

Washington State: Red Fox Photo Tour



Red Fox with Kits: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot

Tour Leader: Ben Knoot

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Introduction

This tour is a bit different to a normal photo tour that Tropical Birding has run. This was Tropical Birding's first target specific photo tour. Vulpus Vulpus, more commonly known as Red Fox is a non-native, introduced species that has really prospered in the Orcas Islands off the coast of Washington State. I was lucky enough to go to school in Washington State for four years and I got to know the area and the various family of fox very well. Even after I finished with school, I still make it up there every year to enjoy the truly wonderful spectacular of these fox families raising their kits.

This year was a bit tough for the foxes. And this is for one very particular reason, the rabbits. During previous years, the rabbits were numerous and you actually had to watch your step to avoid them below your boot. However, during the year of 2019, the rabbit population saw a massive decline of 97% (no, that's not a typo). Over 97% of the foxes food supply was wiped out from a case of Hemorrhagic Fever. But fox are intelligent and scrappy creatures. Never before have I seen so many voles and rats brought into the den sites as I did this year. We witnessed very few rabbits brought into the den, a testament to the situation the fox are currently dealing with.

Over the course of five days we traveled around the island photographing a variety of bird species and fox. This tour was somewhat different to our normal photo tour and as such, the trip report will be slightly different as well. What you will see below is a collection of the fox photos and then a collection of birds we were able to photograph. The days in general were roughly the same. The mornings and evenings were spent with the foxes and to fill the mid morning and mid afternoons, we off in search of some of the islands fabulous birds.

Itinerary

May 2nd	Day 1: Arrival Day; Afternoon Bird Photography
May 3rd	Day 2: Seattle to San Juan Island, Afternoon Foxes
May 4th	Day 3: Morning with Foxes, Bird Photography, Afternoon Foxes
May 5th	Day 4: Morning with Foxes, Bird Photography, Afternoon Foxes
May 6th	Day 5: Morning with Foxes, Bird Photography, Afternoon Foxes
May 7th	Day 6: Morning with Foxes, Bird Photography



Red Fox engaged in a cage battle: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Red Fox "And then they're friends again": Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Red Fox "The Runt of the Litter": Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Red Fox "Baby Blue Eyes": Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Red Fox "Alone Time": Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Red Fox "Eyes to the Sky": Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Red Fox "Alert": Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Red Fox "Rabbit Delivery": Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Red Fox "Vole Delivery": Photo by Guide Ben Knoot

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Golden-crowned Kinglet: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Western Tanager: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Cassin's Vireo: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Wilson's Warbler: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



California Quail: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Pacific Wren: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Bald Eagle with Rabbit: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Hutton's Vireo: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Virginia Rail: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Harlequin Duck: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Bald Eagle: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Anna's Hummingbird: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot



Bushtit: Photo by Guide Ben Knoot

Guests Favorite Images





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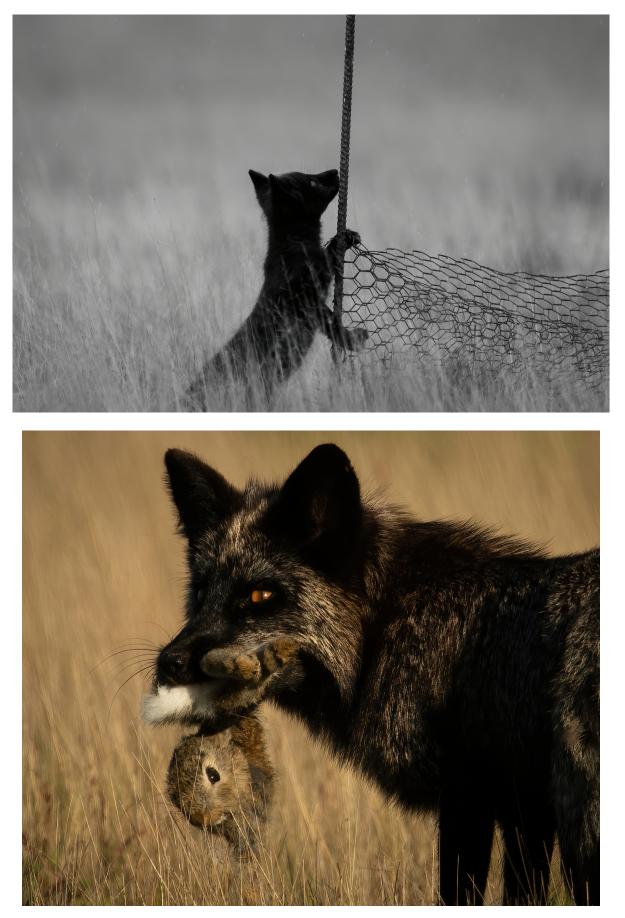


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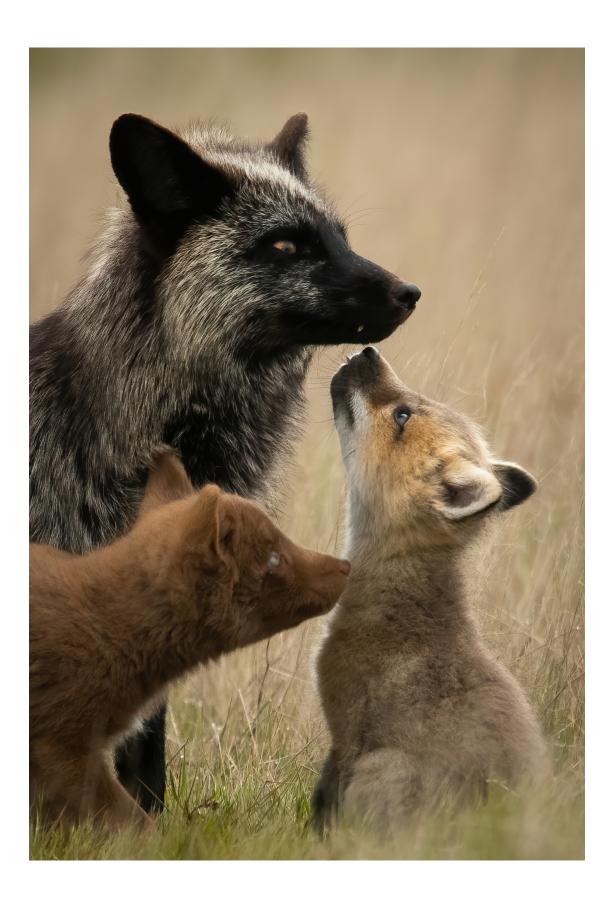




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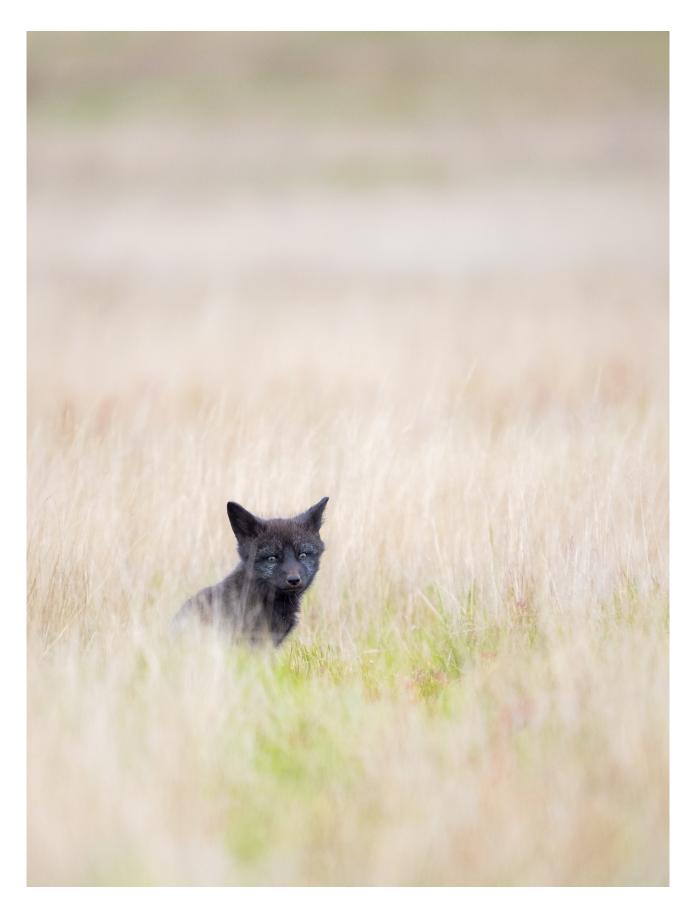
A Few More Photos



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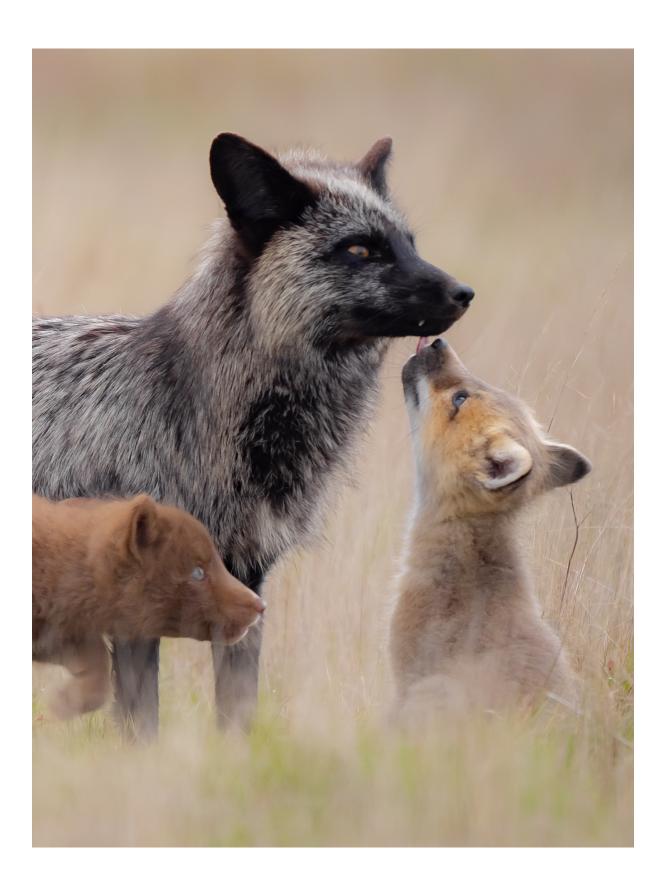


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