

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS BRANT COUNT

Date 16 March 2026

Time 10:15-12:00

Tide at the beginning of count: 13.5 feet

Tide at the close of count: 10.7 feet

falling tide

Weather: winds ~48kph, gusting to 57 kph, intermittent light rain

Participants: Marilyn Bilsbarrow, Jonathan France, Liz Thorne, Jim Thorne, Susan Knoerr, Bonnie Mullin, Dave Erickson, Laura Lefurgey-Smith (photographer)

Total brant counted: 1179 (observers state this may be an under-estimation)

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:

- bufflehead, 1 female merganser, loons, 3 scoters flying southward, 18 surf scoters near Qualicum beach, mixture of harlequin ducks, gulls, mallards, pintails, wigeons; 4 black oystercatchers, black turnstones, grebes and wigeons, Cooper's hawk, 1 mature 3 immature Bald eagle, mix of mallards, pintails & wigeons, flushed by the eagles, 3 crows, 200 gull sps, spooked by eagles; 3 killdeer, 30 white wing scoters in flight
- In marsh, red-winged blackbirds, 1 Anna's hummingbird, 2 great blue herons

No dogs observed, few walkers

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

Total brant counted in area: 39

Other birds observed: 80 scoters, 100 gulls, bald eagle, 170 American wigeon, 10 mallards, 10 green-winged teal, 10 pintail, 80 common goldeneyes, 4 red-breasted mergansers, 120 greater scaups, 8 common mergansers, 10 harlequin ducks, 1 red-necked grebe, 1 killdeer, 1 black oystercatcher, 5 common loons, 6 pacific loons, 20 bufflehead, 4 common goldeneye, 20 bufflehead, 3 bald eagles, 3 northern pintails, 40 dunlin, 4 mallards, 1 red-necked grebe, 80 gulls, 2 greater yellowlegs, 3 black-bellied plovers, 820 surf scoters, 110 white-winged scoters, 3 bald eagles, 6 American crows, 2 pigeon guillemots, 3 bald eagles, 2 mallards, 2 common loons, 30 buffleheads

1 dog observed at Butterball

Zone 3: South area: Madrona Point, Rath Trevor Beach, Brant point, West end of Mariner Way, Parkville Bay

Total brant counted: 1140 (observers state this may be an under-estimation. They report 3 big rafts of birds)

Other birds observed:

Gulls, mallards, eagle, common loon, golden eye sp, oyster catchers, 200 dunlin, 12 common goldeneyes, oyster catchers, buffleheads, 12 turnstones, loon, American wigeons, black bellied plovers

No dogs on beach

