

Pacific Seabird Group – 2017 Field Trips

44th Annual Meeting

22-25 Feb 2017

Tacoma WA

updated: 27 Nov 2016

Field Trips

Puget Sound teems with seabirds in the winter! All around Puget Sound there are great places for birdwatching from shore or by boat, hiking, kayaking and many many more outdoor activities. As part of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group in February 2017 in Tacoma, WA, we offer two field trips on **Sunday, February 26, 2017** to explore beautiful and interesting sights in the Puget Sound area See below for field trips, or download the 2017 Field Trips document. Pre-registration is required and is available via RegOnline. Field trips can be added after you have registered. If you need help, please follow the instructions in this handy [RegOnline Guide – How to Modify Your PSG Registration](#). For questions about the field trips, please contact the Local Committee: locochair@pacificseabirdgroup.org

Option 1

Birding at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Sunday 26 February 2017

8 AM – 2 PM

Cost: USD \$60, per person

DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP: Friday 10 February 2017 (11:59 pm Pacific Time)



Billy J. Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Photo credit: Peter Hodum

Join a group of expert local birders at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is approximately 40 minutes south of Tacoma, at the confluence of the Nisqually River and the marine waters of Puget Sound. The Nisqually River is in one of the more pristine watersheds in the region.

Pacific Seabird Group – 2017 Field Trips

The Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge underwent the largest restoration effort in Puget Sound in 2009 and now offers a mix of tidally influenced habitat, freshwater wetlands and wooded areas all accessible by trails. There are excellent opportunities to observe myriad marine birds, including sea ducks and black brant on Nisqually Reach, which fatten up before migrating north. You might even hear Pacific tree frogs chorusing. You can also learn about the history of Nisqually NWR, which was established in February 1974 - Happy 43rd Birthday!

More information on the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge? Check the US Fish and Wildlife Service website for lots of great information.

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/billy_frank_jr_nisqually/

What does the field trip cost include? Lunch, transportation and a guided tour by expert, local birders.

Field trip logistics? Before the conference, field trip information on the logistics and recommended gear will be emailed to people who have registered.

What to bring? Dress warmly! It will be winter in the Pacific Northwest - plan for rain, wind, and cold temperatures near or slightly above freezing (45-50°F or 6-10°C)



Photo credit: Kim Stark



Photo credit: Kim Stark

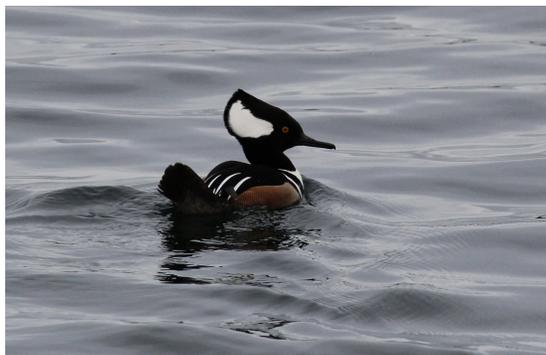


Photo credit: Kim Stark

Pacific Seabird Group – 2017 Field Trips

Option 2

Protection Island Seabird Cruise on Puget Sound

Sunday 26 February 2017

8 AM – 6 PM

Cost: USD \$155, per person

DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP: Monday 23 January 2017 (11:59 pm Pacific Time)

Minimum: 15 people. **Maximum:** 31 people.



*Aerial view of Protection Island in Puget Sound
Photo courtesy Puget Sound Express*

Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge is located near the mouth of Discovery Bay in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Nearly 70 percent of the nesting seabird population of Puget Sound and the Straits nest on the island (e.g., rhinoceros auklets, tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots and glaucous-winged gulls). The island is located near seabird hotspots, including thousands of overwintering seabirds including sea ducks, waterfowl and shorebirds. We will board Puget Sound Express' *Glacier Spirit* in Edmonds (about 1 hour north of Tacoma) for a four-hour cruise. On-board interpreters will provide commentary on local birds, mammals, geology, history and weather.

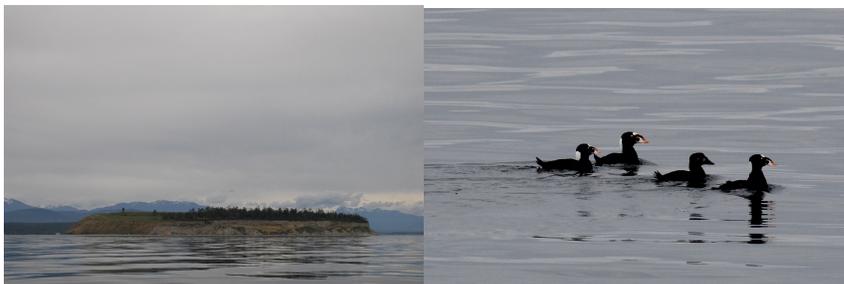


Photo credit: Peter Hodum

Photo credit: Kim Stark

What does the field trip cost include? Lunch, transportation and a guided tour by expert, local birders.

Pacific Seabird Group – 2017 Field Trips

Field trip logistics? Before the conference, field trip information on the logistics and recommended gear will be emailed to people who have registered.

What to bring? Dress warmly! It will be winter in the Pacific Northwest - plan for rain, wind, and cold temperatures near or slightly above freezing (45-50°F or 6-10°C).

Custom and Self-guided Tours

There are several great options for custom and self-guided tours of the area if you are interested in exploring the Olympic Peninsula or around the Pacific Northwest.

Olympic Peninsula

Create a custom tour of the Olympic Peninsula, including the Elwha River and Olympic National Park! The PSG 2017 Annual Meeting Local Committee has coordinated with local tour guide Carolyn Wilcox to allow you to create a custom tour with her if you and a small group are so inclined. Transportation to/from Port Angeles is required. Reservations are required so please call today to book your tour.

Experience Olympic LLC

Tour Guide Carolyn Wilcox

Tel: 1-360-808-9237

Email: tours@experienceolympic.com

website: <http://experienceolympic.com/why/guide>

Tacoma area

Point Defiance Zoo and Park

<http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/point-defiance-park>

<http://www.pdza.org/>

Vashon Island

Take a ferry from Point Defiance to Vashon Island and spend the day birding at Quartermaster Harbor, eating local food, and enjoying the island culture

<http://www.vashonchamber.com/>

Pacific Northwest

Interested in seeing Mount Rainier, Snoqualmie Falls, the North Cascades, or perhaps doing some wine tasting or guided tours of Seattle? Evergreen Escapes has you covered.

<https://www.evergreenescapes.com/>