

Marshnotes[®]



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY
SPRING 2021**

BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

Managers of the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary Since 1963

dedicated to the conservation and study of migratory waterfowl

Marshnotes:

Editor: Kathleen Fry

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Submissions, articles, photographs and letters for publication may be sent to the above email and postal addresses marked for attention of Marshnotes Editor. Please include your telephone number or email and the Editor will contact you.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARSHNOTES

July 15th, 2021



Planning a visit, but not sure if anything has changed? We now send out a tweet from @ReifelSanctuary if we need to alert visitors about anything.

Executive:

President:	Jack Bates
Vice President:	George C. Reifel
Treasurer:	James A. Morrison
Secretary:	Barney W. Reifel

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Kenneth I. Thompson

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Buildings/ Grounds:	Barney W. Reifel
Community Relations:	George C. Reifel
Interpretation/Education:	F. Wayne Diakow
Outreach:	George C. Reifel

Staff:

Sanctuary Manager:	Kathleen Fry
Gift Shop Manager:	Varri Raffan
Reception:	Susan Norris
Maintenance:	Dave McClue
Part-time:	Kristina Breit
	Evan Gogal
	Marissa Sasaki
	Morgan Dunne
	Janna Peterson

Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. every day except Mondays. (Closed Mondays)
Reservations are required for visits. The Sanctuary is wheelchair accessible.

Admission: Members:	Free
Non-Members:	Adults: \$5 Children (2-14 yrs) and Seniors (60 years +): \$3
School Groups:	Special discounts available; pre-booking is required.

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Call for 2022 Calendar Photo Submissions



The 2021 Calendar as an example.

If you have some good photos of our Sanctuary's birds and would like to offer them for our annual calendar, please email or send them in. We are looking for a range of species that would represent bird life at the different months of the year.

Deadline for submissions: July 15th

Criteria: Horizontal photos only

Minimum of 4 MB size for good reproduction

Submit only 3 of your best please.

You can drop off these photos as prints or email them to me at varri@reifelbirds sanctuary.com.

Varri Raffan, Gift Shop Manager.

About Our Covers

Front Cover: *Northern Shoveler*

© *David Shackleton*

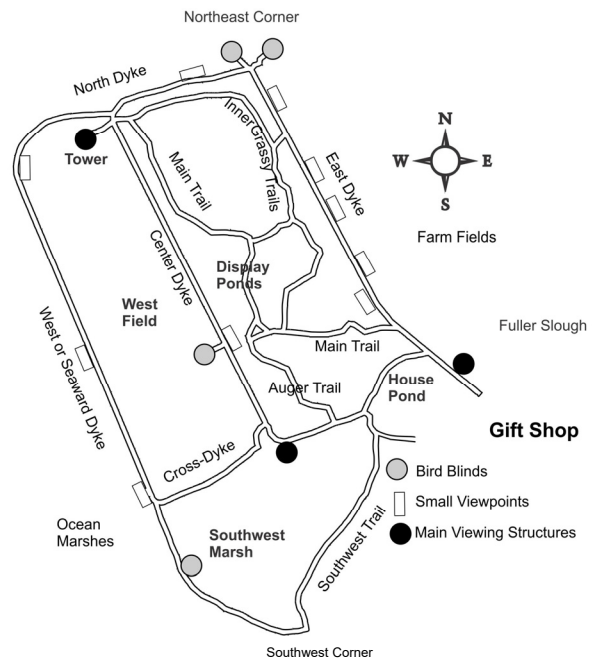
Back Cover: *Red-breasted Sapsucker*

© *Kristina Breit*

Editor's Note:

Please refer to the location map to the right to locate place names used in the Marshnotes articles.

Sanctuary Locations Map



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Varri Raffan
Kathleen Fry
Kristina Breit
Varri Raffan

Manager's Report

On March 2nd, we re-opened after a two month closure so visitor statistics are quite different from past years for the first three months of the year. Visitors reached just 4,000 by the end of March, compared to 19,428 in 2020 (when we closed mid-March) and 30,139 in 2019, when we were open and were visited by peak crowds all of Spring Break. Thank you for your patience with the closures. We are still operating with a daily quota system, and everyone needs to reserve visits, whether they arrive by vehicle or bike.

We thank everyone for the concerns expressed about ducks suffering or leaving because people were not there to feed them, but not much changed during the closure. The drop in numbers happens naturally each spring. Mallard numbers are highest from fall to spring, then drop as most of them migrate out to their nesting grounds. Numbers are also quite variable between winters, with peaks related to major weather fronts. On a cold dry winter, thousands of ducks may be out in our ice-free foreshore marshes, but on wetter milder winters, ducks may be spread out over flooded field all across Delta, with fewer birds right in the Sanctuary. Periods of high winds make even foreshore areas inhospitable and ducks move to more protected areas of the estuary and inland parts of the Delta.

This year, January started out very wet and windy. February had a mid-month snow event and 11 days of below freezing when ponds were iced over. Extreme high winds on January 13th, February 26th, 28th, and March 28th downed a few trees. March was generally cold and constantly windy, and flocks of Snow Geese were seen as far up the Fraser Valley as Chilliwack as well as in fields in Delta and Richmond. The most significant drop in our duck populations during this period was seen in the Wood Ducks, which were absent almost two months but they are back now claiming their nest boxes for the summer. In January and February, we inspected, repaired and numbered all of our nest box structures. See page 6 for Kristina Breit's summary nest box report. Over the summer, we will also be monitoring waterfowl broods and Barn Swallow nest sites.

Numbers of Saw-whet Owls were low all winter with usually just one and sometimes two birds visible from public trails, but there was sometimes a third one nearby but out of bounds in early March. The last sighting of this species was April 10th. On February 19th, a few days after a snowfall, we noticed that the Great Horned Owls had taken over last year's Red-tailed Hawk nest, with one bird sitting all day on the nest and the other nearby in a Cedar tree. The female must have laid eggs right away as a bird was present constantly for more than a month. There were signs that hatching had begun starting March 26th, as we

noticed that the bird was sitting differently on the nest. The pair is currently feeding two half-grown owlets. Staff are very appreciative of all visitors who were excited to notice this nest and take a few photos. Being very discrete about not lingering long in the vicinity, helped prevent a crowd from gathering there many times.



The Great Horned Owl nest February 19th

A couple of birds have caused a few laughs and have temporarily stalled some of our maintenance projects. A Bewick's Wren is nesting in our canoe, making it temporarily unavailable for shoreline projects and a pair of Canada Geese is nesting on the pile of wood chips by the parking lot. The gander has taken to attacking its own reflection in the surface of nearby shiny clean cars as well as people that are too close to the wood chip pile.

In January and the first half of February, 6 to 10 Sandhill Cranes were present whenever the ponds were frozen. From February 20th onwards, only our resident pair and their mature offspring "Louie" from 2018 remained. The pair spent March in courtship mode, then spent most of April trying to chase Louie away from the Sanctuary. In April, they also tried to claim their prime nest island in Display Ponds, but a pair of Canada Geese already nesting there put up a good fight, so they have finally decided on a nest island right in House Pond behind the Gift Shop. The two eggs in this nest now were laid in the last week of April. Hatching is predicted at the end of May.

Visitors, please note that over the summer, the blind in the northeast corner that faces down the length of Ewen Slough will be unavailable until we have made some major repairs.

Text and photo: Kathleen Fry, R. P. Bio.,
Sanctuary Manager

BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

Report on the 60th Annual General Meeting

The 60th Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday April 22, 2021 by teleconference due to COVID-19. BCWS President Jack Bates called the Meeting to order at 7:05 pm and welcomed everyone. A quorum was in attendance. Moira Moore acted as recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 59th AGM: The Minutes of the 59th Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday April 16, 2020 were approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: The financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2020 along with the Accountant's Report prepared by KPMG, were presented by the Society's Treasurer Jim Morrison together with a brief summary of the highlights. Questions from attendees were responded to by the Treasurer.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACCOUNTANTS FOR 2021: KPMG were appointed as the Society's Accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, with remuneration to be determined by the Board.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The President introduced the Society's Directors, staff, and members who were present and gave a brief report on the Society and the Board's activities for the year 2020, noting the Society remains in a strong financial position. He thanked the staff and volunteers including the Directors for their contributions to the Society in 2020.

During the year the BCWS provided the Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust \$36,000 for the 2020-2021 Greenfields winter cover crop program. This program supports both wintering waterfowl and the local agricultural community. The BCWS will continue to provide financial support for habitat improvement and waterfowl research projects relevant to our mission as they arise.

SANCTUARY MANAGER'S REPORT: The Sanctuary Manager's report was pre-circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. 2020 was a very unusual year for the Sanctuary, as two lengthy closure periods were enacted due to Covid 19 concerns. The Sanctuary was closed from March 15th until July 14th, and again from December 25th until March 31st. During the closures there was no visitor access, but staff continued to work on maintenance projects, habitat and structural repairs, communications and bird monitoring.

Before the first Covid-19 closure began in March, there had already been 7 peak visitor days (over 800 visitors, and with many others turned away at the front gates). When we re-opened in July, a reservation system and daily quota was put in place to restrict the number of cars, so visitor use became more controlled. Prior to this year, an unrestricted number of vehicles headed toward the Sanctuary on statutory holidays and long weekends. Even though many vehicles had to be turned away, this caused traffic issues on Westham Island. A new reservation system was implemented and visitors are still adjusting to it. A reservation system or something similar will need to stay in place after the pandemic to better manage high volume periods that take place on long weekends and school vacation days. There has been lots of positive feedback regarding the safety protocols implemented by Sanctuary staff to keep both visitors and staff safe during their visits.

Our website www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com continues to function as our main communication tool for the general public and as an education link for teachers and students. Twitter account @ReifelSanctuary seems to be working effectively as a way to alert people of snow closures, Covid-19 closures, reservation requirements and bird highlights.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: In accordance with the Society's Bylaws, three Directors were elected for a two year term by acclamation: Doug Ransome, Barney Reifel and Ken Thompson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm

The British Columbia Waterfowl Society
gratefully acknowledges the continuing support of its Accountants

KPMG Peat Marwick Thorne Inc.,

Suite 400, North Tower, 5811 Cooney Road, Richmond, B.C. V6X 3M1

March 2021 Nest Box Maintenance Report

This January and February, staff took the opportunity to do a thorough inventory of all of our nest boxes and assess their use last summer. Nest boxes provide extra but artificial nesting cavities for the various cavity-nesting birds of the Sanctuary that would otherwise be looking for abandoned woodpecker holes or other natural cavities in trees. At the Sanctuary we have nest boxes for Wood Ducks, Barn Owls, and certain songbirds such as Tree Swallows and Black-capped Chickadees, to name just a few. The boxes are constructed of unfinished rough cedar.

Our duck boxes are high up on trees in areas where our Wood Ducks like to hang out. Currently we have 52 Wood Duck boxes along the trails. Each year in late winter, we check these for clues to their nest success the previous summer, and replace fresh wood shavings in the bottom of each box so that they have a natural cushion on which to make their nests in the boxes. The indications of duck use can include presence of down, egg shells, egg membranes and abandoned or predated eggs, young or hens.

Results of duck box maintenance and assessment of 2020 use: 12 boxes were used by Wood Ducks, 5 of which were used after by a rodent (squirrel or rat); Of the ones used by the ducks, 6 had signs of possible hatching, 5 had abandoned nests, and 1 showed sign of predation (broken eggs); 10 boxes were used only by rodents; 9 boxes were not used at all, possibly because of poor location or poor condition.

A total of 20 duck boxes had not been maintained in recent years. This made it hard to judge whether any duck activity had happened during the 2020 season or



Typical Wood Duck Box

Photo: Kathleen Fry

in previous seasons. Some boxes were damaged, like the two Wood Duck boxes in House Pond, which had been punctured by a Northern Flicker a few years ago. Those boxes were now replaced and will be maintained in the future. Overall, we replaced and/or repaired 15 boxes during our maintenance survey.

Table 1. Wood Duck box use and nesting throughout parts of the Sanctuary

Location	# of Boxes	Total # Wood Duck use	# with hatching	# with predation	# abandoned nests	# used after by rodents
Driveway	10	2	1			1
Entrance area	7	1			1	1
House Pond	5	1			1	1
East Dyke	8	3	1		2	
North Dyke	6	3	3			1
Path to V. Platform	2	1				1
Display Ponds	10	1		1		

The second type of nest boxes are the songbird boxes. We currently have 249 of these in place on trees or on poles placed in the ponds. A total of 120 of them were reinstalled, repaired or replaced this winter. Along the water's edge and especially in the Southwest Marsh and West Field they are used by Tree Swallows. In other areas we see them regularly used mainly by House Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Bewick's Wrens.

The songbird boxes are harder to assess for previous bird use, as we do not do an annual maintenance of them but we found nests or nesting material in more than 60% of the boxes. Our highlight was a tiny old box which we took down that was inhabited by three large Black Rats. This was amazing as it was one of the smallest boxes we used to make and that one rat was so fat that it got stuck in the hole before it eventually managed to run off.

As with the duck boxes, we attached numbered tags to all of songbird boxes except those that proved inaccessible (in the middle of ponds or Robertson Slough). Each section of the Sanctuary has now its own number series for songbird boxes. We retired some of these inaccessible locations and other sites that are now deemed not suitable, and have left room in each number series so that we are able to add boxes at a later time.



Tree Swallow at box

Photo: Kristina Breit

Table 2. The number of songbird boxes in areas of the Sanctuary, and the number series associated with each area

Location	# of active boxes	Number series associated with the area
Driveway	52	1-99
Parking Lot / Museum-Picnic	18	
House Pond	24	100-199
South West & West Field	42	200-299
East Dyke	33	300-399
North Dyke	10	
Path to Viewing Platform/ Center Dyke	21	400-499
Display Ponds	58	500-599

We also have 6 Barn Owl boxes in the Sanctuary but do not check them, waiting instead to detect use from clues around the boxes. They are chunky boxes most sitting on branch shelves. The two visible from public trails are the one near the tower at the entrance to Center Dyke and the one in the large Douglas Fir tree near Fuller Slough. You also might notice the owl box behind our work-shop area which you can see from the main trail near the Warming Hut.

No matter where you find our boxes, please be respectful around them. Do not place any bird food in or on top of boxes, and don't disturb them, just observe activity throughout the summer. Last year I unexpectedly witnessed a family of Bewick's Wrens fledging from a box on East Dyke. What I first thought was just a parent bird leaving the box turned out into a little family adventure. Maybe this year it is you who witnesses such a special moment.

Text: Kristina Breit, Sanctuary staff

Helping with the 2021 Nest Box Study

If you would like to help us to document the use of the many boxes around the Sanctuary, enquire at the Gift Shop on your next visit or visit our website for the following page for information:
<https://reifelbirdsantuary.com/nestboxprogram.html>.

Each box now has a white numbered tag. If you document the activity, species, date, box number and type of box, we can use all of this information to judge how beneficial the box is to the birds or if it needs relocating.

Bird Highlights

January 2021 begins a new year of bird highlights. We chose to close on December 25th in order to reduce larger group gatherings and avoiding further spread of COVID-19. With no incoming visitors reporting their findings, the bird sightings were much lower in this month. Only 80 species were observed compared to January 2020 which had 100 species recorded.

January 3 – January 9

Trumpeter Swan viewing is still good until about the middle of March when they head to northern British Columbia, Alaska and the Yukon to nest. The best places to watch for swans are in harvested potato fields where they will be dining on left over or culled potatoes. Trumpeter Swans are so named for the loud trumpeting sound they emit. This loud call happens when air passes along their very long windpipe which vibrates the membrane of the syrinx (vocal cords of a bird). After reading an article in “The Life of Birds” by Joel Carl Welty, I also learned that as a rule the longer and wider the trachea the deeper the birds voice; the shorter and narrower the trachea the higher the voice. On the 9th 4 Brown-headed Cowbirds showed up at the Fuller Slough lookout. Rough-legged Hawk, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Peregrine Falcon and Hermit Thrush were 6 of the notable sightings from this week’s list of 65 species.

January 10 – January 16

Surprisingly the Northern Mockingbird, first found on November 8th, 2020 is still in this area. A single Belted Kingfisher was found near the front gate on the 10th. On the 12th we were treated to 10 visiting Sandhill Cranes. This type of visit is common over the winter, particularly when ponds and feeding areas are frozen over. Groups usually consists of our resident pair and other local birds. On the 16th a Northern Shrike was reported from the outer dyke along with a Horned Grebe in Fuller Slough and a Varied Thrush along the driveway. Staff observed 69 species throughout this week.

January 17 – January 23

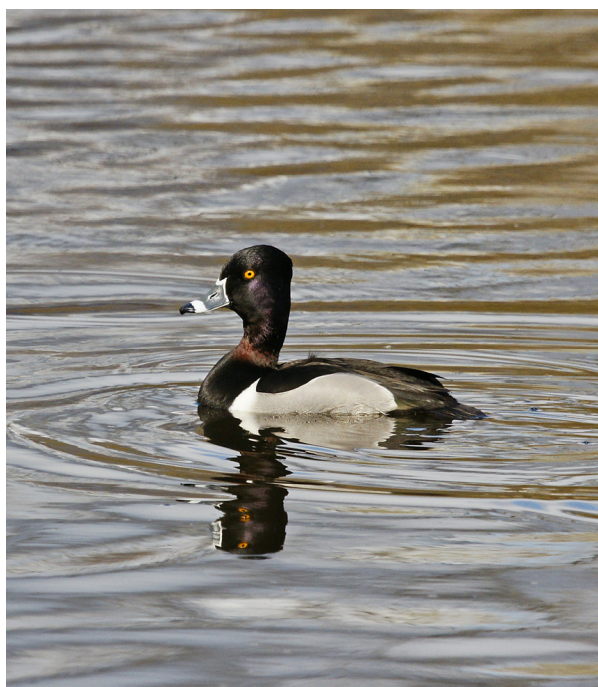
On the 18th I was in the right place at the right time to catch a quick glimpse of the back end of a Wilson’s Snipe as it flushed from the wet meadow area along the Inner Grassy Trail. You never seem to get a very long or satisfying look at Snipe. They take flight quickly when humans approach and are fast to head into thick cover before you can even get your binoculars on them. Also on the 18th there were 50 Greater Yellowlegs in Southwest Marsh. Observing Cedar Waxwings is difficult at this time of year since they have relocated to the northern USA and even as

far south as Panama for the winter, however we were still able to find 2 of them on the 23rd.

January 24 – January 30

We have 2 Belted Kingfishers now in the area, 1 male and 1 female. As I have mentioned in past Bird Highlights the best way to tell them apart is to look for the extra rusty colored band across the female’s chest. On most mornings when I arrive at work one of them is perched on a Tree Swallow nest box staring intently into the House Pond for a fish. They are hard to miss when in flight because of the loud rattling call they give. Reading from the “Practical Birdwatcher’s Handbook” by consulting editors Terence Lindsey and R.G. Turner Jr, they mention that during the first 10 days of a young Belted Kingfisher’s life it is taught to fish by the parents dropping a dead fish in the water for the young to catch. After that is mastered the young is chased away to find his own fishing territory. From this week’s list the highlights were Eurasian Wigeon, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Shrike and Northern Mockingbird.

February 2021 had 81 species recorded over the month. Generally, February is not too lively as most migratory birds have already moved through continuing their southern migration, but is one of the best months to observe birds of prey.



Ring-necked Duck

Photo: Betty Andres



Bushtit nest along the driveway

Photo: Kathleen Fry

January 31 – February 6

Lesser Scaup are seen almost every day this month. We don't often see Greater Scaup but this week mixed in with a small flock of Lesser Scaup one Greater Scaup turned up. At a quick glance they are similar but if you compare their heads, the Lesser Scaup has a slightly peaked crown and glossy purple feathering. The head of the Greater Scaup is rounded and glossy green in color. In both species the females are dark brown with a white face patch and pale blue bill. When looking for Scaup you might find a close relative, the Ring-necked Duck. Its name is a bit misleading as the ring that you notice is around the tip of the beak. In the right light conditions and if the bird holds its head just the right way you might be lucky to see the dark purple semi-circle around the back of its neck. On the 5th, perched in trees on both sides of Fuller Slough, 47 Great Blue Herons were counted taking advantage of this protected area out of the strong winds.

February 7 – February 13

Having had a bit of snow and a dip in temperature, we have more sightings of Varied Thrush, 5 Red-breasted Sapsuckers and 1 immature Northern Goshawk who were more than likely all pushed down from higher elevations. Western Meadowlark and the Northern Mockingbird are still popping up outside the "No Entry" gate at the Southwest Corner of the Sanctuary.

February 14 – February 20

One of the most elusive birds to locate, the American Bittern, is best found in tall grasses of the marsh. As we walked along the southern grassy trail heading out to the Seaward Dyke, an American Bittern was found in the earth-toned grasses on the south side of the trail. Standing very still so as not to be spotted worked well until it made a slight movement and gave its self away. Shortly Bitterns will be looking for mates and starting to build nests from emergent vegetation and tall grass as early as the beginning of April.

Other early nesters around the Sanctuary are Anna's Hummingbirds, Barn Owls, Great Horned Owls and Bushtits. This week we found the first Bushtit nest which was located on the east side of the Cork Oak just past the Warming Hut. You can spot Killdeer in every month of the year at the Sanctuary and the first February sighting happened in this week. The best place to look for them is in open farmland where they will be feeding on earthworms and insects. Killdeer, who have 2 dark chest bands, look similar to the Semipalmated Plovers who are smaller and only have 1 single chest band. Killdeer are particularly vocal in flight with a call that sounds like *kill-dee*, thus the name Killdeer. On the 19th a Great Horned Owl was found sitting in an old Red-tailed Hawk's nest (see page 4), so we are looking forward to seeing this nest hatch. Great Horned Owls tend not to build their own nest but stake claim to existing nests. On the 20th 2 American Bitterns were seen along the Southwest Trail.

February 21 – February 27

With 70 species recorded this week the following 7 species were highlights – Eurasian Wigeon, Red-breasted Merganser and Common Loon both seen offshore, Northern Goshawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Northern Shrike and Western Meadowlark. On the 27th we had the first sighting of a swallow but it was too far away to identify which species. Also on the 27th Red Crossbills were found. They were also more than likely pushed down from the higher elevations due to the snow earlier in the week. Also, once we noticed one Bushtit nest, we found several other ones, including one very viewable nest along the Sanctuary driveway.

March brings a welcome tinge of green to the bushes and trees as they start to leaf out. Flowering Currant and Salmonberry bushes, now with delicate pink flowers, attract both Anna's Hummingbirds and Rufous Hummingbirds. With a crossover of wintering birds and the start of the new spring arrivals the tally for March 2021 was 90 species.

(...../Continued page 10)

(continued from page 9)

March 1 – March 6

House Finch and Purple Finch are present now. The more common House Finch has spread from southwest North America to now cover most of the United States and southern Canada. Northeastern continental populations started with birds introduced from Mexico into Long Island, New York in the 1940's. They were sold in pet stores as "Hollywood Finches" but this illegal activity was reported to the Audubon Society and in turn a wildlife officer moved to shut down this illegal trade. Not wanting to be in trouble pet store owners released their inventory into the wilds. Since then House Finches have spread westward joining up with the dry interior of southwest USA populations that had been expanding northwards into western Canada. The male House Finch has a red brow, bib and rump with dusky streaking on under parts. Purple Finch, mostly viewed in winter, have a dull rose-red head, back, rump and breast. Both finches have sturdy wedge shaped beaks built for cracking seeds. Anna's Hummingbirds, one of the early nesters, have their first broods by now. Starting so early they will have time to have a second and maybe even a third brood.

March 7 – March 13

Now, with the spring migration under way, it didn't take long for the weekly list to jump to 76 species. The first warblers to show up each spring are the Yellow-rumped Warbler and the Orange-crowned Warbler which were both seen this week. Other first spring arrivals at this time were Long-billed Dowitcher, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, Hutton's Vireo and White-crowned Sparrow.

March 14 – March 20

Thousands of Lesser Snow Geese are still present and will be in good numbers until mid-April. Trumpeter Swans are now leaving the Fraser Valley making their way to northern BC, Alaska and Yukon in time for nesting. We finally had positive identification of both Tree Swallow and Violet-green Swallows. Out of the 6 swallow species recorded at the Sanctuary, these 2 species are the first to show up every spring. Tree Swallows have migrated from their winter home in the Caribbean, and Violet-green Swallows have come from Mexico and Central America. On the 20th we had 3 reports of American Bitterns all in the same area as previous weeks.

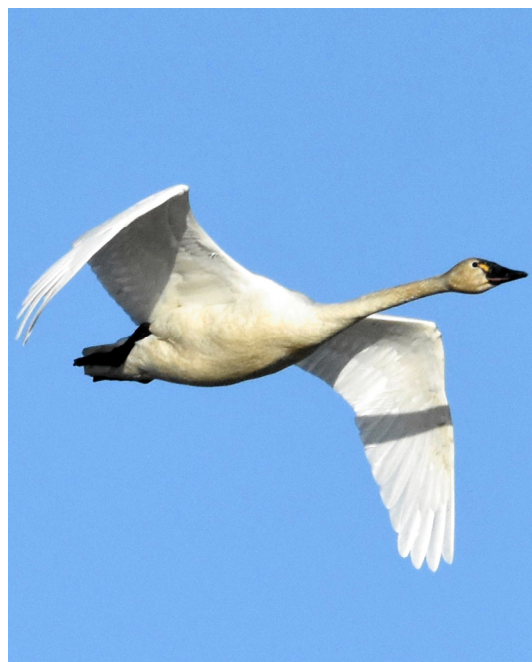
March 21 – March 27

On the 26th we were treated to an unusually high count of roughly 20 Tundra Swans as they flew over the parking lot. From the distance you can't tell them apart from Trumpeter Swans. If you are able to get a close look at them you will notice a yellow spot between the top of the beak and the eye. The best way

to tell them apart is by their call. As mentioned before the call of a Trumpeter Swan sounds like a trumpet, but the Tundra Swan has a very unusual call, which according to some, is described as a high pitched mellow cooing. The last confirmed sighting of a Black-crowned Night-Heron was on the 28th. In the next month you can observe nesting activity, and the hatchlings will be seen in May.

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks" John Muir.

Text: Varri Raffan
Gift Shop Manager



Tundra Swan

Photo: Kristina Breit

A QUIZ FOR YOU

By drawing a line to connect the species can you match the old names or slang names to the modern bird's names. (see page 11 for answers)

Marsh Hawk	Osprey
Wavies	American Wigeon
Spoonbill	Northern Shrike
Chicken Hawk	Northern Harrier
Wild Canary	Mergansers
White-bellied Swallow	Snow Goose
Sawbill	Tree Swallow
Fish Hawk	Cooper's Hawk
Mud or Eave Swallow	Northern Shoveler
Baldpate	American Goldfinch
Butcher Bird	Cliff Swallow

The Volunteer Corner

Special thanks to:

- ♦ Mary Taitt for leading our regular Sunday Bird Walk.
- ♦ Jim Martin, John Chandler, Emma Turgeon, Wayne Diakow, Peter Candido, Christine Barker, Brian Self and David Bruce for helping visitors along trails during our reopening in March.
- ♦ Eric Rossicci, Eileen Axford, Christine Barker and John Chandler for bagging seed and filling bird feeders.
- ♦ Our winter newsletter mailout team of Eileen Axford, Eric Rossicci, Jim Martin and Kristina Breit.
- ♦ Brian Self, Dan Dixon, Ivy Whitehorne, Nicole Lamarche, Amber Burnett, Morgan Dunne, Jason Eames, Mike and Sharon Tootchin, Peter Candido, Wayne Diakow and Kristina Breit for their assistance with our bi-weekly Sanctuary bird surveys.

Volunteers needed:

- ♦ Trailside hosts this spring and summer to answer visitor questions.

- ♦ Observers for our nest box monitoring program and other studies.

For more information, ask at the Gift Shop or visit our website. www.reifelbirdsanctuary.com and explore the Volunteer page.

Please leave your name and contact information at our office 604-946-6980 or send me an email.

Kathleen Fry (kathleen@reifelbirdsanctuary.com.)

Answers to Varr's Quiz (page 10):
Marsh Hawk (Northern Harrier)
Waves (Snow Geese)
Spoonbill (Shoveler)
Chicken Hawk (Cooper's Hawk)
Wild Canary (Goldfinch)
White-bellied Swallow (Tree Swallow)
Sawbill (Mergansers)
Fish Hawk (Osprey)
Mud or Eve Swallow (Cliff Swallow)
Baldpate (American Wigeon)
Butcher Bird (Northern Shrike)

Why be a Member?

As a Member, you receive the following benefits:

FREE admission for a year to the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary .

Quarterly issue of the BCWS publication "Marshnotes".

A 10% discount on purchases in the Sanctuary Gift Shop.

Membership in one of British Columbia's most respected conservation organizations.

With your support, the British Columbia Waterfowl Society is able to:

Staff, maintain and expand facilities at the Sanctuary for the benefit of its visitors and members; provide interpretive and education programs, including guided tours for organized groups of all ages; contribute towards important scientific research on waterfowl to determine their life cycle needs for survival; and provide support for like-minded organizations who are working on waterfowl-related projects.

Enclosed is my cheque or VISA/MasterCard number for:

SINGLE Membership: ☐ **\$25**

FAMILY Membership: ☐ **\$50**

LIFE Membership: ☐ **\$500**

Donation (tax deductible) ☐

VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐

VISA or MasterCard # _____

Expiry Date: _____

Name: (Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.) _____

Address: _____

Postal Code _____

Please mail to **British Columbia Waterfowl Society**
5191 Robertson Road, Delta BC V4K 3N2

Telephone: 604 946 6980 Fax: 604 946 6982
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BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

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