

Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Delta, and West Dyke Trail, Richmond
March 18, 2023, Hike Lead: Barbara Waldern

The sun smiled down upon the 10 of us as we strolled through the bird sanctuary with a multitude of friendly ducks of many species, Canada geese, blue and grey herons and blackbirds. We gazed at the marshes and climbed the tower to surveil the whole reserve and the open sea, where we could see the Olympic Peninsula in the US, Vancouver and Gulf Islands, West Vancouver, Sunshine Coast and Howe Sound area. We endeavoured to keep the peace by breaking up a couple of fights between drakes and ganders. Meanwhile, the blackbirds, sparrows, chickadees and finches kept singing their springtime songs. Despite our desire to explore the sanctuary further, we left to also go enjoy Steveston Village and the West Dyke Trail on this magnificent day with the first warm temperatures of the budding season. After enjoying a long break at the beach at Garry Point Park in Steveston, we headed north along the dyke trail to find falcons, eagles and hawks swooping down into the marshes as many of the same sort of waterfowl and songbirds we'd seen at the sanctuary. The snow geese did not disappoint. It wasn't long before we noticed them amassing and swarming to dart above the shoreline all the while constantly voicing their high-pitched squawks--marvelous sounds and sights! We imagined that they were preparing for their long voyage back to Siberia. We also spotted many turtles sunning on rocks in ponds. Shortly after reaching Blundell Road and the golf course, we decided to return to Garry Point Park in Steveston. Though we walked for over 4 hours on this day, it was a brilliant and relaxing experience.