

# Marshnotes®



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY  
SUMMER 2018**

# 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**

**October 15th, 2018**

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Gift Shop Manager:	Varri Raffan
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Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. every day. 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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# International Ornithological Congress 2018



INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS  
VANCOUVER, CANADA • AUGUST 19 - 26, 2018

*"For more than 100 years, the International Ornithological Congress has provided the platform where ornithologists from all over the world meet to share up-to-date research and conservation accomplishments and concerns. " (IOC website)*

In Vancouver from August 19<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, this Congress is being held in conjunction with the Vancouver International Bird Festival. Together, these provide a rare opportunity for international visiting scientists to get a good appreciation of BC bird conservation initiatives, birdwatchers and local hotspots.

## Sanctuary Volunteers Wanted:

On August 24th, there are many field trips organized for the international visitors at this event, and there are associated trips the week before and sometimes after this event. The Sanctuary is one of the stops for the day long "Westham Island Tour" on the 24<sup>th</sup>, for example, where participants will visit not just here, but also the adjacent Alaksen National Wildlife Area plus two Westham Island farms to see programs delivered through the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust. We will need some volunteers to help greet our visitors, make sure they see some of our interesting birds and enjoy themselves, all the while keeping on schedule so that nobody "misses the bus", so to speak. Please leave your name, phone number and email at the Gift Shop if you would like to help.

## About Our Covers

*Front Cover:*

*The 2018 Crane Colts © Jim Martin*

*Back Cover:*

*A Flight of Pelicans@ Sue Dietlein*

## Editor's Note:

*The two crane chicks or "colts" were nicknamed "Ollie" and "Louie" after the photographers that were around to witness the hatch and appearance of these young birds. There have been many pictures shared back and forth between observers, and I have also set up a group folder in [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) called 2018 Reifel Crane Colts for people to post their photos to if they are interested in sharing.*

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# Bird Highlights

*April 2018 ended with an average of 78 species per week totalling 109 for the month. In April visitors will notice a big decrease in waterfowl. Active nests of the resident geese and ducks are noticeable this month. Unfortunately some of the early waterfowl nests end up being predated by mink, gulls and crows. These ducks and geese will have to start again, pushing back hatch time into May and even June.*

## April 1 – April 7

April 2<sup>nd</sup> we had a very early report of Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Flycatchers are more predominant in May to August. April 6<sup>th</sup> one Black-crowned Heron was still present, but gone the next day, most likely to western Washington to nest. The Hutton's Vireos are still constructing their nest in the northeast corner on the trail down to Ewen Slough blind. First spring sightings of Sora, Spotted Sandpiper and Barn Swallows were all in this week.



*Hutton's Vireo*

*Photo: Jim Martin*

## April 8 – April 14

The large numbers of ducks that were present throughout the winter have now left and gone back to where they were born to nest. The ducks that are here over the summer are the resident ducks that were born here thus nesting here. April brings a lot of new arrivals. Some of them from this week's list were Wilson's Snipe, American Kestrel, Cliff Swallow and Brown-headed Cowbird. At the same time we have a few that have disappeared off the weekly list and they were Pied-billed Grebe, Common Loon, Red-breasted Merganser and Rough-legged Hawk. On the 11<sup>th</sup> approximately 40 Greater White-fronted Geese are seen and heard flying northward over the Gift Shop. Their higher pitched calls are quite distinguishable from the honking of Canada Geese.

## April 15 – April 21

On the 15<sup>th</sup> the first male Cinnamon Teal showed up. With an overall rich cinnamon color he stood out nicely on the House Pond behind the Gift Shop. Generally the last 2 weeks of April are best for spotting a variety of Warblers as they pass through to their breeding grounds. Common Yellowthroat, Townsend's Warbler and Wilson's Warbler were the highlights for this week. On the 21<sup>st</sup> a single Canvasback was found. We also had a surprise late sighting of a Northern Saw-Whet Owl on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## April 22 – April 28

A big week with 81 species recorded. The Northern Saw-Whet Owl stayed until the 28<sup>th</sup>. In the last 10 years, the latest sightings for Northern Saw-whet Owls were between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>. Cackling Geese, Greater Scaup and Double-crested Cormorants are now gone and will return in the fall. New birds in this week included White-throated Sparrow, Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Purple Martin. We have noticed the Purple Martins checking out the old stand of nest boxes north of the tower. The first hatch of Canada Geese was on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 28<sup>th</sup> a surprise sighting of 2 California Quail were found just past the Warming Hut. More than likely they were released with the Ring-necked Pheasants back in the fall and have finally made it to the Sanctuary.

*May at the Sanctuary is a good time to view ducklings, goslings and young families of Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins, Marsh Wrens and Bushtits. Species count for this month was 107.*

## April 29 – May 5

The 29<sup>th</sup> we still have 20 Greater White-fronted Geese in the inner display ponds. Lesser Yellowlegs, Hudsonian Godwit, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Black Swift and Vaux's Swift were all first returns for the spring. The Vaux's Swift seen on April 29<sup>th</sup> is only 4 ¾" long with paler under parts and a light gray throat. The Black Swift, seen on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, is the largest swift at 7 ¼" long and is dark gray to almost black with a slightly forked tail. Both of these swifts are now heading to northern BC and southeast Alaska to nest. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was when the Hudsonian Godwit was first reported. This large shorebird was certainly a highlight for the week. The last one spotted at the Sanctuary was back in August 2009. They mainly come up through the central USA via the Prairie provinces on their way to northern Alaska to breed.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, we saw the first Wood Duck family with 8 young. The 4<sup>th</sup> brought the first Blue-winged Teal of the season. We still have approximately 800 Lesser Snow Geese on the surrounding farm fields. As the farmers start to plough the fields in preparation for

planting, the Lesser Snow Geese will be running out of grazing areas, forcing them to start their migration northwards to Wrangel Island, Russia.



*Hudsonian Godwit*

*Photo: Jim Martin*

#### May 6 – May 12

Tally for this week ended with 80 species. According to our records we saw the last of Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Merlin, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrush, Fox Sparrow and Dark-eyed Juncos in this week, but gained the first spring reports of Green Heron, Bank Swallow, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Grey Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Bullock's Oriole. The above mentioned Green Heron was only seen briefly on the 7<sup>th</sup> behind the Information Kiosk past the Warming Hut. May 8<sup>th</sup> 6 male and 2 female Cinnamon Teal were found.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> we were watching around 13 Bald Eagles riding the thermal air currents or updrafts above the Gift Shop when into our view came 16 American White Pelicans. Joining the Bald Eagles to soar on the thermals seemed like a good idea until a couple of Eagles made a beeline for the Pelicans dispersing them very quickly. The pelicans then regrouped and continued with their flight plan. Once again, 2 California Quail were seen along the driveway on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### May 13 – May 19

For nearly one month the Sandhill Cranes had been secreted away at a nest site of their own choosing. Unfortunately their egg was predated. Fortunately they did not give up on the nesting idea and

reclaimed their old nest island. The female laid her first egg on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the second egg came on the 15<sup>th</sup>. More ducklings and goslings are now popping up. Highlights for this week totalling 74 species were Spotted Sandpiper on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Wilson's Phalarope from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, Mourning Dove on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Bullock's Oriole and Pine Siskin on the 16<sup>th</sup> and Barred Owl and Warbling Vireo on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### May 20 – May 26

The pair of Hutton's Vireo's that nested above the trail to Ewen Slough Bird Blind are now both very busy feeding their 2 young. An odd sight on the 20<sup>th</sup> was that of 1 single Lesser Snow Goose seen flying with a small flock of Canada Geese. May 21<sup>st</sup> a not often seen Cassin's Vireo was found along the East Dyke. Along the driveway on the 26<sup>th</sup> a single Brewer's Blackbird was spotted among a flock of European Starlings. We are now seeing an increase in Flycatchers. Caspian Terns have been viewed offshore on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. With their carrot red beak, black cap and a call resembling cats fighting these traits all call attention to them overhead.

#### May 27 – June 2

Along the entrance driveway on the 2<sup>nd</sup> there were reports of Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Swainson's Thrush and the re-sighting of the Cassin's Vireo and Brewer's Blackbird. The Barred Owl made an appearance at the northeast corner. Cinnamon Teal and Blue-winged Teal numbers still remain high. As we move into June and July you will notice varieties and numbers of birds will decline.

*In June 2018 we recorded 72 species. There are not many migrating birds at this time as most of them have already left our area. Even though we are now heading into the summer doldrums and the resident water birds are going through their annual molt, there are still butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and flowers to enjoy as you walk the trails.*

#### June 3 – June 9

We were surprised to find one lone Trumpeter Swan in the pond by the Warming Hut on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We are not sure what his or her story is but it seems fine. It could have had an injury back in March preventing it from migrating north with the rest of the Trumpeter Swans. At least it has found a nice area to spend the summer and wait for the return of its kind.

Since the Great Horned Owls left to nest in February we haven't seen them until the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month, when an adult and a juvenile were found perched above the entrance driveway. The first early morning visitors should keep an eye out along the driveway and northeast corner as these 2 areas are frequented by the Great Horned Owls. Also on the 9<sup>th</sup> a flock of

...../ continued page 6

(Continued from page 5)

approximately 30 Black Swifts were spotted flying over the Center Dyke.

#### June 10 – June 16

This week's highlights happened on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> when the 2 Sandhill Crane eggs hatched. On the 15<sup>th</sup> at the southwest corner a single Eastern Kingbird was found perched on a tree top. For a small bird, Eastern Kingbirds are known for their ferocity especially when protecting a nest or young. They will run squirrels off and pursue crows and hawks. They have been known to land on backs of birds in midair while inflicting as much punishment as possible. Their Latin name says it all - *Tyrannus tyrannus*.

#### June 17 – June 23

On the 21<sup>st</sup> one California Quail was seen, possibly related to the sightings in April and May. This male California Quail is very feisty and combative with all the ducks and geese. Most sightings of him are along the first stretch past the Gift shop. Whether he is on the ground chasing the waterfowl or up a tree calling, he is always on the move. Quail aren't good fliers for any length of time as their bodies are chunky and wings short. They are however very good runners.

Waterfowl are more or less grounded now as they moult. Moulting is the process that many water birds go through in order to replace frayed or broken feathers. They will grow back in time for the fall migration. Molting waterfowl typically head to large bodies of water during this period as they feel safe from predators in open water. From the Observation Tower, you might see large numbers of Canada Geese gathered together as they moult. There is safety in numbers.

#### June 24 – June 30

An unexpected report of Red Crossbills came in on the 27<sup>th</sup>. They are more commonly seen February and March. The male California Quail is still around and is getting a lot of attention from the visitors. Adult and juvenile Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds are plentiful around the feeders. Another nectar drinker that you might find at your flowers especially near dusk is the Sphinx Moth. They hover in midair while feeding on flowers and are often confused with hummingbirds. By middle of August the Rufous Hummingbirds will have left our area on their way to Mexico for the winter. The Anna's Hummingbirds will be with us all year.

Text: Varri Raffan,  
Gift Shop Manager



Anna's Hummingbird

Photo: Peter Nielsen



California Quail

Photo: Janet Thompson

#### *Editor's Note:*

##### *A QUAIL TALE OR TWO*

*The quail, dubbed "Mr. C. Quail" was a bit like a sheepdog, herding geese and ducks out of his favourite spots. However, Ollie, one of our members, reported in one day the quail chased some ducklings off a log. The Mallard mother of these ducklings apparently took offense as she grabbed a wing and tossed the quail into the water.*

*I was watching the day the quail chased a duck too close to the crane family. After the male crane lunged and flew right at him, the quail spent some hours atop a tree talking about it.*



## Some Songbird Nesting Facts

Nesting time brings up various questions from the public and one of the most common inquiries is “How long will it take nesting birds to hatch?” Most of the time a bird has chosen an unusual or inconvenient spot to build its nest, such as in a hanging basket, planter box, above a doorway, in stacked up lawn furniture, on a covered boat or in patio decorations. I have put together some useful information to help give readers some time frames for the top six bird species that we are questioned about.

### American Robin

The female and male both assemble their nest from twigs and grasses and the female will lay on average 4 eggs. They will take 2 weeks to hatch and then another 2 weeks to fledge. Be aware that American Robins can have up to 3 families in one year and may even re-use the same nest again if they were successful in rearing their young.

### Barn Swallow

Both female and male Barn Swallows partner up to build their nest which is made of mud daubs, straw and then lined with feathers. You will see them attached under roof overhangs and sometimes on ledges above doorways. On average they will lay 4 to 5 eggs which take 13 to 17 days to hatch and then an additional 18 to 23 days until they are ready to leave the nest. They can raise a second brood at the same nest site if they start early enough.

### Bewick's Wren

The female and male will build their nest which consists of grass, twigs and feathers in a natural cavity, bird box or knot hole. On average the female will lay 5 to 7 eggs which take only 14 days to hatch and 14 days to fledge. The Bewick's Wren will only raise a single family each spring.

### Black-capped Chickadee

Both parents will help with the construction of their nest which could either be in a nest box or natural cavity. It will take roughly 10 to 14 days to excavate and line the cavity with plant down, moss and feathers. Once the 5 or more eggs are laid they will take 11 to 13 days to hatch. Another 14 to 18 days to leave the nest. Again you could see re-nesting if they start early enough and conditions are optimal.



*Nest of American Robin*

*Photo: Kathleen Fry*

### House Finch

The female will sit on 2 to 6 eggs in her nest which she alone has built out of twigs, grass and leaves. Incubation time is 12 to 14 days with fledging taking place in 11 to 19 days. Keep in mind that House Finches can have up to 3 broods and even reuse the same nest.

### House Sparrow

Once the nest is built, either in an artificial or natural cavity, the female will lay approximately 4 to 6 eggs and incubate them for 10 to 13 days. After hatching it will take another 14 to 17 days before young leave the nest. House Sparrows will also have more than one brood.

The above information is found in a very useful book named “The Birder’s Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin and Darryl Wheye. Even though this book was published in 1988 it has always been a great reference guide to me.

Text: Varri Raffan  
Gift Shop Manager

*These are some of the nests in the Museum.*



# Manager's Report

The April, May and June 2018 period started with a hailstorm on April 1st. Over these three months, there was a total of 25,423 visitors days, just a few hundred more than in 2017. Compared to previous years, April numbers were low (possibly because of wet weather), whereas May and June numbers were up considerably, most likely due to the crane nesting and young, and the nice weather.

At this time of year, we remind everyone to bring your water bottle, sunscreen and lightweight cover-up clothing to avoid heat exhaustion, sunburn or cranky small family members. Temperatures of over 25 C have been occurring regularly since May 13th and the humidity has also sometimes been very high. Even with sea breezes along the outer dykes, it has been too hot to walk any great distance without being prepared. Also remember not to pick the flowers and berries that are quite obvious at this time of year. What grows in the Sanctuary stays in the Sanctuary, and these resources belong here and are part of the habitats managed for the birds.

At this time of year, the most noticeable bird activity revolves around nesting and rearing of young, combined with the annual moult, making this the most vulnerable time of year for the birds. Many thanks to

our visitors for recognizing this and treading carefully while walking the trails.

Daffy and Dilly, the pair of Canada Geese nesting in the Museum Garden, became proud parents of only two goslings, as the other eggs did not hatch. After a week, I took the other eggs away from the nest so that the pair would quit loitering and start to take their young family to find nice juicy grass and shade.

Overall, the nesting season for Mallards and Canada Geese was about normal for successful hatching and raising of young. The last week of April and the first two weeks in May marked the arrival of the majority of the waterfowl young, although some late Mallard broods are still hatching now as late as July 15<sup>th</sup>. In our regular Sanctuary surveys in late May there were about 70 Canada Goose goslings and over 90 Mallard duckling within the pond systems, all of varying ages, with the earliest hatching on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Nearly all of these are all almost fully-fledged and practicing flying as of mid-July.

Wood Ducks, however, seem to have experienced some problems, as there were relatively few broods seen, and pairs still seemed to be re-checking out the nest boxes even as late as June, but then going into their annual moult with its associated flightless period. It is possible that some mink predation or disruption was causing nest failures or mortalities. Gadwall broods have also been scarce, and although they are late nesters and often do not hatch until late June, we have only seen one brood to date.

Over the summer months, we keep track of many other songbird nests, particularly those that are vulnerable to disturbance (Barn Swallows), or have interesting formations to show visitors (Bushtits) or are the subject of special programs (Purple Martins). Watching the small but fearless Bushtits building their nests and feeding their young is a summer favourite activity for many visitors, and this year, there were two quite visible nests to watch, one near the Tower and one near the outlet area along North Dyke. Purple Martins continue to follow the same general trend every year; they show lots of interest in the oldest, most rotten of the decades-old martin nest boxes in late April onwards, nest in them, and then go explore or nest in the new structure to the east of this later on in the summer. Barn Swallows build lots of mud nests but are easily disturbed when visitors are too close or in the way of them feeding their young. For some abundant nesting species (Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhees and Cedar Waxwings) we keep aware of nest locations in case we are getting too close during trail maintenance and pruning activities.



*Dilly and her first gosling. Photo: Kathleen Fry*



The summer season is when we maintain and repair our structures. This year was no exception. The deck in the northwest corner of West Field was rebuilt recently and provides a view over the Cattail stands in that area and other parts of West Field. Within this next year, with the assistance of Ducks Unlimited Canada, we hope to restore the perimeter ditch that once existed just on the inside of the dyke. Increased water flows may help reduce the very energetic spread of Cattail across the whole field. The north end perimeter ditch has been clogged with vegetation for the past 5 years, and growth at the south end has started to at least partially obstruct flows just this year.



*NW corner deck in West Field*

*Photo: Kathleen Fry*



*The Tower during renovations*

*Photo: Kathleen Fry*

Many thanks to all of our visitors for their patience these past months while the Observation Tower was unavailable for use, contractor vehicles were on the trails, plus we closed other trails for the benefit of the Sandhill Crane family. The Tower renovation project was completed July 11<sup>th</sup> and the area was then opened for public use that weekend. The structure is now a “Misty Grey” colour instead of the previous pale blue. When it was first built, it was painted a dark green, and it has been various shades of blue and grey in recent decades. To do the work, Atlas Painting arranged for scaffolding to be installed all around it, and the whole work area wrapped in a large tent-like tarp structure during sandblasting and painting. We ask for some continued patience as we would like people to keep off the vegetation at the base of the tower while this area recovers from being in the construction zone and under a tarp for two months.

The roofed Viewing Platform that overlooks Southwest Marsh was built in 2006, and a retaining wall added in 2012 to reduce erosion of the bank close to the deck supports. This year, we reinforced the wall and planted the top of the bank with plants that should grow into a more protective cover as well. This fall, the steel railings of this structure will be painted and the shelter and benches refurbished.

Regardless of all these other activities, summer is not summer unless there is a little drama swirling around the Sandhill Crane nesting effort(s)! The first surprise was when they decided to wander into the marsh to the north of their usual island and make a nest away from all of us onlookers. From Easter Monday until the 1st of May, we knew the pair was incubating at a nest out there. We don’t know why an “extra” crane appeared here at the Sanctuary from April 20th to 30th, but it was chased away regularly when it tried to socialize, and each of them tried to leave it behind before going off to their hidden nest. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, when the pair came out of the marsh together with no chick, we went out to find their nest. It consisted of a 3 m wide clearing in the vegetation, which was Cattail growing in about 30 cm of water. The Cattail had been ripped out of a perimeter circle and piled in the center to make a mound about 30 cm above the water. A bloodied predated egg on top of the mound told at least part of the story of the nest failure.

For the next ten days, the pair explored the old island and seemed interested, but something wasn’t quite right. On the 11th, attempting to think like a crane, I theorized that they liked Cattail as a nest material, so I took out some cuttings to the island. The pile of new debris was immediately adopted and rearranged, with the female lying on it on the 12th, and the first egg present on the 13<sup>th</sup> and another one on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Who knew?

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(Continued from page 9)



*The Sandhill Crane nest in the Cattail marsh.*

The next surprise was the ease at which the pair were raising two chicks or “colts” together, even though one died July 9th from a mink attack at exactly 4 weeks of age. For that first month, the pair seemed very effective at feeding both colts, and the many

interactions between the colts were quite entertaining for our visitors. Both parents are now feeding the remaining colt and it is growing rapidly as the family tours different parts of the Sanctuary. When the contractors finished work on the Observation Tower, the cranes moved in almost immediately as this area is a good access point to the meadows of West Field if you are a flightless young bird.

Please be aware that no young cranes have grown to adulthood here for the past 7 years. This 2018 colt will be partly flying at two months (mid-August), but not fully effective and coordinated in these attempts until September. Until then staff and volunteers are checking on the family regularly. We ask all visitors to give this family lots of space and not to crowd them into situations where they are distracted or their young colt is in danger or not getting the rest, food and water it needs. Thanks very much for your understanding.

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

## Hummingbird Banding Update 2018

Dr. Christine Bishop, research scientist for Environment and Climate Change Canada, carried out 6 hummingbird banding sessions at the Sanctuary from late April to mid-July, with the assistance of Kristina Breit, Janet Thompson, Dan Dixon, Marla Ellis, David Bruce and Jim Martin. The season started out with an interesting workshop session to prepare the actual bands themselves, as these tiny metal objects come stamped with their individual numbers but all sharp edges need to be filed and the bands shaped before the banding began.

A total of 69 birds were captured and banded this year. The first two sessions were not very successful, but from late May through June the team was kept very busy banding, weighing and measuring and taking samples for a special study on the presence of insecticides in these birds.

The high numbers of individual birds was a surprise, as we tend to see birds using the same perches all the time and assume that they are the same individuals. There were 22 Anna’s Hummingbirds caught, and 6 of these were recaptures and already banded. Rufous Hummingbirds were more abundant, with 47 caught, 5 of which were recaptures. Overall, the recaptures were just a few from this year (2), a few from 2017(3) and the remainder were from 2016 or earlier.

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



*Christine Bishop (bottom right) and volunteers*

For more information about the insecticide exposure study, visit the following link to the study below:

**C.A. Bishop, A. J. Moran, M. C. Toshack, E. Elle, F. Maisonneuve & J. Elliot, 2018.**

*Hummingbirds and bumble bees exposed to neonicotinoid and organophosphate insecticides in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia, Canada*  
Society of Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry

<https://setac.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/etc.4174>



## The Volunteer Corner

### *Special thanks to:*

- ◆ Mary Taitt for leading our regular Sunday Bird Walk.
- ◆ Jim Martin, Janet Thompson, Emma Turgeon and David Bruce for helping visitors on trails and around the Sandhill Crane family.
- ◆ Justin Makonin, Ben Lambert, Justin Huang, Chelsea Faulkner, Eric Rossicci, and Eileen Ax-ford for bagging seed, filling bird feeders, and various other weekend tasks.
- ◆ Our spring newsletter mailout team of Jim Martin, Eric Rossicci, Su Langlois, and David Bruce.
- ◆ Nicole Lamarche, Kristina Breit, Julia Battie and Brian Self for their assistance with bird surveys.
- ◆ Brian Self for delivering his Birding Class.
- ◆ Nikita Bhatti Advic and De Zaurinni for helping with the museum and the garden.

### *Volunteers wanted for:*

- ◆ Late summer work parties; Helping with museum and gardening work; Bird surveys.
- ◆ See also the notice on page 3.

For more information, visit our website page [www.reifelbirdsanctuary.com/volunteer.html](http://www.reifelbirdsanctuary.com/volunteer.html). Please leave your name at our office or send an email to [kathleen@reifelbirdsanctuary.com](mailto:kathleen@reifelbirdsanctuary.com).



*Elaine Jaltema's students from Chaffey-Burke School in Burnaby brought us out some well-crafted songbird nest boxes and helped put them up on April 10<sup>th</sup> under the guidance of our biologist Dan Dixon.*

## 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:*

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