

Washington Olympic Peninsula Birding & Nature Species List | May 6 – 13, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guides Greg Butcher and Steve Grace. Our clients included Annie, David, Jean, Joan, Jonathan, Lucas, and Shirley

We all met on Monday morning May 6 at SeaTac Airport and went immediately to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, where we enjoyed the only rain of the trip (and it was on and off). We started our second day at Dungeness Spit National Wildlife Refuge. We ended our day at windy Three Crabs. We started Day 3 on Bob Boekelheide's weekly walk at Dungeness River Nature Center. In the afternoon, we had a wonderful drive up to Hurricane Ridge. We finished the day at Ediz Hook. The next day we made a number of stops along the northern shore on our way to Cape Flattery and Tatoosh Island. We stayed 3 nights at Kalaloch Lodge and had great luck at the beach below the lodge. On Day 6, we drove to Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, primarily for shorebirds on the rising tide. We enjoyed our last afternoon in Steve's backyard. On the morning of departure, we crossed Puget Sound on the Seattle ferry and visited Kent Ponds near the airport.

BIRDS

The eBird link below details the 145 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen or heard and how many.

[Washington Olympic Peninsula Birding & Nature | May 6-13, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

Family or Species Common Name: *Scientific Name*

MAMMALS

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*—We had a cottontail on the first day at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

Townsend's Chipmunk *Neotamias townsendi*—We saw this species on the third and fourth days of the trip. It is pretty large for a chipmunk, but has typical chipmunk striping.

Douglas' Squirrel *Tamiasciurus douglasii*— We saw this species many times, including in Steve's backyard. It is closely related to the Eastern Red Squirrel.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* or **Columbia Black-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus columbianus* — We saw many deer, all of this Pacific Northwest race/subspecies of the widespread Mule Deer.

Elk *Cervus canadensis*— We found a big herd of elk while driving around near Sequim on our second day.

Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris* – We had good looks at a sea otter close to shore en route to Cape Flattery.

North American River Otter *Lontra canadensis*— We scored an otter double on Day 7 with a river otter close to shore at Fort Worden State Park.

Coyote *Canis latrans*— The coyote wasn't particularly close, but most of us got good looks at Grays Harbor NWR (also known as Bowerman Basin).

Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina*— We saw the small harbor seals on many days.

Harbor Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* – Several of us saw the back fins of harbor porpoises as they swam in front of the Bainbridge Island to Seattle ferry.

California Sea Lion *Zalophus californianus*— We had a California sea lion at Ediz Hook one afternoon.

Steller Sea Lion *Eumetopias jubatus*—We saw several Steller sea lions, including one huge individual hauled out close to shore at Ediz Hook. Steller sea lions can be 11 feet long, whereas California sea lions max out at 7 feet.