

# A Buffet for Birds

THESE SHELTERED BAYS OFFER A SAFE AND FOOD-RICH HAVEN FOR WADING BIRDS AND WATERFOWL



**PLEASE BE QUIET**

... so that the birds do not "flush" (fly off). Flushing causes birds to use up their energy reserves.

By the time they arrive at Woodard Bay, migrating waterfowl and shorebirds have just flown several thousand miles. Spring-migrating birds need to

put on reserves of fat so they can nest in northern breeding areas. Birds that nest here, including herons, must focus on foraging for their hungry young.

**THESE BIRDS NEED UNINTERRUPTED FEEDING AND RESTING TIME.**



Common Merganser

Ducks migrating south along the Pacific Flyway begin arriving at Woodard Bay in late autumn. Some stay for the winter. Others spend only a few weeks at Woodard Bay and then continue their journey.



Barrow's Goldeneye

They feed in different parts of the bay over the course of the day's tide cycle. They dive to forage for mollusks, small crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates living on the bottom of the bay.



Hooded Merganser

*The best waterfowl viewing is from late fall to early spring.*

## A YEAR-ROUND HOME FOR GREAT BLUE HERONS

Woodard Bay NRCA is home to an especially large colony of great blue herons. They feed along the water's edge at all but the highest tides. Their long legs allow them to wade stealthily in shallow water as they hunt. With their long bills, they spear small fish, crabs and other prey.

In spring and early summer, herons nest in colonies called rookeries high in the treetops. At other times of the year, they rest during the day in trees along the shore or on the nearby pilings and pier.



▲ Double-crested cormorants rest on pilings and on seal haul-outs alongside the seals. Unlike other sea birds, their feathers aren't waterproof, so they often stand upright and hold their wings out to dry.



▲ Eagles, osprey and peregrine falcons nest nearby.



▲ Kingfishers hunt from perches in standing and downed trees along the shoreline.

**WATCH FOR HERONS FEEDING ALONG THE WATER'S EDGE AT ALL BUT THE HIGHEST TIDES.**

