Spot these iconic species in the Elk Valley:

**Birds**
- Common Merganser
- Ruffed Grouse
- Great Blue Heron
- Osprey
- Bald Eagle
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Great Horned Owl
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Steller’s Jay
- Common Raven
- Violet-green Swallow
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Pacific Wren
- American Dipper
- Mountain Bluebird
- Varied Thrush
- Cedar Waxwing
- Yellow Warbler
- Townsend’s Warbler
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Western Tanager
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Common Grackle

**Mammals**
- Moose
- Rocky Mountain Elk
- Mule Deer
- White-tailed Deer
- Coyote
- Red Fox
- North American River Otter
- American Pine Marten
- American Black Bear
- Grizzly Bear
- Mountain Goat
- Bighorn Sheep
- Grey Wolf
- Little Brown Bat
- Snowshoe Hare
- Common Pika
- Beaver
- Muskrat
- Meadow Vole
- Deer Mice
- Red Squirrel
- Least Chipmunk
- Columbian Ground Squirrel
- Dusky Shrew

**Fish, Amphibians & Reptiles**
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout
- Long-toed Salamander
- Bull Trout
- Western Toad
- Western Painted Turtle
- Common Garter Snake

**Recommended Books & Apps:**
- Elk River Map Guide
- Handbook of the Canadian Rockies by Ben Gadd
- Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia & Inland Northwest by Lloyd, Antos, Coupe & Parish
- Backroad Mapbook, Kootenay Rockies BC
- iBird Pro App: North America

**Guided Hikes and Nature Tours**
Scheduled and custom guided interpretive hikes, tours and float trips are available with:
- Wild Nature Tours & Workshops | 250-423-3322
- Island Lake Lodge | 250-423-3700
- Fernie Alpine Resort | 250-423-4655
- Canyon Raft Company | 250-423-7226
- Mountain High River Adventures | 250-423-5008
- Fernie Wilderness Adventures | 250-423-6704

**Elk River Geocache**
Explore the 220km Elk River through a series of dedicated Geocaches. Follow the clues and discover them all!
More details at: elkriveralliance.ca/geocache
Discover Wildlife in Fernie

The diversity of ecosystems in Fernie provide unrivalled wildlife viewing opportunities:

- **Riparian areas** transition from the Elk River to drier uplands. **Look for:** Great Blue Herons, Common Grackle, Osprey, Northern Flicker, Moose, Amphibians

- **Wetlands** store water with adapted plants and animals. **Look for:** Red-Winged Blackbirds, Beaver, Long-toed Salamanders, Western Painted Turtles

- **Montane forests** are located in the drier valley bottom with mixed deciduous and coniferous trees and open meadows. **Look for:** Varied Thrush, Columbia Ground Squirrel, Mule Deer, Rocky Mountain Elk, Coyotes

- **Subalpine forests** cover the slopes leading to mountain top Alpine. **Look for:** Red Squirrels, Steller’s Jay, Pika (rocky slopes), American Pine Marten

- **To the west of Fernie is the Cedar Valley Old Growth Reserve enroute to Island Lake, one of the last remaining stands of ancient temperate rainforests in BC’s Interior. Look for:** Townsend’s Warbler, Pacific Wren, Black and Grizzly Bears, Mountain Goats

The variety and quality of ecosystems near Fernie make an ideal area for wildlife viewing. Some animals are common, while others such as Bear, Beaver and Moose are more reclusive and less likely to be seen.

Each of these unique ecosystems provide distinctive food, shelter and characteristics for wildlife habitat amidst humans living, recreating and working. Explore each area and discover the variety of wildlife rarely found elsewhere in the world.

Explore These Ecosystems

**1. Montane Forest:** Fairy Creek Falls Trail & Montane Trails

Start at the Fernie Visitor Centre on Hwy 3 east of town and follow the hiking trail signs to Fairy Creek Falls. For Montane Trails, take Pine Avenue past the Aquatic Centre then take Coal Creek Road. Start from the first bridge on your right near the old barn, and follow the trail signs.

**2. Riparian Forest:** Along the Elk River, around Maiden Lake and McDougall wetland

Start at Maiden Lake on 9th Avenue and 19th Street, located behind Canadian Tire and Independent Grocer’s. If you have time include Annex Park and more of the Community Trail network along the Elk River.

**3. Wetland:** West Fernie

Take McDonald Avenue east of Highway 3 on the west side of town and turn south on to Eckersley Street. Take the trail west along the Elk River.

**4. Subalpine Forest:** Mount Fernie Provincial Park, Fernie Alpine Resort

Explore the trails at Mt Fernie Provincial Park or at Fernie Alpine Resort (FAR).

**5. Old Growth Forest:** Island Lake Lodge

Follow Mt Fernie Provincial Park Road past the campground to the Old Growth Trail head parking area (approximately 6km west of Highway 3) and hike through these rare giants to Island Lake Lodge. Pick up an Island Lake Trail Map for more trail options.

Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Dawn and dusk are the best times, but always keep your eyes open.

- Be quiet and keep pets under control or ideally leave them at home. Wildlife consider dogs predators and quickly disappear.

- Stand quietly in one place where you might expect to see wildlife. Close your eyes and listen. Then watch and observe.

- Give wildlife space. Keep your distance so that adults are not scared away from maternal care leaving young vulnerable to predators. Instead, use binoculars or spotting scope to get a closer look.

- Be wildlife aware. Use appropriate caution and learn about avoiding conflicts before you venture into wildlife areas. For more information visit wildsafebc.com.

Photo Credits: Ryan Schultz, Vince Mo, Canyon Rafting, Matt Kuhn