

Marshnotes[®]



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY
SUMMER 2015**

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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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARSHNOTES

October 15th, 2015

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

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Barn Swallows Over The Landscape

Although Barn Swallows are a common sight, swooping over our farmland and marshes in the lower mainland, their populations have been declining for many years. To explore the reasons for these declines and assess habitat quality for this species, Simon Fraser University and Environment Canada have embarked on a joint research project in the area. Graduate student Olga Lansdorp has been examining the effect of different types of habitat on the breeding success and foraging behavior of Barn Swallows on Westham Island, around Ladner and other sites across the lower mainland. One exciting finding was a bird that Olga banded as a nestling in 2013 at a farm on Westham Island, became a breeding adult at Reifel Bird Sanctuary this year, showing that locally produced young return and contribute to the local population. Olga is busy writing up her thesis this summer but preliminary results show that more swallows forage over grassland set-aside fields than adjacent cultivated fields, indicating the importance of a mix of field types on the landscape.

Following on from Olga's work, new student Chloe Boynton is focusing on the crucial period after the chicks leave the nest and before they migrate south. During this period, they must learn to forage independently, avoid predators and other dangers and put on fat for the long flight to South America. Chloe and her assistant Jessie Russell have been attaching



*Banded Barn Swallow at Warming Hut Nest June 28th 2015
Photo: Kathleen. Fry*

tiny radio-transmitters to the birds shortly before they fledge and following them as they move farther from the nest sites. So far they have been observed foraging over local farm fields and wetlands but are starting to move farther away. Chloe will also be trying to identify important sites for swallow roosting in the lower mainland so if you know of areas where swallows gather to roost overnight, please contact her at chloe_kb@hotmail.com.

Text: Dr. Nancy Mahony, PhD
Research Biologist, Environment Canada
Edmonton, Alberta

About Our Covers:

Front Cover: Blue-winged Teal © Jim Martin Back Cover: Wilson's Phalarope © Kristina Breit

Contents

Page	3	Barn Swallows Over the Landscape	Dr. Nancy Mahony
	4	Manager's Report	Kathleen Fry
	6	A Closer Look at Rufous Hummingbirds	Dr. Christine Bishop
	7	Bird Highlights	Varri Raffan
	10	2015 Crane Sagas	Kathleen Fry
	11	Volunteer Corner	
	11	Why Be a Member?	

Manager's Report

It has been a very hot and dry summer so far, with only 11 mm of rain for all of May and June compared to the usual 100 mm or so for this period. Even with a few days of light showers recently, the Sanctuary's lawns have dried to a crisp. Our Canada Geese, cranes and ducks are gazing longingly at what used to be cool shady grass for loafing and foraging. The Red-eared Slider turtle nest dug mid-May on the house lawn looks like a small patch of concrete right now. All upland habitats are tinder dry, and we are likely to have several more months with little rain, so there is no smoking and no cooking of food anywhere, and please leave the dogs at home.

Of course, dry warm days in spring usually make the Sanctuary an attractive destination, particularly for April and May when the ducklings and goslings hatch. This April, attendance was just above normal for April (8634 visitors), really high for May (9777), and a bit low in June (5493).

Mallards, Gadwall, Wood Duck and Canada Geese are the main nesting waterfowl in the summer months. As in most years, we saw a small number of broods all hatch in the last week of April, another batch at the end of May, and there are still some brand new Mallard and Wood Duck broods hatching late June and early July. Gadwall pairs may have had problems this year, or we weren't watching carefully for them.

A couple of Gadwall broods probably hatched at the beginning of June and went unnoticed for weeks, but otherwise there have not been many signs of nesting.

We took advantage of the dry weather to do a few repairs. One of the lookouts along East Dyke was re-designed, and Shangri-La Landscaping brought in some large rock to reinforce the shoreline along Robertson Slough by the parking lot, changing the look of the area considerably. In early April we began repairing the eroded dyke edges along the Southwest Marsh Trail. It may look like we made a couple of cages of grass, but the whole bank was reconstructed. Grass was planted to keep soils in place, but protected from grazing Canada Geese by the cages until it was well-established.

Work plans for late summer and early fall include some careful removal of cattail clogging waterways, and tidying up around the tower. The washrooms by the parking lot are going to be upgraded and will be under construction in late summer. Portable toilets will be provided during this work.

Birdlife continues on as usual while we carrying out these maintenance activities. For most of April and part of May we watched our nesting pair of Sandhill Cranes chase the younger cranes around and then make seemingly random nest choices. See page 10 for the saga that has resulted once again in no young produced this summer.



Excavator placing rock along Robertson Slough at the parking lot.

Photo: Kathleen Fry

At this time of year, there are little periods of excitement when people witness flocks of shorebirds wheeling around or catch a glimpse of a secretive species such as a Virginia Rail, or better yet, a family of Virginia Rails. Large herds of flightless Canada Geese rove the trails waiting for primary feathers to grow. Male Mallards hide in plain sight in their eclipse plumage. Young crows explore garbage cans.

Insectivorous birds probably had a fine time in late May and early June when waterways along the inner trail system dried up and released hordes of hungry mosquitoes. Many summer visitors do not seem to understand insectivorous birds, or any other birds that don't eat bird seed for that matter. I am quite pleased to have an article about Barn Swallows and one on Rufous Hummingbirds in this edition of Marshnotes to give readers a look at the bigger picture for these birds. We seem to have to monitor and educate people every summer who are too close to the Barn Swallow's mud nests and Tree Swallow's nest boxes, or else leave them bird seed. It was interesting to note that Barn Swallows, when they first arrived this spring, checked out sites underneath the Warming Hut deck out of sight of visitors before any other sites.

At the end of April, we had the first couple of Purple Martins and within a week or so, there were as many as five of these birds checking out the old boxes that are situated north of the tower and out along an off-shore tidal channel. For the past two years, these birds have used just one box of this old complex, and that box is only supported by a single board wired to an old piling. Over this past winter, part of the structure fell off, so we assumed they would really be in the market for a new home this spring and would start looking at the new multiple-box pole put up last year.

It's the same story every time people construct some wildlife habitat. There is always a wrinkle. We had forgotten about putting up perches on the new structure last year, and a Great Blue Heron had taken to sitting atop the flat area created by the multiple boxes. When we attached the antennae-like perches this spring, as well as wire guards, all of these things were in the way of the heron, and it moved over to the older boxes and sat atop the very box the birds nested in for the past two years! We hadn't anticipated that, and we also hadn't really thought that the Purple Martins would still like their old box.

It was almost a month before the heron moved to a new perch spot and the Purple Martins could check out their old box. A pair has nested, though. On July 10th, a male and female, each with an aluminum band



Shoreline restoration cage Photo: Dan Dixon

on their right leg, were observed feeding young and going in and out of the same box used in 2013 and 2014. We are pretty sure this is the same pair that nested there last year.

The oddest sight for myself this summer was on June 13th, when one of our water control boxes sounded like a washing machine on spin cycle. When I lifted the top grating, two full-grown otters jumped out from inside and fled down the slough. I think they had been trapped in there a while, but I am not sure how they got in to that closed space.

In these next upcoming months, we expect to see our big moulting flock of Canada Geese moving on, some waves of shorebirds from the north arriving, and visitors arguing about picking blackberries, apples and everything else they want to take home. What grows in the Sanctuary, stays in the Sanctuary, folks. Leave the habitats for the birds.

Text: Kathleen Fry, RPBio
Sanctuary Manager

A Closer Look at Rufous Hummingbirds

Rufous Hummingbird populations have experienced a large decrease in Canada ($\geq 50\%$) and it is the only hummingbird species that has shown significant declines among the five species that occur in this country. The largest portion of the global breeding range of the Rufous Hummingbird is in British Columbia. There may be multiple factors causing this decline including local stressors and broad reaching factors such as climate and landscape change. Being a migratory species, these birds encounter different challenges throughout their breeding and migratory range. Many of these routes pass through agricultural areas and suburban natural areas which may provide benefits and challenges to hummingbird survival.

As a collaborative group, Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Royal Roads University, Environment Canada, and Simon Fraser University are examining hummingbird population size, annual return rates and survivorship in a variety of ecosystem types in BC. Hummingbird banding will provide this information. Our interest is primarily in Rufous Hummingbird populations however we will also sample Anna's Hummingbirds which are extending their northern range into southern BC. GIS analysis will allow us to interpret the surrounding habitat types to the sample size. We are also testing a potential method for

measuring pesticide exposure in Hummingbirds by collecting urine and feces from the banded birds. Using a non-invasive technique, a pipette can be used to collect urine and feces as it is produced from the cloaca of the bird while it is in the hand during banding.

Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary is an ideal spot for sampling because there is natural habitat located near agricultural areas. Hummingbirds will travel 1 to 2 km to feed, however feeders at Reifel offer a location where birds congregate and can be trapped. To reduce disturbance to the birds, we plan to sample the site on single days in April, May, and June each year for 5 years. The data from this site will be combined with the larger sample of sites throughout BC. This is the first year of the study and it is a pilot year. With the generous help of staff and volunteers, we sampled at Reifel on one occasion but will be back next April!

Text: Dr. Christine Bishop, PhD
Research Scientist,
Environment Canada
Delta, BC

For more information, visit Environment Canada's website on this species:

<http://ec.gc.ca/soc-sbc/oiseau-bird-eng.aspx?sY=2011&sL=e&sM=c&sB=RUHU>



Careful handling of these tiny birds

Photo: Eric Rossicci

Editor's Note: Dr. Christine Bishop from Environment Canada and Dr. Alison Moran from the Rocky Point Bird Observatory trapped and banded hummingbirds here on June 26th. Using a special trap fitted around a feeder, three birds were captured, their data and samples collected, and birds released with a shiny new leg band. Many thanks for the chance to learn more about these tiny birds.

Bird Highlights

Thank you to all who take the time to record sightings in our Bird Sightings Log Book on the Gift Shop deck. We appreciate this help in compiling the Sanctuary records.

In April waterfowl numbers are low because most of them have headed back to nest where they were born. Warblers and shorebirds are now on the rise. April 2015 had 106 species observed at the Sanctuary.

March 29th – April 4th

Two of the last Trumpeter Swans of the season flew over the House Pond on the 3rd, and the last Black-crowned Night-Heron departed this week. We can expect them back approximately the first week of August. Cackling Geese were spotted on Fuller Slough this week. With the same markings as a Canada Goose, the Cackling Goose is a miniature version with a shorter beak and a higher pitched honk. Shorebird species present this week were Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, and Greater Yellowlegs. The Sandhill Cranes began nesting this week, with two eggs by the 4th. See page 10 for the 2015 crane nesting summary.

April 5th – April 11th

75 species were seen this week. Trumpeter Swans were not all gone after all, as we found one on the 7th by itself in Fuller Slough. It spent a couple of days in the slough and we weren't sure if it had an injury or if it was in no hurry to migrate out of here. A Common Yellowthroat was reported on the 7th, a Wilson's Snipe on the 8th, an American Bittern on the 9th, and a flock of 25 Greater White-fronted Geese and a Sora on the 11th. Barn Swallows and Cinnamon Teal returned this week. We were still able to locate a Northern Saw-whet Owl and a Long-eared Owl this week.

April 12th – April 18th

Some first spring sighting at the Sanctuary this week included Turkey Vulture, Bank Swallow, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow Warbler and a hatch of 5 Wood Duck ducklings. A second Bushtit nest was found along the East Dyke. Did you know that the female Bushtit has yellow eyes and the male has dark brown eyes and that they can nest up to 2 times in a season? Lincoln's Sparrow and Savannah Sparrow were 2 of the 7 species of sparrows seen this week. There are still a few hundred Snow Geese being seen off our

westerly foreshore and south to Brunswick Point at the end of River Road West. These birds are probably first year non-breeding birds in no hurry to head to the nesting ground of Wrangel Island, Russia.

April 19th – April 25th

This time of year you hear a lot of songbirds singing as they are trying to attract mates and proclaim territories. New arrivals this week include Caspian Tern, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Merlin, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Townsend's Warbler. The last spring Northern Saw-whet Owl was seen in one of the cedar trees by the parking lot. We will see them back at the Sanctuary around the first week of October. April 21st a female Red Crossbill was seen at the Sanctuary front gate.

April 26th – May 2nd

With 83 species being sighted in this week, this is the peak time for spring bird activity. At the main gate on the 29th a Black-headed Grosbeak was seen. The first of the Purple Martins arrived here on the 30th of April, one week earlier than last year. Hopefully they will nest in our numerous nest boxes located north of the tower. Fifteen Greater White-fronted Geese were spotted on the 30th off the East dyke feeding among Canada Geese and Cackling Geese. May 1st was the first report of Hammond's Flycatcher and Warbling Vireo. Sora, Pine Siskin, Pileated Woodpecker, and Least Sandpiper were some other good sightings for this week.

May is the time we see shorebirds migrating through our area as they are heading north to nest. From the middle of May into June is the best time to see the ducklings and goslings. Species count for May 2015 was 93.

May 3rd – May 9th

May 6th the first Blue-winged Teal was seen on the House Pond behind the Gift Shop. Besides the bright blue distinguishing marks on the wings seen in flight, you'll notice the male has a white crescent patch in front of the eyes. In this week we have all 3 species of Teal present. May 7th an Osprey was fishing in Southwest Marsh. May 9th a family of Sora and a family of Virginia Rails were spotted in the reeds south of the observation tower. Both species of chicks are very small and totally black. You have to be at the

..... /continued page 8



Virginia Rail and young

Photo: Bert Sharp

(continued from page 7)

right place at the right time to see these birds as they dart to the safety of reed beds. Caspian Terns are now being heard overhead. Even with their distinctive call, sounding much like a fighting cat, they are always hard to locate in the sky. A lovely male Western Tanager with its yellow body and a red head was seen at the end of East Dyke. This area is also good to view Black-headed Grosbeaks and Bullock's Orioles in the summer. In the shallows of West Field you can find Least Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs at this time of year.

May 10th – May 16th

On the 11th 1 male and 2 female Wilson's Phalaropes joined the rest of the shorebirds in the West Field. The Wilson's Phalaropes are coming back from Argentina, Chile and Peru where they spend the winter and are now heading to wetlands throughout the British Columbia interior to nest. At this time of the year we notice that a few species such as White-crowned Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, and Fox Sparrow, American Coot, Common and Hooded Mergansers are heading elsewhere to nest. We will see them return in the fall. There are only a handful of American Wigeon, left and many Downy Woodpeckers, Brown Creepers and Northern Flicker may leave for the summer to nest elsewhere.

May 17th – May 23rd

Dropping down to only 65 species for this week's list, we now head into the quiet summer months. Last year at this time we reported a cross between a Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal. Well, in the same week this year we had a cross between a Blue-winged Teal and a Northern Shoveler. This is not as rare as you would think. There are lots of articles documenting Blue-Winged Teal crosses with Northern Shovelers, Green-wing Teal, Eurasian Green-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal.

Swallows present this week include Cliff Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow and Tree Swallow. On the 18th some visitors were treated to views of a Snowy Owl as it sat on a distant log offshore of the West Dyke. It is very unusual to see a Snowy Owl at the Sanctuary, let alone one at this time of year. In the shallows of West Field 30 Long-billed Dowitchers, 12 Blue-winged Teal and 9 Cinnamon Teal were observed. May 20th a single Turkey Vulture was seen circling over the parking lot and a Townsend's Warbler was also seen.

May 24th – May 30th

May 24th a Cassin's Vireo was heard singing along the driveway. September 5, 2013 was the last report of a Cassin's Vireo. New species for this week included the Olive-sided Flycatchers and Pacific-slope Flycatchers. Five Purple Martins were seen checking out the nest boxes. There seems to be at least 1 American Wigeon and 1 Bufflehead lingering on here out of our wintering flocks. One of our members witnessed 5 American White Pelican flying in off the foreshore and right over the tower heading east. A Northern Harrier was seen this week. This is the time of the year that they will be nesting out in foreshore marshes. Their nests will be compiled of small piles of vegetation positioned on the ground or over water.

At the start of June the resident waterfowl certainly aren't looking their best as they are going into moult,

or “eclipse plumage”. This answers the question “Where have all the drake mallards gone?” There were 91 bird species in June.

May 31st – June 6th

Highlights of the week included a Spotted Sandpiper on the 31st, 4 Bullock’s Orioles on the 4th, a Green Heron in Fuller Slough on both the 5th and 6th, and a Rufous Hummingbird nest on the 6th. The nest was located across the ditch from the first viewing deck on the east side of the East Dyke. It was built on a blackberry branch. Very good spotting!

June 7th – June 13th

In Fuller Slough, there was a male Redhead and a Lesser Scaup this week. Two Eastern Kingbirds were seen flying over Southwest Marsh. About 1½ inches bigger than swallows, the Eastern Kingbird has a pale front and a dark gray back and tail which is fringed with a white band. Kingbirds are in the Flycatcher family and are insect eaters. We have had Eastern Kingbirds nest at the Sanctuary as recently as third week in June 2014 and as far back as May 1997. We will be keeping an eye on them to see if we can locate any nest site.

June 14th – Jun 20th

This week’s species list ended with a total of 58. It will remain this quiet until about mid-August when we start to see large flocks of shorebirds return from the north. On June 17th along the center dyke, near the tower end, a Great Horned Owl was seen. The crows were creating a real ruckus and dive bombing this bird and giving away its location. When you see this behaviour by crows, try and locate their target as it could be a bird of prey or raccoon. Speaking of Raccoons, some members noticed little raccoon faces poking out of the Barn Owl nest box located at the north end of the center dyke. Luckily the Barn Owls are finished with it as they nest in early spring. This week we had 4 visiting Sandhill Cranes at the Sanctuary bringing the total to 12. They were found feeding on a newly planted grain field off East Dyke.



Eastern Kingbird with nest material

Photo: Kristina Breit

On the 20th three Eastern Kingbirds were seen and one of them had a mouthful of feathers. We still haven’t found where they are constructing their nest. Barn Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, Swainson’s Thrush and Redhead were some other highlights for this week. For the past few months, we have had just one last remaining female Bufflehead spending the summer here after all others left in April.

June 21st – June 27th

You will notice that there are hardly any Black-capped Chickadees to be found at this time of year. The bulk of them have headed up the mountainsides to nest. The remaining nesting Chickadees are busy catching nutritious insects to feed to their growing young. They are not interested in feeding on Black Oiled Sunflower seeds from hands of our visitors. A brood of 6 Gadwall chicks were noticed this week. They have eluded public viewing as they were approximately 3 weeks old. A young Great Horned Owl was spotted in “Owl Corner” (Northeast corner). Brewer’s Blackbird, Turkey Vulture, Band-tailed Pigeon and Wilson’s Phalaropes were some other good sightings for this week.

Text: Varri Raffan
Gift Shop Manager

2015 Crane Sagas

Where to even begin with the cranes this year? It has been a very uneven nesting season for the Sanctuary's Sandhill Cranes. Here are some of the headlines.

Our Sanctuary pair did not produce any young this year. They laid two eggs on their usual island on April 2nd and 4th, but abandoned the nest on the 9th and seemed a bit spooked. They avoided the island area for the next few weeks and explored other sites, eventually whipping up a quick pile of cattail on the back side of House Pond April 24th and laying an egg in this nest on the 25th. Our relief was short-lived, as they abandoned that nest after just one day, then made another cattail nest on the 28th on a log in Southwest Marsh, laid an egg, then abandoned it after one day.

We began to refer to them as the Easter Bunnies, and wondered where the next egg would be laid.

In the meantime, geese took over their usual island. The female crane strolled over to it May 9th, walked around it several times, looking at the goose nesting on what would normally be her nest site, then climbed up and flapped her wings in the face of said goose. If we did that, everyone would think we were picking a fight, so let's assume she was making a point to the goose. It was probably one of the geese that kept climbing up on the island and honking in her face while she was incubating. The flap didn't result in any change of island ownership, but the next day, the crane pair built a nest on a shrubby island only about 10 m west of the sitting goose, laid an egg on it on May 11th, then abandoned the nest on the 12th.

The International Crane Foundations offered several ideas why this was happening. With the age of the older male, the eggs may be infertile or one of the birds is not doing their share of incubating. Predators such as raccoons get a fix on a nesting pair, and may follow them around from nest to nest. The presence of six non-breeding cranes may also be very distracting. We do not know.

The gang of immature birds or the "young and the nest-less" are still the same (and still here). None of them have graduated to the status of a mature bird with a mate and a nest site. Junior, our 2010 colt, was in charge of the gang this spring, but fought constantly about territories with the resident male, and left after a fight mid-March. He returned in late May. His prolonged absence seems to have resulted in the 4 males of the gang of 6 all assuming they were now in charge, and they have chased him every day since his



Moulted Crane Feathers

Photo: Kathleen Fry

return. For most of June, he has relaxed with his parents, away from the gang, but if the latter finds him, the chase starts immediately. The gang was diverted from this pursuit in late June and early July when we had small flocks of 6 to 10 new birds dropping in, making crane numbers rise to 19 for several days. From here on, we expect to see more small flocks of cranes gathering for the fall migration. Last year, numbers of cranes night roosting here in the fall peaked at 61 birds.

The adult pair that visits over the winter and nests in Richmond had serious troubles this spring, and the male has died. In February, the pair departed for Richmond and were getting ready to nest by Country Meadows Golf Course, when the male crane was hit by a golf ball on the 28th, breaking its leg. As this was part of a nesting pair, a wait and see approach was taken and he was left to heal naturally, spending the next month hopping about. He was just starting to use the leg again when there was another unfortunate golfing accident, this time a compound fracture of the other leg. Ultimately, the decision was made to euthanize this bird on April 15th. Ironically, x-rays showed the first injury had healed very well. This pair has generally produced two young every year, and in the last few years has been the main reason for the growth of our gang. Nobody has seen any young at the Golf Course this year, and we do not know where the mate is.

A pair of cranes nested at Burnaby Lake for the first time, suddenly appearing with a very young chick at Piper's Spit on June 26th The chick has disappeared but it is interesting to note this new nesting location. Myles Lamont has created a website called cranesighting.com where people can contribute Lower Mainland sightings of cranes to help track the location of nesting pairs and non-breeding groups.

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

The Volunteer Corner

Special Thanks To:

- ◆ Our regular Sunday birding team of Mary Taitt and Brian Self, as well as Jim Martin, Karl Pollack, Emma Turgeon, and David Bruce for helping host visitors on weekends.
- ◆ Bill Topping for hosting visitors in the Museum on Sunday mornings.
- ◆ Justin Malkonin, Eric Rossicci, and Eileen Axford, and Georgia Taipalus for bagging seed and filling bird feeders.
- ◆ Our spring newsletter mailout team of Eric Rossicci, Eileen Axford, Kristina Breit, Laura Jordison, and Jim Martin.
- ◆ The team of Arlie Darby, Irene Banack, and Barbara Warrick for the flower gardens around the Museum and washrooms, and for cleaning all the Warming Hut windows.

- ◆ Our team of Sammy Penner, Kristina Breit, Ivy Whitehorne and Stacey Hilton for helping with bird inventories, and hosting people along trails.
- ◆ A special thanks to Kristina Breit for her regular help with maintenance projects and apologies for calling her Kristina Boomkamp in the last edition of Marshnotes.

Volunteers Wanted For This Fall:

- ◆ Hosting visitors along trails on weekends, particularly long weekends August to October
- ◆ Work parties to clear some of the waterways of the Sanctuary's West Field in August.

If you are interested in helping, please leave your contact information at the office or email Kathleen at kathleen@reifelbirdsanctuary.com.

Thanks very much, everyone!

Why be a Member?

As a Member, you receive the following benefits:

FREE admission to the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary 365 days a year.

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.

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