

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS BRANT COUNT

Date 2 March 2026

Time 9:30 am-12:00m

Tide at the beginning of count: 11.7 feet

Tide at the close of count: 9.7

Falling tide

Weather: clear, wind rising as morning advanced

Participants: Dennis and Brenda Horwood, Dave Erickson, Jonathan France, Bonnie Mullin, Marilyn Bilsbarrow, Liz Bredberg

Total brant counted: 711

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

Total brant counted in area: 14

Other birds observed: 14 common loon, 1150 surf scoters, 200 pacific loons, 30 buffleheads, 113 mallard, ++ gull sp, 1 black oystercatcher 10 horned grebes, 74 American wigeons, 1 black scoter, 1 pigeon guillemot, 1 double-crested cormorant, 4 red-breasted mergansers, harlequin duck, 30 pintails, 1 red-necked grebe, 46 white-winged scoters, 3 green-winged teal, 1 belted kingfisher, 1 killdeer 2 Canada geese, 3 bald eagles

4 orca observed

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

Total brant counted in area: 613

Other birds observed: 2 Kingfisher, redneck grebe, common loon, surf scoters, double-crested cormorant, 20 buffleheads, 2 bald eagle, 5 common goldeneyes, 2 pelagic cormorant, 2 horned grebe, 5 great blue herons, 2 Eurasian wigeons, short-billed gulls, pintails, raven, 1 green-winged teal, mallards, glaucous-winged gulls, Iceland gulls, 2 Canada geese, 2 harlequin ducks, 2 red-breasted merganser, 1 loon sp, killdeer, 1 oystercatcher, gull sp ~500, 3 yellowlegs, 1 black-bellied plover

2 unleashed dogs on beach east of French Creek Marina, reported to RAPP, photo on file

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

Total brant counted: 84

Other birds observed: Plovers, dunlins ++, ?dowitcher, ++ gulls, golden eyes, pacific loons, 2 merganser sps, wigeons, 1 bald eagle, 8 scoters flying northbound, 18 snow geese 6 white-winged scoters, few gulls

No dogs noted.