
Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance is pleased to offer three ECOstudies school programs this Fall.

**Bird Migration Program at Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory
Grades 3 and 4**

Program Overview

In 2024, this program will bring schools to Vaseux Lake, an important stopover for thousands of migrating birds! Through migration games, a nature walk to the bird blind, and a presentation about bird adaptations, students will explore bird migration and flight adaptations, conservation and threats. The Syilx story of the Yellow-breasted Chat highlights local first nations tradition and our collaboration with the Okanagan College biology department allows us to use a large number of physical wing, feather and bone samples from different native bird species. Students will be able to visually compare bird size and color and deduce flight adaptations, a key part of the year 3/4 curriculum. The bird migration experience allows for physical learning, in which students hunt for environmental and physical elements birds need for their migrations, as well as games which allows students to 'experience' the many challenges birds face.

*Please note that Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory is not operating in 2023-24, so this year's bird migration field program will take place a little further south at the Vaseux Lake Wildlife Centre at the north end of the lake at the parking lot where the boardwalk and bird blind are accessed.

Only 9 sessions available, so please book early.

Dates: September 09 – 27

Start time: Mornings only with students arriving at site by 9:30 am

Maximum group size: 36 students

Program length: 2 hours

Transportation: bus transportation is provided free of charge. Buses will depart at start of school day and will return to schools before lunch.

Cost: \$95 per class (\$850 value) payable by cheque to OSCA.

BEAR AWARE! We are in bear country! Please do not bring backpacks to the sites. A small snack in pocket is fine but there are no bear-proof garbage bins on site, so all garbage trekked in, needs to be trekked out with the students.

Please also be TICK AWARE and POISON IVY AWARE! Wear long pants and hats and have students and parents check for ticks at home following the fieldtrip.

Celebrate Our Salmon Fieldtrip to Oliver or Penticton River Channel Grades K to 4

Celebrate the return home of sockeye salmon after a 6000 kilometre journey to the ocean and back. The program explores the sockeye salmon life cycle and challenges as fish travel through different habitats, as well as efforts to restore salmon spawning habitat in Oliver. The 1.5 hour program is tied to the new science curriculum. Schools have the choice of visiting the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative site in the Osoyoos Oxbows or the fish ladder at the north end of the Penticton channel.

Only 8 sessions available, so please book early.

Field trip locations (choose one)

October 1 to 4

Oliver Okanagan River Restoration Site: 5 minutes north of Oliver, parking at Pacific Silica next to the site.

October 7,8,9 & 17,18

Okanagan River Channel, Penticton: The meeting place is Loco Landing Parking lot, 75 Riverside Drive. From there you will take a short walk to the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative spawning beds on the channel just below Okanagan Lake.

Start time: Schools have the option of a 9:30am session or slightly later session beginning at 11:30 or 12:00pm.

Maximum group size: 36 students.

Program length: 1.5 hours

Transportation: schools must provide their own transportation

Cost: \$95 per class (\$600 value) payable by cheque to OSCA

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Going Batty in-class presentation
Grades K to 9

Learn about the anatomy, behaviour, and habitat needs of this amazing flying mammal and discover some of the fourteen species of bats that call the Okanagan home. Where do bats sleep, where do mother bats raise their young, and how can we help bats? This hour-long interactive presentation uses props, videos, and sound clips to bring the world of bats to life.

Dates: October 7 to November 8

Start time: Schools have the option of a morning session or afternoon session

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$95 + travel costs as follows:

Penticton/Okanagan Falls/Summerland/Naramata/Kaleden no additional travel =

Program Total \$95

Osoyoos and Kelowna + \$110 for travel = Program Total \$205

Peachland and Oliver + \$65 for travel = Program Total \$160

Keremeos and Cawston + \$85 for travel = Program Total \$180

All programs are payable to OSCA by cheque via mail at:

OSCA

113 - 437 Martin Street, Box 349

Penticton BC V2A 5L1

More information and teacher guides

You can find program descriptions and teacher guides on the OSCA website

[here](#).

To book and for more information contact Rachel Bland at ecostudies@osca.org