

Marshnotes[®]



**BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY
SUMMER 2024**

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

The contents of Marshnotes may not be reprinted without written permission of the Editor.

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

Recommended citation for this issue:

Marshnotes Summer 2024, (K. Fry, Editor).

British Columbia Waterfowl Society.

Published July 31st, 2024.

www.reifelbirdsantuary.com/marshsum2024.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: October 15th, 2024.**

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

Telephone: 604 946 6980
Facsimile: 604 946 6982
Website: www.reifelbirdsantuary.com
Email: bcws@reifelbirdsantuary.com

Marshnotes, Snow Goose Festival and the Snow Goose logo are all registered trademarks of the British Columbia Waterfowl Society.

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

Executive:

President: Jack Bates
Vice President: Barney W. Reifel
Treasurer: Kenneth I Thompson
Secretary: George C. Reifel

Directors:

Jack Bates
Clayton Botkin
F. Wayne Diakow
Kevin Husband
Mark McDonald
Stephen Matthews
Barney W. Reifel
George C. Reifel
Liam Reifel
Kenneth I. Thompson

Committee Chairs:

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

Staff:

Sanctuary Manager: Kathleen Fry
Assistant Manager: Evan Gogal
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. Facebook account BCWS2023 has also recently been set up.

Call for Photos for the 2025 Calendar

If you have some good photos of our Sanctuary’s birds and would like to offer them for our annual calendar, please email or send them in. We are looking for a range of species that would represent bird life throughout the year.

Deadline for submissions:

August 31st

Criteria:

- Horizontal photos only.
- Minimum 4 MB size for good reproduction.
- Max file size 8 MB.
- Only photos taken at the Sanctuary.
- Submit only 5 of your best please.

You can drop off these photos as 5 X 7 prints or email them to me at varri@reifelbirdsantuary.com.

Varri Raffan, Gift Shop Manager.



The 2024 Calendar has been a popular item in the Gift Shop.

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: Gosling Duo
© Jim Martin
- Back Cover: Eastern Kingbird
© Michelle Bachar

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. If you would like to be notified when a new edition is posted, email memberships@reifelbirdsantuary.com.

Contents

Page	3	Call for photos for the 2025 Calendar	Varri Raffan
	4	Bird Highlights	Varri Raffan
	7	The Volunteer Corner	
	7	Why be a Member	
	8	Manager’s Report	Kathleen Fry
	9	Fates and dates of eggs and young from our Sandhill Cranes	Kathleen Fry

Bird Highlights

Thanks to all who contributed to the April 2024 bird species list which ended with 104 species. In April you will see nesting waterfowl, shorebird migration and increased variety and numbers of warblers and flycatchers.

March 31 – April 6

Northern Saw-whet Owls and Pied-billed Grebes have now ceased to make the weekly list. They will return October and September respectively. Canada Geese are now building nests and sometimes not in very appropriate places such as in the flower border along the entrance wall to the museum. They seem to like the soft soil, a sunny location and their backs against the wall. Unfortunately they used all the greenery planted there to make their nest. That is the reason you will see a frame of chicken wire covering that area. A less intrusive nester is the Brown Creeper, which I spotted while walking along the East Dyke. It was taking soft spider cocoons in to line its nest which was located in a crevice beneath loose bark of a coniferous tree. April 6th we had the first spring sightings of Common Yellowthroats.

April 7 – April 13

Large numbers of Lesser Snow Geese still remain in the Fraser Delta. This week they could be seen far out

in the marsh just south of the Sanctuary. On April 7th, on one of the small islands off the north side of Southwest trail, the Sandhill Cranes were found with 1 egg. Unfortunately it was a short-lived endeavor as they lost the egg and abandoned the nest. It is still early in the nesting season so hopefully they will retry. About 150 Cackling Geese were seen flying over on the 13th. House and Purple Finches are both present now. House Finches will nest in our area in hanging baskets, cedar hedges and other bushes in your yard. Purple Finch will continue on to Central and Northeast BC, Southern Yukon and eastward to nest. Male Purple Finches have a much more reddish purple coloring on the head, chest and rump. House Finch males have a red rump, breast, forehead and a red stripe over the eye. The females of both species are brown and heavily striped. Both have a wedge shaped beak useful in cracking seeds. From this week of 73 species, some highlights were Ruddy Duck, Wilson's Snipe and Peregrine Falcon.

April 14 – April 20

Bird sightings took a big jump this week. From the 73 species of the previous week we now have a total of 87 species. Here at the Sanctuary from the 2nd or 3rd week of April into the 1st week of May we see the highest variety of spring migrants. There are still some winter species present coupled with other migrants moving northward for nesting, making this one of the most active times. Nesting activity for many birds



Can you find the Brown Creeper? Look at the bottom of the middle hole.

Photo: Kristina Breit



Rufous Hummingbird with Red-flowering Currant. Photo: Lauren Nicholl

peaks this month. Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser and Greater Scaup, Common Merganser, American Coot and Pine Siskin's are a few species that wintered at the Sanctuary but have now headed north to nest. On the 14th the Pileated Woodpecker re-appeared, this time along the East Dyke. The first Purple Martins showed up on the 17th. The first Black-throated Gray Warbler and the first brood of 8 Mallard ducklings were all spotted on the 20th.

April 21 – April 27

Staff had a quick view of a Whimbrel as it made its way over the Sanctuary on the 21st. Also on the 21st the first Blue-winged Teal appeared, then on the 22nd the first Cinnamon Teal appeared. More warblers will be moving into our area over the next couple of weeks. It is a challenge to get good views of them as the leaves fill out in the trees. The first sightings of Orange-crowned, Townsend's, Wilson's, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Common Yellowthroats were all found in this period. On the morning of the 27th the biweekly bird survey team had an impressive count of 100+ Yellow-rumped Warblers. The first Willow Flycatchers returned on the 27th. A small flock of 24 Greater White-fronted Geese were located offshore on the same day. A bird that we associate with fall and winter sightings is the Eurasian Wigeon but one male has been showing up now and will stay into June. This bird could possibly be injured or sick thus not making the migration. As its name implies it is primarily a Eurasian species. But each year we get a few showing up among the American Wigeon. The Eurasian Wigeon is a colorful duck with a dark rusty head, pale forehead, pinkish breast and gray sides.

Again 87 species recorded in this week and 50 of them were seen by the guided public tour on the 21st.

May is the month to view a variety of young birds. Barn Swallows are now starting to construct their mud and grass nests attaching them to overhanging eaves on various structures around the Sanctuary. The species list for May 2024 ended with 115.

April 28 – May 4

A late to leave small flock of Lesser Snow Geese was seen on the 2nd. Cackling Geese are now fewer in number with only 25 spotted on the 4th. May 5th a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks showed up. Speaking of wedge shaped seed cracking beaks, as their name implies, the Grosbeaks win. Their call resembles that of an American Robin but is more melodious and sung with louder enthusiasm. As for their looks they have a boldly patterned cinnamon orange neck, breast and rump and a black head. Some of the other birds of note for this week were Turkey Vulture, Caspian Tern, Western Flycatcher and more Blue-winged Teal.

May 5 – May 11

Shorebirds are now making their northern migration and peaked this week. With the addition of 9 different shorebirds, the weekly list increased to 92 species. All 3 Teal species, Blue-winged, Cinnamon and Green-winged, were present. The males of the 3 species are colorful and well marked, while all the females are a mottled drab brown with each having either a blue or green wing patch. Most female ducks plumage is a dull earth tone which is best suited to blend into their natural surroundings when nesting. Teal are best

(...../continued page 6)

(...../continued from page 5)

located in shallow waters like that of the West Field. For the complete bird list from this week and previous months visit our website reifelbirdsanctuary.com and choose “Weekly Species” from the pull down menu on our main page.

May 12 – May 18

Black Swift, Spotted Sandpiper and 14 American White Pelicans all made their first spring appearance. Each year we see small flocks of American White Pelicans flying over the Sanctuary on their way inland to nest at Stum Lake 70 kms northwest of Williams Lake. The first brood of 10 Wood Duck ducklings and another family of Mallard ducklings showed up this week. On the 15th a Calliope Hummingbird was seen feeding at one of the feeders around the Gift Shop. Unfortunately it was not seen again. At this point we are now down to 11 remaining Cackling Geese.



Mallard brood

Photo: Kathleen Fry

May 19 – June 1

As mentioned before the diving ducks have migrated out but on the 21st I had 5 female Bufflehead feeding in the House Pond. They breed primarily in Alaska and interior of BC but these 5 must not be in a hurry. The birds I associate with summertime are Vaux’s Swift, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Swainson’s Thrush, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak and Bullock’s Oriole. They were all present this week but you can spot them at the Sanctuary anytime between April and August. At one time or another all these species have been recorded nesting at the Sanctuary. On the 26th Mrs. Crane laid one egg on their familiar nesting island in the water along the main trail and the second egg showed up on the 28th. Prior to this event the pair had disappeared for nearly 3 weeks. As to where they went we don’t really know for sure. They may have started a nest elsewhere but having no success came back to the old homestead.

This year has proven to be a good year for Bullock’s

Orioles. On the 29th a Bullock’s Oriole was spotted flying with nesting material in its beak along the main gravel trail. Every day we watch for where they will build their well hidden nest. Barn Swallows and Tree Swallows have been included on our weekly lists since the 3rd week of January. Violet-green and Northern Rough-winged Swallows have been seen here since the 3rd week of March and now we have Bank and Cliff Swallows joining them in this week.



Bullock’s Oriole

Photo: Michelle Bachar

With most species having already migrated North and nesting activity winding down, June starts a quieter bird watching period. Waterfowl are now looking a bit scruffy as they go through their annual molt. The total number of bird species observed in June 2024 was 86.

June 2 – June 8

At this time of year you will be finding a lot of feathers along the trails. Ducks are now molting and will be in eclipse plumage until roughly September. By then they will have grown back new flight feathers for their fall migration if they actually migrate out of this area. The Western Wood-Pewee was a new arrival for this week. We also are seeing the comeback of Northern Harriers who disappeared about 1 month ago to nest. Their flimsy nests would have been near ground level and made of sticks, grass and other vegetation of the marsh. Northern Harriers, formerly named “Marsh Hawk” are best seen slowly flying over the outer marshes in search of voles, snakes and frogs. Next time you see one check out their eye color. Young birds have brown eyes and adults have yellow eyes.

June 9 – June 22

On the 16th a pair of Great Horned Owls, probably the ones seen along the driveway in February, have been seen in the Northeast Corner with 1 owlet. The best spot to find them is high up and close to the trunks of coniferous trees along East and North Dyke. Another give away is if you hear songbirds excitedly chattering at something in the trees. Check and see if they are

scolding a Great Horned Owl or another threat to them. The Great Horned Owl family would actually end up being seen in those areas well into July. The first brood of Gadwall appeared on the 16th in the House Pond. June 18th a flock of 50 American White Pelicans were seen offshore from the tower. Warblers are now hard to locate. In this 2 week period we had Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat. Two Eastern Kingbirds, which are in the Flycatcher family, were found at the Southwest corner on the 22nd. With young Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds both vigorously feeding young, we are filling the smaller suction cupped feeders on the Gift Shop windows twice a day. Come the end of June many Anna's Hummingbirds will move up to higher elevations taking advantage of the mountain wildflowers. Rufous Hummingbirds will be with us until beginning of August when they will start their southern migration following the blooming flowers down to Mexico where they will spend the winter.

June 23 – June 29

A highlight on the 23rd for one of our visitors was watching an adult Killdeer with 4 young in the ditch along the East Dyke. Then on the morning of the 29th

an adult with 2 young were spotted in the parking lot. They are known for nesting and foraging on gravel parking lots but not always a safe place to be especially as the morning's vehicles were making their way down the driveway. Forty-one American White Pelicans are still being seen from the tower. They were quite a distance and hard to clearly make out with the heat shimmer. Also from the Observation Tower on the 29th White-winged Scoter, Caspian Tern and Bonaparte's' Gull were located. As July approaches bird viewing slows down but it is a good time to brush up on other species such as butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and flowering plants of the Sanctuary. On the front Gift Shop windows you will find a handy colorful guide to flowering plants and the weekly bird species list.

Text:

Varri Raffan
Gift Shop Manager

The Volunteer Corner

Special thanks to:

- ◆ Mary Taitt for leading our Sunday Bird Walk, and sometimes helping with the gardens.
- ◆ Jim Martin and Brian Self for their year-round hosting of visitors on weekends.
- ◆ John Chandler, Janice White and Dirk Fleming, for helping keeping up our seed supply, and for keeping trail edges trimmed.
- ◆ Brian Self, Peter Candido, Ben Lambert, Janice White, Dirk Fleming and Sabine Jessen for helping with bi-weekly bird surveys.
- ◆ Margaret Gorham for hosting visitors at the Museum every Sunday.
- ◆ Our hard-working volunteer Directors.

Note : We have a had good sign up of volunteers to help watch the cranes and to help with surveys or maintenance in June and July. Many thanks to the following new and regular volunteers who have pitched in to help water new plantings, keep an eye on cranes and keep our trail edges tidy: Kristen Vilbrunt, TK Tom, Amy Huestis, Carmen Prang, Lisa and Jonathan Fainstein, Wayne Diakow, Syd and Vivienne Barber, David Pawliuk, Jamie Mochizuki, Teresa Masset and Farah Farinha.

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.

Manager's Report

Compared to last year, this April was warmer and drier, and May and June slightly cooler. There was a significant downpour May 21st that had everyone running for cover. Visitor use totaled just under 16,000 between the three months of this quarter, up a bit from last year.

This is the time of year that we switch from checking on owls to monitoring nesting species. There were just a couple of Northern Saw-whet Owl sightings up until April 7th in well-hidden roost, then they were gone for the season. Since then, we have been documenting the use of songbird and Wood Duck nest boxes, the appearance of waterfowl broods, and nests of Rufous and Anna's Hummingbird, Bushtits, Bullock's Orioles, Brown Creepers, Spotted Towhees and Barn Swallow over the summer so far.

After a slow spring start, many waterfowl must have re-nested after their first attempts were predated, as we are seeing many late broods now. For example, there were only 4 Mallard broods seen in April and May, but more than 15 broods hatched in June and still more are hatching in July. Some sort of predator has also targeted the Barn Swallow nests at the Warming Hut, possibly a raccoon or an avian predator. Wood Duck broods have been scarce this past few years, but so have the actual Wood Ducks themselves. This is a waterfowl species that is very susceptible to avian flu, so the most recent outbreak may be the cause for our current low numbers. The fall edition of Marshnotes will provide some more detailed summaries of summer nesting species.

The research using high-tech neck collars on geese is going well. Throughout April and May we could track Snow Geese making their way slowly northwards to Alaska, then as they moved closer to Wrangel Island, Russia, they were out of cell tower range so we are waiting for their return to Alaska this fall to see where they went after their markers disappeared from the screen. In the first week of July, while local Canada Geese were still flightless, approximately 700 geese were caught and banded offshore of the Sanctuary, and a few more research collars were put on birds.

Visitors may also notice that some native plantings are doing well, although all new plants have needed extra care in summer. A mix of Hardhack, Oregon Grape, Snowberry and Osoberry were planted in the fenced off area adjacent to the parking lot, with an understory of Yarrow and Large-leafed Lupine.

The Sandhill Crane dramas dominated the month of May, when the resident pair disappeared for a few weeks, then returned to nest, although we were still not sure if perhaps one of the pair had been swapped out for a different bird. The two eggs hatched in late



"Speckles" the resident male Sandhill Crane in 2022



The 2024 Crane colts June 26th.

June, and the resulting pair of colts have been the main visitor highlights so far in July.

The following pages 9 to 11 outline the history of nesting of wild cranes at the Sanctuary. Prior to the first wild pair, a couple of tame imprinted cranes lived at the Sanctuary but did not produce any offspring. Imprinting usually shows itself in the form of a bird trying to relate to humans rather than their own kind. Nest sites have varied over the years, sometimes influenced by territorial geese or presence of predators, but nesting seasons have also sometimes been unsuccessful because of the distracting presence of any other non-breeding or underaged cranes, particularly their own young from previous years.

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

Fates and Dates of Eggs and Young From Our Sanctuary Cranes

People ask why we feel the need to protect the Sandhill Cranes when they have young chicks or “colts”. The following three pages will hopefully help people understand that this species is long-lived, but there is a very high egg loss and mortality rate in the chicks. Since 2010, only 4 young cranes have grown to adulthood, so we are hoping the best for the two 2024 youngsters. Yellow squares indicate successful chicks, orange ones indicates chicks that did not survive.

Original Wild Nesting Pair “Mr./Mister” and “Momma”

“Mr.” first visited the Sanctuary in 1992 as a 2 year old wild bird, and he tried unsuccessfully to mate and nest with one of the imprinted female cranes. In 1997, he was joined by “Momma”, a wild female. In 2000, they successfully hatched two chicks and continued to nest each year from 2000 to 2006, in log and cattail islets of Southwest Marsh.

Mr. had a distinctive colouring, with no white cheek patch, and Momma had a splash of white feathers stretching from lower neck to her shoulder. In 2006, Momma was found dead on the Southwest Marsh Trail. Within a few months, Mr. had chosen a new very young female as his new mate from cranes that had gathered here at the time. The new female (“Mrs”) was only a year old based on her eye colour.

Details of the number of eggs and exact nest locations are missing for their early years, but at least 3 chicks grew to adulthood— one of the two from the year 2000, one of the two from 2001, and one from 2005 (that had the same white neck marking as its mother).



“Momma” (left) and “Mr .Crane” (right) in 2004

Total of 11 chicks hatched, only 3 grew to adulthood.

Dates and fates of nests of resident Sandhill Crane pair “Mr./Mister” and Momma” from 1996 to 2006						
Year	Location	Eggs	Laid	Hatched	Survival	Comment
1996-99						Unsuccessful nesting
2000	SW Marsh	1st egg	By May 11th	By June 11th	1 Adult	
		2nd egg	By May 11th	By June 11th	54 days	Died August 4th
2001	SW Marsh	1st egg	By March 31st	By May 3 rd ?	1 Adult	
		2nd egg	By March 31st	By May 3rd	48 days	Died June 20th
2002	SW Marsh	1st egg	Early April	By May 10th	25 days	Lost to coyotes June 4th
		2nd egg	Early April	By May 10th	44 days	Lost to coyotes June 23rd
2003		1st egg	Early April	By May 9th	12 days	Lost May 21st
		2nd egg	Early April	By May 9th	28 days	Lost June 6th
2004		2 eggs	April			2 eggs abandoned late May
2005		1st egg	April 7th	May 10th?	2+ days	Predated within a few days
		2nd egg	April 8th	May 10th	2+ days	Predated within a few days
		3rd egg	April 24th	May 24th	1 Adult	Same splash of white on neck as mother

Nesting pair of “Mr./Mister” and “Mrs.” 2007-2016

Mr. and his new mate were unsuccessful the first few years, because the female was just a 1 yr bird in 2006, and partly because the original nest site of previous years had fallen apart, and gulls had taken it over. Several sites were tried out that seemed to be prone to predation and accidental egg loss. This new pair was easily identified, “Mr.” because of the facial markings, and “Mrs.” because of her size.

By 2010, the pair was finally successful on a small island in the middle of Display Ponds and used it for the next 5 years until problems with a pair of Canada Geese caused them to try out other sites. In late 2016, “Mr.” began to fail, and he died in January 2017. His age was calculated to be at least 27 years and his skin resides as an exhibit in the Beaty Biodiversity Museum at UBC.



“Mrs. Crane” in April 2024

Total of 12 chicks hatched, only 2 of which grew to adulthood.

Dates and fates of nests of resident Sandhill Crane pair “Mr.” and “Mrs.” from 2007 to 2016						
Year	Location	Eggs	Laid	Hatched	Survival	Comment
2007	SW log	1st egg	May 12th			Egg predated (gulls)
		2nd egg	May 18th			Egg predated
	SW peninsula	3 rd egg	June 7th	July 6th	1 day	Lost on Jul 7 th , Probably gulls
2008	SW Marsh	2 eggs	May ?			Both eggs predated after 2 wks
2009	SW log 2	1 st egg	undoc	June 28th	4 days	Chick predated Jul 2nd
2010	Display Island	1 st egg	May 1st	May 31st	Adult	“Junior” grew to adult
		2 nd egg	May 4th	June 2nd	2 days	Chick disappeared by Jun 4th
2011	Display Island	1 st egg	April 16th	May 15th	<1 hour	1st Chick drowned /“Kathleen rescue”
		2 nd egg	April 18th	May 17 th /18	Adult	“Poxy” grew to adult
2012	Display Island	1 st egg	April 20th	May 19th	14 days	Dead tangled in shrubs Jun 2nd
		2 nd egg	April 22nd	Not hatched		Abandoned after May 19th
2013	Display Island	1 st egg	April 9th			Egg disappeared by Apr 12th
		2 nd egg	April 13th	May 13/14th	8 days	Died of yolk sac infection
2014	Display Island	1 st egg	April 9th	May 10/11	<1 day	1st chick drowned /“Dan Rescue”
		2 nd egg	April 12th	May 11th	19 days	Dead in ditch n of island
2015	Display Island	1st egg	April 2nd			Gone Apr 9th, Unknown
		2nd egg	April 4th			Gone Apr 9th, Unknown
	Back H. Pond	3 rd egg	April 25th			Egg predated by 26th
	SW Log3	4 th egg	April 28th			Egg predated by 29th
	Island nearby	5 th egg	May 11th			Egg gone by May 12th
2016	Display Island	1 st egg	April 23rd	May 24th	69 days	Gone Aug 1 st / avian predator?
		2 nd egg	April 26/27	May 26th	1 day	Disappeared overnight

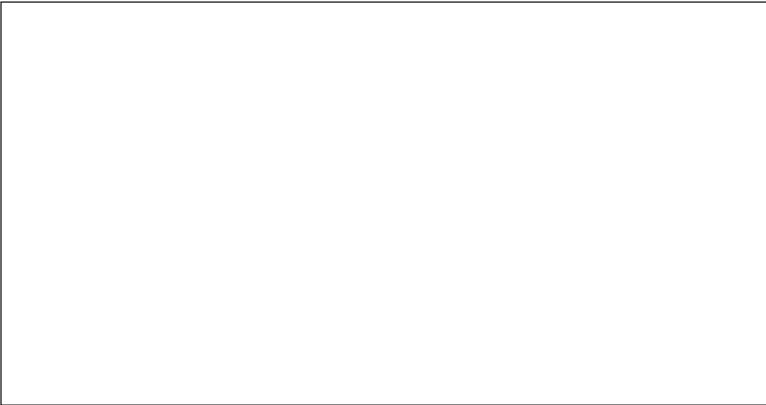
Nesting pair of “Speckles “ and “Mrs.” 2017 to present

“Mrs.” chose a young male (not quite 3 years old, and 9 years younger than her) when “Mr.” died January 2017. We dubbed the new mate “Speckles” (see photo page 9). As of the summer of 2024, Speckles is 10 years old, and Mrs. is 19 years old. Total of 8 chicks hatched, 2 grown to adulthood, two current chicks.

Dates and fates of nests of resident Sandhill Crane pair “Mrs.”and “Speckles” from 2017 to 2024						
Year	Location	Eggs	Laid	Hatched	Survival	Comments
2017	Display Island	1 st egg	April 8th	May 8th	12 days	Dead on shore May 20 th (sick?)
		2 nd egg	April 10th			Abandoned May 10 th ,
2018	N Cattail Marsh	1 st egg	April 2nd			Nest predated May 1st
	Display Island	2 nd egg	May 13th	June 11th	30 days	“Ollie”, Mink kill July 9th
		3 rd egg	May 15th	June 13th	Adult	“Louie”, grew to adult
2019	Log Boom	1st egg	April 3rd			Gone Apr 11th
		2nd egg	April 5th			Gone Apr 11th
	Crane Meadow	3 rd egg	April 22nd			Gone Apr 23rd
		4 th egg	April 28th			Gone Apr 28th
		5 th egg	May 4th			Predated May 27th
2020	Display Island	1st egg	April 13th			Predated May 10th
		2nd egg	April 15th			Predated May 10th
	Triangle Island	3 rd egg	May 23rd			Predated May 25th
2021	House Pond Is	1st egg	April 27th			Raccoon May 10th
		2nd egg	April 30th			Raccoon May 10th
	Crane Meadow	3 rd egg	May 26th	June 23rd	Adult	“Evan”, grew to adult
		4 th egg	May 28 th ?	June 25th	10 days	Disappeared Jul 4th
2022	N Cattail Marsh	1 st egg	March 28th			Raccoon, predated Apr 9th
	Crane Meadow	2 nd egg	April 22nd			Predated Apr 27th
	Display Island	3 rd egg	May 9th	June 9th	5 days	Chick was sick then died
		4 th egg	May 11 th +			Abandoned Jun 11th
2023	Crane Meadow	1st egg	April 16th			Predated May 15th
		2nd egg	April 18/19th			Predated May 15th
	Display Island	1st egg	May 29th			Predated Jun 9th
		2nd egg	May 31st			Predated Jun 9th
2024	N. Cattail Marsh	1 st egg	March 14th			Pair off nest 2 Apr no egg
	SW Marsh Island	2nd egg	April 7th			Predated Apr 8th
	Display Island	3rd egg	May 26th	June 24th		Thriving so far
		4th egg	May 28th	June 26th		Thriving so far

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
WATERFOWL SOCIETY**

5191 Robertson Road, Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2



Eastern Kingbird © Michelle Bachar