



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 2017

STORIES IN THE SNOW



Crow tracks in the snow

Photo: Al Grass

"There is no business-like snow business". (The composer of the song meant "show business", with apologies to the composer.

Snow can either be a great bother, or it can be an opportunity to explore a wonderful aspect of Nature – tracks and stories in the snow.

Recently, I spent some rewarding days searching for tracks in the snow in our area in South Surrey, and by following them, I had hoped to find interesting stories at the end of the trails, but none led to anything exciting (like a hawk or owl catching a squirrel. However, identifying the tracks was fun. These included:

- Coyote
- Raccoon
- Crow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Varied Thrush

It helps if the snow is fresh and not crusty.
Good Tracking.

*Note one of the best field guides for tracking is **Animal Tracks and Signs** by J.D. Sept (Calypso Publishing, 2014). This fine book is full of excellent diagrams and photographs.*

Al Grass

OWLING NIGHTS AT CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

In early winter, we conducted two owling trips for Metro Vancouver Parks. We began by giving a PowerPoint presentation called "Owls of Campbell Valley Regional Park" at the nature house. As the program was cosponsored by Metro Parks and the Langley Field Naturalists, we made our participants aware about our club and what it offers to members.



Barred Owl

Photo: Al Grass

After the talk, we ventured over to the Ravine Trail, a departure from our usual 16th Avenue meeting place.

It worked out well, because both times we called in two Barred Owls. On the first night, they seemed to be answering each other. No Great Horned or Saw-whet Owls on these two nights, but we know they are in the park.

When owling, the Barred Owl hardly ever lets us down. It's always a great thrill to hear an owl calling in the still coolness of the night air. And we should not forget the lovely chorus of coyotes that added their amazing voices to the wonders of the night.

Al & Jude Grass

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2016-2017 DIRECTORS

President: Bob Puls
604-856-7534 ~ bob@puls.ca

Vice President:

Past President: Jude Grass
604-538-8774 ~ judegrass@shaw.ca

Secretary: Joan Taylor (Assist: Nora Truman)
604-868 6417 ~ lfnsecretary@shaw.ca

Treasurer: Ian Taylor
604-868 0107 ~ ist0909@shaw.ca

Conservation: Bob Puls
604-856-7534 ~ bob@puls.ca

Membership: Sheila Puls
& Newsletter 604-856-7534 ~ sheila@puls.ca

Programmes: Jude Grass
604-538-8774 ~ judegrass@shaw.ca

Field Trips: Gareth Pugh
604-576-6831 ~ gareth@intergate.ca

Publicity: Lillianne Fuller
604-533-0638 ~ lillianne101@shaw.ca

FBCN Director: Kathy Masse
604-513-8927 ~ wmasse@telus.net

Webmaster: Lisa Dreves/Joan Taylor

REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

Historian & Toots Tucker
Librarian: 604-532-6398 ~ llyod@telus.net

Greeters: Rebecca Tin Tun/Helen Thompson

Refreshments: Cecily Isler / Monica Newman
604-514-9697 ~ pcangus@telus.net

Forslund-Watson: Ryan Usenik
604-530-3257 ~ jrusenik@telus.net

Campbell Valley Park Association: Jude Grass
604-538-8774 ~ judegrass@shaw.ca

Derby Reach Brae Island: Anne Gosse
604-888-1787 ~ corkie1@shaw.ca

Nature Kids Anthea Farr 604-576-7731
nicomekl@naturekidsbc.ca

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 the LEPS office or at Executive members' homes.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I think we have seen enough snow for this year! We peaked at about 18 inches (I don't do centimeters), great for tracking or cross country skiing, but as many of us reach a certain age and fear of slipping outweighs the joy of hiking, I stayed home through most of it. Lambs arrived during this period and trekking up to the barn was enough exercise for me. It is so nice to have audio-visual set up in the barn; it saved many a fruitless trip to see all was well. A long persistent cold didn't help the situation and really drained energy levels.

The cold weather brought in some interesting birds for the 'Feeder Watch' and 'Great Backyard Bird Count', including Varied Thrush and Fox Sparrow, which I only see when snow is on the ground. A Hutton's Vireo was a highlight. My White-throated Sparrow is still in residence, having been at my feeder since October 2016.

Lots of conservation issues are on the go with rezoning of Gloucester Industrial Estates, Subdivision of Langley's Fingered Wetlands and clearcutting of Tara Farms being the most serious in the Township at this time. I have also attended two of the Township meetings on 'Built Heritage' and 'Natural and Cultural Heritage' with the one on 'Agriculture Heritage' still to come; if nothing else this should result in a good historical record of Langley's environment even if Council don't act on any of our expressed concerns.

Not much to share on the plant or insect world at this time of year, but I will try and retrieve my trail camera pictures from Mountain View this week to see how the animals fared in the snow.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter and early Spring.

Bob Puls

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23RD IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK AND SEWAGE LAGOONS

On a windy day I picked up Leona and Al in White Rock. After the drive to Iona, we waited a few minutes for Gareth to show up. He was a bit delayed by traffic. While waiting, we picked up a number of common species such as North-western Crow, Song Sparrow and Glaucous-winged Gull. Surprisingly we also heard a Marsh Wren singing. On the sea we saw Surf Scoters, Great Blue Heron and, over the flats, Bald Eagles and Northern Harrier. Other gull species showed themselves, and while we worked our way towards the sewage area, we picked up more duck species such as Ring-necked, Bufflehead, Gadwall and a few other birds such as Western Meadowlark and Wilson's Snipe.

More duck species were in the sewage lagoons, such as Green-winged Teal, American Coot, Lesser Scaup, American Wigeon and Red-breasted Merganser, while Dunlin were feeding on the mud.

While returning to the parking lot we saw Trumpeter Swans overhead, and on the sea there were White-winged Scoter and Horned Grebe. Flying around was a Northern Flicker and we heard Common Ravens calling.

By noon the wind had chilled us quite a bit so we decided to head home in the comfort of a warm car. All in all we counted 43 species which wasn't too bad for a cold windy day.

Wim Vesseur

2016 LANGLEY/WHITE ROCK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT A SUCCESS DESPITE THE WEATHER

Ninety Eight intrepid birders were out on a wintry day counting birds for the 45th annual Christmas Bird Count. Despite the challenges of fallen trees blocking trails, icy steps preventing access to the beach at 1001 steps, frozen ponds and icy side roads, 127 species were seen and the total bird count was over 73,568.



Bohemian Waxwing

Web photo

The species count was almost at the ten year average of 128 species and the number of birds was slightly below the ten year average of 75,347.



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Web photo

The highlights of the count were sightings of Bohemian Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow, Gyrfalcon, Least Sandpiper, Redhead (that's a duck!), Yellow-headed Blackbird and Western Scrub Jay.

GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, DELTA FRIDAY JANUARY 13TH, 2017

Leaders: Al Grass and Anthea Farr

Cool winter weather and icy conditions may have been the reason why only Anthea and I made it to the sanctuary that morning. (I will reschedule the trip when the weather improves and the swallows have returned). We saw a good variety of species - some of the highlights were: Trumpeter Swan, Black-crowned Night Heron, Sandhill Crane, Saw-whet Owl (always a delight), Bewick's Wren, Fox Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow (many), Purple Finch, robins feeding on Pacific Crabapple and the

"bird of the day"
Bohemian
Waxwings".

We didn't walk the outer (seaward dyke) where we would have probably added a few more species - the conditions were too icy.

Al Grass

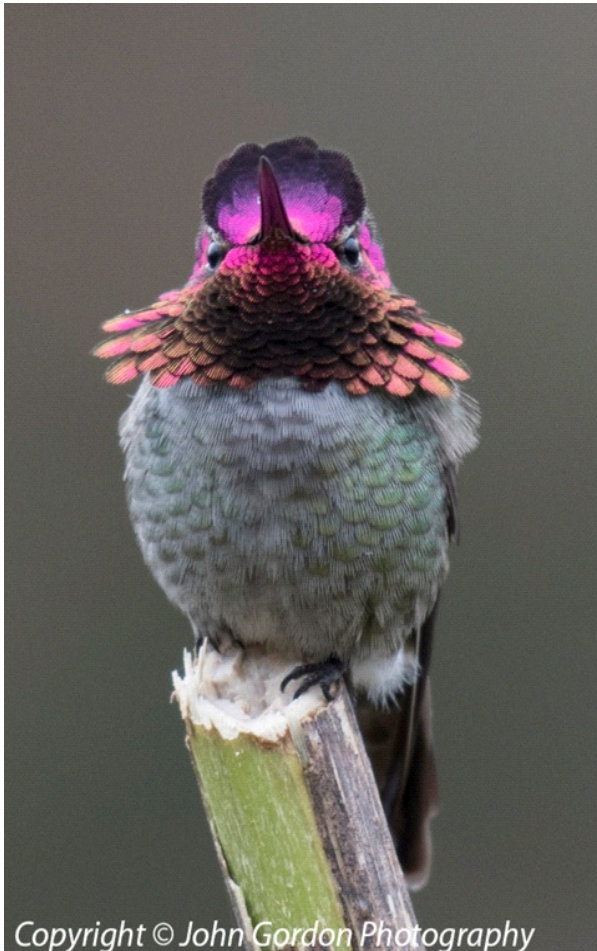
DRBIPA BIRD COUNT



After a postponement due to weather and illness, the annual DRBIPA bird count took place on Saturday February 18th. In spite of threatening clouds, the rain held off and having completed five of the six routes, we obtained a total count of 1168 birds and 51 species. 51 breaks last year's highest total of 48, so we have set a tough act to follow next year.

A summary sheet of the last few years' totals is attached to this newsletter for your interest.

Phil Henderson



Male Anna's Hummingbird

Photo John Gordon

Copyright © John Gordon Photography

TOUR OF OWL (ORPHANED WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SOCIETY) WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25TH, 2017

Our group gathered at OWL where we were given an excellent talk by OWL volunteer Stuart, followed by a tour of the captive bird facilities – where birds are kept for a variety of reasons and cannot be released, but are excellent for teaching purposes. It was wonderful to see species close-up like the Northern Goshawk, Snowy Owl, Golden Eagle and others.



Northern Goshawk

Photo: Al Grass

We were shown an albino Saw-whet Owl. It is blind, but its hearing is excellent. It was also a great thrill to see a beautiful Barn Owl close-up, and to learn how all the specialized parts of an owl (feathers, ears, eyes, talons) work together to make the owl an efficient hunter.

Thanks to Stuart and the folks at OWL for wonderful morning. Note that OWL welcomes all donations to help care for the birds. Consider becoming a member. Visit their website (<https://www.owlcanada.org/>) for details.

We then went to the end of 72nd Street and onto the dyke, where we all were excited to observe beautiful Short-eared Owls who share the habitat here with Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks.

Al Grass

BULLFROG FARMING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The earliest record that we could find of bullfrog culture in the Fraser Valley was reported in The Fraser Valley Record, September 1945 (p3) and a similar article in the Vancouver Sun on Tuesday October 23rd 1945. Webster's Corners are located north of the Fraser in Maple Ridge.

Another report in British Columbia Magazine, Fall 2009, states that they were being raised in Victoria in the 1940's which could be linked to a report that one of the principals of McMillan/Bloedel liked frogs' legs and raised his own supply.

A Mr. Reynolds recommended Frog farming as a good source of income for veterans of WW1. (see article). A third report covers a council discussion about bullfrog farming in the Chilliwack Progress of 1936, but no report on whether any sites were established.

So it appears that bullfrogs were brought to the Lower Mainland of B.C. sometime in the late 1930's or early 1940's, originating from California or Florida. Fred Pepin remembers school Principal, Mr. Luke, raising them just off 272nd north of the DND lands in Aldergrove. Mr. Luke left on an expedition to find Slumach's Gold in the Pitt Lake area in 1948 and was never seen again. The pens then deteriorated and the frogs escaped into the wild. This was likely one of the sources of the South of the Fraser very invasive bullfrogs.

Bob Puls

Bullfrog *

Alias: "Jeremiah"

M.O.: Devours its victims.

Rap sheet: Preys on and competes against native frogs, including Oregon spotted, northern leopard, and red-legged frogs—all species at risk. Eats anything it can fit in its mouth. Impact is more severe where humans have cleared away vegetation that provided hiding places for smaller species. Can move over land as well as in water.


Origin: Introduced by a failed Aldergrove frog farm that supplied local restaurants and a Victoria aquatic garden supply company in the 1940s; later by the pet trade.

Last seen: South Okanagan, Vancouver Island, and Lower Mainland.

VANCOUVER SUN - TUESDAY
23, 1945
A Vancouver-Owned Newspaper

FARM NEEDS: BULL, MATE, AMPLE FLIES

Frog's Legs Answer Both Rationing and Rehabilitation



Ray Reynolds is one man who likes to conduct two activities at the same time—with one hand he thumbs his nose at meat rationing, with the other he holds frog's legs and gnaws at them. Frog's legs have it all over chicken, says this pioneer frog farmer, of Webster's Corners. "They're whiter than chicken meat, have a more delicate texture," he says. "And though they do taste something like fried chicken, they far surpass it for flavor." There are limitless possibilities for his trade, for Mr. Reynolds believes he is the only frog farmer in British Columbia, and would like to introduce his succulent product in Vancouver restaurants and hotels.

FOOD TO DRAW FLIES
Frog farming is a simple industry. It requires chiefly a piece of land with a creek, two ponds and a few pairs of frogs. But it also requires a supply of odorous scraps of food to draw flies. Harvesting, like worn hunting, is done at night with a strong-beamed flashlight and a dip net. The light attracts and holds the frogs. Then they are scooped up without difficulty.

Frogs native to British Columbia are too small, and besides, they make too much noise. So Mr. Reynolds breeds the California and Florida bullfrogs, whose deep base voices aren't so disturbing.

More important, they yield as much as a pound of meat to the pair of legs. The meat sells at about \$1 a pound. "I have an especially big demand from the Chinese," says the pioneer. "They want the whole frog. They even dry the skin and grind it to powder for medical purposes."

BREED LIKE RABBITS
Launched two years ago, his farm now has a "herd" of some 300 fully-matured frogs and thousands of little ones. It takes three years for them to mature from the polywig to tadpole stage. But the only problem of the frog farmer is to attract flies and insects so the frogs can help themselves.

They breed like rabbits. The female spawns about 5000 eggs every season. So if only 10 percent of these survived to tickle someone's palate—at a pound of meat to a frog and a dollar a pound—there would be a \$500 return from one pair of frogs in three years.

Himself financed by the Army Rehabilitation Service, Mr. Reynolds, a veteran of both wars, thinks it's a good way for others to start their private post-war futures.

Councillors Debate On Frog Culture (Chilliwack Progress)

At its last session the Municipal Council was confronted with a strange request when an inquirer wanted the councillors to advise him as to where he might purchase two acres of slough or swamp lands, wooded, to establish a bullfrog farm for experimental purposes. Various sites were suggested but the matter was held over after the council became engrossed in a lengthy dissertation on frog culture.



Bullfrog

Photo: Bob Puls

The Frogs Won't Have A Leg To Stand On!

Enterprising Veteran Has Established New Industry In The Fraser Valley

By Mary Pearce

Have you a slough on your property—a deep, wet, mucky place that never dries up, come high wind or summer's most brazen sun? Perhaps you have the makings of a promising new branch of production—frog farming, no less. And if that gives you the vision of sleepless nights and the neighbors besieging your door with complaints, set your mind at rest. The kind of frogs I refer to are no common frog-pond bassos, but less boisterous and of a more musical note.

In fact, I am assured by no less an individual than the Fraser Valley's first-class frog farmer, Ray Reynolds himself, that his giant California bull frogs set up a most soothing lullaby that will aid rather

find our friend Mr. Reynolds, tanned as an Indian, happy as a lark at his stupendous task, clearing the roadway, felling timber, blasting out stumps, cleaning up the debris left by a municipal bulldozer, with the aid of his veritable army-in-a-machine. And what a story he has to tell, as he shows you about.

This 20-acre piece of land he has owned only a year, is an estate so varied in terrain as to be virtually impossible to duplicate. The road leads into a large cleared area you suddenly discover is really a hilltop, for over beyond his little tarpaper-covered shack falls a sheer drop down into a low-lying pond, divided by dams he constructed with his own two

alive and kicking, that they can get, and still wish for more. He had studied the frog farming business as it is done in California, as well, and he knew that in none of these areas was there an over-supply to meet the demand. Probably this is because suitable locations are not so easily available.

For marketing frog culture, natural conditions are the best. To get back to the Reynolds frog ponds, climb with us down the natural runway of a huge fallen tree that leans from the brow of the cliff downward at an easy angle, with its feet in the water. If you stand still long enough and patiently accustom your eyes to searching the water, here and there you will see a dark green head sticking up, then you will hear a splash as Mr. Frog leaps, and see the widening ripples. In this pond are mostly adult frogs, the stock from which Mr. Reynolds sells breeding pairs, and markets for meat.

Over beyond the dam is the breeding pond stocked with thousands of pollworms (beloved by little boys), the larval stage of the frog. It is one of the great mysteries of nature how these small creatures like miniature fish with gills and fins, at a certain stage of their development shed the fins and acquire the long, agile legs with webbed feet, and at the same time the gills commence to shrivel up and are replaced by the growth of lungs, and the frog becomes notable for its swimming and jumping ability.

It takes three years for the cultivated frogs to develop to maturity. Mr. Reynolds' stock are a selected type and acclimatized to

exercise at which they are exceedingly adept.

Bees are another succulent morsel which the frogs enjoy, and for this purpose he keeps a hive of bees at the top of the slope. The bees fly home from their day's work, heavily laden and weary; many of them swing low to get a drink from the pond, and—gulp!—down goes a sweet, fuzzy morsel of delight to the frog's tongue. The hive, however, is still as overcrowded as a tenement in a war housing area, so the casualty isn't too hard on the bees. Fortunately for Mr. Reynolds and any guests, the mosquito goes the way of all other insects to the frog's tummy, too, and they also consume snakes with great gusto.

The adult frogs do not require feeding other than that provided by nature in this form and by means of succulent grasses and sedge growing in the pond. On the other hand, during the tadpole stage they are fed oatmeal spread broadcast over the water where it can cling to the grasses, easy for them to get.

The alert and industrious Mr. Reynolds is a war veteran, discharged after four years in the Veteran's Guard, as medically unfit—that was a little over a year ago, when he could hardly accomplish an hour's work without being ready to collapse. You should see him now! He can put in a long day at good, hard, unmaned labor, with the best of them—and woe betide the enemy whose trail he got on, with a stout woodsman's axe in hand! In his year of pioneering, he has built his own little shack, entirely from hand hewn timbers felled on his own place.

He installed a ram in the small stream that is an offshoot of Kanaka creek purring its cool way through his little valley, and has the water piped up where he can tap it right beside his hilltop home. He has strawberries and raspberries, vegetables, and even flowers blooming in his little paradise setting. The view is magnificent, across the vale to other wooded slopes, with mountains towering behind. The air is good, with the vitality that altitude brings. Sleek-coated cats and kittens tumble about, company enough in this haven of contentment. It's a hard spot to leave for the odd week-end back in Vancouver, where Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have their home, and where he had formerly started frog farming in a small way—but if one mistakes not, there's going to be a real house, city style, built here in the woods when labor and materials become easier available.

In the meantime, says Mr. Reynolds, "I'd like to see other veterans investigate this frog farming business—I think it's good!"

It has been said of veterans of the last war, that many found it difficult to settle down and fit themselves back harmoniously into the scheme of things. Our open mindedness and endeavor to understand their mental and spiritual as well as their physical problems can do much to help them.

Send a copy of this issue to your friends and let them know more about the farming activities of the Fraser Valley.



(Above). California Giant denizen of the deep frog pond, playing aircraft carrier with smaller fry, to show off his unrationed meateness and tantalize the epicure with visions of frog's legs hopping in the pan.

(Right). Frog ponds at the Ray Reynolds place, fed by a small spring at the left, and draining off on the opposite side into Kanaka Creek. There is no perceptible sign of movement in the water, but just enough drainage to keep it from stagnating.



er than repel the slumbers of all except the most unbucolic soul.

The editors of The Fraser Valley Farmer recently took a trip up to Webster's Corners, B.C., at the special invitation of Mr. Reynolds who had brought in the accompanying interesting and intriguing photographs taken on his frog farm in that district. One drives to Webster's Corners, turns north for half a mile, then take a turn right for about another half mile, and there you are, in the midst of a woodland paradise, if ever there was one. A narrow gravelled road runs abruptly into a raw new driveway through aisles of spicy evergreen forest.

There, working with a machine age giant of harnessed motive power—an awesome piece of equipment of varied adaptabilities, that is a story in itself—there you will more than likely

hands and the aid of a wheelbarrow alone, on which he hauled an estimated 100 tons of dirt.

It was this low-lying slough, deep in swamp grasses and murky water, that caught his eye and made him say "this land is mine—just what I've been looking for," for he had had this dream of a frog farm in the back of his mind a long time, ever since his youth in Michigan, in fact, where frog farming has long been a studied art. Ray Reynolds has done a lot of thinking about the fact that twelve million pounds of frog's legs are consumed in the United States, in a year, that B. C. chefs at places like Hotel Vancouver cannot get hold of enough frog's legs to supply the demand for that delicacy of gourmets, and furthermore, the Chinese population of this country will happily purchase in abundance all the whole frogs,

this area.

Capture of the creatures is interesting. This is accomplished at night, with the aid of a light and a dip net, by means of a flat bottomed punt. The light shining full on the water seems to freeze them into inactivity and they are easily scooped up into the net. Turn off the light suddenly, says Mr. Reynolds, and the frogs start jumping all over the place.

The white man's market wants only the plump meaty hind legs of the frog, which comprise a tasty tidbit of delicate meat somewhat resembling chicken, we are told. The remainder of the frog, Mr. Reynolds tosses into wire baskets he has set on poles here and there around the pond. These draw the gather around the base of these baskets and breakfast to the full on fat flies caught on the wing, an

LANGLEY'S FINGERED WETLANDS



Fingered wetlands are the long stretches of water north of 96 Ave from 208 St to the Fraser River

First off, what a strange name for a group of wetlands. No, the wetlands of northwestern Langley have not been fingered for any crimes against nature. They just look like fingers stretching across this quiet part of Langley.

Open water, bog, swamp and marsh – these wetlands have them all; the only thing missing from the 5 classes of wetlands is a fen environment (rotting sedges). Open water or ponds are mostly maintained by beaver dams in the area. Shore pine bogs and the large Langley Bog are the wetlands on the northern reaches. The rest of the wetlands can be classed as either swamps or marshes. Swamps are traditionally slow flowing water surrounded by coniferous forests and are highly acidic due to the slowly rotting coniferous wood. Marshes are the grab bag of the wetland scene – broadleaf and shrub perimeters and mucky saturated grounds with skunk cabbage and cattails.

Wetlands are sensitive habitats that wildlife depend on and they are disappearing fast. What would we do without these saturated landscapes? Would we still have dragonflies? Clean groundwater? Sandhill Cranes? Salamanders? Where would we go to see flocks of ducks? Carnivorous plants? Migrating toads? No longer would we have a riot of chorus frogs to fill the evening air.

The fingered wetlands spread across multiple private land holdings and last year LEPS started a three year project to enhance the wetlands and educate the local community about their importance. LEPS is working with several landowners as well as the Township of Langley to plant trees, control invasive plants and put up wildlife boxes. They are also conducting several garbage clean-ups in partnership with the Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society and Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association.

Along with their on the ground activities, LEPS is also providing workshops about critical wetland habitats to

students in Langley. Workshops discuss the wildlife, primarily species at risk, which rely on healthy habitats like wetlands.

Over the years, a few of the wetlands have been channelized, drained, cleared, dissected or dredged. But overall, the Fingered Wetlands are untouched because of their size, low agricultural potential and because they fall within the ALR boundary. However, the threat of development has become very real. Recently a developer has put forward plans to drain, fragment and clear these wetlands on two large properties, with further plans to continue to expand.

Want to help? Please write letters to the Township of Langley council urging them to protect the Fingered Wetlands. And on a less political bent: LEPS needs information on birds and other wildlife in the area, as well as more property owners that are interested in enhancement work. Please send any information to Lisa at stewardship@leps.bc.ca or call 604-546-0336.

Lisa Dreves

Langley Stewardship Coordinator
Langley Environmental Partners Society

DERBY REACH/BRAE ISLAND BIRD COUNT - SUMMARY DATA 2010 TO 2017

Species	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Blackbird - Brewer's					1			30
Blackbird - Red-winged		1	2	5	4	12	2	40
Brown Creeper	8	6	14	2	14	13	13	10
Bushtit		4				12	25	2
Chickadee - Black-capped	33	55	39	94	35	112	95	98
Chickadee - Chestnut-backed		12	3	7	11	12	26	7
Cormorant - Double-crested		2			3		3	9
Crow - Northwestern	22	29	63	49	92	48	59	75
Duck - Bufflehead	10	6	4	16	20	20	16	9
Duck - Goldeneye	2				1	4		
Duck - Green-winged Teal	10	7	4	11		4	3	
Duck - Mallard	53	98	42	47	57	42	144	75
Duck - Northern Pintail			3					38
Duck - Ring-necked	5	17		3		2		5
Duck - Wood		3		2				4
Duck - Wigeon - American	4	2				6		
Eagle - Bald	3	6	8	2	12	14	8	2
Finch - House		1	1	6	1	11	18	11
Finch - Purple			3		1		6	9
Flicker - Northern	1	8	5	5	14	8	14	15
Goldfinch - American			1			12		11
Goose - Canada	132	120	97	239	544	154	131	71
Grosbeak - Evening		7						
Gull - Glaucous-winged	3	55	27	5	41	7	48	28
Gull - Mew							3	
Gull Species		19	1	2			22	1
Harrier - Northern					1			
Hawk - Cooper's					1	1		
Hawk - Red-tailed	2	2	1	3	8	2	5	4
Hawk - Sharp-shinned		2	1				1	
Heron - Great Blue		1	8		4	3	4	2
Heron - Green							1	
Hummingbird - Anna's							2	5
Jay - Steller's	5	6	19	24	28	8	10	31
Junco - Dark-eyed	72	83	131	117	89	32	123	46
Killdeer	2			1	2		9	
Kingfisher - Belted	1	2	2	1	2	2		1
Kinglet - Golden-crowned	39	46	72	102	27	89	108	10
Kinglet - Ruby-crowned		1		3	1	4	5	1
Loon - Common								1
Merganser - Common	17	20	20	6	23	6	12	23
Merganser - Hooded	7		2	10	4		13	8
Merlin				1				3
Murre - Common			1					
Nuthatch - Red-breasted				9		3		4
Pine Siskin	30	1	311	266		148	20	144
Raven - Common	2	2	1	11	2	2	10	7
Redpoll - Common			26					
Robin - American	14	22	49	16	48	28	62	80
Rock Pigeon					3	1	15	
Sparrow - Fox	4	4	10	16	23	6	8	8

Species	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sparrow - Golden-crowned			2	23	6	2	13	23
Sparrow - House		1	15		16	10	3	12
Sparrow - Lincoln's								1
Sparrow - Savannah						1		
Sparrow - Song	25	30	33	68	45	36	35	95
Sparrow - White-crowned	1	1					1	
Starling - European	16	53	17	15	76	23	32	25
Thrush - Varied	9	7	29	15	48	25	12	17
Towhee - Spotted	13	14	21	52	52	31	17	40
Vireo - Hutton's								1
Woodpecker - Downy	3	2	7	5	6	7	10	12
Woodpecker - Hairy	2		1	2	1	3	2	2
Woodpecker - Pileated	4	1				2	3	2
Wren - Bewick's	6	8	2	8	5	6	19	5
Wren - Pacific (Winter)	16	20	9	30	6	27	15	4
Total Birds	576	794	1107	1097	1378	1004	1206	1167
Total species	35	45	41	40	42	46	49	51

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.



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

THURSDAY MARCH 16TH

FUN & FAUNA ON AN ALASKA CRUISE: MEMOIRS OF A CRUISE SHIP

Speaker: Graham Sunderland

Naturalist Graham Sunderland will discuss some of the many changes that have befallen S.E. Alaska's communities and wildlife over his 20+ years of cruising there. His talk will include creature encounter highlights, insights into various animal lifestyles as well as wildlife viewing tips and ports of call information, all from his characteristically entertaining viewpoint.

THURSDAY APRIL 20TH

Critters of the Stream

Speakers: ARocha's Christy Juteau and Andrew Baylis

A talk about ARocha's wildlife projects on the Salish Sucker, Red-legged Frogs and Western toads, in the local streams such as the Little Campbell River. Christy will also talk about ARocha - and other wonderful work they do for the environment.

THURSDAY MAY 18TH

THE REST OF THE STORY

Speakers: Bob and Sheila Puls

Having told you about their time in Kenya, Bob and Sheila will talk about the rest of their time in Africa - in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

THURSDAY JUNE 15TH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A short meeting, the LFN Annual General Meeting, followed by social time:

MAD HATTER'S STRAWBERRY TEA PARTY

FIELD TRIPS

Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place. Please call to let the leader know to expect you. The walks are generally about two to three hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs & members of the public (adults & children, but no pets please). Please dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack.

Note these walks are weather dependent so if the weather is bad and no calls are received then the leader will not show up.

SATURDAY MARCH 11TH HOUSTON TRAIL IN DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK.

BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES!

Leader: Biologist Phil Henderson

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Biologist Phil Henderson will lead us in search of any early spring bird migrants - plus bryophytes which include mosses and their relatives; tiny but beautiful plants that flourish in moist, shady sites. We will also drop down to the wetland water edge to have a look for waterfowl. Bring binoculars and hand lenses if you have them. Meet at Houston Trail parking lot on Allard Crescent, Langley 9:00 am. Please phone 604-888-1571 for information and to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY MARCH 17TH CHEAM LAKE WETLANDS REGIONAL PARK CHILLIWACK

Time: 9:00 am at Cheam Lake Wetlands

Leader: Al Grass

This 107 hectare sensitive wildlife habitat is comprised of a lake, a marsh and forests. It is a popular bird-watching area where 184 different bird species have been recorded, plus it is home to many insects and mammals. Please bring water and lunch/snacks – there is a nice picnic area. Please phone 604-538-8774 for information and to let us know to expect you. For map see: <http://www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation/parks-trails/cheam-lake-wetlands-regional-park.html>

SATURDAY MARCH 25TH LITTLE CAMPBELL RIVER

Time 9:00 am at Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club, 1284 - 184th Street, Surrey

Leader: Al Grass

Walk the interpretive trails with Al, along the Little Campbell River, to look for the plants and

shrubs as they sprout new vegetation and flowers and look for any early bird migrants. While it might be early spring it can still be a little cool, so please dress warmly and wear proper foot wear. There will be a guided tour of the hatchery following the walk. Meet at 9:00 am – please park by the Hall which is in the upper parking lot. Phone 604-538-8774 for information and to let us know to expect you.

THURSDAY APRIL 6TH JACKMAN PIT (WETLANDS) PARK, LANGLEY

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

Leader: Bob Puls

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we 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 took place there. Phone: 604-856-7534 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY APRIL 15TH GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE, CHILLIWACK

Time: 9:00 am at the Reserve, 5200 Sumas Prairie Road, Chilliwack (Hwy 1 Exit 109)

Leader: Wim Vesseur

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we explore this Nature Reserve which has 325 acres of wetlands located on the un-dyked floodplain of the Vedder River. Managed by the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve Society, this site is known for its large breeding colony of Great Blue Herons - as well as a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation. At this time of year the Herons should be nest building with lots of activity within the colony. The reserve also has beautiful walking trails. Phone: 604-534-3447 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY APRIL 22ND

FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY

Time: 9:00 am at 2705 – 232nd Street

Leader: Ryan Usenik

Join Ryan as he leads us through this property which LFN co-manages with the B.C. Government. It is part open fields and part woodland. Wear waterproof footwear as some of the trails may still be flooded.

Phone: 604-530-3257 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY APRIL 29TH

METRO VANCOUVER

CELEBRATING PARTNERS EVENT

**THURSDAY MAY 4TH - SUNDAY MAY 7TH
BC NATURE AGM, LILLOOET**

SATURDAY MAY 10TH

**IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK &
SEWAGE LAGOONS -**

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS.

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

Leader: Josh Inman

Join the Langley Field Naturalists and expert birder Josh Inman while we explore this amazingly rich and varied bird life area. We will welcome back the Yellow-headed Blackbirds & Purple Martins who return to nest each spring in the ponds and on the Fraser River. One year we counted 61 species of birds! Phone: 604-532-0455 for info or to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY MAY 12TH - SUNDAY MAY 14TH

SKAGIT BIRDING BLITZ

FRIDAY MAY 19TH

HOPE AIRPORT ETC.

Leader: Al Grass

Details to follow

SATURDAY MAY 27TH

GLEN VALLEY BIRD COUNT

FRIDAY JUNE 2ND

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

Time: 8:45 at the junction of the Hope Flood Road & Silver Skagit Road (exit #168 from Highway 1E)

Leaders: Al & Jude Grass

Join Al and Jude as they take us to the Skagit Valley. Birds and wildflowers should be at their best, including the beautiful pink Rhododendron which should be in bloom. This is a full day trip; please bring lunch, snacks, water, (sunscreen and bug repellent) and a variety of clothing and footwear for the weather. Please make sure you have enough gas as it is 130 km round trip to Ross Lake and back. Phone: 604-538-8774 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY JUNE 10TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Time: 9:00 am at 16th Avenue parking lot

Leader: Bob Puls

Join Bob to walk the trails through this popular park with it's great variety of trees and shrubs and enjoy the songs and sights of the birds that have arrived for their short breeding season. Walking distance is approximately 5 km so please wear appropriate footwear. Bring a packed lunch to eat at a suitable spot at the end of the walk. Phone: 604-856-5734 for info or to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY JUNE 16TH - SUNDAY JUNE 18TH

MANNING BIRD BLITZ

SATURDAY JUNE 17TH

LANGLEY COMMUNITY DAY

SATURDAY JUNE 24TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Time: 9:00 am at the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

Leader: Anthea Farr

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we walk the trails in this rural park, that was turned into a park after pressure was exerted by the Council of Ratepayers and LFN. It is part of the Municipal Nature Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir. Phone: 604-576-7731 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 29TH

GEORGE C. REIFEL

MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY – DELTA

Time: 9:00 am at Reifel

Leader: Al Grass

Join the Langley Field Naturalists to walk the trails in this well known nature reserve. Expect to see lots of birds in the middle of the breeding season and a great variety of trees and shrubs. Please dress for the weather and wear proper foot ware. There is a small admission fee. Bring lunch, snacks, and refreshments. Meet at the Reifel Sanctuary. Phone 604 538 8774 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY JULY 29TH

GRASS SHACK SUMMER SOCIAL

17375 27A Avenue, Surrey

10:00 am to 4:00 pm rain or shine

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

Please RSVP to Jude at judegrass@shaw.ca
or 604 538 8774

NEW SOCIETY ACT NOVEMBER 2016

Part of the transition to the new act is that all Societies need to provide an electronic version of the Constitution and Bylaws. There are changes to the Constitution that are compulsory. The objects of the Society are the only elements that are to remain in the Constitution; all other elements need to be transferred to the Bylaws.

With regard to the Bylaws, the Executive decided to take the opportunity to review the Bylaws and make changes to make them relevant to today.

If the amended electronic version of the Constitution and Bylaws are registered as part of the transition, there will be no charge for submitting changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

All of the changes that the Executive have decided to bring to the Membership will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in June 2017.

Ian Taylor
Treasurer

7th Annual SKAGIT VALLEY
BIRD BLITZ
May 12/13/14, 2017

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

\$60 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:   **HOPEMOUNTAIN CENTRE**
for outdoor learning
FEDERATION OF BC NATURALISTS

MANNING PARK **35th Anniversary**
BIRD BLITZ 
June 16, 17 & 18, 2017

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

\$60 Per Birder **Children Are FREE**

- Two nights camping in Manning Park, 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:   **HOPEMOUNTAIN CENTRE**
for outdoor learning
FEDERATION OF BC NATURALISTS