

Approaching Seldovia by Water:

Look for Tufted and Horned Puffins, Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets, and Murres. In August, Ancient Murrelets may also be seen.

Pigeon Guillemots have nests along the edges of Seldovia Bay. In flight, notice the white wing patches and the brilliant red feet. Small gulls seen are Black-legged Kittiwakes; larger gulls are the Glaucous-winged Gulls.

Town and Harbor:

In Seldovia, the term "city Crow and country Raven" are used. Species found here are the Northwestern Crow and the larger Common Raven. The third member of the crow family, the Black-billed Magpie is also seen, and heard throughout the area, especially during nesting season this time of year. The Raven calls fill the trails along the Otterbahn Trail as a new generation of Ravens learn their complex language. Violet Green Swallows, Tree and Cliff Swallows are seen all through the area. Rufous Hummingbirds are seen feeding on the Hummingbird feeders in resident's yards and on our Salmonberry flowers.

Seldovia Slough and Lake Irene:

Harlequin ducks are seen later in the summer. Bald Eagles are seen fishing along the Slough and Outside Beach. In the Lagoon can be seen the Greater Scaup, Mallard, Eurasian and American Wigeon, Old Squaw, Common and Barrow Goldeneye, the Common and Red-breasted Merganser, White-winged and Red Crossbills, Short-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swanson's Thrush, American Robin, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rump, Wilson's and Townsend's Warblers, Common Redpoll, Stellar Jays, Brown Creepers, Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, as well as our favorite Pine Siskin can be seen along the Slough to the Outside Beach.

Crossbills calls of repeated kip-kip or jeep-jeep are heard in our coniferous forests, often seen hanging upside down on conifer cones. Spruce grouse are seen in the forest areas, and occasionally along the roads leading a column of their newly hatched chicks.

The calls of Belted Kingfishers, and dark Fox Sparrows can be heard along the Slough as well as at the Outside Beach, Jakalof Road and McDonald Spit. The three-note song (oh-dear-me)

of the Golden-crowned Sparrow can be heard in the Spring.

A nest of Peregrine Falcons has been seen for the past years along the edge of the Slough. Other birds of prey seen include the dark-blue Merlin, a smaller relative of the Peregrine Falcon, the large Northern Goshawk and the Great Horned Owl.

Outside Beach:

The most common birds sharing the waters of the Outside Beach with the sea-otters are the Common and Pacific Loon, White-winged Scoters, Pigeon Guillemots, American Wigeons, Barrow Goldeneye and Harlequin ducks.

Lake Susan:

A pair of Common Goldeneye ducks have been nesting in the floating nest box on the Lake. Common Mergansers, buffleheads, Greater Scaup and Mallards are also seen at lake Susan and the Slough.

Otterbahn Trail:

Seldovia is Thrush country and the woods surrounding the Otterbahn Trail echo the calls of several Thrush species, especially in late evening. Varied Thrushes, which look like Robins with spots and a dark V on their breast fly through the woods and call in long after twilight. Along the trail to the Outside Beach the most commonly heard songs come from the Varied, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes. The Chestnut-backed Chickadee enjoy the spruce trees as do the Red-breasted Nuthatches. These are small striking birds with a line through their eyes and a distinctive low pitched call. Look for Three-Toed Woodpeckers and Downy Woodpeckers.

Jakalof Road and McDonald Spit:

Birds seen during the Migratory Bird Count this year were both the Pacific and Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Red-neck Grebe, Fork-tailed Petrel, Double Crested and Pelagic Cormorants and the Great Blue Heron. American Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Western Sandpiper, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelets can also be seen from the water as well as by land.

Occasionally we have a Great Blue Heron visiting us in the Slough. Last year I saw a Stellar Sea Eagle sitting on a tree next to a dwarf Bald Eagle on the road to the airport.

NOTES: