

Bird Watching Tour

Clallam Bay to Cape Flattery ~ Self-Guided

Highway 112 mile markers shown as (MM--)

LOCATION #1.....Clallam Bay Coast Guard Station/Slip Point (MM 17.2)

Where: Turn right at center of town (main hwy. turns left). Drive down Frontier Street to gate at old Coast Guard Station. Park outside gate (buildings are rented to a private party), and walk to beach. The rocky headland to the north is Slip Point, which is well known for its fossil beds. At low tide a large reef is exposed which attracts many species of shore birds. The large rocks around the point are extremely slick. Wear felt-soled fisherman shoes if you plan to hike on the rocks.

LOCATION #2.....Clallam River Estuary (MM 17.2)

Where: Park at the County Park at the center of Clallam Bay. Use the footbridge over a tidewater slough connected to the Clallam River. Excellent estuary habitat.

LOCATION #3.....Marina at Sekiu (MM 15.2)

Where: All the docks and the jetty at the Sekiu harbor offer good birding. The seabirds become accustomed to people and activity and you may be able to get close to them from the docks. My only positive I.D. of an Ancient Murrelet came when one surfaced within 10 feet of the dock. Murrelets are very shy and difficult to approach on the open water. Please ask permission from the resort before using docks.

LOCATION #4.....Mouth of the Sekiu River (MM 11.5)

Where: Four miles west of Sekiu the highway is next to the beach. The mouth of the river is at the end of the straight-a-way, but on private property. Park along the highway next to the beach and use your binoculars to scope out the mouth of the river. In the fall, Pelicans and several species of ducks can be seen.

LOCATION #5.....Shipwreck Point (MM 7.8)

Where: Over a mile of beautiful beach can be walked between Chito Beach Resort and the public access parking spots at Shipwreck Point. Wide rocky tide pool beaches and lots of seaweed make this a popular shorebird feeding area during all seasons. Keep a look out on the next seven miles as this area is near Bald Eagle saturation.

LOCATION #6.....Snow Creek Resort Overlook (MM 1.2)

Where: From the overlook just before Snow Creek Resort, use a spotting scope for a look at nesting and roosting seabirds. Here you will see the first of the offshore nesting rocks that make the Cape Flattery area so important to the bird world. Sail and Seal Rock (the largest one) are representative of the unique geology of the area that has produced the sea stacks that so many of the seabirds depend on for nesting sites.

LOCATION #7.....Neah Bay Marina (MM 0.0 is at the Makah Reservation)

Where: As you first enter "downtown" Neah Bay, drive out the big breakwater next to the Makah Maiden Cafe. As in Sekiu, you may see open water seabirds as well as shorebirds. On the other end of town a small creek enters the bay just past the Senior Activity Center. Pull to the edge of the road and observe the beach as it is one of the 'hot spots' for ducks and shorebirds.

LOCATION #8.....Cape Flattery

Where: The whole thing! As soon as you leave Neah Bay, the next 5 miles is Cape Flattery. Many of my rarest bird sightings have been in the forests and on the rocks of the Cape. It must rank with the Dungeness Spit in importance in the migration of many species and as a nesting site for others. Use your spotting scope from the Cape Flattery overlook to see the Murres nesting on the cliffs of Tatoosh Island during the spring and summer.

Noteworthy sightings for the Northwest Coast (* less common)

From Land:

Hermit Thrush
Peregrine Falcon
Sandhill Crane*
Vaux's Swift*
Trumpeter Swan*
Merlin*
Wandering Tattler*
Pacific Plover
Lesser Yellowlegs*
Black Turnstone
Sanderling
Red-Necked Phalarope

From Boat:

Tufted Puffin
Cassin's Auklet
Pigeon Guillemot
Rhinoceros Auklet
Black Footed Albatross
Northern Fulmar
Pink-Footed Shearwater
Sooty Shearwater
Buller's Shearwater*
Willet*
Pomarine Jaeger*

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