

## ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS BRANT COUNT

**Date 9 March 2026**

Time: 12:15—2:30

Tide at the beginning of count: 8.1 feet

Tide at the close of count: 10.5 feet

Rising tide

**Weather:** Initially calm & overcast, hail reported at conclusion of count

**Participants:** Susan Knoerr, Dave Erickson, Jonathan France, Dennis and Brenda Horwood, Jim Thorne, Jane Osborne, Liz Thorne, Bonnie Mullin, Liz Bredberg

**Total brant counted: 476**

**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: “good numbers” of mergansers, scoters, and loons

No dogs reported.

**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: 0

Other birds observed: crows, 15 bufflehead, 12 goldeneyes, 2 pelagic cormorants, kingfisher, 118 American wigeons, mallards, gulls ++, common merganser, 10 white-winged scoters, 8 harlequin ducks, 2 green-winged teal, 100 ring-billed gulls, common loon, 2 herring gulls, 2 pintails, 5 bald eagles, 26 crows, dispersed flocks of diving ducks.

No dogs or pedestrians observed. 3 herring boats

**Zone 3:** South area:

- Rathrevor Beach, Brant Point, Craig 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: 476

Other birds observed:

600 Gull sp, 45 Canada geese, 3 black oystercatchers, 50 buffleheads, 17 mallards, 3 horned grebes, 1 bald eagle, 1 great blue heron, 400+peeps, 2 common mergansers, 19 American wigeons, 21 northern pintails, 19 snow geese, 2 black-bellied plovers, 4 plover sp, 1 common raven

No dogs reported.