

BRITISH COLUMBIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

www.birdatlas.bc.ca

Citizens engaged in conservation of British Columbia's birds

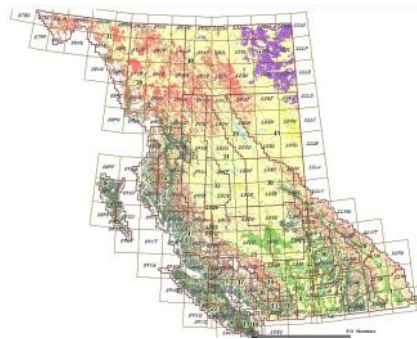


Quick Facts

- ◆ The most comprehensive online information source available to everyone on the distribution and abundance of breeding birds in British Columbia;
- ◆ One of the largest volunteer partnerships in British Columbia between government, business, and non-government organizations;
- ◆ Scientifically rigorous managed by renowned scientists and biologists;
- ◆ Identifies species of concern, habitats of importance, and builds our understanding of ecosystem health and climate change;
- ◆ A new foundation for planners and policy makers, and a new framework for tracking long-term changes to our landscapes;
- ◆ Involves British Columbians from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds;
- ◆ An outstanding online learning resource with interactive maps displaying data in real time;
- ◆ Encourages people to be physically active and enjoy nature in British Columbia.

What is the Atlas?

The British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas is the province's most extensive and important bird monitoring project and one of the largest volunteer-based initiatives in British Columbia. Between 2008 and 2012 more than 1 million bird records will be submitted by thousands of citizen scientists from every part of the province. The data will appear online in real time complete with mapping and graphing tools. A hard-copy atlas will be written and appear in bookstores in 2014.



The province is divided into 41 regions to manage coverage of the 10,000 10-km squares. Volunteers survey and count birds in their assigned square. Some volunteers single-handedly cover more than 20 squares during the course of the five breeding seasons.



The contributions of volunteers make the Atlas one of the most cost-efficient resources available to advance our scientific knowledge of broad ecosystems.

Why Care?

Conserving the environment has become a social imperative and prudent decisions require solid information. The Atlas project provides individuals an opportunity to contribute to a collective foundation on which to base conservation decisions.

Who Uses the Atlas?

- Policy makers, conservation planners;
- Environmental organizations and consultants;
- Ecotour companies;
- Resource-based companies;
- Universities and schools;
- Wildlife managers;
- Birdwatchers and the general public.

Wild birds are part of natural ecosystems that supply clean air, water and resources to our communities and support our general well-being. The Atlas is an invaluable resource allowing us to better understand and protect them.