

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2013 Nominee Profile

Mike Hoebel, Galiano Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Bird monitoring programs on Galiano Island
- Nominator(s):** Keith Erickson
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

For more than 20 years, Mike Hoebel has worked tirelessly to monitor bird populations and maintain bird observation data on Galiano Island. He coordinates annual Christmas bird counts, organizes hummingbird monitoring over the spring and summer months and leads annual spring bird walks. He also works with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society and the Galiano Conservancy Association as a steward for the Active Pass Important Bird Area. Mike's work has helped to provide an information baseline for bird populations on Galiano and ongoing annual inventories of various bird species.

Mike acts as a liaison between local birders and Bird Studies Canada for the Active Pass Important Bird Area and the Annual Christmas Bird Count and has brought many new birders into the flock through his welcoming attitude and passion for birds. Mike has connected the many diverse groups and hundreds of volunteers on Galiano by drawing people of different backgrounds into bird monitoring. He provides islanders with a forum to get to know each other that isn't threatening or controversial. Mike's efforts in long-term monitoring of biodiversity help islanders to understand how island ecosystems are changing in the face of shifting climatic conditions. Mike's contribution to the migratory bird species data pool provides important insight into the impacts of climate change on complex regional and continental linkages and relationships.