

South Whidbey

January 30, 2024

A dry day an excellent species count for January. Led by Wilma Bayes, we began at Crockett Lake with Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Gadwall, Marbled Murrelet, Pacific and Common Loon, and a very photogenic Bald Eagle. At the Keystone Ferry, we found numerous Pigeon Guillemot and Pelagic Cormorant, plus Common Murre, Black Oystercatcher and Harlequin Duck. The woods at Fort Casey were quiet, but we did see Golden-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee and Red-tailed Hawk. The Holmes Harbor waters had plenty of birds, including Western Grebe, Surf Scoter and Barrow's Goldeneye. Robinson Beach also was productive with more than three dozen Pacific Loon, several Horned Grebe, Western Gull, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Pileated Woodpecker. Highlights at Deer Lagoon were thousands of Dunlin, hundreds of Bufflehead, a few Black-bellied plover, one Long-tailed Duck, Pine Siskin and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Ewing Marsh was our final stop, where we added Wilson's Snipe, numerous Killdeer, Virginia Rail and an American Kestrel pair.

75 species (approx. qty.)

Attendees: Wilma, Graham, Phil, Dianne, Pat, Marcia, John H., Ken, Gary, Frank, Rex, Bruce, Reg, Karen, Robin, Denny, Doug C. Ray, Val, Carlos, Judy Lo., Denny, Hans, Mike C.

CHECKLIST:

WATERFOWL: Canada Goose (6), Northern Shoveler (4), Gadwall (27), Mallard (49), Northern Pintail (37), Green-winged Teal (9), Ring-necked Duck (2), Greater Scaup (9), Lesser Scaup (9), Harlequin Duck (4), Surf Scoter (20), Long-tailed Duck (1), Bufflehead (400), Common Goldeneye (9), Barrow's Goldeneye (12), Hooded Merganser (7), Red-breasted Merganser (2), Ruddy Duck (7)

LOON, GREBES: Pacific Loon (45), Common Loon (4), Horned Grebe (15), Red-necked Grebe (2), Western Grebe (33)

PELICANS, HERONS, IBIS: Brandt's Cormorant (2), Pelagic Cormorant (50), Double-crested Cormorant (3), Great Blue Heron (7)

RAPTORS: Bald Eagle (5), Northern Harrier (2), Red-tailed Hawk (4), American Kestrel (2)

RAILS, CRANES: Virginia Rail (2)

SHOREBIRDS: Black-bellied Plover (4), Killdeer (16), Black Oystercatcher (3), Greater Yellowlegs (1), Dunlin (3000), Wilson's Snipe (4)

GULLS, TERNS: Short-billed Gull (6), Western Gull (1), Glaucous-winged Gull (72)

ALCIDS, JAEGERS: Common Murre (8), Pigeon Guillemot (47), Marbled Murrelet (2), Rhinoceros Auklet (3)

DOVES, PIGEONS: Rock Pigeon (9)

HUMMINGBIRDS: Anna's Hummingbird (2)

KINGFISHER: Belted Kingfisher (1)

WOODPECKERS: Red-breasted Sapsucker (1), Northern Flicker (5), Pileated Woodpecker (1)

CORVIDS: American Crow (16)

CHICKADEES, BUSHTIT: Black-capped Chickadee (3), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (1)

NUTHATCHES, CREEPER: Red-breasted Nuthatch (1)

WRENS: Bewick's Wren (2), Pacific Wren (1), Marsh Wren (1)

KINGLETS: Golden-crowned Kinglet (6), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4)

THRUSHES: American Robin (8)

MIMIDS, STARLINGS: European Starling (1)

LONGSPURS, SPARROWS: Spotted Towhee (1), Fox Sparrow (2), Song Sparrow (3), White-crowned Sparrow (8), Golden-crowned Sparrow (3), Dark-eyed Junco (14)

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES: Red-winged Blackbird (30)

FINCHES, WEAVER FINCH: House Finch (20), Pine Siskin (50), House Sparrow (19)