



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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

www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org

e-mail: langleyfieldnaturalists@shaw.ca

Newsletter

March 2016

OWLS GAVE A HOOT

Two public owling programs (January 22nd & February 12th) were offered at Campbell Valley Regional Park in conjunction with LFN and Metro Vancouver Parks' interpreters. On each outing a short 'prop talk' was given with feathers, pellets and a mounted Great Horned Owl to illustrate the unique feathers of owls. We also took the opportunity to promote the club and how to contact us.

On the first outing the weather was drizzly – not the best for owling. We did, however, at least hear a Barred Owl off in the distance.

The second outing was very successful – good weather, coyotes yapping, and cottontails bounding across the trail in front of us. At least two pairs of Barred Owls entertained us with their barking and hooting (it is hard to describe the wonderful chorus). They were calling at opposite ends of the park at the same time. Wonderful! And then, one flew over our heads, its silent shadowy form thrilling everyone.



Barred Owl

Photo: Al Grass

We would like to thank Metro Vancouver Parks interpreters Vanessa and Paul for organizing two memorable outings.

Al and Jude Grass



Siberian Accentor

Photo: John Gordon

AN UNUSUAL VISITOR

It was first spotted on January 3 by George Clulow, president of the B.C. Field Ornithologists, during the annual White Rock Christmas Bird Count. The Siberian Accentor, an unusual bird, was seen in Cloverdale and is very far from its usual habitat in its native Russia. It breeds in northern Siberia on either side of the northern Ural mountains. It has a wide range and winters in Asia – China, Korea and Japan - but has only been seen half a dozen times in BC. John Gordon managed to catch up with, and photograph it.

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2014-2015 DIRECTORS

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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 the LEPS office or at Executive members' homes.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring is on its way, snowdrops and crocuses are in bloom in the garden and the Indian plum is just coming into bloom in the woods and hedges. There are even a couple of daffodils in flower, which rarely bloom before St. David's day; March 1st for those of you without Welsh backgrounds.

Lambs are cavorting in the author's fields, frequently watched by up to four Bald Eagles sitting in the tops of our tall Douglas fir trees. The eagles, two adults and two sub-adults, in turn are watched nervously by myself, anxiously hoping they don't decide the little lambs would make a tasty meal; so far only one of my chickens has been given a nasty scare, losing a bunch of feathers in the process.

Whilst confined to home for the lambing period, I have been compiling the history of some of the LFN projects over the last 40 years. Starting with the Forslund/Watson Wildlife Area, prompted by the public access issue, which we are dealing with, I have extracted a time-line from the scrap books, executive and general meeting minutes as well as the Newsletters. This is essentially complete but experienced members are welcome to review the binders and add any material that I may have missed.

At the same time I have pulled out all the data for Brydon Lagoon Park, Jackman Pit Wetlands Park (see article in this newsletter) and the Irene Pearce Trail on the old Township site 19, which many of us fought to prevent becoming a gravel pit.

LFN's record over the years is impressive and one to be proud of.

Bob
Bob Puls, President.

EARLY BUTTERFLIES



Mourning Cloak Butterfly

Photo: Al Grass

Late winter/early spring begins the "seasonal parade" of butterflies. Three species to watch for are:

A) Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

This species can be seen coming out of "hibernation" on warm, sunny, winter days. Larval food: willows. Adults overwinter.

B) Satyr Comma (*Polygonia satyris*) "an angle wing"

Like the Mourning Cloak, adults overwinter (Beard, R.). Look for it basking in the sunshine on warm winter or early spring days. When its wings are folded together, it mimics dead leaves. Larval food: stinging nettle.

C) Mustard White (*Pieris napi*)

Seen along forest trails like Campbell Valley Regional Park's Little River Loop. As its name indicates, its' caterpillars feed on plants of the Cabbage Family ("mustard"), like winter ("bitter") cress (*Cardamine, spp.*). Watch for it in early spring.

Al Grass

References: Garden Butterflies of the Georgia Basin by Richard Beard. Published on behalf of Vancouver Natural History Society, NatureScape British Columbia, and the Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia. (This wonderful publication on our local butterflies is fully illustrated with colour photographs and information about the food plants.)

RAPTOR TAGS

A friend of Bob Puls who has recently moved to Chilliwack, not a birder, mentioned seeing a raptor perched on a bridge, sporting a tag "J7". Bob sent on the information to Jude Grass, who forwarded it to Gary Searing. This is his response:

Hi Bob,

Thank you for reporting your sighting of 7J. These sightings are very important to the success of my tagging program.

I tagged him as a Hatch Year bird at the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) on 24 November 2015 and released it the next day in Chilliwack, BC as part of a program to prevent raptors from being struck by aircraft. Yours is the first sighting of this bird since it was translocated to Chilliwack and it was later seen on 30 January 2015 in this same location (so your sighting of "J7" is more-or-less confirmed as "7J" by this later sighting). Let me provide you with some information on the program:

YVR began a program of trapping and removing Red-tailed Hawks and Rough-legged Hawks in October 2010 in order to prevent them from being struck by aircraft primarily to improve air safety, but also as a raptor conservation tool. Each year the airport has a large number of transient raptors that winter at YVR as well as resident adults and local-raised young birds. Based on information from SeaTac International



Great Horned Owl Photo: John Gordon

Airport in Washington, we expect that adult residents are least likely to be involved in collisions with aircraft, but a significant number of young birds and transient birds are struck each year. Therefore, we are attempting to remove those birds from the airport environs by capturing them and releasing them just beyond Chilliwack where there is ample habitat and a reasonable likelihood that they will not return to YVR. I view this not only as an air safety program, but also as a raptor conservation program because, if successful, we may prevent the deaths of a dozen or more birds each year. We expanded the program in 2013 to all raptors (including owls).

To date we have captured and relocated over 500 birds. Most of them were relocated to Chilliwack. To date there has been more than 4700 resightings of my tagged and banded birds. While most of those sightings are of birds that have returned to YVR, there have been over 287 sightings of 86 different birds away from Sea-lona Islands by over 133 observers who are not part of the YVR wildlife management team.

We are wing-tagging Red-tailed Hawks because we need to know who our resident birds are and are co-operating in a joint program with SeaTac and Portland International airports, all of whom are wing tagging airport Red-tailed Hawks (using different colours for the tag material). Not only is this program contributing to air safety, we are already learning a great deal about our raptors and hope to learn much more as the years pass. To date less than 1/3 of the captured Red-tailed Hawks, mostly resident adult birds or long-term wintering residents, have returned to the airport. Less than 20% of the very hazardous juvenile birds have returned. Several of our birds have been seen in Washington State and as far south as Oregon and we have had a few birds from Washington State come to YVR. We have had one sighting of a tagged Red-tailed Hawk near Kamloops. Of considerable interest is a Rough-legged Hawk tagged at YVR in November 2014, moved to Chilliwack 100 km east of YVR, that returned to Delta, about 15 km south of YVR and spent the winter there - seen frequently on the same light standard all winter long. Then he showed up in Cawston, BC on 13 May 2015 (250 km east of YVR) and was seen the next time in Ronan,

Montana on 2 November 2015 (another 450 km southeast of Cawston and 700 km southeast of YVR). So far we have captured:

- 24 American Kestrels
- 2 Bald Eagles (nestlings)
- 224 Barn Owls (only a few have returned)
- 60 Cooper's Hawks
- 22 Great Horned Owls
- 2 Merlins
- 2 Northern Harriers
- 5 Peregrine Falcons
- 178 Red-tailed Hawks
- 19 Rough-legged Hawks (4 returned to YVR)
- 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks
- 5 Short-eared Owls (1 returned)
- 2 Snowy Owls (1 returned)

Raptors are one of the major strike risks at YVR and we believe that we are mitigating that risk significantly through the capture and relocation of raptors.



American Kestrel

Photo: e-bird

It is through the sightings of many interested persons such as yourself that we are able to collect the essential information on bird movements and distribution and learn how well the measures we are using to manage wildlife at the airport and elsewhere are working.

Thank you for your cooperation and your interest. Feel free to contact me for more information or with any sighting information.

Regards
Gary

Gary F. Searing, M.Sc.
Wildlife Hazard Biologist
Airport Wildlife Management International
<http://www.airportwildlife.ca>

DRAYTON HARBOUR SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH 2015

Six LFN and WRSN members joined Gareth Pugh at Blaine Marine Park to walk around Blaine Harbour and the Semiahmoo Spit on a cold, windy and wet day. From the shelters along the shoreline, we were able to use our scopes to see the large number of ducks, mostly Mallard, Pintail, Scaup and Surf and White-winged Scoter with a few other species mixed in among them, the most interesting of which was a male Canvasback in full plumage, an unusual sighting in that area.

We drove to the parking lot at the end of the harbour road and walked onto the pier from where we were able to see a number of birds on the water, in addition to the Cormorants and Sanderlings that were perched on the harbour wall. Due to the southerly wind the waters of Drayton Harbour were very rough, making it difficult to see many birds, but Leona was able to locate a Western Grebe with her scope, a relatively scarce sighting this winter.

Moving on, we made our way round Drayton Harbour to the Spit and stopped at the first observation shelter where we were rewarded by the sight of several Black Oystercatchers and Black Turnstones which were feeding along the shingle at the edge of the water within twenty feet of us. It was disappointing to see the continuing development on the Spit which will remove most of the habitat where we have often seen species such as Western Meadowlarks on past visits. The weather had by now worsened, so we headed to the nearby café for lunch where we met a group of fellow birders from Seattle.

Despite the weather we had an enjoyable morning and saw a variety of birds.

Gareth Pugh

Birds seen:

Spotted Towhee, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, Northwestern Crow, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Glaucous-winged Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Northern Flicker, Bald Eagle, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Dunlin, Sanderling, Black

Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Canvasback, Harlequin, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Belted Kingfisher and Merlin.

MOUNTAIN VIEW SPOTTED OWL BREEDING FACILITY THURSDAY JANUARY 7TH 2016

Thirteen LFN and WRSN members plus one guest joined Gareth for a guided tour of the Mountain View Spotted Owl Breeding Facility in Langley. Jasmine and Karen, the two dedicated young ladies who manage the Centre, are performing an important job helping an endangered species recover. We were shown the two different types of cages which are being simplified as they find out more about the owls. We then were shown two of the older non-breeding owls which we were allowed to photograph, then one of the first-time breeding pairs which are introduced to each other by being kept in adjacent cages until it is felt they are sufficiently accustomed to each other to be able to share a cage. Karen and Jasmine explained that they have to spend some time at night listening to the owls calling so that they know when they can be put in the same cage.

We were shown the building where the rats and mice are bred to provide a continuous food source for the owls, a very clean facility that has to be carefully managed to ensure genetic diversity.

The tour ended at the incubation building where we learned that when the owls lay eggs they are taken away and dummy eggs substituted so that the eggs can be hatched in carefully controlled incubators. Once they are hatched, they are hand fed for a few days before being introduced to their parents who can then rear them to adulthood without too much human contact.

The facility was very clean and well run and we learned lots of Spotted Owl facts, information and statistics.

Gareth Pugh



DO YOU WANT TO JOIN A FRIENDLY ACTIVE GROUP IN THE LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS?

The Member Participation Committee is seeking volunteers for positions that will become vacant this June (2016) in our Langley Field Naturalists executive. Openings on the executive present a great opportunity for any interested members to participate in organizing events for the club, discuss environmental issues, and reach out to our community to increase nature knowledge.

We are a fun, friendly, relaxed group who will mentor any who wish to join us.

The current executive enjoy their roles, but time ages us all and we can't go on forever. We need younger members with new ideas to come forward to keep the Langley Field Naturalists thriving and surviving in the coming years. The club would benefit from this infusion of new ideas. You would be joining a group of naturalists who enjoy our beautiful outdoors, the birds and animals, and who are working to "make-a-difference" in our community and beautiful province.

Please consider that if you take on an executive position, you will not only gain satisfaction from your contribution to the club, but also increase your knowledge of the natural environment in Langley and make good friends with like-minded people.

Read below a list of positions that we know will be available in June. You could also consider shadowing any of these positions to see if you would enjoy the role.

Any suggestions or questions can be directed to the Member Participation Committee or to anyone on the executive. We look forward to hearing from you! Your Member Participation Committee.



LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS President - Job Description.

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee.
2. Shall orient all new executive members and verify handover-takeover of executive positions between July and September.
3. Shall prepare the agenda for executive and general meetings and review them with the Secretary.
4. Shall assist with all public representations of the Society where the Society's booth will be present.
5. Shall assist with fund-raising activities and grant applications.
6. Shall attend or ensure representation at the BC Nature Annual and Fall General meetings, and support all BCN activities.
7. Shall assist the Treasurer in the preparation of the Budget and required Canada Revenue forms.
8. Shall write or assist letters of thanks to donors of funds to the Society.

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALIST Vice-President - Job Description

1. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence or at his/her request.
2. If necessary, the Vice-President shall take on a specific assignment to aid the President or another executive member.
3. Shall arrange fund raising activities for the membership to assist with as required.

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS Secretary - Job Description

1. The Secretary shall keep a record of each meeting and present the minutes to the next meeting for its approval, and retain all approved minutes.
2. Shall maintain file copy of all correspondence written and received on behalf of the Society. Shall distribute notifications as required.
3. Maintain a filing system containing the Society's documents.
4. Keep safe the seal of the society. (The seal has been lost years ago, I understand).

7TH ANNUAL DERBY REACH/ BRAE ISLAND BIRD COUNT SATURDAY JANUARY 30TH 2016



A couple of dozen birders ready to go Photo: Sheila Puls

Thanks to all for joining the 7th Annual DRBIPA Bird Count. Weather as expected at this time of the year was not the greatest but that didn't deter the bird enthusiasts. All six routes were covered and a total of 48 species observed, a high for the count. Two new species were recorded: Mew Gull and Anna's Hummingbird. Mew Gull was probably observed on previous counts but simply recorded as "gull species" so Anna's Hummingbird and the crack "Fort to Fort East" team take the glory. (AG team but hush, hush).

Thanks to Sheila Puls for arranging the cozy church basement, for providing coffee and other refreshments and for her incomparable speed and skill at entering the raw and often near-illegible tick marks on the field sheets into the computer. Thanks to Bill Wilde and DRBIPA for the donuts and for initiating this survey. Thanks to Metro Vancouver for permission to access and survey the Derby Bog, never the most bird-rich route (another way of saying "always the most bird-poor route") but definitely one of the most splendid locations to visit.

A great day outside.

*Anne Gosse
Phil Henderson*

If you are interested in the statistics for the Christmas Bird Count for our area and details of the DRBIPA count please reply to this newsletter and they will be forwarded to you.

COLONY FARM, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6TH 2016

Fourteen naturalists joined Gareth Pugh at Colony Farm Regional Park on a pleasant spring-like morning with good views of the surrounding snow-capped mountains. We spent some time at the edge of the parking lot, watching a variety of birds in the trees and bushes at the beginning of the trail. It was a great opportunity to be able to explain the differences between juvenile and adult Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows and between Song and Fox Sparrows and also to see at close quarters the noisy adult and juvenile Red-winged Blackbirds. In fact this was to prove to be the most 'birdy' part of our walk.



Fox Sparrow

Photo: Bob Puls

As we continued along the dyke towards the river, we admired the signs of spring, the yellow of the weeping willows, the purple of the birches, the red of the osiers and the hazelnut catkins. It was also nice to see the buds starting to open on some of the bushes along the trail; are we going to have another early spring? We scanned the river from the bridge but unusually there were no ducks to be seen.

From there we walked the Home Farm Dyke trail to the Sheep Paddocks, spotting a few birds in the ditches as we went. The Sheep Paddocks is an area that has been developed as a Wildlife Habitat Area which is off limits to the public but has a nice viewing area from which we were able to scan the channels and see several ducks. Unfortunately the Sheep Paddocks Trail has been closed from the viewing area onwards so we turned back and took the Mundy Creek and Colony Farm Road Trails back to the parking lot. Tom Wildeboer gave us the names

of some of the shrubs as we walked and someone else spotted a Water Shrew but there was very little else of interest to be seen although Lazuli Buntings, Common Yellowthroats and other birds can be found here in the summer.

Gareth Pugh

Birds seen were as follows:

Black-capped Chickadee, House Finch, Spotted Towhee, Great Blue Heron, Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, Northwestern Crow, American Robin, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows, Mallard, Glaucous-winged Gull, Gadwall, Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Bald Eagle, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Eurasian Collared Dove, Red-tailed Hawk, Dark-eyed Junco, House Sparrow, Rock Pigeon, Ring-necked Duck and Bufflehead.

REIFEL REFUGE MONDAY FEBRUARY 8TH 2016

After all, birders help record the many species numbers, and habitats of birds! On this day in Reifel, we four birders had just completed a marvelous morning of searching, finding, observing, and recording 44 different species; including three different species of owls!! Now, resting on a bench - one said O'my back, another O'my legs, another my lungs and one O my heart! But hey! It certainly never crossed our minds to stop our adventurous outdoor hobby!

We had been busy recording the many species of waterfowl on this sunny day. We had great views of a Rough-legged Hawk - peeks at a Saw-whet Owl, two Great Horned Owls and a



Great Blue Heron

Photo: Bob Puls

Barred Owl in Alaksen Research Facility. The Canada Geese and Sandhill Cranes were starting to pair up aggressively. We witnessed a Canada Goose try to wring a duck's neck. Many Blue Herons were glumly eyeing each other on the slough in preparation for mate selection and nesting.

On this sunny Family Day, Reifel Bird Sanctuary was filling fast with young families - in fact a long line-up of cars and people clogged all entrances as we exited. After our lunch in the warming hut, we left the sanctuary to the families, and set off for home to share our findings on e-bird courtesy of Nora - affirming that yes, birders' lives matter!

Gareth Pugh

SURREY LAKE THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH 2016



Ready for the weather

Photo: John Gordon

The weather was an overcast 7°c when we met at the start of the Surrey Lake trail system. Entry is off 152 St just north of 72nd Ave.

With our leader Gareth Pugh we walked around the lake and noted a number of diving and dabbling ducks: Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Buffleheads, Canvasbacks, Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Common and Hooded Merganser and in the Surrey Golf Course pond a Gadwall and a single Redhead. The Redhead is not that common in the Lower Mainland so that was an extra special sighting.

As we walked around the lake (and after the dogs walkers had departed), the ducks soon dropped their defenses and gave us excellent views. If only the owners would clean up and leash their pets everyone would be a lot happier, especially the birds.

Normally Trumpeter Swans are found in flocks so it was a surprise to find a lone specimen at the lake. Several things come to mind. Was it injured, had it ingested lead shot, perhaps it was just an old bird which no longer had the energy to migrate or perhaps none of those things. On close inspection the bird seemed to be in good health and was actively feeding, so it remains a mystery; hopefully it will join a passing flock soon.

We left the lake behind us and walked the trail past a floodplain. A single second growth tree hosted a pair of Bald Eagles. A Red-tailed Hawk's nest was in another smaller tree. The sounds of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Chickadees filled the air; a Bewick's Wren skulked in the undergrowth; out of the woods a flock of male House Finches fed in a tangle of Himalayan blackberries. An Anna's Hummingbird came to check us out and three Fox Sparrows scratched back and forth in an effort to unearth some insects.



Copyright © John Gordon Photography
Belted Kingfisher Photo: John Gordon

The walk had ended and as I packed away my camera a Belted Kingfisher landed in a tree close-by. When the bird plunged into the watery ditch, I grabbed my camera to move a little closer. She went back and forth five or six times but only once was she on an unobstructed perch. It's one of my better kingfisher shots and a perfect way to end the day.

John Gordon



Buffleheads on the main pond at Forslund Photo: Bob Puls

FORSLUND/WATSON WILDLIFE AREA SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20TH 2016

On Saturday February 20th, the weather man participated and 8 people came out for the Forslund Watson Nature Walk. This walk was organized on short notice to fill the need by the BC Government to have organized outings in the Nature Reserve in which people in the community can participate.



Ryan shows the depth of the vernal pond Photo: Bob Puls

A Nature Walk notice was submitted to the two Langley papers and the Aldergrove Star. It was only printed in the Aldergrove Star which resulted in two guests participating in the walk. The main pond had an abundance of waterfowl but none were observed in the vernal pond. Ryan Usenik wore his hip waders and was able to measure the depth of the pond at 29 inches (75 cm) at its deepest point.

Three black squirrels scampered out of one of the owl nest boxes as the group approached. There wasn't as much evidence of deer along the trail as compared to other years.

On the main pond were Canada Geese, American Wigeon and Mallard, along with a few Green-winged Teal, a couple of Buffleheads and one American Coot.

Ryan Usenik

JACKMAN PIT WETLANDS PARK



Aerial view of Jackman Pit Wetlands Photo: Bob Puls

After twenty years of waiting, the anticipated opening of the municipal Jackman Pit Wetlands Park in the Township of Langley (ToL) has finally come to pass. The park is located in the block NW of 8th avenue and 272nd street, kitty corner to Aldergrove Regional Park. The entrance is across the road from the municipal transfer station on 272nd street where a new parking lot has been constructed. A letter from Al Neufeld, Manager, Parks Administration, Design & Development, Recreation, Culture, and Parks Division, Township of Langley, reads as follows; a trail connection has been established to the wetland loop from the parking lot with Park signage. We still have a few signs to go up that will advise park users that we have a license in place with the Fraser Valley Retriever Training Club that use the site for dog training activities and that all other dogs are to remain on leash.

This site has a long history; it was formerly the Township of Langley's (ToL) garbage dump and the neighbours were greatly relieved when it filled and was closed in the 1980's, only to be mortified by the council of the day's decision to locate the current transfer station on property across the road. Many of us can still not understand the logic of placing this public facility in the far SE corner of the township, when logically it would have been far more accessible closer to the centre, but enough of my political rant for the day.

Restoration of the site was conducted under the

watchful eye of the Langley Environment Committee (disbanded by Mayor Scholtens - oops! no more politics). The dump was sealed and then covered with 'Nutrifor', the solid residue from the Metro Vancouver sewage plant on Annacis Island. Monitoring wells were installed to ensure there was no toxic run-off from the site - a concern particularly for the Pioneer Park residents to the south. The site was also vented for methane, but I'm not sure of the details of that endeavour. Trees were planted by LEPS, LFN and other volunteers after the site had been landscaped with trails and several large ponds and a wetland area. During the B.C. Breeding Bird Atlasing project, the site was surveyed and Spotted Sandpipers were found nesting on or beside the trails and Wood Ducks used the box located on a pole by the lakes. Warblers and other passerines nested within the park, under the watchful eyes of the Bald Eagles that nest on the property.

The ToL in their wisdom have tried to sell off the northern 40 acres of the site (2014-present) despite our opposition and today it remains publicly owned but a portion has been leased to a back-hoe/excavator training school. You can't help but notice that the film industry has built 'Drakes Motel' and a Haunted House on part of the landfilled area.

We look forward to introducing this site to LFN members.

Bob

REPORT ON THE STATE OF NORTH AMERICA'S BIRDS

Bird Studies Canada and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative partners are pleased to announce that the State of North America's Birds report will be released this spring. The report, which marks the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Migratory Bird Convention, represents the first joint conservation assessment of the birds of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico.

Much of the information for the report was collected by volunteers. Without the Citizen Science programs offered by Bird Studies Canada and our partners, the report would not have been possible. This important report will be available online. This report is a reflection of the contributions of dedicated volunteers and friends like you. We thank you for your continued support!

Steven Price, President, Bird Studies Canada

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 MARCH 17TH 2016 A NATURAL HISTORY OF TEXAS SPEAKER: RON LONG

The size of Texas is legendary and with size comes diversity. The wildlife diversity of Texas is massive but little known in Canada. This talk will include birds, plants and animals of Big Bend Desert National Park, the famous spring bloom of the Hill Country, birds, plants and animals of the Gulf Coast and the Whooping Cranes of Aransas. Texas is a fascinating State with something for every naturalist, no matter what their specific area of interest.

THURSDAY APRIL 21ST 2016 THE QUEST FOR PUFFINS AND OTHER SEABIRDS SPEAKER: TERRY CARR

An illustrated presentation on seabirds and coastal birds of Wales, Scotland, Newfoundland, Florida, Oregon, Washington and BC. These will include Puffins, Murres, Guillemots, Razorbills, Gannets, Pelicans, Spoonbills and more.



Photo: Terry Carr

Terry Carr obtained a Biology degree from UBC. After travelling extensively in Europe and the Middle East, he returned to UBC to study Ancient History and then Librarianship. He

worked for 32 years at the Vancouver Public Library, holding several positions including Reference Librarian, Head of the Science Division, and Public Service Manager. Terry is a casual birder, photographer and traveler. He is now retired and lives in Tsawwassen with his wife Janan. They are members of the Delta Naturalists' Society and Nature Vancouver.

MAY 19TH 2016 NAMIBIA: SPECTACULAR PARKS AND WILDLIFE SPEAKER: TOM PLATH

This wonderful area of Africa will be the focus of our guest speaker, Tom Plath. He will share his photographs and stories of the Waterberg Plateau, the Mahango Game Reserve, Etosha National Park and Walvis Bay and lots of photographs of the wildlife and scenery of this part of Africa.

Tom is a Bird Specialist and Wildlife Biologist for the past 25 years and Registered Professional Biologist. Tom's love for natural history began early, and by his teens he had participated on numerous bird inventory projects. He has his own consulting company and is a partner in a local tour company that leads worldwide natural history tours.

THURSDAY JUNE 16TH 2016 LFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please bring up to 15 photos on a memory stick of your favourite wild flowers of the Langley area to show following the AGM, and followed by social time. Please bring goodies to share.

SATURDAY AUGUST 13TH 2016 LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS' SUMMER SOCIAL

At the "Grass Shack", the home of Al and Jude Grass. Save the date!

FIELD TRIPS

We meet at Douglas Park Recreation Centre on Douglas Crescent between 204 and 206 Street for car pooling. If you prefer to meet at the walk site, please phone so we can watch for you. Please Note: **anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand**, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place. The 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 good walking shoes and dress warmly. Bring water, snacks or packed lunch, binoculars and bug spray (in season).

For more information, to make comments, suggest walks or to let us know you are coming, please phone Gareth Pugh, 604-576-6831. **Please reimburse your carpool driver at \$3.50 per hour of driving time.**

FRIDAY MARCH 11TH MOUNTAIN VIEW CROWN LANDS

LEADER: BOB PULS

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Join Bob to walk the trails through the woods to see the work started by Glenn Ryder and now being carried on by Langley Field Naturalists, in collaboration with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources. We will look for salamanders and frogs and hear about the incredible variety of insects and vegetation to be found in this richly diverse environment. Meet at 9:00 am at the railway overpass on Rawlinson between 232nd & 240th Streets. Phone 604-576-6831 or 604-856-7534 to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16TH GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

LEADER: AL GRASS

Time 8:00 am at Douglas Crescent or
9:00 am at Reifel

Come join us as we welcome back some early spring migrants and say goodbye to the winter residents who will be heading to their summer homes in the north. We will also look for the plants and shrubs as they sprout new vegetation and flowers. While it might be early spring, it can still be a little nippy - especially out on the dykes, so please dress warmly and wear proper footwear. There is a small admission fee. Bring lunch, snacks, and refreshments. Phone 604-538-8774 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH SEMIAHMOO FISH AND GAME CLUB

LEADER: AL GRASS

Time 9:00 am at Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club, 1284 184th Street, Surrey. Join us to walk the interpretive trails along the Little Campbell River to look for the plants and shrubs as they sprout new vegetation and

flowers, as well as any early bird migrants. While it might be early spring, it can still be a little cool, so please dress warmly and wear proper footwear. There will be a guided tour of the hatchery following the walk. Meet at 9:00 am at the Club; please park in the upper parking lot by the Hall. Phone 604-538-8774 to let us know to expect you.

THURSDAY APRIL 7TH JACKMAN PIT (WETLANDS) PARK, LANGLEY LEADER: BOB PULS

Time: 8:30 am at 272nd Street and 10th Avenue across from the Transfer Station.

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we walk the trails in this rural park which is the site of a former Township gravel pit and dump. After the dump was declared full in the 1980's and capped, it was designated as a park and LFN helped with the restoration tree planting that took place there. Phone: 604-856-5734 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY APRIL 16TH GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE - CHILLIWACK LEADER: WIM VESSEUR

Time: 9:00 am at the Reserve, 5200 Sumas Prairie Road, Chilliwack (Hwy 1 Exit 109)

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we explore this Nature Reserve which has 325 acres of wetlands located on the un-dyked floodplain of the Vedder River. Managed by the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve Society, this site is known for its large breeding colony of Great Blue Herons - as well as a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation. At this time of year the Herons should be nest building with lots of activity within the colony. The reserve also has beautiful walking trails. Phone: 604-534-3447 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY APRIL 23RD

SURREY BEND REGIONAL PARK

LEADERS: IVAN KADERABEK & ANNE GOSSE

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at Surrey Bend Regional Park, 17529 – 112th Avenue

Come and explore Surrey Bend Regional Park, our newest park!! We will walk the multi-use trails while investigating the wetlands, bogs and floodplains that make this a significant natural area in our region. Located downstream from Barnston Island, this park is one of the few remaining large, non-dyked areas on the lower Fraser River, a refuge for birds, fish and mammals. It is dominated by giant cottonwoods, red alders, birch, hardhack and willow, plus it features the third-largest bog in the region. Phone: 604-582-7576 or 604-888-1787 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

LEADER: ANTHEA FARR

Time: 9:30 am in the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we walk the trails in this rural park, formerly destined for gravel mining by the Township of Langley, it was turned into a park after pressure was exerted by local ratepayer groups and LFN. It is part of the Municipal Natural Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir. Phone: 604-576-7731 or e-mail anthea.bombus@gmail.com for info or to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY MAY 6TH TO 8TH

(MAY 6TH AND 7TH NIGHTS)

PRINCETON TWO NIGHT TRIP

LEADERS: GARETH PUGH & ANNE GOSSE

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we explore the grasslands, forests and rivers of this beautiful area which has many lovely lakes, wetlands, grasslands and moist and dry forests which are all great habitats for a variety of birds that are not seen at the Coast. It is a great time of year to see many spring flowers and some mammals too. We will walk parts of the Trans Canada Trail and visit one or more of the Provincial Parks in the area. We have been invited to join the Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists for a trip to Wolfe Lake and will let you know further details later. (We leave early

Friday morning (May 6th) and return home on Sunday evening, stopping in Manning Park if time permits). Bring lunch and breakfast makings and eat dinner out. We have booked rooms at the Princeton Inn and Suites.

Phone: 604-576-6831 or 604-888-1787 for info.

MAY 12TH TO 15TH – BC NATURE AGM

See advertisement on page 14

SATURDAY MAY 21ST

IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK & SEWAGE LAGOONS - YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS.

LEADER: JOSH INMAN

Time: Meet in the Iona Park parking lot at 9:00 am

Join the Langley Field Naturalists and expert birder Josh Inman while we explore this amazingly rich and varied bird life area. We will welcome back the Yellow-headed Blackbirds & Purple Martins who return to nest each spring in the ponds and on the Fraser River. One year we counted 61 species of birds! Phone: 604-532-0455 for info or to let us know to expect you.

TUESDAY MAY 31ST

GRANT NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK/ ADDINGTON MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA.

LEADER: JOHN GORDON

Time: 9:00 am at Grant Narrows Provincial Park parking lot.

Join our leader John and the Langley Field Naturalists as we look for nesting Ospreys and perhaps Sandhill Cranes. This large dyke/marsh area, with several viewing towers, is a major migration route for bird life and has the largest tidal lake in the world. It also has a great variety of bird life making it very popular with bird watchers. Please note there is a charge for parking. Phone: 604-533-7171 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY JUNE 4TH,

GLEN VALLEY BIRD COUNT

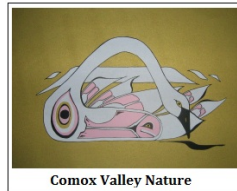
FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

LEADERS: AL & JUDE GRASS

Time: 8:45 at the junction of the Hope Flood Road and Silver Skagit Road (take exit #168 from Highway 1 East).

Come join Al and Jude as they take us to the Skagit Valley. Birds and wildflowers should be at their best, including the beautiful pink Rhododendron which should be in bloom. This is a full day trip, so please bring lunch, snacks, water, (sunscreen and bug repellent) and a variety of clothing and footwear for the weather. *Note: please make sure you have enough gas as it is 130 km round trip to Ross Lake and back to the highway.* Phone: 604-538-8774 for info or to let us know to expect you.



BC NATURE CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 12 to May 15, 2016
Hosted by the Comox Valley Nature

*"Celebrating Nature for 50 Years
and 100 Years of Conservation"*

Thursday workshops: Child nature, birding,
photography, watershed restoration

Extra Cost Field trips include:

VIU Research Station
Mitlenatch Bird Sanctuary
Innisfree Farm Botanical Garden
Tree Island Sand Dunes
Environmental Poetry Tour
Quadra Island Museum & BBQ
Mount Helliwell & Hornby Island

Registration is open now.

For changes/updates visit
[www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/
bc-nature-agm](http://www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/bc-nature-agm)



WEDNESDAY JUNE 15TH CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK LEADER: VIVEKA OHMAN

Time: 9:00 am at 8th Avenue parking lot across from the Nature House.

This is our "welcome back" for our annual "yellow-themed" Warbler and other summer birds with expert birder Viveka. We will be looking for Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks and many more. We will walk the Ravine Trail first, then return through the meadow past the farm house across from the Nature House and head north on the central main trail. Following 1 Km we will turn left on the Vine Maple Trail and end up at the 16th avenue parking lot. From here we walk east on the Little River Loop trail towards the Listening Bridge where we will have a water break and listen for more birds. Then we head south and return to the 8th avenue parking lot via the main central trail. Walking distance is approx. 5 km so please wear appropriate footwear. We plan to eat lunch in the park in the gazebo by the pond afterwards. Phone: 604-534-3401 for more info or to let us know to expect you.

TUESDAY JUNE 28TH COQUITLAM DYKES LEADER: LARRY COWAN

Time: 8:30 am in the parking area at Victoria and Cedar Drives in Port Coquitlam

Our half day bird walk will be at DeBoville Slough/Minnekhada RP. In June you can expect Green Heron, Sandhill Crane, warblers, vireos and a multitude of waterfowl species. We will position an appropriate number of vehicles in the Minnekhada parking lot off Quarry Rd. for our return trip. Phone: 604-307-0931 or e-mail lawrencecowan@shaw.ca for more info or to let us know to expect you.

**FRIDAY MAY 6TH
TO SUNDAY MAY 8TH
SKAGIT VALLEY BIRD BLITZ**

**FRIDAY JUNE 17TH
TO SUNDAY JUNE 19TH
MANNING BIRD BLITZ**