

# Marshnotes<sup>®</sup>



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY  
SPRING 2019**

# 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**

**July 15th, 2019**



*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.*

## Executive:

President: Jack Bates  
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Community Relations: George C. Reifel  
Interpretation/Education: F. Wayne Diakow  
Outreach: George C. Reifel

## Staff:

Sanctuary Manager: Kathleen Fry  
Gift Shop Manager: Varri Raffan  
Reception: Susan Norris  
Biologist: Dan Dixon  
Maintenance: David McClue  
Part-time Assistants: Nicole Lamarche  
Kristina Breit

Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. every day. The Sanctuary is wheelchair accessible.

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

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# The 2019 Hummingbird Banding Project



The team preparing bands Photo: Peter Nielsen

Dr. Christine Bishop (top left) from Environment and Climate Change Canada will be here in the Sanctuary banding hummingbirds again this year. Sessions will be held Wednesday mornings throughout May and June. If you are interested in watching how this is done and seeing a few of these tiny birds up close, just drop by the picnic table area about 9 am and introduce yourself. Many Rufous and Anna’s Hummingbirds are now sporting small bands on their legs. Data about their physical condition is contributing to the knowledge of the impacts of pesticides, lice and other contributing factors to declines in populations.

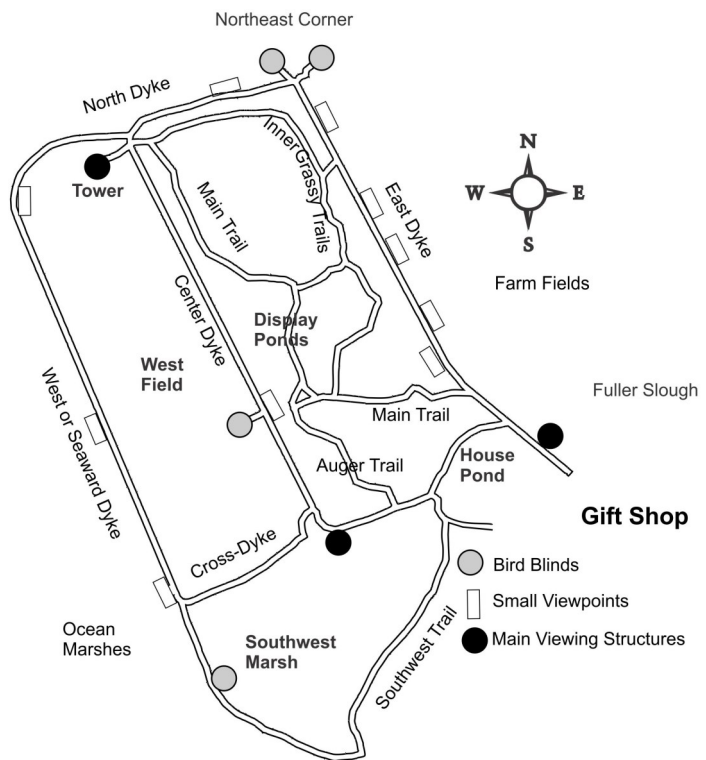
## About Our Covers

**Front Cover:** *American Bittern*  
 © Jim Martin  
**Back Cover:** *Western Meadowlark*  
 © Dan Dixon

### Editor’s Note:

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

## Sanctuary Locations Map



## Contents

Page	3	The 2019 Hummingbird Banding Project
	4	Manager’s Report
	6	Changing Our Policies Regarding Feeding Birds
	7	Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
	8	Sanctuary Bird Highlights
	10	Volunteer’s Corner
	11	Why Be a Member

Kathleen Fry  
 Kathleen Fry  
 Varri Raffan

# Manager's Report

Visitor numbers for the first three months of 2019 totalled 29,139, compared to 24,680 in 2018 and 19,263 in 2017. January 2019 visitors numbered 7931, a few thousand more than in previous years. February numbers (5,346) were lower than usual, but it was a very cold month and even our avian visitors stayed away when everything was frozen over. Numbers in March in contrast reached an extreme peak of 15,862, as the weather was sunny and warm. 12,000 of these visitors came just within the two week period of Spring Break for local schools. The Lesser Snow Geese were busy foraging in nearby fields during this nice weather, so many first time visitors got excellent views of this species.

During the first few months of the year, we usually end up cleaning up and repairing trails and structures in preparation for spring visitors, in between winter storms and sporadic snowfalls. The Wood Duck nest boxes are checked and refurbished with new wood shavings, and we start replacing missing or damaged Swallow and Chickadee boxes.

Dan Dixon and Kristina Breit recently checked 35 of our 50+ Wood duck boxes for evidence of 2018 nesting use (down and egg fragments). 19 boxes were used by Wood Ducks, 8 were used only by squirrels, and 8 were not used at all. This seems to correlate nicely with the spring 2018 bird survey count of about 40 Wood Ducks or 20 pairs at the beginning of March. Not all nests are successful and we certainly do not see all of the broods, but this is a secretive species when they have young with them.

From late January to early April, we also collect data on the numbers and distribution of certain key species. As you can see on page 5, the Northern Saw-whet Owl is one species we monitor. The chart shows the results of daily mapping counts done by myself, Dan Dixon and Kristina Breit. There were just a few seen late in the fall (November 9th, December 2nd and 5th) then we started keeping regular records of numbers and locations from December 13th onwards. In the chart, the two colours represent those owls found roosting in Holly bushes compared to those found in other sites such as the lower branches of the Douglas Fir trees. Most sightings were along East Dyke or the Sanctuary driveway.

The need to control the spread of non-native Holly trees is pretty much negated by the increasing use of that very same tree species by these small owls. We have done these owl surveys since 2010, and Northern Saw-whet Owls have been in Holly roost sites for 606 out of 1633 sightings (37%). Initially, use of Holly roosts was just over 20%, but in recent years, it has been over 50%. Some of this increased use may be

due to storm damage to their usual roost branches in the Douglas Firs. The Holly trees have also grown into an understory of about the same height as some of those lost Fir boughs. They provide protection from predators, but may not be as insulated from wind, rain and snow. There is a tendency for these small owls to still favour the confers in really cold weather or during a heavy snowfall. East Dyke Holly bushes will remain as is for the time being and we will probably plant few more replacement Douglas Firs to maintain both kinds of roost sites for future years.

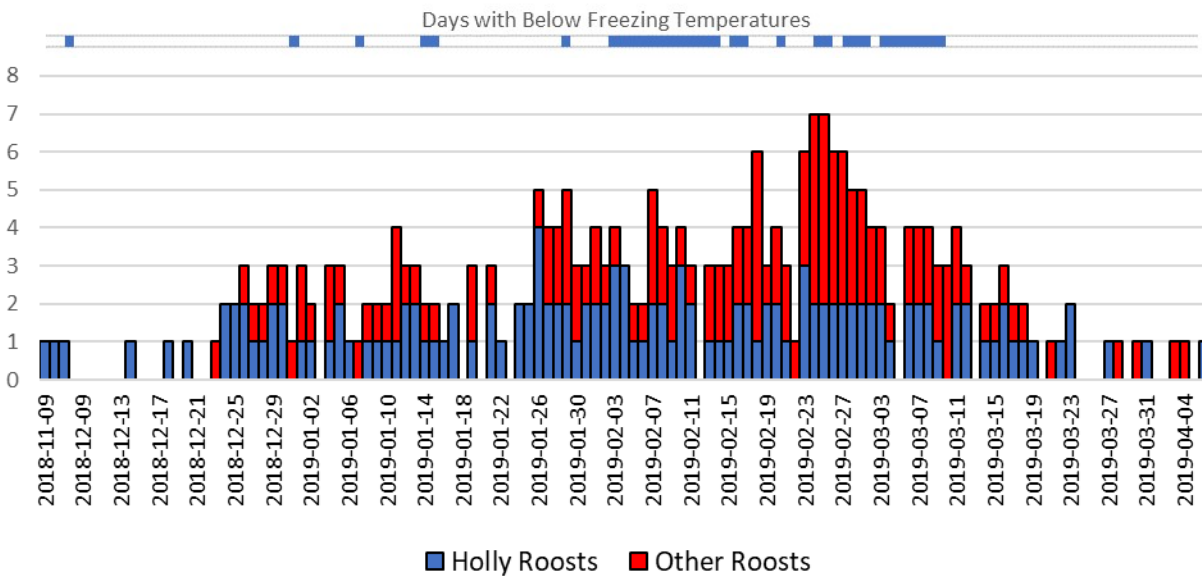
Sandhill Cranes were also of high interest during this period. First off, our resident pair and their 2018 colt remained with us all winter. In early 2019, one of our regular associated adult cranes "Poxy" also seemed to stay with them, but went off somewhere in early February when large flocks of other cranes made many visits to the Sanctuary all month. The figure on page 5 shows numbers, and detailed composition breakdowns on days when flocks were close enough to distinguish juveniles or family groups in the crowd. All visiting cranes left in early March.

The 2019 crane nesting season is not going smoothly. The pair started chasing away last year's colt when "Louie" started speaking in an adult crane voice instead of a begging baby trill on March 7th. This young bird is still seeking attention from the pair, though, and even well into April, it seeks them out daily. The pair also battled constantly with a pair of Canada Geese over ownership of their usual nesting island at the end of March. The geese were very persistent though and won the battle and are nesting there now. The cranes went off and nested on a nearby log boom, laying eggs on April 3 and 5th, and losing them to predation or some other overnight event on the 11th. They are still in nesting mode, but seem to be having a difficult time finding a safe alternative nest site. Over the Easter Weekend, we heard them "purring" out in the meadow opposite the island. By April 22nd, after a few days of piling cattail into a mound there, they laid an egg, which was promptly predated. The same thing occurred again on April 28th. They may just be biding their time waiting for their usual island to become available once the Canada Goose nest hatches. Stay tuned!

A few Bushtit nests have been under construction starting late March. A Red-tailed Hawk nest along the driveway will likely hatch in early May as it was built in late March. Snow Geese flocks were still in nearby fields at the end of March. Canada Goose nests are likely to start hatching in the last week of April, as will Mallards and Wood Ducks, but brood arrivals will probably be spread out over the next month or two.

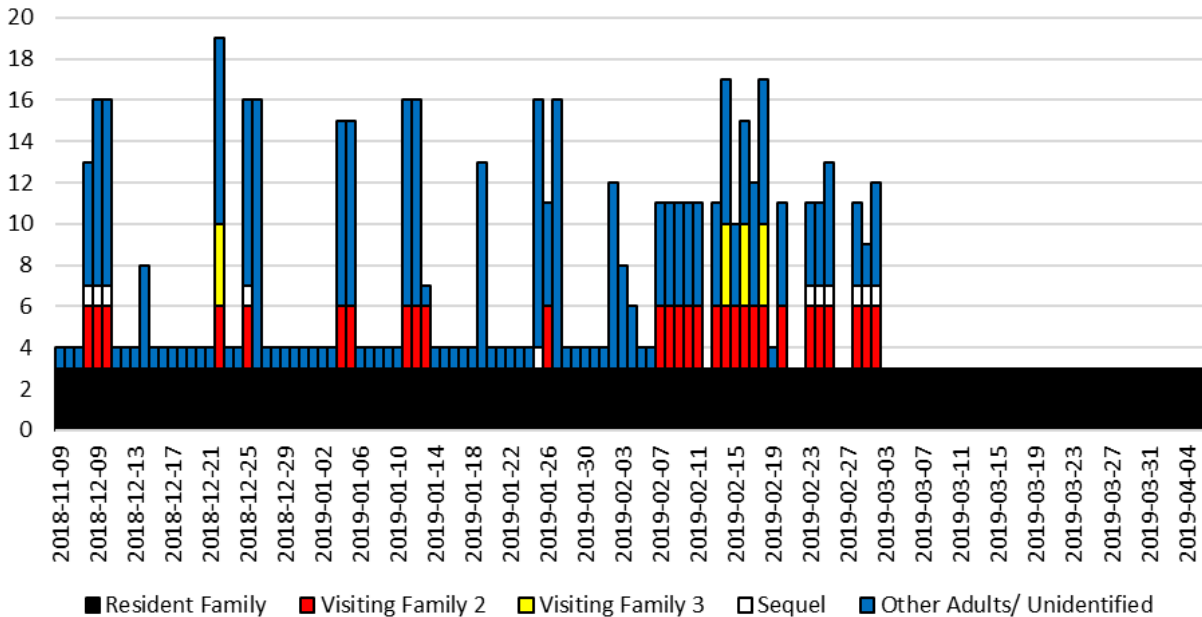
Text: Kathleen Fry, R. P. Bio.,  
Sanctuary Manager

## Northern Saw-whet Owl Numbers November 2018 to April 2019



Note: Some of these owl sightings are from nearby areas that are out of bounds to visitors as they provide important refuges away from crowds on busy days.

## Sandhill Crane Numbers November 2018 to April 2019



Note: The bottom black bars in this graph represent our resident family of the pair and their 2018 colt. Colours in the columns above this represent either another pair with one colt, another pair travelling with two colts, other visiting adults or one small very dark brown colt looking identical to the one we observed this fall and dubbed "Sequel". The latter shows up as a white bar when noted as present. The top dark bar represents additional adult birds or unidentified flocks.

# Changing Our Policy Regarding Feeding Birds

Our Society is reviewing the bird feeding activities at the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. We may have to greatly reduce this activity, regulate it somehow or even bring it to a complete halt.

When the Sanctuary opened more than 55 years ago, we allowed visitors to feed the birds. This initially just involved school children feeding the ducks with grain sold in small bags. The opportunity for children to see birds up close by feeding them has instilled a lifelong interest in birds and in the Sanctuary for many of our visitors. We ourselves also maintain a system of small bird feeders for the songbirds to supplement winter food supplies and to bring them in close view of visitors. However, many decades later, with far more visitors to account for (95,000 visitors in 2018), we are seeing some aspects of bird feeding becoming management issues.

We like people to have the opportunity to see birds up close, and bird seed is one way of accomplishing this. However, the following concerns have arisen:

- High numbers of visitors are sometimes all dispersing seed on weekends and holidays, and this results in congested paths, with many birds lured close to people, then injured from people stepping on them or handling them.
- People sometimes bring inappropriate “bird food” that can cause health problems for birds, allergic reactions for other visitors, problem weed growths or water quality problems.
- Leftover food is sometimes left along trails uneaten. The amount of seed used per person needs to be more moderate, given the significant increase in other visitors all doing the same thing.
- Wherever many visitors feed ducks with lots of seed for long periods of time along natural shorelines, the fine sediments are eroded away. We closed the outer West Dyke to feeding because of these concerns a few years ago as erosion was serious enough to cause dyke failure issues.
- Our goal of promoting conservation messages such as the value of natural coastal habitats for migratory birds is being lost to many visitors. The Sanctuary is home to many species of birds that consume insects, fruit, berries, nectar, fish, small invertebrates found in the mud, or other animal life, not seed. Our Sanctuary supports these birds by providing natural habitats for them. These diverse species naturally find their own foods, and to understand them requires watching them, not feeding them.

All in all, the activities associated with bird seed are getting to be non-sustainable at the Sanctuary.

Starting this summer, we will be recommending only a small supply of bird seed per visitor to take into the trails (a couple of bags). This would be about 2 cup’s worth. We may also need to designate more no-feeding areas in order to protect the Sanctuary’s shoreline habitats.

The summertime is a logical time anyway to start reducing the amount of seed being cast around the Sanctuary. Duck numbers drop dramatically in April when birds leave the Sanctuary to nest elsewhere. There are fewer birds to eat what is offered. Songbirds have a much higher need for insect life during the nesting season, so even that seed feeding opportunity is much reduced.

Our Society is not going to change the policy right away, other than the suggested summer quantity limit. Considerable thought is required to ensure visitors enjoy their experience here while we also protect the Sanctuary’s birds and infrastructure.

Please think about our concerns on your next visit.

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



*The result of one visitor and a bucket of seed*

# BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

## Report on the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday April 16, 2019 in the Lecture Hall of the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. BCWS President Jack Bates called the Meeting to order at 7:30 pm and welcomed everyone. He declared a quorum in attendance. Moira Moore acted as Secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 57<sup>th</sup> AGM:** The Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday April 17, 2018 were approved.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** The financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2018 along with the Accountant's Report prepared by KPMG, were presented by the Society's Treasurer Jim Morrison together with a brief summary of the highlights. Questions from the floor were responded to by the Treasurer.

**APPOINTMENT OF THE ACCOUNTANTS FOR 2019:** KPMG were appointed as the Society's Accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, with remuneration to be determined by the Board.

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The Chairman introduced the Society's Directors that were present, and gave a brief report on the Society and the Board's activities for the year 2018, noting the Society remains in a strong financial position. He thanked the staff, the Directors and all of the other volunteers for their contributions during 2018.

In 2018 the observation tower was painted and refurbished by Atlas Painting and was re-opened to the public in mid-July. In early September, the trees along the West Dyke were trimmed to allow continued vehicle access. Ducks Unlimited Canada brought in an excavator and cleared the perimeter ditch of West Field reaching many of the Cattail stands that were impeding water flow. The Chairman noted ongoing improvements and maintenance to the Sanctuary will be continued in 2019.

During the year the BCWS provided the Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust \$36,000 for the 2018-2019 Greenfields Program. Over the past 20 years, the BCWS has provided approximately \$670,000 in funding for this program.

During the year the BCWS also purchased an undivided 70% interest in the Telus property on Robertson Road in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada. A management plan is being prepared for the property to return it to soil based agriculture.

**SANCTUARY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Kathleen Fry reviewed the Manager's Report on the 2018 activities. The Report noted there are 2562 Members as of December 31, 2018 with the majority being family memberships. In total there were 95,792 visitors to the Sanctuary in 2018. March was the busiest month with 11,913 visitors followed by May, with 10,878 visitors through the gate. There were 23 days with over 800 visitors, compared with 13 last year. Professional traffic control personnel were required on 11 of those days (Family day, Spring Break, Easter, Mother's Day, Victoria Day, July 1st, Thanksgiving, and Remembrance Day). The highest visitor use record for 2018 was 1355 on November 12<sup>th</sup> as part of the Remembrance Day weekend.

School programs are doing well and continue to be enhanced by the funds provided by Nature Canada from Environment Canada's Connecting Canadians to Nature Fund. We continue to develop cost-effective and current programming about wetland and wildlife conservation and to increase opportunities to meet the ongoing interest of educators and Lower Mainland School districts. School programs in 2018 were delivered primarily by Dan Dixon and Kathleen Fry. In October 2018, our teacher Open House was attended by 19 teachers to learn about the Sanctuary and related environmental programs.

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:** In accordance with the Society's Bylaws, three Directors were elected for a two year term by acclamation: Doug Ransome, Barney Reifel and Ken Thompson.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.**  
Coffee, tea and refreshments followed the meeting.

The British Columbia Waterfowl Society  
*gratefully acknowledges the continuing support of its Accountants*

**KPMG Peat Marwick Thorne Inc.,**  
*Suite 400, North Tower, 5811 Cooney Road, Richmond, B.C. V6X 3M1*



# Bird Highlights

*Be it in your back yard, park or favorite birding area, the beginning of the year is time for many to start another annual bird species list. Some folks are very dedicated and keep detailed lists but some just enjoy what they encounter in their day to day birding. Weather was pleasant in January 2019 with an average daytime temperature of 9 °Celsius and a species list ending with 89 different birds.*

## December 30 – January 5

Ruddy Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Northern Goshawk, Northern Shrike, Hermit Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin were all highlights on this week's list totaling 77 species.

## January 6 – January 12

A couple of Belted Kingfishers were spotted perched on branch tips along Robertson Slough as they scanned the waters below in search of small fish. (*Trivia - The Belted Kingfisher was pictured on the back of the \$5 bill issued in April 1986.*) Northern Shovelers have been plentiful in the shallow waters of the West Field where they can dabble their large beaks in which have small comb like teeth along the sides. To aid in straining and retaining food items. Northern Shovelers are just one example of how a bill shape will let you know the type of food the bird eats. Hawks, Eagles and Northern Shrikes have hooked beaks, good for ripping meat apart. Dowitchers and other shorebirds have the long thin pointy beaks that are good for probing in the mud looking for marine worms, aquatic insects and other invertebrates. Finches and Grosbeaks use their thick wedge shaped beak to crack husks to get to the seed. The Great Blue Heron has a spear-shaped beak which helps them catch the fish. I'm sure you can come up with a few more examples of beaks matched to bill of fare.

## January 13 – January 19

The juvenile Northern Goshawk, female Canvasback and female Ruddy Duck are still popping up around the Sanctuary. Reports of 3 Northern Saw-whet Owls, all found at the north end of the East Dyke. I think there are probably two main reasons these owls roost regularly in this area. One reason may be the amount of Holly bushes in that area. Holly bushes provide excellent protective cover as their prickly leaves don't drop in winter, helping shield the owls from predators and prying eyes. The other attraction in this area is probably food. With bird seed put in feeders for the songbirds and dispersed along the trails attracts mice, rats and other rodents which Northern Saw-whet Owls dine on.

## January 20 – January 26

The pair of Great Horned Owls is not so consistently seen in the usual roost trees near the end of the East Dyke. By the middle of February they will either take over a hawk nest or they will use a vacant tree cavity to make their own nest. The small gregarious plump water birds that have black bodies, white beaks and strange looking greenish feet are called American Coots. Their toes aren't fully webbed and are referred to as lobed. These lobed toes help to distribute weight when walking on floating vegetation. Looking back to previous Sanctuary historical data in 1995 for the American Coot, especially from January to February, we could count on an average of 155 birds but as years have passed their numbers have diminished to only 50 birds in the same two months in 2018. Approximately 110 Trumpeter Swans could be seen feeding in the tidal marshes from the Observation Tower on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Both the male Trumpeter Swan, called a cob, and female Trumpeter Swan, called a pen, have similar plumage, as do both sexes of Canada Geese, Cedar Waxwings, Bald Eagles, and Sandhill Cranes to name a few. The Northern Saw-whet Owl count has jumped to 5 this week.



*Northern Saw-whet Owl*

*Photo: Kathleen Fry*

## January 27 – February 2

The juvenile Northern Goshawk has resurfaced after a few weeks absence and will end up staying with us until February 23rd. We don't have many Northern Goshawks that are local along the coast for any length of time but are more commonly found in the northern interior. Barred Owl, Barn Owl and Great Horned Owl were all seen this week. An unexpected highlight was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when 5 Barn Swallows, 1 Violet-green Swallow and 5 Tree Swallows were seen over the Observation Tower and then later over Fuller Slough. The Anna's Hummingbirds were very pleased that we kept the feeders flowing by having duplicate feeders to swap out every morning to replace frozen ones. Throughout cold spells, these birds conserve energy by slowing their heart and breathing rate. This is



referred to as a “state of torpidity”. Other interesting facts about hummingbirds: They can fly at speeds of 60 mph (97kms); They have 1500 feathers.; Their hearts beat at 1260 beats per minute (21 beats per second); During migration they must fly 500 miles nonstop over the Gulf of Mexico to reach their winter ground in Mexico; They beat their wings 78 times per second even more when performing display dives; They can fly forward, backward, up, down and sideways but they can’t walk; and, of course, hummingbirds got their name because they forgot the words.

*February 2019 was a month to remember for cold temperatures and snow fall. Regardless of the weather, by the middle of February we see Canada Geese already paired up and staking claim to future nest sites. Early nesters such as the Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Bald Eagle and even Anna’s Hummingbirds will have already established their nesting territories. Rufous Hummingbirds are expected to return by the middle of the month. Total species count for this month was 87.*



*Rufous Hummingbird Photo: Peter Nielsen*

#### February 3 – February 9

On the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> outside the back window of the Gift Shop, we found 7 Barn Swallows all huddled together in one of last year’s Barn Swallow nests. By the end of the day they had moved on. With not many bugs and cooler temperatures I hope they found somewhere like an old barn to hold up in. Since all the berries have been eaten off the local trees, we saw the last of the Cedar Waxwings this week. From the 5<sup>th</sup> onward we had very cold temperatures and ice on most of the ponds which drove the diving ducks out to the open water of the Fraser River to feed. This week had the first sightings of American Bittern, Western Meadowlark and Red-breasted Sapsucker.

#### February 10 – February 16

With the ponds still frozen, one of the only water ways that was free of ice was the House Pond. Taking advantage of this open water I counted approximately 1100 ducks, either floating close together in the water or standing shoulder to shoulder on the surrounding ice. Along the Center Dyke in the tall grass around the Bird Blind, which is a bit more protected from the elements, an American Bittern was spotted fishing in a small area of open water. When you see Northern Flickers in flight you notice that the majority have a flash of orange on the shafts of the feathers under the wings and tail. But this week someone spotted a Northern Flicker with yellow shafts. This yellow coloring is more commonly seen in Northern Flickers from Alaska and Eastern North America.

#### February 17 – March 2

This report is for a 2 week period as both weeks were very similar in species numbers and sightings. On the 24<sup>th</sup> Northern Saw Whet Owls numbers rose to 7 birds. Mind you a few of them were not viewable from the public trails. Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Great Horned Owl, Northern Goshawk, Merlin and Sora are now absent from the weekly list. New incoming spring arrivals include Common Goldeneye, Greater Yellowlegs, Mew Gull, Long-billed Dowitchers, and larger numbers of swallows.

*March is a good birding month as we have the tail end of the wintering species and the beginning of the spring migration. The species count for March 2019 ended at 94. Returning shorebird and warbler species will be on the upcoming weekly lists.*

#### March 3 – March 9

I like walking around the trails at this time of year with sounds of singing birds calling for mates and seeing the various shades of green popping out on the new leaves. March 7<sup>th</sup> visitors were able to watch the normally elusive American Bittern out in the open along the Southwest Trail. Other highlights for this week were Common Goldeneye, Northern Shrike and Barred Owl.

#### March 10 – March 16

There were 72 species reported in this week. March 11<sup>th</sup> the female Canvasback reappeared in the Southwest Marsh. March 14<sup>th</sup> we now find 3 American Bittern along the Southwest Trail. At this time of year the male Bittern abandons his elusive behavior in favor of graceful courtship displays right out in the open. This might explain why they are easily viewed lately. Tree Swallows showed up on the 14<sup>th</sup> and started checking out the nest boxes right away. Bushtits are seen with mouths full of nesting material. The next day Violet-green Swallows arrived, but will not be interested in the same nest boxes as the Tree

*(...../continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

Swallows, as they seem to prefer tree cavities and crevices in cliffs.



*Yellow-headed Blackbird* Photo: Kristina Breit

On the 15<sup>th</sup> a young male Yellow-headed Blackbird was spotted just past the Warming Hut in a pine tree. We only get 1 or 2 Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the spring. The best place to see them is at Iona Beach out near the Airport. On the 16<sup>th</sup> a Hutton's Vireo was seen in the same area at the Northeast Corner where they previously nested last year. A few birds will use their last year's nest site especially if they were successful in raising a family. So obviously early March is a good time to have your nest boxes out and ready for occupants. I know talking with members they mention that they are sure they have seen the same pair of birds that come back over many years to nest in the same area or nest box. With that thought in mind I looked up how long songbirds live. Most backyard songbirds (sparrows, chickadees, warblers) have a surprisingly short average life span of only 3 to 5 years. This got me wondering about other bird's longevity. Of course disease, injuries, predators, environmental threats and hunting accidents for ducks and geese all play a part, but here are a few species and their maximum life spans recorded by the North American Bird Banding Laboratory..

Rufous Hummingbird 8 years	Great Blue Heron 24 years
Mallard 27 years	Bald Eagle 38 years
Northwestern Crow 16 years	Great Horned Owl 28 years
Canada Goose 33 years	Red-tailed Hawk 30 years

March 17 – March 23

The first spring return of Rufous Hummingbird and Yellow-rumped Warbler were on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We only could locate 11 Trumpeter Swans offshore this week. They will be on their way back to Northern BC and the Yukon and Alaska to nest. This week we did not consistently finding the Northern Saw-Whet Owls in their usual daytime roost sites. The last spring sighting of Black-crowned Night Herons was the 20<sup>th</sup>. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, American Pipits were seen in the West Field. Eurasian Wigeon, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Peregrine Falcon and Yellow-headed Blackbird were a few highlights on the list.

March 24 – March 30

At this time of year we still have 18 different species of waterfowl although numbers of each are diminishing. As nesting season approaches most of the winter waterfowl will be leaving out to head back to nest where they were born. The ducks that were born here will remain and will have a shift in focus from the heavy feeding they needed in the cold winter months to breeding and raising their young. Visitors will notice going further into the summer that the ducks will not be so eager to pack away the seed that is offered as they will be busy teaching their young all about fending for themselves and other duck related life lessons. So keep in mind when purchasing or bringing birdseed you won't need very much. Even the songbird feeders are not used in the late spring and summer as there are lots of insects, larva, worms and natural seeds available. A small flock of about 40 Cackling Geese were recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A late report of a Long-eared Owl was on the 30<sup>th</sup>. As we move into April, a nesting month, we now see songbirds busy as they are seen flying with beaks full of nesting material.



*Marsh Wren* Photo: Kathleen Fry

Text: Varri Raffan  
Gift Shop Manager

# The Volunteer Corner

## Special thanks to:

- ◆ Mary Taitt for leading our regular Sunday Bird Walk
- ◆ Members Jim Martin, Emma Turgeon, Joanne McDougal and David Bruce for helping visitors along trails, and monitoring behavior around the wintering owl roosts.
- ◆ Justin Makonin, Eric Rossicci, and Eileen Axford for bagging seed and filling bird feeders.
- ◆ Our winter newsletter mailout team of Kristina Breit, Eric Rossicci, Eileen Axford and Su Langlois.
- ◆ Brian Self, Nicole Lamarche, Kristina Breit, and and BCIT students Brooklyn Hillman and Sarah Yeomans for their assistance with our bi-weekly Sanctuary Bird Surveys.
- ◆ Secondary students Gavin Cui and Kevin Li for all their work filling feeders, planting trees, bagging seed and many other tasks for the past two months.
- ◆ Anne Ziomkowski who delivered 7 duck boxes that the Watcom County Girl Scouts had built and donated to the Sanctuary.

## Volunteers needed:

- ◆ Sanctuary visitor hosts on busy weekends such as the Mother’s Day weekend.
- ◆ Crane Wardens to help keep visitors from crowding the crane family.
- ◆ Museum host for Sunday mornings
- ◆ Helping with bird surveys, turtle counts, or monitoring songbird nest box activities

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

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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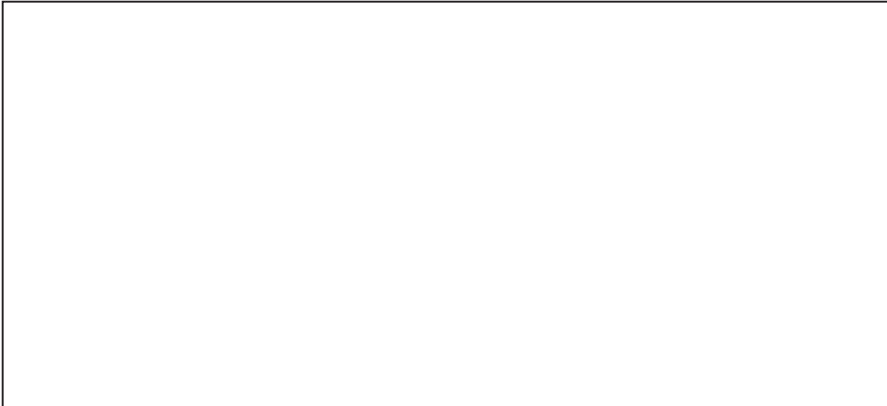
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