

Vancouver Island 2025

A Greentours Trip Report

Lead by Fiona Dunbar and Rene Montenero

Trip Report and Species Lists by Fiona Dunbar

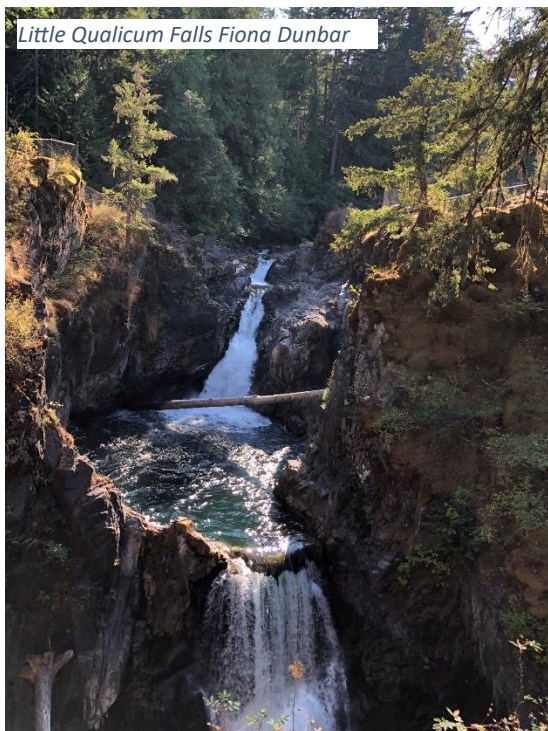


Day 0 Monday 25th August Arrival in Vancouver

I met the group with minimal fuss at the cool and spacious airport. We took taxis to our hotel and had an hour to relax before meeting for supper in the adjoining restaurant. Jo and Ali arrived an hour or 2 later having taken the Rockies Buccaneer train from Calgary, somewhat impacted by forest fires along the route.

Day 1 Tuesday 26th August Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island and Ucluelet

The hotel is in a quiet residential area, and it was possible to stroll down to the river or walk amongst neighbouring houses and large trees where there were Red-breasted Nuthatches a Hummingbird or two and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. After a very good buffet breakfast we were met by the taxis to take us to the ferry. The large taxi which was ordered turned out to be a normal size taxi so I had to sit in the kiddie seat with the luggage, but we got there. At the ferry terminal we were greeted by Rene and having loaded luggage into a locked container we had time to watch Black Oyster Catchers and Black Turnstones on the rocks close below before boarding the boat. Rene should have been our driver/guide for the whole trip but there were technical issues at the last minute! Time on the two-



Little Qualicum Falls Fiona Dunbar

hour crossing was split between sea-watching (Bill saw a whale surfacing and Jo a fluke, both likely to be humpbacks) admiring the views and having lunch. We disembarked and were met by our drivers Bryn and Jim. Turkey Vultures and Ravens were sighted quite frequently along the road and at times we could see a distant pink haze caused by smoke from forest fires. At Little Qualicum we disembarked for a stroll round trails which took us to, around and over the spectacular upper falls and the narrow gorge below. The shade and smell of the trees were delightful. There are some fine old Douglas Firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Red, peeled looking Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*), shrubby Douglas Maples (*Acer glabrum* var. *douglasii*) and a little Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*). By the way, *douglasii*: named after David Douglas (1798-1834), Scottish botanist and plant explorer. The telltale lines of holes drilled by Sapsuckers and the large rectangular holes drilled by

Piliated Woodpeckers were examined along with the superb lichens and mosses that were everywhere. Mahonia, (*Berberis Nervosa*) and Vanilla leaf (*Achlis triphylla*) Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) and the pale glaucous Pacific Sedum (*Sedum spathulifolium*) were noted in the ground cover, and the beautiful Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedantum*) grew on the smooth cliffs near the turbulent water. Rene and some of the group spent some time with Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and from the wooden bridge we had excellent views of an American Dipper.

We had enjoyed our stroll but we still had a way to go and we set off, arriving at the luxurious Black Rock Ocean Front Resort in time for supper. Inexplicably our luggage arrived after us but caught up while we ate in the lovely restaurant which overlooks the sea through a vast glass wall.

Day 2 Wednesday 27th August Whale Watching, Chesterman Beach and the Rainforest Loop

After a very good but very slowly served breakfast, we were off to Tofino to join our boat trip. The fog which had rolled in had (more or less) lifted by the time we were onboard. An Osprey flew overhead as we boarded and we were soon heading out of the harbour, passing a fine adult Bald Eagle perched atop a lichen-draped pine tree soon after. On one of the tiny islands crowned with wind shaped pines the captain pointed out the remains of two cedar canoes – traditional burials. Further out we cruised past Meares Island, home to the current Tia-oqui-aht First Nations people, and one of the largest islands. Meares Island was at the centre of the 'War of the Woods' logging protests in the 80's and 90's when First Nations and environmentalists combined to fight the hugely powerful McMillan Bleodel logging company and won against the odds. Feral cows could be seen feeding on seaweed. It



Bald Eagle Fiona Dunbar



Heart shaped Gray Whale Blow Fiona Dunbar

was strange seeing them standing on the beach and feet deep in sea water. We passed a group of White-winged Scoters and a group of Loons, some adult and some juvenile. A lone Sea Otter was the first of many and there was a glimpse of a large pale brown Stellar's Sea Lion. Ahead of the boat the captain pointed out a dark patch on the water – a raft of 50 or more Sea Otters! There were two other rafts in sight as we slowed and watched the largest raft of otters floating on their backs, heads turn towards us and improbably large, webbed feet protruding comfortably a couple of feet away. We left the otters and headed further round Meares Island to where a whale had been sighted earlier. Before long a blow was spotted – a lone Grey Whale. The individual was feeding, diving for a couple of minutes before surfacing, blowing maybe four or five times, showing the heart-shaped blow of a

Grey Whale before arching, rolling and lifting the fluke clear of the water to dive. After spending some time with this peaceful individual, we moved on to a colony of Harbour Seals resting on a rocky island. Glimpses of Harbour Porpoises and frequent lone Sea Otters were great. We scanned for beach bears but did not see any, though there were a couple of Belted Kingfishers, Herons and as we returned, a second fine Bald Eagle. We returned to shore and noted some orange Ochre Starfish (*Pisaster ochraceus*). White Giant Plumose Anemones (*Metridium farcimen*) and Northern Feather Duster Worm (*Eudistylia vancouveri*) were below the wooden dock.

Lunch was at the excellent Surfside Grill, with cod and salmon burgers as popular choices, before walking down to Chesterman Beach. A popular surfing beach, we walked along to Frank Island which can be reached by a sand spit at low tide. A shallow tidal pool was providing feeding opportunities for 4 Shoveller Ducks and a flock of waders; Semi Palmated Plovers, tiny Semi Palmated Sandpipers and amongst them, larger Western Sandpipers and Lesser Sandpipers. On reaching the rocky island, we admired the typical west coast scenery of tiny rocky islands topped with pines next to a beach of fine sand and 'driftwood trees'. Plants here included pretty Coast Clover (*Trifolium wormskioldii*), Leathery Polypody (*Polypodium scolieri*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla villosa*) and Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*).

Our last stop of the day was for the Rainforest Loop, where a well-constructed wooden walkway took us into over and around a magical tangle of Red Cedars, Hemlocks and Douglas firs. Many fallen trees lay amongst the understory of Salal (*Gaultheria thalton*), False Lily-of-the-Valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*), Foamflower (*Tiarella trifoliata*), and a mass of beautiful crowns of Western Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) and Deer Fern (*Struthiopteris spicant*). In the steam bottoms huge leaves of Skunk Cabbage (*Lisichiton americanum*) were visible. The trees themselves were swathed with Methusula's Beard (*Usnea longissima*) and other lichens and covered with a huge variety of mosses and fungi including Chicken of the Woods. The sunlight filtered through the trees and it was a lovely place. Black squirrels and Chipmunks were glimpsed, as were Stellar's Jay, Ravens and Pacific Wren. Red Crossbill and Golden Kinglets were heard. We headed back to Black Rock where we had an excellent and cheerful meal.

Day 3 Thursday 28th August

The Pacific Rim National Park; Kwisitis Visitor Centre, Wickanishish Beach, Quisitis Point (South and Lisper Beaches), Ancient Cedars Loop and the Painters Trail



Ochre Starfish Bill Barrett

We began with a short drive to the Kwisitis Visitor Centre by Wickanishish Beach. The centre itself has some good displays about the local tribes historic hunting of whales and the many uses of cedar bark. From the veranda we could see Pelagic Cormorants and a couple of pairs of White-winged Scoters. Bill and Liz strolled the beach and found both orange and purple Ochre Starfish washed up. Tony and Sue joined a walk with a park ranger who was very informative on tracking. Jo, Ali, Janet Rene and I walked round Kwisitis Point. Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) and Salal dominated the undergrowth along with Sword and Deer Fern. A couple of very fresh bear poos were purple with Salal berries. We

heard lots of Golden-crowned Kinglets and Pacific Wrens, and the rather disgusting Pacific Banana Slugs (*Ariolimax columbianus*) were common. A mixed party of warblers went through and we had good views of Wilsons, Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers. The path took us past and through a series of rocky bays, one with sand, the next pebbles, then boulders and the last with sand and rockpools full of Giant Green Anemones *Anthopleura xanthogrammica*. Janet spotted a lovely group of Common Garter Snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) basking on a smooth beach log and we examined the hermit crabs along the shoreline, whilst looking for sea glass for Bryn. Another mixed flock had Brown Creeper, Lincoln's Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut backed Chickadees and a lovely male Townsend Warbler. A flock of Red Crossbills called noisily but stayed largely out of sight.

Back at the visitors centre we enjoyed our picnic on the wooden benches looking out over the sea before moving on to the Ancient Cedars Loop trail which showcases old-growth Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), and giant Red Cedars. Two behemoths are estimated at over 700 years and one measures more than 12 metres around its base. One of the Cedars is an archaeological monument as it is a culturally altered tree showing the marks of traditional tools and ceremonies. There were some fantastic examples of gigantic nurse-logs, where fallen trees rot and provide a nursery of decomposing wood where young trees can flourish. The walk continues to a series of viewpoints overlooking the fabulous west coast. Some of us continued along the Wild Pacific Trail for about four kilometres back to the hotel. Sue spotted some lovely plants, the purple Douglas Aster (*Aster subspicatus*) and the yellow Entire-leaved Gumweed (*Grindelia integrifolia*) growing out of the salt sprayed rocks, creamy Pearly Everlasting (*Anagalis margaritacea*). There was also a large umbel – Sea-Watch (*Angelica lucida*) and a lot of scrambling Giant Vetch *Vicia gigantea*. Our walk was broken by frequent look out points, at one of which there was a juvenile Bald Eagle perched and calling rather squeakily from a pine.

We were all back at our luxurious hotel before 5 for a well-deserved rest or visit to the hot tubs before supper.



Garter Snake Fiona Dunbar



Vigilant Black Bear and cub Fiona Dunbar

A five-minute drive took us to Jamies at Ucluelet. We donned our lifejackets and were on our way past Blue Herons on the rocky shore, and of course rocky islands topped with stunted pines. We had the boat to ourselves plus 2 other ladies. We had 'bearly' left the harbour when we saw our first Black Bear foraging on the shore close to a house. We were a little taken aback that their door was wide open. The bear looked glossy and healthy, as did all the bears we saw today. We watched it turning rocks in search of crustaceans and walking effortlessly along huge fallen trees for around 10 minutes before leaving him to get on with his business. A good start! Moving out, we had the Broken Group of islands on our left and the open Atlantic on our right, but no swell at all. Nothing between us and Japan on that side. We passed a lone Sea Otter being harassed for its catch by a Glaucus Gull, and a large group of Harbour Seals resting on a rocky outcrop as only seals can do. Close by, on a weathered, rounded rock emerging from the sea perched two adult Bald Eagles, spotted by Rene. Our lovely captain, who clearly loved his job took us up the scenic Pipestem Inlet. A small group of kayakers alerted us that something was going on – a mother and cub were feeding on the shore! The cub was fairly large and was copying mum and trying to turn small rocks over. Mum was on the alert, listening and watching the forest behind – another bear, maybe? We moved on and left them in peace. Approaching a steep landslide our captain slowed – this was a place where a mother with 3 cubs had been seen. And there they were! The cubs were tiny compared to the mother and they all moved over the precipitous slope with ease. What a fantastic sighting! Eventually it was time to head for port, via a large and incredibly vocal and active colony of bulbous-headed Californian Sealions. At the dock we waited while another small boat caught a Rat Fish with a net, before disembarking and setting up our picnic in the small park opposite, overlooking the harbour, where the odd Stellar's Sealion put in an appearance. An excellent coffee followed from the local coffee shop before we

headed for a rainforest trail. It was in fact under repair so we could not go very far, but we botanised and identified Red Alder *Alnus rubra*, Salmonberry and Oval-leaved Blueberry *Vaccinium ovalifolium*. There were some large pond-skaters on small pools. A short distance away we took a track down to the shores of Kennedy Lake, the largest lake on Vancouver Island. Janet, Jo and I swam whilst the others walked the beach of this pretty location. A Stellar's Jay came to join us while we were getting changed. As we left, Rene pointed out the huge stumps which showed that this forest was secondary regrowth following the clearing of primary forest.

Back the Black Rock for a fabulous last supper here. Janet and others went out for a walk – you get straight onto the Pacific Trail from the back of the restaurant – and found a Black-tailed Deer grazing and the pretty pink Beach Pea *Lathyrus japonicus*.

Day 5 Saturday 30th August Transfer to Port Alice via Campbell River and Kennedy River



Totem Pole, Jo Hay

We were loaded up and on our way at 9 am, stopping briefly at the co-op for picnic and general supplies. We stopped at the Tsukmin Tribal Park by the Kennedy River, where you can wander over water smoothed rock to the deep chasm where the clear river roars below. Fat tadpoles were in the small pools, and huge 'driftwood' trees showed the height and strength of the river in spate.

At Campbell River we swapped into our second vehicle, Bryn's company is not licenced to go further north on the island, and after enjoying our picnic with a Starbucks coffee (a Piliated Woodpecker flew over!) we set off on the second leg of our journey to Port Alice. Mule Deer was spotted by Jo, and more excitingly still a Roosevelt Elk – the largest subspecies of Elk was spotted by Sue. We arrived in Port Alice at 5. A stunning setting surrounds the tiny town, population 500. There was time to walk down to the harbour, which is yards from where we were staying, before strolling over to the tiny pizzeria, one of two tiny eateries in town. There were three Bald Eagles perched within sight, but this was topped by our driver Ed who messaged to say he had seen a breaching Humpback as he left town. The pizzeria was great fun, the owner Rikki talked about life in the town and showed us photos of local things and wildlife. The pizzas were excellent. We strolled back at sunset and sat watching the harbour for a while. There was a Rufous Hummingbird buzzing round the fuchsias on our way back.



Port Alice Fiona Dunbar

Day 6

Sunday 31st August

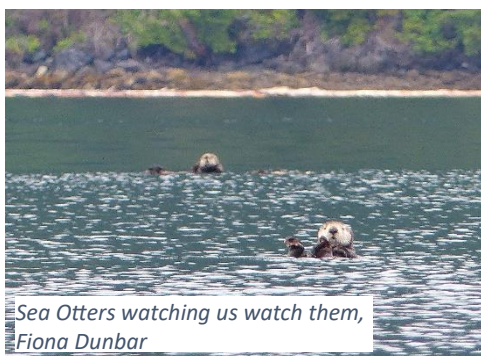
The Otter Boat Trip



Sea Otter and cub, Rene Montero

A morning stroll before breakfast to walkout island was punctuated by several Stellar's Jays and Piliated Woodpecker, flowering Thimbleberry and bear poo. Jo saw a green Anna's Hummingbird. We strolled up to Ron and Meghan's house where Jaquie and Janet were staying. Meghan had put out a superb spread for breakfast which we ate on the deck outside overlooking the inlet – incredible view. We walked down to the harbour for 9.45 where Ron gave us a safety talk and life jackets before we boarded our two boats. A Bald Eagle dived for something in the harbour right next to us and flew off low overhead – fantastic views. The first stop was the site of the old pulp mill which closed down only 8 years ago. The toxic chemicals from the mill were flushed straight into the inlet, but since closing the inlet has made a strong recovery and Orcas, Otters and other wildlife have returned and are increasing in numbers. The return of Sea Otters to the Vancouver area began with a reintroduction of around 40 individuals in the 70s as they had been completely hunted out 25 years previously. The otters are an incredibly pivotal species in these coastal habitats and their return in turn lead to the reestablishment of kelp forests which were decimated by the sea urchins which the otters feed on in huge numbers. The kelp forests act as nurseries for young fish and the cycle goes on... I spotted our first Sea Otter here and we spent some time near the beautifully lit lone male. We were rarely to be out of sight of otters for the next six hours, spending time watching groups of around 30 mothers with pups and numerous smaller groups and lots of males, which tend to be solitary. If a mother dived for food the pup is left floating – they cannot dive themselves until 3 months old – and the squeaks which allow the mother to relocate them were clearly audible. This was a highlight for me! There was a colony of Seals hauled out on floating logs, a Stellar's Sealion stealthily hunting in a bay, more Eagles...

Coming up to lunch time we visited the small settlement of Quitsino (accessible only by boat) with a beautiful wooden church, but there was not space to moor so we lunched in a small bay. A family lived here in the 40's. The father and one son were shipwrecked and the family thought they had died, but in fact they survived and made it back on foot some months later. This was too much for the mother of the family and they left for a more civilised location that



Sea Otters watching us watch them, Fiona Dunbar



Storm Petrel, Fiona Dunbar

year. The second boat lunched whilst watching a Humpback Whale mother and calf! We spent some time watching them diving deep to feed, showing their fluke at the end of a series of breaths with the classic tall blow of a Humpback. In the afternoon there were more chances to see groups of otters, Red-necked Grebe, Red-throated Diver, Loons, Western Grebe, Surf Scoters and a Fork-tailed Storm Petrel. The sun was now fully out, and the water was sparkling. Finally, it was time to head for the port. We disembarked (Black Turnstones on the floating harbour) and thanked our drivers for a fantastic day before ordering our choices for supper from McWickies van on the harbour front. Time for a wash and brush up before returning to collect our supper which we ate in the evening sunshine at the picnic tables overlooking the harbour, with wine and beer that I had picked up the day before. A fantastic fun evening.



Supper by the dock, Fiona Dunbar

Day 7 Monday 1st September To Alert Bay



Grave markers, Fiona Dunbar

Another very social home cooked breakfast with Meghan, and time to walk it off along the Sea Front Trail afterwards. A large bear poo had appeared on the footpath since we walked it the evening before, so a bear had walked right through the village not long before. Red Squirrel was spotted again. On our scenic stroll to Walk-out Island we heard Northern Flicker and Red Crossbill and saw lots of Stellar's Jays and Song Sparrows.

We loaded up the van and headed to Port McNeill where we had an excellent lunch at the

Devils' Bathtub Brewhouse whilst waiting for the ferry. Bald Eagles flew past regularly around the port.

Bev the Alert Bay taxi driver met us at the harbour in blazing sunshine and took the luggage to our gorgeous Nimpkish Hotel. The group walked along the seafont, past wooden, painted houses that had a Wild West feel, and the traditional graveyard of the Nagmis tribe where burials were marked with totem poles. At the Nimpkish we had time to enjoy the position right on the water and our lovely rooms with little balconies before supper. Bill and Liz and I went through the checklists with a cheeky glass of wine sitting on a porch-swing style table on the outside deck.

Supper was great fun. We were served by Will – the hotel owner and also the captain of the ferry that brought us in. He had lost his glasses and made full use of Liz's to complete our order; one assumes his long sight is better than his close vision for his other job. The island is so friendly. Those that walked out before supper were soon chatting to locals who seemed very happy to extol the virtues of the island. This is a stronghold of First Nations and most of the other people in the lounge of the ferry and in the restaurant were Native Americans.

Day 8 Tuesday 2nd September U'mista Cultural Centre and Sea Smoke Boat Trip

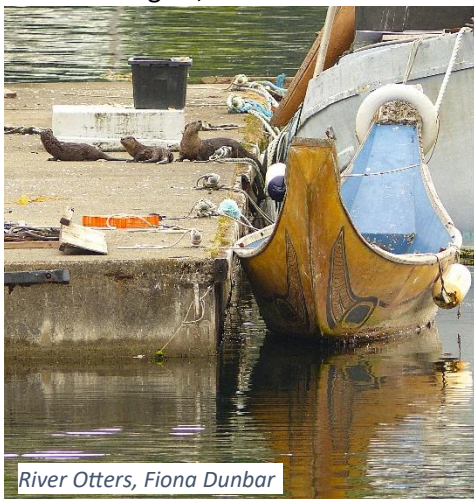


Orca, Rene Montero

Breakfast was in the long conservatory like room looking out to sea. Despite the morning fog there was lots to look at – three Stellar's Sealions, three Belted Kingfishers and three White-sided Dolphins. A lone Sea Otter finned past, too.

Our walk along the sea front to U'mista was fascinating, too. Most of the group had already walked part of the way from the ferry the day before, passing the first nations graveyard, old wagons and houses decorated in with the traditional Ngami artwork. It is a cared-for place, the nice touches and some beautiful little gardens. Black Turnstones pecked at the shore, more White-sided Dolphins and Harbour Porpoises, and opposite the U'mista centre, a family of 7 River Otters! Jo and Rene watched them in the harbour, swimming and calling, climbing up on to docks and investigating fishing boats. They ran up the beach and disappeared into the vegetation, but on leaving U'mista three of the adults were back and we had another photo opportunity as they caught fish and investigated the docks and boats. The U'mista centre is a longhouse-like building displays dozens of culturally priceless Kwakwaka'wakw artifacts confiscated when potlatch ceremonies were outlawed in Canada, and distributed to museums and collections around the world. The cultural centre has been slowly negotiating their return and the main gallery here is a wonderful manifestation of their efforts. The mask collection is especially haunting. Janet found time to walk up to the World's tallest totem pole.

We made our way back to the Nimpkish where they had specially opened up to serve us a lovely lunch of burgers, chow mein or salads. Then it was time to get ready for the boat trip and walk down



River Otters, Fiona Dunbar

to the Sea Smoke office and don our all-in-one suits. We waddled down to the dock and Jeaneane gave us a short safety talk before we set off. Almost straight away we found a couple of Minke Whales and a couple of Humpback Whales feeding not far off the island. There were hundreds of Gulls, Rhinoceros Auklets and Common Murres throughout the trip. Often there were kettles of gulls circling over the feeding whales trying to catch fish from the bait ball. We were keen to set off towards where the Resident Orcas had last been seen so stopped only briefly for another Humpback and a lone male Sea Otter. The morning mist had not completely cleared but was patchy. We spotted lots of Short-tailed Shearwaters, Fork-tailed



Humpback Fin, Rene Montero

Storm Petrels, Marbled Murrelets and Ancient Murrelets and made steady progress towards the hoped-for Orcas. The wind got up a bit and there was a little swell, but we arrived and started scanning for Orcas. First to be seen were the splashes from an active group of White-sided Dolphins. These often harass Orcas and soon Ali had spotted a couple of tall dorsal fins! They were right up against the shore, diving to feed and/or avoid being harassed by dolphins. These Orcas were Resident, and there is a theory that the dolphins ‘train’ the youngsters on how to act around Orcas on these fish-eating Residents, so they are better prepared for the very differently behaved mammal-eating Transient Orcas. It was quite hard to watch the Orcas and we turned to slowly head back to harbour. We paused for another active group of White-sided Dolphins playing round the boat – and realised we were very close to the rest of the Resident Orca family. These stay in matriarchal family groups. This group of five orcas were fantastic, and we got great views as they fed offshore of a tiny island. One of them spy-hopped to take a look at us. Eventually we moved off. Our next stop was for more cetaceans – Dall’s Porpoises, very fast moving and marked in a very similar pattern to orcas. We had to slow for a huge flock of Short-tailed Shearwaters settled on the water. Finally, as we approached Alert Bay, a Humpback blow was spotted. We had 5 Humpbacks all around us, one came quite close and another was seemingly meters from the shore playing and rolling in a kelp bed, waving a long white fin languorously in the air. Humpback fins can reach 4.6m, nearly a third of their body length! An amazing finale. We were late back having had so many sightings.

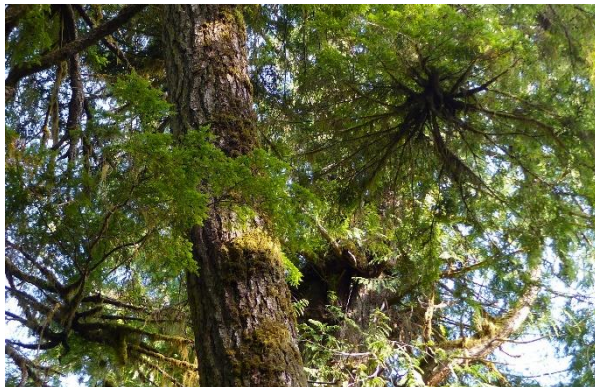
We had time to run through the bird and mammal lists with a glass or two of wine in the breakfast viewing room before having another lovely supper in the restaurant. Whales, probably Humpbacks were visible in the mid-distance. The sunset was really fantastic, and we all headed out onto the deck to enjoy it. After dark we could hear whales blowing offshore over the still water.



Most of the group at sunset

Day 9**Wednesday 3rd September****To Campbell River and Elk Falls**

Bev the taxi lady picked up the luggage at 8.30 sharp and we walked the sea front for the last time. Our ferry was driven by Will again, on his final day before retirement! Nice Marbled Murrelet near the boat as we docked. A two-hour drive took us to the lovely Browns Bay floating restaurant where we had excellent food in glorious sunshine floating in a little fishing harbour. A small group of Harbour Seals were clearly used to being fed scraps by incoming fishermen and were really easy to see in the shallow, clear water. Bald Eagles were perched in the trees and a pair of Killdeer wandered up and down the shoreline. We dropped Rene off at a bus stop (hoping it was the right one) and said our goodbyes before driving a few minutes to Elk Falls Provincial Park. We were a little more experienced with the tree and could identify Red Cedar, Western Hemlock, Bigleaf Maple and Douglas Fir as the dominant trees. Vanilla Leaf and Sword Fern dominated the undergrowth along with False Lily-of-the-Valley and Alpine Alumroot (*Heuchera glabra*). The falls themselves are quite spectacular. Jackie got some great pictures of a Red Squirrel.

*Elk Falls, Fiona Dunbar***Day 10****Thursday 4th September****Toba Inlet trip!!***Cedar, Fiona Dunbar*

An early, nay pre-coffee start. We picked up our nice, packed breakfasts and walked to the harbour where there where we had a safety talk with our enthusiastic boat driver and guide Jack before boarding our 12-seater boat. The six seats on the top were great if windy as we were travelling fast across Johnson's Strait towards Toba Inlet as the sun rose over the water. The weather was perfect. A group of small boats were fishing for herring, and not too surprisingly

in the same area there were large numbers of sea birds and around seven Humpbacks! It was difficult to know which direction to look in and a few people were looking in the right direction to see a humpback breach and almost completely leave the water. At this point there was a problem with one of the two huge outboard motors overheating and Jack did a brilliant job of sorting it out with advice from an engineer over the radio. This must be one of the most scenic areas that I have ever been in with ranks of erratically rounded, tree-covered hills shading to ever more distant blues. As we entered the inlet the waters began to change colour to a cloudy blue as the concentration of glacier melt increased. We stopped for a lone Humpback who was diving deep and



Grizzly portrait, Fiona Dunbar

showing its fluke beautifully (the inlet is an unbelievable 1600 feet deep), before continuing to the logging station run by the Klahoose First Nations who were also our guides for the land-based part of the trip.

As we approached the end of the inlet there was a dense haze over the mountains and a slight smell of smoke – the wind was blowing smoke over from a forest fire on the other side of the mountain. We had two guides and after smoked salmon snacks we boarded our bus and headed into the epiphyte laded forest on gravel tracks. Our first look-out tower was quiet, so we moved to a second tower close to where the other group were watching a female Grizzly. Our view of her (Patience, a 4-year-old with her first set of cubs) was restricted through trees, but we could see her sitting in the river and running around catching fish. She left and returned to the forest where her cubs were hidden; this behaviour probably indicates a dominant bear was nearby and she wanted to avoid conflict. Moving to another tower we had a show from a group of Turkey Vultures and juvenile Bald Eagles. Every stretch of the beautiful, stony Toba River was alive with spawning Chum Salmon. We passed the car which they use for various things, which one of the naughtier cubs had investigated, almost taking off a wing mirror entirely and leaving paw prints all over. Our guide Riley decided to retry tower 6. What a good call. Straight away we could see a full-grown male making his way up river towards us. This was probably the bear Patience was avoiding. We had incredible views of this huge grizzly hunting catching and eating salmon maybe 20 m away from us. He carried his second fish into the woods on the other side of our tower, where we could see him feasting amongst the ferns. Minutes later 'Edmonton' as we nicknamed the nice photographer who was part of our group – quietly tapped everyone on the shoulder to alert us to the second bear – a female – walking up the river towards us. The male was rather beaten up and will have been moving out of her way; females with cubs are the more aggressive. We could not believe our luck as this large glossy female Grizzly hunted, caught and ate yet more salmon right in front of our tower. Eventually our driver had to carefully make his way to the bus and bring it to the bottom of the tower so we could board and return to the dock, passing the large male on our way out; we had run well over time. Absolutely fantastic. Lunch was put out for us on tables on the dock and we watched part of the logging process whilst eating – a load of timber being tipped into the waters of the inlet, to join other loads of timber



Humpback Fin, Fiona Dunbar already stored there. One workman was moving the loads around with a small tug or 'Logbronc' and even got out and walked around on them checking them over.

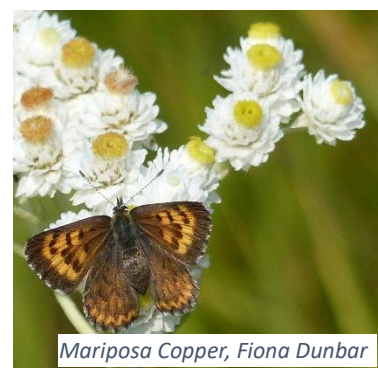
Our return journey was again scenic and rather warmer as the day warmed up. The sea was smooth and calm, perfect for spotting cetaceans but we were out of the inlet before seeing a blow. We had a fantastic time with a few more Humpbacks before returning to Campbell River marina. Later, zooming in on the rather fantastic photos we all got, we noticed the rather scary teeth on the spawning salmon, who metamorphose into strange hook-nosed things as they pass into fresh water to spawn, and the many scars on the bear's faces.

For supper we walked along the sea front to Moxies for a very nice meal and raised a glass for Sue's birthday.

Day 11 Friday 5th September Mount Washington – Paradise Meadows and Saratoga Beach



Whiskey Jack, Fiona Dunbar (*Vaccinium membranaceum*). There were three types of orchids, pretty Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*), White Bog Orchid (*Platanthera dilatata*) and green-flowered Green Bog Orchid (*Platanthera hyperborea*). The latter two were mostly over due to the dry season. The trees had changed too, with Yellow Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*), Subalpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Juniper (*Juniperus communis*). At various spots on the raised wooden walkway there were parties of very tame Dark-eyed Juncos, Canada Jays and Stellar's Jays. We did very well for butterflies with four Camberwell Beauties, a Mariposa Copper, Hyclaspe and Western Meadow Fritillaries. We failed to identify the common dragonflies, probably Paddle-tailed Darner (*Aeshna palmata*). Lunch was taken sitting on steps on the boardwalk in the shade. Both groups met up a mile or so from the start and then we were back in the air-conditioned bus on our way to Saratoga Beach for a paddle/swim/ice-cream to cool off. (The plan to visit some interesting potholes in the Oyster River was quashed by road works where we wanted to park.) The beach is



Mariposa Copper, Fiona Dunbar

backed by a pleasant residential area where we saw Red Squirrel and Cottontail. Another lovely stroll along to Moxies for supper, enjoying a Blue Heron perched outside and a Blood Moon turned orange by the smoke particles from the forest fires on the way home.

Day 12 Saturday 6th September

Quinsum River Hatchery, Oyster Bay and the Ferry to the mainland



Black Bear, not working too hard, Fiona Dunbar

We left our luggage in a locked conference room and we on our way by 9 am on the 10-minute journey to the Quinsum River Hatchery. We looked round the good new information centre and set off on the new trail. There was a lot of bear poo and claw scratches metres up on trees climbed by bears. I went down to the river's edge and found a photographer waiting peacefully for kingfishers. She told me about a better path, so we changed directions and went out through the hatchery tanks. A couple of hundred metres out there was a

counting station across the river and a Black Bear catching Pink Salmon in the shallow water in front! We watched the bear until he/she walked off downstream and chatted to the lady who's job it was to count salmon. There were numerous Ravens, Turkey Vultures and Eagles around. We watched a vulture feasting on a salmon carcass at the edge of the water. In the undergrowth we saw a number of White-browed Sparrows. We decided to walk further up the track by the river and after a few minutes I spotted a second bear – a bigger one this time – walking up the river in our direction. He was heading towards our bank so we said hello and waved to make sure he knew we were there. He looked straight at us and slowly made his way over to the other bank. Fantastic morning.

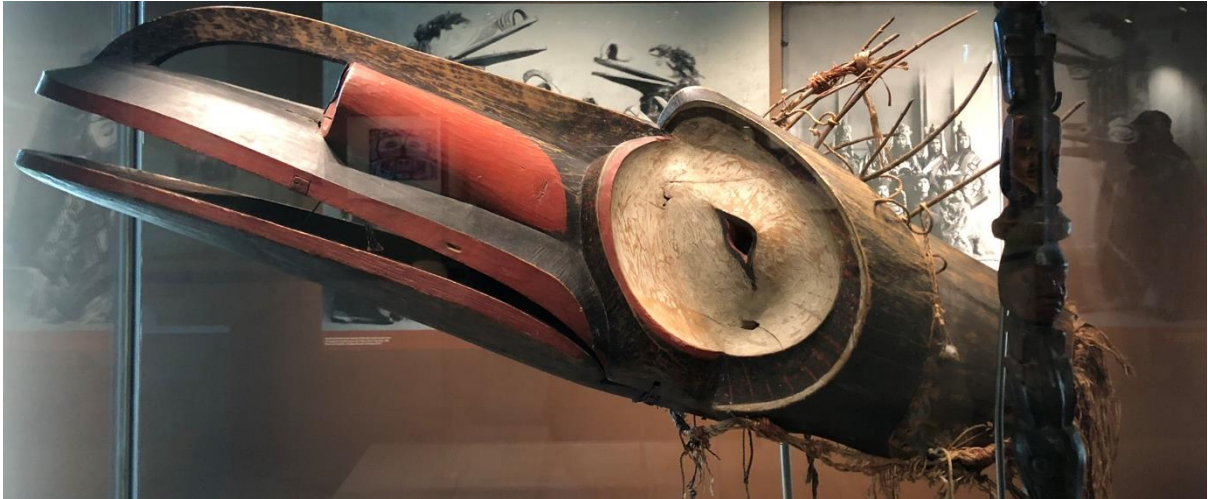
We returned to Campbell River to pick up our luggage and load it into the second vehicle before heading to Subway to choose our lunches. Twenty minutes later we reached the Oyster Bay Seashore Reserve. It was busy with cyclists. One approached us and told us there was a pod of orcas offshore. It was a day for getting good information from friendly locals! Lunch was taken sitting on logs looking out to sea at the distant pod. They were Transient Orcas as even on the horizon their dorsal fins were huge and straight. There were at least 8 fins showing so double numbers in the pod. These rather overshadowed the Killdeer in the lagoon but there was a nice Loon not far out. Time to head to the ferry. Once again there were quite frequent Black-tailed Deer resting in people's gardens and a few Mule Deer. On to the ferry, where the café made excellent tea and we saw a Humpback and a small V of White-winged Scoters flying low over the water. A short journey away we were back in the Coast Tsawwassen and having very good blackened chicken and burgers at Browns next door. Our last evening meal!

Day 13 Sunday 7th September

The George C Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary and The Vancouver Cultural Museum

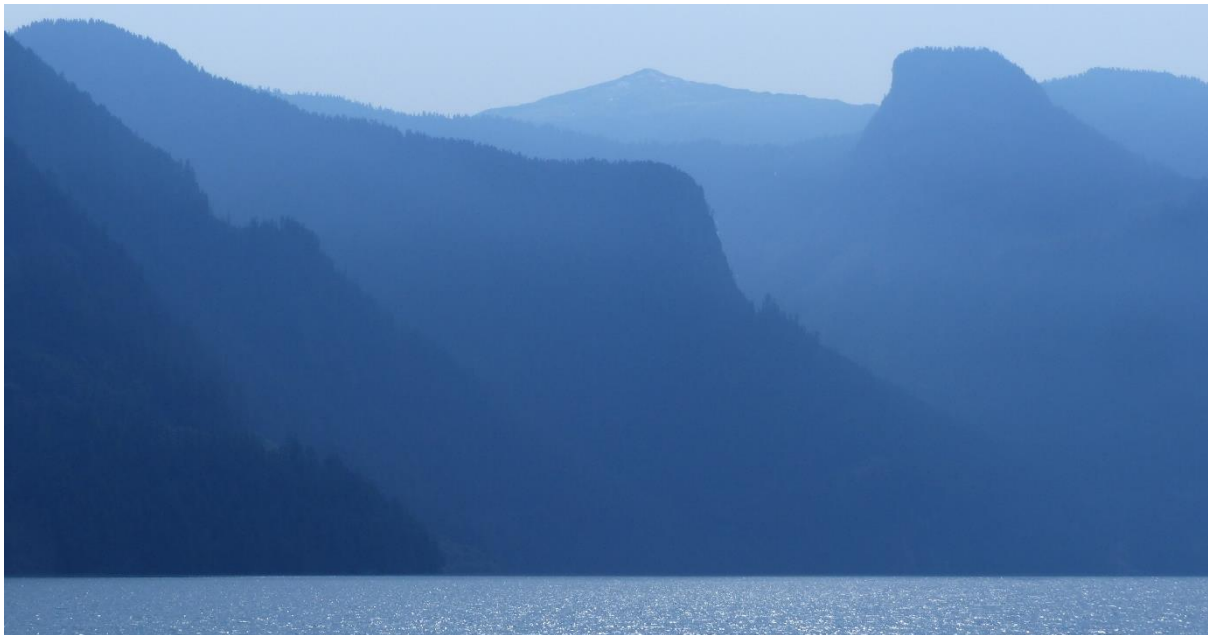
A brief pre-breakfast walk with Janet found Brown Creeper, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Red-fronted Nuthatches, but the hoped-for hummers were missing. However, once at the Reifel Reserve there were numerous territorial Anna's hummingbirds around the feeders by the office. We tagged

onto a guided walk that was just starting which was a good move as local volunteer Mary filled in lots of background information about the reserve as well as moulting duck and wader identifications. In two hours we probably doubled the number of species on the bird list but the stars were Spotted Towhees, Wood Duck (beautiful), Widgeon, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-rumped Warblers, lots of Brown Creepers and more very tame Black-capped Chickadees, a few Purple Martins, and pendulous Bushtit nests built of lichen and cobweb, and some beautiful rufous Long-billed Dowitchers.



On to the Anthropological Museum of Vancouver where the café had a very limited menu indeed, but it served the purpose adequately. I think we all agreed that the displays in the museum itself were mind-blowing and ideally needed several visits. With its soaring architecture and stunning Northwest Coast First Nations art collection, the Museum of Anthropology was amazing, both the dramatic Great Hall, with its magnificent carved house poles, or the gorgeous displays of Inuit art and First Nations clothing.

We were at the airport for 5 and said our final goodbyes. Thank you all for being such a fantastic group.



Blue Toba Hills, Fiona Dunbar

Species List One - Mammals

Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus ssp vancouveri</i>	Ucluelet Coast, many, one with 3 cubs, Quinsum River Hatchery, two individuals
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus horribilis</i>	Toba Inlet. Amazing views of fishing bears
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	(2019) Vargas Island, off Tofino
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Signs at Reifal
Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	Hundreds, both Port Alice & off Tofino
Northern River Otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	Alert Bay – a very active family of 7
Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Daily, abundant, very close at Brown's Bay
Steller's Sea-Lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Johnstone Strait, Pacific Rim
Californian Sea-lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	Off Tofino
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Scattered sightings, west coast
Black-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus columbianus</i>	Roadsides, Pacific Rim, Reifel
Roosevelt Elk	<i>Cervus elaphus roosevelti</i>	glimpses, roadsides
Resident Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca ssp. ater</i>	Johnstone Strait
Bigg's Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca ssp. rectipinnus</i>	A pod of aprox. 12, off Oyster Bay
Pacific White-sided Dolphin	<i>Sagmatias obliquidens</i>	Johnson's Strait
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Pacific Rim
Dall's Porpoise	<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	Johnson's Strait
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Port Alice, Johnstone Strait
Common Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Johnson's Strait
Gray Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Pacific Rim
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Port Alice, scattered records
Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Reifel and scattered records
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	behind Saratoga Beach

Species List Two - Birds

Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Port Alice, Oyster Bay, scattered
Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Port Alice
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Port Alice
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Reifel
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	(2019) off Middle Beach
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Port Alice
Fork-tailed Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma furcata</i>	The inlet out of Port Alice
Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	Ferry & other saltwater locations
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Ferry & other saltwater locations
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Daily on shorelines
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Common. No surprise there.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Reifel Bird Sanctuary
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Reifel Bird Sanctuary
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Spatula cyanoptera</i>	Reifel Bird Sanctuary
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	Reifel Bird Sanctuary
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Reifel Bird Sanctuary
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Reifel Bird Sanctuary
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Reifel Bird Sanctuary
White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Off Tofino and Ucluelet
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Pacific Rim, Port Alice, Johnsons Straits
Common Merganser (Goosander)	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	(2019) Discovery Passage (hotel) Campbell River
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	(2019) Reifel
Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>	Johnston's Strait
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Daily, perched along shorelines

Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Common on dry E side of VI
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Tofino
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	(2019)Reifel, foraging over marsh
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	(2019)Orford River
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	(2019)Reifel
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	(2019)Reifel (heard only)
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Reifel
Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	rocky shorelines
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	Brown's Bay
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Chesterman Beach, Reifel
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Reifel
Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	rocky shorelines
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	Chesterman Beach
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Chesterman Beach
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Chesterman Beach
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Chesterman Beach
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Reifel
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Johnstone Strait?
Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Common (UK= Common Gull)
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus Philadelphia</i>	(2019 Discovery Passage off Campbell River
Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	(2019) Middle Beach
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Abundant, saltwater
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	(2019) Single bird, Johnstone Strait (leader only)
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	Abundant, all saltwater
Common Tern	<i>Sterna Hirundo</i>	Johnstone Strait
Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Johnstone Strait, Pacific Rim
Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus Columba</i>	Johnstone Strait & other saltwater
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	Johnson's Strait, one or 2
Marbled Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Johnstone Strait
Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	Johnstone Strait (abundant)
Tufted Puffin	<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>	Rene spotted 1, Port Alice Harbour
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Urban areas
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagionenas fasciata</i>	Reifel
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Scattered Sightings, Reifel
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Scattered sightings
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	Port Alice
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Scattered sightings, Tsawassen, Port Alice, Reifel
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Seen most days. Scattered Sightings, Port Alice
Red-breasted Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	(2019) Mt. Washington
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	(2019) Qualicum Falls PP
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Port Alice (usually common)
Pileated Woodpecker (heard)	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	One seen at Starbucks, Qualicum Falls PP
Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>	(2019) Middle Beach (leader only)
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Daily, abundant in coniferous forest
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	Mt. Washington, very tame.
Northwestern Crow	<i>Corvus caurinus</i>	Daily, abundant.
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Daily, abundant.
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Scattered Sightings
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Reifel
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapilla</i>	Reifel
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	Daily in coniferous forest, common.
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Pendulous nests seen at Reifel
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Scattered records, Reifel.
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Quisitis point, Scattered sightings

Pacific Wren frequently)	<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>	Abundant in coniferous forest. Heard
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	(2019) Reifel (heard in marsh).
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Pacific Rim
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	Little Qualicum Falls
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Coniferous forest (abundant)
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Daily, migrating birds
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	(2019) Elk Falls PP
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Scattered records, urban areas.
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	(2019) Scattered records
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Pacific Rim
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Scattered Records
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Qwisitis Point
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Qwisitis Point, Reifel
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	Qwisitis Point
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	(2019) Reifel & Orford River estuary (both heard only)
Western Tanager	<i>Pirangaa ludoviciana</i>	(2019) Zeballos wharf area
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Reifel
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Reifel, scattered sightings
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Quisitis Point, Pacific Rim
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Common in wet habitats
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Quwisitis Point
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	heard, Reifel
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	Reifel,
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Mt. Washington (high elevation)
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	(2019) Reifel
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	(2019) nr Reifel
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Tsawwassen, Reifel
*Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Alert Bay (heard)
*American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Reifel (heard)
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Heard frequently coniferous woodl

Species List Three – a few selected Plants.

Order and naming follow Plants of Coastal British Columbia (Pojar and Mackinnon)

Trees

Western Hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Common, characteristic curved tip
Mountain Hemlock	<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>	Higher elevations, Strathcona
Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> ssp <i>menziesii</i>	Elk Falls, Little Qualicum. Some giants seen! Thick, fissured bark
Amabilis Fir	<i>Abies amabilis</i>	Higher elevations, Strathcona
Subalpine Fir	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>	Higher elevations, Strathcona
Grand Fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>	(2019)Elk Falls
Sitka Spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Strathcona
Shore Pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i> ssp <i>contorta</i>	Coastal, Ucluelet, Strathcona
Lodgepole Pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i> ssp <i>latifolia</i>	
Western White Pine	<i>Pinus monticola</i>	Strathcona
Pacific Yew	<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Strathcona, big one at Little Qualicum Falls
Western Red Cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Lower elevations
Yellow Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>	Higher elevations
Red Alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	White bark that looks like birch,

Sitka Alder	<i>Alnus alnobetula sinuata</i>	often forms pure stands
Douglas Maple	<i>Acer glabrum ssp douglasii</i>	Strathcona
Bigleaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Little Qualicum, shrubby
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	large epiphytic load
Pacific Crab Apple	<i>Malus fusca</i>	(2019) ferry terminal Duke Point ?
Arbutus	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	tasty fruit! Oyster Bay
		Little Qualicum Falls , Coastal
		Ucluelet
Garry Oak	<i>Quercus garryana</i>	(2019) Uncommon on VI; Duke
		Point Ferry
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Reifel
Shrubs and Small Trees		
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	V Common, black berries on red
		stems
Oval-leaved Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>	Pacific Rim, Strathcona
Black Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium membranaceum</i>	Black berries, no
		bloom. Strathcona
Red Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Common, red berries
Bog blueberry	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	Prostrate, blue berries with waxy
		Bloom, Strathcona
Evergreen Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	(2019)Evergreen, coniferous
		woods, often in the spray zone
Alaska Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium alaskaense</i>	Strathcona
False Azalea	<i>Menziesia ferruginea</i>	widespread
White-flowered Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron albiflorum</i>	Strathcona, lvs
Bog Labrador Tea	<i>Rhododendron groelandicum</i>	Strathcona lvs
White Mountain Heather	<i>Cassiope mertensia</i>	Strathcona, lvs
Pink Mountain Heath	<i>Phyllodoce empetrifomis</i>	Strathcona
Common Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	West coast, roadsides
Crowberry	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Strathcona, needle-like lvs
Western Bog Laurel	<i>Kalmia microphylla</i>	Strathcona
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Trailing, leathery leaves. Little
		Qualicum Falls, Strathcona.
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera ciliosalvs</i>	Roadsides
Twinberry	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	Strathcona
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Strathcona
Common Snowberry	<i>Syphoricarpos albus</i>	(2019)Stamp Falls
Ocean Spray	<i>Holodiscus discolour</i>	Widespread, Little Qualicum Falls
Sitka Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus sitchensis</i>	Ucluelet?
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Fruits yellow or reddish, mushy
		rasps.
Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Fruits like shallowly domed rasps,
		Kwisitis Point, Port Alice in flower
Himalayan Blackberry	<i>Rubus discolour</i>	Common, introduced, delicious
Trailing Blackberry	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	Trailing, native, delicious. Little
		Qualicum Falls
Evergreen Blackberry	<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>	(2019)Long Beach Airport,
		delicious,introduced
Bog Cranberry	<i>Oxycoccus oxycoccus</i>	Strathcona, lvs alternate,
		evergreen
Hard hack	<i>Spirea douglasii</i>	Strathconca
Devils Club	<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>	(2019)Elk & Stamp Falls Lg spiny lvs

Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	introduced, widespread
Stink Blackcurrant	<i>Ribes bracteosum</i>	(2019) Elk Falls
Sitka Willow	<i>Salix sitchensis</i>	(2019)
Cascara	<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	(2019)Elk Falls
Sitka Alder	<i>Alnus crispa ssp sinuata</i>	(2019)
Vine Maple	<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Scattered, trailing, shrubby
Common Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Strathcona
Mahonia	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	Elk Falls, common elsewhere
Liliaceae (Lily Family)		
Clasping Twisted Stalk	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	Strathcona
Western Trillium	<i>Trillium ovatum</i>	(2019) Leaves only
False Lily-of-the-Valley	<i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i>	Woodland
False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosus</i>	Woodland , Strathcona
Sticky False Asphodel	<i>Tofeldia glutinosa</i>	Strathcona lvs and fruit
Green False Hellebore	<i>Veratum virida</i>	Strathcona, lvs and fruit
Orchidaceae (Orchid Family)		
Green Bog Orchid	<i>Platanthera hyperborea</i>	Strathcona
White Bog Orchid	<i>Platanthera dilitata</i>	Strathcona, in flower
Ladies Tresses	<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>	Strathcona
Polygonaceae (Buckwheat Family)		
Alpine/American Bistort	<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	Strathcona
Caryophyllaceae (Pink Family)		
Beach Sandwort	<i>Honkenya pepliodes</i>	(2019)Long Beach
Coastal Pearlwort	<i>Sagina maxima</i>	(2019)Long Beach
Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)		
American Sea Rocket	<i>Cakile edentula</i>	(2019)Long Beach
Crassulaceae		
Broad-leaved Stonecrop	<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	Qualicum Falls
Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)		
Smooth Alumroot	<i>Heuchera glabra</i>	Elk Falls lvs only
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>	Elk Falls, Qualicum Falls
Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)		
Alpine White Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha leptosepala</i>	(2019) Strathcona, lvs
Globe Flower	<i>Trollius laxus</i>	Strathcona, lvs
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Strathcona, lvs
Spleenwortleaf Goldthread	<i>Coptis asplenifolia</i>	Strathcona
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Scattered sightings
Primulaceae		
Creeping Jenny	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	West Coast
Rosaceae (Rose Family)		
Nootka Rose sp.	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Softly spiny, West coast
Goat's Beard	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Strathcona
Beach Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Chesterman Beach
Villous cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla villosa</i>	Chesterman Beach
Greater Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Strathcona, red flowers, short stamens
Sitka Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba canadensis ssp latifolia</i>	(2018)Strathcona white flowers
Menzies Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba menziesii</i>	(2019) Red flowers, long stamens. A hybrid
Ocean Spray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Qwisitis Point
Fabaceae (Pea Family)		
Beach Pea	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	Near Black Rock Hotel

Arctic Lupin	<i>Lupinus Arcturus</i>	Strathcona, lvs
Springbank Clover	<i>Trifolium wormskjoldii</i>	Chesterman Beach Red fls tipped with white
Sweet White Clover	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	Strathcona carpark spikes of small white flowers
Birds Foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Strathcona, non-native
Giant Vetch	<i>Vicia gigantea</i>	West Coast Trail
Violaceae (Violet Family)		
Stream Violet	<i>Viola glabella</i>	Strathcona lvs
Onagraceae (Evening Primrose Family)		
Fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Strathcona, roadsides
Apiaceae (Carrot Family)		
Common Cowparsnip	<i>Heracleum maximum</i>	Toba
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Strathcona, roadsides
Sea Watch	<i>Angelica lucida</i>	West Coast Trail
Beach Glenhia	<i>Glenhnia littoralis</i>	Pacific rim path
Gentianaceae (Gentian Family)		
King Gentian	<i>Gentiana szeptum</i>	Strathcona, Qualicum Falls
Scrophulariaceae (Figwork Family)		
Purple Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Introduced, roadsides
Asteraceae (Aster Family)		
Chicory	<i>Chicorium intybus</i>	Introduced, roadsides
Silver Burweed	<i>Ambrosia chamissinis</i>	(2019) Coastal dunes, sand, gravel beaches
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millifolium</i>	Roadsides
Orange Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella aurantica</i>	Port Alice
Common Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common, roadsides
Ragwort	<i>Jacobeae vulgaris</i>	Scattered Records
Dune Tansy	<i>Tanacetum bipinnatum ssp huronense</i>	(2019) Coastal
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Strathcona around the carpark
Leafy Aster	<i>Symphotrichum foliaceum</i>	The common purple aster
Douglas Aster	<i>Symphotrichum subspicatus</i>	West Coast trail
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Port Alice
Canada Goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	The common goldenrod
Gumweed	<i>Grindelia integrifolia</i>	Sticky, yellow dandelion flowers. Roadsides, West Coast trail
Pearly Everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Common and widespread, roadsides (2019)
Common Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Strathcona
Arrow-leaved Groundsel	<i>Senecio triangularis</i>	Port Alice
Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	
Berberidaceae (Berberis Family)		
Vanilla Leaf, Deer Foot	<i>Achlys triphylla</i>	Moist, shady forest floors
Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)		
California Poppy	<i>Eschschoizia californica</i>	Roadsides, Alert Bay
Cornaceae (Dogwood Family)		
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Strathcona
Red-Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Reifel, Strathcona
Primulaceae (Primrose Family)		
Sea Milkwort	<i>Glaux maritima</i>	(2019) Long Beach
Jeffrey's Shooting Star	<i>Dodecatheon jeffreyii</i>	(2019) Strathcona, fruit
Menyanthaceae (Buckbean Family)		

Bogbean/Buck Bean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	pools, Strathcona
Deer Cabbage	<i>Nephrophyllidium crista-galli</i>	Strathcona
Convolvulaceae (Convolvulus Family)		
Beach Morning Glory	<i>Convolvulus soldanella</i>	roadsides
Plantaginaceae (Plantago Family)		
Sea Plantain	<i>Plantago maritima ssp juncooides</i>	Schooner Cove 2018
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	West Coast
Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	roadsides
Campanulaceae (Campanula Family)		
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Elk and Little Qualicum Falls
Araceae (Arum Family)		
Skunk Cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanum</i>	Various sightings
Juncaginaceae (Arrow-grass Family)		
Sea Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>	Schooner Cove 2018
Lentibulariaceae		
Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Strathcona, Ivs 2018
Orobanchaceae		
Giant Red Paintbrush	<i>Castilleja miniata</i>	Qwistis, West Coast
Graminaceae (Grasses)		
Dune Grass	<i>Elymus mollis</i>	Dunes and beaches
Marron Grass	<i>Ammophylla arenaria</i>	Dunes and beaches, not native
Common Cotton-Grass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Strathcona
Timothy Grass	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Scattered sightings
Ferns		
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Common, Elk Falls
Sword Fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Common in woodlands, Elk Falls
Hard or Deer Fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Common in woodland, Elk Falls
Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Large 2-3 pinnate fronds in large crowns
Spiny Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris expansa</i>	(2019) Elk Falls, Strathcona
Oak Fern	<i>Gymnocarpium Dryopteris</i>	Broadly triangular pinnate fronds, lime green, creeping. Elk Falls
Maidenhair Fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	A stunning palmately branched maidenhair. Elk Falls
Goldenback Fern	<i>Pityrogramma triangularis</i>	(2019) Little Qualicum Falls
Licorice Fern	<i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i>	Fairly common, shady woods or near falls
Leathery Polypody	<i>Polypodium scolieri</i>	A coastal species, with large rounded segments. Chesterman Beach
Fragile Fern	<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Kennedy Lake
Queen's Veil Mountain Fern	<i>Oreopteris quelpartensis</i>	Kennedy River
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Elk Falls
	<i>Equisetum varigatum</i>	Stamp Falls, unbranched
Giant Horsetail	<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Qwistis point
Scouring Rush	<i>Equisetum hymenale</i>	Qwistis Point
Water Horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Kennedy Lake
Aquatics		
Scouler's Surf-grass	<i>Phyllospadix scouleri</i>	Schooner Cove 2018
Western Yellow Pond Lily	<i>Nuphar polysepala</i>	Strathcona

Species List Four – Butterflies and Dragonflies!

Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Strathcona
Mariposa Copper	<i>Tharsalea mariposa</i>	Strathcona
Hyclaspe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hydaspe</i>	Strathcona
Pacific (Western Meadow)Fritillary	<i>Boloria epithore</i>	Strathcona
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Strathcona, common elsewhere
Paddle-tailed Darner	<i>Aeshna palmata</i>	probably this spp, common

Species List Five - Seashore and Rock Pool and Aquatic Species

Rough Keyhole Limpet	<i>Diodora aspera</i>	Strand line, Long Beach, hole at the tip
Whitecap Limpet	<i>Acmaea mitra</i>	Strand line, Long Beach, steep sided, white
Ribbed Limpet	<i>Lottia digitalis</i>	Strand line, Long Beach
Leafy Hornmouth	<i>Ceratostoma foliatum</i>	Predates mussels and barnacles, Middle Beach
California/Blue Mussels	<i>Mytilus californicum</i>	Rocks, all beaches
Northern Horsemussel	<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>	Large, washed up on Long Beach, mostly, lives buried or near sand.
Reddish or Swimming Scallop	<i>Chlamys rubida</i>	(2019) Norma found one on South Beach
Pacific Oyster	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	Washed up, Wickaninnish Beach
Butter Clam	<i>Saxidornus gigantia</i>	(2019) Pacific Rim
Shell Barnacle	<i>Solidobalanus hesperium</i>	...on shells
Goose Barnacle	<i>Pollicipes polyneni</i>	On washed up stones and driftwood, Beach
Chesterman		
Acorn Barnacle	<i>Balanus glandula</i>	Covering rocks
Thatched Barnacle	<i>Semibalanus cariosus</i>	(2019) base of the shells looks like thatch
Pacific Razor Clam	<i>Siliqua patula</i>	Washed up on the beaches
Nuttall's Cockle	<i>Clinocardium nuttallii</i>	Washed up on the beaches
Purple Olive	<i>Olivella biplicata</i>	Many of the hermit crabs on South Beach were in these smooth, lilac and purple shells
Black Turban	<i>Tegula funebris</i>	Like a black top shell, in rock pools
Northern Feather Duster Worm	<i>Eudistylia vancouveri</i>	On the dock pilings, Tofino
Shipworm	<i>Bankia setacea</i>	Much evidence of holes in driftwood!
Giant Green Anemone	<i>Anthopleum xanthogrammica</i>	Large, glowing green, short brown stem
Aggregating Anemone	<i>Anthopleura elegantissima</i>	(2019) forms colonies of smaller individuals, or lone, larger ones. Green with sometimes pink or purple tips to the tentacles, short or long green stem
Lion's mane Jellyfish	<i>Cyanea capillata</i>	(2019) Zeballos, Pacific Rim, long tentacles
Moon Jellyfish	<i>Aurelia labiate</i>	Pacific Rim (4 white blobs)
Sea Gooseberry	<i>Pleurobranchius bacchii</i>	(2019) Long Beach, probably this species
Flat Top Crab	<i>Petrolisthes eridmerus</i>	(2019) Eating a jellyfish below the dock, Tofino
Hairy Hermit	<i>Pagurus hirsutiusulus</i>	probably this species Quisis Point
Red Rock Crab	<i>Cancer productus</i>	(2019) Washed up on South Beach, like a pie crust, red
Dungeones Crab	<i>Cancer magister</i>	Lots on Wickaninnish Beach
Ochre or Purple Starfish	<i>Pisaster ochraceus</i>	Common, purple and orange variants, a Sea Otter was eating one Port Alice boat trip
Purple Sea Urchin	<i>Strongylocentrolus purpuratus</i>	Rockpools, favoured by Sea Otters

Eccentric Sand Dollar	<i>Dendraster excentricus</i>	(2019) Middle Beach
Starry Skate	<i>Raja stellulata</i>	(2019) egg case, South Beach
Feather Boa Kelp	<i>Egraria menziesii</i>	Chesterman Beach
Bull Kelp	<i>Nerocystis luetbeana</i>	Lots washed up on the beaches, and wrapped round Sea Otters, Humpback fins ...
Spotted Ratfish	<i>Hydrolagus colliei</i>	Ucluelet Harbour
Chum Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	Toba River
Pink Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>	Quinsum River

Species List Six – Other

Pacific Banana Slug!	<i>Ariolimax columbianus</i>	Quisitis Point, Port Alice
Northwestern Garter Snakes	<i>Thamnophis ordinoides</i>	Quisitis Point
Fan Moss	<i>Rhizomnium glabrescens</i>	Old Growth Forest
Frog Pelt lichen	<i>Peltigera neopolydactyla</i>	Old Growth Forest
Mehuselah's Beard	<i>Usnea longissima</i>	Forest