



Birding the Olympic Peninsula

November 7-10, 2024

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Tentative Itinerary

Thursday, November 4

Today we will make a couple of stops along the Hood Canal to look for waterfowl including Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck and loons. One year we found Leach's Storm-Petrel at Potlatch State Park. After exploring Crocker Lake, we will drive up to Port Townsend. First up is usually Kai Tai Lagoon where we often find a Eurasian Wigeon. At Point Wilson anything but slack tide will work to our advantage; we are hoping for alcids like Marbled and Ancient Murrelet, loons and sea ducks moving through there, but there could also be the odd land migrant like a Snow Bunting. Then we are off to our hotel in Port Angeles where we will stay for the remainder of our trip.

Friday, November 5

We will spend a full day at Neah Bay. There are no particular targets except for maybe Palm Warbler and Tropical Kingbird, but this all depends on what rarities have shown up this time around. There are a lot of possibilities. We found Black-necked Kittiwake in the marina some years. On our stay there, we will scour both the Straight and the Outer Beach side. We may also pop into the Makah Museum to learn about the tribe, culture and history of the area. This is the highlight of the trip and it is now the first time in several years that we have a chance of doing this. Don't miss it!

Saturday, November 6

On this day we will explore the Sequim area making stops at the John Wayne Marina, Dungeness Spit, John Wayne marina, Schmuck Rd and the Three Crabs area. Sequim sits in the rain shadow of the high Olympics, so does get some unusual birds for the area. We are hoping to find Marbled Murrelet, but also loons and waterfowl including Long-tailed Duck and Black Scoter. Yellow-billed Loon is very rare, so we will need a lot of luck finding one. At Dungeness County Park, we often find wintering shorebirds including some oddities.

Sunday, November 7

Before starting our trek back to, we will bird Ediz Hook and the Port Angeles harbor in the morning. This sheltered area is often fantastic for murrelets and ducks and can also host rarities. Odd shorebirds are also possible. On the way back, we will again make stops along the Hood Canal including Dosewallips State Park. If time permits, we will even pop into Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR. Expect to be back in Portland by 7pm.