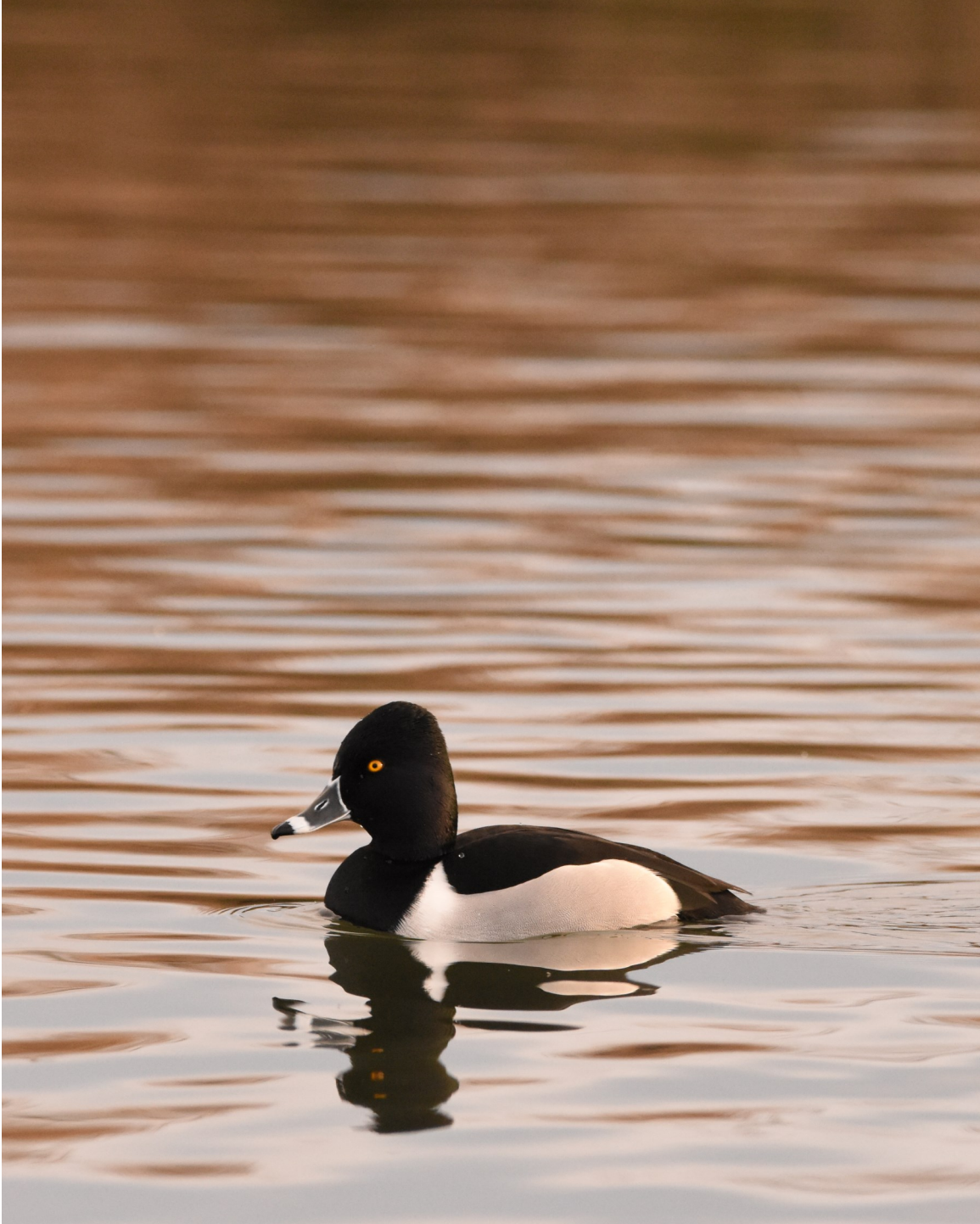


Marshnotes[®]



BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY
Winter 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

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 Winter 2025, (M. Sasaki, Editor).

British Columbia Waterfowl Society.

Published January 25th, 2025.

www.reifelbirdsantuary.com/marshfall2024.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: April 15th, 2025.

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 Admission:

Family: \$100.00

Individual: \$ 50.00

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: Evan Gogal
Gift Shop Manager: Varri Raffan
Biologist: Marissa Sasaki
Education: Dani McRobbie
Maintenance: Phoenix Black
David Manning
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)
Entry is closed at 3pm, 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.

Bird of the Year

Monthly Highlights :

January Barn Swallow	February Orange-crowned Warbler	March American Pipit	April Whimbrel
May Red Crossbill	June Eastern Kingbird	July Eurasian Wigeon	August MacGillivray's Warbler
September Gray Catbird	October Evening Grosbeak	November Norther Goshawk	December Canvasback

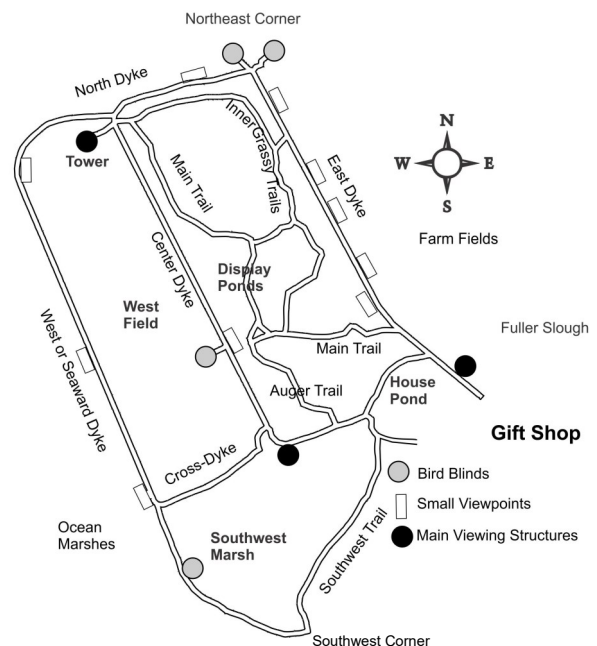


Northern Goshawk
Photo: Evan Gogal

Total Species Count for 2024: 161

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: Ring-necked Duck
© Evan Gogal
- Back Cover: Northern Shoveler
© Michelle Bachar

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

Contents

Page	3	Bird of the Year	Varri Raffan
	4	Bird Highlights	Varri Raffan
	7	2024 Christmas Bird Count Highlights	
	9	Congratulations to Kathleen	
	9	From the New Manager	Evan Gogal
	10	Manager's Report	Evan Gogal
	11	The Volunteer Corner	
	11	Annual Admission Benefits	
	12	Spring Break Programs	Dani McRobbie

Bird Highlights

A total of 95 bird species were recorded for October 2024 averaging 74 species per week. Diving ducks and songbirds are now returning from their summer homes to spend the winter.

September 29 – October 5

The first Greater Scaup, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Hermit Thrush appeared this week. The Northern Saw-whet Owl was located along the East Dyke on the 1st, and on the 4th Barn Owl was seen at the north end of the Center Dyke. On October 5th a Red-breasted Sapsucker was also found along the East Dyke. On the 5th we had the first Fall report of a Rough-legged Hawk. They are definitely a winter bird at the Sanctuary but can be spotted between October and early March. As their name implies “rough-legged”, they do indeed have feathers down to their feet. They are much the size of a Red-tailed Hawk with a pale streaked head and breast, a dark belly and pale under wings and tail. And of course the Red-tailed Hawk is named for the brick red color on the top of the tail feathers in the adult birds. First year birds don't have the red coloring on the tail. From late Spring into early Fall we had seven species of warblers on the list, but now we are down to just three species – Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Common Yellowthroat.

October 6 - October 12

Not every year are we able to find Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, but on September 21st we were able to find three of them at the south end of the West Field. On the 6th, four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported in the same area again. They are on their southern migration to spend the winter in Australia and New Zealand. October 8th a White-throated Sparrow was found along the East Dyke. On the 10th the first Black-crowned Night Heron showed up in the tangle of trees opposite the Warming Hut. This date was a bit later compared to previous years where they have appeared in early August. This got me checking out past dates and numbers of Black-crowned Night Heron sightings. Last year we only had two birds spend the winter here, where as in November of 2016 we had five. Young Night Herons have also not been seen here since October of 2015. Not sure what the definitive answer is but hopefully their population is not in trouble along the Pacific Coast. A late sighting of a Western Tanager was on the 12th. From this week the highlights included Greater White-fronted Geese, Barn Swallow, American Pipits and Western Meadowlarks. If you are searching for the Meadowlarks your best bet is to look offshore from the Southwest corner of the Sanctuary.

October 13 – October 19

Two new diving ducks species, the Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead appeared this week. Like most diving

ducks, which are after small fish, they are best located in deeper channels such as Fuller Slough, Ewan Slough. They can also be spotted in the waterway parallel to the Center Dyke and the channel of water viewing westward from the ramped wooden viewing platform. After the initial sighting on the 10th the Night Heron disappeared until the 19th where it showed back up to the usual roost across from the Warming Hut. From this week's list of 71 species, Greater White-fronted Geese, Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Barred Owl, Barn Owl and a late sighting of two Barn Swallows were the other birds worth mentioning.



Lesser Scaup

Photo: Jim Martin

October 20 – October 26

In order of appearance, the highlights for this week started on the 21st with a Barn Owl at the north end of the Center Dyke, a Northern Saw-whet Owl down the East Dyke and Western Meadowlarks again located at the south end of the Seaward Dyke. On the 24th the Barn Owl reappeared in the same area. Also on the 24th an Evening Grosbeak was spotted flying over the north end of the East Dyke along with a large flock of approximately 500 Cackling Geese seen feeding in the farm field off the East Dyke. The first sighting at the Sanctuary of Trumpeter Swans occurred on the 26th. Northern Shrike are also being seen just north of the George C. Reifel cairn on the Seaward Dyke. The winter shorebird species being seen this week were Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Black-bellied Plover and Long-billed Dowitchers. As we see Fall colors happening in the deciduous trees along the trails, the

bright Fall colors are also present in the “*Amanita muscaria*” mushrooms growing along the shady grassy trails. These fungi can vary from white to a bright red in color and are very photogenic and very poisonous.



Black-capped Chickadee on an “Amanita muscaria”
Photo: John Whitmore

October 27 – November 2

Owl species were well represented this week with a Barred Owl near the Ewen Slough blind on October 27th, two Great Horned Owls along the driveway on November 2nd and two Short-eared Owls hunting over the Outer Marsh on the same day. The local nesting Bald Eagles are also hunting, not for prey but for new branches and sticks to repair or build up their nest in preparation for the upcoming nesting season. Bald Eagles start nesting as early as the end of February. Incubation time runs around 34-36 days and to fledge takes another 75-95 days. Nesting season for them starts early in order for the eaglets to be ready to fledge come Fall. More Trumpeter Swans are now arriving from their summer breeding grounds in Northern British Columbia, Yukon, and Alaska. You can hear them trumpeting from the marsh as you walk along the outer Seaward Dyke.

November 2024 ended with a total of 95 species recorded.

November 3 – November 9

On a majority of days in this period the Great Horned Owl is still being viewed as it is perched in a Cedar tree along the driveway. On both the 4th and 9th a Barn Owl was found along the Center Dyke. The American Bitterns generally are absent over the summer but the first Fall sighting happened on the 9th. It was photographed by one of our visitors as it flew over the outer marsh along with a couple of Short-eared Owls. There were six sightings of Short-eared Owls were recorded on the 6th.

November 10 – November 16

The American Bittern is still being seen this week in the same area. The first report of a Common Merganser appeared this week. As we move farther into the Winter, you can spot them on most mornings fishing in Robertson Slough. Throughout this week we have been seeing ten, sometimes eleven other Sandhill Cranes feeding in the farm field off the East Dyke. Our family of four Sandhill Cranes is still doing well and get very vocally protective of their territory when these visiting Cranes fly over. There have been hundreds of American Robins throughout the Sanctuary this week and into December. Most of these Robins have migrated into our area from the colder interior. In the winter they rely heavily on the fruit from Holly bushes, Hawthorne Trees and Pacific Crab Apples. American Robins are a year round species at the Sanctuary.

November 17 – November 23

November 17th a Northern Goshawk was found near the Observation Tower. The Goshawk, Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s Hawks are classed as “Accipters”. These three species have long tails, rounded wing and very quick and agile when it comes to hunting prey among thick trees. The Northern Goshawk is the largest of the three accipters and has a very distinctive broad white strip over each eye. All three Merganser species – Common, Hooded and Red-breasted, were all present this week. The Red-breasted Mergansers are best found offshore as they prefer the open water of the sea. Hooded and Common Mergansers like ponds and wooded lakes. From the list of 76 species there were numerous highlights such as; Common Goldeneye, Rough-legged Hawk, Sora, Wilson’s Snipe, five species of owls, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Shrike and a few remaining Yellow-rumped Warblers. The majority of Yellow-rumped Warblers have already headed to Panama for the winter.

November 24 – November 30

Offshore viewing, best done on a high tide, proved productive this week with Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Loons and Western Grebe. It has been many years, but in winters past, Western Grebe had

(...../continued page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

frequently been spotted under the Westham Island Bridge. It was a positive sighting to see them offshore on the 30th. We reached a peak this week with 19 different species of waterfowl. Other birds of note for this period were Rough-legged Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, three owl species, Northern Shrike and Western Meadowlark.

In December we expect to see a variety of birds of prey. By the end of the month the Lesser Snow Geese will be leaving the Fraser Delta heading to Skagit Valley, Washington. Also, the end of this month will be the last chance for those who keep annual lists to add one more bird before the year ends. A total of 97 species were recorded for December 2024.

December 1 – December 7

Two diving ducks that look very similar are the Greater and Lesser Scaup. On a bright day the head color is one way to tell them apart. On a Greater Scaup its head is glossy green while the Lesser Scaup has a glossy purple color. Another way to distinguish them apart is the head shape. The Greater Scaup has a more rounded look while the Lesser Scaup has a bit of a peak at the crown. Another diving duck that hangs around with the Scaup is the Ring-necked Duck. The distinguishing feature for both the male and female of these ducks is the two-tone ring around the tip of the beak. Even though they are called Ring-necked Ducks, the visible ring is around the beak. If

conditions are perfect, you will see the reddish-brown ring at the back of its neck which is nearly impossible to see.

The bird feeders are busy with a variety of songbirds but the Dark-eyed Junco seems to be the number one customer. There are four different types of Juncos in North America and one type in Mexico. The Juncos here have a dark hood, pale belly and a pink toned beak. Their flanks are pinkish beige and the dark tails have white outer feathers that are visible in flight. On the 7th an Evening Grosbeak was found along the East Dyke and two American Bitterns were spotted at the South West corner of the Sanctuary.

December 8 – December 14

The South West corner was busy again with sightings of Western Meadowlarks, Short-eared Owls and a Northern Shrike. On the 8th a single Great Horned Owl was found in the cedar tree along the driveway and on the 9th, eight Greater Yellowlegs were spotted poking around in the farm field off the East Dyke. The Northern Goshawk was sighted again on the 10th and a late report of a Savannah Sparrow on the 12th. Three ducks that are not often found at the Sanctuary are the Eurasian Wigeon, Canvasback and Ruddy Duck but they all made the list this week. The Northern Shoveler count has grown over the last couple of weeks. Back on November 30th the bi-monthly bird survey team reported 501 of them and by December 14th the count was 869. The total species count for these six days was 81.



Ring-necked Duck (left) and Canvasback (right)

Photo: Benjamin Lambert

December 15 – December 21

The count was even higher this week with 88 species. This could be due to more eyes scouring the area for birds on the 15st which was the Christmas Bird Count for Ladner. In 1900, with the Audubon Society started this count and it now takes place all across the United States, Canada and several Latin American and Caribbean countries. The total bird count for the Ladner area was 139 species. New arrivals for this period were White-throated Sparrow, Tundra Swan and Lincoln’s Sparrow. The pair of Great Horned Owls was located in a different daytime roost which was at the end of the East Dyke. The majority of Northern Shrike sightings are along the outer seaward dyke, but as I entered the front gate on the 18th there was one perched on the left on a thick blackberry cane. They are much the same size as an American Robin. Their back and top of head is gray with a thick black stripe through the eyes. Their wings and tail are black but the feature that is most unusual on this songbird is the hooked beak like that of a hawk. They prey on large insects, small mammals and songbirds. Often they will cache their prey by impaling it on barbed wire or a blackberry thorn. This one might have been collecting or depositing a meal on one of the blackberry thorns.

December 22- December 28

The large flocks of Lesser Snow Geese have now left the Fraser Delta and are on their way south to Skagit Valley, WA. Come middle of March we will see them again as they migrate north for the nesting season. A Hutton’s Vireo was located along the entrance driveway on the 27th and three Short-eared Owls found hunting over the outer marsh on the same day. Both American Pipit and Evening Grosbeak were two of the highlights from this week’s list which totaled 75 species.

By the time this issue of “Marshnotes” reaches you, January 2025 will almost be over. I look forward to seeing you all on your visits throughout 2025. Happy Birding!

Text: Varri Raffan
Gift Shop Manager

2024 Christmas Bird Count Highlights

The Annual Ladner Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on Sunday, December 15, 2024 (Count Day) for its 68th year. A total of 113 people took part, which is the highest participation since 2020. Weather conditions were generally pleasant (mostly clear skies, no precipitation, moderate to light winds) following extreme high winds the day previous. These conditions carried over making sea state difficult for the offshore boat coverage team and those scoping during the morning.

A total of 139 species were recorded on Count Day, which is seven species less than last year. The total number of individual birds was 130,166, the lowest number in the past five years. Two species never before detected on Count Day were the obvious highlights: a Summer Tanager in Ladner townsite, and a Lesser Yellowlegs Beach Grove / Boundary Bay Regional Park. Other highlights and noteworthy species included Redhead, American Avocet and Townsend’s Solitaire.

Text: Yousif Attia, Ladner Christmas Bird Count Coordinator,
Birds Canada



*Summer Tanager seen in Ladner
Photo: Benjamin Lambert*



Christmas Bird Counters Photo: Yousif Attia

Annual Notice of the
BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY

The Bylaws of the Society provide for the election of six (6) Directors by the Society in addition to the appointment of six (6) Directors from Stakeholder groups. The six elected Directors each serve a two year term, with three to be elected at each Annual General Meeting.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at the Lecture Hall at

The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

5191 Robertson Road, Ladner British Columbia
of the Sanctuary at

7:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 23rd, 2025

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to advise that three incumbent Directors

Clayton Botkin
Barney Reifel
Kenneth Thompson

will be seeking re-election for a further term.

If you wish to nominate a candidate for election as a Director at the Annual General Meeting, please complete a nomination form which, in addition to the candidate's written consent, must include a written nomination by two Society supporters in good standing.

Nomination forms are available from the Sanctuary.

Please deliver the completed nomination form, by mail or fax by

4:00 p.m. Friday February 28th, 2025 to

The Secretary, British Columbia Waterfowl Society
5191 Robertson Road, Delta
British Columbia V4K 3N2
Fax: 604 946 6982

If there are any further nominations received by the deadline, a list of all candidates will be posted on the Sanctuary's website.

Congratulations and Thank You, Kathleen!

Many of us have started our careers in conservation here at the Sanctuary and you have been an incredible teacher to all of us. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work and contribute our efforts to conservation in one of the most special protected areas in Canada. The Sanctuary will always hold a special place in our hearts and memory, and you along with it.

The Sanctuary will certainly feel different without you around, but I'm sure we will see you soon. We all wish you a retirement filled with fun, relaxation, and well deserved time with friends and family. We hope you enjoy this new chapter of life.

Sincerely,

Sanctuary Field Team



*A heartfelt-farewell from your crane friends.
They will miss you!*

Photo: Michelle Bachar

From the New Manager

Hello everyone, my name is Evan Gogal and I have been working at the Sanctuary for the last five years. I have met many of you out at the front gate or on the trails while doing various tasks around the Sanctuary. Some of you may remember me as a struggling student who started their employment with the Sanctuary while going to school.



*Photo of Evan, the new Sanctuary Manager
Photo: Marissa Sasaki*

I started working here as a summer student in May of 2020 after completing my diploma in the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation program at BCIT. After my first summer here, I returned to BCIT to complete my bachelor's degree in Ecological Restoration while still working part-time at the Sanctuary on weekends. Since graduating in the Spring of 2022, I have been working as one of the Sanctuary Biologists where I have been applying my education to uphold the Society's mandate of conservation of birds and their habitat. Last year I officially became the Assistant Manager to help Kathleen with administrative work while also learning the ins and outs of managing the Sanctuary.

With Kathleen's retirement on December 31st, she has certainly left big shoes to fill. I would like to thank Kathleen for her guidance and mentorship in preparing me for the responsibility of managing one of the most distinguished Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Canada. Throughout her years at the Sanctuary, she has been instrumental in directing how we provide education to the public about birds and various habitat values in the Sanctuary. She has been an incredible teacher to both staff and visitors alike given her extensive knowledge and dedication to conservation work in the local community. I am honored to be taking over as Manager and am looking forward to the future of conservation within the Sanctuary.

Text: Evan Gogal
Sanctuary Manager



Short-eared Owl

Photo: Jim Martin

Manager's Report

Visitor numbers for October, November and December were lower this year (9,931) compared to last year (12,328). This is mostly due to poor weekend weather conditions leading to a low turnout. There was a consistent pattern this fall and winter of limited sunny days during the week and downpours on the weekends. While the birds may not have minded, the birdwatchers had different feelings.

Despite the rain, the temperatures have been mild and migration felt slightly delayed this year. We did not see large flocks of our wintering ducks and geese until mid-October this year, and large numbers of Northern Shovelers and American Widgeon did not arrive until late November. Snow Goose sightings were sparse in the early winter at the Sanctuary but by mid-December, thousands of Snow Geese could be seen floating offshore from our tower during the mid-day high tides.

The main draw for visitors this winter has been Short-eared Owls out on the foreshore. They can often be found hunting out in the marsh early in the morning and just before sunset. This behavior is known as being crepuscular, being active during twilight hours at dawn and dusk as opposed to being nocturnal like many of our other owl species. There were also Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrike sightings

out on the foreshore in November and December, but they were often fleeting glimpses before they were gone for the day. We also had a Northern Goshawk appear in mid-November and again for a day in December. Many visitors flocked to see this elusive hawk, however, few were successful in their endeavor. The first Northern Saw-whet Owl sighting this winter was on October 1st with only a few sightings around the end of November and late December. Consistent sightings of Saw-Whet Owls usually don't happen until later in the winter around January and February.



Northern Saw-whet Owl *Photo: Caroline Langbroek*

Our family of Sandhill cranes has been quite active around the Sanctuary this fall with their two colts. They can often be found around the picnic tables by the washrooms digging in the grass for beetle larvae and other insects. The whole family has been practicing flying together over the fall and into the winter, though one colt seems slightly less confident to take to the air than the other. We are hoping this is just an adolescent phase that will soon be over so it can take to the sky with the other cranes. This winter we have had as many as fourteen cranes in the Sanctuary at a time, many of which are other local cranes that stay in Delta for the winter. The visiting cranes tend to stay off in the fields along East Dike in the Alaksen property. Scolding by our crane family is often heard when they fly overhead or land too close for comfort.

In addition to some exciting bird activity this winter, we have had plenty of mammal activity as well. We had days of River Otters and Racoons running across the trails, generating great excitement of any nearby visitors who got to see them. With most mammals here the only evidence of them we find is left in the way of footprints and droppings, so seeing them is always a nice bonus.

Out of all the mammals our resident American Beaver has left the most evidence of its busy nocturnal life this winter. Our little friend has been busy chewing down small birches, hawthorns, and cherry trees to build a large winter food cache in the south end of Display Ponds. Beavers build large food caches that act like a



*Beaver cache in Display Ponds
Photo: Marissa Sasaki*

pantry so they can avoid the need to forage for food on frigid winter days. The beaver has also been busy blocking our water control structures all winter with mud, sticks and rocks to raise the water levels. The threat of flooding was looming around the corner for a few weeks with the Beaver's attempts to dam the control structures during high winter tides and heavy rains. Thankfully, staff have been vigilant and persistent on breaking apart these heroic construction projects to maintain suitable pond levels for the waterfowl.

Text: Evan Gogal
Sanctuary Manager

The Volunteer Corner

Special thanks to:

- ◆ Mary Taitt for leading our Sunday Bird Walk, and helping with gardens.
- ◆ Jim Martin and Brian Self for their year-round hosting of visitors on weekends.
- ◆ John Chandler and Janice White for feeling feeders and light trail maintenance during the week.
- ◆ 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.

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.

Spring Break Programs

All throughout the year groups come out to the Sanctuary for our education program, from school classes to scouts to homeschool groups. Our goal is to give students a chance to learn more about the Sanctuary and its importance as a federally protected area for migratory birds. The education program has been developed in accordance with provincial curriculum at different grade levels depending on the audience. Watching students go from being unable to differentiate between a mallard and a goose to identifying Northern Pintails and American Wigeons is always very rewarding as an educator.

Tours start off in our taxidermy museum, where students have the chance to check out specimens showcasing the diversity of BC's birds, as well as feel some pelts of local mammals. The biologist guide gives a small talk about how scientist organize groups of birds (taxonomy), bird ID, and ecology such as adaptations and how they help birds survive in their habitats. Each adapted body part is like a puzzle piece, and when you put everything together paints a picture of what kind of habitat that bird uses, what kind of things it eats, and how it catches its food. After going over some important rules (the calmer and quieter you are, the more birds you'll see!), we walk the trails to observe the lessons in action.

With the goal of reaching more of our visitors, we have been experimenting with running education programs during high-traffic times such as spring break and Family Day. Last spring we offered three talks: Migration Madness, Blooms for Hummingbirds, and Creatures of the Night. We wanted to focus on seasonally relevant topics like migration and hummingbirds, so visitors can learn more about what is happening in the Sanctuary around them. We were also very lucky to have Burke Mountain Naturalists' John Sarembo join us to give a talk on our local bat species and how we can help them in this changing world.

This coming spring break, we will be offering four special education programs. The very popular Migration Madness and Spring Blooms for Hummingbirds will be returning in March over spring break, in addition to two new programs- Wildlife Detective Training Program and The Musical World of Birds. Please see the next page for program dates and details. Sign up for all programs will be available starting March 1st. Interested participants can sign up by phoning the giftshop (604-946-6980) or online through our booking portal. All programs will start at 10AM and approximately last two hours. We look forward to having you join us!

Text: Dani McRobbie
Sanctuary Education



Educator Dani in Action

Photo: Kathleen Fry

Migration Madness



Snow Geese

Photo: Kathleen Fry

March 18th with Evan Gogal

Join us for a short presentation and learn about migration through Snow Geese! Great for ages 8 and up, covers the incredible journeys birds like Snow Geese take twice a year during their migrations, and different monitoring methods researchers can use like radio collars and colour bands.

The Musical World of Birds



Marsh Wren

Photo: Michelle Bachar

March 20th with Dani McRobbie

For those looking for a more slow-paced, quiet mindfulness walk, try The Musical World of Birds. We will go over common bird songs and how to identify species based on calls while walking the trails. You'll learn about different ways birds use sounds for communication, establishing territory, and choosing mates.

Spring Blossoms for Hummingbirds



Anna's Hummingbird

Photo: Marissa Sasaki

March 25th with Marissa Sasaki

Blooms for Hummingbirds is a biologist-led walk for all ages, where you will learn all about the minute yet bodacious Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds, and their close relationship with our native flowering plants.

Wildlife Detective Training Program



Wildlife Detective

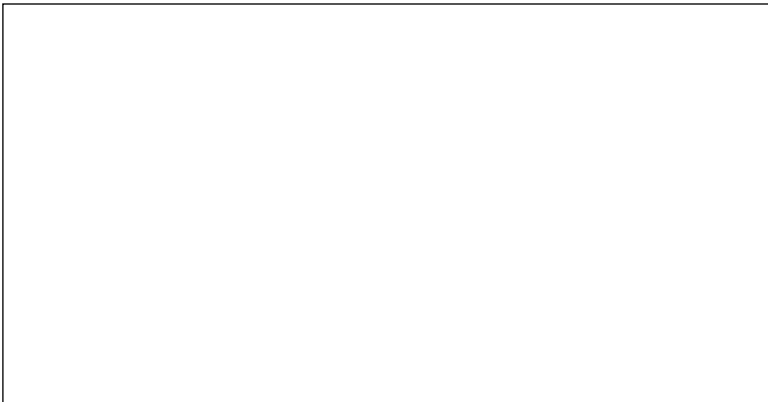
Photo: Marissa Sasaki

March 26th with Dani McRobbie and Marissa Sasaki

After spending some time learning about different signs of life wildlife leave in the museum, you'll walk the beat, checking out various "crime scenes" and taking down notes about footprints, scat, marks left on trees, and any other clues that might help you solve the crime of whodunnit!

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
WATERFOWL SOCIETY**

5191 Robertson Road, Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2



Northern Shoveler © Michelle Bachar