

S'amunu (Somenos Marsh) and Migratory Birds

REFLECTIVE WORKSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been in a car passing through Duncan, B.C? If so, you will have passed through an abundant ecosystem brimming with biodiversity: the S'amunu (Somenos) Watershed.

S'amunu is the Hul'qumi'num name for this area, commonly known today as the Somenos Marsh. In this worksheet, we will use the Hul'qumi'num name when referring to this place of historical and modern significance.

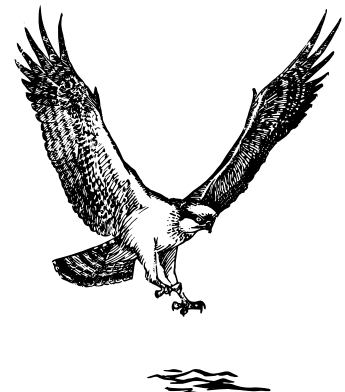
The riparian areas (wetlands near streams and rivers) within the S'amunu watershed provide important habitat for migratory birds, large mammals, amphibians, aquatic insects and salmon. This geographically unique region is important to animals and people alike, and has been since time immemorial. The Quw'utsun Mustimuhw (Cowichan People) continue to live in reciprocity with the marsh, lake, creek and beings of the S'amunu Watershed.

Today the Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society (SMWS) is a group that is committed to working as a team to "preserve and enhance the ecological integrity of the S'amunu Watershed through public education, restoration, advocacy and scientific research." The Society is guided by the Quw'utsun Tribes counsel and provides an example of how communities can work together to affect positive change in local areas that have been negatively impacted by urbanization, deforestation, and pollution.

The SMWS has put together [this resource](#) for learning more about the migratory birds who depend on this place.

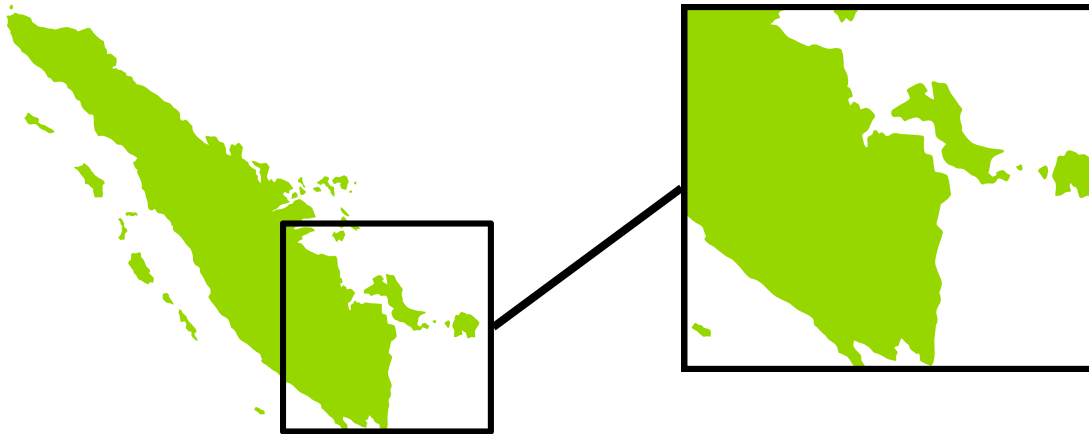


**Learn more about local
birds found in S'amunu**



Questions

Locate Somenos Marsh on a map

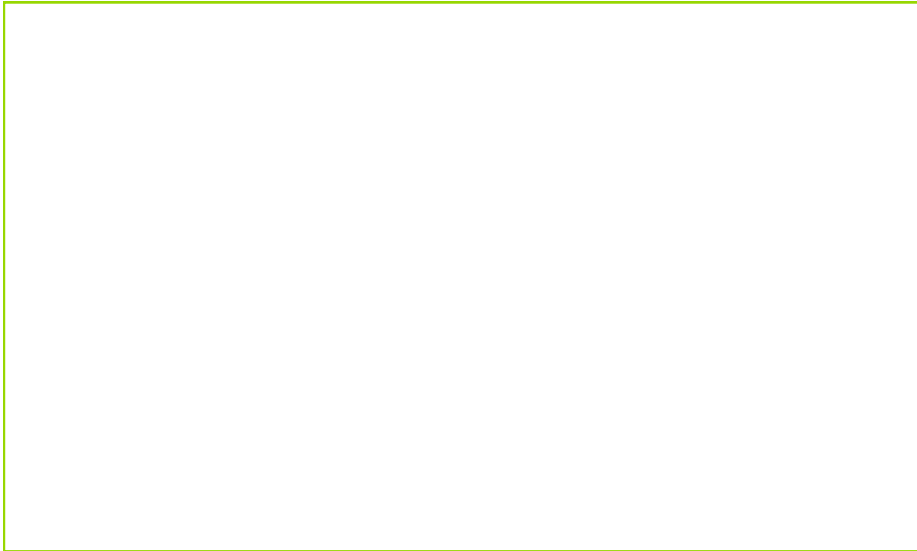


The S'amunu Watershed is known as "the greatest salmon nursery on Southern Vancouver Island." Look on the map and infer why this place would be important for salmon. Write down your reflections below.

How are salmon and birds interconnected? What is a possible consequence of a species disappearing from a place?

Watch the Video and Respond

Watch [this video](#) of Jared Qwustenuxun Williams' walk through the Somenos Marsh sharing Hul'qumi'num names for plants and animals found in the area. Try practicing the names he shares, and try using [First Voices](#) to identify the names of some of the birds in your community using a locally spoken dialect below.



Watch
the video

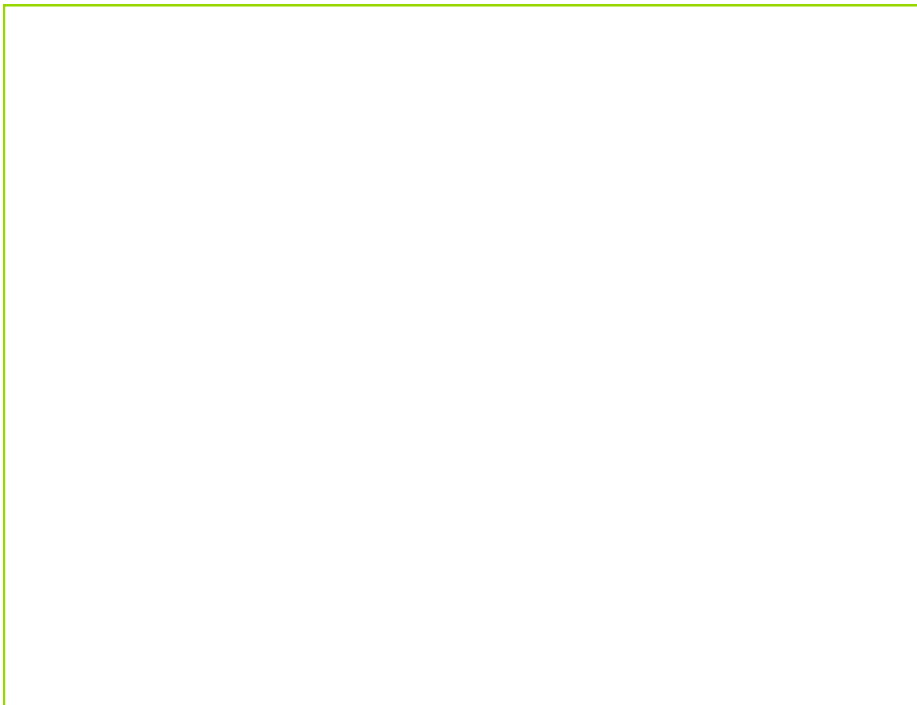


Check
out First
Voices



Watch [this video](#) about "Protecting the Seal Watershed."

What has been the historical relationship between First Nations communities and Science communities according to the narrator, Stephanie Thorassi?



Watch
the video

