

INSIDE

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Wild at the Point

By Peter Hamilton, Lifeforce Founder

Point Roberts provides homes for wildlife who live here year round or those who just take a rest from their trips to exotic places. From birds to marine and terrestrial animals the Point is welcoming in the late spring with the diverse sights and sounds of a variety of species.

In addition to the numerous questions “When are the orcas coming?” Lifeforce personnel is also asked about other wildlife. We provide the Natural History of Harbour Seals, Steller and California Sea Lions, Harbour Porpoises, Gray Whales, River Otters, Blacktail Deer, Coyotes and many more. We also educate folks about the winged-creatures such as Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Red-breasted Mergansers, Black Oystercatchers, Common Goldeneye, Harlequin and Mallard ducks, Common Loons, Brant and Canada Geese and the clever Killdeer who feigns a broken wing to lead people away from their four black-spotted eggs.

Best Places to View Wildlife

Point Roberts Marina

On May 10, a Lifeforce member spotted the first eagle gosling in the nest across from the marina building. The young will fledge by late July.

A walk around the marina basin and the Marina Trail (partially opened on the west side) could bring views of Common Loons, Surf Scooters, Harlequin and Mallard ducks, Barn Swallows and a variety of birds in the marsh. Harbour Seals may also be seen.

Lighthouse Marine Park

In addition to the popular orcas, numerous Harbour Porpoises have been very active this year. Some are lunging after fish and showing a lot of their sleek bodies. If you see two dorsal surfacing side-by-sides it is probably a mom and her baby.

Boaters are advised that they must not drive through the groups. Harbour porpoise will avoid boats and they will not ride the wake of boats like the Dall’s Porpoise and Pacific White-sided Dolphins who are seen in other locations. People can watch these porpoises from the beach and if they must go out in their boat then they should shut down and float with the tides/currents.

The songbirds found in the trees and bushes create a symphony of nature’s songs.

Both the male and female Black Oyster Catchers have the same plumage while many other species have sex/breeding differences.

Boundary Bay

The ducks in Point Roberts with distinct rear black and white markings are male American Wigeons. They have brownish sides, grey head, white forehead and green behind the eye. The Eurasian Wigeons may be in the same flock. These males have grey sides, reddish head and yellowish forehead. American flocks winters to Central America while Eurasian flocks winters to tropics.

Gray Whales can also be seen in the spring and fall on their migration route between the Bering Sea and Mexico.

How to Share Habitats

Lifeforce is an ecology organization that has developed non-lethal methods to prevent human and wildlife conflicts. Our work has included stopping the amorous activities of raccoons at the front entrance of an apartment building to developing methods to keep orcas away from oil spills. Here are some of the things that you can do to avoid any wildlife problems:

Keep all food and garbage in wildlife proof garbage containers (fasten lids with rubber cords). Do not leave food on your boat in areas where animals can smell it.

Place a hawk silhouette (in the diving downwards position) on the outside of any window that birds could hit. If a bird does hit a window, the bird is usually only temporarily stunned. Gently place the bird in a large cardboard box. Close the box and put it in a dark warm place for an hour. Release the bird if recovered (in daylight only). If the bird is still injured call Lifeforce.

Block entry into attics and basements with chicken wire or boards. Some radio sounds and strobe lights can also deter animals such as raccoons.

Do not pick up baby birds or wild animals. Call Lifeforce if you think there is a problem.

Pick up fishing line and hooks because birds and animals have been found entangled and hooks embedded in their mouths.

Help Protect Marine Wildlife

Please treat wildlife with the same care and respect as you would wish to be treated. Become a Wildlife Steward and report any problems to appropriate government agencies. You can call Lifeforce for advice and phone numbers. Point Roberts is a little bit of paradise – treat it gently and enjoy.

For further information contact Lifeforce at 604/649.5258 or lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com.

See Liferforce Nature Moments on You Tube at LiferforceEcology or www.liferforcefoundation.org. These are monthly video releases of wildlife such as orcas and Steller sea lions supporting Freedom: Not Captivity. In June there will be Killdeers filmed in Points Roberts.

The Liferforce Foundation has been a registered Non-Profit Society registered under the Society Act of B.C. since 1981 and Liferforce Ocean Friends has been incorporated in Washington since 1997. Your donations and memberships that fund these important programs are greatly appreciated. So please help Liferforce help wildlife



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