

Nature's Voice

THE PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER FROM BCnature

TO KNOW NATURE AND TO KEEP IT WORTH KNOWING

Upcoming Events

August 2020

World Rivers Day

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the celebration of BC Rivers Day, founded and led by Burnaby resident Mark Angelo. After BC Rivers Day's success, World Rivers Day was established in response to the UN's Water for Life Decade... Last year, millions from over 70 countries participated in the celebration of our invaluable waterways. Click here to be taken to the *Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's* ['Upcoming Events'](#) page for World Rivers Day events.

Planning your own World Rivers Day event? Contact us at communications@bcnature.ca so we can share with other naturalists around BC!

Teck's Castle Mountain coal mine to undergo federal review

After much advocacy from Indigenous groups, conservation groups, American environmental agencies, and local governments, Minister Jonathan Wilkinson ordered an assessment into the proposed mine expansion. This comes amidst concerns about BC's lax environmental assessments, with environmental organization Wildsight noting the potential for selenium pollution downstream, affecting already vulnerable cutthroat trout.

[READ MORE](#)

Removal of Fish Farms Deadline Approaching

September 30th, 2020 marks the deadline for removing fish farms from the Discovery Islands as recommended by the *Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River*, aka the Cohen Commission. The 1100–page report covers salmon farming practices, habitat protection, accountability, and more. Fish farms are notoriously harmful to already–vulnerable wild BC salmon, thanks to the pesticides, sea lice, waste, and diseases released from open–net cages – not to mention the fact that fish farms in BC grow Atlantic salmon, which are bigger and compete heavily with wild salmon for food when they escape! PM Justin Trudeau had promised to act on the Cohen commission by September 30th, but so far, no action has been taken.

Contact your MP to advocate for the integrity of BC coastal and marine ecosystems by using this template, provided by Watershed Watch.

TEMPLATE TO CONTACT YOUR MP

Second Generation Anti–Coagulants Fact Sheet

SGARS are a serious threat to B.C. wildlife, environmental integrity, and human health. Currently, several municipalities, like North Saanich and the District of North Vancouver, have voted to ban rodenticide usage, but the fight against rodenticides doesn't end there. Check out the SGARs Fact Sheet below, sent in by Delta Naturalists' member Anita Den Dikken.

SGARs FACT SHEET

Bird Carcasses Needed

A message from **Tara Imlay (PhD) from the Canadian Wildlife Service:**

Last year, my colleagues and I began a research project to understand the breeding area of bird species that experience high rates of anthropogenic (human-caused) mortality in southwestern British Columbia. The sources of anthropogenic mortality are varied, but can include things like collisions with windows or vehicles, or from cats and other domestic animals. For this work, we are collecting carcasses from this region until Summer 2021. Last year we received a large number of carcasses from the public, and we gratefully thank those who contributed.

This year, we are again asking your members, and other interested members of the public, to send us carcasses of birds that they find. We ask that they record the day, time, and location where the bird was found, and freeze the body (placing in a Ziploc bag or similar is sufficient). I have attached a poster that summarizes this information and this poster can be shared with your members, other organizations, or on social media.

We would also be happy to give a talk to your members about the findings of this work or other research we are involved with.

Thank-you in advance for your assistance,

Tara



Anthropogenic (human) sources of mortality kill over 269 million birds/year in Canada!

In SW BC collisions occur year-round.

We need carcasses from birds to help identify their breeding populations and inform conservation efforts.

If you find a carcass, please freeze it and contact:

Tara Imlay (tara.imlay@canada.ca) or Krista De Groot (krista.degroot@canada.ca)
Canadian Wildlife Service, Delta, BC

Tara Imlay, PhD
Landbird Biologist | Biologiste des oiseaux terrestres
Canadian Wildlife Service | Service canadien de la faune
Environment and Climate Change Canada | Environnement et changement climatique
Canada
236-330-9207 (mobile) | <tara.imlay@canada.ca>

Let's see your best summer naturalist adventures!

These are strange times, but we're all trying to make the best of it. My favourite outdoor adventure this summer was exploring the incredible geography on Hornby Island (see photo attached)... and eating loads of wild blackberries while I was at it! We'd like to see your best safe, summer 2020 adventures to share on our social media platforms and in the eNews! What adventures did you get up to? Do you have a funny story to share about the outdoors? What are your adventure recommendations for other naturalists?

Please email photos to communications@bcnature.ca, or tag us on social media so we can share your adventures with other naturalists and environmentalists across BC!

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