

ESTIMATED BRANT COUNTS FOR PARKSVILLE QUALICUM BEACH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS for the NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 2015

By Sandra Gray, Dave Hutchings, Lynne Brookes

Each of the eight primary counts took place between February and April 2015 within a 2 hour time period between 10 am to 1 pm on the dates shown in the table below. Observers divided into two or three groups, each group with their assigned area to cover with all counting at the same time in order to avoid double counting. The 2015 Brant primary counts covered the full length of the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area.

In addition to the primary counts, other incidental counts were made by individuals or groups. The table below includes both the primary counts (# 1-8) and a sampling of the incidental *high* counts with locations noted. (One observer made almost daily observations at Rath Trevor Feb 24-April 27, with counts varying from 0-700.)

Count locations: Area 1- Little Qualicum River estuary, Kincaid Rd, Qualicum Beach
 Area 2- Seacrest Pl, Butterball Dr, Admiral Tryon Blvd West & East
 Area 3- Parksville Bay, Mariner Way, Rath Trevor Provincial Park

The total mileage accumulated by participating volunteers was approximately 1,435 km. including round trip from home.

The nineteen 2015 count observers included: Sandra Gray, Dan Gray, Lynne Brookes, Derrick Grimmer, Dave Hutchings, Toni Wyckoff, Ed Wilson, Sue Wilson, Dave Erickson, Roger Simms, Maggie Little, Duncan Campbell, Lois King, Penny Marshall, Tom Constable, Terri Hitch, Christopher Stephens, Kiera Stijack, Connor Pickard.

DATES		BRANT COUNTS		<u>2015 Brant Count - ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS</u>
2015 Primary Counts (#1 - 8)	Incidental Counts			REMARKS
	Dec. 14, 2014		123	Parksville Qualicum Beach Christmas Bird Count, covers full length of PQBWMA
#1 Feb 3		72		Dog disturbance at PVBay & Rath Trevor
#2 Feb 4		282		Arrowsmith Naturalists Club outing
	Feb 10		248	Rath Trevor, 2 hrs at same location
	Feb 11		130	Qualicum Beach, 2hrs at same location, Brant walk tideline very close to beachfront walkway, tolerant of human activity.
	Feb 14		202	Area 2, 2hrs at same location
	Feb 15		227	Rath Trevor
#3 Feb 17		90		Foggy and sunny, limited view
	Feb 21		30	Qualicum Beach
#4 Feb 24		695		Many Brant 1-2km out on Strait. Large dogs loose at Qualicum Beach.
	Feb 26		270	Rath Trevor
	Feb 28		279	Area 1 only
	Feb 28		650	Rath Trevor at twilight
	March 2		150	Qualicum Beach viewing stnd, recent herring spawn, many gulls
	March 4		1100	Little Qualicum River estuary; recent herring spawn, many gulls & diving ducks. Walkers & kayak disturbance.
#5 Mar 10		931		Fog & sun, many scoters and gulls, human disturbance area 2.
	March 11		802	Scouting for IBA count; partial coverage, all areas sampled.
	March 17		450	Rath Trevor
	March 19		210	Parksville Bay
	March 21		1319+	Areas 2 & 3 only; 3000+ flock of mixed divers off Parksville Bay.
	March 22		1500+	Seen during 'Brant in the Bay' at Parksville Bay
	March 22		1000+	Seen by local birding group in area 1
#6 Mar 24		6381		3000+ scoters at Qualicum Beach, many gulls.
	March 27		680	Rath Trevor
	April 1		420	Rath Trevor
#7 Apr 7		1786		Windy, Brant feeding w/ scoters.
	April 10		500	Area 2 only
	April 10		450	Rath Trevor, rain
	April 13		620	Rath Trevor, stormy
#8 Apr 14		2892		Windy; human disturbance at Mariner Way & Rath Trevor.
	April 21		700	Rath Trevor, stormy
	April 27		250	Rath Trevor, windy