

# WASHINGTON: SEPTEMBER MIGRATION IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

SEPTEMBER 6-14, 2020

© 2019



Black-footed Albatross © Barry Zimmer

*September means exciting birding in western Washington and nearby British Columbia, with migration underway in nearly all habitats. Seabirds, shorebirds, and songbirds are all on the move, often in impressive numbers. Birding is especially good near the outer coast and along the inshore marine waters near Puget Sound and Boundary Bay, as movements of seabirds offshore and shorebirds along the tidal edge bring a rich mix of species into birding range. It is also an ideal point in the season to catch up with such North American rarities as Sharp-tailed Sandpiper or Bar-tailed Godwit which have been seen multiple times on the tour. While the presence of such rarities in any given year cannot be guaranteed, the tour devotes ample time in the most likely spots to encounter them along Pacific Northwest shorelines from Willapa Bay in Washington to Boundary Bay in British Columbia. We will also take time to follow up on any recent rarity reports if nearby. Foraging over rocky habitats along the marine edge are such overwintering visitors as Surfbirds and Black Turnstones, plus migrant Wandering Tattlers. Elegant Pacific Golden-Plovers (as well as American Golden-Plovers) may be encountered as migrants.*

*This tour is timed to coincide with this major pulse of migration, offering an excellent opportunity to take in a diversity of seabirds and shorebirds in particular. With a full-day pelagic trip out of Westport on the Pacific coast, we should encounter scores of Black-footed Albatross, South Polar Skua, beautiful Sabine's Gulls, several species of shearwaters (including lots of Pink-footed and a few Buller's and Short-tailed), Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, Northern Fulmars, often Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers, Red and Red-necked phalaropes, and alcids including Tufted Puffin (scarce), Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Common Murre. Flesh-footed Shearwater and Laysan Albatross are seen on some trips. Rare pelagic sightings (for the region) on previous tours have included Murphy's Petrel, Manx Shearwater, Scripps's Murrelet, Horned Puffin, and Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Lots of cormorants and gulls will be on hand, and often a few porpoises or whales.*

*The September Migration tour typically yields close to 25 species of shorebirds, including a remarkable diversity of sandpipers and roughly 35-40 seabirds, from loons and grebes to albatrosses, shearwaters, auks, jaegers and gulls. All but a few of these species are undertaking migration at the time of the tour.*

*Excellent birding is not the only reason to head to the Pacific Northwest in September. The tour traverses some of the most scenic spots in the region, from the forested Puget Sound area and the rugged Pacific Coast to the vast tide flats of Boundary Bay in British Columbia. The countryside is stunningly green and the weather typically moderate. In addition to a fine array of birds and a prime season for rarities, the region boasts excellent food.*



*Beginning in Seattle, we will bird the Puget Sound lowlands before making our way out toward the coast, searching for a fine cast of migrants and Northwest specialties. Red-breasted Sapsuckers are resident, as are Northern Pygmy-Owls, Band-tailed Pigeons, Hutton's Vireos, Pacific and Bewick's wrens, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Purple Finches, Western Scrub-Jays, and Spotted Towhees among others. Departing migrants in mid-September include such possibilities as Black-throated*

*Gray and Wilson's warblers and Violet-green Swallow, while other migrants are arriving from the north, including Golden-crowned, "Sooty" Fox, and Lincoln's sparrows. We will likely turn up a sample of these songbird migrants on a number of the tour days, as we explore assorted habitats in a variety of geographic locales.*

*Next are two full days on the Pacific Coast, where we will devote one day to a pelagic trip out to the edge of the Continental Shelf and another day to the best shorebird spots. On Day 5 the tour moves back inland and north along an extensive series of marine bays with forays into forested zones before arriving at Port Angeles. We will devote most of Day 6 to the high subalpine country at Hurricane Ridge (near 5,000 feet) in Olympic National Park, before concentrating on the marine edge of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, from Port Angeles to Sequim and areas south. In forested areas on the Olympic Peninsula, we will be searching in particular for Sooty Grouse, Varied Thrush, American Dipper, Gray Jay and other species such as Red Crossbill and Townsend's Solitaire. With clear weather at Hurricane Ridge, one has an epic overlook onto Vancouver Island and the San Juan islands to the north.*

*The shoreline along the Strait of Juan de Fuca promises Red-necked Grebes in breeding plumage, Harlequin Ducks returning from nesting sites, often Black Oystercatcher, a few scoters, and Mew Gulls. Early fall arrivals of Thayer's Gulls are possible. Pigeon Guillemots frequent the same bays, and Marbled Murrelets are scarce at this season, but possible. Loons typically include Common and Red-throated. Raptors such as Peregrine Falcon are likely, as are Merlin (including "Black Merlin"), accipiters, and harriers.*

*Our birding extends just north across the border into British Columbia, where we will visit the Boundary Bay tide flats, which have a stunning track record for shorebird rarities (best place in North America for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper). Nearby Reifel Sanctuary is a birder's paradise, with tree-lined trails and excellent waterfowl ponds for studying sandpipers up close.*

**September 6, Day 1: Arrival in Seattle.** Participants should make arrangements to arrive in Seattle today and transfer to the *Seattle Airport Marriott*, which offers complimentary shuttle service on request from SeaTac Airport (airport code SEA). Please plan to meet in the hotel lobby at **6:30 p.m.** for orientation prior to a get-acquainted dinner.

NIGHT: Seattle Airport Marriott, Seattle

**September 7, Day 2: Seattle and the Puget Sound Lowlands to the Coast.** The day's birding begins south of Seattle near the south end of Puget Sound, where nearby habitats offer a good chance for such resident lowland species as Band-tailed Pigeon, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Hutton's Vireo, Pacific and Bewick's wrens, Western Scrub-Jay, Spotted Towhee, and Bushtit. A few Neotropical migrants are still possible in mid-September, such as Wilson's, Orange-crowned, and Black-throated Gray warblers, as well as Violet-green Swallow and Vaux's Swift. Other migrants arriving from the north include Golden-crowned, "Sooty" Fox, and Lincoln's sparrows. Flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and Cedar Waxwings are still moving through. We may also encounter a sample of these migrants almost anywhere along the tour route in ensuing days. Northern Pygmy-Owl, though unpredictable, has been fairly regular here too.

The afternoon route takes us west along the Chehalis Valley toward the Pacific coast and ultimately to Westport on the south rim of the huge estuary of Grays Harbor. Some of the best autumn shorebirding can often be found in the Westport vicinity, where large shorebirds (such as godwits) concentrate. This is our best chance for seeing a Bar-tailed Godwit among hundreds of Marbled Godwits.



## ***Washington: September Migration in the Pacific Northwest, Page 4***

At Westport, small flocks of rock-loving, migratory shorebirds forage over the rocky jetties, giving us a chance to find Black Turnstones, Surfbirds, and Wandering Tattlers, while cormorants (including Brandt's and Pelagic) work close to the shoreline. At this time of year the south side of Gray's Harbor may feature a mobile cast of alcids, loons, gulls, sea ducks, and terns. If a special rarity has been seen nearby along the coast in recent days, we may make that our afternoon focus.

NIGHT: Chateau Westport, Westport

**September 8, Day 3: Westport Pelagic Trip.** From the Chateau Westport, it's just a short drive to Westport Harbor, where we'll board the boat for our pelagic trip early this morning, taking lunch along with us. The boat typically works its way about 35-40 miles out to sea and to the edge of the Continental Shelf. This pelagic birding tour consistently rates as one of the most productive in North America. At times the birding action is almost continuous. Regular early September species include Black-footed Albatross; Buller's, Sooty, Pink-footed, and perhaps Short-tailed or Flesh-footed shearwaters; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers; Red and Red-necked phalaropes; Northern Fulmar; Cassin's Auklet; Arctic Tern; and the strikingly patterned Sabine's Gull. South Polar Skua is seen on nearly all trips at this season, and Laysan Albatross occasionally. A wide variety of marine mammals is also possible, such as Dall's porpoise, humpback whale, or northern fur-seal. The waters close in are good for loons, cormorants, and other near-shore divers. After docking late afternoon, we may have time to track down some other species in the Westport to Tokeland area.

NIGHT: Chateau Westport, Westport

**September 9, Day 4: Coastal Birding with a Focus on Shorebirds; Tokeland to Ocean Shores.** Today we will concentrate on the most likely spots and recent reports in search of migrant shorebirds. Some of the best spots for these birds are on the Ocean Shores peninsula, on the north side of Grays Harbor. Shorelines and mudflats are a favorite migrant stop for many shorebirds, including small numbers of both Pacific and American golden-plovers. Rarities like Ruff or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper are possible here, as well as a host of more typical species like Baird's, Pectoral, Western and other sandpipers, plus both species of dowitchers and yellowlegs. Lapland Longspurs are often moving through in September, and in general it is a prime season for wandering species and avian surprises. Jetties and rocky edges are likely places to look for Black Turnstones, Surfbirds, and Wandering Tattlers. Expect a good bit of walking today to get into the best shorebird spots.

NIGHT: Chateau Westport, Westport

**September 10, Day 5: Westport to Port Angeles.** Today is a travel day, but also a day with some good bird possibilities. Leaving Westport this morning (another shorebird stop is possible), we'll work our way inland toward the marine bay named Hood Canal, and on to the northwestern rim of Puget. The rivers running down from the Olympic Mountains offer good spots for American Dippers, perhaps Sooty Grouse or Varied Thrush. Farther north, on Sequim Bay, we should see Pigeon Guillemots as well as other waterbirds. We will reach our lodging in Port Angeles in time for dinner.

NIGHT: Olympic Lodge, Port Angeles

**September 11, Day 6: Hurricane Ridge (Olympic National Park) and Port Angeles to Dungeness.** Today will be divided between the high, subalpine country at Hurricane Ridge (near 5,000 feet) in Olympic National Park and the diverse marine and lowland environs of the Port Angeles to Dungeness area on the U.S. side of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Clear weather at Hurricane Ridge and along the drive up gives one an epic overlook onto Vancouver Island and the San Juan islands to the north. In the morning we will work our way up toward the high subalpine realms of Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. The road up transects a series of habitats, from the towering cedars and ancient maples of Heart of the Hills Campground (where we may find such birds as Varied Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, and Pacific Wren) to the narrow spires of subalpine fir and the droopy olive arms of yellow cedar near the top. Shy Sooty Grouse reside here; Red Crossbills and other finches may be moving through; Gray Jays, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Golden-crowned Kinglets frequent the evergreens; and

Northern Pygmy-Owls are possible. We may turn up migrant songbirds and birds of prey anywhere along the road up, or at the top.

After lunch, we will explore the Port Angeles waterfront along Ediz Hook and possibly the Dungeness waterfront, where a wide range of species are possible. Potential shorebirds include Black Turnstone, Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, and sometimes Black Oystercatcher among other shorebirds. Peregrines and Merlins follow this shorebird buffet, and Harlequin Ducks paddle by at close range among log rafts that provide basking spots for harbor seals. Red-necked grebes are beginning to return to winter on these protected waters, as well as loons and a varied mix of scoters and other diving birds. Gulls should include Mew, Heermann's, California, Western, Glaucous-winged and perhaps Thayer's.

NIGHT: Olympic Lodge, Port Angeles

**September 12, Day 7: Port Angeles to the Vancouver Area.** Our route today takes us east from Port Angeles to Port Townsend, by ferry to Whidbey Island, then north across the Canadian border about 25 miles to Tsawwassen, which is still well south of the city of Vancouver. The ferry crossing is a good route for seeing Pigeon Guillemots, Common Murres, Rhinoceros Auklets, and possibly Marbled Murrelet. Several potentially excellent shorebird spots fall along today's route, and we will visit as many as possible, especially where rarities have been reported.

NIGHT: Coast Tsawwassen Inn, Tsawwassen, B.C.

**September 13, Day 8: Vancouver Vicinity.** Tsawwassen makes an ideal base for birding the south Vancouver area. Nearby are the vast Boundary Bay tide flats, Reifel Sanctuary, and Iona Ponds adding up to the most likely area south of Alaska to turn up Sharp-tailed Sandpipers on a regular basis, with the odds improving in mid-September. The area has turned up a host of other shorebird rarities over the years, and Pacific-Golden Plover and Ruff are as likely here as any good shorebird site on the tour. The nearby Tsawwassen jetty can be good for rock-loving shorebirds such as Black Oystercatcher. As possible, we will follow up on any reported rarities. Peregrine Falcons are on hand at this point of the season, the last swallows linger on, and a wide range of other shorebirds, waterfowl, and landbirds are possible.

Nearby Reifel Sanctuary is rich in birdlife, with good shorebirding in fall and additional chances for a rarity. The sanctuary hosts a resident family of Sandhill Cranes, and is a likely spot for Wood Ducks and other waterfowl, as well as such songbirds as Golden-crowned and Fox sparrows.

NIGHT: Coast Tsawwassen Inn, Tsawwassen, B.C.

**September 14, Day 9: Return to Seattle.** The morning offers an hour or two to follow up on additional birding possibilities en route to Sea-Tac airport. Please book departing flights for **1:30 p.m.** or later.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 12 participants.

**TOUR LEADER:** Bob Sundstrom (a second leader will be added if tour size warrants)



**Bob Sundstrom** has led VENT tours since 1989 to many destinations throughout North America, as well as Hawaii, Mexico, Belize, Trinidad & Tobago, Japan, Turkey, Iceland, Papua New Guinea, the Southwest Pacific, Antarctica, the Bering Sea, and the Galapagos. When not on tour, Bob keeps busy as lead writer for the public radio program *BirdNote*, heard on over 200 radio stations nationwide (visit [www.birdnote.org](http://www.birdnote.org)). With a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Washington, Bob enjoys learning about both the natural and cultural settings of his tours. He and his wife, Sally, live in rural Scatter Creek Valley, south of Olympia, Washington. Bob lived in Seattle for more than 25 years; he continues to teach birding workshops there and leads a program of short, regional tours starting in the Seattle area. During two seasons of work in the Pribilof Islands, he helped chronicle the occurrence of North American bird rarities. A skilled birder with a special interest in bird

song, Bob has served on the boards of several nature and conservation organizations, as well as the Washington State Bird Records Committee. He is a co-author of *The National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest*.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for the tour is **\$3,595** per person in double occupancy from Seattle. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 9, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, pelagic trip on Day 3 (weather permitting), gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Seattle and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$675**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

**REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, the deposit must be made with MasterCard, Visa, or American Express at the time of registration. If you would like to pay your deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com)) should be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

**PAYMENTS:** All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 150 days (April 9, 2020) prior to the tour departure date.

**CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:** Refunds are made according to the following schedule: If cancellation is made 180 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$250** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$100** per person. If cancellation is made between 179 and 151 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 150 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre- and post-tour extensions. **For your protection, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance that covers trip cancellation/interruption.**

**If you cancel:**

180 days or more before departure date

179 to 151 days before departure date

150 days or less before departure date

**Your refund will be:**

Your deposit minus \$250\*

No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance will be refunded

No refund available

\*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. To qualify, cancellation must occur 180 days or more before departure date; deposit transfers must be made at the time of cancellation; and one transfer per deposit.

Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services, where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of the terms and conditions of any of the contract for transportation or travel services, all sums paid to VENT for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by VENT to you unless you otherwise advise VENT in writing.

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.**

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with Redpoint Resolutions as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™**. Designed for all types of travelers, Ripcord is among the most highly regarded travel insurance programs available.

Critical benefits of **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance** include a completely integrated program with a single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims; **medical evacuation and rescue services** from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; comprehensive travel insurance for **trip cancellation/interruption**, primary medical expense coverage, and much more. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available but must be purchased within 14 days of tour deposit.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as security evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or other security events, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause (must be purchased within 14 days of tour deposit). Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.

For a price quote, or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: [ripcordrescuetravelinsurance.com/ventbird](http://ripcordrescuetravelinsurance.com/ventbird); or click the **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™** logo on our website (click Help and Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

**EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES:** In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

**FUEL & FUEL SURCHARGES:** In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**AIR INFORMATION:** Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

**BAGGAGE:** To prevent crowding in the vehicles, we ask participants to limit their luggage to one medium sized bag per person, plus one carry-on bag. As a precaution, if you are flying to meet the tour and checking luggage,

we urge you to pack a change of clothes, your binoculars, any medication, toiletries, and other essentials in your airline carry-on bag.

**CLOTHING & CLIMATE:** For most of the tour expect very comfortable weather. The coastal weather in Washington in late September is typically mild, with temperatures ranging from the low 50s to the mid-70s. The potentially coolest and most exposed conditions are likely to be encountered on the pelagic trip, and you will want to be well prepared. Although it may be sunny, don't count on it! You will be best prepared if you have on hand a good layering system: light-weight long underwear, a warm turtleneck, a pile jacket or warm sweater, warm (and ideally waterproof) gloves, a warm hat, and, most importantly, a good windproof and waterproof outer shell, plus waterproof pants. Depending on the weather, you may find these clothes handy for the morning in the Olympic Mountains as well as for birding on the long ferry crossings too. Light-weight field clothing combined with a sweater or pile jacket and a rain/windbreaker for layering would generally be sufficient. However, a good breeze along the coast is possible, so be sure you also have a warm hat and gloves handy even when birding on land. Sunscreen and sunglasses are recommended, too.

**DOCUMENTS:** Citizens of the United States are required to have a valid passport for international crossings between the United States and Canada. Non-United States citizens should check with their consulate/embassy for instructions.

**FOOTWEAR & HIKING:** Waterproof footwear such as rubber Wellingtons or NEOs will be extremely handy both for shorebirding and for the pelagic trip where some salt spray is likely to be encountered. There may be a few shorebird locations where rubber boots are essential for getting to the birds. Some outings may involve a mile or two of walking, mostly over level ground. During the course of the tour you will likely be walking on forest trails and along sandy beaches, as well as across expanses of intertidal vegetation and dunes. A pair of lightweight hiking shoes/boots will be essential.

**HEALTH:** If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication. As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against hepatitis types A and B.

**EQUIPMENT:** You should pack a pair of binoculars in good condition, along with a day pack (good for carrying books, sunscreen, etc.). If you are trying to decide which pair of binoculars to use, you would probably do well to bring a versatile pair like 7 or 8 x 42. Your leader will have a spotting scope; but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

Your leaders will have a spotting scope, but you may wish to bring your own. The shore birding part of the tour lends itself to a good bit of scope use, so having a few additional scopes can be a real asset. You will, of course, need binoculars. There may be some good photo opportunities, especially on the pelagic trip where albatrosses and other birds may be attracted very close to the boat, and expect some fine scenery and nature shots.

**OTHER ITEMS TO CONSIDER:**

- An alarm clock is useful, as hotel wake-up calls can sometimes be undependable.
- A water bottle which holds at least one pint.
- There will be few mosquitoes or other such invertebrate pests to worry about.
- A small water daypack for your general use during the tour. On some short hikes you may be away from the van for two to three hours, and the boat trip is a full-day affair.

**LAUNDRY:** Guest laundry (self-service and/or valet) is available at all hotels except the Olympic Lodge on Days 5 & 6.



**INTERNET & PHONE SERVICE:** Wi-Fi is available in all hotels throughout the tour.

**SUGGESTED READING:** A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) which has a wide selection; [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com) and [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com) which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

***Birds:***

Dunn, Jon. L. *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America: Revised & Updated*. Sixth Edition. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2011.

Onley, Derek and Paul Scofield. *Albatrosses, Petrels & Shearwaters of the World*. Princeton, 2007.

Paulson, Dennis. *Shorebirds of North America: The Photographic Guide*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Sibley, David Allen. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Second Edition. New York: Knopf, 2014.

Wahl, Terence R., Bill Tweit, and Steven G. Mlodinow. *Birds of Washington – Status and Distribution*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State U. Press, 2005.

Wheeler, Brian K. *Raptors of Western North America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.

***Bird Sound Recording:*** A general search on the internet using the title of the recording will produce the name(s) of companies selling these products.

*Bird Songs of the Pacific Northwest*. Geoffrey A. Keller and Gerrit Vyn. Ithaca, NY: Macaulay Library, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 2008. [far and away the best single source for this region]

*Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Western Region*. Kevin J. Colver with Donald and Lillian Stokes. Time Warner Audio Books, 1999.

***Other Natural History:***

Alden, Peter, Dennis Paulson, Amy Gregoret, Richard Keen, Daniel Mathews, Eric A. Ochse, Robert Sundstrom, and Wendy B. Zomlefer. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998.

Kruckeberg, Arthur R. *The Natural History of Puget Sound Country*. Seattle: U. of Washington Press, 1995.

Pojar, Jim and Andy MacKinnon. *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*. Redmond, WA: Lone Pine Press, 1994.

Turner, Mark and Ellen Kuhlmann. *Trees & Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2014.

Whitney, Stephen. *The Pacific Northwest. A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1989.

**TIPPING:** Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless

arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on December 5, 2019 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.

WF:20200906  
10/06/16-BS  
12/05/19-MA/PS