

Getting to know Chilliwack's Species at Risk

Species at risk profile: Great Blue Heron, *fannini* subspecies, *Ardea Herodias fannini*

What it looks like:

A tall, wading bird (height of 60 cm, wingspan of 1.5 m) with long legs and neck. The body is blue-grey, with a white head and face. [Click here for more identification details.](#)

Where it lives:

In the Fraser Valley, it is seen around lowland rivers, lakes and streams, mud flats, fields, ditches and backyard ponds. It perches and nests in mature trees. [Visit this map for nesting colony details.](#)

What it eats:

Its diet mainly consists of fish, but also includes frogs, voles, mice, and shrews.

What are its main threats in the Fraser Valley?

Loss of habitat. Disturbances during the nesting season.

Did you know?

- Herons nest in mature trees either individually or in colonies that can be as large as several hundred birds.
- Coastal herons do not migrate, living in BC year-round. They are a different subspecies to the herons found in BC's interior.
- Click here for information about the [Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve in Chilliwack](#)

How you can help:

Avoid disturbing nesting herons. Unexpected noise or activity can cause them to abandon their nest.

Check out this [guide](#) for Great Blue Heron land management recommendations.

Join the [Nature Stewards](#) program for personalized property advice.

Think you saw a heron nest? – take a photo, record the location, and send it to outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca.

For any questions about this or other species at risk, contact the [Fraser Valley Conservancy](#).