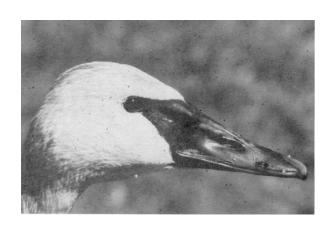
Face to Face with Wildlife

Viewing Sites in the Lower Mainland Region



British Columbia Wildlife Watch

Region

Despite being the most populated portion of British Columbia, the Lower Mainland Region has hundreds of terrific sites to observe wildlife. From tide water to alpine meadow, there is something spectacular to see in every season.

The Lower Mainland Region stretches from Vancouver eastward through the Fraser Valley to E.C. Manning Provincial Park, and includes the Sunshine Coast from Gibsons to Powell River, and the corridor from Squamish through Whistler to Pemberton.

Information for just 66 Lower Mainland sites is summarized in this brochure. As you travel, look for the blue and white binocular signs that identify these sites. Enjoy!

Fish

Fish live in large, medium and most of the small and tiny streams throughout the Lower Mainland Region. There are many opportunities to view fish, especially during the spawning period. You may observe six species of salmon; including sockeye that turn bright red when spawning, and kokanee that spend their entire life in freshwater. Several species of trout are visible, including steelhead trout that may be seen jumping rough sections of water during upstream migration, and a unique population of Coastal cutthroat trout found only on the Sunshine Coast.

The hatchery sites offer opportunities to see fish and to learn about man's activities in maintaining and in enhancing natural fish populations.

Wildlife

Wildlife are waiting for you to visit. Large wintering Bald Eagle concentrations can be found in the Harrison Bay, Chehalis Flats and Nicomen Slough areas of the Fraser Valley, and in Squamish. Migrating shorebirds and waterfowl numbering in the tens of thousands use the lower Fraser River estuary.

Mountain goats are often seen on certain rocky bluff areas. Many small mammal species populate the region, including Columbian ground squirrel colonies in E.C. Manning Provincial Park. Sea lions and seals congregate near shore to feed on fish. Frogs, snakes

and butterflies inhabit special habitat areas, and are easily found.

Several special viewing festivals celebrate specific wildlife populations or sites in the Lower Mainland Region.



Habitats provide homes for animals, and provide key elements like food, coyer and shelter. Some habitats will be home for an entire lifetime, while, for some species, a habitat may be used for only a short period. For bird species migrating twice a year between Arctic breeding grounds

and South American wintering areas as far away as Argentina, the Fraser River delta plays an important survival role.

The range of Lower Mainland Region viewing opportunities is directly related to the diversity of habitat types present. A mixture of habitat types in close proximity will be home to a greater range of animals. Habitats in limited quantity, such as old-field areas and mud flats, create more locally distinct wildlife viewing.



More Information

There are many sources for additional information on the wildlife viewing opportunities of the Lower Mainland Region.

Visit Our Wildlife Brochures - A series of site information brochures is being prepared, some of which are now available. They contain more site specific viewing information than is provided in this brochure.

Site Brochures - A site specific information brochure is available for many sites, usually from the agency responsible for managing the site. For most large sites, the brochure contains a detailed site map.

Bird Checklists - A series of bird checklists is available. These will help you to identify what species may be observed and when. Many also contain information on the mammal, amphibian, reptile. fish, insect and wildflower viewing opportunities.

Fish Viewing - In the Fish Viewing in Urban Streams - Lower Mainland Region brochure available from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks [10470 - 152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 0RS], thirty-two sites to view salmon and trout during the spawning portion of their life cycle are listed. Some of these sites do not appear in this regional site brochure. In the Where and When to See Salmon brochure available from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans [#400 - 555 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5G3], fifty-four hatchery project sites throughout British Columbia are listed. Most of the Lower Mainland sites are listed in this regional site brochure.

Other Publications - Many other publications contain province-wide wildlife viewing information. British Columbia Wildlife Watch has provided site identification and summary information for two publications, the British Columbia Recreational Atlas (4th edition) and the Beautiful British Columbia Travel Guide. Both are available at local bookstores.

Wildlife are Watching!

We've all had it happen. You look up from the trail just in time to see an animal dive out of sight a swoop of wing, a flash of antler, a slap of beaver's tail.

The truth is, most animals see, hear and smell us long before we catch their drift. They size us up, and, depending on how far away we are and how we act, they decide whether to stay, defend themselves or flee. Even fleeing from us robs them of precious energy.

Fortunately, there are many simple ways that you can help blend into an animal's surroundings. Here are but a few. If you follow these practical tips you'll be treated to a wildlife show that makes your heart pound and your senses hum!



Fade into the woodwork by wearing natural colours and unscented lotions. Clothes that don't rustle are best.



Keep your distance and use binoculars. This allows you to observe animals without causing them stress.



Let animals eat their natural foods. Sharing your sandwich may harm wild digestive systems and animals get hooked on handouts putting them, and you, into potentially dangerous situations. They may eventually lose their fear of people and vehicles. Watch and learn what natural foods animals prefer.



Be easy to be with by moving like molasses: slow, smooth and steady. If you must advance, take a roundabout route, never move directly toward an animal. Avert your gaze as animals may interpret a direct stare as a threat.



Think like an animal. As a rule, the border between two habitats is a good place to see residents from both places.



Figure out the best time of day for viewing by imagining, an animal's daily schedule. When does it feed? Nap? Bathe? Drink? Dusk and dawn are usually good bets.



British Columbia Wildlife Watch is the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks' program designed to promote viewing opportunities within British Columbia. The

protection of wildlife and their habitat, and a positive, safe experience for the viewer are the primary objectives of this program. Many local communities, other agencies and public conservation groups are involved. For more information on these or other wildlife viewing sites, contact the Ministry office in Surrey [(604) 582-5200; 10470 - 152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 0R31



The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is a financial sponsor of British Columbia Wildlife Watch. For information on this fund write PO. Box 9354 Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, B.C. V8V 9M1.

The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists Foundation supports the goals, objectives and activities of British Columbia Wildlife Watch. For information on this foundation write #321-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.



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Photo Credits: Front -Trumpeter Swan, Nicomen Slough @ April L. Mot Inside - Colombian Ground Squirrel, E.C. Manning, Provincial Park © April L. Mol

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Each viewing category in the viewing highlights section should be visible in all, or part, of the season(s) indicated. Viewing opportunities may exist in seasons other than those indicated, as only the best viewing season(s) is noted in the table.

spring = Sp (March - May)

summer = S (June - August)
fall = F (September - November)

winter = W (December - February)

All roads, paved or gravel, are suitable for regular passenger vehicles.

P = paved road

G = gravel road
B = boat
T = walking/hiking trail

?

For more information on a specific site contact:

- a Bowen Island Fish and Wildlife Club, R.R. #1, D66, Bowen Island, B.C. V0N 1G0 [(604) 947-0072]
- b BC Parks, Lower Mainland District, 1610 Mt. Seymour Parkway, North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 1L3 [(604) 924-2200]
- c City of West Vancouver, Parks and Recreation Department, 750 17th St., West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 3T3 [(604) 925-7200]
- d Capilano Hatchery, 4500 Capilano Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7R 4L3 [(604) 660-1790]
- e Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia, #124 1489 Marine Dr., West Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1B8 [(604) 921-8253]
- f City of Vancouver, Parks and Recreation Board, 2099 Beach Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6G 1Z4 [(604) 257-8400]
- g Greater Vancouver Regional District, Parks Department, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4G8 [(604) 432-6350]
- h Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Lower Mainland Region, 10470 - 152nd St., Surrey, B.C. V3R 0R3 [(604) 582-5200]
- Richmond Nature Park Society, 11851 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, B.C. V6X 1B4 [(604) 273-7015]
- j British Columbia Waterfowl Society, 5191 Robertson Rd., Delta, B.C. V4K 3N2 [(604) 946-6980]
- City of Surrey, Parks and Recreation Department, 7542 132nd St., Surrey, B.C.
 V3W 4M7 [(604) 501-5050]
- City of Langley, Parks Department, 5549 204th St., Langley, B.C. V3A 1Z4 [(604) 530-3131]
- m Serpentine Enhancement Society, 16585 96th Ave., Surrey, B.C. V3R 5W7 [(604) 589-9127]
- n City of Port Moody, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, 300 loco Rd.,
- Port Moody, B.C. V3H 2V7 [(604) 469-4555]

 o Bell-Irving Hatchery, 11450 256th St., Maple Ridge, B.C. V2W 1H1 [(604) 462-8643]
- p BC Hydro, Environmental Services, 6911 Southpoint Dr., 9th Floor, Burnaby, B.C. V3N 4X8 [(604) 528-1877]
- q Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery, 34345 Vye Rd., Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 4N2 [(604) 852-5444]
- r Inch Creek Hatchery, Box 61, Dewdney, B.C. VOM 1H0 [(604) 826-0244]
- s Chehalis River Hatchery, 16250 Morris Valley Rd., Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0 [(604) 796-2281]
- Weaver Creek Spawning Channel, c/o 16250 Morris Valley Rd., Agassiz, B.C.
 V0M 1A0 [(604) 796-9444]
- u Fraser Valley Regional District, Parks Department, 8430 Cessna Dr., Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 7K4 [(604) 792-0061]
- v Chilliwack River Hatchery, 55205 Chilliwack Lk. Rd., Chilliwack, B.C. V4Z 1A7 [(604) 858-7227]
- w BC Parks, Okanagan District, Box 399, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0 [(250) 494-6500]
- x BC Parks, Garibaldi/Sunshine District, Box 220, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1H0 [(604) 898-3678]
- y Tenderfoot Creek Hatchery, Box 477, Brackendale, B.C. VON 1H0 [(604) 898-3657]
- z Pemberton Sportsmen's Wildlife Association, Box 221, Pemberton, B.C. V0N 2L0 [(604) 894-6402]
- Sunshine Coast Salmonid Enhancement Society, R.R. #1, Site 23, Sechelt, B.C.
 VON 3A0 [(604) 885-4136]
- bb Sunshine Coast Regional District, Parks Department, Box 800, Sechelt, B.C. VON 3A0 [(604) 885-2261]
- cc Powell River Enhancement Society, 7050 Alberni St., Powell River, B.C. V8A 2C3 [(604) 485-7612]
- dd Ministry of Forests, Sunshine Coast Forest District, 7077 Duncan St., Powell River, B.C. V8A 1W1 [(604) 485-0700]
- ee Sliammon Indian Band, R.R. #2, Sliammon Rd., Powell River, B.C. V8A 4Z3 [(604) 483-4111]