



# Langley Field Naturalists



*To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education*

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

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**Newsletter**

**March 2015**

## PUMA NEST BOX MAINTENANCE

On Thursday February 19th 2015 the Purple Martin team met at the parking lot on Brae Island.

It was 1.0 pm on a cloudy, misty, day but the rain held off. We were greeted by a flock of about 50 Pine Siskins feeding noisily in the trees above us. The team was led by Roy Teo and Tristin of Metro Vancouver Parks, accompanied by Lisa, Steffany and Ben from LEPS, Morgan from Surrey for the experience, and Bob from LFN to make sure 'they did it right' and record any excitement.



Ready to clean the PUMA boxes

Photo: Bob Puls

Tristin drove the truck to Tavistock Point with the ladders and equipment whilst the rest of us walked the walk. Reaching the river, we discovered low tide was not as low as expected, but after some tentative probing by Roy, the pylons were deemed reachable, and the more adventurous in the team donned hip waders and carried the ladders out to the nest box sites. The suction coefficient of Fraser River mud was measured by the 'boot stuck method' and deemed not advisable to stand for too long in one spot. After shooing off a pair of Canada Geese, the team was ready to ascend the pylons. All of the team

took a turn up the ladders, except Lisa and I who remained dry and muddy on the shore.

Most of the nest boxes contained nesting material, a lot of cedar bark which was attributed to European Starlings, but some had evidence of swallow nests on top of vacated starling nests, and possibly chickadees. Roy will record the details. Although no evidence of Purple Martins was found, it was encouraging to find that the nest boxes had been used by other species. Due to the precarious height of the water and the availability of a couple of unused boxes, Roy chose not to adjust the size of the nest box openings to deter the starlings at this time.

**Bob Puls**



Tristin and Roy - look a nest!

Photo: Bob Puls

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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



So here we are approaching the end of February on the west coast and instead of experiencing blizzards we are enjoying snow drops of the floral variety. I have always considered it to be an early spring in Langley if we have daffodils in flower in time for St. David's Day, the first of March, and this year they were in bloom 2 weeks before the deadline. We also have a blizzard of white baby lambs chasing each other around our front field, and the crocuses are in full bloom.

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February I saw a pair of Tree Swallows at Marvin Marsh, the earliest I have ever seen them in Langley. The Anna's hummingbirds are still emptying the feeders at a rapid rate, and although I never see more than one female and one male at a time, I'm sure I must have more than one pair at my feeders. It shouldn't be long before the Rufous hummers replace them as the Salmonberries and Indian Plum are starting to blossom, usually the harbinger of their return from their southern retreats.

So now that lambing is over, I look forward to joining you and Anne on some of the terrific field trips she has organized for us.

**Bob**



*Male Anna's Hummingbird*

*Photo: Bob Puls*

## MEMBER DAVID CLEMENTS RECEIVES AWARD



*David Clements, PhD*  
*Photo: TWU*

TWU Professor of Biology and Environmental Science David Clements, Ph.D., has received the Excellence in Weed Science Award from the Canadian Weed Science Society. The award recognizes those whose contributions have had a major impact on weed science or the agricultural industry in Canada.

An internationally-recognized expert on invasive species ecology, environmental ethics, and weed management, Clements has long been concerned with the relationship between weeds and climate change. "Invasive species are a huge problem in the world," he said. "Climate change can influence how weeds adapt and become worse."

Since coming to TWU in 1994, Clements has taught numerous courses in ecology and plant biology, including field courses on Salt Spring Island and in Hawaii. As a Professor, he is helping students become more aware of all invasive species and how they can be part of the solution. "No matter which weed it is, every weed has its benefits-in the proper place, where God meant them to be," Clements said. "But when they're not, that's the problem."

The Langley resident, who also contributes a monthly column, The Green Beat, to the Langley Times, considers his current research to be the most influential of his career. "I like to think I've tapped into some serious weed issues with global implications for society," he said.

In addition to his work at TWU, Clements has co-edited a book on agro-ecology, written chapters on weed management and climate change, published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers, authored more than 80 conference presentations, and has been involved with the Canadian Journal of Plant Science, Pacific Science journal, the Canadian Weed Science Society, the BC Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the Invasive Species Council of BC, and several Fraser

Valley organizations.

Clements' Ph.D. research focused on mites but he was introduced to weed science by his colleague, Clarence Swanton. He has also collaborated with many other weed scientists, such as plant taxonomist Stephen Darbyshire and Cornell University's Tony DiTommaso. "When you are at a smaller university," he said, "collaboration is the key to success."

Clements was nominated for the award by Dr. Mahesh K. Upadhyaya, professor of plant science at the University of British Columbia. The award requires at least 10 years of active weed research, as well as personal contributions that impacted weed science or agriculture.

Congratulations, David!

## BIRD COUNTS

Langley Field Naturalists took part in three bird counts - two sections of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (our area of the Langley/Surrey/White Rock circle and the portion of the Pitt Meadows circle south of the Fraser River) as well as the Derby Reach/Brae Island bird count. A report on the DRBIPA count is given separately in this newsletter.

The Christmas Bird Counts saw misty, overcast days but the turnout was good (over 30 for the Langley and a dozen for Pitt Meadows) and both days were successful in spite of the weather. The summary sheets are attached for information - given a comparison with previous years.

It is great to see so much enthusiasm amongst our members, and it was especially good to see two very skilled young people joining us.

**Sheila Puls**



*Golden-crowned Sparrow*

*Photo: Rick Church*

## SUMAS PRAIRIE RAPTOR SEARCH February 18<sup>TH</sup> 2015

We were led by Sharon's banana-yellow vehicle into the valley's farming district to start our morning's exploration. As predicted, the search quickly became the adventure, the fun and the enjoyment. Along the way we watched a Muskrat nibbling at a river's edge. Then we chased a Gyrfalcon that turned into a Cooper's Hawk (we might have seen both); did a Golden Eagle dance; walked into a farmer's field (with his permission of course). We found a new riverside park, and nearly left one birder behind by mistake in the excitement! (The driver glanced back to find one passenger missing - to be picked up by another car!). Oops!



*Raptor searching*

*Photo: Anne Gosse*

Many nesting and pairing Bald Eagles were found, several Red-tailed Hawks, (some in the dark phase) plus a Cooper's Hawk, Common Ravens and a Northern Harrier. We found a tree full of Eurasian Collared doves, several flocks of graceful Trumpeter Swans, plus flocks of Meadowlarks, Brewer's Blackbirds, and American Wigeons. We had a fun and thoroughly enjoyable morning searching and recorded 26 species along the way. We send our thanks to Sharon for leading our intrepid group.

**Anne Gosse**

## REIFEL REFUGE February 11<sup>th</sup> 2015

This time of year is one of the best times to visit Reifel Refuge for birding - as all the ducks, geese, and birds are "pairing up" and displaying their beautiful feathers. They had predicted a dry and warm day, so off several birders travelled to Reifel Bird Sanctuary (our birding paradise here in the lower mainland!). Greeted noisily by the Sandhill Cranes, we found lots of pairing-up Blue Herons moping about, sleepy Night Herons, plus lots of noisy pairs of Canada Geese.

A very beautiful and different looking Harris Sparrow was found amongst all the other sparrow species near a front feeder. One wee Saw-whet Owl was found, plus a pair of nesting/pairing Great Horned Owls along the daffodil dyke trail. We had several glimpses of "the fastest bird alive", the Sora Rail rushing around in the reed beds in the "Rail Spot". All the ducks were dressed magnificently and beautifully in their very best attire.



*Barred Owl*

*Photo: Leona Breckenridge*

We looked for the Great Gray Owl that was there, but alas could not see him. We then popped over to Alaksen to say hello to the Barred Owl who obliged us by giving us a "good showing" perched in the trees that line the entrance way. We also had a good view of a Red-tailed Hawk. Alas, some of our group had to leave for home, so with "play time" over, we left two of our group to play happily on. Later I received an excited message! - they had seen the Great Grey Owl! - making a five owl day for some of our impromptu group!! and a four owl day for us. Fantastic! A great day with 43 species and one to remember on those wet, dark days yet to come.

**Anne Gosse**



*Harris Sparrow*

*Photo: Anne Gosse*

**WEST DYKE TRAIL  
TERRA NOVA, RICHMOND  
January 24<sup>th</sup> 2015**



*Birders aren't discouraged by the weather Photo: Anne Gosse*

A warm wet monsoon, similar to standing inside your bathroom shower, bucketed down upon us when we arrived at West Dyke. Not expecting many participants due to this wet weather, we were surprised to find one eager "element ready" birder waiting! Then thinking three other "phone-ees" had "wimped out", we geared up ready to go.

We were about to leave when the tardy or "nearly wimps" arrived, making us a fun group of seven keen birders - including "have to see it Tom". Dressed for the weather and warm enough - we followed our leader Gareth along the boardwalks, getting a first exciting moment. It was the unusual sighting of a football-shaped grey American Bittern gliding low over our heads - with a beak and feet sticking out of both ends of the oval.

Along the circle trail we found lots of Golden-crowned Kinglets, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Fox, Song and Golden-crowned Sparrows. There were lots of water fowl in the ponds which we duly recorded, along with a couple of Northern Harriers, a flyby of many noisy Snow Geese and lots of perching Bald Eagles.

We had a great time exploring, a few laughs and the rain did stop intermittently giving us a few breaks. We ended our morning with 32 species. Tom reminded me that we had a great sighting of a coyote out on the foreshore sauntering along. He looked healthy and I see the Delta group saw him a few days later, same place. We send our thanks to Gareth for leading this motley crew.

**Anne Gosse**

**DERBY REACH/BRAE ISLAND  
BIRD COUNT  
January 31<sup>st</sup> 2015**

Eighteen hardy bird enthusiasts ventured out into the cold and fog to count birds and I am happy to say that all made it back. The warm coffee and plentiful donuts removed any lingering thoughts of few birds and poor visibility. Sheila's skill on the computer helped too, as the results were available almost immediately and the numbers weren't as bad as they seemed in the field. Surveying five of the six possible routes, participants recorded numbers of birds and species that compared favourably to years past.

Once again surveyors of Area 4, the east section of the Fort to Fort trail, tallied the most number of species (39) but not the most number of birds which went to the west section of the Fort to Fort trail (346) thanks to 127 Canada Geese. Also adhering to a consistent pattern were the surveyors of the Langley/Derby bog who spotted only 13 species and 75 individuals. This also included the surrounding upland forest - thank goodness that is part of the survey area. What the bog surveyors did not include in their tally was an unusual, but strangely beautiful sighting that one participant happened to catch on their camera.

The DRBIPA Bird Count is for everyone, of all skill levels and especially for DRBIPA members who initiated the survey in 2010. We hope to have more people out next year.

The summary of the birds seen is attached to this newsletter.



*Photo of unidentified bird over the Derby Bog, January 31, 2015. Bog participants thought this species bore a striking resemblance to famous Canadian warbler Celine Dion*

*Photo credit or not: Phil Henderson*

**WINTER FUNGI AND LICHENS  
CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK  
January 16<sup>th</sup> 2015**



*Scarlet cup* Photo: Anthea Farr

A brilliant winter sunlit morning greeted us as we arrived at the parking lot ready for our exploration along the "Trail of the Turkey Tails" in Campbell Valley Park with Al Grass. The unseasonable warmth of January soon had us shedding a few layers. Our stroll took us leisurely along the wooden boardwalks, stopping to wonder and admire the many hidden gems nearly everywhere along the forest floor. **Anne Gosse**

Along the Little River Loop trail on this lovely winter morning, some highlights included:

**Fungi:**

- Turkey Tail ("rainbow fungus") (*Trametes*)
- Artist's fungi (*Ganoderma*)
- Witch's butter (*Tremella*)
- Tinder Conk (*Fomes*)
- Red-belted Polypore (*Fomitopsis*)
- Scarlet cup - (*Sarcoscypha*) - very beautiful
- Green cup - ("blue stain") (*Chlorociboria*) with caps



*Green cup fungi* Photo: Corey Bunnell

**Lichens:**

- Pencil script (*Graphis*)
- Beard lichen (*Usnea*)



*Beard lichen* Photo: Al Grass

- Wax paper (*Parmelia*)
- Bark barnacle (*Thelotrema*)
- Rag bag (*Platismatia*)

**Birds:**

We didn't forget the birds which included: Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Brown Creeper, Varied Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wood Duck, Common Goldeneye, Black-capped Chickadee and Chestnut-backed Chickadee

**Al Grass**

**HUMMERS COURTING IN WINTER?**

It may seem a bit "out of season", but Anna's Hummingbird breeds in winter. Many birders have noticed Anna's doing their courtship flights in winter, and singing.

A hummer's nest is a marvel of construction made of spider silk, plant fibers, and decorated with lichens, a process called "shingling". Two reasons frequently given for using lichens are

1. To shed water (waterproofing) and
2. Camouflage. A favourite of local hummingbirds is wax paper lichen (*Parmelia*, sp.).

**Al Grass**



*Anna's Hummingbird* Photo: Al Grass

## THE NICOMEKL RIVERBANK CLEANUP PROJECT

This project is the result of the question "What's all that white stuff?" asked by students on field trips at Elgin Park in Surrey.

The reply is "styrofoam" and the answer to the next question is "No, it's not from Japan."



*Elgin Park students check the river bank*

*Photo: Leona Breckenridge*

White Rock and Surrey Naturalists have obtained land access to the north bank of the Nicomekl River across a privately owned dike and are proceeding with plans to conduct a cleanup. The photographs below illustrate how badly a cleanup is needed and also illustrate that further action should be undertaken to ban the use of non-encapsulated polystyrene (EPS) in a marine environment.

*Note: Styrofoam is a name trademarked by Dow Chemical. The correct name for what we commonly call styrofoam is expanded polystyrene or EPS.*

Non-encapsulated EPS is used as flotation at the two marinas on the Nicomekl River and at the private docks as well.

The photo shows Wim Vesseur and Al Schulze at the bend of the river. It shows a concentration of debris and is part of a 1.3 km stretch that is a huge mess. There are ten 8 x 4 x 16" EPS blocks; a further ten of these blocks are still attached to washed up docks, and there are six washed up docks in various stages of disintegration. The blocks have absorbed water and are very heavy. We plan to quantify the debris collected in accordance with Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup requirements.

Al Schulze and I collected a five gallon bucket of wrack. Wrack is seaweed or other marine life cast up on shore, but in the case of this stretch of the Nicomekl the wrack is mostly garbage. After hand picking through the wrack, Sharon Jones and I tested the effectiveness of using water to float the EPS to the top and we used kitchen strainers to skim it off. We then did some of the cleaned wrack a second time and were able to remove



*Wim Vesseur and Al Schulze survey the mess*

*Photo: Leona Breckenridge*

quite a bit more EPS but we were shocked to find a lot of plastics that had been suspended in the water column and we'd missed them during the hand sorting and the first 'water bath'. The garbage component is well over 50%. The time spent on one bucket of wrack was four hours by two people. We won't be using this system in the field!

Non-encapsulated EPS is not illegal but it certainly is not environmentally friendly, particularly in an area with large storm events.

There are various ways of encapsulating EPS, from simply wrapping it in the equivalent of a plastic bag to enclosing it in concrete. We are in the process of doing further research and have found that some U.S. states have banned its use.

Cleaning up this site **safely** will not be easy. WRSN are planning a pilot project for March 21st, noon to 4:00 pm and we will explore different options for conducting a cleanup at that time. We will also document the site, the debris, and our cleanup efforts with photographs. We are inviting the participation of a few able-bodied members of the Langley Nats to assist us in this process. I can be contacted at 604-531-5632 or by email at [lhbreck@telus.net](mailto:lhbreck@telus.net).

**Leona Breckenridge**  
**Birder, shorekeeper and garbage picker**  
**Surrey/White Rock Naturalists**



*Leona and Al pick up "wrack"*

*Photo: Leona Breckenridge*

## "HOT SNAKES" AND THE YOUNG NATURALISTS (YNC)



*African Bullfrog*

*Photo: Anthea Farr*

Anticipating February to be a cold, dreary month, I planned an indoor event for the YNC, in St. George's church hall in Fort Langley. How wrong I was! Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> turned out to be the warmest, sunniest day imaginable. But no matter - 13 YNC families had a fabulous time at the event I'd named "Hot Snakes".

Using some of the funds kindly donated by a retiring director of Mountain Equipment Co-op, I paid the Reptile Guy to give a program on snakes and any other



*Snapping Turtle*

*Photo: Anthea Farr*

critters he could bring. As he lugged in various crates and boxes, one box lid, held down with bungee cords, was clearly being pushed up, an inch or so, with great vigour. What was inside? We had to wait and see and could only imagine what it was.

Because first the Reptile Guy brought out "Rosie", a docile Rose Hair Tarantula, for any willing hands to hold. Although some kids politely declined with a "no thank you", quite a few boys and girls were happy to hold Rosie. Next out were 2 critters very high on the cuteness scale: large exotic tree frogs. These were not to touch, as the Reptile Guy explained how sensitive their skins were to toxins. Instead we watched them crawl up his arms (well washed arms!).

Then out came a giant in the amphibian world: an African Bullfrog - considerably bigger than our bullfrog. Some say it resembles "Jabba the Hutt" of Star Wars. I have to agree. After that, we moved on to reptiles, and two oh-so-cute geckos were deposited on willing hands (which were pretty much everyone's).

And then it was time to open the box with the moving lid. Out came a large snapping turtle named Rattrap! We were allowed to touch the wrinkled skin on the back of its neck. "It's like the skin of a Senior," joked the Reptile Guy. He had to constantly restrain Rattrap, as it would have high-tailed it out of there, perhaps ending up at St. George's church altar!



*Ball Python Photo: Anthea Farr*

Next out was the even larger African Spurred Tortoise, which was somewhat better behaved than Rattrap. The finale was 3 snakes: a milk snake, a ball python, and a huge boa constrictor. They were beautifully patterned and very healthy. All of the Young Naturalists were keen to either touch or hold a snake. The photos say it all: they loved this event!



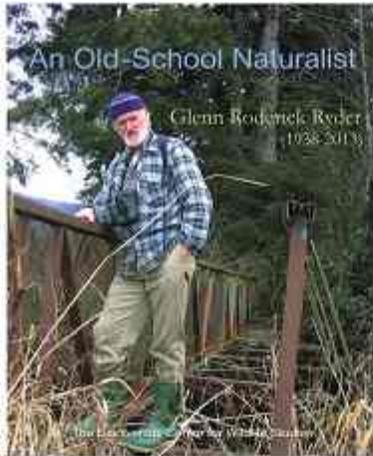
*The big Boa Constrictor*

*Photo: Anthea Farr*

The Reptile Guy, based in Abbotsford, is devoted to rescuing unwanted or injured reptiles and amphibians and to educating people about them; his website is [www.thereptileguy.info](http://www.thereptileguy.info). Many thanks to Sheila for letting us use St. George's church hall. And no, nothing escaped or went missing...

**Anthea Farr**

## BOOKS OF INTEREST



The Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies is pleased to announce the publication of *An Old-School Naturalist*, a biography of Glenn Ryder by R. Wayne Campbell and Phillip S. Henderson. Glenn was an exceptional naturalist whose life-long studies took him throughout British Columbia and into the Yukon.

This is a special edition of *Wildlife Afield*, the biannual publication of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies and is available to non-members through its website at <http://www.wildlifebc.org/wildlife-afield-journal>.

Copies will also be available, and can be signed by the authors, at the tribute to Glenn Ryder, 2:00-4:00, April 19, 2015 at the Rowlett Farmstead, Campbell Valley Regional Park, Langley, British Columbia.

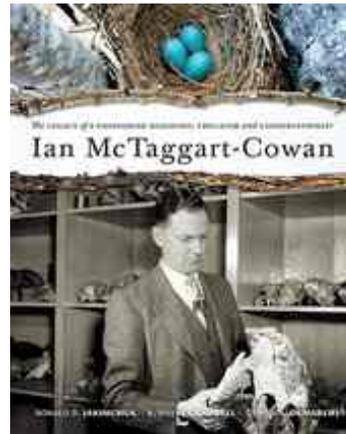
### **GLENN RYDER TRIBUTE. A NATURALIST EXTRAORDINAIRE.**

When: 2:00 - 4:00 pm, April 19, 2015  
Where: Rowlett Farm  
Campbell Valley Regional Park  
Langley, British Columbia

This will involve brief talks and remembrances followed by an informal gathering of Glenn's friends and colleagues and those who appreciated his contributions to our understanding of natural history.

Copies of a special addition of the journal of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies dedicated to Glenn's life (*An Old-School Naturalist*) will be available (\$20).

The Agenda is not yet set in stone but we may include planting native trees and shrubs in Glenn's honour. Throw a pair of rubber boots or other appropriate footwear, gloves, etc., in your vehicle if you would like to participate.



A born naturalist, Ian McTaggart-Cowan grew up exploring the woods around his North Vancouver home and went on to embrace his passion and energize others with his enthusiasm and knowledge. He greatly influenced conservation and scientific documentation of nature within the province and beyond.

Ian McTaggart-Cowan contributed significantly to the Royal BC Museum's natural history collection, and as a gifted and caring Professor of Zoology at UBC, he motivated his students to dedicate themselves to expanding our biological database. In 1971 he was awarded the Order of Canada for his efforts, and in 1991 he was acknowledged with the Order of British Columbia. McTaggart-Cowan died in 2010, shortly before his one hundredth birthday— his legacy an endowment to the world that so enthralled him.

With over three-hundred photographs, testimonials from those he mentored and descriptions of those who galvanized him in his pursuits, along with explanations, both of his major works and the theses of his students, this book is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Ian McTaggart-Cowan's life and teachings. Originally intended as a centenary birthday gift, *Ian McTaggart-Cowan: The Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist* is a tribute to and celebration of a man who has left an enriching legacy for a province, this nation and our world.

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Price: \$49.95 CAD;

## 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 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**LIFE'S A BEACH**

**Leona Breckenridge, Mai Clark & Sharon Jones**

The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society and the Shorekeepers Program provided the inspiration for this photo presentation illustrating the diversity of marine life on our local White Rock and South Surrey shores.



*Shaggy mouse nudibranch* Photo: Leona Breckenridge

It is being used to familiarize participants at the annual Shorekeepers Training Weekend with the species they may encounter while helping with some or all of the six surveys that are done around the Semiahmoo peninsula each year. There are photos and stories of common species such as midshipmen but also of species you probably don't think we have here, like sponges and nudibranchs, which may be living in that pile of rocks in the intertidal zone, just up the beach.

Sharon Jones is the current shorekeepers co-ordinator for FOSBS and both she and Mai have been involved since the program started in 2004. Leona joined the team in 2007 and all three have been busy taking pictures and trying to figure out what they are looking at ever since.

**THURSDAY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**HOO ELSE CAN BE HARMED BY RAT POISONS?**

**Sofi Hindmarch**

A presentation describing the habits and habitats of the local population of Barn Owls. These owls are at the northern tip of their range here in the Fraser Valley, but the low lying grasslands in the region are very productive habitats for Barn Owls and other raptors. Barn Owls have adapted to nest in the large barns and silos, and farmers often encourage this.

Unfortunately, the number of old barns and silos are decreasing, but these owls readily nest in specially designed nest boxes on poles that can be installed in parks and other green spaces.



*Barn Owl*

*Web photo*

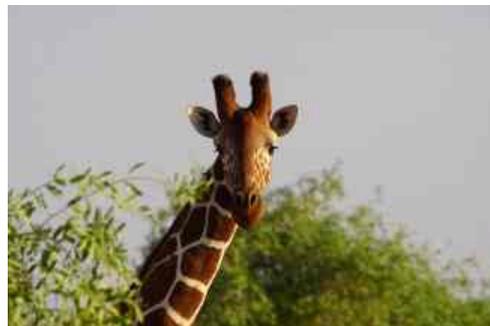
Surprisingly too, as agricultural landscapes close to Vancouver have become increasingly urban, some Barn Owls have managed to persist in these landscapes, making use of bridges and industrial buildings to nest and roost in. Barn Owls are efficient hunters, primarily eating voles and other small rodents found along agricultural fields and road side verges. However, this leads to two problems that can have a negative impact on owl numbers: owls can be hit by vehicles as they hunt at night, and they can be poisoned after consuming rodents exposed to rat poison.

**THURSDAY MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**AFRICAN ADVENTURE**

**Bob & Sheila Puls**

During their Fall 2014 Safari in Kenya and Tanzania, Bob and Sheila listed and photographed 58 species of animals and 182 species of birds - as well as trees, flowers and scenery. They will share some of the 3500 photographs taken and some of the highlights of their trip.



*Reticulated giraffe*

*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.**

**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**HOUSTON TRAIL REGIONAL PARK**

**BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES!**

**Leader: Biologist Phil Henderson**

**Time: 9:00 am, Houston Trail parking lot  
on Allard Crescent**

We go in search of any early spring bird migrants - plus bryophytes which include mosses and their relatives; tiny but beautiful plants that flourish in moist, shady sites. We will also drop down to the wetland water edge to have a look for waterfowl. Bring binoculars and hand lenses if you have them. Phone 604-888-1787 to let us know to expect you.

**Saturday, March 21st**

**NORTHERN SLOUGHS, CHILLIWACK- CHEHALIS FLATS!**

**Leader: Gareth Pugh**

**9:00 am Deroche Bridge parking right side  
8:00 am at Douglas Crescent**

Take a "birding drive" from Mission to the Chehalis Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve to view the majestic Bald Eagles, Salmon, Tundra and Trumpeter Swans - plus the many other species of raptors and waterfowl in the area. Perhaps even a Sasquatch! We will be making stops at the Deroche Bridge, Eagle Point Park, Kilby Historic Site and other spots as we go. Weather Permitting. Please call 604-888-1787 or 604-576-6831 to let us know you are coming.

**Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY**

**Leader Al Grass**

**9:00 am at Reifel**

**8:00 am at Douglas Crescent**

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 foot ware. There is a small admission fee. Bring lunch, snacks, and refreshments. Phone 604-888-1787 to let us know to expect you.

**Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE - CHILLIWACK**

**Leader: Gareth Pugh**

**Time: 9:00 am at Heronry**

**8:00 am at Douglas Crescent**

Come and 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. Exit 109 - 5200 Sumas Prairie Road, Chilliwack. Phone: 576-6831 or 888-1787 for info or to let us know to expect you.

**Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**GRANT NARROWS PARK &**

**PITT POLDER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**

**PITT-ADDINGTON MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

**Leader: Gareth Pugh**

**9:00 - Grant Narrows Park parking lot.**

**8:00 am at Douglas Crescent**

Join our leader Gareth and the Langley Field Naturalists as we go to see 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. Phone 576-6831 or 888-1787 for info or to let us know to expect you.

**Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**IONA REGIONAL PARK & SEWAGE LAGOONS**

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS.**

**Leader: Josh Inman**

**9:00 am Iona Park**

**8:00 am - Douglas Crescent**

With Langley Field Naturalists and expert birder Josh Inman, we will 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's bird count was 61 species! Phone 604-532-0455 or 888-1787 for info or to let us know you are coming.

**Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> to  
Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> 2015  
(2 nights)  
NICOLA VALLEY, MERRITT BC  
Leaders: Gareth Pugh & Anne Gosse  
Phone: 604-576-6831 or 604-888-1787 for info**

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we explore the beautiful Nicola Valley and the surrounding areas. This area has many lovely lakes, wetlands, grasslands, sagebrush plus moist and dry forests which are all great habitats for waterfowl, Ospreys and many other types of birds.

We hope to join the Nicola Valley Naturalists and will let you know further details later.

We leave early Monday morning May 18th for afternoon birding in the Merritt area. After morning birding on May 20th we then return home. Bring lunch and breakfasts makings and we will eat dinner out. We have booked rooms at Super 8 in Merritt and there is a nice Provincial Park campground at Nicola Lake.

**Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2015  
SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK  
Leaders: Al & Jude Grass  
8:45 am at Flood-Hope Road/Silver Skagit Road  
(exit 168 from Hwy 1)  
7:30 am at Douglas Crescent**  
Al and Jude lead 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. For info contact 604 538 8774.

**Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2015  
CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK  
Leader: Viveka Ohman  
9:00 am at 8th Avenue parking lot across from  
Nature House.**  
This is our "welcome back" for our annual "yellow-themed" Warbler and other summer birds with expert birder Viveka and the White Rock & Surrey Naturalists. We will be looking for Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks plus many more etc! This walk will take us from the parking lot down the Ravine Trail to 16th avenue and return via the Vine Maple trail for a round trip of 5 km. Phone 604 -856-7534 or Anne 604-888-1787.

**LANGLEY FIELD NATURALIST'S  
SUMMER SOCIAL AND NATURE WALKS**

**SATURDAY JULY 4TH, 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 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 instruction for finding  
the Grass Shack when you RSVP.*



*Wax Paper Lichen (see story "Hummers" page 6)*

*Photo: Al Grass*