

## Washington Birder - 2020 Big Day Reports

### Whitman

22 February 2020, 6:45am – 4:38pm

Species total: 65/65 (Team/Shared)

Team: Peter Olsoy (65), Katie Sorenson (65)

Traveled: 197 miles by car, 2.7 miles on foot

Visiting: Central Ferry HMU, Texas Lake, Crooked Knee Lake, Sheep Lake, Glorfield Road, Rock Lake, Ewan, Steptoe Butte, Rose Creek Preserve

#### Species of note:

**Rare/Unusual:** Eurasian Wigeon, Trumpeter Swan, Greater Scaup

**Missed:** Great Blue Heron, Pine Siskin

### Grays Harbor

29 February 2020

Species total: 107/107 (Team/Shared)

Team: Matt Dufort (107), Jordan Gunn (107), Spencer Hildie (107)

Traveled: 135 miles by car, 3 miles on foot

Visiting: Griffiths-Priday SP, Ocean City, Ocean Shores, Hoquiam, Bottle Beach, Brady Loop, Capitol State Forest

#### Species of note:

**Rare/Unusual:** Redhead, Black Phoebe

**Early:** Band-tailed Pigeon, Violet-green Swallow

**Missed:** White-winged Scoter, Common Merganser, White-crowned Sparrow

**Special Interest:** Strong westerly winds the previous night blew in Northern Fulmars. We found one waddling on the side of Ocean Shores Boulevard, which we relocated to the ocean, and saw another well inside Grays Harbor at Bottle Beach State Park.

### Whitman

26 April 2020, 5:07am – 3:14pm

Species total: 96/96 (Team/Shared)

Team: Peter Olsoy (96), Katie Sorenson (96)

Traveled: 148 miles by car, 1.5 miles on foot

Visiting: Rosalia STP, Hole-in-the-Ground, Glorfield Road, Ewan, Rock Lake, Texas Lake, Klemgard County Park

#### Species of note:

**Rare/Unusual:** Ruffed Grouse, Tricolored Blackbird

**Missed:** Ring-billed Gull, Great Blue Heron, Great Horned Owl, Golden-crowned Kinglet

### WASHINGTON

09 May 2020, 12:00am – 6:30pm

Species total: 193

Team: Mason Maron (193)

Traveled: 376 miles by car, 6 miles on foot

Visiting: Bellevue, Discovery Park, Teanaway River Bridge, Taylor Road/Hart Road, Umtanum Creek, Roza Recreation Area, Quilomene Wildlife Area, Para/McCain's Ponds, County Line Ponds (Grant Co.), Quincy Sewage Treatment Plant

#### Species of note:

**Rare/Unusual:** Northern Goshawk

**Early:** Wilson's Phalarope

**Late:** Harlequin Duck, White-winged Scoter

**Missed:** Canada Jay, Ruffed Grouse, Hairy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Fox Sparrow, Eared Grebe, Purple Martin, Evening Grosbeak, Hooded Merganser, Green Heron

**Special Interest:** I had great luck in the morning at Discovery Park, netting myself more species than I'd ever seen there in one go. I even spotted a banded Caspian Tern fishing off of the point, which was a pleasant surprise. An "unusual personal incident" was a fault of my own; I stayed awake the entire night listening for owls in my yard, and though I got several, I also ended up extremely exhausted at the end of the day. This led me to skipping the town of Liberty, where I had initially planned to stop and search for Flammulated Owl. It wouldn't be until the next day that I would browse eBird and find that someone had reported that species from Liberty right when I should've been there. You win some, you lose some.

## Franklin

09 May 2020, 5:00am – 8:30pm

Species total: 104

Team: Jason Fidorra (104)

Visiting: Kahlotus Lake, Palouse Falls State Park, Lyons Ferry Park, Connell Sewer Treatment Ponds, Mesa Lake Wildlife Area, Ringold Springs Hatchery, Sacajawea State Park

Species of note:

**Rare/Unusual:** Greater White-fronted Goose, White-faced Ibis, Lewis's Woodpecker,

**Special Interest:** This was my first attempt at a WA big day. Many misses but none unexplainable. No stake out birds or scouting largely due to Covid-19.

## Whitman

09 May 2020, 5:10am – 9:18pm

Species total: 128/128 (Team/Shared)

Team: Peter Olsoy (128), Katie Sorenson (128)

Traveled: 224 miles by car, 4.7 miles on foot

Visiting: Tekoa Mountain, Rosalia STP, Rock Lake, Glorfield Road, Crooked Knee Lake, Sheep Lake, Texas Lake, Central Ferry HMU, Steptoe Butte SP

Species of note:

**Rare/Unusual:** Ruffed Grouse, White-faced Ibis, Black Tern, Loggerhead Shrike, Lewis's Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee

**Late:** Snow Goose, Eurasian Wigeon

**Early:** Willow Flycatcher

**Missed:** Blue-winged Teal, Calliope Hummingbird, White-crowned Sparrow, Canyon Wren, Western Bluebird

**Special Interest:** Great weather on eBird's Big Day, so we decided to try for a record Whitman Big Day

## Ferry

10 May 2020, 7:30am – 6:45pm

Species Total: 86/82 (Team/Shared)

Team: Donna Bragg (86), Elaine Clough (82)

Traveled: 210 miles by car

Visiting: San Poil Valley (Hwy 21), Keller Ferry, Swawilla Basin, Mud Lake (Republic), San Poil Lake.

Species of note:

**Missed:** American Kestrel, Hairy Woodpecker

## Yakima

16 May 2020, 1:00am – 9:15pm

Species total: 161/160 (Team/Shared)

Team: Scott Downes (161), Sierra Downes (160)

Traveled: 276 miles by car, 1.5 mile on foot

Visiting: White Pass, Hwy. 12, Wenas, Toppenish

Species of note:

**Rare/Unusual:** 10 species of woodpecker, 8 species of owl, Lesser Goldfinch, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope

**Missed:** Three-toed Woodpecker, Short-eared Owl, Calliope Hummingbird and Long-billed Curlew.

**Special Interest:** We started owling early in the morning, then working our way from White Pass down through the east slopes and then over to the Wenas drainage and spent late afternoon and evening around the lower valley. We had no expectations when we started the day, but ended with an amazing 161 species!

## Thurston

02 July 2020, 6:30am – 9:15pm

Species total: 81/81 (Team/Shared)

Team: Frank Brown (81), Monica Lewis (81)

Traveled: 125 miles by car, 12 miles on foot

Visiting: Grand Mound, Scatter Creek WA, Mima Mounds NA, McLane Creek Nature Trail, Black Lake Meadows, Olympia: KGY Point, Port of Olympia, Capitol Lake; Hawks Prairie Settling Ponds, Luhr Beach, Nisqually NWR, Lucky Eagle Casino, Black River NWR, Scatter Creek WA

Species of note:

**Rare/Unusual:** Hooded Merganser, Band-tailed Pigeon, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, House Wren, Western Bluebird, Western Meadowlark, Bullock's Oriole

## Lewis

03 July 2020, 7:10am – 9:25pm

**Species total: 67/67(Team/Shared)**

**Team:** Frank Brown (67), Monica Lewis (67)

**Traveled:** 327 miles by car, 11miles on foot

**Visiting:** Centralia – Goodrich Rd., Discovery Trail, Highland Ave, Chehalis - NW Airport Rd., Hillburger Pond, Willapa Hills Trail, Lewis & Clark SP, Riffe Lake East, Taidnapum Park, Goat Creek Logging Rd., Dog Mt. Hang Gliding Landing Area, Glenoma, Cowlitz Valley – Peters Road Wetlands, Randle Mill Pond, Cowlitz Trout Hatchery, Fort Borst Park.

**Species of note:**

**Rate/Unusual:** Bank Swallow, Western Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch

**Stake-out:** Black Phoebe

**Special Interest:** 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend and several parks had huge crowd, no empty parking spaces, slow traffic with lines to enter, etc.

## Franklin

03 July 2020, 4:30am - 8:30pm

**Species total: 90**

**Team:** Jason Fidorra (90)

**Visiting:** Kahlotus Lake, Lyons Ferry Park, Palouse Falls State Park, Mesa Lake Wildlife Area, Ringold Springs Hatchery, Tricity Animal Shelter

**Special Interest:** Effort made as part of the Benton/Franklin July Birding Challenge. Solo due to Covid-19.

## Grays Harbor

19 July 2020, 7:20am – 4:50pm

**Species total: 67/67(Team/Shared)**

**Team:** Frank Brown (67), Monica Lewis (67)

**Traveled:** 131miles by car, 5.5 miles on foot

**Visiting:** Howanut Road, Oakville, Elma, Vance Creek CP, Wenzel Slough Rd., Lake Sylvia SP, Hoquiam STP, Ocean Shores – Cabana, Pt. Brown Jetty, Ocean Shores STP, Marine View Drive, Ocean City Beach, Hale Ave.

**Species of note:**

**Rate/Unusual:** Green Heron, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Red Crossbill

**Special Interest:** Big crowds at Ocean Shores! 1000s of cars and 1000s of people on the beaches. Car broke down in Hoquiam, ending Big Day early.

## Pacific

20 July 2020, 6:45am – 8:45pm

**Species total: 81/81(Team/Shared)**

**Team:** Frank Brown (81), Monica Lewis (81)

**Traveled:** 200 miles by car, 6.5miles on foot

**Visiting:** Long Beach, Rekkola Unit, Willapa NWR, Nahcotta DFW Field Station, Nahcotta, Ocean Park, Oysterville, Surfside Beach, Seaview Beach Access, Cape Disappointment SP, Ilwaco Marina, Willapa NWR HQ, Lynn Point Rd., Tokeland, Grayland Beach SP.

**Species of note:**

**Rate/Unusual:** Snowy Plover. 400 American White Pelicans, Purple Martin

**Special Interest:** Beaches and parks were very busy with summer crowds and heavy traffic.

## Pacific

22 August 2020, 6:25am – 8:00pm

**Species total: 70/70 (Team/Shared)**

**Team:** Frank Brown (70), Monica Lewis (70)

**Traveled:** 240 miles by car, 3 miles on foot

**Visiting:** Raymond, Potter Slough, Lynn Point Rd., Willapa NWR: HQ, Rekkola Unit entrance, Tartlett Unit entrance, Long Beach, Nahcotta, Oysterville, Surfside Beach, Cape Disappointment SP, Ilwaco Marina, Bay Center, South Bend, Tokeland, Warrenton Hatchery Beach Access.

**Species of note:**

**Rate/Unusual:** Brant, Snowy Plover, 500 American White Pelican, Red Phalarope, Great Egret, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Purple Martin

**Missed:** Tokeland shorebirds, Violet-green Swallow, Spotted Towhee

### Grays Harbor

23 August 2020, 7:20am – 8:25pm

Species total: 84/84 (Team/Shared)

Team: Frank Brown (84), Monica Lewis (84)

Traveled: 210 miles by car, 3 miles on foot

Visiting: Howanut Rd., Oakville, Vance Creek CP, Wenzel Sough Rd., Lake Sylvia SP, Chehalis River Trail, Westport CG Breakwaters, Westport Marina, Westport Observation Tower, Bottle Beach, Hoquiam, STP, Ocean City Beach, Ocean Shores: Cabana Pool, Pt. Brown Jetty, STP, Marine View Drive, Bill's Spit

Species of note:

Rate/Unusual: Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Red Phalarope, Common Tern, Green Heron

Special Interest: Very busy at Ocean Shores, 1000s of cars and people on the beaches

### Thurston

28 August 2020, 7:00am – 8:20pm

Species total: 78/78 (Team/Shared)

Team: Frank Brown (78), Monica Lewis (78)

Traveled: 102 miles by car, 12.5 miles on foot

Visiting: Grand Mound, Scatter Creek WMA, Nisqually NWR, Olympia: KGY Point, Capitol Lake, Woodard Bay Conservation Area, Chehalis Western Trail Marsh, Luhr Beach

Species of note:

Rate/Unusual: California Quail, Great Egret

Stake-out: Northern Waterthrush, Great Horned Owl

### Lewis

29 August 2020, 7:15am - 8:00pm

Species total: 65/65 (Team/Shared)

Team: Frank Brown (65), Monica Lewis (65)

Traveled: 245 miles by car, 8.5 miles on foot

Visiting: Centralia: Fort Borst Park, China Creek Pond, Highland Avenue; Chehalis: Airport Road, Hillburger Pond, Stan Hedwell Park; Lewis & Clark SP, Cowlitz Trout Hatchery, Randle Mill Pond, Miller Street, White Pass, Lake Knuppenburg, Peters Road

Species of note:

Rate/Unusual: Northern Pygmy-Owl, Common Nighthawk, Townsend's Solitaire

Stake-out: Lesser Goldfinch

### Whatcom

09 September 2020, 6:00am – 8:00pm

Species total: 72

Team: Frank Brown (72)

Traveled: 200 miles by car, 9 miles on foot

Visiting: Birch Bay, Kendall Creek Hatchery, Mt. Baker – Picture Lake, Artist Point, Bagley Lake; Silver Fir CG, Douglas Fir CG, Deming Homestead Eagle Sanctuary, Lake Fazon, Tenmile Creek Marsh, River Road, Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve, Semiahmoo Resort, Marina & Spit.

Species of note:

Rate/Unusual: Anna's Hummingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Turkey Vulture, Purple Finch, American Pipit, Spotted Sandpiper, Pileated Woodpecker.

Special Interest: Not worth going to Mt. Baker. I would not spend the hours traveling to/from Mt. Baker if I did this again.

### Pend Oreille

14 October 2020, 3:00am – 4:00pm

Species total: 74

Team: Michael Woodruff (74)

Traveled: 210 miles by car, 1 mile on foot

Visiting: Salmo Pass, Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille River, Le Clerc Rd, Kalispel Pow Wow Grounds, Usk, Cusick, Calispell Lake, Diamond Lake

Species of note:

Rare/Unusual: Western Screech-Owl, Blue Jay, White-throated Sparrow

Stake-out: Surf Scoter, Pacific Loon

Special Interest: 6 inches of snow at Salmo Pass with some wind and snow, otherwise nice partly cloudy to mostly cloudy conditions throughout the day.

**Whitman****17 October 2020, 6:28am – 6:38pm****Species total: 88/88 (Team/Shared)****Team:** Peter Olsoy (88), Katie Sorenson (88)**Traveled:** 226 miles by car, 1.8 miles on foot**Visiting:** Tekoa Mountain, Rosalia STP, Hole-in-the-Ground, Rock Lake, Crooked Knee Lake, Sheep Lake, Texas Lake, Central Ferry HMU, Steptoe Butte SP**Species of note:****Rare/Unusual:** Northern Pygmy-Owl, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Red-necked Grebe**Late:** Pectoral Sandpiper**Missed:** Rock Wren, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Spotted Towhee**Special Interest:** Huge number of Snow Geese seen flying over, by far the most we've seen in one day in Whitman County. Tekoa Mountain had a new No Trespassing sign, so we had to bird from the road and missed out on the best**Franklin****05 December 2020, 7:30am – 4:30pm****Species total: 64/60 (Team/Shared)****Team:** Jason Fidorra (63), RJ Baltierra (61)**Visiting:** Lyons Ferry Park, Palouse Falls State Park, Windust Park, Big Flat HMU**Species of note:****Rare/Unusual:** Mew Gull, Northern Goshawk, Blue Jay, American Dipper, Western Bluebird, Harris's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow**Special Interest:** Not intended to be a big day at the time**EARLIER YEARS:****Grays Harbor****07 December 2019, 7:45am – 7:00pm****Species total: 98****Team:** Matt Dufort (98)**Traveled:** 99 miles by car, 2 miles on foot**Visiting:** Griffiths-Priday SP, Ocean City SP, Ocean Shores, Hoquiam, Brady Loop, Capitol State Forest**Species of note:****Rare/Unusual:** Barrow's Goldeneye, Mountain Plover**Late:** Whimbrel**Missed:** Rock Pigeon, Peregrine Falcon, Fox Sparrow

### Washington State and County BIG DAY RECORDS by month

monthly totals	110	116	121	143	208	157	136	127	121	113	104	102
with 2020 updates	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
State					208		136				104	
Adams												
Asotin	62	56			110		98	102		61		
Benton												
Chelan												
Clallam												
Clark	78	102								79		
Columbia		43								67	57	50
Cowlitz					97							
Douglas			74									
Ferry			61	61	86	89				39		
Franklin				65	104		90					64
Garfield											56	
Grant												61
Grays Harbor		107	96		162		67	84				98
Island	98	99	106	110	132	95	89	98	94	102	100	93
Jefferson											64	
King				111	137							102
Kitsap	110	112									104	102
Kittitas						155						
Klickitat					141	114						
Lewis					109		67	65			78	
Lincoln	62			113	124						70	66
Mason										65	57	57
Okanogan					121							
Pacific	71						81	70				
Pend Oreille		60			133	147	106	127		74	55	
Pierce	88	94	102	107	137	104	82	61	71	78	90	84
San Juan						99				94		
Skagit	98	116	115	103	146	118	77	103	101	101	101	95
Skamania	69	66	70	77	68	73	86	76	80	76	78	81
Snohomish					138							64
Spokane	62	72	80	121	143	152					80	66
Stevens				100								
Thurston							81	78				
Wahkiakum		74			121							85
Walla Walla							136					
Whatcom		89							72			
Whitman	45	65		96	128					88		
Yakima					161							