

PQBWMA Brant Count 2025
Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area
Estimated Daily Brant Count Report

by the
Arrowsmith Naturalists

for

Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute

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Count Coordinator and Compiler

The 2025 **Brant Primary Counts** covered the full length of the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area (PQBWMA). Eleven primary counts took place weekly from February 24 through May 5. The PQBWMA was divided into three areas and each was assigned a team of 2 – 4 observers. Team counts were within the same two-hour window in each to avoid double counting where possible. Counts were ideally taken just above low tide, when food sources were exposed on the beach or floating in shallow water.

Count locations included 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, Surfside Dr. West and East, Kincade Rd., , Seaside Nature Park (SNP), Qualicum Beach.

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

Area 3: Parksville Community Park (PCP), Parksville Bay, Englishman River mouth, Mariner Way, Craig Bay, Rath Trevor Provincial Park, Brant Point, Madrona Point.

There were 19 Brant Count volunteer observers who contributed various amounts of time:

Sandra Gray, Dan Gray, Tom Whitfield, Helen Davidson, Bonnie Mullin, David Erickson, Duncan Campbell, Toni Wyckoff , Dennis Horwood, Brenda Horwood , Liz Thorne, Jim Thorne, Marilyn Bilsbarrow, Catherine Watson, Meghan MacIsaac , Jane Osborne , Susan Knoerr, Linda Horspool, and Liz Bredberg.

In addition to the primary counts, **Incidental Counts** (Appendix 1) were conducted by individuals or small groups of observers. They recorded Brant numbers during visits to the PQBWMA shores January through April. Incidental counts also include sightings reported on eBird.

Also, this year we were fortunate to have a **daily Brant count** on Rathtrevor Beach, one of the major eelgrass forage sites in the PQBWMA, from Feb. 21 to May 01, courtesy of Duncan Campbell (Appendix 2).

PRIMARY COUNTS

BRANT COUNT 1:

Date: 24 February 2025

Time 10:30-12:30

Tide at the beginning of count: 12.4 feet

Tide at the close of count: 13.1 feet

Weather: wind: SE 21 km/h, gusts 32 km/h, cloudy, choppy seas

Total brant counted: 189

Zone 1: North area: from Qualicum Beach Viewing Stand north to the mouth of the Little Qualicum River.

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 70 + Am. Wigeon, 120 + bufflehead, goldeneye, red-breasted mergansers, loons far offshore headed east, 3 black oystercatchers, 25 black turnstones, scoters scattered and flying east, 1200 gulls.

Mammals: 150+ harbour seals on sandbar at mouth of Little Qualicum River

Zone 2: Central area: from French Creek Marina to south end of Seacrest

Total brant counted in area: 153

Other birds observed: 20 bufflehead, 9 goldeneye, 2 red-breasted merganser, 2 horned grebes, 2 red-necked grebes, 14 mallards (incl 1 possibly hybridised female), 124 american wigeons, 2 eurasian wigeons, 11 oystercatchers, 20+ black-bellied plovers, 20+black turnstones, 6 peep sp., common loon, mixed abundance of gulls

Zone 3: South area: Madrona Point, Rathtrevor Beach, Brant point, West end of Mariner Way, Parksville Bay

Total brant counted: 36

Other birds observed: 1800 gulls (1000 on grass in Community Park), goldeneye, bufflehead, raft of 400 scoters, grebes, wigeons, Canada geese

BRANT COUNT 2:

Time: 10:30-12:30

Tide at the beginning of count: 11.6 feet

Tide at the close of count: 6 feet

Falling tide

Weather: overcast

Total Brant Counted: 842

Zone 1: North area:

- Qualicum Beach—Tourist Info (Beach Creek), and the gazebo viewing stand.
- Foot of Kincaid Rd. beach access
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view
- Little Qualicum Estuary, west end of Surfside Dr. and mouth of Little Qualicum River

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 3 Common mergansers, 4 red-breasted merganser, Icelandic gull, American wigeons, 4 oystercatchers, 200 gull sps., black turnstones, common goldeneye, +/-40 buffleheads, 2 harlequin ducks, 4 northern pintails, 4 horned grebes, cormorant sp., 8 pacific loons, mixed raft of 300 scoters, 300 surf scoters, great blue heron

Zone 2: Central area:

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, view the creek mouth from the west side
- Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools
- Foot of Johnstone Rd.
- Foot of Butterball, off Pintail & Yambury Rd.

Total brant counted in area: 800 +

Other birds observed: American wigeon, red-breasted merganser, lesser/greater yellowlegs, 2 kildeer, scoters, gulls flying west, scattered divers, 1 Eurasian wigeon, 200+ gulls, scattered dabblers & divers,

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathtrevor Beach, Brant Point,
- West end of Mariner Way—view offshore and to river mouth
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park—from the Labyrinth view offshore, sandbars, and west shore of PVBay

Total brant counted: 42

Other birds observed: 340 +gull sp, 324+ surf scoters, 10 black-bellied plovers, 8 bufflehead, 200+ peep sps, 24 mallards, 3 bald eagles, 1 Anna's hummingbird, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 oystercatchers, 1 pacific loon, 2 red-breasted mergansers, 5 common goldeneyes, 60 american wigeons, 4 northern pintails, 1 cormorant sp., 2 Canada geese, 2 crows,

Distruptions:

BRANT COUNT 3:

Date: 10 March 2025

Time 11:00—13:00 PDT

Tide at the beginning of count: 8.6 feet

Tide at the close of count: 8.8 feet
turning tide

Weather: overcast, breezy, calm to rippled sea

Herring spawn underway. Gillnetters off Rathtrevor, the mouth of the Englishman River, Parksville Bay, and French Creek Marina. Rafts of sea lions throughout observation area. Lots of roe and milt on beach and in shore

Total brant counted: 81

Zone 1: North area:

- Qualicum Beach—Judges Row
- gazebo viewing stand.
- Foot of Kincaid Rd. beach access
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view
- Little Qualicum Estuary, west end of Surfside Dr. and mouth of Little Qualicum River

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: Common Loon 3, Northern Pintail 35, Bald Eagle 3*, Bufflehead 37, American Crow 3, Oystercatchers 6, Horned Grebe 10, Common Goldeneye 78, American Wigeon 300, Common Merganser 3, White winged scoter 44, Mallard 6, Scaup sp 2, gulls 500+

*1 with fish

Zone 2:

Central area: French Creek Marina to Whitree overlook

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, view the creek mouth from the west side
- Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West,
- Foot of Johnstone Rd.
- Seacrest Road
- Whitree overlook

Total brant counted in area: 72

Other birds observed: gulls on shore 1000, kingfisher (nearshore), mallards 37, flock of crows, American wigeons 140, white-winged scoters 50, , gull sps 1000, bufflehead 39, wigeons, yellowlegs 4, kildeer 1, dunlin 12, bald eagle 3 - 1 carrying branch in flight

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathtrevor Beach
- Mariner Way
- Parksville Community Park
- Doehle Road stairs

Many pedestrians watching and photographing herring fishery. One man with 2 dogs on the beach at community park.

Total brant counted in area: 9 flying over PV Community Park

Other birds observed:

- Rathtrevor: over 4000 gulls in shallows, along the waterline and offshore. 2 rafts of 550+scoters into NW Bay, mostly surf scoters
 - Mariner Way: 2500+ gulls, crowded wigeon at the mouth of the Englishman River
 - PV Community Park: over 6000 gulls, 980 dunlin, black bellied plover, scattered American wigeon
 - Doehle Road stairs: 2 rafts of divers, about 600 surf scoters, scaup, goldeneye, bufflehead, many gulls.
 - Also seen: bufflehead, goldeneyes, horned grebe, western grebe, common mergansers, at least 32 bald eagles
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BRANT COUNT 4:

Date 17 March 2025

Time 12:00-2:00

Tide at the beginning of count: 11.5 feet

Tide at the close of count: 8.3 feet

falling tide

Weather: partly cloudy, wind from NW 15-23 kph, choppy seas

Total brant counted: 2194

Zone 1: North area:

- Beach Creek
- Seaside Nature Park
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: Scattered gulls and crows, ~900 scoters—surf, ~600 gulls, 30 bufflehead, 13 black oystercatchers, 455 mixed dabblers—American wigeon, mallard, northern pintail, 200 gulls, 1 heron

Zone 2: French Creek Marina to Seacrest

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, view the creek mouth from the west side
- Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools
- Foot of Johnstone Rd.
- Butterball
- Seacrest Road

Total brant counted in area: 2150 Two brant at base of Johnstone Rd. had green bands—lettering not visible at distance.

Other birds observed: gulls, 14 crows, 35 American wigeons, pigeons, 2 yellowlegs, 2 killdeer, 65 bufflehead, 18 common goldeneye, 5 mallard, 5 horned grebes, 4 house finches, 1 spotted towhee, 62 Pacific loons, 10 pine siskin, 1 merlin, 1 northern flicker,

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathtrevor Beach
- Mariner Way
- Parksville Community Park

Total brant counted: 44

Other birds observed: 2 bald eagles, 400 gulls, ~80 wigeons, 20 mallard, 60 dunlin, 120 scaup, off French Creek 1100 gulls

BRANT COUNT 5:

Date: 24 March 2025

Time 9:40-11:42

Tide at the beginning of count: 11.9

Tide at the close of count: 11.9
turning tide

Weather: rain, calm sea, 8 C

Total brant counted: 1314

Zone 1: North area:

- Beach Creek
- Seaside Nature Park
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 4 harlequin ducks, pacific loons, common loons, 1000 gulls, (short-billed, Icelandic, California, sps), 11 oystercatchers, bald eagle, 50 bufflehead, common mergansers, red-breasted mergansers, wigeons

Zone 2: French Creek Marina to Seacrest

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, then view of the creek mouth from the west side
- Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools
- Foot of Johnstone Rd.
- Seacrest Road

Total brant counted in area: 1149

Other birds observed: “overwhelming number of gulls—easily 10,000”, rafts of scoters, 25 harlequin ducks, bufflehead, goldeneye, mixed flock of divers 3000, American wigeon, mallard, 4 greater yellowlegs, raft of 1000 pacific loons, red crossbills, California quail, flicker, 25+ eagles

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathtrevor Beach
- Mariner Way
- Parksville Community Park

Total brant counted in area: 165 (74 flying south)

Other birds observed: 2 robins, 40 bufflehead, 2 bald eagle, +++ gulls, 9 horned grebe, 36 common loons, 12 common merganser, 1 red-breasted merganser, 40 goldeneye, pacific loon 160+, 1 killdeer, 8 pintails, 30 green-winged teal, 8 horned grebe, 200 dunlin, 2000 scaup, 2000+ raft of surf scoters, 1 greater yellowlegs, 1 black-bellied plover, 2 mallards, 10 crows, 8 canada geese, 1 red-necked grebe, 5 common grebe (?), 1 guillemot, 4 chickadees, 4 house finches

BRANT COUNT 6:

Date 31 March 2025

Time 10:30-12:00

Tide at the beginning of count: 6.79 feet
Tide at the close of count: 3.35 feet
falling tide

Weather: Sunny, mild, calm sea

Total brant counted: 1868

Zone 1. North Area

- Qualicum Beach, Tourist Info Bureau, and the gazebo viewing stand
- foot of Kinkaid Rd., beach access
- east end of Surfside Drive
- Little Qualicum Estuary, west end of Surfside Dr. & mouth of Little Q River.

Total brant counted in area: 250+

Other birds observed: 11 Bufflehead, 2 wigeon, 4 common loon, horned grebe, 20 +harlequin ducks, vast raft of mixed divers including scaup, surf scoters, huge flock of gulls (~10,000), including 150 short-billed gulls, 8 bald eagles, brewers blackbirds, 5 oystercatchers, 2 common loons in breeding plumage, bonaparte's gulls, 15 black-bellied plovers, 12 wigeons, 50 mallards, 20 goldeneyes.

3 women with dogs on leash (photos on file)

Zone 2. Central Area

- French Creek Marina, east side looking out towards Parksville, and view the creek mouth from the west side.
- Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Blvd., east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth.
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools.
- foot of Johnstone Rd.
- foot of Butterball, off Pintail & Yambury Rd.
- west end of Seacrest Place (Apenes), off Eaglecrest Dr. at Pintail Dr.

Total brant counted in area: 77

Other birds observed: 700 gulls, 64 buffleheads, 45 wigeons, 3 oyster catchers, 13 common mergansers, 2 gb herons, 6 crows, 34 common goldeneyes, 5 common loons, 4 scoters, 40 dunlin, 30 blk turnstones, 3 greater yellowlegs, yellow-rumped warbler, raft of surf scoters, 3 eagles, 50 gulls, 1 Pacific loon, 1 pigeon guillemot,

- 1 dog on leash, 2 dogs off leash (photo available), 1 swimmer in wetsuit

Zone 3. South Area

- Rathtrevor Beach,
- west end of Mariner Way, view to river mouth.
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park, from the Labyrinth, view off shore, sandbars, and back into the bay.

Total brant counted: 1541

Other birds observed: gulls, dabblers, 2 rafts of divers (scaup & scoters)

Disturbance:

- 1 dog off leash.
-

BRANT COUNT 7:

Date April 7, 2025

Time 9:30-11:30

Tide at the beginning of count: 10 feet

Tide at the close of count: 10.9 feet

rising tide

Weather: Initially wet and windy, choppy seas, drier as morning progressed, wind dropped, seas calmed to mild chop

Total brant counted: 794

Zone 1: North area:

- Qualicum Beach—Tourist Info (Beach Creek), and the gazebo viewing stand.
- Foot of Kincaid Rd. beach access
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view
- Little Qualicum Estuary, west end of Surfside Dr. and mouth of Little Qualicum River

Total brant counted in area: 101

Other birds observed: common mergansers, 80+ American wigeon mixed with mallard. 210 bufflehead. At Little Qualicum River mouth & estuary, extensive spread of mixed dabblers (wigeon, mallard, pintails). Small flocks spooked by eagles and gulls. Gull numbers down from previous week, about 500 seen in area, 7 black oystercatchers, eagles at their nests, hunting.

Zone 2: Central area:

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, then view of the creek mouth from the west side
- Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools
- Foot of Johnstone Rd.
- Foot of Butterball, off Pintail & Yambury Rd.
- West end of Seacrest Place (Apenes), off Eaglecrest Dr. at Pintail Dr

Total brant counted in area: 128

Other birds observed: 4 bald eagles (spooked ducks & gulls), mallards, 24 + wigeons, 4 common mergansers, 1 Bonaparte's gull, 50 scoters, 4 Canada geese, 3 cormorant sp., 2 loons, 16 surf scoters, robin, 1 killdeer, siskins, very large mixed raft of divers, including surf scoters and brant, 8 black-bellied plovers (in breeding plumage), 5 turnstones

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathtrevor Beach, Brant Point
- West end of Mariner Way—view offshore and to river mouth
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park—from the Labyrinth view offshore, sandbars, and west shore of PVBay

Total brant counted: 565

Other birds observed: Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Green Winged Teal, Horned Grebe in breeding plumage, Common Loon, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Dunlin, Black-bellied Plovers, Surf scoters, White-winged scoters, Greater Scaup, Pelagic cormorant, Red-necked grebe, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Black Oystercatcher, Bald Eagle, White-crowned sparrow, bald eagle, raven, crow

BRANT COUNT 8:

Date 14 April 2025

Time: 10:30-12:00

Tide at the beginning of count: 8.3 feet

Tide at the close of count: 5.2 feet

falling tide

Weather: cloudy, mild temperatures, wind calm, sea mild chop

Total brant counted: 1291

Zone 1: North area:

- Qualicum Beach—Tourist Info (Beach Creek),

- Gazebo viewing stand.
- Foot of Kincaid Rd. beach access
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view
- Little Qualicum Estuary, west end of Surfside Dr. and mouth of Little Qualicum River

Total brant counted in area: 150, including 50 spooked by bald eagle Surfside E

Other birds observed: 92 buffleheads, 11 mallards, 5 horned grebes, 3 bald eagle, raven, 4 common loons, 2 red-necked grebes, song sparrow, dispersed flock of divers, 18 red-breasted mergansers, 12 common mergansers, Violet-green swallows, 500+ Gulls, 36 scoters

1 pedestrian with large dog (pit bull?), off-leash at water's edge! (photos available)

Zone 2: Central area:

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, view the creek mouth from the west side
- Columbia Beach
- Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools
- West end of Seacrest Place (Apenes), off Eaglecrest Dr. at Pintail Dr

Total brant counted in area: 126

Other birds observed: small flocks of scoters, common mergansers hunting as a group, wigeon at FC mount, 1 yellowlegs, pacific loons, scoters, Bonapartes gulls scattered, few other gulls, RB mergansers hunting along shore. ALL BRANT OBSERVED WERE IN FLIGHT.

Zone 3: South area:

- Rath Trevor Beach,
- West end of Mariner Way—view offshore and to river mouth
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park—from the Labyrinth view offshore, sandbars, and west shore of PVBay
-

Total brant counted: 1015

Other birds observed: 100 dunlin, small raft of scoters, 1 bald eagle, assorted gulls, a second large murmuration of dunlin, 6 shovelers, 20 pintail, medium raft of scoters, 2 red-breasted mergansers. ~100 wigeons, 2 common loons, many gulls, 1 crow

- no dogs but 1 human got too close, spooked Rath Trevor brant. Eagle spooked Mariner Way brant.

BRANT COUNT 9:

Date 21 April 2025

Time 1:00-2:45

Tide at the beginning of count: 5.09 feet

Tide at the close of count: 9 feet

rising tide

Weather: clear, calm, slight chop on sea

Total brant counted: 0

Zone 1: North area:

- Tourist Info (Beach Creek), and the gazebo viewing stand.
- Foot of Kincaid Rd. beach access
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view
- Little Qualicum Estuary, west end of Surfside Dr. and mouth of Little Qualicum River

1 pedestrian **with dog (photo available)**

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 4 buffleheads, Pacific loon, 5 oystercatchers, wigeons, mallards, 4 common mergansers, 9 red-breasted mergansers, gulls, short-billed gulls, 2 great blue herons (1 in flight), robins, goldfinch, white-crowned sparrow, 2 red crossbills (male & female), pelagic cormorant, 14 harlequin ducks, crows, brewers blackbirds, pine siskins, red-winged blackbirds, 13 black-bellied plovers, 16 buffleheads, widgeons, mallards, Bonapartes gulls, 1 greater yellowlegs, 2 killdeer (mating)

Zone 2: Central area:

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, view of the creek mouth from the west side
- Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools
- Foot of Johnstone Rd.
- Foot of Butterball, off Pintail & Yambury Rd.
- West end of Seacrest Place (Apenes), off Eaglecrest Dr. at Pintail Dr

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 7 cormorant sp, 2 loon sp, 50 Bonaparte's gulls, 100 gull sp., 12 mallards, 100 wigeons, 2 Great Blue Heron, 56 gull sp, 3 killdeer, 7 oystercatchers, 11 buffleheads, 73 black-bellied plovers, 12 glaucous-winged gulls, 6 crows, 70 gull sp., 1 crow, 2 bald eagles

2 dogs off-leash

Zone 3: South area:

- Rath Trevor Beach, Brant Point,
- West end of Mariner Way—view offshore and to river mouth
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park—from the Labyrinth view offshore, sandbars, and west shore of PVBay

Total brant counted: 0

Other birds observed: Bonapartes' gulls, red-breasted mergansers, mixed raft of divers (mostly scoters), 5 black oystercatchers, buffleheads, wigeons, mallards, 11 black-bellied plovers, 96 dunlin, northern pintail, mixed gulls (mostly Bonaparte's)

4 dogs on beach (photos available)

BRANT COUNT 10:

Date 28 April 2025

Time: 9:05-10:30

Tide at the beginning of count: 9.9 feet

Tide at the close of count: 5.25 feet

Falling tide

Weather: cloudy, wind rising, increasing rainfall, choppy sea

Total brant counted: 125

Zone 1: North area:

- Qualicum Beach—Tourist Info (Beach Creek),
- Gazebo viewing stand.
- Foot of Kincaid Rd. beach access
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view
- West end of Surfside Dr. and mouth of Little Qualicum River

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 52 Pacific loons, 3 horned grebe, scoters, 82 common mergansers hunting, 2 black oystercatchers, 12 pelagic cormorant, 2 harlequin ducks, 3 great blue heron, 23 eagles, 300 gulls, 2 yellowlegs, 1 killdeer, red-winged and brewer's blackbirds, 12 dunlin, Eurasian collard doves

Zone 2: Central area:

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, view of the creek mouth from the west side
- Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools
- Foot of Johnstone Rd.
- Foot of Butterball, off Pintail & Yambury Rd.
- West end of Seacrest Place (Apenes), off Eaglecrest Dr. at Pintail Dr

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 37 common loons, 18 cormorant sp., 19 eagles, 2 red necked grebes, 16 common mergansers, 30 Bonapartes gulls, 50 gull sp., 1 Pacific loon, 2 oyster catchers, 1 pigeon guillermot, 100 scoter sp includes white-winged scoters, 2 common murrelets, 1 horned grebe, 200 gull sp, 4 crows

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathtrevor Beach, Brant Point
- West end of Mariner Way—view offshore and to river mouth
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park—from the Labyrinth view offshore, sandbars, and west shore of PVBay

Total brant counted: 125

Other birds observed: 8 bald eagles, crow, white-crowned sparrow, 2 common mergansers, 1 black-headed grosbeak, 2 black oystercatcher, 8 American wigeons, cormorant sp., 2 great-blue herons, killdeer, gulls including glaucous-winged gulls.

BRANT COUNT 11:

Date 5 May 2025

Time 12:05-2:35

Tide at the beginning of count: 8.2 ft

Tide at the close of count: 11.7 ft

Rising tide

Weather: calm wind, calm seas, overcast

Total brant counted: 0

Zone 1: North area:

- Qualicum Beach—Judges Row, Tourist Info (Beach Creek),

- Gazebo viewing stand.
- East end of Surfside Drive, Offshore view
- Little Qualicum Estuary, west end of Surfside Dr. and mouth of Little Qualicum River

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 1 Bonaparte's gull, 2 red-necked grebes, 4 crows, 3 common loons, 8 common mergansers, 30 gull sp., 2 bald eagles, 2 pacific loons, 2 harlequin ducks, 1 whimbrel, 4 great blue herons

Zone 2: Central area:

- French Creek Marina—east side view offshore and towards Parksville, view of the creek mouth from the west side
- Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Blvd. east; view offshore, and French Creek River mouth
- Admiral Tryon West, beach access to tidal pools
- Foot of Butterball, off Pintail & Yambury Rd.
- West end of Seacrest Place (Apenes), off Eaglecrest Dr. at Pintail Dr

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: Bonaparte's gulls, merlin, pacific & common loons, herons on nests, eagles on nests, kingfisher, black oystercatcher, purple martins, violet-green swallows, killdeer, mallard, American wigeon, raft of ~70 common mergansers, loose raft of surf scoters, loons

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathtrevor Beach, Brant Point, Craig Bay,
- West end of Mariner Way—view offshore and to river mouth,
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park—from the Labyrinth view offshore, sandbars, and west shore of PVBay

Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: white-crowned sparrow, 8 duck sp (very distant), 4 common loons, bald eagle, 3 gull species, 1 pacific loon, swallow species

Group of people near shoreline with dog on leash.

BRANT COUNT VOLUME FOR 2025

Because brant may stay in the PQBWMA for 1 – 2 days or as long 2 weeks, we cannot use the total count of all brant reported as seen on all our Brant Counts. Instead, we take the yearly total on 6 peak counts and regress the volume according to a method provided by Sean Boyd, Environment Canada.

All brant counted in 2025, during the 11 primary counts = **8698**

The sum of the six peak counts: = **8303**

Regressed volume for 2025 =5963 ($8303 \times 0.67 + 400$)

Regressed volumes for 9 peak counts:

2016 = 4710 2021 = 5625

2017 = 12,202 2022 = 3761

2018 = 12,693 2023 = 3646

2019 = 5586 2024=5734

2020 = 6597

Brant volumes peaked in mid-March, continued high through the second week of April then dropped off dramatically.

Herring Spawn

Each spring along the shores of the Strait of Georgia, Pacific Herring broadcast roe on eelgrass and adjacent beaches, providing a pulse of nutrients for migrating waterbirds. Spawning can take place over a wide region, from Comox to Duncan.

Spawning activity along the PQBWMA began Mar. 7, from Little Qualicum River to Columbia Beach for approximately one week. Commercial Seine Fishery was from March 9-14th.

Disturbances to wildlife. Disturbances to feeding brant by walkers and dogs, on and off leash, continues to be a problem. Improved signage at beach accesses and public education seems to have reduced the number of dogs on the beaches but there are still numerous disturbances by people walking the beach at low tide, totally unaware they are chasing up the birds before

them. Arrowsmith Naturalists have submitted a resolution to BC Nature advising the provincial government of this problem and urging more stringent enforcement of bylaws.

Bald Eagles are also a source of frequent disturbances.

Mileage. Mileage was calculated by determining the round-trip distance from Wembley Mall, Parksville to the survey sites. **Total mileage for 11 primary counts= 1435 Km.**

Survey hours. Coordination and compiling time **20 hrs.**

Total person hours of observation for the eleven primary counts were approx. **320 hours.**

Total time for daily Rath Trevor Beach counts from Feb. 21 to Apr. 03 was approx. **20 Hrs.**

Total volunteer hours = 340 hours

APPENDIX I

Incidental Observations reported

Date	time	count	Observer, location, detail
1 January	11:00-13:00	54	Sandy Gray, Polar Bear Swim, Parksville Beach
7 February	--	92	Kerry Baker, Rathtrevor
9 February	12:45-2:45	60	Sandy and Dan Gray Rathtrevor
2 February	Not recorded	100	Tigh-na-Mara
9 February	10 am	100	Tigh na Mara
13 February	Not reported	20	Claire Summers, Seacrest Beach
13 February	Not reported	6	Claire Summers French Creek
15 February	2:00	150	Yana Maltais, Rathtrevor
16 February	-	203	Kerry Baker, QB end of Yambury
18 February	12:05-14:15	152	Sandy Gray, Rathtrevor from Madrona Point
18 February	11:30	30	Liz B, Columbia Beach
18 February	11:50	20	In flight northbound, Liz B, Tryon Ponds
25 February	13:15-15:15	9	Sandy Gray, Admiral Tryon Pool. Small Herring spawn
27 February	11:00	175	Deb Freeman, Off Columbia Beach
28 February	11:30	100	Deb Freeman, Off Columbia Beach
28 February	1:30	145	Yana Maltais, Rathtrevor
1 March	1:30	450 +/-	Claire Summers, end of Johnstone Rd.
2 March	-	340	Kerry Baker, QB end of Yambury

3 March	10:20-10:35	642	Sandy & Dan Gray, bottom of Johnstone Rd
3 March	1:15-2:45	104	Sandy & Dan Gray, Rathtrevor
5 March	12:20-12:35	642	Johnstone Rd., w. gulls, wigeons, & gillnetters
5 March	12:14-14:45	104	Sany Gray, Rathtrevor
6 March	11:22	300	Curtis Rispin, ERE Plummer
6 March	-	160	Kerry Baker,QB end of Yambury
6 March	2:00	300	Fern Fennell, Rathtrevor
6 March	11:30	350-400	Deb Freeman, off Columbia beach
7 March	12:30	15	Sandra Gray, PV Comm park
7 March	3:00	250-300	Liz Bredberg Foot of johnstone Rd
9 March	4:43	80	PV Bay, Bryan Vroom, Tristan Semeniuk
9 March	Morning	4	Helen Davidson, Rathtrevor
10 March	10:05	164	David Helem, Rathtrevor
10 March	2:30	152	Guy Monty, Rathtrevor
10 March	11:57	65	Guy Monty, ERE
10 March	3 pm	210	Guy Monty, Rathtrevor
10 March	-	233	Kerry Baker,QB end of Yambury
10 March	2:50	152	Guy Monty, Rathtrevor (eBird)
10 March	9:26	45	Bill Denham, ERE Plummer
10 March	8::50	16	James Goodwin, ERE
10 March	11:57	65	Guy Monty, ERE general

11 March	2:00	1032	Sandy and Dan Gray, Admiral Tryon Pools
12 March	4:00	188	Guy Monty, ERE
12 March	13:00-13:45	1032	Sandy Gray, Admiral Tryon Pool
13 March	2:00	17	Guy Monty, PV Bay
13 March	4:20	400	Denise Foster, Tryon Pools
14 March	11:30	52	Guy Monty, PV Bay
16 March	12:25	15	Dave Erickson, San Pareil point
16 March	1:30	200	Liz Bredberg, Columbia Beach
16 March	2;00	400	Liz Bredberg, Tryon Ponds
17 March	5:00	23	Tristan Semeniuk, PV Bay
17 March	12:24	750	Susan Knoerr, Linda Horspool, Columbia Beach
17 March	2:00	25	Sue Wilson, in flight southbound off San Paniel
17 March	5:00	100	Liz Thorne, in flight over Parksville Bay
17 March	3:48	68	Tristan Semeniuk, PV Bay
18 March	12:28	390	Mark Wynja, Columbia Beach
18 March	2:00	450	Columbia Beach, Cathy Carlson
18 March	12:30-15:00	1400	Sany Gray, w. numerous wigeons, gulls, divers
18 March	3:00	1900	Sandy & Dan Gray, Johnstone Road to Seacroft
19 March	11:00	600	Liz Bredberg, Tryon Ponds
20 March	11:00	210	Guy Monty, French Creek mouth

20 March	11:54	1950	Tristan Semeniuk, Guy Monty, Columbia Beach
20 March	4:50	640	Mark Wynja, Guy Monty, LQ Estuary
21 March	2:07	54	Mark Byrne, Englishman River Estuary
21 March	3:12	300	Cathy Carlson Yambury Rd, beach access,
22 March	14:05	935+	Sandy Gray, Numerous wigeons, gulls, divers
22 Marsh	14:15	195	Sandy Gray, Butterball
22 March	-	289	Kerry Baker, QB end of Yambury
23 March	12:19	76	Skyler Freeman, Walter Thorne, Englishman River Estuary
23 March	4:48	175	Lin Stern, PV Bay
24 March	10:00	74	Linda Horspool, Susan Knoerr, ERE Plummer
24 March	11:00	180	Sue Knoerr, Rathtrevor
24 March	2:13	300	Josh McCrea, Rathtrevor
25 March	8:27	80	Susan Knoerr, PV Bay
25 March	3:30	200	Donald Kramer, LQ Estuary
26 March	6:52 PM	300	Laurie Ann, Rathtrevor
26 March	2:40	250	Bob Hay, ERE Plummer, flying offshore
26 March	10:30	589	Mark Wynja, Guy Monty, Englishman River Estuary
26 March	3:00	600	Tristan Semeniuk, Parksville Bay

26 March	3:40	540	Mark Wynja, Guy Monte, QB viewing platform
26 March	12:30-1:00	600	Liz Bredberg, mouth of Englishman River, on Sandbanks, some flying southward
26 March	1:30	700	Bob Hay, Guy Monty, PV Bay
26 March	12:53	680	Mark Wynja, Guy Monty, PV Bay
26 March	5:34	1200	PV Bay, John Cooper, Susan Beauchesne
26 March	5:30	800	James Goodwin, PV Bay
27 March	10:05	365	PV Bay, Pete Boon
28 March	7:28 am	450	Adam Ross, Rathtrevor
28 March	1:28	88	Sean Casey, ERE
28 March	11:00	300	David Korner, Little Qualicum Estuary
28 March	11:00	220	Mark Walker, LQ Estuary
28 March	1:00	200	Liz Bredberg, bottom of Kincaid Road
28 March	5:30	~50	Liz Bredberg, Bottom of Johnstone
28 March	5:44	~200	Liz Bredberg, Tryon Ponds
30 March	13:15-15:15	182	Sandy Gray, Rathrevor Brant Point
1 April	10:30	~200	Liz Bredberg, Tryon Ponds. Flock was alarmed by bald eagle and flew northward. Likely at foot of Johnstone Rd.
1 April	4:30	300	Dave Erickson, Rathrevor
1 April	5:20	~500	Dave Erickson, Rathtrevor. Birds spooked by eagle, then settled

6 April	12:00-4:00	~800	ANats Brant in the Bay team. Parksville Bay.
9 April	12:45-13:15	340	Sandy Gray, Little Qualicum Estuary, Extesive spread of wigeon, mallard, pintail, 200+Bonaparte's gulls
9 April	12:00-1:00	150	Liz Bredberg, Mouth of Englishman River
14 April	2:30	~75	Yana Maltais, Rathtrevor
14 April	12:00	400	Curtis Rispin, Englishman River Estuary, Plummer Side
15 April	14:50	1050	Rathtrevor
16 April	09:24	500	Rathtrevor
17 April	09:30	250	Rathtrevor
17 April	09:50	250	Rathtrevor
17 April	--	150	Allen Jensen, Parksville Community Park
18 April	14:48	300	Rathtrevor
22 April	11:05	39	Rathtrevor
27 April	8:50	110	Bob Hay, Tigh-na-Mara
29 April	11:00	118	Guy Monty, Englishman River Estuary
30 April	9:47	26	John Gulley, Rathtrevor
1 May	10:47	1	Don Wilshere, Rathtrevor

APPENDIX II

Daily counts at Tigh-na-Mara

Date	Brant Count	Where	Time	% beach showing				
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01-19-25	15	TNM	1500	70		Brant Pt = the point in Rathrevor just left of the parking lot		
01-20-25	20	TNM	1600	70		TNM = spread out along the water line including in front of Tigh na M		
01-21-25	no count							
01-22-25	70	TNM	1700	70				
01-23-25	25	Brant Pt	1320	20				
01-24-25	20	TNM	1530	60				
01-25-25	25	TNM	1700	60				
01-26-25	0		1600	10				
01-27-25	0		1600	10				
01-28-25	0		1600	10				
01-29-25	0		1600	10				
01-30-25	70	Brant Pt	1200	30				
01-31-25	75	Brant Pt	1200	30				
02-01-25	0							
02-02-25	0		1300	60				
02-03-25	no count							
02-04-25	70	TNM	1500	90				
02-05-25	70	TNM	1400	60				
02-06-25	20	TNM	1400	50				
02-07-25	40	TNM	1600	80				
02-08-25	20	TNM	1600	70				
02-09-25	80	TNM	1700	60				
02-10-25	30	TNM	1700	50				
02-11-25	0		1600	50				
02-12-25	50	TNM	1100	40				
02-13-25	70	TNM	1200	50				
02-14-25	70	TNM	1100	40				
02-15-25	90	Brant Pt	1100	40				
02-16-25	70	Brant Pt	1130	30				
02-17-25	70	TNM	1530	100				
02-18-25	30	TNM						
02-19-25	50	TNM	1430	80				
02-20-25	70	Brant Pt	1230	40				
02-21-25	80	TNM	1530	80				
02-22-25	15	TNM	1700	90				
02-23-25	60	TNM	1630	80				
02-24-25	50	Brant Pt	1600	30				
02-25-25	10	Brant Pt	1700	30				
02-26-25	20	Brant Pt	1800	30				
02-27-25	50	Brant Pt	1000	30				
02-28-25	120	Brant Pt	1100	30				
03-01-25	no count							
03-02-25	20	Brant Pt	1100	40				
03-03-25	20	Brant Pt	1200	50				
03-04-25	150	TNM	1700	90				
03-05-25	0							
03-06-25	190	TNM	1300	80				
03-07-25	no count							

03-08-25	170	TNM	1700	60				
03-09-25	320	TNM	1600	50	spawn in bay			
03-10-25	160	TNM	1800	30				
03-11-25	10	TNM	1900	20				
03-12-25	no count							
03-13-25	5	TNM	1500	50				
03-14-25	0		1600	40				
03-15-25	7		1100	20				
03-16-25	0		1700	30				
03-17-25	0		1700	90				
03-18-25	0		1700	90				
03-19-25	0		1600	90				
03-20-25	no count							
03-21-25	no count							
03-22-25	0		1700	90				
03-23-25	0		1700	90				
03-24-25	100	Brant Pt	1500	40				
03-25-25	0							
03-26-25	750	TNM	1800	30				
03-27-25	0							
03-28-25	260	TNM	1000	30				
03-29-25	50	TNM	1200	60				
03-30-25	150	Brant Pt	1000	50				
03-31-25	70	TNM	1100	40				
04-01-25	1100	TNM	1500	90				
04-02-25	300	TNM	1700	90				
04-03-25	1000	TNM	1400	80				
04-04-25	160	TNM	1400	80				
04-05-25	500	TNM	1600	90				
04-06-25	200	TNM	900	20				
04-07-25	600	TNM	1600	20				
04-08-25	500	Brant Pt	1200	30				
04-09-25	340	TNM	1800	30				
04-10-25	700	TNM	1430	40				
04-11-25	600	TNM	930	50				
04-12-25	500	TNM	1400					
04-13-25	200	Brant Pt	900	40				
04-14-25	600	Brant Pt	1200	80				
04-15-25	600	Brant Pt	1200	80				
04-16-25	900	TNM	1100	30				
04-17-25	700	TNM	1200	70				
04-18-25	700	TNM	1200	70				
04-19-25	400	TNM	1330	80				
04-20-25	500	TNM	1300	60				
04-21-25	50	Brant Pt	1100	40				
04-22-25	350	TNM	1600	70				
04-23-25	300	TNM	1900	70				
04-24-25	250	TNM						

04-25-25	100	TNM	800	60				
04-26-25	110	TNM	1200	80				
04-27-25	120	TNM	1000	80				
04-28-25	20	TNM	930	60				
04-29-25	5	TNM	1200	80				
04-30-25	0		1600	80				
05-01-25	1	TNM	1200	80				

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

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Count organiser and compiler, 2025

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