

# Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

## Comox Valley Area

### Cumberland Wetlands & Sewage Lagoons



Ring-necked Duck:  
Bill Heybroek drawing



Cumberland Sewage Lagoon: Terry Thormin photo



Northern Shoveller: Terry Thormin photo

#### Photo Gallery

Located near the Village of Cumberland, the Cumberland Wetlands and Sewage Lagoons provide habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife. Situated south of Cumberland Road, 32-hectares of natural wetlands draining from Maple Lake are largely inaccessible to visitors. A trail along the outflow channel of the sewage lagoons is a good spot to look for dabbling ducks like Northern Shoveler, Green-winged teal, Ring-necked Ducks and Common Goldeneye, and for raptors like Northern Shrikes and Cooper's Hawks. A number of gull species may also be seen in and around the ponds. Black cottonwood and red alder are the dominant tree species, but there are patches of second growth forest including some Douglas-fir, shore pine, grand fir and western hemlock. A short trail leads through a four-hectare woodland area. Be warned that the trails can be wet in the winter, and seasonal flooding may occur.

#### Site Map

##### **Geographical Description**

Extensive wetlands south of Cumberland Rd, draining from Maple Lake; Cumberland aeration pond & settling pond, all draining southeast into the Trent River.

##### **Area/ Trail Length**

Sewage lagoons: 3.3 ha., approx. 600m trail on east side of outflow channel; approx. 4 ha. wooded area to the west, approx. 300 m trails through woods.

##### **Habitat**

Wetlands: 32 ha., mostly inaccessible.

Large natural wetlands, two sewage lagoon ponds, small 2nd growth forest.

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<b>Highlights</b>	Dabbling ducks including Northern Shoveller, Green-winged Teal in lagoons, likely raptors including hawks around perimeter.
<b>Best Season</b>	Year-round for birds.
<b>Main Access</b>	Access road west of 2950 Ulverston Ave.
<b>Secondary Accesses</b>	Path from Royston Rd. 80 m. west of intersection with Union Rd. Pedestrian right-of-way between 3354 & 3350 Coniston Cres., between 3378 & 3380 Coniston Cres.
<b>Cautions</b>	Authorized personnel only around lagoons perimeter; High voltage electrical infrastructure behind fence. Trails can be wet in winter & flood occasionally.
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Village of Cumberland Department of Public Works.
<b>Birds</b>	Ring-necked Duck, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Mew Gull, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Northwestern Crow, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin. <a href="#">Bird List</a>
<b>Mammals</b>	Black-tailed Deer, Black Bear.
<b>Reptiles</b>	
<b>Amphibians</b>	
<b>Fish</b>	
<b>Insects</b>	
<b>Trees</b>	Mostly black cottonwood & red alder. Some shore pine, redcedar, Douglas-fir, grand fir, willow sp., occasional western hemlock.
<b>Shrubs</b>	Salmonberry, red-osier dogwood, red elderberry, pacific crabapple, Oregon grape, snowberry, hardhack.
<b>Flowering Plants</b>	Western dock, cattail.
<b>Ferns, Lichens, Mosses</b>	Sword fern, bracken fern.
<b>Other Species</b>	
<b>Invasive/Non-native species</b>	Invasive: Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, tansy. Non-native: rowan (European mountain-ash)
<b>Mushrooms</b>	
<b>Geology</b>	
<b>Regulations</b>	Authorized personnel only around lagoons.
<b>Facilities</b>	Small parking area at Ulverston Rd.

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#### Other Features

#### Other

#### Connections

#### FMI

Former underground sewer right-of-way through woods.

[Village of Cumberland](#)

[Cumberland Wetlands Map pdf](#)

[eBird Hotspot](#)

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