

Marine Birds – Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler Winter Surveys

description

This atlas page illustrates the best available data that identifies Blue-winged Teal or Northern Shoveler winter habitat, which falls within the months of December through to February. The Blue-Winged Teal (*Anas discors*) is a small dabbling duck with a long body and long bill, and can be identified by the pale blue patches when in flight. This species is highly migratory and is mostly absent from North America during winter months. The Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) is easily distinguished by its large, spoon-shaped bill, which is used for straining small invertebrates from mud and water. During winter months, the Northern Shoveler inhabits salt marshes and freshwater habitats.

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 by species 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 Blue-winged Teal or Northern Shoveler in the winter by planning unit. Due to limited data, values were not classified and were symbolized using the average density.



PHOTO: STEVE BYLAND

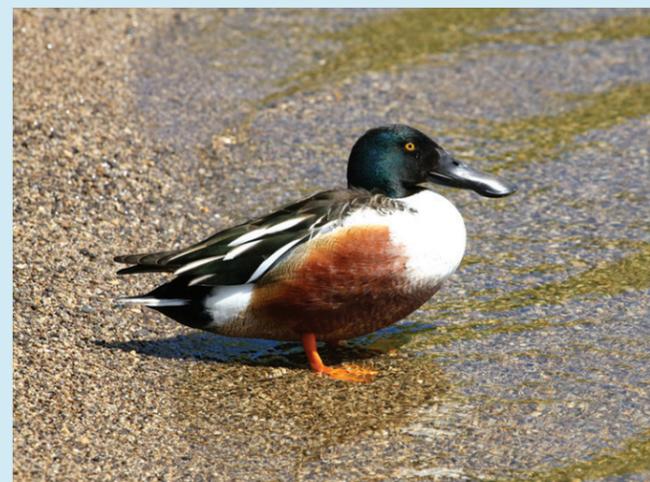


PHOTO: RON ROWAN

data sources

- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) – Coastal Waterbird Inventory
- Bird Studies Canada - BC Coastal Waterbird Survey

data resolution

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

data collected

- 1962-2005

date compiled

- 2010

reviewers

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

reviewer comments

- Blue-winged Teal breeds extensively in British Columbia but individuals very rarely remain through the winter. Not sure why Shoveler is not showing up in the Fraser Delta, but is prominent off Victoria. Northern Shoveler is a regular winter visitor (numbers in the hundreds at least) to Roberts Bank, Boundary Bay and adjacent terrestrial habitats, but this does not show up. Data illustrated may be dated already.

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 Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler.
- 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: Anas discors and Anas clypeata*. BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) 2010. 21 Sep. 2010 <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/>
- The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. *All about Birds*. 2009. www.allaboutbirds.org/guide
- Seattle Audubon Society. *BirdWeb – Seattle Audubon's Guide to the Birds of Washington*. Revised 2008. www.seattleaudubon.org/birdweb

BCMCA Atlas

Marine Birds

Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler Winter Surveys

Legend

Birds per square kilometre standardized by effort

Blue-winged Teal

0.05

2.99

Northern Shoveler

1.44

3.65

Data Sources:

Environment Canada
(Canadian Wildlife Service),
Bird Studies Canada

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

0 25 50 75 100 125 150

Kilometres

0 25 50 75

Nautical Miles

1:4,250,000 *

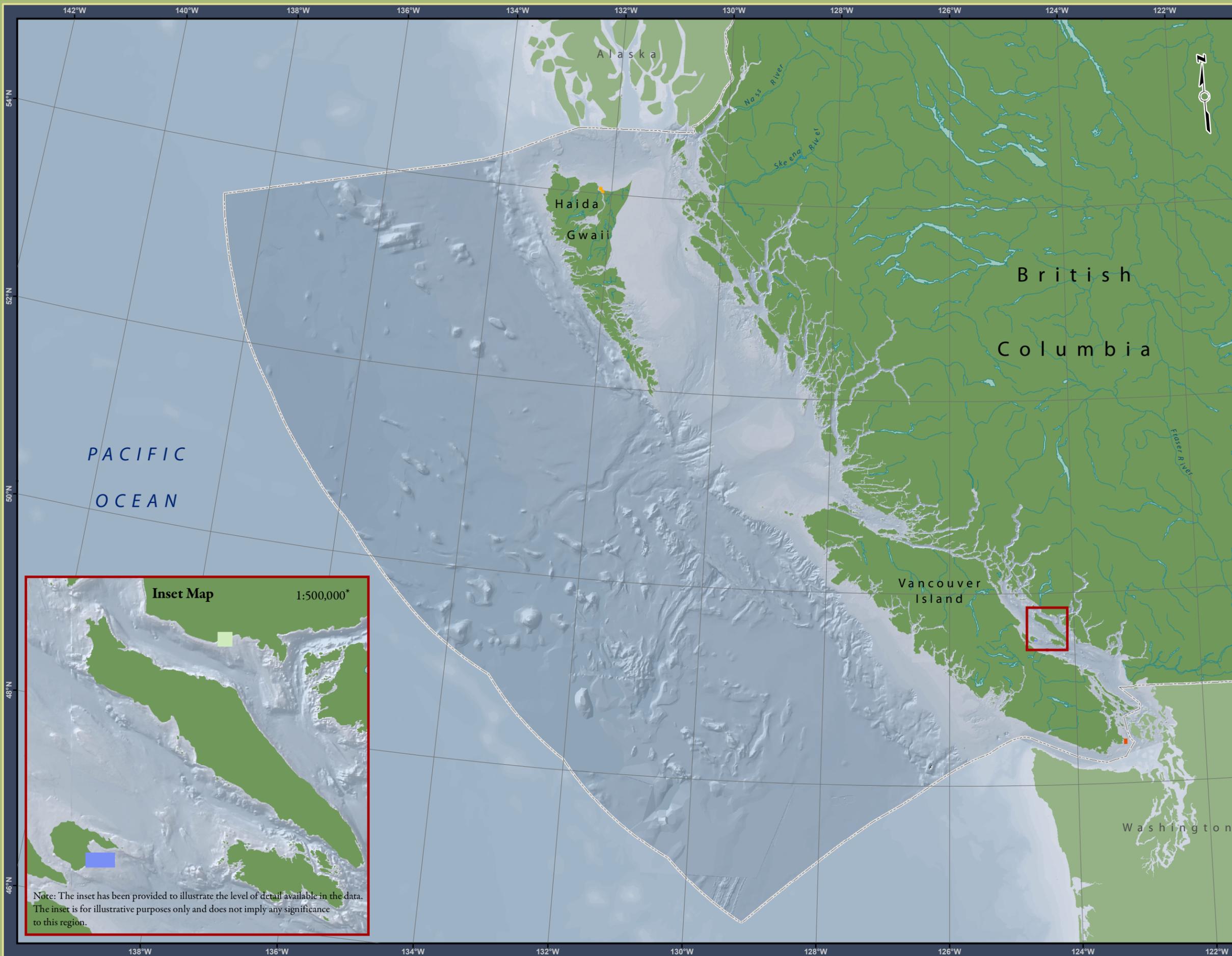
* Written scales are approximate and
are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.

August 27, 2010



Note: The inset has been provided to illustrate the level of detail available in the data. The inset is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply any significance to this region.