



Explanation of Symbols:

seasonal occurrence

Sp = spring March through May
S - summer June through August
F = fall September through November
W = winter December through February

relative abundance

a = abundant almost always seen
c = common found on most visits
f = fairly common found on some visits
u = uncommon seldom seen
r = rare hardly ever found
ca = casual not seen every year
ac = accidental 1 or 2 records

other symbols

[I] = introduced species
***** = species has been documented breeding in the checklist area
+ = seen offshore

George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Westham Island, Delta

The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, a part of the Alaksen National Wildlife Area, is located on Westham Island in Delta. It is situated on the Fraser River Estuary, just west of the South Arm Marshes Wildlife Management Area. The Sanctuary contains habitats important for migrating birds, including tidal salt water mudflats, fresh water, brackish and salt marshes, and upland fields. These habitats attract a wide range of bird species, including many rare and vagrant species. The Sanctuary is identified and signed as one of many wildlife viewing sites of British Columbia Wildlife Watch.

British Columbia Waterfowl Society:

The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary is operated and maintained by the British Columbia Waterfowl Society; a non-government, self-supporting, non-profit organization. Membership in the Society supports the ongoing efforts to preserve and manage this important area. For more information about the Sanctuary, the Society, or the annual Snow Goose Festival held in November contact the British Columbia Waterfowl Society [(604) 946-6980; 5191 Robertson Road, Delta, B.C. V4K 3N2].

Area Covered:

This checklist has been prepared for use at the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. However, it also reflects viewing opportunities throughout the rest of the Alaksen National Wildlife Area and on Westham Island.

		Sp	S	F	W
RTLO	Red-throated Loon +	f	r	u	f
PALO	Pacific Loon +	c	r	u	u
COLO	Common Loon +	f	u	f	f
PBGR	* Pied-billed Grebe	f	f	f	f
HGR	Horned Grebe +	c	r	f	f
RNGR	Red-necked Grebe +	r	r	r	r
EAGR	Eared Grebe	r	r		
WGR	* Western Grebe +	f	f	c	f
DCCO	Double-crested Cormorant	c	f	c	c
BRCO	Brandt's Cormorant +	ca	ca	ca	ca
PECO	Pelagic Cormorant +	r	r	r	r
AMBI	* American Bittern	f	f	f	f
GBHE	Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c
GREG	Great. Egret	r	r	r	r
CAEG	Cattle Egret	ca		u	r
GRHE	Green Heron	r	r	f	
BCNH	Black-crowned Night-Heron	f	r	f	f
TUSW	Tundra Swan	u	r	f	f
TRUS	Trumpeter Swan	c	r	f	c
MUSW	Mute Swan [I]	r	r	r	r
GWFG	Greater White-fronted Goose	u	r	f	u
SNGO	Snow Goose	a	ca	a	a
ROGO	Ross' Goose	ca		ca	ca
EMGO	Emperor Goose	ac		ca	ca
BRAN	Brant	u		r	r
CAGO	* Canada Goose	a	a	a	a
WODU	* Wood Duck	f	f	f	f
GWTE	Green-winged Teal	a	f	a	a
MALL	* Mallard	a	a	a	a

		Sp	S	F	W
ABDU	* American Slack Duck [I]	ca	ca	ca	ca
NOPI	* Northern Pintail	a	f	a	a
BWTE	* Blue-winged Teal	f	f	f	r
CITE	* Cinnamon Teal	f	c	c	u
NOSL	* Northern Shoveler	a	f	a	a
GADW	* Gadwall	a	a	a	c
EUWI	Eurasian Wigeon	f	r	f	f
AMWI	* American Wigeon	a	f	a	a
CANV	Canvasback	c	r	f	f
REDH	Redhead	r	r	r	r
RNDU	Ring-necked Duck	r	u	r	r
TUDU	Tufted Duck	ca		ca	ca
GRSC	Greater Scaup	f	r	u	u
LESC	Lesser Scaup	c	r	c	c
OLDS	Oldsquaw +	u	r	u	u
BLSC	Black Scoter +	r	r	r	r
SUSC	Surf Scoter +	u	r	f	f
WWSG	White-winged Scoter +	f	r	u	u
COGO	Common Goldeneye	u	r	u	u
BUFF	Bufflehead	c	r	c	c
SMEW	Smew	ac			r
HOME	Hooded Merganser	f	u	f	f
COME	Common Merganser	c	u	c	c
RBME	Red-breasted Merganser +	f	ca	f	f
RUDU	Ruddy Duck	u	r	u	u
TUVU	Turkey Vulture	u	f	u	ca
OSPR	Osprey	u	u	f	r
BSKI	Black-shouldered Kite	ac	ac		
BAEA	* Bald Eagle	c	f	c	c
NOW	* Northern Harrier	c	c	c	c
SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk	f	u	f	f
COHA	* Cooper's Hawk	f	f	f	f
NOGO	Northern Goshawk	u		u	u
RTHA	* Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
RLHA	Rough-legged Hawk	f	ca	f	f
GOEA	Golden Eagle	u	r	r	r
AMKE	American Kestrel	u	r	u	u
MERL	Merlin	f	u	f	f
PEFA	Peregrine Falcon	f	r	f	f
GYRF	Gyrfalcon	r		r	r
PRFA	Prairie Falcon	ca		ca	ca
RNPH	* Ring-necked Pheasant [I]	c	c	c	c
CAQU	* California Quail [I]	ca	ca	ca	ca
VIRA	* Virginia Rail	f	f	f	f
SORA	* Sora	u	f	u	
AMCO	American Coot	a	u	a	a
SACR	Sandhill Crane	r		r	r
BBPL	Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	c
AGPL	American Golden Plover	u	r	f	r
SEPL	Sernipalmated Plover	f	r	f	r

		Sp	S	F	W
KILL	* Killdeer	c	c	c	f
BLOY	Black Oystercatcher +	r	r	r	r
BNST	Black-necked Stilt	u	u	r	r
AMAV	American Avocet	ca	r	ca	
GRYE	Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	u
LEYE	Lesser Yellowlegs	f	u	c	r
.SPRE	Spotted Redshank	ca		ca	
SOSA	Solitary Sandpiper	u	r	f	
SPSA	* Spotted Sandpiper	f	f	f	u
UPSA	Upland Sandpiper			ca	
WHIM	Whimbrel	u	r	u	ca
LBCU	Long-billed Curlew	r	r	r	r
HUGO	Hudsonian Godwit	ca	ca	u	
BTGO	Bar-tailed Godwit				ac
MAGO	Marbled-Godwit	ca	ca	r	
RUTU	Ruddy Turnstone	r	r		
BLTU	Black Turnstone	r	r		
REKN	Red Knot	r	ca	r	
SAND	Sanderling	r	r	r	r
SESA	Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	f	f	
WESA	Western Sandpiper	c	c	f	r
TEST	Temminck's Stint				ac
LESA	Least Sandpiper	c	c	f	ca
BASA	Baird's Sandpiper	r	f	f	
PESA	Pectoral Sandpiper	u	f	f	
SHSA	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			u	
DUNL	Dunlin	a	u	c	c
STSA	Stilt Sandpiper	ca	ca	r	
BBSA	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r	r	r	
RUFF	Ruff	ca	ca	r	
SBDO	Short-billed Dowitcher	f	u	c	
LBDO	Long-billed Dowitcher	a	u	a	u
COSN	* Common Snipe	f	u	f	f
WIPH	Wilson's Phalarope	u	u	u	
RNPL	Red-necked Phalarope	r	ca	u	
REPH	Red Phalarope		ac		
PAJA	Parasitic Jaeger +	ca		r	
FRGU	Franklin's Gull	r	r	u	
BOGU	Bonaparte's Gull	f	u	u	r
MEGU	Mew Gull	c	u	f	c
RBGU	Ring-billed Gull	f	c	f	u
CAGU	California Gull	u	u	r	r
HEGU	Herring Gull	u	ca	u	u
THGU	Thayer's Gull	u	ca	u	u
WEGU	Western Gull				ca
GWGU	Glaucous-winged Gull	c	c	c	c
GLGU	Glaucous Gull	r		ca	r
CATE	Caspian Tern	u	f	f	
COTE	Common Tern +	u	r	u	
BLTE	Black Tern	r		u	
MAMU	Marbled Murrelet +	r	r	r	r



British Columbia Wildlife Watch is the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks' program designed to promote viewing opportunities within British Columbia. The protection of wildlife and their habitat, and a positive, safe experience for the viewer are the primary objectives of this program. Many local communities, other agencies and public conservation groups are involved. For more information on this or other wildlife viewing sites, contact the Regional BC Environment office in Surrey [(604) 582-5200 or 1-800-665-7027; #300-10334-152A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 7P8].

Sanctuary Access:

The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary is located on Westham Island about 8 km west of Ladner (Delta). From the junction of Highways 10 and 17, follow Highway 10 (Ladner Trunk Road). west. Continue on this road as it becomes 47A Avenue and then River Road. Watch for the Sanctuary sign at Westham Island Road and turn right, crossing the Canoe Pass bridge. Follow this road to the Sanctuary entrance.

Visitor Hours:

- The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. There is an admission charge to the Sanctuary for non-members.
- The balance of the Alaksen National Wildlife Area is open to visitors during business hours Monday to Friday (except holidays). Please check in and out at the Canadian Wildlife Service office.
- While much of Westham Island is accessible by roads and dykes, please respect private property.

This revised checklist has been compiled from known records by Don Pettigrew and John Ireland. If you have sighting information, or any comments regarding the species listed, the frequency of occurrence, or the seasons indicated please forward your comments to the British Columbia Waterfowl Society.

This checklist is a joint publication of British Columbia Wildlife Watch and the British Columbia Waterfowl Society.



Environment Canada
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Service canadien de la faune

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		Sp	S	F	W			Sp	S	F	W
RODO	* Rock Dove [I]	a	c	a	a	CORA	Common Raven	u	r	u	u
BTPI	Band-tailed Pigeon	u	u	u	r	BCCH	* Slack-capped Chickadee	a	c	a	a
MODO	* Mourning Dove	u	f	u	r	MOCH	Mountain Chickadee	r		u	u
BNOW	Barn Owl	f	f	f	f	CBCH	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	r	r	r	r
WSOW	Western Screech-Owl				ca	BUSH	* Bushtit	c	c	c	c
GHOW	* Great Horned Owl	f	f	f	f	RBNU	* Red-breasted Nuthatch	c	f	c	c
SNOW	Snowy Owl	u		u	u	BRCR	* Brown Creeper	c	f	c	c
BAOW	Barred Owl	r		r	r	BEWR	* Bewick's Wren	c	c	c	c
LEOW	* Long-eared Owl	u	r	u	u	HOWR	House Wren	r	r	u	ac
SEOW	* Short-eared Owl	f	r	f	f	WIWR	Winter Wren	f	u	f	f
NSWO	Northern Saw-whet Owl	f	r	f	c	MAWR	* Marsh Wren	c	c	c	f
CONI	Common Nighthawk	r	f	u		GCKI	* Golden-crowned Kinglet	c	u	c	f
BLSW	Black Swift	u	f	u		RCKf	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	f	ca	f	u
VASW	Vaux's Swift	u	f	u		MOBL	Mountain Bluebird	r	r		
ANHU	Anna's Hummingbird	ac				TOSO	Townsend's Solitaire	r	r		
CAHU	Calliope Hummingbird	ac				VEER	Veery	ac			
RUHU	* Rufous Hummingbird	c	c	f		SWTH	* Swainson's Thrush	f	f	u	
BEKI	Belted Kingfisher	f	f	f	u	HETH	Hermit Thrush	f	r	f	r
LEWD	Lewis' Woodpecker	ca		ca		AMRO	* American Robin	a	a	a	c
RNSA	Red-naped Sapsucker			ac		VATH	Varied Thrush	f	r	u	f
RBSA	Red-breasted Sapsucker	u		r	f	NOMO	Northern Mockingbird	ca	ca		
DOWO	* Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	AMPI	American Pipit	f	r	f	u
HAWO	Hairy Woodpecker	r	r	r	r	BOWA	Bohemian Waxwing	u		u	f
TTWO	Three-toed Woodpecker				ac	CEWA	* Cedar Waxwing	f	c	f	u
NOFL	Northern Flicker	c	u	c	c	NOSH	Northern Shrike	f		f	f
PIWO	Pileated Woodpecker	r	r	r	r	EUST	* European Starling [I]	c	c	c	a
OSFL	Olive-sided Flycatcher	f	u	r		CRMY	Crested Myna [I]	ac	ac	ac	ac
WWPE	Western Wood-Pewee	f	f	f		SOVI	Solitary Vireo	u	u	u	
WIFL	* Willow Flycatcher	f	f	u		HUVI	Hutton's Vireo	r	u	u	ca
HAFL	Hammond's Flycatcher	u	u	u		WAVI	Warbling Vireo	f	f	f	
PSFL	* Pacific-slope Flycatcher	f	f	u		PHVI	Philadelphia Vireo			ac	
EAPH	Eastern Phoebe	ac				REVI	Red-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	
SAPH	Say's Phoebe	ca	r	ca		OCWA	Orange-crowned Warbler	c	u	f	r
WEKI	Western Kingbird	r	u	r		NAWA	Nashville Warbler	u	r	u	ac
EAKI	Eastern Kingbird	r	u	r		YEWA	* Yellow Warbler	c	f	f	
HOLA	Horned Lark	r		r		CSWA	Chestnut-sided Warbler		ac		
PUMA	Purple Martin	ca				YRWA	* Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	f	c	u
TRSW	* Tree Swallow	c	c	c		BTGW	Black-throated Gray Warbler	u	u	u	
VGSW	Violet-green Swallow	c	f	f		TOWA	Townsend's Warbler	f	r	u	ca
NRWS	* Northern Rough-winged Swallow	f	f	f		HEWA	Hermit Warbler	ac			
BKSW	Bank Swallow	r	ca	u		BTGW	Black-throated Green Warbler	ac			
CLSW	* Cliff Swallow	c	c	c	ca	PAWA	Palm Warbler	r	r	ca	ac
BASW	* Barn Swallow	a	a	c	r	BAWW	Black-and-White Warbler		ca	ca	
STJA	Steller's Jay	u	u	u	u	AMRE	American Redstart	r	r	ca	
BLJA	Blue Jay				ca						
BBMA	Black-billed Magpie		ac	ca							
NOCR	* Northwestern Crow	c	c	c	c						

NOWA	Northern Waterthrush	ca	r	r	ac
MGWA	MacGillivray's Warbler	u	r	r	
COYE	* Common Yellowthroat	f	f	f	ca
WIWA	Wilson's Warbler	c	f	c	
WETA	* Western Tanager	f	f	f	
BHGR	* Black-headed Grosbeak	f	f	f	
RSTO	* Rufous-sided Towhee	c	f	c	c
ATSP	American Tree Sparrow	u		u	u
CHSP	Chipping Sparrow	u	r	u	
CCSP	Clay-colored Sparrow	ac		ac	
VESP	Vesper Sparrow	ac		ac	
SAVS	* Savannah Sparrow	c	c	f	u
FOSP	Fox Sparrow	c	r	f	c
SOSP	* Song Sparrow	a	c	a	a
LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow	u	ca	f	u
SWSP	Swamp Sparrow	u	r	u	u
WTSP	White-throated Sparrow	a		u	r
GCSP	Golden-crowned Sparrow	c	ca	c	c
WCSP	White-crowned Sparrow	c	u	c	c
HASP	Harris' Sparrow	r		r	r
DEJU	Dark-eyed Junco	c	u	c	c
LALO	Lapland Longspur	a		u	u
SNBU	Snow Bunting	u		u	u
BOBO	Bobolink	ca			
RWBL	* Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	a	c
WEME	Western Meadowlark	u		r	u
YHBL	Yellow-headed Blackbird	u	u	u	r
RUBL	Rusty Blackbird	ac		ca	ca
BRBL	* Brewer's Blackbird	c	c	f	f
COGR	Common Grackle		ac		
BHCO	* Brown-headed Cowbird	f	c	f	r
NOOR	* Northern Oriole	u	f	r	
BRAM	Brambling	ac		ca	ac
PIGR	Pine Grosbeak	ca		ca	ca
PUFI	Purple Finch	c	u	f	f
HOFI	* House Finch	c	c	f	f
RECR	Red Crossbill	u	u	u	u
CORE	Common Redpoll	f		r	r
PISI	Pine Siskin	f	u	f	f
AMGO	* American Goldfinch	f	c	f	u
EVGR	Evening Grosbeak	u	u	u	u
HOSP	* House Sparrow [I]	f	f	f	f

Total Species: 263

Other Wildlife:

American beaver can sometimes be observed in the marsh areas during the early morning or evening hours. Muskrats, mink and raccoons are viewed occasionally. Coyotes are sometimes seen on Westham Island. Harbour seals are visible year-round in the waters around Westham Island. Painted turtles are visible during the summer.