



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

c/o 200-4839 221 St, Langley, BC V3A 2P1

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Newsletter

March 2019

WHAT BIRDS USE TO BUILD NESTS

On February 27th, the Langley Field Naturalists were asked to give a presentation to the Fort Langley Outdoor Elementary school (K - grade 3) at Brae Island Park. This was expertly done by Anthea Farr, showing the children a few bird props, some bird pictures and samples of nesting material such as leaves, mosses, twigs, branches. She also brought along a few real bird nests to show. At the conclusion of her talk, the classes were divided into two groups and given lists to check-off any nesting materials found along the park trails. Spider webs, feathers, and dog hair were some of the more elusive items to find, but eventually the children did find them.



Anthea describes the nest building

Photo: Anne Gosse

Joanne Rosenthal and Anne Gosse, the designated helpers, took one group of very enthusiastic children and helped the children check off the different findings - with a lot of discussion and excitement. The children enjoyed the day and all agreed it was great fun.

After lunch, Roy Teo, Metro Parks Stewardship Technician, with several of the children's parents and helpers, hammered and screwed together some of pre-cut tree swallow boxes, keeping everyone busy amid a high level of discussion and noise. Our thanks to Bob Puls who came to help the children assemble the boxes.

Anne Gosse

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON, JANUARY 20TH 2019



Copyright © John Gordon Photography

The eclipse began at 6.36 pm while the umbral started at 7.33 pm The total eclipse lasted from 8.41 pm until 9.43 pm The umbral ended at 10.50 pm and eclipse ended at 11.48 pm. Source: Nasa - thank you John Gordon for this time lapse photograph.

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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



The weather is warming up and fingers crossed the snow is done (though we have had snow as late as May... 4mm in 1996). My mind had turned to my veggie garden before the snow came in February; I am going to risk dreaming of beans and rhubarb again; oh and hiking! It is going to be a wonderful spring outside.

Are you itching to get outside yet? There are many opportunities with the LFN to get outside and **ENGAGEMENT** is our mantra for 2019. We are dedicated to getting members involved in all the projects we have going on. From bird counts to land inventories to filling up our walks with smiling faces - we need you. But what about the rainy days? There are letters to be written, newsletter articles to be researched and smiling faces are also needed, rain or shine, at our display table at community events.

There is certainly a lot you can do for the LFN but what can the LFN do for you?

Engagement opportunities abound but if it isn't what interests you we would really love to know what would. Is there an issue in your neighbourhood that needs public input or awareness? Are you concerned about a park that needs to be cleaned up? Is there a walk you would love to take a group to? Do you have an idea for a presentation? Please feel free to chat with me or other members of our incredible executive!

This is going to be a great year for engagement with the LFN. Please join us for whatever you are up for and get out there this year.

Happy Spring everyone!

Lisa Dreves
President



INTO THE FUTURE - MEMBER ENGAGEMENT LUNCHEON AND DISCUSSION



New ideas - Joan Wilmshurst

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

On Saturday February 23rd a luncheon and workshop for LFN members was held at the McLeod Field-house.

The purpose of this event was to introduce our members to the principles of engagement organization. The afternoon included a review of current LFN activities and practices. Members were asked to discuss and brainstorm ideas to help increase membership, encourage more volunteerism and identify practices to mentor and develop individuals for leadership roles.

The weather cooperated and 20 people attended the event. Kathy Masse and Lilianne Fuller facilitated and led our discussions. Anne Gosse took photos and helped record the suggestions and ideas that members put forward. We enjoyed lunch, good company and great conversation.

The day was very successful and at least 48 points suggested by members were recorded.

Our president, Lisa Dreves, summarized our achievements for the day and thanked everyone for their time and contributions.

A detailed recap and report will be prepared by the organizers. This information will be used in plans to support the future success of LFN and our main purpose and mandate - "To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education".

Joanne Rosenthal



FLYING SQUIRREL NEST BOXES

In early 2018 LFN installed 3 Flying Squirrel nesting boxes on the Irene Pearce loop off the South Langley Regional Trail. This section is a fairly new growth conifer forest. Another 3 nesting boxes were installed at Forslund Watson, east of the 26th Ave gate. This site is mostly deciduous forest growth. All 6 boxes were inspected for activity in the fall of 2018. The three on the Irene Pearce trail had no activity. One of the boxes at Forslund Watson is a larger design with a larger entrance hole and it had fairly new moss in it. The other two again saw no activity. We suspect that perhaps the one box was being used by our new friends, the grey squirrel.

In communicating with others we are told it is very normal for Flying Squirrel nesting boxes not to be used the first few years after their installation. It seems they like to let them weather before using them. I guess, unlike us, they prefer old houses over new houses. Definitely very environmentally sustainable thinking.

Ryan Usenik

Killer Whale Mural-
Created to draw attention to the declining numbers of Orcas and how saving the Wetlands in Gloucester Industrial Estates can help. Healthy wetlands nurture the salmon that feed the whales, house the beaver responsible for salmon habitat, and thus save the Orcas and the planet we all share!

We are all dependent on each other in this "wide web of life"

Langley Field Naturalists Society February, 2019

The First Nation language does not have a translation for the word "save."
The word they would use instead would be (səyernstəx) "respect"

Showing respect is perhaps more meaningful and maybe the message should be changed to: Respect the wetlands, the salmon, the beaver and the Orcas and show the planet the respect it deserves.

By: Ted Lightfoot

DRAYTON HARBOUR SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH

Four of us met at Blaine Marine Park to walk around Blaine Harbour and the Semiahmoo Spit on a cold day with some rain showers. From the shelters along the shoreline we were able to use our scopes to see the large number of ducks, mostly Mallard, Pintail, Scaup and Surf and White-winged Scoter with a few other species mixed in among them.

We drove to the parking lot at the end of the harbour road and walked onto the pier from where we were able to see a number of birds on the water. From the pier we had good views of Red-breasted Mergansers, Red-necked Grebes, Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants, Common Loons, Red-throated Loon and Pigeon Guillemot. Moving on we made our way round Drayton Harbour to the Spit and stopped at the first observation shelter where we were rewarded by the sight of several Black Oystercatchers and Black Turnstones which were feeding along the shingle at the edge of the water nearby. The housing development on the Spit continues to expand so there is very little remaining of the type of habitat to attract songbirds. From there we headed to the harbour café for lunch and ended the trip by walking around the end of the Spit where we were rewarded by the sight of a group of Long-tailed Ducks.

Despite the weather we had an enjoyable morning and saw a variety of birds: Spotted Towhee, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, European Starling, Northwestern Crow, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Glaucous-winged Gull, Bald Eagle, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Dunlin, Sanderling, Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Harlequin, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, Black-capped Chickadee, Greater Yellowlegs, Bufflehead, Gadwall, Common Merganser, Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Long-tailed Duck, Brant, Red-tailed Hawk and Pigeon Guillemot.

Gareth Pugh

IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK NOVEMBER 24TH

I was a bit early at the parking lot looking out at the lake across from the sea. While the Snow Geese were flying over, a Great Blue Heron lazily took to the air. A Bald Eagle sitting in the Douglas fir behind looked at the Mallards and Lesser Scaup in the pond.

In the back of the pond a male Hooded Merganser was showing his hairdo. While Gareth parked his truck, a few Glaucous-winged Gulls took off, followed by a few Crows. As it was rather quiet and nobody else had called in for the walk, I decided to start slowly on the jetty. No wind and no mist, so a nice look on the water. Canvasback, Bufflehead and Common Merganser also showed up in the pond. Just before we moved, a Marsh Wren called and a Spotted Towhee flew by. In the trees some Starlings started chattering.

Starting the jetty walk, we saw lots of Snow Geese on the water. Some Canada geese flew by as well as a couple of Double-crested Cormorants. From the jetty we saw Surf Scoters, Ring-billed Gulls, Horned Grebe, American Coot and Common Goldeneye. On the jetty itself there were plenty of Song Sparrows.

While we worked our way towards the sewage lagoons, we found American Wigeon and Ring-necked Ducks in the other pond and heard a Virginia Rail. In the pond a pair of river otters were making splashes. Far out we saw some blackbird species fly as a small group, but too far off to identify the species. Close by there were lots of Black-capped Chickadees calling out.

In the sewage lagoons we found Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Mew Gull. As it became time for Gareth to leave, we left the lagoons and slowly went back home. On our way out we found Dunlin, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Flicker and last but not least an American Robin. A total of 36 species not including the blackbirds.

Wim Vesseur

**SERPENTINE FEN
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
SATURDAY JANUARY 19TH**



Enjoying the walk

Photo: Tom Wildeboer

Thirteen members and two visitors assembled in the parking lot behind Art Knapps on a cool morning. Tom Wildeboer looked in the barn but no owls were present. I told the group about our plan to install a Barn Owl box in the barn which will require an extra long ladder to reach the rafters.

As we walked down the lane towards the first observation tower, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Chickadees were very active in the Oak trees, while Golden-crowned Sparrows were easily observed as they fed on the ground. From the tower we were able to scan the fields and do a rough count of the large number of ducks, mostly Mallards, feeding there. Descending back to ground level we walked on through the blackberry bushes where a large flock of Bushtits entertained us at close quarters. Then as we emerged into the open area, a flock of White-fronted Geese flew over, a most unusual sight as these birds are rarely seen in the Lower Mainland and then usually in ones or twos mixed in with the Canada Geese. From the dyke trail we had good views of the shallow water ponds in the fields and saw more large numbers of Mallard with some Wigeon, Coot, Green-winged Teal and Shoveler among them. We also had good views of Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks. Wim spotted a Lincoln's Sparrow in the marsh, an uncommon sighting, before we turned onto the river dyke from where we could see Goldeneye, Mergansers, Cormorants and Wigeon feeding in the river. From one vantage point we were able to get a different view of the shallow ponds where Wim located four Dowitchers. Further along, some climbed the second tower while others looked at the ducks in the adjacent backwater, before continuing along the river where we spotted two Cowbirds, another

uncommon species at this time of year, and also a single Loon. As we passed the marsh at the west end of the WMA, we saw a small flock of Shovelers and yet more mallards. A couple of Red-winged Blackbirds were singing, a sound that always makes me feel spring is on the way. Light rain was starting to fall as we made our way back to our cars, but too late to spoil the walk. Eight of us went on to Belle's café nearby to have lunch, a nice ending to a good outing.

A total of 38 bird species were seen as follows: Bald Eagle, Mallard, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, American Coot, Double-crested Cormorant, Common Merganser, Northern Pintail, Eurasian Wigeon, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Lincoln's Sparrow, Golden-Crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Black-Capped Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eurasian Collared Dove, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, Northwestern Crow, Northern Flicker, Bushtit, Great Blue Heron, Common Loon, Glaucous-winged Gull, Long-billed Dowitcher, Bufflehead, Canada Goose, Northern Shoveler, Greater White-fronted Goose, American Robin, House Finch, Purple Finch and Dark-eyed Junco.

Gareth Pugh

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9TH
IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK**



Looking for Downy Woodpecker and a Merlin being chased by crows

Photo: Liz Walker.

Already in January people were calling to register for this trip to Iona Beach Regional Park; unfortunately the wrong date was published in the

Langley Times. So in the last days I got 12 cancellations due to flu and the not great weather forecast. However, 4 hardy souls, Ryan, Herman Tom and myself decided to give it a go and just return early if it was really bad. We met at my place and I drove to the park. Our first sighting was within a few 100 meters where a late raccoon returned to Campbell Valley Park from its nightly stroll for food.

Driving on the road past the airport and Canada Post, we saw 2 coyotes ahead of us and a third on the higher area to the left. The two disappeared out of sight in the meadow to the right when we came closer.

Driving past the sewage area, we noticed the frozen pond there and were afraid the day would be disappointing. After parking, Liz and Grant showed up and we soon started birding. First we scanned the lake which was frozen over and, apart from resting Great Blue Herons, pretty quiet. The herons were moving quickly when people came close by so we went over the road to disturb them the least. During our walk towards the lagoons I decided not to go there, but while looking at all the songbirds I saw lots of ducks flying in the corner of my eyes so we went in after all. The ponds which you don't see from the road were not frozen and showed lots of birds; among the scaup we found Gadwall and Northern Shovelers as well as American Coots. In the back pond there were lots of gulls; we found 5 Iceland (Thayer's) Gulls and a Western x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid as well as Mew, Ring-billed and Glaucous-winged gulls.

On our way out we found our first Northern Shrike. Later we saw another one but that may have been the same bird. The photos were taken on our way to the river and so far we'd had a great morning. Not much wind and some nice sun. We were hoping for more. On the water we found Double-crested Cormorants and Killdeer flying around. We slowly worked our way back to the beach on the other side where it seemed colder. By now the water was much lower and lots of Dunlin were feeding. Tons of Snow Geese were around. After lunch we decided not to walk the pier but to stop on our way back and do some more birding. That is where Liz found 2 birds sitting against the reeds. After I got my scope out, we found out they were Wilson's Snipe. Some of us got lifers on this trip and we all returned home happy. Just before Canada Post we saw a Rough-legged Hawk

hovering.

Below the list as entered in E-bird.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 4000 Snow Goose | 12 Northern Shoveler |
| 12 Gadwall | 2 Eurasian Wigeon |
| 60 American Wigeon | 45 Mallard |
| 400 Northern Pintail | 66 Green-winged Teal |
| 500 Greater Scaup | 8 American Coot |
| 4 Killdeer | 800 Dunlin |
| 2 Wilson's Snipe | 78 Mew Gull |
| 55 Ring-billed Gull | |
| 5 Iceland Gull (Thayer's) | |
| 40 Glaucous-winged Gull | |
| 1 Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid) | |
| 3 Double-crested Cormorant | |
| 52 Great Blue Heron | |
| 2 Northern Harrier | |
| 4 Bald Eagle | |
| 1 Downy Woodpecker | |
| 3 Northern Flicker (Red-shafted) | |
| 1 Merlin | |
| 1 Northern Shrike | |
| 69 Northwestern Crow | |
| 5 Black-capped Chickadee | |
| 1 Pacific Wren | |
| 2 Marsh Wren | |
| 21 European Starling | |
| 2 Fox Sparrow | |
| 1 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) | |
| 3 White-crowned Sparrow | |
| 18 Golden-crowned Sparrow | |
| 11 Song Sparrow | |
| 8 Spotted Towhee | |
| 44 Red-winged Blackbird | |

Number of Taxa: 38
Wim Vesseur



Wilson's Snipe

Photo: Liz Walker

BIRD COUNTS

Since our last newsletter, Langley Field Naturalists have participated in at least three bird counts - the Christmas Bird Count for the White Rock/Surrey/Langley circle, the Christmas Bird Count for the Alouette/Surrey/Langley circle and the Derby Reach/Brae Island February Bird Count.

The first one was held Saturday December 29th - a cold, wet day which resulted in the lowest bird count we have recorded - our team had such a low species count by lunchtime that we were about to double the number of our species at a feeder during a lunch break at a member's home! Only 52 species were seen, down from the usual over 60, with a total bird count of 5193 when last year it was 6483.

Luckily, the second one was a much better day - Saturday January 5th was cold but clear and our teams in the Surrey area of the Alouette count were able to identify over 4000 birds in 58 species, and the team in the Langley area identified more than 1600 birds in 48 species. One seen for the first time was the Spotted Sandpiper.



Spotted Sandpiper

Photo: Bob Puls

On Saturday February 2nd we met the Derby Reach/Brae Island birders for the DRBIPA count on another pleasant day and we recorded a record 53 species, and 1814 birds.

If you would like to receive the multi-year summary sheets, please let us know.

Sheila Puls

DERBY REACH/BRAE ISLAND COUNT



DRBIPA Bird Count participants

Photo: Sheila Puls

Above is a photo of the record-sized group of birding enthusiasts. Three others joined groups in the field and one arrived just after the photo. The weather was splendid on account of good planning. So, there, I have said it. I know birders don't like to contribute the results of their efforts to luck, so I will oblige them; if I can claim weather ...

It was great to see so many familiar and new faces and I would like to thank everyone for coming out. I hope it was fun and rewarding. Among the familiar faces are some very good birders and you can always learn different things from different people - so I know you were all in good hands and in good company. Everyone can contribute and learn and that's what this count is all about. The more eyes and ears out there the better and everyone has a slightly different take on things which can be quite enlightening.



Merlin in flight

Photo: David Clements

There were three new birds on this year's list. Trumpeter Swans had not been recorded before (seen along the Fort to Fort West route) and neither had Spotted Sandpiper which was seen on the log booms along Brae Island. The Cackling Goose (usually a pint-sized Canada Goose with

squeaky voice) used to be lumped in with the Canada Geese but it is now separate (to follow taxonomic standards) and it was recorded in the far west route. I have included the "official" species total without it (53) since in past years it may have been present but never recorded separately from Canada Goose.

Thanks once again to St. Georges for allowing us to gather in their cozy basement. Sheila and Bob kindly arranged everything with the church so we could use it. It is the perfect location and very welcoming especially, at the end of a survey during nasty weather. (It does happen - just last year.) A big part of that welcome feeling is Sheila Puls who always has a smile even when burdened with the task of entering all the field data. This year I found out that Sheila takes no guff when I tried to hand her a hand-scribbled tally on the back page of the official form. Good for her. Each year, Sheila and her husband Bob arrive early to set up tables and refreshments in case the survey coordinator who is supposed to help with this, arrives a little late, good excuse at the ready.



Great Blue Heron

Photo: David Clements

DRBIPA started it all and continue to contribute with the boxes of much needed pre- and post-survey calorie boosters. Thanks to DRBIPA for that birder-sustaining contribution. Thanks to Anne Gosse, photographer, DRBIPA rep and infectious enthusiastic naturalist who brought them along. Speaking of naturalists, many of the participants are members of the Langley Field Naturalists which organizes monthly talks and frequent walks throughout Langley and the lower mainland. And they're not all about birds, but many are.

David Clements took photos along the Fort to Fort

West section of a couple of Merlin, always a pleasure to see and not easy to photograph, plus a photo of a sentinel of the park. Thanks David.

I would also like to thank Metro Vancouver for their vision in creating these parks and for the permit to access the Derby Bog, a special conservation area. They receive the survey information which they can use for park planning.

Thank you very much to everyone who participated. Keep exploring. Happy birding.

Phil Henderson

SATURDAY JULY 29TH

10am to 4pm
rain or shine

SUMMER SOCIAL AND NATURE WALKS



At the **GRASS SHACK**,
17375 27A Avenue, Surrey

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

at 10:30 am & 1:30 pm

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

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

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

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

FOREST BATHING

This has become the "in thing" - so here are some points to ponder.

Don't take your tub!

In spite of what the phrase, forest bathing or bathing in forests, seems to imply, there is no water involved - it is about immersing the body and the spirit in the atmosphere created by a living forest.

Don't get naked.

The benefits of forest bathing can be acquired quite simply, by walking, pausing, gazing and soaking up the scenery, plus absorbing all that oxygen!

Tree treats.

The benefits of being among trees include a reduced heart rate, lower levels of stress hormones, lower blood pressure, a boost to your immunity system and an elevation of the mood. It can help you recover from an illness.

So, you think it's a bunch of hokum-pokum?

The Japanese government spent many years studying the effects of the forest environment and has amassed measurable statistics to back up the claims.

So, what's in a tree?

Scientists have been working to discover what it is about trees that bestows such benefits to those who walk among them. They believe that one of the physical effects is the release of antimicrobial essential oils. These phytonicides not only protect the tree from invasion by harmful bacteria and help ward off insects; they have beneficial effects on humans.

Lungs of the earth.

Trees take in tons of carbon and give off tons of oxygen and water vapour in exchange. That's not all they emit. Pine trees and other evergreens give off terpenes which are used in turpentine and varnishes. Terpenes are also the volatile component of frankincense and myrrh. Some deciduous trees emit isoprene, used to make rubber.

Evil forests.

Not everyone sees tree emissions as health giving. Some Ontario scientists are calling these

kinds of substances "pollution". You can see the effect as a haze over a forested area during heat waves. "How much of the aerosol that we breathe in a city is coming from trees?" they ask, implying that this is a health danger because terpenes can react with nitrogen to create ozone. Scientific American says it is really nothing to worry about but if you want to avoid the possibility in your city back yard, plant lindens over poplar or oak

Saviour forests.

On the other hand, UK and German scientists agree that when terpenes and other tree chemicals react in the air they form tiny particles called aerosols, but they add, "The particles help turn water vapour in the atmosphere into clouds." This is a good thing, they say, pointing out that "the pine particles doubled the thickness of clouds some 1,000 m above the forests, (which) would reflect an extra 5% sunlight back into space". They concluded that such aerosol production actually has a cooling effect on the earth, "dampening future temperature rise".

The wood-wide web.

Peter Wohlleben, a German forester and author, says, "The latest scientific studies" are confirming that "trees are far more alert, social, sophisticated-and even intelligent-than we thought." Studies are being conducted on how trees communicate through their chemical emissions but also underground through mycorrhizal connections.

Twenty minutes a day can keep stress at bay.

Twenty minutes in the forest will produce a measurable result, but the longer you stay among trees, the better. Studies have also concluded that even forest images can have a calming, soothing effect on people and speed healing of the sick. That's why many hospitals are adding tree paintings and photographs to patient wards. Hang one in your office to help you keep your cool.

Excerpts from Dorothy Dobbie Copyright© Pegasus Publications Inc.



DAVID TRUMAN
30TH DECEMBER , 1950 –
28TH JANUARY , 2019

We are saddened by the loss of our member, David Truman.

David died peacefully January 28th, 2019. He is survived by his wife Nora, sons Douglas and Gregory and daughter in law Veronica, sisters in law Mary and Nancy, brother in law Chris, several nieces, nephews, many cousins and fur babies. David retired from his Project Manager job with Telus in 2002 and continued his Brookwood Tax Service business into 2018. David will be remembered as a hard working Rotarian, vacation/trip planner for family and friends, avid golfer, curler, birder, friend of plants, people and pets and volunteer for the Liberal Party of Canada. Celebration of Life March 16th, 2 pm George Preston Centre, 20699 42nd Ave, Langley BC. Condolences may be offered at Henderson's Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to Rotary's End Polio initiative at:

<https://www.endpolio.org/donate>.



Photo: Nora Truman



David Truman, Naturalist

Photo: Nora Truman

David was an active member of LFN and enjoyed many of the field trips and bird counts, as well as regular attendance at our meetings. We offer our condolences to Nora, our hardworking LFN secretary, and their family.

PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS



Copyright © John Gordon Photography

Anna's Hummingbird

Photo: John Gordon

Here is a winter shot of an Anna's Hummingbird taken with the Nikon P1000 24mm-3000mm Zoom. This shot was handheld and full frame without cropping.

Lumix, Canon and Nikon all make excellent inexpensive cameras that can make beautiful images of all kinds of nature subjects. The main advantage is the photographer can shoot from a distance without disturbing the subject. These cameras are particularly useful for shooting flowers, fungi and small animals..

John Gordon

GET TO KNOW YOUR RIVER

Saturday April 27th
1:00 - 4:30 pm

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Clubhouse
1284 184th Street, South Surrey

(10:00 am Hatchery Tour & Fish Release)

Join us for an afternoon to learn about the Little Campbell River, and meet your watershed neighbours

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society,
A-Rocha
Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club

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.*

FRIDAY MARCH 22ND 2019

GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

Leader: Al Grass

Time: 9:00 am at Reifel

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

SATURDAY MARCH 30TH 2019 COLONY FARM REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Josh Inman

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

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

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

Leader: Anthea Farr

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

Join us to walk around the lagoon and see the restoration work being carried out by LEPS. Then we'll walk through the flood plain and up into High-Knoll Park to look for the lilies of spring. Phone 604-576-7731 for information and to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH

GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE, CHILLIWACK

Leader: Wim Vesseur

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

Join us to 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. Bring lunch.

Phone: 604-534-3447 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH 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>

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH

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 several different water fowl species can be found in the spring. Wear waterproof footwear as the fields and trails will be wet. Phone: 604-530-3257 for info or to let us know to expect you.

THURSDAY MAY 2ND TO SUNDAY MAY 5TH

BC NATURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hosted by Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society

Email: cvns@naturecowichan.net

Website: www.naturecowichan.net

They anticipate that the spring flowers in their Garry Oak meadows will be putting on a show at that time. Outings will be offered to view not only the flowers but the spring birds too. They will also talk about their Bring Back the Bluebird Project.

TUESDAY MAY 7TH TO FRIDAY 10TH

(MAY 7TH, 8TH & 9TH NIGHTS)

OLIVER AND AREA THREE NIGHT TRIP!

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we explore the flora and fauna of Oliver and the surrounding areas. We will be visiting the S. Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls and the adjacent Burrowing Owl breeding facility, the Okanagan desert Centre and possibly the NK'Mip Desert Cultural Centre in Osoyoos for a guided walk in the desert to look for rattlesnakes and learn about desert ecology and how the First Nations people use many of the herbs and plants that are found there. We leave early Tuesday morning (May 7th) and return home on May 10th. Bring lunch for the journey and breakfast makings if you wish and we will eat dinner out. We have provisionally booked rooms at the CactusTree Inn and there are two campgrounds nearby. Phone: 576-6831 for info.

FRIDAY MAY 17TH

HOPE AIR PARK AND AREA

Leaders: Al and 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). From there we will drive to the Hope Air Park and the surrounding area.

Bounded by the mighty Fraser and framed by the majestic snow capped Coast Mountains, Hope Air Park and vicinity are notable for their fine bird diversity and birding opportunities. Here, at the upper end of the Lower Valley, is a transition between Coastal and Interior bird species. Habitats include forests, fields, (including old field), hedgerows, and thickets of shrubbery. Interior species that have been recorded here include Say's Phoebe, Dusky Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Cassin's Finch and Swainson's Hawk. Turkey Vulture, Rufous Hummingbird, Chipping Sparrow, and Kingbirds are regulars here.

If time allows we may stop in on the way back at Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park. Please bring your lunch, snacks and water. Phone: 604-219-2043 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY JUNE 1ST

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.

May 10, 11, 12 - Skagit Valley Bird Blitz
June 14, 15, 16 - Manning Park Bird Blitz

Information:

Telephone 604-869-1274

info@hopemountain.org

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

DAWN CHORUS

Leader: Al Grass

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

Join Al 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 5km so please wear appropriate footwear. Bring a packed lunch to eat at a suitable spot at the end of the walk.

Phone: 604-219-2043 for info or to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH

SERPENTINE FEN

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 that is jointly managed by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of the Environment and along the Serpentine River dyke.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Anthea Farr

Time: 7:00 pm at the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

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.



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 21ST 2019

BIRDS OF CHINA

ANNE MURRAY

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

THURSDAY APRIL 18TH 2019

TURKEY VULTURES

DAVID MANNING

The most widespread vulture in North America, the turkey vulture is locally called "buzzard" in many areas. A turkey vulture standing on the ground can, at a distance, resemble a wild turkey. It is unique among our vultures in that it finds carrion by smell as well as by sight.

THURSDAY MAY 16TH 2019

To be advised

THURSDAY JUNE 20TH 2019

**LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &
SOCIAL NIGHT**

A short business meeting, AGM and social evening - please bring finger food to share.

Presentation at Langley City Library,
City Hall, 20399 Douglas Crescent, Langley

WEDNESDAY MAY 29TH 2019 AT 7 PM

**BUTTERFLIES
AL & JUDE GRASS**

