

The BC Bird Trail launches ‘Stories from The BC Bird Trail’ highlighting real stories of local birding, community, and conservation in British Columbia

The first in a series of documentary shorts available starting February 8, 2022 on YouTube

RICHMOND, BC--(February 3, 2022) – The BC Bird Trail, a leading source of information for novice birders to discover attractions and activities related to birdwatching in British Columbia, has collaborated with renowned birder Dick Cannings to highlight original stories of local birding, community groups, and conservation efforts across the province. The ongoing ‘Stories from The BC Bird Trail’ series releases its first 14-minute documentary short on YouTube and BCBirdTrail.ca on February 8 to inspire nature lovers to get outside, connect with their community, and learn more about birding in BC.

Dick Cannings, a birder, biologist, and published author living in the Okanagan Valley, works for Bird Studies Canada coordinating Canadian Christmas Bird Counts, the Great Backyard Bird Count, the eBird program, the BC Breeding Bird Atlas and the British Columbia Owl Survey. As one of the province’s leading experts on birds, The BC Bird Trail was honoured to have Dick Cannings’ input and support in sharing his knowledge about birding in British Columbia.

“For more than two years, The BC Bird Trail has been connecting nature lovers from BC (and beyond) with unique original perspectives on the world of birding,” says Ceri Chong, Director, Destination and Industry Development at Tourism Richmond. “More than just an accessible, educational, family-friendly outdoor activity, birding experiences in our great outdoors has a proven positive effect on both physical and mental health. We hope that that our ‘Stories from The BC Bird Trail’ will further inspire people to take a deep breath, get moving, and explore all that our spectacular province has to offer.”

The inaugural ‘Stories from The BC Bird Trail’ documentary short includes the following:

Richmond: Bird Banding & Migration Monitoring - This story from The BC Bird Trail takes visitors to the Iona Island Bird Observatory in Richmond. Biologist Quinn McCallum explains the importance of the bird banding project run by the team at WildResearch, and the insights it provides to the habits of migratory birds throughout BC’s Lower Mainland.

Surrey: Community Bird Walks - Kris Cu is a Conservation Engagement & Outreach Worker at Birds Canada. In this Story from The BC Bird Trail, Kris leads a Filipino bird walk through Blackie Spit in Surrey, British Columbia and speaks to how community birding events help increase diversity and representation in the birding community.

Parksville Qualicum Beach: Bald Eagle Rehabilitation – Just outside of Parksville Qualicum Beach is the small community of Errington, BC – the home of the North Island Wildlife Recovery Association (NIWRA). In this Story from The BC Bird Trail, Animal Care Supervisor Derek Downes tells the story of NIWRA, and the important work they’re doing to rehabilitate young bald eagles impacted by the recent summer heat waves across Vancouver Island.

THE BC BIRD TRAIL

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-2-

Visitors and locals are invited to explore the many inspiring bird watching opportunities throughout the province – including those on the newly added Columbia Valley Bird Trail located between the Rocky and Purcell Mountains in southeast BC. Operated in partnership with Destination British Columbia, Birds Canada, Indigenous Tourism BC, and various tourism partners throughout the province, The BC Bird Trail offers a network of original self-guided regional itineraries that highlights where to go, what to look for, restaurants and caf es to check out along the way, and where to stay.

About The BC Bird Trail:

The BC Bird Trail offers a series of four self-guided itineraries throughout key partner regions in the province: 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. For more information about The BC Bird Trail, or to plan your own birding experience, please visit www.BCBirdTrail.ca.

-30-

Connect with the BC Bird Trail on social media:

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/bcbirdtrail>
- **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/bcbirdtrail>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/thebcbirdtrail>
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC07e7uWQeyIPGQLd-tac2dw>
- **#BCBirdTrail #LookUpStayGrounded**

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