



Bird Studies Canada – British Columbia Beached Bird Survey (BCBBS)

When? Surveys are conducted year-round during the last week of each month or as close to that week as possible. If year-round surveys are not possible surveys should be conducted from August to April when beached birds are more likely to be found. Surveys should be done after a high tide or as the tide is going out.

How? Walk the beach checking the wrack line for any bird carcasses or signs of oil on the beach. If a dead bird is found, try to identify the species using the COASST Field Guide and examine the carcass for oil, entanglements and general condition. Record observations on the appropriate forms.

Term of position: At minimum one year, but ideally over multiple years.

Skills/Equipment needed:

- No birding skills are required.
- Protocol and data forms will be provided by Birds Canada.
- Cell phone and/or camera (recommended)

Tasks:

- Check tides to plan your survey timing and follow a tide table for safety (Tides Charts Free app works well)
- Study and follow the protocol to ensure consistency of the data
- Submit the data to Nature Counts (<https://birdscanada.org/birdmon/beachbird/main.jsp>) even when no beached birds are found.

Items of Consideration:

- This is a volunteer position, no remuneration is provided.
- A package including instruction manual, data forms, survey map (if available), BCBBS kit and other information is sent to each participant. The BBS kit contains field guide, gloves, plastic ruler, numbered metal tags and ties to attach tags.
- If you have not identified a preferred beach route; the survey coordinator will help to identify a suitable survey site. The best routes are those beaches that are easy to walk, not too steep, and composed of sand, gravel or cobble substrate, and that naturally accumulate driftwood and seaweed.
- Keep the survey effort constant by walking the same length of beach with each survey as much as possible. If the entire route is not accessible on a survey day, record the reduced length surveyed.
- Volunteers must have permission prior to entering private property.
- **Safety is the top priority!** Beaches can be dangerous places. Please take great care and inform someone of when you are surveying and your expected return time. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Birds Canada cannot accept responsibility or liability for accidents or injuries during a BC Beached Bird Survey.

To Participate:

- Identify the area where you would like to conduct the survey.
- Contact Graham Sorenson (gsorenson@birdscanada.org, 877-349-2473)

Thank you for your interest!