




# the Heron



A newsletter from the Islands Trust Conservancy, protecting islands in the Salish Sea | [islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy](http://islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy) SUMMER 2024

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## Hope for a Critical Species at Risk *p. 2*

Coastal Western Screech-Owl. PHOTO: REN FERGUSON



For links and additional media, visit the Heron Newsletter online.  
[www.islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy/heron-newsletter/](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy/heron-newsletter/)



### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

SPOTTED CORALROOT  
PHOTO: ISLANDS TRUST CONSERVANCY



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CAROLYN STEWART



Meet our New  
ITC Manager *p. 3*

# Hope for the Coastal Western Screech-Owl

What are some words that come to mind when you think of the coastal Western Screech-Owl? With its big bright-yellow eyes, small body, and camouflage feathers, this bird is certainly both intriguing and mysterious.

The coastal subspecies of Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii kennicottii*; WESOke) is a species at risk listed as *Threatened* under the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and as a *Species of Special Concern* on the provincial Blue list. Conservancy staff work with biologists and volunteers in Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) protected areas to support the recovery of this special species. Coastal Western Screech-Owls don't migrate and instead hold their territories throughout the year.

Recently, biologists observed that two pairs have established territories on an ITC Nature Reserve and both have reared owlets! This is exciting news and indicates that our conservation efforts in protecting and enhancing coastal Western Screech-Owl habitat are paying off!

**Fun Facts: The coastal Western Screech-Owl is a nocturnal bird that has a large range of prey – from insects, to small birds, and even fishing for food in tide pools!**



COASTAL WESTERN SCREECH-OWL OWLET IN AN ITC NATURE RESERVE. PHOTO: REN FERGUSON

*The ITC Species at Risk Program is funded by the Priority Places for Species at Risk Program, through Environment and Climate Change Canada.*

## Test Your Knowledge on ITC Nature Reserves



1. What is an ITC Nature Reserve?
  - A. An area used primarily for recreation and enjoyment by the public.
  - B. A protected area conserved primarily for its ecological value and biodiversity preservation.
  - C. A piece of land left in its natural state in a city or town.
2. How many Nature Reserves does ITC own?
  - A. 21
  - B. 42
  - C. 34
3. ITC Nature Reserves do not provide public infrastructure such as accessible walking paths, playgrounds, or washrooms.
  - A. True.
  - B. False.

*The answer key can be found on the back cover of this newsletter.*



PHOTO: LISA WILCOX

Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy respectfully acknowledge that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and that their deep connection to the islands continues to this day. We are committed to reconciliation, to upholding the rights of Indigenous peoples, and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea. The Islands Trust Area is located in the treaty and territorial lands and waters of the BOKEĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEL, Qualicum, scəwáθən, səlilw'ətəl, SEMYOME, shishálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', STÁUTW, Stz'uminus, la?əmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, W JOLELP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalkwu, Xwsepsum, and x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy.

# Welcome to Carolyn Stewart

## Carolyn Stewart, ITC Manager



CAROLYN WITH HER HUSBAND WHILE TRAVELLING.

**“I love the fact that [the Conservancy] is protecting land. That we’re out there trying to make the world a better place in accomplishing the object of Islands Trust.”**

Organized, outdoor-loving, and compassionate are three words that perfectly describe Carolyn Stewart. After 20 years with Parks Canada and Regional Parks, Carolyn Stewart has returned to Islands Trust Conservancy in her role as Manager. Carolyn was the second manager of ITC, known at the time as Islands Trust Fund, from 1996 to 2003.

With an undergraduate and masters degree in Planning and Environmental fields, and a passion for parks and protected areas planning, she spent those initial seven years working to expand ITC’s conservation covenants, an exciting new tool for conservation at the time. Looking ahead, Carolyn is excited to support staff in increasing the efficiency of ITC’s work and effectiveness in the management of our protected areas.

In her spare time, you can find Carolyn out enjoying the islands while walking or hiking. Connect with Carolyn at:

📞 250-405-5186

✉️ [itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca)

## Reflections from the Field



Habitat Acquisition Trust Crew invasive species removal on Salt Spring Island.



Fungi on rotting log.



Summer co-op Field Tech, Emily.



Butterfly on Common Woolly Sunflower.



Ozette Coralroot. 3

Summer 2024 field season photos captured during monitoring of our protected areas in the Islands Trust Area.





## Check Your Answers



We designed this quiz to help educate subscribers on ITC Nature Reserves. We hope that you learned something new about our protected areas. To learn more about our Nature Reserves, head to <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy/protected-places/>.

### How did you do?

1. B: An ITC Nature Reserve is a protected area conserved primarily for its ecological value and biodiversity preservation.
2. C: ITC protects 34 Nature Reserves.
3. A: True. ITC Nature Reserves do not provide public infrastructure such as accessible walking paths, playgrounds or washrooms.

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#### Questions? Contact us!

📞 250-405-5186    ✉️ [itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca)

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