

From: Harry McLeod [hamcleod@shaw.ca]
Received: Wed 2016-02-17 4:26 PM

With all the rainy weather we have been having, it hasn't been worthwhile to do much wildlife photography; however, I have managed to get out several times in February so far, and once in January. The Long-Tailed ducks are a major attraction and can be seen at the end of the peninsula at Deep Bay. This is one of the few places in the Province where they congregate in more than just a few in number. Anywhere from 14 to 20 are usually in this location and another 6-10 may be farther out mingling with Surf and the occasional White-Winged scoters. A few Bufflehead and Harlequin can usually be found here as well. This year, a half dozen Scaup joined in. The waterfront at Qualicum Beach usually has a small flock of Black Scoters. They are the ones with the orange knob at the top base of the bill. Larger flocks of these can usually be found off the end of Surfside Drive, which in turn is off Kincade, a street well known to Fly Fishers heading to the Little Qualicum River. The Community Park at Parksville Bay is sometimes a good place to view waterfowl, although the sidewalk traffic and beach traffic at lower tides may keep them farther out in the Bay. So far this year, there was a large flock of Surf Scoters earlier (see picture of raucous activity of a few near shore). More recently, there has been a sizable flock of Scaup, and I have included these as well.

Soon the herring run will be on and then the wildlife activity will be stepped up considerably.



White-Winger Scoter



Five Males And One Female Black Scoter



Six Surf Scoters plus two diving



Seal



Three Male Bufflehead



Common Goldeneye Landing