Jays who seem happy to come very close to pick up odd tit-bits we throw for them. There are Turkey Vultures over the hilltops and Ravens overhead. We are also pleased to see some delightful American Ladies Tresses with lovely spirals of white flowers. We have hardly covered any distance when a second Ruffed Grouse walks out into the road allowing a good if brief views as we pass.

Back on the road we keep going to the turn off then take the dirt road down to Zeballos. It is still a fair way but seems remarkably quiet as we go through conifer trees either side of the road, but as we go further the scenery becomes more spectacular and very 'British Columbia'. We make a stop beside a small pond where we find a family of Barrow's Goldeneye. As we are almost in Zeballos we spot an immature Bald Eagle perched on a log at the edge of a small pond very close to the road allowing us superb close up views.

We arrive at the hotel and meet Cris, the owner and Hamish the chef and after settling onto our rooms take a short walk down to the nature trail by the estuary. We get exceptional views of a Hairy Woodpecker investigating the wooden parts of someone's house including their house number and eaves! Hope it doesn't mean they are full of beetle larvae! It is interesting to see how grey looking this bird is - typical of the west coast birds. We see several Common Crossbills and several perch in the tree tops very close by. The bushes seem remarkably quiet but the river and estuary have at least three or four Belted Kingfishers and an immature Bald Eagle flies over - perhaps the same bird we saw earlier. It is all very pleasant in the glorious sunshine and we wander back to freshen up before we eat.

The evening meal is superb and most people enjoy some local caught wild salmon cooked to perfection. We then head out to a spot we know, to have a look for Beavers and after arriving and scanning for a few minutes suddenly Mary calls that she has got one! We watch as it swims out from behind some branches and over the next ten minutes watch it swim round before it starts swimming straight towards us. We spot a second beaver swimming out in the middle of the water. It is still very light as the sun has not quite set and we can't believe the views we get as it gets closer and closer before finally swimming right under the bridge on which we are standing!! When it re-appears the other side it is under the water and with the water being so clear it is incredible to watch, the tail beating slowly and the back legs propelling it as it swims completely submerged, every detail still visible. It comes to the surface for a few moments before going back under water water to swim under the bank presumably where the lodge is.

We are absolutely thrilled and are just talking excitedly about what we have seen and comparing photos when all of a sudden Tony calls that there is a Black Bear! It walks out onto the shingle a little downstream then walks right out to the water's edge before crossing the river and climbing out onto the far bank. It has a shake then almost runs along the far side away from us as if on a mission - another absolutely superb view of a Black Bear!

After this we wait a short while before getting more wonderful views of Beavers - first one swims round and round out in the open water and occasionally tail slaps as if annoyed and we wonder whether it is aware of us or if there is some other reason. It seems to be eating leaves that it is picking up at the surface. Then the first one reappears again under the bridge and we get more amazing views as it swims around right below us and also occasionally tail slaps. Worried that perhaps we are disturbing them, and also having had such incredible views we decide to leave them

in peace and head back to the hotel for a celebratory drink and a bit of relaxation before heading to bed - after all it is almost 9pm!!

Day 9: Blue skies and no wind is just what we wanted and promises a calm boat ride in search of Sea Otters and after breakfast we head down to the jetty where we split onto two boats, some going with Cris and the others with her husband Dan. We set off on a flat sea and start heading out into Zeballos Inlet where in a short time we find our first Sea Otter. It seems rather shy and although we get quite a good view it keeps diving so we leave this one be and continue on our way. We head out further scanning up ahead for birds or Sea Otters but instead spot the distant blow of a whale! We race out towards it and as we get closer cut the engines and let the boats drift to see where it comes up next. It is a Humpback Whale and over the next hour or so we get some absolutely superb views as it surfaces at times quite close to the boat. The sound of the blow almost seems to echo in the still morning air then the back arches out of the water to the sound of clicking cameras, sometimes followed by the wonderful huge tail flukes - superb! Everyone is thrilled to get such good views as we watch each set of dives – several shallow dives followed by a deeper one when the tail flukes emerge to everyone's delight.

We spend a long time watching the whale before finally deciding that this is actually meant to be a Sea Otter trip!! We head further out then cross the inlet to some sheltered waters on the other side. The bays and inlets here are often very good for Sea Otters and it is not long before we spot one then another near the shore. Some of them seem to dive when you get close but one in particular allows us to get very close and the cameras are clicking away like crazy as this delightful animal just floats there, flat on its back with its feet in the air looking for all the world like a holiday maker on a sun-lounger! The lighting is perfect for photography both of the Sea Otter and the stunning west coast British Columbia scenery.

We take a leisurely time drifting around in the bays spotting one Sea Otter after another and watch as one spends ages smashing something on the rock on its belly and eating it. They all seem to be hungry and some have the large shellfish called a geoduck – well known to the local chefs and an expensive dish! It is a big clam which cannot bring the whole of its 'foot' inside its shell and the Sea Otters love them. There are also a few birds around including several Bald Eagles, a couple of Marbled Murrelets and plenty of gulls including American Herring and lots of California Gulls.

We try further out and find a few more Sea Otters as well as Peregrine, more Bald Eagles, a group Black Oystercatchers and all three species

of Cormorant. We try to find some baby Sea Otters with no luck but do find a couple more adults making perhaps fifteen so far in total - then turn back towards base. As we head back in we see a couple more but we are a long way back before we suddenly spot a whale blow. We head over and are soon enjoying more incredible views of a mother and calf as they surface and blow and at one point even a huge flipper appears. The tails look wonderful as they take a deeper dive coming up one after the other. It is now lunch time and in the end we decide to head back to base buzzing with all we have seen.

Back at the hotel we enjoy a very nice lunch then a short break before getting on our way around 3pm. It is hot and sunny as we drive back up the rough track and for a while we just enjoy the passing scenery and pausing briefly to scan the small pond, finding again the little group of Barrow's Goldeneyes. Further on we are delighted to discover a Varied Thrush on the road ahead of us! There is slight panic as we try to get everyone on this superb bird but it stays on the road collecting food for a while and everyone mages to get onto it and enjoy great views of this absolute stunner. For a moment a Hermit Thrush hops out to join it! We also find a flock of Band-tailed Pigeons that are feeding in the dense vegetation beside the road and as we pass they panic and fly up into the trees. There are at least twenty and some perch in the trees allowing us some excellent views.

We arrive at our next hotel and after settling in most of us enjoy a relaxing drink while sat in the lounge looking out at the view. There are several Mew Gulls flying around in the bay and further out a few Rhinoceros Auklets then a Belted Kingfisher appears. There are a couple of Song Sparrows flitting around in the garden but best of all is a wonderful big River Otter that comes out onto the jetty down below and enjoys a good old scratch and a snooze. It slips back into the water for a while but reappears while we are enjoying our delicious evening meal and stays for the rest of the evening.

Day 10: With breakfast set for 8am lots of people take the chance for a bit of a walk or simply enjoy coffee while scanning from the windows for any wildlife that might be around. There are plenty of Steller's Jays coming in to the food that has been put out for them just a couple of feet the other side of the windows.

As we eat breakfast Dave spots Black Bear with two cubs as they come out of the trees and onto the shore. Here they spend the next hour or more turning over rocks as they look for crabs and we enjoy fabulous scope views, astonished at the size of some of the rocks that they seem prepared

to tackle! It is hard to stop watching even when we have both Song and Fox Sparrow right in front of us – Fox Sparrow being a new bird for the trip!

Even with the bears still around we decide after a long time that it might be nice to take a short walk and see what birds are around. We soon find a Hairy Woodpecker and Red Crossbills are calling overhead, as are a couple of Ravens. Song Sparrows are common in the bushes with Fox Sparrow scarcer. Out on the sea there are absolutely huge numbers of birds! There must be thousands of gulls though too far to identify and amongst flocks of Rhinoceros Auklets we find a couple of Red-necked Grebes and a Common Loon plus a couple of Marbled Murrelets. The trees and bushes otherwise seem empty - again perhaps due to the weather being too nice!

After a quick coffee we drive round to Telegraph Cove where we have some spare time to enjoy the shops and whale museum and enjoy lunch looking at the harbour. There are a few birds too with Kim finding some Pine Siskins and Barn Swallows.

Our final boat trip starts at 1pm and we are greeted by Captain Wayne who explains everything we need to know about the boat - which even has a toilet, coffee and cookies on board! We are however a bit shocked when he says that they did not see any Orcas this morning and he does not know of any within range for this afternoon! We live in hope however as we head out towards open water and start spotting thousands of birds out on the water. Huge numbers of Rhinoceros Auklets are out there in large rafts and amongst them are much smaller numbers of Marbled Murrelets plus hundreds of Common Murres (Guillemots). We have not gone far when both Roy and Julian spot a smaller grey bird on the water, a Fork-tailed Petrel! It takes flight and wings its way off behind the boat, frustrating those who do not get on it straight away. We have not been travelling much longer when a Humpback Whale is spotted up ahead. With the calm seas and wonderful scenery all around it is such a wonderful experience watching these giants, their blows hanging in the air as they dive and lift their tail flukes. It somehow seems so right to be seeing them here – where they have only returned in such recent years. In the distance there are also some jumping Steller's Sea Lions and a small group of Dall's Porpoises - black and white almost like tiny Orcas!

After we have enjoyed good views of this whale we head further out towards Knights Inlet to see more Humpback Whales as there are reports of several more. As we approach we can see several blows and soon we are watching a line of at least four possibly five animals as they surface again and again. One is a tiny one and must only be a few months old.

As we watch these there are at least three more in different directions and we are in the privileged position of being surrounded by whales! There is even an astonishing moment when a Humpback lunges vertically up out of the water until its whole head is showing, water pouring out of its mouth, then drops straight back down! We get some great views of more Dall's Porpoise before we move on again, winding our way amongst the islands and crossing wider expanses of sea in between where we find huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters. It is a real treat to get such close up views of these superb fliers as they glide past and also of the lovely Red-necked Phalaropes as they spin and flutter amongst the floating sea weed.

Bald Eagles are another highlight as we pause to enjoy pairs close to their nests in the islands and we disturb a couple of groups of enormous Steller's Sea Lions that seem almost as curious about us as we are about them! We find occasional masses of gulls fluttering over bait balls and identify a few American Herring Gulls and Kittiwakes amongst the more common species as well as a couple of Red-throated and Pacific Loons. We cannot believe our continuing luck with the weather which is beautiful and perfect for a boat trip - the sea like a mill pond and the sun warm on our backs. We find yet more Humpback Whales and have now completely lost track of just how many we have seen - perhaps fifteen or more. We see more Dall's Porpoise and Harbour Porpoises too but sadly no Orcas have appeared by the time we start back to the jetty - but it has been a fabulous trip!

Back on shore we take a few last moments to go in search of starfish under the jetty - well worth doing as some of the Sunflower Stars here are truly enormous! We find two or three species of starfish, Frilled Anemones and some very thin looking Spider Crabs, but to our complete astonishment a River Otter is suddenly there looking for fish amongst the woodwork of the jetty! It swims around below us, completely visible through the water then heads out towards the floating wooden walk-ways and disappears! It seems almost impossible that we just saw that but we did. Presumably it can surface under the floating pontoons without anyone being aware it is even there.

Time has gone so we start back towards the hotel pausing to enjoy a nice Black-tailed Deer by the road. We arrive back at the hotel to find three Hooded Mergansers including a superb breeding plumage male in the bay. We are enjoying these birds and taking pics when suddenly there is a movement on the shore right in front of us - an American Mink! It is a real treat to see one where they should be, instead of as an escapee in the UK, and we enjoy watching it run back and forth before swimming out to the island and running off along the shore - a great finish to the day.

Day 11: Today we have a long drive back down to catch the ferry across to the mainland and after an excellent breakfast we are soon loading the vans, pausing to watch the Belted Kingfishers chasing each other around in the bay.

The journey south is quiet with few birds as we travel, just the odd Turkey Vulture and Steller's jay and a Black-tailed deer at the road-side. We make a stop at a petrol station for a break then continue on to a spot on the coast where we stop for lunch. Here we scan the sea and find a nice selection of birds including lots of Common Loons and Red-necked Grebes with smaller numbers of Horned Grebes including a couple in breeding plumage. There are lots of Canada Geese on the shore and as we make a quick trip to the nearby toilets Tony and Val spot a Black Brant from the van just off the shore - frustrating that this has vanished by the time we return.

We arrive at the ferry bang on time and sit out in the viewing area at the front of the boat as we make the two hour journey. It is incredibly quiet with a few gulls and a nice group of Harbour Porpoises are all we get for our efforts, however the scenery is spectacular in the distance and we are all feeling relaxed and happy. As we arrive at the dock the bird numbers increase and we spot a few cormorants and distant scoters and lots more gulls. Once ashore we make a brief stop to scan the shore where we pick out all three species of Cormorant and some Black Oystercatchers as well as a little group of Harlequin Ducks, then as we drive back to the hotel Julian picks out a Willet feeding on the shore - a regular wintering individual here.

Back at the hotel we enjoy a break before meeting up for an extremely tasty evening meal and then a final run through the checklist, followed by our usual end of trip round up in which we ask the group to share any special moments, favourite species and places from the holiday. It is a really enjoyable session with everyone remembering things from right through the trip and often reminding us all of special moments we had forgotten about... there are so many! The list of species that people mention in particular include so many - but some species get several mentions such as the incredibly tame gray Jays, the stunning Tufted Puffin with the fish in its beak, the beautiful Northern Flicker and the stunning Hooded Merganser. But it is the mammals that have really excited people with Beaver, Humpback Whale and the delightful Sea Otters all getting a mention or two (or three!), but it is a battle between Orcas, Black Bears and the astonishing Wolves for top place. Once all the votes are in the Orcas and Black Bears have drawn in second place leaving the Wolves clear winners as the species of the trip. Of the places we visited during the trip many get a mention but there are two in particular that score higher than the rest with Paradise Meadows and

the Tofino boat trip both the most popular. Magic moments are always very individual and it would be pointless to list them all here but they are as ever hugely varied including such different moments as the Gray Jays feeding from the hand, the lunging Humpback Whale, the River Otters and the Wolf the amazing chance to see Beavers swimming underwater and the wonderful mother Black Bear with the cubs turning over rocks and munching on crabs just a few feet away! Once thing we all agree is that it has been a fabulous trip and several people say it has been their best ever!!

Day 12: The holiday is not over yet though and after breakfast we have a full morning's birdwatching at a local nature reserve before we have to leave for our flight. It is another glorious day as we set off and after a short drive we are there. The reserve has a series of small ponds and scrubby areas as well as taller trees and reed beds so there is generally a good mix of birds here - Rhinoceros Auklet

We have barely left the car park when we reach the first pond and find amongst the Mallards and Green-winged Teal a nice flock of Greater Yellowlegs. There is some confusion at first as to whether there are any Lesser Yellowlegs here but in the end we think there are just Greaters even though some birds have moved off. A little further on there is no such problem with identification when it comes to a superb Black-crowned Night-Heron roosting in the trees near the main path. We follow the path round towards the coast stopping to check out any birds we find and soon add Red-winged Blackbird of which there are several around, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and lots of Black-capped Chickadees. A small bird going in and out of a big hole in a tree turns out to be a Bewick's Wren and on the path we find Spotted Towhee and White-crowned Sparrows while in the trees overhead are several Yellow-rumped Warblers and a single Yellow Warbler.

We walk round to a small platform and scan the ponds finding American Coots and a wider selection of ducks including Hooded Mergansers, Gadwall, Pintail and American Wigeon. A Northern Harrier is quartering the reedbed in the distance and there is a flock of Barn Swallows with a couple of Bank Swallows (Sand Martins) amongst them. We get great views of Red-winged Blackbirds from here and find Purple Finch and House Finch. As we walk on we find an Eastern Gray Squirrel of the black colour morph that is becoming increasingly common here.

As we walk round towards the coastal path we enjoy close up views of both Lincoln's and Savannah Sparrows then in the larger shallow pools here get superb close up views of more Greater Yellowlegs at times just a few yards

away. The next pond is even better with a large selection of waders. There are several Lesser Yellowlegs out in the middle but close to the near edge of the water there is a mixed flock of Dowitchers with mainly Short-billed and a few Long-billed amongst them. This is really the wrong way round for this location where Long-billed is usually the more common, but it is a great opportunity to learn how to tell the difference. As we pick through this flock we are delighted to find a couple of Stilt Sandpipers as well, a nice find. There is a flock of Western Sandpipers and as we work through them checking for other species more and more fly in and soon we find a couple of Semipalmated Sandpipers there with them, again making a very useful comparison with their shorter thicker based bills and slightly smaller size. Further out on the water we add Red-necked Phalarope to the growing day's list. As we watch these Kim picks up the call of a Marsh Wren and tries playing a bit of the call which gets a good response and soon we are enjoying good views even through the thick vegetation!

We continue round the trail as time is passing all too quickly and stop to enjoy some beautiful Wood Ducks in the channel then a little further on a lone Solitary Sandpiper - well it would be wouldn't it! We then get a real bonus when we find two people watching a Great Horned Owl sat in the tree close to the path!! It is very close and astonishing to see through the scope in which it fills the whole view! It is also interesting to see just how dark this bird is - typical of birds on the Pacific coast. We enjoy the views of this bird until finally it flies into some more distant trees then have a look at the birds on the path up ahead - lots more chickadees but also Spotted Towhees and immature Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows.

We arrive back at the car park just in time for lunch and while we eat Kim takes a wander as he just can't stop birding and spots a group of Sandhill Cranes flying past. The rest of us enjoy the Mallards in the ditch and the fly over Canada Geese - and the sandwiches of course! Time is now running out and we drive back to our hotel where we have the chance to freshen up and repack the bags before loading up the vans and heading to the airport and our flight back to the UK.

Mammals

Black Bear
Gray Wolf
River Otter
Sea Otter
American Mink
Harbour Seal
Steller's Sea Lion
California Sea Lion
Gray Whale
Humpback Whale
Orca
Dall's Porpoises
Harbour Porpoise
Canadian Beaver
Black-tailed Deer
American Red Squirrel
Eastern Grey Squirrel
Eastern Cottontail
Little Brown Bat

Birds

Red-throated Loon
Pacific Loon
Common Loon
Red-necked Grebe
Horned Grebe
Western Grebe
Sooty Shearwater
Fork-tailed Petrel
Double-crested Cormorant
Brant's Cormorant
Pelagic Cormorant
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Great Blue Heron
Mute Swan
Canada Goose
Black Brant
American Wigeon
Gadwall
Green-winged Teal
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Northern Shoveler
Wood Duck
Greater Scaup
Harlequin Duck
White-winged Scoter
Surf Scoter
Barrow's Goldeneye
Common Merganser
Hooded Merganser
Turkey Vulture

Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Ruffed Grouse
American Coot
Sandhill Crane
Black-bellied Plover
Pacific Golden Plover
American Golden Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Black Oystercatcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Short-billed Dowitcher
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Hudsonian Whimbrel
Willet
Spotted Sandpiper
Wandering Tattler
Black Turnstone
Surfbird
Sanderling
Western Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Wilson's Snipe
Red-necked Phalarope
Parasitic Jaeger
Heermann's Gull
Mew Gull
Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
Glaucous-winged Gull
American Herring Gull
Western Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Bonaparte's Gull
Caspian Tern
Common Murre
Pigeon Guillemot
Marbled Murrelet
Rhinoceros Auklet
Tufted Puffin
Feral Pigeon
Band-tailed Pigeon
Collared Dove

Great Horned Owl
Vaux's Swift
Black Swift
Rufous Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Northern Flicker
Red-breasted Sapsucker
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Steller's Jay
Gray Jay
Northwestern Crow
Common Raven
Purple Martin
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Bank Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Pacific Wren
Marsh Wren
Bewick's Wren
American Dipper
Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Robin
Varied Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Yellow-rumped warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Western Tanager
Spotted Towhee

Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Red Crossbill
House Finch
Purple Finch
Pine Siskin
House Sparrow

Fish

Sockeye Salmon
Chinook Salmon
Chum Salmon
Pink Salmon
Cutthroat Trout

Other things

Red-legged Frog
Sunflower Star
Short-spined Sea Star
Fringed Anemone
Banana Slug
Northern Bluet
Blue-eyed Hawker
American Emerald
Hudsonian Whiteface
Four-spotted Skimmer
Lorquin's Admiral
Anise Swallowtail
Mourning Cloak
Cabbage White
Pine White
Zerene Fritillary
Satyr Comma?