

Western Salish Sea Watch Results from 2006-2015.

By Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland.

Introduction

The Western Salish Sea Watch started in by Rick Toochin with his first trip to the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley in May 2006. Over the next four years Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland worked out the best places to watch the ocean and worked out the best times to go to view ocean birds with the sea watch continued to 2015. There are several locations that were adequate to sea watch including: the overlook at Beechy Head, the waters off Whiffin Spit, Otter Point overlook, waters off Gordon's Beach, waters off Muir Creek, the waters off Jordan River, the waters off French Beach, the waters off China Beach, the waters off Sombrio Beach, and the harbour area around Port Renfrew. We found these locations limited in what was found. As a result, we did almost all our sea watches from the overlook at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and the overlook at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. For tubenoses and specific seabird species the data does mention other areas, but the focus of the data will be almost entirely on what was observed from Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Both areas were ideal as they not only were close to the ocean but provided us height to look way offshore. The sea watches were conducted during both good weather and extremely rough weather. If observers try to go out on extreme weather days safety and precautions must be taken as it can be dangerous dew to falling trees and flying debris. These results can be duplicated by anyone willing to be dedicated enough to go out in miserable weather.



Figure #1: Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 18, 2009. Photo © Rick Toochin.



Figure # 2 & 3: Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew and sea view on May 31, 2008. Photos © Rick Toochn.

Methodology

We used high powered Swarovski Telescopes and good quality binoculars. It was vital to watch the weather and make sure to be at either location for 8 hours to make sure we hit the tidal change. We used camping chairs, brought food supplies, and attached umbrellas to our tripods to keep our optics dry. Even in summer, conditions were variable, and it was important to dress with warm clothing. We would methodically sweep the horizon with our scopes tracking back and forth for 8 plus hours recording the species we encountered and trying not to double count. The change of tide and weather played a huge role in our success each day.

It is well documented that the “Juan de Fuca Eddy” brings offshore deep water into the strait with some of the largest tidal flows in the world and as a result this tidal flux brings food from far offshore into the mouth and far up into the strait (Burger 2003). Another important factor is that the deep-water canyon found offshore of the Salish Sea entrance extends up the middle of the strait and terminates straight off Jordan River where the Sheringham Lighthouse is located (Google Maps 2024). The very best results were to have a rising tide over night that culminated with gale to storm force NW winds of over 30 knots that had bands of heavy rain mixed into the storm. Just having heavy winds had mixed results, it was the driving rain that really helped push the birds inshore. We had excellent results when we started our sea watches at first light as many of the seabirds were found in the first 2 hours of the day. We believe that the birds got displaced close to shore or pushed into the Western Salish Sea mouth overnight and once it became light out, they would get their bearings and we would watch them leave immediately. The other factor that would increase the odds of finding tubenoses from shore were in the late summer and fall when bait balls would form, especially after it had rained. These balls of small fish would attract everything for miles around to feed on them. When there were multiple bait balls visible from shore is when we experienced the highest numbers of seabird sightings. Another factor was

when there were sustained gale force winds that were NW for over 7 days straight. When we would conduct sea watches during these weather events, we almost always found good stuff. The same was true when we had winds NW blowing over 55 Knots. These extreme winds produced some of the craziest records and allowed us to view highly pelagic birds from shore! But I can't stress enough that caution should be used when travelling in these winds and safety should always be the priority.

One more important point that is good to understand is the waters off Botanical Beach to Sheringham Point are different to those off Clover Point in Victoria. The ocean water and food found in the western strait regions radically changes as you travel eastward from East Sooke Point to the downtown waterfront off Victoria and as a result it takes a lot more for seabirds to journey into this area. Seabirds are often found on the American side of the strait as the water is same as found in the Botanical Beach-Sheringham Point Region. That is why the Black Ball Ferry produces more seabirds than Clover Point. It is also important to understand that 20 – 30km distance can mean a great deal when it involves these types of birds.

Results

It became readily apparent from the first Sea watch in late May 2006 at Sheringham Lighthouse that we were onto something. As time progressed and we experimented with different weather scenarios, and we figured out how to do the sea watch. Everything was eventually encountered. It is unfortunate that digital cameras of this era were not good enough to capture what were we recording all the time. We did our best, but it proved to be very difficult. We did the surveys every month of the year. We found the very best time of year started in early to mid August and went through till mid to late October and in some cases into early November.

In early August of 2009 warm waters came up from Hawaii covering the fishing grounds of Swiftsure Banks, La Perouse Banks and beyond (R. Nicks Pers. Comm.). The warm water influx didn't come into the strait and as a result forced the offshore small prey fish to come into the Western Salish Sea in massive numbers creating huge "bait balls" (Capt. R. Nicks Pers. Comm.). The "Juan de Fuca Eddy" probably was also a large factor in this effect as it has a tremendous pull on the tides (Burger 2003). As a result, from early August through mid to late October the offshore fishery was fishing in the Western Salish Sea mouth. The fishery was dumping massive amounts of bi-catch which was measured by Capt. Russ Nicks to be over 2 feet deep (Capt. R. Nicks Pers. Comm.). As a result of there being these factory boats in close to shore many tubenoses would follow the boats eating the bi-catch which created a unique and rare opportunity to study them from land. This was a unique situation as normally a person would have to go far offshore to view many of these species' close-up. Many hundreds if not thousands of tubenoses came into the western region of the Western Salish Sea. All these species were

visible using telescopes from shore. Many of the dozen factory ships, such as the seiner, the Osprey, had as many as 56 Black-footed Albatrosses behind them including a sub-adult Short-tailed Albatross that was seen by a few lucky birders and whale watchers. It would be interesting to see if this phenomenon occurs again in the future as it brought with it many incredible sightings. As a result, hundreds of pelagic tubenoses, jaegers, alcids, gulls etc. were seen right off the Otter Point overlook in Sooke and all the way up to the waters off Port Renfrew. To take advantage of this opportunity many boat trips were organized out of Sooke and allowed many people to enjoy these birds in calm waters from an open zodiac. One pelagic trip in August 2009 had 50+ Pomarine Jaegers and well over 100+ Pink-footed Shearwaters in the Western Salish Sea with many documentation photographs taken. With further dedicated sea watching efforts observers will find much of what has been reported here again. It is vital to pay attention to the tides, the storm tracks and ocean temperatures to be successful. It also helps to be diligent and patient as these winged phantoms do not always occur close to shore, even under perfect conditions.

All written up species were found while conducting the sea watches. The raw data shows our results for seabirds and rarer species and is shown for completeness in the hopes this will inspire others to take up sea watching in the region in the future. Any abbreviated observer names are the authors or names that appear throughout the document. The status besides the name of a species is applied for the sea watch results.

Species observed on Sea Watch

Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Emperor Goose is a casually occurring waterfowl species in British Columbia with 73 records (Toochin 2023a). The only record on the sea watch was during a stormy day when Greater White-fronted Geese were observed migrating through the region in large numbers. We had 3 adult birds observed together from Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew heading eastward up the strait on October 4, 2008 (Toochin 2023a).

Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*): [Rare migrant in the Spring and Fall]

The Snow Goose is a rare but regular migrant species in the region (Toochin 2024a), mostly travelling through the Georgia depression during migration (Campbell et al. 1990a). Snow Geese pass through the region in small numbers in October and will winter in the region with a small number passing through from late March into late April (Toochin 2024a). We did however encounter some numbers of birds in both spring migration and fall migration. The highest count was 170 birds travelling together past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 7, 2009.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
2	adults	Mar-4-2007	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Sept-25-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-18-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

20	adults	Oct-4-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
170	various ages	Oct-7-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-17-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*): [Common migrant in Spring and Fall]

The Greater White-fronted Goose migrates along the outer coast in very large numbers during both spring and fall migration (Campbell et al. 1990a). This species found in the region in good numbers, especially along the outer coast around Port Renfrew. The Greater White-fronted Goose is an uncommon winter visitor from late November through till late March when numbers increase to fairly-common in early April (Toochin 2024a). This species become common in mid April dropping in numbers in the later half of April into May with birds becoming rare in the summer months (Toochin 2024a). The first fall arrivals occur at the end of August when birds increase in numbers in September becoming more common until mid September into mid October before numbers drop to uncommon (Toochin 2024a). Birds are sometimes found in large flocks during migration or as individuals during the summer and winter in the region often single birds are mixed in with more abundant Canada Goose flocks. Our sea watches detected birds throughout the year with more modest numbers occurring in the fall and some representation in the spring. Our highest counts included 8000 birds travelling past Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on October 4, 2008; and 175 birds travelling past the Sheringham Lighthouse near Shirley on September 25, 2008. Late migrant record involved 2 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on June 6, 2007.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*): [Fairly-common to Common in Spring, Fall and Winter]

The Brant is a fairly-common species that winters in the region in good numbers (Toochin 2024a). Numbers increase from late March into early May with numbers dropping throughout the month of May as they move north to the breeding grounds (Toochin 2024a). This species is rare in the summer months with the odd bird summering in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds First appear in early September with numbers slowly increasing from mid September into mid October with good numbers wintering in the region from late October into mid March (Toochin 2024a). The Brant is often observed in the region off Sooke Harbour, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, Jordon River, and a few other areas. High counts include 1200 individuals observed on the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 23, 2007; Another high count includes 188 birds including 4 Gray-bellied Brant subspecies observed off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on December 15, 2007; another high count of 114 individuals was observed off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on March 7, 2009; another high count involved 160 birds observed off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on May 16, 2010.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Cackling Goose is an uncommon species that are found throughout the winter with birds arriving in the fall in mid September with some wintering and staying until early May (Toochin 2024a). This species leaves in May and heads north to breed so is absent during the summer month and starts to return in late August into early September (Toochin 2024a). The sea watches detected his species on many occasions. The highest number encountered involved 245 birds moving north past off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on May 2, 2009; 80 birds found

travelling north off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 24, 2010; and 12 birds found flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 17, 2009. This species was frequently observed in migrant groups off both at Botanical Beach and off the Sheringham Lighthouse and should be found on future sea watches.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Canada Goose is a common species that are found as a year-round resident and also do migrant through the region (Toochin 2024a). The sea watches detected this species on many occasions. The highest number encountered involved 400 moving south past off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 1, 2009; 120 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 19, 2007; and 67 birds found flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 17, 2009. This species was frequently observed both at Botanical Beach and off the Sheringham Lighthouse and should be found on future sea watches.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*): [Accidental: Two Winter Records]

The Trumpeter Swan is a species that does winter in a few estuaries in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the later part of October wintering in appropriate habitat in the region and leave in early April (Toochin 2024a). Not an expected species to be found on the sea watch however we did have this species twice with 6 birds (3 adults and 3 immature birds flying past Sheringham Lighthouse on December 2, 2006; and 5 adults found flying past Botanical Beach on December 30, 2006.

Blue-winged Teal (*Spatula discors*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Blue-winged Teal is a rare passage migrant throughout the region in April into May and is a rare summer visitor in appropriate habitat with a few fall birds occurring from August throughout September into early October (Toochin 2024a). The only record we had on the sea watch was an immature found flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 7, 2007.

Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Northern Shoveler is an uncommon to common wintering species in the region and is found normally in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). On the sea watch we mostly encountered migrating birds passing by both study locations. The highest counts were in the fall which included: 200 birds off the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 4, 2008; 120 birds off the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 25, 2008; and high spring count of 30 birds found flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on May 13, 2007. This species should be found on future sea watches in the area.

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*): [Accidental: One Spring Record]

The Gadwall is a species that is a fairly-common species in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). This species is found in fresh water and coastal estuary areas in the region. Gadwalls occur throughout the winter months from arrival in the fall in October until they leave in the spring in late April (Toochin 2024a). Birds leave to head to northern breeding from late spring and are rare in the summer from late May until mid September until the fall when they start to reappear in numbers (Toochin 2024a). The only bird we had on the sea watch was an adult

female found by Louis Haviland and Rick Toochin as it flew past Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew in NW Gale force winds on Mar-28-2009.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Eurasian Wigeon is a rare to uncommon winter visitor to the region with birds normally found amongst flocks of wintering American Wigeon in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Numbers vary with birds arriving in October and staying until mid May (Toochin 2024a). The only record for the sea watch was of an adult male found amongst a small migrating flock of 13 American Wigeon by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland as it flew past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 8, 2007.

American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*): [Fairly-common in Spring and Common in Fall Migration]

The American Wigeon is a common species in the region in appropriate habitat from mid September through the winter into mid May (Toochin 2024a). Numbers drop down dramatically throughout the month of May and only a few nonbreeders linger throughout the summer months until the birds come back south in September (Toochin 2024a). Our sea watches mostly encountered migrating flocks and individual birds flying through the area in the fall. Our largest counts included: 1200 birds observed from the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 25, 2008; 310 birds were observed passing Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 30, 2017; and 115 birds were observed passing the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 20, 2009. The highest spring count was 6 birds observed off the Sheringham Lighthouse on May 13, 2007. This species should be found on future sea watches in the area.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Mallard is a species that is found commonly throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species mostly in migrating groups at both locations. Our highest counts included: 100 birds found flying together north past the Sheringham Lighthouse on March 4, 2007; 100 birds flying south past the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 4, 2008; 22 birds flying south past Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on October 18, 2008. This species should be found on future sea watches in the area.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Northern Pintail is a fairly-common to common species in appropriate habitat from mid September to mid April when bird numbers drop as birds head north to their breeding grounds (Toochin 2024a). Numbers of Pintail continue to fall into mid May with just the odd nonbreeding bird linger into the summer months and start to return in mid August with numbers building up into September (Toochin 2024a). Our sea watches encountered Northern Pintail on a regular basis with migrant birds passing through mostly being encountered. Our highest counts included: 7000 birds observed flying north past the Sheringham Lighthouse on March 4, 2007; 3000 birds flying south past the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 25, 2008; 1200 birds flying south past Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 25, 2007; 321 birds flying past Botanical Beach on September 30, 2007; and 76 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 30, 2007. This species migrates through the area in numbers and should be found on future sea watches.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*): [Fairly-common in Spring and Common in Fall Migration]

The Green-winged Teal is a fairly-common species in appropriate habitat in the region from mid September through the winter till mid-April when number drop in May when birds have the left the region to breed in the north (Toochin 2024a). This species has not been documented breeding in the region but does get the odd nonbreeding bird spending the summer months until the migratory birds start to return in mid August and build up in number through till mid September (Toochin 2024a). Our sea watches encountered migrating birds in varying numbers. Our highest counts included 4000 birds observed flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 4, 2008; 1100 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 25, 2008; 533 birds flying past Botanical Beach on September 30, 2007; and 200 birds flying past Botanical Beach on August 25, 2007. Though we encountered this species more in the fall than the spring, Green-winged Teals were encountered regularly enough that future sea watches should detect this species.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Redhead is a rare species in the region with records mostly occurring in the fall from mid October into the winter months and in the early spring into mid April from the Sooke area (Toochin 2024a). We only encountered a single adult female flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 23, 2009.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*): [Accidental: One Winter Record]

The Ring-necked Duck is a fairly-common duck in the region in appropriate habitat with birds occurring in the fall from mid October throughout the winter and spring to mid May (Toochin 2024a). The odd bird lingers around into the summer months, but no nest records have been found (Toochin 2024a). It was not a species that was expected on the sea watch however we encountered it twice on salt water. On both occasions birds were seen close to shore at Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. The first involved 2 adult males on January 27, 2007. The second observation involved 3 adults (2 males and 1 female) on March 31, 2007. Both observations likely involved the same birds as they were observed in the same general area.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Tufted Duck is an accidental in the region with only a couple of records (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The only record we had on the sea watch was an immature male that was observed through a telescope at close range with a female Greater Scaup as it flew past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 29, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a).

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*): [Uncommon to Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Greater Scaup is a common species in appropriate habitat in the region from mid October through the winter into mid April (Toochin 2024a). This species drops in numbers dramatically in later part of April into May with the odd nonbreeding bird lingering into the summer months before birds reappear in mid September and build up in number into October (Toochin 2024a). Many good locations to find species in the region include: Sooke Harbour, off Whiffin Spit, Muir Creek, Jordan River, and the harbour in the Port Renfrew area. We encountered this species occasionally on the sea watch mostly in small numbers varying from 1-5 birds. Our highest

numbers involved migrating birds which included: 6000 birds seen flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on March 4, 2007; 67 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 4, 2008; 65 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on April 1, 2007; and 45 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 25, 2008. This species should be found again on future sea watches as it moves through this region every year in modest numbers.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Lesser Scaup is fairly-common species that occur in appropriate habitat from mid October through the winter until mid April (Toochin 2024a). This species becomes uncommon in the later half of April and become rare by the end of May (Toochin 2024a). This species doesn't breed in the area and only the odd summering nonbreeders are found from June through early September (Toochin 2024a). The Lesser Scaup increases in numbers during the month of September into October (Toochin 2024a). There was only one record on the sea watch involving 2 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 25, 2008. Given they are found in estuaries, ponds, and in sheltered harbours near the area, future records are very likely to be found.

Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*): [Accidental: One Spring and One Fall Record]

The Steller's Eider is an accidental vagrant in British Columbia with 11 provincial records (Toochin and Haviland 2023a). We were fortunate enough to find 2 different birds which were found while conducting the sea watch. The first was an immature/ female found by Rick Toochin and Corina Isaac and was seen in both binoculars and a Swarovski Telescope as it flew past the shoreline about 75 m from shore amongst a mixed flock of Surf and White-winged Scoters off Botanical Beach on September 30, 2006 (Cecile 2007a, Toochin and Haviland 2023a). This bird was part of a group of observations that occurred in a 2-week period from Washington to California (D. Cecile Pers. Comm.). The second bird was a male, either a second-year bird or an adult coming out of eclipse plumage, that was found and photographed by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on May 26, 2007 (Cecile 2007c, Toochin and Haviland 2023a). This bird was on its own and was well seen 50-60m from shore in both binoculars and Swarovski Telescopes.



Figure 1: Record #2: Steller's Eider 2nd year male off Sheringham Lighthouse, Shirley on May 26, 2007. Photo © Rick Toochin.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Common Eider is an accidental waterfowl species anywhere in British Columbia with 9 provincial records (Toochin 2023i). There was only a single observation of this species for the sea watch an adult female found by Roger Taylor seen at close range in a scope off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 16, 2007 (Toochin 2023i).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): [Fairly-common in Spring and Fall: Common in Winter]

The Harlequin Duck is a fairly-common to commonly found species in the region during the year from mid August through till May late May into early June (Toochin 2024a). This species does breed in the region and is found uncommonly during the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Birds can be found everywhere along the shorelines of the region with concentrations in Sooke Harbour, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, off Jordan River, and Port Renfrew Harbour are a few good reliable locations for this species. Our surveys encountered Harlequin Ducks on a frequent basis at both locations as they winter in saltwater areas all along the coast of British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990a). We would average between 10-20 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse and 20-30 birds off Botanical Beach throughout the fall through and the winter into Spring period. Our only summer record involved 2 birds off Botanical Beach on June 21, 2008. This species is an expected bird on the sea watch and is often found in reasonable numbers.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Surf Scoter is a common species in the region found from mid September throughout the winter into late May in the spring (Toochin 2024a). During the summer month there are often good numbers of nonbreeding birds that linger around in small flocks (Toochin 2014a). Birds can be found everywhere along the shorelines of the region with concentrations in Sooke Harbour, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, off Jordan River, and Port Renfrew Harbour are a few good reliable locations for this species. Our sea watches encountered many winter flocks, migrating flocks and summering bird flocks over the years. Numbers would vary from small numbers of 1-14 birds in a flock upwards of several thousand birds. Our high counts timed out perfectly when the Surf Scoters would mass up for spring migration or when large groups would appear during the fall migration period. The numbers varied from the highest counts which included: 10,000 birds observed off the Sheringham Lighthouse on April 23, 2007; 5000 birds off Botanical Beach on September 30, 2007; 3000 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse on May 13, 2007, to small groups of 12 or less seen during the summer months off both locations. There are enough birds present year-round to warrant further study to make sure the effect of pollution and climate change do not drastically reduce wintering populations.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*): [Common throughout the Year]

The White-winged Scoter is a common species in the sea water area of the region from October throughout the winter into spring and the late May (Toochin 2024a). This species is found in small to large nonbreeding flocks in the summer months from June into late September (Toochin 2024a). Birds are found in Sooke Harbour, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, off Jordan River, and Port Renfrew Harbour are a few good reliable locations for this species. We encountered the White-winged Scoter on the sea watches in good numbers throughout the year. Numbers would vary depending on the time of year. Summer records would be varying between 1-20 birds. Number

throughout the winter and migration periods remained steady between 25-60 birds. The highest counts on the sea watch included 243 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse on December 16, 2006; 113 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse on October 4, 2008; 78 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse on May 19, 2007; and 65 birds off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on July 22, 2007. There are enough birds present year-round to warrant further study to make sure the effect of pollution and climate change do not drastically reduce wintering populations.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*): [Rare in Winter, Summer and in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Black Scoter is a rare winter species found in coastal habitats in region from late September throughout the winter into early May with the odd bird summering in the region from mid May to mid September (Toochin 2024a). Most birds were observed amongst mixed scoter flocks as individuals with the high count including 2 birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 4, 2008. Of note was a female that summered off the Sheringham Lighthouse from June 6-July 1, 2007; and an adult male that was found during the summer off the Sheringham Lighthouse July 4-5, 2009. Most sightings came from the Sheringham Lighthouse area with other sightings from the waters off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew and off Otter Point. Birds were found throughout the year but are rare in general. It is a species that should be found again on future sea watches.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*): [Uncommon in the Winter, Spring and Fall]

The Long-tailed Duck is a fairly-common species in the region from mid-October through the winter till mid April (Toochin 2024a). The species becomes uncommon from mid April to mid May and then becomes rare to casual during the months of June through the end of September when the species starts to come back into the region (Toochin 2024a). The sea watches did encounter the Long-tailed Duck but not on a frequent basis. Most counts were 1-2 birds with high counts of 5 birds off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on December 28, 2007; and 6 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse on December 26, 2006. Most birds were found off the Sheringham Lighthouse with a few also found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Given that this species is found in the region each year this species should be found on future sea watches.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Bufflehead is a common species in appropriate habitat in the region from late September to early May (Toochin 2024a). Birds rapidly disappear from the region in May with a few summer records of nonbreeding birds occurring in the region until they return in numbers in September (Toochin 2024a). This species is found in sheltered areas such as Sooke Harbour or in freshwater ponds. On our sea bird survey, we only had Bufflehead on a single occasion involving 4 adult males flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 23, 2009. It seems very likely that given how common a species Bufflehead is during the winter months in the region, there should be more records in the future.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*): [Accidental: Two Spring Records]

The Common Goldeneye is a common species in appropriate habitat in the region from mid October to mid April with birds disappearing to their breeding grounds in from the later half of April into May with the odd nonbreeding bird spending the summer and birds returning from mid

September into mid October (Toochin 2024a). Our surveys only had this species on 2 different occasions. The first involved a female observed flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 10, 2009. The second also involved a female flying past Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on April 4, 2009. It seems very likely that given how common a species the Common Goldeneye is during the winter months in the region, there should be more records in the future.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*): [Accidental: One Spring Record]

The Barrow's Goldeneye is a common species in appropriate habitat in the region from mid October to mid April with birds disappearing to their breeding grounds in from the later half of April into May with the odd nonbreeding bird spending the summer and birds returning from mid September into mid October (Toochin 2024a). Our surveys only produced a single observation of 2 birds observed off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 4, 2009. Given this species occurs in other areas of the region it is very likely to be found again on future sea watches.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*): [Accidental: One Summer and One Fall Record]

The Hooded Merganser is an uncommon winter visitor in appropriate habitat to the region from October through till early May (Toochin 2024a). From mid-May in to late May this species decreases to a rare but regular status and has been documented breeding in the region (Toochin 2024a). The more open saltwater found in the strait is not ideal for this species, but we encountered Hooded Merganser on 2 occasions off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. We had 2 females off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 27, 2008; and 3 birds off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2008. It is a more infrequently observed species on the sea watch but could be found again with future efforts.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*): [Uncommon to Common in Winter and Spring and Fall]

The Common Merganser is a common species found in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). It also does breed in the region in the summer months (Toochin 2024a). On the sea watch we had Common Merganser on several occasions, mostly off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. The highest count on the sea watch involved 43 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 14, 2009. This species is common in the region in estuary and harbour habitats, though is found on salt water regularly, usually near shorelines. As a result of being a common species in the region this species should be found again on future sea watches.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*): [Common throughout Winter, Spring and Fall]

The Red-breasted Merganser is a common species in appropriate habitat from mid October throughout the winter into late April with species becoming less frequent until the end of May (Toochin 2024a). This species becomes casual with nonbreeding birds occasionally being found from June to early September when numbers begin to increase for the winter (Toochin 2024a). Birds are found in Sooke Harbour, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, off Jordan River, and Port Renfrew Harbour are a few good reliable locations for this species. On our sea watches we had many birds observed on several occasions. The highest counts involved 35 birds observed off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 6, 2007; and 22 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 31, 2007. This species winters on saltwater and should be encountered on future sea watches in numbers.

California Quail (*Callipepla californica*): [Common Breeding Resident at Sheringham Point]

The California Quail is an introduced breeding common species found in the region throughout the year (Toochin 2024a). We had this species many times while conducting the sea watch off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. Sightings included: 5 individuals here September 3, 2007; 12 individuals here on October 6, 2007; and 28 individuals found here on November 17, 2007. Though not a seabird its included here for completeness.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Pied-billed Grebe is an uncommon species in appropriate habitat in the region with birds occurring from early September throughout the winter into the third week of April. This species has bred in the region and occurs during the from May though till September as a rare regular species. The Pied-billed Grebe can occur on salt water and on the sea watch we encountered a single immature bird just off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on November 11, 2007.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*): [Uncommon to Common in Winter and Spring and Fall Migration]

The Horned Grebe is a commonly occurring species that arrives in the region in the fall in late September staying the winter into late April in the spring (Toochin 2024a). Then the numbers drop throughout May as birds head north towards their breeding grounds with only the odd bird occurring during the summer months until they start to return in late August and continue to increase till the end of September (Toochin 2024a). Birds are found throughout the region in near offshore coastal marine environments such as Sooke Harbour, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, off Jordan River, Port Renfrew Harbour are a few good locations to find this species. We encountered this species many times on the sea watch from both locations. Most counts involved 1-14 birds observed throughout the year. The highest number involved 33 birds observed close to shore from the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 20, 2009.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*): [Common in Winter and Spring and Fall Migration]

The Red-necked Grebe is a common species in appropriate habitat in the region from mid September through the winter months to early May in the spring (Toochin 2024a). Numbers drop in May significantly as birds leave to head to their breeding grounds (Toochin 2024a). There are a few nonbreeding birds that will summer over in some years, but the most birds leave returning in the fall by mid August with numbers continuing to build up into September (Toochin 2024a). This species was found with regularity in Sooke Harbour, off Whiffin Spit, off Gordon's Beach, Muir Creek, off Jordan River, China Beach, and in harbour at Port Renfrew. Our sea watches had this species on a regular basis throughout the year at both locations. Numbers ranged from 1-25 birds on our counts. High counts included: 45 birds found on off the Sheringham Lighthouse on April 10, 2009; 33 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 28, 2007; and 28 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 10, 2007. This species is common in the region and should be found on future sea watches in numbers.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*): [Casual in Winter and Spring and Fall Migration]

The Eared Grebe is a rare species in the region in appropriate habitat with birds occurring occasionally as individual birds from September through the winter into the end of April in the spring (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species a few times off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley.

This species had this species as single individuals observed but we did have one record of 2 birds observed in breeding plumage found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse on April 7, 2007. Eared Grebes do occur in the winter in the waters off the southern tip of Vancouver Island regularly enough that this species should be found again on future dedicated sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult winter plumage	Jan-13-2006	Denise Gubersky	Otter Point
2	adults breeding plumage	Apr-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Feb-13-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*): [Common in Winter, Spring and Fall: Uncommon in Summer]

The Western Grebe is a species that is found commonly in the region from early October through the winter into April in the spring (Toochin 2024a). Birds drop in frequency in mid April into mid May and are uncommon in the region during the summer months as nonbreeding birds (Toochin 2024a). Birds in the fall arrive in early September with numbers increasing throughout the month (Toochin 2024a). The Western Grebe is found in various areas around the region from Sooke Harbour, off Whiffin Spit, off Muir Creek, off Jordan River, off China Beach, and in the harbour at Port Renfrew. Numbers would vary at both locations between 1-25 birds. High Counts included 155 birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on December 16, 2006; 132 birds found in the waters off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 30, 2006; 100 birds found off Botanical Beach on September 28, 2007; 33 birds found off Botanical Beach on September 10, 2007; and 33 birds found in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse on April 10, 2009. This species has undergone a dramatic decline in population numbers over the past couple of decades and winter numbers are important to monitor to gauge overall the health of the species. It would be good to keep monitoring Western Grebe numbers in the area into the future. This species is found in numbers with enough regularity in the region and should be found on future sea watches.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*): [Accidental: One Winter Record and Three Fall Migration Records]

The Clark's Grebe is a very rare but annual species in the region in the spring, fall and early winter and is accidental in the summer (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The species has been photographed in the region as well. Our sea watches encountered this species quite a few times. With most observations recorded off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley, in the waters off Jordan River, and Gordon's Beach. These birds were observed either on their own or sometimes amongst small flocks of Western Grebes. The records included: an adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off Gordon's Beach from November 19-25, 2006 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a); an adult found and photographed by Rick Toochin, and other observers off Jordan River on March 4, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a); an adult found by Rick Toochin, and other observers off Jordan River on April 16, 2007 (Cecile 2007c); 2 adults found by Roger Taylor, and other observers off Port Renfrew from August 16-18, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a); an adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 16, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a); 3 adults found by Rick Toochin and Louis

Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 24, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a); an adult found by Rick Toochin off Whiffin Spit in Sooke on October 22, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a); an adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off Gordon's Beach on December 26, 2007 (Cecile 2007b); an adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on January 12, 2008: (Toochin and Haviland 2024a); an adult found and photographed by Rick Toochin off Jordan River on October 21, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a); and finally an adult found and photographed by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland and David Allinson off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 23, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a).



Figure #1 & #2: Record #8: Clark's Grebe in winter plumage at Jordan River on March 4, 2007. Photo © Rick Toochin.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Red-throated Loon is a species that is commonly found in the region from mid October throughout the winter into early May in the spring (Toochin 2024a). Birds start to drop in number throughout May and by June are uncommon to scarce in the summer month with the odd breeding record in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds remain uncommon until mid September when they return to the region with many spending the winter (Toochin 2024a). Red-throated Loons like shallow marine waters to feed in during the winter and areas such Sooke Harbour, the waters off Whiffin Spit, off Gordon's Beach, off Muir Creek, off Jordan River, and the harbour in Port Renfrew are all excellent areas to find this species in the region. They were well represented in number off both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and in the waters off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Our sea watches had numbers that varied from 1-25 birds throughout the year, with most birds found during the winter months. Our highest counts involved 54 birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse on January 1, 2008; 34 birds found in the waters off Botanical Beach; and 33 birds found in the waters off Botanical Beach. This species is common in the region and will be found in numbers on any future sea watch in the region.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*): [Accidental: 3 Records of same bird: Spring, Summer, Fall]

The Arctic Loon is an accidental migrant and winter vagrant anywhere in British Columbia with 12 records (Toochin and Haviland 2023f). Our sea watches encountered likely the same individual that returned to the same area 4 times (Toochin and Haviland 2023f). The first record was of an adult in breeding plumage found and photographed by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland 55m off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on May 20, 2007 (Cecile 2007c, Toochin and Haviland

2023f). This bird was observed in Swarovski Telescopes in direct comparison to a Common Loon and a Pacific Loon (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). This bird was likely involved again with the sighting of an adult in winter plumage found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off Gordon's Beach on December 29, 2007 & January 1 & 6, 2008 (Toochin and Haviland 2023f). Each time the bird was compared to nearby Pacific and Common Loons and on one occasion a juvenile, Yellow-billed Loon. This bird was likely again involved when an adult in winter plumage was found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on June 13, 2009: (Toochin and Haviland 2023f) and again the likely the same adult in winter plumage was found by Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 30, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023f). It is unknown if this bird reappeared in the following years but an adult in winter plumage was found and photographed and digitally videotaped by Louis Haviland off Jordan River on April 15, 2012, and was seen by other observers in the same location on April 21, 2012 (Toochin and Haviland 2023f)



Figure #1: Record #1: Arctic Loon adult breeding plumage off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on May 20, 2007 (poor distant record shot, note loons' foot partially blocking flaring white flank.). Photo © Rick Toochin.



Figure #2 Record #5: Arctic Loon adult winter plumage at Jordan River on April 15, 2012.
Photo © Louis Haviland.



Figure #3: Record #5: Arctic Loon adult winter plumage at Jordan River on April 15, 2012.
Photo © Louis Haviland.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Pacific Loon is a species that is commonly found in the region with birds found from late September throughout the winter into early June (Toochin 2024a). Numbers drop dramatically in June and this species is uncommon in the summer months with nonbreeding birds lingering in some years (Toochin 2024a). Numbers increase in late August when birds begin returning from their breeding grounds and number continue to increase until the end of September (Toochin 2024a). Pacific Loons are found in the region in places such as: Sooke Harbour, off Whiffin Spit, off Gordon's Beach, off Jordan River, off China Beach, and in the harbour in Port Renfrew. This species was well represented in numbers from both our sea watch locations of Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Numbers varied from 1-90 birds on a regular basis depending on weather and the tide. Many high counts of birds found during migration of 100-200 birds were encountered on many different days from late April- into early June and late September into mid October. Our highest counts involved large numbers of 1200 birds found flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 7, 2007; 400 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 10, 2009; 400 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on May 26, 2007; 300 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 6, 2007; 256 birds flying past Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 30, 2007; and 244 birds flying past Sheringham Lighthouse on September 29, 2007. This species is encountered with great frequency and in numbers in the area and should be encountered on future sea watches.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Common Loon is a species that is commonly found in the region from mid September throughout the winter months into late May (Toochin 2024a). Then the numbers begin to drop, and this species becomes fairly-common from mid May to mid June as birds leave the region to head to their northern breeding grounds (Toochin 2024a). During the summer months Common Loons are uncommon with a few nonbreeding birds encountered until they return in mid to late August with numbers continuing to build up (Toochin 2024a). This species is found commonly in the region places like Sooke Harbour, in the waters off Whiffin Spit, off Gordon's Beach, off Muir Creek, off Jordan River, off China Beach, and in the harbour at Port Renfrew. Common Loons were well represented from both Sheringham Lighthouse and Botanical Beach. Numbers would vary from 1-25 birds throughout the year. The highest count involved 34 birds in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse on October 7, 2007. This species is encountered regularly and sometimes in small numbers and should be encountered on future sea watches.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*): [Rare in Winter, Spring and Fall Migration: Casual Summer]

The Yellow-billed Loon is a rare but regular winter visitor in the region with birds found from mid September throughout the winter months into late April (Toochin 2024a). This species is encountered occasionally from late April into early June and from early to mid September (Toochin 2024a). The best area in the region to find this species is the waters off Gordon's Beach, on a rising tide (R. Toochin Pers. Obs.). Our highest count for the region involved 3 adults in winter plumage found in the waters off Gordon's Beach on December 29, 2006. Our sea watches produced this species quite a few times with a single bird normally involved in the observation. We did have a couple of times where 2 birds were seen together. The first sighting was off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on May 31, 2008; and the second involved an adult and

immature observed off Sheringham Lighthouse on January 22, 2010. The Yellow-billed Loon winters in both nearshore and pelagic waters making the strait region an ideal place to find this species. Though not numerous with dedication and persistence this species should be found on future sea watches in the region.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult winter plumage	Dec-16-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Mar-25-2007	RT	Otter Point
1	adult breeding plumage	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	winter plumage	Dec-28-2007	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Dec-29-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Dec-30-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult breeding plumage	May-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult winter plumage	Mar-28-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	nonbreeding plumage	Jun-7-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult breeding plumage	Oct-24-2009		
1	adult breeding plumage	Oct-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult breeding plumage	Oct-28-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Nov-14-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Jan-2-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Dec-19-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	1 adult / 1 immature	Jan-22-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Feb-6-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult breeding plumage	Oct-3-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Figure #1: Yellow-billed Loon in breeding plumage off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 24, 2009. Photo © Rick Toochin.



Figure #2: Yellow-billed Loon in breeding plumage off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 24, 2009. Photo © Rick Toochin.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*): [Common in Spring, Summer, and Fall: Rare in Winter]

The Band-tailed Pigeon is a common species in the region that winters, migrates and breed in the area (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in this region in late March increasing in numbers April becoming quite common throughout the spring until late May when numbers drop (Toochin 2024a). The Band-tailed Pigeon is fairly-common to common throughout the summer months till early August when migrant numbers start moving through the area swelling number to common until the end of October (Toochin 2024a). This species remains rare to uncommon in the region throughout the winter (Toochin 2024a). We encountered Band-tailed Pigeons at both sea watch locations in numbers throughout the year but never located any nests. Numbers varied from 1-12 birds and high counts included: 44 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on August 31, 2008; 33 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on July 27, 2008; 29 birds found at the over look at Otter Point; and 25 birds found at Botanical Beach on August 11, 2007.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Eurasian Collared-Dove is a relatively new species in the region and first appeared in 2006 (R. Toochin Pers. Obs.). They are a rare, year-round, uncommon to fairly-common resident in the region (Toochin 2024a). Our only observation while conducting the seas watch involved 2 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 20, 2009.

Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*): [Accidental: Three Fall Records]

The Black Swift is an uncommon species that can during bad weather appear in bigger numbers. Birds arrive in the area in late April and are uncommon in May becoming fairly-common in late

May into early June when numbers drop to uncommon throughout the summer until mid August when numbers increase to fairly common at the end of August and drop in number in September to uncommon to rare and have left the region by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). Our sea watches had this species only 3 times in the fall with all birds recorded at Sheringham Lighthouse. These observations included: 1 on August 2009; 2 August 17, 2008, and 2 on September 16, 2007.

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*): [Accidental: Three Fall Records]

The Vaux's Swift is a common breeding species found in the summer months in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in late April in small numbers and increase to common in status by the end of the month of May and remain common throughout the summer until the end of September when numbers drop in October and this species becomes very rare and are gone by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). This species was found 3 times on the sea watch with all records found off the Sheringham Lighthouse. These observations include: 9 birds on September 3, 2007, 12 birds on September 16, 2009; and 400 birds observed on September 8, 2007.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*): [Rare to Uncommon Year-Round]

The Anna's Hummingbird is an uncommon breeding species that is found year-round in the region (Toochin 2024a). All our sightings on the sea watch were of birds found around the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. The sea watch had this species throughout the year with numbers averaging 1-2 birds per visit over the years. We never found a nest around the Sheringham Lighthouse, but we suspected birds were nesting in the area. The highest count we had while sea watching involved 8 birds on November 9, 2008.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*): [Accidental: One Spring Record]

The Costa's Hummingbird is an accidental to casually occurring species in British Columbia with 38 provincial records (Toochin and Cecile 2023h). The only record on the sea watch was an adult male found and photographed by Rick Toochin and many other observers feeding on twin berry on the beach at Jordan River from April 7-8, 2007 (Cecile 2007c, Toochin and Cecile 2023h).



Figure #1: Record #1: Costa's Hummingbird adult male on the beach at Jordan River on April 7, 2007. Photo © Rick Toochin.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*): [Common in Spring Migration, Summer, and Fall Migration]

The Rufous Hummingbird is a common breeding species throughout the summer in the region. Birds are scarce when they first arrive in early March and become common by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). This species is common from the beginning of April through till mid August when birds leave to migrate south, and numbers continue to drop through early September and have left the region by the end of the month becoming a casually occurring bird from October through till the end of February (Toochin 2024a). Rufous Hummingbirds occur in appropriate habitat throughout the region. We had this species throughout the summer months at both sea watch locations though never found them nesting. Numbers varied from 1-20 birds with high counts of: 34 birds (watched leaving and heading south over water one by one) off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 12, 2008; 33 birds in the area near the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 25, 2009; 26 birds in the area near the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 1, 2007; 23 birds (watched leaving and heading south over water one by one) off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 4, 2009; and 22 birds (watched leaving and heading south over water one by one) off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 1, 2009.

Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration, mostly at Botanical Beach]

The Sandhill Crane is a common migrant along the outer coast of the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds start to move through in April with numbers building to common from mid April to mid May when numbers drop by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). Sandhill Cranes are casual throughout the summer months with only a couple of summer records from the region (Toochin 2024a). Migrants appear in the fall with birds first appearing in late August into early September building to common by mid September through to mid October when numbers drop to rare by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). Records from November throughout the winter are extremely rare (Toochin 2024a). On our sea watches we had this species mostly from Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. When we encountered migrants, they were always in good numbers of 20-30 birds. Our highest count involved 39 birds flying from Cape Flattery over to Owen Point along the west coast trail and were counted from Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on April 11, 2009. We had only one observation of 1 bird from the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 19, 2008.

No.	Ages	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Apr-19-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
20	various ages	Sept-2-2008	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
27	adults	Mar-28-2009	RT, LH	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
39	adults	Apr-11-2009	RT, LH	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*): [Casual in Fall Migration]

The Black-bellied Plover is a regular migrant species in the spring and fall in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). This species is rare to uncommon through the winter with migrants appearing in the spring throughout April when they are common (Toochin 2024a). Numbers drop in May and the odd nonbreeding bird might spend the summer in the area before the first birds come back south in the fall arriving in late July and remaining uncommon through in August building up to common into September and early October (Toochin 2024a). Number

drops to uncommon to rare in the later half of October throughout the winter (Toochin 2024a). This species occurs in areas such as Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, the beach at Jordan River, and the San Juan Estuary in Port Renfrew. We only had a couple of observations of single birds at both sea watch locations.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Jul-22-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Jul-26-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-25-2008	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-18-2008	RT, LH	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*): [Accidental: Two Fall Records]

The Semipalmated Plover is a regular migrant species in the spring and fall in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). This species is first arrives in early April and builds in numbers throughout the month becoming common by the end of April into mid May before numbers drop and only the odd nonbreeding bird that spends the summer months remains (Toochin 2024a) Birds arrive in the fall in early July and build up in number to common throughout the month of August into early September and are rare by October with the odd bird lingering into November (Toochin 2024a). This species occurs in areas such as Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, the beach at Jordan River, and the San Juan Estuary in Port Renfrew. We only had a single observation of birds at both sea watch locations, and both were in the fall. The first was an immature at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 9, 2007; and the second was an adult found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 11, 2007.

Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the year]

The Black Oystercatcher is a fairly-common species in the region that breeds in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). We had birds in small numbers varying from 1-10 birds at both sea watch locations throughout the year, but nesting birds were never found.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): [Uncommon to Common Spring and Fall Migration]

The Whimbrel is a common migrant along the outer coast in both spring and fall migration (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in April, quickly becoming a common passage bird through till mid May when numbers drop until the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). This species rare in the summer with the odd nonbreeding bird summering in the region (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds arrive in July with numbers building by August into September when numbers drop by the end of September into October becoming rare with the odd bird lingering into late November early December (Toochin 2024a). We had migrant birds at both sea watch locations in varying numbers of 1-10 birds. Our high count was 32 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on April 19, 2009.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Marbled Godwit is an uncommon migrant along the outer coast in both spring and fall (Toochin 2024a). Birds pass through in the spring from April through till early June (Toochin 2024a). This species rare in the summer with the odd nonbreeding bird summering in the region (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds arrive in late July and stay uncommon in the region through till mid

October becoming rare with the odd bird lingering into late November (Toochin 2024a). We had migrant birds at both sea watch locations in varying numbers of 1-6 birds. Our high count was 12 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 25, 2007.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Hudsonian Godwit is an accidental to casual migrant vagrant species in the region represented by 2 records (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The only bird recorded on a sea watch was a juvenile found by Louis Haviland at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 3, 2015 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a).

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Ruddy Turnstone is an uncommon migrant through the outer coastal region in appropriate habitat with a few birds appearing in the strait area each year (Toochin 2024a). The only bird we had on a sea watch was an immature found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 20, 2009. The best place to find this species during migration in the region is Whiffin Spit in Sooke and the San Juan Estuary in Port Renfrew.

Black Turnstone (*Arenaria melanocephala*): [Common in Winter and in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Black Turnstone is a common winter species and migrates through the region on good numbers in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds are common from late July through the fall into the winter and spring till mid April when birds drop in number and are casual throughout the summer (Toochin 2024a). We encountered numbers of these species in the winter and migration at both sea watch locations with numbers varying from 1-50 on average. The highest count involved 126 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 30, 2006; and 55 birds at Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 8, 2007.

Surfbird (*Calidris virgata*): [Common in Winter and in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Surfbird is a common winter species and migrates through the region on good numbers in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds are common from mid August through the fall into the winter and spring till early April when birds drop in number and are casual throughout the summer (Toochin 2024a). We encountered numbers of these species in the winter and migration at both sea watch locations with numbers varying from 1-30 on average. The highest count involved 502 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 14, 2009; and 300 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on April 12, 2009.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): [Rare in Winter and in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Sanderling is a common winter species that also migrate through the outer coastal region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). We had this species at both sea watch locations with small numbers of 1-2 birds observed at both locations because the habitat at these spots is not ideal for this species. Of note was an early migrant, an adult in breeding plumage on the rocks on the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 25, 2009.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): [Rare in Winter and in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Dunlin is a fairly-common winter and migrant species in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds winter from mid October through till spring when migrants move through the

region in April (Toochin 2024a). Numbers drop throughout May and are absent throughout the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds arrive in late September with numbers building into October (Toochin 2024a). We had birds at both sea watch locations in small number of 1-4 birds in migration. The highest count involved 143 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 20, 2009.

Rock Sandpiper (*Calidris ptilocnemis*): [Rare in Winter and Spring and Fall Migration]

The Rock Sandpiper is an uncommon wintering species along the west coast areas of the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds appear in the fall in October and build up in numbers into mid November where small flocks will spend the winter months in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds begin to leave in late March into mid April and have left the region by mid to late May (Toochin 2024a). In coastal areas from Sooke towards Port Renfrew numbers are much smaller and 1-2 birds are often encountered. On the sea watch we encountered single birds. These records include: 1 juvenile at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on the early date of September 2, 2007; 1 adult in winter plumage at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on April 12, 2009; and 1 adult in winter plumage at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 29, 2011. The areas to see this species in slightly larger numbers is from Port Renfrew to the Carmanah Point region in the winter.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*): [Accidental: Two Fall Records]

The Baird's Sandpiper is a casual spring migrant and rare to uncommon fall migrant throughout the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds sometime are found in the spring from mid April into mid May (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds move through the region starting in late July becoming rare to uncommon from mid August to mid September and are gone from the region by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). The best places to find this species are Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, Jordan River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and the San Juan Estuary in Port Renfrew. We only had this species on 2 occasions while conducting the sea watch and both observations were in the fall migration period from the Sheringham Lighthouse including 2 juveniles Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 4, 2008; and 1 adult breeding plumage Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 25, 2009.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*): [Fairly-common to Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Least Sandpiper is a common migrant species in both the spring and fall in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds appear in the spring in early April and become common through mid April through mid May when numbers drop off by early June (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds appear in early July and numbers build up to common by mid July through till the end of September when numbers fall from uncommon to rare by the end of October and are casual throughout the winter months (Toochin 2024a). We encountered good numbers during migration at both sea watch locations with number varying from 1-20 birds. Our highest counts included: 45 adults in breeding plumage found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 17, 2007; and 44 adult birds in breeding plumage at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on July 22, 2008.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

This species is a casually occurring migrant vagrant in the region with 5 records (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The only record on the sea watch was of a juvenile bird found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland as it flew past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 1, 2009 (Toochin 2013a). Likely this same juvenile was re-found and photographed at Whiffin Spit in Sooke from September 2-3, 2009 (Charlesworth 2010).

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Pectoral Sandpiper is a casual spring migrant and rare to uncommon fall migrant throughout the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds sometime are found in the spring from May into early June (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds move through the region starting in mid July becoming rare to uncommon from mid August to late October into early November and become rare and then are gone from the region by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). The best places to find this species are Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, Jordan River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and the San Juan Estuary in Port Renfrew. We only had this species on 1 occasion while conducting the sea watch from the Sheringham Lighthouse. The sighting was of 2 juvenile birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2008.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Semipalmated Sandpiper is a casual migrant in the spring and rare to uncommon migrant species in the fall (Toochin 2024a). Spring birds are casual in occurrence and come through into May with the odd bird summering over through June and early July (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds appear in mid July and increase to rare to uncommon in late July through to early September becoming rare and casual by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). The best places to look for this species are Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Muir Creek mouth, Jordan River, China Beach, and the San Juan River Estuary in Port Renfrew. The only bird we encountered on the sea watch was an adult in breeding plumage found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 25, 2009.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Western Sandpiper is a common migrant through the region in both the spring and the fall (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in early April becoming common from mid April to mid May when numbers drop to rare by the end of the month and into June (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds arrive in late June into early July becoming common from mid July through till mid September when numbers drop to uncommon by October and are rare by early November with the odd bird found in the winter month (Toochin 2024a). The best places to look for this species are Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Muir Creek mouth, Jordan River, China Beach, and the San Juan River Estuary in Port Renfrew. We had good numbers at both sea watch locations. Numbers varied from 1-50 birds found during the fall migration period. High Counts included: 150 adults in breeding plumage at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 17, 2007; 130 adults in breeding plumage at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on July 19, 2007; and 56 adults in breeding plumage at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on July 22, 2007.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
4	adults	Jun-24-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	Jun-30-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	Jul-1-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
150	adults	Jul-17-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
130	adults	Jul-19-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
56	adults	Jul-22-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	juveniles	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	juvenile	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	juveniles	Aug-17-2008	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
11	adult	Jul-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
13	juvenile	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	adults	May-3-2010	Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*): [Casual in the Fall]

The Short-billed Dowitcher is an uncommon to fairly-common migrant in the spring and fall in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in early April increasing to fairly-common till mid to late May before numbers drop by early June (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds arrive in the region in early July and become fairly-common till early October when numbers drop dramatically, and this species is gone by the end of the month to the wintering grounds (Toochin 2024a). The best places to look for this species are Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Muir Creek mouth, Jordan River, China Beach, and the San Juan River Estuary in Port Renfrew. We only had a couple of observations while conducting our sea watch. This included: 23 adults in breeding plumage found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 17, 2007; 11 juveniles at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2008; and 1 juvenile found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 11, 2009.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*): [Casual in the Spring and during Fall Migration]

The Long-billed Dowitcher is a fairly-common migrant in the spring and fall in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in mid April and increase to fairly-common from late April to late May when numbers drop into early June when most birds are gone to the northern breeding grounds (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the fall in later part of July and increase to becoming fairly-common till early to mid November when numbers drop and the odd bird is found in the winter months (Toochin 2024a). The best places to look for this species are Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Muir Creek mouth, Jordan River, China Beach, and the San Juan River Estuary in Port Renfrew. We only had a couple of observations while conducting our sea watch. These included: 1 juvenile at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 20, 2008; 12 juveniles at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 10, 2009; and 1 adult in breeding plumage at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on May 3, 2010.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Spotted Sandpiper is an uncommon breeding species and a common migrant in the spring and fall in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species is uncommon in the winter found in numbers in certain areas such as Muir Creek. Birds arrive in late March into early April and increase to common from mid April to late May when migrant bird numbers drop, and some birds stay to become uncommon breeders in the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Fall migrants arrive in July and number increase to common by mid month remaining common till the end of October when numbers drop to uncommon (Toochin 2024a). We encountered many birds during the fall migration period at both sea watch locations but never found any nests as the habitat was not ideal for breeding. Bird numbers varied from 1-10 birds and our highest count was 12 immature birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2009.

Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*): [Accidental: Three Fall Records]

The Wandering Tattler is a rare to uncommon migrant in appropriate habitat in the spring and fall in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds appear in the region in mid April and pass through the region until early June with the odd bird remaining in the region throughout the summer months until birds come back through in the fall mid July and remain rare to uncommon until the end of October with the odd lingering bird remaining until mid November and are gone by late November (Toochin 2024a). Our sea watches had this species at both locations with more occurrences from the rocks at Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. We had only a few records which involved either 1 or 2 birds.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	winter plumage	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Jul-26-2009	Tim Zurowski	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-27-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	fall plumage	Sept-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Figure #1: Wandering Tattler in breeding plumage at Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 26, 2009. Photo © Tim Zurowski.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*): Accidental: One Spring Record and Two Fall Records]

The Greater Yellowlegs is a migrant species through the region that is also found in small numbers during the winter (Toochin 2024a). The first spring arrivals appear in March with numbers build throughout the month and become fairly common by early April through till early May when numbers drop to rare by the end of the month into early June (Toochin 2024a). The species is casual in the summer with fall migrants appearing in late July and increasing to fairly-common by mid August through till mid September when birds leave the region and are rare from early October through the winter months. We encountered only a couple of birds on our sea watches. All record were found during migration periods these include: 1 adult found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on July 22 ,2007; an immature at the Sheringham Lighthouse near Shirley on August 19, 2009; and 3 adults at Botanical Beach in Port Renfrew on May 3, 2010.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Red-necked Phalarope that is a common migrant species in the region in both spring and fall. Birds are casual to accidental in the winter months appearing in late March and increasing throughout April and becoming common from mid April to mid May when numbers drop to rare by the end of May and remain rare throughout the month of June as nonbreeding birds are occasionally found (Toochin 2024a). Numbers begin to increase early in the fall with bird returning as early as the end of June into early July and numbers increase rapidly by the end of July when birds become common in the region (Toochin 2024a). Red-necked Phalaropes remain common in the region the later part of July through until mid October when number drop off and are rare to casual after mid November into the winter months (Toochin 2024a). This species can be found in many different areas such as Sooke Harbour, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, Muir Creek, Jordan River, China Beach, and around Port Renfrew. The Red-necked Phalarope was well represented on the sea watches off the Sheringham Lighthouse and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Our numbers were well represented with 1-100 birds observed on a consistent basis. Our highest counts coincided with migration periods where we had numbers of 10, 000 birds off Botanical Beach on August 11, 2007; 5000 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse on September 7, 2009; 3200 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse on August 31, 2008; 1800 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse on August 20, 2008; 1500 birds off Botanical Beach on August 25, 2007; 1411 birds found off Botanical Beach on August 24, 2008; and 1200 birds found off Sheringham Lighthouse on August 23, 2008. There were many counts of 100-350 birds counted from both locations from late July through till mid September at both locations. This species is far more abundant in the region than the Red Phalarope. This species is very common at the right time of year and should be encountered on future sea watches in the region.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Red Phalarope is a common migrant offshore with numbers building up throughout the month of May (Toochin 2024a). The number of birds wain off in the summer until birds reappear from the arctic breeding grounds in the later half of July and numbers continue to grow as the species becomes common from mid August through till mid November (Toochin 2024a). After that the number of birds fall off and only a few are found offshore during the winter months (Toochin 2024a). On our sea watches we encountered this species frequently and in modest numbers. The highest count involved 88 birds off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on

September 6, 2009. Most counts averaged between 2-8 birds with the odd 12 bird sightings. Sheringham Lighthouse and Botanical Beach produced many observations of this species. Many observations of the Red Phalarope were in the company of the much more abundant, Red-necked Phalarope. This species is regular after and during extreme weather events and during relatively calm weather. It should be watched for on future sea watches as it is a regular species in the region.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
7	adults	May-26-2007	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-12-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	Jul-22-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	juveniles	Aug-18-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	juvenile	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Long Beach
2	immature	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	unknown	Sept-1-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	juvenile	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	winter plumage	Sept-22-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	winter plumage	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	various ages	Aug-15-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Aug-22-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	winter plumage	Aug-23-2008	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	winter plumage	Aug-24-2008	RT, LH	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	various ages	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
8	juveniles	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	various ages	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	fall plumage	Sept-25-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	winter plumage	Nov-9-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	juvenile	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Aug-19-2009	RT, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	immature	Sept-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
88	various ages	Sept-6-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	Immature	Sept-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Sept-12-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
8	winter plumage	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	winter plumage	Oct-26-2009	RT, LH	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*): [Accidental: One Spring Record and Casual in the Fall]

The South Polar Skua is an uncommon pelagic species off the coast of British Columbia. Numbers of birds found offshore can vary but this species is never seen in any large numbers on pelagic trips, though there are exceptions from time to time. Birds can occur very rarely beginning in May remaining possible during June and the first half of July (Toochin 2024a). This species starts to appear with more frequency offshore in late July and remains an uncommon species throughout August into mid October before number drop away by the end of that month

(Toochin 2024a). On our sea watches this was a very rare species that was encountered a few times but was not unexpected. The South Polar Skua appeared when the numbers of tubenoses in the strait were very high. This also was the case for Pomarine Jaeger in the region. We only ever had observations of single individual birds, usually chasing tubenoses close to shore. Observations were from both Botanical Beach and the Sheringham Lighthouse. During future large incursions of tubenoses this species is highly likely to be encountered again on any dedicated sea watch.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Sept-10-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-28-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	May-23-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Jul-18-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	adult	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	immature	Sept-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Sept-28-2009	RT	Otter Point

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Pomarine Jaeger is a species that is found as a migrant in good numbers in the offshore pelagic waters along the west coast of British Columbia. Birds first appear in early April and increase in number throughout the month becoming common from mid April into mid May when numbers drop off and are found very infrequently during the summer month (Toochin 2024a). The first birds reappear in the fall in mid to late July with numbers increasing to common from late August in early October when after numbers drop to very rare by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). There are winter records in the pelagic waters off British Columbia, so this species is a possible candidate for turning up in the winter as a vagrant, likely after a severe weather event (T. Plath Pers. Comm.). When we found Pomarine Jaegers in the inside waters of the strait, they were found consistently off both Sheringham Lighthouse and Botanical Beach with many observations from other overlooks in the region. Most observations involved 1-20 individuals normally observed at the same time. In cases where many birds were observed these sightings directly correlated with the presence of large numbers of tubenoses in the strait. Our highest counts occurred during the warm water incursion of August to October 2009. We had 98 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 16, 2009; and 35 birds found off the waters of Botanical Beach on August 22, 2009. We also encountered birds on pelagic trips off Swiftsure Banks on several occasions. From both Sheringham Lighthouse and Botanical Beach we found birds were often attracted to where tubenoses had gathered around bait balls of small prey fish. We watched them chasing both tubenoses and gulls, stealing their prey fish on many occasions. This species is detected in small numbers when there aren't tubenoses present in the strait, but numbers seem to jump dynamically in number when tubenoses were present. We encountered mostly light morph birds but did have on occasion dark morph birds as was the case of an adult observed off the Sheringham Lighthouse on August 20, 2009. This species is regular in the region and should be encountered in future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult light morph	Jul-1-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	sub-adult	Sept-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Aug-17-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult light morph	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult light morph	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
14	adult light morphs	Sept-10-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
14	adult light morphs	Sept-10-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	subadult	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	May-11-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Jul-4-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Aug-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adult light morphs	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light morphs	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	sub-adult	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adult light morph	Aug-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	adult light morph	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light morphs	Aug-20-2009	Capt. Russ Nicks	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult dark morph	Aug-20-2009	RT, LH, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	adult light morph	Aug-21-2009	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
35	various	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	adult light morphs	Aug-23-2009	RT, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adult light morphs	Aug-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Sept-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	adult light morphs	Sept-6-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adult light morphs	Sept-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
98	various ages	Sept-16-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light morphs	Sept-19-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Sept-24-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	sub-adult	Sept-28-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Sept-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Oct-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Oct-30-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Sept-26-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Oct-10-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

1	adult light morph	Aug-13-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light morphs	Aug-21-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	various ages	Oct-10-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Figure #1: Pomarine Jaeger adult off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 22, 2009. Photo © Michael Ashbee.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Parasitic Jaeger is a species that is a common migrant species in the region with birds starting to move through the region late March into early April and increasing to a common migrant from mid April into mid May when numbers begin to drop by early June (Toochin 2024a). The odd nonbreeding bird lingers in the region on occasion throughout the summer months until bird return from the northern breeding grounds in late July with numbers progressively building up to into late August when this species is common through till mid October before numbers drop by the end of that month (Toochin 2024a). We found this species to be present in small numbers from most overlooks and headlands in the region at the appropriate time of year. Birds were encountered frequently from Sheringham Lighthouse and Botanical Beach. Numbers varied from 1-4 birds with a high count of 14 birds encountered off Sheringham Lighthouse on September 16, 2009. Most birds observed were light morphs, but we did see at least one dark morph off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 30, 2008. Most birds would appear when either small gulls, terns, or tubenoses appeared in the area. This species was detected with enough frequency that it is expected on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult light morph	May-25-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light morphs	May-20-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adult light morphs	May-27-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	May-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

1	adult light morph	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland,	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Sept-9-2007	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Sept-28-2007	RT, LH, Dave Aldcroft	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	juvenile	Sept-29-2007	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Aug-17-2008	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	sub-adult	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult dark morph	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	adult light morph	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Sept-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	subadult	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light morph	Oct-11-2008	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Oct-15-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adult light morphs	Jun-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light phase	Jul-17-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light morphs	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
2	adult light morphs	Aug-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	adult light morph	Aug-20-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
14	various ages	Sept-16-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Sept-19-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Nov-14-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adult light morphs	May-24-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Sept-26-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Aug-21-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Oct-10-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*): [Casual to Rare in Spring and Rare in Fall Migration]

The Long-tailed Jaeger is a species that can appear in small numbers or as individuals in late April and increases to become a common migrant offshore in the month of May with birds dramatically dropping in frequency in early June (Toochin 2024a). The odd summer record has occurred in the summer months with birds returning south in early August and by mid August are common until the later half of September when bird numbers drop into October (Toochin 2024a). This species is not known to winter in the pelagic waters off British Columbia (Onley and Scofield 2007). On the sea watch we encountered this species a few times almost always during the peak fall period when they were travelling through the region in numbers during mid August through mid September with exceptions including: 2 adults off the Sheringham Lighthouse on April 24, 2010; an adult in breeding plumage off the Sheringham Lighthouse on June 20, 2009; and a high count of 12 adults together on June 1, 2010 off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. Most sightings involved 1-2 birds and came from the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley or from Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. During the huge sea bird incursion of August – September 2009 1-2 adults were seen off the Otter Point overlook from August 12-13, 2009. With good effort at the right time of year this species should be found on any future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Sept-30-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Sept-10-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-22-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Jun-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	adult	Aug-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	adult light morph	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult light morph	Aug-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	juveniles	Sept-16-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult light morph	Apr-24-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	June-1-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Common Murre is a common species found in large numbers in the region year-round (Toochin 2024a). This species can be viewed off most shoreline areas in the region such as Whiffin Spit, Otter Point overlook, Gordon's Beach, Muir Creek, off Jordon River, China Beach and in the harbour off Port Renfrew. We encountered this species in large numbers off both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew especially during rising and falling tides. Numbers would vary depending on the time of year with fall having the highest numbers due to the young birds and adults dispersing from the breeding grounds. We averaged 1-5000 birds depending on the season, weather, and food conditions. Our highest counts involved huge numbers of 6000-over 10, 000 birds on multiple days from both locations. This species was observed on almost every sea watch we conducted.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*): [Accidental to Casual throughout the Year]

The Thick-billed Murre nests as close as Triangle Island off the northwestern tip of Vancouver Island (Campbell et al. 1990b). Along the southern tip of Vancouver Island and the Western Salish Sea this is a casually to accidentally occurring species. This species was encountered a few times while conducting the sea watch and all records were recorded close to shore from off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on days when they were compared directly to Common Murres. The first record was an adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 20, 2006 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The second was an adult in winter plumage found by Louis Haviland and Rick Toochin off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on May 20, 2007 (Cecile 2007c). The third was an adult in breeding plumage found and photographed by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland close to shore off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 16, 2007 (Cecile 2008a). The next record likely involved the same individual of an adult in winter plumage found by Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on March 22, 2009, and again by Louis Haviland and Rick Toochin on March 28, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). Its unknown if this same individual came back as an adult in breeding plumage that was photographed off the Sheringham

Lighthouse in Shirley on June 6, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). Also, again in the same location on as an adult in breeding plumage on November 28, 2010; and in winter plumage on December 27, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). Either the previous bird or a new individual was found as an adult in winter plumage found by Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on November 28, 2010 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a).



Figure 1, 2, 3 & 4: Record #1: Thick-billed Murre adult off Sheringham Lighthouse, Shirley on September 16, 2007 (all shots long distance out). Photos © Rick Toochin.

Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Pigeon Guillemot is a fairly-common to common breeding species found throughout the year in the waters of the region (Toochin 2024a). This species can be found off any shoreline areas in the region such as Whiffin Spit, Otter Point overlook, Gordon’s Beach, Muir Creek, off Jordon River, China Beach and in the harbour off Port Renfrew. We encountered this species in large numbers off both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew especially during rising and falling tides. Numbers would vary depending on the time of year with fall having the highest numbers due to the young birds and adults dispersing from the breeding grounds. We had numbers that would vary between 1-70 birds. Our highest counts included: 112 birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 22, 2009; and 100 birds found off the waters of Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 11, 2007. This species was encountered on a regular basis on the sea watch and was found mostly during the change of tides.

Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Marbled Murrelet is a common breeding species found throughout the year in the waters of the region (Toochin 2024a). This species can be found off any shoreline areas in the region such as Whiffin Spit, Otter Point overlook, Gordon’s Beach, Muir Creek, off Jordon River, China Beach and in the harbour off Port Renfrew. We encountered this species in good numbers off both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew especially during rising and falling tides. We had numbers that would vary between 1-80 birds. Our highest counts included: 300 birds found in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on January 22, 2011; 145 birds found in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on June 6, 2007; 126 birds found in the waters of Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on June 22, 2009; and 122 birds in the waters off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on October 22, 2009. This species was observed on most sea watches we conducted and is an expected species.

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

1.(1) adult June 10 & 14 & 30, 2007: Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland (photo) Shirley (Toochin 2023v)



Figure 1 & 2 & 3: Record #1: Long-billed Murrelet adult breeding plumage off Sheringham Lighthouse, Shirley on June 10, 2007 (poor quality / blurry record shots of bird long distance out). Photos © Rick Toochin.

Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*): [Accidental: One Summer and One Fall Record]

The Kittlitz's Murrelet is an accidental species in British Columbia with 10 provincial records (Toochin et al. 2023h). We were fortunate enough to have 2 observations of this species while conducting the sea watch. The first was an adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin 30m off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on June 20, 2006: (Carter et al. 2011, Toochin et al. 2023h). The second was an adult found by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland which was viewed in Swarovski Telescopes as it flew past about 50m close to shore off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew August 24, 2008 (Carter et al. 2011, Toochin et al. 2023h).

Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*): [Accidental: Three Fall Records]

The Scripps's Murrelet is a very rare but annual post breeding dispersal species into the pelagic waters off British Columbia with 45 provincial records (Toochin 2023w). The sea watch produced 3 records of this elusive alcid. The first was an adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland observed 40m off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 8, 2007 (Toochin 2023w). The second was another adult found by Rick Toochin flying close by the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 5, 2009 (Toochin 2023w). The third observation was an adult found by adult Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland which was watched flying in from the open ocean and landed 50m from shore and sat on the water in full view off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 8, 2009 (Toochin 2023w). This species has been recorded a couple of times off the mouth of the Western Salish Sea both by boat and from shore from Cape Flattery and Tatoosh Island in Washington State. It is very possible that this species will occur again in this region again.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*): [Common in Winter, Spring and Fall: Rare in Summer]

The Ancient Murrelet is a common winter species in the region with small numbers found in the summer months and possibly breeds in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species can be found off any shoreline areas in the region such as Whiffin Spit, Otter Point overlook, Gordon's Beach, Muir Creek, off Jordon River, China Beach and in the harbour off Port Renfrew. We encountered this species in good numbers off both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew especially during rising and falling tides and during and after large winter storms. Numbers varied from 1-100 birds during the fall and winter months. Our highest counts involved 2433 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on November 24, 2007; 1550

birds off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on December 16, 2006; 1200 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on November 15, 2008; 177 birds found off Botanical Beach on Port Renfrew on December 8, 2007. Evidence of possible breeding in the region involved an observation of 2 adults feeding 2 tiny chicks in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse on June 6, 2007. This species winters in large numbers consistently in the region and should be expected on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1550	various ages	Dec-16-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	various ages	Dec-25-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
40	various ages	Dec-26-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
35	various ages	Dec-30-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	May-27-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Jun-6-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	2 ad feeding 2 chicks!	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
7	adults	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-8-2007	Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	various ages	Aug-16-2007	Roger Taylor	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-18-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Sept-21-2007	RT, LH, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	Oct-28-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
54	various ages	Nov-3-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Nov-11-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	various ages	Nov-17-2007	RT	Gordon's Beach
112	various ages	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2433	various ages	Nov-24-2007	RT, LH, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
132	various ages	Dec-1-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
177	various ages	Dec-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
33	various ages	Dec-15-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
55	various ages	Dec-22-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
66	various ages	Dec-23-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Dec-25-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
40	various ages	Dec-28-2007	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Dec-29-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Dec-30-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
34	various ages	Jan-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-27-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Nov-9-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	various ages	Nov-11-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Nov-15-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
14	various ages	Feb-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	May-18-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adults	Jun-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

2	adults	Jun-19-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-22-2009	Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Jul-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-4-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-10-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Oct-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
56	various ages	Oct-28-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	various ages	Nov-28-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Dec-27-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Feb-27-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	May-16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Dec-4-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
200	various ages	Jan-22-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-31-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-21-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-10-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Figure #1: Ancient Murrelet adult off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirely on July 5, 2009.
Photo © Michael Ashbee.

Cassin's Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*): [Uncommon to Common in Summer: Rare in Winter]

The Cassin's Auklet is a common species in the summer month and is rare to uncommon throughout the winter in the pelagic waters off the west coast of the region (Toochin 2024a). In the waters of the strait the Cassin's Auklet is rare to uncommon (Toochin 2024a). This species should be looked for off any headland or beach area in the region such as Otter Point overlook, Gordon's Beach, Muir Creek, off Jordon River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and in the harbour off Port Renfrew. We encountered this species in good numbers off both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew especially during rising and falling tides and during and after large storms. Numbers varied from 1-50 birds depending on the season and the weather. Our highest count involved 150 birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 23, 2008. This species is a regular occurring species in the region and should be expected on any future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Jul-1-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Dec-16-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	May-27-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Apr-6-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-9-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-2-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Jul-22-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-18-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
24	various ages	Aug-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	adults	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-26-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-1-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
14	various ages	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland,	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-16-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	unknown	Sept-21-2007	RT, LH, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	unknown	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Dec-22-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-5-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-27-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-21-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
150	various ages	Aug-23-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

3	various ages	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
22	various ages	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	various ages	Sept-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
33	various ages	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-5-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	May-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	May-11-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adults	May-30-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	Jun-7-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
8	adults	Jun-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-18-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	Jun-19-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	Jun-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-22-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-4-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Jul-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-4-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Aug-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
12	various ages	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	adults	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jan-2-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	May -16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	May-29-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
50	adults	June-1-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	adults	Aug-14-2010	RT, m. obs.	Swiftsure Pelagic Trip
2	adults	Oct-10-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Parakeet Auklet (*Aethia psittacula*): [Accidental: One Fall Record and Two Winter Records]

The Parakeet Auklet is a regularly occurring alcid species in the winter well offshore in deeper pelagic waters of British Columbia as there are 61 records and counting (Toochin and Haviland 2023c). Our sea watch had 3 observations of this species, and both were found right after a huge winter storms. The first was an adult seen at point blank range that was found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland 20m off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 8, 2007 (Cecile 2008a, Toochin and Haviland 2023c). The second bird was an adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland that was observed also at point blank range and sat on the water off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on February 8, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023c). The third observation was an adult in winter plumage found by found by Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 16, 2016 (Toochin and Haviland 2023c). Of note a

recent observation of an adult in winter plumage was found and photographed by David Bell and seen by many other observers off the Otter Point overlook in Sooke on October 24, 2021 (Toochin and Haviland 2023c). With future sea watches it seems likely that this species will be found again in the region.

Least Auklet (*Aethia pusilla*): [Accidental: One Record of a single bird found in Summer and Fall]

The Least Auklet is an accidental species anywhere in British Columbia with 22 records (Toochin 2023x). The first record for the province and Vancouver Island was found on our sea watch and we encountered this bird a few times while conducting the survey. There was no pattern to this bird's appearance, but it was noted that the Least Auklet would appear on days when Cassin's Auklets were also observed in the same general area. The first record for British Columbia was an adult in winter plumage found by Rick Toochin as he scoped the bird do a very close fly by of the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirely on September 2, 2007 (Toochin 2023x). The next observation was an adult that was found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland fairly-close to shore off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley (Toochin 2023x). The next observation was of an adult by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland close to shore off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 31, 2008 (Toochin 2023x). The bird was found again by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland, Roger Taylor, Neil Robbins, and Roger Simms close to the Sheringham Lighthouse off Shirley on September 6, 2008 (Toochin 2023x). The bird was finally photographed and digitally videotaped by Rick Toochin at point blank range off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on June 19, 2009 (Toochin 2023x). The bird again found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on June 27, 2009 (Toochin 2023x). The bird was last found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 8, 2009 (Toochin 2023x). This bird was one of the most exciting finds we had on the sea watch and helped get the waters in this area the name "Alcid Alley".



Figure 1, 2, 3, 4 ,5 & 6: Record #1: Least Auklet off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on June 19, 2009. Video grabs © Rick Toochin.

Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*): [Common in Summer and Uncommon to Common in Winter]

The Rhinoceros Auklet is a common summer species and uncommon species in the winter found in the pelagic waters of the region (Toochin 2024a). They are not known to breed in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species should be looked for off any headland or beach area in the region such as Otter Point overlook, Gordon’s Beach, Muir Creek, off Jordon River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and in the harbour off Port Renfrew. We encountered this species in good numbers off both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew especially during rising and falling tides and during and after large storms. Depending on the time of year numbers would vary from 1- 1000 with some number exceeding 2000-5000 birds in the summer months. Our highest counts were likely due to the warm water event of the summer of 2009. Numbers included: 30,000 birds off the Otter Point lookout on August 11, 2009; 15,000 birds off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew; and 12,000 birds counted off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 6, 2009. Though these numbers are exceptional, future warm water events will likely have repeated numbers. This species is very common in the waters of the strait and should be expected on future sea watches.

No.	Date	Observers	Location
1	Jan-14-2006	Louis Haviland	Gordon's Beach
30	Jun-15-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
50	Jun-22-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	Jun-26-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
30	Jul-1-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
87	Aug-7-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Dec-25-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Dec-30-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

2	Mar-24-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	Dec-28-2007	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	Dec-22-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Dec-15-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Dec-23-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Nov-24-2007	RT, LH, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	Dec-29-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	Oct-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Apr-1-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Sept-15-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
18	Mar-31-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
22	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	Sept-21-2007	RT, LH, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	Jun-3-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
26	Jul-2-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
42	Sept-16-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
45	Jun-24-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
45	Sept-29-2007	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
54	Jun-30-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
56	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
65	Sept-24-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
76	Jul-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
76	Aug-26-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	Jun-9-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	Jul-22-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
100	Sept-1-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
110	Jul-1-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
150	Jun-10-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
150	May-13-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
156	Jul-17-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
165	May-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	Apr-6-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	May-20-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	May-26-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	Aug-18-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	Jul-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
324	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
500	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
500	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1000	Aug-12-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	Aug-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3000	Aug-10-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

5000	Aug-10-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
15,000	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Jan-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Mar-24-2008	RT	Sooke: Whiffin Spit
2	May-21-2008	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
70	May-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
55	Jun-21-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	Jun-28-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
210	Jul-12-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
213	Jul-13-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
54	Jul-5-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	Jul-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	Jul-26-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
154	Jul-27-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	Jul-31-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	Aug-2-2008	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
144	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
33	Aug-16-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
200	Aug-17-2008	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
1100	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	Aug-22-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2400	Aug-23-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4555	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2000	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
321	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	Sept-13-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
44	Sept-17-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	Sept-18-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
44	Sept-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1400	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	Sept-25-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
133	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	Feb-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	Feb-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
15	Feb-28-2009	RT, Barb McKee	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	Mar-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
22	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
76	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	Mar-8-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
233	Mar-14-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	Mar-21-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	Mar-28-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	Mar-31-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	Apr-10-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

12	Apr-12-2009	LH, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
65	May-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	May-9-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
55	May-11-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
32	May-18-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
78	May-31-2009	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Jun-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
55	Jun-7-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
44	Jun-19-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
45	Jul-1-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
800	Jul-4-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1100	Jul-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
76	Jul-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	Jul-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
54	Aug-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
55	Aug-4-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
500	Aug-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12000	Aug-6-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1100	Aug-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
30000	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
400	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
22	Sept-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
32	Sept-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Oct-10-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Oct-28-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	Jan-29-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	June-1-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
10	Jan-22-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*): [Casual in the Spring, Summer and in the Fall]

The Horned Puffin breeds as close as Triangle Island off the northwestern tip of Vancouver Island (Campbell et al. 1990b). It is a very rare visitor throughout the year anywhere along the coastal waters of Vancouver Island away from the species know breeding areas. Our sea watches turned this species up with some frequency with most records found either off the Sheringham Lighthouse or off Botanical Beach. The first record was an adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on May 27, 2007 (Cecile 2007c). The second record had 2 adult birds ins breeding plumage Rick Toochin observed flying close to shore past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 17, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The third observation was of an immature bird found by Denise Gubersky, Rick Toochin, Roger Taylor, Louis

Haviland very close to shore off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 25, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The next three observations likely involved the same immature and were found off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. This involved an immature found by Rick Toochin on September 2 and 21 2007, and Rick Toochin and Mitch Meredith on September 29, 2007, from the same location (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The last observation had on the sea watch was of an adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley July 31, 2008 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). This species has been found recently in the area with an adult winter plumage photographed by Matthew Ha at Squeaky Pt., off East Sooke Regional Park, Sooke on March 7, 2021 (D. Cecile Pers. Comm.). The Horned Puffin has been recorded off the waters of Victoria (D. Cecile Pers. Comm.) and into Puget Sound (Wahl et al. 2005) making it very likely to be located again in the region with any future sea watching efforts.

Tufted Puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*): [Rare in the Summer and the Fall]

The Tufted Puffin is a species that is found commonly in the region from late April throughout the summer months into early October (Toochin 2024a). Records become harder by the end of October and are very infrequent from November through till mid April (Toochin 2024a). On the sea watches most observations involved single individuals. Although on a couple of occasions 8 birds were recorded. The first of these sightings was from Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on May 31, 2008. This makes sense as Tufted Puffins breed as close as on Tatoosh Island directly across from our sea watch location. More unusual were 8 adults found feeding off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 17, 2008. The best time to find this species was on rising or falling tides when rip channels would form close to shore. This species seemed to like to feed in these water channels and we noticed they were very successful at catching small prey fish when hunting. Our only winter record involved an adult in winter plumage found close to shore feeding off Gordon’s Beach on December 31, 2006. Most observations were had during the summer months when this species is often found in the strait gathering fish to feed the young. When we encountered 2 birds, they were almost always were together making them likely mated pairs. This species is found frequently enough that observations would be expected on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Jun-15-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jun-20-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Dec-31-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Gordon's Beach
1	adult	May-13-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	May-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jun-3-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-1-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-2-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Jul-29-2007	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Sept-21-2007	RT, LH, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	adults	May-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Jun-7-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

2	adults	Jun-28-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Jul-1-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-5-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-27-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Aug-16-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
8	adults	Aug-17-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jun-7-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Jul-4-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-19-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Juan de Mouth
1	adult	May-16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	May-29-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-14-2010	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-21-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Tufted Puffin adult off Sheringham Lighthouse on July 5, 2009. Photo © Mike Ashbee.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*): [Fairly-common to Common in Winter: Casual in Summer]

The Black-legged Kittiwake is a species found commonly in the pelagic and ocean waters off the west coast from mid September throughout the winter months into mid April (Toochin 2024a).

During the later half of April numbers decrease and this species is uncommon from May through till late August when number beginning to increase in early September (Toochin 2024a). This species was found off Whiffin Spit, Otter Point, Gordon’s Beach, Muir Creek, Jordan River, China Beach and in the harbour off Port Renfrew. On our sea watches we had good numbers from both Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Black-legged Kittiwakes are affected due to extreme weather events and large weather systems. Numbers on the sea watches varied from many observations of 1-20 birds with some counts due to rough weather of 25-50 birds. The highest counts involved 1000 birds found off Sheringham Lighthouse on February 13, 2010; 600 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on January 29, 2010; 545 birds found during a huge northwesterly storm force winds off Botanical Beach on March 7, 2009; 400 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse on January 29, 2010; 388 birds which were found during northwesterly storm force winds that also had a immature Red-legged Kittiwake off the Botanical Beach on March 1, 2009; 300 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on March 7, 2009; 210 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse on February 27, 2010, 100 birds found during storm force northwesterly winds off the Sheringham Lighthouse on March 28, 2009; and 100 birds found off the Sheringham Lighthouse on January 16, 2010. This species is numerous in the region at certain times of year and should be found on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
5	adult winter plumage	Dec-30-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	1st summer plumage	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Feb-24-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adult winter plumage	Mar-4-2007	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Apr-9-2007	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	1st years	May-13-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	immature	Nov-12-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	immature	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Nov-9-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Oct-11-2008	RT, LH, MMe	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Feb-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Feb-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	adults	Feb-28-2009	RT, Barb McKee	Sheringham Lighthouse
388	various ages	Mar-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
	Storm Force winds NW today			
300	adults	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
	Storm Force winds NW today			
545	adults	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
44	adults	Mar-8-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	adults	Mar-14-2009	RT, Louis Haviland,	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
10	adults	Mar-15-2009	Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

2	adults	Mar-21-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
5	adults	Mar-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	ad /2 immatures	Mar-28-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
	NW Gale force winds			
12	adults with 2 1st years	Mar-31-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
	12 hours of 35-40 knot winds!!			
1	1st winter plumage	Apr-12-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult breeding plumage	Jun-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Sept-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	immature	Sept-28-2009	RT	Otter Point
1	adults	Sept-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
28	adults	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	unknown	Oct-10-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult winter plumage	Oct-20-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	Oct-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
5	adult winter plumage	Nov-28-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	3 imm / rest adults	Jan-16-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
50	3 imm / rest adults	Jan-23-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
600	various ages	Jan-29-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
400	various ages	Jan-29-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jan-31-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Feb-6-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1000	50 juv / rest adults	Feb-13-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	Feb-21-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
210	adults	Feb-27-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Mar-7-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Mar-17-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Dec-19-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	adults	Dec-29-2011	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Dec-30-2011	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Red-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa brevirostris*): [Accidental: One Winter Record]

The Red-legged Kittiwake is an accidental to casually occurring species in British Columbia with 6 provincial records (Toochin and Haviland 2023d). The only record recorded on the sea watch was a 1st cycle bird found by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland and Barb McKee only 65m from shore off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 1, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023d). The bird was well viewed in Swarovski telescopes and binoculars and was in the direct company of many adult and 1st cycle Black-legged Kittiwakes (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). The Red-legged Kittiwake was likely driven inshore by sustained southwestern 30 Knot winds that had lasted for well over 8 consecutive days prior to the observation (L. Haviland Pers. Comm.). Of note is that the Red-legged Kittiwake has been found on the Washington side of the Western Salish Sea on a couple of occasions including: an adult found dead (specimen saved) on Ozette Lake in Clallam County on December 1, 1978 (Wahl et al. 2005); a 1st cycle bird photographed off Neah Bay and on

Tatoosh Island from June 28-July 5, 1999 (Wahl et al. 2005); an adult in alternate plumage photographed in Neah Bay in Clallam County on September 8, 2015, plus of note an adult in basic plumage was found after a winter storm 70 km inland from Puget Sound at Snoqualmie Pass in King County on November 18, 2015 (Merrill et al. 2019).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*): [Uncommon to Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Sabine's Gull is a pelagic species that migrates through commonly in offshore waters off the British Columbia coast each spring and fall (Campbell et al. 1990b). In our region the Sabine's Gull moves through the area starting in early April and rapidly increases in numbers and becomes common in the last week of April through till early June when numbers drop and become casual in the later half of June throughout the summer until the fall (Toochin 2024a). Birds begin to appear in the fall in late July and increase throughout August becoming common from early September into early October before numbers drop through the month and are casually occurring into November (Toochin 2024a). Birds have been observed off the regions headlands and overlooks from Sooke to Port Renfrew with many observations from our sea watch sites at Sheringham Lighthouse and Botanical Beach. On our sea watches we had modest numbers of birds ranging in number from 1-35 birds. Our highest counts on the sea watches included: 300 birds found in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse on August 31, 2008, 210 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 24, 2008; 100 birds found off Botanical Beach on May 16, 2010. Sabine's Gulls are prone to turning up due to severe weather events or warm water events in the region. This species is regular enough in the waters of the strait that is should be found on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
210	various ages	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
32	adults	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
300	various ages	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Sept-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
33	various ages	Sept-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Sept-10-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	juvenile	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
24	various ages	Aug-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	immature	Aug-19-2009	RT, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
35	adults	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
30	adults	Aug-23-2009	RT, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	immature	Oct-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	adults	May-16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
9	adults	May-22-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
9	adults	May-24-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Figure #1 & #2: Sabine's Gull juvenile found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 10, 2008.
Photo © Tim Zurowski.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Little Gull is a very rare but regular occurring bird in British Columbia with 109 provincial records (Toochin and Cecile 2023r). Most of these records have been found along the southern tip of Vancouver Island (Toochin and Cecile 2023r). The only bird encountered on the sea watch was a 1st cycle bird found by Rick Toochin and Corina Isaac less than 40m from shore in the company of Bonaparte's Gulls off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on November 4, 2007 (Toochin and Cecile 2023r).

Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Bonaparte's Gull is a common migrant in the spring and fall and rare in the winter in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds move into the region and are uncommon in mid February building to common by late March remaining in numbers till late May when numbers drop as birds head north to breeding grounds (Toochin 2024a). This species is an uncommon nonbreeding species in the summer and does not breed in the region (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds arrive in mid July becoming fairly-common till they increase to common from late July till early December when numbers dropping throughout the month to uncommon by the end of December (Toochin 2024a). This species can be found anywhere there are mudflats, beaches in the region. We had good numbers at both sea watch locations with numbers varying depending on the time of year and weather. Numbers encountered were from 1-300 birds. The highest numbers found were off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. These numbers included: 3000 birds found on October 7, 2007; 2000 birds found on November 25, 2006; 500 birds found on October 6, 2007. Highest number from Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew was 33 birds found on September 10, 2007. This species is common and should be found in the region on sea watches in the future.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
200	adult	Nov-12-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
150	various ages	Nov-18-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	adults	Nov-19-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2000	various ages	Nov-25-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	various ages	Nov-26-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
250	various ages	Dec-2-2006	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult	Dec-16-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
31	various ages	Dec-23-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	adults	Apr-1-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Apr-6-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	1st summer	May-20-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	various ages	Jul-22-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	adult	Aug-10-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
20	various ages	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-12-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	juveniles	Aug-18-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
5	juvenile	Aug-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	juvenile	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
22	various ages	Sept-1-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
24	various ages	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Sept-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	juvenile	Sept-10-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	Sept-24-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
45	various ages	Sept-29-2007	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adult	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, MMe	Sheringham Lighthouse
500	various ages	Oct-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3000	various ages	Oct-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-22-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
210	adults	Oct-27-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
132	various ages	Oct-28-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
127	various ages	Nov-1-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
43	various ages	Nov-4-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	1 st year	Nov-4-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
20	various ages	Nov-6-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
54	various ages	Nov-11-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
243	various ages	Nov-12-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
43	various ages	Nov-16-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
78	various ages	Nov-17-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Nov-24-2007	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse

1	various ages	Dec-1-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
27	adults	Jul-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
34	33 ad / 1 juv	Jul-31-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Aug-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
43	various ages	Aug-10-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Aug-15-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Aug-17-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
133	various ages	Aug-21-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Aug-23-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	various ages	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	immature	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
55	various ages	Sept-17-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Sept-18-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Sept-28-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Oct-13-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
11	various ages	Oct-18-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
30	various ages	Oct-18-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
33	various ages	Oct-21-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adult	Oct-25-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
122	various ages	Oct-31-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
132	various ages	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
45	various ages	Nov-6-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
160	various ages	Nov-7-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
16	various ages	Nov-9-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
34	various ages	Nov-11-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Nov-15-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
32	various ages	Nov-23-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	May-10-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
15	various ages	May-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	immature	May-30-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	various ages	May-31-2009	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Aug-23-2009	Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Aug-30-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	various ages	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	various ages	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adult	Oct-28-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jan-29-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	adults	May-16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

1 adult Dec-4-2010 RT, Louis Haviland Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

The Laughing Gull is an accidental migrant vagrant in British Columbia with 4 provincial records (Toochin and Haviland 2023e). The first record for Vancouver Island was adult in breeding plumage found 50m from shore amongst other gull species found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 4, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023e).

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*): [Accidental: One Spring Record and One Fall Record]

The Franklin's Gull is a rare species in the region with a handful of records (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). We likely have this species occurring through the region in small numbers every other fall from late July through till October since they occur with regularity within this period on the south coast and southern tip of Vancouver Island (Campbell et al. 1990b). They are also likely to occur more frequently from May into early June as they have been found along the south coast and southern Vancouver Island during this time period (Campbell et al. 1990b). Our only records were a 1st cycle bird found by Rick Toochin off the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 4, 2009 (R. Toochin Per. Obs.), and an adult breeding plumage found by Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse on June 5, 2011 (L. Haviland Pers. Obs.).

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*): [Rare in Spring: Common in Summer and Fall: Accidental in Winter]

The Heerman's Gull is a species that comes as a post breeder from Mexico each summer and fall in numbers and is common in the region (Toochin 2024a). A few birds appear in May and into June, but numbers increase throughout July becoming common by the end of the month remaining common till early November when numbers drop to rare and casual by December (Toochin 2024a). This species can be found throughout the region in mudflats, beach habitats and marine habitats. Our sea watches had varying numbers depending on the time of year, tides, and weather. Numbers would vary from 1-800 birds with our highest count involving 1000 birds found in the waters off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 11, 2007. This species is expected on sea watches at the right time of year in numbers in the future.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult breeding plumage	Jul-1-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
30	various ages	Oct-4-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
50	adult	Nov-12-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Nov-25-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult breeding plumage	Jun-10-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults breeding plumage	Jul-1-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	adults	Jul-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
35	adults	Jul-17-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
20	various ages	Jul-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
48	various ages	Jul-22-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-5-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
265	ad/juveniles	Aug-10-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

1000	various ages	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
400	various ages	Aug-12-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
70	various ages	Aug-18-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Aug-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
400	various ages	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
140	various ages	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
231	various ages	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland,	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Sept-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	various ages	Sept-14-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
112	various ages	Sept-16-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
140	various ages	Sept-24-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
16	various ages	Sept-25-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
254	various ages	Sept-29-2007	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, MMe	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
132	various ages	Oct-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Oct-21-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Oct-27-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
26	adults	Jun-19-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Jul-12-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
133	various ages	Jul-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
112	various ages	Jul-26-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Aug-2-2008	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
65	various ages	Aug-15-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
155	various ages	Aug-17-2008	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
54	various ages	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
322	various ages	Aug-23-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
55	various ages	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
32	various ages	Sept-8-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
233	various ages	Sept-13-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	Sept-17-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Sept-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
500	various ages	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
600	various ages	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
77	various ages	Oct-10-2008	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
344	various ages	Oct-11-2008	RT, LH, MMe	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Oct-25-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults winter plumage	Nov-7-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Nov-15-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	2nd summer plumage	Jun-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	2nd summer plumage	Jun-19-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

1	2nd summer plumage	May-31-2009	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult breeding plumage	Jun-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adults breeding plumage	Jun-25-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	Jun-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult breeding plumage	Jun-22-2009	Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
102	various ages	Jul-1-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
155	various ages	Jul-4-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
149	various ages	Jul-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Jul-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
800	various ages	Jul-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	various ages	Aug-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Aug-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Aug-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Sept-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Sept-4-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
112	various ages	Sept-16-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Sept-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
43	various ages	Sept-24-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	Sept-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
11	various ages	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Oct-10-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
600	various ages	Oct-14-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
676	various ages	Oct-16-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
700	various ages	Oct-17-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
578	various ages	Oct-20-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
455	various ages	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
132	various ages	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-28-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Jan-16-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
15	various ages	Oct-11-2013	Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse

Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*): [Common in Winter: Uncommon to Rare in Summer]

The Short-billed Gull is a common winter and common migrant species that does breed in the mountains of the northern part of the region (Toochin 2024a). This species can be found anywhere where there are large congregations of gulls in places such as Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Muir Creek, Gordon's Beach, Jordan River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and the harbour around Port Renfrew. We found this species at both sea watch locations on a regular basis throughout the year. Numbers vary depending on the time of year, tide, and weather with 1-450 birds. Most large concentrations of numbers were found off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley with examples of 4000 birds on March 4, 2007; and 1200 bird on November 1, 2008; and 600 birds on October 28, 2007. Off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew numbers were also large number 1-200 birds with 324 on March 1, 2009; and 212 birds on November 11, 2008. This species is common and expected on future sea watches in the region.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
200	various ages	Nov-18-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
58	various ages	Nov-18-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	various ages	Nov-19-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	adults	Nov-26-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
120	various ages	Dec-16-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
160	various ages	Dec-23-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Dec-26-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
22	various ages	Dec-26-2006	RT, Barbara Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
150	various ages	Jan-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Jan-27-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4000	various ages	Mar-4-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adults	Mar-24-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	adults	Mar-31-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
60	adults	Apr-6-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	May-13-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	May-26-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	1st summer	Jun-9-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	various ages	Jul-2-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	adults	Jul-17-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
13	various ages	Aug-10-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	Aug-12-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	Aug-18-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Sept-1-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
15	various ages	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland,	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Sept-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Sept-14-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Sept-15-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	various ages	Sept-16-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
32	various ages	Sept-24-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
34	various ages	Sept-29-2007	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	various ages	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, MMe	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
44	various ages	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
111	various ages	Oct-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
132	various ages	Oct-21-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Oct-27-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
600	various ages	Oct-28-2007	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
43	various ages	Nov-6-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
423	various ages	Nov-12-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
114	various ages	Nov-17-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Dec-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

12	various ages	Dec-29-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	adults	Dec-30-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Jan-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	adults	Jan-20-2008	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
78	various ages	Feb-2-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
54	various ages	Mar-2-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	May-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
33	various ages	Jul-26-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	adults	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
122	various ages	Oct-25-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
332	various ages	Oct-31-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Nov-6-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
212	various ages	Nov-11-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
323	various ages	Dec-13-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Dec-28-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
30	unknown	Dec-28-2008	Sandy Bowie	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	various ages	Feb-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
143	various ages	Feb-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
324	adults	Mar-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
23	various ages	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
	Storm Force winds NW today			
32	various ages	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
	Storm Force winds NW today			
12	adults	Mar-8-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Mar-21-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
44	various ages	Apr-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	various ages	May-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
21	various ages	May-3-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	May-11-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	adults	May-23-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	1st summer	May-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	adults	Jun-7-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	adults	Aug-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
223	various ages	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
142	various ages	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	various ages	Jan-29-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*): [Rare throughout the Year]

The Ring-billed Gull is a rare and at times uncommon species that doesn't breed in the region (Toochn 2024a). This species can be found anywhere there are large congregations of gulls. Places such as Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Muir Creek, Gordon's Beach, Jordan River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and the harbour around Port Renfrew are some good spots to find this species. We found this species at both sea watch locations on a regular basis throughout the year. Numbers were always low with almost always single birds found. High counts include 2 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 22, 2007; and 2 juveniles found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 9, 2008. Birds are present in enough numbers that they should be found on sea watches in the future.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	1st year	Sept-21-2006	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	1 ad / 1 juv	Jul-22-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-16-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	1st summer	Jun-21-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	juvenile	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	juvenile	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Aug-16-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-18-2008	Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	juvenile	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	2nd year	Sept-8-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	1st year	Sept-13-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Sept-18-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-21-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-18-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Oct-18-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-25-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	3rd year	Nov-11-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	1st year	Nov-7-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Feb-28-2009	RT, Barb McKee	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Mar-1-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	2nd year	May-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	1st summer	May-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Jul-31-2011	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Aug-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Aug-3-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Aug-9-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-10-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-13-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-20-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year]

The Western Gull is a species that is fairly-common in winter to uncommon in the summer period in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). This species hybridizes throughout coastal Oregon throughout Washington State making records complicated (Wahl et al. 2015). Western Gulls are found in coastal areas in the region with places such as Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, Jordan River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and around Port Renfrew and up the coast. We encountered this species on a regular basis at both Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Depending on the time of year, the tide, and the weather numbers varied from 1-25 birds. Our highest count involved 32 birds in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 21, 2009. This species is present in small numbers throughout the year and is expected on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
4	various ages	Oct-4-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adult	Dec-30-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Jan-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	adults	Mar-24-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	various ages	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	various ages	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	Sept-24-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Sept-29-2007	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Oct-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-27-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-28-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult	Nov-12-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	various ages	Dec-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Beach
3	various ages	Dec-29-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Dec-30-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	various ages	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Oct-10-2008	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Oct-11-2008	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Oct-13-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-25-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	various ages	Dec-13-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adult	Dec-27-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Dec-31-2008	RT,	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	various ages	Feb-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	Mar-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	various ages	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Storm Force winds NW today

5	various ages	May-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	May-3-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	May-18-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	May-31-2009	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
13	various ages	Oct-17-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
32	various ages	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
24	various ages	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	various ages	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): [Common in Spring and Fall: Uncommon in Winter and Summer]

The California Gull is a common migrant in both spring and fall and is uncommon in the summer and winter months in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in spring in February and numbers grow becoming common in late February through till early May when numbers drop as birds head inland and north to the breeding grounds (Toochin 2024a). This species is uncommon throughout the summer with nonbreeding birds found in the area (Toochin 2024a). Birds return to the area in numbers in the fall in early July becoming common by mid July through till mid to late October when numbers drop by late October into early November to uncommon through the winter (Toochin 2024a). We had large numbers at both sea watch locations throughout the year. Birds are found throughout the year in coastal areas in the region with places such as Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Gordon’s Beach, Jordan River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, around Port Renfrew and offshore in the pelagic zone. Numbers would vary depending on time the time of year, the tide, and the weather conditions with 1-7000 birds found. Our highest counts involved: 20,000 birds found in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 4, 2008; 15,000 birds found in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 22, 2009; 13,000 birds found in the waters off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 11, 2007; 12,000 birds in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse on August 19, 2007; and 10,000 birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 17, 2009. This species is common and is expected on any future sea watch.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
20	various ages	Jun-15-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
30	various ages	Jun-26-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	various ages	Jul-1-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
17	various ages	Aug-7-2006	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
30	various ages	Nov-19-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	3 adults / 2nd	Dec-16-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Dec-31-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6000	various ages	Mar-4-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	Mar-24-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
24	adults	Mar-31-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	adults	Apr-6-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
112	various ages	May-13-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

150	adults	May-13-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
155	adults	May-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
102	various ages	May-26-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Jun-3-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
2000	various ages	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Jun-9-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Jun-10-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	adults	Jun-30-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
112	various ages	Jul-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
56	various ages	Jul-17-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	various ages	Jul-22-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
350	various ages	Jul-22-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
155	various ages	Aug-5-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3000	various ages	Aug-10-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
13000	various ages	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
500	various ages	Aug-12-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4000	various ages	Aug-18-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12000	various ages	Aug-19-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1800	various ages	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2000	various ages	Sept-1-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1500	various ages	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3400	various ages	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1500	various ages	Sept-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Sept-13-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1500	various ages	Sept-16-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
400	various ages	Sept-24-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1100	various ages	Sept-29-2007	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
2000	various ages	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, MMe	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2300	various ages	Sept-14-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3000	various ages	Oct-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1120	various ages	Oct-21-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	various ages	Oct-27-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	various ages	Oct-28-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	various ages	Nov-6-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
54	various ages	Nov-12-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Nov-17-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	Dec-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
	californicus subspecies			
4	adult	Feb-24-2008	RT, Roger Taylor	Sheringham Lighthouse
24	adult	Feb-26-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Mar-2-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

34	adults	Apr-20-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	May-13-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	May-27-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	various ages	May-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
45	various ages	Jun-28-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Jul-5-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Jul-31-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
212	various ages	Jul-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
442	various ages	Jul-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
443	various ages	Jul-26-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Jul-13-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2000	various ages	Jul-12-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
123	various ages	Aug-2-2008	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2300	various ages	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4000	various ages	Aug-15-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2000	various ages	Aug-17-2008	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
1100	various ages	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4000	various ages	Aug-23-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
7000	various ages	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2322	various ages	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
312	various ages	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
1300	various ages	Sept-8-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Sept-13-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
113	various ages	Sept-17-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1222	various ages	Sept-19-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
7000	various ages	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5000	various ages	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
20000	various ages	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Oct-5-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3400	various ages	Oct-10-2008	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
2000	various ages	Oct-13-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
144	various ages	Oct-25-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
32	various ages	Oct-31-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
114	various ages	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Dec-7-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	various ages	Feb-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	adults	Mar-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
13	adults	Mar-8-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
11	various ages	Mar-14-2009	RT, Louis Haviland,	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Mar-31-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
	12 hours of 35-40 knot winds!!			
12	various ages	May-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	various ages	May-3-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
24	various ages	May-11-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

6	various ages	May-18-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	various ages	May-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
11	various ages	May-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
15	various ages	May-31-2009	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
112	various ages	Jun-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Jun-19-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Jul-1-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
1300	various ages	Jul-4-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
523	various ages	Jul-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Jul-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3500	various ages	Jul-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	various ages	Aug-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Aug-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Aug-3-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
3400	various ages	Aug-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2000	various ages	Sept-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	various ages	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Oct-17-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	various ages	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
3244	various ages	Oct-20-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4000	various ages	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6000	various ages	Oct-16-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
10000	various ages	Oct-17-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
5400	various ages	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
15000	various ages	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jan-29-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Dec-4-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*): [Uncommon to Common in the Winter]

The Herring Gull is a rare to uncommon species in the winter in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds are found throughout the winter in coastal areas in the region with places such as Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Gordon’s Beach, Jordan River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and around Port Renfrew and up the coast. We had Herring Gulls in varying numbers of 1-30 birds depending on the time of year, the tide, and the weather. Our highest counts included: 255 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on November 11, 2008. This species is found on a regular basis and should be found on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
3	various ages	Oct-4-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Dec-2-2006	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	various ages	Dec-16-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	various ages	Dec-26-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Mar-24-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	adults	May-13-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

2	adults	Sept-24-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult breeding plumage	Oct-7-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-16-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-21-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-27-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	various ages	Nov-12-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
10	various ages	Dec-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult winter plumage	Dec-15-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Jan-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Feb-2-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult winter plumage	Mar-1-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	2nd summer	Apr-19-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Oct-11-2008	RT, LH, MMe	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Oct-10-2008	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
255	various ages	Nov-11-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adult winter plumage	Dec-7-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	various ages	Feb-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
5	various ages	May-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	various ages	May-3-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	May-11-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	May-12-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Sept-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adults	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, DA	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
25	various ages	Oct-10-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	Oct-16-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Oct-17-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
11	various ages	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*): [Uncommon to Common in the Spring , Fall and the Winter]

The Iceland Gull (*L. glaucooides* and *L. g. kumlieni*) was lumped with Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*) by American Ornithological Society in 2017 (Chesser *et al.* 2017). The status of birds formerly called Thayer's Gulls in the region is common in winter (Toochin 2024a). Birds are found throughout the winter in coastal areas in the region with places such as Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Gordon's Beach, Jordan River, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, and around Port Renfrew and up the coast. We had good numbers of Thayer's Gulls of both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Numbers varied from 1-70 birds with high counts of 122

individuals found in the waters of Sheringham Lighthouse on October 11, 2008; 102 individuals found in the waters of Sheringham Lighthouse on October 6, 2007; and 111 individuals found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on November 11, 2008. This now classified as subspecies of Iceland Gull and is commonly found in the winter and should be found on future sea watches during that time of year.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
20	various ages	Oct-4-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Dec-2-2006	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	Dec-26-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
15	various ages	Dec-26-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	various ages	Jan-27-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Mar-24-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Sept-15-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
34	adults	Sept-24-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	various ages	Sept-29-2007	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
51	various ages	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, MMe	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
102	various ages	Oct-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Oct-27-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Oct-27-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Nov-12-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
18	various ages	Dec-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	various ages	Dec-29-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Dec-30-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	various ages	Jan-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	various ages	Feb-2-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	1 st year	Mar-1-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Mar-30-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	adults	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Oct-10-2008	RT, Mitch Meredith	Sheringham Lighthouse
25	adults	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adult	Oct-5-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
122	various ages	Oct-11-2008	RT, LH, MMe	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Oct-13-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adult	Nov-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	various ages	Nov-11-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	adult	Dec-7-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	Dec-13-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
9	various ages	Feb-9-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	various ages	Mar-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
		Storm Force winds NW today		
1	adult	May-2-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	May-3-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse

5	various ages	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	various ages	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	various ages	Oct-10-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Oct-14-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	various ages	Oct-16-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Oct-17-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	various ages	Oct-21-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	various ages	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
45	various ages	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse

Records used to be separated for Iceland Gull prior to being lumped with Thayer’s Gull by the AOS in 2017. Then Iceland Gull was classified as a rare to casually occurring species in the region (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The following records pertained to prior classified under then separate species Iceland Gull and pertained to Kumlien’s subspecies. All sea watch records were found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley.

- 1.(1) adult winter plumage October 10, 2009: Louis Haviland, RT: Sheringham Lighthouse, Shirley (Toochin and Haviland 2024a)
- 2.(1) adult winter plumage October 17, 2009: RT, Louis Haviland, Mike Ashbee: Sheringham Lighthouse, Shirley (Toochin and Haviland 2024a)
- 15.(1) adult winter plumage January 2, 2010: Louis Haviland: Sheringham Lighthouse, Shirley (Toochin and Haviland 2024a)
- 16.(1) adult winter plumage October 22, 2011: Louis Haviland: Sheringham Lighthouse, Shirley (Toochin and Haviland 2024a)

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Lesser Black-backed Gull is a very rare but increasing regular species in British Columbia with 98 provincial records and counting (Toochin and Cecile 2023o). This species is a casual fall vagrant migrant vagrant in the region with 3 records (Toochin and Haviland 2023o). The only record for the sea watch was of an adult winter plumaged bird found and photographed and digital videotaped by Rick Toochin at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley from October 21-22, 2009 (Toochin and Cecile 2023o). This record represented the first record of this species for Vancouver Island.



Figures #1, 2, 3: Record #1: Lesser Black-backed Gull adult winter plumage at Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 22, 2009. Video grabs © Rick Toochin.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Slaty-backed Gull is a very rare but annually occurring species in British Columbia with 95 records for the province (Toochin and Cecile 2023p). On Vancouver Island there are many records from Victoria to Comox (Toochin and Cecile 2023p). There was a single record from the sea watches that was found by Rick Toochin of an adult in winter plumage seen 60m from shore off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on November 12, 2007 (Toochin and Cecile 2023p).

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Glaucous-winged Gull is a common species that breeds and is found in good numbers year-round throughout the region (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species in large numbers at both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew throughout the year. Numbers varied from 1-1200 birds depending on the tidal and weather conditions. Our highest counts were all from the Sheringham Lighthouse and included numbers such as 7000 birds on March 4, 2007; 5000 birds on September 24, 2008; 3800 birds on October 22, 2009. High counts from Botanical Beach included 1000 birds on August 11-25, 2007; and 989 birds on November 11, 2008. This species was detected on almost every sea watch and is expected on future sea watches from the region.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*): [Accidental: One Spring Record and Two Fall Records]

The Glaucous Gull is a rare species that can occur as a rarity from mid September into mid October with this species remaining a rarity from mid October throughout the winter into late April in the spring with the odd bird lingering into May (Toochin 2024a). This species can occur anywhere large gulls congregate together such as Sooke Harbour, Whiffin Spit, Jordan River, or the harbour in Port Renfrew. Our sea watches produced only a couple of observations. These include: a first cycle bird found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off Sheringham Lighthouse on March 4, 2007; an adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 24, 2008; and 2 adults in winter plumage found by Rick Toochin in the waters close to Sheringham Lighthouse on October 21, 2009. Future observations are likely on the sea watch as the Glaucous Gull is a rare but regular species in the entire region.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): [Rare to Uncommon in the Summer]

The Caspian Tern is an uncommon summering species to fairly-common species during spring and fall migration in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species can occur on beach habitat such as Sooke Harbour, Billings Spit, Whiffin Spit, Jordan River, or the harbour in Port Renfrew. Birds arrive in the spring in large April increasing to fairly-common from mid May into mid June remaining uncommon throughout the summer (Toochin 2024a). This species has not been found breeding in the region. Birds move through the region in the fall from mid August through till mid September when numbers drop and are gone to their winter grounds by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species in small numbers at both sea watch locations with numbers varying from 1-10 birds found during both migration and summer periods. Our highest count involved 55 adults in breeding plumage found off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 1, 2009.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
7	adults	May-30-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Jun-20-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	adults	Jun-22-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-26-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	May-20-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jun-10-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-2-2007	RT, Corina Isaac	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Jul-22-2007	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
5	adults	Sept-9-2007	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	May-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	adults	Jun-28-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-28-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	adults	Jul-20-2008	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
7	adults	May-24-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jun-18-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adults	Jun-27-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adults	Jun-27-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
55	adults	Jul-1-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	adults	Jul-4-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Aug-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	May-22-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	June-1-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*): [Accidental: One Spring Record and Casual in the Fall]

The Common Tern is a rare to uncommon migrant species that passes through the region in small numbers each spring and fall (Toochin 2024a). We encountered a few birds at both sea watch locations with numbers varying from 1-3 birds. Our highest count involved 10 adult birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse on May 16, 2010. Though scarce in the region this species does turn up with regularity on the Victoria waterfront and should be found on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
3	2 ad & 1 juv	Sept-21-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Aug-18-2007	RT, LH	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
10	adults	May-16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	juvenile	Sept-6-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*): [Accidental: Two Spring Records and Casual in the Fall]

The Arctic Tern is a pelagic species that passes through as a common migrant in offshore waters from the region in the spring and fall (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in April and numbers build up throughout the month into May becoming a common species offshore before dropping to rare by the beginning of June and casual throughout the summer months (Toochin 2024a). The first fall birds appear in late July and number build up to common by mid August through mid September and significantly drop in number by the end of September with a few late birds found into October (Toochin 2024a). This species doesn't winter in the region (Toochin 2024a). In the waters of the strait the Arctic Tern is rare but regular in small numbers. We encountered a few individuals at both sea watch locations during the spring and fall migration period. Numbers were low varying between 1-2 birds with a high count of 13 birds found off the overlook at Otter Point in Sooke during the warm water event on August 12, 2009. This species should be found in small numbers on future sea watches.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult breeding plumage	May-13-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult fall plumage	Sept-3-2007	RT, LH,	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
13	8 adults & 5 juveniles	Aug-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	adult breeding plumage	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults breeding plumage	May-16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

Elegant Tern (*Thalasseus elegans*): [Accidental: One Spring Record]

The Elegant Tern is an accidental migrant vagrant in British Columbia with 30 records (Toochin and Haviland 2023i). Almost all records involve birds that post-breeding dispersal northward in the fall, especially in El Nino years (Toochin and Haviland 2023i). Our only observation was very interesting as it involved a spring observation. The bird was an adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland just off Jordan River on May 24, 2008 (Toochin and Haviland 2023i). This same bird was relocated twice by other observers in the Victoria area (Toochin and Haviland 2023i).

Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*): [Casual in the Fall]

The Black-footed Albatross is a species that is found in good numbers in the pelagic waters off the coast of British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990a). Our seabird surveys had this species on a few occasions usually the result of extreme weather or due to an unusual ocean temperature event. The first record was of 2 birds found by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland and Mitch Meredith in northwesterly winds over 35 Knots off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 30, 2007. These birds were seen along with many other displaced seabirds that day. Almost all of the rest of the records were seen during the warm water event in the summer and fall of 2009. The bird sighting involved 56 birds along with a sub-adult Short-tailed Albatross and 2 Laysan Albatross at the back of the fishing Seiner the Osprey just off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 8, 2009. These birds were observed through binoculars and telescopes incredibly close to shore following the ship as it lifted out its fishing nets and dumped out its bycatch. By looking for the fishing vessels over the coming days it was possible to find the seabirds. The next

observations came with 2 adults found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland very close to shore off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 11, 2009. Later that day we found 6 adults just offshore off the Otter Point overlook in Sooke following a fishing vessel. The next day Captain Russ Nicks videotaped 7 birds while conducting a whale watching voyage off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 12, 2009. Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland had 38 birds following fishing vessels off the Otter Point overlook in Sooke on August 12, 2009. A whale watching trip by Captain Russ Nicks out of Sooke produced 1 bird on just off Whiffin Spit on August 13, 2009, and 6 birds were seen on the same day off by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Otter Point overlook in Sooke. A single bird was found by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland, Dale Jensen, and Brian Stetch at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 15, 2009. A flock of 18 adults was observed following Seiner boats by Don Cecile on August 19, 2009, just off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 19, 2009. Of note a boat trip was organized to view the seabirds and a Black-footed Albatross found by Rick Toochin and many other observers and was photographed by Mike Ashbee off Jordan River on August 22, 2009. Birds continued to linger that fall and were found into October with 2 adults found by Rick Toochin off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 5, 2009. A single adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 7, 2009. With the final observation of 6 adults by Rick Toochin was off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 22, 2009. This remarkable seabird event was unprecedented at the time but with climate change might be repeated in the future. The last observation of this species was on the Juan de Fuca Christmas Bird count during a large gale storm when we had 1 adult was flying with an adult Laysan Albatross and was found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland in the mouth of the Western Salish Sea off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 29, 2011. This species is common enough offshore that weather displacement and water temperature displacement will likely cause this species to occur again in the area.



Figure #1: Black-footed Albatross first seen off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and followed towards Jordan River westward by zodiac on August 22, 2009. Photo ©Michael Ashbee.

Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*): [Casual in the Fall and Accidental: One Winter Record]

The Laysan Albatross is a species that occurs in good numbers well offshore in pelagic waters off British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990a). Our surveys had this graceful species only a couple of times and they were displaced by either severe weather or an unusual ocean temperature event. The first record for the sea watch was an adult found by Rick Toochin amongst many shearwaters flying close past the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 7, 2007. The next observation involved 2 birds found at the back of the fishing vessel Osprey amongst 56 Black-footed Albatrosses and a sub-adult Short-tailed Albatross by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland close to shore off Botanical Beach in Port Renfrew on August 8, 2009. Due to warm temperatures and the offshore fishery catching fish inshore massive numbers of seabirds were found in August 2009 from shore. Other observations included a single bird seen behind the fishing vessel Osprey by the authors off the Otter Point overlook on August 11, 2009, and there were 2 adult birds observed from the same location on August 12, 2009. Another observation of a single bird was observed from this location during a severe windstorm of north westerlies over 40 knots on October 23, 2009. The last observation of this species was on the Juan de Fuca Christmas Bird count during a large gale storm when we had 1 adult was flying with an adult Black-footed Albatross and was found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland in the mouth of the Western Salish Sea off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 29, 2011. This species is common enough well offshore that weather displacement and water temperature displacement will likely cause this species to occur again in the area.

Short-tailed Albatross: (*Phoebastria albatrus*): [Accidental: One Spring Record and Two Fall Records]

The Short-tailed Albatross is a slowly increasing globally endangered species that traditionally was found off the west coast of North America from Alaska to California (Hamilton et al. 2007). Records have slowly increased over the past few decades with proper protection and a breeding program in Japan. On British Columbia the records are increasing with 55 provincial records and counting (Toochin 2023zc). We had 3 observations of this majestic species while conducting the sea watch. Two was the result of extreme weather and the other was a result of ocean temperatures and special circumstances. The first observation was an immature bird seen at half km away found by Louis Haviland and Rick Toochin off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew near the mouth of the Western Salish Sea on March 28, 2009 (Toochin 2023zc). The winds that day were blowing northwest 35-40 knots and likely blew the bird into the area. We watched it turn and immediately leave the area and travel west out of site (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). The second observation was due to warm water coming up from Hawaii and pushing the offshore fishery into the waters off the mouth of the Western Salish Sea. This special event allowed for the Seiner fleet to be fishing right offshore and with them came all the ocean pelagic birds. The second bird was a sub-adult bird found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland with other observers in the company of 56 Black-footed Albatross and 2 Laysan Albatross at the back of the Siener fishing boat the Osprey off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew about 500m from shore in the mouth of the Western Salish Sea on August 8, 2009 (Toochin 2023zc). This amazing spectacle was viewed in Swarovski Telescopes and binoculars. The bird flowed the ship as it pulled in its full nets and was dumping out its bycatch. Eventually the bird flew into the strait the was reported by Captain Russ a whale watcher a couple of days later from his zodiac in the company of Black-footed Albatross and a massive mixed flock of Shearwaters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley.

The third observation was an immature found by Louis Haviland close to shore off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew at the mouth of the Western Salish Sea on October 31, 2015 (Toochin 2023zc) This bird was found during a large windstorm where the winds were north westerlies between 35-40 knots (L. Haviland Pers. Comm.). If observers continue to go out in extreme weather conditions, it is conceivable this species will be seen again on future sea watches.

Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*):

The Northern Fulmar is a common species found throughout the year off the west coast of British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990a). Birds become fairly-common in early March increasing to common throughout the year until mid November when numbers drop throughout November and remain uncommon throughout the winter months till the end of February (Toochin 2024a). In our region this is one of the most frequently encountered tubenose species on the sea watch. We mostly had dark morph and intermediate color morphed birds. Occasionally we had the rarer light morph birds as well. The number of birds found was directly related to the weather prior or during the day we were sea watching. By far the biggest number of birds encountered was during the warm water event that happened during the summer and fall of 2009 when 1000's of birds was recorded in the Western Salish Sea. This species is common enough to be expected on future sea watches.

No.	Date	Observers	Location
7	Dec-26-2006	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Aug-9-2007	Don Cecile	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	Aug-11-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Sept-1-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	Sept-2-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
14	Sept-28-2007	RT, LH, Dave Aldcroft	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
200	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
300	Oct-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Oct-12-2007	Louis Haviland	East Sooke Park
4	Nov-11-2007	RT	Gordon's Beach
9	Nov-11-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Nov-12-2007	RT, Denise Gubersky	Jordan River
32	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Dec-15-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse 6 white phase
25	Sept-6-2009	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	Sept-10-2008	Pelagic Trip	Sooke - off Carmanah
12	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Sept-28-2008	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Swiftsure Banks
1	Mar-28-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	Aug-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point

100	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse white and dark
2	Aug-19-2009	Don Cecile	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	Aug-19-2009	RT, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
12000	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Juan de Mouth
44	Aug-23-2009	RT, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
20	Aug-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Sept-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach 1 pure white bird
2	Sept-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	Sept-12-2009	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Swiftsure Banks
33	Sept-24-2009	RT, m. obs.	Juan de Fuca Pelagic Trip
4	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
23	Oct-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3000	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse all color phases
12	Oct-23-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Muir Creek
4000	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse all color phases
200	Oct-23-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point offshore in 40 knot NW Winds!
200	Oct-23-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point offshore in 40 knot NW Winds!
100	Oct-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse all color phases
2000	Oct-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach all color
4	Oct-28-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Oct-30-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1000	Nov-28-2009	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Aug-14-2010	RT, m. obs.	Swiftsure Pelagic Trip
12	Oct-30-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Dec-19-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Juan de Fuca X-Mas Bird Count: Area 1
30	Dec-29-2011	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
35	Dec-30-2011	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Oct-17-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Figures #1 & #2: Northern Fulmars dark and light morph found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse by zodiac on August 22, 2009. Photos © Michael Ashbee.

Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*): [Accidental: One Winter Record]

The Murphy's Petrel is a species that away from its southern breeding colonies is found as a regular deep ocean pelagic species well off the west coast of North America from California to British Columbia (Hamilton et al. 2007). Our only observation of this species occurred during extreme weather event when it is most likely to have deep ocean bird displaced towards land. The winds were clocked at the Tatoosh Lighthouse off Cape Flattery at northwest 40-46 Knot winds (75 – 85 km/hr!)(M. Meredith Pers. Comm.). This sighting involved 3 birds found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland as the flew past the mouth of the Western Salish Sea about half a km of less off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 7, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023j). These birds were doing incredible vertical arcs, hanging, and teetering horizontal before shearing straight down and repeating the flight style. We were able to get very good views of the wings, face, and underwings in our Swarovski Telescopes before they moved off and up the coastline. *Pterodroma* petrels have been observed from Cape Flattery before during weather events and it is possible that this could be repeated by some brave observers in the future.

Mottled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*): [Accidental in the Winter]

The Mottled Petrel is a species that is found away from its breeding colonies in the deep ocean of the north Pacific Ocean (Hamilton et al. 2007) and is a regularly occurring species in British Columbia in the deep pelagic zone (Toochin and Haviland 2023k). Observations from shore of this species are not unheard-of along the west coast of North America but are almost always associated with extreme weather events. Both observations were found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew and both our observations occurred during extreme weather events where the winds were northwest more than 35-45 knots. The first bird was an adult found by Louis Haviland and Rick Toochin off Botanical Beach, near Port Renfrew on March 28, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023k). This bird was observed in Swarovski Telescopes about half a km from shore as it arced straight up in the air and showed both the underside and upper side of the wings and body. The flight style was noted to be so different and obvious from anything else flying in the wind. The second observation was a couple of days later and involved 2 birds together found by Rick Toochin seen about half a km off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew near mouth of Western Salish Sea on March 31, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023k). As with the previous observation the unique flight style is what first alerted me to their presence. After watching them I was able to note field marks and track them flying past and up the coast. This species has been recorded on the Washington side of the strait from shore and is likely to occur again during and just after severe weather. It should be watched for during these types of events in the future.

Cook's Petrel (*Pterodroma cookii*): [Accidental: One Winter Record]

The Cook's Petrel is a species found away from its breeding colonies in the open southern Pacific Ocean occurring in the deep pelagic waters regularly as far north as off California (Hamilton et al. 2007) and is an accidentally occurring species in British Columbia with only 7 records (Toochin 2023ze). This was by far the most unexpected species we found on our sea watch. The only record was of an adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland that flew past the observers less than 100m off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on March 7, 2009 (Toochin 2023ze). This bird likely caught in a slip stream as the winds were clocked at both the Tatoosh Island Lighthouse and the Sheringham Lighthouse as northwest 45-50 knots (84 – 93 km/hr!) (M. Meredith Pers.

Comm.). We used the concrete foundation of the lighthouse as a wind breaker allowing us to view the Black-legged Kittiwakes and Short-tailed Shearwaters that were point blank trying to hide out the wind. This bird suddenly appeared directly in front of us very at very close range. We were able to view the bird in both binoculars and Swarovski Telescopes at close range as it arced up and down unable to turn or move due to the winds. It never flapped its wings once and moved in the direction of the wind. We tracked this bird as it flew inland, and it passed up over land heading east until we lost sight of it (R. Toochin Per. Obs.). Of note we had Cookilaria type petrels not identified to species during extreme weather on a couple of other occasions. These included: 3 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 7, 2007; 1 bird off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 8, 2009, 2 birds seen off the Otter Point Overlook on August 12, 2009; and 1 bird found off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on February 21, 2010. All displayed the correct flight style and markings but were not observed close enough to identify to species. Given how storms blow other pelagic species into these waters it is possible that this species could turn up again.

Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Streaked Shearwater is an accidentally occurring seabird species in British Columbia with only 1 provincial record (Toochin and Haviland 2023I). This species was not expected at all on our sea watches and occurred during a warm water event that brought thousands of shearwaters and seabirds inshore during the summer of 2009. The only record was of an adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland that was observed less than half a km from shore amongst thousands of seabirds off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 5, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023I). This bird was clearly different in both in plumage and flight style from the other shearwaters. We were lucky to get good views in our Swarovski Telescopes. This is the first record for British Columbia.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Ardenna pacificus*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

The Wedge-tailed Shearwater is an accidental species in British Columbia with 3 provincial records (Toochin and Haviland 2023m). This species like others was pushed into the region due to ocean temperature anomalies in the fall of 2009 and was likely attracted to the Seiner fishing fleet that was active near shore from Sooke to Port Renfrew at the time. The only observation was of 2 adults together found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland observed close to shore off the Otter Point overlook in Sooke on August 12, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2023m). These birds were well seen in both binoculars and Swarovski Telescopes as they flew past. The flight style was so different and obvious from other shearwaters flying more like Frigatebirds than shearwaters the way they hung in the air and soared. Of note likely one of these birds was found by John Yerger aboard the MV Coho Ferry on and observed the bird on the BC side of the strait a few days later on August 25, 2009 (J. Yerger Pers. Comm.).

Pink-footed Shearwater (*Ardenna creatopus*): [Rare to Common in the Summer and Fall]

The Pink-footed Shearwater is a common species found off Swiftsure Banks where much of the world's population of the species spends the summer months (Campbell et al. 1990a). This species builds up in number in May and spends our summer months offshore as a common species, especially in the Swiftsure Banks area until October when number dramatically wain

(Toochin 2024a). It is not a wintering species in waters off North America as it is during this season that birds return to the southern hemisphere breeding grounds (Onley and Scofield 2007). One of the biggest surprise finds of the sea watch was how regular this species was off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew and the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. Birds were also observed off Whiffin Spit, Otter Point Lookout, off Gordon's Beach, off Jordan River, and China Beach. Pelagic trips to Swiftsure Banks produced incredible numbers of 10-20,000 birds on September 28, 2008, and 3000 birds on August 22, 2009. Displacement weather helped drive birds into the mouth of the strait as did bait balls of small prey fish. This was how birds were first found in 2007-2008 and as our understanding increased so did our detection rates. This culminated with many birds observed during the warm water event of August-October 2009. Our highest counts from shore included: 5000 birds counted off the Sheringham Lighthouse with video on September 24, 2008; 2000 birds counted off Sheringham Lighthouse on September 6, 2009; 1000 birds counted off Sheringham Lighthouse on October 4, 2008. Other counts included 400 plus birds counted from shore off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 8, 2009; another observation of 300 birds were counted off the Sheringham Lighthouse on August 24, 2008. This species has been recorded by the authors as far east as the mouth of Active pass in the Strait of Georgia on October 11, 2009, with recent records of 100 birds recorded off Sheringham Lighthouse on October 10, 2015. With future sea watching effort this species will be recorded with some frequency in the future.

No.	Date	Observers	Location
1	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	Oct-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Aug-17-2008	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
52	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Aug-20-2008	Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
300	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
200	Sept-10-2008	Pelagic Trip	Sooke to Swiftsure Banks
5000	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	Sept-25-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
20000	Sept-28-2008	RT ,m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Swiftsure Banks
1	Sept-17-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1000	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	Oct-5-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
30	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
400	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
24	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
12	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	Aug-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point 100s in mid strait
12	Aug-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
12	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	Aug-16-2009	Dale Jensen, Brian Stetch	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	Aug-19-2009	RT, Don Cecile	Jordan River

12	Aug-20-2009	RT	Jordan River
20	Aug-20-2009	RT, LH, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
30	Aug-21-2009	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
3000	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Juan de Mouth
2	Aug-23-2009	RT, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
32	Aug-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Aug-31-2009	RT	Otter Point
3	Sept-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
35	Sept-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2000	Sept-6-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
77	Sept-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3000	Sept-12-2009	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Swiftsure Banks
35	Sept-16-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
14	Sept-19-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Sept-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
35	Sept-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
56	Sept-24-2009	RT, m. obs.	Juan de Fuca Pelagic Trip
1	Sept-28-2009	RT	Otter Point
60	Sept-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
20	Sept-29-2009	RT	Jordan River
6	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	Oct-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Oct-6-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	Oct-10-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
16	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Oct-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	May-16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Swiftsure Pelagic Trip
200	Aug-14-2010	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
5	Oct-10-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Oct-3-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	Oct-10-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
7	Oct-17-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Figure #1: Pink-footed Shearwater off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley from zodiac on September 28, 2009. Photo © Don Cecile.

Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Ardenna carneipes*): [Accidental: Five Summer Records (likely all of one bird)]

The Flesh-footed Shearwater is a rare regularly occurring seabird off the west coast of North America and in the pelagic waters off British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990a). This species is found in small numbers off in the pelagic waters off the British Columbia from April into late July when numbers increase in August through September and wain in October (Toochin 2024a). Our sea bird surveys only encountered this species during the unusual warm water event of August into September 2009. This species was only seen on days when large numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters were also encountered as they are often found with them. The first observation was found by the authors while on a whale watching cruise to view the sea birds off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 12, 2009. The next sightings were all from the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley with a single bird recorded close to shore amongst the hundreds of shearwaters by the authors on September 6, 2009, and September 16, 2009, with likely the same individual found by boat and seen by Rick Toochin and many observers on September 24, 2009. The last observation of likely the same individual bird was by Rick Toochin of off the Otter Point overlook in Sooke on September 28, 2009. This species has been recorded many times at Swiftsure banks amongst the large flocks of Pink-footed Shearwaters that congregate there and is a candidate to be found again on future sea watches in the region.

Buller's Shearwater (*Ardenna bulleri*): [Rare in the Fall]

The Buller's Shearwater is a commonly occurring seabird species in the fall off the west coast of British Columbia and North America (Campbell et al. 1990a). Birds occasionally occur from May through early August when bird numbers start to build in the later part of August through September with birds becoming common in mid September into mid October before numbers drop in November (Toochin 2024a). In the Western Salish Sea region this species was a very rare

but regularly occurring species encountered from August until November normally as individuals, in small numbers or common due to an unusual warm water event which happened in the summer and fall of 2009. Buller's Shearwaters were usually encountered on days when many other tubenose species were also found which was often due to heavy rain bands with heavy northwestern winds that were over 30 knots. We encountered birds from the Otter Point overlook, Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley, and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. The highest count from shore was 65 recorded by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland from the Otter Point overlook on August 12, 2009. Other high counts involved 8 birds found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 1, 2008; 6 birds recorded off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 24, 2008; and 3 birds recorded off the Otter Point overlook on August 13, 2009. Most observations from shore while conducting the sea watch involved 1-2 birds. We included a sighting of 2 birds observed from a whale watching boat off Botanical Beach at the mouth of the Salish Sea for completeness and context.

No.	Date	Observers	Location
1	Sept-28-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: off Botanical Beach
1	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Nov-12-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: off Botanical Beach
8	Sept-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: off Botanical Beach
6	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
65	Aug-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
3	Aug-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Aug-20-2009	RT, LH, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Juan de Mouth
2	Sept-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Oct-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: off Botanical Beach

Sooty Shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*): [Uncommon to Common in the Fall]

The Sooty Shearwater is one of the most common tubenose species found off the coast of North America and British Columbia (Onley and Scofield 2007). This species starts to increase in appearance in late March with birds becoming common from April until early November when numbers drop off and only the odd bird might be encountered during the winter months (Toochin 2024a). Our sea watches produced many days where this was the most common species encountered. On many occasions after or during severe weather the waters off Botanical Beach or Sheringham Lighthouse were so thick with birds either flying or sitting on the ocean that they looked like a plastic flow. We estimated on these days' numbers over 100,000 birds on August 8, 2009, off Botanical Beach and over 100,000 birds off Sheringham Lighthouse on August 11, 2009. When numbers are this high, we counted birds in blocks of 100. Sooty Shearwaters were recorded off Whiffin Spit, Otter Point overlook, Muir Creek, Sheringham Lighthouse, Jordon River,

Point No Point, China Beach and off Botanica, Beach near Port Renfrew. This species like other tubenoses was definite prone to displacement into the strait by extreme weather and warm water events. Often Sooty Shearwaters would pour into the waters around Sheringham Lighthouse followed by other species such as Pink-footed Shearwaters that were following the other birds. This was recorded for the first time from the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley by the authors with 52 Pink-footed Shearwaters following 2000 Sooty Shearwaters on August 20, 2008. The Sooty Shearwater is regular enough that birds should be watched for on all future sea watches.

No.	Date	Observers	Location
4	Aug-28-2006	RT	Jordan River
1	Aug-9-2007	Don Cecile	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
35	Sept-28-2007	RT, LH, Dave Aldcroft	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
300	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
20	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	Oct-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
33	May-21-2008	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
40	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Aug-9-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	Aug-17-2008	RT, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
100	Aug-17-2008	RT,	Sheringham Lighthouse
35	Aug-19-2009	RT, Don Cecile	Jordan River
2000	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
50	Aug-21-2008	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
66	Aug-22-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
10000	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
65	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
200	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Aug-31-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Jordan River
45	Sept-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
66	Sept-1-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
112	Sept-7-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
400	Sept-9-2008	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	Sept-13-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Sept-18-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1000	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	Sept-25-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
10000	Sept-28-2008	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Swiftsure Banks
3	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Oct-5-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	May-14-2009	RT	Jordan River
3	Aug-4-2009	RT	off Pt. No Pt.
100,000	Aug-8-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
100000	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

100000	Aug-11-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point
1000	Aug-12-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point 45000 in mid strait
100	Aug-13-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Otter Point 20,000 not identified
5000	Aug-15-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
35	Aug-19-2009	RT, Don Cecile	Jordan River
30	Aug-19-2009	RT, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
5000	Aug-19-2009	Don Cecile	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
500	Aug-20-2009	RT, LH, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
500	Aug-20-2009	RT, LH, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Aug-20-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
45	Aug-20-2009	RT	Jordan River
100	Aug-21-2009	RT, m. obs.	Sheringham Lighthouse
5000	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Juan de Mouth
12	Aug-23-2009	RT, Neil Hughes	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	Aug-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
22	Aug-30-2009	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
6000	Aug-31-2009	RT	Otter Point
33	Sept-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
300	Sept-1-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	Sept-4-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
9000	Sept-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
60,000	Sept-6-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
7000	Sept-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5000	Sept-12-2009	RT, m. obs.	Pelagic Trip to Swiftsure Banks
4000	Sept-16-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1500	Sept-19-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1200	Sept-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
12430	Sept-24-2009	RT, m. obs.	Juan de Fuca Pelagic Trip
40	Sept-25-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
100	Sept-29-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	Sept-29-2009	RT	Jordan River
2	Oct-1-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
44	Oct-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	Oct-6-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
12	Oct-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Oct-10-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
500	May-3-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	May-3-2010	Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
200	May -16-2010	RT, m. obs.	Swiftsure Pelagic Trip
5	Aug-14-2010	RT, m. obs.	Swiftsure Pelagic Trip
1	Sept-16-2012	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
200	Oct-3-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
500	Oct-10-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
50	Oct-17-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse



Figure #1: Sooty Shearwater off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley by zodiac on September 28, 2008
Photo © Michael Ashbee.



Figure #2: Sooty Shearwater off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley by zodiac on September 25, 2009.
Photo © Tim Zurowski.

Short-tailed Shearwater (*Ardenna tenuirostris*): [Rare to Uncommon in Fall and the Winter]

The Short-tailed Shearwater is a species that occurs commonly off the west coast of British Columbia and North America (Onley and Scofield 2007). Birds occur from mid September through till early December with birds decreasing in frequency throughout the December and are present but rare from January into February (Toochin 2024a). This species is casual in occurrence from March to August with numbers building up into the early half of September. In the waters of the strait, we encountered this species frequently in the fall through early winter period. Our highest numbers were 88 individuals found off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2009; 45 individuals off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 24, 2009, with winter records of 1 bird found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 4, 2010; 1 individual found close to the shores of the Sheringham Lighthouse on December 28, 2011, and 3 birds found close to shore off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on December 30, 2011.

No.	Date	Observers	Location
2	Nov-11-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	Nov-12-2007	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Dec-25-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
18	Sept-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	Sept-28-2008	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Aug-22-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	Aug-31-2009	RT	Otter Point
1	Sept-5-2009	RT, LH, Mike Ashbee	Port Renfrew: off Botanical Beach
25	Sept-6-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
88	Sept-7-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
16	Sept-19-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
24	Sept-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
45	Sept-24-2009	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: off Botanical Beach
3	Oct-23-2009	RT, LH, David Allinson	Sheringham Lighthouse
6	Oct-30-2010	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Dec-4-2010	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: off Botanical Beach
1	Dec-28-2011	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	Dec-30-2011	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Oct-17-2015	Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*): [Rare to Annual in Spring, Summer, and Fall]

The Manx Shearwater is a relative newcomer to the waters off British Columbia and has become a rare but annual species with 86 provincial records (Toochin and Haviland 2023g). Our sea watches had this species on a semi-regular basis with counts of 2 birds on some occasions. Most observations came from either the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley or off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. This species is increasing in numbers all along the west Coast of North America and is known for being an inshore species. It is extremely likely that the Manx Shearwater will be found again in if future sea watches are conducted in this region.

Records for the Western Salish Sea Region:

- 1.(1) adult Rick Toochin: about 30m off the beach at Jordan River on August 28, 2006
(Cecile 2007a, Toochin and Haviland 2023g).
2. (1) adult July 22, 2007: Rick Toochin: off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
3. (1) adult August 11, 2007: RT: off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
4. (1) adult October 7, 2007: RT: off Gordon's Beach in Sooke [w/ multiple Sooty Shearwaters and Northern Fulmars] (Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 5.(1) adult November 18, 2007: RT: just off Jordan River (Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 6.(1) adult August 16, 2008: RT and Louis Haviland: off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 7.(1) adult August 22, 2008: Louis Haviland and RT: off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 8.(2) adults August 24, 2008: Louis Haviland and RT: off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 9.(2) adults September 24, 2008: Louis Haviland and RT: off Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 10.(1) adult May 31, 2009: RT and Mitch Meredith: off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 11.(1) adult June 5, 2009: RT: off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 12.(1) adult August 4, 2009: RT: BC side of Juan de Fuca off Point No Point
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 13.(1) adult August 5, 2009: RT: off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 14.(1) adult August 8, 2009: Louis Haviland and RT: off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 15.(1) adult August 8, 2009: RT and Louis Haviland: off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 16.(2) adults August 11, 2009: RT and Louis Haviland: off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 17.(1) adult August 11, 2009: Louis Haviland: off Otter Point overlook, Sooke
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 18.(2) adults August 12, 2009: RT, Louis Haviland: off Otter Point overlook, Sooke
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 19.(1) adult August 13, 2009: Capt. Russ Nicks, and other observers (video) by boat off Sheringham Lighthouse, Shirley (Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 20.(1) adult August 16, 2009: Brian Stetch (FN) off Botanical Beach in Port Renfrew
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 21.(1) adult August 19, 2009: RT: off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)
- 22.(1) adult August 29, 2009: RT: off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley
(Toochin and Haviland 2023g)

Black-vented Shearwater (*Puffinus opisthomelas*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Black-vented Shearwater is a casually to accidentally occurring species in British Columbia with 33 provincial records (Toochin and Meredith 2023a). There are a couple of historical skin specimens from Albert Head, in Metchosin, in the early 1890s (Campbell et al. 1990a). This species was not expected on the sea watch and came as a great surprise. The similarity in appearance to Manx Shearwater makes all observations prone to extreme scrutiny. Our bird was an adult found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland was observed at 50m off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley September 19, 2009 (Toochin and Meredith 2023a). We had very good telescopic views and there were other shearwaters to compare this individual with at the time. This bird was brownish, dirty faced and had smudged underwings. We had been seen Manx Shearwaters frequently that fall, and this bird was small and was different in plumage characteristics. This bird was found during the warm water event that brought thousands of seabirds in the strait and were seen close to shore.

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates furcatus*): [Rare in the Fall]

The Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel is a common species that is found in the pelagic waters and breed on small islands off the coast of British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990a). Birds increase in number off the coast in the spring beginning in late March into early April when numbers dramatically increase and remain common from late April throughout the summer till the end of October when numbers begin to drop in the region (Toochin 2024a). Numbers continue to wain into November with small numbers occurring offshore throughout the winter until mid March (Toochin 2024a). In our region this species was hard to find and was mostly prone to discovery after or during extreme weather events or during warm water events. We had this species from both sea watch locations but not frequently found with any consistency. Our highest counts involved 24 birds found in the waters off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew during a large storm on October 26, 2009; and 12 birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley during stormy weather on October 7, 2007. Given that this species does come into the Salish Sea region and is found frequently off the southern tip of Vancouver Island and into the Georgia Strait region, birds are very likely to be encountered on future sea watches.

No.	Date	Observers	Location
2	Jul-22-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Sept-5-2007	RT	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Sept-30-2007	RT, LH, Mitch Meredith	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
12	Oct-7-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Aug-22-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Mar-28-2009	Louis Haviland, RT	Sheringham Lighthouse NW Gale force
1	May-9-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	Aug-20-2009	RT, LH, Don Cecile	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	Oct-9-2009	RT	Otter Point
4	Oct-22-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
24	Oct-26-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates leucorhous*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Leach's Storm-Petrel is an offshore pelagic species that is found commonly from late April through to late October with numbers dropping dramatically in November with small numbers present in the winter months from late November through till early March (Toochin 2024a). Numbers build up throughout March into April (Toochin 2024a). Despite conducting extensive sea watches we only had 1 observation of this species on our sea watches. A single bird found close to the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 22, 2009. Of note we never had this species on any of our pelagic trips. This is likely due to the fact this species feed well offshore and only comes into shore to feed young at nesting colonies at night. Our only record was the direct result of extreme weather displacement.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Brown Booby is currently an accidental species in British Columbia with 23 provincial records (Toochin *et al.* 2023j). This species is increasing and since 2009 has become an annual species with at least one report or more per year. The first record for Vancouver Island was an adult seen sitting on the mast of a large sailing ship and was found by Rick Toochin off Sheringham Point in Shirley on August 29, 2009 (Charlesworth 2010, Toochin *et al.* 2023j). This bird was found later that day off Tower Point in Metchosin where it was photographed (Toochin *et al.* 2023j). The same bird was found again by Rick Toochin on August 31, 2009, off the Otter Point overlook in Sooke (Toochin *et al.* 2023j) and was last seen sitting on a buoy off Whiffin Spit in Sooke on September 1, 2009 (L. Haviland Pers. Comm.). This bird likely came in during the same warm water event that brought all the other tubenoses into the strait that fall of 2009. Since that first observation there have been more in the region, and it should be looked for on future sea watches.

Brandt's Cormorant (*Urile penicillatus*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Brandt's Cormorant is a common species throughout the year that breeds in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was encountered in good numbers on a regular basis from both sea watch locations. Numbers varied from 1-50 birds depending on the tide and the weather. Our highest counts involved 135 birds in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 29, 2007; 112 birds in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse on September 3, 2007; 97 birds off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 14, 2009; 65 birds found in the waters off Botanical Beach on September 24, 2007; and 88 birds found in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse on September 30, 2007. This species should be expected on future sea watches in the area.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Nannopterum auritum*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Double-crested Cormorant is a common species throughout the year that breeds in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was encountered in good numbers on a regular basis from both sea watch locations. Numbers varied from 1-45 birds depending on the tide and the weather. Our highest counts involved 178 birds in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 29, 2007; 65 birds in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse on September 24, 2008; 56 birds off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 16, 2006; 60 birds found in the waters off Botanical Beach on September 30, 2007; and 57 birds found in the waters off

Sheringham Lighthouse on October 8, 2007. This species should be expected on future sea watches in the area.

Red-faced Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax urile*): [Accidental: Two Spring Records]

The Red-faced Cormorant is an accidental species anywhere south of Alaska; in recent years this species has been found with increasing frequency on Haida Gwaii and now there are 18 records for the province (Toochin 2023zj). On Vancouver Island the Red-faced Cormorant is an accidental vagrant with only 4 records (Toochin 2023zj). We were incredibly fortunate to find 2 birds on our surveys that were both seen in Swarovski Telescopes at point blank range. The first was an adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland off Botanical Beach, near Port Renfrew on May 31, 2008 (Cecile 2008b, Toochin 2023zj). This bird was mostly on its own but there were some Pelagic Cormorants nearby that afforded excellent comparison views. The other record was a near adult in breeding plumage found by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on June 6, 2009 (Toochin 2023zj). This bird flew by at less than 25m allowing incredible views of the bird.

Pelagic Cormorant (*Urile pelagicus*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Pelagic Cormorant is a common species throughout the year that breeds in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was encountered in good numbers on a regular basis from both sea watch locations. Numbers varied from 1-50 birds depending on the tide and the weather. Our highest counts involved 111 birds in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 29, 2007; 66 birds in the waters off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 30, 2007; 56 birds off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 31, 2007; 55 birds found in the waters off Sheringham Lighthouse on December 16, 2006, 2007. This species should be expected on future sea watches in the area.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*): [Rare to Uncommon in Summer and Fall]

The Brown Pelican is a rare to uncommon species that occurs in the western Salish Sea region as part of its post breeding dispersal of birds moving up the outer coast from the south in small but increasing numbers every year (Toochin 2024a). This species has been observed from Whiffin Spit, Muir Creek, off Jordan River, off China Beach and in the harbour off Port Renfrew. Birds appear in small numbers in late May through till early mid July When they are more likely to be found in small numbers (Toochin 2024a). As summer progresses more Brown Pelicans move into the region from August through till early October before numbers drop throughout October into November with the odd bird lingering throughout the winter months (Toochin 2024a). Brown Pelicans were found in the waters off both sea watch locations. Most birds occur as a flock together or as individual birds. The numbers varied with 1-20 birds found over the years. Our highest counts involved 42 birds found off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 25, 2006; 21 birds found in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse on November 12, 2007; and 18 birds found in he waters off Botanical Beach from August 24-25, 2007. They are regular enough in the region each year that they should be found on future sea watches in the area.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Jun-9-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse

1	immature	Sept-21-2006	MMe, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
42	various ages	Sept-25-2006	RT, Paul Levesque	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	adults	Dec-23-2006	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-6-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
9	various ages	Aug-21-2007	Al Teng et al	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	immature	Sept-3-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
18	various ages	Aug-25-2007	RT, m. obs.	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	immature	Oct-8-2007	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	various ages	Oct-16-2007	Linda Kreiss	Sheringham Lighthouse
21	various ages	Nov-12-2007	RT, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Nov-18-2007	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	1 adult / 1 immature	Aug-20-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	adults	Aug-22-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
18	various ages	Aug-24-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
6	various ages	Aug-30-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	immature	Sept-25-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-4-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Oct-5-2008	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jun-20-2009	RT, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Aug-5-2009	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse



Brown Pelicans off Botanical Beach, near Port Renfrew on September 25, 2006.
Photo © Rick Toochn

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*): [Casual in the Summer and Fall]

The Great Blue Heron is a fairly-common breeding species found throughout the region year-round in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). The habitat at both sea watch locations was not ideal for Great Blue Herons and as a result we only encountered this species a few times. The highest count involved 4 birds flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 8, 2007.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Sept-3-2007	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	adults	Oct-8-2007	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Aug-9-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
1	adult	Aug-24-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
3	adults	Jul-25-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*): [Uncommon in the Spring, Summer, and the Fall]

The Turkey Vulture is a common species throughout the region during the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Birds start to migrate through the region in late March and become fairly-common in April becoming common by May and remaining common throughout the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Fall migration begins in late August and birds are common throughout September into early October when numbers drop as birds leave the region (Toochin 2024a). By November into the winter a few lingering birds spend the winter months but not every year (Toochin 2024a). We had this species at both our sea watch locations throughout the year with migration periods getting higher numbers. We would average between 1-10 birds. Our highest number encountered was 12 birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 7, 2008. Larger flocks are observed in Sooke and East Sooke park each fall.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): [Rare in the Spring Migration, Summer and during Fall Migration]

The Osprey is fairly-common to uncommon breeding species in appropriate habitat in the region during the summer months (Toochin 2024a). the first birds arrive in March and become fairly common to uncommon by April are present throughout the summer month into the fall (Toochin 2024a). Birds migrate in the fall through the region starting in late August throughout September and are fairly-common to uncommon (Toochin2024a). By early October the numbers drop off significantly and this species becomes rare and are gone from the region by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). Osprey was a species found as a migrant species at both locations while conducting our sea watches. We never encountered many birds with 1-2 birds being the average. The highest count involved 4 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on June 28, 2008. The best place to find this species in the region is at East Sooke Park in the fall.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*): [Uncommon throughout the Year]

The Bald Eagle is a fairly-common species that breeds in the region and is found throughout the year (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species frequently on the sea watch form both locations. Numbers would vary from 1-10 birds with sightings throughout the year. The highest numbers included 13 birds watched flying north across the mouth of the strait in a line from Cape Flattery to Owen Point on March 28, 2009; and 12 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse

in Shirley on March 22, 2009. The best place to find this species in numbers during migration is in the fall at East Sooke Park.

Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Northern Harrier is a rare migrant from late July into mid September when birds become uncommon into mid October before numbers drop to rare until the end of the month (Toochin 2014a). This species is rare to casual the rest of the year (Toochin 2024a). We only had 1 bird on our sea watches an immature bird at the Sheringham Lighthouse from October 10-12, 2009. Northern Harriers are found with greater frequency in the fall at East Sooke Park in the fall.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*): [Rare throughout the Year]

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is a rare breeding species that is also a common migrant in the spring and fall migration period and is rare to uncommon in the winter months in the region (Toochin 2024a). Spring migrants boost numbers to common from early April through till late May when numbers drop into June (Toochin 2024a). Birds have bred in the region at high elevation in the mountains but are rare during in the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Fall migration starts in mid-late August and the numbers increase to common from September through till the end of October (Toochin 2024a) This species is rare to uncommon throughout the winter months. We had Sharp-shinned Hawks at both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew but never any nesting birds. This species was never numerous with 1 bird encountered for any given observation with birds encountered either during spring or fall migration and in the winter. The best place to find this species in any large numbers is in the region is at East Sooke Park in the fall.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*): [Rare throughout the Year]

The Cooper's Hawk is a fairly-common breeding species that is also a common migrant in the spring fall and is fairly-common in the winter months in the region (Toochin 2024a). Spring migrants boost numbers to becoming more common from mid March through till early June (Toochin 2024a). Birds breed in the region and remain fairly-common in suitable habitat throughout the summer month (Toochin 2024a). Fall migration starts in late August and the numbers increase to common from September through till early November (Toochin 2024a) This species is fairly-common throughout the winter months. We had Cooper's Hawks at both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew but never found a nest. This species was never numerous, and we always had single birds encountered throughout the year. The best place to find this species in any large numbers is in the region is at East Sooke Park in the fall.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*): Accidental: One Record in Spring, Fall and the Winter]

The Northern Goshawk is a rare breeding species that is also an uncommon migrant in the spring and fall in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species is rare in the winter with a few migrants moving through in the spring from early March through mid April (Toochin 2024a). This species is a rare breeding species in the summer months with a small increase in number during fall migration from late August through till early November (Toochin 2024a). We only had the Northern Goshawk a couple of times on our sea watches. These records include: 1 adult at the

Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 11, 2007; 1 immature at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 17, 2009; and 1 immature at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 4, 2010. This species can be found anywhere in the region, but it is best to try to find migrant birds at East Sooke Park in the fall.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*): [Accidental: Two Fall Records]

The Broad-winged Hawk is an annual migrant in the fall through the region. This species is found in East Sooke but has been observed in surrounding areas every fall with birds starting to move through the region in late August with more birds moving through the region in September becoming fairly-common and this migration lasts until early October when birds wain in numbers and are all but gone by late October (Toochin 2024a). In the spring there are fewer records, and this species is classified as casual from mid April into mid May (Toochin 2024a). On the sea watch we encountered this species twice. The first was an immature found flying over the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 24, 2007; and the second was also an immature found flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 23, 2008. The best place to find this species in any numbers is at East Sooke Park in the fall.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Swainson's Hawk is a rare but regular migrant in the fall through the region. This species is most often found in East Sooke Park and seen in other surrounding areas in the fall with birds starting to move through the region in late August through September into early October (Toochin 2024a). In the spring birds are much rare and are a casually occurring bird from mid April into early June (Toochin 2024a). The only record on our sea watch involved an adult dark morph observed flying past the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 29, 2007. The best place to find this species in the region is at East Sooke Park in the fall.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year]

The Red-tailed hawk is a fairly-common species throughout the winter and summer and is a common migratory species in the spring and fall in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds appear in the spring becoming common from late March through till early May with fall birds increasing and becoming common from mid September through till late October. The Red-tailed Hawk was a species that was not found on many sea watches, but we did find them on occasion at both locations. They were not found nesting in the sea watch locations. Numbers varied between 1-2 birds with a high count of 7 birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 20, 2008. The best place to find this species in any numbers is at East Sooke Park in the fall.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*): [Accidental: One Record in Summer]

The Great Horned Owl is an uncommon to rare breeding resident species in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). The only bird we had while conducting the sea watch was an adult sitting in a tree with a Garder Snake at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 1, 2009.

Northern Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*): [Accidental: Three Spring Records]

The Northern Pygmy-Owl is an uncommon breeding resident species in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Though this species likely breeds in the area, no nests were ever located

at the sea watch locations. We only had this species on 3 occasions while sea watching. These records include: 1 adult at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on April 5, 2007; 1 adult at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 8, 2008; and 1 adult at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 10, 2009.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*): [Accidental: Two Records]

The Northern Saw-whet Owl is an uncommon species that is found year-round in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Migrant birds pass through in spring from late February through till early to mid April and in the fall, migrants pass through from early to mid September till late October into early November (Toochin 2024a). We had calling birds in the early twilight hours at both locations in the fall. The first observation involved 4-5 birds calling in dark in the trees at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 28, 2007; and 3 birds calling in the trees in the dark at Sheringham Lighthouse near Shirley on October 4, 2008. It is likely that birds migrate in numbers through the Botanical Beach area.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year]

The Belted Kingfisher is an uncommon to fairly-common breeding resident species that is found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). This region gets wintering birds, migrants in spring and fall and breeding birds that spend the summer. The Belted Kingfisher was encountered at both at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew but was not found breeding. Numbers were usually low with 1-2 birds present. Our highest count involved 3 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on July 1, 2007.

Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*): [Uncommon Breeding species found throughout the Year]

The Red-breasted Sapsucker is an uncommon breeding resident species that is found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was found breeding at both sea watch spots. Numbers were usually low with 1-2 birds present. Our highest count involved 3 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on April 12, 2008.

Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*): [Uncommon Breeding species found throughout the Year]

The Downy Woodpecker is an uncommon breeding resident species that is found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was found breeding at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and on occasion at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Numbers were usually low with 1-2 birds present.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*): [Uncommon Breeding species found throughout the Year]

The Hairy Woodpecker is an uncommon to fairly-common breeding resident species that is found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was found breeding at both at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. Numbers were usually low with 1-2 birds present. Our highest count involved 4 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 19, 2008.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*): [Uncommon Breeding species found throughout the Year]

The Northern Flicker is an uncommon to fairly-common breeding resident species that is found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was found with frequency at both at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. We encountered winter birds, migrants, and birds during the breeding season. Numbers were usually low with 1-5 birds present. Our highest count involved 8 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 25, 2008.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*): [Accidental: Two Fall Records]

The American Kestrel is a migrant species through the spring and fall with the odd bird wintering or summering in region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive and start passing through in small numbers in March with numbers building into April when this species can be uncommon to fairly-common into early May before numbers drop and they are rare by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the fall in mid August building up in numbers by the of the month becoming uncommon to fairly-common throughout September till the end of October and become rare in November and occasionally encountered into the winter months (Toochin 2024a). We only had this species twice during our sea watches and both during fall migration. The first was an immature in the waters off the Sheringham Lighthouse crossing the strait on September 23, 2008; and another immature watched crossing the strait off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 22, 2009. This species found off East Sooke Park with regularity during fall migration.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year]

The Merlin is a rare to uncommon breeding resident species that is found year-round in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was observed at both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew throughout the year, but no nests were found at either location. Numbers were always as single birds, but we did have 2 birds off Botanical Beach on August 11, 2009.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

This is a very rare bird species anywhere on Vancouver Island but a regular winter visitor to Southern British Columbia. There was only a single observation on the sea watch involving an immature bird found by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland from the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on October 8, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year]

The Peregrine Falcon is a rare to uncommon breeding resident species that is found year-round in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was observed at both the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and off Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew throughout the year. No nests were found at either location. Numbers were always as single birds. One of our favourite observations involved an adult out in the strait hunting flocks of 100's of Red-necked Phalaropes off the Sheringham Lighthouse on August 11, 2007.

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*): [Rare Spring and Fall Migrant]

The Western Wood-Pewee is a rare to uncommon breeding species found in summer in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in May and remain throughout the summer until they start to leave in the fall beginning in late August with birds gone by mid to late September (Toochin 2024a). This species was never found breeding at either sea watch location. The Western Wood-Pewee was only ever encountered as single individuals a few times on sea watches in the habitat around the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*): [Rare in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Willow Flycatcher is a common breeding species found in summer in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in early April and numbers build up into early May as this species remains in the region throughout the summer until they start to leave in the fall beginning in mid to late August with birds gone by mid to late September (Toochin 2024a). This species was only ever encountered as single individuals a few times on sea watches in the habitat around the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. Our high count was of 3 fall migrants found on September 3, 2007.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*): [Uncommon in the Spring, Summer, and Fall]

The Hammond's Flycatcher is an uncommon to fairly-common breeding species found in summer in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in mid May and numbers build into June as this species remains in the region throughout the summer until they start to leave in the fall beginning in late August with birds gone by mid to late September (Toochin 2024a). They were likely breeding in both areas as birds were found singing on territory during the breeding season, but no nests were ever found. Our highest count involved 12 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on May 2, 2009

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*): [Accidental: One Record in Summer and Fall]

The Dusky Flycatcher is a casual to rare migrant species in spring and fall through the region (Toochin 2024a). We found one breeding record in Sooke Potholes Provincial Park in the summer of 2008 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). We encountered this species twice while conducting the sea watch and both records come from Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. The first was a singing adult on June 9, 2007; the other was a fall plumaged calling bird on August 21, 2009.

Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*): [Uncommon in the Spring, Summer, and Fall]

The Western Flycatcher is a common breeding species found in summer in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in April and numbers build into May as this species remains common in the region throughout the summer until they start to leave in the fall beginning in late August with birds' numbers much lower as this species becomes rare by mid to late September into early October and gone from the region by late October (Toochin 2024a). They were likely breeding in both areas as birds were found singing on territory during the breeding season, but no nests were ever found. Numbers varied from 1-12 birds. Our highest count involved 22 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 12, 2009. Our latest bird on the sea watch was found by Don Cecile at the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 11, 2013.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*): [Accidental: One Spring Record]

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is an accidental migrant vagrant in British Columbia with 41 provincial records (Toochin *et al.* 2023). A surprise bird discovered on our sea watch involved an adult male found by Jason Speirs and seen by other observers at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew from May 19-26, 2008 (Cecile 2008a, Toochin *et al.* 2023).



Figure #1: Record #1: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher along Botanical Beach in Port Renfrew on May 21, 2008. Photo © Rick Toochin.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*): [Accidental: Two Fall Records]

The Cassin's Vireo is a fairly-common breeding species that is found in appropriate habitat in the summer in the region (Toochin 2024a). The first birds arrive in the region in late March and slowly build up in number becoming fairly-common by the end of April and remaining throughout the summer into mid August in the fall when birds leave and are gone by the end of September (Toochin 2024a). This species was easily found in the breeding season in Sooke Potholes Provincial Park. We never found any nests at either sea watch location. We only encountered this species a couple of times in the fall at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. Records include 1 immature found from September 19-20, 2008; and 1 adult on August 15, 2009.

Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*): Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The Hutton's Vireo is an uncommon to fairly-common breeding resident species found in appropriate habitat throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). One of the best places in southern British Columbia for this species is the forests on Sheringham Point in Shirley. We did find this species nesting and we regularly found this species on territory during the breeding season for this species. We encountered this species in the vicinity of the Sheringham Lighthouse with great regularity, often in small numbers. These numbers varied from 1-10 birds. Our highest counts involved 18 birds in the forest area of the Sheringham Lighthouse on December 27, 2008; and 13 birds on September 19, 2008.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*): [Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration; Rare in Summer]

The Warbling Vireo is a common breeding species that is found in appropriate habitat during the summer months in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in April becoming common by early May and remain common throughout the summer till they start to leave in late August into mid September in the fall (Toochin 2024a). Most Warbling Vireos have moved south by the end of September with a few late lingering birds occurring early October (Toochin 2024a). We had this species during the breeding season on territory at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley in small numbers but never located any nests. We had this species at both sea watch locations in both spring and fall migration with numbers varying between 1-6 birds. Our highest count involved 12 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2009.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*): [Common throughout the Year]

The Steller's Jay is a common breeding resident that is found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds winter in numbers that can vary from uncommon to fairly-common until spring migration period when their numbers increase in March and April to fairly-common becoming common in the region from mid May throughout the summer till fall in late October when numbers drop to fairly-common to uncommon depending on the year (Toochin 2024a). This species was suspected of breeding in both sea watch areas as birds were found throughout the summer months. Steller's Jays were encountered at both Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley and Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew in numbers as migrants, potential breeders and as winter birds. Numbers varied from 1-35 birds. Our highest counts included: 54 birds mostly migrants at Botanical Beach in Port Renfrew on August 24, 2008; 45 birds mostly migrants at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 30, 2007; 44 birds mostly migrant birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 12, 2009; and 40 birds mostly migrant birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 26, 2006.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*): [Common throughout the Year]

The American Crow is a common resident breeding species found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was found at both sea watch locations in numbers on a regular basis.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*): [Uncommon throughout the Year]

The Common Raven is a fairly-common resident breeding species found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species was found at both sea watch locations in small numbers on a regular basis.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*): [Accidental: Two Fall Records]

The Horned Lark is a rare to uncommon migrant in Spring and Fall migration in appropriate habitat through the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds appear in the spring in small numbers from mid March into early May and in the fall from late August with a few birds appearing in mid September through till mid October and the odd lingering bird staying into early November (Toochin 2024a). Both observations on the sea watch were in the fall from the Sheringham Lighthouse. The first involved 2 birds on September 12, 2007; and the other involved 2 birds flying past the lighthouse on September 7, 2009.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*): [Rare in Summer]

The Purple Martin is an uncommon locally found species that breeds in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in April and increase to fairly-common throughout the summer month but are found locally (Toochin 2024a). Fall birds depart in August with most birds leaving in the later half of the month in early September with most birds gone from the region by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). We only ever had this species as single birds while conducting the sea watch off the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. Our highest count involved 8 birds on August 15, 2009.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult male	Jun-26-2006	RT	Sheringham Lighthouse well offshore hunting!
1	immature	Aug-4-2008	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult female	Jun-27-2009	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
8	adults	Aug-15-2009	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*): [Rare in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Tree Swallow is an uncommon species that does breed in selected areas of the region (Toochin 2024a). We encountered only a small number of 1-2 birds from both sea watch locations. Birds were found during both spring and fall migration.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	immature	Aug-10-2007	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Aug-10-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	unknown	Sept-15-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult male	Apr-7-2009	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	May-9-2009	RT, LH, Neil Hughes	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	May-23-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adult m / f	May-30-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*): [Common in Spring, Summer, and Fall: Breeding Species]

The Violet-green Swallow is a common species found breeding in the region in appropriate habitat during the summer (Toochin 2024a). Birds sometime arrive early in late February, but most birds arrive in March increasing to common in numbers from late March through until late July when birds leave the region early in the fall in August and are gone by September and only late migrants found in early October (Toochin 2024a). Birds were found at both sea watch locations with a few nesting birds around the Sheringham Lighthouse. The numbers would vary from 1-50 birds depending on if they were found in the breeding season or during migration. Our highest count involved 300 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 2, 2009.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*): [Common in Spring, Summer, and Fall: Breeding Species]

The Northern Rough-winged Swallow is an uncommon species found breeding in the region in appropriate habitat during the summer (Toochin 2024a). Birds sometime arrive early in late February, but most birds arrive in in late March increasing to uncommon in numbers from late March through until early August when birds leave the region early in the fall in August and are gone by mid September (Toochin 2024a). Birds were found at both sea watch locations with a few nesting around the Sheringham Lighthouse. The numbers would vary from 1-10 birds depending on if they were found in the breeding season or during migration. Our highest count involved 22 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 17, 2008.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring, Summer, and Fall]

The Cliff Swallow is a common species found breeding in the region in appropriate habitat during the summer (Toochin 2024a). Birds sometime arrive in early April increasing to common in numbers from early May through until late July when birds leave the region early in the fall in August with fall migration in full swing by mid to late September (Toochin 2024a). Birds were found at both sea watch locations with numbers that would vary from 1-5 birds depending on if they were found in the breeding season or during migration. Our highest count involved 11 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 12, 2009

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): [Common in Spring, Summer, and Fall: Breeding Species]

The Barn Swallow is a common species found breeding in the region in appropriate habitat during the summer (Toochin 2024a). The odd bird sometimes winters in the region, but most birds arrive in in April increasing to common in numbers from mid April through until late August into mid September as birds leave the region with only late migrants found from early October into early November (Toochin 2024a). Birds were found at both sea watch locations with a few nesting around the Sheringham Lighthouse. The numbers would vary from 1-50 birds depending on if they were found in the breeding season or during migration. Our highest count involved 200 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 2, 2009.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*): [Common throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The Chestnut-backed Chickadee is a common breeding resident species found throughout the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). This species bred in the vicinity of both sea watch locations, so we encountered them frequently at both locations. Numbers varied from 1-30 birds, and we found them throughout the year. Our highest count was of 54 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on December 27, 2008.

Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*): [Common throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The Bushtit is a common breeding resident species found throughout the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). This species bred in the vicinity of the Sheringham Lighthouse, so we encountered them frequently this location. Numbers varied from 1-20 birds, and we found them throughout the year. Our highest count was 25 birds found in the vicinity of the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on December 19, 2010.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year]

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a fairly-common breeding resident species found throughout the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). We had this species breeding at both sea watch locations but only had them in small numbers of 1-4 birds.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The Brown Creeper is a fairly-common breeding resident species found throughout the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). This species bred in the vicinity of both sea watch locations, so we encountered them frequently at both locations. Numbers were normally low between from 1-2 birds, and we found them throughout the year.

Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*): [Rare to Uncommon throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The Pacific Wren is a common breeding resident species found throughout the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). This species bred in the vicinity of both sea watch locations, so we encountered them frequently at both locations. Numbers varied from 1-4 birds, and we found them throughout the year.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

The House Wren is a rare breeding species that are found locally in the appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds are never numerous arriving in mid April and when found are present throughout the summer and leave in the fall from mid August into mid September with only the odd lingering bird staying late in some years into October and early November (Toochin 2024a). The only bird encountered on the sea watch was a calling adult bird observed at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 25, 2009.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*): [Rare in the Fall]

The Bewick's Wren is a fairly-common resident species that is found locally throughout the southern part of the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). The location we encountered this species was at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley with all records in the month of August. They were breeding nearby on Woodhaven Road in Shirley. The birds we encountered were likely family groups moving around the habitat.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
2	1 adult & 1 immature	Aug-18-2007	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	1 adult & 1 immature	Aug-31-2008	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse
3	2 adults & 1 immature	Aug-5-2009	RT, LH	Sheringham Lighthouse

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year]

The Golden-crowned Kinglet is a common breeding species found throughout the year in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). We suspected this species was breeding in the forests at both sea locations as we found this species throughout the year and sometimes large flocks. Numbers varied from 1-12 birds. Our highest counts had 44 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on December 27, 2008; and 26 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 25, 2007.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Corthylio calendula*): Uncommon to Fairly Common in Spring and Fall Migration: Rare to Uncommon in the Winter]

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is a common migrant and uncommon winter species in the region (Toochin 2024a). Migrants begin to move through in the spring in late March and throughout April into early May when birds drop in number and are gone through the area by the end of the month (Toochin 2024a). This species is casual to rare in the summer and is not known to breed in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the fall in early to mid August and become common by the end of August through September till early November when numbers drop by mid month and this species remains rare to uncommon throughout the winter months (Toochin 2024a). Most of observations of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet while conducting the sea watches were of either migrant birds found during the spring and fall period or wintering birds found in mixed groups of Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Numbers varied from 1-4 birds in the winter months and 5-12 birds in migration.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*): [Uncommon to Common in the Spring, Summer, and Fall]

The Swainson's Thrush is a common breeding species found throughout the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in mid to late April and numbers increase to in May remaining common throughout the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Fall migrants begin to leave in mid August and numbers start to noticeably drop in September and continue to drop to the end of the month becoming rare with odd late lingering bird found in early to mid October (Toochin 2024a). This species does not winter in the region (Toochin2024a). We encountered this species in good numbers both during migration and during the breeding season at both sea watch locations. This species was found breeding in the vicinity of the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley. Numbers varied from 1-15 birds. Our highest count involved 16 birds found in the vicinity of the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 19, 2007.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*): [Rare to Uncommon in Winter]

The Hermit Thrush is a common breeding species in the area and is uncommon in the winter in appropriate habitat in throughout the region (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species while conducting our sea watches mostly during the winter months with some birds found in migration as well. Numbers varied from 1-4 birds.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
1	adult	Dec-30-2006	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
4	immature	Aug-18-2007	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Dec-8-2007	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Port Renfrew: Botanical Beach
2	adults	Dec-29-2007	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Dec-30-2007	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jan-10-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Mar-7-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	various ages	Oct-5-2009	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*): [Common throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The American Robin is a common breeding species found in appropriate habitat throughout the year in the region. This species is found all over region throughout the year. American Robins were encountered at both sea watch locations on a regular basis with some breeding birds in summer. Overall the bird numbers would vary from 1-70 birds throughout the year. High counts included 322 birds found in the area around the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on March 7, 2009; 233 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 7, 2009; 212 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew; 154 at Sheringham Lighthouse on October 5, 2009; and 144 birds found at Sheringham Lighthouse on August 29, 2009.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*): [Common throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The Varied Thrush is a breeding species that is found commonly in appropriate habitat throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). We had this species as migrants, winter birds and breeders on our sea watches. We encountered this species in varying numbers of 1-25 birds at both locations throughout the year. The highest counts involved 122 birds found near the Sheringham Lighthouse on Shirley on January 10, 2009; and 32 birds found near Botanical Beach outside Port Renfrew on December 29, 2007.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*): Accidental: One Summer Record]

The Northern Mockingbird is a rare bur regular occurring species throughout the year on both Vancouver Island (Toochin and Haviland 2024a) and throughout Southern British Columbia (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The only record we had on the sea watch was a bird found and photographed by Rick Toochin and Louis Haviland on the beach at Jordan River while conducting a sea watch on August 5, 2007 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a).



Figure #1 & #2: Record #9: Northern Mockingbird at Jordan River on August 5, 2007.
Photos © Rick Toochin.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): [Common throughout the Year]

The European Starling is a common breeding species found in appropriate habitat throughout the region. We encountered this species on a semi-regular basis on our sea watches. Numbers would vary from 1-10 birds any anytime of year. Our highest count involved 15 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 22, 2009; and 12 birds found near the Sheringham Lighthouse on November 30, 2006.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*): [Common in the Spring, Summer, and Fall]

The Cedar Waxwing is a common breeding species found in appropriate habitat from their arrival in the spring in late April through the summer months until the fall in late October into early November when numbers drop as birds leave the region with only a few birds present from mid November through the winter months until mid April (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species throughout the summer (no nest recorded) but in varied numbers between 1-18 individuals at both sea watch locations. Our highest count involved 45 birds at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 25, 2007. Of note was a winter record of an individual found near the Sheringham Lighthouse on December 25, 2007.

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*): [Rare to Uncommon Migrant in Spring and Fall]

The American Pipit is a common migrant through the region in the spring and fall (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in April and increase in numbers throughout the month into mid May when numbers drop off by the end of the month into early June (Toochin 2024a). The earliest birds arrive in the fall at the end of August with the numbers building over the month of September through till the end of October when numbers drop into November (Toochin 2024a). We encountered birds in varying numbers from 1-5 individuals at both locations. The highest count involved 18 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 19, 2008; and 12 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 7, 2008.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year]

The Evening Grosbeak is a breeding species that is found commonly in the summer months in appropriate habitat in the region. Birds increase in numbers from the beginning of April and continue to increase in the later half of April throughout the summer into mid September when numbers drop in mid September and remain uncommon throughout the winter months in the region (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species at both sea watch locations throughout the Spring and Summer with highest count of 53 birds found in the trees near Sheringham Lighthouse on April 29, 2007.

House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year]

The House Finch is a common breeding species found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species in varying numbers of 5-15 at both locations throughout the year with a nesting found at Sheringham Lighthouse area. Our highest count involved 15 birds found in the area near the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 14, 2007.

Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year]

The Purple Finch is a breeding species that is found commonly throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species on a semi-regular basis at both sea watch locations over the years with number varying from 3-10 birds. The highest count involved 35 birds found in the shrubs near the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 10, 2009.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*): [Irruptive: Common to Absent throughout the Year]

The Red Crossbill is an eruptive species that can be found year-round in the region. This species numbers are directly relating to the abundance of cones and how much food is available in the

region. In good years Red Crossbill numbers irrupt and they are found in large numbers, in normal years they are present but hard to find and, in some years, they are completely absent from the region. We had Red Crossbills at both sea watch locations on a regular basis with high counts of 76 birds in the trees around Sheringham Lighthouse on June 20, 2006; 33 birds in the trees at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on August 18, 2007; and confirmation of successful nesting in the area with 2 adults feeding 4 fledglings at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 12, 2008.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*): [Accidental: One Spring and One Fall Record]

The White-winged Crossbill is a rare species in the region at anytime of year (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species on 2 occasions while conducting sea watches off the Sheringham Lighthouse. The first involved 2 adults on May 21, 2007; and the second involved 7 adults on July 26, 2008.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*): [Irruptive: Common to Absent throughout the Year: Breeds in Some Years]

The Pine Siskin is an irruptive species in the region. This species has years where they are commonly breeding, and they are found in flocks all over the place throughout the year and then there are other years where they are present in small numbers or completely absent (Toochin 2024a). We encountered the Pine Siskin frequently while conducting the sea watches. Our highest count involved 455 birds found in the trees near the Sheringham Lighthouse on November 18, 2007.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Lapland Longspur is a rare passage migrant in the region during the in spring and fall migration (Toochin 2024a) Birds are occasionally being found in appropriate habitat from early April to late May and in the fall from late August through till late November (Toochin 2024a). Our only record on the sea watch was of a single bird that was found on the rocks near the base of the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 29, 2009.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

The Chestnut-collared Longspur is an accidental to casually occurring species in both British Columbia and on Vancouver Island with 23 provincial records (Toochin 2023zzd). We encountered this species by pure fluke when a male in breeding plumage flew into our view and briefly landed at the Sheringham Lighthouse before flying towards Point No Point in Shirley on June 7, 2009 (Toochin 2023zzd). The timing of this record fits perfectly the records in the province for late May and early June overshoot vagrants.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Snow Bunting is a rare regular migrant through the Western Salish Sea Region (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). We only had one observation of 2 adult winter birds that flew by us sea watching on at Gordon's Beach on November 7, 2008.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year]

The Spotted Towhee is a common breeding species found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a) We encountered this species in numbers regularly at the Sheringham Lighthouse while conducting our sea watches. Though we never located a nest of the Spotted Towhee in the area, this species was very likely breeding in the area, as we had adults feeding fledglings during the summer on several occasions.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*): [Accidental: One Winter Record]

The American Tree Sparrow is a rare but regular winter species on Vancouver Island (Campbell et al. 2000). In the Western Salish Sea region this species is rare with the odd bird potentially occurring from late September through October with the odd appearing from late October throughout the winter into mid March with the odd migrant bird passing through till mid April (Toochin 2024a). The only bird encountered while conducting the sea watch was an adult found by Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland, and Denise Gubersky amongst a large flock of Dark-eyed Juncos at the Sheringham Lighthouse on November 24, 2007, and lingered in the are until January 1, 2008.



Figure #1: American Tree Sparrow at Sheringham Lighthouse on November 24, 2007.
Photo © Rick Toochin.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*): [Rare in Summer: Breeding Species]

The Chipping Sparrow is a rare to uncommon breeder in the region with birds arriving in April but near being numerous anywhere throughout the summer months (Toochin 2024a). This species remains into the fall with small numbers encountered through September with numbers tapering off quickly into October and only the odd record into early November (Toochin 2024a). On our sea watches we encountered a pair breeding in the habitat around the Sheringham Lighthouse

during the summer months of 2007-2009. On one occasion we had 2 adults feeding 2 fledglings in the area on July 31, 2008.

No.	Age	Date	Observers	Location
2	adults	Jun-30-2007	Rick Toochin, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult	Jul-8-2007	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-5-2008	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-12-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-13-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-19-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	various ages	Jul-26-2008	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	adults	Jul-27-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
4	2 ad feeding 2 juv	Jul-31-2008	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	immature	Aug-21-2009	Rick Toochin, Corina Isaac	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Jul-25-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
2	immature	Aug-30-2009	Rick Toochin, Denise Gubersky	Sheringham Lighthouse

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*): [Uncommon to Common in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Savannah Sparrow is a common species that has been found breeding in the region during the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in late March and numbers build up in April with this species remaining common throughout the summer and fall till mid October when numbers drop in late October and there are small numbers appear in the region during the winter month (Toochin 2024a). We encountered birds at both se watch locations with numbers varying between 1-15 birds throughout the year. Our highest count involved 33 birds found at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on October 7, 2009.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year]

The Fox Sparrow is a common breeding species and is found throughout the year in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species at both sea watch locations on a semi-regular basis but never encountered any nests with number varying from 1-20 birds found throughout the year. Our highest count involved 32 birds at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on March 31, 2007.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The Song Sparrow is a common breeding species and occurs in the region throughout the year in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds were encountered at both se watch locations on a regular basis with numbers varying between 1-12 birds. Our highest counts involved 31 birds found in the area near the Sheringham Lighthouse on August 31, 2008; and 29 birds in the Botanical Beach area on April 30, 2007. Though we never encountered any nests at either sea watch location, we had 2 birds singing on territory at the Sheringham Lighthouse on June 9, 2007; and 2 singing birds on territory at Botanical Beach on June 2, 2009.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Lincoln's Sparrow is a fairly-common migratory species in the region with small numbers found in the winter months (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in April and move through and taper off in number in mid to late May (Toochin 2024a). Fall migrants begin to move through the region in August with number increasing throughout September into the end of October when numbers drop in November, and a few are found in the winter period (Toochin 2024a). We encountered small numbers of migrants at both sea watch locations with numbers varying between 1-5 birds. A high count of 12 birds was found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 8, 2007; and 11 birds found near Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on April 25, 2008.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The White-throated Sparrow is a rare to uncommon regular migrant through the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds pass through in small numbers in spring in April with the odd bird turning up in May (Toochin 2024a). Fall migration occurs in September with birds passing through in very small numbers into October and the odd bird lingering into November and potentially wintering in the region (Toochin 2024a). This species is often in the company of migrating White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrow flocks. The only record we had on our sea watch was an adult in found in the habitat near the Sheringham Lighthouse on September 1, 2009.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The White-crowned Sparrow is a common species that breeds and is found throughout the year in the region (Toochin 2024a). Birds both winters, migrates, and breeds in the region making them found all over the region. We encountered White-crowned Sparrows at both sea watch locations on a regular basis throughout the year and they bred in the area near Sheringham Lighthouse. Numbers varied between 1-12 birds. Our highest counts included 25 birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 28, 2007; and 24 birds found in the vicinity of Botanical Beach near port Renfrew on September 20, 2006.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*): Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration and in Winter]

The Golden-crowned Sparrow is a common migrant and wintering species in appropriate habitat throughout the region. Birds begin to move through in very small numbers at the end of August and build up to becoming very numerous in September remaining common into the winter and into early May in the spring when number decline as the species moves north to breed (Toochin 2024a). This species is absent from the region after early June through till the middle of August (Toochin 2024a). We encountered this species during migration and the winter at both sea watches in modest to large numbers on a regular basis. Our counts had numbers that would vary from 1-25 birds. Our highest counts involved 44 birds found in the Botanical Beach area on March 14, 2009; 34 Birds in the Botanical Beach area on December 8, 2007; 32 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 26, 2006; and a winter flock of 27 birds found in the Botanical Beach area on December 26, 2008.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*): [Uncommon to Common throughout the Year: Breeding Species]

The Dark-eyed Junco is a common species found in the winter, during migration, and during the breeding season throughout the region (Toochin 2024a). We encountered good numbers at both sea watch locations including breeding pairs. The most numerous subspecies encountered is the Oregon Junco subspecies. We encountered numbers that varied from 1-150 birds depending on the season. Migrant flocks would outnumber most other sparrow species with bird's numbering 150-200 often in large flocks. Our highest counts involved flocks of 250 birds found in the habitat near the Sheringham Lighthouse on January 10, 2009; 229 birds found near the Sheringham Lighthouse on December 29, 2007; and 210 birds near Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on December 26, 2006. The subspecies called Slate-colored Junco is much rarer in the region and was encountered on occasion in the winter and in migration amongst flocks of Oregon Juncos. We had a single adult female two winters in a row with a large wintering flock of Oregon Juncos at the Sheringham Lighthouse on January 1, 2008; and January 10, 2009.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*): [Accidental: One Spring Record]

The Baltimore Oriole is a casually occurring species along the west coast of British Columbia with 2 records from the Lower Mainland (Toochin and Cecile 2024a) and 14 from Vancouver Island (Toochin and Cecile 2024b). In the Western Salish Sea region this species as an accidental migrant vagrant with 3 records (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The only record found on the sea watch was singing adult male found by Rick Toochin in the trees near the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley May 25, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a).

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

The Red-winged Blackbird is a common species found as a winter species, migratory species, and breeding species throughout the region (Toochin 2024a). We only had a couple of sightings of this species while conducting our sea watches. The highest count we had involved 2 birds observed together at the Sheringham Lighthouse on July 19, 2007.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

The Brown-headed Cowbird is a common species that arrives in the spring in April with numbers building throughout the summer month into late August (Toochin 2024a). This species is a parasitic breeder placing its eggs in other passerines nests to raise their young. We found young birds being fed by White-crowned Sparrows and other passerine species on occasion in the Sooke area. Numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds birds drop in number in September in the region with small numbers found from October into the winter months (Toochin 2024a). We only had a couple of sightings of this species while conducting our sea watches. The highest count we had involved 2 birds observed together at the Sheringham Lighthouse on July 19, 2007.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Leiothlypis celata*): [Common in Spring, Summer, and Fall: Breeding Species]

The Orange-crowned Warbler is a common breeding species in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in mid to late March and increase in numbers steadily into April (Toochin 2024a). This species remains common from early April throughout the summer till the end of September when birds' numbers fall as birds migrate south in the fall (Toochin 2024a). Numbers steadily drop in October and by the end of the month this species is

rare with the odd bird lingering bird staying throughout the winter months (Toochin 2024a). We had Orange-crowned Warblers at both sea watch locations while conducting the survey. We had breeding birds in both areas. Numbers varied from 1-25 birds. High counts included migratory flocks of 34 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 15, 2007; 32 birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on April 10, 2009; 25 birds at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on April 18, 2009; and 22 birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2009; and 21 birds at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 20, 2008.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring, Summer, and Fall]

The MacGillivray's Warbler is a common breeding species in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in mid to late April and increase in numbers steadily into May (Toochin 2024a). This species remains common from early May throughout the summer till early September when birds' numbers fall as birds migrate south in the fall (Toochin 2024a). Numbers steadily drop in September and by the beginning of October this species is rare with the odd late lingering bird staying into early November (Toochin 2024a). We had MacGillivray's Warblers at both sea watch locations while conducting the survey. We suspected but were never able to prove breeding in the area as we had singing males on territory at both locations a couple of times. Numbers varied from 1-2 birds. Our highest count involved 3 migrating birds found in the habitat of the Sheringham Lighthouse on August 29, 2009.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring and Fall Migration]

The Common Yellowthroat is a common breeding species in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in mid to late April and increase in numbers steadily into May (Toochin 2024a). This species remains common from early May throughout the summer till early mid to late September when birds' numbers fall as birds migrate south in the fall (Toochin 2024a). By the beginning of October this species is uncommon to rare and after mid month there the odd late lingering bird staying into December (Toochin 2024a). We encountered migrant Common Yellowthroats at both sea watch locations while conducting the survey even though there isn't great habitat for this species at either location. Numbers varied from 1-6 birds. Our highest count involved 11 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2009.

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

The Northern Parula is an accidental to casually occurring migrant vagrant both on Vancouver Island and anywhere in British Columbia with 30 records (Toochin and Cecile 2023zl). The only record during the sea watch was an adult male observed briefly by Rick Toochin at point blank range at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on July 26, 2008 (Cecile 2008b, Toochin and Cecile 2023zl).

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*): [Common in Spring and Fall Migration: Rare to Uncommon in Summer]

The Yellow Warbler is a common breeding species in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in mid to late April and increase in numbers steadily into May (Toochin 2024a). This species remains common from early May throughout the summer till early

September when birds' numbers fall as birds migrate south in the fall (Toochin 2024a). Numbers steadily drop in September and by the beginning of October this species is rare with the odd late lingering bird staying into November (Toochin 2024a). We had Yellow Warblers at both sea watch locations while conducting the survey. We suspected but were never able to prove breeding in the area around the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley as we had males singing on territory in the summer of 2007. Numbers varied from 1-12 birds. High counts included migratory flocks of 66 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on September 7, 2009; 22 birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on August 22, 2009; 18 birds at Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew on September 2, 2007; and 15 birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse in Shirley on May 15, 2007.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*): [Uncommon to Common in Spring and Fall Migration: Uncommon in Summer: Rare to Uncommon in Winter]

The Yellow-rumped Warbler is a common breeding species in the region in appropriate habitat (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in the spring in March and increase in numbers steadily into April (Toochin 2024a). This species remains common from early April throughout the summer till early October when birds' numbers fall as birds migrate south in the fall (Toochin 2024a). Numbers steadily drop in October and by the beginning of November this species is uncommon and by the later half of the month becomes rare and remain rare in the region throughout the winter (Toochin 2024a). We had Yellow-rumped Warblers at both sea watch locations while conducting the survey. Numbers varied from 1-12 birds. We suspected but were never able to prove breeding in both areas as we had males singing on territory in some years. Our highest count involved 44 birds at the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 20, 2009.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring, Summer, and Fall: Breeding Species]

The Black-throated Gray Warbler is a common breeding species in appropriate habitat in the region during the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrived in the spring in early April with numbers building up to common by the end of the month and remaining common throughout the region until mid September when numbers drop, and this species becomes uncommon into early October as birds leave in the fall migration period (Toochin 2024a). By the end of October, the Black-throated Gray Warbler is rare in the region with only the odd record of late lingering birds found into early November (Toochin 2024a). We had this species only at the Sheringham Lighthouse on our sea watch surveys during the breeding season. Numbers varied from 1-3 birds. We likely had breeding either at the site or very nearby because we had 2 adults feeding 4 fledglings on July 25, 2009.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*): [Accidental: One Fall Record]

The Black-throated Green Warbler is an accidental migrant vagrant species anywhere on Vancouver Island with only 4 records (Toochin and Cecile 2024a). This species has been recorded in the region once previously with an adult male found by the authors at Jordan River on August 15, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). The only bird found while conducting the sea watch was an immature bird found by Rick Toochin in a cluster of coniferous trees near the Sheringham

Lighthouse in Shirley on October 1, 2009 (Toochin and Haviland 2024a). This bird was in the company of Audubon's Warblers and Townsend's Warblers.

Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*): [Uncommon to Common in Spring, Summer, and Fall: Rare in Winter: Breeding Species]

The Townsend's Warbler is a common breeding species that occurs throughout the year in appropriate habitat in the region (Toochin 2024a). Small numbers winter every year in the region, especially near Billings Spit in Sooke. Migrants appear in early April in the spring, and this numbers quickly grow to becoming common throughout the summer months into mid September when fall migrations has numbers drop to fairly-common till early to mid October (Toochin 2024a). This species was suspected of breeding at both sea watch locations as adults feeding young were observed on a few occasions during the summer months. Numbers would vary 1-20 birds at each location. Our highest count involved 32 birds found at the Sheringham Lighthouse on October 20, 2009: 23 birds at Botanical Beach on April 15, 2007. Of note we had this species in winter 3 times at the Sheringham Lighthouse with 2 birds on December 23, 2007; 2 birds on December 30, 2011; 3 birds on December 27. 2008.

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*): [Uncommon to Common in Spring, Summer, and Fall]

The Wilson's Warbler is a common breeding species throughout the region in appropriate habitat in the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Birds appear in spring migration at the end of April and increase to common throughout the summer period until the fall in mid September when numbers drop till the end of the month and become rare with birds sometimes lingering into early December (Toochin 2024a). We had Wilson's Warblers at both sea watch locations with singing birds encountered in the summer but never had any nests. Our sea watches had this species on semi-regular basis in small numbers varying between 1-6 birds. Our highest count involved 12 birds in the habitat near the Sheringham Lighthouse from July 25-27, 2008.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*): [Rare to Uncommon in Spring, Summer, and Fall: Breeding Species]

The Western Tanager is a breeding species that is found commonly in appropriate habitat in the region throughout the summer months (Toochin 2024a). Birds arrive in mid April and increase in frequency into May when they become common (Toochin 2024a). The remain common in the region throughout the summer when numbers begin to drop as they leave the region at the end of August (Toochin 2024a). Numbers continue to decrease as birds leave in early September and most birds are gone by the end of the month with only a few late lingering birds found in October into early November (Toochin 2024a). This species breeds in the coniferous trees around Sheringham Point and we had Western Tanager on several occasions while conducting the sea watch. On one occasion adults feeding young fledglings.

No.	Age	Date	Observer	Location
1	adult	Jul-1-2007	Rick Toochin. Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	adult male	Jul-8-2007	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
5	adults feeding young	Jul-27-2008	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Aug-15-2009	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse

12	various ages	Aug-29-2009	Rick Toochin	Sheringham Lighthouse
1	immature	Sept-7-2009	Rick Toochin, Louis Haviland	Sheringham Lighthouse

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*): [Accidental: One Summer Record]

The Black-headed Grosbeak is a breeding species that is found commonly in appropriate habitat in the region throughout the summer (Toochin 2024a). This species arrives in late April becoming common from May through till the later half of August (Toochin 2024a). Then numbers drop as birds leave the region throughout into early October when after they are very rare to the end the of the month (Toochin 2024a). We only had 1 bird while conducting the sea watch which was an immature male that was found in the small trees near the Sheringham Lighthouse on July 27, 2008.

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