

SPRING 2020

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MAPLEWOOD FLATS

FREE



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Coastal sea level rise along B.C. shorelines and the future of bird populations

**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Wild bird habitat conservation remains an essential activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Join us as we expand our coverage throughout British Columbia and offer photography, birding, and habitat restoration stories, tips, and tools to help you make a sustainable impact on preserving BC's biodiversity. See inside for details on how you can continue to participate in our virtual events, connect with other #birdnerds on social media, and donate to support our work.

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Maplewood Flats

Responding to the COVID19 pandemic, on March 22 the Wild Bird Trust of BC (WBT) shut down nature education to the public at our popular Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats. On April 11 we closed the parking lots to reduce access, and discussed how to continue doing wild bird advocacy and restoration and conservation work without our regular citizen science programs. We also wondered how to stay connected to our 1100 members, 1000+ online followers, and our 7500 *Wingspan* readers. This is where you come in.

We know bird lovers are looking outside their windows seeking more ways to connect with birding and nature. We are appreciating the slowing down but also impacted in countless ways. We are inviting you—if you are able—to make a donation to support the conservation work while so much is shut down. Physical distancing requirements closed our education programs but we must continue with the conservation work. We have also ramped up our online presence by purchasing nest cams, and moving our public programs online.

Normally we publish a Spring/Summer issue in May, but decided to publish this EXTRA Spring COVID19 *Wingspan* issue as a stand-alone. We will publish an additional Summer edition in July 2020, followed by our Fall/Winter edition.

Back in March (it seems a long time ago!), our Board of Directors assessed the health risks of public assembly and suspended programs (nature walks, exhibitions etc). We created signage to educate the public on safe access to Maplewood Flats, and reduced access on week-

ends due to the popularity of the site. Our dedicated staff and volunteers continue to conduct restoration work onsite as countless birds return for spring in Burrard Inlet. The wetland creatures and plants that depend on our collective work continues each and every day.

We invite you to support concrete COVID19 action responses. We have hired an online communications specialist, scheduled a series of online nature talks, purchased web cameras, and changing how we maintain 2020 habitat restoration plans. As much as possible we will deliver curated online experiences such as talks and walks, and children's education programs, with our online educational platform. We especially want to reach children and families during the school disruptions. We have made available our educators to the public and need your support to scale this to reach more bird lovers and budding conservationists while they are at home needing quality education support.

Children and families can learn a lot from observing birds in their habitat, from what they eat and how they raise their young—to

more advanced concepts like habitats and adaptations. Unfortunately, with our programs shut down, getting access to habitat is a challenge. Enter webcams. This spring we are installing webcams for our members and school groups to access via our website. We have purchased mobile phone network-connected equipment and need new money for their installation and operation.

We know that reduced programming and education revenues means less funds to do conservation and restoration work so we are taking the unusual step of asking our readers directly for a donation to support these COVID19 responses to help connecting with children and families, and bird lovers of all ages.

In this issue of *Wingspan*, you will find information, solutions, online programs and webinars, and ways to contribute.

Thank you for making a donation at this time, and please share your feedback and your ideas for connecting online with us!

Email our Executive Director Lianne Payne ed@wildbirdtrust.org



“ Supporting the actions to save the mudflats in the early days, I learned more about how critical it was to protect the mudflats for the birds. Volunteering at Maplewood Flats is the most pleasurable of all my volunteer roles over my lifetime. I do it because I love it, and enjoy seeing the people I know, and meeting new people.”

ROSEMARY WAGNER, APRIL 10, 2020

Help fund the COVID19 Response Plan for birds and children's education - your donation helps!

While the birds enjoy fewer human stressors on our 5km trail network, and the Corrigan Nature House hosts fewer children's visitors, our COVID19 Fundraising Goal of \$10,000 will support:

Habitat Work - Purchasing and installing bird nest cameras, mobile data plans.

Maplewood Flats - Conservation Area closures and public safety (signage, staffing).

Programs Committee - Hiring for our online education platform to reach more people.

Stabilize our Operations - With onsite activities constrained, and a

dip in revenues, we need support to make up the difference.

Biodiversity - supporting distribution of native plants from our nursery to shut-ins and isolated individuals.

All donors will receive an invitation to an intimate conversation video streamed from Jude and Al Grass' private backyard oasis on Saturday, June 6. They will describe the birds they love so much, and reflect on their careers

in conservation and nature education. A rare personal glimpse into these conservation veterans' lives.

Your donation of \$50 or more also includes a special thank you card featuring a 5x7 photograph by John Lowman.

Your continued support is more critical now than ever before and will provide a vital lifeline to the wildlife we serve.

DONATE NOW

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50
☐ \$150 ☐ \$300

YOUR AMT: _____

To donate by cheque, please make cheques payable to:

Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia, 2649 Dollarton Hwy, North Vancouver, BC V7H 181

To donate online via CanadaHelps: bit.ly/SupportWBTCovidResponse



WELCOME TO *WINGSPAN* – the Voice of BC's birding, conservation and reconciliation community

What started off more than two decades ago as a newsletter for the Wild Bird Trust of BC, has grown to a readership of 7500 across BC, with quality features and shorts, photographs and artwork, all professionally designed. Welcome to this COVID19 issue, where we struggle to locate silver linings from this devastating pandemic, including for birders and wildlife alike. Please help us make this transition with a donation if you can.

Much has been made of the slowing of the economy and benefits to the climate crisis, but there is more to discuss and journalist Chris Rose tackles this on page 6. Many have noted the speed with which governments can act when pressed, and decry why this is not happening for fighting climate change and the continuing collapse of bird species. *Wingspan* will continue to stay on this subject, see page 9. Long before settlers arrived in BC, for thousands of years Indigenous communities stewarded lands and waters. Now again, they play a central role in real solutions for the protection and recovery of species at risk and climate change. We cover multiple stories in our BC Shorts section on page 18, and our friends at Canadian Parks & Wilderness - BC share their experience on page 13.

While the rivalry between birders and photographers needs to stop—for the good of the birds, in this issue we have lots of perspectives on photography (for everyone!) on pages 20-26. While the Corrigan Nature House remains closed during this initial wave of COVID19, we are collectively missing Lowman's extraordinary photo exhibition. On page 48 we introduce our new online educational program series, which includes a special conversation about

I am grateful to our new 2020 Board members, a strong mix of conservationists from diverse backgrounds, most definitely a very strong Board! Welcome to incoming Treasurer Gloria Pavez, Steven Hill, Taylor Boisjoli, John Preissl, Les George, Christine (Fran) George, Tom Flower. These volunteers have joined existing board members Carleen Thomas, Jude Grass, Donna Clark, Kevin Bell, Paul Hundal, and Irwin Oostindie.

Many have noted the speed with which governments can act when pressed, and decry why this is not happening to fight climate change.

John Lowman's bird photography. Not to be missed!

I would like to personally welcome donors to our COVID19 campaign (page 2-3) to share in these online events through the spring months. One exciting talk features my colleague WBT Vice President Jude Grass and legendary naturalist Al Grass. A special treat live broadcast from the intimacy of their backyard bird oasis! Please make a donation and in honour of their love of birds, join them online. Details on pg 47.

Please join us at www.wildbirdtrust.org and make a donation to fund our nest cams as online connection and education become so vital!

Hope all are well and taking care,

Irwin Oostindie
President

We are online!

Stay connected to birding during COVID19. See page 47 for details on our online workshops, classes, exhibits, and events!

Visit our website and sign up for newsletter updates:
www.wildbirdtrust.org

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter:
[@MaplewoodFlats](https://www.instagram.com/MaplewoodFlats)



Image by rawpixel

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Plus our regular columns on Wild Bird Photography with Pierre Cenerelli, Sightings at Maplewood Flats with Rob Lyske, Kingfisher Kids with Al & Jude Grass, Call for Submissions and more!

ON THE COVER

Rufus Hummingbird
by John Lowman

JOHN LOWMAN DIGITAL EXHIBIT

bit.ly/JohnLowmanExhibit



BIRDERS OF BC

Lukas Miller, pg. 23



WINGSPAN

THE VOICE OF BC'S BIRDING,
CONSERVATION, AND RECONCILIATION
COMMUNITY - 7500 READERS ACROSS BC!

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Photo by Edwin Hooper from Unsplash.

BY CHRIS ROSE

The COVID-19 pandemic reveals unintended consequences for the environment

COVID-19 is a killer but it's also slashing destructive carbon emissions

As the lethal COVID-19 pandemic continues its rampage around most of the globe, killing and sickening ever-increasing numbers of people, paralyzing government services, shuttering businesses, and creating economic havoc, bird populations are at least one element of the beleaguered natural world that appear to be benefitting from the crisis.

Some early reports also suggest that bird watchers, with proper attention paid to so-called social distancing, could be also be winners in these most uncertain of times.

That's because as the virus has expanded its inexorable reach in the

past couple of months, the level of toxic carbon emissions and other forms of human-made pollution have begun plummeting.

Few observers could have predicted the deadly COVID-19 virus would also usher in a significant reduction in greenhouse gasses and smog that is now benefitting birds. Lockdowns, self-isolation, physical distancing and new government rules has slashed air travel, reduced vehicle trips, and vastly reduced commercial and industrial activity.

One study published in late March by Independent Commodity Intelligence Services predicted a

24 per cent drop in greenhouse gas emissions in Europe this year because of the virus. Another analysis, by Carbon Brief Ltd., found during a four-week period beginning Feb. 3 that carbon emissions in China had decreased by about 25 per cent.

A CBC story published in early April showed images of Vancouver and three other major Canadian cities that have experienced "a noticeable reduction in air pollution" since the novel coronavirus has resulted in Canadians staying closer to home during the pandemic.

"Images from Descartes Labs of the major cities and surrounding

“In some areas, the lack of human presence allows birds to go about their usual business without disturbance.”

SAM MACTAVISH

areas show their average levels of atmospheric nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) — a pollutant created by the burning of fossil fuels, such as gasoline — has plummeted compared to a year ago,” the CBC said.

Stewart Johnstone, a North Vancouver resident who enjoys taking photos of birds, often at the Maplewood Flats Conservation Area, thinks the COVID-19 crisis is likely giving birds a slight reprieve from human interference as people increasingly are staying at home to avoid the virus.

“My guess is it probably is,” Johnstone said. “I think in general there are areas where wildlife are more relaxed.”

Johnstone also said birds are benefitting from a decrease in vehicular traffic because fewer carbon emissions are currently being pumped into the atmosphere. He added that even when the virus has finished infecting humans, it is unlikely that economic activity which drives greenhouse gases is going to immediately revert to pre-COVID-19 levels.

“I really can’t see a big rebound. I can’t see it bouncing back so quickly.”

Sam MacTavish, a 22-year-old Vancouver resident who likes birding and photography, also believes the COVID-19 crisis that is causing

problems for people may actually be beneficial to wildlife.

“In some areas, the lack of human presence allows birds to go about their usual business without disturbance,” said MacTavish, adding fewer carbon emissions is also positive for bird populations.

“It would be great if those emissions stayed down,” he said in an interview. “I think it’s great that nature is getting a bit of a break.”

MacTavish added, however, he has witnessed fellow birders not practising physical distancing, once at Burnaby Lake and once at Iona Beach. One time, he said, he saw four people with cameras lying on the sand while they took photographs of birds. All four were only about one foot away from each other, far from the six-foot distance required by medical authorities.

Ariane Comeau, conservation projects manager for the non-profit Stanley Park Ecology Society, said COVID-19 is resulting in fewer people going out to look at birds.

“They can have a bit more space,” Comeau said. “There’s less people hanging around.”

She also said there might also be fewer people feeding birds food that

isn’t as natural as berries and other sources of wild food.

A recent article in Audubon magazine (see next page) said birding is a good pastime to do during the crisis.


“If you can, go birding,” the article said.

Birding, the magazine added, can also be great for mental health.

“We aren’t suggesting an involved, all-day outing. Maybe it’s just walking to an uncrowded neighbourhood park, or driving yourself to some nearby woods. If those options aren’t available to you, even just gazing out your window and closely observing any birds you see can help.”

“The time I have free, I love to spend at Maplewood. I think the system for social distancing has been excellent including the parking lot closures.”

ROB LYSKE

A photograph of a person standing in a grassy field, looking through binoculars. The background shows a line of trees under a blue sky with some clouds. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and pants.

BY ANDY MCGLASHEN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR,
AUDUBON MAGAZINE
MARCH 13, 2020

Birding is the Perfect Activity While Practicing Social Distancing

This global pandemic has us all pretty freaked out. Handled responsibly, open space and wildlife observation might be just the balm you need.

This is all so surreal, isn't it?

None of us has been through anything quite like COVID-19, the coronavirus outbreak that the World Health Organization this week labeled a global pandemic. At this moment, more than 137,300 cases have been confirmed worldwide, and at least 5,073 people have died. Markets have tanked. Everything's canceled. Precautions that once might have seemed paranoid now feel like common sense.

Here at Audubon, we don't want to make light of a serious situation. We're also worried about our loved ones. We're scared, too.

But may we recommend something that, under the circumstances, might seem trivial?

If you can, go birding.

We know: It might seem exploitative for the Bird People to promote birds during a public health crisis. But there's an argument to be made that—as long as you don't put yourself or others at risk—birding is the perfect thing to do right now.

First, spending time in nature can serve as a form of social distancing, the strategy epidemiologists are recommending to limit spread of the virus. Of course, social distancing doesn't work without the distance part, so this only counts for open spaces that you can reach while avoiding close contact with others.

For these reasons, don't go with a group of friends. And remember that those aged 60 and up or with chronic ailments may be at greater risk of serious illness. If that sounds like you, or if you live in an area with an outbreak, please be extra cautious and keep an eye on what your local health department advises.

"I think this is a great way to relieve stress, and should present little or no threat of exposure," says Robyn Gershon, an epidemiology professor at New York University's School of Public Health. "We should encourage these healthy coping mechanisms, and also it's good for people to maintain their enjoyable pastimes to the extent possible."

As Gershon suggests, birding, like other outdoor pursuits, can also be great for mental health. There's a growing body of scientific evidence indicating that contact with nature can ease anxiety and provide an all-around mood boost. With rising fears and palpable tension in the air, we can all benefit from this calming influence.

If you're a seasoned birder, now's the time to take comfort in an activity you love. And if you're not yet into birds, this is actually a pretty great time to begin—spring migration is about to heat up, and you'll be so glad you started paying attention. Orient yourself with these common species, then download Audubon's free Bird Guide app to explore further and keep track of what you see out there. Or, if you're adjusting to a new work-from-home setup, take an afternoon break to sneak in a few minutes of on-the-clock, out-the-window birding. We won't tell.

So: Wash your hands. Call your loved ones. And, if it's an option, look to the birds.

BY CHRIS ROSE

Like a Cresting King Tide, The Ocean is Relentlessly Rising

Trying to adapt to coastal sea level rise along B.C. shorelines is expected to cost billions of dollars. One way or another, taxpayers will be footing the bill. And while society is still pumping out toxic greenhouse gas emissions, it's hard to imagine a happy future for bird populations.

It is, at first sight on a sunny walk along a lovely B.C. shoreline, with the rippling of waves and the sporadic, joyful beating of birdlife, as it has always been. Life-giving sun, harvest moon, swelling tides, cleansing winds, the supremacy of nature continually reinvigorating itself, season after season, decade after decade, century after century.

Clearly, as in time immemorial, as it should be.

Except that, today, the over-encompassing scourge of cli-

mate change caused by burning toxic fossil fuels torching our atmosphere to unsustainable levels has created an existential crisis of epic proportions, even for those most in denial.

Indeed, the time to run and hide and pretend is over. The crisis of sea level rise, due to greenhouse gases and melting ice, is on its inexorable march. As is the price tag.

British Columbia, with about 29,000 kilometres of difficult, gorgeous, undulating coastal shoreline, is not immune.

Neither, unfortunately, are local or migratory birds in North America. Over the past five decades, according to the journal *Science* last year, nearly three billion breeding birds throughout the U.S. and Canada had vanished, a 30 percent decline due to habitat loss, agriculture, urban development, predation from outdoor cats, collisions with buildings, widespread pesticide use, and climate change.

By the end of this century, local municipalities have been told by the B.C. government to plan for dealing with at least one metre

“Not everything’s going to be able to move and the new locations will be distinct, so that’s going to affect bird populations.”

**TOM FLOWER,
WBT BOARD MEMBER**

of sea level rise, with two metres by 2200. Yet this planning guideline, according to a number of climate scientists and academics, may be far too optimistic, especially if ice sheets begin melting at a faster rate than originally predicted. Or if low-lying communities frequently face massive high tides accompanied by howling storm surges overwhelming feeble, but well-meaning, one-metre-high tidal defenses.

To understand this new reality just around the corner, at least on the northern edges of Burrard Inlet, the District of West Vancouver, North Vancouver City and the District of North Vancouver, along with the Squamish Nation, the Port of Vancouver and North Shore Emergency Management, have started gathering information on how to prepare for, and adapt to, a higher shoreline. The Tsleil-Waututh Nation is also looking at this expensive and uncertain future.

“As average temperatures increase, sea levels rise due to an increase in water volume as a result of melting glaciers into the ocean,” according to

North Vancouver District’s sea level rise strategy. “Warming water also expands and takes up more space, which is known as thermal expansion.”

The estimated consequences of unchecked sea level rise and adaptation are staggering. For instance, the report notes, a sea level rise of one metre along the North Shore could result in 1,300 residents experiencing flooding with \$900 million in building damage. A two-metre rise could see 2,700 residents facing flooding with \$2.7 billion in damaged buildings.

Some Metro Vancouver municipalities have already begun raising and fortifying dikes. Richmond, with funding help from the federal government, is undergoing \$30 million of dike improvements and pump station upgrades in the next four years as a way of protecting against both potential Fraser River flooding and coastal sea level rise. Vancouver International Airport is also spending tens of millions of dollars.

While somewhat dated now, a 2012 provincial report suggested

sea level rise caused by climate change could cost \$9.5 billion in flood-protection improvements in Metro Vancouver by the end of this century.

The report, *Cost of Adaptation: Sea Dikes and Alternative Strategies*, looked at the Metro Vancouver shoreline and the Fraser River downstream of Port Mann Bridge.

“Sea level rise will affect a significant part of Metro Vancouver, and the Province of British Columbia is planning for this eventuality,” the report noted.

“Protection will require an increase in the height of existing flood defences and the construction of new flood defences. In addition to dike construction, the adoption of alternative non-structural options for dealing with flood risk will be a necessary part of the overall strategy.”

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation recently completed the first phase of its Community Climate Change Resilience Planning project, which includes hazard and vulnerability assess-

ments. One section of the report looked at the intertidal zone of the beach between the high and low tide lines.

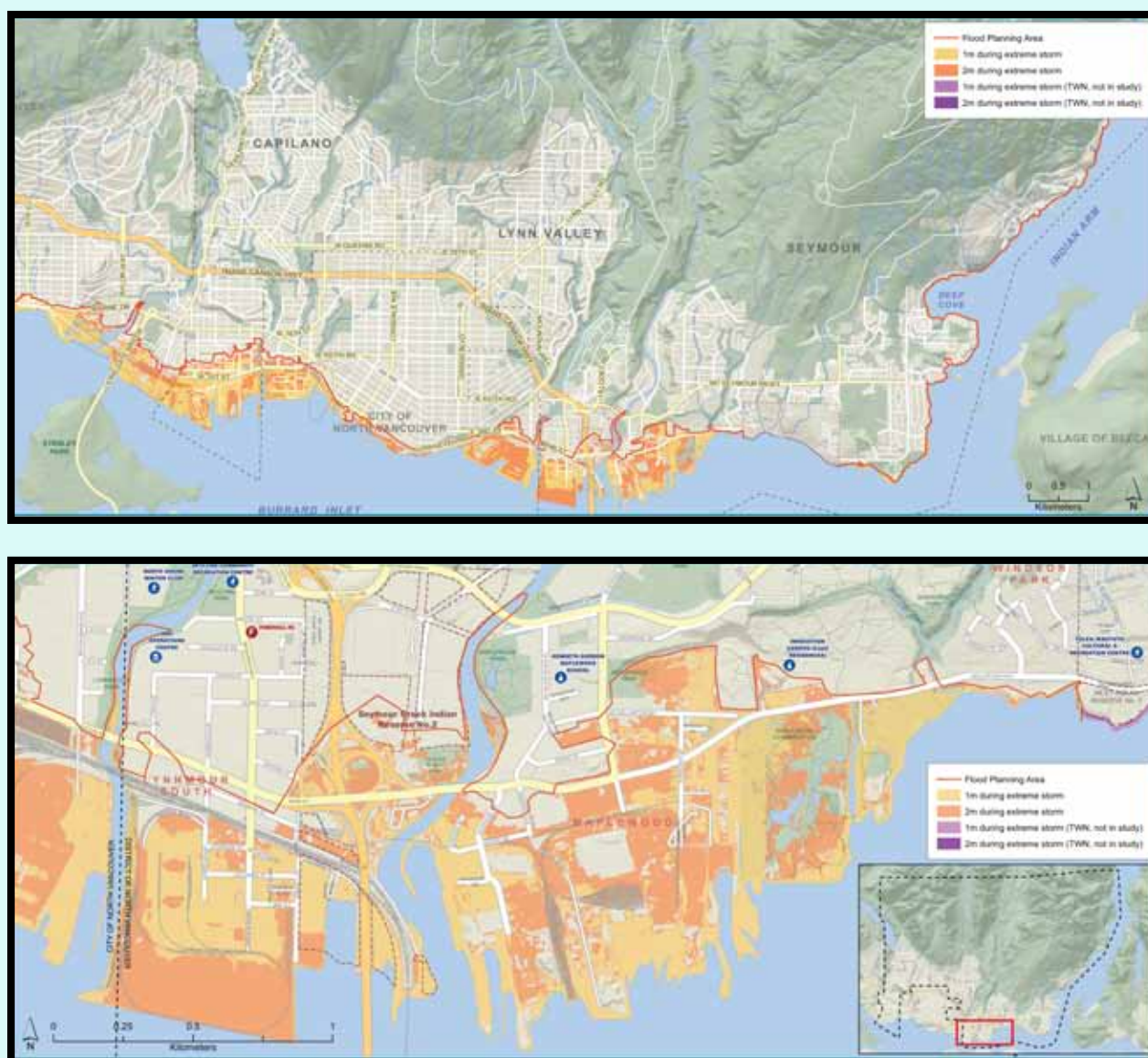
“As the sea level rises, the intertidal area will shift landward,” the report noted.

“When the intertidal zone is not able to move inland

due to development or natural features and the intertidal area is lost, this is known as ‘coastal squeeze.’ Hazard assessment findings suggest that the [Tsleil-Waututh] foreshore will face a high degree of coastal squeeze, with the intertidal area decreasing by up to approximately 20 per cent under a [one-metre sea-level-rise] scenario.

“This will have significant impacts on species that live in the intertidal zone (e.g., shellfish) or that forage for food in these areas (e.g., marine birds and salmon). Many of these species are critically important as sources of food for TWN community and cultural health, and serve as important opportunities to share traditional teachings.”

Figure Top: Sea Level Rise Scenario - District; Bottom: Sea Level Rise Scenario - Maplewood (Source: North Shore Sea Level Rise Community Workshop, February 2020)



While engineers and planners are starting to pay attention to adapting to rising sea levels, Flower added increased scientific research is required to understand what will happen to birds using B.C. shorelines.

Tom Flower, a biology instructor at Capilano University, says bird populations, including those that use the Maplewood Flats area in North Vancouver, will be affected by climate change because existing shorelines will undoubtedly change.

“With sea level rise we will see a shift in the location of the current shoreline,” said Flower, who is also a board member of the Wild Bird Trust of B.C., which manages the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats.

“Not everything’s going to be able to move and the new locations will be distinct, so that’s going to affect bird populations,” he said, adding birds could face further declines with a reduction in habitats.

“Can we bridge the gap between the existing habitats and shifting to new locations?”

Flower said he is especially concerned about rising sea levels potentially damaging the vast mudflats of Boundary Bay so much so that birds could just stop using the area. And if sea defences are established in

Boundary Bay, he said, they could inadvertently further squeeze bird habitat.

“Whether the new shoreline habitat can support the old bird populations is unclear but most likely it wouldn’t be able to.”

Flower added the race is on to help birds and other organisms safely navigate coastal sea level rise. “Yes, and not everyone is going to make it to the end, unfortunately.”

While engineers and planners are starting to pay attention to adapting to rising sea levels, Flower added increased scientific research is required to understand what will happen to birds using B.C. shorelines.

“We really have to get that done and fast to help these species pull through.” He also encouraged citizens to lobby municipal, provincial and federal politicians to put aside more space for shorebirds that will have difficulty adapting to sea level rise.

Although Daniel Pauly’s main field of expertise involves researching international fish-

eries, he has also written about the global decline in sea bird populations.

“Basically sea birds are going down the tube almost everywhere,” said Pauly, who is the Principal Investigator of the Sea Around Us project at the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries at the University of B.C.

Pauly said birds using intertidal areas will suffer in the future because sea level rise will obliterate needed habitat. He also said he is concerned that the existing climate catastrophe will result in much faster melting of glaciers and ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica than the one-metre sea-level-rise projection for 2100 and the two metres for 2200.

“It’s going to be, I fear, much more,” he said, adding plans to fight sea level rise should be much more daring than existing efforts.

Chris Rose is a retired journalist living in North Vancouver.

Photo of icebergs by Annie Spratt (Unsplash)

A bald eagle with a white head and yellow beak is perched on top of a large, weathered wooden carving of a human face. The carving has a prominent, curved beak and is set against a blurred, greyish background. The eagle is looking towards the right.

BY CANADIAN PARKS AND
WILDERNESS SOCIETY –
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Indigenous-led Conservation

Solutions for the Protection and Recovery of Species at Risk and Climate Change

The Haida law of “gina waad-luxan gud ad kwaagid” means interconnectedness – everything depends on everything else. Healthy ecosystems sustain culture, communities and an abundant diversity of life, for generations to come.

Indigenous people have been stewards of nature since time

immemorial. Their relationship with the environment is a unique one. Decades of personal experience combined with knowledge from ancestors that have been passed down for thousands of years, they have developed deep relationships with ecosystems. The cultural integrity of Indigenous people remains closely linked

to the health of ecosystems where they harvest traditional resources. This Indigenous worldview understands that human systems are a part of, and must remain in balance with, ecosystems.

But European contact with Indigenous people in Canada ushered in an era of great change.

Industrial extraction in the form of fishing, forestry, mining resulted not only in great losses of wildlife and habitat, but culture as well.

Canada eventually began to see the downside of exploiting nature and started to create parks and protected areas. Traditional conservation is “really rooted in this idea that humans aren’t really part of nature, when we interact with it, we do damage to it,” said the University of Guelph’s Robin Roth in an interview with Radio Canada International. “And to protect it we need to really strongly regulate human interaction with it.” This unfortunate belief resulted not only in the destruction of indigenous people’s homes and expulsion from their traditional lands, but loss of access to resources, resulting in debilitating cultural, social, economic and spiritual impacts.

Banff National Park, Canada’s first national park, has this troubled past. When the park was created in 1887, the local Stoney First Nation people were considered “stragglers,” that needed to be evicted. Park superintendent at the time George Stewart was quoted as writing, “Their destruction of the game and depredations among the ornamental trees make their too frequent visits to the Park a matter of great concern.”

But conservation has undergone a sort of revolution with its relationship with Indigenous people in recent times. Western science is finally learning from traditional or indigenous knowledge. Developed over countless generations, these collectively learned experiences and explanations of the world are verified by elders and passed down the generations by oral traditions storytelling.

For example, the ancestors of the Kwakwaka’wakw on northern Vancouver Island created clam gardens that provided ideal habitat for butter clams. Marine ecologists affirmed these structures improved shellfish productivity, demonstrating the Indigenous people’s deep understanding of marine ecology long before modern science.

As Canada goes through the process of reconciliation, the government has realized that their past relationship with Indigenous people has been capped with injustice and inequity. It is now looking to correct this in the spirit of peace and friendship.

As part of the federal government’s goal to protect at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland waters by 2020, they have committed to helping establish Indigenous Protected




Photo on previous page: Haida Gwaii Eagle by Markus Thompson. This photo: Scott Islands by Sabine Jessen.

The Gwaii Haanas Gina ‘Waadluxan KilGuhlGa Land-Sea-People Management Plan is built on traditional knowledge that the land, sea and people are inter-connected and must be managed to preserve natural and cultural values.

and Conserved Areas (IPCA). Lands and waters where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems, IPCAs have culture and language as their heart and soul.

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – British Columbia has also recognized this past injustice. We are dedicated to fostering meaningful relationships with First Nations and advocating for their leadership and vision for protected areas in Canada.

Since the early 2000’s, local First Nations, CPAWS-BC and our partners have been advocating for the creation of a First Nations Park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen to protect a critically endangered grasslands ecosystem. This area is home to 56 federally-listed species-at-risk including the Flammulated Owl and Burrowing owl. In 2017, governments finally acknowledged the Indigenous rights to the land with the Okanagan Nation Alliance, federal government, and BC provincial government jointly announcing their intention to work together on the creation of a National Park Reserve. Most importantly with this agreement, First Nations will be full partners in the park planning process on their territories.

After decades of discussion, the Haida and Canadian governments have agreed on a co-governance model to protect the southern end of Haida Gwaii: the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site.

The Gwaii Haanas marine ecosystems support kelp forests, hundreds of species of fish, seabirds and marine mammals. The Gwaii Haanas Gina ‘Waadluxan KilGuhlGa Land-Sea-People Management Plan is built on traditional knowledge that the land, sea and people are inter-connected and must be managed to preserve natural and cultural values.

It is also based on ethics and Haida law. Haida principles of respect, interconnectedness and balance align with ecosystem based management principles such as the precautionary approach, integrated management and sustainable use. In the future, the Haida are looking to incorporate their Indigenous knowledge into fisheries management.

The Canadian government continues to work with other First Nations to protect land and water. Parks Canada is currently in the process of establishing a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia. The nineteen First

Nations whose traditional territory overlaps with this area are in ongoing discussions with the Government of Canada on feasibility.

Eli Enns, a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE) Co-chair, told Radio Canada International, “Having Indigenous leadership in conservation today is a very important step not only in reconciling our relationship between the Crown and Indigenous societies but to reconciling our relationship with the Earth.”

Canada has done a great injustice to itself by excluding Indigenous people in the past. If we are to navigate the future of reconciliation and conservation through the biodiversity crisis we are now in, we will need to work together. As Indigenous people have known for millennia, everything is connected and everything depends on everything else.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - British Columbia (CPAWS-BC) supports the creation of large, well-managed, connected protected areas where native plants and animals thrive, now and forever; and where people and communities can live off the land and ocean without impacting the ability of future generations to do the same.

BC Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas Program Connecting with Coastal Guardian Watchmen

BY KRISTA KAPTEIN, COORDINATOR, CARETAKER NETWORK
IMPORTANT BIRD & BIODIVERSITY AREAS (IBA) BC NATURE

One of the major province-wide stewardship projects of BC Nature is the Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Program. The IBA program, initiated by BirdLife International in the 1980s, is a network of thousands of sites across the world which have been identified as critically important for the conservation of birds. In Canada, the IBA Program is coordinated nationally by Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada. Within BC, BC Nature is taking a lead role in conserving BC's 83 designated IBAs, together with our national partners. In the Lower Mainland, the English Bay, Burrard Inlet & Howe Sound IBA includes the area of Maplewood Flats.

In 2006, as part of the IBA Program, BC Nature initiated a Caretaker Network to match IBA volunteers in British Columbia. More than 50 Caretakers act as the eyes, ears and hands on the ground and are the driving force of the program. Annually, Caretakers donate an estimated 13,000 hours to monitor the status of the birds, their habitat and conservation threats, and to work within their local communities to raise public awareness and protect habitat within their IBAs. The Wild Bird Trust at Maplewood Flats is one of the Co-Caretakers of the English Bay, Burrard Inlet & Howe Sound IBA.

Over the years, numerous projects have been undertaken in BC IBAs, benefiting

both birds and people. In 2017, Nature Canada launched the IBA Local Action Fund. BC Nature received funding for a multi-year Local Action Fund project to work with First Nations Guardian Watchmen throughout coastal BC. Of the 83 IBAs in BC, 58 are coastal sites: 19 around Haida Gwaii; 4 north central coast of BC; 7 north of Vancouver Island; 13 west coast Vancouver Island; 15 in & around the Salish Sea.

First Nations Guardian Watchmen monitor and protect lands and waters on First Nations' territories along the coast. The project aimed to work to identify shared bird conservation issues and lay the groundwork to integrate bird monitoring into current Guardian Watchmen stewardship programs. Due in part to remote locations, few bird-focused conservation measures and monitoring programs have been conducted within many coastal IBAs, despite the increasing threats of disturbance from shipping, oil spills, recreational activity, and fisheries.

The project began in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island with engagement with the K'òmoks Guardian Watchmen as partners in bird stewardship of the K'òmoks IBA. The K'òmoks IBA is within the traditional territory of the K'òmoks First Nation, and is the second most important IBA in BC for overwintering waterbirds. In K'òmoks IBA, many groups already work for

land-based conservation. One missing element has been better water-based bird information. K'òmoks Guardian Watchmen are out on the water with up-to-date boat and equipment, with other monitoring work. Capacity building around bird identification and monitoring was a priority for both BC Nature and K'òmoks Guardian Watchmen. As a result, project activities were focused on activities that built skills within the communities while benefiting bird conservation objectives.

Project activities with K'òmoks Guardian Watchmen to date include:

- regular meetings with K'òmoks Guardian Watchmen for planning and to improve our understanding of what tools, skills, and activities suit their community;
- invitations and participation in Comox Valley Nature community Bird Counts;
- boat trips with K'òmoks Guardian Watchmen for bird monitoring skills enhancement;
- workshop on bird identification & monitoring with outreach to K'òmoks First Nation community youth and elders;
- providing bird identification materials & resources;



Photo: March 2019 Excursion with 2 K'òmoks Guardians on Guardian Watchmen boat for bird counting & identification

- development of bird identification materials specific to K'òmoks IBA.

The IBA Program was greatly helped by introductions made by K'òmoks Guardian Watchmen Manager Cory Frank, to other area First Nations and to the Guardian Watchmen, particularly the new Guardian program of the Wei Wai Kum First Nation near Campbell River.

Also at the start of the multi-year Local Action Fund project, a trip to Haida Gwaii included a visit to K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans), one of the five main Haida Heritage sites monitored by the Haida Watchmen. A meeting with Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program Manager Upsy Moody led to the idea of developing a bird identification resource that the Haida Guardians could use on the Haida Heritage sites. First, the birds of importance in the Haida Heritage sites that are also IBAs were identified. Working with the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program (S.H.I.P.), Skidegate Haida bird names were able to be included. Within the S.H.I.P. Program are committed and dedi-

cated Elders who are fluent speakers of the Skidegate Haida Language. The goal of the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program is to preserve and revitalize Skidegate Haida Language. Finally, the bird ID cards were printed and laminated so that they would be suitable for outdoor use. To date, the Caretakers of several Haida Gwaii IBAs continue to enhance their outreach with the Haida Nation & Guardians.

Most recently, for Coastal IBAs, engagement with Coastal First Nations was facilitated by the volunteer IBA Caretaker (based in Kitimat) for Moore & Byers Islands & Banks IBA. This remote IBA, 160 km from Kitimat in Hecate Strait, had not previously had an IBA Caretaker and the volunteer was able to introduce the IBA program to the Gitga'at Guardians (one of the First Nations with territories in the area), as well enhance connections between the IBA Program, the Guardians, BC Parks, and Bird Studies Canada doing projects in the region. The IBA Program learned more about the Coastal First Nations values and territories in the region.

Overall, the BC IBA Program learned more about First Nations community values and traditional ecological knowledge and made important connections. The ongoing engagement with First Nations will have a long-lasting and significant impact on the monitoring and protection of IBAs in BC. The BC IBA Program continues to work on establishing & strengthening partnerships in the IBA Program within other coastal BC First Nations communities.

SOURCES

- 1 BC Nature IBA program: www.bcnature.ca/projects/iba
- 2 IBAs in Canada: www.iba-canada.ca
- 3 K'òmoks Guardian Watchmen: www.komoks.ca/guardian-watchmen
- 4 Haida Nation: www.haidanation.ca
- 5 Skidegate Haida Immersion Program (S.H.I.P.): www.skidegate.ca/Pages/programs/ship.html

BC Shorts: Birding News from British Columbia

Protect the Fraser Delta

The Fraser River Delta is part of Musqueam and Tsawwassen lands and waters and a migration superhighway for endangered orcas, whale populations and millions of migratory birds, including Western Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Snow Geese. It is also home of the already-threatened Barn Owl, and after decades of industrialisation, is now facing even greater risk. The proposed mega-expansion of the Roberts Bank Terminal is concluded by a federal review panel to have significant adverse effects on the wildlife that live and depend on this area. Help protect this incredibly ecologically important area by signing the petition at this link. Nature Canada is inviting bird lovers to share their concerns concerning the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Expansion Project and stand up for nature. Sign at: bit.ly/RobertsBankPetition

Young birders stepping up

2019-2020 marked the 10th annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Across Canada, 63 events were held! In BC, there were a total of 14 counts, with some of our young birders getting national recognition. The Delta team had the count with the highest diversity in the whole country, and Natasha Ewing of

Prince George was the winner of the CBC4Kids Photo Contest.

Victoria sees a drop in bird species at Christmas Bird Count

Despite the good weather and large number of birders at the 2019 Christmas Bird Count in Victoria, the event only yielded 135 species, the lowest tally since 2007. Ann Nightingale, the organizer of the event and member of the Victoria Natural History Society, says this trend is depressing, and likely the result of a number of factors, including climate change, overuse of pesticides and loss of insects for birds to eat. There is reason for optimism, however: Nightingale says people in the past saved bald eagles and other birds of prey by ending the use of the pesticide DDT after the 1960s. “When people put their minds to it they can turn things around,” said Nightingale, noting people can help by keeping their cats indoors and making windows visible to flying birds.

Jumbo Valley Saved for Good

In February, with the support of the provincial and federal governments, the Ktunaxa Nation in southeastern BC announced a newly-protected area in the

heart of BC’s Purcell Mountains. The Ktunaxa and the Province of British Columbia will create an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in Qat’muk, part of the Ktunaxa territory that includes the Jumbo Valley. This area had been long-fought over with private ski resort and commercial interests, and on the other side, grizzly conservationists and Indigenous land defenders.

Klinse-Za in the Peace

In the Peace region, the West Moberley and Saulteau First Nations are taking the lead in the creation of a new protected area, an expansion of Klinse-Za Provincial Park. The Kaska Dena in northern BC are also working with the government to establish an enormous new IPCA in the far north, protecting a vast expanse of intact nature that will help combat climate change. This initiative is a demonstration of the strong work that B.C.’s First Nations are doing for conservation and wildlife—and all British Columbians.

BC-focused documentaries and short films made free to watch

Now that everyone is stuck at home, CBC has made many of their documentaries and short

films available to watch for free! Find hour-long documentaries on CBC Gem and short films on CBC Youtube. Much of the content is BC-focused, including a documentary called *Beyond Human Power*, a film on indigenous groups reclaiming their dance culture, a short called *Keeping Track*, a video following Vancouver's bird banders, and many more inspiring stories.

Check out the article: B.C. made documentaries and short films to watch free now on www.CBC.ca

'Heron Cam' in Stanley Park now live

For the 20th consecutive year, the great blue heron webcam goes live at the Stanley Park colony. The live-stream offers a birds-eye view of 40 nests in one of North America's

largest urban heron colonies, and is available until the end of breeding season in August. Viewers are also able to take control of the camera and zoom in on multiple nests, giving them different vantage points to capture the herons as they grow over the next six months. The first egg was sighted on March 26 this year, so soon the colony will be bustling with excitement. Check it out at <https://vancouver.ca/heroncam>.

In Memoriam: Tom Bearss



Tom Bearss passed away, April 10, 2020.

Tom Bearss, President of the Delta Naturalists' Society, departed on Friday April 10th after a battle with cancer. Tom will be remembered for his contributions to BC birding, big smile and friendliness to others. He inspired hundreds of nature lovers with a weekly outing of casual bird-

ers to various destinations, mostly to birding hotspots in the BC lower mainland. His chronicles of these adventures (including in the last issue of *Wingspan*) were filled with humour and birding information. You can also see past reports, photos and other information on the Delta Nats on their website at: www.dnbc.wordpress.com.

"He loved to share his love for nature. He was also a bit of a joker for sure, remembers Jude Grass, Vice-President of the Wild Bird Trust of BC. "He was one of the foremost movers and makers of the Delta Naturalist Club, and very involved in helping people connect to a passion for nature and birding, added Grass. "He always attracted people to him through his knowledge. He was always supportive of people learning. If it was your first time on the trip, he'd make a point of connecting with that person and help them feel welcome. He will be missed in the lower mainland naturalist clubs."

Bearss is a retired Canadian Trade Commissioner/diplomat who has

been a "casual birder" and naturalist for 30+ years. He was born in Niagara Falls, Ontario and has lived in and/or travelled to many parts of the world but chose to retire with his family in Ladner in 2006. He leaves behind his wife Sandra, their two children Scott and Erica, and granddaughter. Donations can be made to Nature BC in his name.

Tom's email list included 1300 casual bird lovers and in his final parting (sent after his death) he shared: "Please know I will always be around to share your excitement from a special bird sighting, a tic-tac-toe passing play, a handful of peanuts in the shell, a playful 'rib', an obligatory, out of focus group shot or a family celebration. Thank you for letting me into your lives and being such a memorable part of mine."

The family plans to hold a Celebration of Life later in the year when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides enough and it is safe to do so.





BY ALICE SUN

What a Photograph Can Do for Conservation

Everyone says a picture is worth a thousand words, but how can you use a photograph to lead to meaningful action and change?

Conservation photography, in short, is photography that empowers or enables conservation.

But what does that really mean?

Photographer Joel Sartore explains: “The typical nature photograph shows a butterfly on a pretty flower. The conservation photograph shows the same thing, but with a bulldozer coming at it in the background. This doesn’t mean there’s no room for beautiful pictures, in fact we need beautiful images just as much as the issues. It does mean that the images exist for a reason; to save the Earth while we still can.”

That last sentence is key. A conservation photo is not just a

beautiful photo, but a photo taken with the understanding of the larger issues, a photo with a purpose to protect the planet. But it doesn’t stop there.

Cristina Mittermeier, founder of the International League of Conservation Photographers, says that the one critical thing that sets conservation photography apart from other disciplines is what you do after you click the shutter. For photography to be conservation photography, it must be used in a way that inspires the viewer to take action for conservation.

One of the earliest and perhaps clearest examples of this would be Ansel Adams. A talented landscape photographer

and passionate environmentalist, he used his stunning photos of America’s wilderness to show politicians and the general public places that needed protecting. Combining his persistent advocacy with images that inspire, Adams’ efforts contributed to the expansion of the national park system in the US.

...

Today, many conservation photographers work on all sorts of issues. From plastic pollution to endangered species to indigenous rights, all are working to document and turn their images into evidence for conservation.

But conservation photography doesn’t have to be done by some

famous photographer or in some far-out place for it to have impact. You too can be a conservation photographer.

Take, for example, Wild Bird Trust's current solo exhibit of John Lowman's photography of the birds and wildlife found at the Conservation Area. For these images, John spent time visiting Maplewood Flats daily with the specific purpose to "document the return of wildlife at Maplewood to help them pro-

tect the site." As a result, John's photos are now "an indisputable record of the importance of this site", and to the viewers of his exhibit, a stunning representation of why we should advocate for the continued protection and restoration of this area.

So if you're a photographer that loves birds, wildlife, plants, etc, you can help conservation today. Start small by finding something in your own backyard that you're passionate about. Start

creating images with purpose. Show people your images and tell them why it matters. Why conservation matters.

Still unsure or confused where to start? Join Alice Sun for a workshop for some tips on how to use your photography to inspire conservation. Visit Maplewood Flats' Eventbrite for full details!

Photo: Piping Plover (opposite page) and Snowy Owl (this page) by Alice Sun.



A conservation photo is not just a beautiful photo, but a photo taken with the understanding of the larger issues, a photo with a purpose to protect the planet.



BY PIERRE CENERELLI

Keep your eyes on the eyes!

Bird and Wildlife Photography with Pierre

As you all know, in order to beat Covid-19, we will have to practice social distancing for some time yet and, among other things, will have to reduce the distances we travel. I've decided to show you a couple of photos to sing the praises of finding worthy photographic subjects in our local parks and green spaces.

I found this striking hybrid male duck, for instance, on the small pond of Burnaby's Central Park, which I can reach in less than 15 minutes by foot from my home. And in case you are wondering, this is a cross between a Mallard and Gadwall.

The other photo features a female Anna's Hummingbird feeding in Everett Crowley Park, which is about 10 minutes from our home. The flowering bush it is feeding from is a Red Flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*, see p. 34, Coast Salish Plants).

I've also included these photos because they illustrate one of the

fundamental elements of wildlife photography I like to underline when I give workshops: Keep your eyes on the eyes! In other words, are you eye-level with your subject? Is there a glint in the eye (also known as "catch light")? There is of course quite a bit more to it than this, but I think it is a good starting point to discuss other elements of photographing wildlife, as I hope to do in future installments of this column.

Pierre discovered his passion for birding and photography early in life, but only fully merged both of them after arriving in Vancouver in 2011. He was awarded top prize for his photo of a Northern Pygmy-Owl taken at Maplewood at the 2018 International Ornithology Congress in Vancouver. He has volunteered for numerous non-profit organizations, including the Vancouver Bach Choir and Stanley Park Ecology Society. He has also led or been on numerous bird counts on the North Shore and Vancouver, including



Photo of Anna's Hummingbird and male duck by Pierre Cenerelli.

Bird Studies Canada's monthly BC Coastal Waterbird Survey. When he is not enjoying the Lower Mainland's natural spaces, Pierre is the Executive Director of the Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University. You may see more of his photos on his website: <https://pierrecenerelli.smugmug.com>



BY ALICE SUN

Birders of BC: Lukas Miller



Meet Lukas Miller, a 15-year-old wildlife photographer and filmmaker based in Tsawwassen. Read below to hear his story, and check out his latest work @birdsandbirdys on Instagram.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY?

It started about 2 years ago. A bird came to my hand this one winter, and it just touched my heart. It was a Chestnut-backed Chickadee. I started taking slow-motion videos of it, coming to my hand, flying to my hand, and I liked doing that and just started taking pictures. It was the first bird I posted to Instagram. Over the years, it went from pictures, to taking pictures of other birds. I finally got my DSLR last year.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY MOMENT THAT YOU'VE EXPERIENCED?

I got to experience owls two feet

away in my backyard. There's a family of owls that sleep there. And there were two baby owls. I made a documentary of them, which took me two months to film.

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL WITH YOUR DOCUMENTARY?

My goal is really just to try and teach people about these animals in a quick and entertaining way. It's also a great way for me to learn about them too, and I just love studying them and learning their behaviours.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE BIRD?

Well, it goes up and down. Some points it's the Barred Owl. And then other days, it's a nuthatch. I have a really tame one in my backyard right now. And it'll crawl up my arm and everything.

BIRDING ISN'T REALLY A POPULAR HOBBY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, HOW DOES THAT CHANGE YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Well, I have been kind of keeping it a secret. There's just a lot of people that look down on it. It's just not the popular thing, I guess. People think of it as a bit odd. You're a bit different, kind of separated.


YOU'RE VERY ACTIVE ON INSTAGRAM, AND HAVE SOME VERY ENGAGING CAPTIONS. WHAT DREW YOU TO POST YOUR PHOTOS ON INSTAGRAM IN PARTICULAR?

It's just the community. It's a good community to be in. Because I don't share my interest in birds with anyone in school, it's nice to actually be able to communicate and talk that type of stuff. I joined a chat the other day with a bunch of other young birders from all over.


Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

Photos from clockwise: Lukas Miller, red-breasted nuthatch, and barred owl.

BC Bird Sightings



Bohemian Waxwing. Taken in East Kootenays, BC. Credit: Lyle Grisedale/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML212802491)



Mountain Bluebird. Taken in Central Okanagan. Credit: Nick Swan/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML214284191)



Anna's Hummingbird. Taken in Metro Vancouver. Credit: Susan Mac/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML213375731)



Sanderling. Taken in Metro Vancouver. Credit: Yikun Wei/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML215524461)



Northern Pygmy Owl. Taken in Fraser Valley. Credit: Richard Lee/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML214359891)



Northern Saw-whet Owl. Taken in Central Okanagan. Credit: Brad Vissia/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML213370951)



American Three-toed Woodpecker.
Taken in Comox-Strathcona Credit:
Blair Dudeck/Macaulay Library
at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology
(ML217851541)



Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk. Taken
in North Okanagan, BC. Credit:
Jack VanDyk/Macaulay Library
at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology
(ML213253491)



Ruddy Turnstones. Taken in Comox-
Strathcona. Credit: Liam Singh/
Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab
of Ornithology (ML214345321)

In BC, provincial park staff are looking to use iNaturalist as a tool to see how many species are in their parks, including threatened species, and where they are, and how to manage parks to protect them. To do this, they need help from people like yourselves.

BY JOHN REYNOLDS
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY;
REYNOLDS@SFU.CA
AND BRIAN STARZOMSKI
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA;
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Calling all Birders! The BC Parks iNaturalist Initiative

Many birders are used to uploading their photos to eBird, Flickr, Instagram, and so-on. But there's another place to drag-and-drop your photos that is growing exponentially: iNaturalist.ca.

iNaturalist is a powerful citizen science project run by the California Academy of Sciences in partnership with the National Geographic Society. So far, over 32 million observations of more than 252,000 species have been submitted from around the world, by almost 900,000 people. This is a doubling of observations and participants in the past year. iNaturalist has nearly 4.8 million observations of birds, including 9,589 species.

In BC, provincial park staff are looking to use iNaturalist as a tool to see how many species are in their parks, including threatened species, and where they are, and how to manage parks to protect

them. To do this, they need help from people like yourselves to photo-document as many species of plants and animals as possible within our provincial parks and conservancies. Currently, birds are under-represented, and this is where you come in.

HOW TO USE iNATURALIST

If you see a bird in any BC park, try to get a photo. You can then drag and drop 100 or more photos into iNaturalist, either by directly uploading it in the field (using the iNaturalist app), or afterwards on the iNaturalist website.

iNaturalist only needs you to fill out a few key pieces of information with each observation: species name, location, and date and time. If your camera has a GPS, iNat will automatically display your photo in the relevant park, and it'll bring the date and time with it. If your camera doesn't have a GPS, you can place the photo in the appropriate location on a map.

If you're unsure about what you've seen, you can ask iNat's advanced photo recognition feature for suggestions. It nearly always gets it right!

HOW DO YOUR OBSERVATIONS HELP?

Every photo you upload to iNat will be automatically collected to one of the iNaturalist "projects" that we have created in partnership with BC Parks and BC Parks Foundation. We have a project for every provincial park, conservancy, and protected area in the province.

We have also created an "umbrella project" so that all of the observations from all of BC's provincial parks are gathered together and displayed along with various summary statistics. You can see the results so far here. Or go to iNaturalist, select "Community", then "Projects", and then type "BC Parks". At the time of writing, there are 119,000 observations of over 5,000 species of plants, animals, and fungi in BC

Maplewood Conservation Area

About Members 1

Maplewood Conservation Area is on the north shore of Vancouver's Burrard Inlet. Its 3 km of trail wind through a mosaic of habitats including an estuary and mudflats, deciduous forests, open fields, and a pond. It is managed by the Wild Birds Trust.

<http://www.maplewoodconservation.com/things-to-do>
Read More >

Edit Project NEWS

Overview 762 OBSERVATIONS 291 SPECIES 270 IDENTIFIERS 56 OBSERVERS Stats

Recent Observations View All

RG American Robin *Turdus migratorius* 1 1 2d

RG Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* 1 1 2d

RG Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* 1 1 2d

RG Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens* 1 1 3d

parks. Want to see just birds? Click on “Stats”, hover your mouse over the pale blue “birds” colour on the circle, and click. Or check out mammals, insects, or fungi.

As the information accumulates, we will be able to get minimum estimates of the number of species in provincial parks for the first time and do statistics to extrapolate to the total number of species that may be in each park. We will also learn about the distributions of rare and threatened species, and iNaturalist automatically blurs their locations to protect them.

So, next time you’re uploading photos to eBird, which we always do, consider also dropping them into iNaturalist. Any photo from the past can be uploaded, as long as you have a date and location for it. Check in now and then to watch the observations in our provincial parks

grow, with birds getting a stronger representation. And don’t forget to add your photos of plants, insects, fungi, herps, and everything else, too: it’s a people’s census of nature. Questions? Feel free to email us.

iNATURALIST IN MAPLEWOOD

The Maplewood Conservation Area has an iNaturalist “project”, which you can see here: <https://inaturalist.ca/projects/maplewood-conservation-area>. At the time of writing there are 672 photo observations of plants, animals, and fungi by 56 people. 96 species of birds have been photo-documented so far. We are looking to increase the number of observations on our site so that we can gain further insight into the biological importance of this area, and also help the conservation of threatened species at a province-wide scale.

WHY SHOULD YOU USE INATURALIST?

1. It helps record species found in a particular area, which can help science and conservation. It automatically ID’s a species for you when you upload a photo, making it easy for you to discover local fauna and flora.
2. It’s a part of a larger community, where your observations can be seen and reviewed by enthusiasts and experts from around the world.
3. Every observation automatically contributes to larger projects. In BC, every observation will allow us to estimate species abundance and diversity in a particular park and the distribution of threatened species.

BY CHLOE HARTLEY, M .SC.

Maplewood Marine Restoration

Over the winter, Maplewood Flats visitors couldn't help but notice the action on the waterfront - our normally peaceful walks through the conservation area have been accompanied by the resonant sounds of diesel engines working day and night filling the basin at Osprey point with Fraser River sands. A project of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA), this work aims to restore mudflat and eelgrass habitat at Maplewood Flats as part the habitat offsetting program for the Centerm Expansion Project. Site visitors may have also noticed foam on the surface of the waters in and around Maplewood Flats. The VFPA assures us that the foam is not toxic and merely the result of surface tension, release of air bubbles and natural proteins in the sand generating foam.

The Port has provided the following updates on the project:

- The VFPA has received an extension on their DFO permit to continue the in-water works to

May 31st with the goal of completing this phase of the work this spring.

- Thus far, 181,000m³ of sand has been placed to raise the basin floor, to create suitable growing conditions for marine vegetation.
- The crew will be placing rock near the shoreline to build a rock apron this spring. Approximately 3,700 tonnes of rock has already been placed to stabilize the constructed habitat.
- Throughout the spring, some marine works are shifting to night work in order to have favorable tides for infilling
- Environmental monitors are onsite full-time while project construction continues, to inspect the basin for evidence of eggs, spawning or finfish activity, and to survey nearby foreshore and upland areas for birds.

- Juvenile herring were observed in the northeast basin on March 16, so work was stopped until it was confirmed that they were no longer in the work area.

At the request of WBT, the project crew added 2x4 supports to the pile dolphins to shore up the osprey nests out on the mudflats

Once the infilling work is complete, the project will pause until late-summer when native eelgrass from suitable donor beds will be transplanted to the site. The site will be monitored to track success and identify maintenance needs. Tsleil-Waututh Nation representatives are meeting monthly with crew members to ensure potential historical artifacts in the area are not disturbed. WBT is monitoring the progress, and is in contact with the VFPA. Members of the public may direct their enquiries by email: habitat.enhancement@portvancouver.com or by phone 778-988-6180.



BY CHLOE HARTLEY, M .SC.

PCAF Projects 2020

The WBT received a \$10,000 grant from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund (PCAF) in 2019 to work on three wetlands restoration projects:

1. Addressing copper contamination in our wetlands
2. Manage three invasive species; reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), yellow flag-iris (*Iris pseud-acorus*), and narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*)
3. Restore indigenous plant diversity to the site

As reported on in the Fall 2019 *Wingspan*, WBT is excited to be working with ECCC to determine

the source of the copper contamination on site. The sampling schedule is however, on hold for the moment.

We had great plans to target the invasive species this season trialing different treatments including applying a benthic barrier and a specific clipping prescription. In February, we started the clipping program but due to the Covid-19 situation, any further public workshops will be on hold for the season. We may be able to chip away individually on these projects over the season.

Last fall we held a successful seed collection workshop on site, gathering seeds from a myriad of

species. This January and March 2020 we held workshops where volunteers planted out the seeds into pots in the Coast Salish Nursery. We will nurture these seeds over the growing season and most likely plant out in the fall.

These three projects have the potential to increase access to foraging, breeding, nesting, and cover resources for birds, amphibians and many other wildlife and insect species on site.

For updates on the project visit wildbirdtrust.org, email us at habitat@wildbirdtrust.org or follow us on Facebook @maplewoodflats



In February, we started the clipping program but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, any further public workshops will be on hold for the season.

Photos from opposite page: Alice Sun and Catherine Denny shoveling earth in wheelbarrows. Top: Maddie Edmonds clipping narrow-leaved cattail in Early February. Right: Ernie Kennedy with volunteers Megan Winland and Kyla Sheehan seeding native plants in trays.



BY CHLOE HARTLEY, M .SC.

Copper Contamination of the Wetlands at the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats

In the summer 2019 issue of Wingspan we reported on finding very high copper levels in water quality tests of the Conservation Area wetlands. In the fall of 2019, WBT began planning with Environment Climate Change Canada to contract sampling of our groundwater well water supply, the wetlands and adjacent

soils to determine the source of the copper. (ECCC leases the Maplewood Flats Conservation Area from the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (Port) and then contracts the Wild Bird Trust to manage the conservation area on their behalf. ECCC are the agency that operate the Pacific Environmental Science Centre

(PESC), the research facility located at Maplewood Flats). The sampling plan was put on hold over the winter but we are still looking forward to working collaboratively with ECCC on this project. We will keep you posted when the sampling plan begins.

Photo: Egg mass of Northwestern Salamander by Chloe Hartley



GARDENERS AND GREEN THUMBS!

COAST SALISH PLANT NURSERY SALE

ONLINE ORDERS STARTING SATURDAY APRIL 18, 10AM

PICKUP/DELIVERY STARTING SATURDAY APRIL 26

The Coast Salish Plant Nursery at Maplewood Flats offers a large selection of native plants rarely available at conventional nurseries.

Limited quantity, while supplies last. Prices: \$6 per 3.5" pot, \$12.50 per 10" pot. All proceeds support restoration of Maplewood Flats. Feel good about your support for our Nursery program!

For the complete plant list or for more information visit wildbirdtrust.org/programs/coast-salish-plant-nursery, or contact nursery@wildbirdtrust.org

PHOTO OF ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD BY PIERRE CENERELLI (SEE PAGE 22).

Coast Salish Plants

The two languages are the languages of the Squamish, and the Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam and other Coast Salish Peoples. It then can also be identified by the English name and the scientific/ Latin name. The description is part of the many uses, and some nations may have different uses as well.

IN ORDER

Skwxwú7mesh

Hən̓qəmin̓əm̓

English Common Name

Scientific Name/Latin

Indigenous use, from time to gather, details on leaves, flower, or other details of identification, and more.



kwílayusaʔ
sp̓e
Red flowering Currant
Ribes sanguineum

Red/pink flowers blooming around April to June. Edible berries (blue in colour and have a waxy look on the outside) can be used in berry cakes and to build iron, blood, high in antioxidants. Currants and gooseberries were used among other berries for fruit leather preserves for winter use. Many nations had different uses, including medicinal treatments for colds, coughs, diabetes, diarrhea, and prevent miscarriages.



sxém̓x̓em̓
ǰəm̓ǰəm̓
Horsetail
Equisetum

Horsetail has many nicknames including “pot scrubber”, “bone knitter”. Horsetail is a very ancient plant and can be found all over the world. When looking at the similarity of plants and the human anatomy to help us learn and remember the plants used, we can see the similarity of our bones to the spine of the plant. Horsetail helps to strengthen hair, nails, bones and can be especially helpful for ailments such as osteoporosis, or healing for a broken bone. The plant is rich in silica and is also an anti inflammatory, with antibacterial qualities. Also known as Indian water plant for having pure water inside the plant during the summer.



kw'élem̓xwaʔ
sq̓'ílm̓x̓
Trailing Blackberry
Rubus ursinus

The low growing, as the name suggests- trailing and crawling on the forest floor, these are much smaller than the invasive species of Himalayan blackberry (please remove these!). The indigenous species of blackberry leaves can be used similarly with its relatives- raspberry and salmon berry leaves for pain. This is not a pain killer, but a muscle strengthener. This family of berry plants heals and strengthen sore or damaged muscles and is safe for pregnancy and breastfeeding as it also helps the uterine muscle. The berries can be eaten fresh in July and August, and can be preserved in a fruit leather for winter use. They're high antioxidants.

By Senaqwila Wyss, Skwxwú7mesh, Tsimshian, Sto:lo, Swiss, Hawaiian, ethnobotanist and educator who has worked at Maplewood Flats over the last 3 summers. Watch out for virtual Plant Walks coming soon! Senaqwila was trained traditionally by Mother T'uyt'tanat Cease Wyss.



BY DONNA CLARK

More than two decades of service to the birds

Maplewood Flats' Site Manager set to retire in 2020

After more than two decades of service to the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats, Ernie Kennedy is putting away the shovel, sun hat, and rain gear. His exceptionally-friendly character and love of the outdoors was not learned at Maplewood Flats but likely arises from his childhood adventures growing up in the rural Powell River and Sechelt areas. With a large happy family, and 25 aunts and uncles and loads of cousins, he played in the forest and beaches of the Sunshine Coast. At the age of 13

his family moved to North Vancouver. He is a third & sixth generation settler from England & Ireland. His paternal great great grandfather came to Canada to escape the potato famine in mid-19th century Ireland.

“What I have appreciated most about working 22 years at the Flats is the community, the people: the members, maintenance, event & greeter-hut volunteers, board members and staff, including the Environment Canada staff. Everyone has been so friendly. Maybe

it's because folks are almost always in a good mood when they are here. And it's all of you who I will miss most about coming to work everyday” mused Ernie, sharing with me his reflections on his work. Before he can reminisce further, “hey, there goes Allen! He's been a regular here the whole time I have been here! I know so many people by name,” reflects Ernie.

In his own words: “I have really appreciated the birds, wildlife, plants and trees. In the Spring, there is noth-

“ I have really appreciated the birds, wildlife, plants and trees. In the Spring, there is nothing better than arriving in the early morning to the songs of Red-Winged Blackbirds. And they sing all day!”

ERNIE KENNEDY

ing better than arriving in the early morning to the songs of Red-Winged Blackbirds. And they sing all day!”

“Once when I was on the trail to the west-pond bench, a bear and I startled each other. I raised my hands up and jumped in shock and surprise. The bear, 5 metres away, did the very same thing as me. They jumped up on their hind legs and raised their forepaws in surprise. Then it turned and ran away,” laughs Ernie.

“Another time, I went to try to save five or six baby skunks that had been seen too close to the highway, back by the gravel parking lot. When I got near them, to try to herd them to the woodpile where they would be safe, they all rallied at my feet. They were incredibly cute but I had mixed feelings about also being sprayed.” Ernie adds reflexively, “can baby skunks spray?”

“Deer are my favourite animal because they are so peaceful. I love our resident deer. I like how they live here so quietly, raising their fawns.”

As Site Manager, it's not all wildlife viewing however, and it does rain! He's especially appreciative of regular longtime volunteers Jennifer and Sharon. Ernie reflects further, “some of the most rewarding work has been putting up the Purple Martin boxes and taking them down every year. I row a boat out and box-

es out to the dolphins in the Inlet. Sometimes we use a long pole and boots. I have had the help of Mike Mont and more recently Jennifer. It's been so rewarding to see their colony grow and be a part of their support. They have to be one of my favourite birds. They are so incredible - the long journey they take to the Amazon and back again every year. I have watched them grow as a colony from just a few nests to the present 120 boxes.”

“Besides the Purple Martin program, I'm most proud of all the trails that we've created and all the benches we've made.” When asked about the non-winged benefits of the job, “The Red-flowering Currant is my favourite plant. It attracts hummingbirds when in bloom. It's been wonderful to watch all the trees and plants we've planted grow over time.”

Ernie's retirement comes at the same time as the Wild Bird Trust gets set to launch the Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural-Use Management Plan in 2020, a guiding document that includes the restoration goals and work plans for the next decade. WBT's Human Resources Committee is working with the Board to transition the Site Manager role with an eye to how more citizen science and public participation and naturalist work will be conducted. Ernie is actively documenting and notating all of his insights into this work.



Ernie already has his sights on big adventures such as those enjoyed as a youth. “I plan to do more hiking and kayaking up the coast. I'd also really like to do more international travel. When I was younger, I travelled for two years in Asia and five years in Europe. It would be great to take a boat down the Amazon River. I'd like to take the TransSiberian Train across Russia, starting in Sweden where my niece lives and finish in Japan before flying home. There are endless trips I'd like to do. I'm not sure I will have enough time or resources to do them all,” chuckles Ernie.

“One thing is for sure, I will always be a regular at Maplewood Flats. I'll come to events and for walks. I might even volunteer, from time to time. So I'm not entirely saying goodbye.” Until we meet again Ernie, likely at the Flats which you have helped shape into such a home for wildlife. We are all indebted to your expertise and generosity, that sun hat and rain gear!

Donna Clark interviewed Ernie on April 10, 2020, and is the Chair of the WBT Programs Committee.

If you have a picture or memory of Ernie to share, email programs@wild-birdtrust.org or mail to: WBT, 2649 Dollarton Hwy, North Vancouver, BC V7H 1B1

WINGSPAN MAGAZINE

Call for Submissions

Wingspan is inviting submissions from members and the public for our Fall/Winter 2020 issue. Your work will be enjoyed by 7500 readers across BC. While we welcome submissions on all themes related to our work, we do have special topics of focus for our 2020 issues.

SPECIAL FOCUS

1. Conservation and Reconciliation - How can conservation be a platform for reconciliation and redress? How is Indigenous science impacting the historically Eurocentric conservation sector? What cross-cultural collaboration are having success on the ground and honouring Indigenous stewardship?
2. Climate Change and Impacts on Birds - In our Fall/Winter 2019 issue, our feature article

delved into the recent news of devastating bird species decline. Depending on the news/research source, causes included “loss of important lands and waters, unsustainable agricultural practices, climate change and pollution”, and “urban development, predation from outdoor cats, collisions with buildings and windows, and widespread pesticide use”. What stories can be shared about effective ways to address this decline - through habitat protection, stewardship and restoration; helping the natural world thrive and be resilient; through policy and system change?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: We are seeking research write-ups, short articles and feature-length stories with a scope anywhere in BC, or birding globally;

length between 600-3500 words. Art and Illustrations must be submitted in high resolution, 300dpi as jpg, png, tif, or eps files.

DEADLINES

Summer issue: June 15
Fall/Winter issue: Oct 8

Send your submission or queries to wingspan@wildbirdtrust.org.



Image by rawpixel



THE CONSERVATION AREA AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS

2649 Dollarton Highway,
North Vancouver, BC
V7H 1B1 (2 kilometers east
of Second Narrows Bridge)
604-929-2379

WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia is incorporated as a non-profit society under the Provincial Societies' Act, Society #S-31197 and is a charitable organization under the federal "Income Tax Act" Charity #14026 5570 RR0001

Join the Wild Bird Trust of BC:
<http://bit.ly/joinWBT> (\$15-500)

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BY ROB LYSKE

Sightings at Maplewood Flats Willow be gone, but not forgotten

Finally, another spring to bird the trails of the north shore's best hotspot. Leaving behind a mostly quiet winter, it is time to start looking in the right places at the right times. Sadly, one of those places is no longer there.

Most of the winters, birding in 2020 could be described as pretty quiet. Finch species, in particular, were far and few between, with only a few sighting of Common Redpoll sparking interest in February. The lack of Red Crossbills was certainly worth noting. A Northern Pygmy Owl was seen a few weeks earlier quietly perched in the woodlot.

Again the shoreline at Maplewood continues to be a somewhat reliable place in the lower mainland to find wintering Spotted Sandpiper but few other shorebirds were seen.

On February 15th, a lone Snow Goose joined a flock of Canada Geese on the East Salt Marsh, which always seems a great place to start looking for migrants as winter gives way to spring.

March brings a bit more for the ears as the occasional flock of Trumpeter Swans begin to migrate. This is usually the time to start checking the eastern and western salt marshes for surprises. March 19th brought on one of the first (almost) regular treats as a couple Mountain Bluebirds turned up followed by a Say's Phoebe a few days later. Swallows and Rufous Hummingbirds, as well



Photos – this page: Bewick's Wren. Next page, left: Red-Tailed Hawk with Red Legged-Frog. Top right: Fox Sparrow. Bottom right: Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher.

as a few Yellow-Rumped Warblers, also started to make their presence towards the end of March.

It is this time of year that the trees start to leaf out; Salmonberry and Indian Plum are in flower and is time to look and listen for Warblers, among others. As mentioned earlier a long time favorite place to look, particularly for migrants, is no longer still standing. Near the viewing area on the west pond stood one of the more mature Pacific Willow trees in the sanctuary. Unfortunately it toppled last year and will greatly be missed. It was often where one could find a mixed

flock of Warblers, Flycatchers and Vireos in the spring.

In this very willow a Red tailed Hawk alit after pouncing on something at the ponds edge. Upon review of a photo, it turns out that its prey was a Red-Legged Frog. So perhaps the Willow, even in it's toppled state will still provide viewing opportunities to enjoy in years to come.

Looking further back, it is also worth noting a remarkable rarity from the fall of 2020. On November 5th, a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was found and photographed by John Gordon along with Carlo Giovanella rep-

resenting the most recent addition to the Maplewood Conservation Area checklist of birds. Well north of its range, it stayed for about 10 days. Spring is a great time to start looking in all of Maplewood's great places for the next addition.

You can still contribute to bird surveys during the Covid-19 enhanced quarantine by using the iNaturalist app or via eBird.com. See "Calling all Birders!" on page 27 for tips on how to use iNaturalist.



Photo: Trumpeter Swans. Taken in Fraser Valley. Credit: Randy Walker/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML214629901)

AL & JUDE GRASS

Symphony at Dawn

Spring's "The Dawn Chorus" – a joyful chorus of birds.

In Spring something wonderful happens as nature greets the morning sun. We call this "The Dawn Chorus" - a joyful chorus of birds. Hearing it is something that refreshes the human spirit. At Maplewood Flats Conservation Area Nature's song begins early to welcome the sun. Some of the first birds are robins, with their lovely "cheerily - cheer up! And the cheerful chickadee's "Tea Time", or is it "hey sweetie!" Some say it even sounds like "cheeseburger." In the

early morning we also listen for the plaintive notes of the lovely Varied Thrush. We always arrive at the sanctuary just before 6am dawn chorus but perhaps we should arrive at 4AM! The actual songs and calls that thrill us vary from habitat to habitat. We begin in the forest, move towards the wetlands, ponds, salt marsh and out along the sea-shore to the mudflats. A list of birds include chickadees, blackbirds, rails, flickers, gulls song sparrows, vireos, flycatcher – and more.

Join us for an intimate conversation video streamed from Jude and Al Grass' private backyard oasis on Saturday, June 6. They will describe the birds they love so much, and reflect on their careers in conservation and nature education. See page 47 for more details.



Photos from top left: Bushtit male in juniper; top right: Bushtit female coming out of nest; Bottom right: Bushtit nest just made by Robert Alexander.



AL GRASS

Busy Little Bushtits

There is no collective noun for a flock of bushtits, like a charm of goldfinches or a parliament of owls.

It's a wonderful sight to see 15, 29 or more bushtits clustered around a suet feeder - they are indeed charming. To attract them, stock your suet cage with a basic blend (suet and peanuts) or one with added insects (usually mealworms). These suets are also excellent for chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers. You may also attract kinglets, wrens and even warblers like Townsend's.

Bushtits feed on a variety of spiders, insects, including aphids, caterpillars, sawfly (larvae), scale insects and a few seeds (Martin, A. C., et al. American Guide to Wildlife Food Habits. Dover. 2011.)

They will sometimes come to a feeder stocked with sunflower chips (premium oil sunflower "meats).

Watch carefully in a bushtit "bushel" for some yellow eyes (females) and others with dark eyes. Leaves off most deciduous trees are a good

time to look for "old bushtit nests — like old woolen socks hanging from branches"— even when weathered these nests are marvels of construction.

Happy Birding!

— Al Grass



WBT Activities in Photos

Family Day 2020 was held on Saturday February 17 and included children art making activities (lead by Natalie Gibbs), bird-shaped pancakes, John Lowman photo exhibit, speakers (including Carleen Thomas, pictured), nature walks and public art talks, plus tree planting activities for the whole family. Corporate team-building habitat restoration work included DP World helping with ivy pulling. And signage and caution tape for Covid-19 helped with physical distancing on the trails.





Calling Volunteers!

Support conservation work from your armchair!

While we need to practice physical distancing and are staying home, there are important tasks the Wild Bird Trust of BC is seeking help with—and some can be done while isolated.

If you have a bit of extra time, and have skills to offer that match our needs, please reach out to volunteer@wildbirdtrust.org where we can direct you to the best role.

You must be a member of Wild Bird Trust of BC to volunteer. Join online at bit.ly/JoinWBT

Online Programs - provide tech support and training for online programs and webinars, event planning and logistics.

Habitat Researcher - assist Habitat Committee compile and review the inventory of research projects.

Social Media Manager - post scheduled and new content, manage public interactions, push crossmedia content following WBT communications protocols (across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

Communications Committee - participate with content and submissions for the summer issue of *Wingspan*.

Fundraising Team - assist our online campaign through sharing and reposting, get training and learn how to support our donors. Support donor/member databases (CRM).

Courier/Delivery Support for Wingspan and Nursery shipments – honorarium paid for time and vehicle expense.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dedicated to wild birds and their habitats on the principle all wildlife must benefit.

SINGLE ☐ \$30 /YEAR ☐ \$55 /2 YEARS

FAMILY ☐ \$40 /YEAR ☐ \$75 /2 YEARS

NUMBER IN FAMILY: _____

STUDENT/LOW INCOME ☐ \$15 /YEAR

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ☐ \$500

DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia, 2649 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver, BC V7H 181

A charitable tax receipt will be issued for membership fees and donations (up to 15% of all donations may be designated for WBT administration).

JOIN THE WILD BIRD TRUST — PROTECT MAPLEWOOD FLATS!

To sign up and pay online, visit our website, www.wildbirdtrust.org/membership

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? WE TRAIN! ☐ RECEPTION ☐ HABITAT WORK ☐ COMMITTEE WORK

We are hiring!

Earn \$5000-8500 for 10-16 weeks' work

Join a progressive conservation team for meaningful summer contracts for ages 19–30 years. Indigenous and non-Indigenous welcome to apply. Connect with Elders and training. Work remotely and at Maplewood Flats in the heart of Tsleil-Waututh lands and waters. We have again teamed up with ACCESS and Canada Summer Jobs to offer a dynamic mix of positions in outdoor and indoor work supporting education, restoration and communications.

Summer Staff support environmental sustainability and cultural engagement through the delivery of community programs. The work inspires and educates children, youth and adults in nature, culture and skills building, and build community connections.

Wild Bird Trust of BC (WBT) is a progressive conservation organisation committed to habitat restoration and reconciliation and based

in Burrard Inlet. Our mission is to provide wild birds with sanctuary through ecological protection and restoration, and support communities with education, culture, and reconciliation programs. We operate the spectacular Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats with a nature house and 5km of trails.

Earliest start date May 11, maximum 16 weeks per contract.

Apply now via email: ed@wildbird-trust.org include cover letter and resume (PDF or Word) with subject header: Insert preferred "JOB TITLE." We strongly encourage applications by Coast Salish People.

WBT Wild Bird Trust of BC
Conservation Area at Maplewood
Flats, 2649 Dollarton Hwy, North
Vancouver, BC, V7H1B1

www.wildbirdtrust.org
Instagram, Twitter, Facebook:
[@MaplewoodFlats](https://www.instagram.com/MaplewoodFlats)

OPEN POSITIONS

**Communications
Coordinator**

**Coast Salish Programs
Assistant**

**Festival and Events
Coordinator**

**Environmental Program
Coordinator**

Administrative Assistant

**Coast Salish Nursery
Restoration Coordinator**



Image by rawpixel

We have made the very difficult decision to temporarily close Wild Birds Unlimited Vancouver and North Vancouver stores to foot traffic. As you well know things have been changing in B.C. quickly with respect to Covid-19. Our top priority is keeping our team members and you, our customers healthy and safe.

Until further notice we will be operating exclusively via our online stores. MyWbu.com/Vancouver and MyWbu.com/Northvancouver. We will offer pick up in our parking lot.

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SPRING / SUMMER 2020

Birding Walks & Events

BIRD SURVEYS

8am-11am • Join us bright and early on the first Saturday of each month to participate in our monthly bird surveys. Participants of all levels are welcome to take part in the survey led by experienced birders.

SUMMER MEMBERS' WALKS

with Rob Lyske

MONTHLY GUIDED WALKS

Saturdays, 10:00am to noon • Hosted by Legendary Naturalist Al Grass.

AFTERNOON HOLIDAY WALKS

Mondays (*except where noted), 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm • Hosted by Kevin

SPECIAL GUIDED WALKS

7pm, Evening Walks hosted by Al and Jude Grass • Two delightful evening opportunities to hear birds singing, observe wildflowers, and perhaps see bats and swifts and possibly a mother deer and her fawns.

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS
SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

May

Saturday, May 2, 8-11am - BIRD SURVEY

Saturday, May 9 - MONTHLY GUIDED WALK - 10:00am - 12:00pm • Birders: Enjoy the Conservation Area's birds and their music

Saturday, May 16 - 10:00am - SUMMER MEMBERS WALK with Rob Lyske

Monday, May 18 - Victoria Day - AFTERNOON HOLIDAY WALK

August

Saturday, August 1, 8-11am - BIRD SURVEY

Monday, August 3 - BC Day - AFTERNOON HOLIDAY WALK

August 8 - MONTHLY GUIDED WALK - All About Habitat - understanding habitat

Saturday, August 15, 10:00am - SUMMER MEMBERS WALK with Rob Lyske

September

Saturday, September 5, 8-11am - BIRD SURVEY

Monday, September 7 - Labour Day - AFTERNOON HOLIDAY WALK

September 12 - MONTHLY GUIDED WALK - Autumn - Fall migration and Maplewood's birds

Saturday, July 4, 8-11am - BIRD SURVEY

July 11 - MONTHLY GUIDED WALK - Salt Marsh Secrets Revealed - The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats boasts the premier example of salt marsh in Burrard Inlet. A rare supervised opportunity to appreciate this important intertidal ecosystem

Wednesday, July 15 - 1st of 2 SPECIAL GUIDED WALK by Al and Jude Grass

Wednesday, July 29 - 2nd of 2 SPECIAL GUIDED WALK by Al and Jude Grass

Saturday, July 25, 10:00am - 4pm - 14th ANNUAL OSPREY FESTIVAL • Mark your calendar for this year's annual event

Conservation Conversations!

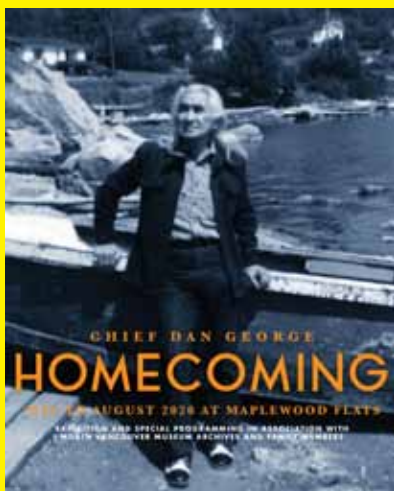
Join us online: bit.ly/WBTeventbrite

In response to COVID-19, Maplewood Flats' nature house programming is suspended until further notice. We value the importance of connecting as a community, and our team has moved our schedule online! It is easy to register and connect with our workshop leaders while staying in your pyjamas! No rain gear required! We hope to see you (virtually) soon.

Image by rawpixel



April 22 Earth Day Intermediate Bird Photography, workshop, Pierre Cenerelli	May 9 Storytelling with Photography 101, Alice Sun	May 10 Mother's Day Mason Bee Housing, Cease Wyss (Squamish)
May 10 Native Bee Conservation, Marika van Reeuyk (Native Bee Society of BC)	May 16 John Lowman's photography, tour & talk, Rob Lykse	May 18 Restoration of Maplewood Flats, Kevin Bell
June 6 Backyard Birding Tea & Scones with Al & Jude Grass	June 13 Environmental and Public Art at Maplewood Flats, Irwin Oostindie	June 20 Tsleil-Waututh views on the Inlet plus 'When the Tide Goes Out' short film. Hillary Hyland and Iggy George.



UPCOMING EXHIBIT TO GO ONLINE

Chief Dan George 'Homecoming'

June to September 2020,
 Exhibition and special pro-
 gramming in association with
 North Vancouver Museum &
 Archives and family members.

Photo: Chief Dan George stands
 on the shoreline next to
 Maplewood Flats.

MORE WALKS AND TALKS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Suggestions?
 Email: ed@wildbirdtrust.org

Visit our website:
www.wildbirdtrust.org

Follow us Instagram, Twitter,
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ABOUT WBT

WINGSPAN MAGAZINE

Wingspan Magazine is a free biannual publication of Wild Bird Trust. It includes information on our latest events, exhibitions, and programs, as well as feature articles, regular member columns, and updates on local developments relating to the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats.



CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS!

We are currently inviting submissions from members and the public for our 2020 issues. Get the full details here.

MacBook Pro

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