



Upcoming Events

BC Nature and BC Naturalists' Foundation: 2025 Club Support Grant Applications

Available for downloading now - Applications for the 2025 Club Support Grants - deadline is January 31, 2025. [LINK](#)

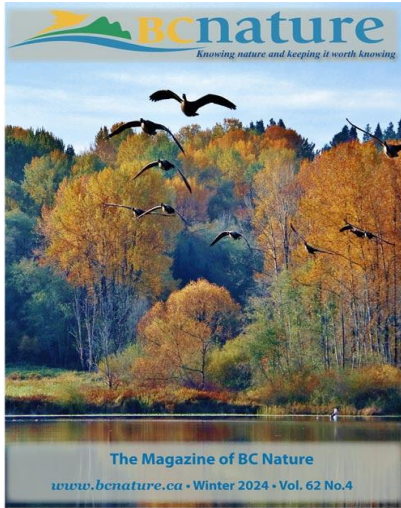
BC Nature and HCTF Photo Contest 2025

Online entry forms available January 1, 2025 to upload your stunning photographs from 2024 (or beyond). [LINK](#)

Merritt BC - Conference and AGM 2025

Online registration will open January 2, 2025 for our Conference and AGM in Merritt as hosted by Nicola Naturalists Society. This [LINK](#) will be fully running with the online registration, schedule, and updates on January 2, 2025

BCnature Magazine - Winter 2024



Due to the Canada Post Postal Strike the **Winter magazine** that would normally be mailed to you (for those still receiving a paper copy), is sitting on the floor of the mail house waiting for the postal strike to finish. We are sure that sooner or later the paper copy will make it's way to your doorsteps, in the meantime, we didn't want you to miss out on the Winter Edition so please follow the links below to view the magazine on line.

In the meantime, both the PDF version and the e-version are now available for both viewing on your desktop, tablet or phone and/or can be downloaded to view on your tablet, phone or other devices. You will still need access to the internet to view the embedded short videos and to use the direct links.

For ease of viewing, you do not have to login to the members only area, this link is not password protected, so save to your favourites or bookmark this link and you will be available to view anytime you wish.

<https://bcnature.org/bc-nature-winter-magazine-2024/>

Below is the balance of the enews that is not covered in the Winter Magazine.

Have you considered adopting a Breeding Bird Survey route?



The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is an annual, volunteer-based survey, running since 1966 across Canada, the US and Mexico. BBS is one of Canada's longest running avian surveys and contributes significantly to the conservation of birds. During the peak window of breeding season, BBS observers run assigned roadside route(s), which consist of 50 stops spaced equally apart over 40km. At each stop, observers identify and tally all birds seen or heard during a 3-

minute observation. Once complete, the data are compiled, analyzed, and the information is made available to the public. Data is used to assess bird population trends, relative abundance and species composition across North America. In Canada, the BBS is coordinated by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Are you interested in contributing to bird conservation in North America? British Columbia has over 140 BBS routes across the province. We have a number of vacant routes available to be assigned to new volunteers for the 2025 season. If you're able to identify the birds in your area by sight and sound or know an experienced volunteer who you could pair up with to run a route and learn, consider adopting a BBS route!

For full details on the requirements to participate, please visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/bird->

[surveys/landbird/north-american-breeding/how-to-participate.html](https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/RouteMap/Map.cfm)

To view a list of BBS routes in BC, including vacant routes available for adoption, please visit: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/RouteMap/Map.cfm>

Questions? Have you found a specific route that you'd like to be assigned to, or need more information? Please reach out to your BC provincial coordinator (Daniel.Yip@ec.gc.ca) or the National Breeding Bird Survey office (BBS@ec.gc.ca).

Charting a Course for Tomorrow: *Thoughts on how to energize your club*



Christmas will soon be here. A club membership would make a great gift for a friend or family member who is interested in nature.

Here's a graphic that I've used in my own club.

Do a promotion in your own club's newsletter or social media postings. Think about who you would give a gift membership to. The year is slipping by; do it now!

Got your own idea? Send it to Harold Sellers:

vicepresident@bcnature.ca

Petition to the Government of Canada

Please take a moment to sign onto this petition that is being put on the floor by Elizabeth May. Closes December 27, 2024

Whereas:

- Coastal areas are critical wildlife habitat used by birds for migration stopovers, overwintering, breeding, foraging and roosting;
- The Greater Victoria area is on the Pacific Flyway, a major flyway for migratory birds from Alaska to Patagonia;
- This coastal area supports many taxa including waterfowl, loons, grebes, gulls, shorebirds, raptors and passerines: some species are nationally threatened (Marbled Murrelets) and nationally vulnerable (Great Blue Herons);
- Migratory birds face increasing pressures and significant, widespread population declines due to climate change, pollution and habitat loss;
- Canadian shorebird populations have declined 42% since 1980 (Birds Canada/ECCC, 2024);
- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) are established under the five-nation Migratory Bird Convention Act to protect migratory birds and their nests, and studies confirm that migratory birds use habitat within all three MBS in the region both year-round and seasonally;

- Greater Victoria hosts three MBS under federal authority: Victoria Harbour, Shoal Harbour, Esquimalt Lagoon;
- A significant gap exists between the Victoria Harbour and the Shoal Harbour MBS;
- This entire shoreline falls within the traditional territories of the WSÁNEC and Lekwungen Nations, who seek to strengthen their Indigenous marine stewardship rights and responsibilities through guardian programs; and
- The internationally-designated Sidney Channel Important Bird Area recognizes the importance of MBS in maintaining global bird populations.

Full sign on details here: [LINK](#)

