

Bird Week Events and Stories from Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee

Information contributed by Dan Straker, Vancouver Bird Week Coordinator

Vancouver Bird Week started in a smaller way in 2011 to celebrate International Migratory birds' day. It's an opportunity to recognize the importance of birds and it coincided with mass migration.

In 2013 there was a desire to have a week of events in Vancouver to celebrate birds. An important part of the growth of Bird Week is the partnerships with many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and Environmental Education groups -- <http://www.vancouverbirdweek.ca/partners>. The most key partnerships are Nature Vancouver, Bird Studies Canada, Tourism Vancouver, City of Van / Van Park Board, Stanley Park Ecology Society, and Pacific Wildlife Foundation - each also participate closely on the Advisory Committee and the individual relationships and energy and enthusiasm of each of their reps that make Bird Week what it is. We were really excited to add HUB, Ecomarine, Still Moon Arts, and Wild Research this year.

This year's Vancouver Bird Week invitation reads:

From bird nerd to bird curious, from wise old owl to adventurous tot, there is an event for everyone during Bird Week: May 6-13, 2017. Bird Week is a week-long series of events to celebrate Vancouver's birds. It was inspired by World Migratory Bird Day, a United Nations-sponsored initiative that recognizes the importance of birds as key indicators of our environment's health. During Bird Week, there will be bird-related workshops, walks, talks, exhibitions, and lectures across Vancouver. Most events are free. (Bird week website, <http://www.vancouverbirdweek.ca/about/>)



The growth of bird week was the beginning of the bird advisory committee and the Bird Strategy for the City of Vancouver. <http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/vancouver-bird-strategy.aspx>



Some of the events during this year's Bird Week include:

Biking with birds ride -- join Bird Studies Canada's Catherine Jardine and members from the HUB Cycling Delta Committee for a guided bike tour through the beautiful fields of Westham Island, an agricultural area specially managed to promote wildlife habitat for migratory and overwintering birds, to the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Bird Week

is run by members of the City of Vancouver's ad hoc Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee made up of individuals and community groups with an interest in birds.

Rise of the Hipster Birdwatcher – aimed at non-birders – that is people who like to get outdoors, enjoy nature but don't consider themselves birders (yet)

Bird Walks – informal walks through forests where a birder guides the group stopping to listen and identify bird sound, see birds, talk about why that bird is there and storytelling about birds.

Bird Workshops at the Roundhouse community centre

Dan Straker, Vancouver Bird Week Coordinator says the interesting thing about birds is they connect locally and globally, they have international connections in their migrations. Birders are everywhere – you may be surprised how many birders there are in your community. Birding is the number one hobby in the United States. Growing momentum and awareness of birds – Vancouver has also created a City Bird Contest – where participants can vote on their favorite birds and elect one bird to be the permanent Vancouver City bird.



BARN OWL

PEREGRINE FALCON

BARN SWALLOW

WESTERN GREBE

Links for more information about Vancouver Bird Week:

<http://www.vancouverbirdweek.ca/>

<http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/bird-week.aspx>