



Tips for Wildlife Viewers

■ Be Considerate

Respect private property and other viewers' need for space. Keep pets under control, they may otherwise chase or injure wildlife. Keep the environment litter free! Take your garbage out with you.

■ Be Careful

Wild animals may be dangerous if they feel threatened or have young. ALWAYS KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. If you find a wild young animal, leave it. The mother is nearby.

Cow Moose are very protective of their young. Bull Moose can be unpredictable during the fall rut.

Bears should always be given as much distance as possible, they may become aggressive when protecting their territory or their young.

■ Respect Wildlife Species and their Habitat

Stress is harmful to animals. Use binoculars and keep your distance. Respect den sites and nesting areas. Nesting birds are very sensitive to disturbance. When they are flushed from their nests, the eggs or young are unprotected. E.g., Gulls if disturbed when nesting will eat each other's young.

Some birds molt (lose their flight feathers) after nesting. They must grow new feathers before they can fly.

Roosting and hibernating bats are very sensitive to being disturbed.



Black Bear (B.C. Parks)

Cover: Red Fox (M. Evans ©)



Spawning Sockeye Salmon (M. Evans)



A Viewing Guide

- Time:** Of year – check the **Seasonal Viewing Chart**.
Of day – animals are most active in morning and evening.
- Weather:** When a wind is blowing, your scent is carried downwind to animals. View into the wind. Strong winds will drive animals to shelter.
- Clues:** **Moose** and **Mule Deer** shed their antlers each winter. **Mule Deer** bucks rub the velvet off their antlers in late summer, scraping the bark off smaller aspen trees and willows. **Pelicans** feed on small, non-game fish, eating up to 15 kg (33 lbs) per day! **Black Bears** will claw aspen trees, bend and break down berry bushes, rip bark off stumps and logs. Check snow, dust, and mud for fresh tracks.
- Grouse habitat preferences:**
- Blue Grouse** – where Douglas-fir and grasslands merge
 - Sharp-tailed Grouse** – grasslands and open woodlands, also wetland fringes
 - Ruffed Grouse** – deciduous tree cover
 - Spruce Grouse** – coniferous forest
- Wildlife Trees** (dead and decaying trees) are used for:
- open nesting – Bald Eagles, Osprey, Great Blue Heron
 - cavity-nesting – Woodpeckers, Owls, Chickadees, Bluebirds, Goldeneyes, Flying Squirrels, Marten
 - hunting perches – Hawks, Flycatchers
 - food storage – Squirrels, Gray Jays
 - shelter – Bats, Chickadees

Further Information

- Bowron Lake Provincial Park Wildlife Viewing Guide*
- Quesnel to Barkerville, A Self-guided Car Tour* by the British Columbia Forestry Association
- The Beaver Pond Interpretive Trail, 10 Mile Lake Provincial Park.
- Wildlife Viewing in the Chilcotin Grasslands* brochure, British Columbia Wildlife Watch
- Scout Island Nature Centre** in Williams Lake has additional information and lists on the areas' wildlife and much more. Drop by or call 398-8532.



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, contact the B.C. Environment office in Williams Lake at (604) 398-4530.



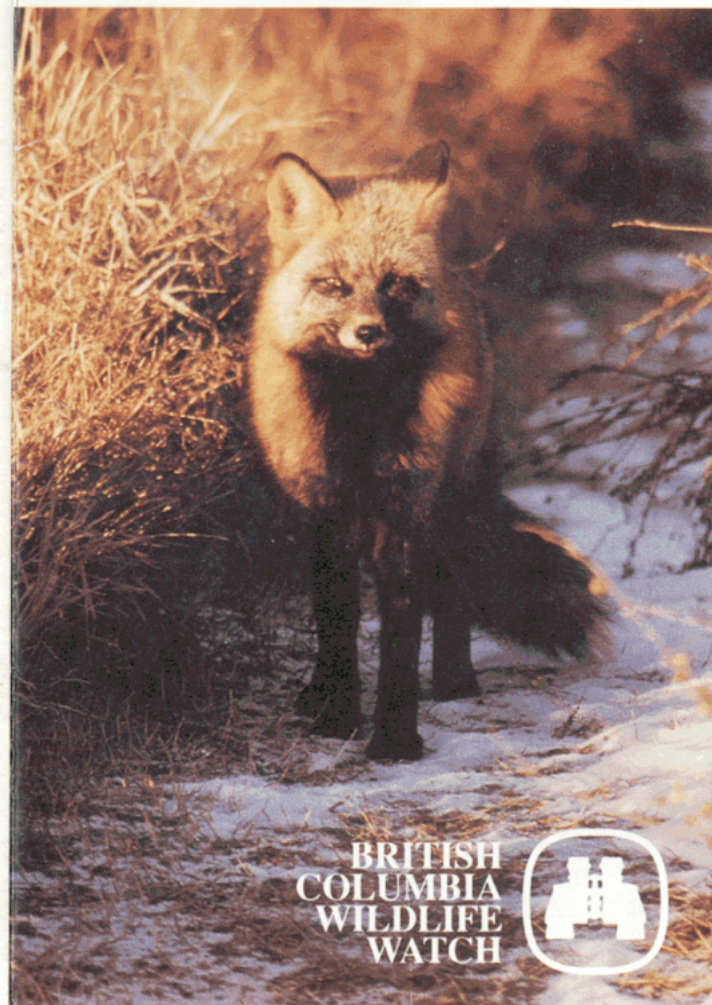
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Wildlife Viewing in the Cariboo



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Wildlife Viewing in the Cariboo

The Cariboo – A Land of Contrasts

Within the Cariboo, a wide range of habitats supports an immense diversity of animal and plant life. Once covered by the great Cordilleran Ice Sheet, the lowlands and plateaus were smoothed and rounded by its massive weight. Underlying most of the area is volcanic bedrock. Evidence of lava flows from ancient volcanoes may be seen where upland surfaces are dissected by the Fraser River. “Kettle” lakes, formed where large pockets of buried glacial ice melted, cover the Cariboo. Quesnel Lake, formed by receding glaciers, is a very steep-sided fjord lake – the DEEPEST IN THE WORLD (530 m/1740 ft), and home to very large Rainbow Trout! Four distinct seasons, each with their own special highlights, make a trip through this region unforgettable. Three main ecoregions (areas of similar climate, geology, vegetation and wildlife potential) occur in the Cariboo – the Fraser Plateau, Columbia Mountains and Highlands and the Fraser Basin.



Lesser Yellowlegs (B.C. Parks)

The Fraser Plateau Ecoregion

The flat to rolling countryside of the Fraser Plateau is dotted with numerous lakes and wetlands. The plateau lies in the rainshadow of the Coast Mountains. Dry grasslands surrounded by parklike **Douglas-fir** forests and **Trembling Aspen** groves cover the more southerly sections of this plateau. Dense forests of **Lodgepole Pine** cover the mid-elevations.

- **Beaver** dam the numerous creeks and create ponds and nesting sites for flocks of migrating and nesting waterbirds attracted to the area. Watch for **Beaver** lodges and **Canada Goose** nesting islands along the San Jose River as it meanders along the west side of Highway 97 between Lac La Hache and Williams Lake.
- In spring, the grassy south-facing slopes along Highway 97 are dotted with the white rumps of timid, large-eared **Mule Deer** present in great numbers.



Cow Moose (B.C. Parks)

- In winter, **Mule Deer** feed on “litter” (broken twigs and branches) and lichen growing on trees in old-growth **Douglas-fir** forests.
- On sunny spring and summer days, watch for **Yellow-bellied Marmot** lounging on large rocks (glacial debris) scattered over the fields along Highway 97 and the Chimney Valley Road.
- Standing dead **Douglas-fir** trees, monoliths against the Cariboo skies, are frequently used for perching and nesting by **Bald Eagles**, **Osprey**, **Great Horned Owls**, **Pileated Woodpeckers**, and other cavity-nesting birds and bats.
- Watch the hydro wires for **American Kestrels**.

The Columbia Mountains and Highlands Ecoregion

The portion of the Columbia Mountains and Highlands you first encounter travelling east from the Fraser Plateau is the **Quesnel Highland** and then, further east, the **Cariboo Mountains**. The rounded heights of the Quesnel Highland reach 1600–2100 m (5200–6900 ft), while the steep, rugged peaks of the Cariboo Mountains soar over 2100 m. Both mountain groups were formed over 60 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. They lie within a much wetter region than that of the Fraser Plateau. East of Quesnel, the wetlands of the Quesnel Highland parallel Highway 26 and the Bowron Lake Road, with the rugged peaks of the Cariboo Mountains forming a striking backdrop. **Western Redcedar** and **Western Hemlock** trees make up the forests of the lower elevations. **Engelmann Spruce** and **Subalpine Fir** cover the higher slopes. Wildflowers abound in early summer, and **Mountain Ash** berries and hips of **Wild Rose** bushes add their brilliance to the radiant colours of autumn.

- View the sharp peaks of the Cariboo Mountains while you enjoy the beauty of **Black Cottonwoods** edging the Horsefly River. Here **Sockeye Salmon** return in vast numbers each fall to spawn. View them in the river itself or in the spawning channels constructed just 0.5 km (0.3 mi) east of Horsefly.
- **Moose**, the largest of the deer family, are frequently viewed feeding in marshes or wading in snow up to 1 m deep. Willows form their main food source. Moose can eat up to 14 kg (30 lbs) per day. Cloven hooves and long legs make it easy for them to travel over spongy bogs and tangled downfall on forest floors.
- **Woodland Caribou** live in subalpine forests and may occasionally be seen at lower elevations during spring and fall as they migrate between summer and winter ranges.

The Fraser Basin Ecoregion

The Fraser Basin has a milder, drier climate than the neighbouring Columbia Mountains and Highlands ecoregion. Note that the Fraser Basin has been shaped and eroded by an ancestral Fraser River as it flowed **NORTHWARD!** During the Pleistocene Period, the entire Fraser Basin was covered with ice. As the ice melted, the main valleys, temporarily blocked with ice, formed lakes that later drained, leaving stretches of fine, clay-like beaches. In these soils, **Trembling Aspen** and **Paper Birch** flourish, providing ideal food and shelter for **Moose** in snowy winter months. Steep cliffs, bared by river erosion, and terraced, gently rolling benches of **Douglas-fir** and **Lodgepole Pine** tower over fine, silt beaches. **White Spruce** predominate the moister areas of the upland regions.

- Basaltic columns may be viewed on the east side of Highway 97 just north of MacAlister. Known locally as the “Devils Palisades”, these cliffs provide convenient nesting sites for **Cliff Swallows**.
- Watch for **Black Bear**, an intelligent omnivore, seen frequently in this area. The bear’s diet consists largely of wild berries, herbs, greens, and ants and insects found in rotting stumps. Spawning fish, moose and deer make up the rest of its diet.
- While enjoying a stroll along Quesnel’s Riverfront Trail, listen for the raucous cries of **Ring-billed Gulls**.



Bowron Slough (B.C. Parks)



Ring-billed Gulls (Jim Young)

Milbert's Tortoiseshell
(Anna Roberts ©)



Mallard Drake (B.C. Parks)

Viewing Chart

Viewing Season

Site Name	Species Highlights	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1 Bridge Lake	Herring Gull, Black Swift				●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
2 Bridge Creek	Spawning Kokanee									●	●		
3 Sheridan Lake	Spawning Rainbow Trout					●	●						
4 100 Mile House Demonstration Forest ¹	Moose, Mule Deer, Black Bear (a)	●	●	●	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	●	●
5 100 Mile Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary	Beaver, Muskrat, Tundra Swan (a)				● _a	● _a	●	●	●	● _a	● _a		
6 Canim Lake	Bald Eagle, Bobolink (a), American Bittern (a)	●	●	●	●	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	●	●	●
7 108 Mile & Area	Mule Deer, Yellow-bellied Marmot (a)	●	●	●	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	●	●	●	●
8 Lac La Hache & Area ²	Bald Eagle, Pine Marten, Red Crossbill, Sandhill Crane (a), Pileated Woodpecker (a)	●	●	●	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	●	●
9 San Jose River	Muskrat, Beaver			●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
10 Williams Lake Valley	Mule Deer, Osprey, Goshawk, Belted Kingfisher	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
11 Scout Island Nature Centre (Williams Lake)	Red Fox (dens), Muskrat (a), Beaver (a), Otter (a), Milbert's Tortoiseshell Butterfly (a), Great Blue Heron (a)	●	●	●	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	●	●	●
12 Alkali Lake – Reidemann Wildlife Sanctuary	American White Pelican, Long-billed Curlew (a), Tundra Swan (b)				● _{ab}	● _{ab}	● _a	●	●	●	● _b		
13 Cariboo Educational Woodlot (Bull Mountain) ³	Moose, Mule Deer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
14 Sheridan Creek (McLeese Lake)	Spawning Kokanee									●	●		
15 Horsefly River	Spawning Sockeye Salmon								●	●			
16 Horsefly Lake/Quesnel Lake & Area	Moose, Mule Deer, Mink, Black Bear (a)	●	●	●	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	●	●
17 Quesnel River (Likely)	Spawning Chinook Salmon									●	●		
18 Likely/Cariboo River & Lake/Barkerville	Moose, Mule Deer, Black Bear (a)	●	●	●	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _a	●	●
19 Quesnel/Wells	Moose, Migrating Woodland Caribou (a), Beaver (b)	●	●	●	● _{ab}	● _{ab}	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _{ab}	● _{ab}	●	●
20 Bowron Lake Chain & Area	Moose, Black & Grizzly Bear (a), Hoary Marmot (a), Woodland Caribou (b)	●	●	●	● _{ab}	● _{ab}	● _a	● _a	● _a	● _{ab}	● _{ab}	●	●
21 10 Mile Lake ⁴	Beaver (lodge/dams/slides)				●	●	●	●	●	●			
22 Quesnel Riverfront Trail	Ring-billed Gulls				●	●	●	●	●	●			

¹ 100 Mile House Demonstration Forest, turn south off Highway 97 just before 99 Mile Hill railway overpass. 1 km west of Highway 97. Trail 5+ km

² Lac La Hache Provincial Park – Wagon Road Interpretive Trail, at campsite. Trail 2 km

³ Cariboo Educational Woodlot, 19 km north of Williams Lake, turn west off Highway 97 onto Bull Mountain Road. Two trails – Minton Creek Walk (1.3 km), and Silviculture trail (3.6 km).

⁴ 10 Mile Lake Provincial Park, 11 km north of Quesnel, turn west off Highway 97, Beaver Pond Trail, 1.5 km.



American White Pelicans at Alkali Lake
(M. Evans)



Immature Blue Grouse
(M. Evans ©)

Mule Deer
(David F. Fraser/Arenaria ©)



Indian Paintbrush
(M. Evans)

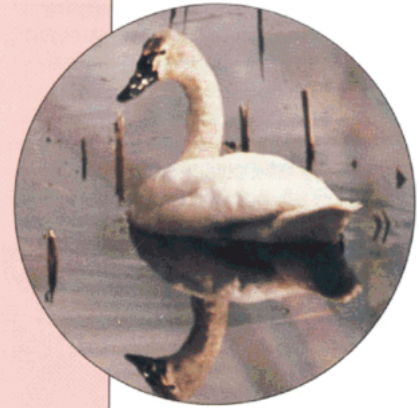


Porcupine
(Julie Steciw)

insert: Beaver
(B.C. Parks)



Beaver Lodge, 10 Mile Lake
(M. Evans)



Tundra Swan
(Julie Steciw)

Yellow-bellied Marmot (Julie Steciw)

