



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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Newsletter

June 2019

MAY 15TH, 2019

THE PURPLE MARTINS HAVE RETURNED TO BRAE ISLAND AT TAVISTOCK POINT!



Purple Martin boxes at Tavistock Point Photo: Anne Gosse

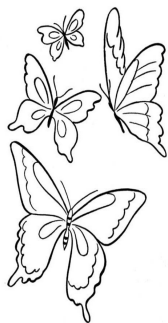
There are three pairs so far - they are not sitting yet but standing on top of their houses and flying about together. They seem to be nesting in boxes #2 and #5 plus the one beside #2 (? number).

Anne Gosse

THURSDAY JUNE 20TH

7.15 PM

SOCIAL EVENING AND AGM



A short business and Annual General meeting followed by social time.

To celebrate our new Butterfly Brochure, anyone wearing a butterfly will be entered for a door prize.

Please bring finger food to share.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Summer break is upon us and only one last evening meeting! Thank goodness our regular meetings are followed with incredibly inspiring speakers, and our June AGM is followed by FOOD. Even though our monthly meetings are over until September, there are still many opportunities to meet up with fellow naturalists through the summer.

The Campbell Valley Nature House is a wonderful place to spend a Wed, Saturday or Sunday. At the Nature House you can meet many like-minded individuals and, possibly most important, you can inspire young people to love nature through many interactive displays organized by Metro Vancouver Parks staff and Nature House volunteers. Volunteers are always paired up with a partner.

Wednesday evening walks have been carefully selected with a lot of new walk leaders going to new and "old" places in Langley and beyond. These walks are casual outings in the evenings after the heat of the day has passed. Meet up with friends, bring an extra buddy along and get outside. Even better, take a few notes on a walk with one of our fabulous leaders and think about becoming a leader for a walk at one of your favorite places to explore.

There are many opportunities to get engaged with the LFN and nature through the summer. Hope to see you out there. Have a fantastic summer!

Lisa Dreves



NOTE: All executive positions are up for election/reelection. Consider joining the executive and helping us make this club even better.

**HOUSTON LOOP.
DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK
MARCH 2ND, 2019**



Isoetes stoloniferum

Photo: Ted Goshulak

About a dozen hardy souls showed up Saturday morning after relentless rains and an unsettling, vague weather forecast. The clouds relented to the group's enthusiasm and sunshine enlivened a few willing birds and illuminated the many mosses and liverworts in the awakening forest. Hark, it's a singing House Finch high atop a tree across the clearing. Later, its smoother-singing cousin, the Purple Finch, was heard from high atop a tree, deep in the forest. Neither voice is less than the other, just different. Participants may have preferred one over the other but delighted in both. Preference may be subject to mood, like a favourite singer.

House Finch:	Purple Finch
Lucinda Williams:	Jenny Lewis
Greg Brown:	Kurt Vile.

Substitute your favourite human warblers. Who's the House Finch? Who's the Purple Finch?

Be careful. Remember, your LFN membership will be immediately revoked with any mention of Celine Dion.

As it was pretty early in the year, some birds were just tuning up for the season while others were still stuck in winter, not ready to expend the energy or

broadcast their exuberance simply to please a group of lumbering bipeds. (Lumbering, except for one spry youngster who kept me on my toes and off my guard with some tough questions.) Nonetheless, we had chirps, tweets, scratches, wing flutters and flashes of unmistakable birdiness by some capable of wonderful song (American Robin, Pacific Wren), others just there for their looks, and some there to occupy the back-space, essential audio fillers content to go unheralded: Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Dark-eyed Juncos and a woodpecker (Downy or Hairy) laid down a backbeat: juncos can't carry a tune; they just trill from a perch and intermittently sputter high-pitched nonsense as they scuttle amongst the brush.

Glaucous-winged Gulls passing overhead. Wanted nothing to do with this forest nonsense. Much better, a foul morsel of something dead along the Fraser River shoreline. The group of Black-capped Chickadees clowned around excitedly, calling for our attention which we gave them as we always do. Golden-crowned Kinglets called their loudest, never loud enough to draw us from the chickadees and others more ebullient. Sometimes they flash their golden crown but, sadly, it usually goes unnoticed. Waisted splendor. The Song Sparrow refused to sing, and skulked in the shrubs at the wetland edge, giving high-pitched calls to show everyone he's no one dry-call pony.

Birds and bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) are inseparable. The bryophytes were everywhere the birds were: on the ground; on the branches and trunks of trees in forests and fields; on rocks, earth, and logs. Spores from the mosses and liverworts move through the air, deflected and trapped by beating wings. The birds unknowingly carry and disperse spores and moss fragments in their feathers and on their feet, gathered while they forage among the mosses on the forest floor (American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow), the branches (Swainson's Thrush, Western Tanager) and trunks of trees (Brown Creepers, Hairy Woodpeckers) (Chmielewski and Eppley 2019).

Mosses make fine additions to many a bird nest which, once used and abandoned, provide elevated platforms which may facilitate the dispersal of spores to areas unreachable from their usual place on or near the forest floor. Birds cannot escape the bryophytes. Bryophytes cannot escape the birds.

- shiny green cushions beneath tiny metatarsals:
Kindbergia oregana, *Kindbergia praelonga*,
Atrichum undulatum, *Rhytidiadelphus*
triquetrus, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*,
Plagiomnium insigne
- thick blankets on giant branches high overhead:
Antitrichia curtispindula, *Neckera douglasii*,
Isoetes stoloniferum
- green cities of invertebrates ready for picking:
Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus, *Rhytidiadelphus*
loreus, *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*,
Plagiomnium insigne
- giant trees of mini-forests:
Leucolepis acanthoneuron
- tiny hands on rotting logs:
Lepidozia reptans
- dense, green carpet; straight leaves, fragile tips:
Dicranum tauricum
- dense masses of plants, narrow leaves swept in one direction:
Dicranum scoparium, *Dicranum fuscescens*
- tightly woven branches firmly affixed to logs and fence rails:
Buckiella undulata, *Hypnum circinale*.

It was a fine Saturday morning for humans, bryophytes and birds.

Phil Henderson

Literature Cited: Chmielewski, M.W. and S.M. Eppley. 2019. Forest passerines as a novel dispersal vector of viable bryophyte propagules. Proc. R. Soc. B 286: 20182253
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2018.2253>.

BRYDON LAGOON & HI-KNOLL PARK APRIL 6TH, 2019



Ready to walk

Photo: Anthea Farr

About 15 of us set off on a showery spring morning to find birds & lilies. First, we all posed for a photo on the new gravel terrace at the southeast corner of the lagoon. Then the binoculars came out to ID birds. Many swallows, including tree, violet-green and rough-winged, were circling and feeding above the water. It was good to see so many swallows again. Most of these were likely migrating, but a few may stay to use LFN nest boxes - here's hoping... There was no sign of eagles at the eagle nest, but careful scrutiny revealed an unexpected occupant: one Canada Goose!

We then crossed the floodplain to see the fawn lilies at Hi-Knoll. A few white ones were blooming right beside the parking lot. Many more, plus the beautiful pink fawn lilies, were flowering beside the forest trails in Hi-Knoll Park. Joanne photographed a pink one to show her granddaughter.

After our walk, we were invited to stop by at Annabel's for a most welcome cup of tea, cookies and conversation. Thank you, Annabel!

Anthea Farr

GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE, CHILLIWACK APRIL 13TH, 2019

Gareth and Monica met me at our place, Ryan called to say he would go with Herman and Lisa called the night before going to see if I was still going; she would meet us at the reserve parking lot. There was 1 cancellation due to the rain forecast. The drive to the reserve was in pouring rain, but as we got out of the car after taking the long route to the entrance, it turned to light rain at exactly 9:00 am. Luckily it stopped after an hour or so. It took a while before we had gathered, as one vehicle was in the other parking lot, and the people nicely sheltered from the rain in the car and I did not recognize the car.

Despite the cold winter, some of the bulbs were already flowering and most of the birds were already present. In the parking lot we already picked up a few species before heading out on the dike to walk around. Eurasian Collared Dove and Starling. Soon to be followed by Robin, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Wood Ducks and Green-winged Teal. In the corner were some Canada Geese, one of which was a bit pale and possibly a bit leucistic.

There was no sign of the Ospreys that have nested there in earlier years. We did find Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Northern Flicker, but we did not see Downy or Hairy Woodpeckers. Herons were on their nests, nest building and flying around. On the river we found some Greater Yellowlegs. The swallows we identified were Tree, Violet-green, Barn, and Northern Rough-winged. Early warblers such as Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-rumped were seen and heard. Both Rufous and Anna's Hummingbirds were showing their color.

We had lunch at the building with coffee from the machine inside and saw more birds around the feeders close to our chosen picnic table. We picked up some more finches before Lisa left us. After lunch we did a little extra walk and in the corner where we found otters and green frogs on earlier trips this time a mink was spotted. It was disturbed by us and retreated to the topside of a beaver lodge where it seemed to live. We also got the first Turkey Vulture of the season for some of us and in one of the nests we spotted a Bald Eagle. All in all the number of species was a bit lower than on earlier outings, with 41.

Wim Vesseur

WILLBAND CREEK, ABBOTSFORD APRIL 20TH, 2019



Gathering for the walk

Photo: Anne Gosse

Vehicles carrying 17 people were squeezed into the newly built, but surprisingly flooded, parking lot at Willband Creek. We found out later that the previous days' heavy rains had flooded several areas of the park, including our circle trail. But this spring morning was beautifully sunlit and brilliant and everyone was eager to enjoy the wonderful weather.

We had some great sightings while enjoying the sunshine, bird songs and company. There were many Common Yellowthroats and Marsh Wrens singing constantly. We welcomed back some Yellow-rumped Warblers while listening to calls of mating Red-winged Blackbirds. Savannah Sparrows trilled among long grasses and there were plenty of waterfowl to identify on the ponds. We ended up with a total of 42 different species recorded by Bob Puls, plus a good discussion about the differences between turkey vultures, hawks and immature eagles, making it a very enjoyable spring day.

Bird sighting list, 9am – Noon, April 20th:

COYE, MALL, RWBL, SOSP, AMRO, NWCR, ANHU, TRSW, MAWR, VGSW, BASW, EUST, CAGO, CACG, NOSL, YRWA, PUF1, BAEA, BCCH, DCCO, NOHA, AMCO, BUFF, GADW, PBGR, AMWI, RUHU, OSPR, SNGO, SASP, LESC, GBHE, CORA, DEJU, HOME, RNDU, GWTE, RTHA, COGO, EUWI, TUVU, WODU.

Anne Gosse

FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY APRIL 27TH, 2019



Forslund Watson field

Photo: Gareth Pugh

It was a beautiful clear morning as the group of seven LFN members and two guests assembled for the walk around the Forslund Watson Property. A little chilly wind to begin with, but this got better as the morning went on. Down at the permanent pond we spotted a group of Mallards and two Canada Geese. When the Mallards decided to fly off, they were soon replaced by a couple of Gadwalls. The bat house by the pond was not showing any sign of habitation by bats. However, any evidence of bat guano would have been lost in the stiff breeze.

Moving up the field toward the vernal pond, we saw that the swallow boxes were quite popular with the tree swallows this year. There were many tree swallows in the fields and a few barn swallows as well enjoying the morning air. At the vernal pond we saw that tree frogs were spawning a good number of tadpoles in the shallow water.

Closer to the edge of the forest we observed a Red-tailed hawk nest near the raptor glade. Then the hawk turned up and began circling our group to let us know it was not pleased with our visit. We were treated to a great display of the hawk's beautiful tail. We moved on as quickly as we could through the soggy field to leave the hawk in peace. An Anna's Hummingbird came to have a look at us as we were moving out of the hawk's area.

At the forest edge we had a quick look at the work that has been going on to remove the Wingnut Tree. The pest has been beaten back quite a bit, but more work will be needed to finally eradicate this nuisance.



Eyelash fungi

Photo: Wim Vesseur

We walked into the forest for a short distance from two different entry points. The wild bleeding hearts and bracken were coming up all over the forest floor. We also spotted some Eyelash fungus

growing on a log and were able to get a great close-up picture of one specimen. The forest paths were a little drier than we expected, so it was quite pleasant to walk among the trees.

Back at the forest edge we were fortunate enough to identify a Hermit Thrush moving through the trees. There were also Orange-crowned Warblers moving through the fruit trees looking for a meal. Many of the flowering trees were still in bloom and attracting bumble bees, bees and butterflies. This made a nice end to our visit.

Keith Chrystall

HOPE AIR PARK AND CHEAM LAKE WETLANDS REGIONAL PARK. MAY 17TH, 2019

*"I know it is wet and the sun is not sunny
But we can have lots of good fun that is funny."
Al Grass channeling Dr. Seuss (Cat in the Hat)*

Al's recitation of Dr. Seuss' wise words gave us cheer as we exited the warmth of the vehicles into the wind and driving rain to find a bird, any bird, along the road adjacent to the Hope Air Park. Most of the birds wisely took refuge, most out of sight and earshot which didn't have to be all that far in this weather. Al accurately described the conditions as pulsing: wind and rain, brief calm, wind and rain . . . We managed a few birds along the first flank: White-crowned Sparrow and Savannah Sparrow and what was probably a distant Purple Finch, its voice subdued and altered by wind and rain. A swallow made a couple of passes above the trees, but it wasn't hanging around to be identified. At the end of the road, the road signs changed from Airport Road to Delair Road signaling our entrance to Jack Delair's wonderful property of fields, forests and birds. Jack, long time friend of Al and Jude, welcomed us into his home and from those warm confines we added House Sparrow (it is a bird), Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds and Spotted Towhee, all busy at the feeders outside the window. We took our time leaving as we tallied more birds in the yard: Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Brown-headed Cowbird and Canada Goose.

We resumed our bird watching procession (1. drive slowly and observe; 2. stop and get out, observe, get cold and wet; 3. get in, crank heater, drive slowly; repeat 1-3) along Yale Road on the south side of the air park, heading east. Although it was

tempting to stick to #1, we knew that #2 was the key step in finding birds. We were rewarded. On a fence post in a shrubby area east of the air strip stood a Western Kingbird; patient with us, it stayed until we left, before which point a male and female American Goldfinch perched in a shrub nearby, yielding splashes of yellow of varied hues in one fine binocular field of vision: the sunshine we'd been missing. We managed a couple more stops along the way, re-energized with Dr. Seuss, kingbirds and goldfinches. Four Canada Geese picked at the grass in the air park while a Turkey Vulture flew overhead, wiffing* in the wind and rain.

Meanwhile, in the dense trees and shrubs between us and the railway tracks, Wilson's Warblers chattered while a Yellow Warbler sang and moved through the trees doing its best to stay out of sight. We followed to get a look. I noticed water dripping off Al's hair beneath his baseball cap, down the back of his neck and suddenly I felt colder than ever, yet heartened that the rain and cold would not deter Al, a seasoned naturalist with an insatiable curiosity and thirst for knowledge, hallmarks of a great naturalist. However, above all, we were guided by good sense and it came time to give up and restore some of the heat we had lost so we could carry on.



At Cheam Wetlands

Photo: Phil Henderson

We confirmed 19 species and added a probable Purple Finch, an unidentified swallow and a couple of voiceless enigmas which appeared and disappeared in a flash.

From the Hope Air Park, Bruce and I followed Al and Jude to the Cheam Lake Wetlands which, Al explained, were created by flooding an area from which marl (calcium rich mud) had been mined for

the fertilizer industry. Although this is a wonderful wetland for wildlife, I could not help but wonder what it looked like before being mined: what kind of rare plants and plant communities were present? Was it a series of stepped pools or broad plain of mud and grass-like plants? What did it mean historically and culturally to the people who occupied this land?

The weather at Cheam was much better: overcast with little wind and no rain. Al, Bruce and I walked around a looped trail that took us through the wetlands and surrounding forests. Jude stayed behind to catch up with work on her computer. I wondered if she ever sleeps. On the water and wetland edges we saw Mallards (including a female with five young), Wood Ducks, Canada Geese, a Belted Kingfisher, Common Yellowthroats, Red-winged Blackbirds, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, Song Sparrows and a pair of Bullock's Orioles. The forest and shrubs near and beyond the wetlands sheltered Wilson's Warblers, Yellow Warblers, American Goldfinch, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Wood Pewees, Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, Warbling Vireos, Black-throated Gray Warblers, a Northern Flicker and a pair of Eurasian Collared Doves. A Common Raven flew overhead to let us know Northwestern Crows were not the only corvids on the block. Of course, our walk was not entirely about birds. Plants, too, got our attention and Al informed us that Robert's Geranium, the common, introduced weed, was named for Robin Hood and in Britain is called Stinking Bob, a name I immediately decided to adopt. More poetry accompanied our outing in which Ogden Nash figured prominently.

While chatting and wrapping things up on the grassy slope near the parking lot, a Cooper's Hawk flew over the wetland pursued by a cantankerous crow. That brought the total to 25 species for Cheam and 36 confirmed species for the day. Bruce and I were very lucky to have had Al and Jude all to ourselves for the day. It was a privilege. They are remarkable people. If there were more Al and Jude Grasses in this world, there would be no conservation crises. We wrapped things up with some warm food and interesting discussions at a Tim Horton's in Chilliwack. Al, next trip lunch is on me.

Phil Henderson

* Al used "wiffing" and attributed it to David Attenborough who used it to describe the characteristic flight of African vultures.

NATURE IN QW'UTSUN - THE WARM LAND
BC NATURE AGM, DUNCAN, BC, MAY 2ND - 5TH, 2019

Club Representatives' Meeting
May 2nd, 2019

I was pleased this year to be joined at our Club Representatives' Meeting by our Sheila Puls, who is now Regional Representative for the Lower Mainland. She replaces Jude Grass who has retired after many years.

The usual agenda items, such as agenda and minutes acceptance occurred. For most Committee Reports, we were referred to the Annual General Meeting Report. You can read these reports on the BC Nature website <https://www.bcnature.ca/>. Following are other important items covered at the meeting:

1. Krista Kaptein, who coordinates Important Bird Areas, gave a short report on the BC Wildlife Viewing Sites located at a link on the BC Nature website. Krista created and maintains this site, but she is phasing out her work on it. She is looking for club members to monitor and to add new locations.

2. Alan Burger is stepping down as president at this meeting, with Kees Visser, our former President, taking over for one year, and Harry Crosby assuming the Vice-President position. The Club Representatives voted to accept these new roles. We also voted and approved that Alan Burger becomes Past President, Gary Hunt as regional coordinator for Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap, Mark Kong as Treasurer, Sheila Puls as regional representative for the Lower Mainland and Rick Gee as a Director at Large, all for 2 year terms.

3. Betty Davison gave a PowerPoint presentation on details of our Insurance plan. Our liability insurance protects us from lawsuits. Betty is soon forwarding both this PowerPoint and her FAQ information sheet concerning our insurance policy to all clubs. We are notified that our insurance fees are going up 25% at the beginning of 2020 and each club should discuss whether fees need to be increased to cover the new fees.

4. Harry Crosby and Kees Visser reported on their work modifying BC Nature's Bylaws, not only to clarify them but also to make them compliant with

the new BC Societies Act. The amendments will be voted on at the AGM on May 4th.

5. Alan Burger gave a PowerPoint presentation on how to liven up club meetings. Alan advocates keeping business reports at monthly meetings to a minimum of a few announcements. Instead, he uses PowerPoint with club members' photos to welcome and interest members and inspire lively discussion. Members submit their nature photos ahead of the meeting and Alan reported that it is easy to organize these pictures into his presentation.

FGM 2019

Burke Mountain Naturalist (Pitt Meadows);

AGM 2020

Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists (Princeton);

FGM 2020 & AGM 2021 – hosts are still needed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
MAY 4TH, 2019

The Annual General Meeting began at 1:30 pm on Saturday afternoon, after a wonderful weekend of field trips, talks and committee meetings. Many of the items covered at the Club Representatives' meeting were presented to the general membership. Below are the different agenda items included:

1. Graham Saul, the Executive Director of Nature Canada, spoke to us about their important relationship with nature groups across Canada. The recent environmental assessment report by 150 experts from 50 different countries reported the threatened extinction of species on earth, mostly caused by human activity. However, there is hope in Canada's nature community. Nature Canada, along with our cross Canada nature groups, can give hope and power to mitigate this loss. Nature Canada can be our voice in Ottawa and Canada's community of Nature Lovers can work at the local level, expanding protected areas and restoring damaged ecosystems.

2. Harry Crosby presented a slide with BC Nature's amended constitutional bylaws which reduced conflicts in the former bylaws, corrected

terminology problems, grouped bylaws more logically and made them consistent with BC's new Societies Act. After discussion these amendments were voted on and passed unanimously.

3. The Kamloops Naturalists Club presented 2019's only Resolution to be considered. They proposed that BC Nature call on the governments of BC and Canada to take steps to halt harvesting of Mountain Caribou herds in the range of both Wells Gray Park South and North because of their declining numbers and habitat destruction. After discussion, this resolution was passed.

4. Gary Hunt reported on the Next Generation Naturalists project by Kamloops Naturalists; a three year project involving 35 students ages 17-23 supported by Larson Youth Foundation. Students provided input collaborating with Thompson River University. 40 hours of classroom instructions were given to the students, generating ideas for future environmental leaders. Field trips incorporated Indigenous knowledge and involved the community in citizen science.

5. Krista Kaptein reported on Important Bird areas (IBA's). There are 80 IBA's in BC and 60 caretakers who are members of BC Nature. They are supported by gaming Grants, Nature Canada and TD Friends of the Environment.

6. The Conservation Committee reported on current campaigns, including the Roberts Bank development which has a devastating effect on the mud flats. Roger Emsley will take part in the oral hearings this month. Also the TransMountain Pipeline twinning project is having a judicial review and BC Nature along with Nature Canada will be challengers with the support of the Environmental Law Society.

7. NatureKids director Cynthia Berg gave an enthusiastic report on its status. Nature kids was established 18 years ago and now there are 24 clubs connecting kids to Nature. This year there were 3300 outdoor activities by all clubs with 170 volunteers involved.

8. Christina from Burke Mountain Naturalists gave a PowerPoint presentation of the upcoming FGM they will be hosting in Pitt Meadows this October. We were shown their beautiful environment and the activities that we will enjoy.

Kathy Masse

SOMENOS GARRY OAK PROTECTED AREA FIELD TRIP

Our tour of this protected area and rare remnant of Garry Oak Woodlands was led by Genevieve Singleton and Margaret Corsan.



The Garry Oak ecosystem

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

Garry Oak meadows were once common but these ecosystems are now very rare. The Cowichan Valley has a large percentage of what remains. Our walk started with an inspiring view of a restored meadow containing numerous large gnarled Garry Oaks and some Douglas Firs.

We learned the significance of these types of woodlands to the First Nations People of the Cowichan Valley. They used the Garry Oak wood for combs and digging sticks and roasted or steamed the acorns. Camas lily, which thrives in these meadows, was cultivated in large plots and the bulbs harvested for food.

We carefully walked existing paths to search for wildflowers, some very rare or endangered. Many species were blooming and we were rewarded with locating Blue Camas, Chocolate Lily, Broad Leafed Shooting Star, Lupines, Western Buttercup, White

Fawn Lily, and several types of violets including the Yellow Mountain Violet. The Yellow Mountain Violet is very rare and was a factor in halting urban development and road building planned for this area.

The conservation efforts and restoration of these meadows, trees and grasslands have provided the diversity required to support numerous plants, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals. This meadow also provides people with the rare opportunity to walk in a beautiful natural woodland.

Joanne Rosenthal

**BC NATURE AGM 2019
ON THE PERSISTENCE
OF CYANOBACTERIA IN LAKES IN BC
DR. DAVID PREIKSHOT.**

Although this may not sound like a particularly thrilling topic, the talk was full of fascinating information, much of which was pertinent to the situation we face at Brydon Lagoon in Langley City. Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) (BGA) are native to BC although they only become problematical when temperatures rise in bodies of fresh water and consequently are increasing with global warming. *Microcystis* is the toxic species of this group and the most prevalent one. When ingested, particularly by dogs or cattle drinking contaminated water, the toxin produces abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, liver damage, kidney damage and often death.

As well as climate change, more retention of minerals in lakes from agricultural run-off and septic fields has increased the incidence of algal blooms. Phosphorus builds up in the lake sediments; increasing summer temperatures, with less rain and creeks running dry, lends to stagnant water which favours BGA buildup. A high P:N ratio also favours BGA growth.

As the BGA blooms it removes carbon dioxide from the water and, with less carbonic acid, ammonia increases and turns the water alkaline, up to pH 10 or more. Anoxic conditions, caused by dying algae on the lake bottom, liberate the fixed P in the sediment, leading to more nitrification and further growth. Mixing of the upper and lower levels of water exacerbates oxygen depletion throughout the water column. The result is dead fish, caused not

by lack of oxygen, but by damage to the gill tissue from ammonia. These conditions were seen in Brydon Lagoon during the last major fish kill.

Management recommendations include dredging the P laden sludge from the lagoon bottom as well as increased flushing of the nitrified water during water deficit periods in the summer. New nano-bubblers are better at oxygenating the water than the older more common bubblers presently in use.

Bob Puls

**BC NATURE AGM 2019
BRING BACK THE BLUEBIRDS
CENTRAL VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**



Western Bluebird

Photo: Bob Puls

Hannah Hall, the Project's Coordinator, started off her presentation by saying the aim was to bring the Western Bluebirds back to Vancouver Island - which had disappeared in 1990. Therefore, starting in 2012, they introduced two pairs of bluebirds by transporting them across the US border - from the Puget Sound area of Washington- with a lot of difficult paperwork. The newly transported birds were held inside an open caged aviary in the Garry Oak Meadows and fed mealworms for about three weeks before they were released. To encourage them to stay locally, they continued supplemental food for a while. Their usual food is mainly spiders, grasshoppers, moths, caterpillars, insects and berries and they felt there was an adequate food supply in the area of the Garry Oak meadows. As

well, because they are secondary cavity nesters, several bluebird nest boxes were installed to encourage nesting.

One of the things they discovered during the monitoring process, were that house sparrows harassed the bluebirds by pecking at them and breaking their eggs. However, by 2015, the group reported they had 47 eggs hatching with 100% survival rate. The Cowichan Naturalists took over the project's monitoring and reported there are at least 15 adults producing 42 fledglings in the various Garry Oak Meadows in the area. It was very heartening to discover that this project has been so successful and was due to a lot of hard work by over 60 naturalist volunteers.

Anne Gosse

ACOUSTIC MONITORING OF THE WESTERN SCREECH OWLS DR. DIANA TRIPP

I was interested in this AGM presentation about Western Screech Owls as I had been monitoring a Western Screech Owl in our area, along with my friend Joan Taylor, for three years. It was heard calling in the evenings and seen occasionally in a heavily wooded ravine in Walnut Grove. I had been reporting it to the new BC bird Atlas then. Unfortunately, once a large Barred owl was seen in the territory, we never heard or saw the Screech owl again. However, I heard the owl once again while monitoring the Derby Reach Houston Trail Viewing Platform, so hopefully it had moved into this area.

This owl is our own native Western Screech Owl, and is Red Listed as of "special concern" since it has been drastically declining since 1960's. Dr Diana Tripp's research was based in the Eastern Vancouver Island area near Victoria. She said they used to monitor these owls by going out in the evenings, standing for 15 minutes, in 15 different locations by listening and leaving. However, she has recently discovered a better way of monitoring which gives a great record of all the night calls. This was accomplished by asking the Madrone Environmental Services and Habitat Acquisition Trust to install "acoustic sound monitors" on trees in areas where Western Screech Owls were known to exist, to record all night long.

This resulted in some great new research data, such as increased detections of owls, expanded

knowledge of voice repertoire, nest productivity, and how often food gets delivered to young. She found that March was the most productive "calling time" for monitoring. They gained the most information while the owls were mating, nesting and raising young.

She said that Screech Owls use a variety of habitats for roosting and nesting, including nesting cavities and holes appropriated from Pileated Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers. They like to nest in thick Douglas-fir, Western Redcedars, or Big Leaf Maple, Grand Fir and Western Hemlock. Several nest boxes were built and installed made out of Western Redcedar (1" X 10") in the Western Screech Owl areas to help the species survive. This Red Listed Western Screech Owl needs our help to live into the future and she urged the installation of Western Screech Owl boxes in our BC forests.

Anne Gosse

BC NATURE AGM MT. TZOUHALEM ECOLOGICAL RESERVE



View from the Reserve

Photo: Anthea Farr

Imagine a Van Gogh or Monet painting of a flower meadow, only add in lots of pink as well as the blues and yellows, and dab a few highlights of white or cream into it. There, you have it: a wildflower meadow beneath the Garry oaks of Mt. Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve. Spectacular is another way to describe it. The pinks: sea blush & shooting stars; the blues: camas lilies; the yellows: spring gold, buttercups, balsamroot; the whites & creams: white camas & death camas lilies. Throw in warm sunshine, fabulous views, the song of a chipping sparrow, and the mood is set.

Our leader, Dave Polster, is the reserve's warden and has worked hard for many years to restore and maintain these meadows. This work has included cutting down invasive broom plants (and then covering the cut areas with tree leaves to prevent re-growth) and pruning or even removing some Douglas-fir trees to let in more light. Signage and fencing have also been important. Many locals (hikers and dog walkers) go through parts of the reserve; mountain bikers ride close to the boundaries.

The meadows exceeded all my expectations. Leaving the reserve, we climbed up a rather steep trail through a Douglas-fir forest and found two more flowering delights: naked broomrape and fairyslippers. Botany overload! I'd give this field trip 5 stars *****.

Anthea Farr

TWO MEMBERS WROTE UP THIS PROGRAMME - AND BOTH ARE PRINTED HERE FOR YOUR INTEREST:

BC NATURE AGM 2019 VANCOUVER ISLAND MARMOT RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Sally Leigh-Spencer and Adam Taylor gave us a very good presentation on the status of the VI Marmot Recovery Project. The marmots, which were native to the Schoen Valley, had gradually declined. The reasons for this decline are not fully understood but high elevation logging is one possible reason as the young marmots spreading out to new territory can become vulnerable to predation since the vegetation in the newly cleared areas grows too tall for them to be able to see predators approaching. In addition road construction for logging and other activities makes it much easier for predators such as wolves and cougars to access these areas. As a result they are now the only marmot on the endangered species list. In the late 70's and early 80's Betty McKinnon raised the alarm and pushed for protection of the marmots and was joined by other volunteers. MacMillan Bloedel and Crown Zellerbach eventually donated land for the creation of an ecological reserve. The Yellow-bellied Marmot is an issue on the Island as some have 'hitched a ride' on trucks and have to be trapped and relocated to the Interior.

By 2004 there were less than 30 VI marmots still alive so a breeding programme was established. At first the marmots did not pair up to breed and it was realised that as long as they were fed they would not hibernate, which is when they pair up and breed. Once they started hibernating, the numbers grew quickly. The first site used for release was Nanaimo Lakes and by 2012 numbers were up to 200 so the release programme was stopped. However by 2014 the population had halved due to a combination of late hibernation due, to late snow fall, and predation. In addition too many of the marmots were past prime breeding age. In the last two years the release programme was restarted and will continue for several years. Releases in Strathcona have not been as successful, likely because there were no wild ones there to "teach the ropes" to the newcomers. The bad winter of 2016 led to a 30% loss due to the there being less food available and the animals having to travel further from their burrows, thereby exposing them to predation.

Their preferred habitat is sub-alpine and alpine where they live on talus slopes, which is surprising given that such slopes are prone to slides. They hibernate from mid to late October and emerge in early May, having lost 30 to 50% of their weight. As they have to use a lot of energy de-hibernating they can starve if they do not have enough reserves to recover from this weight loss so they are fed supplements in pellet form. They only start breeding at 3-4 years of age after which they will have a litter of 3-4 pups every other year.

They play a useful role in the ecological system by digging up plants, causing them to spread, and digging burrows which provide shelter for snakes and small mammals. Some habitat enhancement is being carried out by clearing trees from marmot meadows. Monitoring is critical to making decisions as to which animals to release. If there is a lone female, then a male is introduced, but where there is a dominant male, additional females can be added. At the moment the population is much higher than it was but is still not sustainable. There is confidence that the species can recover, as there is still plenty of good habitat available.

Breeding is taking place in Calgary and Toronto Zoos and at the Mount Washington Breeding Facility and it has been found that these marmots can live for up to 14 years.

Gareth Pugh

An excellent presentation on the endangered Vancouver Island Marmot was given by Adam Taylor, the Executive Director of the Marmot Recovery Foundation and Sally Leigh-Spencer, the Cowichan Valley Naturalists' representative on the Marmot Recovery Team. This appealing, whistling small mammal, endemic to Canada, was listed by COSEWIC in 1986 as endangered and numbers have continued to decline. A Captive Breeding and Release program at the Toronto and Calgary zoos began and the population recovered. But by the early 2000's, there were only 100 Marmots remaining in the wild. After further studies, the updated Marmot Recovery Program, funded by the Marmot Recovery Foundation under the auspices of the BC Ministry of Environment, was formally established.

The reason for the dramatic decline was caused by logging, now worsened by climate change. Young marmots set out to establish a territory for themselves but they choose an available (but inappropriate) site, left after an area has been logged. Marmots need a clear area so they can watch for predators and the logged area seemed right. However, trees soon begin to regrow and marmots lost their protection. Logging also disastrously allowed a clear path for predators such as wolves and cougars to access their colonies. Also climate change is causing the tree line to move farther up mountains, making marmots' former habitats unsafe.

In conjunction with the captive breeding program and work by the Marmot Recovery Team, marmots are making a recovery. They are released regularly into the wild colonies. This release maintains genetic diversity and the releases are made in rocky tree-free landscapes the marmots need. The Recovery Team does tree culls in the older colonies, to keep them suitable for the marmots. Marmots hibernate for seven months and, to ensure they are strong enough to begin their active reproductive life, food is supplied by the team to re-emerging animals.

The marmots now have recovered to 200 animals, but they need a population of 300-400 to be fully self-sustaining. They still need support with hands on work by the Recovery Team, the captive breeding program and financial aid.

Kathy Masse

BC NATURE AGM 2019 STOLZ BLUFFS RESTORATION PROJECT



Stolz Bluffs

Photo: Gareth Pugh

World-renowned restoration specialist David Polster, a member of the Cowichan Valley Naturalists, had given us a very interesting presentation on the first evening on the use of natural materials to halt erosion. The following day he led us on a tour to an ongoing project at Stolz Bluffs in Cowichan River Provincial Park. We were joined by Jennifer Sibbald from the BC Conservation staff and walked along the river to the bluffs, which are composed of a sandy material and are continuously sliding down to the river. The Balsam Poplar (Cottonwood), abundant in the area, grows very readily when a piece is inserted into the ground. As we walked along the river Dave, showed us where pieces of Poplar had been driven into the edge of the bank and were already growing, thereby creating stability and stopping the erosion caused by the fast flowing river. The same system is being used to stabilise the bluffs. Poplar is the most suitable material to use as, unlike other trees, it will keep growing roots from the trunk as more soil slides down, thereby bonding the soil and preventing it from sliding further.

We then walked down river to see a large bend where substantial erosion had taken place but is now stabilised by driving Poplar stakes driven horizontally into the bank. The other thing that is done, which is most important, is to break up the soil 20 feet back from the bank. When it rains, the water will flow across hard ground, eroding weak spots as it goes, but if the ground is broken up, the water will seep into the ground and dissipate without causing surface damage. This was a very interesting trip and showed us how, instead of spending large sums of money importing rocks for

rip-rap or making concrete retaining walls which are much more expensive and also require depletion of gravel and other materials, using a local freely available and self-sustaining resource makes much more sense.

Gareth Pugh

BC NATURE AGM 2019 STONEY HILL HIKE



Stoney Hill bluffs

Photo: Gareth Pugh

Our group carpooled to the trailhead parking lot to join Diana Aldcroft for our hike on what is a very popular 3.2 km circular route in Stoney Hill Regional Park. There were several birders in the group so our leader, who was obviously used to hiking at a good speed, had to stop periodically to allow the laggards to catch up. The trail starts in lower elevation evergreen forest where we heard and saw several different species and one of us located a Red-breasted Sapsucker nest in a dead tree near the trail. As we walked, the 'sharp ears' among us located five different warbler species, a Cassin's Vireo and a number of Pacific-slope Flycatchers. Various spring flowers were found, including carpets of Shooting Stars beneath the pine trees, as we climbed up to the rocky bluffs that overlook Sansum Narrows and Saltspring Island. Two Turkey Vultures took off from the cliffs below us. Arbutus is the predominant tree on these rocky areas, interspersed with pines, so we found a nice variety of lichens and mosses as we continued on the trail and made our way back to the trailhead. Another great walk arranged by our hosts in beautiful weather.

Gareth Pugh

BC NATURE AGM 2019 SOMENOS MARSH WALK

On Saturday morning, I enjoyed a field trip to the Somenos Marsh, which is part of the larger Somenos Conservation Area, located close to Duncan. This beautiful area is managed by the Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society (SMWS), established in 1986 by the Cowichan Valley Naturalists. The Society has worked since then by acquiring more land and restoring the habitat, to produce this accessible site for residents to enjoy and learn about the importance of a marsh. Our leaders were members of the Wildlife Society, Elizabeth Aitken and David Preikshot.



Entrance to Somenos Marsh

Photo: Kathy Masse

We began our walk on the Open Air Classroom boardwalk, an elevated system that goes through the Marsh, featuring 2 viewing platforms. We stopped at both viewing platforms where our leaders explained the history of the area. Records have shown that First Nations inhabited the area for 4,000 years. When Europeans arrived in the 19th century, the area was drained and used for agriculture until it was recognized as an important ecological area. The area is especially significant because it is an overwintering Trumpeter Swan site. We looked over the marsh which was filled with vegetation and our leaders explained that the area is flooded in the winter, attracting swans and other waterfowl. It was acclaimed an Important Bird Area in 1986, managed by SMWS. The marsh is an important Coho watershed, and has over 200 bird species. Bob Puls listed 18 species on our walk. The most interesting was a Red-breasted Sapsucker, who posed very closely to us on a post so we could have a really good look!



The new wetland at Somenos Marsh Photo: Kathy Masse

As we exited the boardwalk, we stopped to admire the beautiful field of blooming Camas and Sea Spray in the Garry Oaks Protected Area. We finished our trip by walking to a new wetland that SMWS is constructing and is partially complete. The purpose of the new wetland is not only to absorb nearby pollution produced by industry but to provide shade and habitat for more wildlife. As we walked back to our cars, we observed the Tree Swallows sitting on nest boxes provided along the fence.

Kathy Masse

BC NATURE AGM KAYAKING IN MAPLE BAY



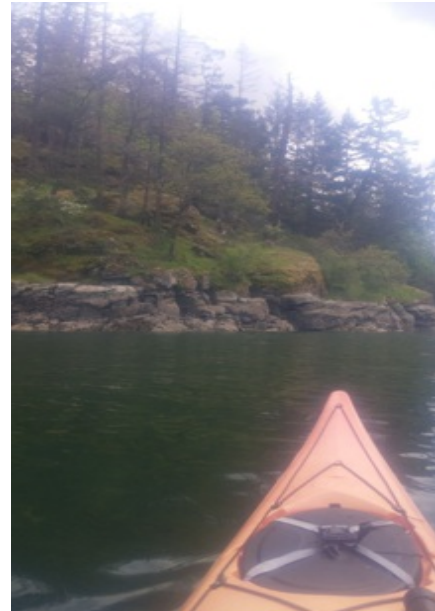
Ready to go kayaking

Photo: Lisa Dreves

Exploring nature from a kayak can't be beat. You get to silently cruise along the edge habitat of forests, take in breath-taking views of the ocean and mountains, look down into shallow marine habitats, and when you get too hot from all that paddling, you get to take a relaxing dip in the ocean. Okay, so I didn't intentionally take a dip in the ocean... I might have doubled over backwards

and made a rather large splash and then loud gurgling noises as I was coming back up for air with the grace of a drowning camel. But before falling in the water, the paddling adventure was gorgeous. We saw sea stars, kingfisher, otter, sea thrift, hidden coves, arbutus covered bluffs and amazing views. Maple Bay is a beautiful place to explore; two and a half hours wasn't nearly enough time - though my brief "dip" in the ocean from my legs buckling under me from sitting so long might say the trip was just long enough.

Lisa Dreves



Before the swim!

Photo: Lisa Dreves

BC NATURE AGM EVES PARK

Eves Park is a little known gem in the Cowichan Valley rated as a Class C Provincial Park (so it isn't taken care of like the other parks but is possibly more beautiful). The walk was led by the Cowichan Valley Docents, a group of individuals that are dedicated to ensuring children are inspired by nature, especially this beautiful park. Our group was broken up into smaller groups and we were encouraged to view the park and the interpretive activities through the eyes of the children that are usually inspired by this space. The park offers many habitats for the docents to teach children about: bluffs, secondary forests, exploratory mining cave and rehabilitation area where the old homestead used to be. Beyond the park, the docent program is an incredible model that we could look at bringing to Langley to get kids out into parks and inspire a love of nature.

Lisa Dreves

3-NIGHT FIELD TRIP TO OLIVER, BC MAY 7TH TO 10TH, 2019



NkMip Cultural Centre

Photo: Gareth Pugh

Nineteen members of Langley, White Rock and Delta clubs travelled to Oliver for a three night visit. Some opted to travel direct but twelve of us met at Bob Puls' house to travel in convoy. We stopped for a quick break and coffee refills at Manning Park Lodge where the ground squirrels were already active and lots of hummingbirds, swifts and swallows were flying around. A bonus bird was the Red-naped Sapsucker that posed very nicely for us right outside the lodge. Some of us stopped for lunch as we drove down through the Similkameen Valley and arrived at the Cactus Tree Inn in Oliver in the early afternoon. We visited the Visitor Information Centre before taking a walk along the Okanagan River in delightfully warm sunny weather. Some decided to walk on and left the birding contingent to slowly make their way, taking great delight in the various birds, flowers and even one or two butterflies. There were a lot of Elm trees along the trail which Liz told us were invasive Chinese Elms and we also saw a lot of Poison Ivy, a dry climate plant that we do not see at home. The birders' highlight was finding a pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers and also a pair of Flickers nesting in a dead tree which kept the photographers busy. After a very enjoyable supper at the NkMip Golf Course, four of us took a stroll along the river where we found a foraging Skunk and saw lots of bats of at least three species, judging by the different sizes. The following morning we left at 9 am for a visit to the South Okanagan Raptor Rehabilitation Centre (SORCO) and the adjacent Burrowing Owl breeding facility. The Chairman, Dave Whitton, gave us an excellent in-depth tour of both facilities which share the same property. We had good views of one Burrowing Owl which we were allowed to photograph but we were only

allowed to view the breeding pens from a distance so as not to upset the birds. We were then shown around SORCO'S facility, beginning with the operating theatre where injured birds are assessed and treated for their injuries and kept in darkened cages until they recover enough to enter the recovery rooms. At the time of our visit there were two baby Great Horned Owls in each of the four rooms which we were able to look at. Dave explained that once the owls have grown their flight feathers, they can be transferred to the flight cage and once they have learned to fly can be released in the area where they were found. From there he took us to the flight cage where a young Bald eagle was learning to fly again after having a broken wing repaired. Dave told us how this bird was not expected to fly again as it had developed arthritis in the damaged joint but that they had developed a new physiotherapy programme which had worked well so that the bird will soon be able to be released. Our visit ended with the rat-rearing facility where rats are raised to provide (dead) food for the birds. The rats are fed a special diet so that they have very large litters and everything is very clean and well-maintained.



Along the Okanagan river

Photo: Bob Puls

SORCO takes in injured birds from an area that extends from the North Okanagan to the US border and from Princeton to Grand Forks. They have an army of volunteers trained to handle sick birds who will transport them to SORCO. We thanked Dave for the great tour and headed to Vaseux Lake, stopping on the way to look at a small herd of Bighorn Sheep ewes and lambs on the cliffs along the roadside. At the lake we walked to the observation tower where the Marsh Wrens entertained us, then retraced our steps and headed to McIntyre Canyon. There we searched unsuccessfully for Canyon wrens and Chukar but

did stop to look at some pictographs and talk to a member of the local band. He told us about the legend of the Split Rock which stood nearby and the spiritual importance of this area to his people. From there, the most avid birders headed for White Lake to look for a reported Avocet while the rest visited the Mahoney Lake Ecological Reserve for a hike through the open Ponderosa Pine forest. We passed a couple of small lakes and found a variety of birds and flowers and even a Yellow-bellied Marmot sitting on top of the rocks.



White Lake grasslands

Photo: Bob Puls

Thursday morning we left early to visit the NkMip Cultural Centre in Osoyoos. After watching a short video, we joined our guide Dyawen Louis who was only 21 years old but extremely knowledgeable. He led us on a two hour walk through the desert, telling us about the different plants and how each one fits into the ecological system and how the First Nations people used many of them for food and medicinal purposes. He showed us the different dwellings that were used in summer and winter and also the sweat house which he had experienced so that he could tell us about it. He took us into a pit house where he showed us a Black Widow spider in the roof and answered the many questions fired at him. We decided to take our lunch break at Swiws (formerly Haynes Point) Provincial Park, where we were only able to see a small part of the marsh area as the bridge was closed for repair. For the afternoon Joanne took a group for a winery tour while the birders headed to the popular Road 22 which is usually a birding hotspot. This time many of the birds were having a siesta, although Bob and

Terry were kept busy photographing the plentiful butterflies along the river trail.



Western Bluebird

Photo: Bob Puls

Friday morning we packed up and made our way to the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area. Western Bluebirds and swallows using the nest boxes along the trail were easy to view at close range, Vesper Sparrows were singing everywhere and we came across a Killdeer doing the broken wing display. We found the nest with one egg in it right in the middle of the trail, which we all quickly looked at before moving on. Despite valiant attempts by Wim, Terry and others, the Avocet was not to be seen. This was more than compensated for by one of our party who spotted an eagle "sitting in a bush" on top of a cliff above the trail. It was actually a Golden Eagle sitting on the cliff behind the bush and it took off over our heads showing the unmistakable markings of a juvenile bird. As we walked on, another eagle flew off the cliff and disappeared over the lake. We found a number of different ducks on the lake and lots of butterflies flying among the sage brush and Masae had a brief glimpse of a Sharp-tailed Grouse as we walked back to the cars.

What a great way to spend a few days with like-minded people in a lovely part of our Province in such lovely weather. The general consensus of the group was that the highlights of the trip were the SORCO and NkMip tours plus the opportunity to see species of flora and fauna which we do not find at home. Most of us saw some new species of plants, birds and butterflies that we had not seen before. We counted over 100 species of birds and a number of butterflies as follows: Silvery Blue, American Copper, Mourning Cloak, Ringlet, Old World Swallowtail.

Gareth Pugh

ON LICHENS

Lichens, it seems to me, are some of nature's most interesting living "things". We can't call them species because lichens are composed of (at least) a fungal partner and an algal partner. A Fungus cannot make its own food and must obtain it from dead or living organisms. The algal partner (green) manufactures food. Other organisms may be involved in certain lichens (e.g. blue-green algae (Nostoc). It is wise to appreciate lichens for a number of important reasons:

- a) Their use by wildlife either as food (deer, caribou) or as nesting materials for birds. For example, our local hummingbirds use wax paper lichen as part of their nest, a process called shingling – a *Parmelia*, spp. seem to be local hummingbird favourites.
- b) Lichens are used to monitor air quality (e.g. the L.E.P.S project).
- c) Medicinals are derived from certain lichens – an area of much research.
- d) Human food – rock tripe is an example of an "edible" lichen. Some, however, are very toxic (e.g. Wolf lichen).

Lichens have nothing to do with mosses, although some bear the word 'moss' as part of the name (e.g. reindeer moss). Lichens come in four basic forms:



A "Crustose" lichen, one of four "forms"
Photo: Al Grass

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Crustose | 2. Foliose |
| 3. Fruticose | 4. Dust |

A good quality hand lens (at least 10 X) and an up-to-date field guide will make lichen "watching" much more enjoyable. Did you know that there are certain moths whose caterpillars feed on lichens – it is true.

Al Grass

Reference: Vitt, D. et.al. 1998. *Mosses, Lichens and Ferns of Northwest North America*. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, 296 pp.

MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ JUNE 14-16, 2019

Manning's diverse mix of coastal, mountain, and interior climates support a huge variety of birds — over 200 species. June is a great time to visit the park, when forests are alive with a riot of birds noisily advertising for mates and defending territory. This, combined with the park's extensive network of scenic trails, makes Manning a paradise for birders!

Established in 1983, the Manning Park Bird Blitz is one of BC's longest-running bird counts. The event provides a vital service to Manning Park — birders are helping to build a database that now spans over 30 years, giving biologists a better picture of the park's changing species diversity over time.

Lone Duck Campgrounds 1 & 2,
E.C. Manning Provincial Park
Cost:

- * Full Weekend Birder – \$60
- * Day Birder (with Saturday BBQ & Guest Speaker) – \$50
- * Day Birder – \$30
- * Young Birder – FREE (18 yrs and under, accompanied by an adult).

Note: Rooms at Manning Resort are in short supply and bookings should be made as soon as possible if you're looking for that option.

Information and register:

Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning
PO Box 115
Hope, BC V0X 1L0
Phone: 604-869-1274
Email: info@hopemountain.org



Sub-alpine meadows, Manning Park Photo: Bob Puls

PROGRAMMES

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

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH

WEST COAST /EAST COAST: BIRDING THE UK

JOHN GORDON



Robin

Photo: John Gordon

Join John for a quick tour around the UK to some of his favourite birding locations, including Slimbridge Wetland Wildlife Reserve near Slimbridge in Gloucestershire, England. It is midway between Bristol and Gloucester on the eastern side of the estuary of the River Severn. The reserve, set up by the artist and naturalist Sir Peter Scott, opened in November 1946.

Also visit Minsmere RSPB in Lincolnshire which is blessed with a variety of freshwater habitats; Frampton Marsh provides close views of the abundant birdlife of The Wash, one of Europe's most special places for wildlife. Avocets, redshanks, skylarks and whimbrels can all be seen in summer, with thousands of ducks gathering on the freshwater scrapes in winter.

SATURDAY JULY 27TH

10am to 4pm
rain or shine

SUMMER SOCIAL AND NATURE WALKS



At the GRASS SHACK,
17375 27A Avenue, Surrey

Bird watching in the backyard,
and/or a guided walk

at 10:30 am & 1:30 pm



Bring a chair, binoculars & camera
and savory or sweet to share.

(Let Jude know what you are bringing
so we have a good variety)

Please RSVP to Jude at judegrass@shaw.ca
or 604-219-2043

*Instruction for finding the Grass Shack
sent out when you RSVP*

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING WALKS FOR JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2019

Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place. Please call for more information or 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). 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 calls are received then the leader will not show up.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3RD

BLAAUW ECO-FOREST

LEADER: CHRISTOPHER HALL

Time: 6:30 pm at 8640 – 257A Street

Take 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. Phone 604-805-2162 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH

WESTERN TOADS, THEIR FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

LEADERS: CHRISTY JUTEAU AND RYAN USENIK

Time: 6:30 pm at A Rocha, 1620 – 192nd Street

Join Christy and Ryan to view and learn about on site projects A Rocha is involved in. Also learn about their work with a local Western Toad breeding colony. If nature cooperates we hope to view migrating Toads. If the migration is late we will notify participants when it starts and where to view it. Phone 604 530-3257 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH

BRYDON LAGOON

LEADERS: AL GRASS & LISA DREVES

Time: 6:30 pm at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street, Langley

With Al and Lisa, do a bio-inventory around Brydon Lagoon. This will be an event for all ages, a low-key opportunity to collect data, where everyone can join in to see how many living things they can identify. Phone 604-219-2043 or 604 532-0081 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH

BAT WALK

LEADER: KIRK MILES

Time: 8:30 pm on 53rd Avenue at 184th Street

We hope to see large numbers of bats emerging from their day-time roost. Parking is available on 53rd Avenue. Bring chairs if you wish, there is an easy walk on a paved road to the viewing area. We expect to see endangered Little Brown Bats and Yuma bats which should begin flying at around 9:10 pm; expect to see several hundred. Phone 604-512-4631 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST

DEREK DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM

LEADER: KEITH CHRYSSTALL

Time: 6:30 pm in the parking Lot in the 21200 Block Fraser Highway

An opportunity to view the new Derek Doubleday Arboretum that the Township of Langley is developing, the home of the LEPS demonstration garden and the new trails connecting Derek Doubleday Arboretum and McLeod Athletic Park. Phone 604-427-3697 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH

WEST CREEK WETLANDS

LEADER: LISA DREVES

Time: 6:30 pm on the south side of 72nd Avenue approximately 400 metres west of 264th Street. Parking is available on the north side of 72nd Avenue.

Take an evening walk through the woods to the lake where beaver are usually seen. Phone 604-532-0081 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14TH

WILLIAMS PARK

LEADER: JOANNE ROSENTHAL

Time: 6:30 pm in the gravel parking lot at the park entrance, 6595 – 238th Street

Enjoy 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. Phone 604-455-0116 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21ST

FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY

LEADER: RYAN USENIK

Time: 6:30 pm at 2705 – 232nd Street

Ryan will lead 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 and part woodland. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking in open fields and natural woodland trails. Phone 604-530-3257 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH

CYPRESS PARK AND YEW LAKE

LEADER: AL GRASS

Time: 9:30 am in the Cypress Bowl Parking lot at the info kiosk. Parking fee in effect.

The easy walking trail passes alongside Cypress Creek and subalpine meadows to Yew Lake and remnant old-growth forest. If trail conditions permit, we might also hike up the new section of the Howe Sound Crest Trail to the viewpoint. Bring lunch, water, protective clothing for changing mountain weather, and wear sturdy shoes/boots. This will be a leisurely outing with time for photography and birding. Phone 604-219-2043 for info or to let us know to expect you.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

JACKMAN WETLANDS PARK

LEADER: TOM WILDEBOER

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

Walk the trails in 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 carried out. Phone 604-530-2633 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

BRAE ISLAND

LEADER: PHIL HENDERSON

Time: 9:00 am at Brae Island Regional Park 9451 Glover Road, Fort Langley

Join Phil to walk the trails around this popular Regional Park. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments. Phone 604-888-1571 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

FALL FUNGI, MUSHROOMS AND MORE

LEADER: AL GRASS

Time: 9:30 am in the Park Entrance Parking lot (just past the goat)

Bring lunch as we will finish at the Alouette Lake Day use area. We will walk the Spirea Nature Trail and the Lower Falls trails in search of fungi and more. Phone 604-219-2043 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

O.W.L. AND BOUNDARY BAY DIKE

LEADER: ANNE GOSSE

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

We start with 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. Phone 604-888-1787 for information or to let us know to expect you.