

# Marshnotes®



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY  
FALL 2023**

# 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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Circulation: 1,800. Published four times a year.

*Recommended citation for this issue:  
Marshnotes Fall 2023, (K. Fry, Editor).  
British Columbia Waterfowl Society. Published  
October 31st 2023.  
[www.reifelbirdsantuary.com/marshf2023.pdf](http://www.reifelbirdsantuary.com/marshf2023.pdf).*

Submissions for Marshnotes may be sent to the email and postal addresses below marked for attention of the Marshnotes Editor. **Deadline for the next edition: January 15th, 2024.**

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## George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary:

**Prices: (effective September 1st, 2022).**

### Daily Admission:

Adults: \$8.00  
Seniors: \$6.00 (65+ years)  
Children: \$6.00 (2-14 years)  
**Bird seed:** \$2.00/bag

### Annual Memberships:

Family: \$100.00  
Individual: \$ 50.00  
Life: \$1,000.00

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Gift Shop Manager: Varri Raffan  
Biologist: Marissa Sasaki  
Education: Dani McRobbie  
Maintenance: Phoenix Black  
Field technicians: Kristina Breit  
Kiera Fritsch

## Hours of Operation:

Reservations are required for all visitors.  
Open 9:00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. every day except  
Mondays. (Closed Mondays)

The Sanctuary is wheelchair accessible.



*We now send out a tweet from our Twitter account @ReifelSanctuary when it looks like there is a weather alert, all reservation spots are full, or something interesting has been seen.*

## Upcoming Christmas Bird Count Dates

Annual Christmas Bird Counts started in 1900 and are a long-term monitoring project to track North American bird populations from year to year.

Volunteers join forces to do complete counts within each “count circle”, and are coordinated by local volunteers.

See the Birds Canada website <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count> for more information.

For the local counts, the following dates have been now set.

**Vancouver**  
**Saturday, December 16**  
 Contact Colin Clasen (colin@naturevancouver.ca)

**Ladner**  
**Sunday, December 17**  
 Contact Yousif Attia (ysattia@gmail.com)

**White Rock-Surrey-Langley**  
**Thursday, December 28**  
 Contact Kristina Breit (kristina.breit@freenet.de)

**Pitt Meadows**  
**Saturday, December 30**  
 Contact Jennifer Tayes (jtayes@shaw.ca )

## Sanctuary Locations Map

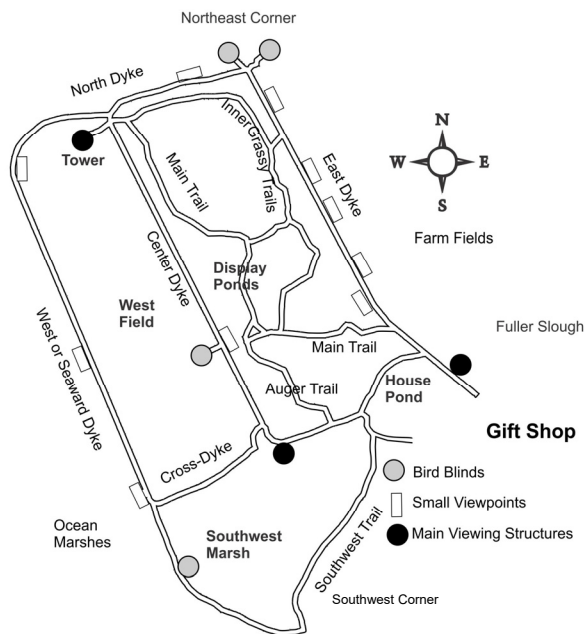
Please refer to the location map to the right to locate place names used in the Marshnotes articles.

## About Our Covers

Front Cover: Northern Shoveler  
 © Jim Martin

Back Cover: American Avocets  
 © Sabine Jessen

Marshnotes is issued four times a year but is now available only in electronic format on our “Archives” page at [www.reifelbirdsantuary.com/archives.html](http://www.reifelbirdsantuary.com/archives.html). If you would like to be notified when a new edition is posted, email [memberships@reifelbirdsantuary.com](mailto:memberships@reifelbirdsantuary.com).



## Contents

Page	3	Upcoming Christmas Bird Count Dates
	4	Manager’s Report
	6	Tracking the Wild Geese
	8	Bird Highlights
	11	The Volunteer Corner
	11	Why be a member

Kathleen Fry  
 Kathleen Fry  
 Varri Raffan

## Manager's Report

The months of July, August and September are usually low visitor months, while people are on vacation, or in the case of this summer, staying home due to forest fire-related air quality advisories in early July and late August, or heat advisories in mid July and late August. Temperatures were hovering just under 30 C during these periods. Rain was scarce in July and August, but September had variable amounts of rain on at least 11 days, and the habitats have now greened up from their dry dormant late summer look. Visitor use was up from the past two years, though, in spite of this, with 15,259 visitor days tallied, versus 13,852 of 2022 and 13,781 of 2021. July use is usually higher than the other months every year, probably due to the spillover effect of extra traffic on Westham Island at berry-picking farms.

For most of the summer, visitors have commented on the lack of ducks, but this is the usual summer trend along with the scruffy look of our waterfowl as they complete their annual moult, recover from a summer flightless period and regrow some of their showier feathers for the fall.

Vegetation management and water quality control tend to be the focus of our summer maintenance activities. Most of our trailside shrubbery needs constant but low-key trimming all summer, and each year in August or early September we tackle certain problem areas. On August 21st, a work party of staff and volunteers took on the trimming back of stands of Cattail and Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites* spp) that tend to grow out into the channel by the tower.

Part of the summer was spent removing invasive plant species that seem to have thrived under these recent hot summers. Common Peavine, for example, was historically only in a few spots around the junction of House Pond and Southwest Marsh, plus the main trail north of the crane island, but this year, we found it spreading the whole north half of the main trail on both sides, and creeping down half the length of Southwest Trail, so many plants were removed before they spread seeds. Purple loosestrife has also been thriving along trail edges, but the biological control agents in the form of beetles and weevils seem to be eating the flowers fairly effectively.

By late summer, we created some visitor information materials about the plants that make up the habitats in the Sanctuary. The posters on the Gift Shop windows are the products created by our education staff Dani McRobbie and feature many of the summer wildflowers and shrubs. Our Biologist Marissa Sasaki also delivered a couple of Plant Walk programs on July 29th and August 19th for interested visitors and

### November Sanctuary Closures

We are likely going to be closed some days between November 14th and mid-December. The last of the Westham Island bridge repairs coming up and these are going to require the bridge to be closed to all traffic for most of the days they are working there.

**The bridge work is planned for weekdays** Monday to Friday. We may be closed on some of those days because of logistics.

**On weekends, there will be no bridge work** and we will be open. On Remembrance Day weekend, we will also be open on the Monday.

Please reserve your visit though, as there may be a high demand for weekend spots, given all of this. Your booking also provides us with contact information should we need to advise people of unexpected changes in work plans. We will post the bridge closure dates on our website when they are official.

we hope to expand on this theme next summer. The walks featured tips on how to identify the main plants along trails, their wildlife values and whether they were native plants or introduced/invasive ones.

Some trail edges have significant shoreline erosion and undercut banks. This is likely the result of past flood events, sometimes energetic water circulation or even the degradation of natural slopes in areas where a lot of duck feeding occurs. Our Biologists Marissa Sasaki and Evan Gogal have filled in an undercut area south of the Portable Toilet but have also been working on a shoreline restoration and native planting along Auger Trail late this summer. It involved shaping an extension of the narrowing and undercut trail edge out into the pond using sandbags and some creative “wattle” (woven twigs) fencing to secure the outer edges. The new shelf of “land” has been planting with cuttings of native shrubbery and fenced off to prevent trampling of this project. A full report will be provided once we see how it develops over the winter.

The Fuller Slough Dyke, where the water control structures were replaced this spring, also required some planting to restore the native Salmonberry, Sword Ferns and assorted perennial wildflower mix present before the work. In September, we recognized the area needed a little help re-establishing plant growth. It had been reseeded in a coastal restoration mix this spring, but the Canada Geese ate most of the





*Photos of the shoreline enhancement project along the Auger Trail, using “soft engineering” methods such the wattle fencing being woven by Marissa Sasaki (above) and backfilling of areas shaped by sandbags of gravel and topsoil. Photos: Evan Gogal*



new growth, then spent most of July’s flightless period trampling everything and periodically launching from the top of the dyke in test flights as they regained their flight feathers. The Beavers ate some initial Willow cuttings installed in the spring,, too. The area now has been seeded to grass for the winter, and a few starter shrubs and ferns have been planted. More to come later.

Water quality issues were a bit more extreme this summer. We use Southwest Marsh as a reservoir from which to circulate water to other ponds throughout the summer. Generally it is cooler water. However, there was a drawdown and a slight delay in recharging it this spring while we resolved a flap issue at the water control, and this may have been why we had a more extreme green algae and cyanobacteria phenomenon through the mid-summer months. Normally, if we take water in and circulate it to other ponds, it helps break up the algae growths, but there were weeks when most of Southwest Marsh and Display Pond were covered in thick algae mats.



*Algae in Display Ponds Augst 14th. Photo: Kathleen Fry*

On September 20th, we started to notice dead Carp in Fuller and Ewen Sloughs, the big waterways fronting onto our Entrance Trail and East Dyke. These large former river channels have also had very low water levels and little circulation this year while culverts were being replaced in the National Wildlife Area, so water quality was very poor.

Last but not least, we have a new maintenance staff. Dave McClue retired after many years, and left a “Gone Fishing” sign on his locker. His replacement is Phoenix Black, a Ladner resident who is already working on a long list of things to be done at the Sanctuary.

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

# Tracking the Wild Geese

The Spring edition of Marshnotes introduced a research study of Dr. Sean Boyd and Dominic Janus, funded by our Society and the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada.



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
WATERFOWL SOCIETY



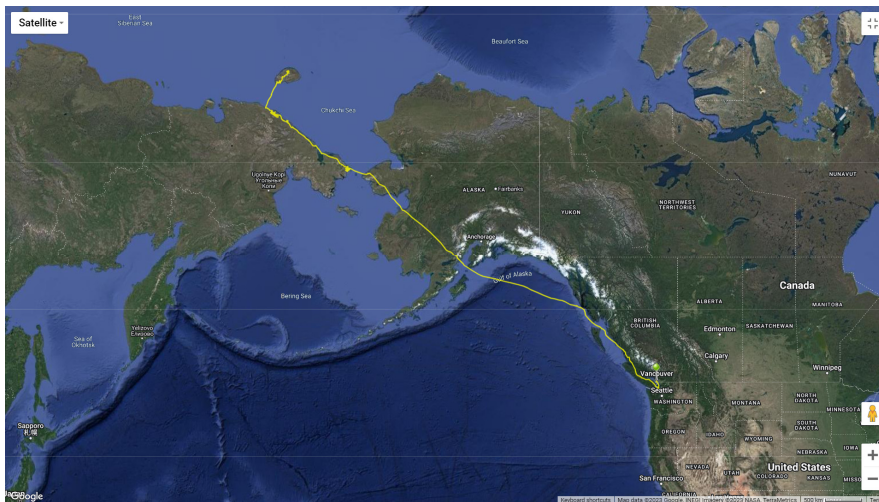
Using neck collars fitted with solar panels and GPS-GSM technology, the researchers are hoping to track the use of the foreshore marshes, farms, parks etc. by both Snow Geese and Canada Geese. The collars track individual locations every 15 minutes. Foreshore marshes with plants favoured by Snow Geese are on the decline and the study hopes to document the impact of these two species. Solar panels recharge the tag batteries so information about movements during migration and the nesting season can also be collected.

## Canada Geese

On July 5 2023, 425 Canada Geese were caught and banded just seaward of Alaksen NWA and the Reifel MBS during their flightless period. Twenty-five geese were selected to wear the neck collars. Between July 5th and 16th, the tracks of these geese showed that, as they gained flight ability, they began to range farther afield, moving to Richmond, the Sanctuary and other nearby areas like Brunswick Point. We started to see these collared birds at the Sanctuary by July 29th, with up to a dozen or so present until late August. In early August, one goose was transmitting from south of the border in Washington State, and a few weeks later, 5 others had migrated south to Oregon and one goose traveled as far as Fortuna in northern California. Here in the Fraser Delta, in August, two collars were retrieved from the marshes offshore of the Sanctuary after the collars indicated the birds had died (likely predated). When the Canada Goose hunting season opened in September, 10 of the collared geese were taken by hunters (8 on/near Westham Island and 2 in WA State). Most of the hunters have agreed to return the transmitters in exchange for a replica tag; if not damaged too badly they will be used again.

## Snow Geese

A dozen Snow Geese were fitted with these collars in late March 2023. As with the Canada Geese, tracking local movements was interesting but mortality was high due to predation by Bald Eagles. The collared geese moved erratically around Westham Island and the foreshore marshes, with some eventually heading north to Wrangel Island, Russia. One of the tracked birds took an unusual spring route clear through BC and into Alberta but, unfortunately, it died near Red Deer. One goose (X17) was tracked up the coast to Alaska in spring until it was out of cell tower range after leaving Anchorage. This goose returned from Wrangel Island, touching down in the Delta area October 5th, whereupon all the data stored from its activities in Alaska and Russia and its southward migration were downloaded. We are hoping that X17 makes it through the winter here in the Fraser Delta so we get a year-round picture of its movements. This fall and winter, more collars will be deployed.



The 2023 fall migration route of Snow Goose X17 from Wrangel Island, Russia to the Sanctuary.

Trip = 5200 km between August 15th and October 5th.

We hope to put some of the animated maps of local bird movements and migration routes on our website over this winter.

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



## Bird Highlights

*July was a very warm month with 20 days of sun, a few partially cloudy days and only 2 days with any precipitation. Regardless of weather conditions birds were still sticking to their instinctive schedules and we had 90 different bird species logged in July 2023.*

### July 2 – July 8

On the 6<sup>th</sup> I watched one of my favorite birds, the American Kestrel, not much bigger than an American Robin, fly over the parking lot with 20 plus swallows hot on its tail making sure it was properly escorted out of the area. The American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, where *sparverius* means “relating to a sparrow”, actually used to be named Sparrow Hawk. The males have rust and blue colored wings, black spots on their back and sides, a brick colored tail and 2 black downward stripes on their cheeks. Females have similar markings but are duller in color. When hunting, they are able to hover above their quarry in order to get a good read on the location prior to swooping down on their prey. Best to look for American Kestrels between April and July on tree tops, telephone wires, fence posts and even antennas of buildings. They put their good eyesight to work searching for small mammals, dragonflies, other insects and even small birds. This week’s species list included Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, and the first arrivals of Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitcher.

### July 9 – July 15

Over the summer months when bird watching is not at its peak you might be treated to the antics of other species that make the Sanctuary their home and feeding ground. One such instance was when the group out on the Sunday morning bird walk came across a very large River Otter attempting to capture one of the young Mallards that were heading up the bank to greet them. After that unsuccessful attempt, it headed across the trail into the House Pond where it continued to horrify more unsuspecting ducks. Two days later it was once again seen in the House Pond, looking much like a dolphin as it cavorted through the pond but the ducks were all able to take flight and/or get out of the way in time. The American Coots that left our area in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May are now returning from their nesting grounds on the lakes of the dry interior of B.C. We also saw the first returning Barred Owl, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Pectoral Sandpiper in this week. Overall shorebird viewing will now pick up and be good until approximately the end of September. Present this week were 5 of the 6 swallows listed on the Sanctuary checklist: Cliff Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow and the Northern Rough-winged Swallow already mentioned.

### July 16 – July 22

As the young Canada Geese start to grow their flight feathers they’re anxious to test out new ways of getting around. Early mornings in late July it was entertaining to watch up to 40 Canada Geese walk out of the trails by the Gift Shop then run, jump and flap their way down to the end of the parking lot. Some even got some decent air time, but as they say “practice makes perfect”. There was action at the front entrance gate on the 21<sup>st</sup> when a Turkey Vulture made an appearance overhead and a bit later 30 American White Pelicans circled above. The Pelicans are more than likely heading to Stum Lake which is 70 kms northwest of Williams Lake. This area has been an established nesting site since 1939 according to the Volume 1 of the Birds of BC released in 1990 by the Royal British Columbia Museum. Over the years their reproduction success has fluctuated mainly due to human disturbances. Back in the late 1960’s there was an estimated 15,000 pairs in Canada, but between 1966 and 2011 the estimated global breeding population climbed to about 450,000 birds according to Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Other birds of note for this period included Osprey, Varied Thrush and Wilson’s Phalarope.



*Pectoral Sandpiper*

*Photo: Kathleen Fry*

### July 23 – July 29

Over the past 2-3 years Common Raven sightings have become more frequent. In fact there were 15 of them, possibly a couple of families, spotted flying along the outer Seaward Dyke on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Common

(...../continued page 8)

(Continued from page 7)



Juvenile Bald Eagle

Photo: Kathleen Fry

Ravens are twice the size of an American Crow and have a deep resonant “croak” compared to the “caw” of a crow. Between May and September both Black and Vaux’s Swifts can be spotted. Your best chances are on cloudy days when the low pressure system pushes the insects, on which they feed on, closer to the ground. On July 26<sup>th</sup> 18 Black Swifts were seen circling over the front gate entrance. More Northern Harriers are now being noticed hunting along the outer marshes. From the last week of May until now we had lost sight of them as they were secretively nesting in the bulrushes and cattails on nests that are built on the ground made of gathered vegetation. The best identifying trait in spotting a Northern Harrier is to look for the white rump patch. The males are silvery gray on the belly and chest while the females have a rusty brown belly and chest. The first early arrival of Pied-billed Grebes happened in this period. This small diving wetland bird is best found between September and March in Fuller Slough, Ewen Slough and the channel of deeper water heading west from the Viewing Platform. Cinnamon Teal, Sora, Pacific Wren, Western Tanager and Wilson’s Warbler were 5 other highlights from the list with 73 different species.

In August we typically find the biggest variety of shorebirds, and to prove that, 15 of the 22 shorebird seen on our checklist under “Regularly Occurring Species” were seen this month. If you would like to view all the shorebird species along with the full weekly lists, go to our website and click on “Weekly Checklists” from the pull down menu on the front page. August 2023 ended with a tally of 98 different bird species.

#### July 30 – August 5

Both the Red-necked and Wilson’s Phalaropes (both part of the 15 mentioned above) were mainly seen in the West Field. Phalaropes have a different way of feeding. They twirl like a top in the water pulling up marine invertebrates and insect larva from the bottom to the top where they quickly pick it up. When you watch them it actually looks like they are swimming and that is due to their slightly lobed toes (membranes of skin between their toes) giving them the ability to swim and of course wade. We usually expect to see the first Black-crowned Night-Heron returning here anywhere between the last week of July and the first week of August. This Year, August 4<sup>th</sup> was the return date. As to where they are returning from we don’t have a definitive answer. However they would look for an area near water so they can forage and would also have good tree cover to protect their nests from predators. Past records have Black-crowned Night-Herons nesting in western Washington.

#### August 6 – August 12

As mentioned previously, August it is one of the best months to look for a variety of shorebirds as they migrate southwards, and this week proved to be the peek viewing period. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, we also had another opportunity to watch River Otters in action. This time it was one large River Otter with 2 smaller ones, probably her young, making their way through the ducks in the House Pond. It was quite entertaining, but probably not for the Mallards, to watch the young otters following along imitating the techniques of the adult. When she would stop to look around the young were quickly up on her back to get a higher vantage point trying to see whom to go after next. After numerous attempts they moved on with no success.

Shortly after, just when you thought it was safe to go back in to the water, a young Bald Eagle did a very low pass over the House Pond and sent the ducks into a tizzy again. This juvenile Bald Eagle was observed trying out hunting techniques for a few days around the Sanctuary. Be it perched on the roof of the Warming Hut, on the railing of the Observation Tower, on the Fuller Slough handrail and even standing in the middle of the parking lot, visitors had great opportunities for close up photos. We never did see it successfully capture any prey. Eventually it moved on and hopefully he or she has perfected their



hunting skills. The August 12<sup>th</sup> bi-weekly bird survey crew were in the right place at the right time to watch a small flock of 12 American White Pelicans make their way along the foreshore. This week ended with a total of 77 species.

August 13 - August 19

By lowering the water level in the House Pond we were able to attract in, among other shorebird species, the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs who like to dine on the small Stickleback fish. Along with lower water levels there were also clumps of algae making it difficult for the fish to swim but made it easier for the Yellowlegs to catch them. The name “stickleback” refers to the spines that they can flare up when defending themselves. Of course it is fine to catch a stickleback but eating it is another challenge. I’ve watched many of them readjusting the Stickleback in order to get it facing the right way (head first) before attempting to swallow it. We also had the 3 smallest sandpipers present: the Least, the Western and the Semipalmated, collectively known as “Peeps”. To better identify the many different shorebirds, my go to book, although there are many others, is called “Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest” by Dennis Paulson. It is an older publication produced in 1992 but still pertinent. Thank goodness shorebirds don’t come up with a new look year to year.



*Yellowlegs eating a Stickleback* Photo: Kathleen Fry

August 20 - August 26

Out of the 98 species observed this month 85 of them showed up in this week alone. A couple of new fall migrants, Pileated Woodpecker and the Olive-sided Flycatcher were both present this week. August 25<sup>th</sup> an Evening Grosbeak was located among a flock of Cedar Waxwings flying over the front entrance gate. A few other birds of note for this period were Turkey

Vulture, Stilt Sandpiper, Bonaparte’s Gull, Wilson’s Warbler, Barn Owl, Hermit Thrush, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Orange-crowned Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco.

*In September expect to see more sparrow species moving in from the north and of course a larger variety of ducks. September 2023 had a total of 109 species recorded.*



*Greater White-fronted Goose* Photo: Dan Parlee

August 27 – September 2

A Northern Waterthrush was found along one of the Inner Grassy Trails on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Every year we only find 1-2 of these birds and your best chance is August and September. The House Pond turned out to be a lively viewing spot on September 1<sup>st</sup> with 5 Stilt Sandpipers, 1 Baird’s Sandpiper, a few Pectoral Sandpipers all mixed in with Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Long and Short-billed Dowitchers. On the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 Sandhill Cranes were reported near the Observation Tower. Each fall, prior to their southern migration, we find Sandhill Cranes congregating at the Sanctuary and in surrounding farm fields. Also on the 2<sup>nd</sup> we noticed a large amount of Short-billed and Ring-billed Gulls circling over the Sanctuary. Both of these gulls are great insect eaters. With all the harvesting going on in the local fields they will be feeding on insects that have been unearthed by the plows. At certain times of the year flying ants also hatch and take to the skies where you’ll also see plenty of gulls circling.

September 3 – September 9

There was a whopping 90 different bird species seen in this week alone. The highlights included Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, American Wigeon, Black Swift, Vaux’s Swift, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln’s Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Red Crossbill and Pine Siskin. Most of these were first arrivals for the

(...../continued page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

fall. Resident ducks are now coming out of their eclipse plumage returning to their colorful selves. With new flight feathers fully grown they will now be ready to migrate. Rufous Hummingbirds have already left on their migration to Mexico where they will spend the winter.

#### September 10 – September 16

We were surprised and excited to find 4 American Avocets in the West Field on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Last year around this time we were lucky to have 1 Avocet spend 3 months here. Last year's bird must have told his friends. They are a very striking shorebird with long grayish blue legs, a slender slightly upturned bill (apparently more so in the female) and a black and white patterned body. Larger numbers of Cackling Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese are moving into our area. By the middle of September we don't have the variety of shorebirds as the majority of them have already made their way along the California coastline heading to South America. However we will have the Long-billed Dowitchers, Dunlin and Black-bellied Plovers for a couple of months yet. Flycatcher's species are also making their way south to spend the winter in southern Mexico and down into Panama and Nicaragua.

#### September 17 – 23

This was another busy birding week with a total of 84 species being spotted. As the days grow shorter and temperatures dip, expect to see some new species arriving from the north. The new arrivals for this period included Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Dunlin and Western Meadowlark. However, the biggest highlight for this period was the sighting of a Black Phoebe seen along the waterway between North Dyke and the Inner Grassy Trail. It was first spotted back on the 15<sup>th</sup> at the north end of the Center Dyke and re-spotted again on 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in the same area. Then after a 2 day break it again showed up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> this time in the Northeast Corner near one of the Bird Blinds. These small birds are in the Flycatcher family and are a touch bigger than the Dark-eyed Junco. Their diet is mainly made up of insects which are caught on the wing. The Black Phoebe has a black head and chest, a white belly and dark legs. In addition to the four American Avocets, highlights for this week included some offshore Surf Scoters, a Barn Owl in a tree along the Southwest Trail, a Great Horned Owl at the Northeast Corner, Osprey, American Pipits, a White-throated Sparrow and Western Tanager both seen at the end of the East Dyke, and some Pine Siskins.



*Black Phoebe*

*Photo: Peter Candido*



September 24 – September 30

Flying over the Gift Shop on the 27<sup>th</sup> a flock of 150 Cackling Geese were spotted. These small geese about ½ the size of a Canada Goose, are now migrating from the Arctic Tundra to spend the winter in areas south of the border in Washington, Oregon and California. Cackling Geese have a similar look to that of a Canada Goose but have a shorter neck, stubbier bill and a higher pitched call more of a “cackle” than a “honk”. Another goose showing up in bigger numbers at this time of year are the Greater White-fronted Geese. They are also migrating southward from their arctic tundra breeding grounds to spend the winter anywhere from southern British Columbia all the way down to Mexico.

The next 2 months will be a good birding time to see a variety of northern birds making their appearance as they pass along our Pacific Flyway towards their southern wintering grounds. As for the Lesser Snow Goose expect to look for them, not just on Westham Island and school sports fields in Richmond, but farther east of the Sanctuary where there are many farm fields that offer good feeding opportunities.

Text: Varri Raffan  
Gift Shop Manager

## The 2024 Calendar is here



Every year, starting in 2003, the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary has produced a very popular calendar made up of photos submitted by the membership. We now have the 2024 edition, priced at \$22, available in the Gift Shop. Next time you are out here, pop in to the shop and peruse this and many other Christmas Gift ideas suitable for all ages.

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## The Volunteer Corner

### Special thanks to:

- ◆ Mary Taitt for leading our regular Sunday Bird Walk, and Jim Martin and Brian Self for their year-round hosting of visitors along trails on weekends.
- ◆ John Chandler, and Dirk Fleming, for helping keeping up our seed supply, and tidying up the trails.
- ◆ Brian Self, Peter Candido, Ben Lambert, Janice White and Sabine Jessen for helping with bi-weekly bird surveys.
- ◆ Margaret Gorham for hosting visitors at the Museum every Sunday.
- ◆ Vic Cheng and Jennifer Douella for helping with the extremely hot muddy work trimming back reeds and cattail at the tower on August 21st.

If you are interested in volunteering, please leave your contact information at our office or send an email to [kathleen@reifelbirdsantuary.com](mailto:kathleen@reifelbirdsantuary.com).

For more information, ask at the Gift Shop or visit our website [www.reifelbirdsantuary.com](http://www.reifelbirdsantuary.com) and explore the Volunteer page.

## 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.

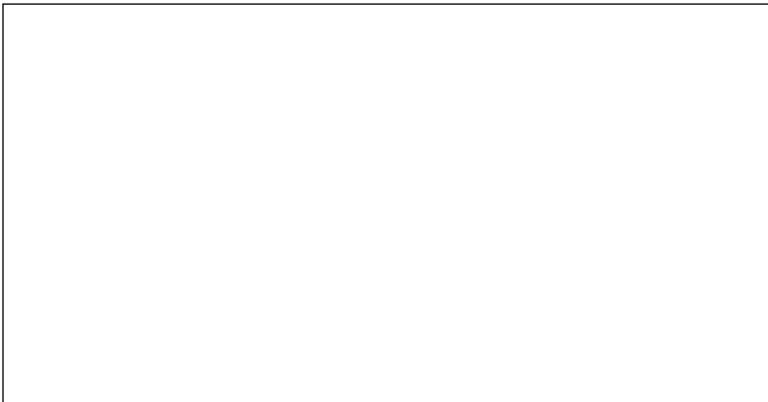
*With your support, the British Columbia Waterfowl Society is able to:*

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.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
WATERFOWL SOCIETY**

**5191 Robertson Road, Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2**



*American Avocets © Sabine Jessen*