



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

C/o Secretary, 203-9018 208th Street, Langley, BC, V1M 2Y8

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Newsletter

June 2014

COTTONTAIL TIME



Eastern Cottontail

Photo: Al and Jude Grass

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit is a common sight in the Lower Fraser Valley as gardeners soon learn. We often see them nibbling on tender grass blades, but something they really seem to enjoy is dandelions, especially the flowers.

The bunny in the photo was happily snacking on dandelion flowers one sunny morning. It simply hopped up to a flower, paused and then quickly munched it down.

It appears that dandelions are a popular food with a wide range of wildlife species. Golden-crowned sparrows can often be seen feeding on dandelion flowers. Goldfinches and Siskins are fond of the "seeds". Honey bees make a lovely honey from the nectar, and young dandelion leaves are an excellent salad green. Not bad for a "weed"!

Did you know?

- A rabbit is born "naked".
- A new born hare is fully furred and soon "ready to go".

Al Grass

ROBINS - WATCHING OR LISTENING?

A question that often arises on birding trips is, "were the robins watching or listening for worms"? When we see a robin on a lawn with its head cocked to one side, it's tempting to say that it's listening.

Mike O'Conner - "Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches?" notes in "Robins are not Boring" ...contrary to the old belief (that robins are listening) "robins do not hunt by listening but by actually looking for a worm exposing itself - - -"

Another interesting fact in O'Connor's book is that only about 10 - 20% of a robin's diet is made up of earthworms, with insects and fruit making up the bulk of its diet.

Robins are adept flycatchers catching ("hawking") carpenter ants on the wing (ALG. Pers. Obs.), and Pacific Crabapple (*Malus fusca*) is a popular fruit.

Al Grass



American Robin watching for earthworms

Photo: Al and Jude Grass

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Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.15 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207 St. Langley
Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June at Executive members' homes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This message marks the end of my fifth year of presiding over the affairs of the Langley Field Naturalists. Our next meeting on June 19th 2014 is the LFN's 41st AGM since its formation in 1973. It has been gratifying to work with such a dedicated group of Naturalists and I have learnt so much, and achieved a fair bit, since joining the society 11 years ago.

The guest speakers have achieved a high standard of presentations, the field trips have been great although not always as well attended as they might have been. We will have to work on this as Anne puts in so much effort arranging them, not that we can do anything about the weather which has not always cooperated, and I have been remiss in attending many myself. Our parent group is BC Nature. Their Fall and Spring meetings have again been wonderful experiences and much of the BC Nature Spring AGM will be covered in this edition of the Newsletter. It is with regret that I will miss this year's BC Nature Fall meeting as I have to go on Safari in Africa at that time - such a sacrifice!

Working with associated groups such as Metro-Vancouver Parks, L.E.P.S and W.O.L.F has also been rewarding. Whereas the Conservation aspect has been an onerous task with a current Township Council who, given their way, I'm sure would pave over Langley and privatize all of our remaining natural habitat.

Lest this sound like a farewell speech I must let you know that I have agreed to stay on as president for another year and look forward to working with some new members of the board. We need a Vice-president and Membership secretary as this time, but all positions, including mine, are open to nominations and an election in the event of competition for positions.

Bob Puls



Green Heron at Brydon Lagoon Photo: John Gordon

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS WITH RON LONG

Burnaby Lake Regional Park – Nature House
Foot of Piper Avenue off Winston Street, North Side of
Burnaby Lake



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

This workshop will include a lecture and question period in the morning, a shoot at midday and a critique later in the afternoon. This class is for anyone who still has questions about digital photography.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
(Composition)

This seminar will provide information and techniques that will significantly improve your photography regardless of the kind of camera you are using. The seminar is fully illustrated with hundreds of photographs to demonstrate the techniques being discussed. COMPOSITION will provide many suggestions and a few simple guidelines to improve your compositions.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
(Lighting)

Photography, of course, depends on light but light effects are extremely variable. How you use these effects can make the difference between a stunning photograph and a boring snapshot. This class will provide insights into the awareness, understanding and application of naturally occurring light effects.

Limit 15 students

Cost for each seminar is \$40 for members of Nature Vancouver and other BC Nature Clubs.
Non-members: \$50.00

Please bring your camera, an empty memory card, camera instruction book, notebook and pen, lunch and snack. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. Also bring clothing for the outdoor portion.

Please register by phoning or emailing Jude Grass at 604-538-8774 judegrass@shaw.ca, and then mailing a cheque payable to Nature Vancouver – Photography Seminar, to 17375 27A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3S 0E9.

NEW FROM JOHN NEVILLE (NEVILLE RECORDING) 4 CD SET FEATURING BIRD SONGS OF CANADA



Birders, indeed nature lovers everywhere, will want to own this wonderful collection that really celebrates the diversity of Canada's avifauna.

John has published a number of fine recordings over the years, including A Beginners Guide to BC Bird Song (2 CD set with Mel Coulson), and Bird Songs of the Okanagan.

The clarity of the recordings and useful commentary speaks greatly to how carefully and lovingly they are done. They are an excellent way to learn birds by their calls and songs, and simply a joy to listen to, and they feature Canadian Birds with Canadian accents. I was told years ago that the White-throated Sparrow sings "Canada, sweet Canada" north of the 49th parallel and "Old Sam Peabody" south of the 49th.

John, immediate Past President of BC Nature, and his wife Heather travel widely recording nature sounds - for us all to enjoy.

For more details about other titles,
and ordering details, go to:
<http://www.nevillerecording.com/>

Wild Birds Unlimited *Nature Shop*

Willowbrook Park Shopping Centre,
#2-6131 200th Street
Langley, BC V2Y 1A2
Phone: (604) 510-2035

Mon - Thurs: 10:00 am - 5:30 am
Fri: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sat: 10:00 am - 5:00 am
Sun: 11:00 am - 5:00 am

HIKE AROUND PITT POLDER

Sunday May 10th

Al Schulze, David and Nora Truman, Wim Vesseur, Lin Inman and trip leader Josh Inman met at the parking lot at Grant Narrows at 9am for what turned out to be a great birding trip around the triangular lake known as Pitt Polder. We began on the southern, more bird friendly, dyke with its cottonwoods and thin muddy path. This was where we saw most of our warblers and sparrows and was also the section that took the longest to walk. It was 11am when we arrived at the lookout tower at the end of this section. We spent a good half an hour enjoying the view, looking for more birds, and for some it was also a lunch break. This break couldn't have come at a better time as it was raining quite hard while we were there.



Great Blue Heron

Photo: Bob Puls

When we left the tower the rain had almost stopped and the weather steadily improved during the rest of the trip. The rest of the trip around the lake was mainly on a dyke with no trees on either side and we were very happy that the strong afternoon wind that often occurs in this area was absent today. Everyone was quite tired when we finally made it back to the parking lot after taking over 5 hours to cover the 5 km triangle, but we were unanimous about it having been a great trip, though sorry that we were 1 shy of 60 species.

Wim even decided to hike down the dyke south of the parking lot after everyone left. He returned after about half an hour but not until finding 3 more species. And here are those 62 species.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Great Blue Heron | 22. Sandhill Crane | 43. Pacific Wren |
| 2. Trumpeter Swan | 23. Band-tailed Pigeon | 44. American Robin |
| 3. Mute Swan | 24. Barred Owl | 45. European Starling |
| 4. Canada Goose | 25. Vaux's Swift | 46. Orange-crowned Warbler |
| 5. Wood Duck | 26. Anna's Hummingbird | 47. Nashville Warbler |
| 6. Green-winged Teal | 27. Rufous Hummingbird | 48. Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon and Myrtle) |
| 7. Mallard | 28. Belted Kingfisher | 49. Common Yellowthroat |
| 8. Northern Pintail | 29. Downy Woodpecker | 50. Wilson's Warbler |
| 9. Blue-winged Teal | 30. Bullock's Oriole | 51. Spotted Towhee |
| 10. Cinnamon Teal | 31. Virginia Rail | 52. Savannah Sparrow |
| 11. Gadwall | 32. Tree Swallow | 53. Song Sparrow |
| 12. American Wigeon | 33. Violet-green Swallow | 54. Lincoln's Sparrow |
| 13. Ring-necked Duck | 34. Northern Rough-winged Swallow | 55. Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| 14. Lesser Scaup | 35. Cliff Swallow | 56. White-crowned Sparrow |
| 15. Common Goldeneye | 36. Barn Swallow | 57. Dark-eyed Junco |
| 16. Bufflehead | 37. Steller's Jay | 58. Red-winged Blackbird |
| 17. Common Merganser | 38. Northwest Crow | 59. Purple Finch |
| 18. Osprey | 39. Common Raven | 60. American Goldfinch |
| 19. Bald Eagle | 40. Brown-headed Cowbird | 61. Wilson's Snipe |
| 20. Merlin | 41. Black-capped Chickadee | 62. American Coot |
| 21. Red-tailed Hawk | 42. Marsh Wren | |

Josh Inman

WEDNESDAY MAY 7TH DECEPTION PASS



At Deception Pass

Photo: Anne Gosse

On a lovely sunny day, 13 naturalists drove to Deception Pass to go on a spring botany expedition. Parking at Bowman Bay, we walked up and over the cliff trail to Rosario Beach along the open high sea bluffs, all the while inspecting and photographing many spring beauties. We searched for and found the Calypso Orchid, Spring Gold, Field Chickweed plus many more species in their usual haunts. Also, two Oystercatchers were seen, along with five Pigeon Guillemot, Goldfinches and White-crown Sparrows. We also disturbed a noisy Kingfisher along the way. Barn Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows were nesting under the piers and flying.

After lunch at the picnic tables, we wandered along the beach trail and up the circle trail to Lighthouse Point - which presented more fantastic ocean views and more species of wild flowers. They were too numerous to name - so these are just a few of the wild flowers we found:

Common Camas, Death Camas, Nodding Onion, Larkspur, Fawn Lilies, Dovefoot, Geranium, Western Starflower, Sea Blush, Woolly Sunflower, Blue-eyed Mary, Paint Brush, Chocolate Lilies, Seashore Lupine, Vetch, Field Chickweed, Wild Rose.

It was a lovely day to be outside exploring in this wonderful park. Our stop for coffee and pie at the "Farmhouse Restaurant" made for much merriment when the Mile High Pie needed two plates to hold it up!

Elvina reported we identified approximately 81 plants and shrubs and of those 70 were in bloom! Nice to see the chocolate lilies and calypso orchids still in bloom and some people liked the decaying log covered in the "British Soldier" lichen. Our thanks to Elvina for leading us on a wonderful and exhilarating day!

Anne Gosse

'I know a bank where on the wild thyme blows, Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows, Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine, with sweet musk-roses, and with eglantine: There sleeps Titania some time of the night, Lulled in these flowers with dances and delight: And there the snake throws her enamelled skin, Weed wide enough to wrap a fairy in'. By William Shakespeare.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23RD 2014 BRYDON LAGOON & HI-KNOLL PARK



Enjoying the Griffiths' hospitality

Photo: Delta Nats

Even though we woke up to a heavy downpour, it was sunny on our walk around the lagoon and along the lovely green pathways of Hi-Knoll Park. Our birding and botany ramble turned into an outing of discovery with Al's little tidbits of information.

He answered questions about the flowering plants and birds, making it an educational and interesting day for all those with inquiring minds. In Hi-Knoll Park, many sprouting spring plants bordered the pathways - with the beautiful Fawn Lilies and Trillium and Bleeding Heart giving the grandest displays.

We found and heard many species of birds - a Red-tailed Hawk and Gull made it a grand total of 40 species! Along the way we witnessed Chickadees gathering cotton from a marsh cattail, gazed at a Bushtit's nest, and were given a great view of the male Common Yellowthroat calling. Two types of Hummingbirds were seen - the Rufous and Anna's.

Flocks of warblers were high in the deciduous trees: Orange-crowned Warblers and Yellow-rumped Warblers. To top off this lovely spring day, Annabel came out to greet us, inviting us to her balcony overlooking Brydon Lagoon for delicious muffins and coffee! Thank you Annabel and Rhys! It was very hospitable of you and very much enjoyed! Also our thanks goes to Al for leading this wandering, boisterous group of 27 birders on this lovely April day.

Anne Gosse

**SATURDAY APRIL 5TH
MCLELLAN PARK,
(NOW BLAAUW ECO FOREST) LANGLEY**



Curtis explains his research

Photo: Anne Gosse

Fourteen naturalists arrived at the trailhead to join David Clements and his two Trinity Western students to hear about their biodiversity studies in this brand new McLellan Park - or, as it is now called, Blaauw ECO Forest. We were taken into a quiet mossy green forest of about 25 acres which is full of huge Douglas firs and cedars, making us very grateful that this silent woodland has been saved from the chain-saw. Pacific Wrens and other birds were singing amongst the ferns and foliage on the forest floor.

These fourth year students, Curtis Abney and Lara Loubser, demonstrated what they had learned on their environmental thesis research in this park. Laura had focused on the Northern Red-legged Frog and the Pacific Banded Forest Snail and Curtis's area of research was of the animal and plant species within the park. He told us of seeing an exciting garter snake-ball and of all the many animals he had caught on his webcam. I forget how many species of plants he said he had catalogued. We nearly stepped on one of Laura's Pacific Banded Forest Snails on the trail and we also found frogs and salamanders. It was a very fascinating two hours of discovery and delight. We finished up with an hour of bird watching in Glen Valley Park, seeing about 22 different species. Our thanks to David and his students for a great outing and for all the fascinating information they shared.

Anne Gosse

**SATURDAY MARCH 22ND
MARVIN MARSH,
ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK**

Twelve naturalists joined our leader Bob Puls and Biologist Monica Pearson at the newly created marsh area in Aldergrove Regional Park. Monica told us about this ongoing restoration project for the endangered Oregon Spotted Frog - which was well underway before us within a low muddy watery enclosed field. She showed us all the planning and

work that had already been done within this area to provide a suitable habitat for this "red flagged" species.

Apparently the frog's preferred habitat is warm very shallow water - with both floating and emergent vegetation, which Monica and her team have been working hard to provide. The new marsh area included many large tree stumps in the water, as well as many upright perching logs for birds and lots of reed grasses surrounded by a mud dyke. She also explained that these frogs used to be very prolific throughout the lower mainland but with urban development and filling in of the wetlands, there are now only about 300 left.

However, soon Oregon Spotted Frogs born at the Vancouver Aquarium will be released into this new home that has been specially created by these hard working and dedicated biologists!



Marvin Marsh

Photo: Anne Gosse

While we were there, we also saw 22 different species of birds - with lots of ducks and geese in the marsh. Our thanks to Bob and Monica for a very informative morning!

Anne Gosse



Web photo

FORSLUND/WATSON WILDLIFE AREA



Forslund proposed pond site

Photo: Bob Puls

On Monday March 11th, Ryan, Bob, Roy and John met with Sylvia Letay and Brent Gurd of the Ministry of Forests and Jeanine Bond (plus assistant) of Ducks Unlimited to investigate the possibility of adding an ephemeral pond to the hay field just to the east of the old meadow. This area has been exceptionally wet and difficult to mow for years with tractors having got stuck in it more than once. Since we don't need all of this area for hay or duck feed, rather than try and drain the site, it seemed more logical to scoop it out and turn it into amphibian habitat.

After a cold and wet February and beginning of March, the 11th turned out to be a perfect clear warm day. Many ducks, mostly American Wigeon, and Canada Geese were on the pond or pasture when we arrived. Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks were soaring overhead and John spotted a Northern Harrier flying over the trees. The water table was at its highest and the wet pasture area clearly delineated. Ruts left by the haymaking equipment were filled with water.

The site was considered perfect for an ephemeral pond by all present. So the next step is to dig down to check the soil structure and depth when it is dry enough and then estimate the cost of scooping out a pond, prior to acquiring funding and proceeding with the project. If all goes well, we might be able to achieve this objective in 2015.

On Saturday March 15th, we held a work-party to further deer-proof the Western Red Cedar and Sitka Spruce trees that we have planted in the woodland. Ryan, Bob, Roy, Kirk Miles and daughter Katheryn attended.

We carried stakes, which L.E.P.S. had provided, in to the two Lamium control areas where we had planted trees 2 years ago and pounded one post in beside each of the ~30 trees. We then lifted the existing wire to protect the tops of the trees and strapped it into place. Hopefully this will prevent the deer from nibbling on the growing points and allow the trees to get to a height at which the deer cannot reach the tops.

The next job was to get some more posts and adjust the wire cages on the Cedar trees planted at the northern end of the site, which has now been done.

Continuing in to May, Ryan raised some of the swallow boxes to see if this enhances their use and Gareth and Bob later checked all the nest boxes and ejected the few remaining deer mice.

Kirk and Katheryn are running a monitoring programme to survey salamanders, using sampling boards for them to hide under.

Bob Puls



Katheryn Miles attaching wire to post

Photo: Bob Puls

REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY MAY 23RD, 2014

Twenty-four naturalists enjoyed another wonderful sunny warm day wandering the trails of Reifel Refuge Bird Sanctuary with our leader Al Grass.



Photo: Anne Gosse

Two bickering pairs of Sandhill Cranes were welcoming people at the entrance gate - preventing money exchanging hands - along with a Downy Woodpecker and several Rufous Hummingbirds. On the wooded outer dyke trail we found lots of sparrows and the usual duck species. We thrilled at the sight of our summer residents - the Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and the Common Yellowthroat. A few Cedar Waxwings and American Goldfinches were seen and we had a good look at a noisy Bewick's Wren.

We searched for the Bullock's Oriole, but even without finding him our species count still rose to 43.

On the outer dyke trail several of us watched Marsh Wrens building their nests deep amongst the tall marsh bulrushes. Several Long-billed Dowitchers doing their "sewing machine" act strolled by. We checked out a Greater Yellowlegs and spied three different species of Teal - Blue, Green and Cinnamon. Violet-green and Tree Swallows were skimming the ponds and Barn Swallows were nesting inside bird blinds. Lots of baby ducks and baby geese were waddling in all places, with Bald Eagles and a Red-tailed Hawk above eyeing them.

New member Tom Wildeboer offered to record our bird list while enjoying the ribbing and fun of the ongoing search. Our four "newbie's" thoroughly enjoyed the day's outing and were ecstatic over what they had seen and learned from our leader Al Grass - who told us many facts and interesting tidbits. They thanked him profusely - vowing to come out again.

Lastly, taking a tip from one of the birders, a few of us searched for the Bullock's Oriole and found two wonderfully formed purse-like nests interwoven with thin blue rope hanging from a deciduous tree. It was another great day to be outside and alive and with a like-minded group of boisterous birders.

Anne Gosse

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE

Once the male Bullock's Oriole has found a mate they defend their territory and begin nesting. The mating season begins in late April to early May. The males arrive 2 or 3 days before the females and begin claiming their territories. They sing from treetops in their effort to attract a mate. Their singing is almost constant until they mate with a female. Like many other birds, the female Bullock's Oriole is the primary nest builder, making a hanging nest made from plant fibers and suspended from a branch 6 to 90 feet above ground. In this tightly woven hanging nest, the female lays 3 to 6 eggs, pale blue with dark marks. Incubation of the eggs lasts 12 to 14 days and the young birds will leave the nest 12 to 14 days after hatching. They nest only once each season.
<http://www.wild-birdwatching.com/Baltimore-Oriole.html>



Web photo

RECYCLING PROGRAMME



Thank you to all who contribute their bottles and cans to the LFN recycling programme. A special thank you to Rhys who then takes the contributions for recycling and to Lesley who also recycles a large amount for the Club. The total raised in the last year was \$215 - keep those recyclable bottles and cans coming!



BC NATURE AGM

MAY 1ST - 4TH 2014

"Coastal Connections"

Victoria BC

This year the Annual General Meeting and Spring Conference of BC Nature was filled with field trips and speakers - so much so that we had to decide whether to head out on a field trip or stay in for a presentation. LFN was again very well represented. Our BC Nature Rep, Kathy, has reported on the business conducted, and others have given their reports on various presentations and outings.

DIRECTORS' MEETING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Both the Directors' meeting on Thursday night May 1st and the AGM, Saturday afternoon May 3rd, accomplished important BC Nature business and gave valuable information about BC Nature's concerns. From review of reports, election of the new executive and onto a spectrum of issues such as BC pipeline projects and review of the proposed new BC Nature 5 Year Plan, a lot of work made these meetings worthwhile. And we had to get this work done so we could get outside on all those field trips and listen to the many amazing speakers!

The directors were very pleased that their meeting was moved from Saturday morning to Thursday evening so we could have Saturday morning free to take part in either another field trip or listen to a speaker. The meeting began with a light buffet supper so we could quickly get to work on the full agenda. After the usual approval of agenda and minutes, the directors studied and approved the financial statements that could now be recommended for approval to the membership at the AGM. Bev Ramey introduced the slate of returning and newly acclaimed executive members, including our new President Kees Visser.

The first speaker was Chris Tollefson from the Environmental Law Centre (ELC) at the University of Victoria. Chris represented BC Nature and Nature Canada pro bono as intervenors at the Northern Gateway Pipeline hearings. Chris and his law students focussed on the environmental issues of the pipeline, including the impact on migrating caribou. After the hearings ended, in January 2014, the ELC placed an appeal to the Federal Court of Appeal to challenge the final Enbridge hearings report that stated that the impact on the caribou winter migration and the effect of oil spills on marine environments were not enough to stop the project. The ELC is also representing BC Nature as intervenors in the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline twinning through BC. Already the ELC have challenged the National

Energy Board on the tight timeline of 15 months for the hearings and the fact that only written submissions are allowed, and with no cross examinations of witnesses under oath. Chris said this process will not provide proper environmental information to make a decision and the format of the hearings must be changed. BC Nature clearly benefits from this relationship with the Environmental Law Centre.

The second speaker was Cheryl Guthrie, about reducing domestic and feral cat predation on Canada's songbirds. Cheryl wrote and produced the CBC's "Cat Crazed" documentary in 2011 and continues to collaborate with local and provincial organizations about the problem of cat predation. An Environment Canada study shows that 270,000,000 birds are killed in Canada each year by cats. The problem for British Columbia is huge, as there are 300 species of birds that breed in BC, including 65 that breed in BC alone. BC Nature advocates tackling this crisis. There should be strict cat control with cats kept indoors and cat licensing. There are negative views of this process by many cat owners, but Cheryl indicates that there is a social shift to more responsible ways to manage cats through public education and pressure. We should educate at the neighbourhood level and pressure our mayors and councils for action.

Next Krista Katein from Comox Valley Naturalists gave a demonstration of the new BC Wildlife Viewing Guide, showing its location on the BC Nature website and how to drill down to get information about wildlife viewing in each area of BC, including directions and what can be seen in each season and illustrated with photographs. Individual clubs can submit their information and pictures about their own area to Krista for the site. Langley already has our information submitted and our 3 sites, Campbell Valley Park, Aldergrove Park and Brydon Lagoon are available for viewing.

Betty Davison then informed us of the new billing procedure for clubs from BC Nature to begin in December 2014. To insure consistency, despite the fact that many clubs have different year ends, clubs will submit BC Nature fees and membership lists at December 31st of each year for each member that has paid in that year, no matter when they joined their club. This will simplify the billing procedure for BC Nature. Of course, membership officers of each club must still inform BC Nature when a new member joins or moves, in a timely fashion, for mailing of the BC Nature's quarterly magazine.

The meeting ended with our breakout session into regional groups. The Lower Mainland group, chaired by Jude Grass, gave each club an opportunity to share causes and projects that they are currently working on.



Robert Bateman in the Bateman Gallery *Web photo*

After a day and a half of speakers and field trips, including the Friday night wonderful reception at the Robert Bateman gallery with Robert's talk to us afterward, we met Saturday afternoon for the Annual General Meeting. BC's Lieutenant Governor, Judith Guichon, was piped in with an honour guard to open up the meeting. Judith opened with a talk about her environmental values based on respect, responsibility and relationships. She then gave us an overview of her many duties as Lieutenant Governor. Her special project is establishing libraries for children in First Nations communities.

The meeting was chaired for the last time by our outgoing president John Neville. It began with BC Nature business, such as approval of the minutes from Cranbrook's FGM and approval of the financial statements for the year end 2013. Also a motion was approved to appoint Reid, Hurst, Nagy, CGA to conduct the review of the financial statements for the year ending December 31st, 2014.

A discussion ensued about a resolution submitted by the Arrowsmith Naturalists concerning the conservation of BC's grizzly bear populations. The resolution, after all the whereas-es, was that BC Nature urge the BC Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to halt the sport hunting of grizzly bears and that BC Nature urge the provincial government departments responsible to recommit to implementing an updated BC Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy, and that BC Nature urge the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife to declare Canada's grizzly bears a Species at Risk under the federal Species at Risk Act. After debate and minor amending of the wording, this worthwhile resolution was passed by the membership.



Kees Visser *BC Nature photo*

Next, Kees Visser, presented the results of the survey from the clubs who answered his online questions about their views of BC Nature: its strengths that could be built on and weaknesses that could be improved, as a basis for the new BC Nature Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2020. Most positive comments were about the competent and committed executive working for the organization, and the strength of all clubs working together. Weaknesses include aging membership and the need to raise the profile of BC Nature in the general public, as the BC government already is fully of aware of BC Nature's role.

We then listened to speaker MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert, who is the NDP environmental critic. His main message was that we are a part of nature, not apart from nature. We are not as connected as we used to be. He said BC Nature's voice is important in promoting a healthy ecology and economy. We have to be vigilant in watching environmental assessments to make sure the environment isn't diminished and provide a political will to make this happen. Herbert says best results in environmental issues are rooted in nature and science.

For most committee reports, we were referred to the written reports in the BC Nature 2013 Annual Report. Rosemary Fox, the Conservation Chair, verbally added a few notes to her written report. She said she worked so hard on the Enbridge file and she waits, but not optimistically, for the government decision on June 19th as to whether the Northern Gateway project will go ahead. She is also not pleased with the Kinder Morgan hearings that will finish too quickly in only a year from now. The hearing is a flawed process because no cross examination is allowed and there are only two opportunities to submit questions. Rosemary says these two pipelines could cause enormous environmental damage to ecosystems.

The meeting ended with announcement of upcoming events, highlights being the FGM on September 25th 2014 in Salmon Arm and next year's AGM May 7th - 10th on Salt Spring Island.

The President's gavel was then formally passed from outgoing President John Neville to the BC Nature's new President Kees Visser!

Kathy Masse

BC NATURE AGM 2014 SAANICH PENINSULA BIRDING

On Friday afternoon May 2nd, Bill & I went on the Saanich Peninsula Birding foray. We met up with our leader in Saanich who told us we were first going to view skylarks. Our curiosity about the Skylark was whetted by the fact that we were for some reason heading to the Victoria International Airport to see the Skylarks.

We arrived at a raised viewing spot overlooking the airport runway. Although we were behind a chain link fence, because of the slope we had a clear view down to some grasslands beside the runway. Our leader said this area was one of only a few places where Skylarks are known to nest. The Eurasian Skylark was introduced to North America from Europe in 1903 but the only place on the continent where the Skylark became established was on Vancouver Island. They flourished until the late 1960's when encroaching development on their grassland habitat reduced their numbers. Now there are only 100-200 Skylarks remaining and they are all found in the Saanich Peninsula. Efforts are underway to protect the Skylark's nesting areas so this amazing bird will not go extinct in BC.



Nesting skylark

Photo: Google images

The Skylark is hard to spot, as it is not very large, only seven inches, and it is very well camouflaged in the grasslands by its streaky brown, yellow and white colouration. However, we did see one flying and all watched as it flew down to the tall grasses beside the runway and out of sight. We kept our binoculars trained on that spot but to no avail. After a long time of staring, perhaps 15 minutes, and just when we were ready to give up, a skylark flew out of the grasses, straight upwards. The bird was singing a melodious song as he kept soaring and spiralling upward. I was lucky enough to not lose sight of the bird for his whole flight, even when he was reduced to a small dot. Then he descended slowly back to

the very same spot that he had started. We were very lucky to observe this wonderful display of the male Skylark.

We then went to our next destination on the Peninsula, a rural area of homes on a wide looped road. The weather was pleasant and warm, and we walked the loop for over an hour. We saw only 20 species as it was the quiet time of day for birding. However, it was quite exciting to hear a huge commotion from Towhees and Robins in a clearing beside the road. Our leader says this area is known for a Barred Owl often seen there. We watched for quite a while, but never saw the owl. However the birds never stopped making their alarm calls so he must have been there. The next highlight was a Bushtit nest hanging in a protected area. We knew the birds were busy inside when we observed the nest exterior bouncing! We quietly left, leaving the Bushtits to carry on with their skillful construction. This was a great afternoon of birding!

Kathy Masse

BC NATURE AGM 2014 BEACON HILL MEADOWS with *Dr. Brenda Beckwith,* *Biologist.*

Following our leader, a group of 25 naturalists walked from our downtown hotel to Beacon Hill Park. Brenda led us into the wilder non-manicured areas of this large city park to the Camas meadows.



The Camas plants here came in two distinct species, Common Camas and the Great Camas - both purple in colour, but one taller and with a few differences. The meadows were only covered sporadically here and not spread all over the slopes as in the past.

She said that the Native Peoples had been cultivating these Camas meadows on the bluffs by tending and picking them for centuries. It was an important staple food item for them and she carried a First Nations' pointed wooden digging stick to uncover some bulbs to show us.

She assured us the Native Peoples would have weeded out any Death Camas from their picking areas - just as we would have done. She explained the grasses, seeded by the first settlers that came to Victoria, are now destroying the Camas meadows - being too thick and tall to let the Camas grow. The park is looking into ways of clearing out the seeded grasses to make the Camas flourish and turn the hills purple again.

Anne Gosse

**BC NATURE AGM 2014
BIODIVERSITY OF THE BC CENTRAL COAST
& GREAT BEAR RAIN FOREST
(a very rare & special place!)**



At the BC Nature AGM in Victoria, I attended several speaker's presentations which I found were all excellent. However, as I did not know much about our remote isolated central northern BC coastline, I found biologist Dr. Starzomski's presentation very fascinating. This distant and inaccessible area is held under the Hakai Lúxvbálís Conservancy Management Board and is located along the BC mainland coast, north of Port Hardy, beside Queen Charlotte Sound, about 100 miles from Bella Coola. The only way to reach Hakai is by sea or air - or by one of the coastal BC ferries to Bella Bella - which is still 50 miles away from the area!

Dr. Starzomski takes his Victoria University biology students to this area for two to three weeks once a year to study the area's birds, plants, animals and insects. They are also studying how sensitive the many species are to climate change. The students stay at the Hakai Beach Institute, which was an old village site on this wild remote coast and also it is in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. The wild Hakai ocean channel in front of the Hakai Institute is very important to the Salmon Conservancy - plus the area has one of the largest remaining big old growth tree forests in our province. The climate is cold and windy due to the splitting of the two ocean currents - the Alaska and Pacific currents - but has a bountiful array of unusual species and the wet coastal rain forest holds an abundant and rich biomass.

Dr. Starzomski said that the rain forest canopy biomass and the forest soils have over 500 new or unknown species that have been revealed to have a movement of "energy" from ocean to land - making it a very important and rare place to study and

protect. He stressed there is a vein-like web of spreading connectivity alive underground in old growth forests, leaving us to wonder what has been lost with past logging. He said his biology students arrive knowing very little about nature and the environment; however, they soon experience so much over their time and studies at Hakai that they learn fast. While studying here, his students have done research on about 300 different species of every type of life-form in this rare ecosystem by monitoring, measuring, analyzing.

There are 25 Pacific wolves who live in the area - mostly on the nearby Calvert and Hecate islands. It was also very interesting to learn that in the past this area held a very large First Nations population. Due to the rich sea life and healthy forests, it was estimated that approximately twenty thousand Heiltsuk peoples lived in this coastal area for about ten thousand years - as revealed by archeology diggings of several native village sites. Dr. Starzomski said they are using the knowledge gained to manage and protect this very fascinating, rare and special British Columbian coastal habitat.

Anne Gosse

**BC NATURE AGM 2014
ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR
MODERN TERRESTRIAL COASTAL
ECOSYSTEMS**



Dr Richard Hebda

Web photo

Dr Richard Hebda, the Curator of Botany and Earth History at the Royal BC Museum, gave a fascinating talk on the development of our current coastal habitat. Apparently 120,000 years ago there would have been a Douglas Fir forest habitat much like today but 70,000 years ago the glaciers advanced in a glaciation period before the most recent one. Although the glaciers did not reach the Victoria area, the climate was cool and the forests were mostly Mountain Hemlock and Spruce.

Between 50,000 and 30,000 years ago, in a warmer time period (although not as warm as now), there would have been a mixed conifer forest of Spruce, Hemlock and Lodgepole Pine, but no Douglas Fir.

About 30,000 years ago, there was a great cooling; two ice sheets covered all of Canada (although there is some dispute about whether or not small pockets of non glaciation occurred). By 20,000 years ago, we would have found low elevation tundra with no trees. This was the coldest time globally, and there would have been rich flower meadows with Jacobs Ladder, and many other species which no longer occur in this area. This also was a time of mega fauna - the Mammoth, the Muskox, the giant Sloth and the Short Faced Bear which was about 3 metres tall.

Around 15,000 years ago the area would have been buried in ice, although there is some indication that a few places such as Haida Gwaii were "refuge areas", indicated by unusual endemic plants whose DNA indicates that they go back to before the ice age.

By 14,000 years ago there was a warming and melting trend and sea levels were about 200 metres higher than today, indicated by fossils of sea creatures in areas now well above sea level.

13,000 years ago we would have found cool, dry pine woodland from here to California, much like the Chilcotin today, with Pine and Aspen the predominant trees. Bison would have roamed the area - the mega fauna were now extinct.

10,900 years ago there was a sudden cooling and unstable land led to debris slides, thus removing the pines. Then there came a sudden warming and this led to the extinction of several species.

So over the last 10,000 years we have had a gradual warming to the inter glacial period today. Gradually the Garry Oaks, the Camas, the Bracken Ferns appeared. What were originally marshes have gradually become bogs; the tree line is higher. The last 4,000 years have seen the spread of Western Red Cedar along the entire coast, the climate is changing more quickly, people have started to transform the land for human use.

More recently we have seen the impact of alien invasions - the Grey Squirrel, Scotch Broom, etc., a CO₂ increase. To slow this, we MUST reduce fossil fuel use and stop eating away at nature.

A fascinating and educational presentation given by an excellent lecturer!

Sheila Puls

BC NATURE AGM 2014 GIANT PACIFIC OCTOPUS - NO MOTHER COULD GIVE MORE



Marine Biologist Jim Cosgrove

Web Photo

Jim Cosgrove is a well known Victoria biologist whose primary interest is the Octopus. His presentation on these creatures (Octopus, not Octopi!) told us about his search for a nest, his first sight of one when he had a film crew out to film an octopus and how they were not impressed as "it wasn't in the script"! Since he had never seen a nest before, he was not impressed by their lack of interest!



He started by telling us that the creatures have excellent eyesight, but only in black and white. They are very strong and very large - weighing up to 150 lbs and 22 ft across. Their suckers act like a nose or tongue to "taste" you to see if you are edible. And their arms are arms, not tentacles - the arms act independently. Their biggest predators are visual hunters, so an octopus will spend most of its time in a den and will hunt mostly at night. They can change colour fast, and can match surrounding colouration. They have been around for half a billion years, one of the most successful of nature's creatures.

The "ink" contains a chemical which kills smell, so when being hunted they can blow ink at the face of the predator, drop deep, disguise themselves by

camouflage and stop breathing.

Baby octopus start off about the size of a grain of rice, but even in the egg they can change colour.

Their main diet is crabs and cuttlefish - they gather them under their "web", inject an anaesthetic, gather three or four and then den before breaking the shell and injecting a chemical which turns the prey into jelly. The tongue has radula (hooks) to draw out all the meat.

The only hard part of the octopus is the beak - made of a similar material to our fingernails - so if the beak can get into a hole, the rest can follow.

The reproduction cycle starts with a sperm tube which the male passes to the female; he breaks the "string" which allows salt water into the tube and pushes the sperm into the female. The female then seals herself in her den. She can lay up to 80,000 eggs which she glues about a hundred at a time to the roof of the cave. It takes about a month to lay all the eggs, although they all hatch within 4 hours.

The female grooms the eggs constantly, staying in her sealed cave and not eating. It takes about 240 - 270 days for the eggs to hatch. The mother's last act is to remove the rock and then she dies - if she does not survive to do this, none of the babies will survive.

The babies swim to the surface and attach themselves to the underside of the surface tension. Only 2 are expected to survive to adulthood as they are now part of the food chain. The mother's body will be consumed by sea stars.

The reason it is so hard to find a nesting den is that, because the female does not eat during this time, there is no midden - normally octopus dens have a shell midden in front, but the female will clean the whole area around her den before walling herself in.

Another excellent speaker on a topic which was fascinating!

Sheila Puls



California Sea Lions at Race Rocks

Photo: Bob Puls

BC NATURE AGM 2014 HOW VANCOUVER ISLAND CAME TO BE THE ROCK STORY

Dr. Eileen van der Flier-Keller

Eileen's first greeting to us was that she had got us at the worst time of day - after lunch, but she was determined to keep us awake, and she certainly did with hands on activities.

She started by passing amongst us a large opaque plastic bag full of rocks. We each had to reach in and take a rock out and keep it for the whole session. First we had to look at it and describe it as best we could. Eileen then launched into the question "how long ago were rocks formed?" Answer - probably four and a half billions years ago. In 600 BC. Greek philosophers began taking an interest in rock formations but it was not until 1785 that James Hutton, a Scottish physician, suggested that all rocks came from volcano eruptions which is the theory held today.

There are three kinds of rocks. Igneous rocks originate in lava spewed from volcanoes. Sedimentary rock is formed from material that was once part of older rocks, plant material and animals which are pounded together. Metamorphic rocks are created by intense pressure and heat from mountain building movements in the earth. Soft shale and clay harden into layers of slate under extreme pressure and heat. Eileen then asked us to classify the rocks in our hands. She followed this by handing out much larger rocks to individuals for them to tell the rest of us what kind of rock it was, which was very challenging as we all waited to see how successful the individual was!

Next Eileen, who had a great sense of humour, asked 6 people to come forward and she preceded to drape them with yoga mats to demonstrate the shifting of plutonic plates as they affect the Pacific Ocean and our west coast. There was much laughter and confusion with the participants who had to move about. She then produced a large foam cushion to put on top of the yoga mats which represented North America bearing down on the east Pacific plate.

Vancouver Island is mostly composed of sedimentary and igneous rocks.

Nobody fell asleep in Eileen's very enjoyable Rocks 101.

Annabel Griffiths

Dr. Eileen van der Flier-Keller is a Professor with the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria.

**BC Nature 2014 AGM.
BRITISH COLUMBIA'S SPIDERS:
SURVEYING THE PROVINCE'S DIVERSITY
BY DR. ROBB BENNETT.**

Dr. Bennett, a leading expert in spider identification, is continuing his cataloguing of B.C. spiders as a volunteer at the RBCM, following his retirement. Information garnered from his presentation include: 1,400 spiders species occur in Canada, 780 of which have been found in B.C. Probably at least 200 more are still to be found in B.C. Dr. Bennett and Darren and Claudia Copley take one trip a year up into the high country in various B.C. locations (not camping!) where they turn over rocks and collect specimens. They spend the rest of the year in the laboratory identifying and cataloguing their catch, along with other collections submitted to them by various collectors. This included my 100 specimens, most of which were immature and could not be identified.

However, the exciting news was that two of my collection from Mountain View Crown Lands, were new to Canada. Dr. Bennett's report was as follows:; "So far, the interesting material comprises specimens of 2 Palearctic species - new alien species for our area. The linyphiid, *Linyphia*



Linyphia triangularis Photo: Google Images
Ero tuberculata Photo: Google Images

triangularis (Clerck) has previously only been recorded in North America in Maine. And the mimetid, *Ero tuberculata* (De Geer) is apparently new to the Nearctic region. We have specimens of *E tuberculata* as well from Stanley Park and a couple of sites around Victoria but it wasn't until we saw the Ft Langley beasts that we were able to figure out its identity (previously I had been thinking it was possibly an eastern Nearctic species of *Ero*). *Linyphia triangularis* and *E tuberculata* are very common species in the Palearctic and it's perhaps not too surprising to see them show up here."

In his talk, Dr. Bennett described collection techniques, which included Pit Fall traps and Berlese filters to isolate spiders and beetles and an aspirator tube used to pick up the spiders, most of which are miniscule, without destroying them.

On the Monday after the conference I spent 2 hours with Darren and Robb going over their collection and



Darren Copley and Robb Bennett instruct Bob on collection techniques for collecting spiders Photo: Sheila Puls

identification methods. I learnt that different species of spiders mature at different times of the year, so it is understandable that most of my specimens were immature and that this is unavoidable, so we will have to continue to monitor constantly throughout the year.

I now have a 'Berlese funnel' which I am using to isolate spiders and beetles from moss, lichens, soil or leaf mulch, but I will only be able to do one sample at a time, so it will be in use continually to cover all sample types, substrates and seasons. The RBCM staff have agreed to identify further specimens from Mountain View and suggest I should be able to find another 20 species to add to the list. I don't yet have that list as Claudia has to first catalogue them in their data base.

Bob Puls

**BC NATURE AGM 2014
FAREWELL OUTING - RACE ROCKS**

Several LFN members chose their final field trip in Victoria to be the Fantasea II Marine Charter trip to Race Rocks. We met at the Harbour Air terminal, and all clambered on board. Several braved the cool and damp day by spending their time on the upper deck, others stayed below, but we all enjoyed the voyage out of the harbour and along the shoreline. There were a few seabirds around, a loon, Common Murre, some gulls - but none came too close as we headed out. However we had some wonderful views of the lighthouse at Race Rocks, along with the Elephant Seal which was climbing the boat ramp. We also saw a large colony of California Sea Lions - who were watching us as we were watching them!

Although the weather wasn't ideal for an ocean trip, everyone had a good time. One highlight was probably en route home when our Rocky Point Observatory naturalist guide, Ann Nightingale, threw out dog food and attracted a feeding frenzy of gulls.

Sheila Puls

**LANGLEY FIELD NATURALIST'S
SUMMER SOCIAL AND NATURE WALKS
Saturday July 26, 2014
10am to 4pm**



**At the GRASS SHACK
Home of Al and Jude
17375 27A Avenue, Surrey**

LFN members are invited to join us for a relaxing day of bird watching in the backyard, and/or going on a guided walk led by Al on our Country Woods nature trails (10:30 am and 1:30 pm).

The walks will be on different trails.

Please bring a savory or sweet to share for lunch. Please let me know what type of goody you are bringing so we have a good variety.

Please bring a chair,
binoculars & camera
We will go rain or shine....



Please RSVP to Jude at
judegrass@shaw.ca or 604 538 8774

I will send out instructions for finding the Grass Shack when you RSVP.

PROGRAMMES

Check our website for updates!

Meetings are held commencing at 7.15 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207th Street, Langley. Unless otherwise indicated, they consist of a brief monthly business meeting, followed by the feature presentation (approximately one hour), followed by refreshments.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH

All About Bird Boxes. With Peter Ward

Our group, all Nature Vancouver members, have been building and installing bird boxes as volunteers since 2009. Delta Naturalists' members and many friends have supported this initiative. Peter Ward will talk about his experiences with building, installing and monitoring boxes, in Vancouver, the Lower Mainland and in the Interior. We now have at least 150 boxes in operation, for supporting Tree Swallows, Chickadees, Barn Owls, Mountain Bluebirds, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Wood Ducks, House Sparrows, and the occasional Bewick's Wren.

Peter Ward's interest in bird watching started in Africa, back in the sixties, and he has since been an avid birder. He is a life member of BirdLife South Africa, and a member of Birdlife Zimbabwe. To date, with support from Ken Hall, John Toochnin, June Ryder and Delta Naturalists, about 120 Tree Swallow boxes have been built and installed at Reifel Bird Sanctuary, at Sea/Iona Islands, and at Big Bar Lake (near Clinton). Working with Delta Farmlands and Wildlife Trust, our volunteer group has constructed 24 boxes for Barn Owls, and these are presently being installed at sites with interested farmers.



BC Nature Farewell Outing - Gulls feeding behind the boat

Photo: Bob Puls

FIELD TRIPS

*Unless otherwise noted, meet at Douglas Park Recreation Centre on Douglas Crescent between 204 and 206 Street at 9:00 am for car pooling. If you prefer to meet at the walk site, please phone so we can watch for you. **Please phone in advance so that the co-ordinator does not go needlessly to the meeting site** - if the co-ordinator has not heard from any participants by the evening before the outing, then he/she will not go to the meeting site. Bring water, a lunch, binoculars, field guides and appropriate clothing for the weather. For more information, to make comments, suggest walks or to let us know you are coming, please phone Anne Gosse, 604-888-1787.*

Please reimburse your carpool driver at \$3.50 per hour of driving time. Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather conditions/trails - with sturdy foot wear and warm clothing.

The Wednesday evening walks are about two hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs & members of the public (adults & children, but no pets please). Please wear suitable walking shoes and light jackets; bring water, binoculars and bug spray.

Wednesday 2nd July, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
HOUSTON TRAIL - DERBY REACH
Anne Gosse & Joan Taylor,
604-888-1787 or 604-888-7261

Wednesday 9th July, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
16th Avenue Entrance
Jude and Al Grass, 604-538-8774.

Wednesday 16th July, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK,
East side of main parking lot, 8th Avenue entrance
Bob Puls, 604-856-7534

Wednesday 23rd July, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
BRYDON LAGOON
Meet at Parking Lot on 53 Ave near 198A Street
Al Grass & Annabel Griffiths, 604-538-8774

Wednesday 30th July, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
WEST CREEK WETLANDS
Lisa Parker, 604-532-0081

Friday 25th July, 2014

B.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK - Botany walk
Paintbrush Trail & View Point Loop,
Heather Meadows - **Weather permitting only.**
Meet in Langley at 7:30 am or
top Heather Meadows parking lot at 9:30-10:00 am.
Sheila and Bob Puls introduce us to the time of the first beautiful alpine blush of flowers that grow in our coastal mountains. We enjoy wonderful panoramic views and see what special alpine beauties we can discover. Bring botany books. Contact Info: 604-856-7534 or 604-888-1787.

Wednesday 6th August, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

BAT WALK AT FORSLUND WATSON NATURE RESERVE
Join Ryan Usenik for a walk through this nature reserve and have an update on an amphibian study - plus view proposed vernal pond location. At dusk we will participate in a Bat Count at the main pond before returning to parking area. We suggest good walking shoes and bring a flashlight. Meet at 2705 - 232 Street. Ryan Usenik - 604-530-3257.

Wednesday 13th August, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
MOUNTAIN VIEW CROWN LANDS
Bob Puls, 604-856-7534

Saturday 6th September, 8.30 am - 12 noon
**DE BOUVILLE SLOUGH AND
MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK**

Meet at 7:30 am in Langley or 8:30 am at the corner of Cedar Drive & Victoria Drive, Coquitlam. Come with Josh Inman as he leads us through a freshwater marsh and slough within this unique birding spot looking for Green Herons! We will take two cars to shuttle back and forth from park to parking spot. Ph: 604-888-1787 or 604-532-0455 to let us know to expect you.

Friday September 19th, 9:00 am - 12 noon
GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

Come and join Al Grass as we look for migrating birds, waterfowl, perhaps newly arriving Snow Geese, plus much more in this wonderful bird sanctuary on the Fraser River estuary! September is one of the best times to visit Reifel to see many returning migrants passing through. There is a small admission fee. Bring Lunch, snacks and refreshments. Meet at Douglas Crescent 8:00 am or Reifel Bird Sanctuary on Westham Island, Delta 9:00 am.