



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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Newsletter

September 2026

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH

Six Langley Field Naturalists explored the recently re-opened Little River Loop Trail. We started along the South Valley Trail, heading north from the 8th Avenue parking area, entered the south end of the trail and proceeded north along the east side of the Little Campbell River, completing the loop counterclockwise.



Townsend's Chipmunk pretends not to notice us

Photo: John Saremba

We were very impressed by the new boardwalk viewing platforms that provided excellent views of the Little Campbell River, adjacent wetland and riparian areas. The local animals, too, seemed pleased with the structure and okay with this small gathering of humans. While we tested the new boardwalk and viewing platform, commenting on the robustness of the heavy timbers and metal braces and speculating on its longevity and cost, animals scurried and buzzed all around us, perhaps comforted that these odd humans were briefly distracted and paying them no attention. Proper (Douglas') Squirrels, Townsend's Chipmunks, Purple Finches, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow Warblers, Rufous Hummingbirds,

and Mallards, scurried, walked, hopped, perched, buzzed and swam around us.

However, being good field naturalists, even while seemingly not paying attention we were paying attention, calling out names while our lead photographer, John Saremba, stealthily maneuvered in the background, skillfully recording these unsuspecting animals on film or its electronic pixel equivalent. Only the Gray Catbird seemed able to escape photo-capture as it made a brief appearance amongst the creek-side vegetation before disappearing to the north.

I am not sure whether the animals outsmarted the humans or the humans outsmarted the animals, or every creature figured they outsmarted the other while none was outsmarted at all, but the results were most pleasing for us LFNers and we hope, also, for the creatures around us. In John's photos, they all seem to be smiling!



A Steller's Jay stopped briefly on the platform rail to acoustically test the railing's density and structural integrity.

Photo: John Saremba

A big thank you to all the animals that attended this most enjoyable outing.

Phil Henderson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here and it is my favourite time in my veggie garden because the morning glory I have been battling all summer dies off and I get to plant about the only veggies I have any success at growing - onions and garlic! I love fall but it tends to be the busiest of all the new seasons. Winter, spring, summer just seem to happen without a lot of effort; fall is more of a home renovation reality show music montage. I do enjoy a little lazy gardening so I follow the "leave the leaves" mentality, and I'm slowly adding more flowers that will have seed heads to feed the birds in the winter. But the veggie garden takes effort, a last stab at destroying my white flowered nemesis, chopping down the raspberry canes, and spreading an essential load of composted manure.



The local forests will be going through their own renovation in the background to suburbia. Maples and cottonwoods will be shedding massive amounts of calcium, magnesium, nitrogen, and phosphorus onto the forest floor. Nutrients that are not readily available in the top layers of soil for more shallow rooted shrubs and forbs. Broadleaf and mixed forests are stunning examples of nutrient cycling that is so incredibly beautiful to watch in the fall. A sharing of nutrients that is in balance and independent of any of us humans. But we can help it.

There are volunteer events this fall to remove invasives in existing forests, always some tree plantings, too. Cleaning up garbage on a walk through a park even helps! Helping inventory these spaces with citizen science tools like iNaturalist and eBird are also valuable ways to demonstrate the diversity of our natural areas. Letter writing to expand and enhance park space is always essential; we wouldn't have near as many beautiful parks if it wasn't for individuals and groups like the LFN pushing local and regional government to protect these lands.

Most important thing (and yeah, I feel like a broken record, I seem to have said this every fall for the last 6 years) - VOTE. We have a municipal election coming up on Saturday, October 17. Make sure candidates know the citizens of Langley are concerned about natural spaces. I highly

encourage everyone to attend all-candidates meetings and ask what those seeking election will do to preserve our local forests. Send emails or call the candidates and ask what their plan is to expand the park system. Will they work to set up a larger fund to purchase priority properties? How will they ensure private property owners get a fair price to protect private forests so they don't nuke them before the developers come asking? Will they increase park staff members so the existing parks are healthy?

Local politicians need to know we care and we vote for what we care about. The local elections don't get near as many people out as the more popular provincial and federal elections, but these are the people that actually decide how to spend the money they get from the senior levels of government. They decide if money goes to make more roads, more baseball diamonds, more parking lots, more parks. Both Langley City and Township of Langley have already posted the advance voting days and locations on their websites.

Lisa Dreves

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2026/2027 ARE NOW DUE

*includes membership in BC Nature,
e- newsletters and updates from Langley
Field Naturalists and BC Nature*

Single - \$32

Family - \$37

(Member of other BC Nature Club \$16)

**To receive a print/mailed copy
of the BC Nature magazine,
add \$5**

**Perpetual Waiver and annual membership
forms attached**

**can be sent to membership secretary at
mcarefoot@yahoo.com**

**(NEW: Once we have this waiver form from you on
file, you will no longer have to sign one each year)**

**Payment can be made at any meeting or by
e-transfer to lfntreasurer@gmail.com**

2026 DIRECTORS

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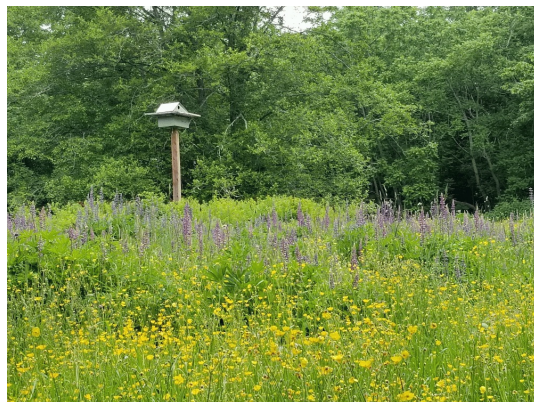
Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.30 pm.

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

REDWOOD PARK SATURDAY, MAY 23RD

Our group of 5 walkers met at the main parking area of Redwood Park at 9:00 AM under clear skies. There were two new people who had seen a notice about the LFN walk in the Langley/Advance Times. After introductions, we headed west past the unique drinking water fountain that looks like a tree stump and on to the display board with the story about the history of the park. The park was once the property of David Brown who was a postmaster and then a Justice of the Peace for BC in the 1880's. David's twin sons Peter and David inherited the property in 1893. The boys loved the forest, built a tree house to live in, and proceeded to plant trees from all over the world on the property. The park contains the largest stand of Giant Sequoias (Sierra Redwoods) north of California. The biggest Sequoia in the park is estimated to be 110 years old. Many of the 50 or more tree species in the park are labelled. The boys planted trees from North America, Asia, South America and Europe.

Our walk took us past a replica of the tree house, along winding paths through the magnificent forest and then out into a grassy field with many songbirds singing. The path led us south and then east through thickets and out into a green field full of buttercups. The forest and fields were alive with birds singing and calling.



Barn Owl Box

Photo: Nora Truman

The Merlin app identified 20 bird species. We saw 3 Bald Eagles soaring above, a Pileated Woodpecker and Brown Creeper in the forest, along with Steller's Jay, Northern Flicker, Purple Finch, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch, White-crowned Sparrow, American Robin and Spotted Towhee, to name a few. The large field has a Barn Owl box close to the forest edge.

Nora Truman

MERRITT FOUR-DAY TRIP MAY 26TH TO 29TH 2026

Day 1

A total of 15 participants took part in this trip. We drove through heavy rain much of the way up the Coquihalla but magically it stopped before we reached Merritt. We started at the Quilchena Hotel, then carried on to Pennask Lake Road. Western Meadowlarks were calling everywhere, two Osprey nests were seen, one of which already had a chick in it; Bald Eagles, American Kestrels, Vaux's Swifts and lots of Violet-green Swallows were flying around. We had hoped to find Burrowing Owls along Pennask road but had no luck. The manager of the Douglas Lake Ranch stopped by and told us that the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society



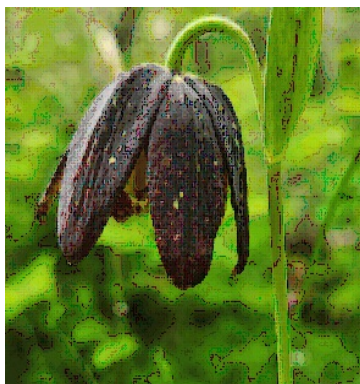
Sticky Geranium Photo: Bob Puls

checked out the area every spring but he did not know how successful they had been. It was cool and overcast but no rain, so very few birds were calling. We spotted a Kestrel busily eating its lunch on a large dead Ponderosa Pine with a number of suitable nesting holes. In one of these its mate showed

herself.

While we were watching the Kestrel, three Swainson's and one Red-tailed Hawk flew by. Then a Golden Eagle flew over and started displaying, a first for most of us, and Viveka explained what it was doing. On this cool day no insects were to be seen but flowers included Timber Milkvetch, Arnica, Lupine, Sticky Geranium and Choke Cherry.

On our way back to town we stopped at the Cutoff Road where, with the trees and the river, we found plenty of bird activity: Spotted Sandpipers, Vaux's Swifts, Belted Kingfishers, Canada Geese, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers and a number of others. A good end to our first day.



Chocolate Lily

Photo: Tineke Goebertus

Day 2

Our very keen bunch left promptly at 9 am heading for the Laurie Guichon Memorial Grasslands where we were disappointed to see that the lake at the entrance had shrunk to a small pond. Where once a number of duck species and reed bed dwellers could be found, we saw only six Canada Geese with three goslings and a pair of Spotted Sandpipers. There were, however, good numbers of birds in the surrounding trees and grassland, including Western Meadowlarks, a Pileated Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Orange-crowned Warbler. The beautiful blue flowers of Larkspur were plentiful, Lupins were starting to flower and we also found a few Chocolate Lilies.

We stopped further along the road to listen to the birds in the patches of Aspen that dotted the grassland, adding House Wren, Say's Phoebe and Western Tanager to our growing list. As the day warmed



Anicia Checkerspot

Photo: Bob Puls

up, butterflies started to appear which refused to pose for us to photograph. We reached Marquart Lake where, in addition to a large flock of non-breeding Canada Geese, Common Loons, American Coots, Barrow's Goldeneyes and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were spotted. Altogether 41 species of birds were recorded in this area. Returning to the parking lot, we turned up Big Lake Road for two kilometers through evergreen forest habitat where we found bright yellow patches of Arrowroot, Arnica and other flowers. Bob managed to photograph a Fuzzy-horned Bumble Bee and a Ringlet Butterfly. We also added Red-naped Sapsucker and Red-breasted Nuthatch to the bird list.

Returning to the highway, we carried on to the Kane Valley Road and stopped for lunch in a parking area. There a number of Anicia Checkerspot butterflies were puddling in damp patches, affording us the chance to get good photos. After lunch we made our way to the Kane Lake Ranch where the owner, John Anderson, gave us an extremely interesting tour of his off-grid property. He started by explaining how they use

solar panels and large storage batteries which provide electricity through most of the year except when snow covers the panels and they use wood. He told us how they practice sustainable ranching to produce beef cattle, both on the ranch and on Crown land, regularly moving the cattle so as not to overgraze the land. A family of Yellow-bellied Marmots were in residence and Mountain Bluebirds were feeding their young in nest boxes along the fence.



Yellow-bellied Marmots

Photo: Viveka Ohman

After the tour we visited a couple of small lakes where we found several pairs of Ring-necked Ducks, Pied-billed Grebe, Marsh Wrens and Virginia Rails in addition to other species that we had already recorded.

Day 3

On another lovely sunny morning we started our day on Coyote Road at the historic Nicola Ranch. There we were greeted by several noisy Clark's Nutcrackers and we watched a pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers feeding around a Ponderosa Pine.

We photographed several wildflowers, including Viper's Bugloss, Nootka Rose and the invasive Dalmatian Toadflax which was starting to colonize the area.

Moving on along the lakeside, we turned off on Douglas Lake Road. Halfway along Douglas Lake we found a good spot where we could park off the road. Besides looking at the birds on the lake and in the bushes, along the edge there were insects and flowers to photograph, including a Thread-waisted Sand Wasp and Clouded Sulphur Butterfly. A lively discussion ensued when a Buteo flew over and started to hunt low over the grass in the same way that a Golden Eagle does, but photos confirmed that it was actually a Swainson's Hawk.

At our next roadside stop, the major sighting was a large Black Bear which was feeding in a meadow and posing for photos. We stopped at the Douglas Lake Ranch General Store where Wim bought us all an ice-cream to celebrate Tineke's birthday, a very much appreciated gesture on a hot day. Cliff Swallows were nest-building on some of the

buildings and we spent some time at the adjacent Sanctuary Lake where we were treated to the courtship display of a pair of Red-necked Grebes.



Red-necked Grebe

Photo: Bob Puls

This was a real oasis in such a dry area, with Sora, Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper and many other species recorded. We stopped at the old airstrip, hoping to find Horned Larks which are found in the area but could not locate any. The once productive adjacent wetland had almost completely dried up, so no waterbirds could be seen. A little further on we found an ideal spot for our lunch break; some sat in the shade of an old barn, while the rest of us sat overlooking the creek where we were entertained by a pair of Spotted Sandpipers and a variety of other birds. Several butterflies were flying around but did not stop to visit the Madwort, Tumble-mustard and other flowers.

On the way back, we stopped to look for the bear but this time a very healthy looking Coyote was in the field. We ended the day with a short visit to the Nicola Cutoff Road and also Coyote Road, where we finally found three Pygmy Nuthatches, a first for some of us and good to see as Tom and Wim had not found them at Monck Lake Provincial Park where they had been staying.

Day 4

We all left soon after nine and travelled home via Highway 8 and down the Canyon, stopping for lunch at the Alexandra Bridge rest area. There an Evening Grosbeak posed for photos and a Black-throated Gray Warbler sang continuously in the leafy canopy above us.

Gareth Pugh



Where next?

Photo: Anne Gosse

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH



The walkers

Photo: Keith Chrystall

It was a beautiful, sunny morning for our walk at Derby Reach. We opted to use the trail entrance from 208th street to make our way to the Muench Bar picnic area. The trees were alive with bird song and the adjacent fields were fluttering with butterflies of all sizes. The plentiful food sources were no doubt the reason for all these creatures. Elderberries, Salmonberries and even Stinging Nettle, among others, were all thriving in the sun or shade. A Manchurian Walnut tree (an invasive species) was fruiting prodigiously.

We noted 28 bird species, including Willow Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager and Red-eyed Vireo. Western Tiger Swallowtail and Lorquin's Admiral butterflies were adding their beauty to the tall grasses and flowering plants along the trail. The swallow boxes in the fields were hosting several nesting pairs of Tree Swallows.



Purple Martin

Photo: Keith Chrystall

At Muench Bar the Purple Martins were making good use of the nest boxes that had been installed by LEPS and LFN. Ryan observed 12 boxes being used by the Purple Martins with adults clearly bringing food into the nests for their chicks. There were Starlings in two boxes; the remaining two boxes could not be observed due to their orientation and the water level in the river. It's rewarding to see that the installation of these nesting boxes has been so successful for the target species.

Keith Chrystall

SOUTH LANGLEY REGIONAL PARK (LANGLEY MUNICIPAL & IRENE PEARCE TRAILS) SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH

6 LFN members participated in the South Langley Regional Park walk. The park is now part of the Metro Vancouver park network. The trails are well-maintained and feature enhanced signage.

Considering it is nesting season for most birds, 30 species were reported on eBird. Several years ago LFN installed 3 nest boxes designed to attract flying squirrels along the Irene Pearce trail. The goal was to determine if any flying squirrels were in the area. While flying squirrels were common in the forests in past years, it is suspected that deforestation and the arrival of Barred Owls have decimated their population.

Nesting material has been found in the boxes during nest box checks. A field mouse exited one box during one check. During our walk, an animal was observed entering one of the boxes. After a short period, a chipmunk was observed exiting the box. While not what we were looking for, it is good to see the box is being used by a native species and observing a chipmunk on any LFN walk is always considered a plus.

Ryan Usenik

BAT COUNT, SOUTH LANGLEY WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH

This was the third year we were able to visit a south Langley location where the owner again kindly allowed us to view the evening departure of bats from what is believed to be a maternal roost. The weather was ideal for observing bats. In a significant change from prior seasons, volunteers counted 390 bats leaving the roost between sunset at 9:15 pm and approximately 10:00 pm. This was

the largest bat count the LFN has ever recorded at the roosts we monitor.

Consistent with prior years, there appeared to be at least two different sizes of bats leaving the roost. We used an Echometer to record echolocation calls made by the bats as they left to hunt for food. Despite logging more than 125 recordings, the Echometer only produced one bat species identification, that of a Long-legged myotis. A possible explanation is that when groups of bats fly close together, they will modulate the frequencies of their echolocation calls so that individuals can differentiate among themselves. The Echometer, which relies on characteristic frequencies to identify a bat species, cannot account for these additional modulations and therefore does not identify a species for a recorded echolocation call.

It is likely that most of the bats we observed were Little Brown myotis. The numbers we counted are encouraging, especially in light of the news that White Nose Syndrome infection has recently been identified in the Fraser Valley. Hopefully the numbers will remain strong next year.

Keith Chrystall

DRAGONFLY WALK WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH



Looking for dragonflies

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

On a partly cloudy morning, the group assembled for a very casual walk around Latimer Lake where we hoped with a little more sunshine the Odonates would come out to fly. We were not disappointed. After a brief talk about the different types of dragonfly and damselflies, we made our way to a couple of the spaces at the water's edge. There we found a lot of activity from the smaller of damselflies

to the largest of the dragonfly family. As we had more sunshine and the temperature began to warm up, some of the individuals stayed perched to prepare for the day and provided the group with great viewing and photo opportunities. This site provides for very good access to the shoreline where most of the activity occurs. On the day, we witnessed mating, egg laying and warming in the sun, to list a few.



Cardinal Meadowhawk

Photo: Eric Habisch

Species observed included Pacific Forktail from the damselfly family. From the dragonfly family, we saw Blue Dasher, Four and Eight-spotted Skimmer, Cardinal Meadowhawk, Western Pondhawk, Blue-eyed Darner and the largest of them all, the Common Green Darner.

A very successful morning and we look forward to next year's walk.

Eric Habisch

BLAAUW ECO FOREST WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH



Ready for a walk

Photo: Gareth Pugh

On a pleasant, late summer evening 14 of us went on a walk around the Blaauw Eco Forest. Birdwise things were quiet ... until we were about to exit from the forest. An American Robin began vocalising ... a distress call ... and then one of us saw the reason for the bird's concern: a Great Horned Owl.



Artist's Bracket

Photo: Gareth Pugh

Despite the dry summer we have experienced the forest was vibrant and green. Below are an eBird checklist as well as a video produced by TWU, and a report produced in 2025 by a TWU summer student who worked in the forest.

[eBird Checklist - 12 Aug 2026 - Blaauw Eco Forest - 10 species](#)

[Blaauw Eco Forest | Trinity Western University](#)

Ted Goshulak

BOG WALK, DERBY BOG THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH



Entering the bog

Photo: Phil Henderson

We cancelled the July 22nd evening bog walk to avoid the extreme heat, and rescheduled it for August 20th at 8:00 in the morning. Fortunately, most of those who had signed up for the first walk were able to make the second and we added a few more. So, 15 participants, the maximum stated on our Metro Vancouver permit, arrived at the Houston Trail parking lot off McKinnon Crescent on time to view the Barred Owl. It flew in to welcome us and see us off on our walk to the end of McKinnon Crescent.



Welcome committee - Barred Owl

Photo: John Saremba

Past the yellow gate, the official entrance to the Metro Vancouver conservation area, we gathered near the bottom of the forested slope to talk bogs and other peatlands of the world, Canada, and of course, of Langley, the bog we were about step into. Peatlands like the Derby Bog are not only known as important carbon reservoirs (they occupy about 4% of earth's land mass yet store about 30% of its terrestrial carbon), but important habitat for types of plants that grow nowhere else. Sphagnum, a type of moss, is the big bog builder, the moss tyrant that takes over wet areas, creating a dense, wet, acidic mat of low oxygen and cool temperatures, suitable to only a few specialized plants that grow slowly and sparsely across the bog, casting small shadows that may otherwise impede Sphagnum growth.

Once we descended into the bog, we passed through a dense collection of shrubs and trees and tall wetland herbs on its periphery, plants signalling the presence of nutrient-rich groundwater, something that is excluded from the centre portions of an intact bog. Derby Bog is by no means intact;



Sandhill Cranes

Photo: John Sarembo

it bares the scars of extraction and will take hundreds to thousands of years to recover and reform if rising temperatures and reduced precipitation from climate change do not prevent this. Further into the bog, we saw how atypical bog plants such as birch, blueberries and Western Hemlock grow thick and large along the roads of sawdust created between 1958 and 1980 to allow access to Sphagnum-harvesting vehicles for the horticultural industry.

As I began a second spiel on Sphagnum and bog formation beside a remnant open area of towering cottongrass, spike-rush and Sphagnum, a pair of Sandhill Cranes flew into view, all the while expressing something in their loud but somehow jubilant, joyful and infectious vocalizations. I do not mind being interrupted by cranes, nor any member of nature whose domain we are rapidly destroying. I am sure they had something much more important to say than I did.

We proceeded along an east-stretching sawdust road spur where we had good views of the tiny, native round-leaved sundew growing along the edge of the sawdust swath, and of its larger, gangly non-native relative that thrives in wet depressions in the centre of the sawdust swath.

And this is where we concluded the walk, though the saunter back to the cars provided more time in this fascinating natural area.

Twenty-three species of birds accompanied us on various portions of our walk from the car park and through the bog.

Thanks to Metro Vancouver for approving our

permit and allowing us access. Thanks to Gordie Wiens, LFNER in attendance, who had suggested moving the time of the walk to the morning to take advantage of cooler temperatures; I expect future walks will follow suite. John Gordon kept track of birds, John Sarembo took some great bird photos and Christina Sarembo collected a good-sized bag of litter discarded by thoughtless and careless people, all the while contributing observations of birds and enjoying nature.

In attendance was Dr. Olalekan Balogun of Trinity Western University who has conducted ground-breaking studies in the Hudson Bay Lowlands, the world's second largest peatland complex, a hugely important environmental feature under threat by climate change and industry. Watch for an upcoming talk by Dr. Balogun to the Langley Field Naturalists.

Phil Henderson

MASKED BANDIT ATTACK

I was just sitting down at noon to eat my lunch, when I spied a



Mamma

Photo: Bob Puls

raccoon under my grape/kiwi arbour, and another climbing the vine. Last year they got all my grapes! So, I grabbed my camera and a long extendable pole, and went off to do battle.

Mamma raccoon took off across the field, once aware of my presence. Now for the one in the vines, but no not one, not two, but three of the rascally critters.



Bandit junior

Photo: Bob Puls

It took some fancy poling to deal with them, with much hissing and growling (from them, not me) and swearing (from me, not them) until I finally managed to evict all of them.

So it was back to finish my lunch, and then out to harvest the rest of my nearly ripe grapes.

Bob Puls

PROGRAMMES

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2026

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

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 15TH

WHERE ROADS FADE

& BIRDING BEGINS: EXPLORING NATURE IN THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN

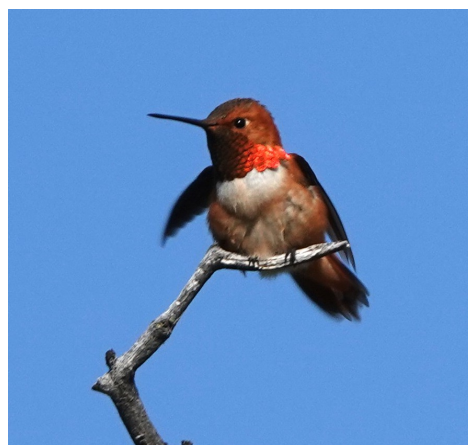
Gareth Pugh

Gareth shares his off-grid adventures and close-up encounters in the Chilcotin and Cariboo. He'll begin with the challenges and delights of surveying bird populations for the BC Breeding Bird Atlas. Then he will carry us along as he continues exploring Nature in this wonderfully biodiverse region with his friends—where every backroad, marsh, wetland and mountain ridge has a story to tell.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

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.



Rufous Hummingbird Male

Photo: Bob Puls

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS, FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 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, SEPTEMBER 5TH

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 to register.

Note there is no toilet at this location.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

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 early fall 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 to register.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

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 to register.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

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 to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

JACKMAN WETLANDS PARK

Leader: Tom Wildeboer

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at 272nd Street at 10th Avenue across from the Transfer Station

Join Tom to walk the trails of this rural park which is the site of a former Township gravel pit and dump. After the dump was declared full in the 1980's and capped, it was designated as a park and LFN helped with the restoration tree planting that was done. The ponds are home to wintering ducks and beavers can be seen there.

E-mail t_wildeboer@hotmail.com to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

WILLIAMS PARK

Leader: Joanne Rosenthal

Time: 9:00 am in the gravel parking lot at the park entrance, 6665 - 238th Street

Join Joanne for a walk around this rural park with open spaces, forested areas and the river trail along the banks of the Salmon River. Williams Park has been described as a "hidden gem" and is located in part of the Salmon River Watershed. There is a picnic shelter, washrooms and one trail is Handicap accessible. Meet in the gravel parking lot at the entrance to the park. Bring water and a snack to enjoy after the walk.

E-mail jrose77@yahoo.com to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Leader: Ted Goshulak

Time: 9:00 am at the University, 22500 University Drive

Trinity Western University's Ecosystem Study Area (the ESA) is comprised of diverse riparian habitats surrounding waterways, including tributaries of the Salmon River, the Salmon River itself and MacMillan Lake. These habitats are home to a diversity of plant and animal species. Many bird species can be seen, including numerous passerines, raptors, and waterfowl. There is extensive rearing habitat for Coho Salmon. The forested areas are home to the endangered Oregon Forest Snail which has been studied extensively by Trinity Western researchers. The ESA serves as an excellent outdoor classroom for Trinity students and is also open to the public, with an extensive network of recently upgraded trails.

E-mail tgosh@twu.ca to register

and for instructions on where to park.

Parking is \$5 for three hours.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

BRYDON LAGOON

Leader: Wim Vesseur

Time: 9:00 am at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street, Langley

Join Wim to walk around the lagoon where a variety of duck species come to spend the winter. See the restoration work being carried out by LEPS and the bat and swallow nest boxes that are maintained by LFN. This is an easy walk of about 2 kms.

Please note there is not a washroom at this site.

E-mail wimntineke@shaw.ca to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

TYNEHEAD REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Keith Chrystall

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at the Tynehead Hatchery in the 16700 block of 96th Avenue

Join Keith to walk the trails of this popular park with its great variety of trees, birds, mammals and shrubs in the watershed where the prolific salmon-bearing Serpentine River rises and one can watch the salmon spawning. Walking distance is approximately 3.5 km on undulating trails so please wear appropriate footwear.

E-mail keith.chrystall@shaw.ca to register.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

SERPENTINE FEN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Viveka Ohman

Time: 10:00 am in the parking lot at the Serpentine River bridge

Join Viveka for a walk around this wetland that is jointly managed by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of the Environment where a variety of ducks and other birds spend the winter. This is an easy walk of about 3.5 kms.

Please note there is not a washroom at this site.

E-mail vohman@shaw.ca to register.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

BLACKIE SPIT - CRESCENT BEACH

Leader: Gareth Pugh

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

Join Gareth for a walk around this popular park where a variety of migrant and resident birds can be found in winter, followed by a warm-up at a local coffee shop. This is an easy walk of about 3 kms and a great opportunity to brush up your duck identification skills.

E-mail gpugh3376@gmail.com to register.



ROY YATES

Long time member Roy Yates, passed away suddenly at the end of June. He had a type of cancer called a metastatic tumor, which means cancer that had spread from where it started to other parts of his body. Everything happened very fast.

Roy joined the LFN in 1998, having previously belonged to the Vancouver Natural History Society. Roy started volunteering as a Campbell Valley Nature House host in 2002. He avoided club politics and never served on the board, but was always a willing project helper.

His other interests included sailing and geology. He is survived by his wife, Poppy.

Roy was knowledgeable, quiet and unassuming - great qualities in a naturalist. We will miss him.

Photo: Anthea Farr