

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS BRANT COUNT

Date 23 March 2026

Time 11:15-13:00

Tide at the beginning of count: 9.6 feet

Tide at the close of count: 4.7 feet

Falling tide

Weather: 8C, light cloud, light breeze

Participants: Bonnie Mullin, Liz & Jim Thorne, Jonathan France, Marilyn Billsbarrow, Meghan MacIsaac, Susan Knoerr, Jane Osborne

Total brant counted: 725

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: 41 Horned grebes, 7 glaucous winged gulls, 44 short-billed gulls, 4 common loons, 155 American wigeon, 39 mallards, 13 red-breasted mergansers, 2 kingfishers, 41 pacific loons, 46 red-necked grebes, loons, 270 California gulls, 34 northern pintails, 2 common mergansers, 17 common mergansers, 8 long-tailed ducks, 30 surf scoters, 1 double-crested cormorant, 46 common goldeneyes, 1 black scoter, 8 buffleheads, 120 greater scaup, 3 green-winged teal, 10 white-winged scoters, 70 surf scoters,

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

Total brant counted in area: 655+ (count was interrupted at this number by a woman “making them fly for a photo.” **Snarl!** estimate of 800)

Other birds observed: crows, common mergansers, red necked grebes, bald eagle, cormorant sp, short-billed gull, glaucous-winged gulls, mallards, horned grebe, killdeer, American wigeon, green-winged teal, northern pintails, Eurasian wigeon, black oystercatcher, great blue heron, bufflehead, white-crowned sparrow, harlequin ducks, common goldeneyes, gull sps, raven, flicker, house finch, bushtit, junco, 3000 dunlin, 100s of gulls,

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

Total brant counted in area: 70

Other birds observed: Gull sps., black-bellied plovers, flock of shorebirds—likely dunlin, 60 duck sps to south—buffleheads etc. 2 common loons, 2 mature bald eagles, 3 immature bald eagles, 27 common mergansers, 12 Canada geese, 12+ mallards, 70 buffleheads, gulls on spit in Estuary, 66 wigeons, 19 snow geese, 1 great blue heron, 1 flock dunlin

No dogs reported in any site. One very disruptive human with camera.