Western Bluebird

A coastal recovery story | *Sialia mexicana*



A RETURN TO THE OAKS

A flash of *blue and rust*

A blue-and-rust bird watches the meadow from a perch, searching for insects. After decades without coastal breeding, Western Bluebirds have returned to parts of the Cowichan Valley through restoration efforts.

LIFE IN OPEN WOODS

Uses open grassland and woodland edges to hunt, with existing tree cavities or managed nest boxes for nesting.

A LOCAL COMEBACK

The Bring Back the Bluebirds project has supported breeding in the Cowichan Valley since 2012.

RECOVERY NEEDS CARE

A growing project population is encouraging, but does not mean the coastal breeding population is secure everywhere.

FIELD NOTES

RECOGNIZE IT

Adult males show blue heads, backs, wings and tails with rusty-orange breasts; females are less vivid.

HOW IT FEEDS

Often watches from a low perch before dropping to the ground to catch insects and other small prey.

PLACES TO NEST

Needs existing cavities or well-managed nest boxes; retaining suitable habitat and wildlife trees matters.

Sources: BC Breeding Bird Atlas; Cowichan Valley Naturalists; BC Conservation Foundation.