



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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Newsletter

March 2018

POLLINATOR HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

This spring, Langley Environmental Partners Society is continuing their pollinator habitat enhancement project undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change.

In summer 2017, summer students monitored the sites LEPS has proposed for enhancement works along the BC Hydro ROW in the City of Langley. Results were pretty dismal, with a maximum of only 15 native bees at one site, down to zero at another. Non-native honey bees were present, but those numbers ranged from just 31, down to two. Summer students will hopefully be pleasantly surprised when they head out this summer after LEPS plants up a pollinator pasture in Buckley Park, the first of a series of pollinator pit stops.

Changing climatic conditions are impacting pollinator habitats. Flowers are blooming earlier in the growing season due to rising spring time temperatures, creating mismatches between plant bloom time and the flight periods of pollinators. When bees begin pollination, there is limited nectar available and competition for this valuable resource becomes more intense. In turn, warmer temperatures later in the year are extending seasonal flight activity in bees, beyond available nectar sources. Because of climate change, there is a tendency for flowers to decline earlier on in the growing season than they had previously. This

affects pollinators that require a pollen and nectar supply throughout the entire growing season to allow the queen to produce a colony. Therefore, nesting activity and reproductive success are associated with the synced timing of flowering.

Native plant species are being selected for the project that our native bumble and solitary bees prefer. Most species selected have an early or late bloom period so they can provide food for the bees during the "shoulder" season. Along with the planted shrubs, the area will also be seeded with an assortment of perennial flowers.

Bees love these plants, which can also attract butterflies and hummingbirds. The plant species LEPS will be planting could be a beautiful addition to any garden:



Bumblebee on lupine

Photo: Lisa Dreves

- Arctic lupine
- Coastal strawberry
- Baldhip rose
- Nootka rose
- Red elderberry
- Red flowering currant
- Salal
- Saskatoonberry
- Snowberry
- Thimbleberry
- Fireweed
- Pearly everlasting
- Kinnikinnick
- Red columbine
- Indian plum
- Sunflower
- Tall Oregon grape

For more information about this project, contact Lisa... you know where to find her!

Lisa Dreves

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Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.15 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207 St. Langley
Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June at the LEPS office or at Executive members' homes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It has been a sad month with the passing of our mentor and dedicated environmentalist Rhys Griffiths; we will miss his cheerful outlook and regular advice. May you rest in peace, Rhys.

Lots of rain, a bit of snow, snowdrops are blooming and lambs have started to arrive - spring can't be far away. The Great Backyard Bird Count starts today, the Feeder Watch is ongoing and the Derby Reach Brae Island annual bird count is tomorrow. So there has been a lot to do as well as watching the Winter Olympics on TV.

We still have some projects underway for anyone who wishes to assist; Gareth is providing and installing bird nest boxes at various sites and Ryan is working on Flying Squirrel boxes for the Forslund/Watson Wildlife area. We might look at that as a project for Mountain View as well. A good supply of Flying Squirrels benefits the owl and hawk species.

Bob

DERBY REACH/BRAE ISLAND BIRD COUNT SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17TH

Fifteen intrepid birders met at 7.30 am in the lounge at St George's Church in Fort Langley on a cold, wet and snowy morning. Braving the elements, they headed out to count those birds who were not hiding from the weather.

This year only 34 species were seen (down from last year) and a total of 848 birds. Many species normally seen were conspicuous by their absence due to the conditions. Previous years counts were:

2014 - 1435 birds, 43 species
2015 - 999 birds, 46 species
2016 - 1209 birds, 48 species
2017 - 1168 birds, 51 species

Ironically, as we left the post-count gathering, the skies cleared and the sun came out to give us a perfect winter afternoon. Such is the BC weather!

Sheila Puls

NEST BOX PROGRAM

As the Nest Box Coordinator for the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (Birds on the Bay) my job is to find locations where nest boxes can be installed to help compensate for the loss of suitable natural nesting sites. LFN Members are helping with this program in the following locations:

Brae Island – Metro Vancouver have installed a number of Purple Martin boxes which Anne Gosse and her team are monitoring on a regular basis. If anyone would like to help with this easy activity which consists of walking to the end of the island and watching the boxes for half an hour or so on a summer's evening please call Anne. We have also been asked to install more boxes across the river on private property this spring. To date only Violet-green Swallows have used the boxes at Brae Island and we have been advised by the Purple Martin Recovery Team that it can be ten or more years for the martins to start using the boxes. But since the Program was started, their numbers have continued to increase and young birds are spreading out to find new territories. So this is a long-term project that we hope LFN and DRBIPA members will be able to continue monitoring.

Gordon's Brook (Aldergrove Regional Park) - Last year Bob Puls and I installed Tree Swallow and Wood Duck boxes in Phase 2 of this project. One swallow box was successfully used by Tree Swallows and all the Wood Duck boxes had squirrel nests in them.

Brydon Lagoon – Last October I checked the boxes we had installed in 2015: two had been used by Tree Swallows, three by House Sparrows and one by a mouse. One Wood Duck box had been used by a squirrel.

Campbell Valley Park – On February 7th Wim and I met Roy Teo and installed eight Tree



Nest box at Forslund Watson

Photo: Ryan Usenik

Swallow boxes in Phase 2 of the new wetland on 200th Street in the NW corner of the Park. The original six boxes were checked on February 7th by Wim and Roy. Three had been used by Tree Swallows, although only one was successful and a fourth was used by a Common Yellowthroat. Wim had seen the bird going in and out of the box, otherwise they would not have known what species had used it, a very unusual occurrence we think.

Forslund Watson

In addition to the Barn Owl box that was installed last fall, there are a number of Tree Swallow boxes on the property but they saw limited use again in 2017 with only the one nest box being used. Several of the boxes were used by field mice which isn't all that bad as it provides a food source for the raptors in the area. None of the Wood Duck boxes were used in 2017. Once again in 2017 the haying contractor was asked to delay the first cutting of hay till after June 15th to allow ground nesting newborns to fledge.



Installing a nest box at Brydon Lagoon

Photo: Gareth Pugh

If anyone knows of a suitable location where we could install nest boxes or wants to help with this program (donating materials, building boxes etc.) please feel free to call me at 604-576-6831 or e-mail me gareth@intergate.ca. We have recently been approached by a member who has a very suitable property where we will be installing swallow and duck boxes this spring.

Tom Wildeboer and Wim Vesseur have also helped me with the Tree Swallow boxes at Serpentine Fen and if any other member would like to help out occasionally I would be very grateful.

Gareth Pugh

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SURREY-WHITE ROCK-LANGLEY

Out of all of the White Rock count groups, our little Area F was the one with the most interesting finds for the day. There was Bob, Sheila, Joanne and Arlene's Snowy Owl. Close on their heels were the Common Redpoll's found by Phil, Joan and Chad, as well as the Redhead by the Bolivar's and myself. Here are some of the other highlights!



Snowy Owl

Photo: Bob Puls

- * It wasn't 10 below all day.
- * The ice storm deemed our area as out of bounds.
- * There were 25 people on the count this year
- * Mallards were our most numerous bird with 1144 individuals seen.
- * There were 68 Species seen this year.
- * We had one feeder count which contributed to our record number of species by adding Pine Siskin.
- * There were almost as many Bald Eagles as Rock Pigeons.
- * There were as many Anna's Hummingbirds as Red-tailed Hawks (How the little ones make some of our sub zero nights is beyond me).
- * Birds strikingly absent were Wood Duck, Wilson's Snipe and Barred Owl.
- * 22 Species of bird were located in every one of our areas.
- * There was a decrease in the individual numbers of invasive species including Starling, House Sparrow and Eurasian Collared Dove. This is always good news as these are one of the largest reasons for native species' declines.
- * The Brookwood area, with David and Anthea as the co leaders, had the most species at 46. This area includes the Nicomekl floodplain.
- * There were 6 bird enthusiasts that joined us for the first time this year. Thank you to Chad, Christina, John, Arlene, Nancy and Jenna.
- * There were 7 known news outlets that carried the press release written by John Gordon. Search "Christmas Bird Count White Rock".

Mike Klotz

PITT MEADOWS/MAPLE RIDGE (ALOUETTE)

In 2011 the LFN volunteered to help with this bird count and this is the 7th year in which we have taken on areas #5 & #6 of the circle which fall south of the Fraser River.

December 16th was this year's designated day which turned out to be cloudy and misty, but dry with the temperature hovering between 4-6 C. Sheila, designated driver, and Bob, picked up Anne at her home at 8:0 am and set off to cover area #6 from the Golden Ears bridge east to Derby Reach Park, whilst Gareth's team covered the Surrey section, area #5. Last year all the ponds were frozen, but this year they were ice free, so good counts of water birds were obtained. The smaller ground dwelling birds were not so plentiful, and we saw no big flocks of finches or sparrows as we had in other years.

The final total count was 38 species with Canada Geese at 522 far outnumbering any other species. No really exciting sightings, although we were fortunate in being allowed access onto a couple of properties that enabled us to get better views of ponds and their ducks. Particular thanks to the Martinis who let us look behind their house at the pond and flock of geese that could not be seen from the road, where we also found a Pied-billed Grebe. At their feeder were many Nuthatches and Chickadees. Missing this year were any Rock Pigeons or Collared Doves or the usual Peregrine Falcon; perhaps he has moved on!

Gareth's five person team spent the morning on Barnston Island in two groups walking one km legs, with Al Schulze providing a shuttle service. The big surprise was the lack of Canada Geese, probably as a result of hunting. Lots of sparrows as usual, some Bald Eagles, a Peregrine and two Pheasants were nice sightings and a good number of gulls were congregated at the East end of the island.

We could have done much better with more participants, ending up with only 46 species as compared to 56 last year when the count was carried out in snow and ice.

Bob Puls & Gareth Pugh

RHYS GRIFFITHS

December 6th 1925 - February 3rd 2018



Rhys at Brydon Lagoon

Photo: Bob Puls

Rhys was a tireless environmental steward, an outspoken advocate for Langley's natural environment and a long time member and leader of the Langley Field Naturalists.

Lindsay Rhys Griffiths, MA, P.Eng., was born in London in 1925. He served in the British army, serving in Palestine and Germany from 1944 to 1957 before moving to Canada in 1958. Rhys worked for Bell Canada International for whom he travelled Ontario and the world. After retiring, Rhys worked in Tanzania under a CIDA contract for 5 years, repairing telephone lines for the railway.

Moving to Langley in 1996 with wife Annabel, Rhys, along with fellow member Martin McNicoll, revived the Langley Field Naturalists. Rhys was president for a number of years, then a long-time treasurer for the club. Thanks to Rhys, the LFN today is a thriving club with 100 members.

Rhys and Annabel settled in their new Langley City home on the shores of Brydon Lagoon. Rhys became a watchdog for the lagoon, ensuring that it would remain a jewel in Langley City's parks

system. His tireless efforts have ensured that the lagoon has survived many crises. He established a program to keep in check the Purple Loosestrife that was choking the natural vegetation around the Brydon pond. He enlisted the Field Naturalists to place log booms in the middle of the lagoon for roosting waterfowl. He worked tirelessly with Langley City to preserve the health of the lagoon. After a fish kill in the lagoon in 2014, caused by a heat wave, Rhys worked with fellow LFN'er Anthea Farr to make sure this couldn't happen again. Over the years, he also installed and maintained swallow boxes around the lagoon's perimeter.

With his work on Brydon Lagoon, the Forslund Watson Wildlife Area and other projects such as the revival of Sendall Gardens, Rhys was a tireless soldier for nature and the environment. However, in his persistent pursuit of his goals, he was always a gentleman, never giving up until he got the results he wanted. Langley and the Langley Field Naturalists have lost an amazing steward. While we have already benefitted from Rhys's efforts, he will always remain as an inspiration for us to keep working to protect and enhance Langley's wonderful natural areas.

Rhys was for several years a director of the Langley Environmental Partners Society. His other volunteer work included helping with Douglas Park school's breakfast program, showing up at 7.30 to cook scrambled eggs for students, his membership in PROBUS (retired professional and businessmen), the Lawn Bowling Club and St George's Church in Fort Langley.

During his time in Langley, he received the Legacy Stewardship and BC Nature's Service awards and was honoured as Langley City's Senior Citizen of the Year and as a Langley City Special Volunteer. In recognition of his wide ranging contributions to the community, he was also among Canada's recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012. Before coming to BC, he was president of Pollution Probe in North Bay 1969-72, an active environmental organization in Ontario. There, he received the Dorothy Walford Memorial Award in 1971.

Rhys passed away after a short battle with cancer on February 3rd, 2018. He is survived by his wife Annabel, son Peter, daughter-in-law Kim, and son Tony. He was predeceased by his son David.

DR. MARTIN K. MCNICHOLL
April 16th 1946 - December 15th 2017



Martin McNicholl

Web Photo

It is with great sadness that we report that Martin McNicholl passed away on Friday, December 15th. It is great loss to the birding community.

Martin was known as an ornithologist who made contributions both nationally and internationally. He joined the British Columbia Field Ornithologists board in the early 90's and was a long time editor of the journal, *BC Birds*, as well as a regular contributor to *BC Birding*. As a result of Martin's contributions to ornithology, he was awarded the Steve Cannings Award at the BCFO AGM held in Pemberton in 2014. The Cannings Award recognizes achievement in any or all of three areas: (1) research on bird biology or ecology, or detailed documentation of the birdlife of any part of BC; (2) conservation of birds or bird habitats in BC; and (3) public education about birds in BC.

It should be noted that the Cannings award is mainly for contributions to ornithology in BC. Many of Martin's accomplishments have taken place in other provinces, and he is well-known as an ornithologist at the national and even international level.

Martin was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 16, 1946, and grew up in the Winnipeg area. He became interested in birds at a very early age, and said that his first memory of a bird, at age 3, was a Common Loon yodeling as it flew over a rowboat containing Martin, his father, and his grandfather. His interest in birds was encouraged and fostered by his aunt, Gertrude McNicholl, and a second cousin, Grace Keith, both of whom were keen birdwatchers. In addition to the immediate vicinity of Winnipeg, much of his early birding was done during the summers near Gimli, Manitoba (on Lake Winnipeg) and in the lake country near Ingolf, Ontario (west of Kenora), around property owned by his relatives.

Martin enrolled in a Zoology program at the University of Manitoba, and earned a bachelor's degree (Honours Zoology) in 1968. While an undergraduate, he met Dr. Roger Evans, who employed him one summer to do surveys of waterbirds and Sharp-tailed Grouse. He then embarked on a M.Sc. program under Dr. Evans, and completed his Master's thesis on Forster's Tern biology in 1971. For his Ph.D. work, Martin moved to Edmonton and studied Blue Grouse (now called Sooty Grouse) biology under Dr. Fred Zwickel. However, his study area, where he did research for four summers, was in the Comox Burn on Vancouver Island.

After completing his Ph.D., Martin worked for several environmental consulting firms between B.C. and Ontario. From 1984 to 1987, he served as General Manager and Executive Director of the Long Point Bird Observatory, now part of Bird Studies Canada. Since moving to B.C., and until recently, he worked mainly at the Vancouver International Airport, first for LGL Environmental Research Associates and then with Airport Wildlife Management International, with the objective of managing birds on the airport and reducing bird hazards to aircraft.

Martin is credited with saving the LFN from collapse at a time when he came on board to save the organization. He served in various executive positions, most recently as programme chair, until ill health prevented his attendance at meetings.

As reported by BCFO

FIELD TRIP TO BLACKIE SPIT, NOVEMBER 16TH 2017

Seven participants joined me for my weekly bird survey at Blackie Spit. A cool southerly wind was blowing as we set off to the pier from where we could scan the bay. We were able to see Common Loons, Surf Scoters, Cormorants, Gulls, Horned, Western and Red-necked Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers.

From there we walked around to the spit itself where we found a small flock of Ring-billed Gulls together with about 250 Dunlin and a large flock mostly consisting of Wigeon and Pintail. We also saw two Long-billed Curlews and two Marbled Godwits that have been winter residents there for several years. A number of seals could be seen lying on the grassy banks across the estuary. An eagle flushed the ducks which flew around the bay, but most returned after the eagle had passed.

We walked on to the Rene Savenye area where we found a number of Double-crested Cormorants sitting on the pilings where the Purple Martin boxes are located. We also saw a large number of Greater Yellowlegs in the lagoon; these had been in the area for several weeks. The real treat was a Peregrine that landed in a tree nearby, giving everyone great views. Along the dyke trail past the community gardens, we found a number of ducks in the ditch and various sparrows and finches in the bushes.

The final count was 36 species, not bad for the time of year.

Gareth Pugh

FIELD TRIP TO THE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL CAPTIVE BREEDING CENTRE, JANUARY 6TH 2018

Nineteen LFN and WRSN members plus two guests attended a guided tour of the Northern Spotted Owl Captive Breeding Facility in Langley. Jasmine and Katelyn, the dedicated young ladies who run the Facility with other helpers, are performing an important job helping an endangered species recover. We were shown the two different types of cages which are being simplified as they



Gathering to see the owls

Photo: Anne Gosse

find out more about the owls. We then were shown two of the older non-breeding owls which we were allowed to photograph. Also we saw one of the first-time breeding pairs; these are introduced to each other by being kept in adjacent cages until it is felt they are sufficiently accustomed to each other to be able to share a cage. Jasmine explained that they have to spend some time at night listening to the owls calling so that they know when they can be put in the same cage. We were told how Shania, a female, was 'independent and headstrong' (the ladies present got a laugh out of that) and would not mate with the first two males she was introduced to but eventually she was paired with Scud and they produced young in 2016 and 2017.

We were shown the building where the rats and mice are bred to provide a continuous food source for the owls. It is a very clean facility that has to be carefully managed to ensure genetic diversity. The tour ended at the incubation building where we learned that when the owls lay eggs, they are taken away and dummy eggs substituted so that the eggs can be hatched in carefully controlled incubators. Once they are hatched, they are hand fed for a few days before being introduced to their parents who can then rear them to adulthood without too much human contact.

The Facility was very clean and well run and we learned lots of Spotted Owl facts, information and statistics.

At the end of the tour, a number of our group had their photos taken with Forrest, a Barred Owl who is used for educational purposes.

Gareth Pugh

McBRYDE GARDEN, KAUAI



Darwins Orchid Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

Hawaii in January? YES, especially to visit the oldest in the Hawaiian chain, the beautiful Kauai, AKA the Garden Isle. Besides R&R, casual birding (about 25 species), surviving the Pihea trail hike (Waimea Canyon), my plans included visiting the tropical McBryde Garden.

McBryde garden is located on the south shore in a lush valley with steep volcanic cliffs and meandering streams. It is considered to be a veritable ark of tropical flora and a perfect place to view rare and endangered plants. Opened to the public in 1970, it is the flagship garden for the nonprofit National Tropical Botanical Gardens located in Kauai, Maui and Florida. It is home to an active conservation laboratory trying to save many plants from the brink of extinction.

I enjoyed walking the miles of trails through various sections of the 50 acre property. The Native Plant section was most interesting to me with many specimens found only on Kauai or other Hawaiian Islands. Many are threatened or endangered or have already disappeared from their native habitats. The Hawaiian Life Canoe garden had just opened and told the story of Polynesian voyageurs and the plants they brought with them for food, medicine,

construction, clothing and cultural/spiritual uses.

The Orchid garden was a relaxing place to wait for the departing shuttle bus that would take us back down the mountain. We located Darwin's Orchids that had bloomed the previous day. Darwin's Orchid stores its nectar at the bottom of a 1 foot spur. You may have heard the amazing story of this Orchid from Madagascar and how it got its name. In 1862, Charles Darwin studied this plant and suggested there must be a moth species with a proboscis capable of reaching the nectar.

In 1907, a subspecies of moth was discovered in Madagascar that had a proboscis just long enough to reach the nectar. This was 20 years after Darwin's death. In 1992, studies in the wild and in captivity confirmed his suggestions that this large moth pollinated this orchid.

Kauai is an amazing place and I love their bylaw- no building higher than a palm tree which means no high-rises! McBryde Garden is the perfect place to enjoy nature and learn more about tropical plants on this island paradise.


Joanne Rosenthal

**Derby Reach/Brae Island
Parks Association AGM**

Come join
Dr. Rob Butler

well known speaker, ornithologist, author, filmmaker, and artist
as he takes us on a fascinating journey through
the wonders of nature and into the miracle of migration

Migration of Life



March 8, 2018
Fort Langley Community Hall
It's free. Everyone Welcome!

PROGRAM
AGM 7:30 pm
Break 8:00-8:15 pm
Presentation 8:15 pm

APPLE BAKE-OFF Bring your best Apple Baking 7:00-7:15 pm
Taste & Vote for your Favourite Creation during the break
Please no nuts or dairy products

SOME WINTER FUNGI (AND LICHENS TOO)

The often-gloomy days of winter can be made brighter and sunnier, by exploring our local woods for some fungi, "sparks" of colour. Besides the usual "conks" or polypore such as Artist's Fungus, Tinder Conk (*Fomes*) and Turkey Tail (*Trametes*), in your woodland wanderings watch for:

- Lemon Drops (*Bisporrella*), - lovely little discs on well rotted logs.
- *Stereum*, spp. Some are very colourful indeed, with shades of cream, pink, lavender and peach.
- Turkey Tail (*Trametes*) can be very colourful, with bands of pink, orange and brown, which is why it is sometimes called the 'rainbow' fungus.

It is a delight to discover various cup fungi (like eyelash) or various bird's nest fungi.

Lichens are a marriage between algae and fungi. The winter lichen outing had to be postponed (We'll schedule it again). We were going to explore trails in Campbell Valley Regional Park for delights such as beard lichen, antlered perfume, pencil script, lungwort, wax paper and pixie cups (lovely names). Make these - - and more, part of your winter enjoyment.



Stereum sp.

Photo: Al Grass

Did you know? Wax paper lichen is a favourite of hummingbirds in construction of their nests.

Al Grass

BUSHY BEARDS?



Beard Lichen (*Usnea*, sp.)

Photo: Al Grass

Lichens of the *Usnea* group grow as woolly tufts (in our area) on tree branches, along with wax paper Lichen (*Parmelia*, sp.) and Antlered perfume (*Evernia*, sp.) The combination is indeed very beautiful. Beard lichens might be confused with other stringy species, such as "old man's beard" (*Alectoria*, sp.). However, gently pulling beard lichen apart reveals a "thread-like" core.

Beard lichens are useful materials for birds. Another example of a lichen used by birds is wax paper lichen – hummingbirds attach wax paper lichens to the outer parts of their nests.

Lichens like beard lichen are known to have powerful antibiotic effects. Could it be why birds use them in their nest construction (to deal with parasites)? It is thought that birds like the Purple Martin use cherry leaves for this purpose. It is simply an idea.

Campbell Valley Regional Park is a great place to look for beard lichen, and many more.

Al Grass

Reference: Hale, M. *The Lichens*. Wm. C Brown Publishers. Dubuque, Iowa.

PROGRAMMES

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



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

THURSDAY MARCH 15TH 2018

"LIFE ON THE EDGE - THE SEABIRDS OF ENGLAND, ICELAND AND PERU"

Speaker: Anne Murray

Local naturalist, Anne Murray, will present a slide show: "Life on the Edge - the Seabirds of England, Iceland and Peru". Murres, Kittiwakes, Gannets, and Cormorants are among the many seabirds that nest in immense colonies on wild rocky islands and shorelines around the world. This slide show will focus on three destinations and a diversity of seabirds and habitats, with a few diversions to other ecological marvels on the way.

THURSDAY APRIL 19TH 2018

BIRD STUDIES CANADA - WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Speaker: Catherine Jardine

An overview of some of the current research that is underway in BC and the various projects that local birders can participate in.

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) is Canada's national bird conservation organization. BSC began as the Long Point Bird Observatory in 1960, changing its name in 1998 to reflect the growing national scope of its research programs. Its mission is to advance the understanding, appreciation and conservation of wild birds and their habitats through studies that engage the skills, enthusiasm and support of volunteers, members, staff and the interested public. BSC conducts a wide range of local, regional, national and international programs, dependent upon the active involvement of thousands of volunteer "Citizen Scientists", guided by a small group of professional scientists.

THURSDAY MAY 17TH 2018

BIRDING IN COLOMBIA - THE MOST SPECIOUS COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

Speakers: Dr. David Bradley (Bird Studies Canada) and Ana Gonzales (PhD candidate)

At the northern end of South America, Colombia is a mega diverse country for birds, with 2,000 recorded species, over 100 of which are endemic to the country. This amazing diversity is a result of numerous factors, from the country's position between Central and South America, which funnels migrants as they move to and from the continent, to the Pacific and Atlantic coastlines, the expansive Amazon rainforest, and the highly seasonal llanos grasslands. Add to this the three distinct arms of the high Andes with its inter-mountain valleys and associated elevation gradient, and you have all the ingredients for a plethora of birds. We will discuss the birds of Colombia and some of the factors that create the country's immense diversity and the threats they face. We will also outline two post-congress tours we are running there in September as part of the International Ornithological Congress in August.

THURSDAY JUNE 21ST 2018

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALIST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SOCIAL NIGHT

A short business meeting, AGM and social evening.

SATURDAY JULY 28TH

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

FIELD TRIPS

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

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

SATURDAY MARCH 3RD

NATURE WALK

BRYDON LAGOON, LANGLEY

Leader: Al Grass

Time: 9:00 am to noon

Bursting buds, and other early signs of spring, like a symphony of bird song. Maybe too, a Green Heron? Or early swallows. Meet at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street, Langley. Please phone 604 219 2043 for information and to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY MARCH 10TH

HOUSTON TRAIL

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK.

BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES!

Leader: Biologist Phil Henderson

Time: 9:00 am to noon

Join biologist Phil Henderson as we go 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. Phone 604-576-6831 or 604-888-1571 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY MARCH 24TH

REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY, DELTA

Leader: Al Grass

Time: 9:00 am at entrance

Signs of Spring abound - a chorus of bird song, early swallows, and the fragrance of bursting cottonwood buds.

Love is in the air! And who knows what migration will bring - maybe a Sora? Dress warmly, bring a lunch and a warm drink.

Please note there is a \$5.00 entrance fee for non members of the Bird Sanctuary. There is a seniors rate. Please phone 604 219 2043 for information and to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY APRIL 6TH

JACKMAN PIT (WETLANDS) PARK, LANGLEY

Leader: Bob Puls

Time: 9:00 am at 272nd street and 10th avenue across from the Transfer Station.

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 14TH

FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY

Leader: Ryan Usenik

Time: 9:00 am at 2705 – 232nd Street

Join Ryan as he leads us through this property which LFN co-manages with the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. It is part open fields where we have recently installed a Barn Owl box and part woodland and includes two ponds where a number of different dragonfly species can be found in the summer. 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 21ST

WILLBAND CREEK PARK

Leader: Anne Gosse

Time: 9:00 am at the parking lot on Bateman Road off Highway 11

Willband Creek Park is a marshy wetland located in Abbotsford. The trails are easy going, level routes suitable for all ages and fitness levels, circling a marshy lake. Located on the paths are sightseeing benches and wooden bridges and a brand-new viewing platform. We will walk the 2.33 kilometer circle gravel trail to check out the ducks and birds in this wetland area. Phone 604-888-1787 for info or to let us know to expect you.

<http://www.fraservalleybirding.com/Site%20Guide/Willband%20Creek%20Park/index.htm>

WEDNESDAY APRIL 25TH

QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK, VANCOUVER

Leader: John Gordon

Time: 9:30 am at the Rose Garden parking lot off 37th Avenue

Join John to walk through this beautiful park to admire the different flowers, trees and shrubs and to look for warblers, vireos and other spring migrants that use the park as a stopover on their way to the breeding grounds. Bring your camera and a snack.

Phone 604-533-7171 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY MAY 5TH

SERPENTINE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Gareth Pugh

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

Join Gareth for a walk around this wetland, jointly managed by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of the Environment, and stroll along the Serpentine River dyke.

Phone 604-576-6831 for information and to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY MAY 18TH

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

Leaders: Al & Jude Grass

Time: 8:45 am at the junction of the Hope Flood Road and Silver Skagit Road (take exit #168 from Highway 1 East).

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, so please bring lunch, snacks, water, (sunscreen and bug repellent) and a variety of clothing and footwear for the weather. Note: please make sure you have enough gas as it is 130 km round trip to Ross Lake and back to the highway. Phone: 604-219-2043 for info or to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

MAY 23RD - 25TH (MAY 23RD, 24TH NIGHTS)

LILLOOET & AREA TWO NIGHT TRIP!

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we explore the flora and fauna of Lillooet and the surrounding areas. This area has seven different bio-diversity zones with lakes, wetlands, grasslands, sagebrush and moist and dry forests which are all great habitats for a variety of birds. The spring flowers should be in full bloom and mountain goats, bears and other mammals are found in the area. We hope to join the Lillooet Naturalists and will provide a full itinerary later. We leave early Wednesday morning (May 23rd) for afternoon birding in the Lillooet area. After morning birding on May 25th, we then return home. Bring lunch and breakfast makings and eat dinner out. We have provisionally booked rooms and there is a Municipal campground in town.

Phone: 604-576-6831 for info.

WEDNESDAY MAY 30TH

NATURE AT HIGH POINT

Leader: Anthea Farr

Time: 7:00 pm. Meet on the west side of 200 St. just past 2nd Ave.

Join Anthea for 2 easy evening walks to look at nature at High Point. First we will walk around the lake; then we will explore some forest trails near Jacobsen Creek. Phone: 604-576-7731 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY JUNE 2ND

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Wim Vesseur

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

Join Wim to walk the trails through this popular park with its great variety of trees, flowers 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: 604-534-3447 for info or to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY JUNE 8TH

**CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK-
DAWN CHORUS**

Leader: Al Grass

Time: 6:00 am at 16th Avenue parking lot

Come and enjoy the early morning concert, as Al leads us on a stroll through this natural park. We can identify the local shrubs, flowers, trees and insects as the birds entertain us. Phone: 604-219-2043 for info or to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY JUNE 22ND

GEORGE C. REIFEL

MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY – DELTA

Leader: Al Grass

Time: 9:00 am at Reifel

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 footwear. There is a small admission fee. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments. Meet at the Reifel Sanctuary. Phone 604-219-2043 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY JUNE 30TH

RIVERVIEW ARBORETUM

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Trip will be booked as soon as the walk schedule is announced. Further details will follow.

**GLEN VALLEY BIRD COUNT
SATURDAY MAY 26TH**

More information from Lisa Dreves
(stewardship@leps.bc.ca)

8th Annual SKAGIT VALLEY
BIRD BLITZ
May 4/5/6, 2018

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 Group 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:   **HOPE MOUNTAIN CENTRE**
for outdoor learning
FEDERATION OF BC NATURALISTS

MANNING PARK **36th Anniversary**
BIRD BLITZ 
June 15, 16 & 17, 2018

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

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

- Two nights camping at Lone Duck Group Campsite beside 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 — 1-800-330-3321
Rooms, cabins, and chalets are available, but book early!

Sponsored by:   **HOPE MOUNTAIN CENTRE**
for outdoor learning
FEDERATION OF BC NATURALISTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - AREA F, LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS

Species	Total Birds
Canada Goose	1077
Cackling Goose	276
Trumpeter Swan	9
Gadwall	15
Eurasian Wigeon	1
American Wigeon	311
Mallard	1144
Northern Shoveller	2
Northern Pintail	4
Green-winged Teal	25
Redhead*	1
Ring-necked Duck	18
Bufflehead	9
Hooded Merganser	15
Common Merganser	3
Great Blue Heron	21
Bald Eagle	61
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	19
Buteo Species	1
Merlin	1
Falcon Species	1
Ring-billed Gull	4
Glaucous-winged Gull	246
Gull Species	31
Rock Pigeon	72
Mourning Dove	7
Eurasian Collared-dove	10
Barn Owl	1
Snowy Owl	1
Anna's Hummingbird	19
Belted Kingfisher	2
Red-breasted Sapsucker	2
Downy Woodpecker	9
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Northern Flicker	57
Pileated Woodpecker	5
Northern Shrike	2
Steller's Jay	54
Northwestern Crow	972
Common Raven	10

Black-capped Chickadee	212
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	24
Bushtit	52
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
Brown Creeper	3
Bewick's Wren	2
Winter Wren (Pacific Wren)	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	36
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
American Robin	99
Varied Thrush	36
European Starling	668
Spotted Towhee	51
Fox Sparrow	25
Song Sparrow	117
White-crowned Sparrow	79
Golden-crowned Sparrow	105
Dark-eyed Junco	365
Red-winged Blackbird	35
Brewer's Blackbird	45
Purple Finch	1
House Finch	64
Common Redpoll	6
Pine Siskin	8
American Goldfinch	69
House Sparrow	13

Total Number of Sightings	6650
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Total Number of Species	68
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