



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

C/o Secretary, 203-9018 208th Street, Langley, BC, V1M 2Y8

www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org

e-mail: langleyfieldnaturalists@shaw.ca

Newsletter

March 2014

THE GREAT GRAY OWL TWITCH February 10th 2014 Tynehead Regional Park, Surrey



Great Gray Owl

Photo: John Gordon

Rain and more rain.

After days of blue sky and sun, the rains normally associated with winter returned to British Columbia. Initially I had hoped to catch up with a few chores but when the news of a Great Gray Owl sighting surfaced, those plans were suddenly scuttled. As I had never seen one before, I decided to make my way over to the park. Despite it being only fifteen minutes away from home, it was a location I had never visited.

I spent the morning walking the trails, peering at every branch and bush but to no avail. Perhaps twenty or so photographers and birders were also looking. At noon I went home cold, hungry

and wet and without a sighting. No sooner had I arrived home than my phone rang with the news that the owl had been spotted. With no time to eat I headed back to the park, by which time the rain was coming down in buckets and the light was failing.

Thanks to the generosity of other birders, I was able to capture some images. Just to see the bird sitting up in the Alders was breathtaking: such a magnificent creature and a 'lifer' to boot!

From the pathway and from a respectable distance, a group of us watched the owl for over an hour. Due to the heavy rain the bird was quite wet and occasionally would shake its head sending spray everywhere. The owl was perched above a small glade or opening that was surrounded by alders, large fir trees and some Himalayan blackberry bushes. This made the perfect hunting environment for rodents, rabbits and other prey.

Finally it was time for the bird to hunt and off it went to a nearby branch. With it now being partially hidden and with the light failing, it was time to head back to the car and home.

John Gordon



Douglas Squirrel at Tynehead Park

Photo: John Gordon

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2013-2014 DIRECTORS

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- Young Naturalists Club: Anthea Farr
604-576-7731 ~ YNCNicomekl@gmail.com
- Member Participation Committee: Joanne Rosenthal
604-455-0116 ~ jrrose77@yahoo.com

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 Executive members' homes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Just as we thought winter was over, with just a short cold snap in January, here we are back again in snow. Quite a shock for the snowdrops which were in full bloom when winter reappeared.

Birds have flocked into the feeders and the overwintering Anna's hummingbirds would be waiting for the feeders in the morning before I had time to hang them up.

Not long now, with the days lengthening, before the wildflowers burst into bloom and the spring migration of birds commences. As usual Anne has put together a strong list of field trips, so please support her and attend as many as you can.

It was great that Gareth has been able to bring Al Grass out to Mountain View for a couple of moss and lichen identification trips. This is a great time of year for looking at the mosses as they are just now producing their fruiting bodies (sporangia) which are crucial for identification.

Remember that 'birders' are only 1% naturalists.

Bob Puls



© JOHN GORDON PHOTOGRAPHY
Short-eared Owl in a snowstorm

Photo: John Gordon

Friday February 21st GOLDEN EAGLE QUEST Chilliwack



American Kestrel

Photo: John Gordon

After waiting for all participants to arrive at our meeting spot, seventeen people and six cars finally drove off in a convoy along the farm roads of Sumas Prairie. Even though we trolled the farm districts on this cold, sunny day, stopping many times to scan and search, our Golden Eagle Quest was not successful. However, remember on Indiana Jones's adventures, most of the fun was in the chase and the search - and so it was for us this day! Thus, like the mythological bird the phoenix, our target bird remained elusive; however, John assured us he had photographed him a few days earlier. A very cold wind was blowing which may have kept all raptors low and hidden as we tried to find Rough-legged Hawks and Gyrfalcons as well.

Nevertheless, everyone had a very enjoyable day while sighting approximately 22 different species of birds from the comfort of our cars. A few Red-tailed Hawks, (one Harlan's phase Red-tailed Hawk was pointed out), two Northern Harriers, a Merlin, many American Kestrels and lots of Bald Eagles. Flocks of Mallards rose up from the sloughs; a group of Meadowlarks were seen and heard calling. An American Kestrel at the Heronry gave us a fantastic display of hovering - showing off his wonderful markings and colours. After much fun and excitement, we finished our day in the warmth of the Chilliwack Heronry where the ladies gave us hot tea and coffee and a nice place to sit while we ate our lunch.

Our thanks go to John for a great fun search and now we know where to go look for this wonderful bird again.

Anne Gosse

Saturday January 18th WEST DYKE TRAIL, Terra Nova, Richmond

Four Hawks and a Falcon Day! Pleasant dry weather welcomed the 12 of us to the West Dyke Park and as a wonderful bonus, it was not too cold, foggy or windy! Yipee!

Again this year, a gaggle of white Snow Geese guarded the park's entrance, congregating on the park's lawn to feed and chatter. The parking lot was full of Red-winged Blackbirds, along with Song Sparrows, Golden-crowned Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Towhees, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Chickadees, with lots of Blue Herons and Bald Eagles sitting or soaring around nearby.

We came across several exciting sightings on our amble about this lovely area with our leader Gareth. Along the trails we found a Northern Harrier, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Cooper's Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk and two Peregrine Falcons who gave us exciting views! Another special treat was spotted by our youngest member, Jessica, of a Snipe sleeping out in the open and we were all able to get good views through our scopes.

We spotted two Anna's Hummingbirds in the garden; a little later a Virginia Rail, a Marsh Wren and several Northern Flickers were recorded. We scoped several duck species on the ponds and water: Northern Pintails, American Wigeons, Green-winged Teals, Mallards, Hooded Mergansers, and Buffleheads. This rounded out our species count to a total of 36 for the day. It felt wonderful to be outdoors and enjoying nature in the fresh air once again! Our thanks to Gareth for leading us on a very enjoyable outing!

Anne Gosse



Gareth spotting for the birds

Photo: Anne Gosse

**Wednesday Feb 12th
WINTER BOTANY FIELD TRIP
Campbell Valley Regional Park**



Wax paper lichen (Parmelia, sp.), Campbell Valley Regional Park. Photo: Al Grass

The weather was ideal for our winter botany adventure. Winter is a wonderful time to enjoy and appreciate the fine diversity of lichens, mosses and liverworts in the park. We explored the Little River Loop Trail, discovering beautiful lichens including ragbag, wax paper, pencil script, antlered perfume, hooded rosette, several *cladonia, spp.* and a beard (*usnea, sp.*).

Along with lichens, we enjoyed learning about the park's diverse moss and liverwort flora such as cat-tail, Lyell's bristle - moss, Oregon beaked moss and *porella, sp.*, one of the liverworts.

Thanks to Phil Henderson and Anthea Farr for their help.

Al Schulze (WRSN) made sure we didn't miss birds like a beautiful Pileated Woodpecker seen up close. To help you enjoy mosses, liverworts and lichens, you'll need a good field guide like *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast* by J. Pojar and A. MacKinnon (Lone Pine). The lichens chapter in this guide is by Trevor Goward, noted lichen specialist. You will also need a good quality 10X or 15X hand lens to see important details for identification.

Al Grass

Mark your calendars now for the

**LFN SUMMER SOCIAL
Saturday July 26th
at the Grass Shack!**

**ATTENTION WHITE ROCK & SURREY,
DELTA & LANGLEY NATURALISTS'
CLUBS!**

BIRD WATCHING CRUISE ON THE SALISH SEA

Tour departs from the
Alaska Ferry Terminal in Bellingham, WA.

WEDNESDAY JULY - 9TH, 2014

**Costs \$96.74 US dollars
including tax & lunch**

8 hour cruise - 9:00 am till 5:00 pm

If interested please call or email -
Anne Gosse - 604-888-1787, corkie1@shaw.ca

***We can only take eight from each club
so it is first call, first served.***

Please call early and book!!

Payment due by June 1st

View an amazing variety of birds while we cruise to four different areas, each with a fascinating and diverse variety of common and seasonal birds. Our captain and professional naturalists will help you spot the wide variety of birds that you'll see on this cruise. We will be looking for Tufted Puffins, Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets and Common Murres, along with many other birds along the southern coast of Lopez and San Juan Islands.

The cruise also includes a delicious, freshly baked lasagne lunch (meat and veggie available), along with a Caesar salad, garlic bread and a brownie for dessert.

Bring your binoculars, a camera, sun screen and jacket/windbreaker. The Salish Sea has plenty of indoor seating, as well as ample outdoor viewing areas on two levels of the boat.

ABOUT THE NATURALISTS ON BOARD:

VICTORIA SOUZE is a Marine Naturalist, member of the Salish Sea Marine Naturalists Association (SSMNA), Education Director of Whatcom Marine Mammal Stranding Network (WMMSN).

VICTOR BURGETT is an enthusiastic local birdwatcher / naturalist who has been chasing birds for a quarter of a century, throughout the United States and internationally.

More details from Anne Gosse.

A VISIT TO FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN



Great Egret Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

Last year I watched a TV documentary about the Fairchild Tropical Garden. The show explained how rare mango cuttings collected from the tropics are propagated in South Florida. The Fairchild website explained it is one of the top botanical gardens in the world. I had to add Fairchild to my "must see" list.

In January my husband Ralph and I treated ourselves to a Caribbean cruise and a short stay in South Florida. We included a visit to Fairchild Garden. It is located about 35 minutes south of Miami near Coral Gables. Fairchild also has a farm and outreach centre located near Homestead. I didn't have time to visit the farm.

Fairchild's mission revolves around saving and conserving tropical plant diversity. The site is an 83 acre paradise! The paths wind through many themed gardens. There are many specimens from all over the world, including an extensive selection of palms, cyclads, tropical flowers, trees, vines and fruits. Many of the specimens are rare or endangered. There is a bird walk, Butterfly pavilion (with hatchery/lab), Science centre, several arboretums and trails that follow streams and lakes.



Brown Owl Butterfly
Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

A visit begins with a 1 hour guided tram tour which stops briefly at some of the areas mentioned above. After your tram ride, you can get off where you please for in depth exploration. And don't worry about walking or getting thirsty. There are shaded benches and water stations all through the gardens. When you get tired of walking, one of the volunteers simply radios for a golf cart. Another volunteer picks you up and takes you to the next area you want to explore. Along the way your driver points out rare species or points of interest. It's just like having a private tour. The volunteers are experts and wonderful garden ambassadors. I was amazed to find out this was all included in the admission price.

We visited the Rainforest Garden which follows a winding stream through tropical palms, orchids, lush foliage and waterfalls. Then a visit to the butterfly pavilion to see tropical butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. I had the pleasure of releasing several newly hatched Butterflies.

I asked one of the volunteers how to find the "bird walk". She told me to wait while she took her golf cart back to the visitor centre. She soon returned with a bird walk guide and laminated identification pamphlet. Fairchild even has binoculars you can borrow! We didn't see many small birds since it was mid day but we did see Anhingas, Vultures (Turkey and Black), Tricoloured Heron, White Ibis, Egrets (Great,Cattle,Snowy), Hill Mynah, Belted Kingfisher, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Green Parrots. In one of the picnic areas, I enjoyed watching a flock of White Ibis scurrying about after prey on the lawn.

Since I'm also a "foodie", another highlight was the edible garden and fruit pavilion. We saw banana, mango, papaya, vanilla, cacao, avocado, tamarind, coffee, spices and many edible plants. I also enjoyed the desert and cacti garden walk. Then an 80 year old African Baobab tree beckoned me. I sat in the shade of this wonderful tree and imagined what it could tell me if trees could talk. Sadly, it was time to leave this wonderful place.

If you plan a trip to Florida I highly recommend a day at Fairchild Garden. If you are an armchair traveller or want more information check out [their website www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org)

Joanne Rosenthal

DOCUMENTING AND CONSERVING BARN SWALLOWS

British Columbia and the Lower Mainland are rich in natural diversity and birds are an important component of this diversity. However, many bird species have declined, even disappeared, from former suitable habitats. Much of this change has been documented by naturalists, with the objective of helping to conserve the area's biodiversity. One of Canada's formerly most common birds, the Barn Swallow, continues to decline. Breeding Bird Survey data from 1970 to 2009 indicate an overall decline of 76% and a decline of 30% from 1999 to 2009.

So you may wonder, what can I do to slow, stop, and reverse this change? I'll be the first to admit that it's not an easy problem to solve. However, I'm also an optimist and believe that each of us has the ability to take actions that can sustain and enhance our local biodiversity. This document outlines one such positive action, which I hope you will appreciate, and/or become involved with directly.

The goal is to obtain knowledge about the population and distribution of Barn Swallows and to encourage shared stewardship of the species and its habitat. This project will be undertaken from spring 2014 to fall 2015 and possibly beyond. Its objectives are to:

- 1 assess the status and distribution of Barn Swallows and their important habitats.
- 2 conduct research to better understand their use of nesting sites to inform future stewardship actions.
- 3 construct, monitor, and maintain nesting structures and educational signs in suitable habitats.
- 4 collaborate with a diversity of partners to foster appreciation of the species and cooperation in conservation actions and long-term stewardship.
- 5 strengthen conservation and stewardship activities around Barn Swallow habitats for the benefit of associated species of concern.

Actions associated with this project will focus on the Lower Mainland region of southwestern BC where Barn Swallows are most common. However, the involvement of others elsewhere in BC is strongly encouraged. Achieving the project's goal and objectives will be a voluntary and collaborative effort.

To assess the status and distribution of Barn Swallows, surveys, monitoring and research will be



Barn Swallow

Photo: John Gordon

completed between April 15th and September 15th, with a primary focus on June and July, the peak breeding period. Surveys will focus on suitable habitats. Baseline data (e.g., known nesting sites, historical observations) will be used to guide survey efforts. The number of areas surveyed and monitored will depend on available volunteer

support. Surveys will be performed by walking, cycling or driving in suitable habitats, and likely involve some stand watches (point counts) at certain locations.

Volunteers are being sought to help with the following activities: coordinate and/or undertake field surveys; monitor active nesting sites (e.g., number and location of nests, reproductive success); assist with nest-site enhancement; conduct research (e.g., document the location, distance travelled, and habitat being used at active nest sites); and help with administrative tasks. Surveys, monitoring and research will be conducted at least once per month, ideally with more work being undertaken in June and July. Standard field forms will be used and training will be provided prior to field work. Volunteers will be responsible for entering field data into an online database.

Inventory, monitoring and research will greatly enhance our understanding of the status of Barn Swallows and inform future stewardship actions. Specifically, information collected will contribute to recovery planning and implementation for Barn Swallow by government agencies and other stakeholders (e.g., under Canada's Species at Risk Act) and provide a basis for future monitoring and management actions to conserve and enhance Barn Swallows and their habitats. Nesting sites and/or overwintering habitats for Cliff Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Owl, and Short-eared Owl are also of interest.

This project is being conducted in collaboration with diverse partners, including the general public, naturalist groups, government agencies, public institutions, and private businesses.

If you would like to find out more about this project, submit known nest and roost sighting information, be a survey and research volunteer, or help in any other way (e.g., inform others about the project), please contact me at suncity28@gmail.com

Greg Ferguson, Project Coordinator
Registered Professional Biologist, B.Sc.

**OWLING NIGHT
FRIDAY JANUARY 31ST
CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK**

It was perfect "owling" weather - crisp, cool, with a brilliant starry sky. The constellation Orion seemed to be watching over us. It did not take long for a Barred Owl to respond to recordings. It first flew over us and settled in a tree - out of sight, but not sound as it's "who cooks for you ..." echoed around us.

Some folks also heard a Saw-whet Owl calling in the 'back woods'.

It's a fine night of owling when they "give a hoot"....

Thanks to all.

Al Grass

Field Trip Co-ordinator Report:

A crystal clear display of shining stars in the heavens above greeted us on a cold, dry night. Twelve naturalists gathered in the darkness with flashlights, warm clothes and a readiness for an adventure. The big white moon hung low. The extravaganza above us was just so awesome it took our breath away! The bright and glistening skies featured our "winter circle" of stars - such as Orion the Hunter, the Big Dipper, plus several other bright and glittering pinpoints - and perhaps even a few far off galaxies.

The wonders continued as we carried on to spend a very special evening conversing with a Barred Owl! We glimpsed him silently gliding into the meadow and perching amongst some cedar boughs. We then heard him coo, chatter, screech, "who cooks for you" and call back and forth to our group for a very long time. He ran through the whole gamut of his owl calls for us privileged listeners.



Barred Owl

Photo: Al Grass

We finished off our evening hearing a Saw-whet Owl as we wound our way back in the dark to the parking lot. It was another amazing evening and thanks to Al for leading us.

Anne Gosse

**DERBY REACH / BRAE ISLAND
BIRD COUNT**



Ready to go birding

Photo: Sheila Puls on Anne Gosse's camera

February 1st marked the 5th annual DRBIPPA bird count within Metro Vancouver parks near Fort Langley. Once again a chipper gaggle of irrepressible bird enthusiasts braved the cold weather and cloudy skies - which sure beats rain - to count the birds in the local parks. Generally, participants felt that things were rather quiet, but the totals weren't all bad and everyone seemed to have fun, which is the main goal.

On the next page are a couple of tables that help to tell the tale of the day and how things compare to other years. As Bob Puls noted, Pine Siskins were conspicuous by their absence but they have a tendency towards avoidance or to show up in great numbers, chattering and flaunting their feathers like birder groupies. Waterfowl that don't like loafing on fields or swimming in the murky Fraser had a tough time of it as all water bodies were frozen. The first Northern Harrier observed for this count dazzled the desperate to be dazzled group that ventured through the bog. Only a small part of the Houston loop was covered this year, but that was pretty good considering it was done by an eager group that had already completed a full survey of the east end of the Fort to Fort Trail. Mind you, it was near dark when they returned and organizers would have been worried if it weren't for the fine distractions of birder chatter, hot cross buns, hot coffee in cozy digs in the St. George's Anglican Church.

Thanks again to the church and to Sheila and Bob Puls for arranging things. A special thanks to Sheila for cheerfully entering all the data. And thanks to DRBIPPA for providing monies to cover the refreshments.

One more thanks to all those who participated and made it plenty of fun. I hope to see you next year.

Phil Henderson

DERBY REACH / BRAE ISLAND BIRD COUNT STATISTICS

Species	# Surveys recorded	Number of observations						Total Birds
		Area 1 Houston Tr.	Area 2 Brae Island	Area 3 F to F West	Area 4 F to F East	Area 5 Derby Bog	Area 6 Edgewater to 208	
Canada Goose	4		86	63	118		270	537
Mallard	4		9	10	19	19		57
Bufflehead	3		4	6	10			20
Common Goldeneye	1				1			1
Hooded Merganser	1				4			4
Common Merganser	4		7	4	9		3	23
Pied-billed Grebe	1			1				1
Double-crested Cormorant	2			1	2			3
Great Blue Heron	2			1			3	4
Bald Eagle - Adult 7, Imm 5	5		2	1	2	3	4	12
Northern Harrier	1					1		1
Cooper's Hawk	1						1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3				2	1	5	8
Killdeer	1				2			2
Glaucous-winged Gull	4		9	10	21	1		41
Rock Pigeon	1				3			3
Belted kingfisher	2		1		1			2
Downy Woodpecker	4		1	1	3		1	6
Hairy Woodpecker	1						1	1
Northern Flicker	4		2	4		2	6	14
Steller's Jay	6	1	6	9	6	1	5	28
Northwestern Crow	5		10	3	70	7	2	92
Common Raven	2	1				1		2
Black-capped Chickadee	4		9		12	2	12	35
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	2	10				1		11
Brown Creeper	4		8		2	2	2	14
Bewick's Wren	2	1					4	5
Winter Wren (Pacific Wren)	3		3	1		2		6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	3	8			10	6	27
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		1					1
American Robin	4		12	25	14		61	112
Varied Thrush	6	1	12	11	8	4	13	49
European Starling	4		2	20	28		26	76
Spotted Towhee	6	4	13	5	8	4	18	52
Fox Sparrow	3		3		10		10	23
Song Sparrow	6	3	9	3	13	4	13	45
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1						6	6
Dark-eyed Junco	3			13	43		33	89
Red-winged Blackbird	1				2			2
Brewer's Blackbird	1				1			1
Purple Finch	1				1			1
House Finch	1				1			1
House Sparrow	1				16			16
Total Number of Sightings		24	217	192	432	65	505	1435
Total Number of Species	43	8	22	20	30	17	23	43

2013 TOTALS

Total Number of Sightings		148	183	76	385	202	305	1299
Total Number of Species	40	20	25	22	31	16	16	40

4th Annual

SKAGIT VALLEY BIRD BLITZ

May 9/10/11, 2014

Expert and novice birders are invited to explore the lush forests and waterways of Skagit Valley Provincial Park!

\$50 PER BIRDER (KIDS ARE FREE)

- Two nights camping at Ross Lake Campground in the Skagit Valley — noon Friday, to Sunday.
- Guest speaker and barbecue, with salads, buns, and drinks provided (bring your own protein!).
- The Skagit offers stunning mountain scenery and a low-elevation valley with breeding Harlequin Ducks!

To register:

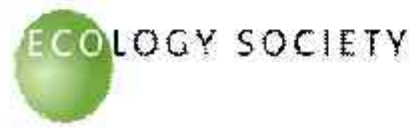
Ph: (604) 869-1274 E-mail: info@hopemountain.org
Web: www.hopemountain.org

Sponsored by:



HOPEMOUNTAINCENTRE for outdoor learning

STANLEY PARK



MIGRATORY BIRD WEEK

Some of these may be of interest to our members:

April 29th

7:00 - 8:30 PM

David Sibley on his newly released Guide to Birds 2nd Edition
Downtown Public Library, 345 Robson St #302

May 3rd

11 -12:30 AM

Hérons to Hummingbirds: Robyn Worcester walk and Roy Teo hummingbird banding
Outside Vancouver Park Board Office 2099 Beach Ave

May 5th

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Birding Basics with George Clulow
Downtown Public Library, 345 Robson St #302

May 8th

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Raptor ID workshop with Al Grass
Stanley Park Ecology Society, Second Floor

May 9th

7:00 - 8:30 PM

'Crows' film screening with Mike McKinlay and Rob Butler
Downtown Public Library, 345 Robson St #302

May 10th Morning

Bird Walks in Vancouver Parks
Queen Elizabeth, Jericho, Stanley Park, Everett Crowley, Pacific Spirit

May 10th

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Presentation with Dick Cannings and City Bird announcement
Downtown Public Library, 345 Robson St #302

For more information:

Stanley Park Ecology Society

PO Box 5167

Vancouver, BC, V6B 4B2

P (604) 681-9453 C (604) 812-9676

www.vancouver.ca/birdweek

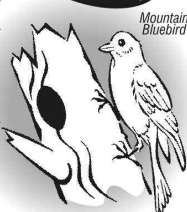
MANNING PARK

BIRD BLITZ

32nd Anniversary

June 20, 21 & 22, 2014

A spectacular weekend of birding in a beautiful park!
Open to novices and experts alike.



\$50 Per Birder Children Are FREE **Birding Fee Includes....**

- Two nights camping at Lone Duck Campground on Lightning Lake — noon Friday, to Sunday.
- Guest speaker and barbecue, with salads, buns, and drinks provided (bring your own protein!).
- Manning Park boasts over 200 bird species, including coastal, mountain, and interior birds.

To register: Ph: (604) 869-1274 E-mail: info@hopemountain.org
Web: www.hopemountain.org

Hotel-Cabins

Manning Park Lodge — Ph: 250-840-8822
Rooms, cabins, and chalets are available, but book early!

Sponsored by:



HOPEMOUNTAINCENTRE for outdoor learning

PROGRAMMES

Check our website for updates!

Meetings are held commencing at 7.15 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207th Street, Langley. Unless otherwise indicated, they consist of a brief monthly business meeting, followed by the feature presentation (approximately one hour), followed by refreshments.

Thursday March 20th

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MAJESTIC THOMPSON RIVER **Bernie Fandrich**

Bernie is the well-known proprietor of Kumsheen Raft Adventures, based in Lytton, BC. For 40 years, he and his family have been leading rafting and nature tours along the Thompson River. Now he has published a book covering the fascinating story of this magnificent river, from Savona to Lytton. Bernie will be sharing with us many of the entertaining anecdotes, excellent photographs and unusual historic tales to be found in his book. He will also have copies of his book for sale and autographing.

Thursday April 17th

NATURE ON THE STEPPE - MONGOLIA **Anne Murray**

Mongolia is a wild and beautiful Country situated between China and Russia. Anne will take us on a wonderful tour of the country showing the natural history and culture through her colourful photos.

Anne is an ardent naturalist, traveler and author and Past President of BC Nature.

Thursday May 15th

THE AMAZING GAME PARKS OF NAMIBIA AND BOTSWANA **Ron Long**

This talk will include points of natural history interest throughout Namibia, including the highest sand dunes in the world, but will concentrate on the incredible bird and animal diversity of Etosha and Chobe National Parks. These are among the best game viewing parks in Africa and a visit there is full of surprises.

Ron Long was a photographer at SFU for thirty-six years. Now retired, Ron travels the world searching out wildlife hot spots. Ron's September 2012 trip to Namibia and Botswana was the best yet. He now takes more pictures than he ever did while working at it full time.

Thursday June 19th

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FIELD TRIPS

*Unless otherwise noted, meet at Douglas Park Recreation Centre on Douglas Crescent between 204 and 206 Street at 9:00 am for car pooling. If you prefer to meet at the walk site, please phone so we can watch for you. **Please phone in advance so that the co-ordinator does not go needlessly to the meeting site** - if the co-ordinator has not heard from any participants by the evening before the outing, then he/she will not go to the meeting site. Bring water, a lunch, binoculars, field guides and appropriate clothing for the weather. For more information, to make comments, suggest walks or to let us know you are coming, please phone Anne Gosse, 604-888-1787.*

Please reimburse your carpool driver at \$3.50 per hour of driving time. Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather conditions/trails - with sturdy foot wear and warm clothing.

SATURDAY MARCH 8TH

10:00 am - 12 noon

WHAT IS FOR DINNER?

**RAPTORS OF THE CONSERVATION AREA
AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS, NORTH VANCOUVER**

Leader: Al Grass

Join Al Grass as we search out why are flats critical habitats for wildlife? The walk will focus on the importance of raptors such as eagles, hawks, and owls. Meet: at the WBT Site Office, 2645 Dollarton Highway 2 km east of the Iron Workers (Second Narrows) Bridge. (Gate opens at 9:30 am - lots of free parking) Meet 8:15 am Douglas Cres. Langley or 9:30 am at Maplewood Park. For information phone 604-538-8774.

SATURDAY MARCH 22ND

Time: 9:00 am to 12 noon

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK / MARVIN MARSH

Leader: Bob Puls

Come and explore a new wetland area in Aldergrove Regional Park with Registered Professional Biologist Monica Pearson. Meet at 9 am at Pepindale Nursery, 262 - 272nd Street, Aldergrove, or at 8.30 am at Douglas Crescent. Phone 604-888-1787 or Bob 604-856-7534 to let us know if you are coming.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

Time: 9:00 to 10:30 - 10:30 to 12 noon

BLAAUW ECO FOREST (new official name)

Leader: David Clements

(We will continue on to Glen Valley Regional Park nearby or the rest of McLellan Park)
Come join Professor David Clements of Trinity Western and two thesis students, Curtis Abney and Lara Loubser, who will be discussing their thesis work on the bio inventory of the new Blaauw Eco Forest. This is a spectacular 25 acre deep forest that has been untouched for over 80 years. This is not a coiffed manicured park but a lovely wild place that our ancestors would have had to wade through

searching for their new homes. It is thriving with wildlife and foliage of all kinds. There is extensive vegetation on the forest floor, various tree types and more than 100 species of birds and animals that have been observed by naturalists. Participants are invited to gather at trail head on 257A, just North of 84 Ave (located east of Fort Langley).

Tuesday April 22nd

Time: 9:15 am - 12 noon

CREEKSIDE PARK,

28 Avenue & 274 Street, Aldergrove

Lower Mainland Green Team with the Langley Environmental Partners Society will be holding a youth focused invasive plant removal and planting of native plants and trees.

Wednesday April 23rd

Time: 9:00 am - 12 noon

BRYDON LAGOON AND HI KNOLL PARK

Leader: Al Grass

Join Langley Field Naturalists and Birds on the Bay on this early spring walk to find the early spring migrants along the lagoon, and to seek out the beautiful Pink Fawn Lily in Hi Knoll Park. Meet at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street. For info contact 604-538-8774 or 604-888-1787.

Saturday April 26th

**Metro Vancouver Park's Celebrating Partners
More details will be available closer to the date.**

Saturday May 10th

Time: 9:00 am

GRANT NARROWS REGIONAL PARK

& PITT POLDER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE/

**PITT-ADDINGTON MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AREA**

Leader: Josh Inman

Come and join Josh to perhaps see nesting Ospreys & Sandhill Cranes. We will slowly walk the triangle of this large dyke/marsh area which has several viewing towers and is a major migration route for bird life. This park is situated where the Pitt River joins the south end of Pitt Lake and boasts over 200-plus species of birds and waterfowl plus wonderful mountain views! Possible sightings include warblers, thrushes, sparrows, orioles, trumpeter swans and many more. (Meet at Douglas Crescent at 8:00 am or 9:00 am at Grant Narrows Regional Park Parking lot in Pitt Meadows)

May 9th - May 11th

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK BIRD BLITZ

(see ad page 9)

Thursday May 22nd

Time: 9:00 am - 12 noon

REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

Leader: Al Grass

Come and join us as we welcome the birds that will be spending the summer here such as warblers, swallows, ducks, Sandhill cranes, and raptors. This is a wonderful time to see birds in their best plumages, and hear their best singing voices. There is a small admission fee. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments. Please dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. Meet at the Douglas Cres at 8 am or at the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Delta at 9 am. For info contact 604-538-8774 or 604-888-1787 to let us know to expect you.

Saturday May 31st

Glen Valley Bird Count!

Wednesday June 11th

Time: 7:30 am Langley or

8:45 am Hope Flood Rd.

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

Leaders: Al & Jude Grass

Birds and wildflowers should be at their best including the beautiful pink Rhododendron which should be in bloom. This is a full day trip, so please bring lunch, snacks, water, (sunscreen and bug repellent) and a variety of clothing and footwear for the weather. Carpool from Langley or meet at the junction of the Hope Flood Road & Silver Skagit Road. The Hope Flood Road exit is # 168 from Highway #1 heading east. Note: please make sure you have enough gas as it is 130 km round trip to Ross Lake and back to the highway. For info contact 604-538-8774.

Friday June 20th

Time: 8:30 Douglas Crescent or

9:00 am at 8th Avenue parking lot

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Viveka Ohman

This is our annual "yellow-themed" Warbler and other summer birds ramble with expert birder Viveka and White Rock & Surrey Naturalists. We will be looking for Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks plus many more etc! This walk will take us from the parking lot down the Ravine Trail to 16th avenue and return via the Vine Maple trail for a round trip of 5 km. Meet: Campbell Valley 8th Ave parking lot across from nature house- east of 200th Street at 9:00 am.

Date: June 20th - June 22nd

MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK BIRD BLITZ

(see ad page 9)