

# An Annotated List of the Birds found around Boundary Bay and in the Boundary Bay watershed.

Version 2. June 2010

This list has been compiled by Anne Murray, for the area covered by the map in *A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay*, using the sources referenced below and personal observations.

Additions and corrections are encouraged. Please email me at sanderling AT uniserve DOT com

Abundance rankings follow those used in the Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS) checklist: common, fairly common, uncommon, rare (1 to 10 records per year), casual (2 to 20 records in total, not seen every year, somewhat outside usual range), accidental (only one record, far outside usual range). Abundance depends on habitat suitability, food availability, weather, etc. and often changes from year to year.

Population figures are from Butler and Campbell 1987, Campbell et al. 1990, Butler 2002, and VNHS bird hotline and rare bird data. Other individuals and sources consulted include the VNHS (Aitchison 2001, Elliott & Gardner 1997), B.C. Birds Summary, Alan Contreras (Contreras 1994), Fred Cooke (Cooke 1996), Dave Dunbar (VNHS Raptor surveys), Ann Eissinger (Eissinger 1994), David Hancock (Hancock 2004), John Ireland (Reifel Bird Sanctuary), Jo Ann Mackenzie, North Cascades Audubon Society, Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV 2005), Dennis Paulson (Paulson 1998), Mike Price (Price 1990), and records from Tom Bearss, Peter Davidson, Sofi Hindmarsh, Allen Poynter (Boundary Bay area), Richard Swanston, Brian Self (Point Roberts), Mary Taitt (Boundary Bay Regional Park), Terry Wahl (Whatcom County), Wayne Weber (Boundary Bay area).

## **Red-throated Loon**

*Gavia stellata*

Spring (March to late April-early May) and fall migrant (October), fairly common in winter, especially at mouth of Fraser River; casual summer.

## **Pacific Loon**

*Gavia pacifica*

Common spring (Feb to May) and fall migrant (October) with a few spending the winter.

## **Common Loon**

*Gavia immer*

Common migrant and winter visitor, a few non-breeders stay through the summer.

## **Yellow-billed Loon**

*Gavia adamsii*

Uncommon in winter (October to May), casual in summer; salt waters e.g. Blaine, Point Roberts.

## **Pied-billed Grebe**

*Podilymbus podiceps*

Uncommon local resident in watershed. Nests reported from e.g. Alaksen, Green Timbers, Brydon Lagoon, freshwater in Whatcom County.

## **Horned Grebe**

*Podiceps auritus*

Common winter visitor, mid-September through April.

## **Red-necked Grebe**

*Podiceps grisegena*

Common spring (April) and fall (Aug/Sept/Oct) migrant and winter visitor.

<b>Eared Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Rare to uncommon migrant and winter visitor, September to May. Best found at White Rock pier or Drayton Harbor. Very rare summer, e.g. one at Iona June 2010.	
<b>Western Grebe</b>	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>
Year round; molting flocks in late summer/fall, some birds spend winter.	
<b>Clark's Grebe</b>	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>
Casual, e.g. one with Western Grebe at Westham Island bridge in winter 2007/08.	
<b>Northern Fulmar</b>	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>
Accidental. The remains of one were found under a hydro line in Surrey in November 1995.	
<b>Sooty Shearwater</b>	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>
Accidental; fall, Point Roberts.	
<b>Short-tailed Shearwater</b>	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>
Accidental in Strait of Georgia, off Point Roberts.	
<b>Fork-tailed Storm Petrel</b>	<i>Oceanodroma furcata</i>
Accidental, fall, winter at Point Roberts, Surrey.	
<b>American White Pelican</b>	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
Rare visitor, late spring and fall.	
<b>Brown Pelican</b>	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
Casual in spring and fall. 2 possibly 3 in June 2006.	
<b>Brandt's Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>
Uncommon winter visitor, September to April. Point Roberts mainly.	
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
Common year round with smaller numbers in summer, including breeding birds.	
<b>Pelagic Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>
Fairly common year round in marine environments, especially in winter (late Oct to late May). Very common breeding bird under bridges in Vancouver.	
<b>American Bittern</b>	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
Uncommon breeding resident, less common than formerly.	
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>	<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>
Northwest coast subspecies. Common year round resident in several colonies. Largest colony is on English Bluff, Tsawwassen First Nation land at landward end of Tsawwassen ferry causeway. Estimated 300 - 400 pairs.	
<b>Great Egret</b>	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Casual visitor, but increasing numbers; generally June to Sept.	
<b>Snowy Egret</b>	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Accidental, during post-breeding dispersal.	

**Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

Rare visitor spring, late fall, winter. First reported 1970 in B.C. now almost annual.

**Green Heron (Green-backed Heron)***Butorides striatus*

Uncommon year round, with small local population and additional post-breeding dispersal of juveniles occurring in July and August, until end of September. May have declined around Boundary Bay in last decade.

**Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

Very rare winter. Only regular site in B.C./Canada in winter is Fuller's Slough at Reifel Bird Sanctuary. Arrives late August, departs mid April (17th - 21st). Breeding record: one nest found at Alaksen in 1978.

**Turkey Vulture***Cathartes aura*

Uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor. Migrates through May and September/October. This species may be increasing in numbers and becoming more common in the area.

**Greater White-fronted Goose***Anser albifrons*

Rare winter visitor, and uncommon spring and fall migrant. Migrates through area last two weeks of April/early May and September/October. May be increasing in numbers. Historically (1800s - early 1900s) was much more abundant in Fraser River estuary (B. Leach).

**Emperor Goose***Chen canagica*

Casual visitor, e.g one at Crescent Beach, spring 1968, Reifel, one stayed all winter 1977/78. One at Beach Grove, December 94, the first in B.C. since 1978.

**Snow Goose***Chen caerulescens*

Subspecies: **Lesser Snow Goose.**

Common, abundant spring, fall migrant and wintering population. Nests at Wrangel Island Russia. Some birds migrate on to California, others winter on Fraser - Skagit estuaries. Fraser - Skagit winter population 2008-09 were 55,000 - 60,000 birds (poor breeding year, fewer than 1% young); total snow goose numbers in November 2009 were 100,000 (50% young) (Sean Boyd, Environment Canada).

**Ross' Goose***Chen rossii*

Casual fall and spring visitor, one or two in Jan/Feb.

**Canada Goose***Branta canadensis moffitti*

Very common resident; also migratory sub-species and stocks that are less common to rare, e.g. **Cackling Goose**, *B.c minima*, **Vancouver Canada Goose** *B.c. fulva*, **Taverner's Canada Goose**, *B.c.taverneri*, and **Dusky Canada Goose** *B.c. occidentalis*. Flocks of geese move onto stubble and pea fields during September. Before the 1960s, only migratory Canada geese visited the area; subsequently resident birds were introduced and have since become very abundant.

**Brant Branta (Black brant)***Bernicla nigricans*

Spring migrant (March, April), a few on fall passage. Small wintering population in Boundary Bay, Roberts Bank and Drayton Harbor, about 2000 in winter, 2002. About 1500 winter in Boundary Bay (R. Swanston, 2009).

**Gray-bellied Brant**, a Western High Arctic race, similar to Atlantic brant, *B.b. hrota*, with a total population of about 8,000 birds, also winter in Boundary Bay and the Skagit (Padilla and Samish bays).

**Mute Swan***Cygnus olor*

Resident, breeder. An introduced species, occurring in increasing numbers. Common on Canoe Pass and Fraser River near Westham Island, Ladner, Steveston.

**Trumpeter Swan***Cygnus buccinator*

Winter visitor, expanding numbers and range in Pacific Northwest. Now commoner than Tundra Swan in area. At least 4% of Pacific Coast population use Fraser delta. Aerial surveys in winter of the marshes found 620 Trumpeters in 2006-07, and 497 in 2007-08, with about 400 wintering in western delta fields in 2008-09) (A. Breault and S. Boyd, Environment Canada).

**Tundra Swan***Cygnus columbianus*

Winter visitor, in small numbers.

**Wood Duck***Aix sponsa*

Fairly common summer, breeding visitor. A few stay for the winter. Common at Reifel Sanctuary and on Green Slough, Ladner.

**Gadwall***Anas strepera*

Common year round. Breeds.

**Eurasian Wigeon***Anas penelope*

Uncommon winter visitor, end of October to March, becoming increasingly common in the last decade. Most flocks of American Wigeon have at least one or two Eurasian Wigeon in among them.

**American Wigeon***Anas americana*

Abundant winter visitor, spring and fall migrant. Probably breeds in small numbers.

**American Black Duck***Anas rubripes*

This species was introduced to the region but failed to establish; it is now considered extirpated. However, individual birds, of questionable origin, turn up occasionally, e.g. Tsawwassen jetty fall 2001.

**Mallard***Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident, migrant and winter visitor. Largest numbers (50,000) September to March, influx October, peaking November to December.

**Blue-winged Teal***Anas discors*

Summer visitor, with a very few staying to winter. Small breeding population e.g. Serpentine Fen, Burns Bog ponds. Arrive mid-April - late April, departs September.

**Cinnamon Teal***Anas cyanoptera*

Summer visitor, small numbers winter. Small breeding population e.g. Serpentine Fen, prob. Burns Bog ponds. Arrives mid-March to mid-April, departs September.

**Northern Shoveler***Anas clypeata*

Common spring and fall migrant, less common winter visitor, a few may breed.

**Northern Pintail***Anas acuta*

Common spring and fall migrant and winter visitor (Sept. - April), a few may breed. Migration peaks mid/late March and Aug-Oct. Fraser Estuary wintering birds (about 35,000) are about 1% of world population.

**Baikal Teal***Anas formosa*

Accidental. The only record for British Columbia was a drake shot on 20 November 1957 in Ladner.

**Green-winged Teal***Anas crecca*

Common winter, spring and fall, some may breed. About 6% of 280,000 Pacific Flyway population is found in south coastal B.C. September to April, peaking in November. May breed in ponds in Burns Bog and Serpentine

Fen. Old world race **Common Teal (Eurasian Teal)** *A.c. crecca* is a rare winter visitor, e.g. Elgin 2004, Beach Grove 2008, 2009 but may be becoming more regular.

**Canvasback**

*Aythya valisineria*

Uncommon, mostly winter visitor. One of the least common wintering ducks seen on Boundary Bay. Fraser delta is centre of winter abundance along coast but historically it was much more abundant. Maximum Christmas Bird Count number was 753 at Ladner in 1975.

**Redhead**

*Aythya americana*

Rare visitor. Has spent winter at Reifel Bird Sanctuary, e.g. 1993/94, and three birds at Westham Island on 17 July 1974 were an unusual summer record.

**Ring-necked Duck**

*Aythya collaris*

Uncommon year round. A few breed in ponds in Burns Bog - the only location nests have been found in Vancouver Checklist area. Iona ponds in winter and spring.

**Tufted Duck**

*Aythya fuligula*

Rare fall to spring visitor, accidental summer. First recorded in Boundary Bay area in 1961, with increasing but very small number of observations since then.

**Greater Scaup**

*Aythya marila*

Common spring and fall migrant and winter visitor. Uncommon summer. Peak periods, April and October to December (30,000 birds). Most abundant diving duck off Boundary Bay (57% of sightings according to Butler and Campbell 1987). Many dead birds found in Beached Bird Surveys, eaten or scavenged by peregrines, eagles, etc.

**Lesser Scaup**

*Aythya affinis*

Spring and fall migrant and winter visitor; uncommon summer. Peak periods, March/April and late October to early December. Less than 4,000 birds winter.

**King Eider**

*Somateria spectabilis*

Accidental at Point Roberts (date not known).

**Harlequin Duck**

*Histrionicus histrionicus*

Present year round, but does not breed in area. Large numbers in fall and winter, fewest in May and June. Rafts of males in summer (July, August) joined by females and juveniles in fall.

**Surf Scoter**

*Melanitta perspicillata*

Common year round non-breeder. Large numbers in winter; migrants pass through in April and May.

**White-winged Scoter**

*Melanitta fusca*

Common year round, non-breeder. Peak numbers on east side of bay during December and May.

**Black Scoter**

*Melanitta nigra*

Regular fall and winter visitor, Aug. to April with a peak in Nov.-Dec. Historically common, as illustrated by the number of bones found in local middens, but now the least abundant of the three scoter species in area.

**Long-tailed Duck**

*Clangula hyemalis*

(Formerly Oldsquaw)

Winter visitor, with a few in summer. Occurs October to April, with peaks Dec./Jan.

- Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*  
Fairly common, spring, fall and winter visitor, October to May, peaking Dec. and March on east side of bay. Peak arrival for Bufflehead migration (All Bufflehead's Day) is October 15 (K. Finley).
- Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*  
Fairly common, spring, fall and winter visitor, November to May.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica*  
Fairly common, winter visitor, November to April, averaging 25 birds at Kwomais Point area. Locally common, e.g. regular at Blaine, Semiahmoo.
- Smew** *Mergellus albellus*  
Accidental from Asia or possibly escaped captive birds; only three records in area.
- Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus*  
Fairly common, mostly winter visitor and spring/fall migrant. Nest records for Reifel, Blaine-Semiahmoo area.
- Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*  
Fairly common winter visitor. October to May, peak Nov/Dec on east side of bay. Gather in April at mouth of Fraser River to feed on eulachon.
- Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*  
Common, especially in winter, fall and spring.
- Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*  
Uncommon winter visitor, September to March. Peaks Dec./Jan. on east side of bay. Uncommon in breeding season, e.g. May 93, one at Reifel. Winter numbers highest e.g. Kwomais Point, White Rock (recorded on CBCs e.g. 477 in 1991, 175 in 1990), Point Roberts. Occasional at ponds near Boundary Bay.
- Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
Uncommon, mostly between April and early September. Nest records for Deltaport on Roberts Bank and Iona Reg. Park.
- White-tailed Kite (Black-shouldered Kite)** *Elanus leucurus*  
Accidental. first record for Canada, April - May, June 1990, Reifel and Delta, also April 1994, Ladner and April 1995, Reifel.
- Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*  
Common. Resident breeder, with additional winter visitors, peaking in January/February. David Hancock's 2004 survey found over 75 nests between the Fraser River and the International Border. Several nests also occur around Drayton Harbor and on Point Roberts. Winter congregations at Boundary Bay, Burns Bog (Sherwood Forest) and along Fraser River.
- Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*  
Common resident and winter visitor. 26% of all harrier sightings (780 birds) during the 10 year Vancouver Natural History Society raptor survey prior to 1989 were in Boundary Bay.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*  
Year round but more in winter than summer. Breeds.
- Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*  
Fairly common year round but more in winter than in summer. Breeds.

- Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*  
Uncommon winter, rare summer.
- Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo playtypterus*  
Accidental. An adult recorded near Watershed Park on the Surrey/Delta border, October 2002 (Rick Toochin).
- Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*  
Accidental; e.g. Point Roberts
- Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*  
Common breeding resident, with additional winter visitors.
- Rough-legged Hawk** *Buteo lagopus*  
Winter visitor, mostly December to March, occasional in fall (e.g. September, October). Numbers fluctuate from year to year.
- Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*  
Rare visitor. Most in early spring. (Caution: Out of town birders sometimes mistake all dark, immature Bald Eagles for Golden Eagles).
- American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*  
Peak numbers in winter and for a few days on spring/fall passage. Uncommon at other times.
- Merlin** *Falco columbarius*  
Fairly common winter visitor and uncommon breeding bird, e.g. Tsawwassen 2008, 2009, 2010. Boundary Bay is the most important wintering habitat in Fraser Valley.
- Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*  
Winter visitor, and spring and fall migrant. More common than formerly. Different subspecies visit the area. Read *Bolt from the Blue* by Dick Dekker, published by Hancock House.
- Gyrfalcon** *Falco rusticolus*  
Rare winter visitor, especially to Boundary Bay foreshore, e.g. 2007, 2008, 2009. Some birds may be falconers' escaped birds. Often seen perched on pylon in Delta farmland.
- Prairie Falcon** *Falco mexicanus*  
Rare winter visitor. One seen most years 1988 onwards, in Roberts Bank, Brunswick Point, Boundary Bay dyke area.
- Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*  
Introduced resident game bird, once very common, now quite scarce.
- Ruffed Grouse** *Bonasa umbellus*  
Very uncommon resident in upland woodlands, in less disturbed parts of watershed. This species has declined dramatically over the last hundred years in the Boundary Bay area.
- Rock Ptarmigan** *Lagopus mutus*  
Accidental to White Rock Jan. 1976.
- Virginia Rail** *Rallus limicola*  
Common. Year round breeding resident, more often heard than seen.

**Sora***Porzana carolina*

Uncommon. Summer visitor. Breeding records for e.g. Burns Bog, Elgin Park, Roberts Bank, Ladner Harbour Park.

**American Coot***Fulica americana*

Common winter visitor, some year round and breeding records.

**Greater Sandhill Crane***Grus canadensis tabida*

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. Occasional winter. Cranes have historically nested in Burns Bog. Semi-tame birds occur at Reifel Bird Sanctuary, which also call in migrants, making this the best area to observe cranes in the Lower Mainland. Important breeding areas at Burns Bog, Richmond, Reifel and Pitt Lake are the only locations for what many believe is a distinct race/subspecies of *Grus canadensis*. Occasional **Lesser Sandhill Crane** *G. c. canadensis* also occur on migration.

**Black-bellied Plover***Pluvialis squatarola*

Abundant fall and spring migration, common in winter. Spring arrivals early March onwards, fall passage September, early October. 3% of North America's population present in Fraser River Estuary on a single day in spring. Largest Canadian population in winter. Recent numbers: 8,000 in April 2000 at Blackie Spit. (CWS).

**American Golden Plover***Pluvialis dominica*

(formerly Lesser Golden Plover, with Pacific Golden Plover)

Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Peaks, late April, May and early Aug to early Nov.

**Pacific Golden Plover***Pluvialis fulva*

Rare spring and fall migrant.

**Snowy Plover***Charadrius alexandrinus*

Casual summer, e.g. individuals June 1991, 112 St., June 1996, Mud Bay, April 2003, Roberts Bank.

**Semipalmated Plover***Charadrius semipalmatus*

Migrant, fairly common spring, common late summer, peaks late July to early August. Drayton Harbor mud flats are a good location for this species.

**Killdeer***Charadrius vociferus*

Resident and migrant (esp. fall). Fairly common breeder.

**Lesser Sand Plover***Charadrius mongolus*

Accidental; Boundary Bay 104th -112th Street, July 12 2007 for several days.

**Mountain Plover***Charadrius montanus*

Accidental; Westham Island, 28 September 1986 (R.Toochin, P.625. The Birds of BC)

**Black Oystercatcher***Haematopus bachmani*

Very local breeder (Roberts Bank) and rare visitor other than Roberts Bank, Point Roberts. First breeding record for mainland coast at ferry jetty and compensation lagoon in 1995; now breeds regularly, eg. 3 chicks hatched June 2006 and 2 other pairs seen, Roberts Bank (per Rick Swanston)

**Black-necked Stilt***Himantopus mexicanus*

Casual visitor records in spring from Blackie Spit and possibly Serpentine Fen. In spring 2008 2 were seen at 64th St. Delta, at ponds on Kings Links golf course (Tom Bearss.)



**American Avocet***Recurvirostra americana*

Casual transient, occasionally overwinters, e.g. Beach Grove lagoon, Serpentine Fen, Elgin.

The first breeding record for West Coast was for 2 pairs that tried nesting at Blackie Spit in spring of 1988 but were unsuccessful. Attempts in 1989 and 1990 were also unsuccessful.

**Greater Yellowlegs***Tringa melanoleuca*

Common spring and fall migrant, winter visitor to bay. Mid Sept to late October peak.

**Lesser Yellowlegs***Tringa flavipes*

Common fall migrant, fairly common spring. Migrates through from early July, peaking mid August to late September. Does not stay for winter

**Spotted Redshank***Tringa erythropus*

Rare visitor, e.g. Reifel, Serpentine Fen.

**Solitary Sandpiper***Tringa solitaria*

Uncommon but regular, late summer (mid-August on) fall migrant at Boundary Bay, Reifel, Blackie Spit and Beach Grove Lagoon.

**Willet***Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

Rare spring/summer visitor, very rare winter. One regularly seen in winter on beach beside landward end of ferry causeway at Tsawwassen, last few years.

**Wandering Tattler***Heteroscelus incanus*

Casual in August, Sept. One at Blackie Spit was very rare for this sandy location, usually along rocky shores and jetties.

**Spotted Sandpiper***Actitis macularia*

Summer breeding visitor. Occurs along rivers (Fraser, Serpentine, Nicomekl), at sewage lagoons at Iona, etc.

**Upland Sandpiper***Bartramia longicauda*

Rare migrant late summer, fall, to fields near Boundary Bay.

**Bristle-thighed Curlew***Numenius tahitiensis*

One only. Sight record at Blackie Spit May 1983 was 2nd Canadian Record (although this was disputed by Paulson 1998). A dozen or so occurred on the outer Washington coast in 1998 and one was in Pacific County, WA in 1982. 1 possible, unconfirmed sighting in late summer, 2006, on Boundary Bay, by Pete Davidson.

**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Concentrations in Drayton Harbor are the greatest in Washington State inland waters.

**Far Eastern Curlew***Numenius madagascariensis*

One record, a juvenile in September 1984, at 112 St., was Canada's first and only and the first North American record south of Alaska.

**Long-billed Curlew***Numenius americanus*

Rare but regular migrant, mostly spring and late summer/fall, Roberts Bank, Blackie Spit, Boundary Bay, 72 St. turf farms, Blackie Spit.

**Hudsonian Godwit***Limosa haemastica*

Rare migrant mostly in fall, e.g. Blackie Spit, Drayton Harbor-Semiahmoo, occasionally spring, e.g. Reifel May 2003.

- Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*  
Rare but regular visitor. One or two birds (juveniles) occur most years July, August to early October.
- Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa*  
Rare but regular, mostly during May to September, e.g. 104 - 112 St. Boundary Bay, Blackie Spit.
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*  
Rare but regular, non-breeding visitor, seen in winter, spring, late summer and fall, but very seldom in June and July.
- Black Turnstone** *Arenaria melanocephala*  
Fairly common, winter visitor to rocky shores, and around B.C. Ferry and Port terminals on Roberts Bank.
- Surfbird** *Aphriza virgata*  
Rare to uncommon winter visitor on rocky shores.
- Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*  
Rare but regular fall migrant, very rare spring
- Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*  
Accidental. One unconfirmed sighting in Boundary Bay in May 1987; one at Iona, 12 Jan 1998 (The Birds of BC).
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba*  
Fall migrant to bay and regular small winter flocks, especially Boundary Bay Regional Park.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*  
Passage migrant, especially July and August. Opinions differ as to how many visit Boundary Bay each year.
- Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*  
Abundant spring and late summer migrant but numbers have declined drastically. Fall migration totals of up to 1.5 million birds for Boundary Bay and Roberts Bank were recorded prior to 1990, with 10% of world's population through Fraser Delta in a single day. Typically stay 3 days on migration. Numbers dropped drastically 2001- 2004. Latest numbers: 180,000 in spring 2009 at Brunswick Point, Roberts Bank, one of their most favoured habitats. (Environment Canada) The reason for the decline is not known though some biologists favour the theory of increased predation moving the birds on. Habitat loss (Japanese eelgrass growth, development) and disturbance are likely to also be factors.
- Red-necked Stint (Rufous-necked Stint)** *Calidris ruficollis*  
Casual transient in Boundary Bay, e.g. two at 112 St. July 1992, one at 96 St. May 2003
- Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*  
Accidental. Second B.C. confirmed record was one in breeding plumage, July 1988, on Boundary Bay (Dick Cannings in Campbell et al. 1990)
- Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*  
Accidental. The first confirmed Pacific Northwest record was for a juvenile at Reifel, Sept. 1982.
- Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*  
Fairly common spring and common fall migrant.
- White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*  
Casual. One in Summer 2006, Boundary Bay 96th St dyke, and one in Sept. 1978, Blackie Spit. Also recorded from Iona, Richmond, as a casual transient.

<b>Baird's Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
Fairly common in fall, especially in August, September.	
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
Late summer, fall migrant; August to Sept/October. Spring migration is usually east of the Rockies but occasionally some occur on the bay, e.g. over a hundred in May 2002, at 112 St.	
<b>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
Rare but regular, e.g Reifel. Not in winter.	
<b>Rock Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris ptilocnemis</i>
Rare winter visitor.	
<b>Dunlin</b>	<i>Calidris alpina pacifica</i>
Very common winter visitor and spring, fall migrant. Boundary Bay is the northernmost site in winter for significant numbers of dunlin: 30,000 to 60,000 between October and March in Boundary Bay/Roberts Bank, with a further 6 to 10,000 in Drayton Harbor. Robert Butler estimated 40,000 in winter 2008-09 and up to 60,000 on migration in fall.	
<b>Curlew Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Accidental	
<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>
Uncommon, probably regular late summer/fall migrant. Influx between August 15 and 20 in Boundary Bay/Reifel area in 2005.	
<b>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>
Rare but fairly regular fall (August/Sept) migrant, e.g. turf farms north of Boundary Bay.	
<b>Ruff</b>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Regular but uncommon fall migrant, mostly juveniles. First recorded 1971 now seen every year.	
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>
Migrant mostly in spring, some in fall (September, earlier passage than long-billed). Not in winter.	
<b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b>	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
Migrant mostly in fall (Sept/October peak, some in Nov.), some spring (April to May).	
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>
Year round, more common in winter. A few breed.	
<b>Wilson's Phalarope</b>	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>
Uncommon migrant, e.g. mid-August, 2005. Past breeding records for Serpentine Fen (Barry Leach).	
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Regular but uncommon migrant, last week August - first week Sept.	
<b>Red Phalarope</b>	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>
Rare to uncommon, in invasion years, e.g. 1982, 2002.	
<b>South Polar Skua</b>	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>
Accidental: September, Point Roberts (year?)	

- Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*  
Very rare transient at Point Roberts, offshore at ferry terminal in late summer.
- Parasitic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
Uncommon offshore migrant, e.g. at Point Roberts, Roberts Bank, Semiahmoo Spit, in late summer, arriving August leaving end of October, accompanying the passage of Bonaparte's Gulls and terns.
- Long-tailed Jaeger** *Stercorarius longicaudus*  
Casual on fall passage at Point Roberts, offshore at Ferry Terminal.
- Note on gulls:** a number of hybrid gulls are regularly seen in the Boundary Bay area. Hybrids of **Glaucous-winged Gull** and **Western Gull** (sometimes called **Puget Sound Gull**, or **Olympia Gull**) are particularly common. Other hybrids, e.g. **Herring Gull X Glaucous-winged Gull** also occur. DNA studies have recently suggested reclassifying many of the larger *Larus* species.
- Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan*  
Rare summer - fall migrant, late July to September.
- Little Gull** *Larus minutus*  
Casual in fall, e.g. off Point Roberts.
- Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*  
Casual, especially in fields near Burns Bog and Highway 10.
- Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia*  
Regular spring/fall passage migrant in Boundary Bay, late April and September.
- Heermann's Gull** *Larus heermanni*  
Rare transient, in summer and fall. Occasional Point Roberts late Sept. to early November. More common in Gulf Islands immediately south of Boundary Bay, e.g. Mayne, Saturna.
- Mew Gull** *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*  
Year round resident. Present in most months but fewer in June and July.
- Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*  
Abundant year-round resident, including summer, post-breeding molt.
- California Gull** *Larus californicus*  
Mostly late summer and fall visitor, July through October, during post-breeding dispersal.
- Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*  
Uncommon winter visitor. Small numbers in mixed gull roosts in fields south of Highway 10 and around Burns Drive.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*  
Casual. One at Hornby Drive, Delta in March 2002 was the 2nd Vancouver record.
- Thayer's Gull** *Larus thayeri*  
Used to be considered subspecies of **Iceland Gull** *L. glaucooides thayeri*  
Fairly common in winter. Identification can be challenging, especially since there are many hybrids (Glaucous-winged Gull X Western Gull etc.).

- Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*  
The Canadian subspecies is **Kumlien's Iceland Gull**. Rare winter visitor, individuals join mixed gull roosts in fields south of Highway 10, Burns Drive.
- Slaty-backed Gull** *Larus schistisagus*  
Uncommon but becoming regular in winter. First record Nov. 1989, with a rash of records in North America. Burns Bog, landfill area or nearby fields, in mixed gull roosts in fields south of Highway 10, Burns Drive.
- Western Gull** *Larus occidentalis occidentalis*  
Uncommon to rare. Very small numbers in mixed gull roosts in fields south of Highway 10, occasional White Rock. This subspecies has a paler back than Californian birds.
- Glaucous-winged Gull** *Larus glaucescens*  
Resident and abundant. This is the common "seagull" of the Boundary Bay area. Rick Toochn estimated 110, 000 glaucous-winged gulls at the Vancouver Landfill at Burns Bog in December 2002 (BC Birds summary)
- Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*  
Rare winter visitor.
- Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*  
Accidental; one first summer bird 28 July 1998 (Tom Plath; The Birds of BC vol. 4)
- Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*  
Rare transient as a result of westerly gales, usually in September and October. More than one a year, e.g. Blackie Spit May 90, Point Roberts Sept 92, July 95, Tsawwassen ferry Sept 96, Point Roberts Oct 97.
- Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*  
Casual in fall, e.g. Point Roberts, Blackie Spit.
- Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea*  
Accidental. First record for Vancouver, and sixth for B.C. was one at 72 St. then at Roberts Bank port, Dec 2001.
- Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*  
Regular in summer, from late April to September, especially around Roberts Bank and the western side of Boundary Bay, also Blaine-Semiahmoo.
- Elegant Tern** *Sterna elegans*  
Accidental. One roosting at Roberts Bank port, July 21 1992 onwards.
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*  
Spring (May) and fall (mid August to October) migrant.
- Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*  
Casual offshore, e.g. Point Roberts. From 1977 to 1995 a colony nested on gravel islands near Everett, WA, the southernmost colony on the West Coast, by 1320 km (825 miles).
- Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*  
Casual in summer, e.g. Blackie Spit, Point Roberts.
- Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*  
Rare in summer, at Serpentine Fen and on and on late spring/fall passage.

- Common Murre** *Uria aalge*  
Winter visitor, late September to end of April.
- Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia*  
One record only, for Drayton Harbor, WA, December 31 1986.
- Pigeon Guillemot** *Cepphus columba*  
Year round in waters of Strait of Georgia near Boundary Bay, especially in summer. Recorded from Point Roberts and have nested at Lily Point and on old wooden piers at the entry to Drayton Harbor.
- Marbled Murrelet** *Brachyramphus marmoratus*  
Uncommon summer, common to abundant in winter at Blaine Harbor and Point Roberts. The highest number of this species recorded at a single location south of Alaska was 5206 birds off the southwest point of Point Roberts (Terry Wahl in Eissinger 1994).
- Ancient Murrelet** *Synthliboramphus antiquus*  
Uncommon in winter late Nov. - late Feb, especially at Point Roberts. Flocks out in Boundary Bay, not visible from land (information: Rob Butler, 2008).
- Cassin's Auklet** *Ptychoramphus aleuticus*  
Casual. Point Roberts Nov. 80, Sept. 92, Tsawwassen Ferry Sept. 95, Crescent Beach Aug. 98.
- Rhinoceros Auklet** *Cerorhinca monocerata*  
Rare summer visitor to Point Roberts, probably from breeding colony at Sequim, Washington.
- Tufted Puffin** *Fratercula cirrhata*  
Accidental in summer/ fall, e.g. Point Roberts.
- Rock Dove** *Columba livia*  
Introduced, widespread and common resident.
- Band-tailed Pigeon** *Columba fasciata*  
Uncommon breeding bird and some stay for the winter. Appears to be declining in area.
- Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*  
Locally common year round, and may be increasing, e.g. Langley, parts of Ladner, Burns Bog perimeter.
- Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*  
Resident and winter visitor at northern limit of range. First recorded in BC in 1909. About 1000 birds or 250 - 300 breeding pairs in 1991 (Terry Sullivan). Now far fewer: in 2007-09, Sofi Hindmarsh recorded 72 nest sites, 27 roost sites and 16 other sites uncertain in Delta and Surrey during surveys for her Masters' thesis.
- Western Screech Owl** *Otus kennicottii*  
Now rare year round resident, and numbers have declined.
- Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*  
Common year round resident, breeds.
- Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*  
Irruptive, winter visitor only common in certain years: the all time high winter count for North America, one hundred and seven birds, was made on the Ladner Christmas Bird Count in December 1973. Invasions are irregular, occurring on average every five or six years, but with wide variations, for example an apparent gap of

twenty nine years between 1916 and 1945 (though this may have been recording omission). Notable invasion years, listed by Campbell et al. in Birds of British Columbia, were in the 1950s, mid 1960s, 1974/75, 1977/78 and 1984/85. These were followed by a peak invasion year in 1996/7, then a gap until winter 2004/05 that saw a handful of owls at the mouth of the Fraser River and a peak winter 2005/06, with 18 birds on the Boundary Bay foreshore on 26 Dec 2005. Winter 2006/07 had fewer owls.

**Northern Hawk Owl** *Surnia ulula*  
Irruptive, casual in winter. One in wooded area near Dakota Creek, 2001; also recorded for Point Roberts.

**Northern Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium gnoma*  
Rare year round.

**Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia*  
Casual in winter e.g. 1984, 1987 in fields near airport. One seen on Point Roberts jetty. Formerly bred in delta, now very rare.

**Barred Owl** *Strix varia*  
Uncommon resident. Range expanding rapidly as far south as Central Oregon and Cascades. Numbers fluctuate, e.g. down on BC coast in 2001 (Dick Cannings, Nocturnal Owl Survey).

**Great Gray Owl** *Strix nebulosa*  
Casual transient in Fraser lowlands in winter. Recorded for Campbell Valley Park.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*  
Uncommon winter visitor.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*  
Boundary Bay - Fraser River delta is the most important wintering area for this species in British Columbia, but it is becoming uncommon. Once a very common breeding and wintering bird, its numbers have dramatically declined in the last twenty years and there are no recent summer reports for the western delta. Numbers also fluctuate between winters due to rodent cycles in the north.

**Boreal Owl** *Aegolius funereus*  
Casual. First record of a live bird from Vancouver area, Nov 95 Crescent Beach. March 97 one in Ladner in conifer, 55 B St.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** *Aegolius acadicus*  
Uncommon resident, breeding e.g. Campbell Valley Park. Winter visitor to e.g. Point Roberts, Reifel, Campbell River valley, Sunnyside Acres.

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*  
Very uncommon summer visitor, June to September. Historically it was much more common, but numbers decreased significantly by 1952, probably as insect levels dropped off with marsh drainage and pesticide use. Further declines in the last twenty years, and now hardly ever seen even on migration.

**Black Swift** *Cypseloides niger*  
Common to uncommon summer visitor, very weather dependent. Records from late May to early July correspond with thundery weather and general influx of swifts to Lower Mainland region.

**Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*  
Uncommon summer visitor and/or migrant late May/early June, and late Aug/September. Decreased in numbers since early 1900s.

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*  
Accidental at Campbell Valley Park.
- Anna's Hummingbird** *Calypte anna*  
Uncommon year round resident. Expanded its range into Pacific Northwest in last thirty years. Recorded regularly from Tsawwassen, White Rock ravines, Burns Bog, Point Roberts, especially in winter.
- Calliope Hummingbird** *Stellula calliope*  
Rare spring and summer visitor away from coast, e.g. Campbell Valley Park. &nbsp;
- Rufous Hummingbird** *Selasphorus rufus*  
Common and widespread summer breeding visitor, with increased numbers on spring (late March to mid May) and fall (Aug.) migration.
- Belted Kingfisher** *Ceryle alcyon*  
Year round resident, local, in small numbers. May have declined around Boundary Bay in last two decades.
- Lewis' Woodpecker** *Melanerpes lewis*  
Casual spring and fall passage migrant.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*  
Rare transient from east of the Rockies. Male and female in South Surrey Jan 4 1997 was the first in five years. An immature was seen on the White Rock Christmas Bird Count 2002
- Red-naped Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*  
Rare spring transient recorded e.g. Point Roberts
- Red-breasted Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus ruber*  
Uncommon winter visitor some years. Large numbers correlate with heavy snowfall in mountains.
- Downy Woodpecker** *Picoides pubescans*  
Resident, widespread and common year round
- Hairy Woodpecker** *Picoides villosus*  
Resident and winter visitor. Less common than downy woodpecker.
- Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*  
Common year round resident and spring/fall migrant. Noticeable movement in late summer/early fall. Commonest sub-species is red-shafted, but yellow-shafted and hybrids also regularly occur.
- Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*  
Uncommon resident in upland forests. It has declined in Tsawwassen area in last fifteen years.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi*  
Uncommon summer visitor. Numbers have declined in last decades.
- Western Wood Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus*  
Uncommon spring and fall & migrant. Some stay for summer. Arrives last week of April or first week of May.
- Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii*  
Summer visitor, uncommon but may be more common in undisturbed shrub land not visited by birders.



- Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus*  
Casual. E.g. recorded for Campbell Valley Park.
- Hammond's Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondi*  
Uncommon summer visitor, arriving last week of April or first week of May staying to mid September.
- Dusky Flycatcher** *Empidonax oberholseri*  
Casual spring/fall transient.
- Pacific-slope Flycatcher** *Empidonax difficilis*  
Fairly common spring migrant and summer breeding visitor, from May to mid-August in some parts of the watershed.
- Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya*  
Casual spring/late summer, fall; e.g. Point Roberts, 96 St. Boundary Bay dyke.
- Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens*  
Casual, but being seen more regularly, e.g. Nov.2004, June 2006. Juveniles recorded e.g. Aug.1999, Dec. 2000 and Aug -Oct. 2001.
- Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*  
Casual. One in fall 1990 at end of River Rd, Brunswick Point. One at 64th St, near Boundary Bay dyke, in late Oct - early November 2008.
- Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*  
Rare summer, casual fall.
- Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*  
Uncommon summer visitor. Nesting records include Reifel Bird Sanctuary.
- Northern Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*  
Uncommon but regular winter visitor to dykes and farmland, from mid-October to April.
- Cassin's Vireo** *Vireo cassinii*  
(formerly **Solitary Vireo**)  
Migrant (May and September) and some summer visitors from early April/May to August.
- Hutton's Vireo** *Vireo huttoni*  
Uncommon, local resident in low elevation coniferous and mixed woodland, and occasionally in suburbs. May be more common but overlooked.
- Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*  
Spring and fall migrant in May and September and some summer visitors. May breed. Showed an increase in southern B.C. 1973 to 1991 on Breeding Bird Surveys as red-eyed declined.
- Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*  
Spring and fall migrant in May and September and some summer visitors.
- Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri*  
Resident, but additional strong regional movements in September and late March.

**Blue Jay***Cyanocitta cristata*

Rare visitor from east of Rockies, particularly in invasion years; e.g. November &nbsp;1989 to April 1990, Ladner Harbour Park.

**Western Scrub-jay***Aphelocoma californica*

Casual, but becoming more regular in B.C. as they expand north and east since the 1970s. One spent winter 2003 at Ladner.

**Black-billed Magpie***Pica pica*

Casual; e.g. Point Roberts. records??

**Northwestern Crow***Corvus caurinus*

Abundant breeding resident. Numbers jumped in 1965 when Burns Bog landfill opened. 2000 plus roost near dump in late summer. In winter, crows for miles around fly to a huge roost (11,000+) in Burnaby, at Boundary and Grandview. There is another roost in Langley. Boundary Bay crows fly to the roosts via staging areas.

**Common Raven***Corvus corax*

Uncommon year round resident in uplands, Point Roberts, regular migrant (March, Sept.). Some winter in lowlands.

**Horned Lark***Eremophila alpestris*

Rare transient in early spring, late fall.

**Purple Martin***Progne subis*

Uncommon summer visitor, a few breeding pairs at Blackie Spit, Reifel marshes, Iona, etc. Becoming more common in Lower Mainland and breeding colonies expanding since 2003 (Kiyoshi Takahashi, Burke Mountain Naturalists information).

**Tree Swallow***Tachycineta bicolor*

Common summer breeding visitor. Arrives in February departs mid-August.

**Violet-green Swallow***Tachycineta thalassina*

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor, mostly late Feb. or March to early August; it is the first swallow to depart.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow***Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Fairly common summer breeding visitor and migrant, arriving March and departing late August. Numbers have declined in some locations e.g. Tynehead, Surrey where it bred in 1970s but is probably now extirpated (GVRD data).

**Bank Swallow***Riparia riparia*

Uncommon transient, mostly late August to September, with other migrating swallows - a few in spring (May /June), somewhat more late Aug to mid Sept.

**Cliff Swallow***Hirundo pyrrhonota*

Common summer visitor, spring (April) and fall migrant and some stay to breed. Colony nester under bridges, pilings, docks, etc.

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Most present April to September, but a few linger on for winter and it has been recorded on the Ladner Christmas Bird Count.

<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b> Very common and widespread breeding resident.	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
<b>Mountain Chickadee</b> Rare late fall transient, e.g. Point Roberts, Campbell Valley Park, Reifel.	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>
<b>Chestnut-backed Chickadee</b> Common breeding resident in coniferous forests, gardens with conifers. Populations variable, may be increasing in some parts of Washington (Contreras 1994).	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b> Accidental, e.g. Reifel Bird Sanctuary.	<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>
<b>Bushtit</b> Common breeding resident. Flocks roam countryside after breeding season and through winter.	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b> Common breeding resident on uplands.	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b> Casual transient. One in South Surrey, January 1996. One at Lily Point, Point Roberts in September 1990.	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
<b>Brown Creeper</b> Common breeding resident in forested uplands.	<i>Certhia americana</i>
<b>Rock Wren</b> Accidental: November 1997 one foraging along driftwood and rocks on beach at Crescent Beach; one at Iona Jetty, Sturgeon Bank, Richmond in December 2005.	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>
<b>Bewick's Wren</b> Common year round resident. Commonly heard calling in late February, early March.	<i>Thyromanes bewickii</i>
<b>House Wren</b> Rare summer visitor to uplands. Nest record for South Surrey (and breeds on Gulf Islands).	<i>Thyromanes aedon</i>
<b>Winter Wren</b> Common year round resident. Increased numbers, in a wider range of habitats, during winter.	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
<b>Marsh Wren</b> Common breeding resident in estuarine wetlands, numerous in summer, a few in winter, (102 on CBC Ladner, 1991).	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
<b>American Dipper</b> Uncommon year round resident, a few move downslope in winter to Fraser delta.	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b> Common and widespread year round resident, in uplands and delta. Joined in winter by birds from the mountains and interior which depart early April.	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> Common spring, fall migrant, fairly common in winter, uncommon summer.	<i>Regulus calendula</i>

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila caerulea*  
Accidental. Seen at Reifel in September 2006
- Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana*  
Casual. Historically it bred regularly in Surrey, last record April 1938.
- Mountain Bluebird** *Sialia currucoides*  
Rare but regular transient. Migrant to Boundary Bay mid April and late Oct/early Nov. One or 2 mid-winter.
- Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi*  
Uncommon transient, especially in spring. Historically it used to breed and was more regularly seen.
- Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*  
Casual transient, in summer; one record for Point Roberts.
- Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*  
Fairly common summer breeding visitor in mature wooded uplands, and near freshwater, e.g. Deas Island. Arrives late April to late May and departs mid September.
- Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*  
Fairly common summer visitor in suitable habitat. Also passage migrant. Rare in winter. Peak numbers April to mid-May and mid September to early November.
- Dusky Thrush** *Turdus naumanni*  
Accidental; two records only: John Ireland's Christmas Bird Count sighting near Campbell Valley Park on 2 Jan 1993, that stayed until 9 April 1993, and one at Alaksen 22 November 1994. No other confirmed records for B.C. or Canada.
- American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*  
Abundant and widespread breeding resident and migrant. Flocks pass through on migration, especially in October.
- Varied Thrush** *Ixoreus naevius*  
Also sometimes called **Alaska Robin, Varied Robin, Oregon Robin.**  
Fairly common winter visitor, and spring/ fall passage migrant. Some may breed in Boundary Bay uplands. Moves down slope in winter, when snow falls in the local mountains.
- Gray Catbird** *Dumatella carolinensis*  
Casual summer visitor to upper part of watershed, e.g. Campbell Valley Park.
- Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottus*  
Casual visitor at any time of year, e.g. December 2008 64th St. Boundary Bay dyke.
- European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Abundant widespread breeding resident. Introduced species. Pacific Northwest generally noting a decrease in winter numbers except in Washington.
- Black-backed Wagtail** *Motacilla lugens*  
Accidental; Brunswick Point, April 2003, subsequently at Iona, Richmond (Rick Toochin, Guy Monty and Kiyoshi Takahashi).
- Red-throated pipit** *Anthus cervinus*  
Accidental: Dec 22 -28 1990 at Boundary Bay Airport (included day of CBC). This was the 2nd of three Canadian records.

<b>American Pipit</b> (formerly <b>Water Pipit</b> <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> ) Common spring and fall migrant, winter visitor. Rare in summer.	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b> Rare, irruptive winter transient from Interior and north. 1968/69 was an invasive year.	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b> Mostly mid-summer breeding visitor, staying to the end of November. Uncommon in winter.	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
<b>Prothonotary Warbler</b> Accidental. Second B.C. record, Reifel Oct 5-6 2002	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b> Casual. Spring and fall migrant, e.g. Crescent Park September 1996.	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> Common breeding visitor in summer and common spring/ fall migrant.	<i>Vermivora celata</i>
<b>Nashville Warbler</b> Rare migrant in spring (May) and fall (Aug./Sept).	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>
<b>Yellow Warbler</b> Uncommon summer breeding visitor and common migrant.	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b> Casual visitor, e.g. Reifel September 2006	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's Warbler)</b> Present year round, but particularly common spring, fall passage and summer. Breeds. Some <b>Myrtle Warbler</b> <i>D.c. coronata</i> also occur in a 1:2 ratio (Butler & Campbell 1987).	<i>Dendroica coronata auduboni</i>
<b>Black-throated Gray Warbler</b> Summer visitor, locally common breeding bird in wooded uplands, Burns Bog; in mixed flocks during migration, May and September.	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>
<b>Townsend's Warbler</b> Summer visitor, locally common breeding bird in forested uplands; fairly common passage migrant, May and September.	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>
<b>Hermit Warbler</b> Accidental, e.g. Reifel May 2006	<i>Dendroica occidentalis</i>
<b>Palm Warbler</b> Casual in fall and winter.	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b> Casual in September e.g. Beach Grove Park, 2001, Reifel, 2004, Iona, June 2010	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
<b>Black and White Warbler</b> Casual, e.g. July 2001 Campbell Valley Park, Sept. 2001 Beach Grove Park.	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>

<b>American Redstart</b> Rare summer visitor, e.g. Campbell Valley Park.	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b> Casual, e.g. Jan 2002 Reifel	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
<b>MacGillivray's Warbler</b> Uncommon summer visitor.	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b> Abundant summer breeding visitor.	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
<b>Wilson's Warbler</b> Very common on spring and fall passage, common in summer, breeds.	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>
<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b> Casual transient in summer, e.g. Boundary Bay June 2009.	<i>Icteria virens</i>
<b>Western Tanager</b> Uncommon summer breeding visitor and migrant, e.g. Brunswick Point, Ladner Marsh	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
<b>Black-headed Grosbeak</b> Common summer breeding visitor.	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>
<b>Lazuli Bunting</b> Rare summer visitor, e.g. Burns Bog July 2005, North 40 at Boundary Bay June 2010 (2 males, 1 female) and in Surrey, Langley. Breeding records for Colony Farm, north of the Fraser River.	<i>Passerina amoena</i>
<b>Green-tailed Towhee</b> Casual late spring (May/June) visitor, e.g. Reifel 2003.	<i>Pipilo chlorus</i>
<b>Spotted Towhee</b> Common, widespread, resident year round.	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b> Rare winter visitor to area.	<i>Spizella arborea</i>
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b> Casual on spring/fall passage.	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b> Casual transient, fall, winter. Increasing records since 1990 but still very rare.	<i>Spizella pallida</i>
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b> Summer visitor, April through September. This subspecies breeds, others transient (mid March to May and mid Sept. to Oct.). Some winter in Pacific Northwest but only occasionally in Boundary Bay area.	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis brooksi</i>
<b>Fox Sparrow</b> Year round, uncommon and local resident in the uplands e.g. Drayton Harbor watershed, and a common winter visitor to the lowlands. The Fraser River delta is considered its most important wintering area on the southwest mainland coast &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;of British Columbia.	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>

- Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*  
Common year round resident. Breeding population augmented by wintering birds that often establish winter territories.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolnii*  
Uncommon passage migrant, spring and fall, and rare in winter. May be more common but overlooked.
- Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza georgiana*  
Rare winter visitor, e.g. Reifel Bird Sanctuary. Records for Pacific Northwest wintering birds increasing since the 1960s.
- White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis*  
Rare visitor in winter.
- Harris's Sparrow** *Zonotrichia querula*  
Rare visitor, recorded most winters, especially at Reifel.
- White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
Common breeding resident locally, very common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially late April early May. Winter and breeding populations are separate races.
- Golden-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia atricapilla*  
Common winter visitor, in varying numbers, and passage migrant. Arrives early September, departs mid April or May.
- Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis oregonus* and *J.h. hyemalis* (rare grey race)  
Resident in Burns Bog and upland forests, probably Tsawwassen, and very common winter visitor September to April, throughout Boundary Bay area.
- Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus*  
Passage migrant, early spring (February, March) and fall (Sept., Oct), rare in winter (e.g. 8 on Ladner Christmas Bird Count 1990). High numbers (54) Fall 2001 at corn stubble field, 104th Street, Delta.
- Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
Uncommon but regular winter visitor to shorelines, November to April.
- McKay's Bunting** *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*  
Accidental; one was recorded in December 2004 at Iona Jetty, Sturgeon Bank, Richmond
- Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*  
Accidental. One record only for 112 St. Boundary Bay dyke, September 1994.
- Red-winged Blackbird** *Angelaius phoeniceus*  
Very common year round resident.
- Western Meadowlark** *Sturnella neglecta*  
Regular winter visitor, e.g. to Boundary Bay Regional Park, but extirpated as breeding population in delta (last record Sea Island, Richmond, 1968). Winter numbers declined in B.C. in past 30 years. Sings in spring before it leaves.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*  
Rare summer visitor, very rare in winter. Breeding pairs at Iona Reg. Park in Richmond.

<b>Rusty Blackbird</b> Rare winter visitor.	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>
<b>Brewer's Blackbird</b> Very common resident.	<i>Emphagus cyanocephalus</i>
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b> Common summer breeding visitor, April to September. A few overwinter, e.g. on Westham Island.	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
<b>Bullock's Oriole (Northern Oriole)</b> Rare in winter. Used to be a regular breeding bird e.g. Brunswick Point, Ladner Marsh, but strong decline in last twenty years. Present and possibly breeding at North 40 shrub/woodland near Boundary Bay airport, June 2010.	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>
<b>Brambling</b> Accidental. One record only for a female at Reifel Dec 91 to Feb 92.	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
<b>Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch</b> Rare winter visitor, e.g. Roberts Bank jetty, Point Roberts.	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b> Irruptive species; rare winter visitor.	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>
<b>Purple Finch</b> Common breeding resident, locally common in winter.	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>
<b>Cassin's Finch</b> Accidental. Only record an adult male at Point Roberts, May 1996.	<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>
<b>House Finch</b> Very common year round breeding resident. Fewer numbers 2006 onwards following a pathogen outbreak	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
<b>Red Crossbill</b> Irruptive species, only common in certain years.	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b> Casual visitor at any time of year.	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>
<b>Common Redpoll</b> Rare winter visitor, numbers fluctuate from year to year. Arrives late in winter, around January.	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
<b>Pine Siskin</b> Common year round breeding resident, and very common winter visitor. Irruptive.	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>
<b>American Goldfinch</b> Very common summer breeding visitor, uncommon winter.	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b> Locally fairly common to uncommon, year round, but far fewer seen recent decades. Irruptive years included 1972, 1983.	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>
<b>House Sparrow</b> Common year round resident, introduced species.	<i>Passer domesticus</i>



## Extirpated Bird Species

**California Condor**  
Extirpated by 1890s

*Gymnogyps californianus*

**Horned Lark**  
This coastal subspecies was extirpated by 1981.

*Eremophila alpestris strigata*

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**  
Extirpated 1950

*Coccyzus americanus*

**Willow Ptarmigan**  
**Willow grouse** (the English name for willow ptarmigan) is mentioned by early Ladner pioneers. This northern species favours the wet brushy habitat prevalent on the delta at that time.

*Lagopus lagopus*

**American Black Duck**  
Extirpated 1960s/1970s. An introduced species that was brought in as captive stock in late 1960s for Reifel Refuge and later went feral. Most were soon killed by predators.

*Anas rubripes*

**California Quail**  
Extirpated 1980s. A game bird introduced in the 1890s, quail became very abundant in fields, dykes. Some lingered on in Point Roberts until the 1980s.

*Callipepla californica*

**Grey Partridge**  
Extirpated 1960s. Another bird introduced by hunting clubs during 1904 to 1909, partridges were gone by 1960s, due to lack of suitable habitat. Haymaking coincided with their nesting period and hedgerows were uprooted.

*Perdix perdix*

**Crested Myna**  
Extirpated Feb. 2003. An introduced bird brought to British Columbia in 1897. It peaked at 20,000 birds in the 1920s in the Vancouver area and was recorded at Tynehead in the 1970s. The species subsequently failed to thrive and by the winter of 2002/03 there were just a handful of birds left.

*Acridotheres cristatellus*

## Hypothetical species

Little Curlew July 1983, not confirmed, Blackie Spit.