

Pacific Northwest trip, June 2016

This is a trip intended for hardcore mammal-watchers. It consists of two segments, each beginning and ending in Portland, Oregon, so you can sign up for one part or both. It will involve a lot of short hikes (many of them at night) and some manual labor operating pit and Sherman traps. The second segment will include two nights of camping and 4-5 hours on a whalewatching boat (in relatively protected waters).

It's not a birding trip, but we'll be visiting a lot of interesting habitats and stop at particularly good spots or whenever we see something interesting. The first part will be particularly good for owls (please feel free to bring your tape-playing device), raptors and waterbirds; the second part for owls, grouse and shorebirds. We might also see some interesting herps such as pygmy short-horned lizard, kingsnakes, rattlesnakes, Pacific giant and torrent salamanders, and tailed frog. There should be good tidepooling on the coast, and some fish viewing at Bonneville Dam fish ladders.

In the itinerary below, regional endemics and specialties are marked with an asterisk. The dates are still flexible; it has to be somewhere between June 4 and July 1, but we can finalize them once the potential participants express interest. The approximate cost will be \$1700 pp for the first part, \$1500 pp for the second part, and \$3000 for both parts. It might go a bit up or down depending on the number of participants.

Part 1

Day 1, Saturday. We'll meet in Portland (where both **Eastern Gray** and **Fox Squirrels** have been introduced), drive to the coast and explore the coastal rainforests and meadows looking for **Marsh***, **Pacific***, **Baird's***, **Fog***, **Vagrant** and **Trowbridge's* Shrews**, **American Shrew-mole***, **Coast*** and **Townsend's* Moles**, **Mountain Beaver***, **American Beaver**, **Townsend's Chipmunk**, **Douglas's Squirrel**, **Northern Flying Squirrel**, **Western Pocket Gopher***, **Keen's Mouse***, **Dusky-footed** and **Bushy-tailed Woodrats**, **Western Red-backed Vole***, **Red Tree Vole***, **White-footed***, **Townsend's***, **Long-tailed** and **Creeping* Voles**, **Pacific Jumping Mouse***, **Brush Rabbit**, **Snowshoe Hare**, and, of course, larger mammals such as **Striped** and **Western Spotted Skunks**, **Northern Raccoon**, **Bobcat**, **Grey Fox**, **Long-tailed Weasel**, **Harbor Seal**, **Roosevelt Elk** and **Black-tailed Deer**. Endemic species will be given priority.

Day 2, Sunday. We'll spend the day slowly moving south along the coast. Along the way we'll visit Sea Lion Caves to see an outstandingly scenic haulout of **Steller's** and **California Sea Lions** in a huge sea cave. At night we'll look for the same species as the night before, most likely in Humboldt Mountain State Park.

Day 3, Monday. We'll spend all day in Redwood National Park, looking for many of the species listed above as well as **Western Harvest Mouse**, **Sonoma Tree Vole***, **Western Grey Squirrel**, **Siskiyou Chipmunk***, and **Botta's Pocket Gopher**. **Roosevelt Elk** is pretty much guaranteed, and **Black Bear** is very likely. The world's tallest trees are an extra bonus.

Day 4, Tuesday. We'll visit the beautiful Oregon Caves National Monument where various bat species such as **Long-legged Myotis** are often present, **Siskiyou Chipmunk*** is common, and **Fisher** sightings have been recently reported. **Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel** also occurs there. If we miss the chipmunk, we'll give it another try in Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument farther east in the afternoon. At night we'll explore Lava Beds National Monument where **California Kangaroo Rat***, **Mountain Cottontail**, and **Black-tailed Jackrabbit** are abundant, **Great Basin Pocket Mouse** and **Deer Mouse** are common, **Ringtail** can sometimes be seen, bats such as **Big Brown**, **Townsend's Big-eared** and various **Myotis** are usually present in caves, and many other species such as **Vagrant Shrew**, **Long-tailed Weasel**, **Brush**, **Piñon** and **Canyon Mice**, **Dusky-footed** and **Bushy-tailed Woodrats**, and **Western Jumping Mouse** are possible.

Day 5, Wednesday. We'll briefly explore Klamath Lakes area to look for **Vagrant Shrew**, **Broad-footed Mole**, **Bobcat**, **Coyote**, **American Mink**, **Long-tailed Weasel**, **Muskrat**, **Yellow-bellied Marmot**, **Belding's Ground Squirrel**, **Least**, **Allen's*** and **Yellow-pine Chipmunks**, and **California Vole**. Then we'll drive to Alkali Lake, a good place for **Dark Kangaroo Mouse**, as well as **Coyote**, **White-tailed Antelope Squirrel**, **Northern Pocket Gopher**, **Great Basin Pocket Mouse**, **Ord's** and **Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rats**, and possibly **Preble's** and **Merriam's Shrews**, **Kit Fox**, **American Badger**, **Pronghorn**, **Northern Grasshopper Mouse**, **Desert Woodrat**, **Sagebrush Vole**, **Pygmy Rabbit**, and **White-tailed Jackrabbit**.

Day 6, Thursday. We'll go to Crater Lake National Park to enjoy the scenery and look for **Montane Shrew**, **American Marten**, **Ermine**, **Cougar**, **Sierra Nevada Red Fox**, **Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel**, **Northern Flying Squirrel**, **Western Heather Vole**, **Long-tailed Vole**, and **Northern Porcupine**.

Day 7, Friday. We'll visit Crater Lake again in the morning, then go to William L. Finley NWR, which we'll explore in the evening, looking for **Gray-tailed Vole*** and **Camas Pocket Gopher***, as well as **Virginia Opossum**, **Vagrant Shrew**, **Bobcat**, **Long-tailed Weasel**, **California Ground Squirrel**, **Brush Rabbit**, and **Eastern Cottontail**.

Day 8, Saturday. We'll spend more time in William L. Finley NWR, then go to Ankeny NWR to look for **Grey-tailed Vole*** and **Camas Pocket Gopher*** if we miss them in Finley. Then we'll drive back to Portland Area.

Day 9, Sunday. In the morning we'll spend a few hours at a stakeout site for **Mountain Beaver*** at Mt. Hood (other rodents and shrews might be seen while waiting), then drive to Portland via the scenic Columbia River Gorge.

Part 2

Day 1(10), Monday. We'll go to Mt. Saint Helens National Monument to look for **Cascade Ground Squirrel***, **Western Grey and Douglas's Squirrels**, **Yellow-pine Chipmunk**, **Southern Red-backed Vole**, and **Richardson's Vole**. Then we'll go to Packwood and do some

night driving in Mount Rainier National Park, looking for **Cougar, Bobcat, Coyote, Striped Skunk, Red Fox, Black Bear, Northern Raccoon, Roosevelt Elk, Black-tailed Deer, Northern Flying Squirrel, Deer Mouse, Northern Porcupine**, or whatever shows up.

Day 2(11), Tuesday. We'll spend the day at Mt. Rainier, looking for high-elevation species such as **Cordilleran Water Shrew, Masked and Montane Shrews, Ermine, Mountain Goat, Cascade Ground Squirrel***, **Hoary Marmot, Western Heather Vole, Montane and Richardson's Voles**, and **American Pika** in North America's most beautiful alpine meadows.

Day 3(12), Wednesday. We'll drive to Pt. Angeles and look for **Trowbridge's*** and **Olympic* Shrews, Southern Red-backed Vole, Creeping Vole***, and other small mammals along Coastal Discovery Trail. In the evening we'll drive up and down Deer Park Road, the best in the area for night drives, looking for all **carnivores, Long-tailed Vole**, the red race of **Snowshoe Hare**, and **Northern Porcupine**. The end of the road is at a beautiful mountain summit; we'll try to be there at sunset. Later we'll walk along Coastal Discovery Trail again, looking for **Pacific Jumping Mouse*** and **moles**.

Day 4 (13), Thursday. In the morning we'll take a **Killer Whale**-watching tour from Pt. Angeles (**Harbor Porpoise** and other marine mammals also possible), then go to Hurricane Ridge to look for **Masked and Montane Shrews, Olympic Marmot***, **Black-tailed Deer, Mountain Goat, Townsend's Chipmunk***, **Western Pocket Gopher*** and high-elevation voles. We'll then camp on the coast of Olympic National Park in one of the two campgrounds known to be visited by tame **Western Spotted Skunks**. **Keen's Mouse*** is abundant in the area.

Day 5 (14), Friday. We'll explore Lake Ozette area, looking for **Olympic***, **Marsh***, and **Trowbridge's*** **Shrews, American Shrew-Mole***, **Coast*** and **Townsend's*** **Moles, Long-tailed Weasel, Sea Otter, Harbor Seal, Grey Fox, Mountain Beaver***, **Townsend's*** and **Creeping* Voles, Pacific Jumping Mouse***, the dark race of **Snowshoe Hare**, and for **Keen's Myotis*** and other **bats** in hollow trees. We'll camp at the other of the two campgrounds known to be visited by tame **Western Spotted Skunks**, just to make sure.

Day 6(15), Saturday. We'll hike through the beautiful Hoh Rainforest, then drive to Columbia River Estuary to see **Steller's Sea Lions, Harbor Seals**, and possibly **River Otters**. At dusk we'll check out Julia Butler Hansen NWR for **Virginia Opossum, American Mink, River Otter, American Beaver, Creeping Vole***, **Nutria**, and the Columbia race of **White-tailed Deer**.

Day 7 (16), Sunday. We'll walk around Ridgefield NWR in the morning looking for **American Mink, River Otter, Grey-tailed Vole, Eastern Cottontail**, and **Nutria**, then return to Portland.