

Where and When to Photograph Nature in WA

Compiled by Sunny Walter (former chair of the Photography Committee)

Winter		
December-February	Mule deer, whitetail deer, mountain scenery, eagles	Lake Chelan – Stehekin Methow Valley – Winthrop and along the Methow River
January-February	Rocky Mountain elk, bighorn sheep	West of Naches – Oak Creek Wildlife Area
Winter	Driftwood, lighthouses, ocean scenery, sunsets, golden-crowned kinglet	Cape Disappointment State Park Ledbetter State Park
February	Snow geese, trumpeter swans	Fir Island Mount Vernon – Johnson DeBay Slough
Early January	Bald eagles	Hwy 20 – Rockport to Marblemount Upper Skagit River
Spring		
Late April-Early May	Shorebirds, terns, redknobs	West & south of Aberdeen – Bowman Basin, Bottle Beach
Early to mid-May	Poppies, orcas	San Juan Islands
Mid-May to early June	Bluebirds, balsam & bitterroot, lizards, nuthatches	South of Ellensburg – Umtanum Road, Observatory, Wenas camping area
Late March to early April	Sandhill cranes, burrowing owls, swans (March), yellow-head blackbirds (April)	Othello area
Mid-April	Avocets, stilts, herons, cormorants, egrets	South of I-90 and west of Moses Lake – Frenchman Hills Road North Potholes Wildlife Area
April-May	Balsamroot, cactus, geology, birds	Northeast of Quincy – Beezley Hills
May-June	Basalt cliffs, lakes, yellow-head blackbirds, common yellow throat, balsamroot, bullocks orioles, lupine, lake scenery, swallows, deer, wildflowers, waterfalls	Southwest of Quincy – Quincy Wildlife Area Coulee City – Hwy 2 – Ankeny, WA West on Hwy 2 – Jameson Lake South of Coulee City – waterfalls
Late May	Molson museum, redhead ducks, osprey, yellow-head blackbirds, killdeer, wildflowers, chipmunks, loons	East of Oroville Molson & Sidley Lakes East of Molson – Oroville-Toroda Road Chesaw Wildlife Area Beaver Lake
Late May to early June	Rolling hills, wildflowers, canola, barns	Steptoe Butte Kamiak Butte Palouse countryside

Summer		
May-June	Mule deer, ground squirrels, bluebirds, swallows, wildflowers (around lake)	South of Cheney – Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
June	Cliffs, deer, loons, eagles, baby birds	South of Republic – Sampoil Valley Scatter Creek Road – Swan, Ferry, Long Lakes (access by Keller Ferry from south)
June-July	Lavender, gardens, osprey, cormorants	East side of Pend Oreille River Sequim Lavender Festival (July) Hwy 20 – Usk
Mid-July	Wildflowers, deer, marmots	South of Port Angeles – Hurricane Ridge
June-August (low tide)	Tide pools, seastars, seastacks	West of Forks Rialto, LaPush – 2 nd Beach, 1 st Beach
Mid-to late Mid-August	Wildflowers, waterfalls, mountain scenery, marmots, pika	Mt. Rainier – Spray Park, Berkeley Park (Paradise and Sunrise trails)
August	Murres, other seabirds, brown pelicans, small forest animals (martin, badger), bison, sunrise, sunsets, baby western toads	Ocean Shores – North Jetty and wildlife area on east side North of Eatonville – Northwest Trek South of Randle (Hwy 12) – Mount St. Helens (east side)
Fall		
Early September (low tide)	Arches, tide pools, seastars, deer, sunsets, glow	South of Neah Bay – Shi Shi Beach, Point of Arches
Late August to early September	Shorebird migration – avocet, egrets, herons, cormorants, American white pelicans	North and west of Moses Lake – Soap Lake North Potholes Wildlife Area Potholes Reservoir
Late September	Mosses, elk in rut, mergansers, mushrooms	South of Forks – Hoh Rain Forest
Early October	Golden larches, raptors, squirrels, snow & mountain scenery	Northwest of Mazama – Harts Pass
Early to mid-October	Fall color, rivers, mule deer, bighorn sheep, Moose, Gardner Cave	West of Curlew – Kettle River Road (and north of Oroville on Hwy 97 to Vaseaux Lake Northeast of Colville – Big Meadow Lake Ione – North of Metaline All along the Pend Oreille River Hwy 20 near Tiger