

Marshnotes®



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY
SPRING 2022**

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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**The British Columbia Waterfowl Society,
5191 Robertson Road,
Delta, British Columbia
V4K 3N2**

Telephone: 604 946 6980

Facsimile: 604 946 6982

Website: www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com

Email: bcws@reifelbirds sanctuary.com

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, 2022



*Planning a visit, but not sure if we are really busy?
We now send out a tweet from @ReifelSanctuary
when it looks like all spots are reserved already or
something interesting has been seen. The Twitter
account is often inactive if not needed for this.*

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Gift Shop Manager:	Varri Raffan
Reception:	Jean Zhang
Maintenance:	Dave McClue
Field technician:	Kristina Breit
Biologists:	Evan Gogal Marissa Sasaki
Education:	Dani McRobbie

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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Avian Flu Alert

An outbreak of the highly pathogenic versions H5 and H7 of Avian Influenza (AI) has been declared in BC. At low pathogenic levels, AI occurs naturally in herons and raptors, but mostly in wild populations of waterfowl, often heightened in spring when large numbers of birds naturally concentrate. Most ducks do not have any symptoms, but can carry the virus and transmit it through airborne means or via mucous, saliva or faeces to other wild birds and humans. When it mutates to a high pathogenic level, though, it causes significant neurological and respiratory distress in birds and most die. So far bird mortalities have been reported in over 20 States and 9 Canadian provinces, and many poultry farms are affected. Federal and provincial government Animal Health orders have the poultry farms keeping birds indoors to avoid exposure to wild birds. Although the disease spreads rapidly in these domestic birds, outbreaks also can cause die offs of wild bird populations. It has affected over 40 species of wild birds in 2022, including scavengers such as Bald Eagles. There have been mass mortality events in some Snow Geese in the Central Flyway. As of this April in BC, poultry operations in Enderby and Kelowna have been affected. A Bald Eagle from Stanley Park tested positive for the H5N1 pathogenic version in February, as has another Bald Eagle in Delta, and reports about other local bird species are increasing.

What does this mean here at the Sanctuary? After two years of Covid-19 prevention efforts, this is not the time to aggravate an outbreak of something else. Visitors may enjoy feeding the ducks here, but should avoid touching them and spreading the disease through hand-feeding, handling or petting. We recommend throwing seed on the ground for any birds here. Please clean footwear between visiting different birding sites, and avoid visiting poultry operations as there are strict protocols to follow to prevent the possible transfer of the virus between wild bird flocks and poultry farms. In 2014, there was a major outbreak of Avian Influenza that affected many poultry farms in the Fraser Valley, and most these farms had to destroy their birds to prevent the further spread of this disease

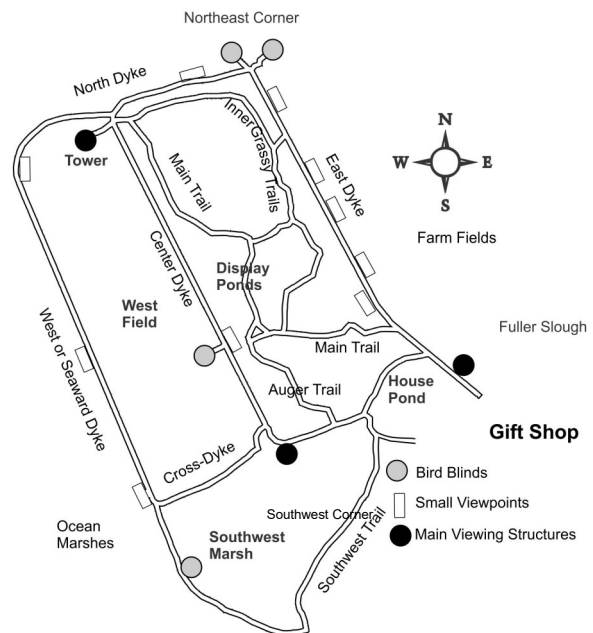
Sanctuary Locations Map

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

About Our Covers

Front Cover: Northern Goshawk © Jim Martin

Back Cover: The Bufflehead Party © Dan Parlee



Contents

Page	3	Avian Flu Alert
	4	Manager's Report
	7	Minutes of the 2022 AGM of the British Columbia Waterfowl Society
	8	Bird Highlights
	11	Volunteer's Corner
	11	Why Be a Member

Kathleen Fry

Varri Raffan

Manager's Report

Most of the first three months of 2022 were colder than usual, and windy and wet the rest of the time. There was rain on 62 of the 90 days and a couple of days of snow in early January. The Warming Hut became a popular winter retreat for visitors. Most of the 11,424 people that visited the Sanctuary during this period came prepared for the cold weather and were looking for the winter bird rarities. Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, Bohemian Waxwings, Common Redpolls, owls of any kind but particularly the Northern Saw-whet Owls, and raptors such as Northern Goshawk brought out many interested birders.

January and February were colder than last year, with an average daily temperature of 4.1 C and 4.4 C, and there were regular storm fronts, the most significant one being from January 7th to the 9th. This period coincided with extremely high "King" tides, and wind gusts of 83 km. When high winds and high tides converge like this, all of the log debris and anything else out on the exposed frontage of the tidal flats lifts and moves around and is joined by debris flowing down the river. Some of the driftwood logs that had been mired in the offshore mud for years were lifted and were swept by a rolling surf southwards to fetch up against the dykes to the south of the Sanctuary. Just in this past month, we have finally been able to get out during daytime low tides to see what happened to the Purple Martin nest boxes that went

missing north of the Observation Tower during this storm, and to remove some Styrofoam, a small fridge and other garbage just from the one area around the posts. There is a lot of marine debris still out there but the marsh is currently full of nesting Marsh Wrens, Red-winged Blackbirds, as well as possibly American Bitterns and Virginia Rails, so we will schedule a volunteer marsh clean-up day later this summer.

For most of January and February, the big flocks of ducks stayed out on the foreshore if ponds were frozen, and were dispersed over nearby muddy farm fields after major rain events. River Otters also kept them from congregating for too long in our ponds. In March, we were hoping for spring weather, but it was only marginally warmer and daytime temperatures took a surprising dip back to freezing and snow on the 10th and 11th. Most of the month was windy with a good chance of rain each day. Apart from a quite high number of Bufflehead (46) and Ring-necked Ducks (26) in March, birdlife has been about normal this year, and we started to see Bushtits, Canada Geese and the Sandhill Crane pair building nests at the end of the March. The 2021 offspring of our resident Sandhill Crane pair is going through the usual anxious phase exhibited by young cranes when their parents enter a new nesting season and do not want them in their territory. Over the winter, its red forehead patch developed, and its voice changed



Log debris just south of the Sanctuary on the high marsh zone

Photo: Kathleen Fry



Dani McRobbie with a table of feet, wings, feathers, furs and nests at Spring Break

Photo: Kathleen Fry

from the high pitched trill to an adult call. Its parents continued to keep close at hand until they built their first nest of the season in the cattail near the outlet control at the end of March. This young bird is not wanting to leave the Sanctuary or its family unit quite yet. It searches constantly for its parents when they disappear out into the marsh to build a nest away from prying eyes. We think this 2021 youngster is a male, based on the way our resident male treats it, and its own tendency to try defend the Sanctuary along with its parents when other visiting cranes are present.

It is always odd to see some Canada Geese nesting while flocks of Arctic-nesting Snow Geese are still present here in large flocks in March. From late February to the end of March, a wave of Snow Geese passed through the Fraser Delta on their way north to nesting areas on Wrangel Island Russia. When they feed offshore of the Sanctuary in March, they take advantage of the new growth of grasses coming up in the high marsh and are often very close to our Seaward Dyke.

Owls are a big draw for winter visitors, but sightings of the favourite species, the Northern Saw-whet Owl were scarce this year. There were a maximum of three seen in one day (February 11th), but most individuals of this small owl species showed up one at a time in 7 different locations,. Most consistent views were in

February in English Holly trees in the northeast corner and along Center Dyke. Barred Owls and Barn Owls were also seen this winter. Most of their roost sites are in areas closed to the public, but visitors had a good view of a Barred Owl for several days across the fence in the Northeast Corner in mid-January. The Great Horned Owls appeared to be nesting in February, but in March and all throughout April they showed up together in various locations, so they may have had a nest failure. There were only a few sightings of Short-eared Owls hunting over the foreshore marshes this winter, and no sightings of Long-eared Owls.

After almost two years with no school class bookings, we are now taking bookings from teachers for field trips to the Sanctuary in May and June. Our new Education staff Dani McRobbie will be delivering programs for these bookings. Teachers planning class field trips here should visit our website for details. To avoid overloading facilities such as the washrooms, and for the sake of the birds, we only take one group or class in the morning and one in the afternoon. We do not accommodate overly large groups or two classes at once. Spring Break in the local school districts brought many family groups out in the last weeks of March and the children were intrigued with the natural history items Dani brought out from the Museum.

...../Continued on page 6

(Continued from page 5)

In spite of less than comfortable weather, maintenance activities are ongoing. Cold spells and storms require snow removal and cleanup of debris and broken branches, righting benches, and topping up bird feeders and firewood supplies. Every year, we also take the debris out of the Wood Duck nest boxes to assess nesting success from the previous summer, then put in fresh wood shavings for the upcoming nest season. This is done well before the Wood Ducks actually nest so that they can check out the boxes as part of their courtship. Staff Kristina Breit led a party of volunteers to tackle this project on January 31st. Within a week of this, we started to see pairs of Wood Ducks up in the trees of East and North Dyke checking out the boxes, but also parading up and down high up tree branches and deck railings to impress their potential mates. These birds often do not move into their favourite nest box until March or April but do spend a lot of late winter investigating them. Even now, at the end of April, pairs are still up in trees calling and whistling to one another.

The smaller wooden nest boxes are for cavity-nesting songbirds such as Bewick's Wrens, Black-capped Chickadees, Tree Swallows, and Violet-green Swallows. All of the boxes have small plastic tags with numbers. If visitors want to contribute to our knowledge of our cavity nester nest box use, they can report any observations of birds using these boxes to the Gift Shop. We just need the box number, the date, what kind of bird, and what they were doing.

Our staff Dave McClue constructed a few more small wooden Barn Swallow shelters outside of the Center Dyke blind this winter. These experimental structures are following up on the success of the Bird Fort in Southwest Marsh built a few years ago just for this species. By creating shelters with some characteristics of the interior of bird blinds, we hope to provide suitable attachment sites for the specialized mud nests of Barn Swallows. We hope this will improve the nesting success of this species, and ask that visitors to keep away from these structures to avoid disturbing the birds. For many years, these swallows have built nests in the rafters of the Center Dyke blind itself, but have been disturbed regularly by visitors using the blind to view birds in West Field.

In late winter, we started to tidy up trail edges and pruned away blackberry from some of the areas where native plants and shrubs were planted between 2010 and 2012. These native planting areas showcase some of the typical coastal shrubs and flowering plants that can thrive here and that could be planted on a larger scale to replace some of the invasive Himalayan Blackberry hedges that dominate many trail edges here. Blackberry is difficult to eradicate and it also has considerable value to songbirds, so native planting



Volunteers servicing wood duck boxes. Photo: Jean Zhang

areas to date have been at a cautious level so that they can be easily kept free of invasives and so that they can be assessed for bird use. Just to the south of the big sign structure on the front entrance trail, for example, there are several small clearings planted with Indian Plum (Osoberry), Hardhack, Snowberry, Ocean Spray, Honeysuckle, Mountain Ash, Red-flowering Currant, and Ninebark. Some of these native plant species such as Hardhack, Snowberry, Honeysuckle and Mountain Ash already occur in the Sanctuary, along with a fair amount of well-established Salmonberry. The new additions Ocean Spray and Indian Plum have thrived in the planted areas, and Red-flowering Currant has thrived in moist areas and died off in drier areas.

From May onwards, we will have biologists Evan Gogal and Marissa Sasaki on full-time, as they have now have finished their Bachelor's of Science degree from BCIT. In addition to being part of the team tracking our birdlife, they will be working on projects using native plantings in shoreline stabilization and invasive plant management projects as part of the maintenance of the trail system.

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

Report on the 61st Annual General Meeting

The 61st Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 by zoom and teleconference due to COVID-19. BCWS President Jack Bates called the Meeting to order at 7:02 pm and welcomed everyone. A quorum was in attendance. Moira Moore acted as recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 60th AGM: The Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday April 21, 2021 were approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: The financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2021 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 members in attendance were responded to by the Treasurer.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACCOUNTANTS FOR 2022: KPMG were appointed as the Society's Accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, with remuneration to be determined by the Board.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The President introduced the Society's Directors and members who were present and gave a brief report on the Society and the Board's activities for the year 2021, 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 2021.

During 2021 the BCWS contributed \$40,000 to the Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust for the 2021-2022 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 its mission as they arise.

SANCTUARY MANAGER'S REPORT: The Sanctuary Manager's report was pre-circulated to the Board and members attending prior to the meeting. 2021 started with a two-month Covid-19 related closure from December 25th 2020 to March 2nd 2021. A few changes that were introduced in 2020 in response to Covid-19 continue and will likely remain as new procedures to operate the Sanctuary. We are now closed on Mondays, there is a seasonal outdoor handwashing station by the washrooms, and a reservation system helps to set a limit for the number of visitors coming to the Sanctuary each day.

With the current reservation system, a daily quota is now in place for the number of visitors on-site. As this daily quota was originally set quite low, it was increased in July and at the end of 2021 allowed 150 cars per day plus group bookings. In 2022, this is being increased cautiously to plan for about 200 cars (500 visitors) which would maximize use of existing parking assuming a number of the morning visitors left at lunch time. The system has helped with past issues of traffic congestion, crowding of birds and the overloading of infrastructure such as the washrooms. It is taking some time for visitors to get used to the new operating procedures and the lower number of visitors, but they are likely going to continue to be needed in the future for effective operation of the Sanctuary.

Our website www.reifelbirdsantuary.com continues to function as our main communication tool for the general public and as an education link for teachers and students. Our 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: Wayne Diakow, James Morrison and Gerald Oyen.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 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

Bird Highlights

Even with a cold start in January 2022 the bird list for the month consisted of 92 species, a very good start for the new year.



Bohemian Waxwing

Photo: John Whitmore

January 2 – January 8

At the Sanctuary Cedar Waxwings can be found throughout the year, but the Bohemian Waxwings are mainly found from November through January. On the 2nd we had 14 Bohemian Waxwings along East Dyke. Dabbling ducks are present in good numbers through the Fall and Winter but now we are seeing more of the diving ducks such as Common and Hooded Mergansers and Greater and Lesser Scaup. Dabbling ducks are called this because of they use their bill in a rapid nibbling motion to sever food from mud or water. Diving ducks have legs placed at the rear of the body which assists them in steering when searching for food underwater. Ruddy Ducks are one of the expert divers and visitors were lucky to locate 1 male on the 2nd in a waterway near the tower. Other interesting birds found in this week were American Bittern, Wilson's Snipe, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Hermit Thrush.

January 9 – January 15

When walking the trails in January you're not expecting to find any of the swallow species, but on the 14th and 15th visitors found up to 5 Barn Swallow circling above in search of insects. On the 15th a Northern Shrike was seen along the outer Seaward Dyke. This area seems to be where the majority of Northern Shrike sightings take place. Both Merlin and Peregrine Falcons were present this week. Out of the 75 species recorded some sightings of note were Common Goldeneye, Horned Grebe, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Western Meadowlark and Purple Finch.

January 16 – January 22

On the 16th in a Cedar Tree along the Center Dyke a visitor was lucky enough to catch a quick glimpse of a

Barn Owl. Although more tolerant of humans than most owls it didn't stay long once it had too many eyes watching him. In the House Pond on the 22nd a lovely male Cinnamon Teal was located. One of the more elegant and nicely marked waterfowl is the Northern Pintail. Both the male and female have long slender necks which enables them to feed in the deeper waterways. As their name implies, especially in the male, they do have a long needlelike tail. Males also have lovely brown heads, a blue beak, a white chest and a white stripe that carries up the side of its neck. The females are much less showy with a mottled brownish gray body which proves to be practical when you are sitting on a nest and trying not to be noticed by a predator. You will see this dull coloration, which acts as camouflage, in a majority of female waterfowl and many female songbirds. Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk were all present this week and could be seen throughout the Sanctuary distressing songbirds or waterfowl depending on the hawk's food preference.

January 23 – January 29

All sections of the Sanctuary had numerous highlights worth mentioning from the diverse list of 74 bird species. I thought by inserting the locations map from 2018 with some of the main species it would save 1000 words and give you a good idea on where to look for particular species in the future. (see next page).

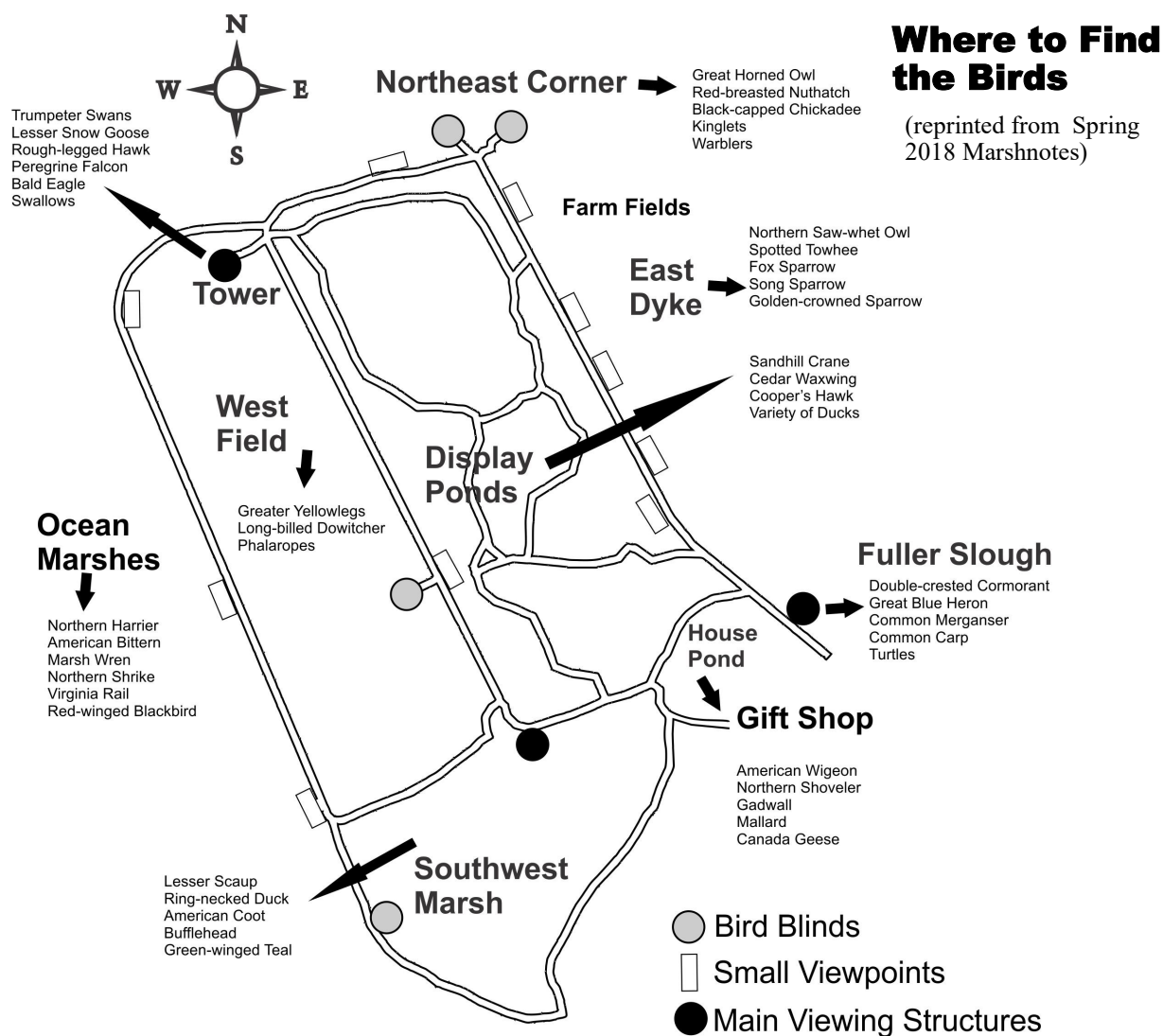
In February we are all anticipating the arrival of spring and the returning spring migrants. February 2022 had a grand total of 84 different bird species reported.

January 30 – February 5

It is not often you find a duck that looks like it has been pieced together from 2 different species of duck. But it does happen in the wild. This week visitors reported a Hybrid cross between a Cinnamon Teal and a Blue-winged Teal. "Hybrid" is defined as the result of two related species interbreeding. Over the years we have found hybrids such as Mallard x Pintail and Mallard x Muscovy. Offshore highlights were Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Surf Scoter and roughly 350 Trumpeter Swans who will be with us until around the middle of March.

February 6 – February 12

Most Northern Saw-whet Owl sightings are reported from the northeast corner, but during a walk on Center Dyke on the 7th, I found a Northern Saw-whet Owl tucked in nice and tight in a Holly Bush. It could have been perched there unseen for days prior to this, but of course secrecy is what owls are trying to achieve, out of the way of prying eyes and predators. Along the verge of the entrance driveway watch for Varied Thrush mixed in with the American Robins. A Varied



Thrush is a more slender looking bird with an orange eye stripe. Both birds have the same brick red color on their chest and throat but the Varied Thrush has a dark breast band which is more noticeable on the male. When walking in a forested area in the winter, listen for their song which is a distinctive single long buzzy whistle. Birds that made the highlight list for the week included Greater White-fronted Goose, Mew Gull, Short-eared Owl and Western Meadowlark.

February 13 – February 26

I have combined records from 2 weeks, as they each had similar species. After not finding an American Bittern for the last 5 weeks one showed up on the 19th in the West Field. On the 15th 1 Northern Saw-whet Owl was found at the north end of the East Dyke. On the 19th a member reported seeing 10 unidentified swallows flying over the Display Ponds. The next day at the front gate, it was probably the same small flock of birds this time identified as 10 Barn Swallows. The mild, sunny day of the 20th brought out a turtle who

was spotted on a log enjoying the little bit of heat from the sun. In the next months watch for both Western Painted Turtles and Red-eared Sliders sunning on the logs on the left bank of Fuller Slough.

Although we had another Northern Saw-whet Owl sighting again on the 21st, this was not a big year for this species, especially compared to 1995 when we were able to locate 10 of them along the trails. Over this 2 week period other highlights to mention were Eurasian Wigeon, Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Merlin, American Pipit, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin.

The species list for March 2022 ended with a total of 85 different birds. Such a welcome sight to see new green buds showing on trees and bushes, along with bright blooming daffodils, soft pink colored flowers from the Salmon berry and best of all the lovely songs from birds looking for mates. Winter has turned the corner and we welcome the much anticipated spring.

February 27 – March 5

The loud, boisterous calls of male Red-winged Blackbirds are hard to miss now. The males, who display their bright red shoulder patches, are staking claim to breeding territories. Females will arrive in 1 to 4 weeks and start building a cup shaped nest constructed of woven grasses attached to cattails, bulrushes and reeds. This will take her 3-6 days to complete. Black-capped Chickadees are also very vocal now trying to attract mates. They have a 2 tone high-low call which reminds me of high pitched words “you who”, as if to say look at me over here. Tree and Violet-green Swallows both made their first appearance on the 5th. Tree Swallows will settle in our area and claim a nesting box near water’s edge while Violet-green Swallows head further north into central Alaska to nest. Also on the 5th an adult Northern Goshawk was seen near the wooden viewing platform.

March 6 – March 12

Only 1 of the Black-crowned Night-Herons now remains. On the 6th the Northern Goshawk was seen again at the south end of the Center Dyke. At first glance Northern Goshawks look a lot like Cooper’s Hawks but they are larger and have a distinctive white eyebrow. March 11th we noticed the first male Rufous Hummingbird at the garden feeder outside the Gift Shop. Adult males return from their wintering grounds in Mexico first to claim territory for the arriving females shortly after. Their arrival coincides with the first blooming of Salmonberry and Red-flowering Currant bushes for which they rely on for their first sources of nectar. With Anna’s Hummingbirds and the Rufous Hummingbirds now using the feeders we are filling 5 of them daily. This will turn into a more frequent commitment by late April and May when fledged young hummingbirds learn to use the feeders.

March 13 – March 19

The return of swallows is another sign of spring. This week Tree Swallows, Violet-green Swallows, Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows were all reported. On the 18th at the south end of the Center Dyke the first Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen. Also on the 18th visitors reported approximately 2000 American Wigeon and 10 Eurasian Wigeon in the farm field off the East Dyke. This is without doubt a high count in one area for both wigeon species. This week ended with 72 different species, with Greater-white Fronted Goose, American Bittern, Northern Goshawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Peregrine Falcon, Cedar Waxwing and Western Meadowlark being highlights.

March 20 – March 26

Another Northern Saw-whet Owl surprised us in a Fir branch by the Auger Cairn on the south end of Display Ponds. March 20th a Canada Goose started the first nest of the season near the Museum. Once she has built her nest and laid a clutch of eggs she will sit tight and incubate them for roughly 25 days. If all goes



Northern Saw-whet Owl

Photo: John Whitmore

well and the eggs are not predated we could see goslings in the last week of April. Mallards start a bit later so we don’t see many ducklings until the middle of May. Trumpeter Swans have left Delta now and have headed to Northern BC, Yukon and Alaska to breed. On March 25th we had an early sighting of a Cinnamon Teal, a species we usually see from April to September. You may have witnessed Canada Geese having noisy territorial disputes, or trying to intimidate one another. They may hiss at you as you walk by but this is their way of keeping you moving out of their nesting territory.

March 27 – April 2

In late March, waterfowl numbers decrease. The large winter populations are now be heading back to where they were born to nest and the remaining resident birds are quietly building their nests. Spring migration is now underway with Lesser Yellowlegs, Purple Martin, American Kestrel, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Northern Rough-winged Swallow in the list of new arrivals. An Anna’s Hummingbird nest was located along the lower grassy North Dyke. This is the time to look for the well camouflaged nests of Rufous and Anna’s Hummingbirds while there are few leaves on trees. The female Anna’s Hummingbird builds the nest in about 7 days, and after laying her 2 eggs she will continue to build the outside of the nest by adding lichen and binding it with spider’s silk. The eggs will hatch in 2 weeks and they will leave their nest in another 2 weeks. Anna’s Hummingbirds occur year round and were first noticed at the Sanctuary in September 2008.

For the full weekly lists, visit our website page www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com/birds2.html. Feel free to stop by the Gift Shop if you need a bird identified, or just to share photos and highlights of your visit. In April expect to see more warblers and shorebird species. By May and June ducklings and goslings will be noticeable.

Text: Varri Raffan
Gift Shop Manager

The Volunteer Corner

Special thanks to:

- ♦ Mary Taitt for leading our regular Sunday Bird Walk.
- ♦ Brian Self, Jim Martin, John Chandler, Rene Williamson, Mary Taitt, Emma Turgeon, Luca Santamaria, Dirk Fleming and Eva Janzen for helping visitors along trails, filling bird feeders and helping prune along trails this season.
- ♦ Christine Barker, Eric Rossicci, and Eileen Axford for bagging seed.
- ♦ Our winter newsletter mailout team of Eileen Axford, Eric Rossicci, and Jim Martin as well as staff.
- ♦ Brian Self, Gabby Thompson, Josh Lee, Peter Candido, Ben Lambert, Janice White and our staff for helping with our bi-weekly Sanctuary bird surveys.
- ♦ Margaret Gorham for hosting visitors at the Museum every Sunday.

- ♦ Donald Chen, Lorraine Villeneuve, Kim Tung, Han Wang, and Michael Baker who helped service the wood duck nest boxes in January.

Volunteers needed:

- ♦ Sanctuary visitor hosts for busy weekends through the nesting season and into the summer.
- ♦ Work parties for special projects this summer. See our volunteer page on our website for details.

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 (kathleen@reifelbirdsanctuary.com.)

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
Website: www.reifelbirdsanctuary.com

BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

5191 Robertson Road, Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2



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The Bufflehead Party © Dan Parlee