

# Marshnotes®



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY  
WINTER 2022**

# BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

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

*dedicated to the conservation and study of migratory waterfowl*

## Marshnotes:

Editor: Kathleen Fry

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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, 2022**



*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:

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

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

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

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## Top Birds of the Sanctuary in 2021

### Monthly Species Highlights

January <i>Northern Mockingbird</i>	February <i>Northern Goshawk</i>	March <i>Tundra Swan</i>	April <i>Sanderling</i>
May <i>Red Crossbill</i>	June <i>Costa's Hummingbird</i>	July <i>Rough-legged Hawk</i>	August <i>Green Heron</i>
September <i>Black-necked Stilt</i>	October <i>Eared Grebe</i>	November <i>Tree Swallow</i>	December <i>Pelagic Cormorant</i>

**2021 Bird of the Year: Costa's Hummingbird**  
**Total 2021 Bird Species: 169**

Text: Varri Raffan, Gift Shop Manager

## Sanctuary Locations Map

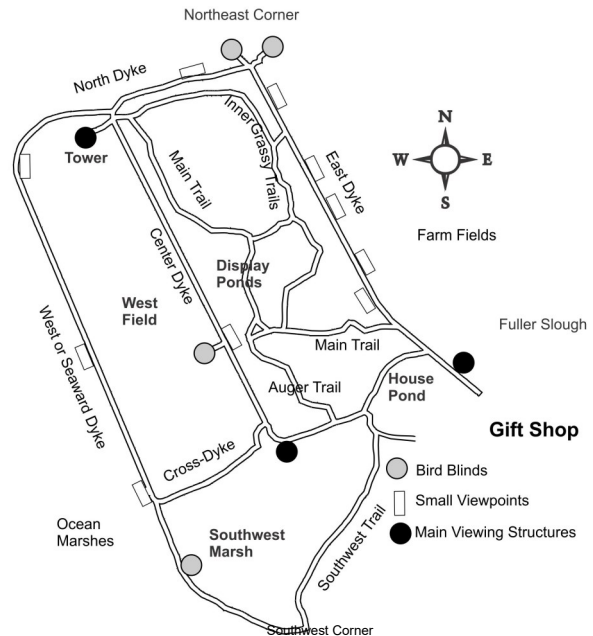
### Editor's Note:

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

## About Our Covers

**Front Cover:** *Bufflehead* © John Whitmore

**Back Cover:** *Eurasian Wigeon* © Jim Martin



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Varri Raffan  
Varri Raffan

Kathleen Fry  
Kathleen Fry  
Yousif Attia



# Bird Highlights

*October 2021 ended with an impressive list of 111 bird species.*

## October 3 – October 9

In this reporting period 94 out of the 111 species were observed. The influx of returning waterfowl from the north is very noticeable this month. Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck were the new arrivals bringing the waterfowl count alone to 18 different species. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, perched with Long-billed Dowitchers on logs in Fuller Slough, the Hudsonian Godwit first seen on September 30<sup>th</sup> has returned. While viewing from the back deck of the Gift Shop on the 8<sup>th</sup>, visitors spotted 4 Band-tailed Pigeons in a Hawthorn tree behind the house. If you are one of the first to drive along the entrance driveway at this time of year it's worth looking in the cedar trees for birds of prey. Earlier this year the Great Horned Owls nested there in an old Red-tailed Hawk nest. Warblers such as Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Wilson's, Black-throated Gray and MacGillivray's were still making the weekly list but saw the last sightings of any Red-necked Phalarope.

## October 10 – October 16

On the 10<sup>th</sup> at the south end of the outer Seaward Dyke a Northern Shrike was reported along with a Ruddy Duck in the Southwest Marsh. A late sighting of a Tree Swallow and the last reports of both Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The first report of a Bufflehead was on the 14<sup>th</sup> and then on the 16<sup>th</sup> visitors spotted one Short-eared Owl hunting in the Marsh.

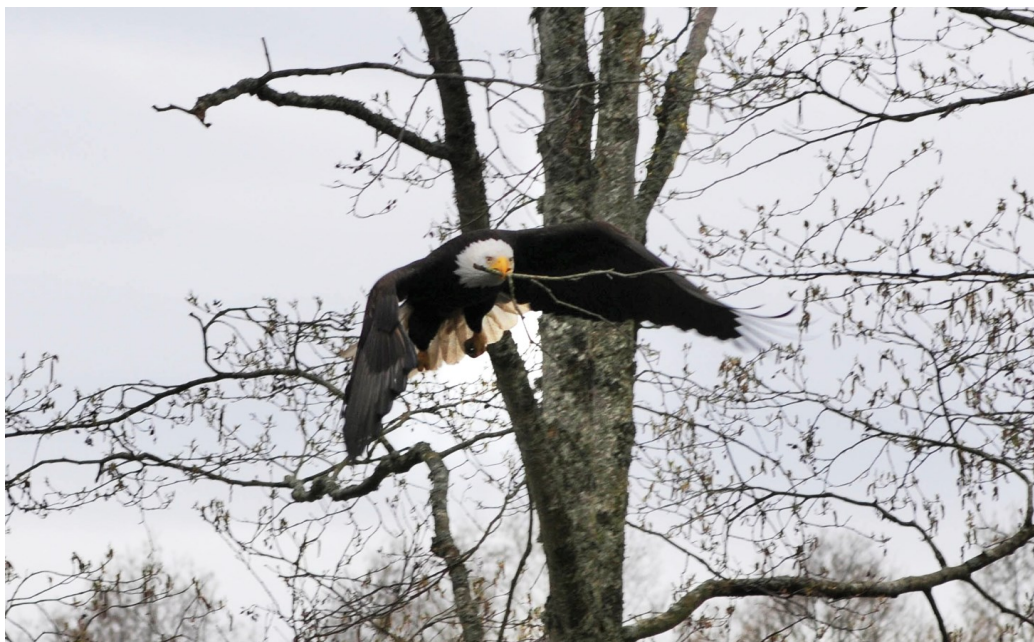
## October 17 – October 23

The first White-throated Sparrow and Northern Saw-whet Owl both turned up on the 19<sup>th</sup> and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> we saw the first return of Eurasian Wigeon. These wigeon nest in Iceland and across Northern Europe. Most of them winter in Northern Africa but some regularly occur along the Pacific Coast in the winter mixed in flocks of American Wigeon. Next time you come across a flock of wigeon look for the male Eurasian Wigeon with his deep rusty head and beige crown. It is featured on the back cover of this edition of Marshnotes. Their sides are gray compared to the pinkish brown sided of the American Wigeon. Females of both species are similar, but the female Eurasian Wigeon tend to have a warmer brown head color. A good opportunity to compare difference in size between Cackling Geese and Canada Geese presented itself as both species were swimming with the "Floatius plasticus" (a faded duck decoy) in the House Pond on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## October 24 – October 30

Bald Eagles are now paired up and are busy rounding up sticks and twigs to add a new layer to an existing nest or to create a new one. It was interesting to watch them flying over the tops of dead trees using their talons to snap off various sized branches in mid flight. It is astounding the nests they construct that will last for years to come with just their beaks and feet. The last 2021 Sanctuary sighting of a Townsend's Warbler at was on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The first 52 Trumpeter Swans were spotted from the tower on the same day.

*November 2021 had a total of 99 bird species. It is usually the month when the largest numbers of Snow Geese have arrived to the Fraser Delta. They have*



*Bald Eagle gathering sticks*

*Photo: Peter Nielsen*



*Lesser Snow Geese in the marsh*

*Photo: Tony Austin*

*made their way south along the Russian Arctic coastline, then to Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta southward to the Pacific Coast to wintering grounds of the Fraser Delta and south of the border in the Skagit Valley estuary of Washington.*

#### October 31 – November 6

Starting off the week there was an unusual sighting of an American Tree Sparrow at the Southwest Marsh. Even though its name has "tree" in it, it's a bit of a mystery as they are better found in brush and marsh where they search for seeds, insects and spiders. It also nests mainly on the ground in tussocks of grass or shallow depressions. The most distinguishing feature of the American Tree Sparrow is the black spot in the center of their pale gray breast. November 5<sup>th</sup> a flock of 23 Greater White-fronted Geese and 70 Cackling Geese were found. As the biweekly bird survey crew gathered on the 16<sup>th</sup>, they were met by a Barred Owl perched on top of the front gate along with 9 Common Ravens circling overhead. FYI, a collective name for a group of ravens is "rabble" or "rant". November 6<sup>th</sup> saw the arrival of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Black-crowned Night-Heron to the "usual area" across from the warming hut.

#### November 7 – November 13

Common Mergansers left our area in late spring to nest in northern British Columbia and southern Alaska but this week we found many of them in the Sanctuary. Two good locations to spot Common Merganser is Robertson Slough parallel to the driveway and Ewen Slough at the Northeast Corner. On the 7<sup>th</sup> we had a nice show of 12 Sandhill Cranes in the House Pond and 2 Evening Grosbeaks dining on Pacific Crabapples along the Center Dyke. Orange-crowned Warblers have now fallen off the weekly sightings list as they have gone south to California,

Arizona and Texas for the winter. Greater Yellowlegs have also left our area heading to southern United States and in to South America.

#### November 14 – November 20

You don't expect to find any swallow species at this time of year, but both a Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow were located this week. Insects must be a challenge to come across. Common Redpolls are now being spotted in flocks of American Goldfinch and Pine Siskins. These mixed flocks descend on birch and alders trees picking through the catkins and other available seeds. The male Common Redpoll has a black chin, pinkish breast and red a cap. Visitors most often report seeing them along the outer Seaward Dyke at the south end, where you can also find Western Meadowlark and Northern Shrike. As winter approaches, numbers and varieties of warbler and shorebird decrease.

#### November 21 – November 27

Included with the 74 species found this week we had the first Fall sightings of American Bittern, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull and Hutton's Vireo. Wood Duck numbers have dropped dramatically. From the 40 Wood Ducks seen in May we are now down to less than 10 birds this week. There are a few that spend the colder months in this area but most Wood Ducks head for a warmer climate in California. Other birds of note were Ruddy Duck, Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Peregrine Falcon and Northern Shrike.

*December 2021 had a total 87 species recorded.*

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



(Continued from page 5)

#### November 28 – December 4

On the Sanctuary's Seasonal Bird Checklist we have 6 hawks listed. The 5 that were present this week were Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk. The Northern Goshawk was absent. So far we haven't had too much luck finding any Northern Saw-whet Owls at previous roost sites but one was tucked into a tree along the left side of the East Dyke.

#### December 5 – December 11

A single Chestnut-backed Chickadee was spotted in a flock of Black-capped Chickadees at the north end of the East Dyke. Here at the Sanctuary we are used to seeing only the Black-capped Chickadees but not far away, on the Gulf Islands, all they are used to seeing is the Chestnut-backed Chickadee. As the name states they have a rich chestnut colored back and are a touch smaller than the Black-capped. On most days over the last 2 weeks a Hutton's Vireo has been found near the end of the East Dyke and along the driveway. Often mistaken for a Ruby-crowned Kinglet the Hutton's Vireo also has a distinctive near full white eye ring and 2 white wing bars. December 8<sup>th</sup> a pair of Great Horned Owls was found perched together along the East Dyke. As part of their bonding ritual we see the 2 of them together more often as nesting time approaches. December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 female Common Goldeneye were seen in Fuller Slough.



*Red-breasted Sapsucker*

*Photo: Dan Parlee*

#### December 12 – December 18

The most noticeable bird out of the 70 species recorded was the American Robin. We had literally 100's of robins showing up from subalpine berry patches and the Interior coming down to the coast. Robins survive mainly on berries at this time of year and the Sanctuary proves to be a popular spot as we have lots of Hawthorn trees that are still loaded with

berries. Another bird that is also very visible is the Black-capped Chickadee. They are quick to give a subtle begging hint by fluttering around your head as you walk along the trails. Throughout the day visitors offer black-oiled sunflower seeds but these little birds can't possible eat all of them. So what they do is stash them in tree crevasses or in cracks in fence posts to eat at another time. As it turns out this practice of stashing food away will come in handy with the weather that will come in the last week of December. They really must do a good job of collecting all the stowed away or dropped seeds because otherwise, I would expect more volunteer sunflowers growing trail side.

#### December 19 – December 25

The Ladner Christmas Bird count was held December 19<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful sunny day. The team counting the Sanctuary came up with a healthy list of 71 species for the day and we ended up with 78 species for the entire week. Highlights included Pelagic Cormorant, 800 Double-crested Cormorants, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, all spotted offshore, and Cinnamon Teal, American Bittern, Killdeer, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Shrike, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon found inside the Sanctuary.

#### December 26, 2021 – January 1, 2022

This last reporting week for 2021 ended with 71 species. Unfortunately we had more closed days than open days due to the heavy snow which made driving conditions treacherous let alone navigating the trails. With our smaller time frame for bird watching we still had highlights of Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Ring-billed Gulls, Sora, Hutton's Vireo and Western Meadowlark.

When you have gone through the last 2 years, you learn to appreciate little things that nature brings us like the birds, trees and flowers. Here's to everyone having an amazing year ahead and being able to take pleasure in nature.

Every so often I come across enjoyable group names for birds. Here are 10 more for you.

Aristocracy of Waxwing  
Bevy or Wedge of Swans  
Brace of Pheasant  
Cast or Kettle of Hawks  
Chatter of Chickadees  
Covert of Coots  
Gang of Turkeys  
Muster or ostentation of Peacocks  
Parliament of Owls  
Yellowing of Warblers

Text: Varri Raffan,  
Gift Shop Manager

# **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 via Zoom (an on-line meeting) at

**7:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 20th, 2022.**

**If you wish to attend, please email [bcws@reifelbirdsanctuary.com](mailto:bcws@reifelbirdsanctuary.com)  
with your name to receive instructions.**

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

James Morrison  
Wayne Diakow  
Gerry Oyen

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 20th, 2022**

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

Happy New Year! We continue to operate on a reduced and regulated visitor basis to keep numbers of visitors and vehicles down. Reservation spots were kept very low from March until September. From that point onwards, the number of booking spots were doubled, and competition for spots has been much reduced since then. In addition to the allotted spots each day, at our discretion, we have cautiously delivered a few group tours this fall and a few self-guided groups such as pre-school classes have come in their own vehicles as part of the usual booking system. For those requesting tours with us, though, as long as it is a small group seeking environmental education we have set aside some extra spaces. Groups have included university classes, partner organizations, Seniors Group Homes, Beaver and Scout Groups, and NaturekidsBC, just as examples. Birding groups from BC Nature clubs have also been accommodated in this way, as was the Ladner Christmas Bird Count team covering this area.

In the last three months of 2021, we had a total of 8,531 visitors, approximately 75% of last year at this time. The lower number was primarily due to the weather, as most of October and November days were either windy, rainy or both, even though temperatures were about normal. In November, there was 23 days of rain, the most dramatic ones being the few days at mid-month when over 100 mm of rain fell in just 3 days, causing major flooding up the Fraser Valley but also local flooding throughout some lowlying areas. For sea level areas like Ladner, rainwater can not go anywhere until the tides drop and gravity drainage is possible. The Sanctuary was closed on November 16<sup>th</sup> to let some of the excess floodwater recede from around the Museum, the trails and parking lot. Many thanks for your patience everyone, as we did a last minute cancellation of bookings for that day to allow a very large pond in the parking lot to dissipate. December 2021, was much colder than usual, breaking long-term records back to 1952 for the coldest day on record (minus 15.3 with a wind chill factor to minus 23). Most ponds were frozen over by mid month, with several snow events between Christmas Day and New Year's Day causing us to close.

At the start of October, though, the weather was fine, and birders were thrilled with House pond views of the Black-necked Stilt, Hudsonian Godwit and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. *Amanita muscaria* mushrooms were also all over the trail systems in October, making for excellent photos. Our crane family had been missing a few days, socializing over in East Delta with other cranes, but we were glad to see them return to their daily residency here from the 7<sup>th</sup> onwards. Well into mid-November, up to 10 other local cranes would join them here at the Sanctuary or at least land in nearby fields. Our pair and the colt generally chased them off,

so this winter might be the first time in years that we do not have an extra crane flock wintering here.

High pressure Arctic weather fronts brought large flocks of Lesser Snow Geese from Wrangel Island Russia which carpeted most fields on Westham Island in the first few weeks of October. They dispersed after a few weeks of hungry foraging, and after the major flood in mid-November, there were reports of flocks way up the valley in the Popkum area. A mid-winter Snow Goose census is usually carried out in January every year, and it will be interesting to see whether major changes in their distribution resulted from this atmospheric river. From late October onwards for the next month, our ponds were visited by a pack of at least 5 River Otters, most of them being very large. Their presence caused many a duck to relocate.

November was a series of windy, wet weather fronts, and we lost a couple of the snags along East Dyke to big gusts of winds when everything was saturated. It is funny what odd scenarios occur after major storms. A small bat was found in our pile of lumber just after the major atmospheric river mid-November passed through. At the beginning of December, the old Barn Owl nest box on a pole behind the Museum came down with a crash to rival the falling of a dead snag. Its replacement was installed a few weeks later, so we hope the renovation work results in a Barn Owl tenant, not the squirrel family of recent occupancy. Between Christmas and New Year's, when more than 20 cm of snow was covering the terrain, we had some interesting sightings of rails that seemed not to notice us at all. One even ran across the entrance trail by the Gift Shop.

In between weather fronts, there have been some owl sightings. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was found in a Holly on the west side of House pond on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and another of this small species was found roosting along East Dyke on a particular fir branch for a week or so in the last week in November. This year, we may not have many of these small migrant owls, as they have usually moved in by January. There have been periodic sightings of Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls and Barn Owls, and sometimes even Short-eared Owls hunting out over the tidal marshes. By January and February 2022, we should have seen some signs of where some of these species may nest this spring.

January so far has been promising, with cold-weather species such as Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Common Redpolls and Bohemian Waxwings drawing in some keen birdwatchers.

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



# Winter Rail Encounters



In late December, while trudging through the snow to fill bird feeders, a small dark bird ran across the trail in front of me, then it stopped and settled briefly on the snow. It was a Sora, one of the two species of rails seen in the Sanctuary. Virginia Rails are more abundant, and are present year-round, but Soras usually winter further south. Some migrate some as far as Central and South America. On the Pacific coast, though, they can winter in areas where the average January temperatures are at least minus 1.5 C. At another feeder, we found four Virginia Rails fighting over some uncovered ground underneath it. Both rail species rely upon invertebrates and seeds, with more reliance on seed in winter, particularly when snow and ice prevents their usual probing for invertebrates in the mud and debris of marsh shorelines. Perhaps rails have had some sort of secret dependence upon fallen seeds from winter bird feeders that has gone unnoticed until now. None of the birds seemed to be even aware of us and ran about chasing one another within just a few feet of our feet.

It is very uncommon to see any rail standing still or walking around in view of people. Rails are usually running, making short flights, then plunging through marsh plant cover to disappear within a scant few seconds. In fact, rails have specialized more sturdy feathers on their forehead to withstand plant abrasion from pushing through stands of marsh plants. The feather shaft extends out beyond the rest of the feather. They are strong runners and weak fliers and have the highest ratio of leg muscle to wing muscle compared to their body weight (25% versus 15%) of any birds.

Rails become a bit lethargic during winter cold snaps. A small traffic hazard was reported in the form of a Virginia Rail walking down the middle of a road, oblivious to cars and people during the recent White

Rock Christmas Bird Count. Come to think of it, my first close look at a Virginia Rail came from a local farmer calling one day to report that “a small orangey potato shaped bird had walked out of tall grass towards him on the side of the road, leaned against his boot and went to sleep (died)”.

Let’s not call them potatoes, though. Other names for Soras are Soree, or Meadow Chicken. Virginia Rails are known as Marsh Hens or Water-hens amongst many other names. Rails are in the Family Rallidae, of the Order Gruiformes, so their closest relatives are coots and gallinules, and more distantly, cranes. They share some of the same display behaviors and hunched body type as our American Coots, but have a laterally compressed body (narrow from shoulder to shoulder, but deep in profile), and have fine long elegant toes.

Most of the time, we just hear rails calling from deep in the marsh. Some of their noises sound like squeaks and oinks, but the Sora has a distinctive whinnying call and a “kerwee” call. The Virginia Rail has a staccato “kiddick-kiddick” call as well as booming or grunting notes. Both nest here, cohabiting in the marshes. The Observation Tower area is a good spot to watch for them, and if you are by yourself and quiet, the odds are good for seeing at least one of the species crossing small open water areas in the Cattails.

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

## References:

Melvin, S. M. and J. P. Gibbs (2020). Sora (*Porzana carolina*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.sora.01>  
Conway, C. J. (2020). Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A. F. Poole and F. B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.virrai.01>

Photos: Sora (top left) and Virginia Rail (below)



# Ladner Christmas Bird Count Results 2021

The Ladner Christmas Bird Count took place on Sunday December 19th, 2021 under a calm, clear, and dry sky. Close to 100 people went out to cover the count area, with a dozen other participants counting at feeders. A total of 130 species of birds were recorded this year on Count Day. This is two species more than last year's total of 128, which was the second highest count in Canada, after Victoria, BC. Four additional species: American Bittern, Common Murre, Red Knot, and Rhinoceros Auklet, were missed on the official Count Day, but were recorded on the three days prior to or after December 19, which is considered Count Week. Species completely missed this year include Ruddy Duck, Western Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Swamp Sparrow.

Highlights included a Northern Waterthrush at Deas Island and a Northern Mockingbird at Boundary Bay. The colder than usual weather resulted in an irruption of Common Redpolls at several locations. Other noteworthy finds included 12 Least Sandpipers in south Richmond, two Greater White-fronted Geese at Boundary Bay, and one Glaucous Gull at the Delta Landfill. A full list of species and numbers for this year is below. Thank you to all who joined in to help Birds Canada and National Audubon Society keep track of the population of wild birds every year since 1900. To learn more about the program and see highlights from last season at [www.birdscanada.org/cbc](http://www.birdscanada.org/cbc).

## Species List 2021

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

\* Seen in Count Week, but not on Count Day

Text: Yousif Attia, Birds Canada

# The Volunteer Corner

## *Special thanks to:*

- ♦ Mary Taitt for leading our regular Sunday Bird Walk.
- ♦ Brian Self, Jim Martin, John Chandler, Rene Williamson, Mary Taitt, Emma Turgeon, and Eva Janzen for helping visitors along trails and filling bird feeders this season.
- ♦ Christine Barker, Eric Rossicci, and Eileen Axford for bagging seed.
- ♦ Our fall newsletter mailout team of Eileen Axford, Eric Rossicci, and Jim Martin as well as staff.
- ♦ Brian Self, Marrisasi Sasaki, Eric Gogal, Amber Burnett, Gabby Thompson, Josh Lee, Mike and Sharon Toochnin, Peter Candido, and Janice White for their assistance with our bi-weekly Sanctuary bird surveys.
- ♦ Margaret Gornham for volunteering to host visitors at the Museum every Sunday.

## *Volunteers needed:*

- ♦ Sanctuary visitor hosts on busy weekends over the late winter into spring. 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.
- ♦ Work parties for special projects this spring. See our volunteer page on our website for details.

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 their excellent Nature Brochure Series. 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) ☐

VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐

VISA or MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

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