

Free Public Lecture

The Miracle of Migration: Insights from Bird Banding Projects by the Vancouver Avian Research Centre



Derek Matthews
Vancouver Avian Research Centre

The Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC) is a non profit organization dedicated to wild bird research and conservation. It conducts bird monitoring, banding and research to identify causes of avian population change and to help formulate management actions to safeguard habitat for breeding and migratory birds to ensure their long term survival. VARC's main field station is in Colony Farm Regional Park, a 404 hectare park at the confluence of the Coquitlam and Fraser Rivers. The old fields and hedgerows at Colony Farm provide habitat for a wide variety of birds, including locally rare and uncommon species such as Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*), Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) and Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). VARC's work at Colony Farm has provided invaluable information to Metro Vancouver on the importance of old-field habitat as a stopover site for migratory birds and as a breeding area. Ultimately, information collected by VARC will help guide developing best management practices that integrate agriculture with wildlife conservation and recreational activities.

Derek Matthews was born in Hertfordshire, England and developed a very early interest in birds joining a local bird ringing group as a teenager. A passionate ornithologist, avian researcher and conservationist, Derek is the Chair of the Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC), and a Master bird bander. He leads field trips, bird tours and hosts Bird Monitoring and Banding and Bird Identification Workshops. Derek is also known as an entertaining educator and charismatic speaker who addresses groups across the country on issues relating to birds and the environment.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Vancouver Island University, Building 356, Room 109

Sponsors: Mid-Island Science, Technology & Innovations Council (MISTIC), Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC), VIUFA Professional Development Fund, Faculty of Science and Technology

