



## Newsletter

1 September 2021 | Issue 5

### Upcoming Events

See our [Calendar](#) for local (and virtual) nature-related events.



### Let's Stay Social

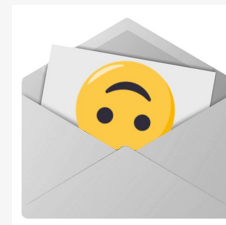
We'd love to hear from you!



### Newsletter Contributions

Do you have nature stories, news, event details, or photographs you'd like to share with us as we assemble our new club newsletters?

Please send them to [naturenanaimo@gmail.com](mailto:naturenanaimo@gmail.com) with the subject "Newsletter" and we'll be in touch!



## Club Events

### Monthly Meetings

Our next monthly meeting will be at **7pm on Thursday, September 16th**. The meeting format (in-person or online) is under consideration due to the recently updated provincial restrictions; please watch your inbox for an email update.

## Nature Nanaimo

Presents:

### Western Screech Owl

Monitoring and Habitat Enhancement  
Efforts in Coastal BC

with

**Tania Tripp**

Thursday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 PM



### Western Screech-Owl—Monitoring and Habitat Enhancement Efforts in Coastal B.C.

Please join us for a presentation from biologist Tania Tripp of Madrone Environmental Services Ltd. entitled: Western Screech-Owl – Monitoring and Habitat Enhancement Efforts in Coastal B.C.

Tania has conducted research on the Western Screech-Owl for 20+ years. She completed her M.Sc. thesis on the bioacoustics of this species of owl in 2003 and continues to study their vocal behaviours.

She has worked with many naturalist and not-for-profit groups to initiate screech-owl monitoring programs. Her focus in recent years has been on habitat restoration and enhancement of habitat for the Western Screech-Owl through nest box programs. Some of the groups she has worked with include the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) in Victoria, Thetis Island Nature Conservancy (ThINK), Campbell River Fish and Game via funding through the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) and MOSAIC, and the Fraser Valley Naturalists.

Tania's presentation will highlight findings from recent surveys for Western Screech-Owls. The quest for owls has largely been volunteer-based and focused on using audio recording units and specialized software to determine the presence of Western Screech-Owls in habitats on the south coast. Her talk will provide information on the nest box projects she has assisted with in recent years, as well as information on upcoming nest box installations in the Campbell River Watershed via FWCP and MOSAIC funding to help this threatened owl. Her presentation will be approximately 45min to an hour with additional time for questions.

## Nature News and Nuggets

### A Request to Nature Nanaimo Members

#### **Bird carcasses needed for study on breeding origins of birds killed in SW BC**

Recently published research conducted at UBC indicates that the fatality rates due to collisions with glass is highest during migration and in winter and certain species such as the Varied Thrush and Spotted Towhee are particularly vulnerable (<https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithapp/duab027>). High winter collision rates have been previously reported only at homes with bird feeders.



<https://findthebirds.com>

An Environment and Climate Change Canada researcher team (Tara Imlay, Krista De Groot, Sydney Bliss and Laurie Wilson) is working to determine breeding origins of birds killed in urban areas in SW BC to help inform our conservation efforts. We are seeking the assistance of Nature Nanaimo members to collect carcasses from birds killed by windows or by cats in SW BC between September 2021 and May 2022. To participate, please freeze carcasses, label bags with date and location found, and contact [krista.degroot@ec.gc.ca](mailto:krista.degroot@ec.gc.ca) or [tara.imlay@ec.gc.ca](mailto:tara.imlay@ec.gc.ca). We thank you in advance for your support!

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## Vancouver Island Marmot Discovery

**A good news story!**



### 'A thrilling sign': Researchers discover secret colony...

Researchers and conservationists are celebrating after the discovery of a group of Vancouver Island marmots that signals a great step forward in the recovery of the highly endangered species. Adam Taylor, executive director of the Vancouver...

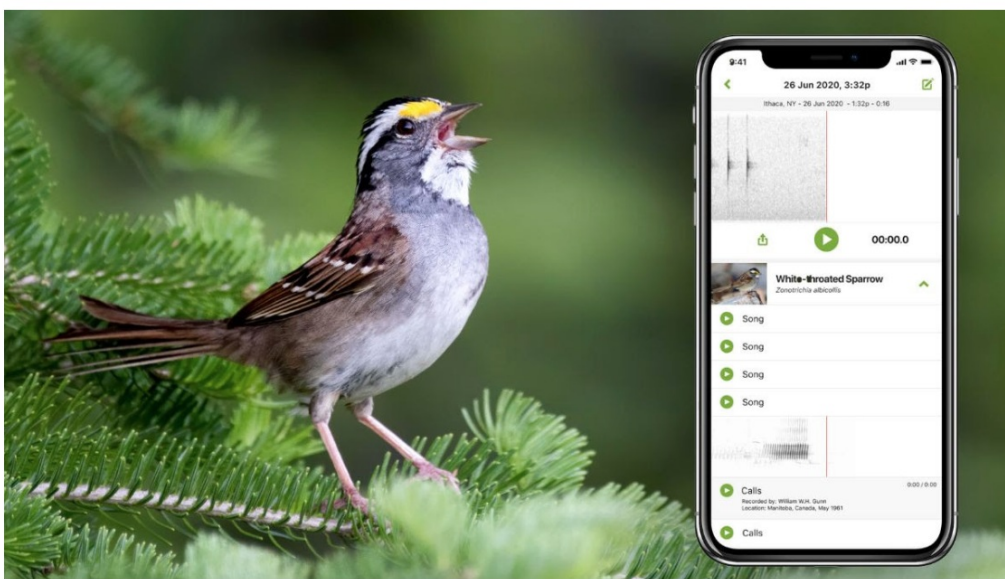
[Read more](#)  
[www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca)

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## What the \*Tweet\* is That Bird I Keep Hearing?!

Save the frustration. Try the free Merlin Bird ID app which can help you identify birds in real time by recording bird sounds with your phone! More information at [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org) (click [here](#)).





## New Sound ID Feature in Merlin

The free **Merlin Bird ID** app can now help you identify the sounds of 400+ birds that occur in the United States and Canada. Hold up your phone and record bird sounds, and Merlin will help you identify the birds in real time! Merlin's results are powered by the thousands of audio recordings and bird observations submitted by the eBird community. As Merlin continues to learn from more recordings, more bird species will be added.

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## Saysutshun (Newcastle Island) in the News



### Exploring the deeper significance of B.C.'s beaches and...

British Columbia is a popular tourist spot in large part because of its majestic mountains and beautiful beaches and as people flock to these places to play in the wake of pandemic lockdowns, it is respectful to be aware of the Indigenous...

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## Efforts to Save Endangered Birds in Kaua'i and Beyond

### Saving Endangered Forest Birds in Hawai'i

Thanks to Staffan for sharing this panel about the fight to save the remaining native birds of the Hawaiian islands.

*"Mosquitoes spreading avian malaria is the main threat, and with climate change, the birds can no longer escape to high elevations. Of the original 24 species, only 8 remain on Kauai. There are a handful more on the other islands."*



## Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

### WildResearch Shorebird ID Workshop – September 2

Sign up for the next workshop by WildResearch, **Identifying Common Shorebirds in the Lower Mainland**, with [Joachim Bertrands](#) on **Thursday, September 2 at 7 pm PDT!** The event is free for members and by donation (minimum \$5) for non-members.

Register here:  
<https://bit.ly/2W0z8GX>

# Identifying Common Shorebirds in the Lower Mainland With Joachim Bertrands



**Date:** Thurs Sept 2, 2021, 7 PM - 8 PM

**Location:** Zoom, tickets for all are required

**Cost:** Free for members, by donation for non-members (\$5)

**Register:** <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/wildresearch-society/events/wildresearch-presf...lon-shorebirds-in-the-lower-mainland-with-joachim-bertrands/>

Shorebirds make the most lengthy migration of many bird species and yet they remain a mystery for many birders. A diverse species variety with very similar plumages is the recipe for disaster. With this workshop, Joachim provides an overview of the most common species we can observe in the Lower Mainland from his own experience.

**Experience** – This workshop is designed for beginners that want to get down to basics.



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## Guided Bird Walks in Nanaimo and Parksville – September 7 & 12



### The Backyard Wild Bird and Nature Store in Nanaimo – Guided Bird Walks:

Our guided bird walks are starting up again! The first bird walks of the year are scheduled for **September 7th and 12th**. Keep an eye on our blog for more information and future locations and dates.

We have been hosting weekly bird walks for over 20-years in the Nanaimo area of Vancouver Island. Our walks are scheduled for Sundays (Nanaimo) and Tuesdays (Parksville/ Qualicum),



and we post all scheduling information on [our blog](#).

The Sunday Bird Walk leaves the Birdstore at **9 a.m. on Sunday Mornings**. The Parksville/Qualicum Beach Tuesday Bird Walk leaves the Parksville Beach Community Park (at the end of Corfield) at **9 a.m. on Tuesday mornings**. We meet near the parking area at the Lion's Playground. The Tuesday Bird Walk is not held during the summer months (July & August) but it resumes the first Tuesday in September. There is no charge for our bird walks, and they are designed to conclude before lunch (average approximately 2 hours). Want more information? Call the store at 250-390-3669 or email us at [thebackyard@shaw.ca](mailto:thebackyard@shaw.ca).

Please note: We decide on the location of each bird walk the week before the scheduled bird walk outing. During the week we compile information about what birds are being seen and examine the weather forecast to ensure the walk is scheduled for the most productive location.

<http://www.thebackyard.ca/birdwalks.html>

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## American Seminar: Raptor Migration – September 15



ABC Webinar

### Raptors Are Heading South – Get Ready for Fall Migration!



**Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET**

Peak raptor migration is almost here! Are you ready to watch hawks, eagles, falcons, and more, heading South?

In this webinar, you'll learn when and where to find migrating raptors this fall. You'll also get an up-close look at a live raptor and learn more about these birds' distinctive features and amazing abilities. And, since some raptor populations are in decline, you'll learn what ABC is doing to conserve them and what you can do to help.

Speakers:

- Dr. Laurie J. Goodrich, Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science, Hawk Mountain
- John Sammler, Education Program Manager, Raptor Center, with live raptor
- Joanna Eckles, Bird City Americas Coordinator, American Bird Conservancy
- EJ Williams, Southeast Region Vice President, American Bird Conservancy

*This webinar will have automated closed captioning available. The event will also be recorded and shared with all registrants following the event.*

Register [here](#).

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## Bamfield Marine Science Centre Webinars – September 15 & 22

BMSC Climate Action:

Join us as we transport you to the coastal waters and temperate rainforests of the traditional territory of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Engage with climate and ocean experts, indigenous knowledge holders, fishers, scientists, ocean tech companies, and policy makers to uncover the potential of coastal community-based climate action.

Please register for each workshop and webinar individually by clicking the registration links within the [table](#).

Schedule is subject to change. More episodes and workshops will be added for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022; please check back regularly or sign up for email updates.

Links for registration are provided on the calendar:

<https://www.bamfieldmsc.com/climate-action/bcas-registration>.

Sept 15 @ 13:00 PDT	<a href="#">Dr. Dave Riddell</a> , Ocean Networks Canada	<a href="#">Register here</a>	<b>Episode 3:</b> Science Communication and Climate Action
Sept 22 @ 13:00 PDT	<a href="#">Dr. Chris Neufeld</a> , University of British Columbia <a href="#">Dr. Sam Starko</a> , University of Victoria <a href="#">Dr. Patrick Martone</a> , University of British Columbia	<a href="#">Register here</a>	<i>Science Literacy Week Special Episode!</i> <b>Episode 4:</b> Kelp Forest Ecosystems and Restoration in a Changing Climate

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## Rivers Day – September 26



### BC Rivers Day - Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

Since 1980, thousands of British Columbians have celebrated BC Rivers Day on the fourth Sunday of September each year, making it Canada's largest river appreciation event. These independently hosted events throughout the province celebrate and...

[Read more](#)

[www.orcbc.ca](http://www.orcbc.ca)



# SIX WAYS TO HELP YOUR LOCAL RIVER

Our rivers and waterways are the lifeblood of British Columbia. They connect us all and provide outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, drinking water, supports a range of species and ecosystems and is an important piece of our history and culture.

## DON'T LITTER

Pick up trash and dispose of it responsibly. Lots of trash is washed down storm sewers and back to the rivers. Waste is not only bad for wildlife, it contaminates the environment and impairs the recreational value of our rivers.

## LEARN & INSPIRE

Learn about your local river, the wildlife and plants that live in or around it, its history and how it benefits your community. Bring others along too and encourage them to become river advocates too.

## EXPLORE

You can be sure to get a real sense of awe by spending time near rivers.

Take advantage of the many recreation opportunities that they provide including angling, paddling, swimming, hiking and bird watching, and maybe try something new.

## GIVE A HAND

Get involved with local stewardship efforts that makes a positive difference to the health of your local waterway. BC Rivers Day is a great opportunity to bring the community together and have a positive impact while having a good time.

## CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

Aquatic invasive species may look harmless but threaten biodiversity. Outdoor recreation such as boating, angling and waterfowl hunting can contribute to the spread of invasive species. Clean, drain, and dry your boat and equipment before use.

## REDUCE POLLUTION

Most storm drains are linked to local waterways and you can help protect them by not putting chemicals, soap or other pollutants down the drains. To prevent run-off, safely dispose of batteries, paints and medication.

