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“British Columbia is the most ecologically diverse province in Canada, therefore it is not surprising that more bird species occur and breed here than in any other province in Canada.”

Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies, Special Publication Number 3 (2007). The Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies is a registered, non-profit society with a mandate to maintain a permanent repository for all information on British Columbia’s wildlife species. For more information, please visit <http://www.wildlifebc.org/>.

Birdwatching in the Columbia Valley



Who, me?

If you have a passion for birds, a love of nature, and a yearning to experience untamed places – then YES, our birding trips are definitely for you!

The Columbia Valley south of Golden offers a diverse range of nesting habitats, from wetlands and deciduous woodlands at the valley bottom (800 m above sea level) to alpine meadows and rocky peaks over 2,400 m above sea level. This area supports 270 species of birds – 54% of all the species recorded in British Columbia.

Sunrise Birding Tours and its knowledgeable staff will guide you to selected areas where birding is at its best. A focal point of our birding trips is the dynamic floodplain of the Columbia River. Each spring thousands of migrating waterbirds and songbirds are attracted to the mosaic of marshes, ponds and flooded meadows that are created by the overflowing waters of the Columbia River.

From hummingbirds to harriers, waders to wrens, we will do our best to show you as many species as possible – all without getting your feet wet!

During the peak of the nesting season (late May to early July), it is possible to see 100 species in a single day, provided the weather cooperates. Please click on the Columbia Valley Bird Checklist for species that you are most likely to see on our tours.



Our Birdwatching Tours

Our full-day birdwatching trips in the scenic Columbia Valley are designed primarily for dedicated birding enthusiasts who devote considerable time and energy to observing birds in their natural habitats. Novice birders are also welcome!

International visitors to Canada, who are interested in first-time sightings of British Columbia's birds, are especially welcome.

Traveling in the comfort of our modern van, you will visit a variety of forests, wetlands and farmlands, where birding is at its very best.

During the 8-hour day, there are many opportunities to stretch your legs, relax, and take in the natural beauty of the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Wetlands – an internationally renowned stopover for swans, geese, ducks and a host of other migratory birds.

The activity level of our birding tours is rated “Easy”. All walks from the vehicle are on dry, level ground with solid footing.



Our birding trips include:

- Personalized service and the benefits of small groups (maximum, 12 guests);
- A qualified Wildlife Biologist as your guide;
- Panoramic views of the Rocky and Purcell mountain ranges, and the Columbia Wetlands;
- Birding in one of BC's best locations; 100 species in a single day is possible!
- A packed lunch and cold drink;
- All transportation from the Watershed, located on the Columbia River at the Golden Airport.

Sunrise Birding Tours will provide a spotting scope, reference field guides and local expertise to help with bird identification and finding those elusive species. For each of our guests, at the end of the day, you will receive a bird checklist of the day's sightings – a lasting reminder of your trip to the Columbia Valley with Sunrise Birding Tours.

What should you bring? A pair of binoculars is a must! Also, bring your camera, a pair of comfortable walking shoes, a sunhat and sunscreen, and a rain jacket – just in case! Early mornings in the Columbia Valley can be chilly, so a sweater or fleece top is also recommended.



Customized Birdwatching Tours

We operate our regular birding tours during the spring migration and summer nesting seasons (early May to mid-July). At these times of year, birds are most conspicuous in their full breeding colours and singing activity is at its peak. These seasons offer the best birding experiences for visitors to the Columbia Valley.

We also offer customized birdwatching trips earlier in the spring. The northward migration of Tundra Swans in April is an impressive sight, and is worthy of a special trip to the Columbia Wetlands. Send us an email or give us a call for custom rates and other details – we will do our best to accommodate your group's particular interests.



Rates (in Canadian dollars)

➤ \$179.95 per person (+5% GST)**

** Due to the length of our full-day trips, we recommend a minimum age of 18 years for all participants.

Departure Days & Times

Our full-day birding trips run on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from May 1st to July 20th.

Our tours depart at 8:00 AM Mountain Daylight Time from the Watershed, located on the Columbia River at the Golden Airport (please click on Map for directions). Please arrive at the Watershed at least 15 minutes prior to the departure time.



Sunrise in the Columbia Valley... a birdwatcher's paradise.

Contact Us

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