



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 2014

DANDELION "LOOK-A-LIKES"



Hairy cat's-ear

Photo: Al Grass

There are many 'wayside' plants that are often passed over as 'dandelions'. Of course most of these plants are dismissed as "weeds", but they are interesting from a botanical perspective.

These plants include hairy cat's-ear (*Hypochoeris*, sp.), sow thistle (*Sonchus*, sp.), Oyster Plant {Salsify} (*Tragopogon*, sp.) and wall lettuce (*Lactuca*, spp.).

Perhaps the most commonly overlooked of these plants is hairy cat's-ear, so named for its fuzzy leaves.

The mentioned plants are all composites (*Asteraceae*) and are features of autumn. Two other genera may be added to the list - false dandelions (*Agoseris*, spp.), hawksbeards (*Crepis*, spp.), and hawkweeds (*Hieracium*, spp.).

Like the common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), these weeds have wildlife values. For example sow thistles are a favourite of fall butterflies, and watch for skippers on hairy-cat's ear flowers. Weeds are eaten by birds like the American Goldfinch.

References: Martin, A.C. et. al. *American Wildlife and Plants: A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits*. Dover, New York. 500pp. 1961.



Yellow Salsify

Photo: Bob Puls

Al Grass



Just to remind everyone that the Langley Field Naturalist dues would be appreciated in September!
(Our year is September - August)

Please complete the attached membership form and waiver so that we have your up to date information.

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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 Executive members' homes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fall is fast approaching after one of the sunniest and driest summers I can remember. Tree fruits are being harvested, the vegetable garden has been productive and the birds are about though with their nesting. The barn swallows seem to have done well this year, with 11 nests and multiple broods in my barn - they don't seem to be as threatened in B.C as they are reported to be in the east.

The executive will be meeting in a couple of weeks to finalize preparations for the coming fall season, with Anne having submitted her field trip schedule for approval. A big thank-you to Anne for your many years of doing this for the club. And also to Jude who has speakers lined up for the indoor programs, which recommence on the 18th of September.

As many of you know Sheila and I will not be at the September or October general meetings or B.C. Nature Fall meeting in Salmon Arm as we will be on safari in Kenya and Tanzania. So we are going to drop our new vice president right in at the deep end to chair these meetings. Another thank-you, this time to Sharon for taking on the vice-president position.

Bob



Mourning Cloak (Numphalis antiopa)
at Puntzi Lake Photo: Bob Puls

LFN Members by nature are also very interested in the environment. One of the ways to financially support environmental work in our community is by making a financial contribution to LEPS (Langley Environmental Partners Society). Tax receipts are issued for all donations over \$10. For more information or to make a donation, go to leps.bc.ca

BC NATURE SPRING CAMP, TOFINO **Sunday April 27th - Thursday May 1st** **Torrential Hail, High Seas & Hot Temperatures!**



Camp participants

Photo: Anne Gosse

Twenty-four participants had an absolute ball at the BC Nature Spring Camp in Tofino 2014. It was a jam-packed, gorgeous five days which began Sunday, April 27. Our group was greeted with a fierce downpour of hail and rain as we listened to George Patterson while rambling around his lovely Botanical Gardens. However, within a few minutes it passed - leaving us five full days of sunshine and warmth!

On Monday, the Whales & Hot Spring outing was taken on a bright, sunny day with quite dramatic high rolling sea swells - with lots of sea-foam and sea birds flying about. Even though we searched, we only spotted two Grey Whale's spouts amongst the deep troughs and waves. However, there were lots of Steller's Sea Lions, Sea Otters, interesting birds (e.g. Marbled Murrelets,) and beautiful rocky island scenery to compensate. After our exciting high sea adventure, the lovely quiet mossy green boardwalk trail and the natural Hot Spring's soothing waters with its rocky setting were enjoyed by all.

On the Tuesday morning's Bears & Birds boat excursion, we were fortunate to see several large black bears foraging along the shore-line, turning over huge rocks and eating small crabs and mud fish. We also spotted many different waterfowl species and clouds of migrating Shorebirds on the expansive mud flats surrounding the area.

With its lovely views and vistas, the afternoon's Wild Pacific Trail, recently rated the "Best Trail in Canada", was a highlight. Lots of photos were taken of the beautiful vistas along the trail (i.e. of the Broken Islands), and we even saw a few birds (wrens, warblers). Many vowed to come back and do more of this walk in the future.

Wednesday morning, our third boat excursion, was to Meares Island's Majestic Big Tree Trail. It was quiet and awe-inspiring as we wandered among the massive 1200 year-old trees. And it was good to see the boardwalk had a few repairs done on it, although a number of us still managed to fall off and scratch

our legs.

In the afternoon, we again joined local naturalist Andy Murray who took us onto the mud flats to search for huge flocks of shorebirds. As always, nature being unpredictable, the flocks were smaller than expected, but we saw lots of Western and Least Sandpipers, Dowitchers and Whimbrels, and enjoyed the hot sun (a record - 26 degrees!).

On our last morning, Thursday, leader Kim Johnson gave a very interesting intertidal walk/talk full of sea facts on the beautiful Cox Bay Beach - under a bright sunny day to end our week. Who knew that almost everything is not only edible but healthy along the shore!

Again this year, we had an enjoyable array of evening speakers. On Sunday, Dan Harrison of the Rainforest Education Society explained about their work and their many projects in the area and gave us information on the extensive mud flats. Biologist Wendy Szaniszló's presentation on Monday about Whales & Marine Mammals was certainly very fascinating and stimulating and enjoyed by all. Then on Tuesday, retired Pacific Rim Park Warden Bob Hansen gave us a very informative slide presentation about "Living with Carnivores" - as the residents of Tofino do each day. Some of us were lucky enough to have seen a Pacific Wolf earlier in the day along the beach behind the Ecolodge, so his talk about Wolves and Cougars was very topical.

As for accommodation, the Ecolodge was perfect. Everyone praised the food, the cozy lodge, the beautiful gardens and also the ideal location for early morning birding on the mud flats behind the lodge.

Our bird count was 76 species (Wim Visseur kept our Bird List - with two question marks yet to be clarified) Thanks Wim! and our Mammal Count was 12 species at the end of our Camp. It was an awesome camp which will surely book up quickly again next Spring.

Tom Bearss and Anne Gosse

GLEN VALLEY BIRD COUNT **Saturday May 31st**

A Northwestern Crow "khaaed, khaaed" outside my bedroom window at 4:30 am. Sunshine was streaming in and today was the Glen Valley bird count! Hello - the day looks very promising! A great warm sunny spring morning for bird watching.

Upon arriving at Popular Bar Glen Valley Park by 6:00 am, there were about 19 to 20 birders on the banks of the nearly flooding Fraser River. Lisa soon had us all organized and several teams were sent off amongst the lovely yellow buttercup meadows in this



Blue-winged Teal

Photo: Bob Puls

quiet farming district. Chirping birds were brightly calling their morning songs everywhere. A large healthy coyote was seen crossing the dyke and rabbits were seen along the hedgerows. My team's best sightings were of a Red-breasted Sapsucker and several Blue-winged Teals and Lazuli Bunting - but all teams reported some great sightings. (After hearing about all the Bullocks Orioles and Lazuli Buntings I got up early the next morning and found four singing along River Road!).

Our search ended at 11:30 am with a pot-luck lunch of hot dogs and chilli and plenty of other goodies. The teams tallied their results. The morning count for all teams was a total of 77 species. Our thanks goes to Lisa from LEPS for all her organizing and for the food and to Margaret for the tea and coffee.

Anne Gosse

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK Wednesday, June 11th



Photo: Jerry Brownlee

Birds and flowers in the meadow Photo: Jerry Brownlee

Seventeen naturalists from three different Fraser Valley Clubs met at the junction of the Hope Flood and Silver Skagit Roads to join Al and Jude Grass on their Skagit Valley all day excursion. In a six car convoy we were soon off towards Ross Lake on a wonderful sunlit morning. The Rhododendrons were in bloom along the roadsides.

Our first stop of the day was at beautiful Silver Lake that mirrored the surrounding mountains in its

smooth clear waters. Several species of waterfowl were scoped on the lake and a Warbling Vireo's clear sweet song led the group to its round ball nest causing much discussion and excitement. "Did we see a tail or not in the nest?"

We next stopped at the Skagit River where we tallied a few more birds and wild flowers. Upon arriving at Ross Lake Picnic area we watched four Rufous Hummingbirds, a few Bumble Bees and a Red-breasted Sapsucker all competing for the same sap-hole in a tree near the information gazebo. This gave our boisterous happy group plenty of photo opportunities. Two deer joined us for lunch on the picnic tables and a few more bird species were discovered while exploring the shoreline.

After lunch we traveled to Chittenden Meadow where the mosquitoes were quite bothersome - but this was made up for by the many bird sightings and lovely flowers in the Ponderosa Pine meadow. Several different types of butterflies were flickering all over the meadow. This meadow was the site of one of the earliest homesteads in the Skagit Valley (1883) named after Curley Chittenden.

It was a long day, however; the weather and road conditions were just perfect but still one of our convoy had a flat tire. A total of 55 species of birds were identified. Some highlights were the Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Warbling Vireo, Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Townsend's Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee, and Pacific Slope Flycatcher. Thanks to Al and Jude for leading us into this beautiful mountainous valley on such a lovely sunny day.

Anne Gosse

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK Friday June 20th



At the big rock

Photo: Anne Gosse

On our "yellow bird treasure hunt" with our intrepid leader Viveka, twelve naturalists walked a full circuit on the lovely trails of Campbell Valley Park. Warm sunshine, high spirits and a few laughs spread good-naturedly throughout the gang as we gradually tallied 32 bird species. Our yellow themed feathered-friends were duly recorded by Tom. We

leisurely wandered the trails from 8th Avenue to 16th Avenue finding all of our target birds along the way.

First along the main trail, we paused at the usual open bushy meadow to view two Rufous Hummingbirds, some Common Yellowthroats, Wilson's Warblers, Yellow Warblers - plus Willow Flycatchers, several Goldfinches, Black-headed Grosbeaks - along with plenty of Cedar Waxwings. Then, along the Vine Maple trail we heard and then got a peek at a Western Tanager, and also sighted the Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Western Wood-pewee who were singing brightly in the tree canopy.

Continuing the outing's yellow theme, several Pine Siskins were spotted and then under the boardwalk bridge, several tiny yellow Mallard ducklings were discovered. Black-headed Grosbeaks gave us great viewing and photo opportunities on the Listening Bridge. These birds will swoop down to eat the seeds on the bench while you sit beside them. Viveka also gave us many interesting hints about each bird's habitat and habits - which is always a bonus. Thanks Viveka for another splendid day in the outdoors with a bunch of like-minded, and fun - however not too serious - "twitchers"!

Anne Gosse

HOUSTON TRAIL - DERBY REACH Wednesday July, 2nd (evening walk)



Photo: Anne Gosse

Twelve naturalists met at the trailhead of the Houston Trail off Allard Crescent on a very warm summer evening. After dousing ourselves with lots of mosquito repellent, off we trooped along the circle trail. Several bird songs were heard from above and below us - the Swainson's Thrush, Western Tanager, Pacific Wrens, Song Sparrows, Pacific Slope Flycatchers. Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, along with our usual friends - Towhees, Robins, Chickadees, and a Steller's Jay. We searched for our friend the Houston Trail Barred Owl whom we had seen on our previous evening walks - but he did not reveal himself this evening. My thanks

to Joan Taylor who also helped lead this evening walk.

Anne Gosse

CAMPBELL VALLEY - LITTLE RIVER LOOP Wednesday July 9th (evening walk)



Song Sparrow

Photo: Al Grass

Nice sunny weather - Bird highlights included Swainson's Thrush, Yellow Warbler (one singing), Common Yellowthroat and a beautiful view of a male Black-headed Grosbeak at the 'listening bridge'. We missed the Western Tanager and Purple Finch that we saw last year. It's always nice at the 'listening bridge' because when you sit down you are quickly surrounded by chickadees, towhees and Song Sparrows. We also found an interesting plume moth that looks like a 'T' when it's resting. Dragonflies were dashing about - maybe darners (they looked big).

Al Grass

SMITH ISLAND PUFFIN SEARCH SAN JUAN CRUISES Wednesday July 9th

In the early morning, 30 members of the Delta, Langley and White Rock & Surrey Naturalists set off on an all-day birding boat excursion with the San Juan Cruises out of Fairhaven, Washington, USA. One of the goals of the day was hopefully to view Tufted Puffins and their nesting colony on the most distant outer island of the San Juan group, called Smith Island.

Our voyage began on a wonderful sunny warm day at the Alaska Docks in the quaint town of Fairhaven. On the boat's upper decks and front railings, we enjoyed a brisk wind under lovely fair skies while spotting a Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, Rufous



Off to sea!

Photo: Anne Gosse

Hummingbird, and a Barn Swallow on the crossing towards Lummi Island to pick up our on-board Naturalist, Victoria Souze.

A fairly brisk wind buffeted our vessel out in the straits. Several naturalists lost their hats - with Tom W. doing the most death defying acrobatics to save his cap on several occasions. Later we did have one "scoop-up" to recover an overboard Tilly. Eventually we came across lots of Pigeon Guillemot and Common Murre, Double-Crested, Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants, plus Black Oystercatchers, Glaucous-winged Gulls, and a few Rhinoceros Auklets on the different rocky islets on our route.

However, as we rounded Lopez and Fidalgo Islands, we were sucked into a cold fog bank for about an hour and a half. Yet, still in the fog, we did see several Rhinoceros Auklets, Marbled Murrelets and our first Tufted Puffin.

Soon the fog had evaporated and we could see the rocky cliffs of Smith Island with its many seabirds as well as Harbour Seals, including mothers with their pups. The island was amass with noisy seabirds which were stirred up every so often by a pair of bald eagles looking for a meal. Circling the rocky islands we found about 20 or more Tufted Puffins floating amongst a swift rippling current full of bait-fish which was causing a bird feeding frenzy. Scores of Glaucous-winged, and Heerman's Gulls, plus Rhinoceros Auklets, Tufted Puffins, and Pigeon Guillemots along with Harbour Seals and large red salmon were all competing for the tiny fish mass. Large red salmon were seen chasing off seagulls by nipping at their webbed feet.

On our sunny leisurely return cruise amongst several rocky islets, a noisy low saluting fly-pass by three Black Oystercatchers made for a thrilling encounter that was enjoyed by all. About 10 Harlequin Ducks were found on one rocky islet - then some Black Turnstones. The day's find also tallied several Harbour Porpoises, seen quickly dipping and flipping by with lots of Harbour Seals and newborn pups. We finished off our day's species count with several Canada Geese, a Black Scoter, a Blue Heron and a House Finch, making it a total count of 31! Eighteen happy, but sun-burnt and wind-blasted, naturalists enjoyed Fairhaven's Mexican cuisine before our drive home.

A huge thank you goes to our "moneymen", Pauline O, who organized the trip and the money for our large boisterous unruly group. Thanks Pauline, a great day and very successful trip.

Anne Gosse

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK Wednesday July 16th (evening walk)



Barred Owl Photo: John Gordon

Six participants, plus leader Bob, had a pleasant walk on a beautiful, hot, but lovely evening. We followed the Pepin Brook Trail from the main parking lot, then joined the Rock'N Horse Trail which we followed around and into the Aldergrove Bowl. It was hot out in the open on the bowl rim but a nice breeze kept us cool and there were no mosquitoes.

We followed the trail down to the pond and examined the site where we have requested Metro Vancouver Parks to install a bird-watching blind. A big bullfrog watched from the pond where Bob had checked the route on the previous morning. The previous day Bob had logged 23 bird species, but this evening they were quiet, with only about 7 species seen or heard.

We then proceeded to the big rock and stayed in the woods all the way back to the parking lot. Yes Anne, we did come across a Barred Owl watching us go by - too bad you weren't with us.

Bob Puls



Puntzi Lake (see story p.10) Photo: Bob Puls

BRYDON LAGOON
Wednesday July 23rd (evening walk)



Cedar Waxwing

Photo: Al Grass

Far from being fair weather naturalists, our tiny group of five set off in the pouring rain on a mission of discovery. And while we didn't record a big diversity of birds, we got a few interesting sightings, including two Belted Kingfishers and six Cedar Waxwings feeding on Cascara fruit. According to Martin, A.C., et.al. (American Wildlife and Plants - A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits, Pg. 341) "black buckthorns (*Rhamnus*, spp.) fruits are a favourite of many birds, including the Band-tailed Pigeon, Gray Catbird, American Robin and Red-breasted Sapsucker."

Other birds seen included robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, Barn Swallows and Canada Geese. Alas, no Green Heron! There were slugs and snails galore and lots of Queen Anne's lace (wild Carrot) in bloom.

In spite of the weather everyone enjoyed the evening. Thanks to Al Schulze of WRSN for your help.

Al Grass

Wild Birds Unlimited

Nature Shop

Willowbrook Park Shopping Centre,
#2-6131 200th Street
Langley, BC V2Y 1A2
Phone: (604) 510-2035

Mon - Thurs: 10:00 am - 5:30 am
Fri: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sat: 10:00 am - 5:00 am
Sun: 11:00 am - 5:00 am

MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK
PAINTBRUSH NATURE TRAIL
VIEW POINT LOOP, HEATHER MEADOWS
Friday July 25th



Along the Heather Trail

Photo: Anne Gosse

Again this July, several naturalists made their annual journey to Manning Park Heather Meadows to view this year's new growth of alpine flowers. We arrived at the top parking lot by 10:00 am to a 5° C morning! It gradually warmed up to 19°C - later in Strawberry Flats it was 25°C! Early morning sunshine was drawing up moisture from the nearby forested mountains so that we could see the white capped tops of the spectacular coastal range stretching out far into the distance. We wandered along the View Point Loop and back via the lower trail.

The alpine flowers were in breathtaking abundance and very showy - and in some places giving fantastic displays of colours and variety. Lots of ice-blue Lupines, red, fuchsia and sulfur Indian Paintbrushes, orange-red Columbines, lots of tufted "tow-headed babies" (left-over Western Anemone), several types of Lousewort, as well as Penstemons, bunches of yellow Arnica, White Rhododendrons, all Fleabane/Aster alpine daisy varieties, Scarlet Gilia, Common Larkspur, Moss Campion, Yellow Cinquefoil, Partridgefoot, Leather-leaf and Spotted Saxifrage, yellow Stonecrop, Pink Heathers, Tiger Lily, Alpine Speedwell, lovely tall white Valerian, False Hellebore, pink Spreading Phlox, lots of Alpine Pussytoes and Umbrella Buckwheat. We counted many more species of alpine flowers for a total of over 36.

As the day progressed, we kept shedding our clothes and by noon we were settled in warm sunshine at a picnic table surrounded by a splashy array of brilliant colourful alpine beauties - plus wonderful panoramic vistas. Several Whiskey Jacks (Gray Jays), a couple of Clark's Nutcrackers, and four very large black Ravens were fed while we ate. Stopping at my favorite boggy area, we saw lots of White and Green Bog Orchids, Shooting Star, Elephant's Head, plus many more boggy plants. We also visited the Beaver Pond and Strawberry Flats. However the best show of flowers for the day was up top in the high alpine. It was a long day outside, but another exhilarating,

spirit-lifting day outside in our beautiful Canadian Cascade Mountains!

Anne Gosse

Below is Bob's list of the mammals and butterflies we saw at Manning:

Mule Deer (Buck & doe)
Black Bear
Yellow-bellied Marmot
Mantled Ground-squirrel
Columbian Ground-squirrel
Townsend Chipmunk
Pocket Gopher (tunnels)

American Copper - Lycaena phlaeas
Northern Blue - Plebejus idas
Silver-bordered Fritillary - Boloria selene
Vidler's Alpine - Erebia vidleri
Western Meadow Fritillary - Boloria epithore
Purplish Copper - Lycaena helloides
Woodland Skipper - Ochloides sylvacoides

To see some of the day's photos please go to -
<https://picasaweb.google.com/102388770215425550724>

Field trip participants

To upload photos of a field trip go to -
<http://picasaweb.google.com,langleyfieldnaturalist@gmail.com>. Ask for password.

FORSLUND- WATSON NATURE WALK Wednesday August 6th (evening walk)

We had 33 people participate in our Summer Bat walk which included 9 people from the 5 neighbouring households of the Nature Reserve.

The evening events included a circular walk through the property. Kirk Miles/Myotis updated the group on an Amphibian study he is doing. The group also viewed areas where discussions are in progress as to the development of a vernal pond.

The evening concluded viewing Bat activities around main pond area. Kirk demonstrated his sounding unit that picked up signals (sounds) of each individual Bat. With the weatherman's help it proved to be an overall nice evening for an outdoor activity.

Ryan Usenik



(Our thanks to Ryan for this very interesting excursion)!

WEST CREEK WETLANDS Wednesday July 30th (evening walk)



Bald Eagle

Photo: John Gordon

Our trip to West Creek Wetlands, as part of our Summer Evening walks, was fabulous, topped off with a brief glimpse of a beaver swimming at his lodge, a pair of Merlins, a Bald Eagle flying away with his dinner and one big, fat Banana slug. Add in the multitude of mosquitoes and we had an evening filled with wildlife.

Lisa Parker.

CONSERVATION REPORT - BRYDON LAGOON



Cleaning up the mess

Photo: Robert Hopkins

In the last week of July, after a prolonged spell of hot weather, local residents reported a bloom of Blue-green algae on Brydon Lagoon. After a couple of days the algae bloom died off and the water in the lagoon turned brown. L.E.P.S. staff measured the temperature of the water during this period, recording 29°C at the shallow end and 26°C at the deeper end. Oxygen levels were below sustainable levels for fish life everywhere except close to the fountains. The water pH was greater than 10, the maximum level measurable by their instrumentation. City staff were informed of the pending disaster. When the fountains quit working, survival of the fish in the lagoon was in peril.

It was on August 1st , the beginning of a long

weekend, that dead fish were first seen floating to the surface, with a few survivors gasping for air near the lagoon outflow. The casualty count by Tuesday the 4th, when a L.E.P.S. crew arrived to clean them up, was in the hundreds to thousands, including European carp, catfish, pumpkinseed, shiners, and minnows. A specific count and identification was difficult due to their rapid decay in the heat and predation by birds and fly larvae (maggots). The smell was clinging and intense, and the L.E.P.S. crew endured two days in these conditions scooping the decaying mess from the water.

The L.F.N. were aware that the lagoon contained fish as L.E.P.S. did regular fish trapping surveys, but we had no idea there were so many and that some of the carp were so big, estimated at upwards of 10lbs. It is still not clear if there were any native fish, such as native minnows, present, but all of the readily identifiable fish found were non-native species.

Conservation efforts, to prevent a reoccurrence of the fish kill, will concentrate on persuading the City of Langley to dredge the lagoon to remove at least 4 feet of sludge that has built up on the bottom, and install reliable and efficient aeration systems.

Bob Puls

PUNTZI LAKE E-BIRD TRIP 2014

Previous trips to the Chilcotin to do atlassing had been so successful that Gareth Pugh and a group of fellow naturalists (Bob Puls, Wim Vesseur, Alison Pearson, Alice Steff, John Gordon and Pauline O'Toole) decided to try it again with the intention of contributing data to e-bird.

June 20th. We set out from our rendezvous at Bob's house in Aldergrove, having managed to pack all our gear into two vehicles. Traffic was relatively light so we made good time and arrived at Chasm Provincial Park at 11am for an early lunch. On the way in from Highway 97, a Red-necked Phalarope was spotted which was a 'lifer' for some of us. In the half an hour spent at Chasm we saw a number of species, including a Rock Wren, but did not see the White-throated Swifts or bighorn sheep which we had seen there on previous trips.

After a final pit stop for gas and a visit to Tim Hortons at Williams Lake, we headed up Highway 20, passing one marsh where we saw a pair of Sandhill Cranes with a colt. We arrived at the Kokanee Bay Resort on Puntzi Lake at 4pm, after stopping to look at what proved to be the only Pileated Woodpecker seen on the trip. We were welcomed by the owners, Merry and Andrew, who gave us a full orientation before

showing us to our lakeside cabins. A very important part of the orientation was to tell us about the White Pelican colony on an island across the lake from the resort. We were told that all the locals are on board with not disturbing the birds and that all boaters were being asked to give the island a wide berth. It was very heartening to find that attitude.

We quickly unloaded and moved our gear into the cabins and set out to explore the resort. A good omen for the trip was a male White Pelican in full breeding plumage which sat on the water just offshore for over an hour as if to welcome us. Merry and Andrew had installed a number of nest boxes around the resort, most of which were being used by Violet-green and Tree Swallows and one of the larger boxes was occupied by a Barrow's Goldeneye. Several pairs of Cliff and Barn Swallows were raising their young under the eaves of the cabins and in a large equipment shed. HAWO, NOFL, RNSA, AMRO and MOCH were all found nesting on the resort while AMCR, BAEA, BAGO, COGO, OSPR, COLO and BUFF were spotted on or near the lake. After supper we went for a walk along an old forest road through a beetle kill area but found very few birds except for CHSP, TOSO and three CONI flying over.

June 21st. After a good night's sleep, the guys were up soon after 5am (led by John of course) and after a quick breakfast walked around the resort listening to the dawn chorus and finding more nests. There were eight female Barrow's Goldeneye on the lake in front of the cabins which started flying around and calling, behaviour that we have witnessed on previous trips at other lakes. One bird sat on top of a swallow nest box which did not have a lid and appeared to be trying to get into it, without success of course; then another bird tried to dislodge it so we formed the opinion that they were possible year old birds which were feeling the urge to nest but were not sure what they should be doing. Interestingly, there were two suitable nest boxes on trees nearby but the birds showed no interest in those. Also we did not see any male birds there. While we were having coffee on the deck waiting for the ladies to appear, a Merlin flew past a couple of feet above the ground, obviously not bothered by human presence.

The ladies 'surfaced' at 8:30 so by 9am we were on the road heading north along the lake. Our first stop was at a pond adjacent to the lake where we made a good start to the day adding SORA, RWBL, MAWR, WIFL, RNDU, BHCO, HEGU and MALL. Our next stop was on open range land where we found only CHSP while BHCO's were feeding among the cattle. We carried on down the road which ended at a grassy meadow leading down to the lakeside which was a perfect place to have lunch. We saw two pairs of SPSA at the lakeside and added CHSP and, the sighting of the day, a Golden Eagle flying high above us.

After lunch we retraced our steps and took a road leading uphill away from the lake, intending to travel to Chilcotin Marshes, a Ducks Unlimited property on Chilcotin Lake. However, after driving for an hour on a rough road, we were still only half way there so decided to turn back. On the way we stopped to walk parts of the road but heard and saw very little except at a small pond where we heard a SORA calling. There were, however, plenty of butterflies along the road so we managed to get good photos of a number of them and Bob collected number of spiders for submission to the BC Museum. After supper we walked south along the main road to the closed Puntzi Lake Resort. Despite a large area of grass with typical pine/fir/aspen trees nearby, we saw no small birds, probably because of the presence of a very agitated Merlin which flew around chattering at us until we left the area where it obviously had a nest.

June 22nd. We left the resort at 7:30 and headed south until we reached a turnoff that took us back to the south shore where we hoped to get a good view of the pelicans. We stopped to talk to local residents who told us the road ended at a property some distance before the island so we took that road until we reached a point where we could access the shore and look over to the island where a large number of pelicans could be seen. As there were a lot of birds in the area, we parked the vehicles and walked on to the end of the road. This was a very good spot where we found HAWO, BBWO, ATTW, PSFL (nest), WWPE (nest), WETA, CHSP, DEJU, RUKI, GCKI and NOFL. Eventually we decided to move on to the Puntzi Marshes Wildlife Viewing area where we parked and ate lunch in warm sunny conditions. After lunch, we walked the road alongside the marsh where we added SACR, GRYE, VESP, MOBL, KILL and NOSH before heading back to base.

In the evening we drove down to Hwy 20, then east as far as the Chilanko River bridge. There two mule deer were cooling off in the water but on seeing us they quickly left. We soon found our first SOSOP and heard BBMA's, chattering then had good views of a WISN and a colony of CLSW's which were nesting under the bridge. We then moved back along the road to the first station for the Nightjar Survey we had undertaken to do for Wild Research. This was very successful as over the 9 mile ten station route along the highway we counted a total of 40 birds calling and wingbooming, with birds being located at all ten stations.

June 23rd. The next morning we made a late start and drove to the Nature Conservancy project at Tatlayoko Lake where we met Peter Shaughnessy, their local manager who owns a small ranch there. He gave us a brief history of the area and showed us a map of the valley with the locations of a number of properties which the NC owns, plus a number of others where covenants have been signed with the

landowners to enhance conservation. He told us that large numbers of migrating birds fly through the valley in spring and fall. He suggested that we visit Skinner Meadows, a higher elevation grassland and wetland ranch now owned by the NC, and gave us his permission to do so. This was a real bonus as we arrived there in warm sunny conditions with a light warm breeze blowing which kept the mosquitoes at bay. We ate lunch listening to the many bird sounds all around us. New species for our list found here as we walked around the wetland, included SASP, CITE, WODU, PISI and GWTE. As we left the property we were lucky to get photos of a moose.

On the way back we stopped at Eagle Lake where we saw BOGU and ARTE, and other wetlands where we added GRSC, LESC and HOME. By the time we returned to our base, our total for the trip had already passed the 100 mark.

June 24th. We set out early to explore the area around the local airport. On the way, Wim found BUOR at a feeder before we arrived at Hourglass Lake. There we found several new species and also a recently dead Surf Scoter lying on a log at the edge of the lake (this was the only Scoter seen on the whole trip). We then moved on to check out the Chilanko Marsh, an extensive wetland created where the Chilanko River enters a wide low lying area. We first stopped at the airport where we could get good views of the marsh and saw BLTE for the first time. Driving along the airport perimeter, we came to the Nature Trust property where there is an old farmstead on a grassy bench overlooking the river. There we sat and had lunch, again in warm sunny weather. One of the highlights of our visit was the sight of a number of Black Terns flying to and fro above the marsh while seven Common Nighthawks flew to and fro above them, taking advantage of an insect hatch. An AMBI was also heard in the marsh. I went for a walk in the open forest nearby which looked like good CONI nesting habitat and was rewarded by a bird flying to and fro above me and getting more and more agitated. I was sure there was a nest nearby but was unable to locate it. Leaving such a 'birdy' spot was hard but we drove on up the valley, as the Backroads map showed it linking up with the main forest service road along the river. Eventually it dead ended at a ranch where they had several well used hummingbird feeders. We also came across a pair of Killdeer with a juvenile hanging out around the road. On the way back we stopped to check out the feeders that Wim had seen and added HOFI to the list. After supper some of us walked around the woods at the edge of the resort and found LISP and MAWA.

June 25th. We started our last day by revisiting the south side of the lake but were not able to relocate the ATTW or the BBWO but did find a singing unknown bird and located a PSFL nest.

We moved on to check out Pyper Lake, stopping on the way along the road, and found a singing GRFL which John photographed and recorded. Pyper Lake was hard to access from the south side and the Forest Service camp site was full, so we decided to try to access Chilanko Marsh from the south side. Driving down an old gravel road, we came to a bridge over a small feeder creek, where we stopped for lunch and were immediately rewarded by the sight of a NWTB which was busily gathering food right in front of us. The photographers spent a half hour trying to get the perfect shot of the bird as it flew to and from its nest. John got a good photo of the bird with its beak full of insects and a small fish. The owner of the property adjacent to the bridge came over to talk to us and told us we were very welcome to drive through his property to a point where we could walk along the south side of the marsh. We saw no new species on this walk through woodlands and a grassy meadow, but did flush a pair of Sandhill Cranes.

June 26th. We left at 6am stopping at several places along the way, including the marsh where we again saw the pair of SACR and their colt. We spent an hour at Scout Island in Williams Lake, where we again found a NWTB gathering food for its hungry brood and giving the photographers another great opportunity.

This was another great trip to a wonderful part of our beautiful Province. Our final tally for the trip was 127 species, of which 108 were found in the Puntzi Lake area.

Gareth Pugh

List of birds seen in the Puntzi Lake area

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose | Wilson's Snipe |
| Barn Swallow | American Wigeon |
| Herring Gull | Cliff Swallow |
| Mallard | Ring-billed Gull |
| Black-capped Chickadee | |
| Northern Shoveler | Black Tern |
| Mountain Chickadee | Green-winged Teal |
| Caspian Tern | Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| Blue-winged Teal | Eurasian Collared Dove |
| Marsh Wren | Lesser Scaup |
| Barred Owl | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Ring-necked Duck | Common Nighthawk |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Surf Scoter |
| Black Swift | Western Bluebird |
| Bufflehead | Rufous Hummingbird |
| Mountain Bluebird | Common Goldeneye |
| Belted Kingfisher | Swainson's Thrush |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | Red-naped Sapsucker |
| American Robin | Gadwall |
| Downy Woodpecker | Townsend's Solitaire |
| Common Merganser | Hairy Woodpecker |
| European Starling | Ruffed Grouse |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| American Three-toed Woodpecker | |
| Cedar Waxwing | Common Loon |
| Black-backed Woodpecker | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | Pied-billed Grebe |
| Northern Flicker | Yellow Warbler |
| American White Pelican | Pileated Woodpecker |
| Magnolia Warbler | Osprey |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Turkey Vulture | Pacific-slope Flycatcher |
| Northern Waterthrush | Bald Eagle |
| Western Wood-pewee | Common Yellowthroat |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Willow Flycatcher |
| Western Tanager | Cooper's Hawk |
| Hammond's Flycatcher | Spotted Towhee |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Dusky Flycatcher |
| Chipping Sparrow | Golden Eagle |
| Eastern Kingbird | Vesper Sparrow |
| American Kestrel | Cassin's Vireo |
| Savannah Sparrow | Merlin |
| Warbling Vireo | Song Sparrow |
| American Bittern | Red-eyed Vireo |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Virginia Rail |
| Bullock's Oriole | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Sora | Gray Jay |
| Dark-eyed Junco | American Coot |
| American Crow | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Sandhill Crane | Common Raven |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | Killdeer |
| Black-billed Magpie | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Greater Yellowlegs | Tree Swallow |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | Lesser Yellowlegs |
| Violet-green Swallow | House Finch |
| Spotted Sandpiper | Bank Swallow |
| House Sparrow | |

Butterflies; photographed on Puntzi Lake trip

Boisduval's Blue - *Plebejus icariodes*
 Chryxus Arctic - *Oeneis chryxus*
 Hoary Elfin - *Calliphrys polios*
 Melissa's Blue - *Plebejus Melissa*
 Milbert's Tortoiseshell - *Aglais milberti*
 Mourning Cloak - *Nymphalis antiopa*
 Northern Checkerspot - *Chlosyne palla*
 Northern Cloudywing - *Thorybes pylades*
 Ringlet - *Coenonymphala tullia*
 Silvery Blue - *Glaucopsyche lygdamus*
 Thicket Hairstreak - *Calliphrys spinetorum*
 Western Pine Elfin - *Calliphrys eryphon*
 Western Tailed Blue - *Cupido amyntula*
 Western Tiger Swallowtail - *Papilio rutulus*
 Western White - *Pontia occidentalis*
 (Sulphurs were seen but not photographed)

Moth

Drasteria hudsonica - Northern Arches Moth

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 18th

ALL ABOUT BIRD BOXES

Peter Ward

Our group, all Nature Vancouver members, have been building and installing bird boxes as volunteers since 2009. Delta Naturalists' members and many friends have supported this initiative. Peter Ward will talk about his experiences with building, installing and monitoring boxes, in Vancouver, the Lower Mainland and in the Interior. We now have at least 150 boxes in operation, for supporting Tree Swallows, Chickadees, Barn Owls, Mountain Bluebirds, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Wood-ducks, House Sparrows, and the occasional Bewick's Wren.

To date, with support from Ken Hall, John Toochn, June Ryder and Delta Naturalists, about 120 Tree Swallow boxes have been built and installed at Reifel Bird Sanctuary, at Sea/Iona Island, and at Big Bar Lake (near Clinton). Working with Delta Farmlands and Wildlife Trust, our volunteer group has constructed 24 boxes for Barn Owls; these are presently being installed at sites with interested farmers.

Peter's interest in bird watching started in Africa, back in the sixties, and he has since been an avid birder. He is a life member of BirdLife South Africa, and a member of BirdLife Zimbabwe.



Herewith a photo of boxes that we put up at Big Bar lake. We put up two on one power pole, hoping that one would be occupied by Mountain Bluebirds and one by Tree Swallow but got two Tree Swallows!! It proved difficult to get Mountain Bluebird photos because Tree Swallows were aggressive.

Thursday October 16th

OKANAGAN BIRDING TRAIL -

KAMLOOPS TO OSOYOOS

John Gordon

Take an armchair tour from Kamloops to Osoyoos and see all those wonderful birding sites along the way, and the many species of interior birds that spend the summer, or year round, in this excellent birding area. John's spectacular photography will let you see birds as you rarely see them in the field, close-up and colourful.

John Gordon is a professional photographer, and member of the Langley Field Naturalists.

Thursday November 20th

COSTA RICA - BIRD HEAVEN

Sharon McVeigh

Sharon will be sharing photos and memories of a trip to Costa Rica this past May. They identified 110 different species, of which the Amazing Scarlet Macaw was the 100th species, something she will never forget. Many other creatures of the jungle came to say hello, some welcome; some not. Most of their time was spent at the end of the Nicoya Peninsula, very rustic and wonderful.

Sharon is a long-time member of the Langley Field Naturalists and a current board member.



**Thursday
December 18th
MEMBERS NIGHT**

Special evening
consisting of

a short business meeting
followed by
members favourites
(bring 10-12 slides,
photos, a collection)

finger food pot luck
social hour

FIELD TRIPS

Unless otherwise noted, meet at Douglas Park Recreation Centre on Douglas Crescent between 204 and 206 Street at 9:00 am for car pooling. If you prefer to meet at the walk site, please phone so we can watch for you. **Please phone in advance so that the co-ordinator does not go needlessly to the meeting site** - if the co-ordinator has not heard from any participants by the evening before the outing, then he/she will not go to the meeting site. Bring water, a lunch, binoculars, field guides and appropriate clothing for the weather. For more information, to make comments, suggest walks or to let us know you are coming, please phone Anne Gosse, 604-888-1787.

Please reimburse your carpool driver at \$3.50 per hour of driving time. Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather conditions/trails - with sturdy foot wear and warm clothing.

Saturday 6th September, 8.30 am - 12 noon

DE BOUVILLE SLOUGH AND MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 7:30 am in Langley or 8:30 am at the corner of Cedar Drive & Victoria Drive, Coquitlam. Come with Josh Inman as he leads us through a freshwater marsh and slough within this unique birding spot looking for Green Herons! We will take two cars to shuttle back and forth from park to parking spot. Ph: 604-888-1787 or 604-532-0455 to let us know to expect you.

Friday September 19th, 9:00 am - 12 noon

GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

Come and join Al Grass as we look for migrating birds, waterfowl, perhaps newly arriving Snow Geese, plus much more in this wonderful bird sanctuary on the Fraser River estuary! September is one of the best times to visit Reifel to see many returning migrants passing through. There is a small admission fee. Bring Lunch, snacks and refreshments. Meet at Douglas Crescent 8:00 am or Reifel Bird Sanctuary on Westham Island, Delta 9:00 am.

Saturday October 4th

DERBY APPLE DAYS, DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK

Wednesday October 17th

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

Leaders: Al & Jude Grass

Time: 8:45 Hope Flood Road

Come and join Al and Jude for a Fall trip into the Skagit for mushrooms, mammals and birds - and beautiful fall colors. 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 8:45am. 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. For info contact 604 538 8774.

Sunday October 19th

DERBY REACH BRAE ISLAND PARKS ASSOCIATION (DRBIPA) - FALL FUNGUS FORAY '14

Leader - Sharmin Gamiet. Professional Mycologist and Consultant.

Time: 9:00 to 11:30 am.

Please join our leader on a mushroom foraging excursion for 2.5 - 3 hours starting at 9 am at the Heritage Area Parking lot of Derby Reach Park on Allard Crescent, Langley. Fall is the time when the many types of fungi in our coastal forest come to life. Each year in the past, Sharmin has shown us surprising things that we would not have seen on our own. The tour is free for members of DRBIPA, with a \$5.00 fee for non-members. Please email Jeremy Smith js@bcrealtors.ca for more information and to confirm your attendance.

Note: There is a possibility (fairly good) that the Glenn Ryder Memorial will be held October 19 at Campbell Valley Regional Park. We are waiting confirmation and will advise when the date is firm.

Thursday October 23rd 1:00-4:00 pm

BLACKIE'S SPIT - CRESCENT BEACH

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Meet at Crescent Beach Pier (across from the parking lot by the outdoor swimming pool).

Come and join our leader Gareth Pugh 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", in which anyone can contribute. Please phone 576-6831 or 888-1787 to let us know to expect you.

Saturday November 1st

METRO VANCOUVER PARKS-FEST

Friday November 7th, 9:00 am

GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

Leader: Al Grass

Come 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 of year 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. Meet Douglas Crescent 8:00 am or at Reifel Refuge 9:00am. Phone 604-888-1787 to let us know to expect you.

Saturday November 15th

BRUNSWICK POINT, LADNER

Leader: Anne Gosse

Meet: 9:00 am West end of River Road

Join our leader Anne Gosse to search for returning seabirds and raptors. 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! Please phone Anne 604-888-1787. We will meet at 09:00 at west end of River Road, (past the Westham Island Bridge) at end of the road or meet at Douglas Crescent, Langley at 8:00 am for car-pooling.

Vancouver CBC - Sunday December 14th

Ladner CBC - Sunday December 21th

Sunday December 28th

WHITE ROCK & SURREY CBC

Each year the Langley Field Naturalists participate in the Langley portion of the Christmas Bird Count. Please Note: *You do not have to be a good birder as we are always looking for helpers - car drivers, pencil recorders, plus new birder with binoculars - all of which makes the day's search lots of good fun!

PIT MEADOWS/MAPLE RIDGE COUNT

Date TBA

The Cannings Award recognizes achievement in any or all of three areas: (1) research on bird biology or ecology, or detailed documentation of the birdlife of any part of BC; (2) conservation of birds or bird habitats in BC; or (3) public education about birds in BC. This year's winner is



Dr. Martin K. McNicholl of Burnaby, BC, an Honorary Member of Langley Field Naturalists (see attached write-up).

Photo: Jude Grass

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS WITH RON LONG

Burnaby Lake Regional Park – Nature House
Foot of Piper Avenue off Winston Street, North Side of Burnaby Lake



SUNDAY OCTOBER 5TH 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

This workshop will include a lecture and question period in the morning, a shoot at midday and a critique later in the afternoon. This class is for anyone who still has questions about digital photography.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

(Composition)

This seminar will provide information and techniques that will significantly improve your photography regardless of the kind of camera you are using. The seminar is fully illustrated with hundreds of photographs to demonstrate the techniques being discussed. COMPOSITION will provide many suggestions and a few simple guidelines to improve your compositions.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

(Lighting)

Photography, of course, depends on light but light effects are extremely variable. How you use these effects can make the difference between a stunning photograph and a boring snapshot. This class will provide insights into the awareness, understanding and application of naturally occurring light effects.

Limit 15 students

Cost for each seminar is \$40 for members of Nature Vancouver and other BC Nature Clubs.

Non-members: \$50.00

Please bring your camera, an empty memory card, camera instruction book, notebook and pen, lunch and snack. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. Also bring clothing for the outdoor portion.

Please register by phoning or emailing Jude Grass at 604-538-8774 judegrass@shaw.ca, and then mailing a cheque payable to Nature Vancouver – Photography Seminar, to 17375 27A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3S 0E9.