

## ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS BRANT COUNT

**Date** 30 March 2026

Time: 1:15—3:00

Tide at the beginning of count: 9.2 feet

Tide at the close of count: 11.8 feet

Rising tide

**Weather:** Sunny, cool (7-8 C), wind N7 to NNE 5

**Participants:** Marilyn Bilsbarrow, Meghan MacIsaac, Jonathan France, Bonnie Mullin, Dave Erickson, Liz Bredberg, Liz Thorne, Jim Thorne, Jane Osborne

**Total brant counted: 1151**

### **Zone 1: North area:**

- Qualicum Beach Tourist Infor (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:** buffleheads, mallards, red-necked grebes, crow, harlequin ducks, black oystercatchers, short-billed gulls, glaucous-winged gulls, American wigeons, song sparrow, Bonaparte gulls, great blue herons, common loons, goldeneye sp., horned grebe, surf scoters, scaup sps., northern pintails, common goldeneyes, killdeer, robin, Eurasian collared dove, white-crowned sparrow, junco, house finch

Orcas observed

**No dogs observed**

**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: 451**

**Other birds observed:** 1000+ gulls along shore, short-billed gulls, Icelandic gulls, ring-billed gulls, 2 cormorant sp, 9 common loons, great blue herons\*, American wigeons, northern pintails, 120 harlequin ducks, 500 dunlin (4 flocks), 150 buffleheads, killdeer, yellowlegs sp., large mixed flock of dabblers, 4 black oystercatchers, 1 Eurasian wigeon, +++ raft of surf scoters (1000+), 4 black-bellied plovers, 60 mallards (including 1 hybrid male, northern pintail/mallard?)

\*1 heron on nest.

**2 Leashed dogs observed**

**Zone 3: South area:**

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

**Total brant counted: 700**

**Other birds observed:** 400 gull sps, 2 Canada geese, 2 robins, 8 juncos, 2 white-crowned sparrows, mix of 40 diving ducks—barrows, common goldeneyes, buffleheads, 6 American wigeons, 12 northern pintails, 4 mallards, 45 green-winged teal on Englishman River mudflat, 1 pair common mergansers, 1 pair bufflehead, 2 plover sp., 200 dunlin

**1 dog off-leash**