

# **Bird Walk at Edmonds Waterfront**

March 4, 2023

By Douglas Resnick

## **Birding in the rain!**

Our outing began in the parking lot of Marina Beach Park in Edmonds on a rainy, windy morning. Birding in the waterfront area as a whole is usually easy, because there is little change in elevation, and a large part of the route is a developed walkway. Early March weather made birding more of a challenge, so that the group's size gradually dwindled, leaving just two of us at the end.

Marina Beach Park was the first of 5 eBird hotspots on our route. Some of the species observed here occurred again at several of the later spots: Common Goldeneye, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Glaucous-winged Gull, Pelagic Cormorant, and Double-crested Cormorant. Most notable at our first spot were Brant, Black Turnstone, and Bald Eagle. The Brant were very cooperative, coming up to the shoreline. There were crows, too, which seemed to like the parking area in particular; 25 American Crow were counted there.

The second spot was Edmonds Marina. Here we observed Common Merganser and Red-breasted Merganser on the water. We also noticed a Belted Kingfisher, which was sitting, mostly with its back to us, on a wooden structure on the far side of the water in the marina. In addition, we found a pair of Canada Goose, standing below the light at the end of the breakwater.

The third spot was the Edmonds Public Fishing Pier. Here we observed Pigeon Guillemot and Surf Scoter. Also, we had a chance to see a Pelagic Cormorant and a Double-crested Cormorant in proximity to one another. It was a good opportunity to note the Pelagic's white patches on the back, red at the base of the bill, and greenish neck. It was after that observation that increased wind blew away all but two of our company.

The fourth spot was Edmonds Waterfront, as labeled in eBird. This area is just south of the ferry dock and includes a garden-like part near the street. Here our list included Bufflehead, Rock Pigeon, White-crowned Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee.

The fifth spot was Brackett's landing. This area is just north of the ferry dock and includes a spit, as well as the northernmost portion of the shoreline, whose accessibility varies with the tide. Many more Bufflehead were here. Also, there was a gull of indeterminate species; it had pink legs and both red and black spots on its bill.

We two walked back to the parking area on the sidewalk, a more direct route than sticking close to the shoreline. The checklists for the 5 spots included 23 species and other taxa.