

# A Walk on the Wild Side

Can't wait to get out and explore the forest.

Yes! Summer is finally here. Why not go on a wildlife adventure at a local park, in a ravine or along the shoreline?

I hope we see elephants!

Ah... really, Fin, elephants?

## TIPS FOR NATURE WATCHING

**1. Get an early start.** You'll see the most birds and mammals in the early morning. By mid-day, many animals are resting in their hiding places.



- 2. Walk, stop and scan.** Be patient and silent as you move through the forest. Wild animals have keen senses and often hear and smell you long before you see them. They are easily scared, so move quietly.
- 3. Bring a buddy!** Make sure your parents know exactly where you are going and for how long. Always bring a friend along too.
- 4. Be safe.** Have fun and explore but stay clear of areas with predatory animals such as bears or cougars. Be careful near cliffs and fast-moving water.
- 5. Snap pictures.** Seeing a deer or beaver is exciting. It's even better if you can get a picture too. Photos are also a great way to help identify plants, trees and animals after you get home.

## Win a camera!

Send us your best nature photo and you could win a fabulous camera, courtesy of Broadway Camera!



Heron. Photo: Martin Passchier



## WILDLIFE MANNERS

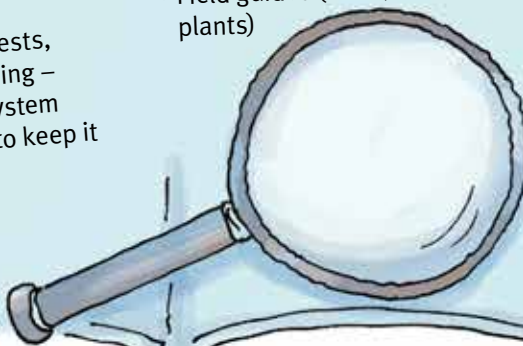
Good naturalists observe some simple rules:

- Leave nature exactly as you found it.
- Tread lightly, trying not to crush plants, disturb root systems or harm anything!
- Take out all your trash (even trash from others).
- Leave abandoned bird nests, shells, flowers – everything – where it is. Nature is a system and all the parts matter to keep it whole.

## NATURALIST GEAR

You don't need a lot of supplies. Here's a checklist:

- Outdoor shoes (comfortable!)
- Whistle (in case you get lost)
- Compass
- Cell phone (fully charged)
- Backpack with water and snacks
- Camera and binoculars
- Magnifying glass and notebook
- Small first-aid kit
- Field guides (birds, insects and plants)



Whether it's of a **snail**, a **flower**, a **heron fishing** or a **grazing deer**, we want your best nature picture. The best photo selected by the *Bark!* crew wins a **samsung 16 megapixel camera** (with accessory kit), plus the photo will be printed in an issue of *Bark!*.

Send your entry to BC SPCA *Bark!* Photos, 1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1 or email to [kids@spca.bc.ca](mailto:kids@spca.bc.ca). **Remember:** If possible, take your pictures with a real camera and not a cell phone. Also, make sure you use the **highest-quality setting** for pictures. The deadline for entry is August 15, 2015.

# Wildlife Challenge!

Find your answers in this edition of Bark!

## Down

- 1 Cutting down all the trees in a selected area
- 3 An animal whose diet consists of only meat
- 4 The spotted owl lets scientists gauge how other species are doing. They are considered an \_\_\_ species
- 5 An animal that only eats plant material
- 6 A forest area with trees of varying ages (average age – 140) that have never been logged
- 8 A species that is extinct in one geographic area but resides elsewhere

the animals at the Urban Wildlife Rescue Centre and is determined to get Sea King to take responsibility for the spill. However, Sea King executives are reluctant to let a “bimbo bunny hugger” take them down. Just how far will they go to silence the young troublemaker? Join Jane and her friends in a quest for victory for the animals.

*Flight or Fight* was inspired by true events that happened to author Diane Haynes. “I hope that *Flight or Fight* will find an audience with young people who care about animals and the environment, and who love a good adventure story.”



Diane lives in Burnaby, with two tabbies named Frances and Sadie, and neighbouring cat named, of all things, Mouse! It was Mouse who first opened her heart and her eyes to the inner lives of animals, and to the power of the human-animal bond.

## Across

- 2 A species that no longer exists
- 7 An endangered species in BC – tiger \_\_\_
- 9 Nestlings tap the beaks of their parents to stimulate them to do what?
- 10 Spotted owls are “sit, wait and \_\_\_” predators
- 11 This bird has chocolate brown plumage with white spots
- 12 One of the factors that may cause a species to be a “special concern”
- 13 The Northern Spotted Owl is Canada’s most \_\_\_ bird

The crossword puzzle grid is overlaid on a background image of raccoons and a lizard. The grid consists of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The clues are numbered 1 through 13, with 1 being a vertical clue and the others being horizontal. The grid is partially filled with black squares to indicate the placement of the clues.

# Book Reviews

## Summer of the Spotted Owl

By Melanie Jackson  
Orca Book Publishers  
Ages 9 to 12

Things tend to happen around redheaded, 11-year-old sleuth, Dinah Galloway, and this summer is no exception. After a hang glider crashes into the pool of the house where Dinah and her big sister Madge are house-sitting, the hapless pilot creates more than a splash of suspicion in Dinah's mind. Why does this itchy intruder make off with Dinah's inflatable turtle? Why is someone trying to drive their cat-mad neighbour away? And what's up with the balding stranger lurking behind their hedge? Then, when Madge's boyfriend starts a campaign to save the endangered spotted owl, it seems that a crooked politician, who publicly says he supports saving the owl, may actually be involved in destroying the habitat of the near-extinct animal. There seems just too much for Dinah and her friends to figure out in this hilariously suspenseful adventure. Along with learning about endangered animals and fragile ecosystems, Dinah deals with some clueless reporters and confronts greedy developers, all the while continuing to belt out her favourite songs and satisfy her healthy appetite.

**Summer of the Spotted Owl** is Melanie Jackson's fourth book featuring Dinah Galloway. Melanie wrote her first mystery book at age seven and hasn't stopped writing since! She encourages young readers to ask detective-like questions outside of their mystery reading, for example, "What are we doing to protect wildlife? How can we protect animals such as the endangered spotted owl?"



Melanie lives in East Vancouver with her husband, daughter and cowardly cat, Matthew. Visit Melanie and Dinah at [www3.telus.net/dinah/spy.htm](http://www3.telus.net/dinah/spy.htm).

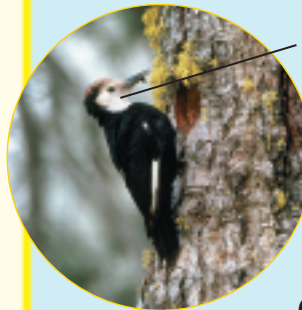
## Flight or Fight

By Diane Haynes  
Whitecap Books  
Ages 12 and up

When Jane Ray, a senior in high school, rescues a drowning seabird from a canola oil spill in Vancouver's Coal Harbour, she doesn't realize it will change her life. After taking the bird to the Urban Wildlife Rescue Centre she unexpectedly gets interviewed by a TV crew and speaks out against Sea King Shipping Pacific, the company allegedly responsible for the spill. Tension mounts after the interview because of threats Jane receives from the company. Jane is inspired to take even more action to help



## 10 ENDANGERED SPECIES IN BC:



DOUGLAS HERR

Whiteheaded Woodpecker

Vancouver Island Marmot

Burrowing Owl

Nooksack Dace  
(freshwater fish)

Salish Sucker (freshwater fish)

Night Snake

Tiger Salamander

Sand-verbena Moth

Woodland Caribou

Orca



JARED HOBBS/  
HOBBS PHOTO  
IMAGES CO.

Note:

This is only a list of 10 out of **more than 500** species that are endangered in BC.