



Shorebirds and Boreal Birds of British Columbia

August 17-23, 2021

Tentative Itinerary

This is a special time of the year. It is the best season of the year for boreal birds, and we are right in the middle of shorebird migration. Land migration is on, but more spread out and not very predictable.

August 17: Fly into British Columbia

After meeting at Vancouver Airport, we will get our van(s), may make a quick afternoon birding stop somewhere and then we will be resting at the hotel.

Lodging: Somewhere in White Rock/Delta for the next 2 nights

August 18: Boundary Bay

Shorebird migration is in full swing and Boundary Bay is one of the best spots on the West Coast to go see them. We should see good numbers of the common shorebirds (Short-billed Dowitcher, Western and Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plover) and there always is something uncommon around. We are hoping for Stilt Sandpiper, Red Knot, Ruff, Semipalmated Sandpiper and golden-plovers, but none of them are at all guaranteed. If the tides line up, we might also visit Reifel Migratory Bird Refuge.

August 19: Boundary Bay to Manning Park

We may make another stop for shorebirds in the morning. Then we are headed for Manning

via Great Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Cheam Lake Wetlands and Kawkawa Lake in Hope, but this is somewhat dependent on the reports en route.

We may have time to bird at Manning. There the main targets include Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak and Spruce Grouse. We hope to find flocks of migrants; when you hit it right, 50-100 warblers will be swirling about. Northern Pygmy-Owl, Canada Jay, Clark's Woodpecker and Sooty Grouse are also possible.

Lodging: Manning Park Resort at Manning Provincial Park for the next 2 nights

August 20: Manning Park

We will work different areas at Manning, and will be on our feet a lot today. As many of the above targets are challenging, we will spend special time and effort to find them.

August 21: Manning to the Okanagan Valley

We may spend early morning looking for boreal species again at Manning. Otherwise, we will be travelling from Manning Park to the Okanagan Valley, with a stop in Princeton where we can work the Ponderosa Pine dominated lower elevation forest.

In the Okanagan Valley, we will make stops in the lower elevations around Vaseux Lake, Okanagan Falls and in Oliver.

Lodging: Penticton for 2 nights

August 22: Shuttleworth Creek Rd

We will spend the whole day on this road, again accessing boreal habitat to find these difficult species mentioned above. Dusky Grouse is also possible. The road includes all possible habitats of the area, so we will take our time to find migrants as well. Who knows what we might be able to find.

August 23: Fly home in the afternoon

Depending on our flight home, we may have some time to spare to do some birding until we make a dash for Vancouver Airport.