

Build Better Birding Skills!

~ with the Raincoast Education Society ~

From September through April, a group of local residents flocked together once per month to Build Better Birding Skills in the Tofino Mudflats! The program is on-going with the goal to train locals to conduct surveys of the mudflats as part of Bird Studies Canada's BC Coastal Waterbird Survey.

Birdlife in the Mudflats proved to be abundant and diverse. Over the 8-month program:

- Approximately 14,000 birds were counted including 32 species!
- That's an average of 1,750 birds per survey!
- Waterfowl (ducks and geese) were predominant, with shorebirds in second.
- Seasonal changes were dramatic - some common species below.

Some Typical Winter Waterfowl Species:



Alan D. Wilson

Green-winged Teal



Walter Siegmund

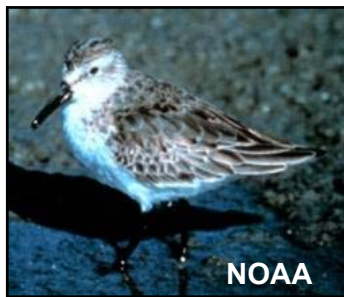
American Wigeon



Andreas Trepte

Mallard

Some Typical Spring/Fall Shorebird Species:



NOAA

Western Sandpiper



Hillman Marsh

Dunlin



USFWS

Greater Yellowlegs

Birders in the mudflats also proved to be abundant and diverse...

- 33 locals participated with a wide range of skill-levels present.
- Some participants were regulars, while others dropped in when they had the chance (some were there for the cookies and others for serious birding).
- A local expert was present at each session to guide the skill-building process.

The Build Better Birding Skills Program will start up again in September. To get involved, contact the Raincoast Education Society @ 725-2560 or res@island.net

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The following list of species was observed during the Build Better Birding Skills Program in the Tofino Mudflats. Sessions were once per month (September 2006 through April 2007) for one to two hours each session. A count of each species was also completed during these sessions, with the data submitted to the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey.

SPECIES LIST

Loons and Grebes

Horned Grebe

Cormorants and Herons

Great Blue Heron

Double-crested Cormorant

Swans and Geese

Canada Goose

White-fronted Goose

Ducks

American Wigeon

Eurasian Wigeon

Mallard

Northern Pintail

Green-winged Teal

Bufflehead

Common Goldeneye

Hooded Merganser

Common Merganser

Gadwall

Northern Shoveler

Raptors

Red-tailed Hawk

Bald Eagle

Peregrine Falcon

Shorebirds

Black-bellied Plovers

Sanderling

Western Sandpiper

Dunlin

Greater Yellowlegs

Marbled Godwit

Short-billed Dowitcher

Gulls and Terns

Ring-billed Gull

Mew Gull

California Gull

Glaucous-winged Gull

Western Gull

Unidentified Gull

Other Species

Belted Kingfisher

For more information about the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey please visit:

www.bsc-eoc.org/regional/bcwaterbirds.html