

7 Boundary Bay Regional Park – Dyke Path

The park includes a 20 kilometre trail on the dyke around Boundary Bay between Beach Grove in Tsawwassen and Mud Bay Park in Surrey. The dyke at the south end of 64th, 72nd and 104th Streets is great for viewing Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, waterfowl, shorebirds and Short-eared Owl (also Snowy Owl some years).

Access: From Ladner Trunk Road, Delta, to the south end of 64th and 72nd Streets or from Hornby Drive to the south end of 104th Street (park at the Delta Heritage Air Park). Dykes are closed to traffic, except local farm vehicles; cycling is permitted. Park only in designated locations.

8 North 40 Park Reserve

Formerly the location of the Vancouver Wireless Station (1949-1971), the site was returned to nature after the station was closed. Today it is a rich habitat for birds, including hawks, eagles, owls, flycatchers and songbirds, particularly during the breeding and migration seasons. Several interpretive signs are placed throughout the park to inform about its history. Please note that this park is a dog off-leash park.

Access: On 72nd Street between Ladner Trunk Road and Churchill Street.

9 Delta Nature Reserve

Located in the northeast corner of Burns Bog in North Delta, the reserve has several boardwalks to help explore a small part of the bog. Some 150 bird species have been documented here including a variety of nesting raptors. This is a great place to experience the peaty wetland of the raised bog, and its specialised plant life. The larger area of Burns Bog to the west is an Ecological Conservancy Area and is not open to the public.

Access: Off highways 17 & 91 at Great Pacific Forum / Planet Ice Delta (sports complex) on Nordel Court.



Snow Geese

10 Deas Island Regional Park

Great for a stroll or cycle beside the Fraser River, this park has several kilometres of trails from which songbirds and raptors can be viewed. A number of historic buildings have been relocated to this park; one of them houses a colony of Yuma bats in its attic. Look for Rufous Hummingbirds feeding at salmonberry flowers in spring and loons and mergansers swimming in the Fraser River. The park is linked to Ladner's Ferry Road via the Millennium Trail (walking and cycling).

Access: 2km north of Highway 99, turn left off River Road onto Deas Island Road.

11 Ladner Harbour Park and South Arm Marshes Wildlife Management Area

Both of these natural areas are beside the Fraser River in Ladner and are important wintering, migration or breeding habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and many songbird species. Cottonwood forests are intersected with shady sloughs, and provide a peaceful walking environment. Look for nesting Wood Ducks, singing Marsh Wrens and spring time warblers.

Access: Ladner Harbour Park can be reached from River Road, Ladner, and South Arm Marshes Wildlife Management Area from Ferry Road, Ladner.



Resources and Contacts

Photographs and text contributed by the



**DELTA
NATURALISTS'
SOCIETY**

Delta Naturalists' Society has weekly casual birding walks and monthly meetings with a speaker. Visitors are welcome. For information on outings and meetings visit www.dncb.wordpress.com

DNS is affiliated with BC Nature, the provincial naturalists' organization. www.bcnature.ca

For a list of local birds visit www.natureguidesbc.com

For information on birding beyond Delta visit http://naturevancouver.ca/Birding_Birding_Sites



Short-eared Owl

Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (OWL)

Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (OWL), located at 3800 72nd Street, is a volunteer-driven society dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of injured birds of prey.

www.owlcanada.org



Delta's Official Visitor Centre

6201 60th Avenue Delta, BC
604-946-4232

www.deltachamber.ca/visit

www.facebook.com/ExperienceDeltaBC

[@experiencedeltabc](https://twitter.com/experiencedeltabc) [@ExperienceDeltaBC](https://www.instagram.com/ExperienceDeltaBC)

Delta

Experience Birding in Delta

Bordered by the mighty Fraser River to the north, Boundary Bay, Roberts Bank and the U.S border to the south, Georgia Strait to the west and the municipality of Surrey to the east, Delta hosts a variety of habitats and is a premier birding destination.

Located on the Pacific Flyway in the southwest corner of British Columbia, sunny Delta is an important stop-over for over a million migrating birds, from 20 countries, each year.



Sandhill Cranes



Bald Eagle



Rufous Hummingbird



Snowy Owl

International Importance

Encompassing much of Delta and its surrounding waters, the Fraser River Estuary, which includes Roberts Bank, Sturgeon Bank and Boundary Bay, is one of the foremost bird watching locations in Canada and has been recognized by BirdLife International as a globally-significant Important Bird Area (IBA). With varied habitats, the IBA is a major stop on the Pacific Flyway migration corridor for waterfowl and shorebirds and the best wintering location in Canada for diversity and number of birds of prey.

See www.ibacanada.ca for more information.

In 2012, the Fraser River Delta was designated as a Ramsar Site (a wetland of international importance).

Visit www.ramsar.wetlands.org for more information.

Local Birding Hot Spots

1 George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

This sanctuary comprises 343ha/850ac of managed habitat and estuarine marsh for many thousands of birds on the Pacific Flyway. Ducks, geese, raptors, songbirds and shorebirds winter in this protected environment, while other birds pass through on migration in spring and fall. In all, over 250 bird species have been seen here, including Sandhill Crane, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Peregrine Falcon, owls, ducks and shorebirds. Massive flocks of Snow Geese are found in the fields around the Sanctuary every year in winter.

www.reifelbirdsanctuary.com

Access: Follow River Road from Ladner to Westham Island Road, crossing the Westham Island Bridge, and drive to the end of Robertson Road. Reifel Bird Sanctuary driveway entrance is on the left. Open daily 9 am to 4 pm.

2 Alaksen National Wildlife Area (NWA)

Alaksen NWA is the location of Environment Canada's Pacific Wildlife Centre and the spacious grounds are open to the public during the week. Check in at the office for trail maps and information. Walking trails take the visitor through woodland and along sloughs and the Fraser River. Songbirds, herons, hawks, owls and waterfowl can be seen in season.

Access: Follow directions to the Reifel Bird Sanctuary but before the last turn go straight into the Alaksen parking lot. Open Monday to Friday only, 8 am to 4 pm.

3 Roberts Bank area and Brunswick Point

The marshes and mudflats of Brunswick Point are a great place to view migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, Bald Eagles, wintering Short-eared Owls and Snowy Owls some years. A highlight is the Western Sandpiper migration in late April, during which tens of thousands of these birds stop to feed on their journey to the Arctic. They return south in July and August. In winter, the farmland around Roberts Bank hosts Trumpeter Swan and Snow Geese, as well as many raptors including rare species like Gyrfalcon and Prairie Falcon.

Access: The dyke at Brunswick Point is at the end of River Road West in Ladner. Roadside parking is limited; do not block farm driveways.

4 Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal

At the west end of Highway 17, this area includes the bays around the jetty leading out to the ferry terminal. Highlights include a Great Blue Heron heronry at Tsatsu Shores with several hundred nests. This is also a great area for waterfowl, shorebirds, including Black Oystercatcher, and some songbirds.

Access: The causeway to the ferry terminal is at the end of Highway 17. For the heronry turn left onto Tsawwassen Drive from Highway 17 and follow the road to a pullout just before Tsatsu Shores. Parking is very limited along the causeway and heronry.

5 Point Roberts (Washington State)

This community lies just south of Tsawwassen, and while not in Delta, this is a premier area from which to view marine birds. Lighthouse Marine Park and Lily Point Marine Park are hot spots for loons, grebes, murres, guillemots and wintering waterfowl, including Brant and Harlequin Ducks. Songbirds, Bald Eagles and hummingbirds frequent the forest at Lily Point.

Access: From Highway 17 follow 56th Street in Tsawwassen to the border crossing. From Tye Drive, follow signs to Lighthouse Park and Lily Point. NOTE: PASSPORT REQUIRED.

6 Boundary Bay Regional Park – Centennial Beach area

As a major preserve for migratory birds, Boundary Bay is a shallow marine bay in the Georgia Strait, south of the Fraser River and a hub for ornithological activity. More than 330 species of birds, some rare and endangered, have been recorded in the watershed of the bay. Of note, the path along the dyke between Centennial Beach and 12th Avenue, provides opportunity for viewing waterfowl and shorebirds in season; the inland paths are good for songbirds and raptors. Look for roosting and feeding Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles and Brant – a marine goose that flocks here during migration and winter.

Access: Reached from the east end of 12th Avenue or from the Centennial Beach parking lot off Boundary Bay Road, Tsawwassen.



Dunlin



Long-billed Dowitcher



Western Sandpipers



Hooded Merganser



Wood Ducks