



# BIRDING IN KAMLOOPS

KAMLOOPS 

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE ANFIELD



## ARE YOU AN AVID BIRDER OR A BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER LOOKING TO PLAN YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE?

YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE CONSIDERED  
KAMLOOPS AND THE SURROUNDING AREA  
BUT YOU SHOULD!

**D**id you know that every year photographers from around the world travel here to photograph the magnificent Common Loon who nest and raise their chicks here? Greg Downing [gdphotography.com](http://gdphotography.com) and Alan Murphy [alanmurphyphotography.com/workshops.htm](http://alanmurphyphotography.com/workshops.htm) conduct sold out workshops in exotic locations around the world. Every year they spend June right here at Lac le Jeune.

They return every year because they know their customers will return home happy with memory cards full of great shots.

The Kamloops area abounds with those type of opportunities, not just for loons but also the hundreds of other species that call the area home. Local biologist Rick Howie has written a very comprehensive list of all the species that visit Kamloops, a PDF version can be downloaded here [Birds of Kamloops](#).





Great Grey Owl



Bald Eagle



Great Horned Owl



Northern Flicker



In the springtime, the area comes alive with birdsong as so many species come to our area to breed. We get to see the birds in their beautiful breeding plumage and observe the mating behaviours. As the season progresses we observe the nest building, laying and then hatching of many varied species. This is prime time for viewing and photography. Most of these birds stay with us until the fall when they once again return to warmer climates.

Of course, we have many species that stay with us year around such as Great Grey and Great Horned Owls, Northern Flickers and Bald Eagles.

We have some exciting species that visit us while migrating, such as Sandhill Cranes, or stop to feed in the river like the American White Pelican. The Thompson River remains ice free throughout the winter so we have large flocks of both Tundra and Trumpeter swans each year.

Kamloops is an area of expansive grasslands; this attracts the birds that feed on the grasslands such as hawks and falcons. It would be a rare day that you could drive through the grasslands without spotting numerous hawks. Different species come and go with the seasons but we enjoy them year-round.

**IT WOULD BE A RARE DAY THAT YOU COULD DRIVE THROUGH THE GRASSLANDS WITHOUT SPOTTING NUMEROUS HAWKS.**

-----  
IN THE SPRINGTIME, THE AREA COMES ALIVE WITH BIRDSONG AS SO MANY SPECIES COME TO OUR AREA TO BREED.  
-----

Some very important recovery programs take place on the grasslands; these include programs for the Burrowing Owl and the Mountain Bluebird. As you drive through the rural areas you will see nest boxes placed on nearly all the fences. This program has been very successful and every year from spring through fall we enjoy the vibrant blue colours of the Mountain Bluebird.

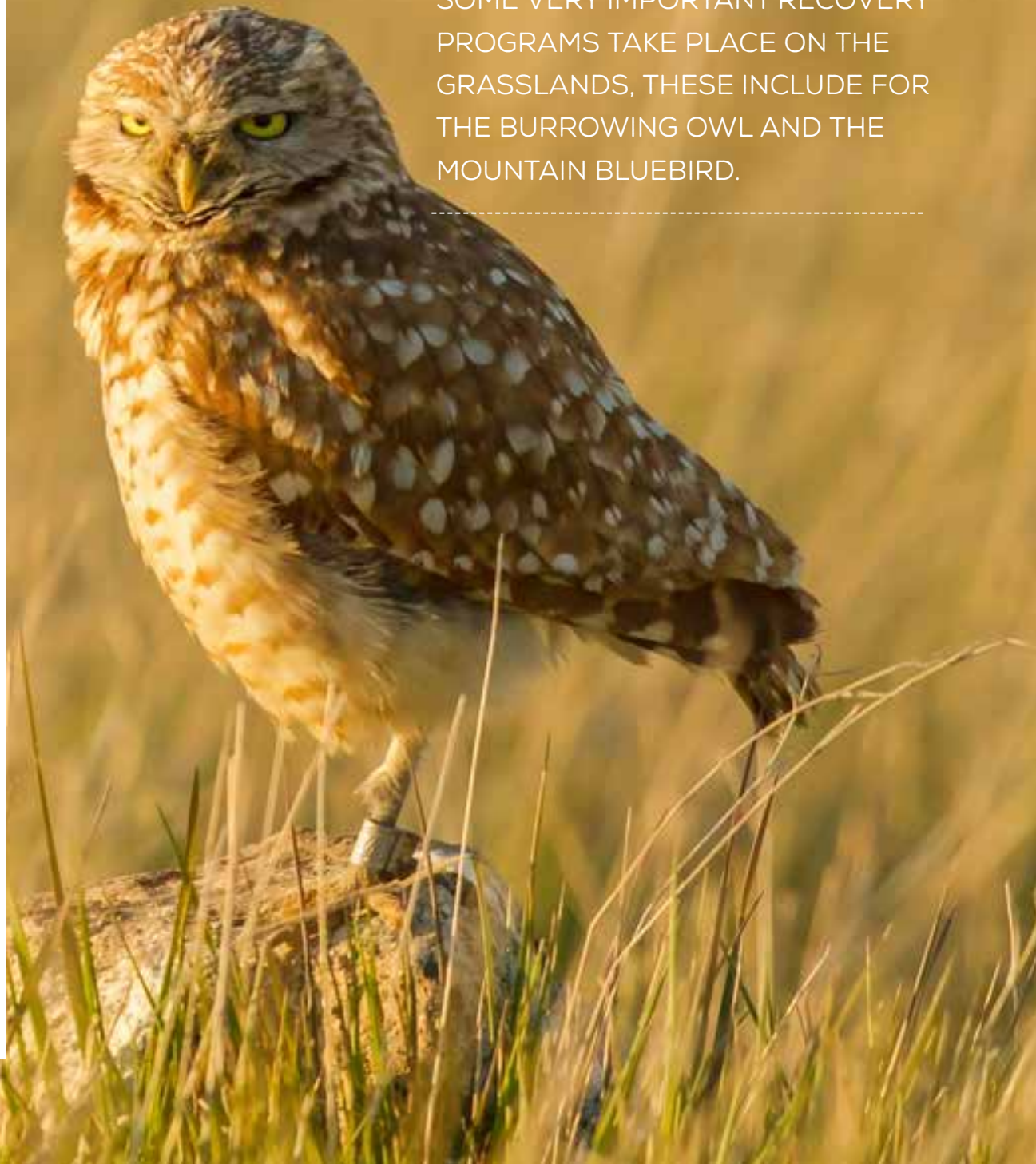
The Burrowing Owls Society has built many artificial burrows in and around Kamloops. Most of these are on private property that the public does not have access to but there are burrows in the Lac Du Bois Grasslands that can provide viewing and photography opportunities. As well there are new burrows in the Nature Conservancy property at Napier Lake Ranch. It should be noted that these birds were extirpated in this area and are still struggling so care should be used not to disturb them.

Kamloops has a well-deserved reputation as one of the best rainbow trout fisheries in the world. We are surrounded by lakes. This is awesome for the fisherman but also for birders and bird photographers. A visit to one of our lakes affords a chance to see ducks, geese, grebes, osprey's, herons, shorebirds and many other species. As most of these are here to breed and nest we have very reliable and predictable photo and viewing opportunities. There are no sure things in bird or wildlife photography but finding some great photo opportunities on our numerous lakes is about as close as you can get.

---

SOME VERY IMPORTANT RECOVERY PROGRAMS TAKE PLACE ON THE GRASSLANDS, THESE INCLUDE FOR THE BURROWING OWL AND THE MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD.

---



Booking a workshop or hiring a local guide will be a great asset but there are many easily accessible public access areas that you can enjoy on your own.

For more information on birding or bird photography in the Kamloops area you can contact:

BIRDING PALS  
[birdingpal.org/britishc.htm](http://birdingpal.org/britishc.htm)

CRAZY ABOUT LOONS  
PHOTO TOURS/ MIKE ANFIELD  
[crazyaboutloons.com](http://crazyaboutloons.com)  
[manfield52@gmail.com](mailto:manfield52@gmail.com)

Mike Anfield has been operating Crazy About Loons Photo Tours in Kamloops for the last 6 years. Crazy About Loons specializes in individual or very small group tours that are custom designed to suit the individual photographer. The majority of the tours are in the boat on one or more of our many beautiful lakes; flexibility and mobility allow us to be at the best locations for the time you are here and based on what you are most interested in photographing.



Rough-legged Hawk



Swainson's Hawk



Red-tailed Hawk



Mountain Blue Bird



American Kestrel

# BIRDS OF KAMLOOPS *and Area*



Northern Flicker, Feeding time



Mating dance Eared Grebes





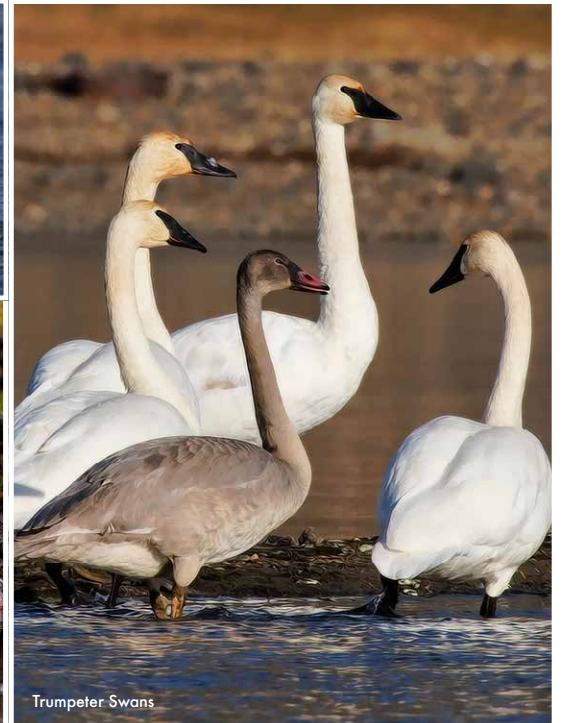
Getting Great Water Shots



Courtship Display Horned Grebe



American White Pelican



Trumpeter Swans



Ruddy Duck



At the nest, Common Loon.



Bubbling display Ruddy Duck



Horned Grebe



Mountain Bluebird



Red-necked Grebe



Eared Grebe.

**#EXPLOREKAMLOOPS**

