



# Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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Newsletter

December 2018

## 2019 - INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON

With the Winter Solstice comes the new year; 2019 has been declared the International Year of the Salmon. It amazes me how our local coho and chum salmon seem to follow our anthropocentric calendar. The small eggs that have just been laid will grow eyes in the beginning of our year, soon hatching into tiny alevin with their full yolk sacks. Once they absorb all of the nutrients left by their mom, they pop up out of the gravel in the spring just in time for Easter celebrations. Our coho will stay with us for a few years but the chum head out to sea. Then in the late fall the adults return, strong bodies leaping over obstacles and moving as hard as they can against the never ending flood of water in their natal stream. Within a few days their bodies are bent and broken; life soon comes to an end with one final gift to their offspring - the nutrients they have gathered over their lifetime carried with them from the ocean, brought to feed the forest that will watch over the young salmon until they head back to the ocean.



Over the 2019 year I hope everyone will be reminded of this keystone species and to ensure their future through making responsible choices.

Our everyday actions impact salmon, a species that not only sustains us but our oceans and our local forests. For information visit [www.yearofthesalmon.org](http://www.yearofthesalmon.org).

*Lisa Dreves*



**Thursday  
December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.15 pm  
MEMBERS NIGHT**



Special evening  
consisting of a short business meeting followed by social hour

Programme - members favourites  
(bring 10-12 slides, photos, a collection)

Finger food pot luck

## LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2018-2019 DIRECTORS

President:  
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Vice President: Vacant

Past President:&  
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## REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

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Member Participation Committee:  
Joanne Rosenthal  
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Displays: Anne Gosse  
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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**



Welcome to winter! What a beautiful time of year and quite possibly the most incredible thing is enjoying the dawn chorus AND sleeping in until 8 am!

The annual Christmas Bird Count is coming up - you can still get involved (complete with sleeping in). There are two counts that cross over the border into our beautiful community: December 29<sup>th</sup> is our traditional count with the South Surrey/White Rock Naturalists and in more recent years we have been a part of the Pitt Meadows count happening on January 5<sup>th</sup>. These are both excellent opportunities to hone your ID skills, share in some amazing stories with fellow naturalists and get a healthy dose of competition, hunting for the most unique sighting.

For those that are maybe not feeling confident about their birding skills, recorders and drivers are essential parts of the teams. OR please, please come out to the Derby Reach Bird Count in February - an excellent count dedicated to the basic fun and excitement of birding and learning new skills.

Season's Greeting!

*Lisa Dreves*  
President



*Along the Irene Pearce Trail - Tree Frog Photo: Keith Chrystall*

## **BC NATURE FALL GENERAL MEETING, KELOWNA, BC**

### **CLUB DIRECTORS' MEETING SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

Club Directors from province-wide clubs of BC Nature gathered at 4 pm for our Fall meeting. After chatting with each other and catching up with news, President Alan Burger welcomed us and we approved the agenda and adopted the minutes from the meeting in Vancouver in May.

The first agenda item was the President's report, and although all the items were in the FGM report, Alan wanted to update us on the organizational review of BC Nature. The following afternoon the executive were having a retreat with the consultant hired to study how BC Nature is organized. She will make recommendations on how to make BC Nature more effective and efficient and how to serve clubs better. The consultant's report should be ready before November.

Another review taking place is of BC Nature's bylaws. Although these were reviewed and amended in 2017, lawyer Harry Crosby, a member of Nature Vancouver, has discovered more that need revisions. He will have the amended bylaws ready for approval for the 2019 AGM. Alan also announced that the 2019 BC Nature AGM will be held by the Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society in Duncan. However there is no host yet for the 2019 FGM. Reports for committees, such as Conservation, Communication, Education and Awards and Finances, are written up in the FGM report and we were referred to them for the information.

Kees Visser, past president and Nomination Chair, says there is a call out for a new Vice-president and new Lower Mainland, Kootenay, and Okanagan/Shuswap Representatives.

Betty Davison spoke to us about BC Nature's new on-line data entry system. On October 1st, 3 clubs, Vancouver, Victoria and Prince George, will be testing the system, with the club membership person will start entering membership information themselves. By November 1st, the program will be rolled out gradually to all clubs. It will be fully functioning in time for January billings. Clubs will be able to generate their own customized lists,

such as phone lists. The system is very secure with the data stored off base with a double back up.

A NatureKids report was given by Christina Chowanec, who said there is now a new board. They are working on a Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2022.

After the business meeting was complete, we broke into regional sections. The Lower Mainland section, chaired by Jude Grass, had each club report the special events and projects they were working on. I mentioned the Langley Field Naturalists' success with our bird brochure and the upcoming launch of our beautiful butterfly brochure.

### **FALL GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2018**

After a wonderful weekend of interesting talks and field trips, BC Nature members met at 1:30 pm for our Fall General Meeting. Most of the agenda items were the same as at the directors' meeting.

President Alan Burger updated us on the Organization Review meeting held the previous afternoon with BC Nature's executive and the consultant Val Mayes, hired by BC Nature. Val's assignment was to study the current organization of BC Nature for strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations for modernization and efficiency. Preliminary recommendations coming from the meeting were to form three committees: Personnel, Governance and Finance, to start planning in those areas. The need to re-write the Policy Manual and revision of bylaws were also identified. The consultant's final report and recommendations will be ready by November.

Alan also reminded us of the grant of \$60,000 provided by the Sitka Foundation whereby BC Nature working with Nature Canada were to enhance both the Fraser Delta and the wetlands in the Creston Valley, to be spent by the end of 2020.

Tom Bearss told us the total BC Naturalist Foundation was valued at \$700,000 at the end of 2017. He reminded clubs wanting to apply for grants that the deadline was January 31st, 2019. Clubs were asked to check the BC Nature Guide on-line to see if their region needs any updating or a new area added. If so, Krista Kapstain should be contacted. There were 16,000 hits on the site last year, indicating the value of this initiative.

In closing, Alan reminded us that next year's FGM has no host as yet and encouraged clubs to consider taking on this job. The 2019 AGM will be hosted by the Cowichan Valley Naturalists who are celebrating their 50th anniversary. The 2020 AGM will be in Princeton, hosted by the Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists.

*Kathy Masse*

## **BC NATURE FALL GENERAL MEETING TALK AND FIELD TRIP COMMUNITY COLLABORATION IN THREE MAJOR REHABILITATION PROJECTS IN THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN**

Wayne Wilson, the Executive Director of the Central Okanagan Land Trust (COLT), spoke to us about 3 projects that COLT is working on right now. COLT was established in 1991 by a group who wanted to acquire lands in a trust to protect and enhance endangered ecosystems. They established themselves as a charitable trust that could issue tax receipts for not only land donations and but also donations and grants from Kelowna city, corporations and individuals to support the work that needed to be done. The actual work is done by volunteers from various environmental groups in the region. Three of their current rehabilitation projects are the Johns Family Nature Trust, Munson Pond and the Mission Creek Restoration Project.

The Johns family had gradually put their 800 acres into COLT since the beginning of COLT's existence because they wanted their land to be preserved for wildlife for future generations. Once the last remaining Johns family member passed away in 2012, COLT took a more active role in its management. Many community partners assisted in the work: the central Okanagan Naturalists, the Girl Guides and the Lions club. In 2013 COLT leased the land to the local government and it is now managed as a Regional Park.

Munson Pond was donated by the Munson family who had farmed it for many years since the 1890's. The pond area's last use was as a gravel pit where extraction of gravel was used to build the causeway across Okanagan Lake. After the gravel pit was decommissioned, the pond area, although a good birding area, began to degrade and needed rehabilitation. Once it was donated, COLT

decided to improve the habitat, building trails and viewing platforms so more residents could enjoy this natural area. The beginning work was assisted by students at the nearby Kelowna Christian School. Other partners include CONC and the City of Kelowna. The viewing platforms have been built and the trails are under construction. Then only signage will be needed, as well as ongoing plantings and maintenance.



*Alice Roos & Kathy Masse at Munson Pond viewing platform  
Photo: Bill Masse*

The Mission Creek Restoration Plan assessment began in 2009, focussing on the 11 km. closest to Okanagan Lake. For flood protection, dykes had been built and the creek channelized in the 1950's, causing much riparian and wetland habitat to be lost. Starting in 2015, these dykes were removed and rebuilt but set-back to re-establish the flood plain, reconnecting remnant oxbows, restoring fish habitat and riparian vegetation and creating wetlands. The project now involves restoring meanders, pools and overhead cover. Many partners are involved, including CONC, City of Kelowna, Provincial Government-Okanagan Division, Fisheries and Oceans and more.

After this talk, in the afternoon, Wayne Wilson led us on a field trip to explore Munson Pond and the Mission Creek Restoration project. The pleasant September day added to the enjoyment at Munson Pond where we first visited the first of the two new viewing platforms. We watched Bufflehead, Mallards and Canada Geese from the platform before resuming our walk around the perimeter of the pond. Soon we encountered a group of workers constructing the trails near the second

viewing platform. Some of the birds seen were many Yellow-rumped Warblers and Song Sparrows and a Red-tailed Hawk circling overhead.



Mission Creek Greenway

Photo: Bill Masse

We finished our walk at Mission Creek Greenway, observing the new set-back dykes with the restored flood plain, and re-established wetlands. We saw fish resting and sheltering in the created pools on the side of the creek. And we were treated to the sight of Red-breasted Mergansers on the water and an Osprey hunting overhead. In the shrubs were many Yellow-rumped Warblers. The goal of this project to restore Mission Creek's ecosystem to a healthy natural environment for fish and wildlife, and at the same time give flood protection, is on the way to be realized.

*Kathy Masse*

## **JOHNS FAMILY NATURE CONSERVANCY REGIONAL PARK**

On a sunny/cloudy Saturday afternoon, several carloads of BC Naturalists set out for a guided walk of the Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park. We were fortunate to have 3 excellent guides: Hugh Westheuser (Director of COLT), and Isabella and Rayelena, who work for the Central Okanagan Regional Park Service. Rayelena is a member of the Westbank First Nation and works as the Indigenous Park Interpreter for the Regional District.

The Conservancy includes the former Cedar Mountain Regional Park (82 hectares) and 323.8 hectares of land donated by the Alfred Johns Family Estate to the Central Okanagan Land Trust (COLT) located on the South Slopes of Kelowna. It

includes trail connections to Lebanon Creek Greenway Regional Park. The Johns bequest is thought to represent the largest piece of parkland donated to BC. In 2012 the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) signed a 99 year lease with COLT to jointly manage the property. The vision includes balancing and managing recreational use in the park area and protecting and preserving the ranch land, wildlife, and wildlife corridors on the Johns property.



Entering the regional park

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

After driving past several new housing developments in the area, we reached the parking lot in the former regional park. We walked to an area known as the Kelowna Crags which has been used by rock climbers since the 1960s. Even without any climbing, the views in all directions were breathtaking! We could see along Okanagan Lake all the way from Peachland to Lake Country, with evidence of the 2003 wildfire on the landscape. A new outhouse sits on an overlook that has this amazing view - when the doors are open...

During our walk our guides told us about the area from different perspectives. Hugh shared the history behind this wonderful bequest and what needs to be done to protect it. Isabella explained some of the plans to manage areas for public use. Rayelena talked about how First Nations people used the area as a summer residence for hunting and gathering activity and how the plants and animals were used.

After leaving the area that is open to the public, we toured part of the gated, protected area, including the original Johns homestead. A caretaker lives in one of the buildings here that is also used for COLT

activities. Some of us walked a boardwalk around part of the homestead site, looking at flora and fauna. Amazingly the homestead escaped the devastation of the 2003 wildfire.

During our walk we saw evidence and some sightings of many creatures that use this area. We didn't see cougars, coyote, elk or bear but some of us saw a deer and a Marmot den. We saw a few birds, including several Mountain Bluebirds which posed obligingly for people to get good views of a bird that we do not usually see at home.

The dedication and the mission of the people involved in preserving and protecting this wonderful piece of the Okanagan are an inspiration to naturalists and to all who use and visit this area.

*Joanne Rosenthal*

## **BC NATURE FALL MEETING BEAVER LAKE ROAD BIRDING**

On Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Anne Gosse, All Grass and myself joined four carloads of folks for an afternoon of birding in the Kelowna area. We were led by Pam and Elke, experienced locals from the Central Okanagan Naturalists.

The clear sunny afternoon highlighted gorgeous views of fall colours as we drove to Beaver Lake Road. At one of our first stops, we saw a flock of California Quails running about as we listened to songs of the Western Meadowlark. At least 4 Mule deer watched us as they grazed on the hillside. Then we spotted 4 magpies continuously harassing a small hawk. As the hawk flew back and forth teasing the magpies, he was identified as a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

At the next stop after spotting a Kestrel perched in a tall tree, we noticed small birds close to the road. Just as we identified the Red Crossbills, more flew in and dropped to a grass and dirt patch just off the roadside. We were thrilled to have a closeup of this group! The olive yellow tinged females and reddish orange males were accompanied by enthusiastic juveniles picking about in the dirt. We could see their long bills with the crossed tips that are used for extracting conifer seeds from cones.



*Red Crossbill*

*Photo: Anne Gosse*

At another stop we headed out for a walk in the woods. No luck finding the Northern Pygmy Owl but we did see Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadee, Pileated Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers.

Our group also heard and/or saw Ravens, Red-tailed Hawk, Bluebirds, Nuthatches, Towhees, Robins and Black-Capped Chickadees on this lovely Okanagan afternoon. A great outing with great people!

*Joanne Rosenthal*

## **BC NATURE FALL MEETING WINE TOUR**

One of the field trips offered was a wine tour - but a couple of weeks before the meeting, we were advised that this was cancelled due to poor registration. On checking, it was discovered that only four people had signed up - so we decided to do our own tour.

Following the Kelowna Lakeshore Wine Route, Upinder Mann, Nigel Peck, Sue Garber, Bob and I headed out with Nigel driving. He suggested taking his car as "it has lots of room for purchases".

As it was “lunch on your own”, the first stop was Summerhill Winery, which has a wonderful organic restaurant with amazing lake views. The site was really busy, with several tour buses. We didn't visit the Pyramid - a place of meditation - but really enjoyed a delicious lunch.



*The view from Summerhill*

*Photo: Bob Puls*

We moved on to St Hubertus and were the only visitors, although others arrived as we were leaving - but we got excellent service as we heard the history of the estate winery and checked the wines!

Next was Cedar Creek, where they are undergoing major renovations, partly to be able to offer a year round bistro, and partly to ensure the safety of the winery if the wildfires come close again (the hillside above the winery was subject to recent fires which stopped just above the vines).

Our final stop was Tantalus Vineyards which is a single-vineyard historic winery, once again with lovely views of the lake and delicious wines.

All the wineries offered tastings of their wines, and I have to confess that we came home with more than one sample. An enjoyable afternoon with excellent company.

*Sheila Puls*

## **LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS' ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 2018**

For each of BC Nature's meetings, both the Annual and Fall General Meetings, I submit a report of the LFN's activities for the time period. I have omitted Gareth's wonderful, at least twice monthly field trips and Jude's informative monthly speakers because these are so well known. Below are other achievements and volunteer activities of LFN members and a couple of enjoyable events in the past year. What a busy and fun loving nature group we are!

The Langley Field Naturalists are creating a "Butterflies of Langley" brochure. "Team Butterfly" researched appropriate butterflies to include, acquired photographs, made write-ups, and then sent the brochure to our graphic artist. The brochure will consist of 17 butterflies and 3 moths.

The Bird brochure is still in such demand that we have just completed a second printing, distributed to schools and community centres by LFN volunteers.

Our display committee, headed by Anne Gosse, made a new display board for community events to tie in with our butterfly brochure. The already completed board includes photographs of some butterflies from the brochure and the life cycle of butterflies.

At Forslund Watson Reserve, Ryan Usenik and team installed a free standing Barn Owl nesting box near the raptor field in October. In early 2018 they erected three flying squirrel nesting boxes.

We took part in Campbell Valley's Country Celebration in September 2017, where our new tree display and an activity for kids, making necklaces of wooden circles with tree stamps, were both a great success.

Two of Jude Grass's monthly speakers were LFN members: Fred Bunnell gave a thought-provoking talk about BC Species at Risk and John Gordon spoke about his recent birding trip to the Yucatan in Mexico, illustrated by his wonderful photography

We participated in Christmas Bird Counts: Surrey/White Rock Count led by Mike Klotz, Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge Count led by Bob Puls. Also we joined the Derby Reach Brae Island bird count

led by Phil Henderson in February.

Bob Puls, our conservation chair, endeavoured to overcome Langley Township's lack of enforcement and avoidance of government regulations both in West Creek and the clearing of trees at Tara Farms in Willoughby. As well, Bob continued to monitor birds and wildlife at Mountainview Crown Lands and Gordon's Brook in Aldergrove Regional Park.

At BC Nature's AGM, our President Bob Puls won the Club Service award for his dedicated contribution to the Langley Field Naturalists and Anne Gosse was recognized as a Naturalists Mentor for her work with kids and her excellent field trip organization. (Very Proud!)

At the beginning of June, member Ted Lightfoot won the Langley Environmental Hero award for his stewardship at West Creek, as well as his epic cross-Canada adventures in his Beavermobile bringing awareness to all things beaver. Rhys Griffiths was awarded posthumously, the Langley Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award. (Very Proud!)

We had exciting news this year when we discovered, after monitoring for four years, for the first time there were nesting Purple Martins in the boxes we erected in partnership with Metro Parks at the point of Brae Island. Upon examination by Metro Parks staff and Lisa, five adults along with chicks in two of the boxes and eggs in the 3rd were photographed!

At the LFN AGM on June 21st, Bob Puls, our excellent President for the last 10 years, handed over his gavel to Lisa Dreves, who will bring to the LFN her leadership skills and enthusiasm for nature.

Also at our AGM, we presented our first annual Langley Field Naturalists Volunteer of the Year Award. The overwhelming vote chose Sheila Puls, who has served many exemplary years as our Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair.

An enjoyable summer trip was organized for the LFN by Gareth who led 15 LFN'ers on a 3 night birding trip to Lillooet to enjoy this wonderful area.

We also participated in pleasant Wednesday

evening summer walks organized by Gareth.

A dozen LFNers went on a boating trip to the San Juan Islands, sailing from Fairhaven, Washington to Smith Island to see Tufted Puffins in their nesting grounds.

In July, our annual potluck lunch was held in Al and Jude's beautiful backyard where we enjoyed great food and the sight of so many birds at their feeders.

Since my report in September, we participated in Country Celebrations at Campbell Valley Park on September 8th where we gave out some of our beautiful new Butterfly brochures. (The full release will be next spring during butterfly season).

We also participated at Rivers Day on September 23rd, at Derby Reach Apple Days on September 29th and at the Restoration Celebration on October 13th at Gordon's Brook in Aldergrove Regional Park hosted by the Fraser Valley Conservancy. At all these events we used our new informative display boards.

*Kathy Masse*

## **BC NATURE FALL MEETING WELCOME**

At the meeting we were given two welcomes, one by the Mayor Rick Gee, and one by Chief Pamela Barnes of the Westbank First Nations.

Rick Gee spoke of their vision statement which concerned the necessity for public engagement and information gathering. Both spoke about the protection of parklands and spaces for nature as well as for people, and the concern about management of forests. Rick told us that they have thirty regional parks, consisting of almost 3000 hectares, which has doubled in ten years. Five of these are conservation areas, eight are natural areas, five are trails/greenways and twelve are recreational. In 2007 they formed a ten year acquisition plan intended to cover a variety of biogenetic zones, and a variety of unique grassland habitats. The mandate was to have quality passive recreation with a balance of ecological and cultural emphasis connecting residents to nature.

It was wonderful to hear of a municipality taking such positive action to preserve our natural heritage!

*Sheila Puls*

**GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK  
(LOWER FALLS TRAILS)  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

A fine day for our fungus discovery walk along the Lower Falls Trail, which follows Gold Creek, with Anthea, Christina (from Burke Mountain naturalists) plus two guests. Jude discovered a population of beautiful earthstars (nice fresh ones). At our meeting spot we headed straight for the Lower Falls Trail (Gold Creek). The only "gold" in Gold Creek as far as I can see is a "golden opportunity" to enjoy nature in this lovely valley.



*Turkey Tail*

*Photo: Al Grass*

The Vine Maple leaves were very beautiful and the mushrooms plentiful. Here are a few of the species that we enjoyed (Latin names omitted). For common names used, see *Common Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest* by J.D. Sept (Calypso publishing) – a must have guide for every mushroom enthusiast. A Few of our discoveries were:

- \* Zeller's Bolete
- \* Blackening Russula
- \* Honey Mushroom
- \* Bristly Pholiota
- \* A "milk cap" (Lactarius, sp.)
- \* Jelly fungus
- \* Sulphur top
- \* An "inky"
- \* Maple leaf tar spot
- \* Pink coral (spotted by Anthea) very beautiful
- \* Bird's nest fungus
- \* Turkey Tail

Finally, a quick check of nearby Evan's Peak, but no goats.

*Al Grass*

**IRENE PEARCE TRAIL  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

Nine LFN members and three guests participated in the Irene Pearce Trail walk. Al Grass joined us and was able to answer most of our mushroom questions and find mushrooms that the rest of us walked past.



*Ryan checks a squirrel box*

*Photo: Keith Chrystall*

Another project for the day was to check the three Flying Squirrel boxes and two Wood Duck nesting boxes that were installed earlier in the year. The Flying Squirrel boxes along the Irene Pearce loops showed no activity. Time will tell if another year of weathering will make them more attractive. Neither of the Wood Duck boxes were used as a nesting site but a few feathers were found in both boxes. Again, perhaps they will be more attractive next spring.

Even after the rains we had earlier in the fall, the Little Campbell River remained very low with no water running.

*Ryan Usenik*

**GEORGE C. REIFEL  
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY  
FRIDAY OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

Al met Anne, Tom, Gareth and Jude on a beautiful morning at the sanctuary. We checked with Varri at the gift shop; she maintains a daily / weekly count of birds at the sanctuary (the most common question seems to be "Where are the owls"?). A list of the week's sightings is also posted in the gift shop window for all to check. In a field near the entrance were both Canada and Cackling Geese. Overhead were skeins of Snow Geese, and near the washrooms was a lovely Hermit Thrush. Several

Anna's Hummingbirds visited the feeders nearby.

We also noted Black-crowned Night Herons in their usual places in bushes near the entrance slough. A check of the slough produced the expected waterfowl (Wood Duck, Gadwall, Northern Pintail and American Wigeon, with a distant eagle and Great Blue Herons in neighbouring trees. Lots of hungry Red-Wings ate the seed right from the hand.

Down the East Dyke – always great for sparrows (golden-crowned, fox, song). A Bewick's Wren was heard, and a Nuthatch visited at a feeder. Gareth heard and pointed out a calling Virginia Rail.

Searching over the sea of cat-tails, Northern Harriers could be seen – no falcons though.



*Pink Coral Fungus*

*Photo: Al Grass*

On the trail headed away from the tower, Anne showed us beautiful Amanita mushrooms and a lovely coral fungus called angel's fingers growing under a red cedar. A check of the central pond added Green-winged Teal, Long-billed Dowitchers and Dunlin to the list. At the Ducks Unlimited Viewing Deck, we were treated to a Trumpeter Swan and nearby beautiful Ring-necked Ducks and Buffleheads. Lunch in the warming hut to conclude a lovely morning. Thanks to all for your help and to Tom for producing our bird list – 50 species

*Al Grass.*

## **JACKMAN WETLANDS PARK SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 2018**

Six LFN members and one visitor joined me to stroll around Jackman Wetlands Park in South Aldergrove which is a fairly new addition to the Township of Langley's collection of parks. The 90

acre park has a few large wetlands – both constructed and natural old field habitat, a mature stand of coniferous trees; and young deciduous forests. A large portion of the park is the old landfill site which is still under construction with a new Frisbee disc golf course expected to open in Spring 2019.

The large open wetlands are fairly unique to the park, allowing for viewing of many water loving birds and wildlife, especially since there are many areas where shoreline vegetation hasn't been planted or is not yet established. We spotted 21 species of birds, including the most adorable Buffleheads and Green-winged Teals (this naturalist is a sucker for the little ducks). A large raft or paddling of equally adorable American Wigeon was also spotted but the one bird that made everyone run around with a great deal more energy on this cold morning was a Northern Shrike that was kind enough to come out of hiding when it was originally scared off it's favorite tree.



*Getting wet at the wetlands park*

*Photo: Lisa Dreves*

Jackman Wetlands is a good park for viewing wildlife and it will be interesting to watch it progress as the area is enhanced with more plantings. Unfortunately, the dog community thinks that the park is an off-leash dog park. While the Fraser Valley Retriever Training Club does have a lease on the constructed wetland in the SW, their dogs are only allowed off-leash during training sessions. No other dogs are allowed in the park off leash at any time, and certainly not entering the wetlands and molesting the birds. If you see this at the park, or any other park in Langley that is not an off-leash park, please call the Langley Animal Protection Society (LAPS) 604-857-5055.

*Lisa Dreves*

## BLACKIE SPIT THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2018

Nine participants joined me for my weekly bird survey at Blackie Spit. A cool easterly 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 and Red-breasted Mergansers, most of which were feeding in an area where there were obviously plenty of fish as we also saw several seals. From there we walked around to the spit itself where we found a small flock of Ring-billed Gulls together with about 800 Dunlin and a large flock, mostly consisting of Wigeon and Pintail together, with one Long-billed Curlew and two Marbled Godwits that have been winter residents there for several years.

A Cooper's Hawk was spotted in a tree overlooking the marsh but we saw no eagles at all on this walk, so the birds were happily feeding on the mud as the tide receded. We walked on to the Rene Savenye area where we found a number of Double-crested Cormorants sitting on the pilings where the Purple Martin boxes are located, but this year only two Greater Yellowlegs were in the area. However, we had a great view of a Sharp-shinned Hawk being chased by crows.

Along the dyke trail past the community gardens, we found a number of ducks in the ditch and various sparrows and finches in the bushes, including a relatively large number of Fox Sparrows.



Palm Warbler

Photo: Paulina Selles

As we left, Paulina decided to check out the Savenye area again and found a Palm Warbler

which she was able to photograph, a rare bird and a first for this area. The final count was 50 species, the best for a long time. Thanks to all the participants who made this possible.

Gareth Pugh

### WHAT IS AN "INKY"?

Now that winter is around the corner, mushroom season is not over. There are many discoveries to be made in the woods including winter Oysters and "inky". Perhaps the best known of these black-spored fungi is the shaggy mane (*Coprinus comatus*).

Inky caps (several genera) are quick to turn into an inky black pool – hence the name. There are several species to look for

- \* Glistening inky caps (*Coprinellus micaceus*)
- \* Woolly inkcap (*Coprinopsis lagopus*)  
Interesting note: "lagopus" means "hare's foot".
- \* Alcohol inky cap (*Coprinopsis atramentaria*)



Inky Caps

Photo: AL Grass

Inky caps are edible (and some say "choice" - but they must be fresh; and do not drink alcohol when eating inkcaps.) J.D. Sept (Common Mushrooms of

the Northwest, page 41), comments "alcohol inky gets its name from a complication that occurs when a person drinks alcoholic beverages within two days of eating this mushroom. The mushroom deactivates an enzyme that removes alcohol's toxins from the blood".

Enjoy them all, they make wonderful camera subjects – things of great beauty.

*Al Grass*

*Literature Cited*

Sept, J.D. 2006 (revised edition). *Common Mushrooms of the Northwest*. Calypso publishing. P.O Box 1141. Sechelt. B.C. V0N 3A0 (An excellent field guide – a must have for anyone who loves wild mushrooms).

**FRASER VALLEY EAGLE FESTIVAL**



*Photo: Lilianne Fuller*

These eagle photos were taken at Harrison Mills. I took the photos at one of the sites where the Fraser Valley Eagle Festival was held on November 17 and 18th. One photo shows an adult bald eagle flanked by a juvenile eagle, both feasting on the carcasses of the spawning salmon. It was a beautiful day and most of the eagles were on the shores of the river; however some rested in the nearby trees after their meals. Shown in the photo is one of these majestic birds sitting high up in the treetop.

*Lilianne Fuller*



*Photo: Lilianne Fuller*

**PROGRAMMES**

**Meeting at 7.15 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207th Street, Langley.**



PLEASE Bring your own coffee mug - we don't want to keep using disposable ones.

**THURSDAY JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

Programme to be advised.

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2019**

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**RON LONG**

For 36 years Ron was employed as a professional photographer at Simon Fraser University. For half of that time he worked exclusively for the Biology Department and so has a great deal of biology in his background. As well as pictures of his time in Western Australia he will give a short update on the Pink Mountain issue in BC.

**THURSDAY MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> 2019**

**BIRDS OF CHINA**

**ANNE MURRAY**

A talk on the Birds of China based on Anne's recent tour. Anne is a member of the Delta Naturalists and the winner of Nature Canada's 2015 Douglas H. Pimlott Award.

## FIELD TRIPS

Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place. **Please call to 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). Dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack, plus bug spray in the summer. *Note these walks are weather dependent so if the weather is bad and no calls are received then the leader will not show up.*

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Leader: Mike Klotz, 604-861-1677

Time: 7:30 am

Meet: Ricky's Restaurant, Glover Road/Langley Bypass, Langley

### SATURDAY JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2019

#### PITT MEADOWS/NORTH LANGLEY

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Leader: Bob Puls 604-856-7534

Time: 7:30 am

Meet: Denny's Restaurant, 202<sup>nd</sup> St/88th Ave, Langley

### FRIDAY JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

#### WHOOO'S HOOT OWL PROWL (Aged 8+)

#### CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Al Grass

Time: 7-9 pm

Cost: \$8.50 adult, \$4.50 child, youth, 65+

Join naturalists on a night prowling and discover why owls are such great hunters of the night. Presented by LFN and Metro Vancouver Parks.

Registration required, call or online: [www.metrovancouveronline.org](http://www.metrovancouveronline.org) (use four-digit barcode 7475) Call: 604-432-6359

### SATURDAY JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2019

#### SERPENTINE WILDLIFE

#### MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Time: 9:00 am at the parking lot behind Art Knapps, 4391 King George Boulevard

Join us for a walk around this wetland that is jointly managed by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of the Environment. Phone 604-576-6831 for information and to let us know to expect you.

### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2019

#### DERBY/BRAE ISLAND BIRD COUNT

Leader: Phil Henderson

Time: 8:00 am to noon

Meet: Lower lounge, St George's Church, 9160 Church Street, Fort Langley

Six routes in wonderful Metro Vancouver Parks: Houston Trail, Brae Island, Fort to Fort Trail, West (dog off-leash park), Fort to Fort Trail Heritage Area cairn east to Fort Langley, Derby Bog/Langley Peatlands, Edgewater Bar off-leash area to 208th St.

### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2019

#### IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK

#### & SEWAGE LAGOONS

Leader: Wim Vesseur

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

Join us for a walk around the different habitats in this park that range from from ocean to freshwater ponds, the banks of the Fraser River and the sewage lagoons. Phone: 604-534-3447 for information and to let us know to expect you.

### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2019

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

Leader: Viveka Ohman

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

Join us for a presentation and a walk around 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. Phone 604-531-3401 for information and to let us know to expect you.

**SATURDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> 2019**

**HOUSTON TRAIL,  
DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK.  
BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES!**

Leader: Biologist Phil Henderson  
Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 am

Join biologist Phil Henderson to learn about 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. Meet at Houston Trail parking lot on Allard Crescent, Langley 9:00 am. Phone 604-888-1571 for information and to let us know to expect you.

**SATURDAY MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

**BRYDON LAGOON & HI-KNOLL PARK**

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

Join us to walk around the lagoon and see the restoration work being carried out by LEPS. Then walk through the flood plain and to Hi-Knoll Park to look for the lilies of spring. Phone 604-729-3815 for information and to let us know to expect you.

**FRIDAY MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> 2019**

**GEORGE C. REIFEL  
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY**

Leader: Al Grass  
Time: 9:00 am at Reifel  
Signs of Spring abound – a chorus of bird song, early swallows, and the fragrance of bursting cottonwood buds. Dress warmly, bring a lunch and a warm drink. Please note there is a \$5.00 entrance fee for non members of the Bird Sanctuary. There is a seniors' rate. Phone 604-219-2043 for information and to let us know to expect you.

**SATURDAY MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

**COLONY FARM REGIONAL PARK**

Leader: Josh Inman  
Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at the end of the road by the community gardens in Colony Farm Regional Park off the Lougheed Highway

Join us to walk the dikes and woodlands of this popular Metro Vancouver Park to see the new spring growth and some of the birds that can be found there. Phone 604-532-0455 for information and to let us know to expect you.

**BC NATURE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019**



*Hosted by Cowichan Valley  
Naturalists' Society*

The Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society is extending an invitation to all member Societies to join them 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019 for the BC Nature AGM. They anticipate that the spring flowers in their Garry Oak meadows will be putting on a show at that time. Outings will be offered to view not only the flowers but the spring birds too. They will also talk about their Bring Back the Bluebird Project.

Email: [cvns@naturecowichan.net](mailto:cvns@naturecowichan.net)  
Website: [www.naturecowichan.net](http://www.naturecowichan.net)  
or [www.agm2019.naturecowichan.net](http://www.agm2019.naturecowichan.net)

Other bird counts:

- Harrison River - Denis Knopp - December 18<sup>th</sup> - [bcwilddenis@uniserve.com](mailto:bcwilddenis@uniserve.com)
- Chilliwack - Denis Knopp - December 15<sup>th</sup> - [bcwilddenis@uniserve.com](mailto:bcwilddenis@uniserve.com)
- Vancouver - Peter Candido - December 16<sup>th</sup> - [pcandido328@shaw.ca](mailto:pcandido328@shaw.ca)
- Ladner - Jude Grass - December 22<sup>nd</sup> - [judegrass@shaw.c](mailto:judegrass@shaw.c)
- Abbotsford - Lynn Miller - December 28<sup>th</sup> - [lynnmelvinmiller@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnmelvinmiller@hotmail.com)