

# Marshnotes®



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY  
FALL 2014**

# 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.reifelbirdsanctuary.com](http://www.reifelbirdsanctuary.com)**

**Email: [bcws@reifelbirdsanctuary.com](mailto:bcws@reifelbirdsanctuary.com)**

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## **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARSHNOTES**

**January 15th, 2014**

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Sanctuary Manager: Kathleen Fry  
Gift Shop Manager: Varri Raffan  
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Biologist: Dan Dixon  
Maintenance: David McClue

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 yrs +): \$3  
School Groups: Special discounts available; pre-booking is required.

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# 2014 Pig and Corn Roast Thank You's



The 26<sup>th</sup> Pig & Corn Roast was held with 190 people in attendance on Sept 6, 2014 under warm sunny skies. The Pig & Corn Roast started back in September 1988 and over those years we have had many great volunteers and supporters who have made the dinners successful. The 2014 dinner was the last one and we thank you all for supporting the Sanctuary with your attendance.

*Photo: Jim Martin*

There are a lot of dedicated volunteers who worked together as a team making this dinner a success and we wish to thank you all very much. Every year we have been very fortunate to receive the 2 pigs as donations. Thank you Ray Forh from Britco Packers for making this possible again this year. Our experienced cooks Henry Parker, Leonard Brady, Gordy Tull, Gerry Lyon, Dick and Bonnie Anderson, we thank you all for making our dinners so tasty over the past years. Helmut, Stefan and Derek Hoeckl, thank you for your expertise in carving the 2 pigs. Our bartenders for the evening, Mary Taitt and Doug Raffan, thanks for your help. To our long time Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary director Wayne Diakow, thanks so much for taking care of announcing table numbers and raffle prizes. Raffle ticket sales were handled by Barbara Warrick and Laura Jordison. Thank you very much ladies. All the pre-event set up, food preparation, serving and clean up we were grateful for help from Irene Banack, Arlie Darby, Su Langlois, Vera Maceluch, Karl Pollak, Rob and Brandon Ross and Brian Self. At the end of the evening thanks to you all who lent a hand in the clean up.

Text: Varri Raffan, Gift Shop Manager

## About Our Covers:

Front Cover:  
The Blue and White Snow Goose © Jim Martin

Back Cover:  
The Female Ruff (“Reeve”) © Marvin Salvail

## A Note From The Editor:

*The most useful photos for Marshnotes are those featuring something in the three months covered by that edition. The best approach is to send thumbnails or reduced images or links to posted images. I will then contact you for higher resolution versions. See page 2 for my email and upcoming deadlines. Kathleen Fry*

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# Bird Highlights

*July is the quietest month at the Sanctuary for bird variety. The resident waterfowl are pretty much grounded as they are still in molt (eclipse plumage). This is good timing as it coincides with their young who are also awaiting their flight feathers. By the beginning of September they will all be ready to migrate out of the Sanctuary. The species list for this month ended with 93.*

## June 29 – July 5

July 2<sup>nd</sup> a handful of American White Pelicans were seen far offshore of the seaward dyke. There have been up to 47 of these birds foraging off Brunswick Point for over 3 weeks. July 3<sup>rd</sup> the first 2 southward-bound Wilson's Phalaropes were found in the west field. An American Kestrel was spotted as it perched on the power lines along our driveway. A pair of Eastern Kingbirds, 1 Swainson's Thrush and the first batch of fledged Barn Swallows were all seen in this week.

## July 6 – July 12

A Pacific-slope Flycatcher was seen this week and on July 6<sup>th</sup> a female Hooded Merganser was seen in the Southwest Marsh. July 11<sup>th</sup> we had a Belted Kingfisher hunting in a pond in the Southwest Marsh and a Pelagic Cormorant offshore. Turkey Vulture, Great Horned Owl and Barn Owl were also seen in this week which ended with 60 species.

## July 13 – July 19

A single Chestnut-backed Chickadee was seen along the driveway on July 13<sup>th</sup>. In this week we are now seeing the Anna's Hummingbirds in with the Rufous Hummingbirds. There is a small overlap when both are here. By mid-August the Rufous Hummingbirds start their migration to Mexico for the winter. The Anna's Hummingbird will stay with us all winter. Western Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers and Least Sandpipers are now joining the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and the Long and Short-billed Dowitchers which have been here for about 2 weeks. Purple Martins are still being observed in and around the older set of nest boxes north of the tower.

## July 20 – July 26

On July 20<sup>th</sup> we spotted our first late summer Black-crowned Night-Heron and an Osprey. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> 4 Vaux's Swifts were seen. July 24<sup>th</sup> had a Western

Tanager and then on July 26<sup>th</sup> we had a second sighting of a Green Heron (first sighting was on May 11<sup>th</sup>). The single Northern Shoveler found in the Display Ponds was an unusual sight for this time of year. This week's list had 65 species.

## July 27 – Aug 2

A few migrants are now starting to come back south, and this week's species list is now up to 72 species. The 27<sup>th</sup> we had a Barred Owl along the center dyke. The first summer reports of American Coots and Bullock's Orioles were on July 31<sup>st</sup>. On August 2<sup>nd</sup> a single Fox Sparrow was reported along the east dyke.

*August is a month when you can expect to view different species of sandpipers. We had a total of 17 species of shorebirds out of 104 species for the month.*

## August 3 – August 9

In the first part of this week we are now up to 3 Black-crowned Night-Herons (2 adults and 1 juvenile) They are mostly being seen on the left and right bank of Fuller Slough and not yet in the trees opposite the Warming Hut. The last time that we had a juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron at the Sanctuary was in the fall and winter of 2006.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> a juvenile Red-necked Phalarope and 3 American Coots were seen, arriving on the same date as last year. Two Pied-Billed Grebes were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and on the 6<sup>th</sup>, a single Greater White-fronted Goose showed up mixed in with a small flock of Canada Geese. On both the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> we had an unusual sighting of a Red-eyed Vireo along the inner grassy trail in the northeast corner. On the 7<sup>th</sup> 3 Red Crossbill were spotted along the seaward dyke of West Field. August 9<sup>th</sup> a Green Heron was reported in the waterway under the tower and then later in the day it was found in the West Field.

## August 10 - August 16

This week's species list was the highest for the month at a total of 83. On the 11<sup>th</sup> an Osprey was spotted as it flew over the Sanctuary. August 14<sup>th</sup> both Sora and Virginia Rail were observed as they foraged in the reeds at the Northwest corner of the West Field. This area seems to be the hot spot for finding Rails. Spend a little time standing on the wooden deck looking in to the reed edges and see who appears. This spot is also a good area to find American Bitterns. Also on the 14<sup>th</sup> a Townsend's Warbler was reported close to the Warming Hut. Townsend's Warblers are easily identified with the distinctive yellow and black pattern



on the head. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 Sandhill Cranes dropped in for a short visit. A single Stilt Sandpiper was found among the Yellowlegs in the West Field on the 17<sup>th</sup>. These 2 birds are quite close in looks but the Stilt Sandpiper has a slight droop to the tip of the bill with greenish yellow legs also a bit smaller than a Lesser Yellowlegs. Highlights for this week included Bullock's Oriole, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-headed Grosbeak, Hairy Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo and Red-eyed Vireo.

August 17 – August 23

On the 17<sup>th</sup> there were 8 Hooded Mergansers in the Southwest Marsh, 3 Mute Swans offshore, 2 Pied-billed Grebes, 3 Black-crowned Night-Heron on the banks of Fuller Slough, 3 Stilt Sandpipers and 21 Sandhill Cranes that have been having a sleep over in the West Field, heading out in the morning to local farm fields to forage. August 20<sup>th</sup> a Solitary Sandpiper and a Common Merganser were sighted. On the 21st, we had reports of a Wilson's Snipe, 2 Red-necked Phalaropes, and 8 Stilt Sandpipers. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Nashville Warbler was seen near the wooden Viewing Platform. The last report of this species was back in August and October of 2005. The Great Horned Owls are still being seen early morning along the driveway or at the northeast corner.



*American Redstart*

*61 Sandhill Cranes either foraging in the surrounding farm fields of Westham Island or resting in the West Field of the Sanctuary. So far these numbers certainly are the highest count for our area. This is very different from when we had only 2 Sandhill Cranes visit our resident female Crane back in April 1992. Fall migration is under way now with new arrivals of sparrows, ducks and Lesser Snow Geese.*

August 31 – September 6

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we had the first fall sighting of a Fox Sparrow along the east dyke. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> large numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were being observed. Four species of swallows and eleven shorebird species have been seen this week. There were 2 juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpipers seen September 4<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. These birds are on their way to spend the winter in southeast Australia and New Zealand. Their main migration route is along eastern Mongolia, China, Korea and Japan, but some of them (mainly juveniles) pass southwards from western Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. A 4th Black-crowned Night-heron is now here, making it two adults and 2 juveniles so far roosting in the Fuller Slough area. Six warbler species are still being seen this week along with 70 other species.

September 7 – September 13

*Photo: Peter Neilson*

This week was very busy with 83 species recorded. A female American Redstart, was found on September 7<sup>th</sup> along the East Dyke. This bird has a fidgety flight pattern and always seems to be in constant motion. Drooped wings and a fanned out tail are traits of this species as it hunts for insects. This species has not been reported here since August 2005.

We noticed the first few fall Varied Thrush, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows this week. On the 13<sup>th</sup> a single Lesser Snow Goose stood out in a flock of Canada Geese flying over the Gift Shop.

.....continued page 6

August 24 – August 30

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Northern Waterthrush were sighted at the tower and near the main parking lot. On the 27<sup>th</sup> there was a Green Heron below the tower. On the 28<sup>th</sup> 2 Band-tailed Pigeons, 2 Peregrine Falcons and 1 female Ruff (a "Reeve") were all seen. The Reeve was found mixed in with the Yellowlegs in the West Field from August 28<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>. The last Ruff sighting at the Sanctuary was on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 and before that July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. We had quite a few visitors out viewing this rarity. A female Black-throated Gray Warbler was spotted on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

*113 species were reported for September 2014. In this month you could count on seeing anywhere up to*

*(continued from page 5)*

Other highlights for the week were Green Heron, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Northern Waterthrush and Cackling Goose.

#### Sept 14 – Sept 20

We now have 57 Sandhill Cranes spending the nights in the West Field. The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper showed up again on the 15<sup>th</sup> along with a Hudsonian Godwit and a Pacific Golden Plover. The Godwit and Plover are even more unusual to see at the sanctuary than the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Again we were busy with birders coming out to find the trio of shorebirds. The last report of a Hudsonian Godwit was in September 2009 and that was only a short view as it flew out to the southwest marsh. The second most recent sighting was back in June 2006. As for the Pacific Golden Plover it was even farther back to August 2000.



*Hudsonian Godwit*

*Photo: Jim Martin*

Three American Pipits were seen this week. On the 19<sup>th</sup> a good size flock of Barn Swallows were catching insects behind the Gift Shop and among them was one that stood out very well. It was a leucistic Barn Swallow. Leucism is a condition caused by mutation that prevents melanin from being properly deposited on a bird's feathers and can be found in many bird species. You could still tell the patterns and markings on the swallow but it was an overall pale beige color.

#### Sept 21 – Sept 27

Approximately 100 Greater White-fronted Geese, 10 Cackling Geese, 19 Lesser Snow Geese and numerous Canada Geese were all present in the potato field off



*American Pipit*

*Photo: Jim Martin*

the East Dyke on the 21<sup>st</sup>. During the afternoon high tides of the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> the Hudsonian Godwit re-appeared. A first fall sighting of a Ring-necked Duck was on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we had a report of a Band-tailed Pigeon. On the 25<sup>th</sup> a Yellow-headed Blackbird was heard calling at the Gift Shop. On the same day at the end of the East Dyke a Red-breasted Sapsucker was seen and a Rough-legged Hawk was noted perched on top of the Purple Martin nest boxes. At the feeder in front of the Gift Shop we had a nice view of 3 Evening Grosbeaks. The feeders are now active, with Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-winged Blackbirds and a mix of sparrow species.

Text: Varri Raffan  
Gift Shop Manager

## **Special Thanks**

Andy Pupols of the Richmond Cosco Wholesale Inc store arranged for a generous donation of 60 bags of bird seed, and Les of Sonic Transport arranged for its free delivery. The birds and the Sanctuary staff are very appreciative of this fine bonus for the winter months.

# 2014 Sanctuary Barn Swallow Nest Survey

This spring we opted to do a discrete preliminary in-house study of our Barn Swallows, where their nests were, the critical times for nest-building, the hatching dates, and the kinds of factors affecting nest success.

Barn Swallows build their mud nests on upright wooden timbers of structures such as bird blinds, sign shelters and buildings. Over 60 nest sites were watched from April to late August and 45 of these locations were used to varying degrees. Every bird blind had a nest either inside or outside under the eaves, and places with decks overlooking water such as the Warming Hut and the Gift Shop often had nests on the support beams underneath or on the walls of buildings. Nests were monitored every two weeks, although it became apparent that checks on the nests under the Warming Hut needed to be reduced, as the presence of anyone under there created havoc.

Here are just a few observations from the study:

1. The Barn Swallows arrived the first week of April and were seen investigating sites at the Gift Shop and Warming Hut, plus the blinds on the seaward dyke as early as April 11th.
2. The first pairs incubating were likely those birds in the Southwest Marsh Blind and using two specific nests under the Warming Hut, with the first fledged young seen June 30th. The last nest of the season started in the third week of August.
3. The timing of exposed soft sticky mud may influence timing of nest building. On May 6th, 24th and 26th, many swallows were observed rolling mud pellets along the shoreline of House Pond and Ewen Slough, and later again in early July and early August when pond levels were low again. The majority of nest building and incubation started after these times of low water.
4. The young develop quickly. Note the 17 day span reflected in the 3 photos below of the same nest.

5. Known nest failures were due to House Sparrows (3), crows (1), predators which destroyed nests (4) and other unknown factors (3). There were several nests with unknown outcomes due to the timing of checks.
6. The greater majority of nests were at the Warming Hut, with as many as 22 active sites built against the 15 supporting beams under the deck and along beams above the deck.
7. The concrete swallow nests built years ago continue to attract the birds as ready-made nests. One pair modified the one installed at the Gift Shop deck by adding mud to make a bit of a "loft" to bring the lip of the nest up closer to the roof.



Concrete swallow nest with its 2014 "loft".  
Photo: Kathleen Fry

8. 2013 sites not used in 2014 included the beams under the Viewing Platform overlooking Southwest Marsh and the area around the doors of the Lecture Hall building and house.

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



A- Aug 8



B- Aug 15



C- Aug 25

Photos: Dan Dixon



## Manager's Report

July, August and September days were mainly very hot, and sometimes a bit humid. Visitors over the three months totalled 18,883, which is about the same as for other years, with July numbers slightly lower and September slightly higher than usual, possibly due to rare shorebird sightings in the West Field that month.

There are always interesting items to observe this time of year. The Barn Swallow nest study continued until late August (see page 7). The Easter Kingbirds nesting in Southwest Marsh had an altercation with a Great Blue Heron on July 19th and 20th, dive-bombing the larger bird and eventually abandoning their nest. Purple Martins were present at the old nest box used last year from July 1st onwards and by July 24th three birds in attendance were noticeably feeding young in the box. Dragonflies are abundant in late July and August, and appeared to be at least a seasonal favourite food item for the Sandhill Cranes and the Purple Martins. The Sandhill Cranes stalked them as they landed on thistle tops, and during an hour of watching the Purple Martins July 31st at the nest box, the parent birds brought back at least a dozen large dragonflies to the young in the nest. The Purple Martins fledged by August 16th, but remained in the area for another month.

Visitors may have noticed large flocks of Ring-billed, California or Mew Gulls hovering over the ponds on some days. These were feeding on swarms of flying ants, and there were outbreaks of these on August 10th, 11th, and 25th, and September 7th, all very humid days. On August 10th we were able to see the flying ants emerge from the soil along House Pond and hover over the ponds with gulls snapping at them.

One of the more odd wildlife sights was of a couple of small brown bats roosting on the side of the Gift Shop August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th just under the eaves. In one case, a bat was sleeping on the remains of a former Barn Swallow nest.

The change in waterfowl populations over the season has been significant. By mid- July, although there were still a few last Mallard, Wood Duck and Gadwall broods hatching, most of our summer waterfowl had regrown their flight feathers and had become more mobile, moving in and out of the Sanctuary. For a few weeks every morning like clockwork, there were daily arrivals of hundreds of Canada Geese evicted from some nearby pea fields.



*Purple Martin and nest box*

*Photo: Kathleen Fry*

After having mainly Canada Geese, Mallards, Wood Ducks and Gadwall for the summer, other migrant waterfowl began appearing by the third week of August starting with Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal. Many local commercial farm crops such as potatoes and peas were being harvested at this time and Mallard and Pintail flocks were exploring those.

Our first Lesser Snow Goose was a surprise September 13<sup>th</sup>, flying in with several hundred Canada Geese then spiralling out of the flock to land in the Sanctuary's ponds. By the third week in September, thousands of Pintail and Mallards had begun packing into Robertson and Fuller Sloughs and at the end of the month, we had more than 200 each of Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese and Cackling Geese, and over 7,000 dabbling ducks, a significant increase from the summer months. At time of writing in mid-October, at least 20,000 Lesser Snow Geese and thousands of dabbling ducks have thrilled visitors over the Thanksgiving long weekend, by forming a feeding flock that covered fields just outside our front gate.





*Sat bird and Hancock Bird*

*Photo: Kathleen Fry*

During heat-waves in mid July, late August and early September, evaporation took away more water than we could replace in ponds, so levels in the House Pond and West Field were quite low for lengthy periods. This made for great mudflat feeding for shorebirds. In addition to the uncommon sandpipers summarized in Bird Highlights (pages 5 and 6), the shallow mudflats of West Field were periodically visited by high numbers of Western Sandpipers, as well as Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. For example, 3500 Western Sandpipers were present at high tide August 24th, but were chased off by a Peregrine Falcon. When hot weather continued for too long, however, feeding conditions turned more into dry cracked mud. When high tides September 7th allowed for a big inflow of new water, it spread like balm over drying mud surfaces and recharged the all ponds.

The patches of cattail scattered along the inside of the West (seaward) Dyke west of the Tower have expanded considerably in the past three years, and the suspicion is that the past three dry summers and low waters have helped encouraged their growth. As some

of them at least are the narrow-leaved variety rather than the native broad-leaved type, and there are hybrids between the two species that are considered to be an invasive, we plan to try to control excess growth from year to year.

In the northwest corner of the pond, the cattail stand by the viewing deck constructed just two years ago had expanded to obscure the view. In late July, as an experiment, we cut and cleared the cattail from a small opening there between the deck and the main pond. Although there was a little regrowth of the cattail, the more interesting thing was the regular use of this newly-established clearing for the next few months by Soras. On a given day, if visitors waited only five or 10 minutes, as many as 4 Soras could be seen interacting and darting back and forth between patches of cover. Sometimes a Sora would climb up on one of the cut cattail stumps presumably to have some advantage over the others. Soras and Virginia Rails are some of our more secretive marshbirds.

There are a few other invasive plants to control in the Sanctuary. Purple Loosestrife, an invasive wetland plant from Europe, flowers along along the main path to the Tower but the natural biological control of this species, a beetle (*Galerucella* sp) has been released here before and is making a difference, as the plants are showing signs that insects are eating the leaves. The Langley Environmental Partners Society provided us with more beetles again in early September.

As in previous years, extra Sandhill Cranes began visiting the Sanctuary and roosting by the Tower at night in preparation for migration. I generally note the presence or absence of the bird wearing the satellite transmitter as a sign of whether or not a component of our local flock has migrated south as far as California. "Sat bird" began dropping by on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th of August, along with her regular companion "Hancock bird", a wild male crane banded at the Hancock Wildlife Center a few years ago. In August 2013, Hancock bird had a leg injury which healed without help and the leg is slightly curved now. Hancock and Sat bird have been spending their summers together at a Burnaby Golf Course.

By September 6th, roosting crane numbers had grown to 24, then 30 by the 8th, and family groups had started to show up in the flocks (a pair and colt on the 7th, a pair and 2 colts on the 13th). There was an odd sighting September 1st of a Peregrine Falcon in pursuit of a crane for some reason, but eventually they went their separate ways.

..... *continued page 10*

(continued from page 9)

By September 20th crane numbers had grown to 57 birds including our resident pair and gang of non-breeders, Sat bird and Hancock bird, and three family groups with a total of 5 colts in the flock. Although there were 61 birds on the 28th, the group size of 57 birds remained consistent until the Thanksgiving weekend. Most mornings, this roosting flock left here at daybreak to forage on nearby farm fields.

These fall crane numbers are much higher than those of previous years, and may signify something happening at another roost site causing more than our share of birds to relocate here, even if only temporarily. Our numbers have recently started to drop, but one of our members reported 50 cranes over on 68th Street next to Burns Bog on October 24th, and by that date we were down to just 11 birds, so the majority of the big flock seems to still be in Delta.

It is sometimes difficult to write retroactively about those hot and hazy days of late summer at the Sanctuary when the skies are full of noisy Snow Geese and the weather has changed to the gusty winds and heavy rain of October. I was thinking about this while out on the trails in the pouring rain when I happened to exchange glances with a Northern Flicker looking mighty snug looking out from inside one of our duck boxes. Even birds have gone from the search for water during the heatwaves of August to just plain avoiding it in soggy October. There are new issues and new birds (Lesser Snow Geese and Northern Saw-whet Owls) and beavers to think about now.

### **Scanning Through Snow Goose Flocks**

*This fall, while Lesser Snow Geese flocks are feeding in fields, it is worth scanning through them looking for certain birds. There are as many as 5 “blue geese” (a dark colour morph of the Snow Goose) in these flocks this fall. Juvenile Blue Geese are dark all over from head to tail, and the adults have a dark body and white head. The bird on the front cover of this edition is quite unusual as it appears to be only partially into this blue adult plumage. Both the white and blue colour morphs tend to mate with birds of their own colour. However, according to Fred Cooke (New Scientist, 1st February 1979), birds of mixed white and blue parentage “are often blue-phase birds with considerable white on the belly”.*

*Snow Goose watchers can also help document the migration of Lesser Snow Geese by reporting any of the birds wearing brown plastic neck collars installed by Washington State biologists in the Skagit estuary in March 2012. They banded and collared 200 birds that spring. Collars and their special codes can be reported through the Bird Banding Office website <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/>. Our birds are part of the Fraser-Skagit subpopulation. Most of the birds you see here in late fall move south to the Skagit estuary in Washington State (USA) for the winter. In some years, they may stay there until early March, then move back to the Fraser Delta for a few months. By the end of April, they will be well on their way north on their nearly 5,000 km migration back to Wrangel Island, Russia to nest.*

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



## **2015 Calendars Are Here**

The 2015 Sanctuary Calendar, full of some excellent photos taken by our members, is for sale now in the Gift Shop (\$17.95 plus tax). Just a reminder that members get 10% off all Gift Shop merchandise.

# The Volunteer Corner

## *Special Thanks To:*

- ◆ Our regular Sunday birding team of Mary Taitt and Brian Self, as well as Jim Martin, Istvan Orosi, Karl Pollak, Emma Turgeon, John and Paula Fitzgibbon and David Bruce for helping host visitors on weekends
- ◆ Bill Topping for hosting visitors in the Museum on Sunday mornings.
- ◆ Justin Malkonin, Tom Benmore, Eric Rossicci, and Eileen Axford for bagging seed and filling bird feeders.
- ◆ Our summer newsletter mailout team of Jim and Jean Marsh, Eileen Axford, Laura Jordison, Marilyn Knipp and Jim Martin.
- ◆ The team of Arlie Darby, Irene Banack, and Barbara Warrick for the flower gardens around the Museum and washrooms.

- ◆ Our summer trail work party volunteers Sue and Peter Jackson and Murray Clark.

## *Volunteers Wanted For the Fall:*

- ◆ Hosting visitors along trails on busy weekends, and during periods of excitement about Lesser Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes and Saw-whet Owls.

If you are interested in helping, please leave your contact information at the office or call Kathleen directly at 604-946-6985.

*Thanks very much, everyone!*

# Why be a Member?

## *As a Member, you receive the following benefits:*

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

Quarterly issue of the BCWS publication "Marshnotes".

A 10% discount on purchases in the Sanctuary Gift Shop.

Membership in one of British Columbia's most respected conservation organizations.

## *With your support, the British Columbia Waterfowl Society is able to:*

Staff, maintain and expand facilities at the Sanctuary for the benefit of its visitors and members; provide interpretive and education programs, including guided tours for organized groups of all ages; contribute towards important scientific research on waterfowl to determine their life cycle needs for survival; and provide support for like-minded organizations who are working on waterfowl-related projects.

## *Enclosed is my cheque or VISA/Mastercard number for:*

SINGLE Membership:  **\$25**

FAMILY Membership:  **\$50**

LIFE Membership:  **\$500**

Donation (tax deductible)

VISA  Mastercard

VISA or Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

# BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

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