

Birding Western Washington State



The Olympic Peninsula, Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park, Westport Seabirds Pelagic Cruise, Cape Flattery, Neah Bay, Ruby Beach, Whale/Bird Watching in the San Juan Islands with Shep Thorp as our expert guide.

August 9th – 18th, 2024

Day 1 – Tampa to Seattle: Arriving by 2:00pm PST, traveling to our hotel in Port Townsend, WA. Ferry Boat ride from Seattle to Bainbridge Island. Welcomed by Glaucous-winged Gulls and Pigeon Guillemots. Fort Worden State Park if time allows for some evening birding.

Day 2 – San Juan Islands Whale/Bird Watching Day Tour: “Guaranteed whales by PSE with a two-hour stop for lunch at Friday Harbor on San Juan Island”. Shep will be calling out the birds as we cruise along. Possible whale/bird sightings Orca, Humpback, Gray, and Minke as well as Rhinoceros Auklet, Tufted Puffin, Pigeon Guillemot, Common Murre, Marbled and Ancient Murrelets, Brandt, Double-crested, and Pelagic Cormorants, Glaucous-winged and Western Gulls, Surf, Black and White-winged Scoters and more.



Orca Whales – Mother & child



Rhinoceros Auklets



Tufted Puffin

Day 3 – John Wayne Marina on Sequim Bay: We'll whet our birding appetite by heading out with Shep to explore the shores of the cliffs along the coast of the Dungeness Bay and Strait of Juan de Fuca for Black Oystercatcher, California and Heermann's Gull, California Quail, American Wigeon, Hooded Mergansers, Common Raven, and Band-tailed Pigeon,

Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park: We'll check out the feeders and the river for American Dippers, and Red-breasted Mergansers. Then a walk on the railroad trail for Spotted Towhees, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, California Quail, Western Tanagers, Black-throated Gray and Townsend's Warbler, Hutton's Vireo, Western Flycatcher, Pacific and Bewick's Wren. Rufous and Anna's Hummingbirds, Barn Swallows, Common Ravens, Band-tailed Pigeons, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets and Bushtits.



American Dipper

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area, Dungeness Spit and Bay: Possible California Quail, Mourning and Eurasian Collared-Doves, Cedar Waxwings and Barred Owls. Songbirds include warblers, vireos, flycatchers, wrens, chickadees, finches, and sparrows. From the bluffs: loons, grebes, cormorants, alcids, and gulls. Offshore Marbled Murrelets, Western Grebe, Common Loon, Rhinoceros Auklets and others.

Ediz Hook and Port Angeles Harbor: Rhinoceros Auklets and gulls in the harbor. Possible views of Barrow's Goldeneye and Harlequin Ducks. Search logs in harbor for gulls, Brandt, Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants, and on the hook look for sparrows, shorebirds, including plovers, and peeps. Possible Black Turnstones, Surfbirds, Wandering Tattlers, Thayer's, and Glaucous Gulls. Offshore in the strait look for Long-tailed Ducks, scoters, grebes, loons, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled and Ancient Murrelets, and phalaropes.



Sooty Grouse



Glaucous-winged Gull



Harlequin Duck



Steller's Jay

Day 4 – Olympic National Park's Hurricane Ridge: On the ridge watch for Black and Vaux's Swifts, Sooty Grouse, Common Raven, Steller's and Canada Jays, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, Varied Thrush and Townsend's Solitaire, as

well as Violet-green Swallow. Watch for Golden Eagles along the mountain ridges, as well as Clark's Nutcrackers and Oregon variety of Dark-eyed Junco.

Day 5 & 6 – Neah Bay and Cape Flattery: From Cape Flattery, view nesting Common Murres and Tufted Puffins on Tatoosh Island. Other possible alcids include Marbled and Ancient Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets. Watch for Black Oystercatchers on shore and Black Swifts overhead. Orange crowned Warbler, Western and Clark's Grebe, Ruffed Grouse. Migrant Trap due to geographical location. Many rarities show up in Neah Bay in Autumn. Cape Flattery is the western most point in the contiguous United States and it is beautiful!

Day 7 – Westport Seabirds - Pelagic Trip

(optional): 2023 July/August highlights - Black-footed Albatross, Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Red-necked Phalarope, South Polar Skua, Scripp's Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Red Phalarope, Long-tailed Jaeger and Flesh-footed Shearwater, Tufted Puffin. For those who would rather take the day off to read, walk the beach, visit the lighthouse or maritime museum, bird the beach and marina or take a nap...you are welcome to partake. The pelagic birders will join us for dinner.



Black-footed Albatross

Day 8 – Capital Forest: Capitol State Forest is a beautiful recreation destination just a short drive from Olympia. Venture into the 110,000 acre forest for Mountain Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling and Hutton's Vireo, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pacific Wren, Varied Thrush, Evening and Black-headed Grosbeak, MacGillivray's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Olive-sided and Hammond's Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Spotted Towhee, Sooty Grouse, Cedar Waxwing and Red Crossbill.



Red-breasted Sapsucker



Wilson's Warbler



Black-headed Grosbeak

Day 9 - Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge: While most major estuaries in the state have been filled, dredged, or developed, Nisqually River's has been set aside for wildlife. In 1974, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the delta and its diversity of fish and wildlife habitats. The Nisqually estuary was restored in 2009 by removing dikes and reconnecting 762 acres with the tides of Puget Sound. This is the largest estuary restoration in the Pacific Northwest and an important step in the recovery of Puget Sound. Salt marshes serve as resting and feeding habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl. Deciduous woodlands host numerous songbirds and raptors and feeding Cackling and Canada Geese, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Common Mergansers, American Wigeon, the occasional Eurasian Wigeon and American Bittern, Tree, Barn, Violet-green and Cliff Swallows, Western Wood-pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and Brown Creeper.



Day 9 – Afternoon: We'll head back to Seattle, get an earlyish dinner, and check into the hotel for our last night. **We will return the SUV's and make reservations with the hotel's Airport Shuttle.**

Day 10 – Head home to Tampa Bay.

Expert Guide Shep Thorp: Shep is originally from Philadelphia. Attended Germantown Friends School where he was exposed to bird banding in elementary school. His mother nurtured his interest in birding at a young age by taking him on bird walks to local parks and trips to Hawk Mountain and Brigantine. His trigger bird was the Common Yellow-throat.

Shep attended Kenyon College in Ohio, where he met his wife Kris. He got his Veterinary degree at University of Pennsylvania in 1992. After graduation Shep and Kris moved to Washington State, where they settled to raise their family of three children, Oscar, Mallory, Emma and many pets.

Shep is a graduate of the Master Birder Program of Seattle Audubon and has been leading walks at Billy Frank Jr Nisqually NWR since 2008. A member of the Washington Ornithological Society, he has been leading walks in Washington since 2010. Shep enjoys sharing sightings in the field and learning about bird's habitats and behavior.

Tour cost: 10 persons - \$2,200 per person double room and \$2,700 single room. The cost of this trip is based on a minimum group size of 10 participants.

Cost Includes: All transportation while in Washington (SUV's/gas), hotel fares (double occupancy rate, single occupancy available at an addition cost), ferry, Puget Sound Express, Westport Seabirds Pelagic trip and park fees. Also, expert guide service throughout our trip. Accommodations will be in most cases queen or king beds. We select good quality hotels convenient to our birding and tour destinations. For those wishing to have a single room the cost is \$2,700.

Cost Does Not Include: airfare, and meals. **You must arrive in Seattle by 2:00pm on the 9th please.** There are several nonstop flights available, if desired. I'll happily share my outgoing flight information with you. If you were to arrive late you may be able to take the Rocket Shuttle making several trips per day to Port Townsend at your cost.

Registration: This trip is strictly limited to a maximum of 12 participants, including guide and coordinator. A deposit of \$1,000 when making your reservation is required to confirm your space. **Please let me know when making your reservation if you plan on taking the Westport Pelagic boat trip or not please.** Reservations are taken on a first come first serve basis with priority given to the date received.

Payment balance: \$1,700 single and \$1,200 double rooms (balance after deposit) is due no later than **May 1st please.**

Please contact me ASAP if interested: Dale Goebel (727) 510-1462 or sheirah11@verizon.net. You may send a check made out to CAS or Clearwater Audubon Society. Send all payment communication to me and send checks to my address 1617 Hamilton Ct. Dunedin 34698.

