



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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Newsletter

September 2021

REMOVAL OF CULVERT AND NEW McCLELLAN CREEK BRIDGE



McClellan Creek bridge

Photo: John Gordon

On July 10th last year John Gordon saw a notice from the City of Surrey posted at the beginning of the trail into Hi- Knoll Park. This notice detailed a plan to remove the culvert on McLellan Creek, close that part of the trail and cut a new trail right through the centre of the small forest. John immediately sent a letter to the City asking for more information and pointing out the importance of this piece of forest which a variety of different bird species use both for roosting (especially owls) and nesting. He also voiced his concern that the work might be carried out during the breeding season.

I also wrote to the City, who responded very promptly and put us in touch with Warren King who was leading the project. He advised us that the work had been postponed to 2021 and agreed to meet us on site to discuss the project. In the meantime I asked Peter Ward, an old friend of mine who belongs to Delta Naturalists, if he could give us any advice on how a crossing of the creek could be designed to avoid the need for a trail through the forest. John and I met him there on January 16th.

It turned out that he had produced a hydrological report in 2017 for the City and the Township of Langley, titled Upper Nicomekl Integrated

Stormwater Management Plan. So he was well versed in the flooding characteristics of the whole floodplain and gave us some very useful advice for our upcoming meeting. We met Warren at the culvert on January 28th and had a very good and frank discussion with him. He told us that he would prefer to see a bridge with a boardwalk over the lowest part of the trail but that the final decision would most likely be based on budget constraints. We pointed out that we lived in Surrey and he told us that, at that time, we were the only Surrey citizens who had responded to the notice. He went on to assure us that no work would be carried out until after the nesting season.

Later this year we were very happy to hear that the City had decided to build a bridge. This work has now been completed as can be seen from the attached photos. Kudos to the City for listening to its taxpayers.

Gareth Pugh & John Gordon



McClellan Creek Bridge

Photo: John Gordon

2021-2022 DUES ARE NOW DUE

Membership/renewal form attached

\$32 single, \$37 family

Cheques may be mailed to the above address

or

e-transfer to lfntreasurer@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Ever wonder at the cyclical rhythms of our world? Sometimes it truly blows my mind that at this time, every year, the birds know to leave, the trees know to shed their leaves and the government knows to hold another election. The insane heat of this summer probably had some of our birds wondering if they were already in the tropics. Our poor trees and shrubs showed how stressed they were as well. I don't expect this winter will be much different; Mother Nature will send us a few cold snaps to show her displeasure for what we have done over the last few decades.

Adaptation is needed to help us get through the next few years and finally on a sustainable path long into the future. Adaptation doesn't happen quickly either, especially when items cost a lot more than our budget has room for (or if your strata moves like molasses)! Taking a long, hard look at your home this fall is very important. Our homes need to be our safe place and possibly a safe place for friends, family and neighbours when stuff gets really bad.

This summer did you notice you needed more trees to shade your home? Better air filtration and cooling systems? Blocking shades for windows? Larger bird bath? Efficient fridge? This winter what will you need to keep warm and fed? Remember the 1998 ice storm that hit Quebec? My Aunt Evelyn had the only wood burning fireplace for several neighbours so the families all moved in until the power and gas came back on. My Uncle Don thankfully had a lot of wood stored. Water was easy to come by, just needed to be melted, and everything in the fridge and freezer was moved outside. Thankfully their toilets were still working but that wasn't the case everywhere!

I judge my winter survival by my aunt's stories. Is there enough propane for the camp stove? Is my water purifier clean? Windows double paned glass? Attic well insulated? Enough beans and rice to feed an army? Sturdy bucket? Emergency supply of chocolate well stocked? Blankets clean? I don't have a wood burning fireplace but if I did I would have the biggest pile of wood in the neighbourhood!

It may be surprising but we need trees to help us through winter, too. Evergreen trees shelter us from snow and icy, cold winds. When the snow melts their roots hold our lawns and stream banks together. They shelter our overwintering wildlife.

Now is the best time to plant trees to help us adapt to climate change. A staff member at LEPS, Brandon, found this excellent resource from Metro Vancouver to help select the best trees for your home or strata: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/conserving-connecting/urban-forests/Pages/default.aspx> and scroll down to find the tree species selection database.

Have a wonderful fall season!

Lisa Dreves

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2021-2022 DIRECTORS

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Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.15 pm currently via 'Zoom'

Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June

BRYDON LAGOON *Wednesday June 2nd*

An evening walk at Brydon Lagoon attracted 10 participants. Thirty-six species of birds were observed, a very good count for an evening session. During the spring 40 species can be expected in the morning hours. Recently one birder had 50 species in under two hours. Brydon is one of the top birding hotspots in the Lower Mainland, something the LFN can feel very proud of. Highlights included a Red-tailed Hawk carrying an unfortunate rabbit to a nearby nest and an American Kestrel seen hovering over the floodplain.



American Kestrel

Web photo

"Hi" but for the most part this easy walk is not really popular.

The beginning of the walk is always popular as the 88 Ave bridge is home to a small colony of Cliff Swallows that can be seen zooming in and out from under the bridge. We weren't able to get close enough to see the mud nests due to high water but they were certainly busy this evening gathering food to feed the young. A Belted Kingfisher captivated us for a long time across the channel. It finally moved for us sounding its rattle-like scream to make sure everyone was aware it was moving. Birds were sighted all along the dike, making progress to the destination at 80 Ave PAINFULLY slow.



Birdwatching at Nathan Creek

Photo: Ted Lightfoot

Flycatchers included Willow and Pacific-slope. We did not hear the Western Wood-Pewee although they had been reported earlier in the day. Much of the time was spent trying decipher bird calls and song. We heard the beautiful song of the Swainson's Thrush, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow Warblers and several House Finches. We had fun differentiating the American Robin from the more frenetic Grosbeak song. I think most got it by the end of the walk. In the floodplain the ongoing colony of Common Yellowthroats could occasionally be seen perched on the end of the canary grass. Overall everyone stayed till the end and enjoyed the shared experience of an organized walk.

John Gordon

NATHAN CREEK *Wednesday June 9th*

A great bunch of new and not so new (I refuse to call any of our members "old") members came out to walk the dike along Nathan/Beaver Creek in Glen Valley. This walk is very accessible, no hills except to get up on top of the dike and then just a straight line filled with views of the escarpment above and the fields below. The occasional loose dog will come by to say

Our destination was the property on the south side of 80 Ave that has a small corner where a house once stood on the east side of Nathan Creek along with the other 46 acres attached to it on the west side of Nathan Creek. This property was acquired by the Township of Langley Parks a few years ago. I was leading the walk this evening to be able to tell folks about the proposed salmon enhancement project on the western portion of the property. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is currently working on drafting plans to create off-channel Chinook salmon habitat. Nathan/Beaver Creek is an ideal creek to create habitat because it doesn't have a pump house at its confluence with the Fraser River. In the past streams like this would have been over wintering habitat for Chinook and other salmon but systems have been diked, filled in, and drained out of existence. Hopefully, in a few years, this part of east Langley will help feed orcas!

But anyway, enough about salmon, let's get back to the fun stuff! Also on the property members of our party found a heronry! (See Ted's article, following). Listed as a species of special concern under COSEWIC, great blue herons are threatened because of habitat loss, so finding a new heronry where they can successfully breed is pretty amazing! There were several nestlings observed in

the nests that could be seen and possibly more nests with more nestlings in the trees.



Lisa leads ... Photo Ted Lightfoot

To end the walk, members took a stroll through the old homestead. Mr. Bert Gatzen owned the property since the 60's until his passing in 2017. Bert's love of food plants can be seen under the sea of ever growing invasive plants. Fruit trees, grapes, berry bushes and a huge plot of ramsons still remain. The Glen Valley Watershed Society will be working on controlling the invasives on the property now that COVID-19 is a little more under control in the province (everyone is welcome to help, you can connect with Lisa through her work email if you want to get involved - stewardship@leps.bc.ca).

Lisa Dreves

RECENT DISCOVERY OF A HERON COLONY

This outing was lead by Lisa Dreves and as commander and chief of this expedition she pointed her finger and said "you" will write this up. It was very exciting to first hear the young herons clacking their beaks and finally finding the nest with three rather large chicks very much crowded on a nest of branches, high in the trees. There were other nests located in the trees nearby but not visible from the distant point on the dike where we were all standing.



Heron at nest Photo: Ted Lightfoot

As you can see, it seems these chicks have almost outgrown their nest and this turns out to be the case. We saw the chicks on the evening of Wednesday June 9th and I went back to look for them on Saturday. I talked to a dike walker who remembered seeing our group on the Wednesday and she said she had seen three young herons on the dike Friday June 11th. Only

two days after this photo they had fledged and several Bald Eagles were scouting them out. At this stage they are only feathers and bones; hopefully the eagles are aware of this!

On Sunday, four days after the initial sighting of this nest, the three chicks had flown the coop and one adult looked rather lonely sitting on the nest.

Ted Lightfoot

PORT KELLS PARK Wednesday June 16th

On a lovey warm summer evening, several naturalists came out to explore this "newer" Surrey Park in old historic Port Kells. After being given some history about the surrounding area of Port Kells, we then followed the trails deep into the green leafy trees and along the earthy smelling paths. Listening to the bird chorus, we heard or saw 19 different species - thankfully recorded by Wim. First, we made our way to the park's feature of a massive Douglas Fir. After viewing this huge giant, we then took the boardwalk that crossed the Latimer creek and came to the fairly large viewing platform overlooking the Latimer wetlands.



Barred Owl

Photo: Eric Habisch

Large skunk cabbages and bullfrogs were seen and the small wetland was busy with a few birds.... but then, suddenly, one of our group (Andrew) noticed two owls in the high cedar trees over the viewing platform! Soon we found two more, making it a family of four Barred Owls sitting overlooking the wetlands and enjoying the evening along with our group. After the excitement of meeting the Barred Owl family, we set off back to the parking lot. Another summer evening to remember.

Anne Gosse

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK Wednesday June 23rd

Around 6:30 pm most of us met at the South entrance of Campbell Valley Regional Park. A few had driven past the first parking lot and arrived just as we were getting ready to check the other parking lot. While they picked up the car, everybody was trying to get a look at the Red-breasted Sapsucker hanging out nearby. Fourteen members came out for this walk on another lovely summer evening.

While we made our way to the south side of the Ravine Trail on the far side of the meadow, I talked about the bats that live in the area and the Barn

Owls in the shed. Glaucous-winged Gulls flew by and we did see lots of American Robins and heard the summer sound of the Swainson's Thrushes everywhere with once in a while Spotted Towhees interrupting. Barn Swallows and a few Violet-green Swallows were hunting over the meadows. In the longer grass we found some Savannah Sparrows. By the house on the feeder an Anna's Hummingbird was enjoying the evening.



Turkey Vulture

Photo: Wim Vesseur

Just before we got to the trail a Turkey Vulture showed up in the sky and a Northern Flicker called out, followed by some American Goldfinches flying by.

On the trail we got some Dark-eyed Juncos and we heard the Black-headed Grosbeaks singing. While I heard a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Eric noticed two flycatchers a few feet from the forest floor on a few sticks. After some deliberation we decided they were most likely just fledged chicks of the Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Walking along the ravine there was not a lot of water left, but the Willow Flycatchers were calling. We also saw and heard Song Sparrows.

As we were approaching the trail towards the pond I decided to just do the Ravine trail because of the available time. We managed to get to the little viewing platform and found some other birds along that stretch, such as Common Yellowthroat and Yellow Warbler. In the distance Common Raven and Crows were calling.

When we came back to the trail, Helen had found us a Brown Creeper. In the last stretch of the ravine trail Black-throated Gray Warbler was picked up as well as a Eurasian Collared-Dove.

Wim Vesseur

SOUTH LANGLEY TRAIL 8TH AVENUE FROM 256TH - 264TH STREET Wednesday June 30th

After two record breaking hot days when Aldergrove temperatures reached 42^oC, the last day of June was much cooler. So at 6:30 pm ten LFNER's and 2 non-members met at Bob's for the evening walk. We set off south on 256th and stopped for bird sounds and sightings on the way to 8th avenue.

At the entrance gate to the trail we found a patch of white *Impatiens parviflora* - Small Balsam, the only flower of interest that we saw during the walk.

Tom took several group photos along the trail. Lots of birds were singing this evening and we logged 21 species. The walk was enjoyed by all; the temperature was ideal and many participants left with bundles of various varieties of bread which Bob's daughter-in-law had just delivered: intended for recycling by sheep if no one else could use it.

Bob Puls

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK Wednesday July 7th



Aldergrove Regional Park

Photo: John Gordon

It was a beautiful evening for a walk around Aldergrove Regional Park. With the late June "heat dome" safely out of the way, the temperatures were perfect and the sky clear blue with only a few wispy clouds. Our group convened in the parking lot on the eastern side of the park, off Lefeuvre Road. We walked along the trails, making a large circle around the marsh ponds in the southeast corner of the park. The impact of the extraordinary heat event in late June was not hard to find. Some of the undergrowth vegetation was showing definite signs of heat stress and the trails were definitely dustier than they would otherwise be in a more normal early July. However,

our old friends, the blackberry bushes were doing just fine sporting a lot of new growth and fruit that seemed to be ripening rather early for the season which was no great surprise.

We were fortunate to see a lot of birds along the trail. Our members identified 32 species altogether (recorded in eBird by John Gordon), including Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Violet-green Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler and Western Tanager. For myself this was the first time I had seen a Western Tanager, apart from photographs, so this was particularly gratifying since it is such a striking and beautiful bird. The forest was alive at some moments with the calls of the Swainson's Thrush which was nice to hear.

Towards the end of the walk, we made our way to the "Big Rock", a glacial erratic deposited at the present spot by ice sometime in the distant past. We can confirm the Big Rock has not moved. I wonder if there had been any humans in the area to witness this huge chunk of rock first emerge from the toe of the retreating ice. How many people have clambered to the top of its bulk over the millennia since?

After a final swing down to the marsh ponds to try and round out the bird count, we were losing the light and it was time to head home. A very pleasant evening I think for all that were able to attend.

Keith Chrystall

E.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK **Wednesday July 14th**

Last year our annual excursion to Manning had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but this year the restrictions were relaxed just in time for the event to take place.

Gareth, Tom and Wim met at Bob's place and carpooled in Wim's car, all of us having had two Covid shots. We met Ted, Lynda and Eric at the Manning Park lodge and then headed for the Heather Meadows.

The usual Yellow-Pine Chipmunks were waiting for handouts at the Look-out, but no birds. We only saw one pair of Barn Swallows and two pairs of Violet-green's at the lodge and one Red-breasted Sapsucker. It has been a record breaking dry and hot Spring and early Summer so we had some concerns about the trip with over 300 forest fires burning in BC, but fortunately none in this area, although the air was a bit smoky. The temperature was perfect around 26°C in the alpine with a nice breeze for walking.

We embarked upon our normal loop walk around the Heather meadow area and soon discovered a lack of birds and the flowers, although pretty, were greenish rather than the multiple colours we have seen in the past. So Eric being a butterfly enthusiast soon had us all trying to photograph butterflies, which were numerous but far too active. Eventually enough settled down and posed for a fair variety of pictures with about 15 species being recorded and



Deer Fly

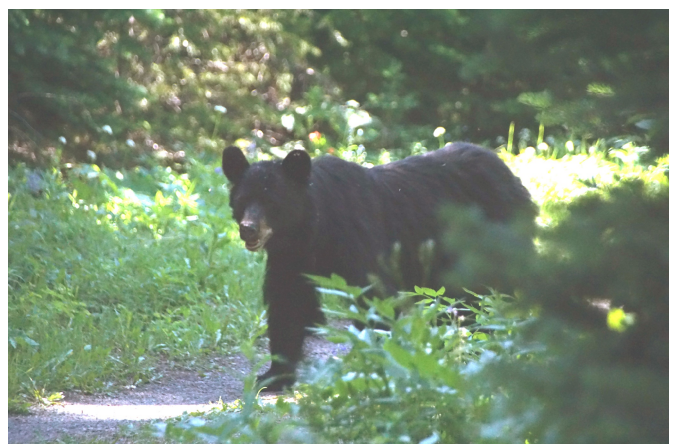
Photo: Bob Puls

about the same number of bird species. A large deer fly (*Hybomitra species*) was prevalent but they didn't seem to be biting.

We picnic lunched in the alpine by the parking lot, but again no Canada Jays to share our lunches although we had seen some on route. Hermit Thrushes were abundant although we never saw one but we did encounter a number of Dark-eyed Junco families. We heard the Sooty Grouse in the usual fir tree but never did see it.

We visited the Beaver Pond, after which Ted & Lynda called it a day and the rest of us headed for Strawberry Flats. Again we concentrated on butterfly photography as we walked along the trail with Gareth in the lead, with his head down watching Little Blues, until someone suggested he stop and back up! We were all close together, but I think Gareth's nose was fairly close to that of a black bear as we rounded a corner.

The bear looked at us long enough for some photos and then ambled off to the side - this is when Wim said I see another, and another, and we realised she



Black Bear

Photo: Bob Puls

had two cubs with her. Having reached our allotted time limit at this point, we turned around and ambled back to the cars and headed for home.

Eric's butterfly list:

Common Branded Skipper
Julia Orangetip
Mariposa Copper
Boisduval's Blue
Pacific Fritillary
Lorquin's Admiral
Edith's Checkerspot
Vidler's Alpine

Anise Swallowtail
Purplish Copper
Brown Elfin
Anna's Blue
Hydaspe Fritillary
California Tortoiseshell
Field Crescent

Honourable mention: A Sulphur butterfly which Lynda and I spotted at Beaver Lake but I could not photo to document. There could be others but I have not had any confirmations from iNaturalist. This is still a great list for our day up there.

Another great visit to the Park which never fails to enchant.

Bob Puls

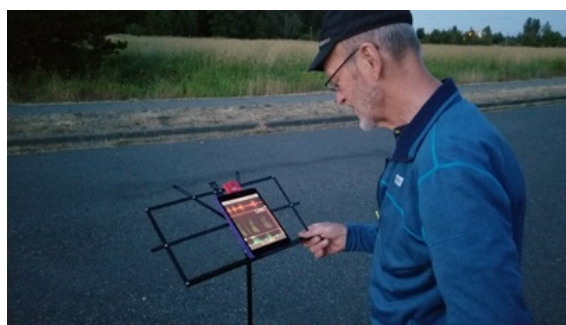
BAT WALK
Wednesday July 21st



Waiting for the bats

Photo: Keith Chrystall

Twelve LFN members participated in the Bat walk evening on 53rd Ave in Surrey. This location has proven to be a hot spot for observing large numbers of Bats. It definitely lived up to its reputation this year. It was a picture perfect summer evening and once again for the birders in the group, a resident Barn Owl was observed hunting in the nearby field.



Ryan checks the monitor

Photo: Keith Chrystall

Keith had the LFN Bat Monitor set up and picked up 99 Little Brown Myotis and 2 Long Legged Myotis eco's. Last year on July 22 the unit picked up 72 Little

Brown Myotis and 7 Long Legged Myotis eco's. This observation location is near to where the new hospital is in the planning stages. Naturalists will want to follow its progress and make sure the natural habitat of the area is protected for our Bat (and the Owl) friends.

Ryan Usenik

FORSLUND WATSON
Wednesday July 28th

Five members from the Abbotsford Field Naturalists joined six LFN members for the walk. AFN had a trip planned for the Manning Park area that day, but because of forest fire issues in the area, chose to join our walk. Everybody chose to do the circular trail walk. With the older Alder trees dying off, the increase in light has meant a lush undergrowth. Not an ideal environment for observing birds. For those with good hearing came the creativity of sound imaginations. Along the western section of the trail, a Great Horned Owl was observed a couple of times. Suspect it is not used to having a bunch of two legged creatures trespassing in his backyard.

Along the trail there are several Huckleberry bushes that provided a timely tasty energy boost.

Keith was not able to record any Bat eco's around the large pond. As the group was exiting the treed area and entering the raptor field, several Bats were observed flying in amongst the trees. This location is very close to where volunteers for North American Bat Monitoring set up a tape monitoring site every year in early July to record Bat observations which allows for year to year comparisons.

The vernal pond was dry. In past years it has never dried up before the end of August. In 2020 it never completely dried up.

Ryan Usenik

DEREK DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM & TRAILS
Wednesday August 4th

Our walk started at the east side of the Rotary Interpretive Centre with a group photo. We had 12 walkers including Nora (not pictured). To start we walked through a new path to the west of the Interpretive Centre that includes Magnolia, Hibiscus and Rhododendron plantings. We went on to the Bird Garden with new plantings including Viburnum, California Poppy, Echinacea and an Aralia Alata tree. We then walked along the perimeter trail to the first viewing platform overlooking Fraser Creek. You can see the Barn Owl box erected by our members from this location and also the Swallow boxes and Bat boxes erected on the slope north of the bridge crossing Fraser Creek.



Ready to walk

Photo: Nora Truman

We continued over the Fraser Creek bridge to some concrete benches that have been decorated by the students of Langley Secondary School with messages and pictures on coloured tiles created by the students. Part of the group headed north under 56 Avenue to a pond with Mallard ducks and various bird species flying to and fro over the pond.

Wim submitted a list of 11 species, including Mallard, Anna's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Great Blue Heron, Barn Swallow, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, Song Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak. The pond group headed back past the War Memorial in memory of the Canadian Soldiers lost in the Afghanistan Mission. We continued past the new Learning Farm, Community Garden plots and through the Demonstration Garden to meet the first group at the picnic table.

Nora Truman

MILASTER PASSIVE PARK Tuesday August 17th



The 'Mighty Crew' ready to get to work

Photo: Lisa Dreves

The major initiative for this month was to reclaim the totally overgrown vernal pond.

Where is this pond? Well it is right beside the driveway into the old residential site. Most visitors walked right past it without even knowing it was there. As you pass the large ToL 'No Trespassing'

sign you drive or walk along a straight section of driveway until you reach the clearing on the left with the large cherry tree - the site of the former workshop, where the driveway turns south. Directly opposite this clearing is the vernal pond.

A mighty crew hit the vernal pond at Milaster Passive Park to remove blackberries and clean up. Of the over 1000 species that have been inventoried at this park we still haven't found a single salamander! This is the only large-ish pond in the area but it is very difficult to inventory because of the dense blackberries around the pond. During clearing we have only found an invasive green frog but hopefully now that we can peer into the creek and have spaces cleared to set up salamander boards (flat wooden boards that are easy to lift and replace to check for anyone finding refuge under them) we will be able to find some of these adorable amphibians! Many thanks to the LEPS Wetlands Workforce pod through BCWF and funding from the Healthy Watersheds Initiative.

Lisa Dreves

MILASTER PASSIVE PARK: AUGUST REPORT

Tuesday August 17th

Bob, Wim, Herman and Ryan met at the site at 9:00 am and started removing fallen and dead trees from around the south and east sides of the vernal pond. At 9:30 we were joined by Lisa and two LEPS summer students, who continued to remove blackberries from the north side. By noon we had achieved a tremendous amount and can now see into, and access, the pond. There is only a small spot that still holds water, covered in duckweed. Whilst we cleared around the banks, Herman entered the pond site, which is currently dry, and hacked his way west through the overgrowth until he reached the western end. It was at this point that we discovered that there was an island in the middle and the pond continued around the north side. 2x4 boards pulled out of the pond site have been set aside to use as salamander boards in the fall, although we have yet to find a salamander in the park.

We disturbed a Deer Mouse at one point which we duly photographed and LEPS caught a Green Frog in the area last week.



Hydrionena furcate

Photo: Bob Puls

Whilst the pond work was being done Bob continued to catch moths in his homebuilt trap. One new moth was found in the moth trap today 'The July Highflyer' - *Hydrionena furcate*.

Anthea and Corey have continued to visit the site weekly and record all they see.

Tuesday August 24th

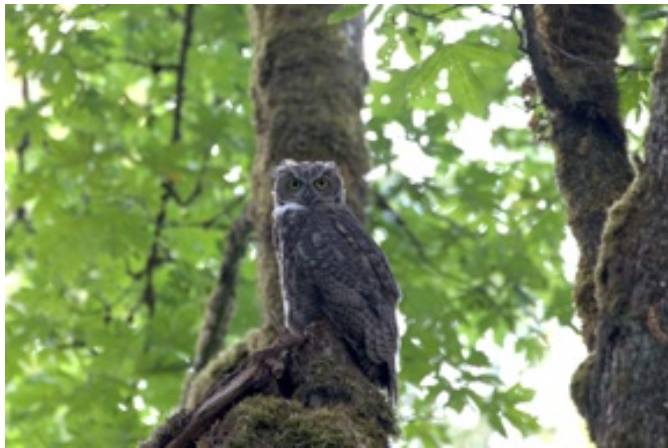
Bob, Gareth, Ryan and Eric visited the site to continue clearing over the pond. Bob cut his way around the north side of the island to complete the circle. Ryan dug up blackberries by the roots and added all the removed vegetation to the burn pile whilst Eric discovered that the island was covered in English Ivy so he and Gareth occupied themselves by pulling that out although they were not able to complete the work due to time constraints. More work will be needed in a couple of months when roots that were missed will show leaves and can be dug out. Evidence on fallen branches in the pond area indicated water levels could reach a depth of about 3-4 feet in the height of the rainy season. There don't seem to be any distinct water channels flowing into or out of the pond area. It is apparent that the pond is man-made and could provide a haven for ducks during the winter.

With the work done we can now access the area for inventory purposes and will await recommendations from our R.P.Bio. members as to any further restoration work that might be beneficial.

Bob Puls

BLAAUW ECO-FOREST

Wednesday, August 11th



Great Horned Owl

Photo: Eric Habisch

This Great Horned Owl was spotted by Andrew on the LFN Blaauw Eco Forest walk. Attending was Ted G, our leader, with Gareth, Andrew and myself. The owl was the highlight as it was a very quiet night for birds with most of the wetland being dried out.

Eric Habisch

JACKMAN PARK **Wednesday August 18th**



Beaver at Jackman Wetlands

Photo: Eric Habisch

Six members joined me for the walk around the park. The 272nd Street entrance was closed so we had to detour to the 8th Avenue entrance. Wim kept the e-Bird list which is available through the enclosed link below. A fairly new member, Andrew Wray, joined us and his particular interest is owls, so he was quite excited that we saw two Great Horned Owls.



Great Horned Owl at Jackman

Photo: Eric Habisch

The water levels were really low so only about a quarter of the pond areas were under water; the rest was all overgrown with grasses etc. We saw 22 species of birds, two beavers by the old lodge in the western pond (the east pond was all dried up), and the remains of one dead garter snake. One of the beavers gave us a display of several tail slaps. We all enjoyed the pleasant evening walk and followed COVID protocols.

<https://ebird.org/canada/checklist/S93433516>

Herman Vanderleest

WILLIAMS PARK
Wednesday, August 25th

It was a lovely late summer evening for our walk In Williams Park.

Newer LFN members Kathleen & Brian H. and Andrew joined several of us for the walk along the Salmon River. The river level was very low but it was good to see how clear the water was.

We were pleased to see signs had been erected to discourage digging or playing in the clay riverbanks. This should help the salmon and other fish during the migration life cycle.

After a short discussion about the history of the original homestead and the purchase of the land for a park, we continued along the trail. I wasn't expecting many birds, so had hoped to show everyone a small pool where I had seen 3 large Signal Crayfish.



Signal Crayfish

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

It was nearly 8 PM when we reached the pool and already getting dusky out. Only one small specimen was located. Then someone noticed 2 Barred Owls in the evergreen tree above the river. The smaller owl amazed us by flying down to the river and perching on a rock. We decided he/she must be hunting. After about 10 mins we were further amazed to witness the catch and carry off of a crayfish! A first for all of us. Then the larger owl repeated the performance. This owl was a quicker and the prize a larger crayfish, so it must have been more experienced.

Darkness was approaching so time to head back. Another Barred Owl was spotted in a tree further up the trail. The motto of this short report is - we always learn something on our rambles and hopefully see something we've never seen before!

(Brief report as I must send this to Sheila, deadline for newsletter has already passed!)

PS: Signal Crayfish are indigenous and interesting creatures; I will write more about them for next newsletter.

Joanne Rosenthal



Barred Owl fishing

Photo: Bob Puls



By the stream in Williams Park

Photo: Bob Puls

PROGRAMMES

For the time being, our monthly meetings along with amazing presentations will be offered online through Zoom. Our President, Lisa, will send a link the week before the program starts. Just click into this link (highlighted in Lisa's email) and Lisa will accept you into the Zoom program. As soon as we can meet in person you will receive notification.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH 2021. KEEPING A LEGEND ALIVE, FRASER RIVER STURGEON!

**Sarah Schreier, Executive Director,
Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society**

Time: 7:30 pm via Zoom

Hear about the white sturgeon research done within a study area of over 200 kilometers of the river from the Fraser Canyon to the Fraser estuary. The program has resulted in one of the best baseline data sets on sturgeon in the world, creating an internationally recognized population model.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 21ST 2021 EXPLORING MADAGASCAR

Pauline O'Toole

Time: 7:30 pm via Zoom

Explore Madagascar with LFN member Pauline O'Toole and learn something of the culture, flora and fauna of the world's 4th largest island. This island is home to more than 250,000 species, of which 70% are found nowhere else on the globe!

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18TH, 2021 COEXISTING WITH WOLVES!

**Adam T. Ford, Assistant Professor,
Canada Research Chair -
Wildlife Restoration Ecology, UBC Okanagan**

Time: 7:30 pm via Zoom - from UBC Okanagan

Dr. Adam Ford, professor at UBCO, is conducting research on wolves with his students at the Wildlife Restoration Ecology lab to better understand them and their behaviors. Researchers are using audio technology to bring the B.C. wolf, an elusive and often misunderstood creature, into the spotlight. The team has been using audio devices to track them by monitoring their howls in the East Kootenays.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 16TH

Mark your calendars! We hope to be able to have our usual Christmas gathering, depending on the COVID restrictions.

LFN PICNICS



Picnic at Campbell Valley Park

Photo: Lillian Fuller

On Tuesday, July 20th, 27 members of the Langley Field Naturalists came together in Campbell Valley Park for a summer picnic and a special presentation to LFN member Anne Gosse. Members who attended were double vaccinated and as a result were able to pose for the large group photo. Thank you to Gareth Pugh for organizing such a nice outing. It was such a success that, taking advantage of the summer weather and the ability to meet in person, a second picnic was held on August 19th.

Lillian Fuller



Anne Gosse with her award

Photo: Lillian Fuller

**Anne Gosse finally received her
BC Nature Club Service Award at
the picnic on July 20th - see write-
up in the June newsletter, page 4**

FIELD TRIPS ARE BACK!

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING WALKS SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, 2021

*Please Note: anyone wishing to take part in these walks should follow current Provincial Health guidelines when travelling to the designated meeting place. **Pre-registration will be mandatory** as we must know in advance how many participants to expect and, if necessary, arrange for more than one leader to ensure that no more than ten persons are in each group in order to maintain required social distancing.*

The walks are generally about two hours long and are open to all Naturalist Club members (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 nobody preregistered, the walk will be cancelled.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

BRAE ISLAND

Leader: Phil Henderson

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at 9451 Glover Road, Fort Langley

Phil will lead a walk on the trails along the river out to Tavistock Point in Brae Island Regional Park. Phone 604-888-1571 to register.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

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

Enjoy nature at High Point, as 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 St. Phone: 604-533-4585 to register

file:///C:/Users/Gareth/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INet Cache/Content.Outlook/HE7MO53Y/HighPoint%20Park.pdf

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

MILASTER PASSIVE PARK, ALDERGROVE

Leader: Bob Puls

Time: 9:00 am at 7040 - 272nd Street

Join Bob to see this new park which is not yet open to the public but in which LFN are carrying out a bio-diversity study for the Township of Langley. Wear waterproof footwear as one part of the trail is very wet. Phone 604-856-7534 to register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Wim Vesseur

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

Wim will lead us on 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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Lisa Blanchard

Time: 9:00 am at the Cliff Park parking lot. Take Dewdney Trunk Road and turn South on 252nd Street, follow the road via 117th Avenue and 251st Street to the park entrance

Join Lisa to walk the trails through this popular park with its great variety of trees, flowers and shrubs and watch the salmon returning to spawn. Walking distance is approximately 5 km so please wear appropriate footwear. Trails are rated as moderate. Bring a packed lunch to eat at a suitable spot at the end of the walk. Phone: 604-818-7973 to register. <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/parks-greenways-reserves/kanaka-creek-regional-park>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

Leader: Ted Goshulak
Time: 9:00 am at the Sanctuary Gift Shop

The trails around this popular wildlife refuge offer views of Snow Geese and other wintering birds, which 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 604-888-0408 to register with Ted. (Note: Pre-booking is still mandatory at Reifel and should be done 3 days prior to visiting).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
FISHTRAP CREEK LOOP - ABBOTSFORD BC

Leader: John Gordon
Time: 9:00 am at the Maclure Road Parking lot - just past Old Yale Road turn off from Hwy 1

The Fishtrap Creek Loop is located near Abbotsford, featuring a couple of lakes with good walking trails for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips and bird watching and is accessible year-round. This is an easy walking trail with several ponds to circle - usually with lots of wintering ducks - plus a resident owl has been seen as well. Come see how many ducks are wintering on these ponds this year! Phone 604-533-7171 to register.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
WILLBAND CREEK PARK

Leader: Tom Wildeboer
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 604-530-2633 to register. <http://www.fraservalleybirding.com/Site%20Guide/Willband%20Creek%20Park/index.htm>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH
FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY

Leader: Ryan Usenik
Time: 9:00 am at 2705 - 232nd Street

LFN co-manages this property with the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource and Rural Development. Join Ryan as he leads us through part open fields and part woodland. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking on natural woodland trails. Phone 604-530-3257 to register.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH
BRYDON LAGOON & HI-KNOLL PARK

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

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. Phone 604-532-0081 to register.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Keith Chrystall
Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

Join us as we walk the gentle trails in this rural park looking for fabulous fungi and other signs of Fall. We will also be checking the Flying Squirrel boxes that LFN members have installed. It is part of the Municipal Natural Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and stands of mature Douglas Fir. Phone 604-427-3725 to register.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
BLACKIE SPIT - CRESCENT BEACH

Time: 9:00 am at Crescent Beach Pier, (across from the parking lot by the outdoor swimming pool).
Leader: Gareth Pugh

Join Gareth for a walk around this popular park where a variety of migrant and resident birds can be found in winter, followed by a warm-up at a local coffee shop. Phone 604-576-6831 to register.

* Membership form attached
Your membership in Langley Field Naturalists includes membership in BC Nature and a subscription to the BC Nature quarterly magazine.