

## **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 }