



Many birds rely on the ocean for habitat, breeding and food sources. During fall and winter, we can see many species of water birds in our region of the Puget Sound. Below you will find a guide of a few distinct and special birds you can find now! Grab a pair of binoculars, head down to the water and do some sea birding! While you are at it, pick up any trash you may find and keep our Ocean healthy and litter free!

Tahoma Audubon is committed to continuing to connect people to nature. There are plenty of fall opportunities to get involved and learn. From socially distanced conservation work parties, to online learning – we are staying active and providing space for community involvement!

To learn more about what Tahoma Audubon is up to, visit our website at www.tahomaaudubon.org or Facebook page to stay up to date!

Bonaparte's Gull



“This is the smallest gull usually seen over most of North America. Delicate in flight, it suggests a tern more than it does the larger gulls. It differs from large gulls in other ways as well: it seldom scavenges in garbage dumps, and it nests in trees, not on the ground. The name honors French zoologist Charles Lucien Bonaparte, a distant cousin of Napoleon.” Can be found near the Puget Sound during early fall.

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/bonapartes-gull>

American Widgeon



“While most dabbling ducks are denizens of the shallows, American Widgeon spend much of their time in flocks grazing on land. Paradoxically, they also spend more time than other marsh ducks on deep water, where they get much of their food by stealing it from other birds such as coots or diving ducks. This duck was once known as "Baldpate" because of its white crown.” American Widgeons are common in Puget Sound during the fall and winter.

<https://www.audubon.org/birds-of-america/american-widgeon>

Eurasian Widgeon



“This Old World counterpart to our American Widgeon is a regular winter visitor to the Pacific lowlands from Canada to California. Small numbers are also seen in winter in the northeast and elsewhere. In parts of the Pacific Northwest, examination of any winter flock of widgeon is likely to reveal a male Eurasian among them, because the two widgeon species invariably flock together.” Look for the brownish/ maroon head among the flock!

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/eurasian-widgeon>

Rhinoceros Auklet



“A chunky dark seabird, related to the puffins, common at times off the northern Pacific Coast. Often unsuspecting, and boats may approach it rather closely on the water. If pressed, it dives and swims powerfully underwater. Although its takeoff appears clumsy and laborious, it is a fast flier, and may fly long distances to feeding areas daily. The "horn" on the bill, responsible for the bird's name, grows annually in early spring and is shed in late summer.” These birds dive deep and often come up with beaks full of fish! Look for the white horn on the beak during the fall.

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/rhinoceros- auklet>

Western Grebe



“Western Grebes are highly gregarious at all seasons, nesting in colonies and wintering in flocks. Their thin, reedy calls are characteristic sounds of western marshes in summer.” Look for their long necks and distinct red eyes! Western Grebes spend their winters on the Puget Sound.

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/western-grebe>

Belted Kingfisher



“The Belted Kingfisher is often first noticed by its wild rattling call as it flies over rivers or lakes. It may be seen perched on a high snag, or hovering on rapidly beating wings, then plunging headfirst into the water to grab a fish. Found almost throughout North America at one season or another, it is the only member of its family to be seen in most areas north of Mexico.” Look and listen for the Kingfisher all year at Titlow Beach Park.

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/belted-kingfisher>