

British Columbia's Lower Mainland is a birder's paradise, with an ever-changing constellation of species throughout the year. In winter, much of the excitement is on the water, and we'll spend a large part of our time in aquatic habitats, where we should find a good variety of waterfowl and shorebirds to complement the forest specialties of the lush Pacific Northwest. Among the birds we can expect to see—some of them in impressively large numbers—are Black Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, Pacific Loon, Brandt and Pelagic Cormorants, Black Turnstone, Mew and Thayer Gulls, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pacific Wren, Varied Thrush, Sooty Fox Sparrow, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Our total species list is likely to be between 90 and 120, and surprises are always possible at this season.

We will be departing from the same hotel each morning and taking short drives to each day's birding sites. Weather is unpredictable, but likely to be highs of around 45 F and lows around 40 F; rain possible, but unlikely to be continuous, and snow unlikely. We can bird from the vehicle or from sheltered locations if it does rain. Mostly birding coastal lowlands and beaches, but possibility to drive inland to the mountains if rarities or concentrations are reported. Round-trip ferry ride Vancouver–Victoria–Vancouver one day.

We will make decisions regarding birding locations each day based on local information, but during the trip we expect to visit Jericho Beach, Maplewood Flats, Richmond Nature Park, Stanley Park, and Iona (the sewage ponds are apparently no longer accessible there).

Our activities on Day One will depend on people's arrival times. There are no scheduled birding activities for the final day.

List of Birds: 1=likely, 2=possible, 3=rare

Greater White-fronted Goose 3

Snow Goose 1

Black Brant 1

Cackling Goose 2

Canada Goose 1

Trumpeter Swan 1

Tundra Swan 2

Wood Duck 2

Gadwall 2

Eurasian Wigeon 1

American Wigeon 1

Mallard 1

Green-winged Teal 1

Canvasback 1

Redhead 3

Ring-necked Duck 1

Tufted Duck 2

Greater Scaup 1  
Lesser Scaup 1  
Harlequin Duck 1  
Surf Scoter 1  
White-winged Scoter 2  
Black Scoter 2  
Long-tailed Duck 2  
Bufflehead 1  
Common Goldeneye 1  
Barrow's Goldeneye 1  
Hooded Merganser 1  
Common Merganser 1  
Red-breasted Merganser 1  
Ruddy Duck 2  
Red-throated Loon 2  
Pacific Loon 2  
Common Loon 1  
Yellow-billed Loon 3  
Pied-billed Grebe 1  
Horned Grebe 1  
Red-necked Grebe 1  
Western Grebe 2  
Brown Pelican 2  
Brandt's Cormorant 2  
Double-crested Cormorant 1  
Pelagic Cormorant 1  
American Bittern 2  
Great Blue Heron 1  
Black-crowned Night-Heron 3  
Bald Eagle 1  
Northern Harrier 1  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
Cooper's Hawk 1  
Northern Goshawk 3  
Red-tailed Hawk 1  
Rough-legged Hawk 2  
American Kestrel 2  
Merlin 1  
Gyr Falcon 3  
Peregrine Falcon 1  
Prairie Falcon 3  
Virginia Rail 2  
American Coot 1  
Sandhill Crane 2

Black-bellied Plover 1  
Killdeer 2  
Black Oystercatcher 2  
Greater Yellowlegs 2  
Ruddy Turnstone 3  
Black Turnstone 1  
Surfbird 3  
Sanderling 1  
Western Sandpiper 2  
Dunlin 2  
Wilson's Snipe 2  
Bonaparte's Gull 1  
Heermann's Gull 2  
Mew Gull 1  
Ring-billed Gull 1  
California Gull 1  
Herring Gull 1  
Thayer's Gull 1  
Glaucous-winged Gull 1  
Glaucous Gull 2  
Common Murre 2  
Pigeon Guillemot 1  
Marbled Murrelet 2  
Ancient Murrelet 2  
Cassin's Auklet 2  
Rhinoceros Auklet 2  
Rock Pigeon 1  
Band-tailed Pigeon 2  
Barn Owl 2  
Great Horned Owl 2  
Snowy Owl 2  
Barred Owl 2  
Long-eared Owl 2  
Short-eared Owl 2  
Northern Saw-whet Owl 2  
Anna's Hummingbird 1  
Belted Kingfisher 1  
Red-breasted Sapsucker 2  
Downy Woodpecker 1  
Hairy Woodpecker 1  
Northern Flicker 1  
Pileated Woodpecker 2  
Northern Shrike 2  
Hutton's Vireo 2

Steller's Jay 1  
Northwestern Crow 1  
Common Raven 1  
Horned Lark 2  
Black-capped Chickadee 1  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1  
Bushtit 1  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 1  
Brown Creeper 1  
Bewick's Wren 1  
Pacific Wren 1  
Marsh Wren 2  
Golden-crowned Kinglet 1  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2  
Hermit Thrush 2  
American Robin 1  
Varied Thrush 1  
European Starling 1  
American Pipit 2  
Cedar Waxwing 1  
Spotted Towhee 1  
American Tree Sparrow 2  
Sooty Fox Sparrow 1  
Song Sparrow 1  
Swamp Sparrow 2  
White-throated Sparrow 2  
White-crowned Sparrow 2  
Golden-crowned Sparrow 1  
Dark-eyed Junco 1  
Lapland Longspur 2  
Snow Bunting 2  
Red-winged Blackbird 1  
Western Meadowlark 2  
Brown-headed Cowbird 2  
Purple Finch 2  
House Finch 1  
Red Crossbill 2  
Pine Siskin 1  
American Goldfinch 1  
Evening Grosbeak 2  
House Sparrow 1

