



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

c/o 201-4839 221 St, Langley, BC V3A 2P1

www.langleyfielddnaturalists.org

e-mail: langleyfielddnaturalists@gmail.com

Newsletter

March 2022

BRYDON LAGOON

Brydon Lagoon has never been so busy. Covid-19 has seen an unprecedented amount of foot traffic partly due to the pandemic but also to the rapid growth of numerous apartment, rental and high-end condo developments in the immediate area. I would estimate 2000-3000 new residents now live within walking distance.

The homeless still camp out at the BC Hydro land surrounding the lagoon. BC Hydro make regular checks and post eviction notices. Garbage is a problem.

Recently I met a mother Danielle Pawelchuck, and her two children Leila (9) and Brodie (11) who are part of the Langley City's Point of Pride project. The family try to go every week or even twice a week to keep the trails tidy. Well done The Pawelchuks.



The Pawelchuk family keeping the trail tidy Photo: John Gordon

The lagoon itself still produces good numbers of wintering species. Winter birding can produce thirty species. During the spring forty species on a very good day. The Green Heron and White-throated Sparrow are a big draw, with listers from around the Lower Mainland visiting to "tick" the birds. One birder has seen 150 species over the years, making the lagoon a hotspot for Lower Mainland birders.

During 2020 and 2021 there have been flooding events where water from the Nicomekl River and retention pond flowed into the lagoon. The worst flooding closed the trails. Flotsam was everywhere and is still being retrieved today as it bobs to the surface or washes up. During a recent cold snap the lagoon became a skating rink, fascinating to watch and pretty to see but unfortunately many bottles, cans, and plastic were left on the ice; too dangerous to retrieve when the ice was too thin to walk on.

Following the flooding, the six new roosting logs were all displaced and need to be re-anchored. The logs are, I believe, why we are seeing more Wood ducks than ever before. Today there were sixteen.

Overall the fish population seems good, attracting wintering Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Lesser and Greater Scaup, Herons, Hooded Mergansers and Bufflehead. Due to the flooding the water quality is probably better than it has ever been but that is of course a lay person's observation.

John Gordon



Skating at Brydon Lagoon

Photo: John Gordon



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This "president's note" is inspired by the good work of our fabulous secretary, Nora. Last month Nora noticed an awful smell in the creek that flows through Aldergrove Regional Park and instead of doing nothing she stepped up to the challenge presented to her and did what was right.

Nora reported the issue to Metro Vancouver Parks asking them to please do something about it and to also tell her who else to contact.

Unfortunately, the issue that Nora was concerned with has been an issue for some time at Aldergrove Regional Park. LEPS, Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada and even Whatcom County in Washington State have been trying to deal with this issue for over three years now and not much has been done due to the rate at which our bureaucracy works. BUT the squeaky wheel gets the grease!

We need more Nora's in our community to make sure the issues that concern us are brought to light. More complaints about issues means more awareness and more work towards positive results. Another issue is that there is an incredible amount of turn over in our provincial and federal staff; folks that might have had this issue as a small tidbit to work on might move on in a year, a month... and then the issue disappears again until someone else reports it.

There are a few different ways to report environmental issues so I am hoping with this message up near the front of our newsletter it will make the numbers easy to find (or even save in your cel. phone so you have the number handy if you see something). If you request a call back when you make any report, then you will be contacted regarding what is being done. If you do not request a call back, you won't hear from the officer on the case file.

Provincial Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP Line): 1 877 952-7277 or you can put in a report online: <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>. Report all issues you are concerned with to the RAPP line.

Federal Observe, Record, Report hotline (ORR): 604-607-4186 (Greater Vancouver area) or you can email: DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Again, request a call back. If you feel safe, you can always ask the property owner. And if you are in a public park let the manager know.

Huge thank you to Nora for reporting the issue to Metro Vancouver so I had an excuse to share this information. And regarding the smell of sewage in the creek in Aldergrove Regional Park, I can tell you that there is a lot of work being done by provincial and federal staff even if it doesn't look like it.

Lisa Dreves

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2021-2022

DIRECTORS

- President: Lisa Dreves
& webmaster 604-532-0081 ~ lisabob2@yahoo.com
- Vice President: Gareth Pugh
606-649-1027 ~ gareth2@uniserve.com
- Past President:& Conservation Bob Puls
604-856-7534 ~ bob@puls.ca
- Secretary: Nora Truman
604-533-4585 ~ lfnsecretary@hotmail.com
- Treasurer: Caren Porter
604-427-4499 ~ caporter@shaw.ca
- Newsletter Sheila Puls
604-856-7534 ~ sheila@puls.ca
- Programmes: Anne Gosse
604-888-1787 ~ corkie1@shaw.ca
- Field Trips: Gareth Pugh
606-649-1027 ~ gareth2@uniserve.com
- Publicity: Lilianne Fuller
604-533-0638 ~ lilianne101@shaw.ca
- FBCN Director: Kathy Masse
604-513-8927 ~ wmasse@telus.net
- Member At Large Eric Habisch
778-231-0273 -eric.habisch@gmail.com

REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

- Historian & Librarian: Toots Tucker
604-532-6398 ~ llyod@telus.net
- Greeters: Rebecca Tin Tun/Helen Thompson
- Refreshments: Lynda Lightfoot
604-856-6138 ~ ltlightfoot@shaw.ca
- Forslund-Watson: Ryan Usenik
604-530-3257 ~ jrusenik@telus.net
- 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
Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

August 28, 2021

(Omitted from the previous newsletter)



On a sunny day in August...

Photo: Anthea Farr

Morning sunshine and a pleasant 13 degrees greeted this group of seven at the start of this lovely woodland walk. Straight away, we could hear the resident ravens with their great repertoire of sounds. At least 19 other bird species were heard or seen as the walk progressed. One of the highlights was watching 5 Barn Swallows swooping and flying over the field beside the straight stretch of trail. We don't know what flying insects they were eating, but they entertained us for quite a while.

Another highlight, for some of us, was a Shadow Darter hanging like a Christmas tree ornament on a Douglas-fir tree. For even fewer of us, a highlight was a large funnel web spider beside the tall wooden fence east of the second bridge. Not everyone likes to look at spiders as closely as Bob does...



Shadow Darter Christmas tree ornament

Photo: Anthea Farr

Mammals, reptiles and amphibians were also not to be ignored, with Douglas Squirrel, Common Garter Snake, Pacific Chorus Frog and Bullfrog being seen or heard. But perhaps the best part was just being with like-minded people enjoying nature and each other's company.

Anthea Farr

NEWS OF AL & JUDE GRASS

I went to see Al and Jude in their new assistant living seniors apartment in White Rock. They have a very nice, comfortable suite with two bedrooms and a large living room that has a picture window overlooking an inside courtyard with trails and large cedar trees.



Al & Jude Grass

Photo: Anne Gosse

Jude seems to be very happy and doing very well and I thought she looked very content. Al, however, has trouble with his hips and has to walk with a walker and misses his nature walks. I was very happy to find they were in such good accommodations and feel they made a smart move and are now very comfortable.

Anne Gosse

**PITT MEADOWS (ALOUETTE)
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
SATURDAY JANUARY 1ST**

LFN members volunteer to count Area #6, the section of this circle in Langley south of the Fraser River. Due to the inclement weather, the leader (Bob) did not attend but Eric, Karen, Lisa and Herman did, with Ann Turner submitting a feeder list.



Anna's Hummingbirds
Photo: Anne Turner

The total species seen were 46 consisting of 822 birds. 18 species were recorded at Ann's property in the fingered wetlands, off 100th street, with a photograph of 12 Anna's Hummingbirds all at the feeder at one time being the day's highlight.

The results were good, considering the weather, with 10 species more than last year, but a lower number of individual birds.

Bob Puls

**WHITE ROCK/SURREY/LANGLEY
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
SUNDAY JANUARY 2ND**



Black-crowned Night Heron Photo: Wim Vesseur

Despite a very disheartening forecast, the weather for the 122nd White Rock/Surrey/Langley Christmas Bird Count on January 2nd was reasonable for the time of year with the temperature rising from below zero to two degrees in the afternoon. This did not deter the 84 participants who turned out for this popular annual

event. It was difficult to see seabirds out on the bay at White Rock due to a brisk southeasterly wind which created large waves but the rain held off until later in the day. Also the snow on the ground and in many streets made it difficult to access some of the areas usually surveyed.

The combination of weather conditions and a lower number of participants than in previous years, due in part to COVID concerns, resulted in less birds being counted than in recent years. The final tally was 112 species which included three rarities: two White-throated Sparrows, two Bohemian Waxwings and a Black-crowned Night Heron.

The coverage given to the event by our community newspapers publicizing the event resulted in two things: 1) a number of new birders joining us in the field and 2) more people calling in with counts taken at the feeders in their own yards (which was very valuable as there are so many people feeding birds in their own yards that do not get counted by the field observers.)

Gareth Pugh



Hooded Mergansers on the Nicomekl Photo: Anthea Farr



Chinese Goose on pond east of 200th Street Photo: Anthea Farr

BRYDON LAGOON
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27TH
WATER, RAIN, AND BRYDON LAGOON!



John and Herman enjoy the weather Photo: Lisa Dreves

Field trips in winter are not for the faint of heart and three of us brave LFNers headed out into the flood plains of the Nicomekl River after the first of many atmospheric rivers saturated southern BC. While the sheer amount of water on the walk this day seemed insane, it was nothing compared to what was on the way. Just days after our walk the Sumas Prairie in Abbotsford was evacuated when the Nooksack River in Washington burst its banks and headed north, threatening to re-form the almost forgotten Sumas Lake.

We were unable to walk the loop trail because the Nicomekl flooding hadn't receded enough since the last rain, but we were able to walk out to the new bridge. Our amazing members were able to advocate for a new bridge over McClellan Creek with the City of Surrey. Big thank you to John, Gareth, and others for fighting for this bridge that Surrey wasn't going to replace. The bridge is an excellent viewing opportunity for spawning salmon, and, I know, will become a treasured Pooh Sticks Racecourse for kids and the young at heart.

While we were identifying the 30 bird species on our walk, we also freed newly planted small trees from the tangle of grasses that came up with the high waters the previous weekend. Trees 4 feet tall were covered in grasses to their tops! A couple of dead spawners were also found along with the birds; one was being enjoyed by a bald eagle below the power lines.

The flooding on the previous weekend also popped

out one of our bird boxes so timing was great since we were able to recover the box to be replaced in the future.

Thanks for joining me Herman and John! Fingers crossed next time the southern loop won't be under 2 feet of water!

Lisa Dreves

SERPENTINE FEN
SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH



Walking in Serpentine Fen Photo: John Gordon

On a foggy morning, more like November than January, 12 Langley and 3 White Rock members met at the Serpentine Fen Wildlife Management Area to walk the trails and enjoy the fresh air, thankfully with no precipitation. A joint walk with Delta Naturalists had been planned but due to the good numbers in both parties, we decided to walk in opposite directions.

It felt relatively balmy after the recent cold snap and everyone was in high spirits at being able to get out at last, so plenty of socialising (in addition to nature watching) went on as we walked. During the very cold weather there had been no ducks or geese in the area but now they were back in abundance. Large numbers of Canada and Cackling Geese were in the fields mixed with flocks of Mallard, Pintail, American and Eurasian Wigeon. A few Northern Shovelers, Bufflehead, Hooded Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks were in the ponds.

While we were looking at the geese, a dog appeared and starting chasing them so Erin (a White Rock member) left us and later reported that he had found the owner and persuaded him to

leash his dog. We had a great opportunity to look at a large flock of Golden-crowned Sparrows feeding on the trail in hopes of finding a rarity among them, but even eagle-eyed Eric and John could not do so. Undaunted we walked on, seeing Song Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, Purple Finches and even a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets that were feeding in the bushes very close to us, too busy looking for food to be scared of humans.

As we approached the marsh alongside the freeway, we could hear the welcome melodious song of the Red-winged Blackbird and found a number of them perched on the cat-tails heralding the approach of Spring, always a hopeful sound to my ears. On the dyke we met the Delta group and compared notes on what we had seen. Then we continued along the dyke where we saw a large number of Common Goldeneye with Greater and Lesser Scaup and even a couple of Common Mergansers and a Red-breasted Merganser. A Peregrine and a Merlin gave us brief glimpses as they flashed by, a number of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks were seen and three Northern Harriers were spotted cruising around the marshes.

One of the best sightings was definitely a Northern Shrike which Eric located in his scope so that others could see it. On the way back through the marsh we found a few more ducks but no Marsh Wrens. Fresh beaver activity was very evident as we neared the last observation tower where a number of small trees had recently been felled. As we ended the walk we saw a flock of 18 Eurasian Collared Doves. A total of 44 species were recorded in e-Bird.

Gareth Pugh



Black Turnstone at White Rock

Photo: Eric Habisch

WHITE ROCK PIER & WATERFRONT FRIDAY JANUARY 28TH



Surf Scoter

Photo: Eric Habisch

It was a cold but clear morning with no sign of the fog that had plagued the area for the past few days. We had 14 nature enthusiasts eager to see what was on the shoreline, near shore and, with the help of a few scopes, what seabirds were floating about in the open waters off the pier. No sooner did we start on the pier than Gareth pointed out three or four Surf Scoters diving in the absolutely clear water in search of a meal, giving us all a really good view of how these birds feed. On the way out to the end of the pier we observed Surf Scoters, White-winged Scoters, Common Loon, Horned Grebe and a Red-necked Grebe.

Closer to shore were Mallards, American Wigeon and a rarer Eurasian Wigeon. Additionally we saw Buffleheads, Common Goldeneye, Lesser and Greater Scaup to name a few more. We arrived at the end of the pier when the sun was warming the air but a slight breeze kept us with our many layers on. There we set up the scopes for the open ocean and scanned the breakwater for some different species of birds. For a brief time a few of us were able to see a male California Sea Lion pop his head up out of the water only to disappear just as quickly. The birds at the end of the pier were interesting as well.

We were able to see Pelagic Cormorant, Black Turnstones and further out through the scopes were Long-tailed Ducks, Red-throated Loons and Pacific Loons. We finished the morning off by walking west along the promenade, but only observed the same species we had seen earlier from the pier. It was good having a mix of experienced and novice birders to share knowledge to make the morning a great experience for all.

Eric Habisch

FORSLUND WATSON WILDLIFE AREA

2021 will be known as the year the BCIT vernal (dries up in summer) pond was constructed. It will also be the year Forslund Watson Wildlife Area was a field laboratory site for educating the next generation of professional biologists.

In late September a class and instructors from BCIT were on site for 4 days. The first day included classes on soil structure and site evaluation for the construction of a vernal pond. For the next 2 days the students observed a large excavator strip, remove and then reposition the soil. The excavator also brought in trees from the adjacent area to create a natural pond environment so that it will be attractive to amphibians. On day 4 the students planted over 300 plants representing over 25 species to again create a natural attractive environment. Previous experience at Forslund Watson showed that many shrubs were damaged by the deer population, so 1/3 of the shrubs had wire cages placed around them, 1/3 were sprayed with a repellent and 1/3 were left as is, as a trial for the students. The unused soil from the excavation was placed over the area previously covered with blackberries.

LFN also placed a Tree Swallow and a Wood Duck nest box in the area. Bamboo stakes have been added around the area to identify planting boundaries for future grass control. In the spring of 2021 assistance was received from LEPS staff for trail clearing and marking. In early December another crew assisted in blackberry control.

Over three years ago three Flying Squirrel nest boxes were placed near the 26th Ave gate. The goal was to see if they would be used by Flying Squirrels and thus we could determine that these were on the property. The boxes were checked in December and 2 of the 3 had nesting material, but no Flying Squirrels were observed.

The Barn Owl nest box still

has not attracted a nesting pair of owls even though both live and killed birds have been observed. Horned owls have been observed in the area and, as they are one of the main natural predators of Barn Owls perhaps, the Barn Owls purposely shy away from this nest box. Only four of the Tree Swallow boxes saw any activity in 2021. Two were used by Tree Swallows and two by Wrens. Two of the Wood Duck boxes had eggs that were partly incubated; there was no evidence of fledging. The Wood Duck box on the same pole as the Bat Box was again used by Kestrels this year. Only one fledgling was observed in the area but when cleaning the box, the remains of one carcass was discovered.

Staff from South Coast Conservation Land Management Program continued to monitor the Caucasian Wingnut trees. They are committed to eradicating this invasive plant from the Forslund Watson property. This means yearly checks followed by treatment to kill any new or missed plants.

The Forslund Watson property has been an active natural environment for birding in Langley. Providing a safe area for birds would have been very important to the Forslund family. In 2021 several people reported bird sightings to ebird for a total of 86 reported species. All club members are encouraged to use Forslund Watson as one of their birding destinations.



Red-tailed Hawk at Forslund Watson

Photo: Eric Habisch

Not surprising, in 2021 the main Ducks Unlimited Pond dried up completely. This is the first time that this has happened.

No Bat activity was observed with either Bat box. Fewer Bats were observed or detected by the Bat Detector in the area around the DU pond. On the LFN walk, Bats were observed in the forest area just to the west of the raptor field.

LFN members can be proud that we have a natural protected area in Langley. All members are encouraged to get out and enjoy it.

Ryan Usenik

FISHTRAP CREEK WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16TH

Nine participants joined me to spend a pleasant two hours walking around Abbotsford's Fishtrap Creek. This was a trip cancelled because of torrential rain in Nov 2021. The evidence of flooding could still be seen around the recently re-opened trails.



Leucistic Wood Duck

Photo: John Gordon

The group spotted thirty-one species with the highlight being a leucistic Wood Duck. We searched for the previously reported Lesser Goldfinches but they were nowhere to be seen. Several species of diving ducks were seen, including Ring-necked, Bufflehead and Common Mergansers. February can be a quiet month so everyone was happy with the quality and quantity of birds seen. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the walk.

John Gordon

A MURDER IN ALDERGROVE

How many crows make a murder? A question the amazing volunteers that joined me this February didn't have time to ask themselves once the sun set in Aldergrove. Over four very cold nights, volunteers were set up on all four sides of the crow roost in South Aldergrove to count the thousands of crows that crossed over the roads on their way to a good night's sleep. We averaged the counts and came up with 52,902 crows heading into the site. This is up from 2020 when we first counted the roost and had an average of 35,000. Two years' worth of data isn't enough to base anything on but I think we can at least agree the roost is healthy.

Myles Lamont, a local biologist, is interested in doing further work on this roost so he contacted Dr.

Rob Butler, BC's authority on crows, to ask if he was interested as well. Dr. Butler says our little roost is the largest in the Salish Sea. Pretty cool for Langley!

The count was so much more than just numbers. We had articles in the local paper that brought out individuals from all over Langley to see the crows. Because of the LFN and your support, we have connected dozens of people to the wonder of birds and nature that have come out on different nights, even when we weren't out there to count. Thank-you so much for your support on this project as well as the support of the Bertrand Creek Enhancement Society and other members of BC Nature through the Little Campbell Watershed Society.



Heading for the roost

Photo: Wim Vesseur

If you haven't seen it yet, the crows will be there until mid to late-March when they start dispersing to their nest sites. I highly recommend checking when sunset is and driving out to 256 St just south of 16 Ave and spending 20 minutes out there counting crows.

Lisa Dreves



And one more

Web photo

PROGRAMMES

MARCH 2022 - JUNE 2022

At present we continue to offer our meetings online by Zoom: *The week before the program starts, a link will be sent out. Just click into this highlighted link and Lisa will accept you into the Zoom program.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH

DEREK DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM

NIALL MCGARVEY,

Assistant Manager, Parks, Development, Langley

Time: 7:30 pm via Zoom

Come hear about Langley's very own Derek Doubleday Arboretum & "David's Garden", the beautiful plantings and development as well as plans for the future. David Truman, a LFN member and Nora's husband, was very instrumental in helping with the environment and nature through the Langley Rotary Club - including help towards building the DRBIPA viewing platform.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST

MOTUS: A WORLDWIDE COLLABORATION TO TRACK BIRD MIGRATION

AMIE MACDONALD, BIRDS CANADA

Time: 7:30 via Zoom

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is an international collaborative research network that uses automated radio telemetry to track birds, bats, and insects. This presentation will include an overview of how Motus works, highlights from various research projects that have used Motus, and current and developing initiatives. New research projects, new technological developments, expansion into western North America, and regional collaboration efforts will be included. Ultimately, Motus is about community science - combining our efforts for conservation.

THURSDAY, MAY 19TH

GREEN ROOFS, LIVING WALLS AND WILD BEES!

CHRISTINE THURING, BSc, MSc, PHD

Faculty, Centre for Architectural Ecology

Time: 7:30 via Zoom

"How Regenerative and Organic Urban Ecosystems Can Help Native Pollinators". Christine, from the Faculty, Centre for Architectural Ecology, will tell us about how green infrastructures can benefit native pollinators.

BC NATURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"NATURE IN YOUR BACKYARD"

Mark your calendars!
In person together again -
Covid protocols, Vaccine passports required

Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club (CONC)

invites you to Kelowna
for the 2022 BC Nature AGM
to be held at the UBC Okanagan campus

MAY 26TH - 29TH, 2022

The theme is Nature in your Backyard and thus many outings start from (or occur on) the campus. Bring your bikes!

*More details in the Spring edition
of BC Nature magazine*

Registration opens March 1st

FUNDRAISER FOR CLUB PROJECTS



Fraser Valley Bottle & Express Return-It Depot
108 - 22575 Fraser Hwy (beside Big Box, Murrayville)
or

Willowbrook Express Return-It Depot
19641 60 Ave

Account number 222 222 3333 for Nora Truman,
fnsecretary (had to be a person's name)

Either:

1) Bring cans and bottles to the LFN meeting
(when we start up again)

or

2) Bagged in a clear plastic bag, at Barcode label machine enter 222 222 3333. Select the number of bags you are dropping off, print label(s) and stick them on your bag(s). Drop the bags where they are piled up near the barcode machine. Done.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE MARCH - JUNE 2022

Please Note: anyone wishing to take part in these walks should travel to the designated meeting place in accordance with the latest COVID regulations which may not permit carpooling. Pre-registration will be mandatory as we must know in advance how many participants to expect.

Please call the leader for more information and to pre-register. The walks are generally about two hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs' members (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.*

THURSDAY MARCH 3RD HOUSTON TRAIL, DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK. BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES!

Leader: Phil Henderson

Time: 9:00 am at the parking lot on Allard Crescent

Join biologist Phil Henderson to learn about 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. **Phone 604- 888-1571 to register.**

SATURDAY MARCH 12TH GLOUCESTER ESTATES, WEST CREEK HEADWATERS WETLANDS

Leader: Ted Lightfoot

Time: 9:00 am at 5458-272nd Street, Aldergrove

Join Ted for a walk around this important wetland where salmon spawn, beavers build their dams and a variety of birds live and breed. Ted will show us the beaver dams and explain how they create such a valuable habitat in the midst of an industrial development. Dress warmly, bring a lunch and a warm drink.

Phone 604-856-6138 to register.

SATURDAY MARCH 19TH CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Wim Vesseur

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

Join Wim to walk the river loop trail in this popular park with its great variety of trees, birds, mammals and shrubs. Walking distance is approximately 2 km on the level so please wear appropriate footwear. **Phone 604-534-3447 to register.**

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH BRYDON LAGOON & HI-KNOLL PARK

Leader: Lisa Dreves

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

Join Lisa to walk around the lagoon and see the restoration work being carried out by LEPS then walk through the floodplain and up into Hi-Knoll Park to look for the lilies of spring.

Phone 604-729-3815 to register.

THURSDAY MARCH 31ST GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, DELTA

Leader: Tom Wildeboer

Time: 9:00 am at Reifel (*Note: Pre-booking may be still mandatory at Reifel and should be done 3 days prior to visiting by each individual.*)

Join Tom to walk the trails around this popular wildlife refuge. Snow Geese and other wintering birds will have begun returning. Always a good chance to find owls like the Great Horned. Bring lunch and water. Small entrance fee (\$5.00) for non-members of BC Waterfowl Society. Bring an extra sweater and hat; it can be chilly out there.

Phone 604-530-2633 to register

SATURDAY APRIL 2ND ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Lisa Blanchard

Time: 9:00 am at the main parking lot at the end of the access road off 8th Avenue

Join Lisa to walk the trails in this lovely park with its varied habitat from marsh to mixed forest to open grassland and a great variety of flora and fauna.

Phone 604-818-7923 to register.

**SATURDAY APRIL 9TH
GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE,
CHILLIWACK**

Leader: Gareth Pugh

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

Join Gareth 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.

Phone 604-649-1027 to register.

**SATURDAY APRIL 16TH
8TH AVENUE TRAIL**

Leader: Bob Puls

Time: 9:00 am at 1062 – 256th Street.

Join Bob to walk the section of the South Langley Regional Trail from 256th Street to 264th Street. This is a fairly new trail, recently completed by the Back Country Horsemen, as the last link between the Campbell Valley and Aldergrove Regional Parks. The trail is nicely gravelled all the way, with wooded sections interspersed by stream valleys crossed by a couple of brand new bridges, and a variety of open and closed habitat.

Phone 604-856-7534 to register.

**FRIDAY APRIL 22ND
GRANT NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK/
ADDINGTON MARSH WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA.**

Leader: Herman Vanderleest

Time: 9:00 am at Grant Narrows Provincial Park parking lot.

Join to look for the resident birds and the spring migrants that are arriving and establishing their breeding territories in this large dyke/marsh area. It has several viewing towers, is on a major migration route for bird life and has the largest tidal lake in the world. Dress for the weather and bring a packed lunch.

Phone 604-856-1179 to register.

**SATURDAY APRIL 23RD
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**

Place: Douglas Park, Langley

Time: 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Come out to enjoy the City of Langley Earth Day celebration, and visit the Langley Field Naturalists' new Wetlands display.

**SATURDAY APRIL 30TH
HIGH POINT**

Leader: Nora Truman

Time: 9:00 am at parking area on the East side of 200th Street; South of the Cross Walk and Jacobsen Creek

Join Nora for a walk to enjoy nature at High Point. First we will walk through the forest on Campbell Boundary Trail and East Pepin Trail, then continue on McBurnie Trail around the lake. On the way back on the West Pepin Trail, we can check out the detention pond on the west side of 200th Street.

Phone: 604-533-4585 to register.

**THURSDAY MAY 5TH
COLONY FARM REGIONAL PARK**

Leader: Eric Habisch

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 Eric to walk the dikes and woodlands of this popular Metro Vancouver Park to see the new spring growth and find some of the birds that can be found there.

Phone 778-231-0273 to register.

**MONDAY MAY 9TH - THURSDAY MAY 12TH
(MAY 9TH, 10TH & 11TH NIGHTS)
SPRING TRIP – TO BE ARRANGED**

**THURSDAY MAY 19TH
WILLBAND CREEK PARK**

Leader: John Gordon

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 flora and fauna in this wetland area.

Phone 604-533-7171 to register.

SATURDAY JUNE 4TH GLEN VALLEY BIRD COUNT

SATURDAY JUNE 11TH 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 to register.

FRIDAY JUNE 17TH GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, DELTA

Leader: Anne Gosse

Time: 9:00 am at Reifel

Join the Langley Field Naturalists to walk the trails in this well known nature reserve. Expect to see and hear 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 604-888-1787 to register.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22ND IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Anthea Farr

Time: 7:30 pm in 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 Natural Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir.

Phone 604-576-7731 to register.

FORT LANGLEY BIRD COUNT

The Fort Langley Bird Count (FLBC) was back in action this year after a year off due to COVID. About 32 bird enthusiasts including the leaders met at 8 am February 26 to count the birds along the six routes in our local Metro Vancouver Parks. The temperature at count start was -2° and it warmed up to 5° by noon, the official end time of the count. Two young local families led the charge on two routes which was great to see: besides counting the birds, the FLBC is all about engaging the community and encouraging nature enthusiasts of all ages and experience. The skies were cloudy and occasionally threatening but held their rain until after the survey.

The number of birds recorded (779) was down this year from the last count in 2020 (1267) except for the Houston Trail route which recorded more species but fewer individuals. The cold weather preceding this year's count and the ice on the ponds probably reduced the number of water birds observed.

Thanks to Metro Vancouver for providing the permit to access the bog and to the leaders Bob, Gareth, John, Josh, and Ted. I will summarize the routes and provide lists of the species for all participants. By the way, Anne's Green Heron was new to the count and a Peregrine Falcon sighted by Ted's bog group was the second year in a row this bird has been recorded.

Spread the word. See you next year.

Phil Henderson



AGM 2023

**Langley Field Naturalists
will be hosting BC Nature AGM
4th - 7th May 2023**

Guest speakers, field trips,
displays and silent auction

This takes many hands!
If you are interested in helping
please contact Sheila Puls, 604-856-7534
sheila@puls.ca