



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

December 2014

WOODPECKER'S HOLE A JAY'S CACHING SITE COUNTRY WOODS SURREY



Peanut in Pileated Woodpecker hole Photo: Al Grass

The Steller's Jay is well-known for its caching habits, and taste for peanuts. Here is an interesting caching site - a Pileated Woodpecker's feeding hole. I checked around and found a peanut in another woodpecker hole off the main trail.

Al Grass



Sword Fern Photo: Bob Puls

PLANT BEAUTY AS SEEN IN WINTER

With flowers long gone, plant stalks in winter reveal beautiful patterns and useful botanical features like floral arrangements. Plant species in the family Apiaceae show a pattern that looks like the spokes of an umbrella (umbel). Look for this arrangement on winter stalks of cow parsnip, wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace) and Angelicas.



Licorice Fern Photo: Bob Puls

Other types of arrangements include panicles, spikes and racemes. Canada goldenrod canes usually retain leaves with their three prominent veins for easy identification. Leaves of yarrow and pineapple weed are fern-like and both are very aromatic, the latter smelling like pineapple when crushed. And ferns like licorice fern, spiny wood (shield) fern and western sword fern all lend their green beauty to the winter woods, all with distinctive shapes, making wonderful subjects for the camera.

Al 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 the LEPS office or at Executive members' homes.

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**



Last night, November 28th, we had our first snowfall of this winter. Not a lot, just enough to cover the ground and make the roads a bit slippery. The temperature dropped to -6C and the Anna's Hummingbirds were anxiously awaiting their feeder to be liquefied this morning. The number of Dark-eyed Juncos at the feeders is increasing each week as the weather gets colder and there seem to be more Black-capped Chickadees than last year. But as of yet nothing new or exciting at the feeders.

Since the last newsletter Sheila and I enjoyed a wonderful safari in Africa and we will share some photos of the trip at the general meeting in May 2015. We logged 58 species of animals and photographed 182 species of birds on the safari. And that doesn't include the trees and flowers. Now I don't know what to show you in May!

Meanwhile back in Langley we have elected new councillors in both the Township and the City and it remains to be seen how busy the conservation portfolio will be in the next four years.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and hope to see you all at the Christmas Bird Counts.

Bob



Elephants in the Serengeti

Photo: Bob Puls

*Long time LFN member Ron
Wilmshurst passed away on
Wednesday December 3rd.
His memorial service will be at
Hazelmere Golf And Tennis Club on
December 22nd from 1.0 to 3.0 pm.*

VIVEKA'S ENCOUNTER AT THE BEND

On Friday July 25th, a friend and I decided to hike to Poland Lake as part of the scheduled hikes for Nature Vancouver's Summer Camp at Manning Park. It was an overcast day with a bit of drizzle but being generally familiar with the weather of the coastal mountains I knew there was a good possibility that the clouds would lift so we could enjoy some nice views of the mountains. It was a long and steep hike, some 17 km return so, a full day. After hiking in to Poland Lake and enjoying the views and of course our lunch, we decided to slowly hike back and I stress slowly so we wouldn't miss any birds or animals. That I would have an encounter with the big burly kind never entered my mind.

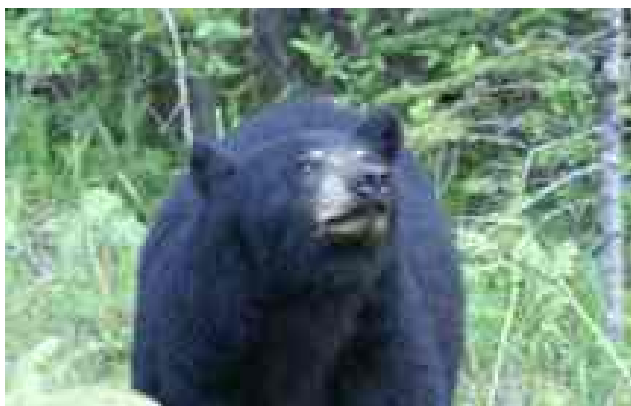
As we climbed towards the ski-hill coming around on the service road from behind the tows, we saw a small sow Black Bear and her youngster - a chestnut coloured cub so small he could fit into your kitchen sink. Obviously this year's cub. She left as soon as she sniffed my presence with the little guy tottering off behind her, sometimes running to keep up - so adorable. Well, that would be my sighting for the day or so I thought. I was ahead of my friend but only by a minute or so. Finally after trekking up the hill we were on our way down.

The clouds lifted as predicted and we were able to soak in the magnificent views. Ambling on, we delighted in seeing flowers and butterflies on the side of the trail, such as the paintbrush, lupines, daisies and cinquefoil and accompanying butterflies (the sulphurs, whites and fritillaries) and now and then we were scolded by the Gray Jays. We loved it.

By now I was almost a minute ahead of my friend and as I approached the last bend in the trail, prior to dropping down about 2 km from Strawberry Flats, and knowing the creek would be there, decided this is where we could enjoy a water break before finishing. Now that would not happen! As I came around the bend, suddenly there was what appeared to be a big dark boulder about 20' away that was not there on the trail when we came up. Before I could process what I was seeing, it turned around and I was face to face with a 400 lb to 450 lb or so boar Black bear that made me freeze in my tracks. Oh - plus other explicatives came out of me which obviously I cannot include in this article for fear of offending the reader, however the underlying message in my brain was a repeat be calm over the

fear rising in me. He stood there and stared at me with absolutely no fear. This was definitely his turf and I was the intruder.

It all registered so fast: what to do and what not to do . It would make a good picture but forget that. How do I get out of here? At first I made myself out to be as big as I could and yelled at him, where upon he ambled up the hill only to return. Again I yelled at him. He slowly retreated but stayed close by in the bushes. I looked to my right and realized I could slide down the 30' to 40' embankment onto the paved road to the ski area and hike back the remaining few km to Strawberry Flats. I slid part way down and waited for what seemed to be a very long time (though only a minute or so) for my friend to appear, who said upon seeing me. "What are you doing down there?" I replied "There is a bear in the shrubbery not far from you and he is big so I thought we could slide down here and leave him alone."



MY territory!

Photo: Bob Puls

She looked at me - then down at the embankment and said "You're kidding!" "Nope" I said. "It is the best and safest way because he isn't scared and I don't want to take a chance with him." "Well if you think so but I still don't see him" she said, to which I replied "But he is watching us".

That was enough and we both carefully slid down the bank leaving pronounced seat prints along the way that are still there, as far as I know. We then walked back about a mile on the road and were ever so relieved to see our cars, with Sandy asking again "How big?"

I don't know how one should respond in a situation like this but I would not have played dead: make noise, make yourself appear big, don't show any fear and back away facing the animal. Hopefully things will work out as they did for us. This was my first and hopefully last encounter with the big burly kind, though I've seen many bears on hikes before, but never this close and never as a surprise. And when you are both surprised, this is where problems may arise with the outcome unfortunately being so very different than what we thankfully experienced. Yelling at the animal may or may not work as it can also instill fear and aggression. I've read that talking to them may also work, but who really knows. Still, after all these years hiking, one never knows what one can encounter just around the bend on the trail and it is wise to be as prepared as possible.

Viveka Ohman.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH DE BOUVILLE SLOUGH AND MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK



On the viewing platform at Minnehada Photo: Anne Gosse

On a lovely warm morning, nine naturalists came out to join Josh for a hike around the dyke trails of the Debouville Slough and into Minnehada Park. There were many small birds in the trees and bushes alongside the dykes. Birds seen during the walk included good views of Black-throated Gray Warblers, Yellow Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Purple Finches, Bushtits, Cedar Waxwings, and Common Yellowthroats. These were just a few of the species we saw, as we ended our day's tally with 34 species. We also had great views of two flying Sandhill Cranes, lots of Northern Flickers, American Robins and Great Blue Herons.

Along our way, we had many reports from walkers and cyclists that there were bears ahead, and bears behind us. We only saw two black bears and they were both at least one body of water away from us, but there were at least four bears near us hidden in the trees, including a mother and cub. We all enjoyed our day in this lovely area and send our thanks to Josh for leading us.

Anne Gosse

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15TH SKAGIT VALLEY FIELD TRIP

"a bit a drizzle didn't dampen our spirits"

We gathered at our usual spot, the bridge at Silver Creek, where we were entertained by a pair of American Dippers (they sang for us too!)

Our first stop on the way was Silver Lake where we looked for Goldeneyes,



Photo: Anne Gosse

Mergansers and Buffleheads. We then proceeded to Ross Lake at the International Border. Along the roadside several Ruffed Grouse were spotted. At Ross Lake we were treated to good views of waterfowl, including Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead and Canada Goose. Eighteen bird species in total.

On the way back we stopped at Whitworth Ranch Trail but did not get very far because there were mushrooms a-plenty. Some of these included Dyer's polypore, Gomphidius, sp., Russula, spp., Cortinarius, spp., Chanterelles, and the beautiful hawk-wing (Sarcodon). Thanks to everyone.



Hawk-wing

Photo: Al Grass

Al Grass

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19TH DERBY REACH/BRAE ISLAND PARKS ASSOCIATION FALL FUNGUS FORAY!!

About forty participants joined Sharmin Gamiet, a professional Mycologist and Consultant, for the DRBIPA Mushroom Foray. Starting at 9:00 am along the woodland trails, she transported us off into the amazing and fascinating world of mushrooms. Her knowledge and hints, plus her stories about the different species were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We were given instructions on how to identify the different "sub-species within a species" by smell, or by rubbing the stem or by watching for a colour change, or by breaking and waiting for the "milk". We even at times were told how to cook them!

The recent rains had triggered an explosion of underground spores that had nurtured the growth of several varieties all over this lovely park. We started off with the wonderful Earthstar, then carried on with several King Boletes, Shaggy Parasols, Honey Mushrooms, Oyster Mushrooms, Miniature Waxy Caps, Angel Wings, lots of types of Russulas, Bird Nests Fungus, several Coral Mushrooms, and Fircones to name but a few. I am sure I have missed many names in my report but we all enjoyed the outing immensely, hanging on to every word Sharmin spoke, on this lovely dry warm morning. Thanks to Jeremy for organizing!

Anne Gosse

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22ND MUSHROOM FORAY CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK

A fine day and fungi a-plenty



Anthea Farr & Al Grass examine a 'shroom

Photo: Anne Gosse

While we gathered in the 16th Avenue parking lot, a flock of snow geese flew overhead - a nice way to start the day.

Most exploration was done along the Little River Loop Trail. A few of the fungal highlights included (in the park we don't collect!):

- * fairy helmets (*Mycena, spp.*) including the bleeding mycena that when broken exudes a red "bloodlike" juice.
- * fairy ring (*Marasmius*)
- * Wood Wooly foot (*Gymnopus*)
- * Sulphur tuft (*Hypholoma*)
- * Honey mushroom (*Armillaria*)
- * Brittle caps (*Russula, spp.*)
- * Black-eyed Parasol (*Lepiota*)
- * Milk cap (*Lactarius, sp.*)
- * Staghorn jelly (*Calocera*)
- * Red-belted polypore (*Fomitopsis*)
- * Tinder polypore (*Fomes*)
- * Fly amanita (*Amanita*)



Scopes on the spit

Photo: Anne Gosse

Gareth Pugh.

Names are from Common Mushrooms of the Northwest by J.D. Sept. (revised edition, 2012) - an excellent guide to local species ("a must have").

Al Grass

THURSDAY OCTOBER 23RD BLACKIE SPIT

Eight participants joined leader Gareth Pugh for his weekly bird survey at Blackie Spit. This survey is done on behalf of the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society who carry out restoration work to the area in conjunction with the City of Surrey. This work consists of removing invasive species and replacing them with native plants. In addition to the foreshore work, one part of the Spit has been enhanced by the placement of gravel to encourage spawning of forage fish.

A strong wind was blowing as we set off to the pier from where we could scan the bay. We were able to see Common Loons, Surf Scoters, Cormorants, Gulls, Horned, Western and Red-necked Grebes. From there we walked around to the spit itself where we found a small flock of Ring-billed Gulls, together with Dunlin, Black-bellied Plover, Wigeon, Greater Yellowlegs, a Savannah Sparrow, the Long-billed Curlew and two Marbled Godwits that have been winter residents there for several years. A number of seals could be seen lying on the grassy banks across the estuary and lots of large flocks of unidentified shorebirds were flying around as the tide was rising.

By now the wind had dropped and the sun was coming out, so we wandered on towards the Rene Savenye area where we got a closer look at the Curlew with his long curved bill and counted a large number of Double-crested Cormorants sitting on the pilings where the Purple Martin boxes are located. There were very few ducks in this area on this day but I explained that large numbers usually come into the lagoon at high tide to rest. For instance, in our recent heavy wind storm, the lagoon was full of many types of shorebirds sheltering from the strong winds.

As we moved on around the lagoon, a large number of Greater Yellowlegs were flying in and we eventually counted about 100 of them, but were unable to find any Lessers amongst them. Past the head of the lagoon, the trail is along a dyke with wide ditches on both sides where we found Mallards, Shovelers, Teals and Wigeons plus Steller's Jays, House Finches, Flickers, Song Sparrows, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7TH
GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY
*Four Owls, Two Rails, Two Shrikes, plus
Two "Lifers!"*



Resting at Reifel

Photo: Anne Gosse

On this outing we saw four different species of Owls! two types of secretive Rails! two hunting Northern Shrikes! plus two "Lifers" for several of our group - including myself! Seventeen members from three different naturalist clubs joined our leader Al for another great birding adventure in Reifel Refuge on a warm sunny day. Before we had travelled a 100 feet into the bird sanctuary, we had checked off nearly 20 species! A fantastic day's search then followed as we wandered the trails spotting and counting. The usual gang of Black-crowned Night Herons are back wintering. The Sandhill Cranes gave a low saluting flying bypass to Kathleen's trilling - then they greeted us along the paths. Several species of sparrows and waterfowl were seen diving and dashing for cover as a predatory Merlin sped by. Song, Fox and Golden-crowned Sparrows, plus Towhees, Juncos, American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Golden-crowned Kinglets were all duly recorded plus many more usual species. There were great views of the Red-breasted Nuthatches and Rufous Hummingbird were given on the feeders. We stopped to adore the small wide-eyed Saw-whet Owl high up in the fir branches. In all the excitement, two birders were knocked off the trail into the bramble bushes in the rush!

On the outer dykes, we excitedly spotted two Northern Shrikes and heard the Virginia and Sora Rails amongst bulrushes answering Al's call. With John G's help we got to view a Swamp Sparrow - giving many of us a "Lifer"! Thanks John! Lovely Wood Ducks, graceful Pintails, black-bottomed Gadwall, diving Canvasbacks, busy Northern Shovelers, Buffleheads and Pied-billed Grebes and my favorite Hooded Mergansers along with Ring-necked Ducks and American Coots were seen. We also watched Red-tailed Hawks, a Common

Raven, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk along the outer dykes.

Caught up in this exhilarating day of plentiful sightings, we all set off to see the wayward Tropical Kingbird with John guiding us to Brunswick Point. This wonderful yellow-colored flycatcher was atop a bush, busy catching flies and giving great views to birders and photographers. We all were quite enthralled. Unexpectedly we found a Barn Owl in the trees behind us - and in the same tree a Great Horned Owl!

It was then agreed we might just as well record the Short-eared Owls on Brunswick Point dyke as well - so off we went! Three lovely butterfly winged Short-eared Owls were seen out on the foreshore, along with flocks of Dunlin, and Meadowlarks. Then along the dyke, Marsh & Bewick's Wrens, White-crowned Sparrows, Orange-crowned Warblers along with Bushtits and House Sparrows were found. However, on this day we did not find the Wagtail or the Townsend's Solitaire that had been seen in this area.

Our day's count ended up with an astonishing 66 different species! We were so excited about our adventures that some forgot the time and had to phone spouses to check in - (a marathon 7 hour birding day!). Whee - what a day! These are the days you remember and they make you feel alive! We all send our thanks to Al Grass for leading our group.

Anne Gosse

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15TH
BRUNSWICK POINT, LADNER



Seven avid birders

Photo: Anne Gosse

Our dyke expedition flushed out seven keen birders onto Brunswick Point on a cool - but not too chilly - day. With no wind and the sunshine to warm us, we didn't need gloves at all! We enjoyed a great exploration along the river dykes in beautiful warming sunshine.

Unfortunately, the Tropical Kingbird had left the area. Two lovely coloured Wilson's Snipe flew past and Wim gave some good tips on how to spot Snipe on the wing. Lots of Double-crested Cormorants were perching on the log pilings along the river. Many varieties of Sparrows were seen, as well as a flock of Western Meadowlarks in the fields. About eight beautiful Short-eared Owls gave a magnificent aerial display in front of us, showing beautiful markings on their multi-coloured wings. Several Northern Harriers were soaring over the foreshore and in the fields. Two beautiful Peregrine Falcons and a Cooper's Hawk - plus a possible sighting of a Sharp-shinned Hawk (not confirmed as too far away) were recorded.

We watched in awe as a falcon rushed a huge weaving, turning, swaying murmur of shorebirds a couple of times. Two American Bitterns were flushed up by duck hunters, giving us good sightings. Unfortunately the hunters were shooting at the Snow Geese flocks as they came overhead. We saw two ducks shot down. We searched for the Barn Owl who was seen by several other groups this day, but we could not find him. We ended our day with a decent count of 43 species.

Anne Gosse

BC NATURE FALL GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 25TH -28TH 2014 SALMON ARM, BC

This year, BC Nature's Fall General Meeting was held in beautiful Salmon Arm. Nine Langley Field Naturalists attended, learning about the huge salmon run that would be soon arriving in nearby Adams River, listening to excellent talks about the area, and discovering more by going on field trips, and of course, attending meetings.

THE TALKS

The first talk, Thursday evening, was presented by photographer Clive Bryson, a Shuswap Naturalist member. Actually, it wasn't a talk at all, but a stunning photographic essay, set to music, of the spectacular Adams River Salmon Run of 2010 in nearby Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park. This set the whole tone for our weekend.

Friday morning's talks began with Don Cecile, a naturalist who has been studying shorebird migration in Salmon Arm Bay since 2001. He explained this area is such a hot spot because of the north-south valleys that the shorebirds follow in the migration as a natural stopping off/feeding place. Most of the birds are juveniles, between May and October, because the adults have already gone. Don has

kept meticulous records and photographs that he shared with us, offering suggestions of how to identify these cryptic juveniles. What a challenge!

The next talk concerned the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre on the Shuswap River, which is dedicated to not only increasing the salmon population but also educating the public, especially children, about restoring and protecting the salmon. Neil Brookes, the scheduled speaker, was replaced by Pat Davenport because of remedial work Neil had to do that day caused by a spring mudslide in the river. Pat explained how Neil has developed a program called Stream to Sea, whereby school kids in the area take eggs each October, and care for the eggs in the classroom until they hatch in December to January, keeping track of the changes in the fry until they are released in the spring. This program has been running for 30 years and has involved 80,000 children. The Interpretive Centre also works closely with First Nations.

The last talk was presented by Dave Ramsay, a teacher at the Salmon Arm High School, who developed a Grade 11 course on Environmental Science of the Shuswap Watershed in 2009. This science course focuses on the local watershed and teaches how the watershed developed through past geographic history. The major thrust was how humans have affected the watershed, how to study this effect with hands-on projects and ultimately how to restore the normal cycles of nature to ensure its ecology is restored. They concentrated on streams because "healthy streams make healthy watersheds". The "Your Turn Projects with Youth Making a Difference" integrated school and community and First Nations. Dave's main idea is that the more the kids learn, the more they will take ownership, which bodes well for the future.

The final talk of the weekend was presented after our wonderful banquet dinner on Saturday night. The talk was presented by Geoff Styles, a Salmon Arm Field Naturalist who spent three years in South Korea teaching English and taking part between 2006 and 2008 in the Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Program. Geoff showed us the vast East Asian-Australasian Flyway on maps, explaining about the vast number of shorebirds that use it in their yearly migrations. He concentrated his talk on the west coast of Korea where he was doing his bird monitoring. In the 1990's, Korea dyked an important estuary and "reclaimed" the land by filling it in for industry. As the years passed, the loss of this estuary had a disastrous effect on some of the world's shorebird populations but the dyke was completed in 2006 and is still there today. With Birds Korea, Geoff is working hard to halt similar projects along Korea's bird-rich coastline.

THE MEETINGS

The Directors' Meeting on Saturday morning covered a wide variety of issues. There were bylaw amendments presented and passed to remove the clauses that no officer could hold an office for more than three consecutive terms and that Club Directors could hold the position for only a period of two years. Betty Davison gave her update, including the new BC Nature billings with the effective date of December 31st for membership each year for all clubs. Our new President Kees Vissars ran over some main concepts of the 5 Year Strategic Plan: there will be 8 action goals: one is that we will aim for an ambitious 50% increase in membership; we want BC Nature to be a "go to" organization for environmental solutions and we will strive to inspire people in nature knowledge. The draft form will be ready by March and presented at the AGM in Saltspring in May.

Betty gave us a presentation of the benefits of clubs hosting an AGM and FGM. The good reasons are: members have an opportunity to visit and learn about the hosting club's part of the province, learning about local projects and concerns, and different aspects of the area's flora and fauna. Hosting the meeting is financially rewarding for the host club because the profits are split 50% with BC Nature.

We broke out into our regional groups for discussion. I brought forward our problems with Brydon Lagoon after the summer fish kill, caused by the Lagoon's warming water and lack of oxygen in the water. I told them of the LFN's planned walk around the lagoon that we have invited local politicians to, to show them that this gem of Langley needs support to survive.

The Fall General Meeting, held Saturday afternoon, was the first FGM led by our new President Kees. The business part of the meeting covered items similar to the morning's Directors' meeting with the same bylaw amendments passed by the general membership. Kees gave his report on the progress of the Strategic Plan update 2015-2020. Fred McMechan was introduced as the new Resolutions Chair. For the Committee Reports, we were referred to the FGM report document. The most interesting event at the meeting was the presentation by Tom Bell of BC Parks concerning the amendment to the Parks Act-Bill 4 which inspired a lively discussion. This bill was enacted to enable parks smaller than 23 hectares to issue permits to permit commercial filming in parks and to allow BC Parks to authorize research in Class A Parks and conservancies but does not allow more industrial development in parks. Lively discussion following this talk ensued because of the general feeling of many who feel that the word "research" was not clearly defined and could be the

thin edge of the wedge into research for industrial encroachment into provincial parks. Tom Bell referred people to the BC Parks website for reassurance.

Kathy Masse

MY FIELD TRIP TO EAGLE RIVER NATURE TRAIL AT YARD CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK SALMON ARM FGM 2014

I only attended one field trip at the FGM in Salmon Arm because my Directors' Meeting was scheduled for Saturday morning. But the Friday afternoon trip along the Eagle River Nature Trail was amazing because of the mushrooms! Yard Creek Provincial Park was a 35k trip from Salmon Arm and has valley bottom wetland and river riparian habitats with ferns, mosses, lichens and mushrooms. It reminded me of a coastal forest which is unusual for the drier Salmon Arm area.



Lobster Mushroom

Photo: Kathy Masse

We were supposed to follow the trail down to the river to view the spawning salmon but there were no salmon there. Although we listened and watched, we noted few birds. However, the abundant and colourful mushrooms along the trail kept us fascinated and kept happy participants' cameras snapping. Here are a couple of my pictures!

Kathy Masse



Bristly Pholiota

Photo: Kathy Masse

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

LANGLEY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH

Langley Field Naturalists section of the Surrey/White Rock/Langley circle is being counted on Sunday December 28th.

We are meeting at the ABC Restaurant at the corner of Glover Road and the Bypass at 7.30 am for breakfast, ready for an 8 am start.

NEEDED are drivers, recorders, spotters and identifiers! All skill levels welcome.

This is a great way for more inexperienced birders to learn from experts.

Contact Kathy Masse (614-513-8927, wmasse@telus.net) to let her know you are coming.

PITT MEADOWS/NORTH LANGLEY

SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD

A portion of the Pitt Meadows circle touches into Langley just south of the Fraser River. For the last few years we have assisted in this portion of their count. If you are interested in helping with this, we will meet at the Denny's Restaurant, 8855 202 Street, Langley at 8.00 am.

Contact Bob Puls (604-856-7534, bob@puls.ca)

DRBIPA BIRD COUNT

The annual Derby Reach / Brae Island bird count will be held on February 31st, assembling in the lower lounge at St George's Anglican Church, 9160 Church Street, Fort Langley at 8.00 am.

Contact Phil Henderson (604-888-1571, zama@uniserve.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

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2014 LOWER MAINLAND - FRASER VALLEY - SUNSHINE COAST

ABBOTSFORD-MISSION - SATURDAY DECEMBER 27
Stan Olson at 604-853-6454 or smkd@shaw.ca

CHILLIWACK: - SATURDAY DECEMBER 20
Denis Knopp at 604- 858-5141
or bcwilddenis@uniserve.com

HARRISON RIVER: - MONDAY DECEMBER 15
Denis Knopp at 604-858-5141
or bcwilddenis@uniserve.com

LADNER: SUNDAY DECEMBER 21
Jude Grass at 604-538-8774
or judegrass@shaw.ca

LOWER HOWE SOUND: SUNDAY JANUARY 4, 2015
Marja de Jong Westman at 604-921-3382
or mdjw@telus.net

PENDER HARBOUR: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17
Tony Greenfield at 604-885-5539
or tony@whiskeyjacknaturetours.com

PITT MEADOWS: SATURDAY JANUARY 3, 2015
Larry Cowan at 604-465-1402
or lawrencecowan@shaw.ca

SQUAMISH: SUNDAY DECEMBER 14
Heather Baines at 604-938-1738
or birdbaines@gmail.com

SUNSHINE COAST: SATURDAY DECEMBER 20
Tony Greenfield at 604-885-5539
or tony@whiskeyjacknaturetours.com

VANCOUVER: SUNDAY DECEMBER 14
Adrian Grant Duff at 604-263-7957
or angrantduff@gmail.com

**WHITE ROCK/SURREY/LANGLEY:
SUNDAY DECEMBER 28**
Viveka Ohman at 604-531-3401
or vohman@shaw.ca

**A memorial for Glenn Ryder
is scheduled for Sunday April 19th 2015
at the Rowlett Farmstead
in Campbell Valley Regional Park.
The time and details to be announced**

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 JANUARY 15TH

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF THE LOWER MAINLAND
Monica Pearson

Amphibians and reptiles are disproportionately affected by environmental change, and are declining rapidly. In the Lower Mainland, our remaining species are the focus of intense efforts to halt declines and recover healthy populations. Monica will go over the identification of our more common and endangered species, and discuss ongoing efforts to save them.

Monica Pearson is a Registered Professional Biologist who specializes in the conservation of threatened amphibian species. She lives in Vancouver, and spends half the year in either a wetland or in a mud-pit on its way to becoming a wetland.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

**A PERUVIAN BIRDING ADVENTURE
FROM LIMA TO THE HEART OF THE AMAZON**
Larry Cowan

Experience Peru's exotic bird life from Lima to Peru's endemic rich northlands to the lush settings of the Amazon jungle. Enjoy Humboldt Penguins south of Lima, Northern Peru's exotic endemic hummingbird, the Marvelous Spatuletail, and the canopy birds of the Amazon. You'll also get a taste of the varied

topography, from coastal deserts, to the Andes, to the ever changing Amazon & Napo river shorelines.

Larry Cowan is a long-time local birder recently back from his third birding adventure to South America. His birding travels have also taken him to destinations in Canada and the US. He is a director & current Vice President of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists. Leading monthly birding field trips for Nature Vancouver for over 15 years, he has introduced more than a few individuals to the hobby/addiction of birding.

THURSDAY MARCH 19TH

TBA

THURSDAY APRIL 16TH

TBA

THURSDAY MAY 21ST

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.

**NATURE VANCOUVER
BIRDING SECTION PRESENTS:**

Photograph by Rich Reid ©

**BASIC FIELD IDENTIFICATION
FOR DIURNAL RAPTORS
WITH WILLIAM S. CLARK**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7 2015 (LECTURES) AT
REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY - DELTA
AND SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8 2015 (FIELD TRIP)
AROUND BOUNDARY BAY & DELTA
\$150.00 PER PERSON

**ADVANCED Raptor FIELD IDENTIFICATION FOR DIURNAL RAPTORS
WITH WILLIAM S. CLARK**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14 (LECTURES) AT
REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, DELTA
AND SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15 (FIELD TRIP)
AROUND BOUNDARY BAY & DELTA
\$165.00 PER PERSON

For both workshops please bring: a notebook, lunch and snacks, outdoor wear and binoculars.
Provided: coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juices
Sunday field trips will require car-pooling.

To register please contact Jude at
judegrass@show.ca or 604-538-8774
Mail cheques made out to: Nature Vancouver
and note for Basic and/or Advanced Raptor Workshop
17375 27A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3Z 0E9
MINIMUM 10 - MAXIMUM 20 (BOTH WORKSHOPS)

REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED
UNTIL THE CHEQUE IS RECEIVED.

V2 NOV 23 JFG

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.

Friday January 16th 2015

Time: 10:00 am at 16th Ave (N entrance) parking TRAIL OF THE TURKEY TAILS -

Campbell Valley Regional Park

Leader: Al Grass

Join us for a leisurely walk to look for Lichens and Winter Fungi in Campbell Valley Regional Park as well as other winter things. Bring a hand lens (10X) if you have one. Our winter woods are full of wonderful discoveries, from turkey tails to pencil script! Dress warmly.

Saturday January 24th 2015

Time: 9:00 am (8:00 am at Douglas Crescent)

WEST DYKE TRAIL, TERRA NOVA, Richmond

Leader: Gareth Pugh

We stroll along this dyke trail which has excellent views of the Sturgeon Banks, marshes, distant Howe Sound Mt, and the Gulf Islands. A birdwatcher's paradise, these park areas are an important part of the Pacific Flyway, which sees 1.4 million birds migrating through the area each year. We expect to see lots of waterfowl, Snow geese, various raptors and songbirds and grebes. To get to Terra Nova, take Westminster Highway to No. 1 Road, turn right (North) to River Road, turn left and drive to the parking lot at the end. Phone 604-888-1787 or 604-576-6831.

Wednesday February 18th 2015

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

SUMAS PRAIRIE RAPTOR SEARCH!

Leader: John Gordon

We plan to search amongst the pretty farming districts of Abbotsford for birds of prey such as the Red-tailed Hawk, Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rough-legged Hawk plus any surprises we find along the way! We will warm up after with warm drinks at a restaurant. Dress warmly and come for the search! Meet at 8:00 Douglas

Cres or at 9:00 am at McDonalds at 34618 Delair Road, Abbotsford, off exit no.92 off Sumas Way North. Phone 604-533-7171 or 604-888-1787 for information.

Saturday February 28th 2015

Time: 10am - 12noon.

WINTER BIRDS OF BRYDON LAGOON

Leader: Al Grass & Annabel Griffiths

Search out the many waterfowl, raptors, and other birds that call this wetland their home in winter. Meet at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street. For info contact 604-538-8774 or 604-888-1787.

Saturday March 7th 2015

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

Houston Trail Regional Park

BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES!

Leader: Biologist Phil Henderson

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

Time 9:00 am

NORTHERN SLOUGHS - Chilliwack to Chehalis Flats!

Leader: Gareth Pugh

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. Meet at Douglas Cres at 8:00 am or at Deroche Bridge parking right side before you go over bridge at 9:00 am.

Saturday March 28th 2015

Time: 9:00 am (8:00 am at Douglas Crescent)

George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Leader Al Grass

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 sport 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.