

List of Ground and Low Nesting Bird Species in South-Western British Columbia That May Use Exotic Blackberry Thickets.

There are 58 species listed below, of which 13 are cavity nesters, 2 soil bank nesters and 35 forest / shrub land nesters. These are the most likely species to be expected in south-western B.C.'s lower mainland (The Sunshine coast to Hope to the U.S. boarder and up to Squamish). Birds wish to hide their nests and any thick shrubs which offer concealment will be used. Birds do not reject introduced species; in fact in many cases they embrace them. The introduced blackberry species are a case in point. These two species offer concealment and thick inter-woven and tangled vines which have large, nasty thorns. These two species are the most impenetrable shrubs in this area and afford protection from many mammal predators as well as stopping that greatest predator – humans. Thickets of European ivy, holly, privet, or any of the introduced shrub species afford concealment and depending on location will provide nesting sites. All of the listed bird species are protected by federal or provincial laws with the exception of Steller's jay, which is BC's Provincial Bird and may have protection due to that status.

Forest, Hedge & Shrub zone Species.

Ruffed Grouse }
Blue/ Sooty Grouse } Ground nesters. Mountain bikes, dogs and people destroy nests
Common Nighthawk }
Western Screech-owl }
Northern Pygmy Owl }
Northern Saw-whet Owl } Natural cavities or old woodpecker holes
Wood Duck }
Hooded Merganser }
Rufous Hummingbird - Exceptionally small nest (size of \$1.00 coin) of moss and spiders web
Downy Woodpecker }
Hairy Woodpecker } Self made holes or natural cavities
Northern Flicker }
Red-breasted Sapsucker }
Willow Flycatcher
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Steller's Jay
Bushtit
Brown Creeper
Winter Wren
Bewick's Wren
House Wren
American Robin
Swainson's Thrush
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
Hutton's Vireo
Cassin's Vireo
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated grey Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
House Finch
Am Goldfinch
Spotted Towhee
Dark-eyed Junco
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow }
Chipping Sparrow } Nest on ground or low in open grass / shrub zones
Savannah Sparrow }
Violet-green Swallow }
Tree Swallow } Natural cavities / holes and old woodpecker holes
Black-capped Chickadee }
Chestnut-backed Chickadee }

Marshland Species

Brewer's Blackbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Yellowthroat
Marsh Wren
Mallard
Green Heron
Virginia Rail
Sora Rail
Spotted Sandpiper
Killdeer } Nest on open ground
Belted Kingfisher } Nest is in a hole in a clay / sandy /soil / rock bank
Rough-winged Swallow }