

Samish Flats

January 23, 2024

Once again, the weather defied a rainy forecast, and we got off to a good start at Little Indian Slough with our first Short-eared Owl, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier and Hooded Merganser. At Bay View State Park, a Merlin kept the woods quiet, but a huge raft of Snow Geese floated in Padilla Bay along with Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser. Highlights along Sullivan Rd. were hundreds of Mallard, American Wigeon and Dunlin, three Eurasian Wigeon and 21 Black-bellied Plover. At the West 90, a Rough-legged Hawk accompanied several Red-tailed Hawk and Western Meadowlark. The waterfowl off Samish Island were far away but included Long-tailed Duck, Brant, Pacific and Red-throated Loon, Common Murre and White-winged Scoter. The raptor show at East 90 met the hype with another Rough-legged Hawk, several Bald Eagle and seven Short-eared Owl. We ended the day with a Great Egret, thousands of Snow Geese and dozens of Tundra Swan along Calhoun Rd.

59 species (approx. qty.)

Attendees: Phil, Dianne, Graham, Wilma, Frank, Ken, Pam T., Rick, Reg, Melinda, Bruce, Jon, Karen, Robin, Tari, Doug C., Judy Lo., Denny, Val, Pat, Marcia, Gary, Lloyd, Lorraine, Hans

CHECKLIST:

WATERFOWL: Snow Goose (14,000), Brant (20), Trumpeter Swan (500), Tundra Swan (60), Northern Shoveler (3), Eurasian Wigeon (3), American Wigeon (1500), Mallard (3125), Northern Pintail (155), Green-winged Teal (16), Greater Scaup (100), Surf Scoter (2), White-winged Scoter (3), Long-tailed Duck (4), Bufflehead (26), Common Goldeneye (32), Hooded Merganser (9), Red-breasted Merganser (4)

LOON, GREBES: Red-throated Loon (1), Pacific Loon (1), Common Loon (2), Red-necked Grebe (1)

PELICANS, HERONS, IBIS: Double-crested Cormorant (8), Great Blue Heron (7)

RAPTORS: Bald Eagle (39), Northern Harrier (5), Rough-legged Hawk (2), Red-tailed Hawk (11), American Kestrel (2), Merlin (2)

RAILS, CRANES: American Coot (1)

SHOREBIRDS: Black-bellied Plover (21), Dunlin (1200)

GULLS, TERNS: Short-billed Gull (300), Ring-billed Gull (1), Glaucous-winged Gull (6)

ALCIDS, JAEGERS: Common Murre (1), Pigeon Guillemot (1)

DOVES, PIGEONS: Eurasian Collared-Dove (6), Mourning Dove (1)

OWLS: Short-eared Owl (7)

HUMMINGBIRDS: Anna's Hummingbird (1)

WOODPECKERS: Northern Flicker (1)

CORVIDS: Steller's Jay (2), American Crow (2), Common Raven (2)

CHICKADEES, BUSHTIT: Black-capped Chickadee (1)

WRENS: Bewick's Wren (1)

THRUSHES: American Robin (1)

MIMIDS, STARLINGS: European Starling (2000)

LONGSPURS, SPARROWS: Spotted Towhee (4), Song Sparrow (6), Fox Sparrow (4), Golden-crowned Sparrow (27), Dark-eyed Junco (3)

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES: Red-winged Blackbird (860), Western Meadowlark (14), Brewer's Blackbird (25)