

Samish Flats & Fir Island

January 29, 2013

Since there were only 4 of us brave enough to face the weather for the day we decided not to go to Guemes Island, but instead to enjoy the winter birds on the flats. The first good sighting of the day was the sighting of 240+ Tundra Swans- yes that is Tundra not Trumpeter Swans. We saw huge numbers of Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. Also we were finding larger numbers of Eurasian Wigeons. Seemed to find 2-3 in several flocks. One of the last sightings of the day was watching the Snow Geese on Fir Island with an Eagle flying over and causing all the geese to fly up.

53 species (approx. qty.)

Attendees: Mike, Carlos, Wilma and Virginia

CHECKLIST:

WATERFOWL: Snow Goose (30,046), Canada Goose (2), Trumpeter Swan (350), Tundra Swan (246), Eurasian Wigeon (46), American Wigeon (4,100), Mallard (1,212), Northern Shoveler (28), Northern Pintail (244), Green-winged Teal (60), Greater Scaup (2), White-winged Scoter (1), Long-tailed Duck (2), Bufflehead (1), Common Goldeneye (1), Hooded Merganser (2), Red-breasted Merganser (4)

LOONS, GREBES: Common Loon (12), Horned Grebe (1)

PELICANS, HERONS, IBIS: Double-crested Cormorant (1), Great Blue Heron (5)

RAPTORS: Bald Eagle (122), Northern Harrier (20), Cooper's Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (7), Rough-legged Hawk (35), American Kestrel (1), Peregrine Falcon (2)

SHOREBIRDS: Dunlin (50)

GULLS: Mew (150), Ring-billed (25), Glaucous-winged (2)

DOVES, PIGEONS: Mourning Dove (10)

OWLS: Short-eared Owl (2)

KINGFISHER: Belted Kingfisher (2)

WOODPECKERS: Northern Flicker (4)

CORVIDS: American Crow (8), Common Raven (10)

CHICKADEES, BUSHTIT: Black-capped (6)

NUTHATCHES, CREEPER: Red-breasted (4)

THRUSHES: American Robin (47), Varied Thrush (3)

STARLING: European Starling (200)

SPARROW, TANAGERS: Spotted Towhee (7), Fox Sparrow (3), Song Sparrow (12), White-crowned Sparrow (15), Golden-crowned Sparrow (10), Dark-eyed Junco (2)

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES: Red-winged Blackbird (35), Western Meadowlark (13), Brewer's Blackbird (6)

FINCHES, WEAVER FINCH: Pine Siskin (25)