



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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

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Newsletter

September 2016

MARMOT MEMORIES

(Two afternoons spent in a yellow-bellied marmot colony)



Vulture with marmot road kill

Photo: Al Grass

This summer, near Vernon, I had the pleasure of spending two enjoyable afternoons in a yellow-bellied marmot colony. When I entered the rock pile, the marmots disappeared, but after a few minutes, their heads popped up. Soon after, they came on top of the rocks, then a few put their heads down and went for a snooze!

Sadly, one was hit and killed on the nearby road, but then something very interesting happened – a Turkey Vulture appeared at the carcass, and began feeding on it.

Shortly the vulture was joined by a raven who also began tugging at the dead marmot. And while the vulture and the raven were jostling for their new found meal, they were joined by a black-billed magpie. A struggle went on and soon the magpie gave up. The "winner" (if that is the right term), was – guess who – the raven. NO one dared to challenge the raven's space (or business - the bill) – not even the much larger vulture who gave up and flew away.

It was interesting that the marmot wasn't dead for very long, before being spotted by the vulture and followed by a raven and magpie. I wonder if ravens watch vultures in order to take advantage of a kill?

Time spent with the marmots was very special, especially when they looked at me – eye to eye - and laid down for a snooze. They were very hot that afternoon – a fine time for a siesta.

Al Grass

TRUE NATURALISTS AT WORK



Leave no stone unturned! Jude & Al Grass Photo: Roy Yates

NOTE:

Langley Field Naturalists dues are now due. Please bring your membership fee & the signed attached waiver form to the September meeting.

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2016-2017 DIRECTORS

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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



Welcome to the commencement of the 43rd year of the LFN. I hope you have all had a very rest-full summer and enjoyed the hot, sunny weather. The president has had little time off! And here is a list of events requiring my attention since our last meeting:

- * A week of birding at Grand Forks - see Newsletter report.
- * Letter to ToL requesting funding be provided for invasive species removal (Ragwort, Purple Loosestrife and Himalayan balsam) on municipal road allowances.
- * Letter to City of Langley regarding overzealous Brydon Lagoon maintenance.
- * Gloucester Industrial Estates (West Creek awareness group) daily phone calls, letter to newspaper, ToL, and many meetings, including meeting with MP John Aldag and correspondence with MP Mark Warawa.
- * Presentation at the Kinder Morgan, Trans Mountain Pipeline hearings.
- * Purple Martin Survey nest box monitoring.
- * Meeting with Sylvia Letay at Forslund/Watson Wildlife Area.
- * Meeting of the Blaauw Forest Stakeholders at TWU.
- * Conservation reports - see newsletter, Mountain View, Jackson Wetlands Park, Blaauw Forest, Kinder Morgan pipeline, Gloucester Industrial Estates rezoning and truck park application, Brydon Lagoon, Manning Park Anniversary.
- * Bird brochure correspondence re. grant application.
- * Campbell Valley Park new wetland site, correspondence regarding Western Toads and planting plans for the fall.
- * Monthly bird counts at 8th avenue trail, Jackman Wetlands Park, Marvin Marsh, Gordon's Brook, Mountain View and my home site.
- * Updating of Jackman Wetlands Park history with addition of Bertrand Creek Enhancement Society records.
- * Also following: 16th avenue truck park progress, Brookwood-Fernridge community plan, Save Surrey Green Timbers campaign, Campbell Heights East Environmental Stakeholder meetings, Langley Environmental Hero awards, and WOLF Annual General Meeting.
- * Gravel Mining permits in ToL. Ongoing discussion as once again staff are abrogating responsibility to the ALC - I thought we had fixed that problem, but apparently not.

Noticed a Facebook posting from my daughter-in-law recently that used the word 'bored' - anyone know what that means?
Bob

EVENING BAT WALK WEDNESDAY JULY 20TH



How to photograph a bat? Photo: Anne Gosse

Our leader Kirk led a very fascinating and exciting Bat Walk for the 26 eager Naturalists who joined him. He was very knowledgeable about bats; telling us lots of fascinating information about these small night flyers. The type of bat at this colony were Little Brown Myotis bats, an endangered species because of "White Nose Disease" for which there is no cure. Apparently this virus has been making its way across Canada decimating bat populations. Also in this colony were Big Brown Myotis bats. We learned that Brown Bats are insectivores, eating moths, wasps, beetles, gnats, mosquitoes, midges and mayflies and using echolocation to find their prey.

Kirk had an interesting "bat monitor" which played the different bat echo calls demonstrating what to listen for. This monitor also tracked them as they came flying in overhead, their calls telling us which bat species they were. They darted in over our heads and in between our group for about 20 minutes. In the evening's twilight glow, a few people tried to get pictures of this marvel. Our count had reached to over 150 "fly-byes" at approximately 10:00 pm - with more still coming! Hearing all the interesting facts about bats and their behavior proved to be an evening of amazement and wonder. Our thanks to Kirk for leading us to this local evening spectacle.

Anne Gosse

THE EAGLE AND OWL THURSDAY JUNE 16TH

Three of us walked out to the tip of Brae Island to check the Purple Martin boxes on June 16, 2016. We enjoyed a leisurely walk listening to birds and

chatting. Along the way we heard Swainson's Thrushes, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Pacific Wrens, Willow Flycatchers, Pacific-Slope Flycatchers, Towhees, Song Sparrows, Robins and a lonely Yellow Warbler. On the point we rested on the bench and watched Tree Swallows making regular return visits to the boxes, feeding babies with insects. On the trail in we had been pleasantly surprised by the sudden appearance of a Bald Eagle swooping down and grasping a small mammal in his talons and lifting off. A mouse we guessed; however, rabbits were seen feeding in the meadows. On our way back we came across a lovely Barred Owl sitting in trees beside the trail. He let us stand quietly watching him for several minutes. Thrilled with all our day's encounters, we came home very satisfied but with no Purple Martin sightings.

Anne Gosse

FORSLUND WATSON EVENING WALK WEDNESDAY JULY 6TH

With the cooperation of the weather man 12 LFN members had a lovely summer evening at Forslund Watson Nature Reserve. A Downy Woodpecker put on a show in the forest canopy. Several orchids were observed which stimulated discussion with several members over the course of the following week. In the area of the raptor meadow, a Garry Oak was tentatively identified (or maybe White Oak) as were several non-native species.



Garry Oak

Web Photo

FLW history tells of LFN doing a large planting in the late 80's and 90's in this area with trees that the club was able to get free of charge. Another chapter in the story of invasive species.

Ryan Usenik

BRAE ISLAND REGIONAL PARK WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10TH *A Western Toad Walk? Really!*

Recalling our previous summer Bat Walk, one participant suggested after finding 15 large Western Toads hopping across our path that this was a "Toad Walk"!



A beautiful evening for a walk Photo: Anne Gosse

Ten naturalists, plus four newbies, joined leader Joan Taylor and Anne Gosse to walk to the tip of Brae Island Regional Park on a nice comfortable, warm evening. We came across a few birds: a Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Canada Geese, Steller's Jays, Chickadees, and Towhees and the usual Robins and Crows. However, along with the toads, we also counted over 35 rabbits hopping everywhere! - reminding us of the beginnings of a biblical plague. A large black bear footprint was found but no bear was seen.

We posed for a group photo at the tip of the island.

On the way back we tried to find the Barred Owl previously seen, with no luck. It was a nice end to a nice evening.

Anne Gosse

DERBY REACH PARK HISTORY WALK SATURDAY JUNE 11TH

The Derby Reach and Brae Island Parks Association arranged a history walk at the Allard Crescent Heritage area. Here, we listened to Aman, from Fort Langley, who mesmerized us with stories of the first Fort Langley, the town-site of Derby, the old graveyards, and the native village. He told us as we stood on top of the old first fort walls, we trod over hundreds of old graves., Other boxed graves were hung from huge cedars.

We learned about the complex interactions between two different peoples meeting on the Fraser in the year of 1824. How trading and intermarriage were so very important to the peace and stability. Why did the fort move to its present location? Did the first nations also move up stream? We heard about the old town of Derby and viewed the town plan. 30,000 men were camped waiting for permits in 1858, but for what? Where are the Kanaka's descendants? We laughed at the Houston family's humorous stories.

Thanks to Aman for a history talk that held everyone spellbound!

Anne Gosse

GETTING CLOSE I.E. MACRO. THE CLOSER THE BETTER. PHOTOGRAPHING MUSHROOM FOR I.D. - A FEW HINTS



Puffballs (Lycoperdon, sp.) Photo: Al Grass

Mushrooms make wonderful subjects with their great diversity of colours, shapes and sizes.

Photography is an excellent way to collect mushrooms, without picking them (and there is NO COLLECTING in parks). A beautiful photograph of a mushroom (or other fungus) may not be sufficient for accurate identification. Hopefully the following hints will help make identification somewhat easier.

First (very important) – get down eye to eye with the subject. A photo taken at an angle while bending over may not be very useful for ID.

Second – get close (fill the frame) to record details – Does it have a ring on its stem, a "cup" at its base?

Third – does it have gills or pores? What are the colour of its spores? Place a white card under the cap...and tap (no need to pick). Spore colour is a key factor in mushroom ID.

Fourth – what about its odor - like fishy, bleach, etc.

Fifth – does the cap bruise (turn colour) with a thumb print?

Sixth – note what the fungus is growing on - i.e. its substrate.

You will find that by observing these few suggestions, it will make it much easier to identify photographed fungi. However, there will always be some that will baffle even the experts. The important thing is to enjoy mushrooms and other fungi in all their wonderful beauty and diversity. All you'll need are several up to date field guides and a good website to help you along and time.

Al Grass

DRBIPA WILDLIFE VIEWING PLATFORM



The viewing platform

Photo: Anne Gosse

A group of dedicated volunteers have now completed construction of the Houston Trail Wildlife viewing platform overlooking the Langley bog and are now awaiting a wheelchair accessible ramp to be built by Metro Parks. In the fall, we will next concentrate on building benches and putting up signage after our very busy Apple Day Celebration on Saturday, October 1st, 2016 - held at the Heritage area on Allard Crescent.

Anne Gosse

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17TH



At the big rock

Photo: Bob Puls

Another hot, cloudless, day adding to the drought stress on many of our deciduous trees. Ten of us set off to explore the Aldergrove Bowl section of the park.

We followed the Rock'n Horse Trail from the park entrance, through the forest and fallen leaves and horse poop to the top of the bowl, where we got a good view of Mt. Baker and the reclaimed gravel pit that forms this section of the park. A dead shrew was found beside the trail, probably a common shrew, although confirmation would have required examination of its teeth.

As we descended from the ridge down to the pond, a flock of small birds attracted our attention in the alders. Yellow-rumped Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Black-capped Chickadees, House Finches and Flycatchers (Willow?) were included in the mix, with Song Sparrows and Spotted Towhees on the ground. Not much bird activity at the pond, and we totaled about ten species in contrast to the twenty I recorded on Monday morning. An Eastern Cottontail was beside the blackberries and a couple of Black-tailed deer watched us as we headed for the 'Big Rock' where the mandatory group photo was taken.

The blackberries have passed their best before date, Tansy Ragwort is going to seed and Goldenrod was about the only plant in full bloom. A full moon was rising behind Mt. Baker as we left.

Bob Puls

GRANT NARROWS TUESDAY MAY 31ST

Two non-members of LFN joined John Gordon on the Grant Narrows Walk on May 31st.

We walked the entire length of the trail to the lookout. The participants, who were new birders, were more than happy to observe nesting Northern Flickers and Tree Swallows.

Several pairs of Rufous Hummingbirds posed for pictures at the end of the trail, but for some reason there were very few birds around. High up in the trees were a few pairs of Bullock's Orioles; a Catbird popped out at the canoe rental. A few Cedar Waxwings, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroat and Bushtits made up the other species on show.



Bullock's Oriole

Photo: John Gordon Photography

As we left we checked out the nesting Ospreys. The participants left happy and promised to be back for other LFN events.

John Gordon

NICOMEKL FLOODPLAIN WEDNESDAY JULY 27TH



Hornets Nest

Photo: Al Grass

It was a beautiful evening for a quiet stroll along the Nicomekl River; while it is not a terrific location for spotting rare birds or viewing pollution intolerant lichen, it is a very accessible walk for lots of naturalists to get outside.

We were asked by the City of Langley Parks, Environment and Recreation Advisory Committee to offer more walks in the City of Langley and this one didn't disappoint. Starting out at Portage Park at the end of 204 Street just south of 53 Avenue, we walked all the way to the benches to sit down at the "Senior Pond" by the Senior Resource Centre before turning around to head back to our cars.

We sighted many birds and a huge bald-faced hornets nest. But what about the vegetation you ask... we ate our share of Himalayan blackberries while learning about foliar fruit flagging. Foliar fruit flagging is how plants can signal to passing birds that their fruit is ripe with leaves that appear to us as turning their autumn colours early, sneaky little plants.

Lisa Parker

WEST CREEK WETLANDS WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3RD

Long sleeves and long pants are usually in order for this walk every year, but this year the mosquitoes seemed in short supply; hikers didn't complain but as we are all 100% naturalists we did worry.

West Creek Wetlands is one of Langley's hidden jewels; nestled in the mid reaches of West Creek, these wetlands are maintained by possibly three families of beavers judging by the number of active lodges in the larger, 30 acre wetland AKA Wood

Duck Lake, named by the late Glenn Ryder. Hiking through the woods, we saw the work which the Glen Valley Watersheds Society and Metro Vancouver Parks' Ecological Restoration Team has been doing to control blackberries. We also checked in on the wasabi left over from past farming efforts on the property.

Besides the lack of mosquitos there is also concern for the elderberry and salmonberry on the property; last year's dry summer can be seen in the lower shrubs as their tops are all dead branches.

Wood Duck Lake is extremely low, even with the wet spring we had; stumps that are usually covered with water most of the year are once again exposed like they were last year. Water is down over a foot. The local beavers seem to be doing just fine though, seen swimming around their lodge as well as one very well fed beaver who was sighted on the banks by his/her lodge.

Lisa Parker

KINDER-MORGAN PIPELINE HEARINGS THURSDAY JULY 28TH

I attended the Federal Government 'TMX Ministerial Panel hearings'.

At the Environmental NGO Roundtable session in the morning, presentations were made by Annabel Young of the SRES, Clive Roberts of SRES, Mike Innes of GVWS, Phillip Milligan of Surrey for BCWLF and Deb Jack of Surrey Environmental Partners. They all expressed concerns about the project from local and global perspectives.

I presented, on behalf of the LFN, our concerns about lack of detail, vague promises with the quote "what they tell you is very interesting - but what they don't tell you is critical". I illustrated my points with reference to the section along the Mountain View Crown-lands and the new (undecided?) route from Telegraph Trail to the CN Railway.

I re-emphasized the need for many more shut-off valves in the case of pipeline rupture and my concern of letting sub-contracts on the least-cost basis of acceptance.

Kirk Robertson, Annabel and I had a discussion with Mathew Claxton of the Langley Advance after the meeting and I sent him the photograph I have of the initial installation of the original pipeline in 1953.

The afternoon session was for Labour and Economics and the Unions were well represented. They included the Union of Operating Engineers, N. American Labor Union, Teamsters Union, and the

Canadian Pipeline Advisory Council, all of whom were promoting job creation. Surrey Board of Trade outlined financial benefits and in both cases they seemed like short term gain for long term pain. Justine of the Pipe-up Facebook site, Susan Davidson of Glorious Organics and Petrina Arnason of ToL all addressed climate change and promoted green industry whilst condemning exportation of jobs. The last speaker, Kirk Robertson of WOLF, said a few words about climate change, public sector projects and directional drilling, which apparently is at the discretion of the engineers, rather than mandated by any environmental authority.

Bob Puls

MANNING PARK CELEBRATES IT'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2016

Since Sheila and I had attended the 50th anniversary of Manning Park in 1991 we decided that a trip to the park on July 16th for the 75th Anniversary celebrations was well worth the effort.

The day was cloudy and not particularly suitable for an alpine visit, but the rain held off as we joined the celebrations at Lightning Lake. In 1991 Robert Bateman had painted a picture of the Hoary Marmot on the rocks in the alpine to celebrate that milestone. For the 75th Anniversary, Murray Phillips was given the honour of painting a picture and he chose to depict the Heather Meadows trail to the Three Brothers. He had posters of the picture available for the celebration and we were fortunate to have Murray sign one for us.



Heather Meadows by Murray Phillips

Photo: Sheila Puls

Sheila and I first visited Manning Park in 1970 and have made the effort to visit every year since; it is our favorite B.C. Park, and our children were brought up loving it as well.

Several speeches were made at the celebration, by far the most interesting was that given by Tom Moore. Tom was a park employee from 1951, and when the Bonnevier trail was blocked by windfalls with insufficient staff to clear it, it was declared

closed by the Parks Branch. Tom offered to clear the trail which he did with volunteer help and he has been volunteering at the Park ever since.

Bob Puls

BLAAUW FOREST REPORT

A full complement of stakeholders was present at the August 5th meeting at Trinity Western University. WOLF, GVWS, LFN, LEPS, ToL, TWU staff, management and students were all represented.

David Clements chaired the meeting at which remediation of the fence-line, invasive species control, signage and the WEB site were all items from the minutes that received attention. A date for the fall planting of shrubs and trees has yet to be set, but volunteers will be required by LEPS at this time. More historical information about the Blaauw family will be collected and the history of the site will be compiled for posting on the WEB and for the TWU and LCM records.

Katelyn then presented a report on her current investigation of the bog area. They have plumbed the depth of the peat, mapped the extent of the bog, taken core samples which have yet to be dated, measured water levels throughout the year and studied terrestrial invertebrates. Future plans include investigation of flying and aquatic invertebrates in the bog.

David Clements will give a presentation regarding the site to the Township Council at the regular meeting on October 3rd.

Bob Puls

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK CELEBRATES THE BEST OF COUNTRY LIVING

Head out to Campbell Valley Regional Park, Township of Langley, and experience the charm of an old-fashioned country fair at the 38th annual "Country Celebration" on Saturday, September 17 & Sunday, September 18 from 10 am to 4 pm. Rain or shine. Free parking is available onsite!

This fabulous fall tradition that combines nature, heritage, agriculture and community is back and more fun than ever with a bike powered main stage, circus skills workshops, kite-making, raku pottery workshops, story telling, cow milking demonstrations, live raptors, and so much more!

A variety of classic country fair food will fuel your day's activities. Dogs are allowed to attend, as long as they are on a leash. An ATM machine is available onsite. Entrance Admission is \$3 per adult, \$2 child 7-13 and seniors 65+, children 6 and under, and anyone dressed in pioneer costume get in for FREE.

PICNIC AT THE "GRASS SHACK"



Relaxing after lunch

Photo: Anne Gosse

About 20 members appeared on a beautifully sunny, warm day, at Al and Jude's home for the annual LFN picnic. As usual there was a wonderful choice of food, good company, an interesting guided walk in the woods (thank you, Al) and constant entertainment with the array of birds and butterflies which make their home in the garden. All the woodpeckers showed up, but the one spotted by Anne in a tree far away merely turned out to be a crow!

And for those who asked for the recipe for the caramel cake - not an old family recipe, a newly discovered, easy to use, delicious to eat Duncan Hines Caramel Apple Cake!

Sheila Puls

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK WEDNESDAY JULY 13TH

We were treated to lovely weather – perfect for an evening nature walk. Our journey took us along the Little River Loop Trail. We stopped at the North end bridge where we heard Swainson's Thrush, Song Sparrows, and Swallows (tree?). Stopping here and there along the trail, we listened for Black-capped Chickadees, as well as Kinglets and Swainson's Thrush. The lovely voice of the Swainson's Thrush has been described as "flute like" – an apt description.

Trailside plants included youth-on-age, tall fringe-cup, broad-leaved avens, and red elderberry. No fungi to speak of except conks, like red-belt fungus and turkey-tail.

At the listening bridge were Cedar Waxwings, Spotted Towhees and Chickadees. We noted that it was interesting to see waxwings flycatching – they're experts.



Cedar Waxwing Photo: John Gordon

We walked on through the woods and the scenic meadow where the ant colony beside the trail seems to be doing well and we noted "mossy galls" on rose bushes.

Altogether a most pleasant evening.

Al Grass

BOB'S JACKMAN PIT WETLANDS PARK - BLOG

July 6th 2016

Conducted bird survey (27 species).

August 12th 2016

Bright sunny day, started monthly bird count at 7.50 am.

One car in parking lot, met lady with off-leash Doberman, she apologized. Later met gentleman with off-leash German Shepherd, he left leash in car. On way out met gentleman with on-leash Golden Retriever and I thanked him. In car park two ladies arrived with two dogs and toys, obviously with no intent of using leash, but they waited until I had left.

Bird life was sparse (20 species) except for NWCR, MALL and a flock of CAGO which flew in as I left. Birds of note were PBGR on south pond with 3 young and flock of Cliff Swallows feeding off the middle lake.

Added a few new plant species to the list, including Purple Loosestrife, Spreading Fleabane, Field Bindweed, Tarweed (clustered) and Common Toadflax.

Bob Puls

GRAND FORKS TRIP

JUNE 23RD TO 29TH

Day 1

Seven of us, Bob Puls, Josh Inman, Lin Inman, Pauline O'Toole, Wim Vesseur, Viveka Ohman and myself left Aldergrove at 8:00 a.m. on our annual birding trip. With light traffic most of the way we made good time, stopping in Keremeos for lunch and to pick up some fruit, and arrived at the PV Ranch in the Granby River Valley by 3:30. Leona and John Breckenridge had travelled up the day before so we were already there getting our supper ready.

The ranch has three well appointed cabins along the river with hay fields on one side where meadowlarks could be heard. Across the river were high cliffs where a family of Merlins could be heard calling to each other as the fledged young practiced their flying skills overhead. White-throated Swifts could be heard and seen around the cliffs. By the time we had settled in, it was Happy Hour, followed by a lovely meal, then off for a walk to explore the neighbourhood. We found a good variety of birds to start the trip well: lots of Chipping Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, a family of American Kestrels, Brewer's Blackbirds, Bullock's Orioles, Northern Flicker, Mourning Dove etc. As the light faded on our return journey, we saw at least fifteen White-tailed Deer in the hay fields making their way to the river.

As none of us knew the area, our plan was to start by visiting the seven hot spots listed on e-Bird: Jewel Lake, Boothman's Oxbows, Gilpin FSR, Wards Lake, Wilgress Lake, Phoenix and the Grand Forks sewage lagoons. We had also committed to doing a Nightjar Survey for Wild Research.

Day 2

After a good night's rest we set off for Jewel Lake. The logging road chosen by the navigator, using the Backroads map, was, unfortunately, not in regular use and in poor shape so we made slow progress, taking a couple of wrong turns on the unposted roads before eventually coming to a better road. Seeing a small pond, we stopped for a quick look and as we got out of our vehicles, the pond 'exploded' as a large bull Moose, which had been lying submerged in its private bath tub, jumped out of the water. It stood for a moment on the bank looking at us, long enough for some good photos, before heading into the bush.

From there we soon reached a paved road and were soon at Jewel Lake where the owner of the local resort/camp site gave us permission to walk around. She had nest boxes which were being used by Tree Swallows and House Wrens and a variety of birds were found in the marsh, on the lake and in the trees. Much of the lake shore is private property so we drove to the Provincial Park at the north end and

walked around the camp site where we found a Pileated Woodpecker but very few other birds.

We made a quick detour into Greenwood for gas and ice-cream before heading back to base. In the evening we drove up the North Fork Road which runs alongside the river, stopping at intervals to check the different habitats. We saw an Osprey, not a common bird in the area, and also found a Veery nest with eggs but nothing else of note.

Day 3

Our first stop of the day was Wilgress Lake, for which 51 species had been recorded on e-Bird, but we found very few. The only place we were able to gain access to the lake was at the rest area on Highway 3 which was noisy, making it hard to hear bird calls. We did try to access the lake from a gravel road on the South side but the only way in was a private driveway. We returned to the highway and headed for the Phoenix Mountain Ski Area, stopping at the ski hill for lunch and recording several species that were not on the e-Bird list for the area.

The weather was warming up so we stopped for coffee/ice cream on the outskirts of Grand Forks before heading up Reservoir Lake Road where our first stop was at Saddle Lake, the best spot yet! Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds abounded; Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, a lone Great Blue Heron (the only one we saw on the trip) American Coot and other species made for very enjoyable viewing.

Our next stop, Wards Lake, was very productive with a number of new species being added to the list as we scoped the lake, including Sora and Virginia Rail. We met a local couple who kindly invited us to visit their property on the other side of the lake where we spent a very enjoyable half hour watching a variety of birds in their garden and at their feeders, including three Calliope Hummingbirds. Nearby a Wilson's Snipe could be heard drumming and a Nashville Warbler was singing in bushes along the roadside.

Day 4

We drove down North Fork Road, then Granby Road, stopping at likely spots along the way. One spot we found was very productive and we had very good views of a Northern Waterthrush collecting food for it's brood. Eventually we arrived at City Park in downtown Grand Forks, where we soon found our target bird, Lewis's Woodpecker, a lifer for some. Grand Forks bills itself as the 'Lewis' Woodpecker capital of BC' and there are certainly plenty of them to be found there. As we walked along the river a Prairie Falcon flew by and a Ring-necked Pheasant was heard.

Our next stop was the Boothman's Oxbows

Provincial Park where we tallied 31 species, including a colony of Bank Swallows, young Spotted Sandpipers and a pair of Solitary Sandpipers along the river. With a sizeable wetland surrounded by open grassy areas, berry bushes, cottonwood stands and the river, this is a very good habitat for which 73 species have to date been recorded on e-Bird.

From here it was only a short distance along the highway to the start of the Gilpin Forest Service Road which winds its way up into the hills above the town. Almost immediately we saw a Chukar on the road, a lifer for some of us which we later discovered was a new species for that area. We drove on up the road through an extensive burned area from a fire earlier in the summer, so there was not much birdlife to be seen. However, as we got higher into Ponderosa Pine forest, we found a number of typical species and even two Western Wood-Pewee nests. It was now early afternoon and getting too hot for some of our party, so we headed back to the ranch for siesta and an early supper. Our hosts had invited us to visit another ranch they owned further up the valley, so we spent the evening there walking around the buildings and through the hay fields down to the river.

Day 5

As we headed down the Granby Road, a Bobolink was spotted in a hay field so we stopped to take a better look and saw a total of five very active males and a couple of females. This was the only location where we found them but much of the valley bottom is suitable habitat so no doubt there are more in the area.

In town again we visited the sewage lagoons and quickly added several new species to our list. We also saw a pair of Prairie Falcons circling lazily above the town. From there we travelled to Christina Lake to walk a section of the Trans Canada Trail, which at this point descends along the mountainside with great views of the river and valley below, then turns through mixed deciduous and conifer/pine woods. A good variety of species was found here, including good numbers of Lazuli Buntings and a Rock Wren singing on the talus slopes above us. It was another very hot day so at the end of our walk we returned to base to relax before going to a restaurant for supper. This was followed by a very successful Nightjar (Common Nighthawk) Survey: a total of 52 birds were recorded at 12 stations.

Day 6

We started our last day by driving up Almond Creek Road, stopping at intervals to walk and observe, hoping to find an American Three-toed Woodpecker as we had seen ample evidence of their presence, but we were unsuccessful. We did, however, find a good variety of other species and also found a Dusky Flycatcher nest. In addition, we came across three places where a large number of butterflies were

gathering for moisture.

The first location was at a wet spot on the edge of the river, the second was a large puddle and the third was a pile of bear droppings. In each location most of the butterflies were Lorquin's Admirals, the most common species we saw in the area. The final bonus was the discovery of a Spotted Sandpiper nest with four eggs, possibly a second brood as most of the birds we saw had already fledged due to the early spring.

Day 7

We made an early start so that we could stop in Manning Park to check out the alpine flowers and still make it home in time for supper.

In all we found 131 species of birds in the Grand Forks area as follows:

GEESE, SWANS, DUCKS

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Common Goldeneye
Barrow's Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Ruddy Duck

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Chukar
Spruce Grouse
Sooty Grouse
Dusky Grouse
Ring-necked Pheasant
Ruffed Grouse
California Quail

LOONS AND GREBES

Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Virginia Rail
Sora

American Coot

Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove

OWLS

Great Horned Owl

JAYS AND CROWS

Steller's Jay
Canada Jay
Clark's Nutcracker
Black-billed Magpie
American Crow
Common Raven
Horned Lark
SWALLOWS
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Bank Swallow

CHICKADEES & ALLIES

Black-capped Chickadee
NTHCH/CRPR/WREN
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Pacific Wren
House Wren
Rock Wren

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Mountain Bluebird

Western Bluebird

Townsend Solitaire

Swainson's Thrush

Hermit Thrush

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Veery

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

WARBLERS

MacGillivray's Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

Nashville Warbler

Orange-crowned Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Townsend's Warbler

Wilson's Warbler

Common Nighthawk
 Black Swift
 White-throated Swift
HUMMINGBIRD/KINGFISHER
 Anna's Hummingbird
 Rufous Hummingbird
 Black-chinned Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
WOODPECKERS
 Lewis's Woodpecker
 Red-naped Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
FLYCATCHERS
 Western Kingbird
 Eastern Kingbird
 Western Wood-Pewee
 Willow Flycatcher
 Alder Flycatcher
 Dusky Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Say's Phoebe
FALCONS
 American Kestrel
 Merlin
 Prairie Falcon
SHRIKES AND VIREOS
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Cassin's Vireo

Western Tanager
 American Redstart
 Northern Waterthrush
SPARROWS
 American Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Lazuli Bunting
 Dark-eyed Junco
BLACKBIRDS
 Bobolink
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Bullock's Oriole
FINCHES & PASSERINES
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 Cassin's Finch
 Red Crossbill
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 Evening Grosbeak
 House Sparrow

We also saw the following butterflies:

Lorquin's Admiral
 Western Tiger Swallowtail
 Silver spotted Skipper
 European Skipper
 Lustrous Copper
 Thicket Hairstreak
 Fritillary (Freija ?)
 Nastes Sulphur
 Cabbage White
 Clouded Sulphur
 Pink-edged Sulphur
 Pale Swallowtail
 Canadian Tiger Swallowtail
 Edith's Checkerspot
 Lilac-bordered Copper

Gareth Pugh

RIVERS DAY

SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

11 am to 3 pm
 FREE BBQ lunch, live musical performances,
 interactive displays and activity booths.
 Free admission, no registration required.
 Contact:
 Nichole Marples, e-mail: exec_director@leps.bc.ca

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

CRITTER CARE FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER

9.30 am to 3.30 pm
 Campbell Valley Regional Park 8th Ave entrance
 Contact:
 Sylvia Anderson, e-mail: ssanders@telus.net

SKAGIT FIELD TRIP FRIDAY JUNE 10TH

We gathered at our usual meeting spot at the Silver Creek (Silver Skagit) Bridge. While we were waiting, we did a check for dippers, but could not find any. The weather started off a bit gloomy with light drizzle; I explained how frequently the weather is much better near the US/Canada border at Ross Lake, and it was.



Sapsucker at sap wells

Photo: Al Grass

We first headed straight for the stop at Silver Lake to check for waterfowl, Spotted Sandpipers, Swifts, swallows, etc. From there, it was straight for the border to the day-use area at Ross Lake. Here we observed Red-breasted Sapsuckers at the nearby grove of birch trees gathering ants at their sap wells, and then flying off to nearby woods (feeding young no doubt). There were also many Rufous Hummingbirds feeding at the sapsucker wells. Other bird highlights included: Western Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Swainson's Thrush and Pacific Wren.

From Curley's Bridge a female Harlequin Duck was seen resting on a sweeper on the Skagit River; also noted was a Common Merganser with young. There were lots of beautiful plants in bloom along the trail (Curley's Trail) to Chittenden Meadows. A highlight at the meadows was the finding of a Chipping Sparrow's nest with four eggs – very beautiful. We also saw western tiger swallowtails visiting tiger lily flowers – a beautiful sight indeed.

Add to the list of birds: Band-tailed Pigeon, Rough-winged Swallow and a roadside view of a Ruffed Grouse.

A wonderful day in B.C.'s beautiful Skagit Valley. Thank you Curley for what you did to save it for all of us to enjoy.
Al Grass

PROGRAMMES

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

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH

THE FLIGHT OF THE IGUANA –

WONDER AND OUR BIGGEST IDEAS.

Speaker: Fred Bunnell, Professor Emeritus
University of British Columbia Department of Forest Sciences

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20TH

Speaker: Stephen Bolwell,
Former BBC nature filmographer

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

PROTECTING THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Speaker: Joanne Neilson
Executive Director of the Fraser Valley Conservancy



Advance warning! CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

Vancouver - Sunday December 18th
Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge Sunday
December 18th
Ladner - Sunday December 27th
White Rock/Langley - Monday January 2nd
Abbotsford - Monday January 2nd

MOUNTAIN VIEW CROWN LAND EXCERPTS FROM BOB'S FIELD NOTES

July 26th 2016

Visited site to collect SD card from trail camera (200 pictures).

Met Paul, who lives in the private lot, at the trail head. He saw very few salmon last fall but there were fry and some larger fish stranded in the pool by the highway in the spring. He caught 100 and released them downstream of the beaver dam at Rawlison Crescent. He couldn't catch the larger fish, which were likely cut-throat trout, but the raccoons fished them out. Paul has brushed the trails he uses and we now need to do the ones we use.

A black bear was caught on camera on June 14th along with deer, coyotes and squirrels.

RBNU were singing but not much else. A nearby STJA gave a perfect RTHA call.

Use of the sweep net on the return hike produced an assortment of spiders and a micro-moth which unfortunately vanished whilst I tried to transfer it to a container before it could be identified.

August 9th 2016

This Tuesday morning I made a special trip to change the batteries in the trail camera. I forgot the replacement SD cards, so switched with the one from my camera. 3 deer photos, 16 coyotes and one black squirrel.

Few birds seen, only 9 species heard. No new species for the month.

I trimmed the trail a bit with Glenn's weed whacker.

Bob Puls

NATURE IN THE RAW



Raven with ground squirrel

Photo: Roy Yates

FIELD TRIPS

Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place.

Please call to let the leader know to expect you. The walks are generally about two to three hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs & members of the public (adults & children, but no pets please). Please dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack (plus bug spray in 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.

THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER

CHEAM LAKE WETLANDS REGIONAL PARK, CHILLIWACK

Time: 9:00 am at Cheam Lake Wetlands parking.

Leader: Josh Inman.

This 107 hectare sensitive wildlife habitat is comprised of a lake, a marsh and forests. It is a popular bird-watching area where 184 different bird species have been recorded, plus it is home to many insects and mammals. Phone Josh 604-532-0455 for info.

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

POINT ROBERTS

Time: 9:00 am at Lighthouse Park

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Join us as we visit Point Roberts to walk along the beach and scan the ocean for whales and the various seabirds that can be found there. We will also visit Lily Point Park and Marine Reserve, Whatcom County Park. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments and, of course, your passports. Phone Gareth 604-576-6831 for info.

WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

BOUNDARY BAY REGIONAL PARK, TSAWWASSEN

Time: 9:00 am at the Camridge House parking lot in Boundary Bay Regional Park.

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Join Delta Naturalists and the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society on their quarterly walk around the Park. The trail follows the shore, then winds back through sand dunes and freshwater marsh.

FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

FALL FUNGI, MUSHROOMS AND MORE

Time: 9:30 am in the Park Entrance Parking lot (just past the goat).

Leader: Al Grass

Bring lunch as we will finish at the Alouette Lake Day use area. We will walk the Spirea Nature Trail and the Lower Falls trails in search of fungi and more. Phone Al at 604-538-8774 for info.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1ST

DERBY APPLE DAYS

Derby Reach Regional Park

11 am to 2 pm.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Bob Puls

Time: 9:30 am in the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue.

This rural site 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 it has stands of mature Douglas Fir. Please phone 604-856-7534 to let us know to expect you and to arrange car-pooling.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14TH

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

Leaders: Al & Jude Grass

Time: 8:45 Hope Flood Rd.

Join Al and Jude for a Fall trip into the Skagit for mushrooms, mammals and birds – and beautiful fall colours. 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. Meet at the junction of the Hope Flood Road & Silver Skagit Road at 8:45 am. The Hope Flood Road exit is #168 from Highway #1 heading east. Note: please make sure you have enough gas as it is 130 km round trip to Ross Lake and back to the highway. Call 604 538 8774 for info.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21ST

GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

Time: 9:00 am at the Sanctuary

Leader: Al Grass

Join us as we welcome back the Snow Geese and search for over-wintering shorebirds, waterfowl and perhaps Northern Saw-Whet Owls in the wonderful bird sanctuary on the Fraser River estuary. This is one of the best times to visit Reifel as the waterfowl are again wearing their colourful feathered coats. Please dress warmly and wear proper footwear. There is a small admission fee. Bring Lunch, snacks and refreshments. Please phone 604-583-8774 to let us know to expect you and to arrange car-pooling.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22ND

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

WETLAND RESTORATION PLANTING

10am – 1pm - Volunteers Wanted - Please

This project was made possible through the Pacific Parkland Foundation and the George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program grant which provided the funding

for the purchase of the trees and shrubs. The Campbell Valley Park Association applied for the funding with the support of their community partners (e.g. A Rocha, LEPS, LCWS, CVES, LFN, WRSN). We'll be planting up an ephemeral wetland and pollinator meadow as part of an ecological restoration project. The planting site is located on the 1800 block of 200th Street in Campbell Valley Regional Park. Participants can park at 1558-200th Street (East Area Parks Office) or the east side of 200th Street. Tools (shovels, gloves, etc.) and refreshments (juice, water, cookies) will be provided. For more details, go to Meetup.com and search "Regional Parks", or contact Jude Grass at 604-538-8774 or Park Office (604-530-4983).

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH
GRANT NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK/
ADDINGTON MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA.**

Leader: Josh Inman
Time: 9:00 am at Grant Narrows Prov. Park parking lot. Join our leader Josh and the Langley Field Naturalists as we look for any late fall migrants passing through and for those hardy enough to stay for the winter. This large dyke/marsh area, with several viewing towers, is a major migration route for bird life and has the largest tidal lake in the world. It can be very windy and cold at this time of year so please wear winter clothes and bring a hat and a pair of gloves. Please note there is a charge for parking. Phone: 604-532-0455 to let us know to expect you.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5TH
SERPENTINE FEN**

Time: 9:00 am at the parking lot behind Art Knapps, 4391 King George Boulevard
Leaders: Liz Walker & Gareth Pugh
Join us for a walk around this wetland that is jointly managed by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of the Environment. Please phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you and to arrange car-pooling.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5TH
METRO VANCOUVER PARKSFEST.**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH
JACKMAN PIT (WETLANDS) PARK, LANGLEY**

Leader: Bob Puls
Time: 8:30 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: 604-856-5734 for info or to let us know to expect you.

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17TH
BLACKIE SPIT - CRESCENT BEACH**

Time: 1:00 pm
Leader: Gareth Pugh
Meet: Crescent Beach Pier, (across from the parking lot by the outdoor swimming pool).
Join Gareth as he takes us on his volunteer bird survey for "Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society" (Birds on the Bay) and he will tell you about how you can participate in "citizen science" which anyone can contribute to. Please phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you and to arrange car-pooling.

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23RD
IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK AND
SEWAGE LAGOONS**

Time: 9:00 am at Iona Beach Regional Park
Leader: Wim Vesseur
Join us to explore this amazingly rich and varied bird life area. We will be hoping to welcome back the Snow Geese and other returning winter visitors and may even see some birds using the area as a stopover on their southward migration. Please phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you and to arrange car-pooling.

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 2ND
BRUNSWICK POINT, LADNER**

Time: 9:00 am
Leader: Viveka Ohman
Join our leader Viveka Ohman to search for returning seabirds, raptors and we will keep our fingers crossed for decent (but possibly windy, cold weather) so please dress appropriately and bring lunch. Expect to see Buteos; Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, possibly the charming Short-eared Owl (with its floppy moth-like flight) and Northern Harriers (with their characteristic slow tilting flight). Sparrows may be numerous and of several species, always a joy to find and watch! Meet at west end of River Road, (past the Westham Island Bridge) at end of the road. Please phone 604-531-3401 to let us know to expect you and to arrange car-pooling.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH
BLAINE & DRAYTON HARBOUR**

Time: 9:00 am at Blaine Marine Park (see web site below for directions)
Leader: Gareth Pugh
Join us to visit Blaine and Drayton Harbour which is an important over-wintering area for shorebirds and waterfowl. We will also drive around to the West side of the Harbour to visit Semiahmoo Park and have lunch at the cafe in the Semiahmoo Resort.
Please dress warmly and wear proper footwear. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments and, of course, your passports. Please phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you and to arrange car-pooling.
://www.google.ca/maps/place/Blaine+Harbor/@48.9947109,-122.7592769,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x6757baa2c029fcaf