

## **Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey – Spring 2019**

This year, Wildsight Golden is wrapping up the Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey (CWWS). This project will be in its fifth and final year and we hope you can join us to participate in the valuable initiative! Since 2015, the CWWS has engaged more than 170 volunteering citizens in documenting more than 322,000 birds in the Columbia Wetlands.

**Bird surveys during the spring migration will be occurring in the Columbia Wetlands from 8am-11am on each of the three following dates:**

- **Wednesday, April 3rd**
- **Wednesday, April 10th**
- **Tuesday, April 16th**

We are currently seeking citizen-scientists to survey for birds near Parson, Spillimacheen, Brisco, Radium, Wilmer, Windermere, Invermere and Columbia Lake. A major goal of the CWWS is to collect baseline data necessary for achieving Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) status for the Columbia Wetlands; data you collect will be used to nominate the Columbia Wetlands into the IBA program! We are also determining where the most significant staging and feeding areas are in the Columbia Wetlands for migratory waterbird species (including several species-at-risk).

A limited number of high quality optical gear sets can be lent to those in need. Free bird ID training is available to all participants and will occur as follows:

**In-class training sessions with emphasis on bird identification (tentative dates):**

- Golden – Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm. Location: Lion's Den at 819 Park Drive. Access is at the back of the Golden Public Library basement at the Lion's Den.
- Invermere – Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm. Location: 646 4th Street, Invermere Public Library (back mezzanine).

**Building on bird identification skills in the field (weather permitting):**

- Wilmer - Saturday, March 30th, 9am-10:30am
- Golden – Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2-3:30pm

If you are interested in participating in the CWWS or have questions, please email [racheldarvill@gmail.com](mailto:racheldarvill@gmail.com) or call the Wildsight Golden office at 250-344-5530. You can also visit: <http://wildsight.ca/branches/golden/cwss/>