



Birds Commonly Seen from Coburg Peninsula

Bird Habitat

The upland areas surrounding the lagoon contain a number of sensitive ecosystems, including woodland and riparian forests, Garry oak meadows and wetlands. These diverse natural areas provide important habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife.



White-winged Scoter
(Commonly found on the ocean side of the spit)



Belted Kingfisher



Red-breasted Merganser
Breeding Plumage
From May to October the male plumage is similar to the female's but with a white patch on the wing.



Double-crested Cormorant
Winter Plumage
Breeding Plumage (with crests)



Red-necked Grebe
Winter Plumage
Breeding Plumage



Common Loon
Breeding Plumage



Surf Scoter
Scoters and other sea ducks are commonly found on the ocean side of the spit in winter, where they sometimes congregate in huge "rafts".



Lesser Scaup



Greater Scaup
Greater and Lesser Scaup are almost identical. Greater Scaup, with more rounded heads, are more common at Esquimalt Lagoon.



Common Merganser
Breeding Plumage
From May to October the male plumage is similar to the female's as shown.



Great Blue Heron
Great Blue Herons nest in a forest colony at the edge of the lagoon.

Fringe Marsh

Important fringe marshes that run along the lagoon shoreline provide wildlife with food, shelter and nesting habitat. These and other wetland areas protect water quality by helping to filter pollutants from urban runoff before they reach the lagoon waters.

Help Protect the Lagoon Environment

Keep the lagoon clean

Garbage and litter detract from the beauty and enjoyment of the Esquimalt Lagoon and can be harmful to wildlife if ingested. Please clean up after yourself and place all refuse in the garbage cans provided.

Clean up after your dog

Esquimalt Lagoon is a popular recreational area. Help keep it clean by picking up after your dog. There are garbage cans at the lagoon for your convenience.

Watch where you step

Intertidal and fringe marsh habitats are very sensitive to trampling and fringe marsh plants, like glasswort, or sea asparagus (*Salicornia spp.*), can be destroyed when walked on. Please be aware of where you and your dog are walking and stay on the existing pathway on the lagoon side.



Killdeer (with young)
Killdeer will pretend to have a broken wing to distract people and predators from their young.

ELSI Partners (2002)

ELSI has formed subcommittees consisting of interested government agencies, First Nations, landowners and the community to implement the Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Plan:

- City of Colwood
- Department of National Defence
- CRD Parks
- Esquimalt Nation
- Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service
- Esquimalt Lagoon Enhancement Association
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Habitat Acquisition Trust
- Local residents
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
- Pacific Centre Family Services
- Parks Canada
- Local residents
- Royal Roads University
- Songhees Nation
- University of Victoria, Restoration of Natural Systems
- Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours Environmental Action Program
- Victoria Natural History Society
- Westshore Chamber of Commerce
- Royal Canadian Legion (Prince Edward Branch)

Background photo: Chris Kelly

Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Plan 2002