



Local birders recently took a walk through Echo Heights, spotting a number of interesting species and learning more about the environment.

All eyes on the birds

Spotted towhees, Oregon juncos, Fox sparrows, Winter wrens, Chestnut-backed chickadees and Northern flickers were just some of the feathered friends that participants in the Chemainus Biodiversity Education



LAUREN MELZACK

birds.

The walk was led by local birder Lauren Melzack who owns Creature

Comforts pet shop in Chemainus. Melzack has a masters degree in environmental studies and a keen interest in migration patterns.

"Fall and winter are very exciting birding times here," she said.

"The winter migrants will soon be coming to our shores – many ducks, geese, loons and grebes will be arriving in the next few weeks.

"Some inhabit the wetland in Echo Heights."

Birds eat insects and are a natural way to control pests in gardens, on farms, and other places.

They also aid in the pollination of plants, and spreading seeds.

Lauren Melzack leads bird walks on most Thursday and Saturday mornings at 8 am.

Contact her directly for details creature-comforts@hotmail.com or 246-2855.

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