

# Marshnotes®



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY  
WINTER 2021**

# BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

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

*dedicated to the conservation and study of migratory waterfowl*

## Marshnotes:

Editor: Kathleen Fry

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

**Telephone: 604 946 6980**

**Facsimile: 604 946 6982**

**Website: [www.reifelbirdsantuary.com](http://www.reifelbirdsantuary.com)**

**Email: [bcws@reifelbirdsantuary.com](mailto:bcws@reifelbirdsantuary.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**

**April 15th, 2021**



*Planning a visit, but not sure if we are really busy?  
We now send out a tweet from @ReifelSanctuary  
when it looks like parking is going to be an issue.  
That account is often inactive if not needed for this.*

## Executive:

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

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

## Staff:

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

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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## Top Birds of the Sanctuary in 2020

### Monthly Species Highlights

#### January

Tree  
Swallow

#### February

Cedar  
Waxwing

#### March

Savannah  
Sparrow

#### April

Solitary  
Sandpiper

#### May

Red-eyed  
Vireo

#### June

Bonaparte's  
Gull

#### July

American White  
Pelican

#### August

Mourning Dove

#### September

Curlew  
Sandpiper

#### October

Hutton's  
Vireo

#### November

Northern  
Mockingbird

#### December

Short-eared  
Owl

### 2020 Birds of the Year:

**Curlew Sandpiper  
Northern Mockingbird**

### Total 2020 Bird Species:

**174**

**Text: Varri Raffan  
Gift Shop Manager**

## About Our Covers

**Front Cover:** *Bufflehead*

© **Jim Martin**

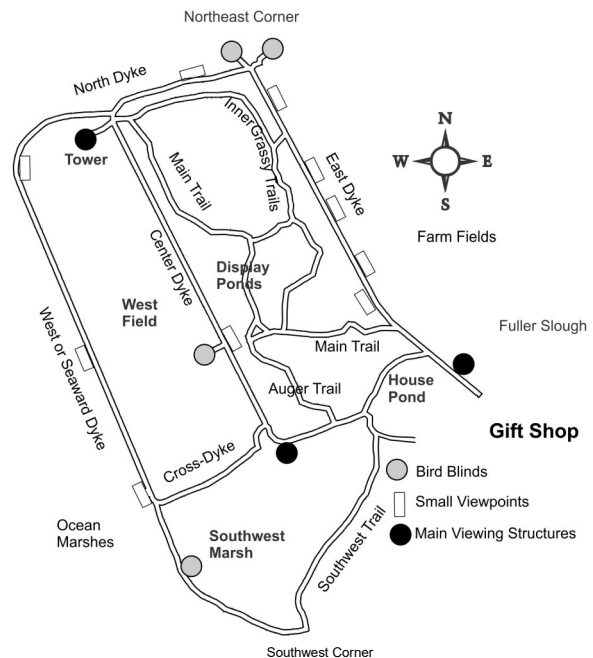
**Back Cover:** *Northern Mockingbird*

© **Jim Martin**

### Editor's Note:

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

## Sanctuary Locations Map



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Varri Raffan  
Varri Raffan

Kathleen Fry  
Yousif Attia, George  
Clulow and Jude Grass



# Bird Highlights

Thank you to everyone for entering their bird sightings in the Log Book or reporting them to staff at the Gift Shop. Although my weekly reports mainly talk about the highlights for each week you can see the entire list of birds seen each week on our website under “Weekly Species Lists”.

*October 2020 ended with an even 100 bird species observed. As cooler temperatures begin up North birds instinctively know to head south to find a better climate for living and a more abundant food source.*

## October 4 – October 10

There was a noticeable influx of migratory birds from the North in this week ending with 85 species. On the 7<sup>th</sup> the first Black-crowned Night-Heron returned. On the 8<sup>th</sup> we had the first fall sighting of a Rough-legged Hawk. Rough-legged Hawks are so named because their feathers grow farther down their legs than other hawks. The Northern Flickers in our western region have orange to red feather shafts noticeable under the wings, but on the 7<sup>th</sup>, we had a report of a Flicker with yellow shafts. These “yellow shafted” Flickers are more often found in eastern North America. Staff had good views from the tower on the 10<sup>th</sup> of both Surf and White-winged Scoters. If you have a spotting scope or very good binoculars it can be worthwhile to set up on the tower and scan the foreshore for some different waterfowl. Canvasback is one duck species which you are more likely to see offshore in the winter, but on the 10<sup>th</sup> a single female was found in the Southwest Marsh.

## October 11 – October 17

While staff were having lunch on the 12<sup>th</sup>, they had a close view of a White-throated Sparrow as it searched for seeds between the wooden cracks of the back deck. On October 16<sup>th</sup> 2 Northern Shrike were found along the grassy Seaward Dyke. Another unusual



*Rough-legged Hawk*

*Photo: Sadia Ramirez*



*Juvenile Northern Shrike*

*Photo: Sadia Ramirez*

duck to be found on the inner ponds is a Redhead, but on the 17<sup>th</sup> in the south end of the Display Ponds a lovely male Redhead was located. Males really stand out with their gray body, rufous head, and bluish beak with a black tip. He ended up staying into the first week of November.

## October 18 – October 24

This was another particularly good birding week. With 82 species making the list, some of the new fall arrivals were Bufflehead, Barred Owl, Swamp Sparrow and Black-headed Grosbeak. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> at the North East corner visitors reported hearing the elusive Swamp Sparrow. The 24<sup>th</sup> saw the arrival of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Black-crowned Night-Heron along with the first flocks of Trumpeter Swans. Later on the same day we were quite surprised when an adult and a juvenile Trumpeter Swan landed in House Pond behind the Gift Shop. This is a small waterway and they need a water runway of as much as 100 yards to lift off. They obviously managed because when we looked out a little while later, they were gone. The best area to check for Trumpeter Swan flocks is in the harvested potato fields along the back farm roads where they will be searching for leftover potatoes. The young birds have gray feathers, and the adult birds have white feathers.

## October 25 - October 31

At this time of year, the variety and numbers of fall migrant shorebirds diminishes. Only a few Greater Yellowlegs and Western Sandpipers remain. Long-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlin will stay for most of the winter and are best found offshore. If you are walking along Seaward Dyke viewing out to the marsh and witness large flocks of small birds flying and turning in unison, now you see them, now you don't, these are most likely Dunlin. At the Northeast Corner on the 25<sup>th</sup> we had the first fall sighting of a Northern Saw-Whet Owl. On the same day at the opposite corner, the Southwest corner, a Western Meadowlark was seen. Cackling Geese have been plentiful with reports of approximately 500 birds in one flock. These Cackling Geese are about ½ the

size of Canada Geese and have a smaller stubby bill and a high-pitched honk.

Visitors are currently enjoying the various Sandhill Cranes that are wandering along the trails with them. Eurasian Collared-Doves, who sound something like an owl, are seen most days around the front gate. These Doves now outnumber the Mourning Doves but on the 29<sup>th</sup> straight out the Gift Shop window there was 1 Mourning Dove busy pecking through gravel for seeds overlooked by the ducks. The 2 females and 1 male Ruddy Duck that were first found in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September are still present on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

*November 2020 bird list ended with 92 species. Breaking down to 25 types of songbirds, 23 species of waterfowl, 8 kinds of birds of prey, 5 types of shore-birds and other assorted Herons, Grebes, Rails, and Woodpeckers. November is one of the most active months to watch birds.*

#### November 1 – November 7

Each November there is a large influx of waterfowl from the North. It was impressive to see the number of ducks, mainly Mallards, which were jam-packed in Robertson and Fuller Sloughs. I am sure they take shelter in these protected quiet sloughs when they first arrive until they get their bearings and move out to surrounding fields to feed. Various smaller flocks of Cackling Geese are still present. On the 7<sup>th</sup> a juvenile Northern Goshawk was located. On the same day a Barn Swallow was spotted. Swallows are an unlikely bird to be seen in the late fall as they usually have left our area by the middle of September heading to Central and South America for the winter.

The first fall report of a Common Merganser was spotted along Robertson Slough at the beginning of the week. This large fish-eating diving duck, approximately 22"-26" in length, really stands out in the water with a red beak, dark head and back with a white chest and lower body. Fuller Slough is another good area to check for Mergansers.



Great Horned Owl

Photo: Sylvester Law

As the berry supplies from Mountain Ash, Salal, Hawthorne and other ornamental bushes dwindle, Cedar Waxwings will leave this area heading to the Southern United States and Central America into Panama. If you find a waxwing from November to January look closely as it may be a Bohemian Waxwing. They are grayer and larger than the Cedar Waxwing and have deep rusty feathering under the tail.

#### November 8 – November 14

Bald Eagles are now adding new twigs, sticks and even some large branches to their existing nests and building new ones. Throughout the week we have witnessed them flying above a couple of dead trees snapping branches off the tops with their talons and taking them back to nest sites. The big highlight for this week was on the 8<sup>th</sup> with a sighting of a Northern Mockingbird mid-way along the Seaward or West Dyke. They are similar in size to an American Robin, but they have a slimmer body and a longer tail. When in flight the Northern Mockingbird has large white patches visible on the wings and tail edges. Also, on the 8<sup>th</sup> a Northern Saw-Whet Owl was seen right by the trail near the wooden Viewing Platform. A Barred Owl was seen farther north along the Center Dyke on the same day. The next day a second Black-crowned Night-Heron joined the first bird.

#### November 15 – November 21

November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Northeast corner 2 Great Horned Owls, who generally mate for life, were heard calling back and forth to each other. This loud hooting is the start of their courtship display that will solidify their pair bond before breeding season begins. On the 19<sup>th</sup> probably the same pair of Great Horned Owls was in the trees along the entrance driveway. Also, on the 19<sup>th</sup> an American Pipit turned up. The 2 previously mentioned Belted Kingfishers are still present. Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shrike, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Purple Finch were the highlights for this week which ended with a total of 72 species.

#### November 22 – November 28

The Northern Mockingbird reappeared at the southern end of the Seaward Dyke on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and on the same day at the northern end of the West Seaward Dyke a pair of Ruddy Ducks showed up below the Observation Tower. At this time of year, you can view a variety of songbirds busy feeding at the feeding stations throughout the Sanctuary. We try to fill them every 2 days, but prior to putting out the feeders we made sure they are thoroughly cleaned to stave off disease from bacteria generated from seed that becomes damp and moldy. House Finches are very susceptible to *Mycophlamal Conjunctivitis* (eye disease). The tissue around the eye becomes crusty and swells up so much that sometimes they become blind. So not wanting to

(..... /continued on page 6)

*(Continued from page 5)*

inflict this disease on House Finches and other song-birds we like to clean feeders regularly with a weak bleach solution. Rinse them thoroughly and dry completely before filling with seed. Even cleaning the area of seed husks or shells and bird droppings from below the feeders can help to safeguard against the formation of bacteria.

*The bird list for December 2020 ended with 87 species being observed, an average of 74 per week.*

#### November 29 – December 5

The Northern Mockingbird and the 2 Ruddy Ducks are still being seen at the Southwest corner and below the Observation Tower, respectively. Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl were the 5 of the 7 owls species present this week. Missing from the list were the Long-eared Owl and Snowy Owl. I am not sure if we will have any winter sightings of Snowy Owls this year. Usually by now they would best be seen at the foot of 72<sup>nd</sup> Street in Ladner. It is a good sign, as far as the birds are concerned, if we don't see them in our area because that means they had a good food source of voles, lemmings and other small rodents up North and did not need to come this far south in search of food. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October when Buffleheads first returned from the northern breeding grounds, we now see growing numbers of this small diving duck showing up in the deeper ponds throughout the Sanctuary. Male Buffleheads have a lower white body, a black back with a puffy looking head that has a white patch at the crown.

#### December 6 – December 12

After heavy rains, watch for Great Blue Herons, Double-crested Cormorants, Bald Eagles, and some Hawks perched on logs or treetops holding their wings open to dry them off. December 12<sup>th</sup> another report of a single Barn Swallow was located at the beginning of the East Dyke. I am sure this bird is rethinking its migration plan. High counts of Northern Flickers are noticed along the grass edges of the driveway and other dyke edges. Mainly a ground feeder they are interested in eating the dropped ripe berries of the Hawthorne trees. Northern Flickers also eat a huge number of insects and have a tongue that extends nearly 3 times beyond its beak. This ideally suited tongue is great for extracting ants from tree bark or rotten wood e.g., house siding!

#### December 13 – December 19

The last Long-billed Dowitcher was located on the 16<sup>th</sup>. On the same day we had a Eurasian Wigeon spotted in Robertson Slough and a Rough-legged Hawk flying over the Observation Tower. On the 17<sup>th</sup> a Swamp Sparrow was reported. There have been few Northern Saw-whet Owl sightings since the first one

back in late October. I'm not too sure if we are going to see very many this year. Are populations actually low due to summer forest fires in Washington and Oregon? Or are there new undetected roost sites in the acres of trees next door in the Alaksen National Wildlife Area? Perhaps the minor relocation of the bird feeder at the Northeast Corner which attracts birds and rodents, a food source for owls, made a difference? I don't have definitive answers to these questions but it was just one of those thoughts that made me go "hmm".

#### December 20 – December 26

The high tides at this time of year tend to push birds closer into the shoreline. With these higher tides we've had additional sightings of Surf Scoters and White-winged Scoters plus new reports of Red-breasted Mergansers, Red-throated Loons, and Pacific Loons all from the Observation Tower. Literally hundreds of American Robins are being noticed throughout the Sanctuary this month. American Robins are now migrating from the colder Northern and Central Interior into the southwest coastal area where there is still Hawthorne berries to consume.

#### December 27 – January 2

By the time January arrives we tend to be in a holding pattern as far as any new bird sightings. Most species have already migrated into our area and some have even left our area continuing their southern migration. Even though the Sanctuary was closed from December 25<sup>th</sup> and into February, staff members are still present keeping up with their daily duties, weekly lists and bi-monthly surveys. To all I hope 2021 brings many new and enjoyable bird watching adventures.

*"Adopt the pace of nature.  
Her secret is patience."* (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Text: Varri Raffan  
Gift Shop Manager



*Black-capped Chickadee*

*Photo: John Witmore*

# **Notice to all Members of the BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY**

The Bylaws of the Society provide for the election of six (6) Directors by the Society membership in addition to the appointment of six (6) Directors from Stakeholder groups. The six elected Directors each serve a two year term, with three to be elected at each Annual General Meeting.

## **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

will be held by teleconference at

**7:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 21st, 2021**

**Dial-in Instructions: 788-945-1044 or 1-888-438-2192  
Participant Code: 2159429**

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to advise the membership that three incumbent Directors

Doug B. Ransome  
Barney W. Reifel  
Ken I. Thompson

will be seeking re-election for a further term.

If you wish to nominate a candidate for election as a Director at the Annual General Meeting, please complete a nomination form which, in addition to the candidate's written consent, must include a written nomination by two Society members in good standing.

Nomination forms are available from the Sanctuary.

No member may nominate more than one candidate in any one year.  
A family membership constitutes one vote at the meeting.

Please deliver the completed nomination form, by mail or fax by

**4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 21st, 2021**

to

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

**Fax: 604 946 6982**

If there are any further nominations received by the deadline, a list of all candidates will be posted on the Sanctuary's website.



# Manager's Report

We continue to operate on a reduced and regulated visitor basis to keep crowds down because of Covid-19 pandemic concerns. In the last three months of 2020, we had a total of 12,322 visitors, approximately 50% of numbers we had for this period last year (24,155). October and November numbers were much higher than those of December, but in the last month of 2020, there were many very wet, rainy days and we were closed from the 25th onwards and into the New Year.

In spite of the lower visitor quota, the fall season in the Sanctuary was about normal, with Snow Geese, very friendly Mallards and Black-capped Chickadees, and exuberant Sandhill Cranes being the favourites of visitors. Showy *Amanita muscaria* mushrooms were also all over the trail systems in October, making for excellent photos.

We completed most of the Auger Trail shoreline protection project and opened it to the public in early November. The shoreline work involved staff standing in the pond in chest waders to help position heavy logs and to pound rebar, and was dubbed the "Auger "Olympics". The south end of this trail leads up to the cairn commemorating Fred Auger, the first President of our Society.

One of the larger Cottonwoods along Auger Trail fell during heavy winds, and before we could get the chainsaw to clean up the windfall, some eager beavers had taken much of it away. A few dead snags have also fallen along the driveway on windy days, so we will be having a tree service working on potentially hazardous trees in February.



*DUC staff assessing our drainage structure*

In mid-November, we were experiencing some very high water levels in our ponds, as part of our main drainage control structure on North Dyke had eroded and malfunctioned and water was coming in during high tides. Many thanks to Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) staff who came out and replaced this part. It is

## A Few Visitor Reminders

### Book Your Visit

In 2021, to visit the Sanctuary, all visitors will need to use the on-line reservation system introduced in July 2020. There is a high demand for weekend spots so plan ahead. See our helpful hints to secure the date of your choice on our website at : [www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com/bookingparking.html/](http://www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com/bookingparking.html/)

### Watch your step out on our trails

Winter brings heavy rains, windstorms, and snow and can create softened trails, broken branches, puddles, slippery areas and increased beaver activity. People need to wear good walking shoes or boots and use our trails at their own risk, particularly after significant winter weather events.

### Keep moving once you have looked at an owl

Every year at this time, owls can be seen in day roosts along our trails. Remember to stay on trails and allow others a chance to view these birds. This year, this is even more important with Covid-19 physical distancing needs as only one person gets the ideal view so everyone will need to be polite and take turns.

### Do not bring bird food to the Sanctuary

As of last year at this time, specific bird feeding rules apply. Only the Sanctuary's official bird seed can be used now. For more information, visit our website page on this topic: [www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com/feeding.html/](http://www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com/feeding.html/).

### Respect the needs of other visitors re: Covid-19

The Sanctuary closed in December to support provincial and regional initiatives to reduce Covid-19 spread through community contact. The closure was also the result of concerns expressed by some visitors about the lack of proper physical distancing by others and inappropriate gatherings along the Sanctuary trails.

It is important to us that visitor concerns about potential exposure from others are recognized. Some visitors may be drawn here to experience nature with their family, but others may be here specifically to avoid crowded conditions and to keep away from all other people. Our Covid-19 safety protocols are followed by staff, but we also depend upon all of our visitors to do their part. Please remember the original Covid-19 phrases coined by Dr. Bonnie Henry when dealing with others at our facility. Be Kind. Be Calm. Be Safe.



always interesting working on water controls at this time of year, as the low tides required for accessing them are usually at night. The Great Horned Owls were hooting during this work in the dark.

Sandhill Crane numbers rose to 49 by October 10<sup>th</sup>, then many of those departed, with only 11 of these birds deciding to settle in and dig up the lawn between the Gift Shop and House, presumably looking for grubs of the Sand Wasp and other overwintering fauna. These birds are probably the ones that will spend the winter here. In early November, this lawn area became a territorial battle zone, with all adult pairs represented in this group proclaiming ownership of the Sanctuary. Calls were deafening November 20<sup>th</sup>. For most of November to the end of the year 10 or 11 cranes have been constantly present.



*Sandhill Cranes staking territories by the Gift Shop.*

By mid-October, Snow Geese had moved into the Lower Mainland in big numbers and spread to diverse feeding areas over the Fraser Delta for the next few months. We know that on certain occasions the large flocks were feeding at night and roosting way out in the Strait of Georgia during the day. Many of these Snow Geese and our big waterfowl flocks arrive after significant storm fronts. For migratory birds, these storms are “helpful atmospheric winds” if they are from the right direction. Often big flocks can arrive in an area overnight by taking advantage of these tail winds. That was the case on October 24<sup>th</sup> and again on November 7<sup>th</sup> when we had a sudden cold snap and thousands of waterfowl congregated in all of the main sloughs such as Fuller, Robertson, and Ewen sloughs

and offshore. The November 7<sup>th</sup> Sanctuary survey team reported over 16,000 Mallards, up from a mere 1500 Mallards the month before. On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Trumpeter Swans must have also arrived from the north with a weather front, as they were flying all around the Sanctuary and exploring the fields of Ladner and Westham Island.



*Adult and juvenile Trumpeter Swan at House Pond.*

The annual mid-winter count of Snow Geese in the Fraser and Skagit estuaries was done in December, and the population as predicted is much higher than in past years, although a count was not done last year. Results have not been finalized, but the estimates are for about 135,000 birds. For comparison, the January 2018 count was 88,000 birds.

Many of our visitors hope to see owls at this time of year. Northern Saw-whet Owl sightings started October 25<sup>th</sup> in the Northeast Corner. There were two more sightings in November right by trails and 11 sightings of a single bird in December out of sight from trails. One bird was right over the trail at the south end of East Dyke on December 11<sup>th</sup>, a very low visitor day. By late December, we had 2 birds on some days and the remains of a third one was found. Numbers seem low, but it is too early to tell, as this species is generally only consistently present at regular roosts from late December to March. Great Horned Owls began calling from the woodlot near the front gate from early November onwards. Although a couple of sightings were in the open along Center and East Dyke trails in November, we have had one pair and one additional bird regularly present but keeping to dense cover instead of roosting along East Dyke as in previous years. Barred Owls have only been seen sporadically (November 7<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>). Barn Owls are present but usually keep to more secluded areas and if viewed, they tend to flush and relocate, so we try not to disturb them.

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

# Ladner Christmas Bird Count Results 2020

The 2020 Ladner Christmas Bird Count took place on Sunday, December 20th under generally pleasant, dry weather conditions. The day started out calm and overcast, but a steady wind developed in the afternoon. A total of 128 species were recorded on count day, with an additional four species (Black Turnstone, Pileated Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush, and Swamp Sparrow) only detected during count week. Highlights included Willet, Glaucous Gull, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue Jay, California Scrub-Jay, and Northern Mockingbird.

Thank you to all who took part and helped ensure that we had a safe and successful count. Thanks also to those who joined in on the Zoom call to share your experiences at the end of the day. We're looking forward to a return to in-person gatherings next year. Please email Yousif at [cbc@birdscanada.org](mailto:cbc@birdscanada.org) if you'd like to be involved next year. A list of species and numbers follows.

Thanks,  
Yousif Attia, George Clulow, and Jude Grass

## Species Counted:

Snow Goose	Dunlin	Steller's Jay
Brant	Long-billed Dowitcher	Blue Jay
Cackling Goose	Wilson's Snipe	California Scrub-Jay
Canada Goose	Willet	American/Northwestern Crow
Mute Swan	Greater Yellowlegs	Common Raven
Trumpeter Swan	Pigeon Guillemot	Black-capped Chickadee
<i>Trumpeter/Tundra Swan</i>	Mew Gull	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Wood Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Bushtit
Northern Shoveler	California Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Gadwall	Herring Gull	Brown Creeper
Eurasian Wigeon	Iceland (Thayer's) Gull	Pacific Wren
American Wigeon	Glaucous-winged Gull	Marsh Wren
Mallard	Glaucous Gull	Bewick's Wren
Northern Pintail	Glaucous-winged x Western (Olympic) Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Green-winged (American) Teal	Glaucous-winged x Herring (Cook Inlet) Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ring-necked Duck	<i>gull species</i>	<u>Hermit Thrush (Count Week)</u>
Greater Scaup	Red-throated Loon	American Robin
Lesser Scaup	Pacific Loon	Varied Thrush
<i>scaup species</i>	Common Loon	Northern Mockingbird
Harlequin Duck	Brandt's Cormorant	European Starling
Surf Scoter	Double-crested Cormorant	Cedar Waxwing
White-winged Scoter	Pelagic Cormorant	House Sparrow
Black Scoter	American Bittern	American Pipit
<i>scoter species</i>	Great Blue Heron	House Finch
Long-tailed Duck	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Purple Finch
Bufflehead	Northern Harrier	Red Crossbill
Common Goldeneye	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Pine Siskin
Barrow's Goldeneye	Cooper's Hawk	American Goldfinch
Hooded Merganser	Bald Eagle	Spotted Towhee
Common Merganser	Red-tailed Hawk	Savannah Sparrow
Red-breasted Merganser	Rough-legged Hawk	Fox Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Barn Owl	Song Sparrow
<i>duck species</i>	Great Horned Owl	Lincoln's Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Barred Owl	<u>Swamp Sparrow (Count Week)</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	Short-eared Owl	White-crowned Sparrow
Horned Grebe	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Red-necked Grebe	Belted Kingfisher	Dark-eyed Junco
Western Grebe	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	Downy Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Hairy Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	<u>Pileated Woodpecker (Count Week)</u>	Brewer's Blackbird
Anna's Hummingbird	Northern Flicker	Orange-crowned Warbler
Virginia Rail	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Coot	Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	
Sandhill Crane	Flicker Intergrade	
Black Oystercatcher	American Kestrel	
Black-bellied Plover	Merlin	
Killdeer	Peregrine Falcon	
<u>Black Turnstone (Count Week)</u>	Northern Shrike	
Sanderling	Hutton's Vireo	

# The Volunteer Corner

## *Special thanks to:*

- ♦ Mary Taitt for leading our regular Sunday Bird Walk.
- ♦ Jim Martin, Emma Turgeon, Kelly Mitchell, Brian Self and David Bruce for helping visitors along trails.
- ♦ Justin Makonin, Eric Rossicci, Eileen Axford, Hannah Jang, Shubhadeep and Reeteka Chakraborty for bagging seed and filling bird feeders.
- ♦ Our fall newsletter mailout team of Eileen Axford, Eric Rossicci, David Bruce and Kristina Breit.
- ♦ Brian Self, Ivy Whitehorne, Nicole Lamarche, Marrisasa Sasaki, Eric Gogal, Amber Burnett, Morgan Dunne, Jason Eames and Kristina Breit for their assistance with our bi-weekly Sanctuary bird surveys.
- ♦ Janna Peterson and Bonnie Wang for helping with traffic control at the front gate.

## *Volunteers needed:*

- ♦ Sanctuary visitor hosts on busy weekends over the winter. As you may have noticed, we have

many visitors interested in owls, so if you would like to share your knowledge, come out and volunteer at a roost site.

- ♦ Museum host for Sunday mornings.
- ♦ Helping with bird surveys every two weeks.

For more information, ask at the Gift Shop or visit our website. [www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com](http://www.reifelbirds sanctuary.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@reifelbirds sanctuary.com](mailto:kathleen@reifelbirds sanctuary.com).)

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

### TO THE DELTA NATURALISTS

For providing us with many of their excellent brochures

*Experiencing Birding in Delta  
and  
Birds in Delta.*

These are very popular with visitors!

## 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) ☐

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

Telephone: 604 946 6980 Fax: 604 946 6982  
Website: [www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com](http://www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com)



# BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

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