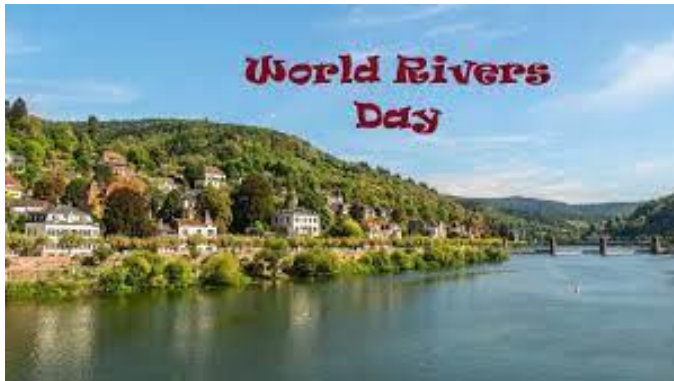


Nature's Voice

THE PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER FROM **bcnature**

TO KNOW NATURE AND TO KEEP IT WORTH KNOWING

World Rivers Day September 26



On behalf of World Rivers Day founder and Chair, Mark Angelo, wanted to let you know that events are now being organized across the globe in preparation for **World Rivers Day (WRD) 2021**, set for Sunday, **September 26**. More than 100 countries will be participating this year across 6 continents, in what has become one of the planet's biggest environmental celebrations. The events being organized are incredibly diverse and will be either **physical or virtual in nature**, depending on local covid circumstances. The **importance of clean fresh water** has been so essential to the fight against COVID-19 & ndash; so World Rivers Day is a timely opportunity for literally millions of people around the world to come together to

celebrate the importance of healthy, vibrant waterways! This year's theme is once again "waterways in our community" with a number of sub-themes, such as the need to maintain or restore stream connectivity. In addition, many projects and activities this year will highlight the link between rivers and the plight of our oceans.

As a small sampling of events, among many activities in Canada, there will be a number of projects and activities in the country's western-most province that will highlight the great work of BC's **Healthy Watersheds Initiative**. Details to follow soon. Elsewhere, on WRD evening, there will be a special screening in downtown Vancouver in concert with the Outdoor Recreation Council and Watershed Watch of the award winning film, **Last Paddle? 1000 Rivers, 1 Life**. There will also be a celebration in Burnaby highlighting the city's bold efforts to upgrade a major culvert along Guichon Creek to make it fish-passable while improving stream connectivity. In addition, the Raincoast Conservation Foundation is leading the North Arm Jetty Breaches Project on the Fraser River that will dramatically improve connectivity in the river's estuary. Among many other events as part of **BC Rivers Day** will be the Theatre of Fire and their colleagues from the Gwich'in and Dene, who will be organizing 3 major events centring on the music and art practices found along the great Mackenzie River. And in New Westminster, there will be the annual Riverfest gathering to kick off WRD weekend. Details on other festivities across the country will follow, from the eastern Maritimes to central Canada, and from the Prairies to the west coast.

There are also several key books that will be launched around WRD. One of these is by Dr. Eric Taylor and entitled "**Rivers Run Through Us; a Natural and Human History of Great Rivers of North America.**" This is an excellent and important book and we extend very special congratulations to Eric.

There will also be the **Ecocity World Summit** in Rotterdam, Netherlands, which is an important event in that the ecocity movement is vitally important to the health and restoration of urban waterways.

And there will be special film screenings, including **Last Paddle? 1000 Rivers, 1 Life** in places ranging from Osaka Japan to Vancouver, BC – this film makes an eloquent plea to better protect the world's great river environs!

Meanwhile, many great efforts relating to the **International Year of the Salmon (IYS)** will continue to take place in

the run-up to WRD in countries such as Japan, Russia, Canada, USA, Norway, Ireland and Indonesia. Furthermore, we also want to acknowledge the great work of groups such as the **World Fish Migration Foundation** for their tremendous efforts relating to fish passage and river connectivity.

The list goes on and on and many others will be detailed between now and September 26. The **importance of clean fresh water** has been so essential to the fight against COVID-19, so World Rivers Day is a timely opportunity for literally millions of people around the world to come together to celebrate the importance of healthy vibrant waterways!

Visit this website at www.worldriversday.com to find out more about **World Rivers Day**,

To find out more about water issues, and how to get involved with World Rivers Day, visit the websites below for more information.

[World Rivers Day](#)

[BC Rivers Day](#)

[United Nations University - International Network on Water, Environment and Health](#)

[United Nations Water Action Decade](#)

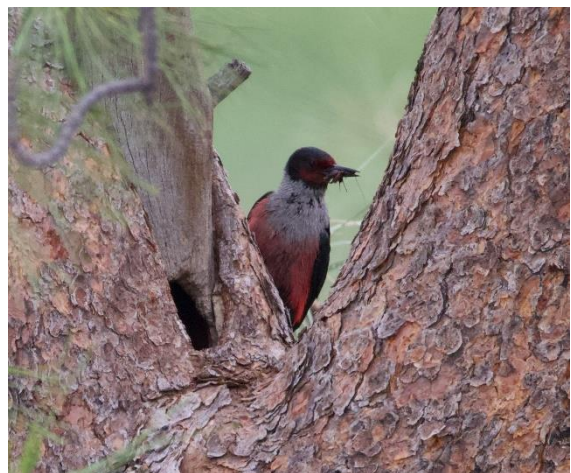
By Scott Denkers, WRD Communications

Counting Birds at Risk In The Southern Okanagan

By Liam Ragan, BC Important Bird and Biodiversity Area Provincial Coordinator, BC Nature and Lindsay Lalach, BC Important Bird and Biodiversity Area Intern

On June 13th, 2021, 22 devoted volunteers gathered (in compliance with COVID-19 health guidelines) to conduct a bird survey for the [Chopaka Customs Important Bird and Biodiversity Area](#) (IBA). This grassland IBA is located in the Southern Interior of British Columbia ([see map](#)), on the traditional unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan People. The survey was intended to contribute useful Citizen Science data to the eBird database, and so an eBird Protocol was followed.

Volunteer birders from around the Okanagan and beyond participated in this count in order to comprehensively survey the birds at the site. Among them were young birders from the Kamloops Naturalist Club's Next Generation Naturalists. Our dedicated volunteers got to the site bright and early to survey pre-determined routes throughout the IBA. Armed with their binoculars, volunteers kept their eyes and ears attuned to track any bird observations within the IBA boundary. [Read more here.](#)



Credit: Birds Canada

Honing Your “Fieldcraft”: 10 Tips to Approaching Wildlife with a Camera



1. Be patient, take your time and never rush.
2. Always remain calm.
3. Try to suppress any excitement by moving slowly, gracefully and with fluid motion. Always avoid fast or jerky actions.
4. Avoid loud and abrupt noises. Move carefully with every step making sure you're always quiet and light on your feet.
5. As you approach the animal, pretend like you're not interested. It helps to avoid prolonged eye contact. Pay attention. But, keep the animal mostly in your peripheral vision while occasionally looking at them briefly. However, looking through a camera's viewfinder is usually OK. The equipment

will mask your eyes and your excitement.

6. Avoid moving toward your subject too directly. Wander around slowly, moving forward with infrequent steps sideways or back. Stop occasionally for short periods to reassess the situation or to snap a few frames.
7. Become familiar with your camera's settings and options. Preset your camera to the settings you anticipate using. Before pressing the shutter, pay attention to the information displayed in the viewfinder, then adjust your settings accordingly.
8. In order to get wildlife comfortable with your camera noises, start taking photos from a distance. This also helps you get into rhythm with the subject. Continue to take photos throughout your entire approach.
9. Be sensitive toward the animal. Back off the moment you detect any signs of stress or nervousness. Priority should always go to the animal's well-being before your photography.
10. Beware of personal danger. Animals can be unpredictable. They might be hungry, disoriented, injured or protecting their young. If you look like food, or they perceive you as a threat, they might charge you.

[Blog is here](#)

BY Tony Beck from Nature Vancouver

A sweet solution to plastic pollution

Plastic pollution is now considered one of the largest threats to the environment. It takes 400 years for plastics to decompose. Hongli Zhu, an assistant professor of mechanical and industrial engineering at Northeastern, asked herself a question: Can we replace plastic food containers with the biodegradable fiber produced as a byproduct of the sugar industry?

[Narrative | A sweet solution to plastic pollution - YouTube](#)

Produced by: Benjamin Bertsch + Adam Fische



Bird Of Prey Movie: Trailer - YouTube



Bird of Prey, the multi-award-winning feature-length documentary from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, weaves a remarkable story of the world's rarest eagle species and the heroic individuals working tirelessly to save it. Since its release in 2018, Bird of Prey, has screened to countless audiences around the world and throughout the Philippines where the film has become an invaluable tool for raising awareness and support for conservation of the critically endangered Philippine Eagle. The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) is a private non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the critically endangered Philippine Eagle, preserving its rainforest habitat, and working with the communities that share its home. In addition to scientific

research, public education, and culture-based conservation, they operate the only breeding and rehabilitation facility for the species in the world — the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Davao City.

To learn more about Philippine Eagles and how you can help support their conservation visit: www.philippineeaglefoundation.org.

Watch the full Film on YouTube - <https://youtube/onvsjQUjTlc>

Can coral breeding save the reef ecosystem?

Bright-coloured and nurturing to a variety of marine organisms, coral reefs cover only around 0.5 % of the world's surface, yet are [vital to 25%](#) of all marine life. Despite their importance, coral reefs are in trouble – they are facing bleaching, habitat loss, and ocean acidification. With these problems, scientists are working hard to find solutions, including lab-created coral colonies to transplant into the ocean. But can this process *actually* be successful?



Doing Your Part

You don't have to be a scientist in a lab to contribute to healthier reefs, there are more accessible and simple ways to do your part – [here are a few](#):

- Wear a rashguard or use mineral-based sunscreen instead of harsh sunscreen, which can be damaging to marine life
- Minimize or eliminate fertilizer use
- When diving, follow the practice of “don't touch”
- Help spread the message that coral reef ecosystems are in danger
- Picking up trash along shores
- Reduce greenhouse gases – walk, bike or transit to your destination

[The whole article is here.](#)

Credit: The Starfish

9 Easy Tips for Feeding Birds in Summer



Bird experts Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman make feeding birds in summer incredibly easy with achievable backyard hints and tricks.

Expert Advice for Feeding Birds in Summer:

Feeding birds in summer is a joy. Gardens are alive with [colorful bloom](#) and buzzing bugs, and your favorite migratory [Songbirds](#) have returned from their wintering grounds. [Natural food](#) for birds is abundant, so many people opt to save a little time and money by taking their feeders down for the season. But definite advantages abound for those who keep birds top of mind and keep their feeders filled this time of year.

1. Put Out Feeders for Baby Birds (and Their Parents!)
2. Serve Fresh Fruit
3. Put Out Grape Jelly

4. Offer Suet Substitutes
5. Supply Mealworms
6. Add a Fresh Water Source
7. Hang a Sugar-Water Feeder
8. Switch Your Seed to Thistle
9. Thwart Pests with Baffles

[Read the whole article here.](#)

Credit: Birds and Bloom

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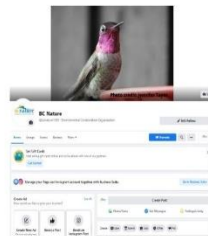
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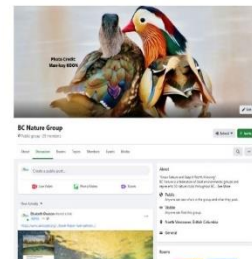
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