



Left: Three Purple Finches resting on an arbutus.



Above: Chipping Sparrow, Purple Finch photos Izzy Harrington

Top right: The first American Robin's egg photo Sue Wheeler



**Paintbrush** splashing out on the cliffs and ridges above Boat Cove. Different coloured showy bracts cover thin tubes or flowers of this spring plant which attract hummingbirds and other insects. *photo Gordon Scott*

**Salmonberries:** You can time the arrival of the migrating Rufous Hummingbird by the first blossoming of these delicious wild plants. Aboriginal people ate the berries and sproats, peeled, eaten raw or steamed. All groups ate the sproats with salmon; some “owned” patches, giving picking rights over after a community feast. Learn more.

**Canada Goose nest,** possibly left during a storm atop a large rock near the sea. Canada Geese mate for life and nest on the ground or in a higher location, chosen by the female. She adds down feathers, then some body feathers after the second egg is laid. Their incubation period is 25-28 days. The abundance of lawns, golf courses, and city parks offer Canada Geese reliable habitat, so in some areas the birds stay all year round, instead of migrating like they used to do. (source e-bird, *photos Izzy Harrington*)

# Resources, Events, News

“Today I have identified a Black-headed Grosbeak, a very attractive orange bird with black head and interesting white bars on its black wings. Its quite shy.” (photo James Swartz)

**Pacific White-sided Dolphins:** “I watched three Pacific white-sided dolphins swimming around the western facing bay near our house a few days ago. It looked like they were fishing for about half an hour.” (Grant Pearce)

The Pacific White-sided Dolphin is identified by the unusually large, curved dorsal fin. They can swim up to 55 km/hr, and are often seen near the bows of boats. They feed on large schools of fish, preferring anchovies, herring, smelt, capelin, and mackerel. Sadly, they are also sometimes caught in gill nets and purse seiners.



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**Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference - digitally:** From the Georgia Strait Alliance: “Our team participated in the first ever virtual Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference last week, including chairing and moderating sessions. If how scientists, academics, organizations and governments in WA and BC are taking a transboundary approach to addressing threats and opportunities in the Salish Sea is of interest to you, I encourage you to check out the Conference sessions, now available digitally to all.” <https://ssec.confex.com/ssec/2020/meetingapp.cgi>

**Rockfish:** Did you know that 25 species of rockfish call the Salish Sea home? And, a few of them live over 100 years! Check out these pics through the Sea Doc Society. <https://www.seadocsociety.org/salish-sea-biggest-oldest/>

**Bird Count — from the Cornell Lab:** “On 9 May, birding’s biggest day is back! Global Big Day is an annual celebration of the birds around you, and this year is no different. While not everyone may be able to leave home to bird this year, Global Big Day is still an opportunity to check in with the birds in and around your home.” *Read more* <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-9-may-2020>

**Bird Blitz with Birds Canada:** “This May, we’re inviting kids to birdwatch with their families at home and submit bird observations to Birds Canada. The results help scientists study bird populations! Discover how to participate. Read the Spring issue of BirdWatch Canada magazine We have made the Spring issue of our quarterly members’ magazine available to everyone online, so that more people can enjoy birds from the safety of their home. Read it here!” <https://www.birdscanada.org/news-reports/birdwatch-canada/>

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## News about protecting nature

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There’s a development planned in Qualicum that could take out an important wetland. Check out the Qualicum Nature Preservation Society’s website, ([qualicumconservation.ca/](http://qualicumconservation.ca/)) read about it here, and sign their petition. <https://thenarwhal.ca/were-going-to-have-no-protected-land-at-all-locals-fight-wetland-development-on-vancouver-island/>

West Coast Environmental Law: Staff Lawyer Linda Nowlan explains why it’s time to re-evaluate our relationship with nature, not simply as a resource for humans to own and exploit but as a complex system with rights of its own. Read about the advances made here: [https://www.wcel.org/blog/natures-rights-come-age-hope-50th-anniversary-earth-day?utm\\_source=LEB](https://www.wcel.org/blog/natures-rights-come-age-hope-50th-anniversary-earth-day?utm_source=LEB)

For Our Grandchildren: A collection of links to stories from around the world that reflect the progress that is being made in concrete actions to address the climate crisis. Read them here <https://fourgrandchildren.ca/good-news-stories/>