

PQBWMA Brant Count 2026
Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area
Estimated Daily Brant Count Report

by the
Arrowsmith Naturalists

for

Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute

Elizabeth Bredberg, PhD
Count Coordinator and Compiler

The 2026 **Brant Primary Counts** covered the full length of the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area (PQBWMA). Ten primary counts took place weekly from February 23 through April 27. The PQBWMA was divided into three areas and each was assigned a team of 2 – 4 observers. Team counts were within the same two-hour window in each area to avoid double counting where possible. Counts were ideally taken just above low tide, when food sources were exposed on the beach or floating in shallow water.

Count locations included the following named places which were also used in previous counts within the PQBWMA and Strait of Georgia (SOG).

Area 1: Little Qualicum River Estuary, Surfside Dr. West and East, Kincade Rd., Seaside Nature Park (SNP), Qualicum Beach.

Area 2: Seacrest Place, Butterball Dr, Johnstone Rd, Admiral Tryon Blvd. East and West, Columbia Beach, French Creek Marina east and west.

Area 3: Parksville Community Park (PCP), Parksville Bay, Englishman River mouth, Mariner Way, Craig Bay, Rath Trevor Provincial Park, Brant Point.

There were 14 Brant Count volunteer observers who contributed various amounts of time:

Jonathan France , Bonnie Mullin, David Erickson, Duncan Campbell, Dennis Horwood, Brenda Horwood , Liz Thorne, Jim Thorne, Marilyn Bilsbarrow, Meghan MacIsaac , Jane Osborne, Susan Knoerr, Lynne Brookes, and Liz Bredberg.

In addition to the primary counts, **Incidental Counts** (Appendix 1) were conducted by individuals or small groups of observers. They recorded Brant numbers during visits to the PQBWMA shores January through April. Incidental counts also include sightings reported on eBird.

Also, this year we were fortunate to have a **daily Brant count** on Rathtrevor Beach, one of the major eelgrass forage sites in the PQBWMA, from January 21st to to April 27th, courtesy of Duncan Campbell (Appendix 2).

PRIMARY COUNTS

BRANT COUNT 1:

Date 23 February

Time 12:20-2:25

Tide at the beginning of count: 11 feet

Tide at the close of count: 6.7 feet, falling

Weather: partly cloudy, wind rose as count continued

Participants: Liz Thorne, Jim Thorne, Dennis & Brenda Horwood, Bonnie Mullin, Susan Knoerr, Jonathan France, Liz Bredberg, Laura Furgey-Smith (photographer)

Total brant counted: 480

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: many gulls (100s), dispersed bufflehead ~80, 18 common goldeneyes, 6 black oystercatchers, 2 great blue heron, 1 bald eagle spooking waterfowl at Surfside, killdeer, 4 northern pintail, 4 American wigeon, 1 yellow-billed loon, 1 red-necked grebe, 2 surf scoters, 2 red-breasted mergansers, 8 mallards

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: 432

Other birds observed: many gulls (~500), 2 common loons, 2 red-breasted mergansers, 4 harlequins, 1 red-necked grebe, 3 hooded grebes, 2 killdeer, 8 crows, 2 black oystercatchers, 13 surf scoters, 11 buffleheads, 1 bald eagle, 2 Eurasian wigeons, 200 American wigeons, 32 crows, 3 common goldeneyes, 2 double-crested cormorants

Zone 3: South area:

- Rath Trevor Beach, Brant Point, Craig Bay, may need to walk to the right along the 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 PV Bay

Total brant counted in area: 48

Other birds observed: 19 snow geese, 50 Canada geese, 60 green-winged teal, 12 surf scoters, 14 bufflehead, 35 common goldeneye, 11 red-breasted mergansers, 2 common mergansers, 3 killdeer, 2 black oystercatchers, 158 short-billed gulls, 6 glaucous-winged gulls, 346 gull sp, 1 red-necked grebe, 5 horned grebe, 1 red-throated loon, 12 common loons, 2 double-crested cormorants, 1 belted kingfisher, 1 spotted towhee

DOGS

- 4 humans with 2 small dogs on leash at west end of Qualicum Beach.
- 3 dogs off leash at the Marina S, 1 off leash on Columbia Beach, 2 on leash at Butterball.

BRANT COUNT 2

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, rednecked 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, Rathtrevor 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.

BRANT COUNT 3

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:

- Rath Trevor 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.

BRANT COUNT 4

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, Parksville 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

BRANT COUNT 5:

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." 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, Rath Trevor 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

DISTURBANCES:

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

BRANT COUNT 6:

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
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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

DISTURBANCES: 3 dogs

BRANT COUNT 7:

Date 6 April 2026

Time 10:15-12:50

Tide at the beginning of count: 9.5 feet

Tide at the close of count: 4.5 feet

turning tide

Weather: cloudy, calm wind

Participants: Marilyn Bilsbarrow, Meghan MacIsaac, Jonathan France, Dave Erickson, Bonnie Mullin, Liz Bredberg, Susan Knoerr, Duncan Campbell, Jane Osborne

Total brant counted: 1305 +?

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

Total brant counted in area: 10, possibly additional 18

Other birds observed: 7 loon sps., 300 mixed scoters, bald eagle, 74 bufflehead, \ large flock of gulls, including 12 Bonapartes, dabbling ducks—mallards & wigeons, 62 red-necked grebes, flights of scoters, 11 oystercatchers, ~14 white-winged scoters, large raft of loon species, mix of pintails, mergansers, wigeons & mallards, 1 great blue heron, 21 harlequins, red-necked grebes, 1 killdeer, buffleheads, 18 mergansers, 1 horned grebe

No dogs observed

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

Total brant counted in area: 1015

Other birds observed: 22 northern pintails, 15 glaucous winged gulls, 40 short-billed gulls, 14 common loons, 226 Bonaparte gulls, 2 kingfishers, 320 American wigeons, 158 mallards, 15 red-breasted mergansers, 2 black oystercatchers, 112 white-winged scoters, 3 red-necked grebe, 3 common mergansers, 110 greater scaup, 10 common murre, 3 pigeon guillemot, 2 Eurasian wigeons, 10 double-crested cormorants, 1 green-winged teal, 9 common goldeneyes, 2 Canada geese, 2 marbled murrelet, 1 common merganser, 21 long-tailed ducks, 62 Pacific loons, 188 Bonaparte gulls, 5000 surf scoters (5 rafts), 1 double-crested cormorant, 20 harlequins, 145 short-billed gulls, 12 California gulls, 10 buffleheads, 2 killdeer, 2 greater yellowlegs, 120 greater scaup, 4 red-necked grebe, 1 bald eagle, 20 common goldeneye, 1 common loon, 13 glaucous-

winged gull, 3 horned grebe, 12 black oyster catchers, 1 black-bellied plover, 40 short-billed gulls, 50 dunlin, 2 white-winged scoters, 3 Pacific loons, 1 pigeon guillemot

No dogs observed

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

Total brant counted: 280

Other birds observed: gulls –Bonapartes, short-billed, California, crow, robin, white throated sparrow, orange-crowned warbler, golden-crowned sparrow, mallards, wigeon, gadwall, common loon, scoters, goldeneye sp., horned grebe, red-breasted merganser, killdeer, 16 snow geese, Canada geese, dunlin, black-bellied plover.

Dead sea lion found at Rathtrevor, reported to park ranger.

BRANT COUNT 8:

Date 13 April 2026

Time 11:30

Tide at the beginning of count: 9.9 feet

Tide at the close of count: 11.4 feet

Rising tide

Weather: cloudy, light breeze, 11 C

Participants: Bonnie Mullin, Jim Thorne, Jonathan France

Total brant counted: 528

Zone 1: North area:

- Qualicum Beach—Judges Row, 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: no brant reported

Other birds observed: no report provided

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.
- West end of Seacrest Place (Apenes), off Eaglecrest Dr. at Pintail Dr

Total brant counted in area: no brant reported

Other birds observed: no report provided

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathtrevor Beach, Brant Point,
- 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: 528

Other birds observed: Moderate flock of gulls, 10 black-bellied plovers, 1 black oystercatcher, 2 adult bald eagles, gulls on mud flats, green winged teal, 1 robin, 10 dunlin, buffleheads, 2 mallards, 2 crows.

No dogs observed.

BRANT COUNT 9:

Date 20 April 2026

Time 9:30 am

Tide at the beginning of count: 11 feet

Tide at the close of count: 6.6 feet

Falling tide

Weather: mild, partly cloudy, calm seas

Participants: Bonnie Mullin, Dave Erickson, Liz & Jim Thorne, Jane Osborne, Jonathan France, Liz Bredberg

Total brant counted: 116

Zone 1: North area:

- -Qualicum Beach—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: 3 black oystercatchers, common merganser, 2 red-necked grebes, 5 common loons, 23 horned grebes, white-crowned sparrow, bald eagle, 2 red-breasted mergansers, mallards, song sparrow, cormorant sp, +/- 50 gulls, incl. California gulls, Bonapartes' gulls, 1 greater yellowlegs, +/- 25 wigeons, 3 swallows (violet green?), 12 shorebird sp.

2 pedestrians, 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.
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Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 10 common loons, many gulls distant offshore, 2 bald eagles, 52 Bonaparte gulls, 1 cormorant sp, 4 great blue herons, 2 yellowlegs, few wigeons, white-crowned sparrow, 8 grebes, 5 immature bald eagle, 4 scoter sps, 16 white-winged scoters, 12 buffleheads, 1 black-bellied plover, 1 killdeer, mixed flock of gulls (mostly Bonapartes), 2 oystercatchers. 1 scoter sp, ~8 grebes, 1 red-breasted mergansers, California quail,

No dogs observed.

Zone 3: South area:

- Rathrevor Beach, Brant Point,
- West end of Mariner Way—view offshore and to river mouth
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park—from the Labyrinth view offshore, sandbars, and west shore of PVBay

Total brant counted in area: 118

Other birds observed: 1 great blue heron, 24 surf (?) scoters, 2 common loons, 9 white-crowned sparrows, 3 spotted towhees, 3 black oystercatchers, 2 red-necked grebe, 1 ruby-crowned kinglet, 1 northern flicker, 7 European starling, 6 American robins, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 chipping sparrows, 3 dark-eyed juncos, 4 violet-green swallows, 1 common loon, 4 purple finches, 2 black-bellied plovers, 2506 assorted gull sps—mostly Bonapartes, some glaucous wings, western, and hybrids, 6 mallard, 1 (Likely) common goldeneye, 3 harlequin ducks, 2 red-necked grebes, 18 dunlin, 50 green-winged teal, 2 northern pintails, 2 killdeer, 6 mallards, 20 shorebird sps, 50 bufflehead.

No dogs observed.

BRANT COUNT 10:

Date: 27 April 2026

Time: 2:20-4:20 pm

Tide at the beginning of count: 10.7 feet

Tide at the close of count: 12.1 feet

Slack tide

Weather: light breeze, light overcast, calm seas, temperature 13c

Participants: Susan Knoerr, Dave Erickson, Bonnie Mullin, Jeff??, Jonathan France, Lynne Brookes, Laura Lefurgey-Smith, Liz Bredberg, Liz Thorne, Jim Thorne, Jeff Pugh

Total brant counted: 0

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: 3 common loons, 1 red-necked grebe, 1 pigeon guillemot, 11 black oystercatchers, 6 short-billed gulls, 30 glaucous winged gulls, 1 Bonaparte's gull, 2 California gulls, crows, 1 starling, 2 song sparrows, 3 whimbrels, 3 killdeer, 4 black-bellied plovers, 2 buffleheads, 1 horned grebe, 1 common merganser, small flock of bufflehead (~10), 1 rhinoceros auklet, 8 red-breasted mergansers, 2 common merganser males (flying), mixed flock

of gulls on sandbar—mostly Bonapartes, green-winged teal, red-winged blackbird in mudflat, 2 eagles, 2 California quail.

No dogs, no human disturbances.

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.
- West end of Seacrest Place (Apenes), off Eaglecrest Dr. at Pintail D
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Total brant counted in area: 0

Other birds observed: 20 gull sp, 153 Bonaparte's gulls, 2 ravens, 6 cormorant sp, 6 wigeons, 16 mallards, 5 common merganser, 6 killdeer, 2 crows, 1 raven, 1 great blue heron, 7 black oystercatchers, 2 killdeer, 6 green-winged teal, 30 black turnstones, flock of 28 common mergansers, 4 juvenile black-bellied plovers

No dogs observed, no human disturbances

Zone 3: South area:

- Rath Trevor Beach, Brant Point, Craig Bay, may need to walk to the right along the bay
- West end of Mariner Way—view offshore and to river mouth
- Parksville Bay, Parksville Community Park—from the Labyrinth view offshore, sandbars, and west shore of PVBay
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Total brant counted: 0

Other birds observed: 1 great blue heron, 1 great horned owl, dunlin, merganser sp., greater yellowlegs, 4 green-winged teal, 1 bald eagle, short-billed gulls, 2 bonaparte's gulls, 1 Anna's hummingbird

No dogs or human disturbances observed.

BRANT COUNT VOLUME FOR 2026

Because brant may stay in the PQBWMA for 1 – 2 days or as long 2 weeks, we cannot use the total count of all brant reported as seen on all our Brant Counts. Instead, we take the yearly total on 6 peak counts and regress the volume according to a method provided by Sean Boyd, Environment Canada.

All brant counted in 2026, during the 10 primary counts = **6677**

The sum of the six peak counts=**5599**

Regressed volume for 2026 =4151 ($5599 \times 0.67 + 400 = 4151$)

Regressed volumes for 9 peak counts (2017-2025):

2017 = 12,202 2022 = 3761

2018 = 12,693 2023 = 3646

2019 = 5586 2024=5734

2020 = 6597 2025=5963

2021 = 5625

Brant volumes peaked in mid-March, continued high through the first week of April then dropped off dramatically.

Herring Spawn

Each spring along the shores of the Strait of Georgia, Pacific Herring broadcast roe on eelgrass and adjacent beaches, providing a pulse of nutrients for migrating waterbirds. Spawning can take place over a wide region, from Comox to Duncan.

Spawning activity along the PQBWMA began Mar. 4, from Little Qualicum River to Columbia Beach for approximately one week. Commercial Seine Fishery was from March 4-13.

Disturbances to wildlife. Disturbances to feeding brant by walkers and dogs, on and off leash, continues to be a problem. Improved signage at beach accesses and public education has reduced the number of dogs on the beaches but there are still numerous disturbances by people walking the beach at low tide, totally unaware they are chasing up the birds before

them. Arrowsmith Naturalists have submitted a resolution to BC Nature advising the provincial government of this problem and urging more stringent enforcement of bylaws.

Bald Eagles are also a source of frequent disturbances.

Mileage. Mileage was calculated by determining the round-trip distance from Wembley Mall, Parksville to the survey sites. **Total mileage for 10 primary counts= 834 Km.**

Survey hours. Coordination and compiling time **20 hrs.**

Total person hours of observation for the 10 primary counts were approx. **324 hours.**

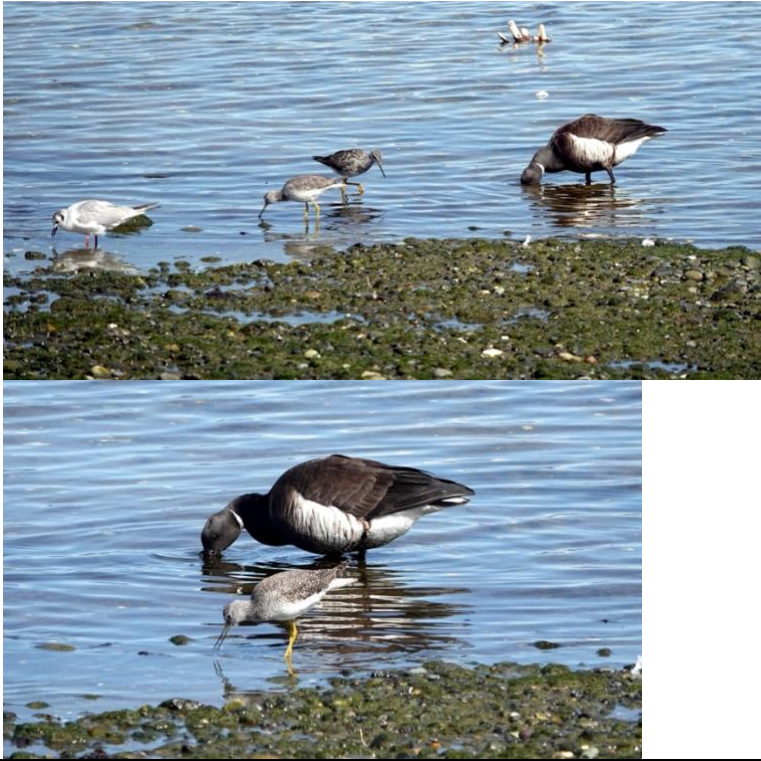
Total time for daily Rath Trevor Beach counts from Feb. 21 to Apr. 03 was approx. **20 Hrs.**

Total volunteer hours = 344 hours

APPENDIX I

Incidental Observations reported

| Date | time | count | Observer, location, detail |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| 13 Jan | ? | 18 | Kerry Baker, Rathtrevor |
| 14 | ? | 40 | Kerry Baker, Rathtrevor |
| 2 Feb | ? | 19 | Kerry Baker, Rathtrevor |
| 2 Feb | 3 pm | 8 | Liz & Jim Thorne |
| 3 Feb | ? | 25 | Kerry Baker, Rathtrevor |
| 6 Feb | ? | 6 | Kerry Baker, Rathtrevor |
| 8 Feb | ? | 23 | Kerry Baker, bottom of Johnstone |
| 10 Feb | ? | 2 | Kerry Baker, Rathtrevor |
| 20 Feb | ? | 123 | Kerry Baker, Bottom of Johnstone |
| 20 Feb | 2 pm | 200 | Liz Bredberg, bottom of Johnstone St. |
| 20 Feb | 2:40 | 150 | Liz Bredberg, Tryon W, mid-tide |
| 24 Feb | 8:30 am | ~200 | Marilyn B, Craig Bay, flying westbound |
| 26 Feb | 12:45- 1:15 | 288 | Sandy Gray, Columbia Beach, Admiral Tryon Flock mixed with +-2500 gulls, Adm T. 1 Eurasian wigeon, 15 mallards, 56 dunlin, 6 greater yellowlegs, 3 bald eagles, divers—buffleheads, rb merganser, scoter, lt duck |
| 1 March | | 7 | Little Qualicum Estuary, Guy L Monty |
| 1 March | | 23 | Linda Horspool, Qualicum Beach |
| 3 March | 1:45 | ~200 | Yana Maltais, Columbia Beach |
| 3 March | | 135 | Kitty Corbett, Columbia Beach |
| 5 March | 3:00 | 100+ | Dave Erickson, Tryon W |
| 5 March | 3:30 | 150 | Dave Erickson, Yambury |
| 5 March | 2:15 | ~70 | Toni Wyckoff, Helen Davidson, bottom of Johnston |
| 7 March | | 363 | Rathtrevor, Emily Henry |
| 7 March | | 234 | Englishman River, Linda Horspool, Susan Knoerr |
| 7 March | 10:00 | ~40 | Liz Bredberg, Columbia Beach, 2 flights headed southbound |
| 12 March | | 58 | French Creek Mouth, Tristan Semeniuk |
| 12 March | 2:45- 3:00 | ~300 | Rathtrevor, Yana Maltais |
| 17 March | | 46 | Qualicum Beach, Surfside Drive, Leo Weiskettel |
| 17 March | | 65 | Englishman River, Plummer, Don Wilshire |

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------|---|
| 18 March | | 630 | Rathtrevor, Daryl Henderson |
| 18 March | | 100 | Qualicum Beach, foot of Seacrest, Greg Roberts |
| 20 March | | 112 | Parksville Community Park, Danielle Lacasse |
| 21 March | | 44 | Little Qualicum Estuary, Joe Cash |
| 26 March | | 500 | Columbia Beach, Mary Robichaud |
| 26 March | | 22 | Englishman River Estuary, Guy L Monty |
| 28 March | | 950 | Columbia Beach, William Gilmour |
| 28 March | | 670 | Columbia Beach, Mark Wynja, Cathy Carlson, Guy L. Monty |
| 28 March | | 100 | Rathtrevor, Michael Addy |
| 28 March | 1:00- 2:30 | 100++ | Dave Erickson, Tryon Ponds  |
| 31 March | | 400 | Rathtrevor, David Korver |
| 31 March | | 650 | Columbia Beach, Don Wilshere |

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|------------|---|
| 31 March | | 100 | Craig Creek Bay/Estuary, Gordon Curry |
| 31 March | | 20 | Qualicum Beach, foot of Seacrest, Mark Wynja, Guy L Monty |
| 2 April | 1:30 | ~100 | Foot of Yambury Rd, Dave Erickson |
| 3 April | | 60 | Qualicum Beach, Shady Rest, Gregg Kendall |
| 3 April | 12:05 | 337 | End of Yambury, Kerry Baker |
| 4 April | | 600 | Columbia Beach, Allen Jensen |
| 4 April | | 250 | Englishman River Estuary, Ethan & Evan Kludash |
| 6 April | | 7 | Qualicum Beach, foot of Seacrest, Susan Knoerr |
| 6 April | | 135 | Columbia Beach, Linda Horspool |
| 6 April | | 500 | Columbia Beach, Adam Ross |
| 6 April | | 140 | French Creek Mouth, Susan Beauchesne |
| 7 April | 4:21 | 218 | End of Yambury, Kerry Baker |
| 8 April | | 100 | Rathtrevor, Alex Grant |
| 8 April | 2:30 | ~400 | Rathtrevor, Yana Maltais |
| 8 April | | 500 | Parksville, Community Park, Joe Cash |
| 9 April | | 200 | Parksville Community Park, Karen Burns |
| 9 April | 12:30 | 568 | Rathtrevor, Kerry Baker |
| 10 April | | 43 | Columbia Beach, Dale Whitner |
| 10 April | | 1955 | Rathtrevor, Karen Burns |
| 10 April1 | | 500 | Parksville Bay, Gary Tufts |
| 11 April | | 89 | Englishman River Estuary, Linda Horspool, Susan Knoerr |
| 11 April | | 400 | Englishman River Estuary, Mark Wynja |
| 11 April | | 200 | Rathtrevor ,Lucie Desjardins |
| 12 April | | 75 | Tryon Blvd., Lucie Desjardins |
| 12 April | | 270 | Englishman River Estuary, Guy L Monty |
| 12 April | | 400 | Rathtrevor, Bill Denham |
| 12 April | | 1000 (est) | Tigh-na-mara, Natasha Beauregard |
| 13 April | | 700 | Craig Bay, David Helem |
| 15 April | | 100 | Rathtrevor, France Bernier |
| 15 April | | 200 | Craig Creek Bay/Estuary, Bill Denham |
| 16 April | | 200 | Parksville Bay, Grace Le |
| 16 April | | 530 | Rathtrevor, Daryl Henderson |
| 16 April | 12:50 | 80 | Parksville Beach, Liz Bredberg |
| 19 April | | 300 | Rathtrevor, Gregg Kendall |
| 30 April | | 37 | Englishman River Estuary, Joe Cash |
| 3 May | | 50 | Englishman River Estuary, Guy L Monty |
| 5 May | | 18 | Rathtrevor, Linda Horspool |
| 5 May | | 200 | Rathtrevor, Nicole Vella-Gildart |
| 7 May | | 9 | Little Qualicum Estuary, J. Smith |

| | | | |
|-------|--|---|--|
| 7 May | | 4 | Englishman River Estuary, J. Smith, Susan Knoerr |
|-------|--|---|--|

APPENDIX II

Daily counts at Tigh-na-Mara

| Date | Brant Count | Time | % beach showing |
|----------|-------------|------|-----------------|
| 01-26-26 | 50 | 1600 | 80 |
| 01-27-26 | no count | | |
| 01-28-26 | 50 | 1600 | 80 |
| 01-29-26 | no count | | |
| 01-30-26 | 30 | 1700 | 30 |
| 01-31-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-01-26 | no count | | |
| 02-02-26 | no count | | |
| 02-03-26 | 40 | 1300 | 30 |
| 02-04-26 | no count | | |
| 02-05-26 | no count | | |
| 02-06-26 | 40 | 1600 | 80 |
| 02-07-26 | 25 | 1500 | 60 |
| 02-08-26 | 30 | 1500 | 60 |
| 02-09-26 | 20 | 1600 | 80 |
| 02-10-26 | 5 | 1600 | 80 |
| 02-11-26 | 12 | 1500 | 80 |
| 02-12-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-13-26 | 20 | 1600 | 30 |
| 02-14-26 | 10 | 1600 | 30 |
| 02-15-26 | 7 | 1200 | 40 |
| 02-16-26 | 20 | 1100 | 30 |
| 02-17-26 | 50 | 1100 | 25 |
| 02-18-26 | 130 | 1130 | 40 |
| 02-19-26 | 120 | 1130 | 50 |
| 02-20-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-21-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-22-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-23-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-24-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-25-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-26-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-27-26 | 0 | | |
| 02-28-26 | 10 | 1600 | 60 |
| 03-01-26 | 100 | 1130 | 50 |
| 03-02-26 | 70 | 900 | 20 |
| 03-03-26 | 40 | 1330 | 50 |
| 03-04-26 | 160 | 1600 | 30 |
| 03-05-26 | 150 | 1100 | 50 |

| | | | |
|----------|----------|------|----|
| 03-06-26 | no count | | |
| 03-07-26 | 50 | 1700 | |
| 03-08-26 | 550 | 530 | 90 |
| 03-09-26 | 750 | 1130 | 40 |
| 03-10-26 | 600 | 1200 | 40 |
| 03-11-26 | 500 | 1200 | 25 |
| 03-12-26 | 600 | 1430 | 40 |
| 03-13-26 | 70 | 1500 | 50 |
| 03-14-26 | 600 | 1300 | 25 |
| 03-15-26 | no count | | |
| 03-16-26 | 300 | 1000 | 40 |
| 03-17-26 | 150 | 1300 | 60 |
| 03-18-26 | 100 | 1200 | 50 |
| 03-19-26 | 110 | 1200 | 50 |
| 03-20-26 | 20 | 1500 | |
| 03-21-26 | 0 | | |
| 03-22-26 | 0 | | |
| 03-23-26 | 20 | 1000 | 25 |
| 03-24-26 | 70 | 1400 | 70 |
| 03-25-26 | 0 | | |
| 03-26-26 | 0 | | |
| 03-27-26 | 0 | | |
| 03-28-26 | 40 | 1600 | 40 |
| 03-29-26 | 420 | 1800 | 20 |
| 03-30-26 | 600 | 1030 | 60 |
| 03-31-26 | 200 | 1200 | 60 |
| 04-01-26 | 600 | 1000 | 50 |
| 04-02-26 | 350 | 1200 | 80 |
| 04-03-26 | 60 | 1700 | 80 |
| 04-04-26 | 200 | 1200 | 90 |
| 04-05-26 | 600 | 1500 | 80 |
| 04-06-26 | 300 | 1400 | 90 |
| 04-07-26 | 800 | 1500 | 90 |
| 04-08-26 | 900 | 1200 | 50 |
| 04-09-26 | 300 | 1100 | 30 |
| 04-10-26 | 500 | 1500 | 60 |
| 04-11-26 | 600 | 1200 | 40 |
| 04-12-26 | 600 | 1200 | 30 |
| 04-13-26 | 600 | 1200 | 50 |
| 04-14-26 | 700 | 1400 | 30 |
| 04-15-26 | 70 | 900 | 20 |
| 04-16-26 | no count | | |
| 04-17-26 | 160 | 1500 | 60 |
| 04-18-26 | 300 | 1300 | 80 |
| 04-19-26 | 300 | 1100 | 70 |
| 04-20-26 | 500 | 1730 | 80 |
| 04-21-26 | 200 | 1200 | 50 |
| 04-22-26 | 300 | 1500 | 80 |
| 04-23-26 | 30 | 1700 | 80 |
| 04-24-26 | 5 | | |

| | | | |
|----------|----|------|----|
| 04-25-26 | 0 | | |
| 04-26-26 | 40 | 1900 | 70 |

Thanks from the Arrowsmith Naturalists to all volunteer observers and incidental contributors.

Elizabeth Bredberg, PhD, ebredberg33@gmail.com

Count organiser and compiler, 2026

Arrowsmith Naturalists arrowsmithnaturalists@gmail.com