

Bird Walks at Howarth and Narbeck

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Our group of birders visited two sites in Everett on this day: Howarth Park and Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary Park. An August day in Everett can be quite warm, but this was a cloudy day. The clouds didn't deliver rain, but they kept the temperature mild.

Howarth Park is serpent-like in its configuration. The head, toward the south, features a playground, a lawn, and a good view of Puget Sound. The once-upon-a-time trail into the gully along the north side of the lawn has been closed; so, after taking in the view, we walked along the side of the road, in order to reach the next segment of the park. Here, we used a pedestrian overpass in order to avoid a passing train and reach the shore of the Sound. After resuming the trail before the overpass, we followed the narrower trail beside Pigeon Creek, which led us to the road and finally back to our starting point.

The Sound wasn't filled with birds, but we did spot several Pigeon Guillemots, several Glaucous-winged Gulls, and one Ring-billed Gull. The trees hosted two juvenile Cooper's Hawks, which called insistently. Another raptor, the Merlin, appeared briefly, only long enough to take a run at an American Crow. A few smaller birds were also present among the trees: Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Brown Creeper.

Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary Park is more compact. It has two distinct, concentric trails, joined by a couple of short connecting paths. We walked the perimeter trail, first. Along this tree-lined way, we heard Bewick's Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Dark-eyed Junco, and Western Wood-Pewee. The inner trail runs closer to the wet part of the wetlands. We didn't see any birds in the water, but a couple of surprises were waiting in the trees. The first was a Barred Owl, resting on a branch not far from our head level. The owl remained in sight, although we eventually moved on. At a later point, we reached a side path that ran to the side of the water. On a small tree across the water from us perched a Merlin, which was content to stay still for the duration of our study.

Our outing ended a little before noon. Our combined eBird checklists included 25 species. Several of us capped off the morning with lunch at Patty's Eggnest.