

September Wildlife Report

For the past six months Lifeforce conducted our Marine Life Program field work. This part of our programs has ended on Oct. 1st so this is the final report for 2008. Our work has helped educate people about nature's wonders who can be viewed living freely in the wild. There are no moral or educational reasons to imprison animals in zoos and aquariums. We can visit their habitats that are part of ecosystems that sustain people too.

I wrote five wildlife articles in the All Point Bulletin newspaper that is distributed in Delta and Point Roberts.

Lifeforce will keep you informed about the outcome of the 2008 Marine Life Programs. Our "Orcas and Boats" investigation will hopefully lead to major changes in the way whale watch operate. Our report "Contact: In Pursuit of Orcas" will be distributed to policy makers, politicians, media and others.

We will bring any new Wildlife Reports with our encounters and actions that we may be called upon to take at any time. Lifeforce is on call 24/7 throughout the year.

Hopefully we will be able to continue this important work in 2009 if funding is available. You can help by making a donation and if you haven't already done so also become a member of Lifeforce.

We hope you enjoy the following images of wildlife living freely.

August 27th and 28th



Heron drying off



Caspian Tern



Rock Pigeon

September 1st and 2nd



Men Heron in Tights?



Gulls



Black Turnstone



Sanderlings

Orcas

Sept 1

Well the Labour Day Weekend ended with some surprises as J, K and L pods exited Active Pass. The ferry Queen of Bowen Island actually turned sideways in front of approaching orcas. The Captain only moved because he was also blocking the route of incoming ferry. Lifeforce reported this violation to BC Ferry. And later one whale watch boat and a pleasure boat continuously motored within 100 meters and drove in front of approaching orcas. The "zodiac" company continued for 1.5 hours.

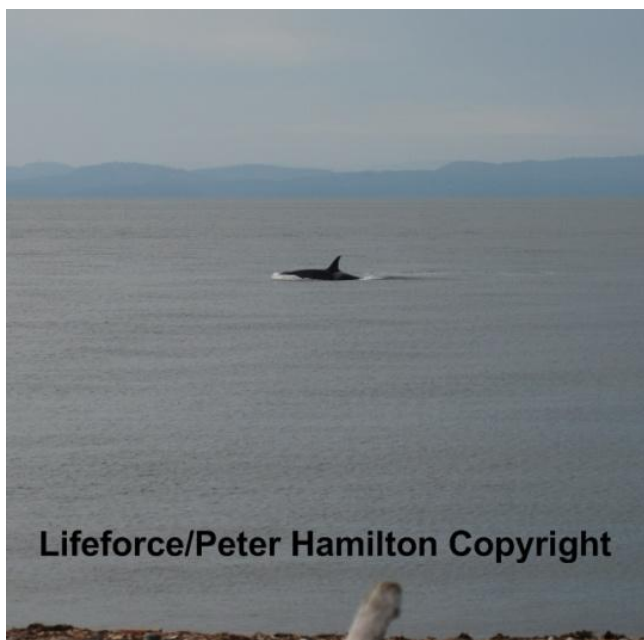
Upon leaving the pass at approximately 1800 many orcas sped through the bubbling tide line with some tail slaps and breaches. There was one spectacular breach just outside of the pass.





Sept 2

All pods stayed in Canada overnight and passed Point Roberts in the morning. Unlike other days with lots of activity they were just travelling through with a few tail slaps and breaches. One male logged off the Lighthouse Marine Park but quickly moved on with the others.



Sept 5.7



Mew Gull



Sanderlings



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Western Sandpipers



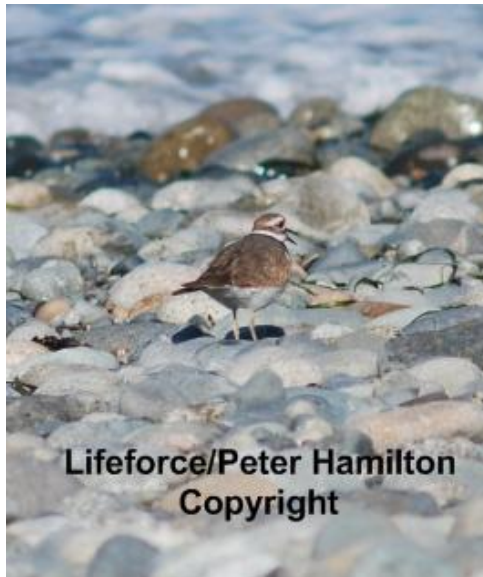
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Marbled Murrelet



Lapland Longspur from the Arctic Tundra (long-clawed hind toe)

September 13.14



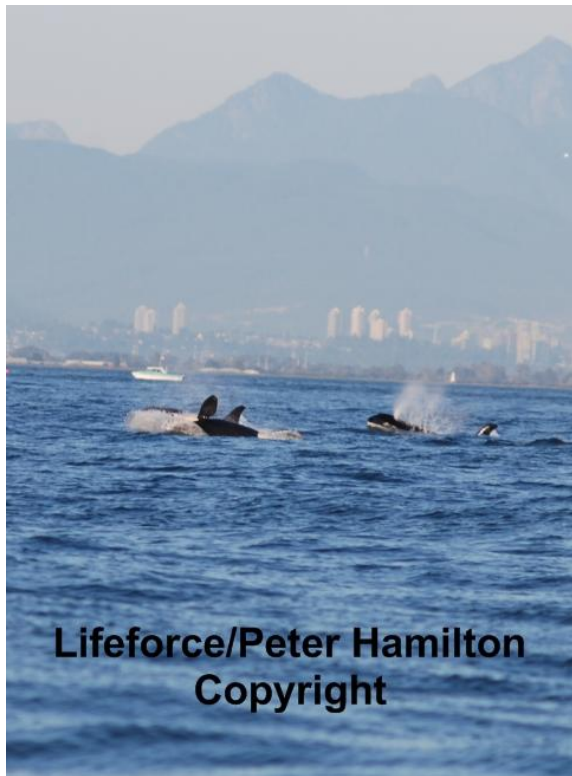
Killdeer



Orca Report September 14th and 15th

Sept 14

At approx. 1620 Js, Ks and most Ls were in the middle of Georgia Strait heading North to the South and North Arms of the Fraser River. Other reports had some Ls at Monarch Head and Haro Strait. There was still a very high activity that is normally seen mostly when leaving Active Pass. There were multiple breaching, tail slaps and head viewing. At one point four orcas were all air borne. The activities decreased but were still active as they reached the other side and sped towards the river. There were a few stops for mating off Sturgeon Banks that may well help increase this endangered population.



Socializing



Breaching



Bubbles



Speed Swimming



Sept 15

Today Lifeforce headed towards the San Juan Islands for my study of boat traffic monitoring that I started in April 2008. I am comparing high boat monitoring areas (SJI) and low monitoring areas (Point Roberts/Southern Georgia Strait). I have developed nonintrusive methods to gather evidence of boaters' harassment in order to get increase enforcement and No Boat Zones as found in the San Juan Island. We started a petition to Governor Gregoire and will be completing a report. It will include any impact of research boat traffic. I am looking at any negative or positive reactions from studied whales/dolphins. Quivering of dorsal fins has been seen in biopsied and non-biopsied orcas when mom was biopsied (Barrett-Leonard et. al.). Lifeforce has sent a Research Boat Traffic Questionnaire to researchers. Anyone who also has information can contact us for the questionnaire lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com .

While on route I heard that all residents were present on the West Side (SJI). This was one of those days where the orcas there were orcas everywhere. They could be seen as far as one could see in every direction. They were taking long dives as they foraged and did some socializing. They moved off shore and some would move back to the shore. It wasn't easy for boaters to get around them and out of the area. It was good to see the presence of Straitwatch, Soundwatch and the San Juan County Sheriff. At 1740 the trailers were heading to Hein Bank to meet up with others there and further south.



Sept 16



Gulls in Friday Harbour, Washington

Sept 19th to 21st (Back in Point Roberts)

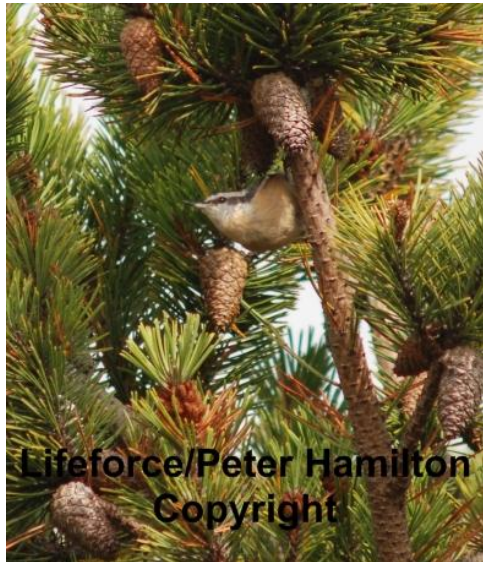




Killdeer







Red-breasted Nuthatch

September 23

On September 23rd I took a land and boat trip trip around Point Roberts to show people some of the diverse wildlife. SEE http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/files/mwr_sep25.pdf

September 26th to 28th



Western Grebes



Harbour Seals



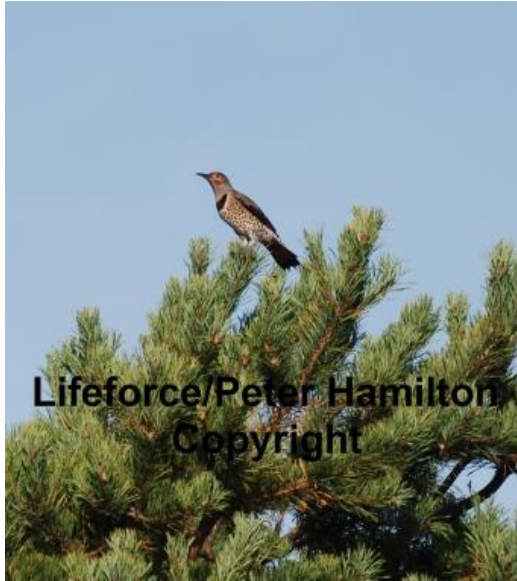
Steller Sea Lion



American Robin



European Starling



Northern Flicker



Sanderlings and Dunlin



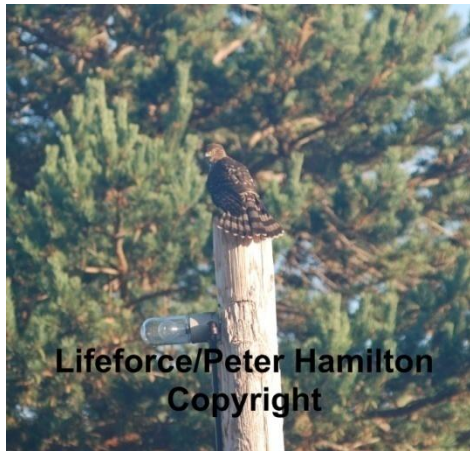
Bonapart Gull



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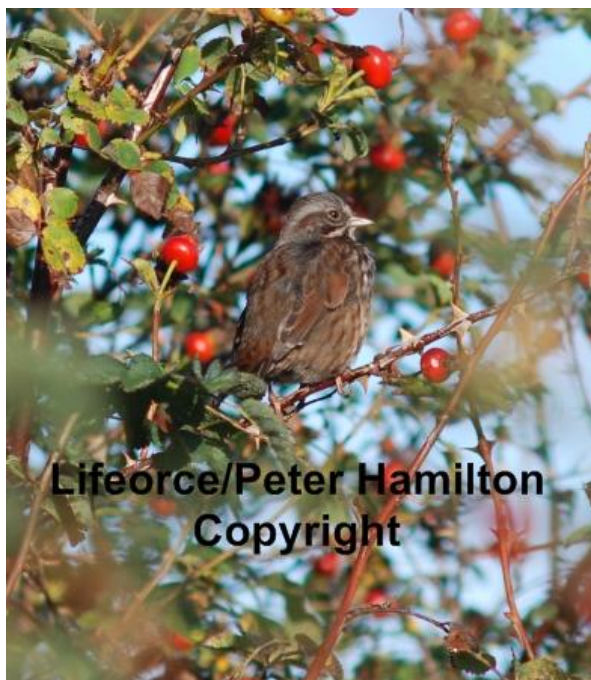


Red-tailed Hawk



Northwestern Crows – Life's A Breach





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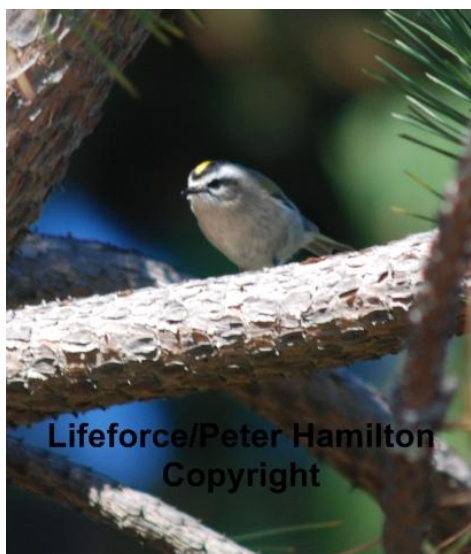


Northern Flicker (Female)





Black-capped Chickadee



Golden-crowned Kinglet



Webs in Morning Dew

September 29th to 30th

Here's as look at some of the wildlife spotted but the Parasitic Jaeger and Bonaparte's Gulls "story" deserves a special educational report. SEE http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/files/mwr_oct3.pdf



Surf Scoters

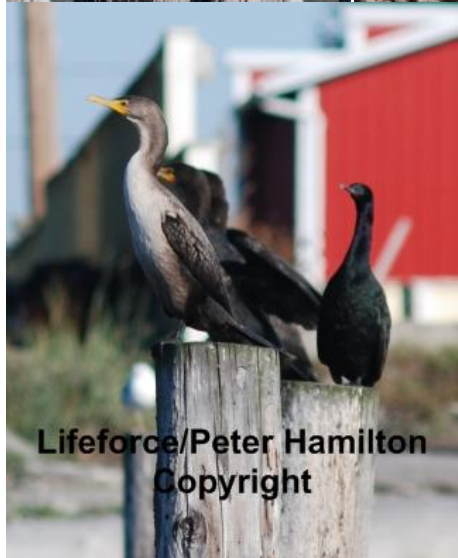
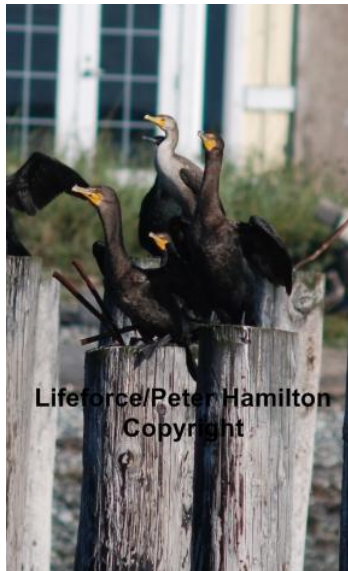


Eye of Harbour Porpoise





Loons losing breeding plumage.



Double-crested Cormorants and Black Turnstones.



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Western Grebes



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Oct 1st





Black Turnstone



Feeding Time

That's all for now folks. Stay tune for more exciting nature images to support Freedom – Not Captivity.

For Freedom,

Peter Hamilton

Lifewatch Boater Awareness Program

Lifeforce Whale and Dolphin Hotline

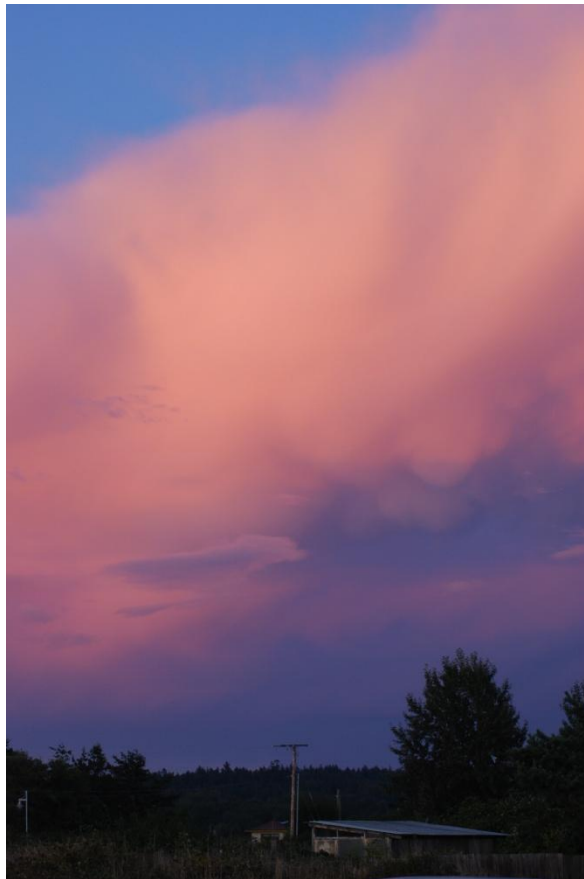
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Help Protect Marine Wildlife

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As the sun sets firing up the clouds I hope you will be motivated to take action by supporting Lifeforce.