

18TH ANNUAL



2015 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS MAY 1-3

Every year from late April through May, flocks of sandpipers, plovers, whimbrels, and many other shorebirds pass through the Tofino area. Thousands stop here to feed and rest as they make their impressive journey from South and Central America northward to their Arctic breeding grounds.

The Tofino Shorebird Festival celebrates this impressive annual migration with a series of educational birding activities led by local and visiting experts! This is a great opportunity to experience the largest wildlife migration in the region, learn about these impressive birds, and understand why Tofino is one of the very best places in western Canada for bird watching.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION with Dr. John Reynolds

Doors at 6:30pm, Talk at 7:00pm, Wrap-up at 8:00pm

Jamie's Restaurant and Lounge @ Jamie's Rainforest Inn (1258 Pacific Rim Hwy)

\$10 admission at the door includes appetizers

We will kick off the 18th annual Tofino Shorebird Festival with a social evening at Jamie's Restaurant and Lounge. Meet other shorebird enthusiasts while enjoying tunes from special musical guest Jill Robinson, craft beer from Tofino Brewing Company, and a delicious spread of appetizers.

The meet and greet will be followed by a presentation from Dr. John Reynolds, from Simon Fraser University. John's passion for shorebirds dates back to his MSc research on Red-necked Phalaropes at a remote camp on the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill. These birds have "sex-role reversal", whereby males do all of the brood-rearing by themselves, and the more brightly-coloured females fight for mates. Dr Reynolds continued his research into shorebird mating systems through his early years as a professor, while his more recent research focuses on ecology salmon and birds in BC.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

PELAGIC TRIP with seabird biologist Mark Maftai

All day, early AM departure time TBA

RV Michelle Diane, captained by Brian Gisbourne, leaving from Ucluelet (dock tba)

\$200 per person (seats may still be available: WWW.RAINCOASTEDUCATION.ORG/REGISTER)

This trip will be an all day excursion to some of the banks and canyons off of Barkley Sound in search of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels and other pelagic birds. Exact route to be determined based on local weather, fishing activity, and up-to-date recon of where birds seem to be concentrating. Our goal is to bird out to, and then along, the shelf edge near one of the large offshore canyons about 35 miles off the coast.

Previous years have turned up some amazing birds and marine mammals and this is a one-of-a-kind experience and a unique opportunity to explore the pelagic waters off of Vancouver Island. Early May is the transition when wintering species begin to move out and summer migrants arrive. Highlights of past trips include Sabine's gull, Arctic tern, short-tailed, sooty, and flesh-footed shearwater, fork-tailed storm petrel, large flocks of both red and red-necked phalaropes, and more. Albatrosses and rarer shearwaters are always a possibility, but never a guarantee, but we will come prepared with chum and do our best to draw in something spectacular!

The Michelle Dianne is the perfect boat to take us to the best habitat as quickly and comfortably as possible. Captain Brian Gisbourne has spent most of the last several decades conducting surveys and research on whales in these offshore waters, and nobody knows the area better.

To ensure all participants enjoy a comfortable trip, space is limited to 12 people. Cost is \$200 per person. Registration can be made on-line through the Tofino Shorebirds Festival website, with payment by paypal.

SATURDAY, MAY 2 - CONTINUED

BIRDING 101 - GET YOUR BEAK WET! with instructor Dr. Barb Beasley

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Jamie's Restaurant and Lounge @ Jamie's Rainforest Inn (1258 Pacific Rim Hwy)

No cost

This two-part event will begin with an informal indoor introduction to some key points to help you identify and recognize the common shorebird species you can expect to see around Tofino in the spring. Identifying shorebirds can seem daunting at first, but becoming familiar with a few basic features is a sure-fire way to take your birding to the next level. Drop in for a coffee and brush up on your skills before heading into the field.

BIRDING 201 – GET YOUR FEET WET! with Dr. Barb Beasley and Adrian Dorst

10:00 am – 12:00 am

Mudflats behind Jamie's Rainforest Inn (meet in front of the Inn, 1258 Pacific Rim Hwy)

No cost

Immediately following the Birding 101 workshop, the Birding 201 field session will put your skills to use in the field. The mudflats behind Jamie's Rainforest Inn offer some of the best and most accessible high-quality shorebird habitat in Tofino, and several expert birders will be on hand to help you make the most of the best time of day for watching shorebirds - the rising tide when birds are concentrated on the upper mudflats (high @ 11:42 am). This is a great event for both new and experienced birders, as well as anyone interested in the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area.

Bring your binoculars or spotting scope if you have them, or else we will have a few to share. For everybody's enjoyment (but especially for the birds and other wildlife), unleashed dogs are not permitted in the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area, so please leave your pets at home. Boots are recommended, as it can be a little wet!

GUIDED VOYAGE TO CLELAND ISLAND SEABIRD COLONY with Cleland Island Ecological Reserve Warden Pete Clarkson

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Jamie's Whaling (606 Campbell St)

\$75 + gst

Join us aboard the MV Leviathan to explore the inlets and mudflats behind Tofino for shorebirds, before we head offshore to the Cleland Island Ecological Reserve, one of the premier sites in Clayoquot Sound for seabirds. Past trips have enjoyed great looks at spectacular Tufted Puffins, Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Black Oystercatchers, and a variety of other species. Whales, seals, sea lions and sea otters can also be seen in this area. This three-hour trip is lead by Cleland Island Ecological Reserve Warden Pete Clarkson.

Please book through Jamie's Whaling, Tofino at 1-800-667-9913 or info@jamies.com.

BIRDING VANCOUVER ISLAND PRESENTATION with John Neville

Doors at 6:30pm, Festival recap at 7:00pm, Presentation at 7:30pm

Jamie's Restaurant and Lounge @ Jamie's Rainforest Inn (1258 Pacific Rim Hwy)

\$10 admission at the door includes appetizers

Join us for an evening of appetizers and birding buzz! We will recap the highlights of the day and start the 2015 Shorebird Fest species list, followed by a presentation by BirdSong man John Neville! We are excited to have John join this year's festival to share his passion for birds through his unique presentation "Birding Vancouver Island". A Turkey Vulture has no voice box, but do you know what sound it makes? Do you know the call or the incredible sound of a migrating flock of Sanderling? John will present a variety of bird species around Vancouver Island illustrated with slides and his own recordings - the result is a captivating high resolution audio and visual experience. You can listen to interviews with John and sample his recording on his website www.nevillerecording.com.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

SHOREBIRDS IN PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK: RESEARCH, MANAGEMENT, AND CONSERVATION

with Sarah Tyne (Resource Management Officer, Parks Canada)

9:30 am – 11:30 pm

Kwisitis Visitor Centre & Wickaninnish Beach

No charge, but must purchase Park Visitor Pass (available in parking lot)

Pacific Rim National Park includes some of the most extensive (and popular) stretches of sandy beaches in BC. Thousands of shorebirds rely on this habitat to forage and rest during migration, which thousands of people also use year-round. This overlap results in both conflict and opportunity. Come and learn about recent Parks Canada research programs on shorebirds, and also how management decisions affect both people and birds in this unique area. An introductory talk at the Wickaninnish Interpretive Center by Sarah will be followed by a walk along Wickaninnish beach, a unique area of habitat where sandy shores and dunes meet the rocky intertidal. This is a great spot to see otherwise hard-to-find species like Black Turnstones and Surfbirds.

PELAGIC TRIP with seabird biologist Mark Maftai

All day, early AM departure time TBA

RV Michelle Diane, captained by Brian Gisbourne, leaving from Ucluelet (dock tba)

\$200 per person (**sold out!**)

This trip will be an all day excursion to some of the banks and canyons off of Barkley Sound in search of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Storm-petrels and other pelagic birds. Exact route to be determined based on local weather, fishing activity, and up-to-date recon of where birds seem to be concentrating. Our goal is to bird out to, and then along, the shelf edge near one of the large offshore canyons about 35 miles off the coast.

Previous years have turned up some amazing birds and marine mammals and this is a one-of-a-kind experience and a unique opportunity to explore the pelagic waters off of Vancouver Island. Early May is the transition when wintering species begin to move out and summer migrants arrive. Highlights of past trips include Sabine's gull, Arctic tern, short-tailed, sooty, and flesh-footed shearwater, fork-tailed storm petrel, large flocks of both red and red-necked phalaropes, and more. Albatrosses and rarer shearwaters are always a possibility, but never a guarantee, but we will come prepared with chum and do our best to draw in something spectacular!

The Michelle Dianne is the perfect boat to take us to the best habitat as quickly and comfortably as possible. Captain Brian Gisbourne has spent most of the last several decades conducting surveys and research on whales in these offshore waters, and nobody knows the area better.

To ensure all participants enjoy a comfortable trip, space is limited to 12 people. Cost is \$200 per person. Registration can be made on-line through the Tofino Shorebirds Festival website, with payment by paypal.

SUNDAY FUNDAY FOR KIDS! with Raincoast Education Society

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Ecolodge @ Tofino Botanical Gardens

Free admission

This is a unique birding opportunity for kids! Biologist Ariane Batic will lead participants on a mudflats birding tour at the Tofino Botanical Gardens. Kids must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

SUNDAY, MAY 3 - CONTINUED

BIRDING BY KAYAK with kayak guide and naturalist Andy Murray

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tofino Sea Kayaking (320 Main St)

\$75 incl. tax - a portion of proceeds are donated to the Tofino Shorebird Festival

This four-hour sea kayaking tour will take you on a journey to the expansive Arakun mudflats at the base of Meares Island to experience extensive areas of prime shorebird habitat only accessible by water. This is a unique birding opportunity to paddle with naturalist Andy Murray in the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area along the shores of ancient coastal rainforests of giant Western Redcedars, Sitka Spruce, and Western Hemlocks. Sea kayaking experience is not necessary. You will be in double kayaks, so you can alternate with your partner in paddling and bird watching!

Please book through Tofino Sea Kayaking at 250-725-4222.

A VANCOUVER ISLAND BIG YEAR PRESENTATION & MOVIE NIGHT with Ann Nightingale

Talk at 7:00pm

Movie at 8:00pm

Long Beach Lodge Resort

\$10 admission at the door

We encourage you to come early to enjoy dinner in Long Beach Lodge's spectacular Great Room - an oceanfront dining experience!

Presentation: A Vancouver Island Big Year – the Quest to See 275 Bird Species in 2015

Join Ann Nightingale of Rocky Point Bird Observatory for a slide-illustrated talk about her Vancouver Island Big Year, currently in progress. In the first four months of 2015, Ann has visited dozens of birding locations on the island, and has found more than 150 species so far. There have been some spectacular misses, too, though, and many stories to tell!

The Movie: A Big Year

Starring Owen Wilson, Jack Black & Steve Martin

Two bird enthusiasts try to defeat the cocky, cutthroat world record holder in a year-long bird-spotting competition.

FESTIVAL ACCOMODATION PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ACCOMODATION PROVIDERS.
VISIT THEIR WEBSITES FOR MORE INFO.

Jamie's Rainforest Inn - The Ecolodge at the Tofino Botanical Gardens - Long Beach Lodge Resort

A huge thank you to our festival partners! In alphabetical order: Darwin's Café; District of Tofino; Jamie's Whaling Station and Rainforest Inn; Long Beach Lodge Resort; Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada; Tofino Botanical Gardens; Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area; Tofino Sea Kayaking; Tofino Time; Tourism Tofino; Wickaninnish Inn.

