

# 2005

## Mt. Rainier

This photo is of Mt. Rainier at night under a full moon.  
(8/29/2004, Mt. Rainier National Park)





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Tufa Towers

Mono Lake has become famous for its tufa towers. As freshwater springs (containing calcium) bubble up under the salty lake water (containing carbonates), it solidifies to become tufa (calcium carbonate). Since 1941, the city of Los Angeles has been diverting water from 4 of the 5 major streams that feed Mono Lake, causing the water level to drop. As the level has dropped, many of these tufa towers have been exposed. (7/4/2004, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve)

## January 2005

| Sunday    | Monday                 | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday   |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
|           |                        |           |           |           |           | New Year's Day<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><b>1</b> |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>               | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>   |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>              | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>16</b> | Martin Luther King Day | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>  |
| <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>              |           |           |           |           |  |
| <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>              | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>  |



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American Avocet

Although most famous for its tufa, Mono Lake is also nicknamed the Mono Lake International Airport because of all the birds that migrate and/or live at the lake. Here we have a group of American Avocets (in summer colors) feeding in the lake's edge. Although they can swim, they are more commonly found wading in shallow water, thrusting their bills underwater and swinging them from side to side to feel for prey. (7/3/2004, Mono Lake)

## February 2005

| Sunday | Monday                | Tuesday | Wednesday     | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                 |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|---------------|----------|--------|--------------------------|
|        |                       |         | Groundhog Day |          |        |                          |
|        |                       | 1       | 2             | 3        | 4      | 5                        |
| 6      | 7                     | 8       | 9             | 10       | 11     | Lincoln's Birthday<br>12 |
| 13     | Valentine's Day<br>14 | 15      | 16            | 17       | 18     | 19                       |
| 20     | President's Day<br>21 | 22      | 23            | 24       | 25     | 26                       |
| 27     | 28                    |         |               |          |        |                          |



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Mt. Rainier

Mt. Rainier stands 14,410 ft. above sea level in the state of Washington. It is considered an active volcano, with eruptions occurring as recently as the late 1800s. As with any tall mountain, Mt. Rainier can generate its own weather. Thus it can be buried in clouds when all else is sunny, or it can poke its head through the clouds when the lower levels are buried under overcast. During our visit, the appropriate name seemed to be Mt. "Rain"-ier, as we went nearly a week without seeing it because of the rain. (8/28/2004, looking southwest from Dege Peak; Mt. Rainier National Park)

## March 2005

| Sunday               | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday            | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------|--------|---------|-----------|---------------------|--------|----------|
|                      |        | 1       | 2         | 3                   | 4      | 5        |
| 6                    | 7      | 8       | 9         | 10                  | 11     | 12       |
| 13                   | 14     | 15      | 16        | Saint Patrick's Day | 17     | 18       |
| Spring (4:33 am PST) | 21     | 22      | 23        | 24                  | 25     | 26       |
| 20                   |        |         |           |                     |        |          |
| Easter Day           | 28     | 29      | 30        | 31                  |        |          |
| 27                   |        |         |           |                     |        |          |



Western  
Bluebird





The Western Bluebird likes to feed on insects, so it is common to see it perched while it waits for food to show up.  
 Pictured here are both the female (left) and male (right) Western Bluebird. (3/30/2004, El Dorado Hills, CA)

## April 2005

| Sunday                                 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday                | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
|  |        |         |           |          | April Fools' Day<br>1 | 2        |
| Daylight Savings Starts (+1 hour)<br>3 | 4      | 5       | 6         | 7        | 8                     | 9        |
| 10                                     | 11     | 12      | 13        | 14       | Tax Day<br>15         | 16       |
| 17                                     | 18     | 19      | 20        | 21       | 22                    | 23       |
| 24                                     | 25     | 26      | 27        | 28       | 29                    | 30       |



Spring Azure

Like many butterflies, the small Spring Azure is attracted to water. Thus the edges of puddles and other forms of standing water are excellent places to observe them. (5/15/2004, El Dorado Hills, CA)

## May 2005

| Sunday            | Monday             | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1                 | 2                  | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6      | 7        |
| Mother's Day<br>8 | 9                  | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14       |
| 15                | 16                 | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21       |
| 22                | 23                 | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28       |
| 29                | Memorial Day<br>30 | 31      |           |          |        |          |



Gull and Alkali Flies

Birds are attracted to two main sources of food at Mono Lake: The Alkali fly and the brine shrimp. The Alkali flies are so plentiful that they completely turn the shore black for several feet at the water's edge. Unlike the house fly, the alkali fly is totally uninterested in humans. Thus they won't buzz around or land on people. However, they will fly a short distance when there is movement next to them, so it is common to see gulls running along the edge of the water with their mouths open trying to catch all the flies flying up in front of them. (7/4/2004, Mono Lake)

## June 2005

| Sunday       | Monday                | Tuesday  | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|              |                       |          | 1         | 2        | 3      | 4        |
| 5            | 6                     | 7        | 8         | 9        | 10     | 11       |
| 12           | 13                    | Flag Day | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| Father's Day | Summer (11:46 pm PDT) |          |           |          |        |          |
| 19           | 20                    | 21       | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| 26           | 27                    | 28       | 29        | 30       |        |          |



California Quail

California Quail are a common sight on the ground. Although they can and do fly, most of the time you will see a family of quail running along the ground. Often the male quail (pictured here) will sit in a high spot keeping watch while the rest of the family (the mother and many offspring) feed nearby. (6/8/2004, El Dorado Hills, CA)

## July 2005

| Sunday | Monday                | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |                       |         |           |          | 1      | 2        |
| 3      | Independence Day<br>4 | 5       | 6         | 7        | 8      | 9        |
| 10     | 11                    | 12      | 13        | 14       | 15     | 16       |
| 17     | 18                    | 19      | 20        | 21       | 22     | 23       |
| 24     |                       |         |           |          |        |          |
| 31     | 25                    | 26      | 27        | 28       | 29     | 30       |



Least Sandpiper



The Least Sandpiper is a common bird in marshy areas of California. It feeds on insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and marine worms. (7/4/2004, Mono Lake)

## August 2005

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        | 1      | 2       | 3         | 4        | 5      | 6        |
| 7      | 8      | 9       | 10        | 11       | 12     | 13       |
| 14     | 15     | 16      | 17        | 18       | 19     | 20       |
| 21     | 22     | 23      | 24        | 25       | 26     | 27       |
| 28     | 29     | 30      | 31        |          |        |          |



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Osprey

Ospreys hunt for fish, so their nests are typically found on rock outcroppings near water. Tufa out in Mono Lake works just fine for them. Their nests are large (often weighing several hundred pounds), and are often used for many years by the same pair.

Typically the mother stays with the baby (or babies) in the nest, while the father goes out to do the hunting. When the father spots a fish, he will dive down to catch it, sometimes diving completely under the water in the process. What makes this more impressive at Mono Lake is that the lake is too salty to support fish, so the father flies miles away to other freshwater lakes to do his fishing. He then brings the fish home in his talons, and once back feeds it to his youngster in small strips. (Main photo:

7/4/2004, Mono Lake; inset photo of flying osprey with fish: 8/30/2004, Silver Lake near Mt. St. Helens)

## September 2005

| Sunday | Monday    | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday                 | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|--------|----------|
|        |           |         |           | 1                        | 2      | 3        |
| 4      | Labor Day | 6       | 7         | 8                        | 9      | 10       |
| 11     | 12        | 13      | 14        | 15                       | 16     | 17       |
| 18     | 19        | 20      | 21        | Fall (3:23 pm PDT)<br>22 | 23     | 24       |
| 25     | 26        | 27      | 28        | 29                       | 30     |          |



Baby Rattlesnake

The rattlesnake is one of the few poisonous creatures we have in California. Like many creatures, people who don't understand them tend to be afraid of them. The reality is that rattlesnakes are normally very non-aggressive creatures, and as long as they don't feel threatened they have no interest in trying to bite you. Just like the dozen or more rattlesnakes I have found in my yard over the years, this one showed absolutely no signs of aggression while I was photographing it. Being a baby, however, this snake does demand extra respect. Because the babies don't have as much control over how much venom they release in a bite, their bites are often much more dangerous than that of the much larger adults. (9/13/2004, El Dorado Hills, CA)

## October 2005

| Sunday                                   | Monday             | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|  |                    |         |           |          |        | 1        |
| 2  | 3                  | 4       | 5         | 6        | 7      | 8        |
| 9  | Columbus Day<br>10 | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
| 16                                       | 17                 | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
| 23                                       | 24                 |         |           |          |        |          |
| Daylight Savings<br>Ends (-1 hour)<br>30 | Halloween<br>31    | 25      | 26        | 27       | 28     | 29       |



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Yellow Pond Lily

The Yellow Pond Lily (also known as the Indian Pond Lily or Spatterdocks) grows in still fresh water up to 15 feet deep. It grows so rampantly in places that it is considered a weed. However, wildlife makes good use of this plant by eating the seeds, greens, and rootstocks. This lily is in Silver Lake, which was created some 2500 years ago when debris from an eruption of Mt. St. Helens dammed Outlet Creek. This lake makes an excellent wildlife area today. (8/30/2004, Silver Lake, east of Mt. St. Helens)

## November 2005

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday         | Friday        | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|------------------|---------------|----------|
|        |        | 1       | 2         | 3                | 4             | 5        |
| 6      | 7      | 8       | 9         | 10               | Veteran's Day | 12       |
| 13     | 14     | 15      | 16        | 17               | 18            | 19       |
| 20     | 21     | 22      | 23        | 24               | 25            | 26       |
| 27     | 28     | 29      | 30        | Thanksgiving Day |               |          |



Violet-green Swallow



Like most swallows, the Violet-green Swallow eats insects. Typically it catches insects in the air, although it may also forage on the ground when accumulations of insects can be found there. (7/4/2004, Mono Lake)

## December 2005

| Sunday        | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday                | Thursday | Friday | Saturday       |
|---------------|--------|---------|--------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|
|               |        |         |                          | 1        | 2      | 3              |
| 4             | 5      | 6       | 7                        | 8        | 9      | 10             |
| 11            | 12     | 13      | 14                       | 15       | 16     | 17             |
| 18            | 19     | 20      | Winter (10:35 am<br>PST) | 22       | 23     | Christmas Eve  |
| Christmas Day |        |         |                          |          |        | New Year's Eve |
| 25            | 26     | 27      | 28                       | 29       | 30     | 31             |

