Signage at British Columbia’s Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas

Examples of Signs:

Active Pass IBA
Boundary Bay IBA
Chehalis River Estuary IBA
Chopaka Customs IBA
Englefield Bay Islands IBA
English Bay-Burrard Inlet IBA
Fraser Lake IBA
K’omoks IBA
Kilpoola Lake IBA
Laskeek Bay IBA
Little Qualicum Estuary to Nanoose Bay IBA
Mitlenatch Island IBA
Nootka Island banks IBA
Osoyoos Oxbows IBA
Sidney Channel IBA
Somenos Marsh IBA
Squamish River Area IBA
Strathcona Provincial Park IBA
Stuart, Tachie and Middle Rivers IBA
Summallo River-Skagit Valley IBA
Vaseux Lake Area IBA
White Lake Area IBA

Compiled 2012- 2017
Active Pass IBA, Galiano and Mayne Islands

IBA sign installed at Bellhouse Provincial Park (2012)
Photo: Mike Hoebel

Caretaker Michael Dunn with Peter Askin in front of IBA sign on Galiano Island (2012)
Photo: M. Dunn

IBA sign installed at Gulf Islands National Park Reserve on Mayne Island (2012)
Photo: Michael Dunn
Boundary Bay IBA, Lower Mainland

Boundary Bay IBA sign (2012)

Chehalis River Estuary IBA, Mission

Caretaker Kathy Stewart holds sign at Chehalis Estuary IBA (2012)
Photo: Krista Englund
Chopaka Customs IBA, Osoyoos

Caretaker Lee McFadyen at Chopaka Customs IBA (2012)
Photo: Patrick Bouillet

Caretakers Lee McFadyen and Marilyn Bergen with Chopaka Customs IBA sign installed at Park boundary (2016)

Englefield Bay Islands IBA, Haida Gwaii

Jordan Brown and David Bradley with IBA sign (2017)
English Bay-Burrard Inlet IBA, Greater Vancouver

English Bay-Burrard Inlet
Important Bird Area

The Important Bird Areas program of BirdLife International is a global network of sites that support significant populations of birds.

The black oystercatcher is a bird only found along the west coast of North America where it nestles its young on small rocky islands. In Stanley Park, the oystercatcher nests on the mudflats and shorelines.

Burand Inlet and English Bay support large numbers of Burand's godwitz in falls, winter, and spring. Bonded pairs spend the winter feeding on blue mussels and defending territories along the shoreline before returning to BC in the summer to breed.

IBA sign at second beach in Stanley Park (2012)
Photo: Robyn Worcester

IBA sign at Jericho Beach (2012)
Photo: Jamie Creery

(Former) Caretaker
Robyn Worcester
holding IBA sign (2012)

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Fraser Lake IBA, Fraser Lake

Caretaker Wayne Ray with Fraser Lake IBA sign
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)

K’omoks IBA, Comox Valley

Caretaker Art Martell with K’omoks IBA sign installed at Little River Ferry terminal (2016)
Photo: Krista Kaptein
K'omoks IBA information on Interpretive Sign installed by Project Watershed at Marine Drive, Royston
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2017)
Kilpoola Lake IBA, Osoyoos

IBA Interpretive sign at Blue Lake (2012)
Photo: Eddie Tennisko

Laskeek Bay IBA, Haida Gwaii

Laskeek Bay IBA sign on East Limestone Island (2016)
Little Qualicum Estuary to Nanoose Bay IBA, Nanoose Bay

IBA sign for Little Qualicum Estuary to Nanoose Bay IBA (2012)
Photo: Hans Laue

IBA sign installed at Surfside Drive
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2017)

IBA sign installed at Qualicum Beach viewing stand
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2017)
Mitlenatch Island IBA, Strait of Georgia

(Former) Caretaker Peggy Sowden with IBA sign on Mitlenatch Island (2012)

IBA sign on Mitlenatch Island
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)

Nootka Island Banks IBA, Vancouver Island

Caretaker Susan Holvenstot with IBA sign
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)
Osoyoos Oxbows IBA, Penticton

Osoyoos Oxbows IBA sign kiosk at Road 22
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)

Osoyoos Oxbows IBA sign installed at entrance to sign kiosk
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2017)
Sidney Channel IBA, Sidney

Lochside Haven on the Southern Salish Sea

 Sidney Channel was designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) because it supports significant populations of birds. In summer, the channel and lagoon on Sidney Island support numerous murrelets, aukslets, cormorants, gulls and shorebirds. Seastacks live here during the winter; and in spring they are joined by migrating grebes, loons, brants, and shorebirds.

Often detected by their ringing calls, Black Oystercatchers nest on small skerries in Sidney Channel. Oystercatchers eat mainly limpets, which they chisel from the rocks with their brightly coloured bills.

The Buffelhead, which graces the Town of Sidney coat of arms, holds a world record in punctuality. Barries in Sidney Channel form the passage within a few days of All Buffelhead's Day (October 12) each year.

What’s an Important Bird Area

Studied as "IBAS in Action around the重要 Bird Areas Program identifies vulnerable habitats and protects global networks of areas for the conservation of threatened bird, turtle, shorebird, and wader populations. The IBA moule at Lochside Haven, Mitchell’s Bird Sanctuary and Fishermen’s Bird Sanctuary, is a rich biodiversity and cultural heritage site.

Taking Care of IBAs

Help BirdLife International partners Nature Canada (BC Nature in British Columbia) and Bird Studies Canada, volunteer caretakers and partners conserve our IBAs. Please pick up all beach garbage and dispose of paint, chemicals and oil properly. Disturbance from humans, boats and pets can harm shorebirds and seabirds - please keep your distance.

IBA interpretive sign overlooking Sidney Channel, Town of Sidney (2012)
Photo: Rob Hall
Somenos Marsh IBA, Duncan

Caretaker Chris Dale with IBA sign installed at Squamish Estuary Chelem Trail
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2017)

Squamish River Area IBA, Squamish

IBA sign installed at Open Air Classroom boardwalk
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2017)
Strathcona Provincial Park IBA sign installed at Buttle Lake campground
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2017)

IBA sign installed at Park boundary at Wood Mountain
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)
Stuart, Tachie & Middle Rivers IBA,
Fort St. James

Caretaker Joanne Vinnedge and Andrew Wheatley (2012)
Photo: Lynda Currie

Caretaker Joanne Vinnedge at IBA sign kiosk
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)
Summallo River-Skagit Valley IBA, Hope

Caretaker Scott Denkers with IBA sign installed at entrance to Skagit Valley Provincial Park (2016)

Caretaker Scott Denkers with IBA sign installed at Skagit River Trail Summallo Grove trailhead (2016)
Caretaker Eva Durance at IBA sign kiosk at Vaseux Lake IBA
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)

IBA interpretive sign at Vaseux Lake IBA
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)
White Lake IBA, Okanagan Falls

Caretaker Doreen Olson at White Lake IBA (2012)
Photo: Krista Englund

White Lake IBA Kiosk
Photo: Krista Kaptein (2016)
White Lake
Important Bird Area

White Lake is one of 11,900 sites that have been designated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) worldwide.

Conservation initiatives in the White Lake IBA

The Nature Trust of British Columbia works in partnership with the local community to protect and conserve bird habitat. The Nature Trust's Clifton Ranch is committed to protecting the biodiversity and habitat of White Lake. The White Lake Bird Sanctuary, located on the ranch, is an example of the cooperative approach to bird conservation in the region. The sanctuary includes a network of wetlands and grasslands that provide critical habitat for a variety of bird species.

Report all rare bird sightings to 604-946-4700

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Birds of White Lake
Important Bird Area

The nature of grasslands in the South Okanagan is very special but you may need to stand and enjoy the view for a while before you see any wildlife. Birds and animals that live here are often well camouflaged, secretive, and most active at dawn and dusk.

Listen to the songbirds!
Many grassland birds can be detected by their distinctive songs. The Vesper Sparrow, for example, sings a simple yet beautiful song that is often heard in the early morning.

Look up!
For overhead, flocks of Sandhill Cranes migrate over the White Lake basin, heading north in April and south in September. It is possible to see several thousand in a day. The small flocks you may see hovering over the grasslands are an American Kestrel, using its amazing eyesight to spot voles, grasshoppers and other prey. Western Meadowlarks are also common here, seen flying low over the ground, hosting their young in a V and stooping gently from side to side.

Smell the sage!
Grasslands are very fragrant places, thanks to sagebrush, rabbitbrush and stands of ponderosa pine. Insects attracted to the pines are eaten by birds like the Pygmy Nuthatch and Mountain Chickadee which poke around on the flaky bark. The pines are also important habitat for Western Scrub-Jay and other cavity nesters.

Help save owls!
Owls are often seen at dawn, dusk or at the dark of night. They patrol the grasslands hunting for prey. Snowshoe hares are abundant in the White lake area, and snowshoe hares and snowshoe hares are attracted simultaneously, for instance, due to the cold. To avoid being hit by what you now see, you can see birds perched on top of trees, carefully watch other birds, and stay away from the owls.

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