Biological Monitoring: The Incredible Life of Brant

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Biological Monitoring:

The Incredible Life of Brant
The Salish Sea & Surrounding Basin

The Salish Sea extends from the north end of the Strait of Georgia to the south end of the Puget Sound and west to the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
Have you ever heard of brant before the presentation?

A) Yes  
B) Maybe  
C) No
Three Subspecies of Brant

Slightly different coloration and different ranges

Image from *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. 
A year
in the life
of a brant
goose
September

Begin leaving arctic nesting areas of Canada, Alaska and Russia
Sept. - Oct. Fattening Up at Izembek
They supplement their diet with:

- Ulva (Sea Lettuce)
- Herring spawn
Let's Pause for Questions
Some Brant winter in estuaries in Washington and Oregon. For example…
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, WA
But most fly non-stop to Baja California

3,000 miles
50 - 65 mph
2.5 - 4 days
October - February
Recuperation and Relaxation
February - April

Time to Head North
Late April - Early May

Take a break at Izembek
May

The brant return to the nesting grounds
Mid-May to Mid-June
Building nests and laying eggs
Let’s Pause for Questions
Low Profile and Identity with Public
One of the Few Waterfowl That Still Functions Essentially the Same As It Has For Thousands of Years
Researching Brant in the Arctic
Tracking Brant

Canadian Arctic

Yukon Delta

Russia

North Slope, AK

NE Alaska
Let’s Pause for Questions
The International Brant Monitoring Project

Students looking for brant on Samish Island
Monitoring for brant in Padilla Bay with 6th graders from Conway School
The International Brant Monitoring Project - Projecto Internacional de la Branta

2010/2011 Submittal Form - 2010/2011 Formulario de Sumision

Date (Fecha):

Observers and Location (Observadores y Localizacion):
Select appropriate observer and location. If not in list select OTHER and place your name and location in the notes section.
Seleccione observadores y localizacion apropiados. Si no esta en la lista seleccione OTHER/OTRO y entre su nombre y su localizacion en la seccion para notas.

Delta, B.C. – Richard Swanston
Punta Abreojos/Esteros La Bocana, Baja California Sur – GEXBRA Club
Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve, Guerro Negro Lagoon, Baja California Reserve – Students/ Pro Esteros
Izembek Lagoon, AK – Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
Morro Bay, CA – John Roser

Number of brant seen
(Numero de brantas observadas):

Percent Juveniles (Porcentaje de juveniles):

Select here for instructions on percent juveniles (Seleccione aqui para instrucciones de porcentaje de juveniles)
Use numbers or small amount of text (save additional comments for the notes section).
Use numeros o poco texto ( guarde comentarios adicionales para la seccion para notas).

Additional Notes (Notas adicionales):
Use this section for description of observation, such as weather, interesting or curious notes, or other items which may give more detail to your log entry.
Utilize esta seccion para descripciones de la observacion, como el clima, notas interesantes o curiosas, o otras noticias que puedan dar mas detalle a su reporte.
Student brant monitors of San Quintin, Baja California
The Brant Care Package

Alaska
Washington
Oregon
Mexico
Do you know if you live on a flyway?

√ Yes
X No
Other Migration & Observation Projects

Journey North: http://www.learner.org/jnorth/

Shorebird Sister Schools program: http://www.fws.gov/sssp/

The Globe Program: http://globe.gov/
Begin by passing out the Marsh to Marina pictures on the next page. Explain that the pictures represent some of the ways people have used wetlands through time. Have the students cut out the pictures and then try to arrange them in order.

- Picture D: before 1800
- Picture B: mid 1800s
- Picture F: late 1800s
- Picture A: early 1900s
- Picture C: 1950s
- Picture E: 1990s

http://www.padillabay.gov/educationcurriculum.asp
Let’s Pause for Questions
Threats Brant Face

Dredging & Diking
Human Development & Habitat Loss
Overhunting
If the sea level rises enough it could kill off acres and acres of eelgrass beds that brant depend on for food.
Eelgrass: Essential Food for Brant

- It is not an algae
- It is a vascular underwater plant with flowers, pollen, and roots
- High demand for sunlight
- Can grow up to 2 meters long
- Zone: shallow subtidal
- Habitat: muddy, sandy bottom
Helpful Resources and Links

Brant Monitoring Project
http://www.padillabay.gov/brant/

Washington Brant foundation
http://www.wabrant.org/about.html

Washington Dept of Ecology
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/

Fish & Wildlife Service: Flyways
http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/Flyways.html

Pros Esteros
http://proesteros.cicese.mx/
This web seminar contains information about programs, products, and services offered by third parties, as well as links to third-party websites. The presence of a listing or such information does not constitute an endorsement by NSTA of a particular company or organization, or its programs, products, or services.
Welcome to Your Professional Development Web Space!

Learning Center, you've already earned **2875 Activity Points**!

You've recently earned:  
- **Diamond Commenter**  
- **Platinum Commenter**

You’re close to earning:  
- **Post 45 more comment/questions**

Be sure to update your profile and review your points & badges!

With these resources you can build your professional development plan, track your activities and assess your progress. You can start at "Explore Learning Opportunities" below or by creating your game plan with the PD Plan and Portfolio tool. You may also review an Archived Web Seminar or a multimedia overview of the Learning Center.

http://learningcenter.nsta.org
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