

The BC Bird Trail expands to welcome the Columbia Valley and South Fraser Bird Trail, ready for Budding and Seasoned Birders alike

Expanded BC Bird Trail encourages people to get outside, look up and discover some of the best birdwatching in Canada

RICHMOND, BC--(September 30, 2021) – As the BC Bird Trail enters its second year, visitors and locals are invited to get outside and explore dozens of inspiring new birding watching opportunities with the addition of the Columbia Valley Bird Trail and South Fraser Bird Trail. Launched in partnership with Destination British Columbia and a group of partners inspired by BC's diverse communities and the natural landscapes, the newly expanded trails bring the current count of self-guided regional itineraries on the BC Bird Trail to four.

Set along the Upper Columbia River, the new Columbia Valley Bird Trail is nestled between the Rocky and Purcell Mountains in southeast BC. The wetlands surrounding these friendly communities including Golden, Invermere and Kimberley, are renowned for their birdlife and outdoor adventure opportunities. The wetlands of Moberly Marsh in Golden are a critical resting and feeding area for resident and migratory birds such as the Sandhill crane, and a prime viewing area for many other waterfowl. The Columbia Wetlands and conservation area is the perfect place to view Horned Grebe and considered by many to be one of the best birding locations in the province. Nearby Cranbrook is the main southern hub of the Columbia Valley Bird Trail, with a charming town and amenities for visitors to enjoy while exploring the surrounding wetlands.

The new South Fraser Bird Trail takes visitors through the islands of Richmond where the mouth of the mighty Fraser River empties into the Salish Sea. Deemed “the heart of BC’s Pacific Flyway,” this region is a major north-south stop for migratory birds on their way between Alaska and Patagonia. Delta is home to three distinct communities: Tsawwassen with its breathtaking beaches, the waterfront community of Ladner, and North Delta featuring amazing waterfowl viewing parks. The shores of Surrey’s protected bay are packed with birds, and the rivers and farmland nearby provide plenty of bird-friendly habitats. Serpentine Fen Park, a serene wetland park featuring a 3.5 kilometre trail with several wooden viewing towers, is home to over 130 bird species including the Northern Pintail and Northern Harrier. Every year, Richmond is inundated with incredible bird species ranging from Great blue herons and Dunlins to American widgeon and Snow Geese.

The newly added trails add to the BC Bird Trail’s series of four self-guided itineraries including the Central Vancouver Island Bird Trail, South Fraser Bird Trail, Fraser Valley Bird Trail and the Columbia Valley Bird Trail. Developed as the leading source of information on attractions, activities, and accommodations related to birdwatching travel in the province, the BC Bird Trail encourages respectful travel through the province as people from all backgrounds discover the super, natural wonders of birding. Whether it’s sighting the Alaska-nesting Pacific golden-plovers embarking on its non-stop flight of over 8,000 km, or spotting the migrating Snow geese, the BC Bird Trail offers a wealth of viewing opportunities all year long.

For more information about the BC Bird Trail, or to plan your own birding experience, please visit www.BCBirdTrail.ca.

THE BC BIRD TRAIL

LOOK UP, STAY GROUNDED.

Story ideas:

Why go birding in fall? - Fall is one of the best times of the year to go birding because of the large amounts of bird migrations taking place. All the BC Bird Trails are ideally situated along parts of the Pacific Flyway, catching birds flying south seeking warmer climates. Some will stay for the duration of the winter to enjoy the tepid climate and abundance of food, while others only stop by for a break during their long journey farther south. From the Snow Geese spectacle in Richmond to one of the largest concentrations of Great Blue Herons in Western Canada that pass through the Kootenay Rockies' [Columbia Wetlands](#), every outing can offer new surprises.

Birding with Me: Bird Walk Series for Diverse Communities - The BC Bird Trail is excited to support [Birding with Me](#), a series of free, guided bird walks that celebrate diversity in bird and human communities. Inspired by the National Audubon Society's Let's Go Birding Together series, Birding with Me walks welcome in members of different communities led by experts of shared identity to explore birding together and meet new people. Birding with Me is a part of the Vancouver Bird Celebration and organized collaboratively by the Stanley Park Ecology Society, Canadian Wildlife Service, [Birds Canada](#), and the BC Bird Trail.

The Pacific Flyway- The Pacific Flyway is a north-south migratory bird route spanning from Alaska all the way to Patagonia in southern South America. It is one of four major migratory flyways of North America. Millions of migratory birds travel this route twice a year, usually in spring and fall. Some will travel nearly the entire length of the route, while other birds will stop and start partway. Depending on the bird, stops are made at important locations along their journey to nest or refuel. Snow Geese and Western Sandpipers are a couple of examples of these stopovers, refuelling at areas like the Fraser River Delta before taking off again.

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- **#BCBirdTrail #LookUpStayGrounded**

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