

Marine Birds – Brant Spring Staging Surveys

description

This atlas page illustrates the best available data that identifies Brant spring habitat, which falls within the months of March through to April. The Brant (*Branta bernicla*) is a medium size goose with a black belly and breast, and is similar in appearance to the Canada Goose. The Brant has the furthest north-south migration of any goose, ranging from the Arctic tundra to Baja California. During spring months, the Brant can be seen in staging grounds in coastal areas in southern British Columbia and in northern British Columbia where small numbers winter over. The Brant utilizes the staging grounds for approximately one month, where they feed primarily on eelgrass before they continue their migration to their nesting grounds in the wet, coastal tundra in the Arctic.

Source data used to develop this map consisted of a range of shoreline-based, ground, boat and aerial surveys, which were focused on identifying, counting and recording marine birds. The majority of the surveys were collected at sites with defined boundaries and areas. Surveys collected along transects from each dataset were buffered depending upon observation width described within the source survey methodology in order to generate a survey area.

Observations of the listed species were totalled for each survey location and divided by the area surveyed to generate a density value for each survey location. The densities of all of the survey locations within a single planning unit were averaged and adjusted for survey effort to calculate the illustrated metric, average density of Brant in the spring by planning unit. The values were then classified and symbolized using 5 quantiles, meaning that each class consisted of 20% of the non-zero planning units. (A quantile is established by dividing the frequency distribution of a variable into equal groups: that is, each quantile contains the same fraction of the total number of values being measured.)



PHOTO: STUBBLEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO: LARSEN

data sources

- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) - BC Ferry Surveys
- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) – Coastal Waterbird Inventory
- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) – West Coast Vancouver Island Waterbird Survey
- Bird Studies Canada - BC Coastal Waterbird Survey
- Capital Regional District – Harbours Atlas

data resolution

- Weighted averages were calculated for each 2 kilometre x 2 kilometre planning unit.

data collected

- 1939-2008

date compiled

- 2010

reviewers

- Peter Davidson, Bird Studies Canada
- James Kenyon, Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Representatives from Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

reviewer comments

- None provided.

caveats of use

- Survey effort is not consistent across all planning units, across all areas of the coast or across all seasons. Areas with no data may not have been surveyed and these data gaps are not necessarily indicative of an absence of Brant.
- The density values in an area can change over time in response to natural population fluctuations and changes in habitat conditions (natural or anthropogenic).
- The precision of the average density values displayed in the legend is not indicative of the original precision of the survey counts.
- This feature is a compilation of data collected by many people, for different purposes, using different survey techniques with different methodologies within each technique and, therefore, considerable care must be taken when using the data.
- Surveys performed in different seasons will produce different results.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: None provided.

map, feature data and metadata access

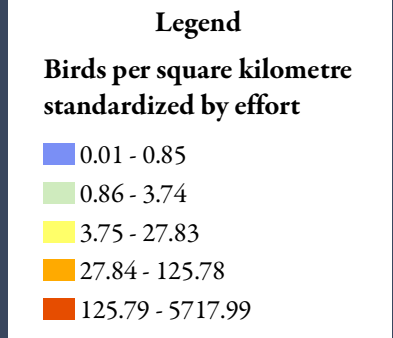
- Visit www.bcmca.ca/data for more information.

references

Species description contains material from:

- B.C. Conservation Data Centre. *Species Summary: Branta bernicla*. BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) 2010. 21 Sep. 2010 <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/>
- Seattle Audubon Society. *BirdWeb – Seattle Audubon's Guide to the Birds of Washington*. Revised 2008. www.seattleaudubon.org/birdweb

BCMCA Atlas
Marine Birds
Brant Spring Staging Surveys



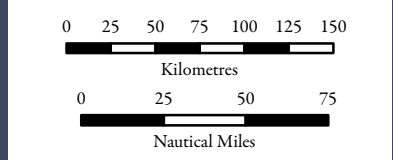
Note:
 - Classification based on 5 quantiles.

Data Sources:
 Environment Canada
 (Canadian Wildlife Service),
 Bird Studies Canada,
 Capital Regional District

Base Data:
 ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC,
 NOAA, Natural Resources Canada,
 USGS, Washington State Government

Thematic Data:
 For more information on data sources
 and methods please refer to the
 facing page to this map

Projection: BC Albers NAD83



1:4,250,000*
 * Written scales are approximate and
 are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.
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