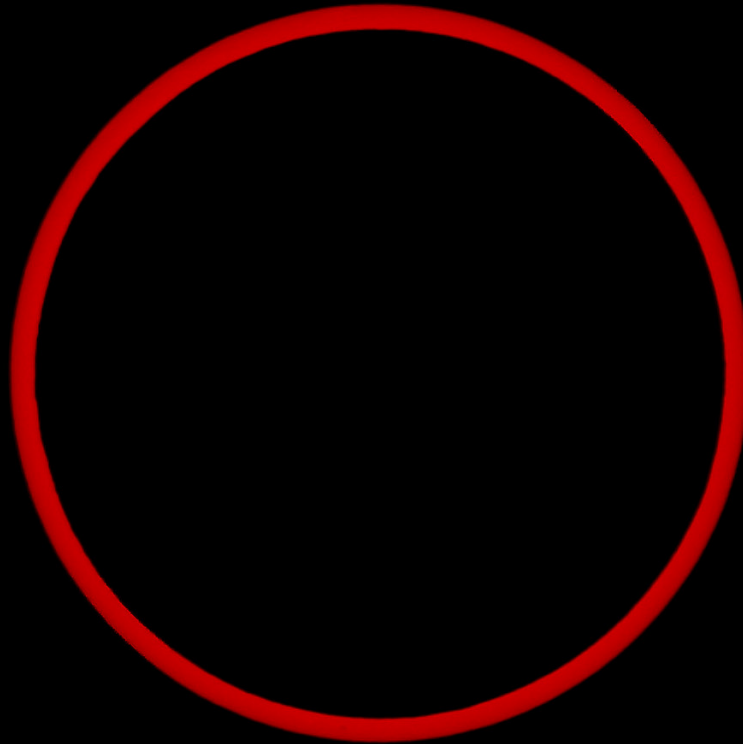


2013



An annular eclipse is similar to a total eclipse, except that moon is too far from the earth to totally block out the sun, so you end up with a ring of sunlight around the moon. We traveled to within a mile of the centerline of the eclipse to make sure the moon would be perfectly centered on the sun at the height of the eclipse. The next annular eclipse visible in the United States isn't until Oct. 14, 2023.
(5/20/2012, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, NV)



Diablo Lake

Glacial melt leaves a kind of sediment in the water that results in a very distinctive aqua or cyan hue to the water, making it very easy to identify a lake that is fed by glacial runoff. Many of the lakes in the North Cascades National Park Complex are fed by glaciers.

(8/31/2012, North Cascades National Park Complex, WA)

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December S M T W T F S 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	February S M T W T F S 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	New Year's Day				
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Martin Luther King Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Lush Green Forest

Although not formally a rain forest, the forests in and around North Cascades National Park get a lot of rain. As a result the trails go through forests of plants with huge leaves and trees covered in thick moss.

(9/1/2012, Baker River Trail, North Cascades National Park Complex, WA)

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January S M T W T F S 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	March S M T W T F S 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					
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day	15	16
17	Presidents' Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		



White Butterfly

These white butterflies were plentiful in parts of Olympic National Park. They first became obvious driving on the roads in the park as they love to fly low over the roads. If you would stop and observe them, however, you would also find them swarming by the dozens if not hundreds in the tops of the tall trees a 100 feet or so off the ground.

(9/6/2012, Sol Duc Falls trailhead, Olympic National Park, WA)

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February S M T W T F S 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	April S M T W T F S 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					
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Savings starts						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
St. Patrick's Day			Spring (4:02 am PDT)			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24						
Easter Day						
31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Orange Polypores

It is common to see large polypores (members of the mushroom family) growing in the moist forests of Washington state. Some of the larger bright-orange polypores on this log were at least 6 inches across.
(9/1/2012, Baker River Trail, North Cascades National Park Complex, WA)

April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March S M T W T F S 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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	Tax Day 15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				May S M T W T F S 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



Alpine Wildflowers

Spring comes late to the alpine regions near Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. As a result, purple lupine and other wildflowers can still be found well into September.

(9/7/2012, Obstruction Point Rd. (near Hurricane Ridge), Olympic National Park, WA)

May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April S M T W T F S 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	June S M T W T F S 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					
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Mother's Day						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Memorial Day					
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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Hall of Mosses

Although most people think of the tropics when they think of rain forests, that isn't the only place they are found. The Hoh Rain Forest on the west side of Olympic National Park gets 12 to 14 feet of rain a typical year. As a result, long, thick mosses completely cover many of the trees there.
 (9/10/2012, Hall of Mosses Trail, Hoh Rain Forest, Olympic National Park, WA)

June 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May S M T W T F S 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	July S M T W T F S 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					
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Father's Day 16	17	18	19	Summer (10:04 pm PDT) 20	21	22
23						
30	24	25	26	27	28	29



Snowy Egret

There are at least 3 kinds of egrets in California. The one I see the most commonly is the Great Egret, which is the largest, has a yellow bill, and is commonly found hunting for food in shallow water. Of the two smaller egrets, the Cattle Egret also has yellow bill, but eats mostly insects and is frequently found in a flock of other cattle egrets. The third egret, pictured here, is a Snowy Egret. It is the only one with a black bill, and like the Great Egret is commonly found hunting for small fish and other aquatic life in shallow water.

(10/13/2012, Isenberg Crane Reserve west of Lodi, CA)

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June S M T W T F S 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				Independence Day		
	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			August S M T W T F S 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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Alpine Colors

Although wildflowers can be found in alpine regions like this, the reds here are from red leaves on the ground cover.
Only hardy plants survive the windy conditions in places like this.

(9/7/2012, Lillian Ridge trail (off Obstruction Point Rd. near Hurricane Ridge), Olympic National Park, WA)

August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July S M T W T F S 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	September S M T W T F S 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					
				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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Cape Flattery and Tatoosh Island

Cape Flattery is the northwesternmost point of the contiguous United States. A trail on the Makah Indian Reservation leads to it with some spectacular views of the rocky cliffs and coves including some sea caves. The Cape Flattery Lighthouse is on Tatoosh Island, just off the cape, and was first turned on in 1857.

(9/12/2012, Cape Flattery, WA)

September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Labor Day					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Fall (1:44 pm PDT)						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				August S M T W T F S 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	October S M T W T F S 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



Sierra Fall Colors

California doesn't have the same kinds of fall colors people get back east, but it certainly has fall colors none the less. This old cabin is located in Hope Valley a bit south of Lake Tahoe, and is a common place for Californians to visit when looking for fall colors in the Sierra.

(10/14/2012, California Highway 88, Hope Valley, CA)

October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September S M T W T F S 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	November S M T W T F S 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					
		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	Halloween	31	



Sacramento Valley Birds

The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and other shallow-water preserves in the Sacramento Valley are home to thousands of birds during the winter months. Although water fowl are most commonly seen during the day, the sky can turn almost black in the twilight after sundown from the thousands of flying birds in the sky--in many respects they look more like a cloud of insects than birds because there are so many of them.

(11/10/2012, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, CA)

November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October S M T W T F S 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	December S M T W T F S 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					
					1	2
Daylight Savings ends						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Veterans Day					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Thanksgiving		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Great Egret

If you see a single large, white, heron-like bird in shallow water with an orange beak, you are seeing a Great Egret. It feeds on fish, frogs, snakes, and crayfish in shallow water. These birds can stand over 3 feet tall, with a wing span exceeding 4.5 feet.

(11/10/2012, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, CA)

December 2013

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 Winter (9:11 am PST)
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31			November S M T W T F S 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	January S M T W T F S 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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The Transit of Venus occurs when Venus passes in front of the sun (much like an eclipse, except that Venus is much farther away than the moon, and thus appears much smaller). Although not as spectacular as an eclipse, this is a very rare event. They occur in pairs a few years apart, and then wait over 100 years for the next event. We had a Transit of Venus occur in 2004 and again in 2012. The next one will occur in December of 2117 (when any of us will be very lucky to still be around).
(6/5/2012, Folsom, CA)