

Migration 2009

Although we know a fair bit about the waterfowl life cycle and migration, there is still much about this natural spectacle that remains unknown. This mysterious quality is why fall migration never ceases to inspire awe in the humans that watch and listen as flocks of waterfowl fill the skies. Here are some DUC-recommended hotspots for migration viewing this fall.

British Columbia:

BC Peace

- South Charlie Lake (Fort St. John)
- Watson Slough (Fort St. John)
- McQueen Slough (Dawson Creek)

Cariboo-Chilcotin

- 100 Mile Marsh (100 Mile House)
- Chilanko Wildlife Management Area

Okanagan

- Shuswap Lake/Salmon Arm foreshore (Salmon Arm)
- Swan Lake/Anderson Property (Vernon)

East Kootenays

- [Creston Wildlife Management Area](#) (Creston)
- Columbia Wetlands/Windermere Lake (Invermere)

Lower Mainland

- [Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary](#) (Delta)
- Minnekhada Regional Park (Port Coquitlam)
- Pitt-Addington Wildlife Management Area (Port Coquitlam)
- Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park (Chilliwack)

Vancouver Island

- Buttertubs Marsh (Nanaimo)
- Comox Bay Farm (Courtenay)
- Lazo Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- Rithet's Bog (Victoria/Saanich)



Alberta:

Brooks

- Kinbrook Marsh (on Lake Newell south of Brooks)
- Kitsim Reservoir (adjacent to Hwy 36 south of Brooks)

Calgary

- Frank Lake (east of High River)
- Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

Camrose

- Bittern Lake
- Lyseng Reservoir (8 miles NW of Camrose)
- Dried Meat Lake (south of Camrose)

Edmonton

- Big Lake (west edge of St. Albert)
- Manawan Lake (NW of Morinville)
- Whitford Lake (SE of Andrew)

Grand Prairie

- Wembley (Sunset) Lake
- Kakut Lake
- Stark-Patterson
- Kimiwan Lake Birdwalk (McLennan)

Peace River

- Thomas (Dick Wald Memorial) Project

Red Deer

- Pine Lake

Stettler

- Buffalo Lake (NW of Stettler)
- Shooting Lake (SE of Stettler)



Saskatchewan:

North Battleford

- Battlefords Project
- Neale-Edmunds Project
- Jackfish Marsh/Lake
- Scentgrass Lake

Regina

- Nicolle Flats
- Last Mountain Lake (National Wildlife Area)
- Pelican Lake

Saskatoon

- Indi Lake
- Clavet Project
- Bradwell NWA Project

Yorkton

- Yorkton South Project
- Rokaby Project
- Wallace Project

Wadena

- Big Quill and Little Quill Lakes - The [Quill Lakes International Bird Area](#) is located in east-central Saskatchewan between Saskatoon and Yorkton. There, you'll find the Quill Lakes Interpretive Centre (Wynyard), the Wadena Nature Centre (Wadena), and the Foam Lake Visitor Centre (Foam Lake). These three centres provide a rich opportunity for visitors to learn about the millions of shorebirds, waterfowl, and cranes that visit the area, as well as the value of wetlands and the need for conservation. They are also excellent places from which to explore the wildlife viewing areas at DUC's managed wetlands.
- Foam Lake
- Mud Lake

Swift Current

- Chaplin Lake - [Chaplin Nature Centre](#) is located along the shore of the Chaplin Lakes, about 140 km west of Regina, this is an internationally recognized migration stop for hundreds of thousands of birds.



Manitoba:

Winnipeg

- Oak Hammock Marsh (www.oakhammockmarsh.ca)

Westman Region

- Riverbank Discovery Centre (Brandon)
- Oak and Plum Lake Marshes (Oak Lake)
- Alexander-Griswold Marsh (Alexander)
- Whitewater Lake (Boissevain)
- Lidcliff Marsh (Russell)

Portage la Prairie area

- Delta Marsh (Delta Beach)
- Sioux Pass Marsh (St. Ambroise Provincial Park)
- Big Grass Marsh (Gladstone)

Interlake area

- Grassy Narrows Marsh (Hecla Provincial Park)

Southeast Manitoba

- Rat River Swamp (Vita)

Northwest Manitoba

- Saskatchewan River Delta Marshes (The Pas)

Ontario:

- Visit the **Down at the Pond website** (www.downatthepond.ca) to find some DUC-recommended hot spots for waterfowl viewing in Ontario this fall.
- **Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Management Area** in Prince Edward County as a good spot to catch some fall migration action. Located nine kilometres southwest of Picton in the Village of Cherry Valley, Point Petre is an important stopover for mallard, black duck, blue- and green-winged teal, wood duck, hooded merganser, lesser and greater scaup, bufflehead and common merganser.
- **Lake St. Clair National Wildlife Area**, located along the east coast of Lake St. Clair along Townline Road and Balmoral Line, is one of the most important staging areas for waterfowl in Ontario. In the fall, up to 20,000 ducks, geese and swans use this NWA during their migration. The most common species of ducks are widgeon, gadwall, blue-winged and green-winged teal, mallard and black duck.



- **Big Creek National Wildlife Area**, Located just off Highway 59 between the villages of Port Rowan and Long Point, boasts a viewing stand and wheelchair access to the first level. Expect to see mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks, Canada geese in August and September, and green-winged teal, mallards, geese, tundra swans, redheads, canvasbacks, scaup and merganser in October.
- **Lake George Wetland** located 15 minutes southeast of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, off Highway 17 in the Town of Echo Bay, is home to 186 species of waterfowl, colonial water birds, shorebirds, passerines and raptors and offers an extensive boardwalk and interpretive signs for visitors. It is an important staging area for dabbling ducks, diving ducks and geese with an estimated 5,000 waterfowl passing through each year.

Quebec:

- **Centre d'interprétation de Baie-du-Febvre**: In the spring and fall, the centre becomes a refuge for snow geese, Canada geese and ducks.
Website: oies.com
- **Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area**: Located 60 km (37 mi.) east of Québec City, the reserve's 20 km (12 mi.) of trails are sprinkled with observation stations, including an observatory atop a 150-m (490-ft.) cliff. Website: captourmente.com
- **Montmagny**: avenue du Quai. Info : 1 800 463-LOIE

New Brunswick:

- **Upper Bay of Fundy**:
NS/NB border Sackville Waterfowl Park Fort Beausejour Marsh A traditional waterfowl staging area and migration stop for black ducks, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, wood ducks and ring necked ducks among other species. The birds feed on the wild rice stands.
- **Mount Ararat Wildlife Management Area, Gagetown Island**:
DUC has a long history in this area with two projects that are major migration stops for waterfowl.
- **Tabusintac River/Lagoon**: A coastal area used by waterfowl for centuries.
- **Baie Verte**: A major fall staging area for Canada Geese and black ducks. Large flocks of blue-winged teal might be seen staging on the DUC wetland right in the village of Baie Verte.



- **Shepody Bay:** DUC manages large freshwater marshes in this area that support migrating and staging waterfowl. Germantown Marsh, Calhoun Marsh, New Horton Marsh and the many acres of salt marsh close by are the best places to view the ducks.
- **Red Head Marsh:** This former freshwater DUC impoundment located in East Saint John was returned to tidal influence in 2005. It is an excellent spot to see large numbers of greenwing teal, black duck, shorebirds and Canada geese. The trail is still under construction but parking is available.
- **Black Duck Marsh:** The marsh is located southeast of Fredericton, about one km north of the toll-free ferry dock to Gagetown. The trail follows a system of dikes around the marsh, and provides wonderful wildlife viewing opportunities. All the usual suspects can be seen here: black duck, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, American widgeon, mallard and wood duck in particular.

Nova Scotia

- **Greenwing Legacy Interpretive Centre and Wetlands, Shubenacadie, N.S.:** Located just north of Halifax, this state-of-the-art facility welcomes you with interactive exhibits, close-up views of wildlife in wetland habitat and recreational opportunities in a beautiful setting.
- **Amherst area - Upper Bay of Fundy:** Amherst Point Migratory Bird Sanctuary - A wetland complex of three large wetlands along the shore of the Bay of Fundy, ten minutes outside of Amherst.
- There are a number of other wetlands where migratory birds can be observed within a 20 minute drive of Amherst:
- **Minas Bight:** At Minas Bight, the Avon, Cornwallis, Gaspereau, Kennetcook and Cogmagun rivers converge to create estuaries, salt marsh and mud flats that provide ideal fall waterfowl habitat. DUC is actively working with partners to protect this habitat, which is also a Ramsar site, meaning the wetlands are recognized internationally for their importance to waterfowl.
- **Wallace Bay and Tatamagouche Bay - Northumberland Strait:** Salt marsh and estuaries found along the stretch of coast from the Nova Scotia/New Brunswick border to Cape Breton offer migrating waterfowl plenty to eat.
- **Halifax Regional Municipality - Musquodoboit Harbour Estuary:** A 45-minute commute from the metro area brings you to this Ramsar site. The highest densities of over wintering geese and black ducks are found here. Musquodoboit Harbour is the primary base for over wintering Canada geese, American black ducks, common and Barrow's goldeneye, and long tailed ducks along the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia. Common eiders, green-winged teal, ring-necked ducks, mergansers, scoters and the harlequin duck can also be spotted.



Prince Edward Island:

- **Lake Verde:** Located about 20 minutes northeast of Charlottetown.
- **Ellen's Creek Wildlife Management Area:** Located right in the city of Charlottetown.
- **Mount Stewart:** Located 30 minutes outside of Charlottetown.

Newfoundland/Labrador

St. John's:

- **Lundrigan's Marsh:** A 24 acre wetland where you can see black ducks and mallards.

Corner Brook:

- **Cooks Marsh:** A 25-acre wetland about 15 minutes south of Corner Brook where you can see black ducks and ring-necked ducks.

Grand Falls/Windsor:

- **Corduroy Marsh:** A 35-acre wetland where you can walk the trails and observe black ducks from the observation decks.

