



# Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

Langley Field Naturalists acknowledge we are in the unceded Indigenous lands of the Coast Salish (Stó:lo) people

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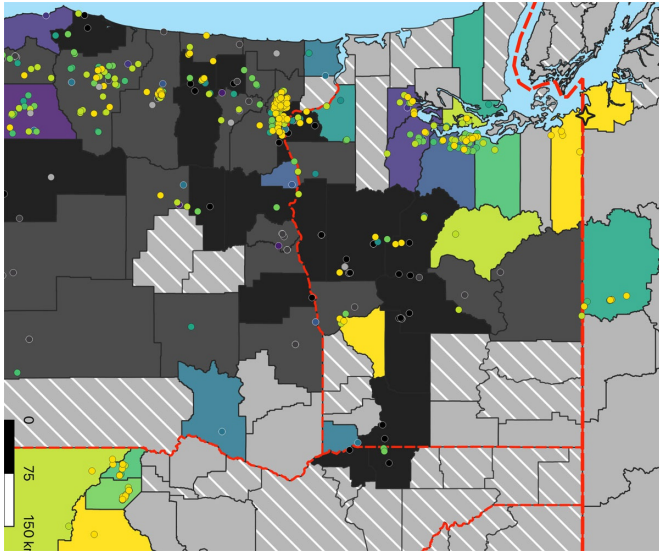
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Newsletter

June 2026

## TRACKING THE CALIFORNIA SPREADWING

BugGuide, or Odonata Central.



Map showing records of *Archilestes californicus* (ARCA) in the Pacific Northwest.

Further sightings of the California Spreadwing might be expected this year in ponds in southern Surrey, Langley, or Abbotsford especially during the months of August through October. At a distance, look for a large damselfly (it is the largest species in BC by a significant margin) perched on cattail or sedges with its wings held open at a roughly 45 degree angle.

Dorsally its colouration is broadly similar to some of our other spreadwings (*Lestes* sp.), with which it is the most likely to be confused. Notice however the pterostigmas (the rectangular opaque spots near the tip of every wing) which are light-coloured in California Spreadwing, but (usually) dark in BC's other spreadwings.

Try as well to take a picture from the side- the best character for this species is the sides of the thorax, which have a distinctive striped pattern.

There's a new damselfly in Metro Vancouver! The California Spreadwing (*Archilestes californicus*) was spotted in the region for the first time last fall, at A Rocha Canada's BC Centre in south Surrey (~1km from Campbell Valley Regional Park). Previously it was known in Canada only from the Okanagan valley.

Here on this side of the mountains, the species has been gradually extending its range northward up western Washington for the last twenty years. If the trend continues, the California Spreadwing could someday be a familiar sight around the Lower Mainland of BC. It will be important to understand the ecological niche it fills here, and how it is spreading during this early stage of its history in our region. Interested local naturalists could provide this documentation by submitting photographs to iNaturalist,



*Archilestes californicus* male, Surrey, BC (Brooksedale Environmental Centre), 16 September 2025 (iNaturalist 314897047). Photo: Steven Esau

Pond dippers may also have a chance to see the nymph, which would be a first for BC. Look for a large damselfly nymph (>3 cm, including the tail) with two dark bands on each gill. Microscopy might be needed to confirm the species however.

You can read more about the California Spreadwing on [A Rocha's website](#), or in our [article](#) which recently passed peer review and will be published later this year in the Journal of the Entomological Society of British Columbia. Please feel free to email me ([steven.esau@arocha.ca](mailto:steven.esau@arocha.ca)) if you have any questions, or information to add.

**Steven Esau**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Volunteering has been shown to increase life expectancy, a definite conclusion anyone can come to when we know volunteering decreases anxiety, increases our sense of purpose, and lowers blood pressure. While I would love to see more of our members stepping up to represent the LFN at community events and leading new walks, I know there are many other forms of volunteering. Finding just the right fit for you is important to make sure you continue to volunteer and reap the benefits.

This month we had a fabulous presentation from our members Terri-Lou and Ron who also volunteer for BC Community Bat Program. Their dedication to our local bats made me reflect on different groups we could also volunteer for beyond LFN.

There are certainly a lot of environmental groups we could connect with that need volunteers for a variety of different means of involvement, from physical labor to letter writing to teaching.

But we are a diverse group, us LFNers! Volunteering beyond nature is in our nature! Churches, health and wellness, grief support, kids sports... could all use people with your unique skills and abilities.

And then there is citizen science. If the pull of Mother Nature is strong but volunteering with organized groups of people is not your thing (people-ing can be very stressful sometimes!), then quietly getting out on your own or with a small group of friends and participating in citizen science is a great way to contribute your valuable volunteer hours!

This past week I had the pleasure of celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver. One presentation was by Paul Abram, a researcher with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, about biological control of Japanese beetles. I know you are asking how in the world is this supposed to relate to citizen science and volunteering?? Well, in one very fascinating way: iNaturalist. "Oh, of course" you are saying now. But wait, it is even more interesting! What Paul did was look at photos people had submitted to iNaturalist to identify Japanese beetles to look for tiny eggs on the beetles laid by a parasitic fly, the



winsome fly, a fly introduced from Japan in the US back in the 1920's as a biological control for the beetles. Wild, eh? He was able to conclude that the beetles hadn't moved as far west as BC in the last 100 years so he did a study introducing them here (well in Port Coquitlam). Results are promising and it's thanks to volunteers that submitted photos to iNaturalist.

With so many benefits to be had by dedicating some of your valuable time to a cause you are passionate about, I hope everyone will consider finding just the right match for you. BUT if you aren't sure what you want to do I'm putting in one more plug to folks to try out hosting the LFN booth at upcoming events or leading a nature walk! It's a great way to meet new people and connect.

As an aside, if you are interested, the Agassiz Research and Development Centre, where Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada works out of along with several other research branches, is celebrating 140 years and hosting a huge open house on Saturday, July 18. If you love the science side of nature mark your calendar!

*Lisa Dreves*

**THURSDAY JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**7.30 PM**

*followed by social time.*

Please bring a snack to share.

**All Executive positions are 1 year term  
and are elected annually.**

Please consider giving your time  
to either "shadow" or take on a position

Many hands make light work.



## 2025 DIRECTORS

President:  
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## REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

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Displays: Diana Munday  
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Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.30 pm.

Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June.

## CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>

There were 12 participants on a lovely day, overcast and cold but no rain or wind, with a great bunch of knowledgeable people. It was a cold morning so not even a peep was heard. But I did say it would be a walk in the park and any sighting would be greatly appreciated.



Birch Polypore

Photo: Viveka Ohman

We walked the Ravine and Shaggy Mane Trails and our first observation, interestingly enough, was a giant Cottonwood tree, a type of Poplar, which generated some discussion. How long do they live? Well my thought, initially based on previous so-called expert info. from a plant person at Deas Island which is known for its Cottonwoods, was 30 to 50 years, however not so. They grow fast when young and can live to be 200 years old according to documentation from UBC. Interesting - so based on its height and circumference, being one of the biggest Cottonwoods we had seen, this had to be an old tree.



Red-tailed Hawk

Photo: Viveka Ohman

On we went and heard and saw a few Spotted Towhees, Song Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadees, Bald Eagle and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Once on the Shaggy Mane Trail we came upon a transition zone of forest, fields and shrubbery with birds such as more Black-capped Chickadees, Raven, Crows, Red-tailed Hawk, Robins, Bushtit, Song Sparrows, Varied Thrush, Downy Woodpecker, Pacific and Bewick's Wren, totalling 19 species for the day. In addition we came upon a Birch Polypore, a type of fungus, and some slime mold with its fruiting bodies that looked like tiny mushrooms sprouting from the mold. A rich and varied day and once people are outside in a group observing nature there is always so much to experience, to be shared within the group and to learn.

A nice social coffee at Cravings in Brookwood finished the day off well.

*Viveka Ohman*

## **NATURE BEYOND NAMES DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK THURSDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Twelve participants travelled between nine stations at various locations, starting from the cairn by the river lookout to the old house site near the parking lot, the large clearing beside the wetland and to points along the Houston Loop trail. The idea was to note and discuss different features of each site and highlight things other than individual species (though not ignored; see birds below) such as space, topography, water and the structure of the forest and understory. These are the things we often overlook when going for a walk in nature, during which we often focus on specific organisms such as birds and take for granted attributes of the environment that influence their presence and constitute their “home”.

The relationships between organisms and their environment may not be obvious and may be difficult to untangle, but by looking at the “whole” we can gain a better understanding, at least in a general sense, of why organisms are there. These environmental features and surroundings are inherently interesting anyway and beautiful to boot.

We examined the environment and its composite features at each station and we did so cooperatively

through contributions from participants, including questions and explanations, some known, some plausible, possible or reasonable:

- \* Why do oak leaves remain on trees over winter, long after other deciduous species drop theirs?
- \* How do the forests and the spaces in the forest, between trees and below the canopy, differ between stations?
- \* Why do some Western Red Cedars produce trunk-like side branches that fill subcanopy spaces?
- \* Why do the lower branches of Douglas-fir die off in some trees and not others?
- \* Why do mosses grow on some forest floors and not others?

Of course, there were more questions asked than answered, but the goal was not necessarily to answer them all, but to reflect and gain a better appreciation for and understanding of the complexity of environment, the ecology, the home of the individual things we find so fascinating.

Although we did not focus on any particular group of organisms, we didn't ignore them. John Saremba kept track of 20 bird species we observed.

*Phil Henderson*

## **FORT LANGLEY BIRD COUNT SATURDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>**

As if by some fluke, some grand stroke of luck or twist of fate, in stark contrast to the usual weather-misery cast upon the hapless, unflinching and unperturbed Fort Langley Bird Count participants, this year's Fort Langley Bird Count started and ended in beautiful weather: clear, calm and cool, ranging from 0 °C at 0800 to 7 °C by 1200, the official survey end time.



*Fort to Fort East group*

*Photo: Phil Henderson*

Perhaps sensing “something was up” and exercising a learned and rightful suspicion of poor weather and the FLBC organizer, fewer people showed up than last year. At the end of last year’s event, participants resembled human sponges, expanded by water, cooled to the core, but buoyed by the experience, the thrill of small discoveries, of the patient, careful extraction of memorable avian sights and sounds. Birders, habitually positive and ever hopeful, have a knack for suppressing or suspending suspicion, with creeping thoughts of gloom quickly smothered by flapping wings, calls, songs and the ever-present lure of bird encounters to be. Well, this is the idealized version.

This year 25 participants gathered at Wendel’s Bookstore and Café in Fort Langley and broke into groups to cover the five routes surveyed. Some were new to the FLBC, including a group of four students all the way from UBC, a couple from east Vancouver, a mother and young son and others from various lower mainland municipalities, including Langley of course. This is a community event, intended for everyone interested in birds and the environment, so it was wonderful to have enthusiastic participants from across the Lower Mainland, an expanded community, a spontaneously assembled community of nature enthusiasts. Thanks to all for attending.

A big thank you to the group leaders who committed to this event well before meteorologists gathered round their cauldrons of murky broth to foretell conditions this count day. I would also like to thank Dan Ferguson of the Langley Advance Times who joined the Fort to Fort East group near the beginning at Bedford Landing. Dan has always supported the FLBC and reflected positively on it, promoting it and nature conservation in Langley, not just through the FLBC but by highlighting important issues of conservation of nature in the Langleys over many years. His report can be found here: <https://digital.langleyadvancetimes.com/Langley-Advance-Times-03192026/15/>.

This year participants recorded 47 species and 991 individuals. For comparison, last year we had 43 species and 703 individuals over the same five routes and in 2023 we 43 species and 1,272 individuals. The high number of individuals in 2023 was attributable to large numbers of Cackling geese, Canada Geese and Red-winged Blackbirds on one or more routes.



Salmon River Natural Area

Photo: Benita Antonio

This year the bog group was unable to access the bog because of flooding – a first for the FLBC – but they diligently and doggedly explored the area around the bog which required a fair bit of bushwacking and an unwavering commitment to the cause. Yay! All made it out unscathed and with a decent number of birds on their list. The bog proper usually doesn’t produce a big count and most of the birds there are also recorded in and associated with the shrubs and forest surrounding. So, this group provided a list of birds aligned with other years in which the bog is accessible.

This year (2026) was the year of the Hutton’s Vireo. Four were observed, two on one route (Houston Trail) and one on two other routes (Fort to Fort East and West). Past years have produced usually one Hutton’s Vireo, the reliable spot being the mature forest of Derby Reach Regional Park near the shoreline camping area. Maybe this is a good sign for a bird once considered of conservation concern, although that past status may have been more related to its being under-reported. Regardless, it isn’t a common species and always a pleasure to observe. Two Sandhill Cranes were seen on the bog route and two were seen on the Houston Loop route. These may have been the same birds. Although this bird is often recorded during the FLBC, usually in or near the bog, it is not common and tends to frequent places humans don’t, so it is always a thrill to see and hear.

We hope to see you next year. In the meantime, bird on.

*Phil Henderson*

## SEEDY SATURDAY SATURDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

Many of our walkers had attended Lisa's talk about lazy gardening and collecting seeds from the native plants in your garden. You can bag them in a paper bag, label the bag and store inside in a dry place for the winter. Lisa emphasized the importance of growing native species that are resistant to the dry and warm temperatures. She mentioned creating your own garden compost using grass and leaves and other garden waste plus some manure mixed in. LEPS offers garden compost containers.

A group of 13 walkers met outside the Rotary Interpretive Centre and Lisa toured everyone past the new Conifer Garden and Rhododendron Garden to David's Bird Garden. Nora explained that a new lovely bench has been added to this tranquil spot, and volunteers have added a seed bird feeder and a hummingbird feeder just in front of the *Aralia Alata* tree.



*Lisa explains gathering and saving seeds* Photo: Nora Truman

We proceeded east past the Dyers Garden to the Learning Farm area where rows of garlic are growing and the soil is being turned over and compost added to start the new season of growing. Amanda has been teaching Langley high school students about where our food comes from and what is involved to successfully grow vegetables and fruit. Some of the Langley Secondary high school students come back and help in the spring and summer.

Lisa led the group up the berm that parallels Fraser Hwy and talked about the urban forest that has been created there. Lisa said the sandy soil from the Nicomekl River floods was removed and topsoil that was a mix of compost, manure and some sand

was added. The area was then planted with very young native trees and grasses.



*Derek Doubleday Arboretum Urban Forest* Photo: Nora Truman

The forest is being watered and carefully cared for and the plan is to replant some of these shrubs and trees in areas where invasive species have been removed. LEPS has been hard at work removing invasive Himalayan Blackberry from streamsidings and hopefully some native species can be convinced to grow there.

**Nora Truman**

## TYNEHEAD REGIONAL PARK SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>



*Ready to walk*

*Photo: Keith Chrystall*

The skies were overcast and the temperature a little cool for our Saturday morning walk at Tynehead Park. Fortunately, there was no rain or wind so with some warm clothing it was pleasant weather to observe the first blush of spring in the forest. It's always refreshing to see, hear and smell life returning to the woods and fields. Osoberry, Salmonberry, Fawn Lily and Western Skunk Cabbage (or Swamp Lantern), among others, were flowering along the trail. Clusters of False Lily of

the Valley (or Western Lily of the Valley), Pacific Bleeding Heart and Pacific Trillium preparing to bloom were growing in the shady areas. Stinging Nettles and Trailing Blackberries were also reclaiming their ground.

Although it was challenging to see many birds, the trees were alive with their songs. Our group noted 20 bird species, including Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Purple Finch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Pacific Wren and Bald Eagle. We did see a few vigorous territorial disputes between pairs of Pacific Wrens, combined with loud and boisterous singing. One member of our group, Christina Saremba, spotted a Pacific Wren nest made into a ball of moss hanging from a tree branch. This was a remarkable find given the large amount of moss hanging from almost every branch along the trail.

It's worth noting too that Tynehead Park offers a dim reminder of what the ancient original forest cover may have looked like. The large Cedar stumps along many of the trails, some serving as nurseries for younger trees, are silent testaments to the grandeur of what the original forest once was. Observing these decaying sentinels underscores how important it is that we continue to make sure the few remaining areas of original forest in our province are protected for the future.

**Keith Chrystall**



Fawn Lily

Photo: Lilianne Fuller

## BRYDON LAGOON & HIGH-KNOLL PARK SATURDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

What a day to be outdoors - sunny and warm and plenty to see. Ten participants took part in the ever-popular Brydon Nature walk.



Mallard nest

Photo: John Gordon

At the lagoon, a diverse selection of waterfowl were seen, including a pair of Ruddy Ducks, Common Goldeneye and ten Northern Shoveler. The Mallard/Northern Pintail X was still present. A Mallard nest was spotted at the water's edge in a rather exposed position. Pairs of Bushtits could be seen and a nest was found near the new bridge that Surrey built. Several male Anna's Hummingbirds were seen, while the females' absence might be due to them still being on the nest.



Bushtit nest

Poto: Eric Habisch

We were privileged to watch a pair of Cooper's Hawks flying together and vocalizing over the floodplain and flying into the trees at Hi-Knoll Park,

most probably looking for a nest site Their previous nest site was in the forest that was recently logged by BC Hydro. Let's hope they stick around. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks soaring on the late morning thermals was a delight to watch.

We ended the walk with a visit to Hi-Knoll Park where we were able to see locally rare Pink Fawn Lilies, which like an acidic soil and partial shade. A few butterflies were observed as well as numerous other insect species, including a few bees. At last spring may have finally sprung.

**John Gordon**

## **NATHAN CREEK DYKE THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>**

A beautiful blue-sky spring day made our 5.3 km walk along the Nathan Creek Dyke an absolute delight. In total, we recorded 34 species, including an American Kestrel perched gracefully on a power line. Overhead, a Turkey Vulture soared alongside Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, sharing the open sky.

On the river, several mergansers drifted calmly, one busy enjoying a salmon fry. Along the creek, a Greater Yellowlegs walked leisurely across the gravel bars. The wide, unobstructed views made it easy to spot birds moving through bushes or hopping among the trees along the dyke. These included White-crowned Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrows, Common



*Cleaning boxes on the dyke Photo: Fiona Zhang*

Yellowthroat, Killdeer, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. We also admired the shimmering iridescence on the backs of Tree Swallows and Violet-green Swallows as they darted through the air.

As a side project, we cleaned eight swallow nest boxes along the dyke. Seven had been used, and six showed signs of fledging activity. Almost immediately after the cleanup, Tree Swallows returned and perched on the boxes, seemingly ready to reclaim them. These nest boxes are especially valuable in this open area with limited natural nesting sites. We look forward to returning later in the season to check on the Swallow chicks!

**Ryan Usenik**

## **BLACKIE SPIT THURSDAY, APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>**



*Birdwatching at Blackie Spit*

*Photo: Perry Poulsen*

A beautiful morning at Blackie Spit greeted us with a receding tide. With a small group of five, we began our walk at the pier. Many birds were everywhere—Cormorants, Dunlin, Red-breasted Mergansers and gulls filled the sky and shoreline. Out on the point, and with the help of Wim's scope, we spotted several shorebirds, including two Black Oystercatchers.

On our way, we ran into Marg Cuthbert from the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society. They were working on a project studying the invasive green crabs that have been spreading through BC waters. We saw a few of their traps and Christina had made an interesting suggestion about using the captured crabs as a natural food source for Critter Care if someone wants to follow up with Marg.



Crab trap

Photo: Perry Poulsen

With the tide low and the sun still in the eastern sky, we decided to skip the far point and head instead to the salt marsh and mud flats for better viewing.



Common Bushtit

Photo: Perry Poulsen

Although we had heard that Purple Martins had been reported seen, they eluded us, Starlings seemed to occupy nearly every nest box. Still, we were treated to a wide variety of birds, including Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlews, Swallows, and Great Blue Herons. We continued along the path toward the pumphouse, where we added more sightings: ducks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Cowbirds, and Hummingbirds.

A brief but rewarding glimpse of a Common Yellowthroat was another highlight. As we made our way back to the parking lot, we were treated to one final special moment—Bushtits actively building their nest. With over 50 species observed and beautiful weather, what a great day.

**Perry Poulsen**

## SALMON RIVER WALK SATURDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

Nine walkers gathered at the trailhead on Billy Brown Road on a beautiful Saturday morning in Fort Langley. As advertised, this was a casual walk and the leader strolled along at a very leisurely pace with the group. Conversation topics covered the history of the site, birds and plants, to name a few.

We checked the Tree Swallow nest boxes installed by the club (Thanks Ryan) and no activity from the previous year was observed. Birds were active and added to the 28 species eBird list (Thanks Wim). Highlights were the finding of an active Bushtit nest in a Cedar tree. Here is where the group watched the adults bring food to the young, but once the birds were aware of our presence they remained in the cover of the host tree.

A Pileated Woodpecker was sighted early in the walk and this was a bird one could not miss clinging to the side of a dead tree. Near the end of the walk we were pleasantly surprised to find a pair of Blue-winged Teal foraging in the main wetland pond. Just visiting for a short time. The Mallards had young and you could see them quickly wading, keeping up with Mom as she led them around the pond.



American Emerald dragonfly

Photo: Eric Habisch

An American Emerald Dragonfly sat for a photographic opportunity while we were in the forested area.

When it came time to get back into the cars where we had parked, we came across a Common Raccoon foraging in the ditch close by. Its use of those hands was something very interesting to watch.

**Eric Habisch**

## SPARROW CREEK FARM SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

Ten walkers left the house yard at 9:00 am and walked to the dam at the trailhead. Eric provided an excellent description of Dragonfly behavior in the grasses by the spillway. Then the swallows appeared and diminished the Dragonfly population. The swallows were Violet-green, Barn and Tree Swallows. At least two pairs of Red-winged Blackbirds were identified along the pond edge, likely near nesting areas.



*Rufous Hummingbird*

*Photo: Roy Cline*

Roy reviewed the work with Fraser Valley Conservancy and the grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada to rewild the riparian area of the pond to create amphibian habitat, particularly for the Pacific Chorus frog and the Red-legged frog. With removal of the blackberries, replacements had been native plants: Osoberry, Red Osier Dogwood, Sweet Gale, Thimbleberry and Black Twinberry. Now four years after planting, they were thriving and suppressing blackberry growth. The Osoberrys were thick with orange fruit while the others were just now flowering .

Further along the pond, a Common Yellowthroat was identified in an Elderberry bush and a Canada Goose landed on the pond followed by two Mallards. On an island of cattails near the end of the pond, one could still see remnants of the Canada Goose nest which had produced 7 goslings five days earlier.

As we moved into the coniferous forest area, we identified a large willow that had been taken down by a beaver the previous fall; the regrowth was abundant. In this area we found Song Sparrow,

Spotted Towhee, American Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Robin, European Starling and Bewick's Wren. Moving further along, we recognized a Rufous Hummingbird on an Elderberry top and nearby also an Anna's Hummingbird.



*Relaxing with coffee and snacks*

*Photo: Roy Cline*

Moving to the wild pasture, we saw a Turkey Vulture floating in the wind, and a Great Blue Heron settled on top of a spruce tree. A Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and two Eagles drifted over the pasture. As we were viewing an area of new plantings of Cedar, Hemlock and Big-leaf Maple, our attention was drawn to a Pileated Woodpecker on a large dead tree, followed soon by a Northern Flicker. On the way back to the barn we saw a Crow, Black-capped Chickadee and Western Flycatcher. At the barn we were met by four very friendly goats and near the house we could see the honeybee activity in the 15<sup>c</sup> weather.



*Painted Lady*

*Photo: Roy Cline*

We adjourned to the house deck for coffee, tea and snacks and then were pleased to get a photography lesson from Eric as two Painted Ladies arrived on the Blueberry bushes. In all we identified 22 bird species and 79 birds.

**Roy Cline**

**TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

The day began with a threat of rain, which fortunately did not occur. Seven LFN members plus one visitor walked around the TWU pond (sometimes referred to as Macmillan Lake). The signs of spring were everywhere with flowers, bushes and trees in bloom.

On the pond we saw young Mallards as well as three families of Wood Ducks. A Red-winged Blackbird chased off an American Crow from coming too close to its nest in the cattails. The crow, in return, chased off a Bald Eagle.

A flyover by a Turkey Vulture was a treat, while hearing the first attempts at song by a Swainson's Thrush was equally welcomed. This small area has produced 154 species of birds over the years, a good number to be sure.

Thanks to each person who came out. It was a delight to discover that parking on the weekends is only \$3.50. The TWU trails are always open to any member of the public. Thanks to Wim for the eBird checklist!

**Ted Goshulak**

**FORSLUND WATSON UPDATE**

With continued development, natural wetlands are disappearing. Not so at Forslund Watson. In September 2025 BCIT again used the Forslund Watson property as a teaching site for one of its classes, resulting in the construction of another vernal (shallow and dries up before fall) pond. This is the 4th vernal pond that BCIT has developed on the property in the last 5 years.

Native amphibian species like frogs need wetlands to lay their eggs in early spring so the eggs can hatch and begin the process of metamorphosis before they leave the pond by mid summer, to live wherever frogs live. While all native species have predators, the introduced (invasive) much larger Bull and Green frogs prey on our native species and have devastated the population of many of our native amphibian species. Both the Bull and Green frog need two years in the water for their metamorphosis development. Very conveniently a vernal pond permits our native species to reproduce but not the two mentioned invasive species.



*Heron fishing at Forslund Watson*

*Poto: Bob Puls*

The alders are reaching the end of their life span much faster than most of us expected. The result is that now the forested area has a significantly more open canopy. Lower growing shrubs and other plants are now growing very aggressively. As expected, vine maple saplings and young trees are very prominent. Unfortunately the lack of canopy is inviting to blackberries.

While we like seeing deer at Forslund Watson, they do like to browse on the new plantings around the vernal ponds. Hopefully it will only disfigure or slightly reduce their growth. To protect the recently planted shrubs, cages have been installed by the BCIT students.



*BCIT Pond 4*

*Photo: Ryan Usenik*

Four of the swallow nest boxes saw activity last year by Tee Swallows, Wrens and Chickadees. All four of the Wood Duck boxes saw activity. Unfortunately the Barn Owl box saw no activity. The Great Horned Owls were not observed nesting at Forslund Watson in 2025 - the good news is that they have been observed back in 2026.

In late March 2026, Lanie Fung a biologist with A Rocha working with Red-legged frogs, visited Forslund Watson to assist with identifying amphibian egg masses. Numerous Chorus Frog and several Northwest Salamander egg masses were identified, but unfortunately, no Red-legged Frog egg masses were found.

**Ryan Usenik**

## LIBRARY/HISTORY REPORT 2026

The LFN library and 50 years of records have, for a number of years, been housed in the LEPS rented accommodation. At one time it included 820 books, housed in 4 bookcases, as well as two, 2 drawer filing cabinets of LFN records.

LEPS were in the process of relocating, so LFN needed to make a decision regarding the future of the library and records. As Bob had empty filing cabinets at home, the office records have all been transferred there. The lack of use of the library by members, the inconvenient accessibility, together with the vastly improved access to relevant information on the WEB, led to the decision to dispose of many of the library volumes.

Accordingly, Bob and Lisa spent a morning, in late April, sorting through the holdings, boxing some for donation, some for disposal and some for retention. Those for disposal filled 8 boxes (about 250 volumes), which were picked up by Langley Rotary Club for sale at their book sale during Ribfest. The proceeds will be put to good use

as Rotary projects in the community. So, if anyone would like any of these volumes, you will now have to buy them back at Ribfest!

Lisa had already removed some books for placement in the Little Library boxes around the municipality. The remainder of the books, 325 volumes, which we considered worth retaining, about one bookcase full (20 linear feet), were transferred to Bob's house for safekeeping until such time as we may be able to rehouse them elsewhere. Meanwhile in order to make space for the LFN books, Bob has boxed up 10 boxes of his and Sheila's books (mostly novels) for donation to Rotary.

Hopefully the LFN's close relationship with LEPS will continue into the future, and once they sort out their new accommodation, we hope they will once

again be able to provide us with space for Office files (Fifty 3-ring binders), the library, and executive meeting room.

It has taken many, many, hours and weeks to update the library and archived documents index, in order that our members will know what books and records we have retained, and if anyone wants to borrow anything, they will have to pick it up from my place or let me know which item, and I can bring it to the next general or executive meeting.

**Bob Puls,  
Librarian/Historian**



Books

Photo: Bob Puls



And more books

Photo: Bob Puls

## PROGRAMMES

### SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2026

Meeting at 7.30 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207th Street, Langley.

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

### THE PLANT PAINT PATH: TRANSFORMING INVASIVE PLANTS INTO ECOLOGICAL PIGMENTS

**Diana Munday**

Diana is an Artist, Educator, Herbalist and Researcher. She introduces The Plant Paint Path, a 2026 research-creation project based in Langley, BC, with activities across the Lower Mainland. The project has been awarded funding through the Canada Council for the Arts' Explore and Create – Research and Creation program. The project explores transforming invasive plant species into Lake Pigments artist paints, positioning material-based art practice as a form of ecological research and environmental conservation. Guided by Indigenous and environmental advisors, the project is grounded in scientific accuracy, ethical harvesting practices, and principles of Truth and Reconciliation, supporting respectful engagement with land, plant life, and existing knowledge systems. Through field research, pigment extraction, paint formulation, and artistic testing, each pigment becomes both an art material and an ecological record of place and species. Outcomes may include artist-made paints, artworks, publication documentation, and public knowledge sharing. The project will run throughout 2026.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

### WHERE ROADS FADE

### & BIRDING BEGINS:

### ATLAS WORK IN THE CARIBOO.

**Gareth Pugh**

Gareth shares his off-grid adventures and close-up encounters in the Chilcotin and Cariboo. He'll begin with the challenges and delights of filling in the new BC Bird Atlas, then he will carry us along as he continues eBirding through the Cariboo and Chilcotin—where every backroad, marsh, wetland and mountain ridge has a story to tell.

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

### BEHAVIOUR AND ECOLOGY OF SNOWY OWLS ON THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES

**Karen Wiebe, B.Sc., Ph.D.**

Snowy Owls are regular winter migrants to the Canadian prairies and with the use of radio telemetry, we are learning more about their annual movements on the landscape. Karen Wiebe will review the basic ecology of the species and the challenges of studying snowy owls in the wild. Learn what radio telemetry has revealed about the annual movement patterns and territoriality of these owls based on a field study in Saskatchewan from 2014-2024.

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

### CHRISTMAS MEETING

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### NEST BOXES AT BRYDON LAGOON

When the swallow nest boxes at Brydon Lagoon were cleaned out in the spring of 2025, all had been used. The volunteers discussed the need to increase the number of swallow nest boxes. The area west of the floodplain was identified as an ideal location to install more boxes. This field is within the boundaries of the City of Surrey.

LFN members met with City of Surrey staff and learned that the city has a program for installing nest boxes, cleaning them out every year and performing any necessary maintenance. It was agreed that LFN would give the City of Surrey 8 swallow nest boxes and 2 Wood Duck nest boxes.

City of Surrey staff installed them in the mentioned area in March 2026.

LFN members are encouraged to check them out next time they visit Brydon Lagoon. They can all be observed when walking the loop that goes over the new bridge built a few years ago. A win win partnership for swallows, City of Surrey and LFN.

**Ryan Usenik**



Nest box at Brydon Photo: Ryan Usenik

## LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS, FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2026

Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should email to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place.

Please let the leader know to expect you. The walks are generally about two to three hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs & members of the public (adults & children, but no pets please). Please dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack (plus bug spray in summer).

**Note these walks are weather dependent so if the weather is bad and no registrations are received then the leader will not show up. Unless otherwise noted, washroom facilities are available on these walks.**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>

#### GLEN VALLEY SPRING BIRD COUNT

Leader: Lisa Dreves  
Meet at Poplar Bar at 6:30 am

We split into groups to cover several different areas. The count runs until about 12:00 when we return to Poplar Bar to enjoy a potluck lunch and compare results. Please contact Lisa so we know to expect you. It is early and we know sometimes people forget to set their alarm and we don't want to drive away if there is a possibility of extra help!

**E-mail [stewardship@leps.bc.ca](mailto:stewardship@leps.bc.ca) to register.**

### THURSDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>

#### CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Phil Henderson  
Time: 9:00 am at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue parking lot  
Join Phil to walk the trails through this popular park with its great variety of trees, flowers, shrubs and birds. This is a moderately difficult trail with some ups and downs so please wear appropriate footwear. Walking distance is approximately 5 km. Bring a packed lunch to eat at a suitable spot at the end of the walk.

**E-mail [strix@uniserve.com](mailto:strix@uniserve.com) to register.**

### THURSDAY, JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>

#### DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Keith Chrystall  
Time: 9:00 am at the main parking lot at 21801 Allard Crescent

Join Keith to walk the trail from the parking lot to Muench Bar to see the Purple Martins at the nest boxes installed by LEPS and LFN, then walk through the woods to 208<sup>th</sup> Street and back to the parking lot. This is an easy walk of about 4 kms on level gravel trails.

**E-mail [keithchrystall@shaw.ca](mailto:keithchrystall@shaw.ca) to register.**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>

#### SOUTH LANGLEY REGIONAL PARK AND IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Ryan Usenik  
Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at 500 - 224<sup>th</sup> Street

Join Ryan to walk the level trails in this Metro Vancouver Park, used by walkers, cyclists and equestrians. It was formerly known as the Langley Municipal Natural Park. The trails go through mixed forest and mature Douglas Fir stands, past farm fields and over two bridges crossing the Little Campbell River.

**E-mail [jrusenik@telus.net](mailto:jrusenik@telus.net) to register.**

### THURSDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>

#### E.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK - PAINTBRUSH NATURE TRAIL & VIEW POINT LOOP IN HEATHER MEADOWS,

weather permitting only  
Leader: Wim Vesseur  
Time: 7:30 am in Langley or 9:30 am at Manning Park Lodge

Join Wim to wander along some of the Manning Park trails to check the summer flowers, birds and butterflies in this wonderful park in the coastal mountains. Choice of trail will depend on the snowpack. Bring botany books and camera.

**E-mail [vesseur@shaw.ca](mailto:vesseur@shaw.ca) to register**

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>

#### BAT WALK, LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

Leader: Keith Chrystall  
Time: 8:30 pm

Join Keith for a chance to see large numbers of bats emerging from their day-time roost. Bring chairs if you wish. We expect to see several species of bats which should begin flying soon after 9 pm; expect to see several hundred.

**E-mail [keith.chrystall@shaw.ca](mailto:keith.chrystall@shaw.ca) to register.**

Note there may be no toilet at the chosen location.

**THURSDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**LFN SUMMER PICNIC**

**CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK**

Time: 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Bring your own picnic and chair. We meet in the meadow under the big trees (204th Street/8th Avenue entrance).

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**DERBY BOG**

Leader: Phil Henderson

Time: 5:30 pm in the Houston Trail parking lot on McKinnon Crescent, Langley.

Join Phil for a tour of Metro Vancouver's Derby Bog, a 96 ha remnant of a historical 500 ha bog, a hidden paradise and important conservation area not open to the public. You'll gain an understanding of what bogs are, what threatens them and their importance to local ecology, global ecology and climate change. Phil will discuss Langley Bog's history, work completed by researchers from various universities and Metro Vancouver's plans for the site. But beyond the talk, and more important, is the experience of being there and from that we hope you will leave enriched and enlightened. Participants should be dressed appropriately and wear footwear for walking on pavement, trails and the odd wet area.

**E-mail [strix@uniserve.com](mailto:strix@uniserve.com) to register.**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>**

**DRAGONFLY WALK**

Leader: Eric Habisch

Time: 10:00 am at the parking lot on 28th Avenue just east of 192nd Street.

Join Eric for a walk around the newly renovated Latimer Park in search of Dragonflies and Damselflies. These summertime flyers have been on this earth longer than most species and are an amazing sight as they hunt on the wing or allow us to admire their exquisite forms and colours while basking in the warming sun. We'll be looking for these Odonates from the new viewing platforms and shorelines around the lake. This walk is weather dependent on dry, warm and preferably sunny skies. Most trails are level hard-packed gravel except some sections in the forested area, so please bring appropriate footwear for the rougher parts.

**E-mail [eric.habisch@gmail.com](mailto:eric.habisch@gmail.com) to register.**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK**

Leader: Tom Wildeboer

Time: 6:30 pm at the parking lot on Lefeuvre Road south of 8th Avenue

Join Tom for a walk around the Aldergrove Bowl including the Big Rock and the pond. This is a moderately difficult walk of about 3 kms with some uphill sections.

**E-mail [t\\_wildeboer@hotmail.com](mailto:t_wildeboer@hotmail.com) to register.**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**BLAAUW ECO-FOREST**

Leader: Ted Goshulak

Time: 6:30 pm at 8640 – 257A Street

Join Ted for a walk through this 30 acre preserve of mixed and coniferous forest, ponds and a bog which is an important refuge for some endangered species at risk, including the Red-legged Frog.

**E-mail [tgosh@twu.ca](mailto:tgosh@twu.ca) to register.**

Note there is no toilet at this location.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**MCLEAN POND,**

**CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK**

Leader: Viveka Ohman

Time: 6:30 pm on 206th Street south of 24th Avenue

Join Viveka to walk the trail which goes south from 206th Street dead end, then along the roadside of 20th Avenue east to the trailhead which goes south through the lovely forest to McLean Pond. The trail continues west around the pond, then south through the forest and grassland to 16th Avenue where the trail circles back to the forest, passing fields on the way to our starting point. There are wrens, songbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, dragonflies, turtles and woodland plants on this walk. There is a nesting site for the Western Painted Turtle and several viewing areas near the pond.

**E-mail [vohman@shaw.ca](mailto:vohman@shaw.ca) to register.**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>**

**HIGH POINT**

Leader: Nora Truman

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot on the east side of 200th Street just as the road bends to climb the hill

Join Nora to walk the trail parallel to Jacobsen Creek, winding our way uphill and then east to the High Point reservoir. From there we will walk around to the lookout, downhill on the perimeter trail and

back to the parking lot. A mix of forest, grassland and marsh plus a high view at 0 Ave.

**E-mail [lfsecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:lfsecretary@hotmail.com) to register.**

Note there is no toilet at this location.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY**

Leader: Ryan Usenik

Time: 9:00 am at 2705 – 232nd Street

Join Ryan as he leads us through this property which LFN co-manages with the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development. It is part open fields with ponds and part woodland. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking in open fields and natural woodland trails.

**E-mail [jrusenik@telus.net](mailto:jrusenik@telus.net) to register.**

Note there is no toilet at this location.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, DELTA**

Leader: Keith Chrystall

Time: 9:00 am at Reifel

Join Keith to walk the trails in this well-known nature reserve. Expect to see and hear lots of birds in the middle of the breeding season and a great variety of trees and shrubs. Please dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. There is a small admission fee. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments. Meet in the Reifel Sanctuary parking lot.

**E-mail [keith.chrystall@shaw.ca](mailto:keith.chrystall@shaw.ca) to register.**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**O.W.L. AND BOUNDARY BAY DIKE**

Leader: Anne Gosse

Time: 10:00 am at O.W.L., 3800 - 72nd Street, Delta

Join us for a guided tour of the facility to find out how injured birds are rehabilitated and released back into the wild. There is a small charge of \$5 - \$6 per person. If the weather is suitable we will follow this visit with a walk on the Boundary Bay dike to look for the variety of birds that spend the winter in this very important area, including the beautiful Short-eared Owl. Bring lunch.

**E-mail [corkie1@shaw.ca](mailto:corkie1@shaw.ca) to register.**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**BLACKIE SPIT, CRESCENT BEACH, SURREY**

Leader: Perry Poulsen

Time: 9:00 am at Crescent Beach Pier, (across from the parking lot by the outdoor swimming pool).

Join Perry to explore the Spit and look for the birds that are migrating south through this important area with its varied habitat. This is an easy 3 km walk on gravel trails.

**E-mail [pwpoulsen@gmail.com](mailto:pwpoulsen@gmail.com) to register.**

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