

## **Kiket Island**

March 26, 2024

The skies cleared as we approached Skagit County, and we enjoyed a beautiful day of birding along the shores of Skagit Bay and Padilla Bay. Along the way, we saw several songbirds on Valentine Rd., including Varied Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Anna's Hummingbird. Then, as neared La Conner, we were surprised by the large number of Trumpeter Swans still in the fields. A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers flew over Swinomish Channel at Pioneer Park, where we also saw Belted Kingfishers, Common Mergansers and a Common Goldeneye. Kiket Island did not disappoint. Highlights were Black Oystercatcher, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Hooded Merganser, Herring Gull, Rufous Hummingbird and Hutton's Vireo. We failed to find expected Wilson's Snipe at Similk Beach, but we did add Northern Pintail and Short-billed Gull to our species count. Closeup Black Oystercatchers, distant Brants, Greater Yellowlegs and numerous Great Blue Herons were the features along our March Point drive. Channel Drive and Hayton Reserve did not add significantly to our species, but we enjoyed a Northern Harrier and a photogenic Bald Eagle along with hundreds of American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal.

61 species (approx. qty.)

**Attendees:** Phil, Mary, Sally Jo, Dianne, Rex, Jeff, Ken, Teri, Rick, Pam T., Maureen Z., Judy Lo., Val, Marcia, Catha, Judy B., Lianne, Wilma, Sue B., Randy, Sarah

### **CHECKLIST:**

**WATERFOWL:** Snow Goose (100), Brant (200), Canada Goose (2), Trumpeter Swan (250), Gadwall (6), American Wigeon (700), Mallard (1000), Northern Pintail (90), Green-winged Teal (2500), Surf Scoter (15), Bufflehead (125), Common Goldeneye (10), Hooded Merganser (7), Common Merganser (2), Red-breasted Merganser (26)

**LOON, GREBES:** Common Loon (1), Pied-billed Grebe (4), Horned Grebe (4)

**PELICANS, HERONS, IBIS:** Pelagic Cormorant (3), Double-crested Cormorant (4), Great Blue Heron (67)

**VULTURE:** Turkey Vulture (1)

**RAPTORS:** Northern Harrier (4), Bald Eagle (12), Red-tailed Hawk (3)

**SHOREBIRDS:** Killdeer (2), Black Oystercatcher (7), Greater Yellowlegs (8)

**GULLS, TERNS:** Short-billed Gull (21), Herring Gull (1), Glaucous-winged Gull (250)

**ALCIDS:** Pigeon Guillemot (3)

**DOVES, PIGEONS:** Rock Pigeon (18), Eurasian Collared-Dove (3)

HUMMINGBIRDS: Anna's Hummingbird (3), Rufous Hummingbird (3)

KINGFISHER: Belted Kingfisher (5)

WOODPECKERS: Hairy Woodpecker (2), Northern Flicker (1)

SHRIKES, VIREOS: Hutton's Vireo (1)

CORVIDS: Steller's Jay (1), American Crow (12)

LARKS, SWALLOWS: Violet-green Swallow (1)

CHICKADEES, BUSHTIT: Black-capped Chickadee (1)

NUTHATCHES, CREEPER: Red-breasted Nuthatch (1), Brown Creeper (2)

WRENS: Pacific Wren (2)

KINGLETS: Golden-crowned Kinglet (2), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1)

THRUSHES: American Robin (34), Varied Thrush (2)

MIMIDS, STARLING: European Starling (2)

WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler (2)

LONGSPURS, SPARROWS: Spotted Towhee (1), Song Sparrow (5), White-crowned Sparrow (3), Dark-eyed Junco (8)

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES: Red-winged Blackbird (38), Brewer's Blackbird (22)

FINCHES, WEAVER FINCH: House Finch (2), House Sparrow (2)