



NEWS RELEASE:

OSCA Annual Bird Migration open house offers an up-close look at the diversity of migratory birds in the Okanagan.

PENTICTON, BC, September 22, 2024 – Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA) is set to present its annual Bird Migration Day open house on Sunday September 22nd from 9 am to noon – rain or shine. This year, the event will be taking place at the Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory which is located along highway 97 north of the parking lot to the bird blind. Please note that this event is NOT at the bird blind/boardwalk. The event offers visitors a chance to view and identify some migratory birds at Vaseux Lake with the help of interpreters and members of the South Okanagan Naturalists Club. Visitors will also get a chance to go on a guided nature walk with interpreters.

The Bird Migration Day focuses on three themes:

- bird adaptation to migration,
- bird conservation issues and threats,
- birds you can see on migration in September.

In addition to the Bird Migration Day Open House, OSCA also offers this fall ECO-studies school programs to regional schools. This program and the associated regional school programs are funded in large part through Naturehood Program of Nature Canada, and so, are offered free of charge to the public in this open house format. Cash donations are gratefully accepted on site to support the Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory.

The Okanagan is a bird watching hot spot in Canada and an important summer nesting area for many species. Birds that have bred in the boreal forest and northern parts of BC also funnel through the Okanagan Valley on their way south to the USA, Central and South America, using Vaseux Lake area as a migration stopover to refuel on insects or seeds.

OSCA's Bird Migration Day open house takes place **Sunday September 22nd, from 9 am to noon** at the **Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory (VLBO)**, located 4 km south of Okanagan Falls just north of Vaseux Lake along highway 97 north of the migratory bird center parking lot. **Please see the attached map.** There is a pullout on the west side of the highway north of VLBO with ample parking. From there, it is a short walk along the highway to the bird banding station. If you are driving from the south, please continue driving north towards Okanagan Falls and turn off (right) at Weyerhauser road. From there, you can make a safe turnaround and then drive south to the pullout where there parking is located. The bird blind is NOT wheelchair accessible. If you have mobility issues, there is very limited parking at the bird observatory along the highway, but please use extreme caution as there are no turn lanes. There is a portable toilet on site. Please note that no pets are permitted at the open house.

For more information contact ecostudies@osca.org.

