

SUMMER 2021 • FREE

WINGSPAN

THE VOICE FOR BIRDING, CONSERVATION, AND RECONCILIATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA FROM UNCEDED TSLEIL-WAUTUTH LANDS AND WATERS



NEW GENERATION OF BIRDERS

Ten young birders discuss their favourite birds, citizen science, and how birding became a passion.

ETHICAL BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

The Fraser Delta has an ongoing problem with unethical bird photographers.

DECOLONIZING CONSERVATION

Jeff Nicholls of RAVEN on defending nature, birding, and decolonizing conservation.



Celebrating
Chief Dan George's
122ND Birthday



14TH

OSPREY FESTIVAL

JULY 24
SATURDAY
10am-4pm

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MURRAY PORTER

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SANDY SCOFIELD TRIO

RACHELLE GEORGE

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WINGSPAN

The Voice for BC birding, conservation, and reconciliation

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Honey Mae
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THANKS to Marisa Bischoff, Rachel
Baumann, Kristen Munk, Cassandra
Metcalf, and Nicole Preissl.

CONTRIBUTORS

Rob Alexander, Jeanne Bakken, Al &
Jude Grass, Rob Lyske, Pierre
Cenerelli, Melissa Hafting, Ronnie
Dean Harris, Jorge Ignacio Miranda

Landestoy, Ed Paulino, Juan G.
Rodriguez, Patricia Rose, Alice Sun,
and Cease Wyss.

SUBMISSIONS

wingspan@wildbirdtrust.org

INTERNSHIP

wingspan@wildbirdtrust.org

DONATIONS

wildbirdtrust.org/donate

VOLUNTEER

volunteer@wildbirdtrust.org

WEBSITE

www.wildbirdtrust.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

@MaplewoodFlats



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

WILD BIRD TRUST OF BC STAFF

Lianne Payne (Operations Manager),
Honey Mae Caffin (Communications
Manager), Alejandro Paredes-Borjas
(Site & Restoration Manager), Irwin
Oostindie (Planning Director), Elsie
Webb (Admin Assistant), Senaqwila
(Coast Salish Programs Coordinator),
Charlotte Heckel (Nursery Coordi-
nator), Cease Wyss (Ethnobotanist),
Kristen Munk (Conservation Com-
munications Coordinator), Teagan Po
White (Habitat Restoration Assistant),
Blaine George (Maintenance
Assistant), Sara Metcalfe (Nursery
Sales Assistant), and Nova Lamichhane
(Intern).

POST-PANDEMIC, CAN WE DECOLONIZE BIRDING?

Throughout the Covid19 pandemic we gained a stronger appreciation for outdoor spaces in nature, with thousands of new visitors visiting the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats, in Tsleil-Waututh Nation lands and waters. The pandemic also revealed to us our social inequities, many structural, impacting elderly, poor people, Indigenous, Black, and Persons of Colour. As mainstream society stepped back, it became more aware that the privilege of living in British Columbia is also entangled with truths previously hidden.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we collectively witnessed the confrontation between a white woman and Christian Cooper, a black bird-watcher, in New York City's Central Park. #BlackBirdersWeek is the global online movement that was sparked by that racist incident. Those everyday truths about injustice and harm were not unknown to black birders, just as they are experienced by non-white birders in Canada.

In our Wingspan feature interview on page 6 I speak with birder Jeff Nicholls, President of RAVEN and he describes "the magic of birding... it brings you to interesting places, which, I suppose, might raise an issue of consent and acknowledgement. This idea that there are sometimes very culturally or ecologically sensitive areas. And that's important to consider if you're not already alive to that, of whose land are you walking on." The pandemic has perhaps deliv-

ered birding a moment of democratization and equity, as new voices identify as birders, as Black birders, as Indigenous birders, queer birders, or folks specifically identifying as not birders—yet are avid fans of studying birds in nature.

Many Canadians are breaking free of the denial that the land upon which we depend on for birding is inextricably bound up in a history of land theft and genocide. Our Wingspan Magazine, and its publisher, the Wild Bird Trust of BC, is deeply committed to being a voice for all birders. Please enjoy the young birders' feature on page 24 by Melissa Hafting, as she shares inspiring tributes. Braela Kwan's page 10 feature encourages us to think about the true history of Maplewood Flats: "How Chief Dan George's nature poetry resonates today, after shaping decades of generational discourse on conservation and Indigenous sovereignty."

Birding is slowly coming of age and the pandemic certainly gave it a boost with massive growth in sales of birding products, and Covid19 lockdowns showed people's craving for engagement with nature. Our Maplewood Flats native plant nursery has for 2021 already experienced an 80% increase in sales. But equity in birding is only just beginning its reckoning, and it is up to all of us.

We hope you enjoy reading Wingspan Magazine, and consider joining our growing movement across BC to decolonize birding and conservation.



Photo: For World Environment Day in June, The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson (Minister of Environment & Climate Change Canada) spoke with Irwin Oostindie (President, Wild Bird Trust of BC) as he toured Maplewood Flats. We discussed native planting, decolonizing conservation, threats to migratory birds from Roberts Bank 2 expansion, and increased tankers from the proposed TransMountain pipeline expansion.

Make a donation, consider membership, view our online video discussions, and participate! As public health guidelines permit, enjoy your spaces for nature, and reflect upon how we come to be seeing birds in these habitats. These glorious BC birding spaces are unceded, and have been stewarded by Indigenous Peoples for millennia. As a provincial conservation and birding community, equity means working to centre Indigenous Knowledge in birding where we live.

Irwin Oostindie
President, Wild Bird Trust of BC

Birds & Indigenous Knowledge

Fireside Chat with Jeff Nicholls, President, RAVEN
(Respecting Aboriginal Values & Environmental Needs)

Jeff is a member of the *Ganhada* - 'Raven Clan' of the Tsimshian Nation. Jeff, an avid birdwatcher, is deeply embedded in the work of advancing the interests of Indigenous Peoples. Jeff serves as the President of RAVEN, a Victoria-based charity that raises legal defence funds to assist Indigenous Peoples who enforce their rights and title to protect their traditional territories. Jeff is also a lawyer with Ratcliff LLP - a North Vancouver law firm that has served Indigenous peoples for over 50 years.

Jeff Nicholls sat down with Irwin Oostindie of the Wild Bird Trust (WBT) for the March edition of the WBT Fireside Chat series, held online the last Sunday of each month. The two discussed a broad range of subjects in the 75 minute conversation, including birding culture, decolonization, and Indigenous law. The Fireside Chats are archived on the Wild Bird Trust's Youtube and Facebook video channels.

IO: What do you enjoy about birding?

JN: Birding has given me a much deeper perspective on the world that I walk in, and has enhanced my respect and understanding of the natural world. Birds are deeply connected to the natural environment and can give you clues about the world around you. In many ways, birds are a kind of wayfinder - as you move through different environments, the birds can tell you a lot about the place that you are in.

For me, the practice of birding is connected to the concept of Indigeneity. Both have a place-based focus and are rooted in the land. When I started birdwatching a few years ago - and I mean seriously birdwatching, with eBird and the whole thing - I began to dig more deeply into Tsimshian language *Smalgyax* and our stories about birds. It was no surprise to find that the *Smalgyax* words we have for different birds on the coast give indicators about the bird's habitat and behavior. For example, our word for 'hawk' is derived from the words for 'eats other birds'. Meanwhile, our word for hum-

mingbird is 'bird that steals your hair', and our word for cormorant is very similar to words that would roughly translate to 'transition between land and water'. Our people have always watched birds and I enjoy reconnecting with my ancestors by learning how they talked about and saw them.

Birdwatching can also reveal what's happening - or not happening - in a place. My partner Siobhan is really into plants, and is always pulling us aside to check out plants on our walks. When we started birdwatching, we noticed quickly that the biodiversity of birds dropped dramatically in areas that were predominantly introduced plants. Soon after, we learned that introduced plants host significantly less insect life, and provide less food for the birds. The presence of birds - or the lack of them - gave us perspective into everything about that ecosystem.

IO: RAVEN has a fundraising campaign for the West Moberly First Nations opposition to Site C which



Photo provided by Jeff Nichols.

For me, the practice of birding is connected to the concept of Indigeneity. Both have a place-based focus and are rooted in the land.

threatens wildlife and human use of their lands. It is common in this type of situation where the numbers of threatened species includes a long list of birds. Barn Swallows, species at risk, Warblers, the Common Nighthawk, Flycatchers. Then you go down into the blue list species. Often environmental groups defending a particular aspect of nature they will litigate on a particular species. But in fact, your organization, RAVEN, doesn't litigate for particular bird species, instead it supports litigation for Indigenous rights, like the West Moberly First Nations in this case.

For our own organisation, we are similarly shifting the way we protect wild birds in BC. In past years, the Wild Bird Trust of BC acted like the Tsleil-Waututh Nation did not have any jurisdiction at the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats. We did not engage with Tsleil-Waututh, even though 99% of the site's history was sustainable Tsleil-Waututh stewardship of wild birds. In recent years too, Tsleil-Waututh Nation was doing more for our own Wild Bird Trust mandate for wild bird habitat in Burrard Inlet than our own organisation. Now we can see that was a mistake caused by prioritizing western science, and it is remarkable how important these is-

ues of Indigenous Knowledge are. And to your point Jeffrey, we don't talk about that as Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), or Indigenous knowledge, when talking about Maplewood Flats, it should be place-based, specifically naming it as Tsleil-Waututh knowledge.

I'm fascinated by this settler notion of protecting birds through restoring habitat that only specific birds will occupy, as if colonialism never happened and the land is either ripe for industrialization, urbanization or restoration. I'm curious about your thoughts on that kind of provocative notion of areas like Burrard Inlet with its heavy industry and colonial legacy of the past century.

JN: When an area is potentially threatened by industrial development, the current environmental practice is to develop a remediation scheme to mitigate harm to very specific, 'important' or 'valuable' aspects of that environment. This approach that focuses on protecting very specific pockets of an ecosystem across an area does not seem natural to me – it's a bit like humans are creating 'Frankenstein ecosystems'. By contrast, many Indigenous legal orders tend to be oriented much more holistically to protecting

the entirety of an ecosystem and the relationships within it.

For example, an industrial development was proposed a few years ago on ancient eelgrass beds in my own Peoples' territory, including an area known as Flora Bank. The Flora Bank eelgrass beds are thousands of years old - a delicate structure of glacial sediment created by a very particular confluence of tides and river activity. Scientists don't fully understand how the Bank was created but do know that it is a nursery for a salmon run in the tens of millions – which is the cultural and nutrient backbone of the Skeena region.

At one point, it was proposed that a significant portion of Flora Bank could be dredged and reconstructed as artificial 'islands' nearby. My community was skeptical – there was no proof of the efficacy of that strategy, there was no evidence that the sediment would stay in place. I am of course not an expert but it seemed very little consideration had been given to the surrounding ecosystem and context, such as the value of a complete intact ecosystem and the way of life that depends on the health and wellbeing of salmon. RAVEN supported my community's campaign to protect Flora Bank – an effort that was successful.

I think that it's telling that one of the

This approach that focuses on protecting very specific pockets of an ecosystem across an area does not seem natural to me – it’s a bit like humans are creating ‘Frankenstein ecosystems’. By contrast, many Indigenous legal orders tend to be oriented much more holistically to protecting the entirety of an ecosystem and the relationships within it.

most powerful pieces of environmental legislation in Canada is the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Birds are everywhere - from underwater, to the water’s surface, on the shore and in the air. A law that protects birds can also protect their broader environment. Bird’s ubiquity has implications in many different ways including the design of effective legal mechanisms for environmental stewardship. Our society would do well to consider more holistic environmental protection measures that focus on whole ecosystems.

IO: When you think about the labour and leadership you provide RAVEN, what are some other ways that you merge that understanding between ornithology and learning about nature? You have talked about your partner who loves plants. What are ways you might think about the people who support RAVEN walking on the land and want to learn a bit of a broader sense, of ornithology in a different context.

JN: I think that that last term that you use there is an important one: context. Birding as an activity is super fun and an exciting hobby, and I partake as often as I can. But that’s the magic of birding, that you can do other things while you’re birding. It brings you to

interesting places, which, I suppose, might raise an issue of consent and acknowledgement. This idea that there are sometimes very culturally or ecologically sensitive areas. And that’s important to consider if you’re not already alive to that, of whose land are you walking on. I always try and acknowledge the ancestors and the contemporary Indigenous Peoples on whose land I am birding. I really do express gratitude in the many places birding has taken us.

I grew up in a family that has a close relationship with our ancestral territory. I have aunts and uncles that go out on our territory and harvest all kinds of different species, and we have a very close relationship to those different places. I was raised to care about our relationship to our territory, and birding is an extension of that. My family and I are all seeing the territory change, and not for the better. Salmon stocks in the Skeena are dropping dramatically. Where my mother grew up eating canned Skeena sockeye five days a week, I now only have access to one or two cans a month. We are also seeing declines in many bird species that are culturally significant.

Birds are a part of the relationship we have with our territory. The word for ‘bird’ in our language is *tsu’uts*. When I introduce myself within our

clan system, I say I am a member of Ganhada (the Raven Clan). We also have Laxsgiik (the Eagle Clan). For years I worked as an adventure guide in Gitga’at territory. As fishing guides, we would use the mantra: ‘run over the murrelets’ that’s because they know where the fish are. None were harmed of course! In some way, the birds helped us see through the water. So the birds can help us understand the health of our territory – and to truly protect birds, we must protect the areas around them.

Birding is a great way to get outdoors and get connected to the broader world. As a lawyer, I sit at a desk often, and it’s good to breathe fresh air. Maplewood Flats is a place that I can do that often! My partner and I understand the significance of the Flats to Tsleil-Waututh and we are very grateful and respectful of the opportunity to experience the wonder of that place. It’s great to get the opportunity to share my perspective with the wonderful community through our conversation. I hope that you can check out RAVEN through our website or social media and learn a bit more about our campaigns. Thank you.

Learn more about RAVEN at www.raventrust.com



The Cry of a Loon

How Chief Dan George's nature poetry resonates today, after shaping decades of generational discourse on conservation and Indigenous sovereignty.

BY BRAELA KWAN

Braela is a journalist and science communicator.

Many strange things have happened during my lifetime. Often, I could not understand the changes—I have been angered by some, shamed by others, and saddened by many. But nothing can give me greater feeling of loss than the way nature disappears to make room for people’s pleasure.
— Chief Dan George, *The Empty Loon’s Nest*

An iconic figure in history, Chief Dan George (1899 - 1981) was a beloved long-shoreman, actor, musician, poet, activist, leader, and environmentalist. He was born with the name Geswanouth Slahoot and raised on Tsleil-Waututh territory, near what is now known as Deep Cove. He is the son of Hereditary Chief George Sla-holt, and served as Tsleil-Waututh Chief between 1951 and 1963. His descendants continue to live in the traditional unceded territories of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation along Burrard Inlet.

Chief Dan George is universally recognized as a significant historical figure, and his achievements are abundant. To name a few, he delivered his famous “Lament for Confederation” speech to a crowd of 32,000 people on July 1, 1967, in which he expressed the ways Canada has failed Indigenous Peoples and appropriated traditional territories. “Today, when

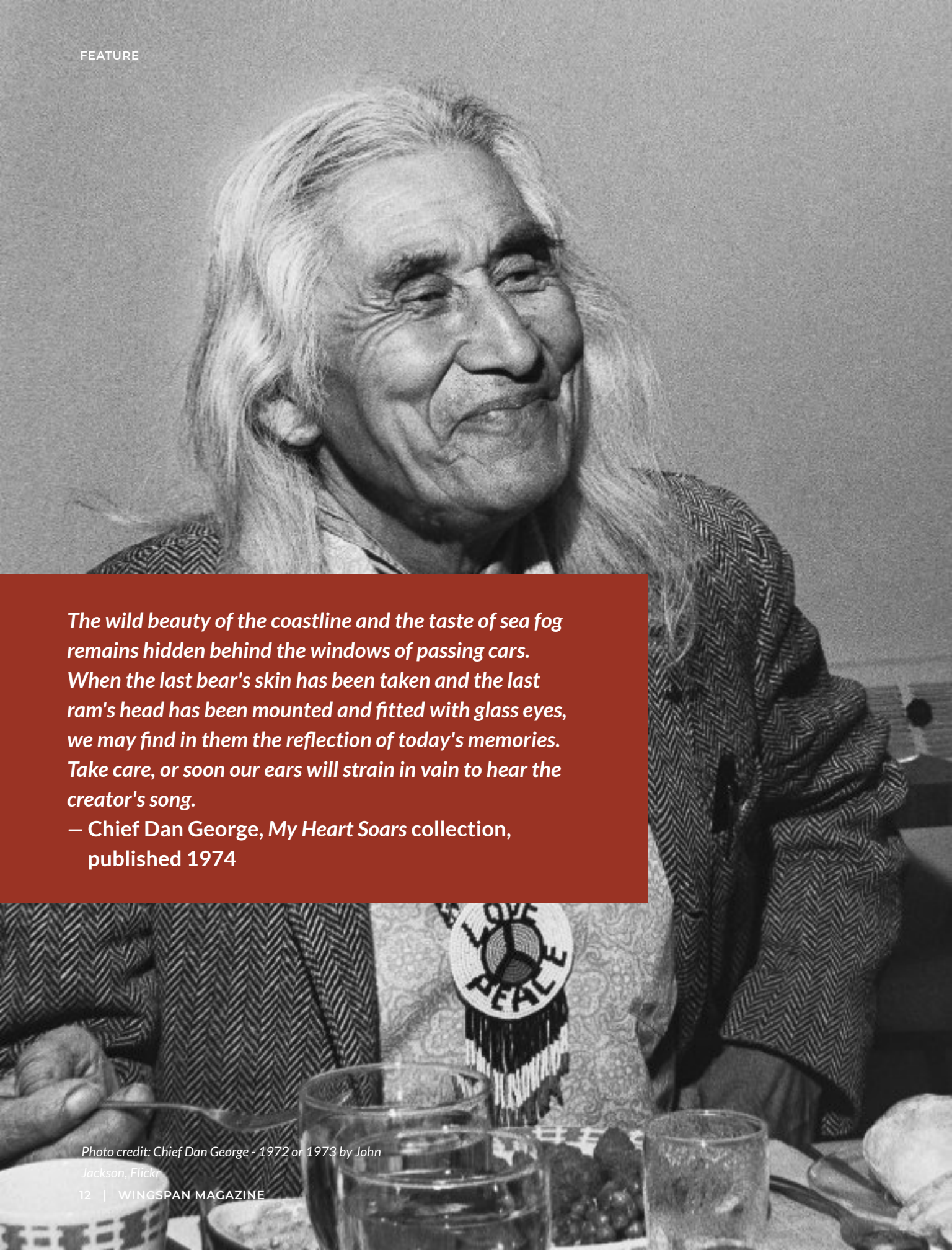
you celebrate your hundred years, oh Canada, I am sad for all the Indian people throughout the land,” he said.

Three years later, he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role as Old Lodge Skins in the film *Little Big Man* (1970). In Chief Dan George’s granddaughter, Charlene Aleck’s words: “He was definitely the first Native actor to play a Native part. When he brought all of his First Nations identity with him, it made people see the difference. It wasn’t a non-Native actor acting to be a Native person. He brought a quality and a presence and even the director would say Chief Dan I can’t tell you how to do it, you know best. He would bring it all forward, all that knowledge and genuine love for his surroundings.” Throughout his life, he also formed several dance groups to perform and preserve traditional Tsleil-Waututh dances and ceremonies, including the Children of Takaya Dance Group, the

longest-running Indigenous performing arts group in BC, which still performs today. In 1971, he was appointed to the Order of Canada, an honour that recognizes people who make extraordinary historical contributions. In 2008, Canada Post designed stamps with a portrait of Chief Dan George.

A travelling exhibit curated by the Museum of North Vancouver and developed in close collaboration with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the George family titled “Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist” is currently exhibiting at Maplewood Flats from May 22 - August 29. The Wild Bird Trust of BC is hosting a Welcome Reception with drumming and singing by George grandchildren to open the ceremony, followed by words shared from Tsleil-Waututh members and elected dignitaries that will take place on June 12th from noon to 1:30pm. Visit bit.ly/Chief-DanGeorgeReception to register for

Photo on opposite page: Chief Dan George exhibit installation (see back cover)



The wild beauty of the coastline and the taste of sea fog remains hidden behind the windows of passing cars. When the last bear's skin has been taken and the last ram's head has been mounted and fitted with glass eyes, we may find in them the reflection of today's memories. Take care, or soon our ears will strain in vain to hear the creator's song.

— Chief Dan George, *My Heart Soars* collection, published 1974



Photo credit: Chief Dan George - 1972 or 1973 by John Jackson, Flickr

Time will soon be here when my grandchild will long for the cry of a loon, the flash of a salmon, the whisper of the spruce needles, or the screech of an eagle. But he will not make friends with any of these creatures. And when his heart aches with the longing, he will curse me. Have I done all to keep the air fresh? Have I left the eagles to soar in freedom? Have I done everything I could to earn my grandchild's fondness?

– Chief Dan George, *My Spirit Soars* collection, published 1989

this virtual celebration of his life and legacy. In Charlene Aleck's words, "My late Uncle Leonard was in conversation with the North Van Museum folks about putting our face on the land and looking at the history of our family stories." The exhibit focuses on his influence as an advocate for the rights of First Nations Peoples and his career as an actor. It also considers other significant figures, events and milestones in the First Nations rights movement in BC and Canada, and touches on the wider history and portrayal of indigenous people in film and television. The exhibit features stories and artifacts, including paintings, photographs and memorabilia.

Later in his life, Chief Dan George leaned on his growing notoriety to speak out on First Nations' rights and culture. "He went out and talked to non-Indigenous people about who we really are and how this was affecting us. He shone a light when a lot of people did not view us," said Charlene Aleck, Chief Dan George's grand-

daughter and spokesperson for Tsleil-Waututh Nation's Sacred Trust Initiative, as reported in CBC. In Aleck's words, "Whereas grandfather wanted to uplift the voice of who we really are, the hard workers, the family caring, the in tune with mother nature and believing in the ecosystem and the environment that is around us and having a responsibility with it."

Chief Dan George's surge in representation is paramount today in conversations surrounding environmental degradation and stewardship. He was an early environmentalist—his writings and poetry were prolific with sentiments lamenting the degradation of the Burrard Inlet.

During his life, he was already privy to the loss of nature. In his poetry, he references the degradation and pollution of nature to facilitate human-made development. His words and legacy are reflected in the contemporary culture of environmental activism present in his family and community

today. Many members of Tsleil-Waututh—which translates to "the People of the Inlet"—have worked to clean the Inlet, promote stewardship practices and clean energy, and oppose industrialization and development projects.

Chief Dan George's environmental legacy transcends generations and lives on today. Charlene Aleck, his granddaughter, is a leader in Tsleil-Waututh's opposition to the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion through her work with the Sacred Trust Initiative, which fights the project in the courtroom, in boardrooms, and on the land and water. Rueben George, Chief Dan George's grandson, manages the Sacred Trust Initiative. In an interview with Broadview, Rueben George said how urban development and industrialization of the Inlet have irreversibly degraded the lands and waters. "It's pretty devastating," he told Broadview Magazine. "My kids will never experience what I experienced."

Rueben George's impressions on the generational losses echo the ele-

gies his grandfather Chief Dan George wrote in his poetry.

Chief Dan George's great-granddaughter, Rachelle George, elaborates on his poetry and the longing to hear the cry of a loon. "And really, how long will it be before Burrard Inlet won't have loons? Because what is there going to be left for them to eat?" she says, reflecting on the devastating loss of biodiversity due to the cumulative impacts of climate change. She noted that as his great-grandchild, she feels a special connection to Chief Dan George, particularly when reading his poetry that directly addresses his grandchildren.

Like her great grandfather, Rachelle George lives with an acute sense of urgency about the loss of nature after witnessing development and industri-

alization encroach the lands and waters she grew up with. She says she experiences anxiety whenever she drives over the Lions Gate Bridge or the Second Narrows Bridge because the Inlet is now abundant with industrialization and tanker traffic. "There's a sense of urgency. And that's why it's important to read his poems and write your own poems too," she said.

Rachelle George is a filmmaker and writer. Currently, she is working on a play about global warming and rising sea levels, among other projects. She says her work is shaped by the teachings of Chief Dan George and her other family members. "We still hold the knowledge of what has been passed down to us."

One of her earliest memories is being at a playground as a child and indicating she was going to leave a granola

bar wrapper behind, until her mom reprimanded her and warned her not to leave garbage out. In fact, her mom taught her a teaching that was passed down generationally through the family: "when you go somewhere, you have to leave it better than how you found it."

"If everyone lived by that, this world would be such a better place," Rachelle George said.

FURTHER READING

- ▶ www.twnsacredtrust.ca
- ▶ www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-icon-chief-dan-george-celebrated-in-new-museum-exhibit-1.4171546
- ▶ www.broadview.org/rueben-george-trans-mountain/

EXHIBIT CALENDAR

JULY 24, 10AM-4PM

Chief Dan George's
122nd Birthday
Celebration at the
14th Osprey Festival

Enjoy birthday cupcakes to celebrate Chief Dan George's 122nd birthday, while attending the 14th Annual Osprey Festival. His daughter, Halthe-Leah Sla-holt Amy George will recite his famous 1967 'Lament for Confederation' at the outdoor stage.

MAY 22-AUGUST 29, 2021 Chief Dan George: Activist & Actor Exhibit at Maplewood Flats. Open 10am-4pm on weekends. By appointment on Thursdays & Fridays.

For reservations and event ticket registration details, visit: wildbirdtrust.org/programs/exhibits

JULY 25, 7-8PM

Fireside Chat
with the grand-children
of Chief Dan George

Join Chief Dan George's grandchildren and great grandchildren as they share stories and song, memories and life lessons.

AUGUST 29, 7-8PM

Fireside Chat
with Lee Maracle

Lee Maracle, renowned Canadian author and George family member, discusses decolonization, Indigenous world views and the mudflats with host, Irwin Oostindie.



Rachelle George

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Introducing Rachelle George KWALTANAAT (Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish), Wild Bird Trust's featured artist-in-residence 2021 at Maplewood Flats. Rachelle will use this time to develop, produce and present a play featuring local First Nations youth, with mentorship from Lee Maracle and Columpa Bobb. The residency will include a pro-

gram of creative process activities and virtual events, plus selected public screenings and talks.

Rachelle is a Digital Media Artist, filmmaker, and actor, with a Diploma from Capilano University IIDF Program (writing, directing), a Performing Arts Diploma from New Image College of Fine Arts, and has studied with

David Geary. She started performing as a child in her family's dance group "Children Of Takaya" started by her Great Grandfather Chief Dan George. Rachelle's Grand Uncle Leonard George mentored her in acting. She worked with her cousin Columpa Bobb at the FireHall Arts Theatre, and has been a lead on many independent films.



Jin-me Yoon

DREAMING BIRDS KNOW NO BORDERS

Dreaming Birds Know No Borders is a video that was especially made for presentation at Maplewood Flats for World Migratory Bay and Vancouver Bird Celebration Week in May.

From the Long View series, 2017. Courtesy of the artist, collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Photo credit: Rachel Topham

Reading lightly on very delicate ecosystems and politics, all through my diasporic lens, the video connects two sites: the mudflats on the traditional unceded ancestral lands of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and an estuary at the 38th parallel that divides the Korean Peninsula.

Through slow meditative movements, a young Korean man moves gracefully emulating the traditional Korean Crane dance – originally inspired by cranes – while being fully present to his ecologically sensitive surroundings. He is gentle, being very careful to make the lightest of gestures as he is on the mudflats, on Tsleil-Waututh lands.

An older Korean woman raises her binoculars. What is the woman, the artist, looking at? Perhaps the young man? – hopes for the future now – a future tied to a past and a present,

and one entangled in ecology, cultures and geo-politics in an interconnected world. Perhaps she is looking at a filmic image of a man looking through his binoculars? – this past always haunting the present.

Central to this video is reworked footage from a North Korean film made in the 1990s. Badly degraded but lovingly kept by an elderly Korean immigrant, it tells the true story of her ornithologist father who was left behind in North Korea while the rest of the family went South – the border, the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), permanently separating them. Through tagged birds that fly knowing no borders, the family in South Korea finds out that the father is alive in North Korea.

Rather than recounting this full story, I wanted to focus on the birds and the degraded footage as a poetic residue of the longing for all that is lost,

especially for those separated during the Korean War and the ensuing DMZ as well as all that is carried of this experience through migration.

Unlike walls and borders, the birds first and foremost remind me that these boundaries are temporary, provisional and permeable.

JIN-ME YOON, MAY, 2021

Dreaming, Birds Know No Borders is part of a larger *Mul Maeum* project, the fifth in a series that explores place and entangled histories in the context of colonialism, tourism and militarism.

► [For more details: jin-meyoon.ca](http://jin-meyoon.ca)
We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

(NOTE: the public is prohibited to walk on the mudflats due to its ecological sensitivity; the artist received express permission from WBT to record footage on the mudflats)



BIRD SIGHTINGS ACROSS BC

*Anna's Hummingbird. Burnaby.
Photo by Ed Paulino.*



Elegance. Great Blue Heron. Stanley Park. Photo by Jorge Ignacio Miranda Landestoy.



*Bluebird in Parksville
Photo by Jeanne Bakken.*



*Red-breasted Sapsucker.
Nanoose Bay. Photo by
Juan G. Rodriguez*



*Male Northern Flickers having a little discussion.
Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo. Photo by Patricia Rose /
Patricia Rose Photography.*



*Rough-legged Hawk. Langley.
Photo by Ed Paulino.*



*Lazuli Bunting. North
Vancouver. Photo by
Rob Alexander.*

The Ethics of Bird Photography

The Fraser Delta has an ongoing problem with unethical bird photographers. What can we do about it?

BY ALICE SUN

Alice Sun is a science communicator, freelance conservation storyteller, and nature photographer.



For many of us, bird photography is a way to enjoy birds and their magic. But sometimes, photography comes into conflict with a bird’s well-being.

This is called unethical wildlife photography, which is any photography that does harm to wildlife, its habitat, or ecosystem. This includes baiting, harassment, trespassing sensitive ecosystems, etc, which can not

only stress the bird, making it harder for them to forage, mate, and raise chicks, but also destroys critical habitat they depend on.

Unfortunately, unethical bird photography has been an ongoing issue in Metro Vancouver, notably in the Fraser Delta. Every year, swarms of photographers gather there to photograph the wintering raptors. And every year, there are conflicts.

For example, this year, there have been reports of bird photographers being too close to roosting owls, and acting rudely to other birders. Another concerned resident reported to the Delta Council of not one, not two, but dozens of photographers chasing short-eared owls in a sensitive wildlife area.

How can we address this problem?

Guidelines for Ethical Photography

Here are a few basic guidelines for practicing ethical photography adapted from Audubon. These guidelines present a starting point for immediate actions and behaviors you can practice, but you can take further action as a bird photographer to protect the well-being of wild birds.

MINIMIZE STRESS

Use telephoto lens and bird blinds to keep your distance and minimize disturbance, especially if you're in a large group. Learn bird behaviour to avoid flushing the bird or causing them unnecessary stress. Avoid the use of flash and drones.

DON'T BAIT BIRDS. USE PLAYBACK AND FEEDING STATIONS RESPONSIBLY

Baiting can harm raptors by changing their feeding behaviour. Feeding stations are only ethical if the stations are maintained. Playback should be used sparingly, and completely avoided in nesting season.

NESTING BIRDS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE AND NEED EXTRA CONSIDERATION.

Be particularly careful about nesting birds. Keep your distance and limit your visits.

STAY ON THE TRAILS

Avoid trampling sensitive vegetation or disturbing other wildlife.

BE RESPONSIBLE WITH LOCATIONS

Before sharing locations of specific birds with other people, think carefully about potential impacts to the birds or their habitats.

FOLLOW ANY LAWS OR REGULATIONS IN AN AREA

Often places will have laws around how close you can get to an animal (i.e. wildlife management areas), or what areas you can enter (i.e. private property). Make sure to follow these rules.

RESPECT OTHER BIRDS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND VIDEOGRAPHERS

As much as you want to get the perfect shot, let other people observe the bird as well.

Next Steps

If you're already familiar with ethical photography, you can help encourage ethical practices in the bird photography community. Although situations are often complicated, here are a few simple actions you can take to push things in the right direction.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Ethical bird photography is a broad topic. Guidelines vary between situations, so it is important to do your research. We recommend starting with the *Audubon Guide for Ethical Photography*, which provides a comprehensive analysis of ethical practices.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

There are many signs along ecologically-sensitive areas like the Fraser Delta, which give regulations on how to interact with wildlife. One of the easiest things you can do is to follow those guidelines, and lead by example.

SPREAD THE WORD

Many people aren't aware they're actions are unethical. So if you're looking to do more, spread the word. Whether that's telling your friends, writing a blog post, or approaching someone in the field, every interaction helps.

REPORT QUESTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR

If you see photographers stressing or baiting a bird, and they ignore or respond negatively to suggestions, you can report them to conservation authorities. This can be done either by taking photos, and/or by recording the

offender's license plate. Contact the Conservation Officer Service Reporting Line at 1-877-952-7277, or #7277 on your cell phone.

TAKE POLITICAL ACTION

At the moment, wildlife is protected from harassment by the BC Wildlife Act, but these laws are not enforced. So as a final action, we recommend pushing governments to take further action to protect habitats and wildlife. You can do this by petitioning, collecting signatures of support, and writing letters to MLAs and MPs.

4TH ANNUAL WILD BIRD TRUST PHOTO EXHIBITION

Calling ***ALL***
Wild Bird Trust
of BC nature
photographers!

Share your love for the
birds, plants, insects
and wildlife at the
Conservation Area at
Maplewood Flats.
Whether you're a
professional or a
beginner nature-loving
photographer, we invite
you to submit your
favourite images!

We strongly encourage submissions from youth, Coast Salish, Indigenous & Black People, People of Colour, women, LGBTQ and People with Diverse Abilities.

The Flats are home to 4 blue-listed (at-risk) bird species, with a total of 251 species which have been spotted or heard within the 76-acre protected area. There is also a variety of non-bird wildlife, as well as beautiful habitat, insects and plants.

2022 COAST SALISH BIRDS CALENDAR

Photographers will also have the option to have their winning photo submitted for consideration in our Coast Salish Wild Bird Calendar 2022. Winning photographers will each receive three 2022 Calendars.

- ▶ Entrants must be a member-in-good-standing of the Wild Bird Trust of BC - join online wildbirdtrust.org/become-a-member or email membership@wildbirdtrust.org.
- ▶ **Entry criteria and online submission instructions** can be found here: <https://bit.ly/WBTeXhibition2021>
- ▶ **Deadline for Submissions: Saturday, September 3, 2021.** The exhibit runs from November 6 to January 2, 2022.





Artists for Conservation[®]

festival

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Pacific Coast Portraits

An AFC exhibit in partnership with the Wild Bird Trust of BC

Maplewood Conservancy | Opening Sept 18, 2021



"Hanging Out" (Belted Kingfisher) | Acrylic painting by Luke Raffin

With thanks to the following community supporters



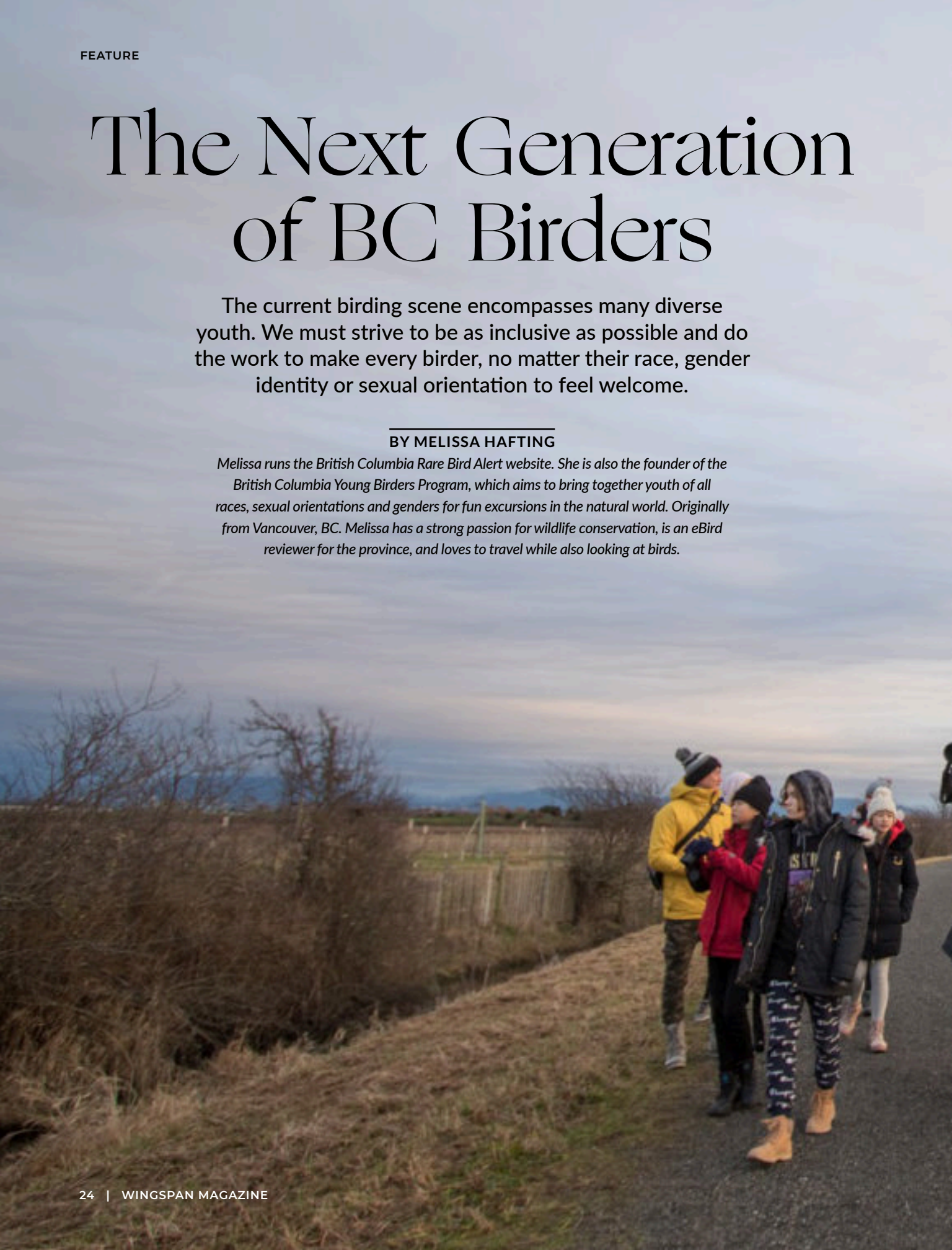
www.ArtistsForConservation.org/festival

The Next Generation of BC Birders

The current birding scene encompasses many diverse youth. We must strive to be as inclusive as possible and do the work to make every birder, no matter their race, gender identity or sexual orientation to feel welcome.

BY MELISSA HAFTING

Melissa runs the British Columbia Rare Bird Alert website. She is also the founder of the British Columbia Young Birders Program, which aims to bring together youth of all races, sexual orientations and genders for fun excursions in the natural world. Originally from Vancouver, BC. Melissa has a strong passion for wildlife conservation, is an eBird reviewer for the province, and loves to travel while also looking at birds.



When I began the Young Birders Program in 2014, I was inspired by the passion that these youth had for birds. As I brought them together and began to take them on field trips throughout the province I was inspired to see their love of conservation shine through. Many of the youth came out of their shell, made long-lasting friends and honed their id skills. I watched with a sense of pride as they began to carve out plans for their environmental and ornithological careers. I was equally proud of those who chose to tell conservation stories through their photography. Often it takes a photo for people to see what harm is being done to the natural world. It subsequently helps, to highlight, why often rapid action is needed to correct the problem.

Now in 2021, birding is “The IN” or fashionable thing to do. It wasn’t always this way, but our hobby has

evolved from being a so-called “nerdy” passion to a cool one. The current birding scene encompasses many diverse youth. The cultural diversity of these youth is the new face of birding. We must strive to be as inclusive as possible and do the work, to make every birder, no matter their race, gender identity or sexual orientation to feel welcome. As a Black woman birder, I can speak from experience that this hobby which has traditionally been helmed by white men, hasn’t always been welcoming. It is no longer enough to assume BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of colour) birders feel welcome. We need to actively do the work to ensure they are.

The good thing is that the next generation of birders are go-getters. They show up, are inclusive, diverse themselves and want to make every birder feel welcome. Here is to more

of this going forward. Birding groups, committees and organizations can learn a lot from these youth, whom are making our very diverse world a more equitable and safe place for birders and naturalists.

As you read through the profiles of these amazing youth, I hope you will support them and try to be a mentor to other young people in your own communities. These youth are our future. They are already making our planet a better place to live due to their stewardship. They continue to inspire me and fill my heart with joy. These youth have left an indelible mark on my life and changed it for the better. I know that once you read about these youth, you will also be convinced, that they have shone a bright light on the BC Birding scene.

Enjoy!

Melissa Hafting led many of BC's young birders to bright conservation-focused future through field trips and nature education.

Photo by Alice Sun.



EVAN LARSON

LOCATION: Vancouver, BC

EBIRD PROFILE: ebird.org/profile/MTE5MDUyNg

FAVOURITE BIRD: American Dipper

BIRD PHOTO: Bald Eagle

WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

I love birding because birds are the most delightful, graceful, and beautiful creatures on this planet and birding allows me to spend lots of time observing these amazing animals.



ABOUT ME: I'm a 16 year old birder. I became interested in birds in the fall of 2017 when I picked up my dad's old Birds of BC field guide and started flipping through the pages, learning about all the birds in our beautiful province. I quickly became fascinated with birds and decided to go to Reifel Bird Sanctuary in Delta one Saturday morning in order to see how many birds I could find. At that moment the magical world of birds revealed itself to me and I was totally hooked! Birds have become a big part of my life and it just brings me so much joy to search for and observe our wonderful feathered friends.

In the last year or two, I started using eBird daily and I absolutely love it because it organizes all my observations, checklists, and photos and helps ornithologists gain a greater understanding of the global distribution of birds. I also love to photograph birds because it gives you the ability to capture a bird in a moment - and a photo can help you cherish a memory you made with the bird. Photography also adds a new challenge to birding which I find enjoyable, and there is nothing more satisfying than taking a fantastic bird photo.

KALIN OCAÑA

LOCATION: Kelowna, BC

INSTAGRAM: @birdz.okanagan

EBIRD PROFILE: ebird.org/profile/Nzc1N-jY1/CA-BC-CO

FAVOURITE BIRD: My favourite bird, like that of most birders, is changing constantly but for now I will say Rusty Blackbird. This winter, I have spent a lot of time with a female Rusty blackbird, following her through swampy thickets and down meandering creeks, lined with ice and snow. Rusties are a fascinating species since they are threatened. They are also a species with a lot



of mystery shrouding their life history, which makes them all the more fascinating to observe in my opinion.

BIRD PHOTO: Rusty Blackbird

WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

Birds and birding are such a central part of my life that it is hard to separate myself from them. I love birds for the lessons they have taught me while exploring nature, and the moments I have shared with them throughout my childhood and adolescence. Spending

time with birds can be both thrilling and therapeutic. Whether my goal is to get the best possible photo, or just to sit and watch as they take in the land around them, there is plenty to love from every angle of birding.

ABOUT ME: I am a 17 year old birder and, growing up, birds have been an ever-present aspect of my life. However, I only became an active member of the birding community in 2016.

After joining the Central Okanagan Naturalist Club, I learned how and where to actually find the species I desired to locate, rather than just bumping into them by chance in my local patch of woods. Then, I met Melissa at a Little Gull twitch in Penticton and she got me into her BC's Young Birder Program. She's been a great mentor to me.

After I got started birding, I didn't stop and continued to improve my skill in the field, applying all that I had formerly learned from exploring West Kelowna's backcountry and on Melissa's awesome field trips. On one field trip she got me my lifer Great Gray and Burrowing Owl.

As far as conservation goes, you can regularly find me fighting to protect patches of wilderness around my town from developers wishing to push for more cookie-cutter houses in areas that should be left the way that the rivers, mountains, plants and wildlife have sculpted them over thousands of years.

For the longest time finding a career related to birding was a huge aspiration for myself, however recently I've come to the conclusion that getting paid to be a birder is a lot more difficult than I'd like it to be. Courses like physics, chemistry and calculus have just never agreed with me.

My main passion, aside from the natural world, is listening to people's stories and giving them guidance on

healing from trauma and making positive changes in their lives. So, to keep my doors open, I hope to complete my Bachelor's degree in the Arts. From here, I will be able to branch out into whatever feels right, be it Geography, Social Work, or anything in between.

LIRON GERTSMAN

LOCATION: Vancouver, BC

WEBSITE: www.lirongertsman.com

INSTAGRAM: @liron_gertsman_photography

EBIRD PROFILE: ebird.org/profile/MzA-0MzYx/CA-BC

FAVOURITE BIRD: The Arctic Tern! Everything about their migration and lifestyle just blows me away.

BIRD PHOTO: Sandhill Cranes

WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

Everything about birds fascinates me. Their displays, migrations, flight, calls, and feather details are an endless source of inspiration and awe. Beyond their traits, I love their birds for their ability to connect people to nature, and inspire conservation.

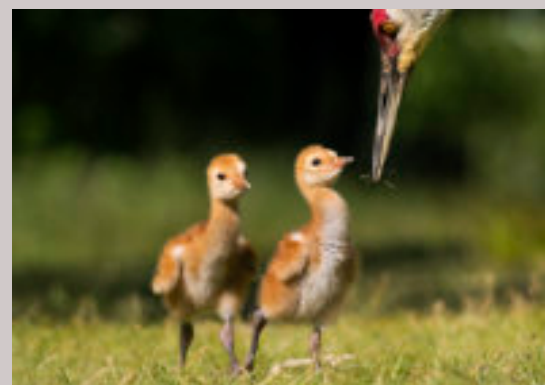
ABOUT ME: For as long I can remember, I've had a deep interest and engagement with nature. Around the age 5, I began to take a particular interest in the birds that I would see around my neighborhood. I became a volunteer bird monitor at the age of 9, participating in bird counts in Vancouver's Stanley Park, and beyond. At 11, I joined eBird, and have since submitted over 5500 checklists as a citizen scientist. Around the same time, I participated in my first Christmas Bird Count, and I'm now the area leader for my local count.

In 2014, my ornithology skills expanded, as I attended Birds Canada's Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists Workshop, followed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's young birder pro

gram a few years later. Conservation is incredibly important to me, and I've raised thousands of dollars annually for bird research and conservation as part of Birds Canada's Great Canadian Birdathon, which I've participated in every year since 2013.

Currently, I'm a volunteer monitor for Birds Canada's Coastal Waterbird Survey, and am a member of the City of Vancouver's Bird Advisory Committee.

In addition to birding and bird monitoring, I'm a passionate bird and nature photographer. My photo-



graphs have been displayed in museums around the world, including the Natural History Museum in London, England and the Smithsonian in Washington DC. I am 20 and currently study biology at the University of British Columbia as I continue to build upon my passion and commitment to the environment.

CAMERON MONTGOMERY



LOCATION: Burnaby, BC

FAVOURITE BIRD: Wilson's Phalarope

EBIRD PROFILE: ebird.org/profile/MTQzMjc4NA

INSTAGRAM: @cam_m_photography

BIRD PHOTO: Ash-throated Flycatcher

WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?:

Because I love the variety of species that can be found anywhere you look. Any bird species is a great example of the beautiful things that nature can create.

ABOUT ME: I'm a 15 year old birder and amateur bird photographer. I've always been fascinated by all different types of animals, but birds were always my favourite. I started getting into birding a few years ago, when I was fascinated by a Pileated Woodpecker on my way to school. This led to my desire to search for and photograph all kinds of birds, common or rare. I remember the excitement of looking through my first field guide and finding out how many beautiful and interesting birds live right here in Vancouver. I especially remember looking through the gull section of the book and thinking they all look the same. Now that I am more experienced with bird identification, I can tell many gulls apart and it is a great reminder of how far I have come and the experience I have gained in the birding world. Melissa frequently helps me with bird IDs that I stumble on to, which has been very helpful. Since I started birding,

I have been able to travel to places such as BC's Interior, Manitoba, and Hawaii. Birding has also been a great way to get outside and explore. I have been to many places in my own city that I would not have known about without birding.

When I discovered eBird, I was amazed at how useful it is. I submit my sightings to eBird on a regular basis.

eBird and the BC Rare Bird Alert helps me find the birds I want to see and eBird is a great place for me to share my photos for others to enjoy.

JAMES PARK

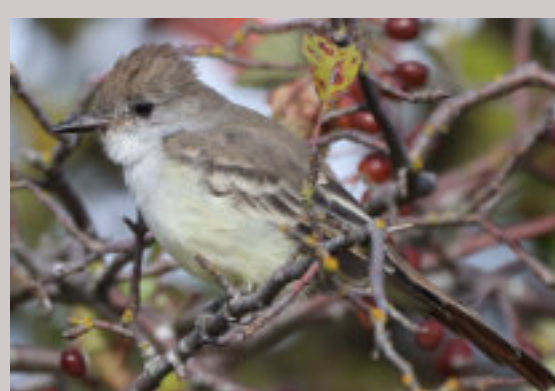
LOCATION: North Vancouver, BC

FAVOURITE BIRD: Smew

EBIRD PROFILE: ebird.org/canada/profile/MTcxNjQxNQ

INSTAGRAM: @james_park_0704

BIRD PHOTO: Ash-throated Flycatcher



WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

Because it is very exciting to watch the many behaviours of birds and the excitement that comes from finding or identifying unusual birds. The other reason I love birding is because birding gives me knowledge of the relationship between humans and nature.

ABOUT ME: My name is James. I am a 13 year old birder in grade 8. I came here a year ago as an international student from South Korea.

I have always loved everything that belonged to nature since I was a little child. I started to get interested in watching small birds around my house since I was seven. I always watched them fly, run, and sing around my house with small binoculars and a small point and shoot camera. After several months, my mom bought me my first field guide. Since then, I spent almost the whole day, everyday looking at my field guide when I was at home.

Soon, I became very eager to identify and find all those species in my field guide in the wild. I started to walk to all the parks near my house to find specific target birds with my binoculars.

Within several years, I traveled to many birding places in South Korea. I observed and photographed many seriously endangered species in South Korea like the Saunders's gull or Black-faced spoonbills.

I was lucky to be born in such a great peninsula full of unique endangered species. However, I could not do many birding activities in South Korea because there were not many birding groups in South Korea, especially for young birders like me. That is why I was so happy when I met Melissa who has helped me find so many new birds. One special moment was seeing my first-ever Barn Owl with her! It is such a cool looking owl.

First, I should explain that after 6 years of living in South Korea, I came

to Canada. I started birding here in July 2020. When I first came here, I was confused by many new species but I learned them quickly with very helpful eBird, Melissa and my new field guide. After a few months, I was introduced to real birding and local birding communities here. Since then, I was involved.

I tried to get involved in some birding activities including several bird walks, Melissa's young birder program, Christmas bird counts, and bird banding (but all were canceled due to COVID-19). As soon as the pandemic ends, I am willing to attend as many birding programs as I can!. I am interested in the migration of birds and their behaviour. I am also interested in the conservation of East Asian birds (especially shorebirds and songbirds) and I really enjoy birding in my local patch of Maplewood Flats!.

DANIEL GRACA

LOCATION: Surrey, BC

FAVOURITE BIRD: It was hard for me to choose but I think Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds are my favourites.

BIRD PHOTO: Lazuli Bunting. I love the diversity of all the species we have here in BC and I love a good I.D. challenge.

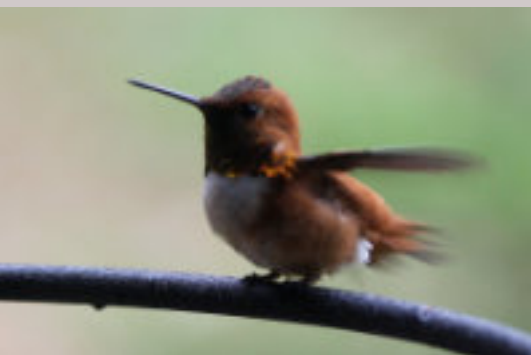
WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

To me, birding is very exciting because when you go out you never know what birds you will find. It's also relaxing and peaceful when you are out in nature.

ABOUT ME: I'm a 13 year old young birder, and I have loved everything about birds ever since I was little, when I would go camping with my family I would be amazed by all the different birds. I would also go out to my local parks to feed the ducks and chickadees with my mom. I started bird pho-

tography in 2016 just for fun, and in recent years I have taken a bigger interest in it. My favourite time to go birding is in the spring. I regularly submit sighting and photos to eBird, and I have raised money for the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (OWL). I follow the BC Rare Bird Alert Melissa runs to find rarities. I really like going out to twitch a rare bird because to me its like a test for your skills to see if you can find the rare bird. I also like hybrids because sometimes they are like a perfect cross between 2 species. I have





travelled with my family to Europe, Mexico, and the USA to see birds.

EMMA READER-LEE

LOCATION: Victoria, BC

FAVOURITE BIRD: It's so difficult to choose, as I have so many!, but I have a special place in my heart for the West Indian Whistling-Duck

EBIRD PROFILE: ebird.org/profile/Mz-gyMzcw

INATURALIST PROFILE: inaturalist.ca/observations?user_id=nature_em

FLICKR: [flickr.com/photos/143935675@N03](https://www.flickr.com/photos/143935675@N03)

INSTAGRAM: @naturemma_

BIRD PHOTO: Rufous Hummingbird in Victoria

WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

I love birds and birding because it is an activity that I can do anytime and anywhere when I have the chance plus there is so much diversity between species. Birds are fascinating, and I love being able to contribute to ornithological research by helping out at the banding station and using eBird!.

ABOUT ME: I am a 21 year old birder. I have always been interested in nature from a very young age. After a trip to the Okanagan at age 10, I really got hooked into birding. Since then I have participated twice in the Meadowlark Nature Festival's Okanagan Big day, as well as many Christmas Bird Counts on southern Vancouver Island. I am a classical violinist and currently in my final semester of the Bachelor of Music Performance program at the University of Ottawa. During the late spring and summer, I volunteer as much as I can at the Rocky Point Bird Observatory in Metchosin, BC. In 2020, I did two Big Days entirely on foot; one in my neighbourhood in Victoria for the Great Canadian Birdathon, and one where I currently live in Ottawa for the October Big Day. Both of these big days involved walking more than 15 kms each. I hope to go on more birding trips, as soon as it is safe to do so. However, since the pandemic began, I've gained even more appreciation for the local birds of both Victoria and Ottawa.

VIKTOR VANDEREYK

LOCATION: Langley, BC

FAVOURITE BIRD: Canada Goose but I love waterfowl.

EBIRD PROFILE: ebird.org/profile/Nzc2Mzc1

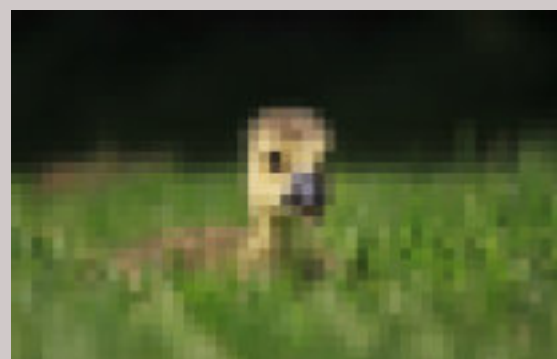
FLICKR: [flickr.com/photos/144379173@N02](https://www.flickr.com/photos/144379173@N02)

BIRD PHOTO: Gosling

WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

I love birding because I enjoy being out in nature where it is peaceful and I find bird behavior fascinating.

ABOUT ME: I am a 21 year old birder. I have always been interested in birds and nature ever since I can remember,



but it all started when I was 7 and my parents gave me their old binoculars and a field guide to the birds of southwestern BC. I started spending nearly all my free time roaming around our 9-acre property trying to identify all the birds I saw. My dream was to see all the species in that guide. I still haven't seen them all.

Then in 2016, I discovered Melissa Hafting's young birder program and eagerly joined this group of enthusiastic young birders. I learned a lot about bird identification, discovered the world of birders, and made a lot of great memories and friends in those years. Three years ago, I started doing bird counts for the Langley field naturalists at two of their study sites and I still continue to do so, contributing all of my checklists to eBird as well.

I continue to enjoy birding on the weekends, mostly locally but I also enjoy twitching rarities all around the lower mainland. Birding really helped me to become aware of how everything we do as humans affects the birds and all of the nature around us. I was raised in and continue to work in agriculture and I believe a keen awareness of this helps us to make responsible decisions in everyday life.

TOBY THERIAULT

LOCATION: Tofino, BC

FAVOURITE BIRD: I don't have a favourite bird. But I do have a list of birds that I "dislike" the most for avoiding me after I have spent a ridiculous amount of time looking for them. I would give an arm and a leg to see these three: White-tailed Ptarmigan, White-cheeked Starling, Horned Puffin

BIRD PHOTO: Brandt's Cormorant

WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

Birding in my opinion has never been at all similar to the way it is portrayed

in popular culture. I see it as an exciting sport that can be as interesting or competitive as you want it to be. Birding is a good way to connect to the world around you, and an interesting looking glass to gauge human impacts on our environment. It is also fun, as it has the aspect of excitement and mystery. The way I see birding is as something just as interesting as professional sports or arts, but depending less on the opinion of others. I believe that starting birding in high school was the most punk rock thing I have ever done. I enjoy being myself and I refuse to listen to anyone that tells me how to do that; so at an impressionable time in my life I decided to do the thing that everyone expected me not to do. What twelve-year-old decides to not focus on sports and popularity but discovers ornithology? Honestly, I've never been more happy that I did.

ABOUT ME: As someone whose spent their whole life in and around nature on the west coast I believe that my love for the environment came naturally. I like to enjoy the places that I'm into the fullest and that means knowing about its ecosystems. I became interested in birding when I saw Jack Black in *The Big Year*. Being a person whose always seeking excitement, I decided to challenge myself to follow his footsteps and have as much fun with it as I could. I was in the CBC documentary film *Rare Bird Alert* alongside one of my mentors and young birder program founder, Melissa Hafting.

After my big year I became trapped in what I believe will be a life-long interest in ornithology, the excitement of birding, and the beautiful, magical creatures that we call birds. Not only have I been an avid birder since I was eleven; I have also been acutely aware of the urgent threat that climate change has put on my future. I enjoy nature beyond good reason. My life which



includes birding, surfing, skiing; even my interest in art and my home; are entirely dependent on the protection of the environment. I intend to devote my entire future protecting the environment.

RAYMOND LIU

LOCATION: Richmond, BC

FAVOURITE BIRD: Honestly, I don't really have a favourite bird, because I think all birds are unique and extraordinary in their own way, but if I really had to choose, it would probably be an Amer-



ican Avocet, because it's so graceful and beautiful. Plus it has always been one of my dream birds to see.

EBIRD PROFILE: ebird.org/profile/MT-M1NDcwOA/CA-BC-GV

BIRD PHOTO Belted Kingfisher at Terra Nova Park

WHY DO I LOVE BIRDS?

I got interested in birding when I was

about 9 years old. I've always loved being in nature and I was obsessed with different kinds of animals. It all started when I saw a bird book in the library and I was very impressed by all the different species you could find in BC and so I started my new hobby: Birdwatching. I love birding because I think it's a great way to relax and enjoy yourself outside and I also think that birds are so amazing to watch. One of the other things I like about birding is you get to record your sightings on eBird and you can have life and year lists also, which makes it fun to find certain bird species. Melissa has helped me tremendously in my local city park to identify birds and I like following her BC Rare Bird Alert blog. Whenever my mom is able, she takes me to see a rarity when it's in my city. ♀

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*Ask Sales Associate for Details

Thank you, Wild Birds Unlimited!



The Wild Bird Trust of BC and Wild Birds Unlimited are providing a \$200 certificate for the young birders presented in Melissa Hafting's feature. We are also providing a complimentary annual membership.



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IN URBAN PLACES

BY PIERRE CENERELLI

Pierre Cenerelli is an award-winning wildlife photographer with a life-long interest in birds and birding.



The two Bald Eagle photos featured in this article shape the following written discussion of two hot topics among wildlife photographers: images featuring human structures and using bait to attract birds of prey.

The first image, a close-up portrait, was taken at Jericho Pier. If you look closely, it is fairly clear that the eagle is standing on a wooden railing, with a built structure in the background. More importantly, this bird specifically approached to grab a piece of chicken first taken, but then dropped, by a Glaucous-winged Gull. The chicken pieces in question are used by crabbers to attract crabs to their traps and are often given to the gulls once they are done with them.

Now I should note that I have often photographed birds near well-maintained and properly stocked birdfeeders, since they are generally quite safe for the birds. Using bait such as live or frozen store-bought mice to attract birds of prey, and especially owls, is another matter entirely. Over the years, the National Audubon Society has produced resources indicating why this practice is harmful, but one of the more recent items on the topic was published on NANPA's (North American Nature Photography Association) website:

► <http://www.nanpa.org/tag/baiting-wildlife-for-photography/>.

With respect to human structures, I find it a challenge to include them in my photos in a way that I find aesthet-

ically pleasing. My personal preference for wildlife photography is to not include any such features, if only because the presence of a perfectly straight line in a nature image is rather jarring to me. At the same time, I recognize that built structures are a fact of life even in nature. And using them in photos is a great way to show how specific species have adapted (or not) to the alteration and even destruction of their environment by humans.

I will conclude this article by assuring readers that should I post the close-up photo of the eagle on my Facebook or Instagram pages, I would clearly explain how this bird found its way on the dock. Clearly, that would not be necessary for the other shot of an eagle on top of a tall tree!

BIRDING NEWS FROM AROUND BC

JUST PUBLISHED: BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS, SPECIAL ISSUE

British Columbia Field Ornithologists has published a special issue of British Columbia Birds, concerning the status, ecology and conservation of internationally important bird populations on the Fraser River delta.

The area is one of the richest and most important ecosystems for migrating and wintering birds in Canada. One of Canada's most impressive Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) it is a significant candidate for one of Canada's most important Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA).

It is also a region of increasing human population and accompanying development pressure. Three decades ago The birds of the Fraser River Delta: populations, ecology and international significance, by R.W. Butler and W.R. Campbell, documented the importance of the region for birds and provided recommendations for the region's protection. Since then, many conservation measures have been implemented and much new information on the birds and biodiversity of the region has been acquired, but pressures from urbanization and industrial development continue.

Download a free copy of the special issue with current info and recommendations for conservation:

▶ bit.ly/bcbirdsfraserdelta

NEW COASTAL BC WATERBIRD RESEARCH REVEALS DIFFERENCES IN INNER AND OUTER COAST BIRD POPULATIONS

Research led by Birds Canada analyzed 20 years of citizen science data between 1999 and 2019 from coastal BC and identified significant differences in trends for overwintering bird communities on the inner (i.e. Salish Sea) and outer coasts. For the inner coast/Salish Sea, 12 out of 50 waterbird species were declining. Conversely, farther north on the outer coast, 3 out of 37 species were declining. Thus, waterbirds occupying the Salish Sea are faring significantly worse than those residing along the outer coastal regions. The researchers recognize that birds in the Salish Sea are exposed to greater human-caused pressures than those along the outer Pacific coast.

▶ bit.ly/avianconservation

ONGOING CALLS TO BAN RODENTICIDES IN BC FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife advocates are calling on the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to ban rodenticides across the province. Rodenticides, or "rat poisons", are ingestible pesticides that aim to kill rats, mice,

and other rodents. However, animal welfare organizations, advocates, biologists, and veterinarians have long criticized the use of rodenticides due to the harms they cause to wildlife, pets, the environment, and human health. Owls are especially vulnerable to the risk of rat poisoning because they rely on rodents as a food source. A study based in BC and the Yukon from 1988 and 2003 found that 70% of dead owls had rat poison residues in their systems—and that trend has increased in recent years. The City of Richmond recently implemented a pilot one-year ban on rodenticide use on city property after a barred owl was found dead in a city park.

▶ bit.ly/BanRodenticides

▶ bit.ly/RichmondBansPoison

BC GREEN LIGHTS PERMIT TO REMOVE RARE PEREGRINE FALCON NEST FOR GRAVEL MINE OPERATOR

On January 13, 2021, the provincial ministry responsible for the stewardship of BC's public lands issued a permit to destroy and remove a rare Peregrine falcon nesting site at a quarry adjacent to Sumas Mountain Regional Park in Abbotsford, B.C. to restart a former gravel mining operation. The nest at the Abbotsford quarry is an integral breeding site, as it is the only known active nest between

Hope and the Port Mann Bridge south of the Fraser River. Since at least 2015, the quarry nest has been successfully producing juvenile Peregrine Falcons each year. The American Peregrine Falcon subspecies (*F.p. anatum*) is red-listed in BC and recognized as a species of special concern under the federal Species at Risk Act. Local resident Christopher Kitt appealed the decision to issue the permit, with support from the Wild Bird Trust of BC and other organizations and citizen advocates.

► bit.ly/FalconNesting

WILDLIFE ENDANGERED BY SITE C DAM IN PEACE RIVER VALLEY IN BC (THE MEDIA CO-OP)

"[T]he Site C Dam project "would cause significant adverse effects on migratory birds which cannot be mitigated...[and that]...the region's wildlife has been already significantly impacted by the previous two dams" and further that the losses of migratory birds to be permanent and unmitigable." – Site C Dam Joint Review Panel

There are at least 63 endangered, red-listed, blue-listed, at risk, threatened, & of special concern species of animals who make Site C in the Peace River Valley in northeastern British Columbia, Canada their home. 30 species of migratory birds, 23 species of invertebrates, 6 species of mammals, 2 species of raptors, & 1 amphibian species from this list will be killed due to drowning, electrocution, starvation, loss of habitat, or physical impacts causing injury.

Environment Canada called the Peace River region a "biodiversity hotspot" and a vital east-west passage through the Rocky Mountains and the only one below 1000m in the Yukon to Yellowstone wildlife corri-

dor - essential to species' migration, large mammal movement, and biodiversity...a conservation priority and core wildlife habitat."

Environment Canada also noted 3/4 of BC's 247 bird species (of which 32 are at risk) use the Peace region before even considering migratory and wintering species. The project could cause mortality of migratory birds by killing individuals or destroying active nests. This is a violation of the Migratory Birds Convention Act which prohibits any person from killing a migratory bird or disturbing, destroying or taking a nest, egg or nest shelter of a migratory bird.

The Species At Risk Act lists Peace River Valley residents Canada Warbler, Common Nighthawk, and Olive-sided Flycatcher as threatened species, and the Northern Mountain Caribou, Woodland Caribou, Western Toad, Short-eared Owl, Yellow Rail and Rusty Blackbird of Special Concern.

COSEWIC, the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife lists as endangered the Little Brown Myotis Bat and the Northern Myotis Bat, the Barn Swallow as threatened, and the Horned Grebe, Bull Trout and Grizzly Bear as of special concern.

The Fisher is blue-listed, as are the Broad-winged Hawk and the Short-eared Owl.

The Eastern Red Bat is red-listed. Nelson's Sparrow, the Yellow Rail, and five species of butterflies are red-listed. Le Conte's Sparrow and the Eastern Phoebe are blue-listed. The Baltimore Oriole and Sharp-tailed Grouse are yellow-listed. Additional listed birds include Bay Breasted Warbler, Black-throated Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, American Avocet, American Golden Plover, American White Pelican, Brant Goose, Cackling Goose, California Gull, Double-

crested Cormorant, Foster's Tern, Great Blue Heron, Hudsonian Godwit, Red-necked Phalarope, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wandering Tattler, and the Western Grebe...all residents of the Peace River Valley and Site C Dam area.

The provincial BC Wildlife Act, the Species At Risk Act (SARA), the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife (COSEWIC)-(federal), and the Migratory Birds Convention Act (an international act Canada is signatory to) are being blatantly ignored as politicians pursue their political ambitions with complete disregard to these and other laws, and to their duty to Canadians, Treaty 8 First Nations, and our precious and vulnerable wildlife.

A better world is possible, let's stand together to protect her!

Join the Stop Site C Dam Facebook page for the latest on the campaign to halt this project:

► bit.ly/StopSiteC

► [For periodic updates on Site C, sign up for reports and sign a petition: <http://www.stopsitec.org/>](#)

AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED ROBERTS BANK TERMINAL 2 PROJECT

The *Roberts Bank Terminal 2* (RBT2) project is a proposed expansion to the existing Deltaport terminal off the coast of Tsawwassen territory. A project with risks deemed overwhelmingly harmful and irreversible by the federal panel of scientists reviewing the proposal:

"The panel concludes that the project would result in numerous adverse and cumulative effects. The proposed offsetting plan for aquatic species, totalling 29 hectares, would be insufficient to compensate for the reduction in productivity associated



DO YOU LOVE WILD BIRDS AND RECONCILIATION?

The Wild Bird Trust of BC has recently supported advocacy campaigns to protect threatened falcons in Sumas First Nations lands, to #RejectRobertsBank2 expansion in the Fraser River estuary and Pacific Flyway, ban rodenticides to protect owls, challenged Site C's impacts on listed bird species, promoted native planting and biodiversity, advanced municipal climate change policies, and promoted decolonization in birding. We know by working together our members can be more effective to protect birds and advance reconciliation. If you would like to join a monthly meetup, email advocacy@wildbirdtrust.org.

with a Project-induced habitat loss of 177 hectares of Roberts Bank.”

Governance of the Fraser River Estuary must evolve to include local First Nation leaders, and reconciliation must include recognizing the needs of individual First Nations and people. In a meeting last fall held by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Board of Directors, a resolution was passed to establish a task force to consider reinstatement of the *Fraser River Estuary Management Plan* (FREMP, est. 1985) and the *Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program* (BIEAP, est. 1991) which were both dismantled back in 2013 (during the Harper government era). Although the old BIEAP-FREMP intergovernmental partnership provided a robust framework for waterway management, they had no involvement with or

consideration of local First Nations. Rather than creating a brand new BIEAP, Metro Vancouver need look no further than initiating a collaboration with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, who have already produced a robust science-based, First Nations-led *Burrard Inlet Action Plan* (2017).

As we wait for the next assessment period of the RBT2 project this summer, both Minister Wilkinson and we, as citizens that benefit every day from the Fraser River Estuary, need to ask ourselves what we are willing to destroy forever in exchange for the illusion of unlimited economic growth.

What can you do?

- You can help protect the Fraser River Estuary by letting your local Member of Parliament, and Minister Wilkinson know your concerns

about the RBT2 project, using Birds Canada's online customizable letter:

▶ bit.ly/ProtectFraserEstuary

- Or you can call your Member of Parliament's office, and/or Environment & Climate Change Minister to let them know about the risks associated with the RBT2 project to the Fraser Estuary.

▶ [Environment & Climate Change Minister Wilkinson's office \(604-775-6333\)](https://www.ec.gc.ca/environnement/Environment%20and%20Climate%20Change/Minister%20Wilkinson's%20office)

WHY PROTECTING HUMMINGBIRDS COULD HELP PROTECT OTHER SPECIES IN B.C.

While it might not be the most well-known creature in B.C., the rufous hummingbird — a feisty little bird

common around much of the province — could be the key to protecting many other species, according to two UBC biologists.

Research from Adam Ford and Sarah Falconer featured in the May 2021 edition of National Geographic looks at the best indicator, or surrogate, species in B.C. These are plants and animals that conservationists use to monitor what's going on throughout an entire landscape, what the fate of other species may be and where to focus conservation efforts.

In particular, Ford and Falconer wanted to know which lesser known, or less popular, species would top that list.

Along with the rufous hummingbird, they identified the tree swallow, barn swallow and long-tailed weasel as "elite" surrogate species. As for larger animals, or megafauna, they found that grizzly bears, wolves, mule deer and elk make for good surrogate species candidates.

They used data from the B.C. government about species in the province, their status and some habitat features they like to use, and then looked for overlaps between 1,012 different candidate species. Whichever species overlapped best was considered the best surrogate species, or had the best surrogacy value. (From CBC)

SCIENTISTS WARN ON THE DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS OF LOSING INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

Five Simon Fraser University scholars warn of "pervasive social and ecological consequences" of destruction of Indigenous knowledge systems. These knowledge systems and practices of Indigenous Peoples have

a fundamental role in safeguarding the diversity of our planet. However, their foundations have been and continue to be compromised by colonial settlement, land dispossession and resource extraction. These local communities are celebrating, protecting and taking steps to revive these important knowledge systems. The paper is part of the "Scientists' Warning to Humanity" series, which highlights threats to humanity caused by climate change, biodiversity loss and other global changes.

► <https://shar.es/aWbMUe>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM VANCOUVER BIRD CELEBRATION WEEK 2021

The Stanley Park Ecology Society coordinated this year's Vancouver Bird Celebration, previously known as Vancouver Bird Week. Held from May 8-16th, 2021, this event was inspired by World Migratory Bird Day, as it recognizes the importance of birds as key indicators of our environment's health.

Some of the event highlights included:

- Meeting BC birds of Prey with O.W.L. (Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society), which is a non profit organization that is dedicated to the survival of raptors.
- Celebrating birds of the Fraser River Basin with ornithologist, author, filmmaker and artist Dr. Rob Butler hosted by Fraser River Discovery Centre.
- Exploring how inspiration from birds can take on many different forms with the Stanley Park Ecology Society.

This week-long, regional event featured bird walks, workshops, lectures and talks that invited individuals across the Lower Mainland to join!



Photo by @owlrehab - Birds of Prey (owl)

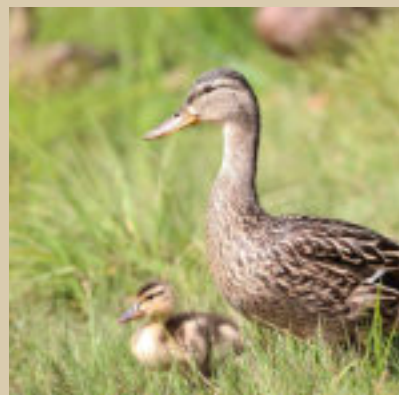


Photo by @jlai616 - duckling & mom



Photo by @fylegend21 - Wilson's Warbler



Photo by @parkwildlife - Greater Yellowlegs

LISTING GAMES

BY ROB LYSKE

Rob is an avid birder. His interest sparked 20 years ago while on a trip to South Africa.



Many birders keep lists of what they see, some for fun, some for science, some for sport. In my early days of birding, I was encouraged to keep lists. The Maplewood monthly bird survey is one example that surveys the species observed at Maplewood Flats on the first Saturday of each month, which you can see listed on the bulletin board of the Greeter Hut. The yard list (your home's yard) is a popular one, and another one is the patch list. A patch is a birding location like a park or stretch of beach that you establish a boundary around in which birds are tallied. One of the most well known lists is the Big Year list, an effort that has people travelling the world to find as many species as they can in one year (see *The Big Year* movie, starring Jack Black and Owen Wilson).

I have maintained my backyard list for 15 years. I also have done a mini

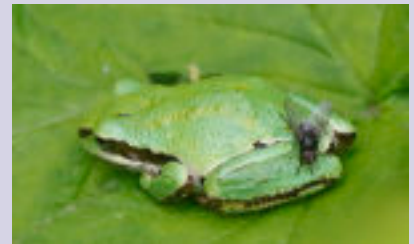
version of the Big Year for the Metro Vancouver area in 2013, encouraged by my children to reach a goal of 250 species in a calendar year. This proved to be an exhausting game in the final months. We reached our goal with only a few days to spare in the year.

At the beginning of the global pandemic, when most of our daily activities were brought to a halt and physical distancing was of utmost importance, it seemed the perfect time to attempt a Maplewood Flats big year list. I had played this game before in 2007 (summarized in wingspan Winter/Spring 2008) and stuck to the same very basic rules as before. The physical boundary in play was the Maplewood Conservation Area, encompassing all birds seen or heard while I was at the sanctuary. This meant that I counted birds out of the area, so long as I was within the area,

making the use of a spotting scope very important.

I adopted Maplewood Flats as my preferred patch in 2000. All my records are accessible on eBird. This gives me some personal data to draw from. Between 2010 and 2019 I averaged 148 species per year. My 2007 effort scored 171 species, which served as the goal to reach for 2020 and meant I was tasked with finding more than 20 species beyond the average year. This would clearly not be an easy task as 2007 was a year with some exceptional finds such as Sage Thrasher, Black and White Warbler, and Tennessee Warbler and included several other species that are rare at Maplewood Flats.

Another challenge I anticipated was the species that were common in 2007 but have rarely been seen in the past decade, such as Marsh Wren and Black Turnstone. I would have the



Photos on previous page: Black-tailed Deer Male looking at select green and Western Wood-Pewee west side forest. This page: Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Pacific Chorus Frog with fly on body by Rob Alexander. May bird survey on Maplewood Flats bulletin board photo by Fiona S. Macdonald.

benefit in 2020 of social networking with plenty of help from the Maplewood birding community.

And so the challenge began. By the end of March, the winter species and early migrants had tallied up to more than 80 of the usual suspects. There were a few missing winter species but there would still be opportunities to catch up with them in November and December. Spring and Fall migration is where all the excitement comes in a year list. 2020 flaunted an exceptional spring including a Rusty Blackbird (found by Sue Flecker), Yellow Headed Blackbird, Gray Catbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, and Solitary Sandpiper (found by Mark Stevens). One of the highlights of the year for certain came on May 22 when a flock of Sabine's Gull turned up out in the Burrard inlet just beyond the

Osprey nest. This would be the first time I had seen this species in the Metro Vancouver area and a new bird for the Maplewood checklist. A pair of Redhead also turned up and stayed May 27-June 10th, which was only the second time I had seen this species at Maplewood in 20 years.

As is the case in most summers, the species count slowed down to a near stop in the summer months. Looking over my list, I started having doubts about my ability to top the 2007 record of 171 species. Fall migration renewed focus and hope with a string of uncommon sightings. A Franklin's Gull (found by Alex and Nicole Marchi), Northern Waterthrush, Palm Warbler and American Tree Sparrow were all welcome tallies. There were however some unfortunate misses along the way such as Say's Phoebe,

California Scrub Jay and American Redstart, all of which showed up just before or just after I had done my routine walk. Another near miss was Parasitic Jaeger, a bird I had enviously never seen at the sanctuary and was photographed by Mark Stevens and Sue Flecker. Good luck came on the morning of September 15 when 3 Parasitic Jaegers showed up on a gravel bar in the channel, again viewed well with a scope.

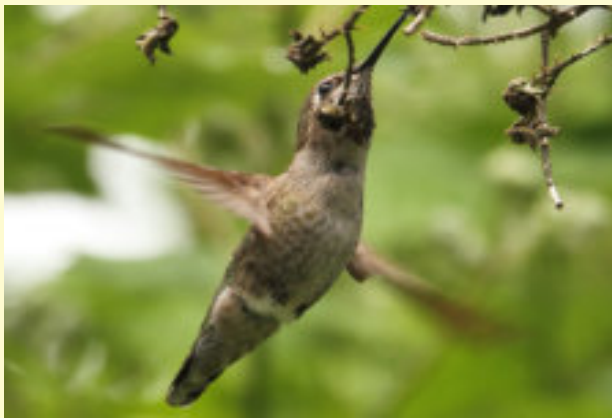
Fall migration was winding down and with a few other Maplewood rarities like Ruddy Duck and Pacific Loon, the year list exceeded my 2007 count. Pine Grosbeak would be the final addition, marking 175 species, a rewarding total for the year. It may be some time before I try this 'big year' pursuit again but as always, I look forward to the year's list and what it may offer.

FRAGMENTS OF THE RAINBOW

Hummingbirds are more than nectar. Thanks to John Muir!

BY AL & JUDE GRASS

Al is a legendary naturalist and Jude is the VP of WBT Board of Directors. Photos by Rob Alexander.



Left: Anna's Hummingbird. Right: Rufous Hummingbird. Photos by Rob Alexander.

I believe that it was John Muir, noted naturalist and author, who called hummingbirds “glittering fragments of the rainbow...” and what a joy it is to watch a “hummer” buzzing about at a flower, sipping nectar at Maplewood Flats Conservation Area.

There's great excitement when in spring the Rufous Hummingbirds return to salmonberry, red flowering currant, oregon grape flowers.

We are fortunate in the southwestern corner of the province to enjoy hummingbirds year 'round, such as Anna's Hummingbird.

Nectar is of course energy good for hummers, which is obtained from various sources, including flowers and sap-sucker wells. What else does the “complete” hummingbird need besides the vital nectar?

1. Nesting material such as animal (mammal) fur, cat-tail down (a favourite), and lichens. Lichens are placed on the nest. It is commonly agreed, to help hide (camouflage) the nest, lichens are well known for their “antibiotic” properties, such as powerful ails. Perhaps lichens help to keep the nest pest-free of mites, lice, etc. Purple Martins at the sanctuary use cherry leaves for this purpose (it's something to think about!).
2. Spiders play an essential role in the well-being of hummingbirds. Silk is harvested to bind the nest together, and small spiders are eaten as a good protein source. At Golden Ears Provincial Park, I observed a female Rufous pluck small flies from a large spider web!

3. Water. Hummingbirds need good and clean sources of water – a stream, pond, or even a “puddle.” They need water to drink and to bathe.

If you're keen on feeding hummingbirds, consider the following:

- Purchase a best-quality feeder, one that is not only easy to fill but easy to clean (no black mould please!).
- Authorities such as Wild Birds Unlimited state that a nest made from one part table sugar and four parts water is best. No honey or brown sugar.

Ask for expert advice at your local wild bird store. Enjoy the hummers and thanks to John Muir.

DOWNY WOODPECKER & THE THIMBLEBERRY STEM GALL

BY AL & JUDE GRASS

Al is a legendary naturalist and Jude is the VP of WBT Board of Directors. Photos by Rob Alexander.



Picoides pubescens



Rubus parviflorus stem gall



Diastrophus kincaidii larvae inside the gall

That some woodpeckers forage in galls for insects is well known, at least for eastern North America. However, the literature documenting this habit for woodpeckers in western North America, especially in BC (Bent, 1964), is less extensive. Apparently, galls occurring on various goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*) are commonly exploited by the Downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) (Bent, 1964), but less well known is woodpecker use of galls on woody shrubs such as thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) and willows (*Salix spp.*). Galls on these plants are frequently found pecked open.

What species of woodpecker is doing this?

A male Downy woodpecker can often be seen excavating a thimbleberry gall. But what is in the gall to attract the woodpecker? A close look at the excavated gall reveals the tiny white grubs of the thimbleberry gallfly (*Diastrophus kincaidii*). Despite its common name, this gall inducer is not a true fly (*Diptera*), but is rather a relative of the wasps (*Hymenoptera*). The gall is multi-chambered, with the tiny grubs occupying the individual chambers—a sort of condo for insects.

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Hummingbirds

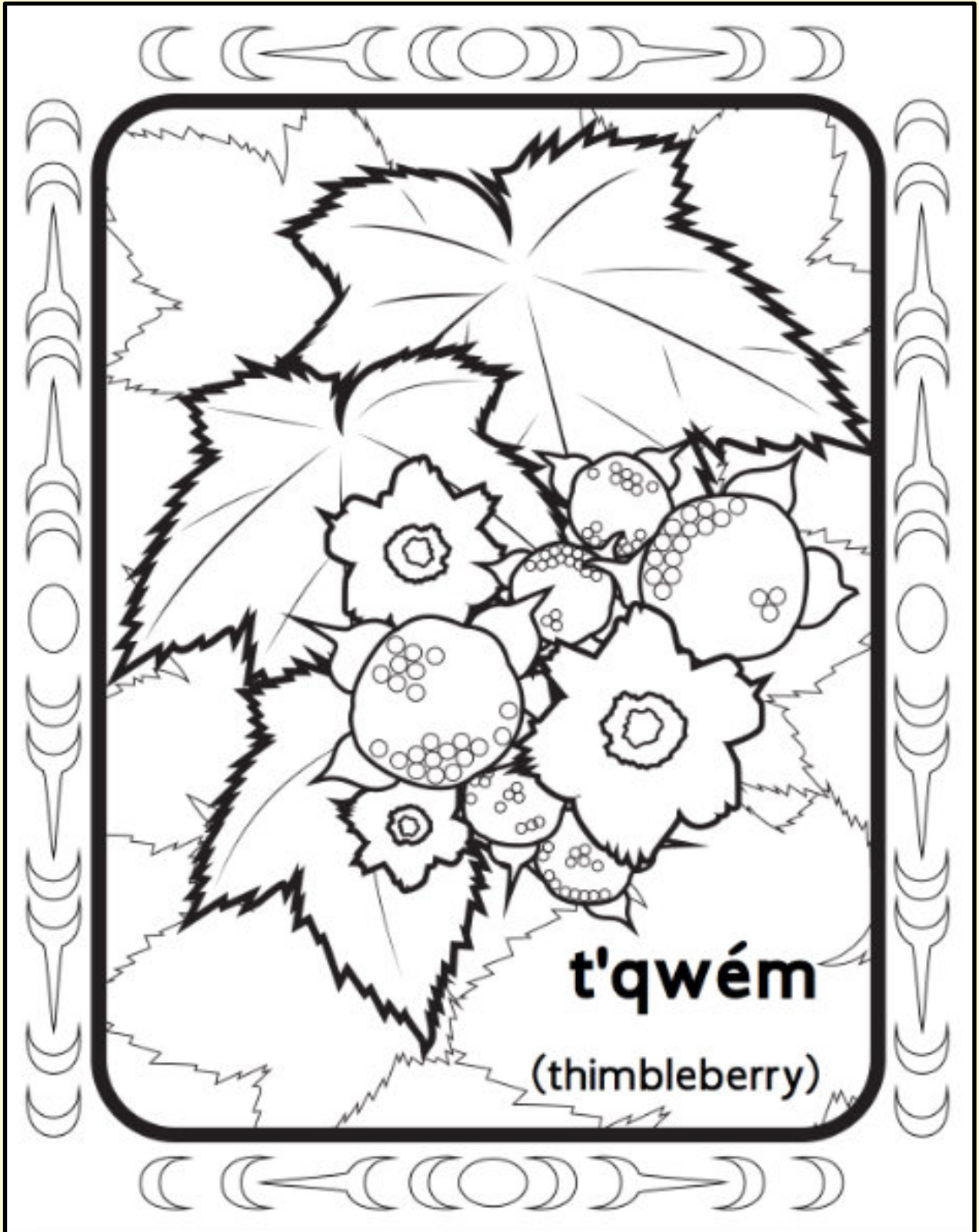
Grass, A. 1990. Flowers used by Rufous Hummingbirds in Golden Ears Provincial Park (Discovery) Vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 60 - 61.

Grass, A. 1993. Woody plants used by birds in Golden Ears Provincial Park. Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 15 - 18.

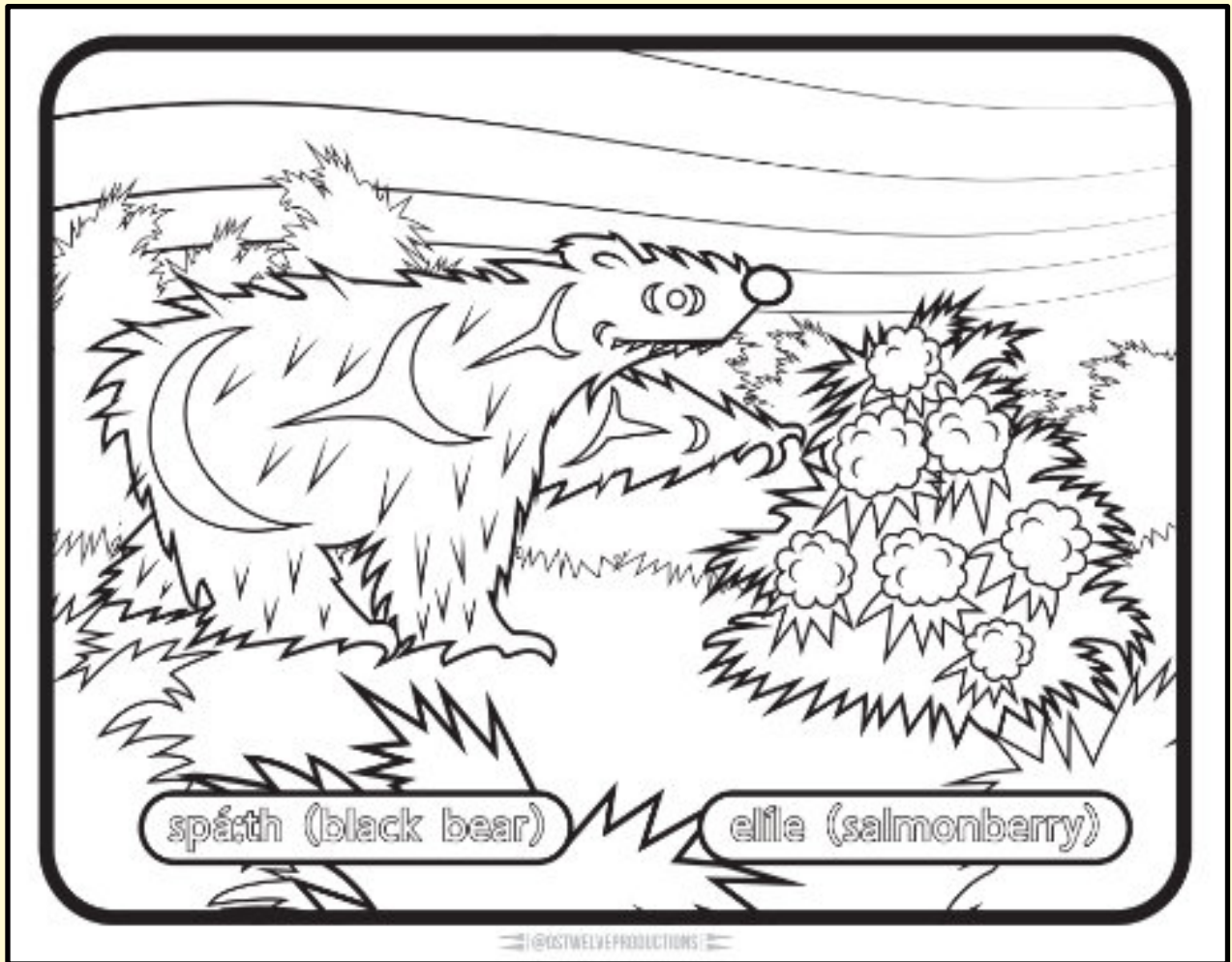
Downy Woodpecker

Bent, A. C. 1964. Life histories of North American woodpeckers. Dover, New York.

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



Art by Ostwelve aka Ronnie Dean Harris is a Stō:lo/St'át'imc/Nlaka'pamux multimedia artist based in New Westminster, BC. Ostwelvemusic.com



Bears rely on the fruits of the forest for their food. Please leave berries in the wild for them to forage.

Art by Ostwelve aka Ronnie Dean Harris is a Stó:lō/St'át'imc/Nlaka'pamux multimedia artist based in New Westminster, BC. Ostwelve.com



Maplewood Farm is located just 2km west of Maplewood Flats. Opened in 1975, it has become a well loved and visited attraction operated by the District of North Vancouver Parks Department. Fun and educational experience for everyone. To visit Maplewood Farm during Covid19, check out maplewoodfarm.bc.ca. 405 Seymour River Place North Vancouver. Phone 604-929-5610.

PLANTS BIRDS LOVE

BY T'UYT'TANAT CEASE WYSS

T'uyt'tanat is Skwxwú7mesh, Tsimshian, Sto:lo, Swiss, Hawaiian; an ethnobotanist, educator, and multi-disciplinary artist, and is the host of our online monthly series, Coast Salish Plant Talk with Cease Wyss.

IN ORDER

Skwxwú7mesh snichim
English Common Name
Latin Name

The plant names are identified in the language of the Squamish (Squamish snichim), English and the scientific/Latin name, followed by details on indigenous use, best time to gather, details on leaves, flower, or other details of identification, and more. Some nations may have different uses.



Snástam - Berry
Nástamáy - Bush
Saskatoon Berry Tree
 (aka Serviceberry)
Amelanchier alnifolia

This slow growing shrub grows from Alaska to California and from the Pacific Northwest Coast to Ontario and the Dakotas. It is commonly known as “Serviceberry” due to its abilities to provide so many vital nutrients that prevented several intense illnesses in settlers when they began living in the western parts of North America, as well as preventing starvation. It is juicy and very high in fibre.

Saskatoon Berry Tree is a wonderful addition to any food forest and small yards with limited garden spaces. It grows no higher than 15 feet and is about 5 foot radius. It produces a generous amount of juicy, dark purple berries when properly pollinated – a beneficial food source for pollinators, regional and migratory birds and wildlife, as well as humans. Birds will visit this juicy shrub in late spring and early summer season.



Sts'á7kin
Cat-tail
Typha latifolia

This species of water-based grass is found throughout wetlands all over North and South America. Some common nicknames for this plant are bulrush, cat tails, cat-o-nine-tails and cooper’s reed.

It is widely planted throughout wetlands, marshlands and urban ditches as a bioremediation plant. It is often used to clean waterways and protect the waters for wildlife.

The flowers appear as a firm dark brown, oblong spike that resembles a cat’s tail. They are utilized by weavers for their long leaves and for the fluff that expands when crunching the flowers in one’s hands.

Birds love to feed off them, and to add this soft substance into their nests to make them comfortable and essentially, cushiony.

The rootstalks and shoots are edible both raw and when cooked, and can also be dried out and pounded into powder to create a type of flour.



Xet'tánay
Wild Ginger
Asarum caudatum

This beautiful low growing plant with heart- and kidney-shaped leaves is a rhizome plant that clones itself and spreads in a mat-like manner in the understory of coniferous based trees and shrubs. The leaves and rhizomes taste like ginger, but it isn’t related to the zingiber family. The flowers are quite beautiful and are purple with tail-like spikes coming off each of the three flower petals, and is white in the center.

This is a great plant to grow if you have ants on your property. It will attract ants as pollinators and the ants will attract Flickers which primarily feed on ants.

It is fantastic for healing the gut, the esophagus, the respiratory system and for strengthening and healing the kidneys. It is commonly found in the mountains above sea levels in old growth and ancient forests. It loves to be well-shaded and does not require any direct sunlight. It is a popular ground cover for shaded forest gardens.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Reserve your spot. Register at:
maplewoodflats.eventbrite.com



COAST SALISH PLANT TALK WITH CEASE WYSS

Join *T'uyt'ananat* every 3rd Saturday of the month to learn about native plants, their uses and cultural significance. 11:00am-12:00pm

LET'S GET GROWING! NURSERY SERIES

The Coast Salish Plant Nursery advances decolonization of conservation in BC. Every 3rd Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm.

VIDEO ARCHIVES

Subscribe to our YouTube channel:
bit.ly/maplewoodflats-youtube

OPEN CALL FOR PUBLIC PROGRAM PROPOSALS

- Birders**
- Naturalists**
- Artists**
- Indigenous Scientists**
- Conservation activists**
- Youth**
- Photographers**
- Storytellers**

Submissions for the calendar year are now being accepted. Attend our Info Session to learn more about the process and ask questions.

We invite engagement that supports our mandate: To provide wild birds with sanctuary through ecological protection and restoration, and to support communities with education, culture, and reconciliation programs.

We are open to a range of proposals: walks, talks, workshops, research sharing, artistic pursuits or educational displays that help connect us to the lands and waters of the Tsleil-Waututh & Coast Salish at Maplewood Flats. For example, we are seeking regular bird identification workshops for all levels, ages, languages and interests.

We encourage themes of ornithology, land repair, restoration, Coast Salish plants, heritage, climate justice, citizen science, reconciliation and redress. Collaboration is encouraged. We value the intersectionality of social issues with environmental issues, as humans are a part of nature too!

Due to the pandemic, we encourage proposals that can be adapted for

safe social distancing or online. With large numbers of people accessing our free online COVID19 programming, we believe expanding and connecting with scientists, artists, youth and Elders is the right thing to do.

What we can provide:

- Space in the Nature House
- Production support (audio, lighting, projector)
- Facilitator and artist fees (typically range from \$0-\$150 per activity). We strive to pay artists per CARFAC minimum fee schedule.
- Open to revenue sharing models common in community and recreation centres.

Submit by: bit.ly/maplewood2021

BENCH & COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats

The Wild Bird Trust of BC provides opportunities to mark major life events in a meaningful way, while supporting our valuable conservation and restoration work. By purchasing a bench, tree or custom art feature sited in a special location at the Flats, residents may honour a dearly departed family member or friend, or celebrate a significant event such as a birth or marriage. A portion of the contribution is tax deductible. This collaboration between families and the Wild Bird Trust of BC provides critical support for the sustainability of the Conservation Area.

DEDICATED BENCH - \$5,500

DEDICATED ARTISTIC BENCH - \$9,000

DEDICATED CUSTOM ART

FEATURE - \$5,000 TO \$10,000.

DEDICATED TREE PLANTING - \$1500

With all memorial opportunities, the wording for the plaque must be submitted in advance to the Trust for approval by the Board of Directors (or designate). To request the complete details, send an email president@wildbirdtrust.org or call 604-929-2379.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you for your service! Kevin Bell, Taylor Boisjoli, Thomas Flower, Jude Grass (Vice-President), Paul Hundal (Secretary), D'Arcy Hutton, Irwin Oostindie (President), John Preissl, Carleen Thomas, Maureen Thomas (Treasurer).

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications Committee:

Irwin Oostindie

Habitat Committee:

Chloe Hartley, Taylor Boisjoli

Programs Committee:

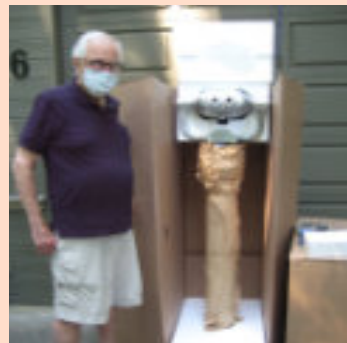
D'Arcy Hutton

PORTSIDE VIEWING CORRIDOR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2021

The next major restoration project at Maplewood Flats involves the area from the nursery south to Osprey Point to create a demonstration native plant garden, outdoor classroom for Takaya Tours, seating, interpretive signage, and a viewing scope to view ospreys and the Maplewood Marine Restoration Project. Our \$100,000 fundraising goal has received a \$7,500 kickstart from John Morton (in honour of Al & Jude Grass) for the cost and installation of the viewing scope. Thanks John! Secure tax-deductible campaign dona-

Viewing Scope donated by John Morton awaits installation. Photo by Alejandro Paredes-Borjas.

tions can be made online at wildbirdtrust.org/donate. You can also mail your cheque for habitat restoration and education payable to Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia, 2649 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver, BC V7H 1B1. For inquiries, email: donate@wildbirdtrust.org.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Wild Bird Trust of BC gratefully acknowledges the following people and organisations for their generous donations:

CORPORATE & GROUP DONORS:

Stantec

Joyce Investments

North Shore Optimists Club

MONTHLY DONORS:

Lilly Wong

Mehul Patel

Kathleen Benedict-Perri

Allison Luke

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Kathleen Adams

Loreena Boisjoli

Maureen Fredericksen

Susan Gower in memory

of Adeline Dickie

Alan Robertson

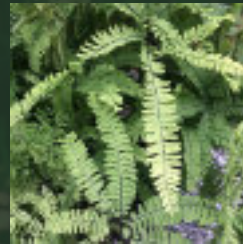
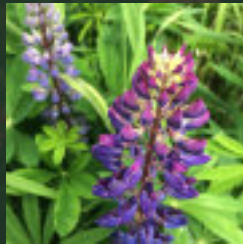
Jenna Rudolph in memory

of Selma Abro

FUNDERS

- TD Environmental Fund
- BC Museums Association BC Family Day Grant
- North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission (Annual Programming Grant: Major Projects)
- Environmental Youth Alliance Internship funding
- Digital Skills For Youth (via Eco-Canada) for contract staff wages
- Science Horizons Youth Internships (via EcoCanada) for contact staff wages
- Work Experience Opportunities Program, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction for participant honorariums.
- Canada Summer Jobs - ACCESS (Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society) for contract wages.

We have a large selection
of native plants for your
Summer and Fall garden.



*The Coast Salish Plant Nursery at Maplewood Flats
promotes biodiversity and bird-friendly habitat.*

**COAST
SALISH
PLANT
NURSERY**

HOURS OF OPERATIONS

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:00am–2:00pm
2649 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver

Shop online: wildbirdtrust.org/shop

Pick-up only during hours of operations

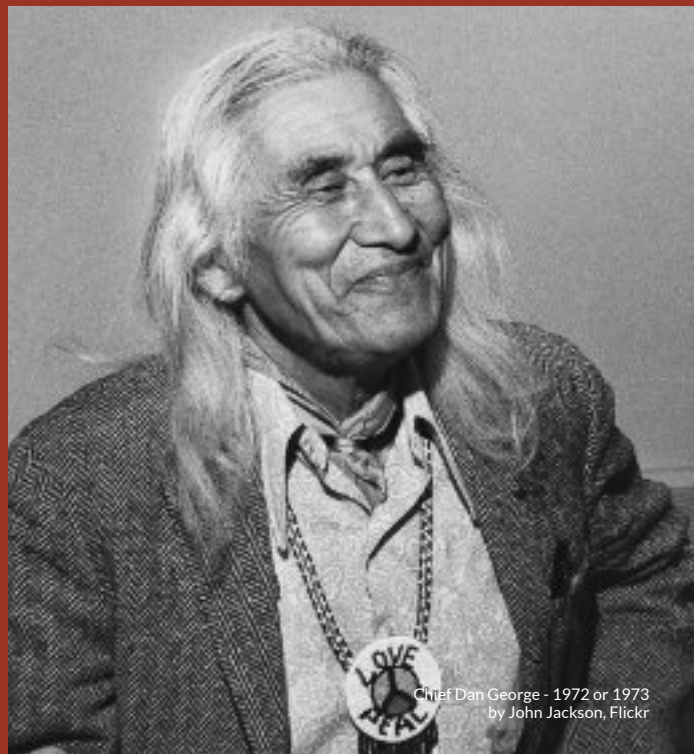
For inquiries, email nursery@wildbirdtrust.org



CHIEF DAN GEORGE

ACTOR & ACTIVIST

EXHIBIT AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS
MAY 22–AUGUST 29, 2021



Chief Dan George - 1972 or 1973
by John Jackson, Flickr

The exhibit is open on **Thursdays and Fridays** by appointment, and **Saturdays and Sundays** first come first serve from **10am to 4pm**. Check out the **#212 bus** schedule on Translink.



WEBSITE

The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats
2649 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver/Tsleil-Waututh Nation
wildbirdtrust.org/programs/exhibits