

Species Spotlight

Naturally News

For Members Making a Difference



White-Headed Woodpecker

Vital Signs

Common name: White-Headed Woodpecker

Latin name: *Picoides albolarvatus*

Status: Endangered

- In Canada, the White-headed Woodpecker is found only in British Columbia where it primarily resides in the southern Okanagan Valley.
- Unlike other woodpeckers, the White-headed Woodpecker subsists on vegetable matter, with about 50 per cent of its diet consisting of ponderosa pine seeds.
- There are fewer than 100 of the Endangered birds nesting in southeastern BC.
- The greatest threat to the White-headed Woodpecker in BC is the ongoing loss of old ponderosa pine due to forest harvesting and urbanization.



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Endangered Species Need You!

You can help endangered species every day of the year for as little as \$10 a month. To learn more visit naturecanada.ca/how_support_donor_give_monthly.asp

Membership Reminder

If you haven't had a chance to renew your Nature Canada membership for 2011, please send your gift today. You can choose to renew at the individual rate of \$50 or bring together the members of your family with a gift of \$75 to protect our country's wonderful natural heritage. Please visit supporter.naturecanada.ca/membership



Can you guess what this is?
Submit your answer at naturecanada.ca/mystery.asp



Nature Canada protects and conserves wildlife and habitats in Canada by engaging people and advocating on behalf of nature. With strategies based on sound science and passion for nature, Nature Canada effects change on issues of national significance, including bird conservation, wilderness protection, species at risk and national parks.

Fast Facts:

Forests cover half the Canadian landscape, about 400 million hectares.

Worldwide, the livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests.

Forests are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity.



To keep up-to-date with the many ways Nature Canada and its members will be celebrating the International Year of Forests, check out our blog: naturecanadablog.blogspot.com or follow us on Twitter or Facebook.

Protecting the Lungs of the Earth:

Nature Canada celebrates the U.N. International Year of Forests

On February 2, the United Nations declared 2011 the International Year of Forests. Nature Canada and its supporters have a special role to play in this important initiative to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable forest management.

"Since Canada is home to 10% of the world's forests Canadians have a unique responsibility in the global effort to conserve and sustainably manage forests," says Mara Kerry, Nature Canada's director of conservation.

Forests are essential to our quality of life. As the "lungs of the earth," forests purify the air we breathe and the water we drink. Forests also provide life-saving medicines, regulate flooding, and help people reduce their energy consumption by shading buildings and screening winds.

"The world's forests are essential to life on this planet, and home to the majority of the earth's biodiversity," explains Kerry. Wildlife depends on forests for survival and many species are at risk because their forest habitats are under threat.

Thanks to member support, Nature Canada is taking an active role in forest conservation efforts, particularly in Canada's Boreal forest, one of the largest intact forest and wetland ecosystems remaining on earth. With so much at stake, our goals have been set high. As part of the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework alliance, Nature Canada is participating in a historic effort to protect 50% of the boreal and support sustainable practices in local communities. Recent victories include the establishment of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve, permanently protecting 13,000 square kilometres of boreal forest habitat.

For more news and commentary about nature, the environment and our conservation efforts visit the Nature Canada blog at: naturecanadablog.blogspot.com

Important Bird Area Caretaker Network Expands Thanks to Member Support!



Favourite Nature Places

Some of our readers have emailed us to share their favourite places in Canadian nature, so we thought we'd pass them along. Here is the first we'd like to share with you.

Pelee Island – only accessible by ferry, this island is situated on Lake Erie, near Leamington, Ontario. Great for avid birdwatchers, wine enthusiasts and cyclists.

Submitted by:
Carolyn Miller, Barrie, ON

Please email
aludlow@naturecanada.ca
to share your favourite place.

Annual General Meeting

June 22, 2011
12 pm - 2pm at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba

Nature Canada is proud to welcome Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador to the Important Bird Area (IBA) Caretaker Network. They join British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Nova Scotia in this nationwide initiative to recruit volunteers to watch over and protect IBAs in their communities.

Caretakers, local volunteers who are matched to one or more IBAs, are essential to protecting vital bird habitats. As the eyes and ears of IBAs on the ground, Caretakers watch for threats to ecological integrity and help inspire local conservation efforts.

If you would like to play a hands-on role in protecting birds and biodiversity in your area, consider volunteering as an IBA Caretaker. For more information, contact Ted Cheskey at tcheskey@naturecanada.ca or 613-562-3447.

Important Bird Areas are:

- Places of international significance for the conservation of birds and biodiversity.
- An important tool for identifying conservation priorities and fostering greater success in the conservation of bird populations.



Interesting Facts from Nature

✓ The world's tallest tree – a redwood in California – is 378 feet high!

✓ 7.3 million hectares of forest are lost annually to deforestation.

✓ The largest living thing on earth is a giant Sequoia found in western Sierra Nevada, California – it weighs more than 10 blue whales.

✓ Trees store carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming – but you need about 500 full-sized trees to absorb the carbon dioxide produced by a typical car driven 20,000 km/year!

✓ Bristlecone pines are the oldest living things on earth. Some are as old as 5,000 years – they were alive before the pyramids were built.

✓ The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

Protecting and Preserving Nature Forever

A stunning stretch of Ontario's Bruce Peninsula is now protected forever, thanks to the generosity of Hugo Germeraad, a nature advocate, naturalist and long-time member of Nature Canada who bequeathed a gift in his Will for the acquisition of a nature reserve.

including the Eastern Ribbon Snake and the Peregrine Falcon, will be protected. We are deeply grateful to the family for their thoughtful gift to nature."

Located some 40 kilometres north of Owen Sound, amidst one of the largest unprotected expanses of woodland on the Niagara Escarpment, this biodiversity hotspot includes Georgian Bay shoreline, wetlands, woodlands, uplands, escarpment and cliff face. A 4-kilometer section of the Bruce Trail crosses along the top of the property's terraced bluffs, and the views are breathtaking. Nature Canada has allocated the funds to our sister organization Ontario Nature to purchase a 233-hectare parcel – the largest of three spectacular adjoining properties that together constitute the Malcolm Bluff Shores Nature Reserve.

Hugo Germeraad is remembered by his family as a man "completely in harmony with nature." Local wild birds would eat right out of his hand. He provided nesting places for migratory song birds, birds of prey – and he was an avid birdwatcher, involved with many local naturalist clubs and a member of Nature Canada since the 1970s.

"This very generous bequest from Hugo Germeraad will help permanently secure habitat of exceptional importance for Canadian biodiversity, including part of a major flyway for migratory songbirds and raptors heading to and from their northern breeding grounds," says Nature Canada Executive Director Ian Davidson. "Species at risk who live on this land,

Hugo's legacy gift is an excellent example of how a planned gift, through an endowment or gift in your Will, allows you the opportunity to protect and preserve your favourite spot for birds and other wildlife, now and forever.

Photo by robertmccaw.com - Courtesy of Ontario Nature

To leave your own lasting legacy for nature, please contact Jodi Joy at jjoy@naturecanada.ca or 1-800-267-4088 ext 239.