

# ESQUIMALT LAGOON MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

Opportunities for Enhanced Stewardship



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# Outline

- The Area (from a CWS perspective)
- *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations*
- Birds in the MBS
- CWS Sign Drafts
- Discussion!



Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*)





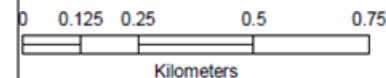
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# **Esquimalt Lagoon Migratory Bird Sanctuary Refuge d'oiseaux migrateurs de la Lagune-d'Esquimalt**



— Ocean Boulevard  
Esquimalt Lagoon Migratory Bird  
Sanctuary / Refuge d'oiseaux  
migrateurs de la Lagune-d'Esquimalt



Kilometers

UTM Zone Number 10N  
North American Datum 1983

**1:13,000**

ESRI World Topographic Map ArcGIS 10.3 copyright 2017.



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# Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

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- MBSs are established under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*
- MBSs are effectively Canada's oldest type of conservation area
- MBSs can be established on private, provincial, territorial or federal land
- Esquimalt Lagoon established 1931, a time when hunting was greatest pressure





# ***Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations***

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Prohibitions in the *MBSR* are strict liability offenses (intent does not matter)

- no person shall hunt migratory birds
- no person shall disturb, destroy or take the nests of migratory birds
- no person shall have in their possession a live migratory bird, or a carcass, skin, nest or egg of a migratory bird
- no person shall have in their possession in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary any firearm; or any hunting appliance except as otherwise provided in these Regulations
- no person shall permit a dog or cat to run at large in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- no person shall carry on any activity that is harmful to migratory birds or the eggs, nests or habitat of migratory birds, except under the authority of a permit for those Migratory Bird Sanctuaries on provincial, territorial and federal lands



# Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations

Prohibitions in the *MBSR* are strict liability offenses (intent does not matter)

- no person
- no person
- no person
- no person
- no person
- no person
- no person
- no person

In the case of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries established on provincial/territorial land or private property, the prohibited activities under the Regulations have the force of law. However, requirements regarding authorizations or issuance of permits need to be verified with the appropriate authority (provincial/territorial) or landowner.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-sanctuaries/selection-criteria/management.html>

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	<b>Esquimalt Lagoon</b>	<b>Esquimalt Outer Side</b>
#records	881	681
#surveys	67	72
Species	47	55
Average # birds/survey	851.96	205.44
	<u>More birds</u>	<u>Higher diversity</u>



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# Winter Habitat ~ Oct – March

- Nearshore (beach and lagoon side)
  - Large numbers of waterfowl use nearshore during the winter time
    - Bufflehead, Brant, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Mallard
- A Bit Offshore (beach side)
  - Large numbers of fish-eating waterfowl (many are in decline)
    - Horned Grebe (Special Concern)
    - Western Grebe (Special Concern)
    - Marbled Murrelet (Threatened)
    - Rhinoceros Auklet
    - Common Merganser
    - Red-breasted Merganser
- Other (throughout)
  - Great Blue Heron subspecies fannini (Special Concern)



Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)



# Summer Habitat ~ April - August

- **Shorebird Migration Stopover Site** (July – August)

- Western Sandpipers
- Least Sandpiper
- Black-bellied Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Marbled Godwit



*Western Sandpiper (Calidris mauri)*

- **Black Oystercatcher Breeding**

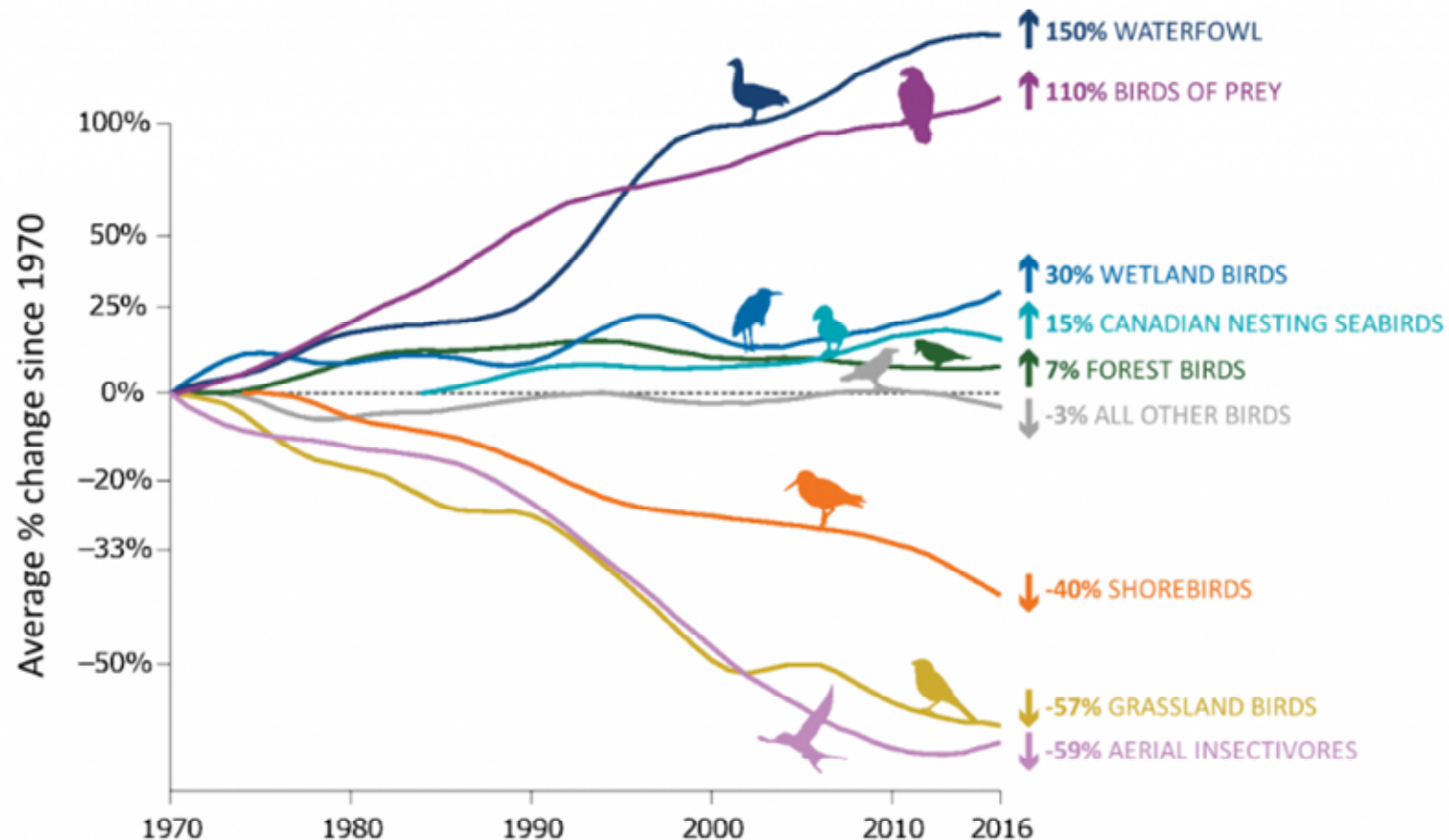
- May-June/July
- Rock shorelines
- Potential to increase avail habitat

- **Nesting Habitat**

- April - August
- Killdeer in sand dunes
- Urban songbirds in denser vegetation near dune entrances



# A bit more on Shorebirds



<http://nabci.net/resources/state-of-canadas-birds-2019/>



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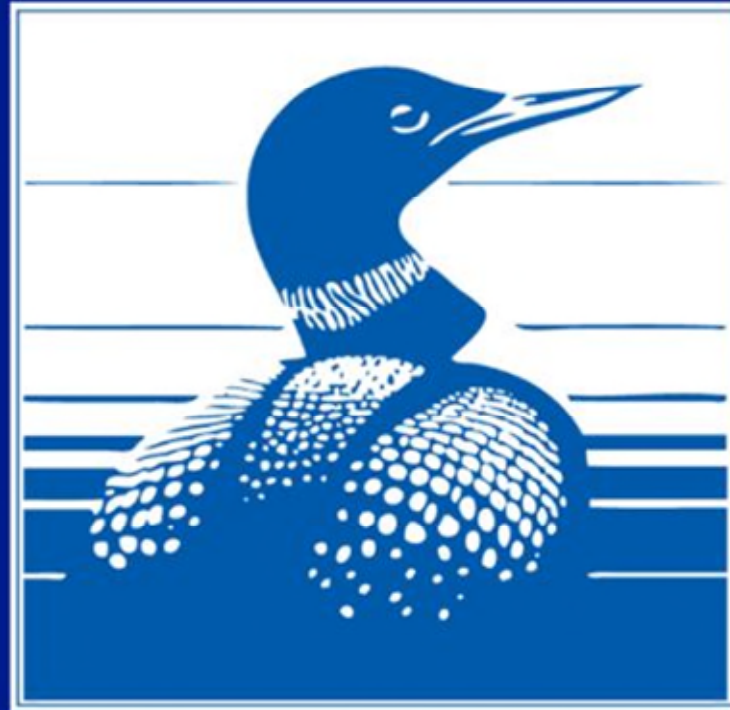


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## Migratory Bird Sanctuary

## Refuge d'oiseaux migrateurs



Protect resting birds

Migratory Bird Sanctuary  
Regulations Section 5 (1): **No person who owns a dog or cat shall permit the dog or cat to run at large in a migratory bird sanctuary.**

Protégez les oiseaux

Règlement sur les refuges  
d'oiseaux migrateurs Article 5  
(1): **Il est interdit à tout propriétaire de chien ou de chat de laisser son chien ou son chat circuler librement dans un refuge d'oiseaux migrateurs.**

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# Migratory Bird Sanctuaries Refuges d'oiseaux migrateurs

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are established to protect and conserve migratory birds, their nests, and eggs. These Federally protected Sanctuaries provide important sites for migratory birds during times of breeding, nesting, moulting, staging or resting.

Dogs can startle birds and interrupt their rest. Birds that are continually scared away will not be able to rest and will struggle over the next leg of their migration.

**Help protect birds in the  
Esquimalt Lagoon Migratory Bird  
Sanctuary.**

Les refuges d'oiseaux migrateurs sont établis pour protéger et conserver les oiseaux migrateurs, leurs nids et leurs œufs. Ces refuges protégés par le gouvernement fédéral sont des sites importants pour les oiseaux migrateurs durant les périodes de reproduction, de nidification, de mue ou de repos.

Les chiens peuvent surprendre les oiseaux et interrompre leur repos. Les oiseaux qui sont continuellement effarouchés ne pourront pas se reposer et auront du mal à franchir la prochaine étape de leur migration.

**Aidez à protéger les oiseaux du  
refuge d'oiseaux migrateurs de  
la Lagune-d'Esquimalt.**









# THANK YOU



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# Legal Definition of Boundary

- “2 Esquimalt Lagoon Bird Sanctuary
- All and singular, that certain parcel or tract of land, and lands covered by water, situated in Esquimalt District, Province of British Columbia, which lands may be more particularly described as follows:
- Salt Lagoon, known locally as Esquimalt Lagoon, Cobourg Peninsula, known locally as the Lagoon Sand Spit, also a strip of land 300 feet in width extending inland from high-water mark of the said Lagoon, all as shown on the map of Esquimalt Harbour, Vancouver Island, Province of British Columbia, issued in A.D. 1918-1919, under the orders of the Minister of the Naval Service of Canada (now Department of National Defence).”

***Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations*** (C.R.C., c. 1036)

Enabled by the ***Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994***

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