

Marshnotes[®]



BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY
Summer 2025

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: Marissa Sasaki

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

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

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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 Admission:

Family: \$100.00

Individual: \$ 50.00

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Gift Shop Manager: Varri Raffan
Biologist: Marissa Sasaki
Education: Dani McRobbie
Maintenance: Phoenix Black
David Manning
Field Technicians: Kristina Breit
Kiera Fritsch
Summer Student: Lelah Zimmerman

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)
Entry is closed at 3 pm, visitors need to leave by 4 pm.
The Sanctuary is wheelchair accessible



We now send out a tweet from our Twitter (X) 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.

Last Call for Photos for the 2026 Calendar!

We are still looking for more calendar submissions! If you have some good photos of our Sanctuary's migratory 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 varri@reifelbirds sanctuary.com.



The 2025 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

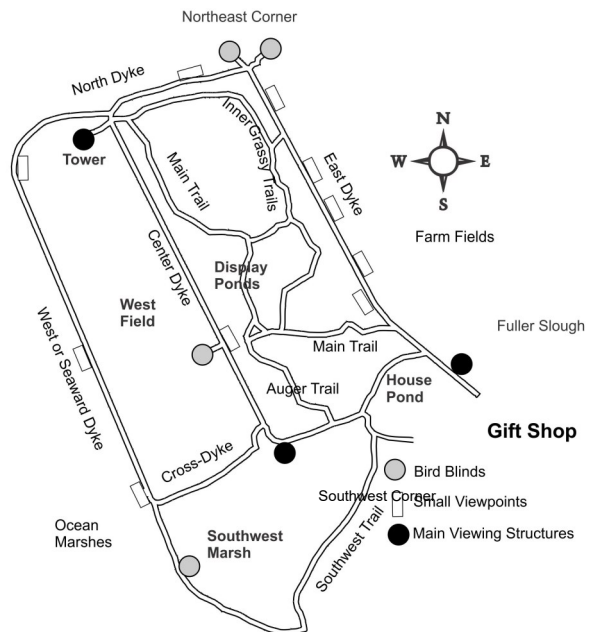
Front Cover: Cinnamon Teal

© Dan Parlee

Back Cover: Canada Geese

© John Whitmore

Marshnotes is issued four times a year but is now available only in electronic format on our "Archives" page at www.reifelbirds sanctuary.com/archives.html. If you would like to be notified when a new edition is posted, email marshnotes@reifelbirds sanctuary.com.



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Varri Raffan

Evan Gogal

Varri Raffan

Marissa Sasaki



Female Mallard and her ducklings

Photo: Dan Parlee

Bird Highlights

The compiled species list for April 2025 totaled 98, which gave an average of 75 per week. This month you can expect to see shorebirds such as Western Sandpipers, Dunlin, along with both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Short and Long-billed Dowitchers making a brief stop on their way to Alaska and northern Yukon to nest.

March 30 – April 5

A few active Canada Geese and Mallard nests are now noticeable along the trail sides. Unfortunately they are also noticeable to raccoon, mink and seagulls. Predation to early nesting waterfowl is common resulting in ducks and geese to nesting for a second time. For this reason ducklings and goslings are not seen in large number until late May and early June. Sunny days are now bringing warmer water temperatures which have woken up the turtles. Visitors are now seeing them sunning themselves on various logs throughout the Sanctuary. One report of 32 Red-eared Sliders were observed on March 30th. On April 3rd, 31 Greater White-fronted Geese were found in the Southwest Marsh. The Sandhill Crane pair is now thinking of nesting and was spotted checking out their two previous nest sites from last year. On April 2nd a Barred Owl was found along the driveway. From this week's list that totaled 82 species the offshore highlights were Surf Scoter, Long-tailed

Duck, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon and Horned Grebe.

April 6 – April 12

With the adult Sandhill Cranes thinking of nesting, they have now disassociated themselves from last year's offspring, and the young crane is not happy about that decision at all. Most days it hangs around the house yard constantly calling out in a very lonely whining tone. A couple of times it has walked into the parking lot and stood beside shiny black vehicles staring at its reflection hoping to have found a new friend. On April 10th the first Common Yellowthroat was heard. On April 11th the first Cinnamon Teal was located. On the 12th a Red Crossbill was located along the entrance driveway. American Bittern, Wilson's Snipe, Cliff Swallow, Lincoln's Sparrow were also notable for this week.

April 13 – April 19

Out of the eight different sparrow species recorded this week Swamp Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow were worth mentioning. The Chipping Sparrow stayed around the house front yard on the 13th and 16th then was found around the display ponds on the 19th. The Red Crossbill reappeared on the 15th. Late in the afternoon of the 19th, Mrs. Crane laid one egg on Crane Island, but will they be able to keep it and other eggs safe from predators...? So begins the annual saga. The



Mink with an egg

Photo: Bert Sharpe

small flock of Greater White-fronted Geese is still present in the Southwest Marsh. A single Short-eared Owl was found hunting over the outer Marsh on the 15th.

April 20 – April 26

By the 22nd the second Crane egg had been laid. The duration of incubation for Sandhill Crane eggs is between 28 – 32 days. With a bit of luck they will have two new colts by the last week of May. On April 22nd, mink were spotted along the inner grassy trails and along the south dyke. Although classed as nocturnal, Mink are often seen in daylight hours. They are fond of frogs, fish, mice and ducks but an easy favorite are eggs. April 22nd, seven American White Pelicans were spotted flying over the Sanctuary.

April 27 – May 3

This week and into the next we were able to find seven different species of shorebirds in West Field and Southwest Marsh. They are on their way to various parts of Alaska to nest. May 2nd had the first Spring sighting of Black-headed Grosbeak and Western Tanager. These two species are best seen May to September. This is the time of year when Fox Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrows, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows are now leaving our vicinity heading to nest in Alaska and the Yukon. Song and Savannah Sparrows will remain here to nest. The Ruby-crowned Kinglets have also moved to the coniferous woodlands of Northwest Alaska and the Yukon. Activity around the hummingbird feeders is now picking up. Young Anna's Hummingbirds have now fledged and are learning about the feeders. You can distinguish the juveniles by plumage but also by how they try to get the nectar from all the wrong spots on the feeders. This week the last of the straggling Snow Geese have now headed up to Wrangle Island Russia for the summer.

May is a good month to locate young waterfowl. So far the Mallards are off to a good start with numerous large broods. Canada Geese have had a very unsuccessful Spring for hatching eggs and we have only seen a couple of broods. This could be due to egg eating predators. Warblers and Flycatchers are now building in number.

May 4 – May 10

Staff found the Bullock's Orioles starting to build their nest along one of the inner grassy trails on the 4th. May 6th saw the arrival of Swainson's Thrush and Townsend's Warbler. With only a handful of Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead and Hooded Mergansers remaining it will be hard to find diving ducks through the summer. However a Blue-winged Teal, a dabbling duck, was a new arrival on the 8th. May 8th also saw the first brood of Mallard ducklings. May 9th Wilson's Phalarope and Band-tailed Pigeon were spotted. On the 10th a Merlin and an American Kestrel were both found. Most visitors ask if we have had any owl sightings but at this time of year it is very hard to locate them at the Sanctuary. Most owls have either moved to higher elevations to nest or other locations in the Lower Mainland. Great Horned Owls do nest nearby and will return with their young to the Northeast corner and Inner Grassy Trails come middle of June.



A gaggle of Greater White-fronted Geese

Photo: Dan Parlee

May 11 – May 17

This week saw the last of Greater White-fronted Geese and Cackling Geese. Some new arrivals were Western Wood Pewee, Western Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Cedar Waxwing. Swainson's Thrush seem to have been more evident this year. Although seldom seen, their melodious upward spiraling song were echoing from densely wooded areas of the Sanctuary. On the 17th many Yellow-rumped Warblers, Wilson's Warblers and Orange-crowned Warblers were seen throughout the Sanctuary. Having this many in one area could have been due to a large flock dropping down for food and/or rest on their migration. Over

(...../continued page 6)

many years the Sanctuary has had a diverse selection of 35 to 40 different bird species nesting here. Some common nesters here are Mallard, Gadwall, Wood Duck, Black-capped Chickadee, Bushtit, American Robins, Rufous and Anna's Hummingbirds, Red-tailed Hawk, Barn and Tree Swallows, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbirds. All of these birds, except the Brown-headed Cowbird, make their own nests or use boxes we provide. Unlike the others, Brown-headed Cowbirds don't make their own nests; instead the female lays her eggs in other songbird nests and lets the host bird care for them. Thus, Cowbirds are classed as "parasitic nesters". Song Sparrows and Yellow Warblers are the two species commonly parasitized by a Brown-headed Cowbird. The first Spotted Sandpiper and Wilson's Snipe were found on the 15th. May 17th had a high count of 15 Blue-winged Teal located at the back of House Pond.

May 18 – May 24

In the afternoon of the 19th, six Turkey Vultures were spotted flying over the parking lot. Turkey Vultures are often seen soaring in the air over bluffs, cliffs and marine shorelines of southern BC. Larger numbers congregate over the Strait of Georgia and the Gulf Islands. If you have travelled the Gulf Islands over the summer you would have easily seen many soaring

above. Due to predation from raccoons, mink or sea-gulls, the Sandhill Cranes had no luck keeping their two eggs on the first go around but they were back for another attempt on Crane Island by the 22nd. On the 19th a Vaux's Swift and Hutton's Vireo were seen.

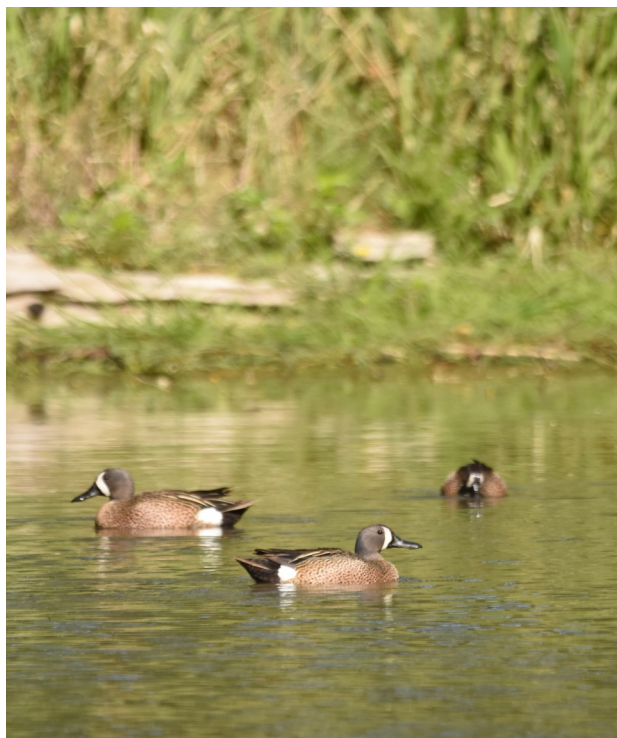
May 25 – May 31

Ducks are now starting to molt, which is referred to eclipse plumage. The green heads and brown chest of male Mallards are starting to look patchy. Eventually they will lose their color and have the same drab plumage as females. Through the summer the best way to tell which one is the male Mallard is by looking at their beaks. The males will have a khaki greenish beak while the females have a two-tone brown and orange beak. One of our Sanctuary regulars was lucky to be in the right place, which was the south end of the Seaward Dyke, at the right time to get a couple of lovely photos of a Western Kingbird. Although this bird is named Western Kingbird it is not often seen in our area compared to the Eastern Kingbird. In fact, the last time we had a report of a Western Kingbird at the Sanctuary was July 15, 2012, but we usually see one or two Eastern Kingbirds per summer. Greater Scaup, American White Pelican and both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes were other highlights from this week's list of 70 species.



Western Kingbird

Photo: Lauren Nicholl



Male Blue-winged Teals behind House Pond
Photo: Marissa Sasaki

June is the start of a quiet period lasting until late summer. Most of the migratory waterfowl have moved through our area leaving the remaining resident ducks to continue with their annual molt and to rear their young. Although summer is quiet for bird species other colorful species such as butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, turtles and flowers are to be enjoyed as you walk the trails.

June 1 – June 14

With this quieter period the bird list has dropped to 63 species. Turkey Vultures are still being seen on most days circling above. Black-headed Grosbeaks and Bullock's Orioles are seen every day in this two-week reporting. On June 9th as staff entered they were greeted by a family of Killdeer in the middle of the gravel parking lot. Prior to visitors entering the Killdeer family was ushered to the grassy edge of Robertson Slough where they spent a bit of time which was a photo op for these small and very cute chicks.

June 15 – June 28

On June 20th an adult Great Horned Owl was spotted along the Inner Grassy Trail but was soon chased off by songbirds that didn't want him in their neighborhood. But on June 21st it was back, this time with a juvenile bird from this year. On the same day two Vaux's Swift were reported. They are the smallest of swifts, even smaller than a Barn Swallow. The Vaux's Swift is a very dark bird with no apparent tail. Many birders and bird identification books describe the



Wilson's Phalarope in beautiful breeding plumage
Photo: Kristina Breit

Vaux's Swift to be "like a cigar with wings". They are insect eaters who catch their prey in flight, made easier as all four of their toes face forward. On the high tide late afternoon of the 22nd, eight Baird's Sandpipers were found in the West Field. June 25th, we saw the first brood of ten Gadwall ducklings. On the 28th the first brood of ten Wood Duck ducklings appeared in Robertson Slough, and later that day a second older brood showed up in the same slough. We thought we had seen the last of the Lesser Snow Geese back at the beginning of May, but on the 28th five were located offshore. Either non-breeding birds or not bothered about doing the long migration. A Black Swift was located on the 28th. This is the largest in the Swift family. Again an overall dark bird but it has a noticeably notched tail. It was a pity to discover the nest of Barn Swallows just outside the back of the Gift shop was depredated. The likely culprit is the Barred Owl. These owls have been well documented as predators of Barn Swallow nests. Not good news for a species that is already on the decline. In this last period of June the species list ended at 66 with Spotted Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Great Horned Owl and Western Tanager being the highlights. Moving into July and August we will see various species of shorebirds returning from the north.

Text: Varri Raffan



Gadwall family

Photo: Kristina Breit

Managers Report

Visitor numbers for April, May and June were higher at 18,429 visitors compared to last year of 15,942 visitors. This was likely due to the very sunny and warm weather we had this year. We only saw one rainy day at the beginning of April and another at the end of May. Compared to the wet and rainy March we had this year, enthusiasm for the sun seemed to be at an all-time high.

Along with more visitors, sunny weather brought a lot of fresh plant growth and arrival of many spring migratory songbirds in the Sanctuary. We started seeing birds like Yellow-rumped Warblers, Savannah Sparrows, and Common Yellowthroats to name a few. By early May most of our migratory warbler species had arrived and we saw our first Bullocks Orioles, Western Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeak as well. Once they arrive at the Sanctuary many of these birds will start nest building while others continued to their nesting grounds further north or inland.

With nesting season underway, our resident Sandhill Cranes started nesting in April as well. The crane pair made their first nest attempt in the cattail meadow along the Inner Grassy trail on April 5th. Unfortunately, within a few days they were off their nest, likely due to an overnight egg predation. On April 14th, Sanctuary staff took a trip into the main

ponds to repair the crane's favorite nesting island that had partially washed away in the winter rains. By April 19th, the cranes were happily sitting on the island and had laid their first egg for the second nest attempt of the year. But on May 7th, we found the nest site empty and the cranes roaming the trails adjacent to the island. A final attempt was made by our cranes on the 23rd of May, but it didn't last much longer than a few days. For the rest of May and June, the cranes sauntered along the trails eating berries, bugs and turtle eggs when they were lucky enough to find a Red-eared Slider nest.



*Killdeer nesting attempt in the Parking Lot Garden
Photo: Evan Gogal*



Wilson's Warbler

Photo: Dan Parlee



One of the several Killdeer families running around the Sanctuary

Photo: Dan Parlee



*The Goslings that hatched from the museum nest
Photo: Evan Gogal*

We also had Killdeer getting ready to nest in early April. This species, however, doesn't build much for a traditional nest. They make little scrapes in the dirt with their feet and body to lay their eggs directly on the ground. Minimal camouflage is needed since color and shape of the eggs makes them look just like small stones. On the April 13th, we had a pair making some test scrapes in the native plant garden along the edge of our parking lot. Unfortunately, they decided to nest elsewhere so we didn't get to watch the entire process. But on June 11th, we had a family of killdeer with 3 young running around our parking lot. They



*One of the likely culprits of the egg snatching
Photo: Dan Parlee*

likely nested close by in a neighboring farm field or somewhere along the shoreline of Robertson Slough.

Our first hatch of waterfowl this year was on April 27th. Our resident Canada Goose, "Daffy", who was nesting in the daffodils by the washroom hatched all five of her eggs. Unfortunately her partner had disappeared a few weeks before the eggs hatched, so Daffy had a lot on her plate as a single mother goose. Typically the responsibility of protecting and raising young are shared between a pair of geese. As a result of not

(...../continued page 10)



Red-tailed Hawk young in the drive way nest

Photo: Kristina Breit

having help, Daffy unfortunately lost all five youngsters within a few days.

However, this year has been a fairly unsuccessful year for Canada Geese nesting in the Sanctuary in general. Only one Goose pair was able to successfully raise a single chick. Much of this nesting difficulty was likely due to egg predation. We witnessed many nests along the trails getting started only to find a pile of eggshells and two unhappy parents the next morning. One of the main predators of waterfowl eggs here in the Sanctuary are American Mink. Mink are a small, native, semi-aquatic weasel that spend a lot of time in the water eating fish, small rodents, and even birds. During the nesting season they capitalize on bird eggs and young waterfowl swimming along the waters edge as a primary food source. Raccoons are another land predator that eats a lot of goose and duck eggs out here in the spring. Raccoons are scavengers, eating whatever food they can find such as berries, bugs, fish, small rodents and bird eggs when they can get their paws on them. Our resident Raccoons seem to be living in dens burrowed into sides of our dikes or large-hollowed out tree cavities.

Despite the difficulties in the goose world, the ducks in the Sanctuary had a much more successful nesting season. This is likely due to the more hidden nature of the duck nests compared to the goose strategy of building right along the trail edges. Our first Mallard brood was spotted on May 8th with 17 fresh yellow ducklings swimming along behind her. We had at least another ten broods of Mallards spotted by staff and visitors in the ponds throughout the rest of spring. The number of young for each brood was quite variable,

ranging from as little as one to as many as 18 young. By late June we found our first broods of Wood Ducks and Gadwall. Both species tend to hatch young later in the nesting season compared to Mallards.

We also found a Red-tailed Hawk nest on the South side of the entrance driveway this year on May 3rd. It is likely that she started nesting sometime the week prior as she was not there on the previous Saturday. She hatched three young just around the Victoria Day long weekend. We were able to observe them grow up from white little puffballs to scraggly juveniles in just over a month. All three of them fledged the nest at the end of June and will stick around the parents for up to ten weeks to be fed and taught how to be proper hawks.

We will be watching this hawk nest closely next spring to see if our local pair of Great Horned Owls decide to use it or not. Great Horned Owls are known to steal the previous nest of other large raptors like Red-tailed Hawks and Eagles. This year, it seems that the Great Horned Owls nested somewhere in the Alaksen National Wildlife Area as we didn't see any sign of them until two juvenile owls appeared on June 21st. The driveway nest, however, has been used by both the Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned owls on and off for several years now. It is always a fun site to watch in the spring for some exciting nesting competition.

Text: Evan Gogal
Sanctuary Manager

Reifel Bird Sanctuary Baby Bird Photos



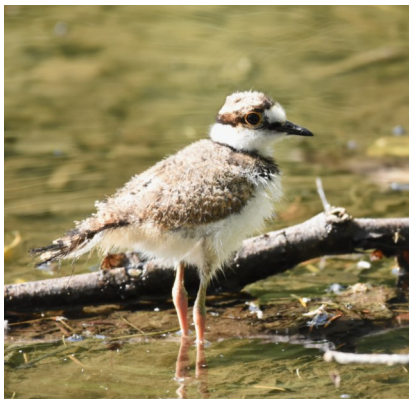
Barn Swallow fledgling

Photo: John Whitmore



Bullock's Oriole nest with youngsters

Photo: Dan Parlee



Baby Killdeer

Photo: Kristina Breit



Great Horned Owls on drive way nest 2021

Photo: Kristina Breit



The biggest Mallard family in the Sanctuary (18 ducklings)

Photo: Evan Gogal



Barn Swallow babies waiting patiently in their mud nest for their parents to return with bugs
Photo: Kristina Breit

Some Bird Nesting Facts

Nesting time brings up various questions from the public and one of the most common inquiries is “How long will it take nesting birds to hatch?” Most of the time a bird has chosen an unusual or inconvenient spot to build its nest, such as in a hanging basket, planter box, above a doorway, in stacked up lawn furniture, on a covered boat or in patio decorations. I have put together some useful information to help give readers some time frames for some of the birds we are questioned about.

Barn Swallow

Both female and male Barn Swallows partner up to build their nest which is made of mud daubs, straw and then lined with feathers. You will see them attached under roof overhangs and sometimes on ledges above doorways. On average they will lay four to five eggs which take 13 to 17 days to hatch, and then an additional 18 to 23 days until they are ready to leave the nest. They can raise a second brood at the same nest site if they start early enough.

American Robin

The female and male both assemble their nest from twigs and grasses and the female will lay on average 4 eggs. They will take 14 days to hatch and then another 14 days to fledge. Be aware that American Robins can have up to three families in one year and may even re-use the same nest again if they were successful in rearing their young.

Black-capped Chickadee

Both parents will help with the construction of their nest which could either be in a nest box or natural cavity. It will take roughly 10 to 14 days to excavate and line the cavity with plant down, moss and feathers. Once the five or more eggs are laid they will take 11 to 13 days to hatch. Another 14 to 18 days to leave the nest. Again you could see re-nesting if they start early enough and conditions are optimal.



Nest of American Robin

Photo: Kathleen Fry

House Finch

The female will sit on two to six eggs in her nest which she alone has built out of twigs, grass and leaves. Incubation time is 12 to 14 days with fledging taking place in 11 to 19 days. House Finches can have up to three broods and even reuse the same nest.

House Sparrow

Once the nest is built, either in an artificial or natural cavity, the female will lay approximately four to six eggs and incubate them for 10 to 13 days. After hatching it will take another 14 to 17 days before young leave the nest. House Sparrows will also have more than one brood.

Bewick's Wren

The female and male will build their nest which consists of grass, twigs and feathers in a natural cavity, bird box or knot hole. On average the female will lay five to seven eggs which take only 14 days to hatch and 14 days to fledge. The Bewick's Wren will only raise a single family each spring.

Bushtit

Bushtit nests, resembling a woolen sock, are built in tall shrubs and trees. Both male and female bushtits build the nest together using materials like moss and lichen, and various other materials which is woven together with spider silk to form the shape. On average the female will lay five to seven eggs which takes about 12 days to incubate and about 15 days to fledge. Bushtits will have two broods each spring.

Bewick's Wren passing food Photo: John Whitmore



Inside the nest box where Bewick's Wrens were nesting
Photo: Kristina Breit



American Bushtit nest

Photo: Dan Parlee

Anna's Hummingbirds

Nests are built only by females often in tall shrubs. The female gathers soft plant material like cattail seedheads and moss then weaves them with spider silk. The outer rim of the nest is decorated with lichen. The female will lay two eggs which take 14 to 19 days to incubate and 18 to 23 days to fledge. Anna's Hummingbirds can have two to three broods per nesting season but she will rebuild new nests for each brood.

The above information is found in a very useful book named "The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds" by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin and Darryl Wheye. Even though this book was published in 1988 it has always been a great reference guide to me.

Text: Varri Raffan
Gift Shop Manager



Anna's Hummingbird nest

Photo: Kristina Breit

Parking Lot Garden Update

Tending to and watching parking lot garden grow since 2024 has been a personal joy of mine for the last year. At first, I was nervous and skeptical of how this plot of muck was going to turn out but today I am relieved and proud of what it has transformed into. The initial objective for this mud pie was to turn this barren plot into a pollinator meadow with some flowering and fruit bearing shrubs for birds. Although it was only last April and October that we revegetated that area, so much has changed in the garden since then. Although the shrubs haven't quite taken off yet the meadow has exploded with life over spring.

Other native plants have naturally colonized the parking lot as well, such as willow herb, common self-heal, and silverweed. Large rushes have also emerged from the seedbed and have rapidly taken over the shoreline. The emergence of the rushes was a welcome sign as this indicates that the soil is fairly moist which means we don't have to worry about our plantings drying out over the summer time.



Common self-heal

Photo: Marissa Sasaki

As many of the planted perennials started to emerge in early April into May, I have noticed that they were growing very quickly to monstrous sizes. The lupin that were planted last year have grown to be about one and a half meters tall, with each plant lusciously presenting eight to fifteen flower heads per plant. The early emergence and abundance of the lupin flowers was a quite the hotspot for bees and other bugs in the spring. As we approach end of June, pearly everlasting and yarrow are also presenting a pleasantly abundant yet absurd amount of flower heads and growing to be also about one meter tall. Some of these plants were transplanted from the sides of the Sanctuary trails to the garden, and they were initially about two-thirds smaller than they are now. I wonder if the dredged material brought up some nutrient rich soils that acts like super fertilizer allowing for this unexpected growth?



Flowering hardhack stake

Photo: Marissa Sasaki

The parking lot garden is also the first location in the Sanctuary where we have tried large-scale live staking. Live staking is a method of plant propagation often used in restoration sites where mature cutting of a desired plant is poked directly into the soil to establish a new plant. Live staking is a cost-effective way to cover a larger planting area compared to buying large supply of plants from a nursery. The only downfall to this method is the lower survival rate of cuttings compared to plants established in pots, but that can be compensated by planting stakes at higher density (so long as there is an abundance of that plant from the site of harvest). In total we planted about 20 salmonberry stakes and ten hardhack stakes in the garden in October of 2024. To increase the survival of the cuttings in the parking lot, we decided to live stake in the fall instead when most plants are focused on root growth. We also dipped the bottom of the stakes into rooting hormone before planting to encourage the stakes to grow roots.

The survival rate of the live stakes in the parking lot garden was quite impressive. Out of the thirty stakes, only about five stakes have died. Some of the hardhack stakes even produced flowers after only one year of growing in the parking lot. I certainly thought that these live stakes will need some more time before they were happy and enthusiastic enough to put off flowers. Overall, things in the parking lot garden seem to be thriving. I am looking forward to how these plants will grow in the coming years.

At this point in time, the staff tend to the garden from time to time to remove the invasive bindweed. In the next year, I will do more research and add more variety of native plants to increase biodiversity and variability in seasonal availability of different flowers and fruits for our local insects and wildlife.

Text: Marissa Sasaki
Sanctuary Biologist



Parking lot garden in June 2024 (top) V.S. June 2025 (bottom)

Photo: Marissa Sasaki

The Volunteer Corner

Special thanks to:

- ◆ Mary Taitt for leading our Sunday Bird Walk.
- ◆ Jim Martin and Brian Self for their year-round hosting of visitors on weekends.
- ◆ John Chandler, Janice White, Yasmin Farrugia, and Carmen Prang for helping with trail maintenance during the week.
- ◆ Brian Self, Peter Candido, Ben Lambert, Janice White, Dirk Fleming, Sabine Jessen, Yousif Attia, for helping with bi-weekly bird surveys.
- ◆ Carmen Prang, John Chandler, and Syd Barber for helping with the annual bat surveys.
- ◆ Margaret Gorham for hosting visitors at the Museum every Sunday.
- ◆ Our hard-working volunteer Directors.

Annual Admission Benefits

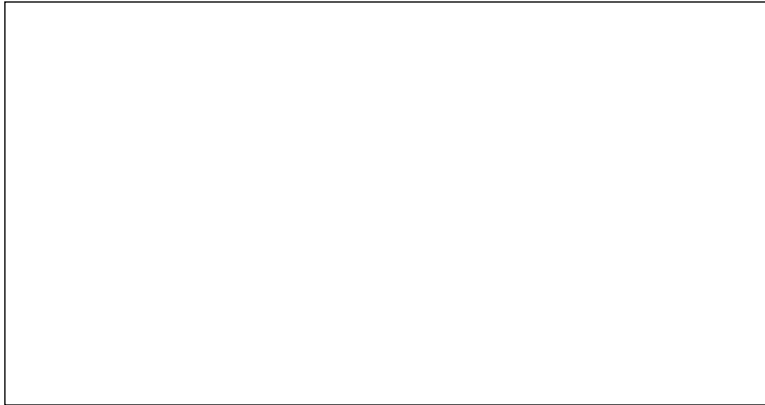
- FREE admission for a year to the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary .
- Quarterly issue of the BCWS publication “Marshnotes”.
- A 10% discount on purchases in the Sanctuary Gift Shop.
- Support one of British Columbia’s most respected conservation organizations.

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 supporters; 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



Canada Geese © John Whitmore