

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS BRANT COUNT

Date 23 February

Time 12:20-2:25

Tide at the beginning of count: 11 feet

Tide at the close of count: 6.7 feet, falling

Weather: partly cloudy, wind rose as count continued

Participants: Liz Thorne, Jim Thorne, Dennis & Brenda Horwood, Bonnie Mullin, Susan Knoerr, Jonathan France, Liz Bredberg, Laura Furgey-Smith (photographer)

Total brant counted: 480

Zone 1: North area:

- -Qualicum Beach—Judges Row, 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: many gulls (100s), dispersed bufflehead ~80, 18 common goldeneyes, 6 black oystercatchers, 2 great blue heron, 1 bald eagle spooking waterfowl at Surfside, killdeer, 4 northern pintail, 4 American wigeon, 1 yellow-billed loon, 1 red-necked grebe, 2 surf scoters, 2 red-breasted mergansers, 8 mallards

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: 432

Other birds observed: many gulls (~500), 2 common loons, 2 red-breasted mergansers, 4 harlequins, 1 red-necked grebe, 3 hooded grebes, 2 killdeer, 8 crows, 2 black oystercatchers, 13 surf scoters, 11 buffleheads, 1 bald eagle, 2 Eurasian wigeons, 200 American wigeons, 32 crows, 3 common goldeneyes, 2 double-crested cormorants

Zone 3: South area:

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

Total brant counted: 48

Other birds observed: 19 snow geese, 50 Canada geese, 60 green-winged teal, 12 surf scoters, 14 bufflehead, 35 common goldeneye, 11 red-breasted mergansers, 2 common mergansers, 3 killdeer, 2 black oystercatchers, 158 short-billed gulls, 6 glaucous-winged gulls, 346 gull sp, 1 red-necked grebe, 5 horned grebe, 1 red-throated loon, 12 common loons, 2 double-crested cormorants, 1 belted kingfisher, 1 spotted towhee

DOGS

- 4 humans with 2 small dogs on leash at west end of Qualicum Beach.
- 3 dogs off leash at the Marina S, 1 off leash on Columbia Beach, 2 on leash at Butterball.

