

## Holiday Highlights

### British Columbia

10 – 23 September 2016

**Guides:** Roy Atkins and Julian Sykes

**Guests:** Carolyn Owen, Christine & Max Maughan, Jane Moore, Carol & David Gover, Gordon Stuttard, Don Mills, Gill Wylie, Marilyn Davidson, Belinda & Steve Batt

**Day 1:** Our flight to Vancouver leaves right on time and we enjoy a remarkably pleasant flight with films to watch and time to relax. We also enjoy a fun moment when there is an announcement over the tannoy wishing Julian a very happy birthday from his Mum, something she had asked Roy and Tania to organise - and the two guides get to enjoy a glass of champagne in celebration! We arrive to a very long but fast moving queue for passports, then sort out the hire vehicles and we are on our way!

We decide to head straight for lunch, passing Red-tailed Hawks and a rather mangy looking young Coyote at the side of the road and enjoy a nice meal at a rather typical Canadian Diner with nice food and plenty of it. We then check in at the hotel and after a short break meet up to start a little birding.

Walking down through the houses behind the hotel we head to the back of the houses where we can also scan some fields and scattered bushes. Our first birds are North Western Crows shortly followed by House Finches and American Goldfinch. Some European species come next: House Sparrow, Starling and Collared Doves then we find Savannah and Lincoln's Sparrows. More exciting are a couple of Anna's Hummingbirds that are buzzing around the bushes near a feeder and chasing each other around allowing us superb views.

A female Yellow Warbler appears in the bushes then a couple of Black-capped Chickadees. Flocks of Canada Geese fly over the fields plus a small group of Killdeer and we find a perched up Red-tailed Hawk. Another flies through, providing excellent views, then further on we get good views of Song Sparrow and a brief glimpse of a Hutton's Vireo. There are also a few Blue-eyed Darner dragonflies busy around the bushes and perhaps Green Darner as well.

We follow the path up the slope before cutting back into the gardens again and are thrilled when a Cooper's Hawk appears, flying towards us. It lands in one of the trees and looks superb being an adult male with rufous barring below. It takes flight again, even performing a little of the slow flapping display flight, its undertail coverts all fluffed up, as a second bird appears, superb!! We add Raven as we walk back and there are Glaucous-winged Gulls flying over and Barn Swallows too.

We arrive back at the hotel, tired after a long day but we still have our evening meal to enjoy which turns out to be great fun with Tracy, a lively waitress who is full of laughs and the food is excellent.

**Day 2:** A few people are up and out early, spotting mainly the same species as last night, such as the hummingbirds, Lincoln's Sparrow and Red-tailed Hawks but also add White-crowned Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler and a couple of Red-throated Divers flying over. After breakfast we are soon on our way towards the coast and the George Reifel Wildfowl Sanctuary, where we are intending to spend the morning. The drive there is quite fruitful with superb views of a Merlin, a species which is very dark on the west coast in common with several other species. We spot several Savannah Sparrows but the biggest surprise is a Pheasant!

As we drive into the sanctuary we pass flocks of Canada Geese and stopping to check through them notice a Mourning Dove on the far bank of the channel and a superb Red-tailed Hawk. From the car park we scope a very smart male Wood Duck and several Vaux's Swifts fly over. A couple of Anna's Hummingbirds are around a feeder by the entrance, including a stunning male with plenty of iridescent pinky-red on his head. It is astonishing how the plumage looks almost black until it catches the light at the right angle.

Walking into the reserve we scan the first of the pools finding Great Blue Herons, plenty of Mallards and with them Shoveler and Pintail. At the back is a nice flock of Hooded Mergansers and behind us a circling raptor that we identify as a Sharp-shinned Hawk. We walk on a little way and pause to look at sparrows on the path up ahead, including Golden-crowned, a Fox and Song Sparrows, plus Spotted Towhee. We find plenty more ducks with some very tame Pintail and Green-winged Teal and very close Greater Yellowlegs and while we are watching these we become aware of the calls of Sandhill Cranes. They sound to be getting closer and one appears above the trees. Soon two more follow then a whole squadron of them and they circle higher, calling and looking just wonderful. We watch them gradually gain height and we notice more Vaux's Swifts and a Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The next pool has plenty more Greater Yellowlegs and also a lot of Long-billed Dowitchers. We then reach the top of the coastal embankment and from here we get fantastic views of Northern Harrier. There are up to three birds visible at a time and also more Sandhill Cranes, some of which take flight and fly almost over our heads. Both Merlin and American Kestrel fly through and we find more Dowitchers and yellowlegs, including a nice flock of Lesser Yellowlegs with a single Greater amongst them allowing a very nice comparison.

Above the pools we see plenty of Barn Swallows and the occasional Glaucous-winged Gull. Julian spots a nice Downy Woodpecker and we add American Coot and find lots of more Green-winged Teal and an amusing line of feeding Shovelers all following one behind the other like they are doing the conga! There are Red-winged Blackbirds by the tower and we find one person with one on his hand feeding from crumbs!

Walking down the long straight that leads back to the car park we stop to enjoy the Black-capped Chickadees which are very tame here and discover Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet in the conifers along with a lovely Yellow-rumped Warbler that comes very close. We are told of a roosting Great Horned Owl and walk round to have a look. We stop to photograph a very tame and beautiful male Wood Duck on the way and soon arrive at the spot where we get the most wonderful views of this very impressive owl, a very dark coloured bird.

Walking back to the car park we pass a few more common birds adding little new and enjoy lunch at the picnic tables, where we watch several Anna's Hummingbirds as we eat plus two Downy Woodpeckers and a few Killdeer in a field.

After lunch we decide to head next towards Boundary Bay on the advice of one of the locals. It is a fairly short drive to get there and we walk along the top of the dyke - a little puzzled by the bizarre lack of shorebirds. This is supposed to be an excellent site for waders and the local guy implied there would be hundreds if not thousands but there are none in sight at all! We are however very impressed by the astonishing flock of ducks in the bay, there must be thousands and they seem to be almost entirely American Wigeon and Pintail with Mallards and Green-winged Teal in smaller numbers. On the shore close to the dyke are several American Pipits, some very close, and we are very impressed with someone's superb artwork as they have painted two large branches amongst the driftwood to look like Giraffes - a nice addition to the checklist! We find a perched immature Peregrine on the mud and get more good views of Northern Harrier. Julian finds a Black-bellied Plover (Grey Plover) and

a small group of Pectoral Sandpipers flies over. There are eight Common Loons (GNDivers) out in the bay all in superb breeding plumage. A second Peregrine, this time a superb adult, circles overhead, then walking back we get good views of Glaucous-winged, Ring-billed and California Gulls.

We decide to head round to another part of the bay nearer the hotel and here we start with a large flock of Canada Geese. Again we check through them and discover a single White-fronted Goose that flies up with a small group of the Canadas. There are Greater Yellowlegs here too and lots of Killdeers, some of which are remarkably close allowing excellent photo opportunities. We find a couple of Semipalmated Plovers here and masses of Mallards with a few Pintail and Green-winged Teal in amongst them

We walk further out along the dyke and get excellent views of a Belted Kingfisher. Further out in the bay Julian picks out Red-necked and Horned (Slavonian) Grebes and we get fabulous views of a young male Northern Harrier at close range, a gorgeous bird hovering over the grass nearby in perfect light. Further on we find a single Western Sandpiper then more Killdeer and Greater Yellowlegs.

We walk inland onto a loop trail that will take us back through the bushes and trees to get back to the vehicles and two Red-tailed Hawks are circling over the distant trees. We find plenty of White-crowned Sparrows in the bushes, Spotted Towhee and several Black-capped Chickadees. Walking on Roy is delighted to spot a Cedar Waxwing as it lands in one of the tall trees. A second flies in, settling in a tree very close by and allowing superb scope views. We find a rather dull looking Purple Finch, a lovely flock of Bushtits, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, a flock of American Goldfinch and three Downy Woodpeckers, indeed too many birds as we are getting late! We arrive back at the vehicles and head back for a short break before our evening meal.

**Day 3:** After a leisurely breakfast we get on our way driving round towards the ferry terminal. Spotting nothing in the fields we drive towards the terminal making a stop near the end of the road to check the bay. There are lots of Great Blue Herons feeding as the tide is coming in, plus a few Glaucous-winged, California and a close Ring-billed Gull. Several Double-crested Cormorants are out in the bay and a smaller number of Common Loons. A Caspian Tern flies in and lands and we find a large flock of Slavonian Grebes with another bird much closer still with some breeding plumage left.

We head to the ferry and once parked we dash to the top deck to check out the rocks and piling below for waders. We find a single Black Oystercatcher but we're surprised to find no sign of any Black Turnstones or Surfbirds at all! A Common Seal is swimming by and we get good views of a Belted Kingfisher. As we start out of the bay we pass lots of Pelagic Cormorants and a smaller number of Brandt's Cormorants on the jetty and a single White-winged Scoter flies past.

The sea seems very quiet as we cross towards the island and for most of the journey we see very little, perhaps partly as the wind has caused quite choppy conditions. We are a long way through the crossing when we spot Red-throated Loon and a flock of Rhinoceros Auklets flying alongside the ship. Another flock passes the other side of the ship then as we get near the landing we pass a bunch of Common Seals hauled out on one of the islands.

We start our journey up the island passing Turkey Vultures and Raven as we go and make a lunch stop at a beach, from where we scan the sea while we eat. There are plenty of Common Loons in various plumages plus a lot of Red-necked Grebes and smaller number of Horned Grebes too. On the beach are Bonaparte's Gulls plus both Glaucous-winged and

California Gulls but waders are again conspicuous by their absence. We find a nice group of Surf Scoter and a single White-winged Scoter flies past.

We continue on our way as we have a long way to go, taking the main road north. It is pretty quiet and apart from the occasional Steller's Jay flying across the road we see very little. We make a brief rest stop at Sayward Junction and find a Band-winged Grasshopper with lovely yellow and black wings. We make the final leg of the journey with one vehicle getting nice views of a Black Bear with a cub as they head down the track to the lodge, the young bear coming out to have a look before being 'told' to come away by its mum!

At the lodge we settle in and keep an eye open for bears on the shore, as this is a regular sight here but we have no luck. There are plenty of Steller's Jays though, looking superb as they feed on the balcony. The evening meal is delicious then we run through the checklist before heading to bed, excited about the boat trip tomorrow.

**Day 4:** We are a bit shocked to wake up to thick fog! It is clear enough to see the other side of the bay and we spend a little time scanning the shore for bears before breakfast. Dan puts out a little food for the Steller's Jays and soon the railings of the balcony are covered in them! There are Fox and Song Sparrows too and we watch Belted Kingfishers while a Bald Eagle keeps calling from a hidden perch high in the trees. We also get lovely views of an American Red Squirrel as it feeds around a large conifer right in front of the window.

After an excellent breakfast we decide to take a short walk and wander up the path, soon spotting a pair of Red Crossbills high in the trees. There are Chestnut-backed Chickadees too and we can hear Golden-crowned Kinglets. While we search for these we realise there are several birds in the bushes and are delighted to find Pacific Wren, Yellow and Orange-crowned Warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creeper and a Hutton's Vireo, a very nice collection of birds indeed. We spend some time checking through the flock and getting better and better views of the various species, before more birds fly in and we add Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Pacific Slope Flycatcher. An immature Bald Eagle flies into the conifer behind and there are Ravens flying over.

We head back to the lodge a bit before 10am, so we have time to get ready for our boat trip. While waiting, a few people get brief views of Red-breasted Sapsucker. We head down to the jetty as the boat arrives, full of excitement but a little concerned about the fog.

Despite the fog we head out into the Johnston Straight at speed and it feels like we are on a mission! We pass Red-necked Phalaropes and Sooty Shearwaters, Rhinoceros Auklets and more as we speed out into the straight. Eavesdropping on the conversations on the 'bridge' we gather there have been some Orcas found already by another boat and we are heading out to join them. When we arrive the other boat has lost them and it seems an impossible task to find anything in this fog but we gradually work our way along and suddenly there are fins!! A couple of these are very tall indeed and clearly males, while others are shorter and more hooked and there is also an obvious baby Orca here too that slaps his tail on the water as he jumps! The fog is not a problem at such close range and we track along slowly with this whole group of Orcas tracking parallel to us and they look fabulous, making a very atmospheric scene. We work out that there are at least three males including one very big one and youngsters too.

We spend lots of time with this group, some of which even have a little sleep now and then while others split up and start hunting. The fog is definitely thinning and lifting and we get glimpses of mountain tops and blue sky, then we are astonished when suddenly a Cassin's Auklet swims into view!! This is usually considered quite a pelagic species and we have certainly not seen one in the straight on previous trips so it is a great find. We are also very pleased

to see several Fork-tailed Petrels skimming the water, lovely pale birds twisting and turning as they fly past.

We spend a long time cruising very slowly along and enjoying the Orcas to the full, taking us right up until around 12ish when suddenly the fog really starts to lift. The scenery looks absolutely stunning with strands of mist amongst the trees and the tops of the hills poking above the fog. The Orcas look wonderful with the blows catching the sunshine and they spread out all around us. Our skipper then tells us all about the history of the Orcas here and the people who have studied them, how they discovered it is possible to identify the different individuals both by sight and the different pods by sound. It is all very interesting and we spot both Bald Eagle and a group of Pacific White-sided Dolphins while he is talking! He tells us that sometimes these dolphins actually steal fish from the mouths of the Orcas as they often carry fish around and we are amazed to watch the dolphins clearly hanging around one big male Orca appearing to be doing exactly as he has described. Then suddenly they dash straight towards us, allowing great views as they head over to pester another Orca closer to the shore.

We enjoy lunch in the calm waters near the shore with Orcas still all around us and the mist in layers amongst the mountains, blue sky overhead and sunshine at last. We gather there are at least three groups of Orcas around today and while we have one group around us in a scattered sort of way in the distance we can also see another group and we can hear a third over the radio - tuned into a microphone at one of the headlands.

Thrilled with our Orca sightings, after lunch we make our way across the sound towards Blackfish Bay where there are often Humpback Whales and as we travel we start to see more and more birds. There are huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters, perhaps several thousand and it is amazing to see how they fish! They glide round towards where they want to stop to fish and at the last moment dive into the water at a shallow angle and vanish! They are feeding in large flocks with plenty of gulls and amongst them lots of Rhinoceros Auklets and Common Murre (Guillemot). We spot a small flock of Surf Scoter, a single Red-necked Grebe and in the middle of it all are the huge fins of Orcas as they too take their share of the bounty.

As we continue on our way we spot a Peregrine cruising round overhead and the occasional Steller's Sea Lion, enormous and pale brown. In the distance we spot the blow of a Humpback Whale and make our way towards it spotting the back arching out of the water but then a little beyond it a second animal starts to breach! As we head towards it, it leaps from the water again and again, each time creating a huge splash but will it keep going until we arrive?!

We reach the spot and watch as it surfaces; recovering from all the effort with shallow surfacing and plenty of breaths and guess we have missed the action. The captain, however, seems completely confident that there is more to come and tells us that any moment now it will start breaching again. The Humpback does a couple of shallow surfaces then a deeper one and we are told to get ready with our cameras! Suddenly the whale erupts from the surface launching into the air with water cascading off it as it gains height then tilts over and smacks back into the water with a huge splash! Wow!!!! We are thrilled to see this so close but then it appears again, another big breach as it launches out of the water! And on it goes, one breach after another and we are staggered by how much energy it must take to do this. Most of the time the tail remains in the water and our captain starts awarding marks out of ten, saying it will only get ten if the entire whale leaves the water! This seems to be asking a lot but it seems to be encouraged by this and sometimes so little of the animal is still in the water it scores eight or even nine!! Again it takes a breather and does some shallow surfacing to recover but after a few minutes it starts once more, a truly incredible sight. Who knows whether it ever completely left the water but in the end our captain awards a ten and we think it deserves it after so much effort, we have lost count now of how many times it has launched its huge

weight up into the air and despite the mist we have got some wonderful photos of this incredible event.

How do you follow that?! We start on our way over towards an island with lots of Steller's Sea Lions passing thousands of Sooty Shearwaters on the way. There are small flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes, Common Murres and Rhinoceros Auklets as we head over plus more Fork-tailed Petrels, another Cassin's Auklet flies past and we find a group of four Marbled Murrelets. The Steller's Sea Lions are wonderful, huge animals some of them, all crammed on a rocky island basking in the sunshine and groaning loudly at each other. The backdrop of mountains is beautiful and it feels good to be alive, it has been a fabulous trip!

And time has run out. We head back to our little jetty where we disembark in glorious warm sunshine and decide to make the most of the sun and sit in the loungers looking out at the bay, drink coffee and chat about what we have seen, re-living the magic moments. It is very pleasant simply relaxing in the sun and watching the occasional Belted Kingfisher go by, then suddenly Roy notices there is a Black Bear walking along the far shore!!

It is an exciting moment and soon everyone is watching as it makes its way along the shoreline stopping here and there to turn over rock searching for crabs and other things. It is a beautiful looking bear; strong and in superb condition and we watch as it works its way slowly along the far shore with enough time to even get the scopes for a closer look. It is in view for a good twenty minutes or more and at times we are astonished at the size of the rocks it and logs it turns over.

When the bear finally vanishes into the trees we chill out for the rest of the day. An American Red Squirrel shows very well right in front of us and we spot a couple of Savannah Sparrows, Red Crossbills, a Northern Flicker and Golden-crowned Kinglets before heading in as the temperature drops and the light starts to fade.

**Day 5:** Today is a travelling day but we have time for a little birdwatching before we leave and spend a while watching out for anything from the lodge before breakfast, though it seems rather quiet. Well, quiet apart from a noisy Bald Eagle perched in the trees the other side of the bay that keeps calling over and over! There are the usual sparrows and a few American Robins and Steller's Jays and we enjoy nice views of the Belted Kingfisher.

After breakfast we decide to walk the little loop behind the lodge and gather at the veranda where a Red-breasted Sapsucker flies over. It is much quieter than yesterday, with no mixed flock today, but out on the water we find a few Rhinoceros Auklets including a nice adult with white whiskers and horn! Another Bald Eagle flies by and we find several Song and Fox Sparrow then add Dark-eyed Junco of the Oregon form to the list. We find Lincoln's Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and get brief views of Northern Flicker.

Back at the lodge we gather our belongings and are soon on our way to Telegraph Cove. This is a lovely little place and while it is nothing particularly special for wildlife it is nice to look round, have the chance to visit the whale museum and do a bit of shopping. We wander along the marina checking under the pier for starfish and other interesting marine life finding a few Mottled Starfish, a Hooded Nudibranch and little spider crab. On the jetty there are a few Mew and California Gulls.

We enjoy lunch here before our drive to Zeballos but make a brief stop as we leave the area to scan the bay below where is a big logging works - and we have a great laugh watching 'Bob Log.' This is the name that Julian christened him years ago, a guy on a tiny little boat that shunts the logs around. It is great to watch him pottering around, his little boats constantly looking like it is on the verge of capsizing and Julian's commentary is hilarious.

We now have a longish drive, most of which is on a dirt track and we take it slow, checking the road ahead carefully for birds. The lead van is treated to a brief Black Bear crossing the road, a very young one and it is surprising as it appears to be on its own. The occasional American Robins and Steller's Jays cross the road but there is little else. We make a stop at the small pools by the road and are pleased to find a very close American Dipper perched on a branch over the water which flies across to the far side landing close to a female Barrow's Goldeneye. It is interesting to see this bird and see how easy to identify it is from the shape of the head, making us even more convinced the Goldeneye on Day 2 was a Common Goldeneye. There are lots of Blue-eyed Darners flying around and a Pine White butterfly flutters around us even landing on some peoples shoulders!

We move on towards Zeballos but there is little else of any note before we arrive and check into our rooms. We have a little time to settle in before meeting up again at around 4pm for a wander down into the village to see what we can find as it can be quite good for migrants here, though with the clear blue skies of the last few days we are not expecting much.

Walking down the main road it is apparent that there are quite a few American Robins passing through but it is soon clear there is not much else. We see a couple of Turkey Vultures and we enjoy great views of Bald Eagle high over the forests and down by the estuary. Here there are a few gulls but also an American Wigeon and a small flock of Hooded Mergansers. We find Belted Kingfisher, White-crowned Sparrow and Carolyn spots a Yellow Warbler. Christine then picks out a Red-breasted Sapsucker which provides our best views of this species so far.

We walk into the reserve here and come out by the river where a flock of Common Mergansers (Goosander) are in the river with another Hooded Merganser then we head back to the lodge.

#### **Day 6:**

After an earlier breakfast we drive the short distance down to the jetty where Dan and Simon are waiting for us at the boats. Splitting into two groups we are soon on board and ready for our exciting trip out into the channels and inlets of the sound and we follow the coast line hoping for a Black Bear before the tide is too high. After a few moments we spot our first Common Seal and a small flock of Black Turnstones. We are watching these when Max says, remarkably calmly, "There's a bear!" Sure enough some way further down is a Black Bear stood tall, to reach some higher berries in the bushes. We slowly make our approach in the boats and as we get closer it drops to all fours and walks down towards the shore then suddenly stops and looks our way. Has it heard us or smelled us? It sniffs the air and peers myopically our way then seems to settle and starts walking down the beach some more and just when we think it looks relaxed again it suddenly takes fright and runs off into the trees. We are actually a long way off still so it is surprising.

The boats split up with one boat heading out towards the outer part of the inlet quicker than the other which spends more time exploring the shallower bays. We pass Bald Eagles perched in the trees but our target today is Sea Otters and both boats are soon watching them. A large group of Sea Otters is to be found out by the rocky islets and lots of heads are poking out of the water while others are more relaxed lying on their backs, constantly grooming their fur. They look so relaxed and happy as they float with their feet in the air and hands on their bellies! In the shallower bays we are lucky enough to get much closer to some individual Sea Otters and small groups including one mother with a little one on her chest! It is so cute and even stands up on its mother to have a look at us - ahhh! They can be quite nervous around boats so we are very lucky to find several that seem very tame and allow a close approach and great photo opportunities, one even swims under the boat!

We find a variety of birds including Common and Red-throated Loons and Marbled Murrelet which allows a surprisingly close approach too. Both boats also get fabulous views

of Humpback Whales. It is such a different experience here in the calm waters of the inlet surrounded by misty mountains and we watch it surface with big blows and eventually dive providing the chance of that classic photo as the tail flukes rise out of the water and arch over, water streaming off the back! One boat has two whales cruising along in synchrony. We spend plenty of time both with the Humpbacks and with the Sea Otters and the backdrop of the mountains and islands adds to the experience, it is just wonderful.

There are more Sea Otters, occasional Steller's Sea Lions, Harbour Porpoises, one group sees a California Sea Lion and we find more birds including Red-necked Grebes, Pelagic Cormorant, Common Murre, Surf Scoters, Black Oystercatchers and some more Black Turnstones, with one boat finding a flock of Surfbirds. A pair of Western Grebes are a nice find and look incredibly elegant.

With time running out we start back towards Zeballos and both boats converge to watch the same Humpback Whale that again surfaces several times before doing a deeper dive and lifting its flukes. We pass more Sea Otters as we return and further Common Seals including a group hauled out on the rocks.

Back at base we enjoy a delicious soup and sandwich lunch before taking a short walk in the village, though given the warm sunny weather it is perhaps not too surprising we find no migrants. It is a very quiet walk with just a few White-crowned Sparrows, Steller's Jays, a couple of American Robin and a flock of Crossbills. We do get our best views of Blue-eyed Hawkers though and also a nice red 'darter' type dragonfly with yellow wings and red body with black below. This is later identified back home as Band-winged Meadowhawk. This has been split by some authorities into two species and if this taxonomy is followed then this would be Western Meadowhawk.

We have a short break then an early evening meal as we want to be able to stay out until dusk on our quest for North American Beaver at some small pools we know. At around 6.45pm we set off and arrive just over half an hour later, parking up and quietly climbing out of the vehicle. We are expecting to have a short wait but to our surprise there is a Beaver already out! It is swimming slowly along the far shore and then starts heading towards us and we stand in silence watching it get closer and closer. We are thrilled to get such close views though it does mean it is hidden behind the vegetation for some of the time and we have to wait for it to move into the gaps. It swims along the length of the pool then turns and starts back while a second one appears at the back and does the same. We watch them for ages as they swim around, people with the better cameras managing some great photos in the fading light.

Then as the light finally dies we head off back, driving slowly and looking for wildlife as we go. Back at the ranch there is chocolate cake and coffee, or beer if you prefer, and we sit and chat and laugh until a suitable time to head to bed - what a fabulous day it has been!

**Day 7:** We wake to rain as we gather for breakfast and it is still raining as we load up the vans and say our fond farewells to Cristina, before we head back up the dirt road towards the main road and our next destination. It seems very quiet for birds as we travel with the occasional Raven and Steller's Jay but little else.

We make a stop at Sayward Junction for a coffee and loos then continue on our way, arriving in Campbell River in time to eat our sandwiches looking out at the sea. A Bald Eagle flies across and lands on the jetty a little way away and while we eat we watch flocks of Rhinoceros Auklets going by as if they are on a river, yet it is all linked to the tides. The channel here is narrow and with the tidal race here is faster than almost anywhere else in the world! There are Red-necked and Western Grebes gliding past on the current and Roy picks out an Arctic Skua chasing a gull. It is joined by another and then a third before they peel off and flap stoically southwards. There



are lots of Common Murres passing too and several Common Loons plus lots of gulls including Bonaparte's Gulls.

We decide to have a look at the river and walk across to a viewing platform in the rain, spotting White-crowned Sparrow, Yellow Warbler and immature Golden-crowned Sparrows on the way. Out on the water we spot a few Green-winged Teal and are astonished to realise that what we initially think are porpoises are in fact the most enormous Salmon any of us have ever seen!! They are clearly large Chinooks as none of the other species grow that big. We walk further down towards the river mouth where there is a huge flock of gulls including mainly Glaucous-winged, California and Thayer's Gulls, a new species for us. There is a flock of American Wigeon here too and our first Harlequin Ducks, all juveniles or females. We are surprised to see a Mute Swan amongst the gulls and also find another Bald Eagle.

Given the weather we decide to have a coffee and head to a nearby Starbucks for a break. This goes down very well as does a visit to a First Nations shop nearby which has some very nice stuff indeed.

From here we head down the sea front further south and scan the sea from a shelter. There is a huge flock of Surf Scoters out in the bay and amongst them Roy picks out a few Black Scoter with large, yellow-knobbed bills. There are several Common Loons in varying plumages, including some breeding plumage birds very close to the shore. We find both Horned and Red-necked Grebes and on the shore Black Turnstones and Black-bellied Plovers with a lovely flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. Behind us a Turkey Vulture is sat in a tree looking very miserable in the rain and there is a Black-tailed Deer on the lawn of a hotel. A Common Seal swims by as we scan and we pick out more Harlequin Ducks including a couple of very smart males in breeding plumage. A flock of Common Mergansers chasing small fish in the shallows is entertaining to watch. Scanning through the Surf Scoters again we find a non-breeding plumage Pacific Loon then Julian picks up more nearby, including at least two still in breeding plumage, absolutely stunning birds!

We head to the hotel where we check in, meeting up later for a run through the checklist before our evening meal. The dining room looks out over the shore and channel between the town and Quadra Island and as we are sat enjoying our starter Marilyn suddenly says, "Bear!" and sure enough there, walking down the beach as bold as brass, is a big male Black Bear looking hugely impressive as it passes by, an astonishing finish to the day.

**Day 8:** The rain from yesterday keeps going right on into the morning and we gather for breakfast in pouring rain and no sign of a let up. We head down to the jetty where we meet up with Garry who is going to take us out on our Grizzly Bear quest and he tells us a bit about himself and introduces us to Bob, who will be skippering the other boat.

Soon we are on our way heading north and passing Quadra Island before heading in towards the inlet where we will be looking for bears. The scenery is hidden in cloud and many of us snooze for some of the journey.

After a couple of hours we are almost there and we arrive to a very nice welcome from the local First Nations people. They introduce themselves and one of our guides even sings a traditional welcome song for us, accompanied by a small hand held drum! Then it is into the buses and off to the platforms, where we scan the river and wait for bears.

It is still raining as we wait and we fill in time by looking at the birds there are here, a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, American Robins, Raven, Bald Eagles flying over and a couple of Common Sandpipers plus lots of gulls. It is a great opportunity, for those who are interested,

to compare several gull species in close up and we identify different ages of Mew, California, Ring-billed Glaucous-winged and a new one, American Herring Gull.

After what seems a long time we have still seen no bears and decide to have lunch, still keeping our eyes open as we enjoy sandwiches, cookies and wonderful donuts! We are a bit concerned that the water levels in the river have risen a lot with the rain and this may be the problem. We decide to try another spot and head down to a nice looking area of shingle on a large bend of the river. It looks perfect and we start scanning carefully when suddenly the radio springs to life with a message that there is a mother bear with two cubs, perhaps best viewed from the bridge. We get back in the bus and arrive to find mother Grizzly and cubs walking up the edge of the river towards us. She looks fabulous and we watch as she makes her way a little closer, pausing to peer into the water for salmon and at times providing great views as well as her two well grown young ones which look really cute! She walks into the water and comes back out with a huge fish in her mouth. It looks enormous and she carries it off into the trees, the cubs following her out of sight. We wait a few minutes and another message comes over the radio, there is a big male now showing well from the 'gazebo'!

Again we load up and head down there and sure enough there he is, up to his neck in water with a big fish in his mouth. He wades out of the water a little and starts eating the fish, stripping the skin off and really getting stuck in. It is fabulous to watch and once in a while he lifts his head and looks round, sometimes right at us. He is very impressive and we watch him until he clambers over a huge log and drops into the water the other side. By walking down the bank a little way we can get good views again and we head to the platform where we can see him well though more distantly. More photos are taken before he suddenly gets up and wanders into the bushes and is gone, it has been fabulous!

We spend some time waiting in the hope either he or another may appear but with no luck. At least three more Bald Eagles flying over but eventually we run out of time and head back to the base, where we get a coffee and walk down to the boats for the journey back.

The weather has improved considerably now and the scenery looks fantastic with wisps of clouds around the peaks and amongst the trees and even a few sunny patches! We pass through a very nasty storm with heavy rain and even lightning, then come out the other side into nice weather again. We find a few birds as we travel back including Arctic Skua, Rhinoceros Auklet, Marbled Murrelet, Bonaparte's Gulls, Pelagic Cormorants, Common Murre and yet more Bald Eagles.

We then hear on the radio that there is a group of Pacific White-sided Dolphins up ahead! This sounds good so we make haste towards the spot and soon can see them up ahead around a small collection of boats. As we arrive we realise they are scattered over quite a large area, some bow-riding a large fishing vessel, others simply swimming in small groups here and there and another group wake riding a smaller boat. They are racing around and we travel alongside for a while and get some great photo opportunities as they surface close by. Suddenly a small group of them start wake riding behind one of our boats which is a wonderful treat, with one animal even leaping right out of the water. Time is racing away and we are already late, so after a little while we leave them and head back to the jetty where we disembark and head back to the hotel delighted with the day's sightings.

**Day 9:** After a leisurely breakfast we take a little look round the grounds of the hotel, as we have seen migrants here before and we hope the poor weather may result in a fall. It is, however, very quiet and we find just a few American Robins so quickly give up on that idea and head to the mountains.

The mountain road goes up and up and up, until we eventually reach the car park where we take a walk round a very beautiful trail with flower meadows and scattered tall conifer trees of varying sorts - spruces, pines, hemlocks, cedars and firs of various species. We get quite into identifying some of the plants despite many of them being over flower but in flower there are Pearly Everlasting, King Gentian, Leafy Aster, Pink Mountain Heath and even a couple of orchids, White Bog Orchid and Green Bog Orchid. We find Bunchberry with bunches of berries and plenty of other species over flower like False Heliborine, various berry bearing bushes, burnets and more.

At first the birds seem very significant by their absence but after a while we find Dark-eyed Junco, Red-breasted Nuthatch then a flock of American Robins. As we look through the Robins we also find a Red-breasted Sapsucker that shows very well indeed and a Steller's Jay but as more Robins fly through landing in the tree tops we start to hope for a Varied Thrush amongst them. We check every one and suddenly there it is, a Varied Thrush! This is a gorgeous bird and we want a good view but it flies and we spend several minutes trying to relocate it or find another. Then bingo, one perched in full view in one of the tree tops which we all get to enjoy through the scope, fantastic. Shortly we find another and at one point there are three in one of the dead trees. We are thrilled and when they finally fly off we continue on our way feeling like we have got the best bird on the hill!

We walk slowly on round the rest of the walk and as we get close to the car park a Gray Jay appears, then another and another and suddenly we are surrounded with Gray Jays! They have a reputation for being very tame and coming for food and we have brought some berry muffins with us and break them up, holding small pieces in our fingers so the Jays fly in and pick at it. What a wonderful experience having such a lovely bird on your hand, feeding so happily without any sign of nervousness at all. They are lovely birds and take turns coming for the food and hopping round our feet. We also notice a Dark-eyed Junco feeding on the path nearby, get stunning close up views of Steller's Jay and a flock of Sandhill Cranes fly over high above our heads, a lovely sight.

And the experience continues. After feeding them a bit here and taking lots of photos they follow us to the car park, where we sit at the picnic table to have lunch and they come in for more food there too! They are just delightful and they are not the only highlight of lunchtime either as both a Varied Thrush and a stunning Red-breasted Sapsucker perch in a tree top nearby providing scope filling views!

Once we have finished eating we set off back down the mountain and travel next to a spot on the coast, where we park up and walk through the trees to scan the sea. At first it looks very quiet then we start spotting more and more birds out there - Common Loons, a lovely flock of male Harlequin Ducks, a flock of Surf Scoters, Red-necked Grebes, American Wigeon, then four White-winged Scoters fly by with a female Long-tailed Duck which is a big surprise. On the shingle there are lots of Black-bellied Plovers and Black Turnstones and we walk down the beach scanning along the shore in search of more waders, eventually Carol finding a nice Western Sandpiper. A Bald Eagle flies up off the beach and then a small flock of Scaup fly by.

At the far end of the beach we walk into the trees a little way and check an area beside a small creek and quickly spot a Northern Flicker in a large dead tree here. We are looking at this bird through the scope when a Pileated Woodpecker flies and lands just above it! Astonishing and we only have to move the scope a touch to get brilliant views of this spectacular woodpecker. Even more amazing, a Hairy Woodpecker also flies in so we have three species of woodpecker in view at the same time.

We walk back to the vans and with a little time to play with decide to try Oyster River. The path leads down through the trees and we pause to admire a rather green Banana Slug with

dark blotches, perhaps one that is not quite ripe yet! The woodland seems remarkably quiet and we arrive at the river mouth to find two Greater Yellowlegs, a big flock of American Wigeon out on the sea with a few Green-winged Teal amongst them, a flock of Common Merganser and lots of Harlequin Ducks including some beautiful males. There is a big flock of gulls on the shingle spit with quite a few Thayer's Gulls amongst them looking very clean and beautiful. There are a couple of Common Loons offshore and we watch a Belted Kingfisher hovering over the river. A flock of Pintail fly across and before we go a mixed flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets and Chestnut-backed Chickadees work their way through the tree tops.

The day is over and we head back to the hotel where, after a break, we gather in the restaurant for our evening meal but a glance out of the windows provides a big surprise when we spot a River Otter swimming by, a real bonus to finish the day.

**Day 10:** Today we are travelling to Tofino and after breakfast we load up and get on our way as we have some stops we want to include enroute. Our first is at a bay on the coast around 40 minutes into our journey, a spot which is very reliable as a site for California Sea Lions. Even before we are out of the vans we can hear they are here, their loud honking noises filling the air. We walk to the end of the jetty to enjoy them up close as they are mainly resting up on some large booms a little off the jetty and it is hugely entertaining watching them as they nuzzle at each other and some sleep resting their heads on top of each other's bodies. They are very big with strange shaped heads and presumably all males.

But they are not the only wildlife interest here. There are Common Seals here too on another boom nearby and quite a few scoter out on the water, including a couple of small flocks of Surf Scoters and a larger more distant flock of White-winged Scoters. There are few closer birds too and through the scope you can easily see the white below the eye on the males and the bill markings. There are a couple of Horned and Red-necked Grebes and a few Bonaparte's Gulls, while on the jetty nearby are several Black Turnstones. Checking behind us Roy finds American Robin and a very dark Merlin perched in the tree tops.

Well pleased with what we have seen we move on and the scenery is becoming more and more beautiful, with the sunshine now coming through and the clouds breaking up. Wisps of cloud are hanging in the trees and we enjoy watching the scenery go by as we continue south, before turning inland making our next stop at the famous Cathedral Grove. This place is famous for some very impressive trees, some over 800 years old and very tall indeed. The trail leads us round to the biggest, a Douglas Fir that is 76m tall! We walk round the trail taking in the various information boards and it really does look beautiful with the sun shafting through to the mossy branches and ferny forest floor.

We move on next to a park nearby, where there is a waterfall renowned for leaping salmon and drive down to the car park and associated picnic tables, where we enjoy our lunch by the river. The water levels look very high and there seems to be nowhere for a dipper to sit, a species we often see here. As we eat, a small Deer Mouse wanders out of the vegetation almost by our feet looking rather dodderly and tipping over as it walks. It does not look very well at all and Julian kindly breaks up some of his cookie to see if it wants to eat. It happily tucks into the meal and so we provide a large portion so it can feed up and just hope that this might get it through.

We now walk down the river to the waterfall and the fish-pass, the falls looking more like a spectacular torrent than a waterfall this year. Peering down through the grills above each section of the fish pass we are impressed to see huge Chinook Salmon below us. Walking round to the waterfall we look down into a small bay on the other side of the river and there is a mass of huge salmon swirling round together. This bay has often had quite a few fish in the

past but nothing like this, it looks almost solid fish! They are very impressive and as we watch we notice fish are also in the white water torrent that is normally a waterfall trying to make their way up in what look like impossible conditions. They seem to be making progress and we are seriously impressed. A little further downstream the water flattens out and here amongst the swirls and eddies are hundreds more fish, some very big indeed and the whole scene is astonishing. To our great surprise we also spot a second Deer Mouse! This one looks much healthier and is running around amongst the ferns by the side of the path.

Back at the vans we get on our way again and head to the hotel, a good two hours or more away arriving in lovely sunshine at around 5pm providing plenty of time for a freshen up and even short walk for those who want to before our evening meal - which is just delicious!

**Day 11:** We gather at the vans at 7.15am for a pre-breakfast outing and while waiting for the last people to arrive a Common Nighthawk flies past! Wow, a very good bird and Julian is clearly delighted as he races round the car park arms out-stretched in celebration much to everyone's great entertainment.

We soon arrive at the coast with a few Crossbills in the trees at the car park then walk down to the beach, where we are surprised to find no waders! Usually this is one of our best sites for shorebirds but today there appears to be none at all. Looking out to sea there are a few birds dotted about in the water - Surf and White-winged Scoters, Red-necked and Western Grebes, Common Loon and Pelagic Cormorant. The beach seems to be empty but on the rocks are a few Savannah Sparrows and we find a couple of Black Oystercatchers.

We head back for breakfast then make the short drive to Tofino from where we are taking our whale watching boat trip. We get suited up in our float suits - wonderfully comfortable and warm and designed to keep you that way plus keep you afloat if anything did ever go wrong. Then we walk down the jetty where we meet Howie and board our little boat, a Boston Whaler, perfect for this outing.

We head out into the sound, towards some islands, and pausing when we see anything of interest. We soon find our first Heermann's Gull, a smart dark bird with bright red bill. We pass Common Murres, a remarkably tame Rhinoceros Auklet, Red-necked Grebes and on the rocky islands both Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants. There are Common Seals on the rocks too and then we are pleased to discover a Sea Otter amongst the kelp. We don't normally get close views of this species on this boat trip but on this occasion this animal is remarkably tame and allows a very good view.

We check out a few islands as we go, each with a few cormorants and some with seals and Black Oystercatchers. We find more Sea Otters, some of which are very shy but one is very tame like the first one. There are more Heermann's Gulls, with sometimes three or four together then we are pleased to find our first Pigeon Guillemots. We pause at an island with lots of Common Seals then head across to a rocky island with a big group of Steller's Sea Lions on it! They look big and some of the bigger males are very impressive indeed, including one that poses with head held high right on top of the island as though he is king of the castle!

The sea is quite choppy but there is also quite a swell and this is beginning to get to a few people, so we turn back towards the smoother water further in. Round the back of one of the islands Howie has been seeing a couple of Gray Whales recently and as we approach we soon spot a blow up ahead. He approaches very slowly and while still some way away cuts his engines. We then sit for ages watching these leviathans as they surface, generally taking several breaths before arching their backs and vanishing beneath the surface for a few minutes. At first we think there are just two then realise there are actually three whales here. We are all startled when suddenly one surfaces right by the boat with a loud blow! A second also

comes up very nearby and we are thrilled by incredible close up views as it rests at the surface, the markings on its back like patches of lichen on a tree. After the blow the back comes into view and sometimes it rests like that with the back arched slight up out of the water, then the tail stock appears as it starts to dive, with what are almost like knuckles along its length and finally the flukes that sometimes come to the surface though are not lifted. The overall length is enormous! Each has distinctive markings and scratches and we are just delighted that we get to spend so long just taking in these wonderful animals before we finally leave them be and head for home.

The water is much calmer here and we speed along, enjoying the ride through this stunning scenery, making a brief stop to admire a Bald Eagle and then enjoy a huge flock of Surf and White-winged Scoters. We spot another whale in the distance as we travel back and also a Marbled Murrelet. Then we arrive back in Tofino where we thank Howie profusely for a great trip.

After returning the float suits we have lunch the other side of the road at some picnic tables then have a little time for a look round the shops, before we drive down the coast to take a walk in some beautiful primary temperate rainforest.

Walking down through the forest we stop shortly for Roy to point out some of the features of this beautiful habitat, the trees include huge Western Red Cedars, some with classic candelabra branches. There are Western Hemlocks and Sitka Spruce and berry bushes including Salal, Salmonberry, Red Huckleberry and Thimbleberry. He also talks about the links between Black Bears, Salmonberry and Rufous Hummingbirds and the astonishing fact that Marbled Murrelets nest high in these trees! The habitat is so beautiful it is worth seeing for its own right despite the rather poor sightings of any birds.

Walking on we stop to admire Banana Slugs, including some superbly marked yellow and black beasts that get Julian very excited! On the shore we scan the beach again finding no waders but there is a Great Blue Heron, various gulls and best of all a superb Osprey perched in the trees spotted by David and a second bird flies over, circling right above our heads. The scenery is beautiful and we simply take time to enjoy the spot before eventually taking the trail back to the vans and heading for home.

**Day 12:** We enjoy a leisurely breakfast before loading up the vans for our journey back to Delta. It is a fair drive but we do have enough time to spend a little while at a spot looking out over the sea before we leave the coast. From here we get a great view down the famous Long Beach with all its logs piled up at the top of the beach.

We scan the sea finding a few Surf Scoters and one or two White-winged too plus Common and Red-throated Loons further out. On the rocks we find quite a few Black Oystercatchers and Black Turnstones plus a Pelagic Cormorant and lots of Savannah Sparrows but the biggest surprise is a Hudsonian Whimbrel that flies in.

Gill suddenly announces that she has a whale! When a wave breaks over the dark back she then loses a little confidence and wonders if it might just be a rock - after all, it is very close to the shore and seems too close for a whale. But then it vanishes and shortly reappears a bit to the right with a blow as it surfaces - well rocks just don't do that!! We are thrilled to find ourselves watching another Gray Whale and looking great so close to the shore. Seconds later a second one appears beside it and there is another further out and a distant one too so we think there are four altogether but the closest ones are wonderful and we watch them surface again and again.

A few people manage a quick look round the interpretive centre and the shop before we drag ourselves away, spotting Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets as we go but we have a long drive and need to get some miles behind us

We make a stop at Coombs to see the famous 'Goats-on-the-roof' and have lunch here before continuing our journey, arriving at the ferry in good time and heading up to the top deck once we are on board. On this vessel there is a big glass front so that you can sit and watch through and we scan the sea as we go, soon spotting Red-throated Loon and then six Pacific Loons in two groups. We watch an Arctic Skua harrying a young gull but there is little else for the rest of the crossing.

Back in port we head to the hotel where we settle in again before meeting up for our evening meal. It is very busy but we are seriously impressed by our waitress, who does a great job sorting everything while she is catering for several other tables at the same time! After our meal we head back to the hotel where we run through the checklist then do our traditional round up of the trip in which each member of the group chooses a couple of favourite species, a favourite place and a 'Magic Moment.'

It is so hard to choose!!! There have been so many wonderful species and so many great places how do you get it down to just two species and one place? Between us sixteen species are chosen including birds like Marbled Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Steller's Jay, Bald Eagle and more. Mammals getting a mention include Orcas, Gray Whale and Humpback Whale, Grizzly Bear and Sea Otters and some of these score more than one vote obviously! Perhaps because the votes are all so spread out it is interesting that it is not a mammal that scores the highest number of votes but a bird - the impressive Pileated Woodpecker that perched out in full view allowing us such great scope views.

Even place of the trip results in a list of seven places but there is one clear winner here with six votes - which is Clayoquot Sound, largely for its stunning scenery. This place also provided a magic moment for some people in the form of the Gray Whales and the whale-rainbow and following facewash in the spray! Sea Otters also scored, as did the two Humpback Whales swimming in unison and one person voted for Julian running round the car park in excitement after the American Nighthawk sighting. But by far the largest number of votes was for that fabulous breaching Humpback Whale - eight votes - and wow what a special moment that was indeed. One thing we are all agreed on is that it has been a wonderful trip with lots of highlights and thanks are made to Roy and Julian for making it all run so smoothly. It has been a great trip with lots of laughs too and thanks to everyone for making it such fun.

**Day 13:** Today we fly back to London but not until the evening, which leaves us with plenty of time to enjoy a whole morning's birding! Despite having been at the beginning of the holiday we decide that Reifel Island is still our best chance of finding a few new species, so after breakfast we drive out to the reserve pausing enroute to look at Brewer's Blackbirds in with the starlings by the bridge over to Westham Island. So, one new bird already! A little further on is a flock of Canada Geese and amongst them a few White-fronted Geese too - the subspecies most likely here being known as Pacific White-fronted Goose which breeds in Alaska.

As we approach the reserve we find more Canada Geese in the main channel and decide to check them out as we have found Lesser Canada Geese here in the past but we are thrilled when Max suddenly says, "Raccoons!" Sure enough on the bank behind the geese is a family of Raccoons, a mother with three well grown young ones. They look absolutely delightful as they work their way along the bank, at times dropping to the water's edge where they appear to be feeling the bottom of the channel with their feet in search of something in the mud - who knows what! At times all four are almost cuddled up together and look sooo cute!

And to make the moment even better a Lesser Canada Goose comes swimming by as well, a really tiny bird looking hardly bigger than the Mallards nearby!

Well pleased with this start we drive to the car park and discover there are still Anna's Hummingbirds around the feeders. Walking into the reserve we add Gadwall to the list and find several Golden-crowned Sparrows, Hooded Merganser, Song Sparrow, Great Blue Herons and the usual ducks. We take the track along the east side and find several Spotted Towhees, Song Sparrows, a Lincoln's Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch (Don is pleased as at last he connects with this species) and we are surrounded by Black-capped Chickadees! They are coming over and almost landing on us as this is where a lot of people feed them, so a quick check through the bags and we find a bit of something we can give them and soon Jane and Gill have Chickadees feeding from their hands! There are Eastern Grey Squirrels here too including one that almost black!

We walk on finding Wood Ducks, more Spotted Towhees, Savannah Sparrows, Golden-crowned Kinglet and plenty more sparrows of various kinds including Dark-eyed Junco, then have a search for a Great Horned Owl. We are told it is in an alder and we soon locate it, looking great if a little sleepy through the scopes. There are a couple of Yellow-rumped Warblers here and several Red-winged Blackbirds and American Robins.

We walk round towards the wader pool and over the saltmarsh spot several Northern Harriers and a couple of flying Wilson's Snipe. A Marsh Wren is singing from the cats-tails so we try playing a little of the song and get a good response with the bird appearing quite quickly and coming very close.

On the main pool are plenty of Shoveler and Green-winged Teal, Pintail and a couple more Gadwall plus a nice flock of Long-billed Dowitchers. We get a brief view of a Pectoral Sandpiper and find a small flock of Least Sandpipers. A Peregrine flies overhead and we spot a brief Sharp-shinned Hawk as we walk to the next pool, where we find more Long-billed Dowitchers then as we make our way back towards the centre we are surprised to find a Pectoral Sandpiper on a floating log!

Back at the car park the hummingbird is still showing well and some folk have seen a Merlin. Then as we drive back to the hotel we spot another Merlin and a Red-tailed Hawk over the fields. It has been an excellent morning with several new birds but it suddenly feels like the holiday is at an end as we have time to pack, freshen up and have lunch before our drive to the airport and our flight home.



## 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  
Great Blue Heron  
Mute Swan  
Canada Goose  
Lesser Canada Goose  
White-fronted Goose  
Wood Duck  
American Wigeon  
Gadwall  
Green-winged Teal  
Mallard  
Northern Pintail  
Northern Shoveler  
Greater Scaup  
Harlequin Duck  
White-winged Scoter  
Surf Scoter  
Black Scoter  
Barrow's Goldeneye  
Common Goldeneye  
Common Merganser  
Hooded Merganser  
Long-tailed Duck  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon  
American Kestrel  
American Coot  
Sandhill Crane  
Black Oystercatcher  
Black-bellied Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Killdeer  
Long-billed Dowitcher  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Spotted Sandpiper

Hudsonian Whimbrel  
Marbled Godwit  
Black Turnstone  
Surfbird  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
Wilson's Snipe  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Arctic Skua  
Heermann's Gull  
Mew Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
California Gull  
Glaucous-winged Gull  
American Herring Gull  
Thayer's Gull  
Kittiwake  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Common Murre  
Pigeon Guillemot  
Marbled Murrelet  
Cassin's Auklet  
Rhinoceros Auklet  
Feral Pigeon  
Band-tailed Pigeon  
Collared Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Great Horned Owl  
Common Nighthawk  
Vaux's Swift  
Anna's Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Northern Flicker  
Red-breasted Sapsucker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Pacific -slope Flycatcher  
Hutton's Vireo  
Steller's Jay  
Gray Jay  
Northwestern Crow  
Raven  
Barn Swallow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Bushtit  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Pacific Wren  
Marsh Wren  
American Dipper

Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
American Robin  
Varied Thrush  
Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
American Pipit  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
Yellow-rumped warbler  
Spotted Towhee  
Savannah Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Golden-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brewer's Blackbird  
Red Crossbill  
House Finch  
Purple Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

### **Mammals**

Black Bear  
Grizzly Bear  
Coyote  
Northern Raccoon  
Sea Otter  
River Otter  
Steller's Sea Lion  
California Sea Lion  
Harbour Seal  
Gray Whale  
Humpback Whale  
Killer Whale  
Pacific White-sided Dolphin  
Dall's Porpoise  
Harbour Porpoise  
North American Beaver  
Eastern Cottontail  
American Red Squirrel  
Eastern Grey Squirrel  
Deer Mouse  
Black-tailed Deer

### **Other things**

Chinook Salmon  
Chum Salmon  
Coho Salmon  
Red-eared Slider  
Snail-eating Beetle  
Band-winged Grasshopper  
Plumose (Fringed) Anemone  
Giant Green Anemone  
Ochre Sea Star  
Mottle Sea Star  
Lion's Mane Jellyfish  
Moon Jellyfish  
Many-rayed Hydromedusa  
Hooded Nudibranch  
various crabs  
Banana Slug  
Blue-eyed Damer  
Green Damer  
Shadow Damer?  
Eight-spotted Skimmer  
Western Meadowhawk  
Cabbage White  
Red Admiral  
Lorquin's Admiral  
Pine White  
Hydaspe Fritillary  
Woodland Skipper  
Comma Sp