



**“Earth Wind Fire & Water:  
The Spirit of Nature”**



## **Fall General Meeting and Conference**

**September 19 - 22, 2014**

**Cranbrook, BC - Host Club: Rocky Mountain Naturalists**



# BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists)

## Fall General Meeting, September 21, 2013

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*Rescued Pine Siskin*

### President's Report FGM 2013 John Neville

Our website [www.bcnature.ca](http://www.bcnature.ca) and our satellite website [www.bcnatureguide.ca](http://www.bcnatureguide.ca) are now accessible and ongoing. Our own website is progressing well and has more and more items in the Members Only section. One of our members recently complained about the lack of minutes from Executive meetings, they will make their way onto the site as soon as possible. When you have complaints or suggestions, address them to Betty Davison, Office Manager; Penney Edwards, Communications Chair; or myself. We collectively are the Communications Committee.

I think you are going to be very impressed with the work that our contractors Sarah Weaver, Krista Kaptein and Bill Kincaid have done to date on the Nature Guide. This website has been prepared to help enrich your experience of travelling throughout British Columbia. It is planned to be helpful whether you are a visitor or a resident of the province. This website is being built gradually, with more nature viewing sites being added from time to time. Our priority at the outset is to include sites that are more easily accessible by vehicle, along main roads and highways; as well as including car & ferry routes; and hiking trails. I think you will like the interactive mapping system. Our initial focus was on the Thompson-Nicola area. I particularly find the trail descriptions interesting. We have added two areas on Vancouver Island, with detailed sites in the Comox Valley and the book information for the Nature Guide to the Victoria Region. Last winter, Bev Ramey came up with a suggestion for BC Nature's financial contribution to the Nature Guide. This allowed the addition of some wildlife viewing sites from the lower mainland. Bill Kincaid was available and I think you will like the results. I particularly enjoyed discovering the location of Jericho Beach and Wreck Beach. We must thank the Province of BC for providing Gaming Grants to support this project.

At the July meeting of your Executive we received and approved an application from Kees Visser for the position of Vice President. He has already started work reviewing the 2010 Strategic Plan. The review should be available at the 2014 AGM. Kees is also forming a Committee to work on the 2015 Strategic Plan and will be looking for lots of input.

In August, we went to the Raptor Festival, hosted by the City of Richmond. We were well represented at booths from Nature Vancouver (Sue, Nigel and Nellie), Delta Naturalists (Tom, Roger and others) and BC Nature (Jude, Heather and myself). There were live presentations of Owls and Hawks and yours truly gave a presentation on Raptors of Canada.

Now that the Northern Gateway Pipeline JRP hearings are complete, the Environmental Law Center (ELC) of the University of Victoria is having discussions with your Executive about what comes next. You will be hearing more about this from Rosemary Fox, Conservation Chair, in the coming months.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has submitted a report to this year's FGM 2013.

### BC Naturalist Foundation Bev Ramey

In February, the BC Naturalists' Foundation provided grants to six member clubs of BC Nature for club projects as described in the Foundation's 2012 Annual Report, and funded through a donation of \$9,000 to BC Nature. It is expected by year end 2013 that a similar amount will again be granted to BC Nature, for distribution to club projects early in 2014. If your club is interested in applying, the deadline to submit your application is January 31st. Contact the BC Nature Office Manager for further details.

The Foundation wishes to thank the several generous individuals who made donations to the Foundation over the past year, and including the late Joan Heriot of Vernon for her generous bequest.

The market value of the Foundation's investments with the Vancouver Foundation at December 31, 2012 was \$180,000. The Foundation Directors manage an additional \$236,000 in assets through an investment manager.

Three new Directors joined the Foundation Board in May 2013, on nomination by BC Nature. The Foundation strives to have a Board whose Directors represent all regions of the province and welcomes new volunteers. If you have any questions regarding the Foundation, or are interesting in serving on its Board, please contact Bev Ramey 604 224-7689, [bevramey@telus.net](mailto:bevramey@telus.net)

### Foundation Board of Directors, 2013

President – Bev Ramey

Treasurer – Elisa Kreller

Directors-at-Large: Tom Bearss, Bob Handfield, Heather Neville, Dick Stace-Smith, Frances Vyse, and Pat Westheuser

Vice-President – John Neville

Secretary – Janet Pattinson

## **Conservation Report Rosemary Fox & Members of the Conservation Committee**

### **Ecovision Law - Meghan Parker and Stephen Hazell**

CEAA 2012's First Year: Twenty-Eight Environmental Assessments, Zero Panel Reviews In our conservation report for the Annual General Meeting last May, we reported on the federal government's assault on the environment. To follow up on that report, we reprint below a review of the federal environmental assessments under the government's latest environmental assessment legislation, The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012. The review was undertaken by Meghan Parker and Stephen Hazell of Ecovision Law, an Ottawa law firm committed to "excellence in law based on ethics of sustainability". Stephen Hazell has also been representing Nature Canada in the National Energy Board hearings on the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline, in which Nature Canada and BC Nature have been joint intervenors.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012 came into force on July 6, 2012, replacing the previous Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. According to the Harper government, CEAA 2012 was intended to streamline the federal environmental assessment process, but in practice has drastically cut back on the number of assessments done across Canada.

Here is a snapshot on how CEAA 2012 has worked in its first year:

- Between July 6, 2012 and July 6, 2013, a total of 40 projects were subject to the CEAA 2012 environmental assessment process
- 38 projects have submitted project descriptions
- 28 projects have been referred for environmental assessment.

Of these 28,

- 22 are being assessed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- 5 have been substituted for provincial environmental assessment
- 1 is being assessed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- 7 projects with project descriptions have been determined by the Agency to not require assessment
- 1 project has been referred for a transitional comprehensive study
- 0 projects have been referred for panel review

By contrast, over 5000 screenings, comprehensive studies and panel reviews were conducted in 2008 under CEAA.

### **Energy matters - Rosemary Fox**

**Northern Gateway Pipeline** - The NGP hearings wrapped up in Terrace in June, which made it possible for me to attend in person. Under the National Energy Board Act, the Joint Review Panel can only make a recommendation to the federal cabinet if it concludes that the pipeline application is complete. Even if the Panel recommends against the project, cabinet can reject the Panel's recommendation. However, if the Panel concludes that the application is incomplete, there is no recommendation to cabinet, and cabinet cannot approve the project. Represented by our legal counsel, Chris Tollefson, we, BC Nature and Nature Canada, made our final oral argument before the Joint Review Panel in Terrace, pointing out that the Northern Gateway application was incomplete and therefore the Panel must be reject it.

We have been joint intervenors with Nature Canada in the Northern Gateway review process for two years. During that time, we led evidence on the project's potential impacts on the SARA listed woodland caribou and on terrestrial and marine birds, and cross-examined Northern Gateway experts at four witness panels for a total of 25 hours.

At the concluding sessions in Terrace, we contended that Northern Gateway's environmental assessment was deficient and incomplete for a variety of reasons. These include the failure of the EA to:

- properly assess impacts on SARA listed woodland caribou,
- provide a detailed baseline inventory of wildlife species impacted by the project,
- analyze consequences of oil spills on marine bird populations, and
- properly estimate the likelihood of an oil spill from tankers along the BC coast.

The Province of BC also recommended against approval of the Northern Gateway project in its written final argument to the Panel. The Province's argument was based mainly on the inadequacy of information Northern Gateway has put forward regarding oil spill response, prevention, recovery, and mitigation.

The Joint Review Panel has until the end of this year to make its recommendation to the federal Cabinet.

**Trans-Canada (Kinder Morgan) pipeline expansion project.** The Trans-Canada Pipeline Expansion project would involve "twinning" the current 1156 km Trans-Canada Pipeline which carries heavy bitumen from Edmonton to tidewater in Burnaby for export to the Far East.

There are some Important Bird Areas along the pipeline route, which had to be closed earlier this summer after the second of two oil leaks. In the northern section of Kamloops, it has been suggested that the pipeline be routed through Lac du Bois Grasslands Provincial Park beside an existing fibre optic right of way. Kamloops Naturalists have stated their opposition to the suggested route through the park, in order to protect this significant portion of fragile grasslands. Our

preferred route is through the community of Westsyde, largely following the present pipeline corridor at river level. The pipeline does not go through the seismically unstable Coast Mountains as does the planned Northern Gateway pipeline route, and our major concerns relate to the terminal and port at Burnaby, and the tanker route to the open ocean, which at present is planned to proceed to the open ocean via Burrard Inlet, English Bay and the Gulf Islands to the Strait of Juan de Fuca between Victoria and the US mainland. The pipeline expansion would nearly triple pipeline capacity from its current levels of 300,000 barrels a day to 890,000 barrels a day, and increase tanker traffic from the current number of 5 a month to 34 tanker loadings a month.

As in the case of Enbridge tankers, the federal government lacks the capability to deal with serious oil spills, and the results of a spill from Kinder Morgan tankers could be catastrophic in terms of marine life, including sockeye salmon and resident Orcas that are already at risk, as well as tourism, recreation and other economic activities in the most populous area of the province.

Another troubling aspect of the Kinder Morgan proposal reported by the Sun is that it has chosen to pursue an incremental approach to regulatory approvals by adding capacity to its pipeline and terminal bit by bit over a ten year period to stay below the threshold that triggers a thorough public review, such as the one the Northern Gateway project has been subjected to. In this way, an extremely risky major project could receive government approval without sufficient information of the potential consequences, nor adequate opportunity for the public to express its views.

Resolutions opposing the Trans-Mountain Expansion project have been passed by the city councils of Vancouver and Burnaby, where a 2007 construction accident spilled 230,000 litres of oil on a Burnaby neighbourhood. Liquefied Natural Gas. Another energy issue of increasing concern to BC Nature is the Premier's dream of exporting large quantities of liquefied natural gas to Asia. This is creating a gold rush mentality among major corporations like Chevron and Shell, who are scrambling to exploit BC's non-conventional gas reserves in northeast BC at increasing cost to the environment and the climate from excessive greenhouse gas emissions created by extraction of the gas from the rock in which it has been trapped. (See article on Fracking, Fall BCnature Magazine)

In addition to the serious ecological damage done by fracking, the pipelines required to transport the gas to tidewater will impact vulnerable species like caribou. Of particular concern is the fact that LNG is highly flammable, and if the rush to develop plants and export LNG is not curbed soon, communities like Kitimat and Prince Rupert from which the LNG would be exported will be at increasing risk from explosions followed by devastating and life-threatening fires.

### **IBA Program Report Anne Murray**

This summer has seen a number of activities by the Important Bird Area Program staff and volunteers. Updating of site summaries and technical bird data continues and this has resulted in the redrawing of boundaries for some sites. Notably, the Comox Valley, Baynes Sound, and Hornby Island and Lambert Channel IBAs along the east coast of Vancouver Island have been amalgamated into a new IBA, called K'omoks. The three separate IBAs shared a common population of trigger species, and combining them makes sense from a conservation and education perspective. The K'omoks IBA is named for the First Nations whose territory is encompassed within the IBA. Trigger bird species include Trumpeter Swan, Harlequin Duck, Thayer's Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Mew Gull, Great Blue Heron and Peregrine Falcon. The numbers of Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Western Grebe, and Red-necked Grebe also exceed IBA thresholds in some years.

New IBA signage is in the works for Boundary Bay Regional Park, in the Boundary Bay-Roberts Bank-Sturgeon Bank (Fraser River Estuary) IBA. Contributing organizations in addition to BC Nature are: Delta Naturalists' Society, Boundary Bay Conservation Committee, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society, and Metro Vancouver Parks.

Krista Englund and Karen Barry have been working through the summer on updating IBA brochures and creating water-bird identification sheets for use by caretakers and other bird monitors. Copies of brochures are available for distribution to the public by naturalist groups; contact Krista [iba@bcnature.ca](mailto:iba@bcnature.ca). The fall IBA newsletter is also now available as a paper copy or electronically.

The IBA program has spawned a new program in BC known as the Important Cetacean Area. Its aim is to identify discrete areas of the ocean of importance for feeding, breeding and migrating whales and dolphins. The ICA is a first for the world and will be discussed at a conference in Europe as a precursor for a worldwide program similar to the IBA. Rob Butler on the IBA Technical Committee and Jim Darling from the Pacific WildLife Foundation with the assistance of whale researchers in BC and Alaska assembled six ICAs.

### **Office Report Betty Davison**

Another full year at BC Nature has come and gone and has been met with great enthusiasm in the office. We have just completed another successful summer student program and what a boon it was to have them this year. I believe most of our historical records has now been scanned and posted on our website, now the onus is on the office to update the most

recent records! We are getting ever closer to completion of our website and soon we will be able to start training some volunteers to maintain on a more frequent basis.

Its been a pleasure being of service to you all and I look forward to another year of being of service to such a committed group as the members of BC Nature.

### **Outdoor Recreation Council Penelope Edwards**

As of June 22, BC Nature has a greater presence on the Executive of the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia (ORC-BC).

Jeremy McCall has been representing BC Nature for some time, but is also the ORC's Executive Director. At the organization's annual general meeting in June, Penney Edwards was elected as a Director, representing BC Nature. ORC is, like BC Nature, an "umbrella" organization, representing at the provincial level, those organizations of people using public lands and waterways for various forms of recreation, both non-motorized and motorized. The people represented include fly fishers, sea kayakers, horse-riders, mountain climbers, cave explorers (speleologists), hikers, snowmobilers, four-wheel drive vehicles, and of course, naturalists. ORC's mission is "Promoting access to and responsible use of BC's public lands and waters for public outdoor recreation."

I attended my first-ever ORC meeting, which happened to be the annual general meeting. Unlike BC Nature, ORC has one such event yearly; executive meetings take place about every six weeks during the year, by teleconference. Much of what ORC does is similar to BC Nature's activities – advocating for the establishment of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan, opposition to the Northern Gateway Pipeline, notifying members of public comment opportunities on new mine proposals. One resolution presented at the AGM was for reinstatement of the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee of the BC Environmental Assessment Office. The concern is that the committee has not met since 2011. ORC noted the unprecedented number of changes to environmental assessment legislation at both the federal and provincial levels since then, arguing that "effective environmental assessment has become vital when the Province is attempting to develop its natural resources in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way.

That resolution led to a letter to the new Minister of the Environment, Mary Polak, "introducing" ORC to her, and asking for reinstatement of the advisory committee. ORC also wrote to Steve Thompson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations concerning a proposed hydro-electric project on the Similkameen River by Fortis BC. ORC argued that the application, as posted is "completely inadequate for any meaningful public comments to be made", and asked for a re-posting with more information. There was a follow-up call to Jeremy McCall from a "senior Ministry staff member," who said the application is "only for an 'investigative license', and that if the proposal progressed, there would "almost certainly" be an environmental assessment.

Two important ongoing ORC projects are the Endangered Rivers list, which it has been compiling and publishing since 1993, and BC Rivers Day. That special day is the last Sunday of September (Sunday, September 29, this year) and is the largest river celebration of its kind in Canada.

More information about ORC, including its newsletter, is available at [www.orcbc.ca](http://www.orcbc.ca).

### **Young Naturalists' Club of British Columbia Kristine Webber**

*Connecting Children with Nature - Across BC and with the help of many BC Nature Members*

#### **Some Recent YNC Activity Highlights**

**Small Stewardship Grants-** YNC Clubs have been stepping up for nature; leveraging small \$200 stewardship grants into big stewardship impact. Some of the projects included construction of Western Painted Turtle nest protectors, mason bee, bird box and bat box construction, and habitat enhancement by planting trees and other native plants, shrubs and flowers. Projects took place across the province and in both school and family clubs. Congratulations and thanks to all the members and leaders who participated.

**Multilingual Backyard Bird ID Cards** – thanks to a Greenest City grant from Vancouver Foundation and the City of Vancouver, YNC has translated the Lower Mainland Backyard Bird ID card into Chinese, Punjabi and Korean. Cards are available on the YNC website to download for free and a limited number of laminated copies are available.

**EcoParent Magazine Partnership** - YNC is a regular contributor of green kid activities to this national parenting magazine. Now YNC members can add an EcoParent Magazine onto their YNC membership at a highly reduced rate. [www.ecoparent.ca](http://www.ecoparent.ca)

**Nature Discovery backpacks** –we all struggle with how to share nature with new folks and in new ways. Now visitors

to the Lost Lagoon Nature House in Stanley Park can borrow a Nature Discovery Backpack for an afternoon. It is full of tools (like binoculars), activity ideas and guides for exploring nearby nature. YNC is piloting this idea with the Stanley Park Ecology Society. Eventually we hope to have Nature Discovery Backpacks in more locations around the city.

**NatureWILD** at the Beaty – thanks to a suggestion from BCN Member Sheila Byers, NatureWILD Magazine is now on offer at the Beaty Museum of Natural History gift shop

Changes at the YNC: In May at the YNC Annual General Meeting the members welcomed three new Directors to the YNC Board- Sandra Bicego, Victor Elderton and Mick Stobart. For a full list and short biographies, of the YNC Directors please see [www.ync.ca](http://www.ync.ca). Also in May, Rebecca Baker, joined the YNC staff as the Membership and Office Coordinator. Rebecca works part-time and is available Tuesday through Thursday at the YNC office.

Some recent club changes:

- Thank you to outgoing Comox Valley YNC Volunteer leader Lisa Zervakis and welcome to the team of three leaders replacing her, Marleen Gallager, Leslie Chapman and Megan
- Thank you to outgoing Nelson Leader Linda Homeniuk and welcome to Tanya Knol and Kristyn McInosh
- Thank you to outgoing Cowichan Valley Leaders John Scull, Linda Hill, Airiane and Douglas Rogers and welcome to Boleyn Relova
- Thank you to outgoing Cowichan Valley Home Learners leader Sadie Bartrum
- Thank you to outgoing North Vancouver Island leader Jackie Hildering and welcome to Diane Chisholm
- Thank you to outgoing Victoria Home Learners leaders Lisa Wilson, Yasmin Quinn-Young, & Mary Coll and welcome to Andrea Dam
- Thank you to outgoing Lower Mainland Home Learners leaders Victoria Loh & Coralee Coe
- Thank you to outgoing North Okanagan leader Cathy Higginson
- Stay tuned-there is a new YNC in the works in Quesnel with co-leaders Julie and Chris Kovach.

Seeking Volunteer Club Co-Leaders: YNC is seeking Volunteer Co-Leaders or additional co-leaders for a number of clubs including: Victoria Home Learners, Vancouver Home Learners, Cowichan Valley- Saturday Club and Home Learners, North Vancouver Island, North Okanagan, Fort St. John and Oceanside/ Nanaimo. Please contact [coordinator@ync.ca](mailto:coordinator@ync.ca).

YNC has recently received the following program grants:

- \$4,000 Parks Enhancement Fund Grant from the Province of BC to offer multi-club Explorer Days at the BC Parks Heritage Centre and develop a self-guided walk brochure.
- \$20,000 from the Habitat Conservation Foundation to engage more children and their families in outdoor exploration and stewardship action. Thank you to all our donors and funders who "keep our boots in the bush"!

YNC Forever Fund was created in 2012 to ensure that the Young Naturalists' Club of BC can continue to provide children with critical early-age outdoor adventures and opportunities to step up for nature now and forever. Contributions can be made online at [www.ync.ca](http://www.ync.ca) or by contacting the YNC.

Thank you to Andrea Ingram the Rocky Mountain YNC Leader who, along with the help of nature mentors from the Rocky Mountain Naturalists, is introducing children to nearby nature, mentoring them in the naturalists' ethos, and helping families meet others who are interested in the similar outdoor activities.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a YNC Leader, volunteering as a Nature Mentor for Explorer Days, or finding out how your Adult Naturalists Club can help support a local YNC please contact Kristine Webber at [www.ync.ca](http://www.ync.ca). For a listing of YNC Clubs see [www.ync.ca](http://www.ync.ca) and click the 'my club' tab.



*Fall General Meeting 2013 - Rocky Mountain Naturalists*

# Club Reports

## Lower Mainland Region *Jude Grass - Regional Coordinator*

### Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club Kathleen Wilkinson

During the past year our club has had several new faces at meetings to hear an eclectic mix of program speakers and topics. In the fall Rod Shead unveiled the City of Abbotsford's new Community Sustainability Planning Initiative, Al Grass described common birds of the Fraser Valley, and Kathy Wilkinson presented a naturalist's trip to Eastern Australia. After Christmas John Vissers inspired us with his vision of a sustainable future for Sumas Mountain, a hotspot of biodiversity in our region; George Clulow delighted us with the birds of Panama, Denis Knopp introduced us to the butterflies of our area, and Ken Summers took us on an armchair tour of Fiji and Vanuatu. In May, thanks to the efforts of many dedicated club members (and spectacular weather!) we were able to host a successful BC Nature AGM that showcased the diverse nature of our central Fraser Valley. Don Guild provided a recap of the AGM in the summer issue of BC Nature.

Steve Howard shared his expertise on birding field trips to Iona Beach Regional Park and Reifel Bird Sanctuary and club members also joined several trips hosted by Langley Field Naturalists. We hope that our club field trip coordinator position can be filled so that we can offer a full slate of outings to both local and regional sites of interest this year. We continue to take part in the Christmas Bird Count, provide displays to community events such as the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival and Canada Day, conduct annual cleanups of the Hogan Family Nature Park, and award prizes at the Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair. This year first prize of \$100 was given to Dylan Praat for a study of the decline of barn owls and possible links to increased pesticide use, and second prize of \$75 was awarded to Anne Knelsen and Subiha Rakkar for their project on the suitability of local lakes to support healthy fish populations.

Conservation issues that we have been grappling with in the last year are the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway and Kinder Morgan pipelines, watering down of our local tree bylaw, and removal of farmland from the ALR to accommodate industrial development. We are very grateful for the efforts of our conservation coordinator, Ken Summers for providing his thoughtful and well-informed comments on these issues.

At our June wrap-up picnic we awarded long-time member Gerry Powers an honorary lifetime membership in recognition of his efforts to save injured birds (particularly raptors) and other animals, install barn owl boxes in our region, and provide wildlife displays to the public at community events.

We continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a Nature Hut in our community.

### Burke Mountain Naturalists Elaine Golds

Once again, our club had a busy year. Our hiking group enjoyed regular outings to several local wilderness areas. February is always a busy month, when we monitor and maintain over two hundred nest boxes we have installed in Widgeon Park Reserve, Colony Farm Regional Park, Minnekhada Regional Park and DeBoville Slough. Once again, we were pleasantly surprised when we discovered flying squirrels using some of our boxes at Minnekhada Park. Of the recording-breaking \$2300 we raised at our annual silent auction during our AGM in December, we donated the bulk of it to the BC Wildlife Rescue Centre in Burnaby to support the vital work they do to rescue and rehabilitate injured, orphaned or oiled wildlife.

We are always delighted when our members receive recognition for their volunteer activities. Several of our most active volunteers were honoured to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award this past year. These included Norma and Don Gillespie, Liz Thunstrom, Ruth Foster, Elaine Golds, Mary Brown and Kiyoshi Takahashi. In addition, Rod MacVicar won the Environmental Award from the City of Port Moody for his work with the Reed Point Marine Education Centre and outstanding stewardship of Burrard Inlet. We were also thrilled to be awarded \$5000 from a local TD Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment Foundation. These funds will be used to allow us to complete our Young Explorer's Guide to Nature in the Tri-cities area (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore and Belcarra).

The Purple Martin nest boxes that Kiyoshi Takahashi has built and maintained at Rocky Point Park on Burrard Inlet had another successful year with a large number of juveniles fledging. However, Kiyoshi, due to failing health, is unable to continue to monitor the boxes and is hoping another naturalist volunteer will come forward to take over this responsibility. Kiyoshi was pleased when the barn owl box he has installed at Colony Farm Regional Park was successfully used this year. Several of our members provided much-appreciated assistance for a number of public birding walks at Colony Farm. These included Great Blue Heron walks in March, a walk on International Migratory Bird Day in May and Lazuli Bunting walks in June. We were very dismayed to see the large heronry of approximately 130 nests next to Colony Farm

Park abandoned this year. We suspect ongoing noise and vibrations from construction of the nearby Port Mann Bridge was mainly to blame.

In addition to our monthly hikes, President Victoria Otton continued her Botany Walks to local areas over the summer months. During a visit to one popular area, Bert Flinn Park in Port Moody, our members enjoyed finding sundew, Labrador tea, and blooming gentian. They were pleased to be able to confirm both tree frogs and red-legged frogs continue to breed in the wetlands.

Hundreds of people in the local community, as well as from all over BC, submitted heartfelt comments to the Riverview Hospital heritage conservation evaluation process last fall. However, the province has been slow to move forward with future land use planning for the site and no further action has been taken at this point. We are disappointed that provincial budget cuts apparently mean no funds are available to keep the lawns at Riverview mowed. Another impending conservation issue is the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline, which will carry diluted bitumen from the tar sands in Alberta through Coquitlam to Burnaby, as well as the associated construction of additional port facilities to handle over 400 oil tankers per year in Burrard Inlet. We anticipate the National Energy Board's Environmental Assessment of this project will be initiated in the coming months. We hope that BC Nature will decide to intervene in this process.

### Chilliwack Field Naturalists Helen Turner

Well it is truly hard to believe that September is here and after such a warm sunny July and much of August it is hard to see that night light creeping in sooner and staying longer, fall will be here again soon. Speaking of fall looking forward to attending the FGM in Cranbrook and it is time to reflect the yearly overview of activities for 2012-2013 for the Chilliwack Field Naturalist Club. The lineup of speakers for last fall consisted of Owain McKibbin and his very informative talk about rattlesnakes, Caitlan Birdsall from the Vancouver Aquarium speaking about Whales, we now sponsor a whale, and our member Don McPhee who provided an "old fashioned slide show" from his vast assortment of amazing slides on nature. Field trips consisted of local walks and to places such as Burns Bog, George C. Reifel Sancutary with the year ending with the Christmas Bird Counts for both Chilliwack and Harrison.

A mild winter and spring allowed our meetings and activities to go as scheduled. Our first meeting of the year is an opportunity for members to give short photo presentations and a fun silent auction fund raiser. Other speakers were Marvin Rossenau who spoke about the concerns of the "Fraser Sturgeon", Roy Mulder and his talk on BC Marine Life Sanctuaries, club member Fernando Selles talking about Soils the Base of Terrestrial Ecosystems we were certainly more informed about the "dirt" our feet walk upon. Guest speaker for our club banquet and elections was Rob Butler with the Breeding Bird Atlas and Northern BC. Our president Janne who had been pretty adamant about retiring the position, relented when the spot looked very bare and is keeping us in order for another year. We thank you Janne yet again. Most of the field trips were to local trails and to Manning Park to see the flowers some trips were cancelled during some of the very warm days. We continue to have monthly work bees and our June picnic at the Camp River Wildlife Area, this year Nature Trust had some student workers who came out a few times over the summer to weed whack and clip around the vulnerable trees which was very appreciated. An added bonus was getting a grant to purchase a trailer which is a huge asset to bring in the tractor and mower during the summer to keep the grass and unwanted invasive plants from taking over. Thanks to Lee and Denis for all their hard work.

The Young Naturalist Club had a very successful year growing to about 40 family members, Cynthia has done a fabulous job. The years activities were all arranged and included a Bear Aware presentation, participating in the BC Rivers Day cleanup, Dinosaurs, Safety and First Aid, Christmas Bird Count, a trip to the Biodiversity Museum, building Bat boxes for the Great Blue Heron Reserve and Camp River Wildlife Area, Nature Photography, Creating Enviro Gardens, composting with worms, and learning about honey bees.

We continue to discuss environmental concerns write letters, attend local meetings whenever possible are grateful for the good news and sigh for the not so good news items. More grants are to be applied for to assist with the wildlife area and fund raising ideas are being pursued for the coming year.

### Delta Naturalists Tom Bearss

We had a very busy and successful year since our last AGM on June 11, 2012. I am haphazardly listing below events we participated in, contributions by other members, issues we promoted and other stuff I deemed relevant. The list is neither exhaustive, nor in any particular order.

**Club Kudos** - Jennifer Melville-Roberts did a super job managing our finances as well as coordinating our membership programme. Mary Ronback created 10 monthly Newsletter gems, which I know all members enjoyed and appreciated. She continues to request member contributions. Ursula Easterbrook represented us at the Fall (Parksville) and Spring (Abbotsford-Mission) BC Nature meetings. She also wrote reports for inclusion in BC Nature's quarterly magazine, as well as recruited the Speakers for nine monthly meetings (Members did the 10th). Annie Kaps and Judy Kilcup performed yeoman Secretarial duties, taking the Minutes of our Executive and Monthly meetings. First Dorothy Graham,

then Valerie Fuller, handled our Publicity, which included advertising our meetings and events in the Optimist, Leader and other venues. Hans-Ulf Schellhase was our Member-at-Large who handled our Mail and helped Jonathan and Jim with technical assistance for our Speakers. Lorraine Mwenifumbo and Marilyn King were our Social Convenors. They made sure we had Member-prepared goodies at our Monthly meetings, organized our annual Garden Party in June with Jennifer and Pamela, etc. Jonathan Mwenifumbo became our DNS Technical Coordinator and assisted our Speakers at monthly meetings, ensuring the presentations were problem-free. Ken Borrie has taken on DNS Website Coordination and has made our DNCB Blog not only very user-friendly, but also has added lots of information to it, including Mary's DNS Newsletters, our DNS Meeting Minutes, our DNS Events especially those where we have our Display; plus, he has edited, enhanced and added photos to the weekly outing reports. It is now more than a Blog; rather a DNS Website. Terry Carr assumed Display Coordinator responsibilities along with his team of Joyce Manary, Roger Meyer and Rochelle Farquhar, with many other Nats volunteering at the many events. (See Events Report under Education below) Geoff Hacker produces the Poster for each monthly meeting, illustrating the subject matter of the wide variety of Speakers whom Ursula recruits. It is a challenge. Geoff does a magnificent job, successfully enticing people to come.

**Environmental Issues we tackled** - Cosmetic Pesticides: Judy Kilcup and other Delta Nats had worked tirelessly in previous years to achieve success with Delta legislation banning these pesticides. Since then, Judy and other Delta Nats monitored, informed and encouraged DNS members to petition the Provincial Government to ban the sale of cosmetic pesticides in B.C. The resulting government policy was very weak and disappointing. Prior to the Provincial Election in May, the Delta Working Group on Cosmetic Pesticides was reconvened (Marilynn King represented the Delta Nats) and the need for a cosmetic pesticide ban was raised in all candidate meetings and Delta candidates were solicited as to their views on such a ban. Delta Nats President sent correspondence to government officials, political candidates (for Delta) and other decision makers encouraging and supporting new BC legislation. Both elected Delta MLA's have indicated their support of the provincial ban.

Vancouver Airport Fuel Project Opposition for Richmond (VAPOR): Jim Ronback is/was an active member of the committee opposing the transport of jet fuel in the Fraser River and building a terminal on its banks. Many Nats members are supportive of this opposition. Your DNS donated \$200 to this VAPOR initiative.

RAMSAR: On September 22, 2012 the Fraser River estuary and Burns Bog were designated as RAMSAR Wetlands of International Importance. Several Nats had been pushing and advocating for this world-wide designation for many years. Your President represented DNS at a formal recognition ceremony at Delta City Hall on Feb. 2, 2013.

Earth Day-April 22: For the fourth consecutive year, DNS was represented at an event at Delta City Hall. Previous years we have had our Informative Display. This year your President gave a "Pecha Kucha" presentation on Delta Nats Casual Birding. Nat Ursula Easterbrook also gave a presentation on nature photography.

Car Racing at Campbell Valley Park: DNS President sent letter to Metro Vancouver Parks and other Legislators in support of Campbell Valley Park Association's opposing the re-introduction of Car Racing at the oval in CVP.

Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline: Two Delta Nats, Anne Murray and Jim Ronback, gave presentations, endorsed by DNS, to the Joint Review Panel voicing opposition to the proposal without more information and attention given to the environmental impact.

OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation facilities): Your DNS has regularly supported Bev Day's OWL on 72nd Street. Mary Ronback is our Liaison to OWL, and we again donated \$200 to OWL this year.

#### **Education**

Delta Nats Display Events: Delta Nats showcased their new-and-improved Display, under the direction of our Display Coordinator Terry Carr, at 9 events since our last AGM, namely:

- Fathers' Day Pancake Breakfast at BBRP on June 17/12;
- (2) International Bog Day on July 24/12;
- MV Parks Starry Night at Deas Island on August 18/12;
- Richmond Raptor Festival at Terra Nova Park on August 26/12;
- Day at the Farm on Westham Island on September 8/12;
- Cammidge House Open House on September 15/12;
- Delta Corp's Annual Fish Release at Watershed Park on April 21/13;
- Migratory Bird Day at Cammidge House on May 12/13
- Ladner May Days on May 26.

### **Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society Marg Cuthbert**

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society was very productive this past year with the fall of 2012 actively planting and removing invasives. Two days in October - volunteers planted and removed invasives in the Savenye Environmentally Sensitive Area of Blackie Spit and placed a hundred plants in the White Rock Native Plant Demonstration Garden where we installed interpretive and botanical signs that summer. Volunteers continued in the garden thru 2013 to remove invasives, replant stolen species and replace the botanical signs previously installed due to poor quality.

The Little Campbell River Forest Trail Interpretive Signage Phase 2 project work for 2012 was completed in October/November by installing additional interpretive signs, planting more native trees and shrubs and removing non-native invasives. In April we were also successful in raising TD Friends of the Environment funding for the 2013 Little Campbell River Forest Trail, Species at Risk Habitat Enhancement Project. We accomplished all the machine work and placed the woody debris, gravels, river rock and soil in August during the fisheries window with the expertise and support of our Project Partners - the A Rocha Field Centre, City of Surrey SHaRP, the Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club and Little Campbell Watershed Society. The site is being enhanced for red legged frog habitat with the development of ponds and ephemeral streams in an area that receives much run off during the fall and winter rains. The area was previously covered in invasive lamium and reed canary grass and planting is scheduled for November when the rains arrive. An interpretive sign is being developed focused on Species at Risk, pond and ephemeral stream habitat. Planning is also underway to use a storage shed wall behind the site for a nature mural to further enhance our educational goals.

Also in October 2012 we completed and installed eight interpretive signs at the head of the White Rock Pier. First approached in 2005 to do them, the City of White Rock staff changes and priorities delayed completion; the signs have colourful images and the text focuses on the designations and habitats of Boundary Bay and include an homage to those who have worked hard for conservation in the area.

FoSBS was delighted so many Project Partners and Volunteers attended our annual Appreciation Event last October, a relaxing day offered to our volunteers to be appreciated. George Clulow, keynote speaker and President of the BC Field Ornithologists, shared very interesting information about the BC Breeding Bird Atlas and many people requested further details. The day also offered a hatchery tour and interpreted walk on the Forest Trail to enjoy nature and see the accomplished project work. FoSBS held our 2012 Annual General Meeting just before the Appreciation Event, Project Coordinators and Team leaders gave their annual activity reports as well as the Board of Directors elected for 2013. We will host our AGM and Appreciation Event November 3, 2013 at the same venue with keynote speaker Anne Murray sharing 'Mongolia, Nature on the Steppes'.

Over the late fall and winter numerous reports were completed for funders and new applications for funding completed to prepare for the 2013 project work.

In February 2013 our Nest Box Stewardship Coordinator and ten volunteers cleaned and repaired nest boxes for tree swallow and wood duck at the Serpentine WMA. In March over sixty volunteers cleaned up the salt marsh at Blackie Spit. Restoration Coordinators also organized a huge removal of Scotch broom in the meadow to keep everyone busy! Then in April, we conducted another Blackie Spit Cleanup as part of the Pitch-In Canada program.

We attended numerous events throughout the year promoting awareness about the Fraser River delta IBA and Boundary Bay as a WMA. Some of the events were, the Wings over Water Festival in Blaine, Washington, the Choices Markets-Surrey Earth Day event which raises funding for our educational programs, the White Rock Seniors Volunteer event, Surrey Parks Party for the Planet, Canada Day on the Bay, the Spirit of the Sea Festival and the World Ocean Day that we cohost with Surrey Parks. This year we promoted a World Ocean Weekend by also offering a presentation on Eelgrass and Marine creatures with an interpretive walk to the beach afterwards.

Our Education Coordinator with volunteer assistance interviewed forty applicants in April for the summer 2013 Beach Hero Marine Interpretive program. We were not successful in receiving Service Canada funding support this year thus the funding from BC Nature and the BC Naturalists Foundation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Choices Markets and City of White Rock allowed us to offer the program, they will shortly receive a final project report. The year by year uncertainty for funding puts a great strain on the volunteers administering the program for the communities surrounding Boundary Bay. The two students did a great job this summer leading 'end of school' groups on the beach, public walks, raising awareness about fishing and crabbing regulations, toxic shellfish and swimmer's itch and reporting poachers.

The Birds on the Bay and Beyond program events continue to be posted on our events calendar at [www.birdsonthebay.ca](http://www.birdsonthebay.ca) We decided in late 2012 to no longer distribute brochures throughout the lower mainland. The City of Surrey Parks continues to mail the events listing and poster to Birds on the Bay Project Partners and to the public who request one. It is still a very important program to continue to raise awareness about the IBA.

FoSBS continued to participate in the Fraser delta Spartina Removal Working group collaborating on removal methods.

We attended the multiagency meeting in April, participated in the clone mapping in June and plant removal with a team at Blackie Spit in July.

The FoSBS Boundary Bay Shorekeepers Program's 10th year was again very successful. We conducted a Training Workshop the weekend of May 24, 25, 26th with 22 attendees and the six annual site surveys' were completed in June and July. FoSBS volunteers have been very dedicated considering the program requirements entail a three year commitment.

Society Volunteers continue to work closely with Project Partners and to participate in City of Surrey's Biodiversity Strategy Working group and numerous other committees and meetings for public input.

### **Langley Field Naturalists Kathy Masse**

September 2012 saw the beginning of another busy year for the Langley Field Naturalists. We enjoyed our usual excellent field trips and listened to very good educational talks at our regular meetings. We were involved in community activities, as well as conservation issues and projects. And this was our clubs year for community awards!

Our field trip chair, Anne Gosse, organized an excellent schedule of trips which were well attended and enjoyed by many. There were at least 2 trips planned each month, some with other naturalists clubs. Outings were to such places as: Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Campbell Valley Park, Skagit Valley, Surrey Bend Regional Park. An especially enjoyed trip was in April to the little Campbell Fish Hatchery where we learned about the establishment of the hatchery and the work of the volunteers. But on the walk afterwards in the beautiful hatchery grounds, we were treated to a wide variety of wildlife and nesting birds. Another great trip was to Iona Beach regional Park in May, where our excellent leader, Josh, led a trip to see many species of ducks, shorebirds and songbirds and we enjoyed observing bird banding by WildResearch Bird Banding Station. We have just finished our series of Wednesday night summer walks, when members enjoyed different trails in the Langley area.

There were many highlights in our speakers program this year. Our own member, John Gordon treated us to an excellent slide show of his safari to Kenya. Ron Long gave a presentation of the unique and endangered biodiversity of Pink Mountain in Northern British Columbia. Myles Lamont talked to us about his participation in the Breeding Bird Survey in the Stikine. We enjoyed a show of the beautiful wildflowers seen by Virginia Skilton on her recent trip to the Yukon. A representative from the Canadian Cancer society spoke to us about the misuse of cosmetic pesticides in our gardens. And Tasha Murray from the Invasive Species Society of Metro Vancouver showed us the harm done by invasive species, how to recognize them and handle them. Derrick Mathews gave an excellent presentation on his bird monitoring and banding program at Colony Farms.

We also took part in community activities. In September, we had our usual information booth at Country Celebrations in Campbell Valley Park, with "hands on" activities for kids, including information about feeding ducks. Two of our members made a presentation at the Langley Rotary meeting about the history of the Langley Field Naturalists, our educational and outdoor activities as well as our focus on conservation. In April, we collected huge amounts of litter and garbage in the annual "Pitch-in" event in Langley City.

As usual, we participated in the Christmas Bird Count on December 30th when we had 5 teams of four people covering our share of the White Rock/Surrey/Langley bird count. The day started foggy and cold, turning sunny by noon and our intrepid crew sighted 6557 birds and 68 species. A few hardy LFNers also helped out at the Pitt Meadows Christmas Bird Count in North Langley/Surrey. Many members also took part in the Derby Reach/ Brae Island Park Bird Count in February, an annual count that covers the 3 parks in the region.

We also were involved in environmental projects in the past year. We joined forces with Metro Vancouver Parks and Langley Environmental Partners to install Purple Martin nesting boxes at Brae Island. The boxes were successfully installed in late November and members began monitoring them in the spring. While there were no Purple Martins this year, we will continue to monitor and hope for success in 2014. We also did invasive removals both at Redwoods Natural Area and Forslund Watson Conservation Area. Bob Puls, our President has continued to add to his list of species at the Mountainview Conservation Area and this year has reached 1,488 species.

Environmental causes continued as a focus this year. Langley Field Naturalists supported WOLF (Watchers of Langley Forests) to fight the sale of Langley Township property in Glen Valley. The pressure managed to save half of the property. We also joined the struggle to stop the revival of the racing speedway in Campbell Valley Park. The campaign from the Naturalists and many other groups resulted in the proposal being rejected and Campbell Valley Park remains a peaceful and protected nature park! We are opposing the removal of lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve for expansion of Trinity Western University District, through attending meetings and writing letters. However, our position was unfortunately not successful because Langley Township Council approved the Trinity Western proposal in June. Metro Vancouver is now suing Langley Township for going against their sustainable development principles. The Langley Field Naturalists are proud of their community awards this past year. Two of our members, Rhys Griffiths and Toots Tucker were recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals for their environmental and community work.

And the Langley Field Naturalists received this year's for Langley "Environmental Heroes Award" in the business and organization class, for our stewardship work for the past 33 years in the community. It was a proud moment when Bob Puls, our president, accepted the award for the Langley Field Naturalists from our MP, Mark Warawa, at the Canada Day Celebrations in Langley!

### **Little Campbell Watershed Society (LCWS) David Riley**

A low precipitation summer means more water drawn from a river already legally oversubscribed. If every legal gallon of water is removed from the river there would not be one drop for fish or wildlife. Every summer throws into relief the need for BC, the only province without comprehensive water legislation, to get in gear. This summer may well correspond to at least one season of low salmon returns in the Little Campbell River.

The City of Surrey's innovative levy acts as a super DCC [development cost charge] on development within the Fergus creek sub watershed. So far the monies accrued have allowed the purchase of one piece of riparian property and already the City is studying ways to allow greater taxpayer access.

Local groups including the LCWS have always saluted the basic program but are very wary of the way in which this particular space will be developed. Many have suggested that the park space be dedicated to completely controlled access structured around actual conservation work. You would visit the park as part of an educational tour or as part of a city controlled work party to help raise ecosystem values. We all know how much work ecosystem improvements involve and how they are often more than negated by the other park "users" in this The Age of Entitlement. If you agree, please tell the City of Surrey or write the local papers. Other issues in the watershed relate to planned railway renovation right in the LCR estuary salt marsh, one of the few remaining areas of salt marsh in Boundary Bay.

On the plus side the LCWS has partnered with the A Rocha Field Centre and City of Surrey SHaRP team to conduct water sampling along the river. A Rocha is continuing their enhancement projects in the upper reaches of the river and Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society is working closely with us on a wetland and ephemeral stream enhancement project for red legged frog habitat.

We've hosted numerous walks through the riparian forest and a mini beast event in the late spring focused on the discovery of freshwater invertebrates.

Members met with the City of Surrey for the annual tour of the Stokes Pit site to review the status of the planted trees, shrubs and creek; salmon have returned to spawn though there is great difficulty in keeping the dog walkers from the restricted site and their off leash dogs out of the creek.

We continue to all work in conservation for the river in numerous ways: watchdog, enhancement projects, citizen science and education.

### **Nature Vancouver Cynthia Crampton**

Nature Vancouver (NV) will have held four weeks of wilderness camps from July, 2012 - July, 2013. Two weeks in the Nait Range, Chilcotin Mountains in 2012, and two weeks at Blowdown Lake in the Coast Mountains just outside of the Stein Valley in 2013. NV's camps, of 45 people per camp, may seem like a large number to take into the wilderness, but the benefits of providing information on flora and fauna, and introducing people to areas which need protection, is huge. However, getting permissions to hold camps is becoming more and more difficult. Although park personnel are quick to say that N.V. camps are models of how camps should be, permissions are slow in coming, and sometimes denied. We regret this trend.

NV has Birding, Botany and Marine Biology sections, and holds monthly meetings with large attendance. These sections also hold field trips throughout the year, including Geology field trips. NV also has a Conservation Section. Although this Section does not, somewhat surprisingly, have large turnouts to their monthly meetings, when they hold a general conservation night evening, the numbers improve. We are looking at ways to beef up the Conservation Section. Many NV members are involved in conservation efforts in other organizations, so perhaps that is one of the reasons.

We have published Nature Vancouver: A Portrait 1994-2010, which means that our history from 1918 to 2010 has now been documented. And an impressive history in nature it is. We have also published Rocky Explore the Shore at Stanley Park, written by member of Sheila Byers, which is well used when holding field trips on the seashore. The Aquarium also uses this booklet when they have students in their education labs. Our journal, Discovery, is published on an occasional basis, and the Index to this journal has also been updated to 2010. All three of these publications were underwritten by a generous member of Nature Vancouver.

**Squamish Environment Society  
Mary Mitchell**

There continues to be a lot of development pressures on our corner of the world and we continue to try and educate the public and raise awareness. On the horizon we have the Garibaldi at Squamish and Britannia developments under review and the 7th Ave Connector proposal to run a truck route through the middle of the Estuary. Enough to keep us busy!

Through it all the Estuary Monthly bird count goes on, with some record sightings this year. Some of the new additions to our checklist include the Northern Mockingbird, Black-throated Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Brown Pelican, Tundra Swan, Snowy Owl, Ross's Goose, Yellow Breasted Chat, Logger Head Shrike and Least Flycatcher. Some of the unusual birds on the monthly counts included White-Winged Crossbills, Rough-Legged Hawk, American Bittern, Long Billed Curlew, Long Tailed Duck, Virginia Rail (with young!) and a Green Heron. Our Christmas bird count went well and I think the weather was even slightly improved from last year. We thank the dedicated group of birders who gather these monthly statistics...rain, shine and other!! For more information, please visit our birding link at <http://www.squamishenvironment.ca/SquamishBirders>

Our Eagle Watch Program continues to transition. We completed an extensive review of the Program in October 2012. This resulted in a renewal of some key aspects of the operation including greater contact with Squamish Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce. New sponsors were welcomed and the municipality granted \$3000 to the operation. As well the municipality is showing interest in improving the parking and toilet facilities at the Eagle Watch location. The program is also starting to partner with businesses in the community who have taken up sponsorship. We look forward to the annual program and welcome all volunteers, local or not.

Estuary Education Program is finally wrapping up. Thanks to a grant from Squamish Savings a division of Vancity Savings the Estuary Education Program has educated interpreters and installed interpretive signs along the Chelem Trail in the estuary. Due to some volunteer hiccups it is a year or so overdue, but we are now finalizing the project. As part of Rivers Day celebrations we will be celebrating the Estuary, the new interpretive signs and the completion of this project on September 29. Come out and join us!

For more information about SES and our programs, please visit our website at [www.squamishenvironment.ca](http://www.squamishenvironment.ca)

**White Rock and Surrey Naturalists  
Leona Breckenridge**

Our membership has had a busy year enjoying our natural environment and seeking to protect that environment for future generations. We have been called upon to attend many open houses and information sessions and to write letters regarding increased coal train traffic through White Rock and Surrey, the Roberts Bank coal port expansion by Port Metro Vancouver, the chipping away of agricultural land reserves, development encroachments on Burns Bog, proposed changes to the Massey Tunnel transportation corridor, the proposed Fraser Docks expansion by Port Metro Vancouver, the Enbridge and Kinder Morgan pipeline proposals and last, but not least, the proposed reopening of the Langley speedway in Campbell Valley Regional Park, a designated nature park.

At the Party for the Planet, Surrey's Earth Day and Pilgrimage to Burns Bog we featured a model coal train to depict the environmentally sensitive areas the proposed coal trains will pass through and some of the hazards, including coal dust. Al Schultz proved to be a proficient train engineer but Liz took the curves too quickly and there was coal everywhere! We participated in World Oceans Day, the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, the swallow and wood duck nest box cleanup organized by Gareth Pugh at the Serpentine Wildlife Management Area (aka the Serpentine Fen) and the annual Christmas Bird Count organized by Viveka Ohman (128 species). WRSN is also a partner with SNAP, the Surrey Natural Areas Partnership which hires seasonal rangers for habitat restoration, environmental education and environmental outreach.

Our president, Liz Walker, leads a monthly Sunday walk at the fen to increase public awareness about the conservation of wildlife. Off leash dogs have been a big problem there. Liz is planning for more regular Natural Areas in Your Neighbourhood walks. Alice Steffensen arranges regular garbage pickups on our adopted streets, Vera Manilova is the editor of our quarterly newsletter and Tineke Vesseur maintains our Facebook page. Lynn Pollard continues leading the thriving Young Naturalists group and members are on the Green Timbers Advisory Committee (Betty Hall), Sunnyside Acres Advisory Committee (Brian Bjarnason), Boundary Bay Conservation Committee (Nan Ames) and the Campbell Valley Park Association (Wim Vesseur).

Two wildlife gardens are maintained by club members with periodic assistance from club member work parties. The Eva Bene Butterfly Garden in Centennial Park in White Rock is managed by Frances de Montreuil with the help of Laurence Assougnon. A recent item in the Peace Arch News reported on the theft of plants from this garden which has been a considerable problem for a few years now and is very discouraging for our volunteers. Despite the thefts habitat has been provided for lots of Western Tiger Swallowtails, Satyr Commas, Red Admirals, Woodland Skippers, Fritularia and others, including introduced Milbert's Tortoiseshells. The wildlife garden at the visitor's centre in Campbell Valley

Regional Park (CVRP) is managed by Wim Vesseur as part of our stewardship role with the CVRP Association. Esther Johnson, our butterfly guru, located larvae on stinging nettle which she raised and then released back in the garden during the themed Butterfly Weekend at CVRP.

Chuck Belotte was awarded the club's General Service Award for his outstanding work in providing speakers for our monthly meetings. General topics during the past year included beneficial insects in gardens and parkways, the biodiversity of Pink Mountain, climate change, and conservation of resources in land use and peak oil planning. We also enjoyed a presentation by Lyda Salation who founded the Lower Mainland Green Team, a web driven volunteer group that teams with local organizations to remove invasive species, plant native species and clean up garbage. Species topics included snowy owls, giant pacific octopus, Kermode bears and my favorite, zombie worms. Jo Ann MacKenzie did a photo presentation on the Birds of Brazil and Carolyn Prentice, a recipient of the 2012 Rene Savenye Award gave a presentation on her eelgrass studies.

WRSN members went on hikes to the Chain Lakes, Mt. Frosty, Deception Pass and Golden Ears Park, snow shod at Mount Seymour and Cypress park, visited Galiano and Saturna Islands, and went on nature walks at Hi-Knoll Park, Blackie Spit, Elgin Park, Semiahmoo Trail, Tynehead Park, Surrey Lakes, Port Kells and the Semiahmoo Fish Hatchery. WRSN also visited the Beaty Biodiversity Museum at UBC and had Terry Taylor, mycologist, lead a walk at Blackie Spit. I understand that he is a rival to Al Grass in being able to enthrall listeners with his knowledge of nature without ever losing sight of the parking lot. Sharon Jones has passed the trip leader baton to Betty Hall and we are looking forward to another active year.

A new innovation for the club is our Peregrinator Boot Award for the greatest distance walked on BC Nature walks. We are eagerly looking forward to finding out who has worn out the most shoe leather. Given the number of walks Al Schultz has been on led by our neighbouring Langley and Delta clubs I'm sure he'll be a serious contender.

And speaking of awards, our Vice-President and Conservation chair, Deb Jack, was awarded the 2012 Good Citizen of the Year award by the City of Surrey in recognition of her outstanding work for the betterment of the community.

Our monthly meetings are held at 7:30 pm at Sunnyside Community Hall, 1845 154 Street, Surrey on the second Thursday of each month. Helga Heine will greet you at the door and our social committee does a wonderful job of providing refreshments for our break.

Heading into the fall of 2013 we are looking forward to participating in another shoreline clean-up, walks and hikes are planned, speakers for the fall meetings are all lined up by Chuck and Audrey and before you know it we will be counting birds again.

**WildResearch  
Paul Levesque**

WildResearch has continued to grow in capacity and expand its programs this year. Now in its fourth year, WildResearch has more than 200 annual members and we have had to expand our administrative capacity by forming committees. In mid March, the Iona Island Operations Committee (OC) was formed to help with running WildResearch's Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO) in Richmond BC. In April and May, the OC built our new banding hut at the banding station, which was purchased with a grant from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund. If you haven't seen the new banding hut, drop by IIBO and take a look - it is very nice. In June WildResearch also formed the Membership Services Committee (MSC). Both committees are highly motivated and committed to their supporting role within WildResearch!

At the beginning of April WildResearch set a date for its pelagic seabird fund-raising trip (Sept. 15, 2013), then advertised the trip to the WildResearch membership. Before the end of April, 31 members registered and paid for the pelagic trip. On 2 May, we advertised the trip to the general public through birding chat groups and then sold the remaining 69 seats by the end of May. With trip participants from across western Canada and Ontario, the 2013 pelagic trip is sure to be a fantastic time!

Between 15 April and 31 May 2013, WildResearch conducted daily spring migration monitoring at Iona Island Bird Observatory. This spring an impressive 42 volunteers assisted with banding 2718 birds (2216 new birds and 474 recaptures). Special thanks to Dan Froehlich and Leena Tirrul for their efforts working as WildResearch's banders-in-charge this spring.

This spring WildResearch had great success with securing funding. In May, we received over \$12,000 from the Sitka Foundation to help fund IIBO for the next year and in June we received \$5300 from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund for use towards running our BC Nightjar surveys in 2014. Our Charitable Status application to the Canadian Revenue Agency has also been prepared submitted. Attaining Charitable Status is going to allow us to pursue many more funding sources- it will be a game changer.

This summer, WildResearch conducted Nightjar surveys in the interior of BC for the third season. In May, we held a train-

ing workshop for the Nightjar Project in Oliver. There were a lot of motivated WildResearch volunteers in attendance, and they were all excited about getting involved and collecting data on nightjars. Despite uncooperative weather during the two survey periods, a total of 20 survey routes were assigned to volunteers this year for a total of 320 kms to be surveyed across BC, as far west as Vancouver Island and as far east as the Kootenays.

WildResearch also contributed to the BC Butterfly Atlas project again this summer by co-hosting a BC Butterfly Atlas Training Workshop with the UBC Botanical Garden in June, organizing group butterfly surveys in Vancouver and Richmond during May and August survey periods, and by attending Metro Vancouver's Butterfly Tea Party at Campbell Valley Regional Park in July.

WildResearch Directors look forward to coming year and future opportunities to provide training opportunities and conservation projects to our dedicated membership. Thanks for a great 2013!

## **Kootenays Regional Coordinator - Greg Ross**

### **Rocky Mountain Naturalists Daryl Calder**

When a small, energetic club is faced with a myriad of interests to pursue, it is surprising how much can be accomplished in the course of a year. Our executive was re-elected and, along with several key club members, continue to provide direction and momentum. Our President, Peter Davidson is well supported by Vice presidents Tara Szkorupa and Laura Duncan. Lois Gruenig as Treasurer and Marianne Nahm, our secretary, keep us well organized, while Greg Ross, BC Nature Rep and Tony Wideski, who produces 'The Kestrel', our regular newsletter, add to the winning equation. Margol McKinney, Elaine Doran, George Freitag and Jim Duncan are also quick to provide support.

Back in January of 2012, our unique 'Winter Seeker's Challenge', developed by Tony each year, challenged us to observe and record about 30 birds with familiar names which are hard to spot early in the year. Snowshoe trips strengthened our awareness of animal tracks and signs as well as lichens, leafless shrubs and tree types. The quieting snow blanket, bright skies and various habitats provided a connection with the land and the four seasons.

When spring arrives in the valleys, waves of migratory birds and bright flowers return. 'Pitch-In', a bittersweet event, reduces some of those annoying winter residues. How all those coffee cups and whatnot just happen to fly out of vehicle windows, continues to amaze. The Rocky Mountain Trench Society, which is tackling 'forest in growth', waited for proper ventilation conditions to successfully burn 10,000 slash piles generated by job creation crews. Naturalists oversee Trench Society efforts to return unproductive, densely forested lowlands to more diverse, grassland habitats which can support endangered species such as badger and Lewis' Woodpecker. Funding allowed repair of 'Turtle Fencing', weed pulling and other enhancement of western painted turtle habitat adjacent to Elizabeth Lake. Little Big Day, our May birding competition, encourages our avid birders to form teams and search all the local hotspots for feathered friends. It is a useful way to create an informal inventory of the strength of the spring migration. During May and June, naturalists invite the public for early morning birding at Elizabeth Lake. For about 10 weeks, we attempt to identify all the birds and note the variation in species and abundance. Greg is very conscientious in posting a list to eBird, while Daryl writes a newspaper article detailing the 'bird of the week' and a list of the recent sightings. Tips relating to birding by ear, looking for key characteristics, and peculiarities of preferred habitats are discussed. Of course, the article touches on some related conservation issues and seems to have increased awareness in the natural world and our membership list.

The anticipated arrival of bluebirds and swallows means that some naturalists head out to check their 'bluebird trails' and make sure all the boxes are in good shape. Regular visits allow for direct viewing of nest building, egg laying, hatching and hopefully fledging of Western and Mountain Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. The viability of a second round of nesting can be enhanced if 'old' nest material is quickly removed. Tallies are submitted to Art Gruenig each fall; we can demonstrate a significant increase in population and distribution of these important birds which control harmful insect pests. The fifth and final year of the BC Breeding Bird Atlas event was also completed.

During the summer, a Club Camp was hosted by Gary Davidson in Nakusp. Work parties at Elizabeth Lake succeeded in adding a good layer of new chips to the trails. Over the years, naturalists have established a trail network designed to confine and direct foot traffic. The Rocky Mountain Trench Restoration Society became the delivery agency for Land Based Investment funding normally handled by the Ministry of FLRNRO. Mastication of immature forest is becoming the preferred method of restoration of 'overstocked' range because it's cheaper, easier and quicker than hand slashing, piling and burning. The Annual Giant Garage Sale raised almost \$600. which enables the Mildred White Scholarship to continue to award a deserving College of the Rockies student. Field trips included 'Shorebirds' at the City lagoons, 'Edible Plants' at the Buttes and a regular business meeting at Reade Lake, a lovely pothole within the Wycliffe grasslands.

Early morning birding resumed in the fall for several weeks. Initial discussion regarding the hosting of the FGM began. Christmas Bird Counts in Fernie, Cranbrook and Kimberley provided another opportunity for new and experienced birders to explore nature in a winter setting. Naturalists were invited by the City of Cranbrook to produce an informative panel

which will be one of 8 panels to be displayed in a kiosk at the redesigned West Entrance to the City beside Elizabeth Lake. It was a significant challenge to establish a balance between illustration and text; with the help of a skilled graphic artist we developed an attractive panel. The artwork is also designed to be the basis for a revised 'brochure and trail map' of Elizabeth Lake, and a basis for a number of 'info graphic' signs we want to install. Our goal is to provide gentle, informative reminders explaining why it is important to keep dogs on leash, why feeding the waterfowl is harmful and why learning about wetlands and nature is valuable. A local pet grooming and boarding business has donated 2 fine 'doggy poop bag dispensers' and the City has upgraded their 'Leash Bylaw' signage.

Due to the preservation of large tracts of land in the Wycliffe area, an effort is underway to re-introduce the Columbian sub-species of Sharp-tailed Grouse. Outings included the Anne Redfern Memorial Walk and the Mildred White Crocus Walk in the Wasa area, Warbler ID course and outing and a Community Forest Walk. Later in the Spring, Stewart Wilson, a member of both Mainstreams and RMNats, described the benefits of partnering with this trans-boundary society. The purpose of this science-based initiative is to educate and heighten awareness of water issues in the Columbia Basin. We will work with Mainstreams regarding water retention concerns and controlling access and encroachment around Elizabeth Lake. Our Club Camp in the Fairmont area at the source of the Columbia River was an amazing educational experience. Efforts by RMNats will succeed in hosting a Fall General Meeting which introduces this wonderful corner of the Province and our dedicated members to the Federation of BC Naturalists.

## **Northern Region Regional Coordinator - Fred McMechan**

### **Bulkley Valley Naturalists Anne Hetherington**

**Website** - This year, with a grant from BC Nature, the BV Naturalists were able to develop a website [www.bvnaturalists.ca](http://www.bvnaturalists.ca). This will make a big difference in being able to connect with community, keep members up to date and link to projects. The website was designed to include two independent pages, one for the new Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society, lead by Dr. Norma Kerby, and the other for use by any other NW Naturalist group interested, who doesn't currently have their own website.

**Partnerships** - The Northwest B.C. Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring Program (RAMP), which started as a partnership with Kitimat, Skeena and Bulkley Valley Naturalist Clubs with support from Ministry of Environment and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, has evolved into the Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society under the leadership of Dr. Norma Kerby. This group includes volunteer amphibian/reptile monitors from Glenora on the Stikine River to Ft. St. James and most of the major communities along Highway 16 to the coast. It provides information regarding species occurrences into the Provincial data base. There are 52 groups, families and individuals involved in the program's 75 monitoring locations, and there is growing interest. Norma hopes that, by becoming a Society, they will be able to maintain a monitoring program and include other important activities for helping amphibians and garter snakes, including identifying critical habitats and expanding the educational component of our activities. They are hoping to be able to join BC Nature, as many of the rural volunteers are keen naturalists with broad interests in northern ecosystems, and BC Nature will provide an opportunity for them to become associated with the broader naturalists group in B.C.

Rosamund Pojar and Claire Aries have developed an extensive program of over 20 events for kids and adults at the Smithers Art Gallery at The Fine Art of Nature art show during the month of May. This is an on-going project called Connecting Kids with Nature Project and it included many hands-on events using art and activities to bring nature to kids and to engage them.

Field Trips this year featured introducing beginners to bird watching and botany. Presentations on natural history and related trips and topics were part of the fall and winter schedule. Representation on the Telkwa Caribou Recovery Team is on-going through Mel Coulson.

### **Mackenzie Nature Observatory Vi Lambie**

Below are the highlights from the Mugaha Marsh Banding Station, from July 19 – August 31, 2013

Banders at Mugaha Marsh Banding Station: Rinchen Boardman, Chris Sukha and Kathryn Hoo. Volunteers: Heather Meier, Bonnie Meier, Sandra Kinsey, Laird Law, Clive Keen, John & Vi Lambie, Patrick Sullivan, David Lambie, Ryan Bichon, Jeanne Wysoski, Kaine Valenta, Wayne Paulson, Samantha Paulson, Sara Sparks, Allan Carson, Christy Wright, Elaine Bambrick, Linnea Cross, Mike & Jane Potter and our banders volunteered some time on their days off.

Sponsors: BC Public Conservation Assistance Fund, the Canadian Ministry of Environment (Canadian Wildlife Service – Delta, BC), the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (on behalf of its program partners BC Hydro, the Province of

BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada who work together to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by the construction of BC Hydro dams) and MNO through funds raised through the Baillie Birdathon and donations made directly to our club.

Thanks to our banders, volunteers and sponsors for helping to keep this project going. What follows is an update on season from July 19th- August 31st. Best efforts are made to keep the numbers accurate, but please realize data is not totally checked until the end of the season (September 23).

New Highs for the season:

- The banding station has been operating at Mugaha Marsh since 1995 during fall migration and this fall several species have exceeded the numbers that were banded in any previous season, and others have tied their previous high.
- On July 29, 2013 the first Le Conte's Sparrow for our station was captured and banded. It was the first record we have for that species in the Mackenzie area.
- On July 30, 2013 Swamp Sparrows surpassed their previous high of 13 banded in the fall of 2006. By the end of August we had banded 27 Swamp Sparrows.
- On August 11, 2013 Least Flycatchers passed their previous high of 118 banded in the fall of 1999. By the end of August we had banded 158 birds of this species.
- On August 13, 2013 two Black and White Warblers, an adult and a hatch year bird, were captured in one of the nets. They are the 2nd and 3rd birds of that species ever captured at our station.
- On August 13, 2013 Tennessee Warblers exceeded their previous high of 131 birds banded in one season in 2011. Sixty-eight Tennessee Warblers were banded – this is higher than any season total for Tennessee Warblers from 1995 - 2010.
- On August 16, 2013 Song Sparrows exceeded their previous high of 54 banded in 2003. By the end of August 67 Song Sparrows had been banded.
- On August 18, 2013 a Say's Phoebe was banded, only the 2nd bird of this species banded at Mugaha.
- On August 23, 2013 Western Tanagers exceeded their previous high of 31 banded in one season in the fall of 2009. By the end of August 33 Western Tanagers had been banded.
- On August 23, 2013 Swainson's Thrush exceeded their previous high of 190 banded in fall 2010. By the end of August 230 Swainson Thrush had been banded.
- On August 25, 2013 Red-eyed Vireo exceeded their previous high of 11 banded in 2002. By the end of August 13 Red-eyed Vireos had been banded
- On August 28, 2013 Lincoln's Sparrows exceeded their previous high of 66 banded in 2006 and 2011. By the end of August 68 Lincoln's Sparrows had been banded.
- Returns are birds banded a previous year that are captured during the banding operations this year.

One amazing return was the American Redstart that was banded by Jukka Jantunen at Mugaha Marsh on 26 August 2007 that was recaptured at Mugaha Marsh this fall (2013) on 26 August. It was an after hatch year male when it was banded.

### **Prince George Naturalists Clive Keen**

The third year of the reconstituted Prince George Naturalists has seen a pleasing continuation of talks and field trips -- a regular pattern is now emerging -- but perhaps more significantly, progress is being made on the Club's two major, related, projects: creation of a nature centre for the City, and creation of a circular interpretive walk on the Hudson's Bay wetland (see [hbwetland.wordpress.com](http://hbwetland.wordpress.com)).

BC Nature was the first to give a very welcome grant towards the wetland project, and offers of other financial assistance have been received. The Club realized that, since it would soon be dealing with significant sums of money, it had to pause a little in order to get various preliminaries out of the way, including club registration, a new constitution and approval of key policies. These should be completed very soon, and the practical work will get rolling.

Meanwhile, a major step was taken towards creating a Nature/outdoor Centre for the city, when a consultant was hired by the City to give recommendations, including clarification of the best location or locations for the Centre. Since a number of players continue to be involved, there is the opportunity to think quite big. The preliminary recommendations will have been received by the time this Club report is circulated, and public consultations will then take place – given the level of commitment, it is not now a matter of whether the Centre will be built, but when. It is a very exciting time to be a Prince George naturalist.

### **Quesnel Naturalists Lorna Schley**

The Quesnel Naturalists had a fairly busy year and continue to liaise with other like-minded groups including the Baker Creek Enhancement Society, Climate Action Group, Quesnel Birding Club, and the Airshed Management Roundtable.

In September we enjoyed a presentation on Geothermal Resource Development by Titi Kunkel. In March, a workshop on using a GPS unit was presented by Alex Coffey and an introduction to geocaching by Sally Hofmeier.

During the winter we enjoyed a number of snowshoe hikes which were described in a previous Club Chat. Summer hikes included the Pinnacles, Baker Creek Falls, power lines above Dragon Lake, and the Beaver Pond at Ten Mile Lake. Fall hikes are planned to Cameron Ridge in the Cariboo Mountains and Hallis Lake.

Some members participated in the Christmas bird count with members of the birding club.

Our group is now a member of the Invasive Species Council of BC. We participated in a community weed pull in July, removing burdock along Dragon Creek at the edge of West Fraser Timber Park. Subsequent to this, we cleared around and marked a number of small conifers that had been planted along this area, and in addition, removed some purple loosestrife.

The Dragon Lake Bluebird Trail (14 pairs of boxes) was again monitored and this year we had four successful first broods and two second broods, along with numerous tree swallows. The bluebird numbers were down compared to last year.

### **Williams Lake Field Naturalists Fred McMechan**

Our club offered several services and opportunities for members. Several editions of the club newspaper, the "Muskrat Express", were circulated. Members participated in our field trips and had the opportunity to hear interesting several guest speakers throughout the year. We organized and participated in the Christmas Bird Count. Our members were active acting as volunteers with the operation of the Scout Island Nature Centre. Members continued to maintain and monitor Mountain Blue house trails on the Cariboo Chilcotin grasslands. We presented a bursary to a graduating high school student. The Young Naturalists Club in Williams Lake offered nature programs for children and families.

Our club continued to operate the Scout Island Nature Centre in Williams Lake. We employed an environmental educator, an administrator, two preschool teachers, four university students, some high school students and part time workers to carry out activities such as the provision of educational programs, hosting at the Nature House, raising funds, planning for an energy upgrade system in the Nature House, and maintaining and enhancing the outside areas of the nature centre.

Our club was involved in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Hearing for the New Prosperity Mine proposal at Fish Lake in July and August, 2013. During the process we presented a submission from our club to the panel.

### **Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap Region Regional Coordinator - Vivian Birch Jones**

#### **Central Okanagan Naturalist's Club Don Guild**

2013 has seen some turnover in the CONC executive: Fiona Flook has ended her 3 year term as a very capable and energetic President and Craig Lewis has taken over her responsibilities with great aplomb. We also have a new Vice-President, Jorma Jyrkkanen, who brings an infectious zeal for all things in nature coupled with an extensive technical knowledge of biology and ecosystems.

**Guest speakers** at the December through May general meetings have been:

February: The Annual Banquet was a potluck and photo contest which was well attended at the usual meeting place in the Evangel Church meeting room.

March: Brian Ohsowski, a Ph.D. candidate at UBC Okanagan, discussed the challenges of growing native plants in severely disturbed habitats in his talk entitled "Grass to the Future: Restoring Native Plants after Mining".

April: Biologist and club member, Jorma Jyrkkanen, gave a technical talk entitled "Wintering Bald Eagles on the Squamish River", presenting his sometimes surprising research findings and introducing his new book on the Squamish River Wintering Bald Eagles.

May: Hikers displayed the best photos of their hiking trips for the previous year, sharing many inspirational images of memorable places.

June: The Pot Luck in the Park was held in at Beasley/Reiswig Park in Winfield, where about 35 members enjoyed hiking up Spion Kop Mtn, visiting Jack Seton Nature Sanctuary and savoured sharing each others' cooking for supper.

Midsummer Madness outing this year was to the South Okanagan Protected Grasslands, seeing Blue Lake, Kilpoola Lake and the surrounding grasslands, enjoying walking, birding and botanizing from June 21-23.

**Fascieux Creek Restoration:** Funds have been raised to conduct the environmental feasibility study and engineering design through the efforts of the KLO Eco Club with support from CONC in applying for grant money, in addition to a \$5,000 donation from CONC. The project is currently delayed until some SD23 administrative hurdles are overcome.

**Robert Lake Viewing Platform Project** is on hold until 2014 when a platform design will be provided by the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) because it will be situated in Robert Lake Regional Park.

**Chichester Wetland Park Re-naturalization Project** has been progressing well, with weeding and some plantings already happening. A major tree planting day is planned on September 21st.

CONC Birders have been busy with their weekly and monthly outings and have also supported the Okanagan Land Trust (COLT) by doing a bird inventory on the 323 hectare Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park, which is the newest RDCO park. They also participated in the annual Knox Mountain bird survey conducted by the City of Kelowna to track the year over year changes at specific sites in the park. The CONC botany group also assisted with this by conducting the second annual plant survey in the park. The birders were active participating in the annual “Critter Count” held in Okanagan Mountain Park as well.

### Lillooet Naturalists Society Vivian Birch Jones

Our AGM in January was well attended and we welcomed two new directors to our executive. Membership is stable at 54 with 30 families and 24 individuals (ages from 1 year to 93). The LNS president received a BC Nature award as well as a Jubilee medal in recognition for her work and all that the Naturalist Society is doing in Lillooet, which is a big group effort. Sekw’el’was band honoured us, along with many other local service groups, with a generous donation in recognition of our work in and with their community.

The second edition of the Lillooet Hiking Guide, Canyon to Alpine continues to receive positive reviews and sales have been good. Profits into the future will continue to fund our activities. Clearing trails and enjoying hikes was part of our activities. Very pleased to see Forest Service Roads signs put up this summer by MOF on some of our most popular hiking areas.

A number of public presentations on natural history were held over the year, including Mountain Goats (K. Bachmann), Grizzly bears (F. Iredale), Raptors (J.Neville), Lillooet flora and fauna (I. Routley). We partnered with the library to host two book releases and presentations: Bernie Fandrich’s Majestic Thompson River and Helen O’Brian’s Fin’s Swim. Members submitted a few articles about local conservation issues to our newspaper. The local radio continues to provide great PR for our organization. CBC Radio out of Kamloops has also been good at covering natural history issues in the area.

We supported a number of successful applications to the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife fund including work on Mule deer, Grizzly bear, Whitebark Pine, Fishers, Gates Spawning Channel and a Sekw’el’was project (in partnership with our Society and Restoration crew), to extend the restoration work from the original Powerhouse site along the Seton corridor to Seton Lake- an ambitious project that is going really well. (Sadly the application to do more bat work here was denied.)

Maintenance work continues to be done at the Powerhouse site, “Sat’atqwa7”, and we plan to apply for some funding for that in future years. The restoration crew has formed a business, Splitrock Environmental [www.splitrockenvironmental.ca](http://www.splitrockenvironmental.ca). They are selling native plants at the nursery and doing restoration work in the area. We assisted the Ministry to install educational signs about our natural history at the Seton overlook and at the Hydro campground – both places see a high number of visitors.

Our annual **Great Canadian Shoreline cleanup** was held in September – the clean-up was conducted by water as well as by land. We also planted trees at the site on the day.

We held a BC Nature Camp in October 2012 which was a ‘wild success’ and a good fundraiser. Our 13th annual Christmas bird count was held in December 2012, coordinated by Ken Wright. Counts also took place in the Hat Creek Valley and the Yalakom again this year. Chris Galliazzo is the lead for the Bluebird Trail project and led expeditions again this season.

**The Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society** held their second and very well attended AGM. They have completed mapping and inventory as well as doing a great deal of public and individual education and some work on the ground with targeted invasive species management.

We purchased and premiered the film People of a Feather to good turnout and reviews. We also raised some funds and a

volunteer group started installation of a webcam on the Osprey nest at the Old Bridge. The camera was set up but technical glitches held us up and the birds arrived. Work will proceed when the birds have left the nest in the autumn and we’ll be ready for live streaming next spring. The project created great local interest in our nesting Ospreys.

We hosted the Rivershed Society meetings April 19th – 21st, 2013.

**The Walking with Smolts** event, in which buses of school children come to the Lower Spawning Channel and tour educational booths and take a nature walk to learn all about the salmon and the natural world, was a two day event this year and a big success.

A Nature Camp for children ages 8 – 12 was held July 22 – 26 with the Restoration crew. A Long-eared owl was confirmed (breeding status 2013) which means all the owls of BC have been sighted here. A volunteer monitoring program also expanded our number of bat species with the possible addition of the Pallid Bat – we hope to do more research on bats next summer.

A few of us went on naturalist rafting events with Kumsheen out of Lytton BC. We can highly recommend this to all. Professional, safe, educational, great food and facilities ~~~ lovely~~~

We sponsored a young woman from Xwisten to join the six week rafting trip down the Fraser River with the Rivershed Society. Fin Donnelly and that group rafted in and joined us for the Salmon in the Canyon festival in August. Please visit us at [www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org](http://www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org)

### North Okanagan Naturalists Club Pamela Jenkins

Thursday trips in July included one to a music fest in Grindrod and another day hike to Aberdeen Lake. August trips were to Kaloya Park, Swan Lake after the waters had subsided, and to see wild flowers on Silver Star. The executive had an interesting meeting at the unique cabin home, tree house and garden of one of the group.

At our first meeting in September, Dr. Karl Larsen from Thompson Rivers University told us about grey squirrels, and in October Harold Sellars talked about the Trans Canada Trail. Pat McAllister and Margaret Mackenzie showed us pictures of hiking and birding in Northern Greece and on an island after our AGM and election of officers in November. Rod Drennan continues to be our president. September hikes had been to Ellison Park on Okanagan Lake and Blue Nose. An October trip took us to Middleton Mountain looking for sites for bird signs offered by a BC Hydro grant.

November trips took us to Adventure Bay above Okanagan Lake, part of the Grey Canal and a bird walk in Kal Park getting ready for the bird count.

In December, various parties took part in the Christmas bird count ending up at the Bishop Bird Sanctuary for goodies and the final count. There were several birders from other clubs in attendance to compare results. Our Bird of the Day was a Golden crowned sparrow, rarely seen on previous counts. At our annual Swan and Eagle Count, there were fewer swans and more eagles than in previous years.

Dr. James Baker from Thompson Rivers University spoke at the February meeting about artifacts uncovered with the road excavations for the Highway 97 improvements through Lake Country. Debbie Clark spoke about National Parks and about the proposals for the SOS park at the March meeting and our April speaker was Mike Carlson with a forestry background. Harold Sellars showed a video of the Birds of Paradise at our May meeting.

Several went on a trip to the South Okanagan at the end of May, staying at a motel near Vaseau Lake, and stopping at several places including Hardy Falls to bird on the way down. One trip was to the hillsides above and East of Osoyoos and stopping at the Nk’Mip Desert Cultural Centre in the afternoon to see how aboriginal peoples had lived in the desert. We then walked those trails and saw a reconstructed village with teepees. The next day we went West and South of Osoyoos to Kilpoola Lake. Some of us hiked South to the border of a grassland park which extends to the border. We needed to return to Kilpoola lake to join others for lunch. Jack and Lyn Smith then showed us the Sparrow Grasslands, which they had seen on an earlier BC Nature trip, involving a drive on a rough road through the grasslands and a lovely ridge walk above the Nighthawk border crossing where we saw lots of pink Bitterroot and other Spring desert flowers.

For our May meeting we saw a video about the “Birds of Paradise”. Ten days later, we held our Annual Field Day at Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park. Permission from Coldstream Ranch to hike into the Deep Lake area had been granted, which one group did. The other members birded or looked at flowers and vegetation. After lunch, we followed a nature trail back to the cars where we also composed ditties about the days activities. Our evening banquet was held at the UBCO College campus overlooking Kal Lake with a guest speaker from Rotary who told us about and showed slides of his time in Kenya. At the end of May some of us stayed at a motel near Vaseux lake, with access to the South Okanagan. One of our trips included the hillsides East of Osoyoos and stopping at the Nk’Mip Desert Cultural Centre. Another day we went to Kilpoola Lake and some of us walked South to a new park boundary. After lunch at the lake we drove to and then

hiked on the Sparrow Grasslands, a recent addition to the protected areas.

In June, Swan Lake flooded again, making the bird blind inaccessible without wearing waders. Some of the water courses had changed. June 1st was BC Trails Day. Our group offered to show people Swan Lake trails not realizing that Swan Lake had flooded again covering some of the trails and preventing access to the blind. It was exciting to see large carp spawning in the shallows above the flooded trails. After one June hike to Ellison Park a pileated woodpecker was admiring himself in the side mirror or perhaps attacking the red shiny car? Other June trips were to Rose Swanson above Armstrong, Predator Ridge and Blue Nose. July trips include one to Sovereign Lake trails on Silver Star, another day trip on the Silver Star Mountain trails and a trip to Cousens Bay on Kal Lake. Sometimes it has been simply too hot to hike, so a few of us swam at lake side places. A proposed trip to Yeoward in the Monashee was delayed by one week because of the heat. Most of the flowers had gone to seed. We enjoyed seeing the Western anemones' tow head baby or mop top seed heads covering the meadow. There were also a few grounsels, pussy toes and yarrow plants. In the woods lower down there were grass of parnassus and globe flowers.

Other activities I must mention are monitoring blue bird trails, a group which bands humming birds, other birding groups, weeding and checking Cools pond and Swan Lake, getting bird signage on Middleton Mountain with a BC Hydro grant and an active Young Naturalists group led by Aaron Deans at the Bishop Bird Sanctuary.

### **Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists Jaqueline Castellarin**

The past year the Oliver/Osoyoos naturalist club continued to make nature more meaningful to its members, through its fall and spring hikes. These activities are selected to be both easy or challenging as well as informative. Fall hikes begin in September and end in November. Spring walks are from March to July.

The AGM was held in the spring with election of officers. Greg Byron is our new president and Dan Nieman is our vice president. The other officers retained the same positions.

The film "On The Line" was shown and in mid September we helped with the annual Vaseux Lake cleanup.

Doug Brown, past president, does bird banding from August to mid October at the Vaseux Lake station. Members who help, gain valuable skills in bird identification. This year he is offering, in the evenings a few sessions to people interested in sightings of Saut-wet Owls. Our dedicated Doug continues to offer Tuesday mornings walks and bird identification pointers.

In December, volunteers helped with the annual bird count. A few less hardy individuals prepared supper for the hungry group.

This year we donated \$2000.00 to the Nature Conservancy toward the purchase of the Sage and Sparrow grasslands and the Elkink Ranch South conservation project.

June 20-25th saw some of our members host the Central Okanagan naturalists who chose to visit our area. They were taken to the Burrowing Owl Project, as well to the Desert Centre for a pot luck meal. Doug Brown led a group to the Nature Conservancy areas. On Sunday the group was split and visited Road 22, Testalinden Flats or Mount Kobau.

The Solana Key Enhancement Committee received last August (2012) a permit from Transport Canada. A water sign was installed inside the log booms. In the spring reflective tape, three buoys with permit and regulations were posted on site. Our organization spent \$500.00 at this time for materials and installation. In June the work was vandalized and the lines and buoys were stolen. In August new equipment was put in place. Again the project was vandalized. This dedicated group replaced the equipment and secured it with concrete weights and tethered it with aircraft cable. We hope this will stop the individual from continuing the sabotage. The project to save the Painted Turtles habitat has become expensive, time consuming as well as frustrating.

Our web site is still in progress. At present it is bogged down due to lack of funds and expertise among members. Hopefully we can have it up for next spring. We are looking forward to the new seasons.

### **Shuswap Naturalist Club Janet Pattinson**

This spring members of the Shuswap Naturalist Club set up a new set of nest boxes in hopes of attracting bluebirds or swallows. However, we didn't have any nesting pairs this year. Volunteers to monitor the boxes are now being recruited in anticipation of next spring.

This fall our club is collaborating with the Shuswap Association of Writers to sponsor a BC writer whose works have a focus on nature. Theresa Kishkan's presentation, "Forests of Memory" will be a reading from her works that give her

experience with trees. This event on October 27th will be at the SAGA Art Gallery in Salmon Arm.

Clive Bryson will also be presenting a fifteen minute digital slide show, "A Shuswap Dream", showing the end of the incredible journey of the sockeye salmon to the Adams River in 2010.

Our western grebe monitoring team of Ed and Monica Dahl are excited to report that they counted a record number of young grebes this summer: 191. This is greater than the numbers of all the years since our club members have been keeping records.

This year's award to a student of Thompson Rivers University will be made in memory of John Coffey, a valued member of our club, an educator, a warden of Mara Meadows and a role model for all those who love the natural world.

This fall we look forward to presentations at our meetings on rare plant species and on wetlands.

### **South Okanagan Naturalists Club Joyce Hoglund**

The South Okanagan Naturalists' Club had a busy 2012 celebrating the 50th anniversary of our club. A number of special events were held during the year including 3 exhibits at the Penticton Museum – one celebrating 50 years of conservation and the second about invasive species. The third event celebrated nature in art and the exhibit featured many local artists displaying their works.

In the last year and a half SONC and its members have donated more than \$8300 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada and The Nature Trust of BC for land purchases in the south Okanagan as well as additional donations to the South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls and The Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC and the WITS program in the south Okanagan bringing the Club's total donations to just about \$10,000 in that time. The Club continues to give a \$500 bursary at Okanagan College in Penticton and a \$100 prize at the local middle school science fair.

Club activities include weekly birding trips throughout the South Okanagan as well as day and over-night trips around the valley during the warmer months. At the end of July ten club members travelled to Sun Peaks Resort near Kamloops to view the mountain meadows in bloom. "Birding" stops were made at Stump Lake and the Beaver Flats Ranch Wetlands on the return trip.

Our annual "end-of-the-year" picnic at the Summerland Research Station gardens was attended by 40 club members at the beginning of July.

The "Okanagan Valley Birding Trail" guide continues to provide helpful information for visitors to the valley. The Penticton Golf and Country Club paid for a beautiful interpretive bird sign produced by SONC members to be installed on the golf course. A brochure was also produced by the Golf Club illustrating the 60 of the most common birds encountered on the course.

Other Club projects include White Lake IBA road clean up, Habitat Garden maintenance at Okanagan College and Challenge Penticton (Ironman) cleanup.

As always our Conservation committee sent several letters of concern regarding the proposed pipeline and national park, ATV use on back roads, demise of the Sage grouse, etc.

### **Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists Janis Wright**

We in the Similkameen celebrate every season, and our club of 75 members has been active this past year organizing various projects, special events, monthly speakers and regular field trips.

Hummingbird banding reached a milestone this season, as our dedicated team, under the expert guidance of Sue Elwell, banded more than 700 hummers, including males, females and juveniles of 4 species: Rufous, Calliope, Black-chinned and Anna's. More juveniles were captured this year than last, and the number of Anna's banded more than tripled this year, an indication they are expanding their territory. A highlight was capturing a female Rufous which had previously been banded in Arizona only 2 weeks prior to its capture here!

Our Swan Lake committee, led by Madelon Schouten, applied for and received another grant, and we look forward to developing an information centre and more sophisticated trail signage. We are grateful to Habitat Public Conservation Trust Fund for its support! Our club also received donations from friends and family in memory of long standing member Bob Cormack, who passed away in March. The donations were used to apply protective Lexan to Bob's beautifully painted sign depicting the unique kettle formations of the area. As well, visitors to the area have been very complimentary and appreciative of the outhouse erected on site last fall.

Our bluebird boxes, which have been erected in a variety of areas within our district, continue to be checked and maintained on a regular basis, under the leadership of Trish Reid. We would request that ranchers return boxes to existing positions after fence repair, however. This season's checks revealed a few interesting findings: one box contained 4 eggs; another contained two fledglings with their parent; yet another contained a mountain chickadee, while the most unusual discovery was a box containing two flying squirrels!

Special events have included Princeton's ongoing participation in the annual Canada Bird Count, under the leadership of Madelon Schouten, as well as our continued involvement with the Meadowlark Festival, with two field trips and a film presentation organized once again by Joan Kelly. Joan and her husband Frank host our annual Christmas party as well, which is another popular event!

In addition, we have enjoyed some exceptional presentations this past year, notably Dr. Jason Jones speaking on migration, John Neville on Canadian raptors, Vic Sagorski on stormwater treatment, while club members Sue Elwell, Terry Tellier and Amanda Lahaie provided a well received talk on hummingbird banding.

Lastly, VFFN try to hold field trips twice a month, every month, so we have enjoyed snow shoeing in winter, visiting a sheep farm during the spring lambing season, kayaking in summer, and hiking in the mountains during autumn. Our club benefited in June by a visit from Lyn Grants and her North Vancouver hiking club, as both groups came together for several field trips over the course of a few days. It was a delight to host this most congenial collection of trekkers!

## **Vancouver Island Region Regional Coordinator - Penney Edwards**

### **Arrowsmith Naturalists Sandra Gray & Dave Hutchings**

It certainly doesn't seem a full year since the Arrowsmith Naturalists co-hosted the 2012 FGM with the Nanoose Naturalists. Since that time, we have enjoyed another busy year of stewardship, as well as interesting speakers and outings.

**Stewardship** - Our stewardship work on the Englishman River Estuary property of the Nature Trust continues. For the most part, our role is to rid the property of invasive scotch broom and spotted knapweed, an infestation which has occupied us for the best part of 10 years. Our small dedicated band of "broompullers", led by Maggie Little, has made significant inroads on these two invasives but, because of the years of seed build-up in the soil, the work will continue into the foreseeable future. What keeps us going, however, is the noticeable year-to-year impact which our efforts have made and the tremendous support of the Nature Trust in safely disposing of the piles of cut and pulled invasives and in providing tools and some additional manpower from time to time.

Another goal of our efforts on the Englishman Estuary is the planting of conifers in the areas affected by the invasives. Our success has been somewhat mixed due, in part, to poor soils, summer drought and browsing by deer and rabbits. However, the next few months may see a further planting, this time with deciduous species such as red alder.

This last spring, as the annual Brant Wildlife Festival began, we were very happy to hear that another 93 hectares has been added to the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area, increasing its overall size to 1,245 hectares. These new additions, comprised of land owned by The Nature Trust and leased to the Ministry, include a five-kilometre stretch of riparian habitat along the Englishman River which will help sustain a sensitive steelhead fishery, as well as protecting salmonid habitat and community water supplies.

**Bird counts, etc.** - Our 2012 Christmas Bird Count involved 47 birders who recorded a total of 114 species. As usual, the CBC concluded with a delightful potluck supper for the birders and other club members. Thanks, once again, to Sandra Gray for her hard work and superb organization. And again this year Roger Simms did the Baillie, but with a twist. He conducted his 2013 Birdathon in Hungary, where he counted 122 species.

Also this Spring, Lynne Brookes and Derrick Grimmer hosted work bees to build nest boxes for the newly-established Moorecroft Regional Park. Over 50 boxes were put together in the space of 2 hours by A. Nats and friends. Special thanks should go to Lynne and Derrick's friend Frank who spent hours cutting components, planning the assembly, in addition to donating the use of tools and arranging the donation of the cedar wood.

Starting in April and ending in August, the club took part in the survey of Western Sandpipers migration sites on Eastern Vancouver Island. The survey, coordinated between Bird Studies Canada and Simon Fraser University and conducted over three weekends, hopes to determine some of the causes of a decline in Western Sandpiper numbers in our hemisphere.

**Other activities** - Once again, we were part of the Earth Day celebrations in Qualicum Beach and, on the same weekend, the annual Hamilton Marsh tour, which focuses on life in the marsh as well as the role the marsh plays in our fresh water supplies. Both children and adults alike remain fascinated at the abundance of life which a marsh supports.

As part of the Brant Wildlife Festival, the club provided the opportunity for the public to view the "Brant on the Bay". With the support of the Nature Trust and the organization of Sandra Gray, the club provided scopes, binoculars and information for the public to view and understand the migration of Black Brant geese.

In August, together with the Young Naturalists, the Arrowsmith Naturalists participated in Parksville's annual Kidfest, a one-day fair focusing on keeping children active. Our exhibit focused on life in the intertidal zone, with displays of live specimens (sea stars, geoduck clams, eels, scallops, clams, crabs – to name a few) in closed tanks and touch tanks where the quality of the water and oxygen levels are closely monitored. Needless to say, the exhibit was a hit with both young and old. Thanks to Island Scallops and our volunteers for providing our specimens and then returning them to the wild. Thanks also to Pam Helem, Lynne Brookes and Alison Bakker for working so hard to provide an experience which gets better each year.

**Meetings and outings** - For our monthly general meetings, Alison Bakker has provided a wide variety of stimulating speakers. Among the speakers, Terry Thormin, a naturalist and photographer recently retired from the Royal Alberta Museum, spoke about the many species of dragon flies on Vancouver Island; Ramona de Graff showed us the tremendous value of, and the threats to forage fish along our shores; Don Doyle kept us updated on the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Project, and Andy McKinnon provided an illustrated talk on the Alpine Plants of Vancouver Island.

Dave Erickson, one of our newer members, has taken over our club outings and has laid out a fine program. As a follow-up to his earlier talk, Terry Thormin led a walk to Enos Lake and the new Moorecroft Regional Park to examine the many species of dragonflies in their habitat. Genevieve Singleton, from the Cowichan Valley Naturalists, led us on a walk through the Mt. Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve and into areas of the reserve not normally accessible. Other outings included Denman and Hornby Islands and the beautiful Helliwell Park bluffs, the Reifel Wild Bird Sanctuary, our annual mushroom/fungi walk, a moss walk and our annual hike on Mount Washington to view the wildflowers in the Paradise Meadows.

**Membership** - Club membership has remained at healthy levels. Gail Armstrong has pursued those who might have "dropped by the wayside" and has done her utmost to make sure that new members and visitors feel welcome. We finished off the year in July with the annual club picnic, once again at Rath Trevor Provincial Park. The food was great, the company marvelous, and the setting spectacular with the huge Rath Trevor beach and the backdrop of veteran Douglas firs.

We have done a little more outreach to the community this past year by appearing at local farmers' markets and maintaining our presence at annual events such as Earth Day, the Brant Wildlife Festival, the Hamilton Marsh tour and Kidfest. Our website also has served us well, thanks to the efforts of David Helem. Both our community presence and the website have attracted some new memberships in the last six months.

## **Comox Valley Naturalists Society Sharon Niscak**

Comox Valley Nature is engaged in several dynamic and challenging projects. The initial Garry Oak recovery and replanting program was so successful that to achieve targets a nursery and infrastructure was created and 5,000 acorns planted in pots. Despite the support from the community the rare Garry Oak Vanier remnant grove is again being threatened by developers.

Our club president, Loys Maingon, is also engaged in a plan to save Hamilton Mack Laing's home "Baybrook" on the Comox estuary. The cost is estimated to be between \$150K and \$200K. Laing collected for the National Museum, wrote for almost every North American outdoor nature magazine and was a friend and contemporary of many noted ornithologists, including Allan Brooks and P.A. Taverner. He was also an artist, photographer, teacher and tenacious nut tree horticulturist.

Dulcie Hamilton received the Society's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the Filberg Centre on Sunday, May 19. Over the past five decades Dulcie actively engaged in stewardship activities throughout the Comox Valley. On March 3, 1968 Dulcie led a fieldtrip and has been continuously involved with Comox Valley Naturalists in numerous capacities.

The Birders Group had three field trips in April and May to look for arriving song birds, and a field trip to Kye Bay on March 19th to study the thousands of gulls associated with the herring spawn. Our annual Spring Bird Count on May 5 tallied 132 species. In late summer the shorebird migration was underway and two trips to Oyster Bay were made to Oyster Bay in August. The highlight at Oyster Bay was good looks at two Parasitic Jaegers that were harassing Bonaparte's Gulls.

Excursions to Sointula and Tree Island also engaged club members in the spring. As fall approaches birders will be preparing weekly wintering season trumpeter swan and monthly water bird surveys. The photography group, botany group and young naturalists have enthusiastically explored nature with respect and passion throughout the year.

Weekly walks for members and selected walks for the public have continued to engage people in the appreciation of

our natural world. The walks range from the mountain meadows in Strathcona Park to our forests, rivers and the sub-tidal zones along our coast. John Tayless led an informative walk at low tide to explore the marine environment at Point Holmes. Among the edible seaweeds and under the rocks a variety of starfish, sea cucumbers, midshipman, crab and an assortment of crustaceans were observed. Another highlight was a trip to Harewood Plains where *Hosackia pinnata* were in bloom.

Long-time member Diana Maloff passed away May 25, at the age of 90. Diana became the coordinator of the Trumpeter Swan Count, led nature walks and was an avid birder. Barbara Sedgewick, another avid birder, and dynamic member who led the Birding Group for many years passed away in April. Vicki Hansen, avid birder and naturalist also passed away. A remembrance ceremony was held in Campbell River for Vicki in August. Their enthusiasm and joyful shared experiences will long be remembered.

### **Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society Eric Marshall**

During the summer of 2012 club activities took a vacation. However, many members were involved in ongoing projects. The Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre, which opened in April 2012 is run mostly by volunteers many of whom are our members. The Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team was working to 'Bring back the bluebirds' to the Cowichan Valley and members were helping this project. By fall some half dozen pairs of birds had been brought in from Washington State, some with babies. The last bluebird was seen by one of our members in October before it headed south for the winter. In 2013 three more pairs and eight juveniles were brought in and some of last year's birds returned.

In September our regular series of monthly evening meetings started and continued until May 2013. The Coffee House series of talks on the first Monday of each month started in October and was rounded off in May 2013 with a tour of the Chemainus River. In December the evening meeting was a Solstice Party where our Young Naturalists joined the senior members for a potluck party with music and Mrs Claus came with presents for the YNs. We usually round off the year with a picnic in a local park in June. However, as 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of Eves Park we combined our annual picnic with the anniversary celebrations which included removal of invasive species, nature walks, music, arts and speeches.

A number of birding and butterfly outings was held during the year. The annual count of swans and geese in the Valley during the winter months started in November and continued until March when the trumpeter swans headed back north. Each Wednesday a small group drove around the area and this year again counted any raptors seen as well as the swans and geese. We now have four years of swan and goose counts and two years of raptor counts. Throughout the summer the Wednesday birding group met from time to time. Our Christmas Bird Count took place as usual on January 1st.

The Society has representatives on a number of local committees including; Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable, Somenos Management Committee and Technical Advisory Committee of the Cowichan Watershed Board. Working through these groups we have been involved in a number of projects. In the fall of 2013 at the request of the Watershed Board the Provincial Ministry of the Environment collected waters samples from the Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers and from the streams flowing into the south side of Cowichan Bay as well as sampling the waters of the Bay. This was mostly done immediately following the first rains of the Fall in order to indentify sources of pollution. A number of local groups supplied volunteers and we provided them for the south side of Cowichan Bay. Farm runoff was a major source of coliforms. The lower Koksilah River and the south side of the Bay being the main farming areas. Sampling started up again in the late summer of 2013.

For a number of years DFO has been coming to the Bay each April with a seine net to see when Chinook juveniles move from the Cowichan River into the Bay. Again we have provided willing bodies to help haul in the net and record the species of fish found in the net at the different locations sampled. The sampling ended in June.

In 2013 the Society applied to the Federal Government for two summer students for the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre – our application was successful. These students, in addition to dealing with routine matters in the Centre, ran a series of summer camps for children.

Our Conservation Committee has been busy during the year. Low water flows in the Cowichan River in 2012 were a major problem for spawning salmon. Representations were made to the Provincial Government requesting that changes be made to the 'rule curve' under which the outflow of Lake Cowichan over the weir is followed be changed. A small change was eventually approved for 2013 which should improve the situation. A new management plan for Bright Angel Park was under discussion and our comments were sent. The Municipality of North Cowichan which owns a property in the Somenos Marsh area is proposing to build a new police station there as part of this land now sits behind the new flood dike. However, the land is in the ALR and thus needs to be removed before it could be rezoned. We are opposed to removing any part of the Marsh from the ALR.

In August the Land Trust obtained funding to transplant eelgrass in Cowichan Bay area. 2009 was the last year in which eelgrass was transplanted with help from our members. Log booms on the north side of the Bay killed off the eelgrass and an area close to the north shore is no longer a booming area and eelgrass was transplanted there and in 2009 the trans-

plants appeared to be doing well and increasing in numbers. However an initial survey in 2013 found that the transplanted eelgrass was no longer there. Had swans eaten them or a storm washed them away? In 2013 our members helped others fasten washers to over 1,000 eelgrass shoots for subsequent transplanting.

Sadly we have now lost long time and life member, Syd Watts. He was a great source of information on how nature used to be in our Valley. He passed away on May 25th. We will miss him. He was Warden of the Mount Tzouhalem Nature Reserve for many years. He was a prime mover in getting this area made into a reserve. A mountain in Strathcona Provincial Park is named after him.

### **Nanose Naturalists Report Joe Crichton**

After co-hosting the very successful BC Nature meeting in Parksville last fall our club enjoyed a great winter of speakers and outings.

We began the year with a meeting that has become a tradition at the Club where members get a chance to talk about or show photos of interesting things they had done or been involved with. Lots of members participated with everything from fun things at the backyard feeder to birdwatching in Chile.

The rainy weather made our monthly outings a bit spare but the February meeting was a real highlight for all plant lovers. Andy MacKinnon the co-author of *Trees of British Columbia*, the accepted reference on the subject, was our guest speaker. Mr. MacKinnon had a new book about to be released on Alpine Plants. We advertised the event widely and drew a large crowd with the guests greatly outnumbering the club members. Andy held the audience captive with an entertaining and informative hour or so on the huge variety of fauna we can find here.

With this success we invited Jessica Wolfe to our March meeting to talk about the useful plants found on the island. Her incredible knowledge meant her talk ranged widely, from the difficulties of finding edible mushrooms, to the decorative uses we have for plants, and on to the vast number of medical qualities so many local plants process. Once again we encouraged many new people to attend and guests far outnumbered the members. It was gratifying to see that we can reach out to a wider community and encourage them to appreciate the wonders that are around us.

Terry Thormin was our next speaker who took us into the fascinating world of Dragonflies. Who knew there were so many fascinating species on the island? Terry's fantastic photos kept us entertained while he described the various characteristics and behaviours of these many species.

Despite the rainy weather this winter we did manage a few good outings including a very informative trip to the Sturgeon Research Centre at VIU. Those fish are massive. We were shown through the operation by the facility's manager. There is a lot of excellent research going on there concerning this ancient fish. They were awaiting the arrival of a post-doctoral student to advance the program, so maybe a future talk about new research may be in the works.

Our last outing was to check out the wild flowers of Harewood Plains but spring was a bit late so we went exploring the nearby Harewood 'abyss.' This is a fascinating geological feature brought to life for us by our past president Tony Ransom who knows his geology. But an even more amazing discovery for our group, was the petroglyphs carved into the stone. Thought to be many centuries old they presented us with many more questions than answers.

Now we are looking forward to our summer break and more great education and promotion of nature on Vancouver Island

### **Pender Islands Field Naturalists Patricia Crossley**

We are pleased to report on the activities of Pender Island Field Naturalists for the past year, as follows:

September, 2012 - Sunny skies and calm seas greeted 20 Penderites as we set sailed once again on our annual boat trip to Race Rocks. Led by Gerry McKeating and Stuart Scholefield, the group enjoyed excellent views of Rhinoceros Auklets and Heermann's Gulls, both species more numerous than in previous years. While Rhinos breed on some islets within the region and are regularly seen from shore in the fall and winter, the Heermann's Gull breeds in the Gulf of California and is present in our waters only during the summer months. Although there were large flocks of Glaucous-winged Gull, our common species on the coast, bird numbers and species diversity was less than on previous trips. We floated with the rip several times giving everyone ample opportunity to photograph the many California and Steller's Sea Lions present. Many seals were also there but we missed the elephant seal seen by others on different trips. Also missed, for the first time, were whales, no humpbacks or orcas, though seen in the area a couple of days before – and after – our trip.

November, 2012 - A break in the wet weather helped nine keen field naturalists from Pender Island to enjoy the many birds of the Reifel Refuge and Boundary Bay on Wednesday, November 14th. Jude and Al Grass from the lower mainland shared their extensive knowledge of the region with the group. At Reifel, we noted many species of waterfowl as

well as other birds. Included in the highlights were a male Black-crowned Night Heron, resplendent in the sunshine, Reifel being one of the few locations in south-western British Columbia where night herons can be regularly found; several large flocks of Snow Geese gabbling in flight against the clear blue sky; and a Northern Shrike, an uncommon winter visitor from further north. We didn't even need the warming hut to eat lunch but propped ourselves up on the outside sunny deck to munch away and watch the many waterfowl on the adjacent slough. From Reifel we then made our way to Boundary Bay at the end of 72nd Street. We were greeted by a flying Short-eared Owl and to our left, at least six Snowy Owls. In one field of view through my binoculars I had four snowys perched along the bay shoreline. Spectacular. Other raptors were present with Northern Harriers putting on a brilliant show. Storms of Dunlins, probably in the thousands, flew with remarkable precision, often disturbed by a Bald Eagle or other raptor looking for a bite to eat.

December, 2012 - The big event for the past few weeks for the Field Naturalists group was the 49th annual Christmas Bird Count held on December 15th. Despite gale force winds and blustery gusts, birders from the Penders, Mayne and Saturna recorded 83 species plus 2 additional species during count week, an excellent list considering the weather and only a few species less than 2011 when the weather was much more benign. When I am involved with a project over the years, I am always fascinated how different bird presence or absence can be or what new species may be observed. This year, American Robins, were uncommon with the only flock that I saw was one containing over 50 birds. And for our 3 islands only 4 House Sparrows and 40 Rock Doves (common pigeons) were counted with most of those on Mayne Island. A Screech Owl was heard in Magic Lake, the first one recorded on the count in a number of years. Other unusual species for here at this time of year included Green-winged Teal and Wood Duck. The most numerous species was Pine Siskin with 2356 being counted. Anna's Hummingbird numbers remained constant with 46 recorded, 1 less than in 2011. All told, 13,436 individual birds were recorded, about 2000 fewer than last year.

February, 2013 - A group of us visited the Shaw Discovery Centre in Sidney where we were aided by friendly and knowledgeable volunteers. All the marine life on display is from the Salish Sea and it is fabulous.

March, 2013 - Six of us enjoyed a brisk hike on March 19th from Shingle Bay along the lower trail to the new land acquired by Parks Canada. A delightful area but the Eurasian wigeon recorded there on a couple of occasions recently was not to be found. A few sea ducks were about but many of our wintering species have moved on. We hiked up to the Shingle Bay road back down the main trail by Roe Lake where we noted a pair of Wood Duck. While they are found on the Penders each year and do breed here, they are uncommon on the islands.

April, 2013 - Early spring has been an active time for the Field Naturalists. Ten participants joined Bonnie Parks to view fawn lilies, calypso orchids and other spring flowers on her property by Mortimer Spit. As in previous years, the Field Naturalists participated in the annual beach cleanup on April 20th. Thanks to the volunteers who helped us at Hamilton Beach and to all those individuals and organizations who helped to keep our beaches clean. Stuart Scholefield led a group on April 24th around Brooks Point. The park has an excellent stand of lilies and other flowers.

June, 2013 - On June 19th, ten members of the Field Naturalists journeyed to Salt Spring Island to explore several of the Garry Oak Nature Reserves located there. Led by Gerry McKeating and joined on Salt Spring by Kees and Nieke Visser of the Salt Spring Conservancy Association, we explored a portion of the reserve at Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park below Mount Maxwell. We walked down the good hiking trail for a kilometer or two and saw an extensive stand of large oak extending up the cliffs of the mountain. From there, we travelled to the Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve located in the centre of the island south of Ganges. The reserve was unknown to us so it was with great interest that we hiked the two kilometer loop trail. The property was donated by the Vogt family for conservation purposes and is maintained by the Salt Spring Conservancy. Here some of the flower species that are important components of the Garry Oak – Douglas Fir ecosystem were still in bloom. These included Sea Blush, Yellow Monkey Flower, Hooker's Onion, Fool's onion, Harvest Brodiaea, Common Camas and Meadow Death-Camas. Views from up on the ridge of the surrounding islands were fantastic.

August, 2013 - Fourteen members of the Field Naturalists visited Sidney Spit on August 8th. The spit and nearby lagoon is a well known area for the concentration of shorebirds and other species during migration periods. We took the shuttle ferry from the Sidney Pier and enjoyed the 25 minute ride to the island. At the landing, we were met by a Caspian Tern not normally seen off Pender and, on the pier, a raucous number of Purple Martins. The nest boxes erected here were very well used by the martins. A walk down the spit revealed over two dozen Great Blue Herons feeding in the shallow tidal flats. We were pleased to see Black-bellied Plovers and Pacific Golden Plovers, two species that breed in the Arctic environment, on their way south to their wintering grounds. While the anticipated large groups of small sandpipers were not present, we did see a small group of Least and Western Sandpipers. Areas like Sidney Island are important staging areas for migratory shorebirds. Some birds will spend several days or longer feeding extensively to put on fat for the next stage of their long migratory journey. Fortunately most of it is protected by Parks Canada who manage the area and its trail system.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Our next field trip is on September 28th to Race Rocks which is located towards the western entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. (our annual event)
- Possible trip to Boundary Bay and environs
- Christmas Bird Count.

#### Projects

- Members of PIFN volunteered to assist with the Eagle Monitoring Program sponsored by the Pender Island Conservation Association
- Annual Beach Cleanup
- Several PIFN members have been working to update the Bird Checklist for the Pender Islands and surrounding waters. This is a substantial project as we are attempting to provide relative abundance designations for each species according to the season. When complete, anticipated in late autumn, it will be a helpful aid to islanders and visitors alike.
- Embarked on an awareness program by having displays at the Farmers' Market and the Pender Island Fall Fair.
- Christmas Bird Count

#### Rocky Point Bird Observatory Michael Simmons

What a year we have had! Our second fall migration monitoring site at Pedder Bay (just 4km north of Rocky Point) was fully operational for the entire fall migration in 2012. At Rocky Point more Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded than ever before and we recaptured five owls banded elsewhere. We started a project using new tracking technology, and are anxiously waiting for the returning Fox Sparrows.

Full reports on our projects are available on our website, [www.rpbo.org](http://www.rpbo.org) This report covers some of the highlights.

We broke a lot of records in 2012. Almost 5,900 birds were banded during fall migration between the two sites. 814 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded during nocturnal banding at Rocky Point. A record number of individuals (58) were recaptured at least a year after their original banding.

For the first time we have a direct comparison between Rocky Point and a nearby site during fall migration. At the highest level we captured a lot fewer birds per unit of effort at Pedder Bay than at Rocky Point, about 65%. While the species counts were similar (59 and 63) the species composition was very different. For example the most frequently captured species at Pedder Bay was Fox Sparrow and at Rocky Point it was Pacific Slope Flycatcher.

Observations of diurnal migrants dramatically demonstrate the significance of Rocky Point. Of six selected migrant species (Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned, Copper's and Red-tailed Hawks, Band-tailed Pigeon and American Pipit) more than twice as many of each species were observed at Rocky Point than at Pedder Bay. While these results need to be checked carefully to ensure consistency in observational effort they do seem to confirm the findings of our banding efforts.

What do these results tell us? Our first conclusion is that Rocky Point is, as we have always thought, the most significant fall migration site on Vancouver Island. This doesn't mean that the data obtained at Pedder Bay was insignificant, though, as they added a lot of information about our target species, some of which occurred in greater numbers than at Rocky Point.

Also, our open site at Pedder Bay allowed many new volunteers to experience fall migration and many others to learn about bird behaviour by casual and organised interaction with the Pedder Bay site. Finally we are able to seriously address our mission to educate the wider public about the importance of conserving birds and their habitats. We have recently obtained grants to help finance RPBO school programs for Victoria area schools.

Despite the high numbers of newly banded birds, recaptures were the highlight of this year's owl season. Two Northern Saw-whet Owls banded as second-year birds at Rocky Point in 2011 were recaptured in 2012. An unprecedented five birds banded elsewhere were recaptured at Rocky Point last year; two from Tatlayoko Lake Bird Observatory (TLBO), two from Cobble Hill, and a Northern Saw-whet Owl banded on its release from the Orphaned Wildlife Society in Surrey in June 2011 was recaptured at Rocky Point in Oct 2012, establishing that it had indeed returned to the wild and survived for more than one year. In March an owl banded at Rocky Point in 2012 was recaptured on Bainbridge Island.

The nesting Northern Saw-whet Owl project in Boardman, Oregon got underway in 2012, with 41 adults and 88 young banded last spring. A fall visit resulted in 13 unbanded birds and one banded bird captured, showing that the tree plantation is used by both breeders and migrants.

MAPS continued both at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park and Madrona Farms in 2013. More than 500 individuals were banded, comprised of breeding birds and young of the year. Fifty-one recaptures provided additional data on the survivorship of these birds. While the focus of MAPS is on regularly nesting species, the volunteers were delighted when a Black and White Warbler was found in a net at Witty's Lagoon. RPBO's MAPS project is part of a network of more than 500 stations across North America. Thanks go out to CRD Parks, The Land Conservancy, and David and Nathalie Chambers for access to these great locations. In 2012, the Hummingbird Project saw numbers jump back a little from the abysmal spring of 2011. It appears that large numbers of migrating hummingbirds were killed by poor weather during their travels in 2011. As we know from isotope studies, though, each breeding population has a distinct winter home, too, and fortunately some groups escaped the damage.

An Anna's Hummingbird nest monitoring study is being undertaken in Esquimalt. This project was different than most of our work in that no birds were banded. Volunteers spent their time in the field locating nests then watching the behaviours of the birds while rearing their young. The Anna's Hummingbird is known to nest several times a year, but a lot of the details are missing. Social media was also a big part of communication on this project.

Miniaturisation technology is driving a revolution in migration research and spawned a new project for RPBO last winter. Very little is known about where any of our winter resident migrants breed. When the opportunity to use geolocators arose we created a research proposal in collaboration with the Stutchbury Laboratory at York University and assembled a volunteer field team. In January and March we deployed 30 geolocators on Fox Sparrows with a much larger control group banded. We expect about a 30% return of geolocator carrying birds this fall to the same wintering sites (more than twenty backyards around Victoria and two in Nanaimo). If all works as we expect the results will show us northward migratory travel routes and breeding locations.

All our new activities, especially the start-up of the Pedder Bay migration monitoring site created strains on the RPBO activity model which depends very substantially on volunteers. Last year over 6,000 volunteer hours were contributed for fall migration monitoring, and another approximately 2,000 volunteer hours for the Hummingbird project.

**SaltSpring Trail and Nature Club**  
**Nieke Visser**

December last year our club, once again, participated in the Christmas Bird Count. Since the \$5 participation fee was waived, our club made a donation instead. Salt Spring Island is divided in three zones, but thanks to CBC island coordinator the results were added up for Salt Spring Island as well. One hundred and forty four counters went out on a beautiful day and tallied 14,293 birds and 101 birds species.

As reported earlier, we experienced a serious volunteer drought leaving the Executive rather stressed. In November, a special general meeting was called to hear from the membership what they expected from the club in the near future. This very informative meeting led to a fruitful AGM in January 2013, during which an Executive with a number of new faces was installed. Hopefully this marks a turning point in volunteer recruitment. Starting in February our club partnered with the Capital Region District (CRD) and the University of Victoria to enable both a graduate and an undergraduate student to carry out their nature-oriented research on Salt Spring Island as part of the U of Vic's Coop program. Our Club's involvement provides feedback to the students and managing their payroll, the former being the fun part, the latter proving a challenging task for our treasurer however. With the assistance of the CRD accountant and our volunteer auditor (also an accountant) some issues have fortunately been resolved for the treasurer.

The Jack Foster Trail (where we installed a board walk over a wet stretch of trail last year with the help of a grant from the BC Nature Foundation) was further upgraded by adding a set of stairs to improve beach access. This project was funded by the Salt Spring Foundation and carried out completely by Club members under the inspiring leadership of Herb Otto, our Trail Coordinator. Herb is also the coordinator of our annual broom bash in Burgoyne Bay.

Another good news item came from BC Parks recently who provided a grant to our Club to install an information kiosk in Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park and provide trail signs in both Burgoyne Bay and Mount Maxwell Parks. Members of our club provided GPS data of all the existing trails in the two parks which were this time gratefully accepted by BC Parks.

Our club continues to work closely with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, for now mainly on the level of monthly presentations and keeping both organizations informed on each other's activities. At the time of writing, the Conservancy is in the middle of an fundraising campaign to acquire part of the Blackburn Lake property (a former "organic" golf course) and the Trail and Nature Club assists where possible.

We also accepted an invitation to attend a presentation by TimberWest regarding the construction of nature trails on their properties in the Cowichan Lake area. Since we have monthly outings to Vancouver Island including this area, we wrote a letter of support for this project. In June, we hosted a group of naturalists from Pender Island who were very interested in Gary Oak habitat's. Apart from the oaks we were lucky enough to find still many species of wild flowers on the higher elevations of the Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve. Furthermore, we continue to have weekly excursions to all parts of

**Victoria Natural History**  
**James Miskelly**

The 'new' as of fall last year Naturalist Guide to the Victoria Region has been widely acclaimed and sales are going well. They are available on the ferries, and we sell them at every event. So far approximately 1300 copies have been sold, and this fall we will ensure that all Victoria area schools are given a free copy for their libraries.

This Spring, our Society recognized David Anderson for his long dedication to the environment. Mr Anderson was made Honorary Life Member at our AGM in March, 2013.

This year, the VNHS again supported the highly successful effort to reintroduce the Western Bluebird to Vancouver Island. The Society donated \$4000 in addition to the many donations from the membership.

Our field trips continue to be well-attended. Besides the more conventional ones, a Spring trip involved a tracker, his dog (or coon-hound) and a long and exciting trip through the forest looking at the various signs of wildlife detected by the two. Speaking of field trips, our schools program in enjoying great success under the leadership of Bill Dancer and John Henigman. This program pairs interested school, scout, summer camp, or home school groups with field trip leaders in an effort to increase the availability of nature education. In the last year, almost 1000 students participated in the program and the coordinators hope to top 1000 in the coming year. French language options have been very popular, with 20% of all programming being French immersion groups.

The fourth annual Migratory Bird Day event was held on May 11 with participation from a dozen like-minded societies. The event included bird banding, a live raptor display, and birding walks and disseminated information on house cats, pesticides, coffee plantations, and habitat loss. This September, we will again be co-hosting Hawkwatch at Aylard Farm with CRD Parks. Included in the event will be our members appreciation barbeque.

Speaking of co-hosting, the Victoria Natural History Society will be co-hosting the BC Nature AGM May 1 – 4, 2014. Spring will be at its peak here in Victoria while the rest of the province is just waking up. Please come out and enjoy marine explorations, botany excursions, and, of course, birds. ♦



*From within the Blind*



*Pine Butte*

**Treasurer's Report  
David Tsang**

6 Month Financial Update:

As of June 30th we find ourselves with an operating surplus of \$29,504, against an annual almost breakeven -\$61. This is due to the fact that we have collected most of our club membership dues and camp revenues putting us at 80% of projected revenues. The second half the year we will focus on fundraising and advertising revenues from our publication.

Expenses are currently on target, spent \$58,383 of a budgeted \$111,511 which is 52% of budgeted at mid-year. Only one expense item was vastly different from budgeted, under awards (spent \$1,507 vs. a budgeted \$400), mostly for the purchase of pins which BC Nature will use for years to come.

Also approved was a transfers of funds: \$4,000 was approved to be transferred from our operating surplus to IBA. The balance of the unused special projects director fund was approved to be transferred over to the Harnessing Nature Project as BC Nature's contribution.

**The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists  
Operating Fund Actual vs. Budget June 2013**

	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Club membership dues	47,459	48,000	99%
Other membership dues and subscriptions	760	2,600	29%
Fundraising and appeal	3,116	17,000	18%
Insurance premium recovery	8,146	8,000	102%
Annual and fall general meetings (Revenue)	2,041	5,000	41%
Camps and special events (Revenues)	15,766	12,000	131%
Project administration fees	2,397	5,850	41%
Interest	38	250	15%
Advertising (BCnature magazine)	4,785	9,800	49%
Rent	2,700	2,700	100%
Miscellaneous	680	250	272%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>87,887</b>	<b>111,450</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Accounting	3,419	3,150	109%
Annual and fall general meetings (Expenses)	683	3,611	19%
Awards	1,507	400	377%
Bank charges	474	650	73%
BCnature magazine production and mailing		15,500	0%
Camps and special events (expenses)	12,581	9,000	140%
Dues	156	200	78%
Fundraising			100%
Internet	668	1,600	42%
Insurance premiums	9,075	9,500	96%
Office supplies, postage, printing	1,288	4,500	29%
Rent, services for Elders	500	1,500	33%
Salary and benefits - office	25,067	47,000	53%
Summer Student		4,600	0%
Supplies and miscellaneous	165	500	33%
Telephone	282	1,300	22%
Travel and accommodation (net of executive donations)	2,517	8,500	30%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>58,383</b>	<b>111,511</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>\$29,504</b>	<b>-\$61</b>	

**Club Membership Information - 2013**

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Total 2013</b>	<b>Total 2012</b>	<b>Website</b>
<b>Lower Mainland</b>			
Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club	68	70	<a href="http://www.abbymissionnatureclub.org/">http://www.abbymissionnatureclub.org/</a>
Alouette Field Naturalists	15	21	
Bowen Nature Club	105	97	
Burke Mountain Naturalists	197	173	<a href="http://www.bmn.bc.ca">www.bmn.bc.ca</a>
Chilliwack Field Naturalists	55	56	<a href="http://www.chilliwackfieldnaturalists.com">www.chilliwackfieldnaturalists.com</a>
Delta Naturalists Society	77	69	<a href="http://dncb.wordpress.com">http://dncb.wordpress.com</a>
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society	22	24	<a href="http://www.birdsonthebay.ca">www.birdsonthebay.ca</a>
Langley Field Naturalists Society	95	133	<a href="http://www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org/">http://www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org/</a>
Little Campbell Watershed Society	9	8	<a href="http://www.lcws.ca">www.lcws.ca</a>
Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society	23	41	<a href="http://www.penderharbourwildlife.com">www.penderharbourwildlife.com</a>
Royal City Field Naturalists	12	9	
Squamish Environmental Conservation Soc.	45	35	<a href="http://www.squamishenvironment.ca/">http://www.squamishenvironment.ca/</a>
Stoney Creek Environmental Committee	30	20	<a href="http://www.scec.ca/">www.scec.ca/</a>
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society	148	164	
Surrey Environmental Partners	7	7	
Texada Stickleback Group Association	7	6	<a href="http://www.texadastickleback.org">http://www.texadastickleback.org</a>
Nature Vancouver	854	758	<a href="http://www.naturevancouver.ca">www.naturevancouver.ca</a>
Whistler Naturalists Society	74	61	
White Rock & Surrey Naturalists Society	105	95	
WildResearch	258	172	<a href="http://www.wildresearch.ca">www.wildresearch.ca</a>
<b>Kootenays</b>			
Fernie Nature Club	46	75	<a href="http://www.ourfernie.com/fernie-nature-club">http://www.ourfernie.com/fernie-nature-club</a>
Rocky Mountain Naturalists Society	62	45	
West Kootenay Natrualists Association	114	109	<a href="http://www.kootenaynaturalists.org">http://www.kootenaynaturalists.org</a>
<b>Northern BC</b>			
Bulkley Valley Naturalists	54	64	<a href="http://www.bvnaturalists.ca">www.bvnaturalists.ca</a>
Kitimat Valley Naturalists	26	20	
MacKenzie Nature Observatory	31	33	<a href="http://mackenzienatureobservatory.ca/">http://mackenzienatureobservatory.ca/</a>
Prince George Naturalist Club	98	96	<a href="http://pgnc.wordpress.com">http://pgnc.wordpress.com</a>
Quesnel Naturalists	40	46	
Skeena Valley Naturalists	12	16	
Timberline Trail & Nature Club	15	15	
Williams Lake Field Naturalists	143	172	<a href="http://www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca">www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca</a>
<b>Thompson-Shuswap-Okanagan</b>			
Central Okanagan Naturalist Club	221	201	<a href="http://www.okanagannature.org/">http://www.okanagannature.org/</a>
Kamloops Naturalist Club	109	131	<a href="http://www.kamloopsnaturalistclub.ca/">http://www.kamloopsnaturalistclub.ca/</a>
Kamloops Thompson Trail Alliance **	15	12	<a href="http://www.kamloopsthompsontrailsalliance.com/">http://www.kamloopsthompsontrailsalliance.com/</a>
Lillooet Naturalist Club	97	111	<a href="http://www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org/">http://www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org/</a>
Nicola Naturalists	54	49	<a href="http://www.nicolanaturalists.ca/">http://www.nicolanaturalists.ca/</a>
North Okanagan Naturalists' Club	111	123	<a href="http://www.nonc.ca/">http://www.nonc.ca/</a>

Club Name	Total 2013	Total 2012	Website
North Shuswap Naturalists Club	16	16	
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists	64	65	
Shuswap Naturalists Club	99	97	<a href="http://www.shuswapnaturalists.org/">http://www.shuswapnaturalists.org/</a>
South Okanagan Naturalists Club	102	105	<a href="http://www.southokanagan.com">http://www.southokanagan.com</a>
Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists	72	85	
<b>Vancouver Island</b>			
Arrowsmith Naturalists	88	83	<a href="http://www.arrowsmithnats.org/">http://www.arrowsmithnats.org/</a>
Comox Valley Naturalists	176	150	<a href="http://www.comoxvalleynaturalists.bc.ca">http://www.comoxvalleynaturalists.bc.ca</a>
Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society	109	122	<a href="http://www.naturecowichan.net">http://www.naturecowichan.net</a>
Nanoose Naturalists	59	57	<a href="http://www.nanoosenaturalist.org/">http://www.nanoosenaturalist.org/</a>
Pender Island Field Naturalists	80	73	
Rithet's Bog Conservation Society	13	12	
Rocky Point Bird Observatory	65	78	<a href="http://rpbo.org/">http://rpbo.org/</a>
Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club	187	189	<a href="http://saltspringtnc.ca">http://saltspringtnc.ca</a>
Victoria Natural History Society	604	619	<a href="http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca">www.vicnhs.bc.ca</a>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5188</b>	<b>5049</b>	
Affiliate Clubs	20	18	
Life Members	24	23	
Subscription Members	13	13	
Direct Members	96	96	
<b>Total All Categories</b>	<b>5341</b>	<b>5199</b>	



*Snow Bunting*