



Sunrise Birding, LLC

PO Box 274, Cos Cob, Connecticut 06807 USA

Canada's Pacific Northwest

Private Tour, September 2010

British Columbia conjures up images of rugged coastlines, boreal wilderness, temperate and ancient rainforests and scenic vistas. This tour of Vancouver and Vancouver Island will include all of these elements as well as providing exciting birding and some of North America's more beautiful and sought after bird species from Marbled Murrelets to Varied Thrushes. From one of the most friendly, accessible and attractive cities on the planet to small coastal fishing villages there will be much to explore and enjoy along with the incredible picturesque splendor of the natural habitat.



ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 – Arrival Vancouver	Night Vancouver
Day 2 - Vancouver area birding	Night Vancouver
Day 3 - Ferry over to Vancouver Island & birding	Night Victoria
Days 4 & 5 - Exploring the southern tip of Vancouver Island and the shoreline around Victoria	Nights Victoria
Days 6 – 9 – Travel north and birding the temperate rainforests of Mid-Island and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve	Nights Tofino
Day 9 – Whale watch trip	
Day 10 - East to the Nanaimo area	Night Nanaimo
Day 11 - Ferry back to the mainland and Vancouver	Night Vancouver
Day 12 - North to explore local mountains. Also Whistler.	Night Vancouver
Day 13 – Head south of the city to the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, then the boundary bay.	Night Vancouver
Day 14 - Departures	

Species highlights on this tour include: Harlequin Duck, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Sooty Grouse, Bald Eagle, Pacific Golden Plover, Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Black Oystercatcher, Heermann's Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Townsend's Warbler to name a few.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1

This day will see us arrive in Vancouver, British Columbia. It is known as one of the most 'livable' cities on the planet with clean air, water and panoramic views of the stunning surrounding mountain ranges and miles of beautiful beachfronts. It is also one of the greenest cities in the world with over 3000 acres of parks. Depending on arrival times we will start with some gentle birding within the confines of the city limits looking for a variety of western specialties including Black-throated Gray Warbler, the striking Red-breasted Sapsucker, North America's



largest extant woodpecker - the outrageous Pileated, as well as such little gems as Hutton's Vireo, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Brown Creeper. Night Vancouver.



Day 2

We will arise early for a days birding in and around the city. There will be plenty of North American shorebirds to enjoy include both Yellowlegs, both Dowitchers, Western and Pectoral Sandpipers. Uncommon species may include such specialties as Pacific Golden Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew or even a Ruff. As well as the shorebirds there will be lots of waterfowl to enjoy and plenty of North Western specialties such as Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Varied Thrush, 'Sooty' Fox Sparrow and Townsend's Warbler as well as any number of migrating birds as we hit the peak of southbound fall migration.

Day 3

We will start our day with a run out to catch the ferry over to Vancouver Island. En route we will have a little time to search out a few more waders at one of Vancouver's little known shorebird hotspots and then head onwards to the ferry terminal. The ferry terminal itself can provide for some excellent birding so we will be arriving in plenty of time in order to look through the array of ducks, grebes, loons (divers), cormorants and alcids that are often to be found in the harbor waters. Highlights here should include the much sought after Harlequin Duck as well as Black Oystercatcher, Surfbirds and Black Turnstone. Hopping onboard the ferry will see the next birding adventure begin, as we enjoy the incredible views of the spectacular scenery and keep our eyes on the water as we search out such avian treasures such as Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet as well as three species of divers and another three of cormorants. We will also be scanning the skies for Parasitic Jaeger, gulls



of all shapes and sizes including the eye-catching Heermann's and a Bald Eagle or two. Night Victoria.

Days 4 & 5

We will spend our next two days exploring the southern tip of Vancouver Island and the shoreline around Victoria. Land birds might include Anna's Hummingbird - bedecked with its fuchsia pink gorget, dapper Golden-crowned Sparrows, Bewick's Wren, Bushtit, Lapland Longspur and perhaps one of North America's more intriguing introduced species, the Skylark, which inhabit just this one small area of the continent. There will be opportunity to look for waders as well, with Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers as well as waders of the rocky coastlines such as the elegant Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler and Surf-bird. A mixture of seabirds is one of the key draws of this striking island and we will be on the lookout for alcids including possible Marbled (and with some luck) and Ancient Murrelets as well as Common Murre, Rhinoceros Auklets and sea ducks including the clown-like Surf Scoter and the eye-catching Harlequin Duck. A possibility here is to take the passenger ferry crossing to Port Angeles, Washington State and look for some of the areas more pelagic species such as Tufted Puffin, Sooty Shearwater, Northern Fulmar, Pigeon Guillemots and Forked-tailed Storm Petrel from the boat. Nights Victoria.



Days 6 - 9

From the shorelines of Southern Vancouver Island we will wing our way north into the beautiful temperate rainforests of Mid-Island. Here we will bask in the splendor of these ancient forests and enjoy the amazing natural beauty that surrounds us. We will seek out denizens of these dramatic coniferous forests including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red Crossbill, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Band-tailed Pigeon, Townsend's and Orange-crowned Warblers, Steller's Jays, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Warbling and Hutton's Vireos.



We will explore the incredible Pacific Rim National Park Reserve as well as exploring the incredibly beautiful coastlines of this secluded and beautiful area of the island. As well as more gulls, waterfowl and waders we will also be looking out for some of the impressive mammals that call this part of the world home including Black Bear, Mule Deer and River Otter on land and we will take to the water for a Whale Watch trip where we hope to see Orca, Humpback Whale, Steller's Sea Lion, Harbor Seal, Harbor Porpoise and cute Sea Otters playing in the pristine island waters. We will also be keeping our eyes to the skies for migrating and resident raptors including such sought after birds as Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Osprey and Bald Eagle.

We will also have time to enjoy the incredible scenery and take in the delights of the old fishing communities that dot these remote areas of the island. Nights Tofino.



Day 10

Heading east and birding along the way we will head to the Nanaimo area. Here we will hit a number of local hotspots in search of such dazzling species as Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron and Bald Eagle well as waterfowl including geese, ducks, grebes, loons and swans and gulls.

Exploring the local woods should allow us to find a number of exciting woodland species including 4 or 5 species of woodpecker, and northern forest dwellers such as Brown Creeper, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets amongst others. Night Nanaimo.

Day 11

We will be up for a good breakfast and then the short ferry ride back to the mainland and more adventures in Vancouver itself. Depending on species already seen we will hit some of the many hotspots to be found in the area of the city. These might include wader scrapes, city parks for roving migrants, shoreline spots for more waders, gulls and waterfowl or some of the remaining old growth forest tracts for more northerly and boreal bird species. Another option would be to spend the rest of the day exploring downtown Vancouver and soaking up the cultural, architectural and historical delights of the city. 3 Nights Vancouver.

Day 12

This day we will head north out of the city to explore some of the amazing scenery and interesting birding to be found within the local mountains. We will also pass through Whistler, BC the site of much of the 2010 Winter Olympics that will take place in Vancouver. Popular with skiers across North America the area is also of interest to birders with many interesting upland species to be found including Sooty Grouse, Gray Jay, the incomparably attractive Varied Thrush, as well as chickadees, thrushes and warblers. With a little luck we may encounter something rare within these forests such as Northern Pygmy Owl or Pine Grosbeak.



Day 13

This morning will see us set off south of the city for perhaps two of Vancouver's best known birding sites.

First up, we head to the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The sanctuary is probably best known for the congregations of waterfowl that rest up on their way south for the winter and at peak times the site can be overrun with birds. Highlights here should include Snow Geese (perhaps including the distinctive blue morph) which can become abundant in fall as well as another highly sought after species the Trumpeter Swan as well as marshland birds such as Virginia Rail, American Bittern and Black-crowned Night-heron.

After Reifel we will head to the boundary bay area where along with migrant songbirds, such as Olive-crowned, Wilson's and Townsend's Warblers, White-crowned, Lincoln's and Golden-crowned Sparrows we hope to see a variety of waders including rarities that could include Long-billed Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and American Avocet. The numbers of waders and waterfowl here are often a draw for the local raptor populations and we might expect to find Merlin, Peregrine, Cooper's Hawk and even Bald Eagles looking for an easy

meal here. Rounding off the day and using local knowledge we will check up on any locally occurring rarities such as the Western Scrub Jay or Black Phoebe that have made the Vancouver area their home in recent years.

Day 14

Depending on time we will explore one of the cities beautiful parks for late migrant bird species before making our way to the airport as we say goodbye to this delightful city and stunning part of North America as we wend our way home content with lasting memories of this exceptional place.

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TOUR PRICE: \$ 4,550.00 (US) per person from Vancouver, British Columbia, based on double occupancy

Deposit: \$500.00 per person
Single Supplement: \$795.00

Maximum Group Size: 12 plus leader(s)

Included in tour price: All accommodations and meals upon arrival on Day 1 in Vancouver.; ground transportation beginning and ending in Vancouver; professional guide services, all entrance fees to National and State Parks, and services of the leaders.

Not included: The cost does not include transportation to or from your home to Vancouver, insurance, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone charges, and beverages.

Cancellations and Refunds: Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$300 per person will be made only if Sunrise Birding, LLC is notified in writing of intent to cancel on or before May 1, 2010. No refunds will be made after May 1, 2010. All cancellations must be made in writing. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.



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