

PQBWMA Brant Count – 2021 Page 1 of 6
Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area
Estimated Daily Brant Count Report – 2021
by the
Arrowsmith Naturalists
For
THE NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
James Goodwin
Count Coordinator and Compiler

The **2012 Brant Primary Counts** covered the full length of the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area (PQBWMA). The twelve primary counts (Table 1) took place February 09 to April 24 during daylight hours. Due to COVID-19 protocols observers were dispatched via email as three teams of 2 -3 members. All team counts were within the same two-hour window to avoid double counting were possible. Counts were timed to catch the falling tide when food sources were left exposed on the beach or floating in shallow water.

In addition to the primary counts **Incidental Counts** (Table 2) were conducted by individuals or small groups of observers. They recorded Brant numbers during visits to the PQBWMA shores January through April. The incidental counts show the concentration of Brant at specific locations.

Count locations include the following named places which were also used in previous counts within the PQBWMA and Strait of Georgia (SOG).

Area 1: Little Qualicum River Estuary, Marshall Stevens Wildlife Area (MSWA), Surfside Dr. West and East, Kincade Rd., Qualicum Beach viewing stand, Qualicum Beach, Beach Creek, Judges Row.

Area 2: Seacrest Place, Butterball Dr, Johnstone Rd, Admiral Tryon Blvd. East and West, Columbia Beach, French Creek Marina.

Area 3: Parksville Community Park, Parksville Bay, Englishman River mouth, Mariner Way, Craig Bay, Rathtrevor Provincial Park, Brant Point, Madrona Point.

The eleven 2021 Brant Count volunteer observers were: Sandra Gray (SG), Dan Gray (DG), Lynne Brookes (LB), Claire Summers (CS), Tom Constable (TC), Evelyn Constable (EC), Helen Davidson (HD), Bonnie Mullin (BM), Sally Soanes (SS), David Erickson (DE), James Goodwin (JG).

Summary of observations located on page 6.

Table One

Date 2021	PQBWMA Brant Count	Time	Team Survey Results - 2021
Feb 09	21	10:20 - 13:30	Survey from Rathtrevor to Surfside Dr. W. Brant found along shore at low tide, Rathtrevor Park. (JG)
Feb 23	42	10:00 - 12:00	Severe weather, rain, hail, wind gust to 30km. Brant only at Rathtrevor Park. (CS, TC, EC, HD, BM, DE, JG, SS)
Mar 09	493	13:00 – 15:00	Breezy and overcast. Area 1: Nil, Area 2: 260 @ Admiral Tryon, 16 @ Butterball, and 6 @ Seacrest. Area 3: 207 @ Rathtrevor and 42 @Parksville Pk. Flying E. (CS, TC, LB, DE, BM, JG, HD)
Mar 15	1235	13:00 – 16:15	Surfside E 342, Seacroft 12, Johnstone Rd 474, Parksville Bay 173, Rathtrevor Pk 234. (SG)
Mar 16	420	10:00 – 12:00	Sun and Breezy. Area 1: 245 Brant @ Surfside Dr W. Large flock spread along the shore with small groups flying in and out. Walkers (2) on beach disturbing birds. Area 2: 131 flying Admiral Tryon E., 28 @ Admiral Tryon W. Area 3: Rathtrevor 12, Mariner Way 4, Parksville Bat 12. Large Rafts of mixed divers and flocks of gulls observed several places along shore. (CS, TC, SG, DG, BM, HD, DE)
Mar 23	1111	13:00 – 15:00	Area 1: 1100 Brant @ Surfside Dr W. with 1000's of gulls and a raft of approx. 500 diving ducks, scoters. Scaup, and long-tailed. Area 2: Nil. Area 3: 11 Brant @ Rathtrevor Pk. (CS, TC, DE, BM, HD, JG)
Mar 30	2149	10:00 – 12:00	Warm sunny weather with light winds. Brant were found all along the PQBWMA. Surfside Dr W – 430, Seacrest – 204, Rathtrevor Pk – 400, and Parksville Beach – 1115. (CS, TC, DE, BM, JG, HD)

Table One cont.

Date 2021	PQBWMA Brant Count	Time	Team Survey Results - 2021
Apr 06	1686	10:00 – 12:00	Area 1: Surfside W 13, Area 2: Nil, Area 3: 1525 Brant feeding along shore with 500 Dunlin, 250 dabbling ducks and 450+ gulls @ Rath Trevor Pk., 73 Brant and 100's of Pacific Loon off shore @ Mariner way, and 88 Brant off shore @ Parksville Pk. (CS, TC, DE, BM, HD, SG DG)
Apr 11	625	12:00 – 14:00	Starte Surfside Dr. 12:00 – no Brant. Seacrest zero, Parksville Bay 25 Brant along shore plus 300+ Bonaparte Gull. Rath Trevor Pk. 600+ Brant. A few people on beach and one dog loose flushing birds. (SG, DG)
Apr 13	992	10:00 – 12:00	Warm sunny weather with light wind. Area 1: Surfside W 30 Brant. Area 2: 5 Brant flying E. of French Creek. Area 3: Rath Trevor 635, Mariner way 14 flying, Parksville Beach 308. (CS, TC, JG, HD, BM, DE)
Apr 20	207	13:00 – 15:00	Warm sunny weather. Tide 3.1 m. falling. Area 1: Surfside W. 70 Brant. Area 2: Nil. Area 3: 137 @ Rath Trevor Pk. (CS, TC, HD, BM, DE, SG, DG)
Apr 24	0	14:30 – 16:30	A tour of PQBWMA with stops @ Rath Trevor, Parksville Beach, Admiral Tryon E & W, Butterball, QB view point and Surfside E. (JG)

Incidental Report – 2021

Date Mm/dd	Time	Location Specific site	Brant Count	Comments, weather, disturbances	Observers
Jan 29	11:00 – 12:00	Rathtrevor	220		SG
Feb 15	12:00 – 12:30	Rathtrevor	60		A. Sinclair eBird
Feb 15	09:00 – 10:00	Craig Bay	195	Coastal Waterbird Survey	D. Helm
Feb 16	12:00	Rathtrevor	175	Sunny warm	JG
Feb 17	11:45 – 14:30	Rathtrevor	358	Sunny, wind 15k, sea wavy,	SG & DG
Feb 20	12:00 – 14:15	Rathtrevor	201	Along the water line	SG
Feb 24	12:00 – 12:30	Columbia Beach	42	Mid tide rising	Guy Monty eBird
Feb 26	11:00	Parksville Bay	06	On the sandbar	Sue Wilson
Feb 28	13:00-15:00	Rathtrevor	350		SG/DG
Feb 28	14:30	Surfside Dr	63	Flying east	Helen Davidson (HD)
Mar 01	12:00-14:00	Admiral Tryon	320	Flushed by walkers	SG/DG
Mar 02	10:00 – 11:00	Admiral Tryon	30		JG
Mar 02	12:20	Rathtrevor	385	Mid-low	JG
Mar 05	14:00 – 14:40	Rathtrevor	412		SG
Mar 06	12:45-14:45	Seacrest	218	Feeding along shore	SG/DG
Mar 07	14:00 – 14:30	Rathtrevor	550+	Strung along low tide line. 3 dogs running loose flushing birds.	JG
Mar 10	13:00-15:00	French Creek	100		SG, DG
Mar 11	15:30	Rathtrevor	237		SG/DG
Mar 12	13:40	Rathtrevor	30	On tidal flat with 100's of Dunlin	DE
Mar 13	11:30	Eagle Crest	100		DE
Mar 13	15:30	Surfside W	230	Herring spawn & fishing boats Lots of bird feeding activity	SG/DG

Incidental Report – 2021 continued

Date Mm/dd	Time	Location specific site	Brant count	Comments, weather, disturbances	Observers
Mar 16	11:30- 14:30	Rathtrevor	98	Walkers & 7 dogs on beach	SG/DG
Mar 16	11:00 – 12:00	Surfside W	430		Toni/Ron
Mar 17	11:00 – 12:00	Admiral Tryon	300		DE
Mar 20	14:15 – 14:30	Surfside Dr W	870	2k to 4k rafts of divers from view point to Surfside	SG
Mar 22	11:40	Surfside Dr	1500	With 1-2K gulls feeding on roe	DE
Mar 22	14:00 – 16:30	Surfside Dr	2550	With 3-4k gulls feeding on roe	SG/DG
Mar 24	14:00	Surfside Dr	77	Brant driven off by eagles	JG
Mar 29	11:45	Parksville Bay	600	Offshore	DE
Mar 30	13:00	Surfside DR W	35		SG/DG
Mar 30	13:30	Seacrest	302		SG/DG
Apr 01	12:40	Parkville Bay	500	In the bay	BM
Apr 08	12:30-14;30	Rathtrevor Pk	1785	250+ Boneparte and 100's of Dunlin	SG/DG
Apr 11	11:00 12:00-13:30	Rathtrevor Pk	700 600	Along shore line at low tide Low tide and heat haze	JG SG/DG
Apr 14	13:15-15:15	Madrona Point	950	Feeding off of Rath	SG/DG
Apr 16	13:30	Surfside W	98		SG/DG
Apr 25	13:30	Rathtrevor	9	2 dogs loose on beach	JG
May 09	11:50	Mariner way	6	On shore at low tide	JG

Brant Count 2021 – Summary of Observations

Brant Count Volume for 2021

All Brant counted during the 12 primary counts = **8981**

The six peak counts: 1235+ 1111+2149+1686+625+992= **7798**

Regressed volume 2021 = 5625 (7798 x 0.67 + 400)

Regressed volumes for 6 peak counts:

2015 = 9091

2016 = 4710

2017 = 12,202

2018 = 12,693

2019 = 5586

2020 = 6597

2021 = 5625

Disturbances to wildlife. Disturbances to feeding Brant by walkers and dogs, on and off leash, continues to be a problem. In spite of signage at beach accesses and public education people continue to allow their dogs on the beach as well as approaching birds for photography. Rathtrevor Provincial Park is a site of numerous infractions due to wide sandy beaches, the popularity with the public, and an apparent lack of enforcement.

Mileage. Mileage was calculated by determining the round-trip distance from each observer's home to their survey site. **Total mileage for primary counts= 1059 km.**

Incidental counts varied and no mileage was recorded.

Survey hours. Coordination and compiling time **35hr.**

Total person hours of observation for all Brant count observers were approx. **167 hours**

(primary counts- 117 hours + incidental counts- 50 hours)

Thank you to all volunteer observers and incidental contributors from the Arrowsmith Naturalists.

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Brant Count Compiler 2021

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