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To know nature - and to keep it worth knowing.

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**DEADLINE FOR
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MOUNT EDZIZA PROVINCIAL PARK

BY MIKE NASH

It was early August 1996 when we set off to hike through BC's northern volcanic park. Our small group comprised Lyle Daly and myself from Prince George, and Josette Wier from Smithers. Six hours of driving north of Smithers on mostly paved road brought us to our staging point at Tatogga Lake, just south of Iskut. The weather was bleak and we expected to spend at least one night at Tatogga Lake. Part way through supper, however, our pilot stuck his head into the lodge and announced that there was clearing in the west and we could give it a try. The name on his business card under a red maple leaf read "Murray Wood, Canadian Bush Pilot".

As we walked down to the dock where the old Beaver was moored, the improvement in the weather wasn't as obvious to our less experienced eyes. But, Murray picked his way between clouds and mountain passes to put us safely down on Arctic Lake. The lake is well named, situated just south of the park boundary in a tundra like setting. There were white caps on the water and light rain on the windshield as we landed. We hurriedly put on rain gear and pack covers as Murray scrambled to get home before the weather closed in.

After months of planning and anticipation, we were finally on the ground at our starting point. It took us a while to get used to the sudden isolation as we contemplated the hundred kilometers of rugged mountain terrain we had to cross to reach our pickup point at Buckley Lake in 11 days time. Our path would take us through the Spectrum Range in the south end of the park, and would join the normal route around Mount Edziza in the north. The south section is little travelled, with no marked routes or trails. It includes high snowy plateaus; steep intersecting valleys and scree slopes; glacier fed creeks to ford; incessant winds; quicksand where even the rocks sink beneath you; and coastal sized grizzly bears who don't know much about people.

After disembarking from the plane, we shouldered 60 plus pound packs and walked a short distance before setting up our first camp. The weather improved a little, and we went for an evening stroll to survey the expanse of wilderness that was our new home.

Day 2 dawned clear as we were awakened around 5 a.m. by a hideous cackling noise next to the tents. Lyle later identified the source as a ptarmigan, and we discovered that they tend to make this sound mainly at first light. A short time later we all heard a loud "swooshing" sound over the tents that sounded like a jet aircraft without an engine. This UFO was undoubtedly some kind of large bird that we didn't have an opportunity to identify.

Our trek that day took us 12 kilometers in a northerly direction across Arctic Lake Plateau: a wide, boulder

strewn plain with snow patches and a vegetation cover of mosses, lichens and a few pioneering plants including Lupins and Mountain Avens. Many times, while walking over what appeared to be solid, dry ground, we sank deep into soft mud under the weight of the packs.

Just before lunch, Lyle spied a grizzly bear on the skyline of Wetalth Ridge. We watched it for a while, before continuing on a path that would take us well below it. The bear disappeared from sight, and then a few minutes later we observed a grizzly bear foraging several hundred meters below us. We presumed that it was the same animal, although the colours on its back looked different from the new angle. It had most likely caught our scent and had run down slope. We seemed to be in a safe viewing situation, and sat and glassed it for a while.

As we resumed our course, the bear began paralleling us on a path that would eventually intersect. We stopped to see what it would do. The bear slowly circled uphill until it was directly ahead and down wind of us. Then it purposefully began to close the distance between us, its large head swaying from side to side. We were three hours into the hike and already facing our first test; it would be twelve days before anyone would even start to look for us. This was different than any of our previous grizzly bear encounters: the bear's behaviour could have been curiosity, but it had the uncomfortable feel of something more. It was also obvious that it had all the time in the world to make its move as it slowly continued to close. It was, as the late Joseph Campbell might have said, a "sublime" experience" -- we were fully alive in the moment and nothing else existed for us.

We readied our defenses that now seemed rather meagre - two cans of pepper spray and one set of bear bangers. The bear bangers are impressive when they go off, but they present a dilemma since they could trigger an attack that might not otherwise occur.

The bear continued a deliberate approach, and after a brief conference we decided to retreat. We backed away to let the animal to decide what to do next. To our obvious relief this tactic worked. The detour cost us a few extra kilometers around the west side of Wetalth Ridge and an anxious period of looking over our shoulders with limited sight lines. We saw many places where the ground had been torn up by grizzly bear, and the rocks that had been carelessly cast aside were larger than we were used to seeing around such diggings.

The diversion did produce a bonus by taking us close to our first volcanic cinder cone and lava flow. There are many such features in the north section of the park, but Nahta Cone was the only recent example we saw in the south. Having rounded Wetalth Ridge, we camped that

evening at the north end of Little Arctic Lake, only two kilometers from the place of our encounter.

Day 3 was blustery and low overcast as we continued across the plateau to the wonderfully coloured Kuño Peak that marked the beginning of the Spectrum Range. To the west, across the steep sided gorge of Mess Creek, the glacier capped Boundary Range of the Coast Mountains were a constant scenic backdrop throughout our journey.

Rounding Kuno Peak, we descended past Outcast Hill to the north fork of Tadekho Creek. Glacier capped Yeda Peak was on our right, and ahead was the next day's seemingly impassable 2,000 foot (610 meter) scramble up Yagi Ridge. We were starting to relax from the previous day's bear encounter and were scanning for a campsite near the creek when Lyle spotted another grizzly bear on the other side of the creek, and more or less in our path. This time there were no detour options. After discussing strategy, we elected to circle around and try to locate a bivouac site on the scree slope above the bear. We filled our water bottles while fording the creek, and contemplated the possibility of not cooking supper that evening. Fortunately that wasn't necessary as we found a pleasant ledge with a good water supply from a dripping snow patch on the north side of the valley, well above the vegetated valley bottom.



The Yagi Ridge was half in cloud next morning as we resumed the climb. This was the big test of the trip as we stared in dismay at what a friend in Prince George who had done the route fifteen years earlier had casually referred to as a "grunt". There were a few tense moments as we crossed a snow gully followed by a section of rock scree that was steep and unstable. The entire climb was on rock scree where a simple sprain or fracture could have spelled disaster. Freezing rain or snow on this part of the route could easily delay travel.

It snowed a little as we crossed the plateau on the top and as we looked for a route down to Nagha Creek. Nagha glacier and Kitsu Peak at the head of the valley were impressive. However, even by early afternoon the creek was almost unfordable from the glacial melt water. We did manage to cross it safely and found a large flat grassy camp spot high on the north side of the valley that came with no less than two creeks for our first good wash of the trip.

Climbing on Day 5 from our camp to the Kitsu Plateau, we

walked by a very large, partly collapsed grizzly bear den. From the scats inside, it appeared to have been occupied by a sow with several yearling cubs. Every valley we crossed seemed to have a resident grizzly bear and little else in the way of big game. We wondered if this was a coincidence.

Crossing the seven kilometer wide Kitsu Plateau with its outstanding Obsidian deposits was one of the highlights of our trip. We were in and out of clouds, rain and snow all day, requiring attentive compass navigation. As we crossed the tongue of the Kitsu Glacier, I wondered where else can you vacation in August in a snow storm?

We descended another steep, rocky scree slope through the mist to Raspberry Pass. There, Josette found the remains of the century old telegraph line that was originally built to provide communication between North America and Europe. The venture had not been completed when the first successful Atlantic cable was laid; and thus it was never used for its original purpose. But it remained in local service until 1935.

On the east side of Raspberry Pass is the Bourgeaux Valley where archaeologists have uncovered the remains of many Tahltan hunting and obsidian working camps. The obsidian was valued for arrow tips and blades. From artifacts uncovered in the Calgary area, it is known to have been traded that far afield for at least 10,000 years. Access was probably interrupted several times by periods of glaciation and volcanic eruptions. (Reference *Glass and Ice—The Archaeology of Mt. Edziza* by Knut Fladmark, Simon Fraser University, 1985).

Our camp in Raspberry Pass was wet and was surrounded by more grizzly bear sign. It was Josette's turn to sleep in the solo tent. This lasted until the early hours when we were awakened by an urgent voice outside the tent: "Let me in, there's something walking in the creek!" Whereupon, Josette curled up between us and promptly fell asleep while Lyle and I lay slept fitfully for the rest of the night. Either through lack of sleep, or perhaps the trip just catching up with us, the next day's climb out of Raspberry Pass was the most tiring of the journey. After this, there was an unspoken chivalry concerning the tents!

We passed by the deep red of Cache hill and found a well used goat trail to descend. Below, in the desert like pass

between Walkout Creek and the Bourgeaux Valley, we crossed several sets of recent grizzly bear tracks in the snow - an obvious travel route. Day 6 ended at the most spectacular campsite of the trip. We were directly beneath Tadedda Peak, with its fairy tale, castle like appearance. The skies had cleared, and the northern end of the Spectrum Range was vividly coloured in the evening sun. The galaxy shone bright that night as the temperatures dropped well below freezing. All around us the next morning, the pebbles in the ground had been lifted by long needle columns of ice, and were collapsing with tinkling sounds as the sun touched them.

On Day 7, Mount Edziza and the Tencho Glacier came into sight for the first time. At the head of Ghakima Creek, we joined the more popular route from Mowdade Lake. We were leaving behind the wild and little travelled southern part of the park: the domain of the grizzly bears who are unaccustomed to people, and the Spectrum Range whose colours are the best we had seen in any mountains.

We began a 4 day traverse around the west side of Mount Edziza; entering the surreal landscape of cinder cones, lava flows, immense desert like dunes of coarse volcanic sand, and glaciers. Navigation became more interesting due to magnetic anomalies, and while passing Kena Cone I measured a 30 degree compass error.

It has been some 12,000 years since the main volcano erupted, but the dozen or so cinder cones and craters around it are much more recent. We hoped they would sleep for a few days longer. We climbed four cones, the youngest being Eve Cone with its moss and lichen covered lava flow extending 12 kilometers down to Buckley Lake. Strangely, we found caribou sign high on the cones and inside the craters. And we noted a disconcerting hollow sound as we walked on Eve Cone.

We had many great wildlife sightings and encounters while crossing the Big Raven Plateau on the west flank of Mount Edziza. These included 42 stone sheep spotted by Josette; over 50 Osbourne caribou in many different groups; a fox who played hide and seek with us in the gullies; many hoary marmots and arctic ground squirrels; a Golden Eagle; 3 Peregrine Falcons hunting in the evening; and numerous ptarmigan and other birds. We heard wolves howling in the night, and saw their tracks by day.

Finally, we began the long gentle descent from Eve Cone to Buckley Lake through the Scrub Birch and Willow that is the bane of every northern mountain traveller. An hour from the end, we met two Australians who has just flown in. They were our first human contact since we began the walk.

Most of our route was entirely above treeline, so stoves and gas were essential for cooking. We carried a small GPS (Geographic Positioning System) to give us travel options in the event we had long periods of poor visibility. We all agreed that this was best hiking trip we had ever done. It was harder than anticipated, but every day

brought something new to excite the senses. Because of this, the side trips we had planned, but didn't have time for, weren't missed.

Birds observed during the trip by Lyle Daly.

American Pipit	Dark-eyed Junco
Dunlin	Golden Eagle
Gray Jay	Horned Lark
Hummingbird (sp. unsure)	Killdeer
Lesser Yellowlegs	Mountain Bluebird
Northern Harrier	Northern Shrike
Peregrine Falcon	Ptarmigan (sp. unsure)
Rough-legged Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Sandpiper (sp. unsure)	Semipalmated Plover
Snow Bunting on Kitsu Plateau	Yellow Warbler

IF YOU GO:

Information on Mount Edziza Provincial Park can be obtained from BC Parks, Skeena District, 3790 Alfred Avenue, Bag 5000, Smithers, BC, V0J 2N0.

Charter flights to Arctic, Buckley and Mowdade lakes are available from Tatogga Lake Lodge, just south of Iskut.

The route is well marked with cairns in the northern half of the park, and is within the capabilities of most experienced backpackers. BC Parks recommend flying into Buckley Lake and out of Mowdade Lake.

Good mountain navigation and wilderness travel skills are essential for the southern half of the park. If you intend to hike this section, I would be pleased to discuss our route with you.

Mike Nash
Prince George

FRONT COVER

Clark's Nutcracker - *Nucifraga columbiana*

A surprisingly tame bird around the Manning Park Lodge in summer, this member of the crow family, along with it's cousins the Common Crow and Gray Jay is often found mooching peanuts and other goodies (a no-no - but fun to do!) from park visitors.

Photo: Jude Grass

GRASS CLIPPINGS

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR...

I am very disappointed to bring you the news that the **BC Naturalist** is being cut back from 6 to 4 editions in 1997. The March edition was kept in place due to the importance of this edition for camps, upcoming events and AGM information. Our next edition will be August. I will be contacting our advertisers and authors to reschedule articles, etc. Our advertising revenue covers our printing costs but it is the postage that is the main expense. I would welcome any comments and hope you will continue to support the **BC Naturalist**. Perhaps we can return to six edition next year.

JG

PARK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM & WORKSHOP

11-13 APRIL 1997

AN UPDATE FROM CPAWS - BC

In a previous issue of *BC Naturalists* (November 1996 - page 8) the BC Chapter of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) introduced the BC Grassroots Park Stewardship Program. You may remember that, as part of that program, CPAWS was organizing a Park Stewardship Workshop for January 1997. Now, here is a good piece of news for those who would have liked to attend the workshop but could not: it has been postponed until 11 - 13 April 1997.

The response to the Parks Stewardship Program has been very positive. CPAWS has received correspondence from several people supporting the initiative, providing feedback, and asking for more information about the workshop. Almost fifty grassroots groups and park agencies have expressed their interest in the workshop to date, and this figure will certainly continue to grow in the next couple of months. It is certainly gratifying to see how many people have the stewardship of protected areas at heart.

CPAWS is grateful for the feedback and has implemented

most of the suggestions received. One of the novelties, for example, has been not to limit the Park Stewardship Program to provincial and national parks, but to include **all** protected areas. Stewards of regional parks, wilderness areas, nature sanctuaries: welcome to the Park Stewardship Network.

Another novelty is that GVRD Parks (Greater Vancouver Regional District) has suggested that CPAWS and GVRD join efforts to organize the Park Stewardship Workshop. A forum to discuss park stewardship issues is therefore being organized for 11- 13 April 1997 by CPAWS, GVRD, and other parks agencies who are interested in participating.

All those who have already contacted CPAWS for the Park Stewardship Program are on the mailing list for the conference program. All the others who are interested, please contact Serena Arduino at CPAWS, 611-207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7 Phone 604 685 7445, fax 604 685 6449, E-mail cpawsbc@direct.ca.

Working together: Sustaining our parks and protected areas

A public forum to discuss current issues in park stewardship and funding

11-13 April 1997

Landmark Hotel, Vancouver

Presented by:

**Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter
and Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department**

In cooperation with:

**BC Parks
Capital Regional District Parks
Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
Outdoor Recreation Council of BC**

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EXPERIENCE NATURE

EVENTS FOR NATURALISTS

CRESTON VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA

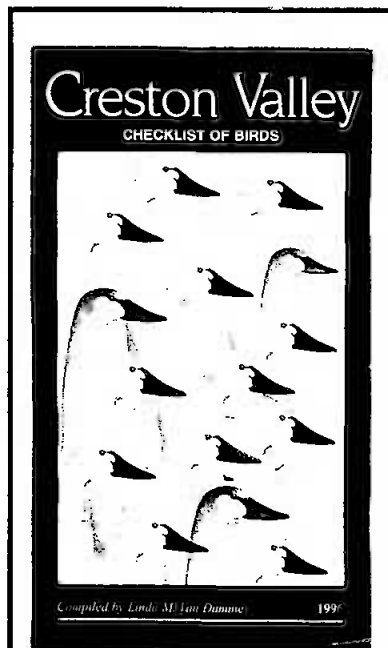
OSPREY FESTIVAL

25-26 APRIL 1997

Join us for a fun-filled weekend, participate in guided trail walks, nature talks, hands on activities in the wetland gallery, wetland craft workshops, riverboat tours, early morning bird-a-thon and osprey viewing.

Don't miss our Osprey Festival Banquet and experience the auction on Friday night at the Wildlife Centre with Wayne Campbell as guest speaker.

Bird and wildlife enthusiasts will enjoy exploring this recently accredited Ramsar site, now recognized as a vital wetland of International importance. This lush 7000 hectare area stretches from the south east tip of Kootenay Lake to the US border. Located on the Pacific Flyway, hundreds of thousands of birds rest and feed in the marshes, ponds, lakes and rivers during the spring and fall migration. Of the 265 species of birds, 137 species nest here.



To receive your checklist send \$2.00 plus a stamped self-addressed envelope to: CVWA, Box 640, Creston, B.C., V0B 1G0. For more information phone (250)428-3260.

Boasting Canada's largest Osprey population, (over 60 breeding pairs occupy the valley each year), the only nesting population of Forster's Terns in BC, the largest migrant population of White-fronted Geese in the province, one of the only two major Western Grebe nesting colonies in BC, the rare Coeur d'alene Salamander, and one of the best largemouth bass fisheries in the province, Creston Valley Wildlife Area is a prosperous and valued ecosystem.

For further information contact:
Creston Valley
Wildlife Area
Osprey Festival
Box 640, Creston,
BC V0B 1G0
Phone 250 428 3260
Fax 250 428 327

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES

BIRD FESTIVAL

1-10 MAY 1997

Bird's Eye View

One hundred and sixty kilometers of Columbia River wetlands, flanked by grasslands, forests and alpine tundra, provides habitat for over 250 bird species and regional setting for Wings Over the Rockies, a ten day festival celebrating the return of birds to the Columbia River headwaters. The Columbia Valley contains the longest continuous series of wetlands remaining in North America. The area also boasts everything from cactus to glaciers. Grebes, abundant waterfowl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Blue Grouse, Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Osprey and American Dipper are just a few of the species that make this spectacular setting their home or stopping place along the Pacific Flyway.

Festival Activities Include

Guided hikes and river floats, owl prowls, presentations, photo, art and field naturalist workshops, children's activities, juried contest and a book release for the *Birds of BC* (Vol. 3). Learn how to identify raptors, take better photographs an 'naturescape' your yard. Watch birds while you drift the Columbia, golf or soak in hot spring pools.

How to Contact Us

E-mail address: wings@adventurevalley.com
Homepage: WWW.adventurevalley.com/wings
Phone for Wings Info at the College of the Rockies:
1 888 933 3311 (toll fee)
fax: 250 347 9980

Wings Information Package

The "Wings Kit" includes information about presenters, activities, accommodations, souvenirs, attractions in our community, bird list of our area, maps to help you get around and the official "Wings" passport. A pre-registration form will be included so you can sign up early for events.

To receive the "Kit", please send your name, address, and telephone number to:

Wings Over the Rockies Bird Festival
Information Kit
Box 338 Invermere, BC V0A 1K0

The FBCN Fall General Meeting will take place at Creston - 25-28 September 1997. Details in the next edition. See page 26 Creston Valley interpretation program information.

**WILD BIRD TRUST
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
RETURN OF THE OSPREY FESTIVAL '97
10-11 MAY 1997**

at
The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats
2645 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver
(2 km east of 2nd Narrows Bridge)

Saturday 10 May

Dedication of the new freshwater marsh
Reception
Exhibit of the art of Lex Alfred Hedley
View nesting Osprey at the Bushnell Tent

Sunday 11 May

Nature Walks
Puppet Theatre and Storytelling
Exhibits by OWL - meet an Osprey!
View the nesting Osprey through optics by Bushnell
Cut-a-thon
"Springtime at Maplewood Flats"
(A Dramatic Presentation
by the Canadian Authors' Association and
Dramaworks)

For details of these events
see Spring Edition of *Wingspan*, watch the media,
or call Patricia M. Banning-Lover at 604 922 1550

**WESTERN GREBE FESTIVAL
SALMON ARM
17-19 MAY 1997**

The Shuswap Naturalists Club is joining with The Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society, the Arts Community, and the commercial core of the town, in holding our first Grebe Festival during the long-weekend of May the 17th through 19th. The Festival is to celebrate the presence, in Salmon Arm Bay on Shuswap Lake, of the Western Grebe breeding colony.

The aim of the Festival is to draw the public's attention to the unique attributes of the Western Grebe, its mating habits and, in particular, its "dancing on water". During the weekend of the Celebration, the Club will be holding seminars on the Western Grebe, detailing its habitat and preferences; the reasons why its presence is so important; its sensitivities to human activities and water quality; and how, with its presence indicates the "Bay's" quality of life is healthy and vibrant. We will be conducting guided tours through the Nature Area and providing assistance at the viewing blinds and viewing tower. We welcome all Naturalists to join us and help in making the weekend a success, by emphasizing the area's Natural History.

**OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK
BIRD BLITZ
SATURDAY, 24 MAY 1997**

Visit one of BC's most spectacular parks, from lake level to mountain top see this Okanagan semi-desert wilderness guided by local experts. Join us for the fifth annual Okanagan Mountain Bird Blitz on Saturday 24 May 1997. The count, which includes plant and animal observations is sponsored by the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club, South Okanagan Naturalists Club and BC Parks. Although the terrain is rugged, some routes are suitable for novice hikers. For information call Eva Durrance at 250 492 3158 or Eileen Dillabough 250 862 8254.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
PRINCE GEORGE
13-15 JUNE 1997**

Come one, come all to the central Interior of BC and join the festivities!!! This year the BCFO AGM will be held at Esther's Inn in Prince George at the confluence of the mighty Fraser and Nechako Rivers.

The weekend will follow the traditional AGM pattern:

- registration and social get-together on Friday night
- Morning field trips, afternoon speakers; AGM, dinner, keynote speaker; then owling "till you drop" on Saturday; and
- last but certainly not least, the setpiece field trip on Sunday.

A trip to the Peace district of northeast BC is being planned for those wishing to extend their voyage of discovery into the following week.

For further information please contact:

Jack Bowling
in Prince George
phone 250 963 7837 fax 250 535 9047

Marian Porter
in the Lower Mainland
phone 604 531 5747 fax 604 535 9049

OTHER BIRD COUNTS

Manning Provincial Park Bird Blitz - 13-15 June
Contact: Michael Tilitsky at Manning Park
250 840 8708

Mount Robson Bird Blitz - June TBA
Contact: Gail Ross at BC Parks - Prince George
250 565 6378

THE VERMILION FORKS FIELD NATURALISTS A PROFILE OF THE AGM HOST CLUB

The Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists were born in November of 1991, about 14 people met at the home of Madelon Schouten to discuss the formation and to decide where the initial focus of the group should lie. Interests expressed were hiking, some had interests in wildflowers, photography, a few in birding.

In January 1992 a trial run was done of an unofficial bird count, five people participated and a total of 35 species were counted. Since that time the group conducts an official Christmas Bird Count. Also in January the first field trip was held to Wolfe Lake, led by Jerry Herzig and his wife Kim, long time residents of the area and avid birders. The first general meeting was held in February 1992 with as our speakers Jeff and Susan Turner, a local couple of avid naturalists and wildlife film experts. The Club has monthly meetings with speakers covering a variety of subjects.

Club members participate in a variety of projects, the first one was a write-up of the best birding areas in the region, from that grew the production of a bird checklist, followed by a wildflower checklist. To raise money for the club garage sales have been held and the club has a table at the annual Arts and Crafts Show in November. The sale of suet logs, nest boxes and seed feeders helps to finance projects, such as the recently completed information board on wetlands, placed on the site of one of the larger lakes, Separation Lake. Located in grassland this lake is an important stop over for both spring and winter migrating birds. The board was designed and produced by club members, the art work on the bio-diversity scene and the Ruddy Duck by local artist, Bob Cormack.

The Club has about 32 members, is represented at Regional Meetings and AGM's when possible. Preparations are being made to participate in the Local Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process, to that effect several information meetings have been held, so we can be prepared for the process to start in 1998. The Club has also submitted in small local lake as a study area, but at present no feedback has been received from either the local or provincial authorities, who both have jurisdiction. Another lake, August Lake has recently been given "A" classification meaning that logging cannot take place within 2000 metres of the shore, which will give it some protection. Williamson's Sapsuckers and Pygmy Owls nest in the surrounding forest, some endangered amphibians and mammals are found there as well. Once a year the Club has an outdoor class there for a local school.

The Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists are looking forward to hosting the Spring Annual General Meeting of the FBCN and hope many of their fellow naturalist will come and enjoy the Princeton Outback! Madelon Schouten

UP AND COMING. . .

MARCH

- 15 FBCN Regional Director's Meeting - Contact your Regional Coordinator (names pg 2-3)

APRIL

- 11-13 Brant Festival - Parksville/Qualicum Beach, (pg 24)
11-13 CPAWS/GVRD Parks - Park Stewardship Workshop, Vancouver (page 7)
25-25 Creston Valley - Osprey Festival (pg 8)

MAY

- 1-10 Wings Over the Rockies Bird Festival (pg 8)
8-11 FBCN Annual General Meeting (pg 31)
10-11 WBT - Return of the Osprey Festival (pg 9)
10 International Migratory Bird Day
17-19 Western Grebe Festival - Salmon Arm (pg 9)
24 Okanagan Mountain Bird Blitz (pg 9)

JUNE

- 1 Fraser River Festival - Deas Island, Delta
1-8 Environment Week
6-9 The Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting - University of Victoria. Contact Pat McGuire at 250 721 8746
13-15 BC Field Ornithologists AGM (pg 9)
13-15 Manning Prov. Park Bird Blitz (pg 9)
25 DEADLINE for articles and ads for August edition of *BC Naturalist*.

JULY

- 1 Canada Day Goose Chase - Creston Valley Wildlife Area
10-16 FBCN Summer Camp - Nonda Creek (pg 29)
17-22 FBCN Summer Camp - Nonda Creek (pg 29)
20-27 VNHS Summer Camp - Joe Lake (pg 28)

AUGUST

- 15-19 North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) 26th Annual Conference - Vancouver. Contact Rick Kool 250 356 2077 or e-mail: rkool@cln.etc.bc.ca

SEPTEMBER

- 25-28 FBCN Fall General Meeting - Creston - details in August Edition.

Editors Note: If you have an event you want to list please contact Jude before 25 June for the next edition which will cover the period August to year end.

**DON'T FORGET
TO LET THE FBCN OFFICE
KNOW IF YOU
MOVE**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO NATURALISTS

Note: The publications reviewed here are on file at the FBCN Office. Should you wish to see a particular report, please phone Leslie-Ann at 604 737 3057.

Fraser Basin Current News. Fraser Basin Management Program, Vancouver, December 1996, 10 pages, available free.

The original mandate of the Fraser Basin Management Board will come to a close soon. This newsletter discusses what has been accomplished in the past five years. Further, it outlines what is expected to happen when the program closes down. It is anticipated that the work of the Fraser Basin Management Program will be continued by a non-profit society. Funding for the society will be provided by federal, provincial, and local governments as well as the private sector. Project costs will be recovered on a fee for service basis. The new council that will oversee the activities of the program (Fraser Basin Council) will include representatives from local, provincial, federal and First Nations governments and non-government interests.

Protecting British Columbia's Wetlands: A Citizen's Guide. Linda Nowlan and Bill Jeffries. West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation and British Columbia Wetlands Network, October 1996, 142 pages. Copies available from WCELRP, 1001 - 207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver V6B 1H7 (\$10 first copy, \$5.00 each additional copy).

This is an unusual book in that it addresses two overlapping audiences with different levels of need for wetland information. The first part of the book may be of interest to wetland enthusiasts and to people who are concerned about the environment but who know little about wetlands. It includes background information on the formation and function of wetlands. The second part is an introduction to legal protection for BC's wetlands. This will be useful to non-lawyers who are interested in learning more about the legal status of wetlands. It includes a review of legislation, and information on how to use existing laws to protect wetlands in the province. The book has been prepared for environmental and conservation groups, concerned citizens, and elected officials and decision makers in all levels of government who often decide the fate of wetlands. The final chapter "Essential Wetland Reading" is an excellent resource for those who wish to investigate the topic in greater detail.

Penguins. Mitsuaki Iwago. Chronica Books, 119 pages, 1997, \$27.95 Distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, Vancouver

Mitsuaki Iwago is one of the world's foremost wildlife nature photographers. He is the author and photographer of several books and his work has appeared in many magazines. In this book, he turns his attention to

penguins. This extraordinary book contains over 100 colour photographs that will charm and delight wildlife and photography enthusiasts. The text is somewhat limited, being confined to about three pages plus photo captions.

Initiatives for the Conservation of Biodiversity in British Columbia. A Progress Report published by the Provincial Government, 30 pages, October, 1996.

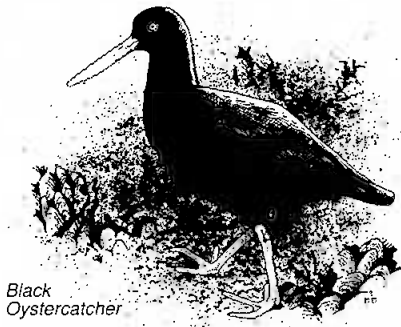
This is one of those frustrating reports, probably funded by Forest Renewal BC, but containing no information on who compiled it and where copies may be obtained. Buried in the Acknowledgements is credit to Glen Okrainetz and Don Eastman as the project managers. Despite these omissions, the document provides solid information on initiatives in British Columbia related to the five goals of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. Collectively, initiatives such as the Forest Practices Code, the Protected Areas Strategy, Strategic Land-use Planning, Timber Supply Review, Treaty Negotiations and Forest Renewal BC are significantly changing the land-use patterns of the province. They provide new ways of managing the land and its resources in ways that foster sustainability. This document is a progress report by the BC government on the strategic direction that it has pursued. There is general agreement that, while progress is being made, we have to make considerably more progress before we can claim to be near the goal of sustainability. This report summarizes progress in BC relating to the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy, released in 1995, was developed as a guide to implement the Biodiversity Convention in Canada, recognizing the specific issues in Canada posed by the loss of biodiversity as well as existing constitutional and legislative responsibilities.

Donations of Ecologically Sensitive Land in Canada: Implementing New Provisions of the Income Tax Act of Canada. Revised Information Circular No. 2, January 3, 1997, Canada Wildlife Service, Ottawa, 13 pages.

Federal income tax forms now include specific reference to a new category of charitable donation: ecological gifts. The legal establishment of such gifts and administration of them is the subject of amendments to the Income Tax Act enacted on June 22, 1996. These amendments concern the donation of ecologically sensitive lands, covenants, easements and servitudes for conservation purposes. Such donations become an additional tool in national efforts to secure sensitive ecosystems and to conserve biodiversity. The Minister of the Environment is responsible for establishing a process in all provinces for certifying that qualified donations are ecologically sensitive. This document defines ecologically sensitive land and outlines the process to be followed for those who wish to donate or receive such lands.

Compiled by Dick Stace-Smith

Southern BC



Black
Oystercatcher

May 10 - 23, 1997 with Bryan Gates

- ☆ Great Birdwatching tour
- ☆ Terrific tour leader
- ☆ Includes Okanagan Valley

Alberta

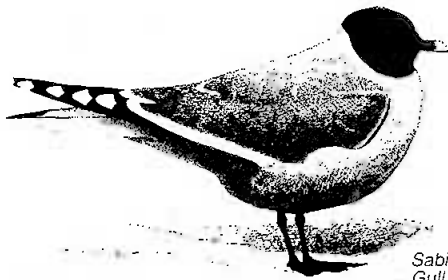


Burrowing
Owl

June 28 - July 9, 1997 with Alvaro Jaramillo

- ☆ Birds, mammals & wildflowers
- ☆ Elk Island, Jasper, Kananaskas
- ☆ Waterton & Alberta Badlands

Churchill



Sabine's
Gull

June 12 - 16 with Brian Henshaw

- ☆ Great birdwatching/nature tour
- ☆ Close-up breeding views
- ☆ Pre-tour Manitoba extension

High Arctic



Lapland Longspur

July 12 - 19, 1997 with Peter Burke

- ☆ Breeding birds
- ☆ Arctic mammals
- ☆ Tundra wildflowers
- ☆ Inuit people

Call: (604) 231-9661 or 1-800-373-5678

Eagle-Eye Tours Inc.

P.O. Box 94672, Richmond, BC V6Y4A4

E-Mail: birdtours@eagle-eye.com

Web Page: <http://www.eagle-eye.com/birdtours>

RAVEN TALK

Your Federation in Action: information, committee reports, projects and concerns

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FBCN RAFFLE: Well it looks like all systems are go for our raffle. By now most of you probably know that it is no longer a joint raffle with Ducks Unlimited Canada. They had to drop out because of new restrictions on the number of raffles they could hold in one year.

We are on our own. We have 1,450 tickets to sell, at \$10 each, by 10 May. Leslie-Ann has sent books of tickets out to the clubs. Direct members can contact the office and have a book of tickets sent out to them. (See page 17 for more info.)

There are some really excellent prizes including such items as binoculars, the book *British Columbia: A Natural History* by Syd and Dick Cannings, a selection of Land for Nature clothing, a kayaking trip for two and a **GRAND PRIZE of a night at Three Gates Farm Bed and Breakfast** including a gourmet lunch and dinner, and a field trip of the South Okanagan guided by Dick Cannings.

The proceeds from the raffle will go to help publish the *BC Naturalist*, and to pay for educational projects such as the video and teacher's guide to go with the Grasslands Poster.

This is our chance to support the *BC Naturalist* and FBCN educational projects. Let's give it our full support. Would you like to have a raffle every year as a means of raising funds?

As the Directors have already been informed, cost-cutting measures for this year include:

- having only four issues of *BC Naturalist*;
- cancelling the February Directors Meeting; and
- not paying Directors' expenses.

Although Directors' expenses will not be paid for this year, Directors can still submit an expense claim, donate the total amount to the FBCN and receive an income tax receipt. Although this will be helpful to some it will not put money in the pockets of those who cannot afford to travel to meetings.

We really need a Ways and Means Committee to look for ways to raise money for Directors expenses and administrative costs. If we could find outside funding for the *BC Naturalist*, we could spend the \$20,000 that goes for publishing and mailing on other things.

The Environmental Fund of BC seems to be getting off the ground. They hope to have programs in place this year.


Hopefully over the next few years we will see some return on our investment. If this Fund functions the way we hope it will, it could solve a lot of our financial problems in the years ahead.

CAMPS: Ted Stubbs has very kindly agreed to run the exploratory camp for this summer (page 29). He plans to go into the Nonda Creek area, just along the eastern border of Muncho Lake Provincial Park. In June of 1995 Nils and I hiked eastward up a valley from the Muncho Lake side. It was a fascinating area with a huge gravel outwash, hoodoos along the side of the valley and hundreds of yellow ladyslipper orchids. It would be really interesting to see what is over the ridge on the Nonda Creek side. After the visit to Nonda Creek, the group may also do some hiking in the Summit Mountain area.

We need a club to host a camp in their area - this spring, summer, or fall. These camps are usually 'hard walled', (i.e. they use an existing church, forestry or Scout camp). Camps are also good money-raisers for your club. Do you have an interesting area for naturalists to visit, with possible trips to neighbouring sites - wetlands, ecological reserves, seashores, grasslands, forests, etc.? Please discuss it with your club and let us know.

Please let me know if you would like to help with the Ways and Means Committee or if you have any suggestions for fund-raising ideas.

Audrey Hoeg



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THE FBCN**

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MOHAWK CREDIT CARD**

**For more information call
the FBCN Office at 604 737 3057**

CLUB CHAT

The **Alouette Field Naturalists** are once again threatened with the spectre of a Golf Course in the wetlands to the north of Maple Ridge. That this area, at the best times, can only be entered when wearing hip waders, and the worst of times be a wet suit, doesn't seem to daunt the enthusiasm of the local council who can't see beyond their own noses for the dollar signs in their eyes. Once more into the fray...

Burke Mountain Naturalists have had an offer of help to set up a home Page on the Internet for their club. It's a great way to get not only information about your club out there but also information on local environmental issues affecting your area. • The BMN's are also fighting a golf course, although not in their backyard, but out at Harrison Bay. • There is also an article in their newsletter about Bird Friendly Coffee. It appears that many of our warblers depend on habitat in certain types of coffee plantations for over wintering. They seek refuge in traditional coffee plantations where shade loving coffee bushes grow under a canopy of tall trees. However, these traditional plantations are being increasingly converted to large sun-loving monocultures. What to do? Try to buy only organically grown coffee, ask for it when purchasing coffee, it may not solve all the problems but it's a start. There is a lot more info in the article and if you want a copy I am sure the BMN's will be glad to send you one.

A **Chilliwack Field Naturalists'** member and his wife were interested spectators at a ladybug beetle mating orgy back in July. They were able to watch a horde of ladybugs in their locust tree. "Every leaf had a mating pair of Southern Ladybugs on it. The smaller, darker coloured male mated with the larger lighter coloured female. If not mating they were nervously scurrying about the leaves looking for a mate." After a few days our observer here was able to find clusters of eggs on the undersides of the leaves. He collected a few and placed them in a glass jar to watch them hatch. "At first a small white grub, almost transparent, and about the size of the egg emerged. Over the next few days this larvae grew larger and heavier, and then it began shedding its skin and an ugly, spiny larvae emerged. This step was repeated several times and finally, after about a week, this ugly creature was transformed into a fully grown ladybeetle.

White Rock and Surrey Naturalists held a Natural History Slide Contest and one of their members, Rene Savenye took all but one of the prizes in the individual categories. He modestly declared that he had no photographic training, he just saw what he liked and snapped it! • Two members of the Club, JoAnn and Hue MacKenzie, rank high in Canadian bird-lister, JoAnn has 500 species and Hue has 499. Why has Hue one less than JoAnn? Because she went to Victoria once without Hue.

The **Kamloops Naturalist Club** are organizing a photo contest through which they are hoping to add to their display panels which are used to promote the club. • The club has just completed another 130 bluebird boxes to add to the already several hundred boxes which have been installed, maintained and monitored through the past few years.

Central Okanagan Naturalists Club (CONC) - (love the fox on the cover, he looks somewhat bemused - possibly because he has just missed that pheasant and all he has to show for his stalking is a few feathers!) • The CONC's, because they have such a large membership, I suppose, have a very ambitious outing program, they have Wednesday Hikes, Weekend Hikes, Thursday Birdings and Friday Botanies. Smaller clubs have to make do with doing all these things on a once a week outing (personal opinion, but I think we manage to cram all of this, birding, botany, mosses, geology, and gossip all into one outing. There's something to be said about small clubs!) To continue... • CONC congratulates one of it's members, George Scotter, on his new book *Mammals of the Canadian Rockies* which was nominated for two international awards - the Andy Russell Nature Writers Award and the Best Guidebook at the Banff Book Festival. • To raise funds a smart way a CONC member has offered a Bicycle Maintenance - Repair program for other members and their families. He will work free of charge in exchange for donations to the club. • CONC Education Committee members donated 400 hours to outing and lectures to schools over the past year. Well done! • The club has also initiated more community visible activities together with good publicity in local newspaper, for example, installation of bird boxes, bat boxes, bee houses and storm drain painting.

South Okanagan Naturalists Club (SONC) is having a problems with climber access to Skaha Bluffs, which although an important rock climbing area also supports several endangered and threatened species and is a lambing area for big horned sheep. • Also, along with several other clubs in the Federation, they experienced the 'Christmas from hell' what with flu and weather which disrupted the Christmas Bird Count.

North Okanagan Naturalists Club (NONC) from the newsletter an interesting story from Terry Lodge. They were sitting at home, looking through the window, they heard a noise that turned out to be a pheasant scolding the cat. The pheasant then chased the cat out of the yard. Perhaps we should all get pheasants for our own yards! • The NONC also had a bad day for the Christmas Bird Count "one of the worst days they can remember as far as weather went", but about fifty people managed to turn up. • One of the club members, Averill Pearson, sold homemade Christmas Cards to help raise money for the club and Hilda Mayfield, who had one of the CHBC Bears, dressed it as a naturalist and raffled it off for the club.

Williams Lake Field Naturalists - from the *Muskrat Express* Newsletter - It seems they have one of BC's most exotic bats living in the Williams Lake Valley. Five

individuals of the spectacular Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*) were recorded last fall. • As usual there were three full pages of bird sightings from both the Williams Lake Area and the banks of the Chilcotin River by Jim Sims (Williams Lake) and Linda Durrell (Chilcotin). These two Club members contribute two to four pages ever single newsletter. Most impressive!

Quesnel Naturalists The Club sent in their year end report on past Field Trips (Why, I wonder, does everyone else's trip always seem so interesting?) They have been exploring old railway grades and looking at bison (on a ranch), sharing a trip with the Prince George Naturalists, learning the importance of taking along a change of clothing with canoeing, looking for butterflies (scarce), photographing Indian Paintbrush in the rain, and doing some pretty strenuous hiking in the bargain.

The **Prince George Naturalists** are considering constructing a bird blind cum viewing tower in partnership with some other organization, just who, they are not too sure, but they are looking around.

The **Bulkley Valley Naturalists** have several club projects underway, the Chicken Creek sign project, Josette's Ski Lodge revegetation and they have to come up with a natural history interpretation display for their Naturalist's room at the Buchfink Memorial Lodge. Quite a busy year ahead. • One of their more unusual field trips is Winter Twig Identification day, also an Astronomy Night and an Annual Eulachon Trip where they expect to see Bald Eagles, gulls, harbour seals and sea lions congregating for the annual reappearance of the eulachon.

The **Nanaimo Field Naturalists** had a stall at the Woodgrove Mall in November with crafts and home baking. • Broom removal at Buttertubs Marsh is ongoing as weather permits. • Twenty garbage bags of loosestrife were collected from Chase River.

The **Cowichan Valley Naturalists**, like a few other clubs in the Lower Mainland, had their Christmas Bird Count snowed out and had to reschedule it for the next weekend. • Their conservation committee is involved in the Koksilah land swap and also in cooperating with the Land Trust people on a possible nature area in the Stoney Hill area, monitoring of Averll Creek and Somenos Marsh is continuing and they would like to place an educational sign outside the fence of Mount Tzouhalem Wildflower Reserve.

The **Mitlenatch Field Naturalists** are looking forward to continuing the mapping process on Quadra Island provided they can get the funds to do so.

The **Arrowsmith Naturalists** have been doing botanical surveys in Qualicum and Nanoose and were looking forward to finding lots of mushrooms when the fall rains arrived. Considering the amount of rain we did get I would think that any mushrooms that managed to survive would be only squelchy mushes! By the way, thanks for the newsletter, it was nice to find something in the envelope this time!

Victoria Natural History Society naturalists are being asked to watch for colour banded Cooper's Hawks as some 100 or so who were banded in 1996 as part of a study on the breeding ecology of the hawks in the Greater Victoria area. • The Habitat Acquisition Trust Foundation is again holding a fund raising Musical Hats entertainment evening in March.

Duanne van den Berg

CHAT FROM THE CLUBS

DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY

Delta Naturalists gathered at the Beach Grove home of Jackie Davidson for a dinner to bid farewell to Allen and Helen Poynter. The Poynters, who are moving to Parksville, will be sorely missed by this group and other related natural history groups in the Lower Mainland.

Anne Murray made a presentation on behalf of the Delta Naturalists to Allen and Helen - the new Richard and Sydney Cannings book - *British Columbia: A Natural History*. Allen in his response said it could not have been a better choice and will have great significance for them as they have known the authors for many years.

A LEGACY FOR NATURE

There are many opportunities for people to contribute to the Foundation's endowment fund.

GIFTS

All donations are welcome and are tax deductible.

ENDOWMENTS

Your significant contribution provides the resources for nature forever.

REQUESTS

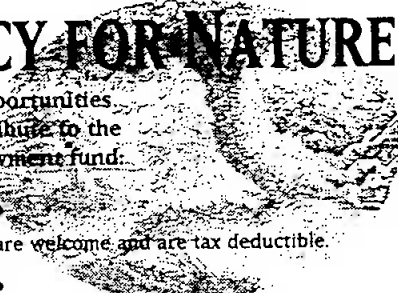
Your commitment in your will ensures that your gift to nature will continue in perpetuity.

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Why not plan your giving to allow you to receive tax benefits now while ensuring your legacy contribution in the future. (e.g. life insurance plans)


SPECIAL SKILLS

Your contribution of time and expertise will be welcomed by the Board of Directors.



For further information about how you can help, please contact:

Federation of BC Naturalists Foundation
 c/o 321 - 1367
 West Broadway,
 Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9
 Telephone: 737-3057
 Fax: 738-7175



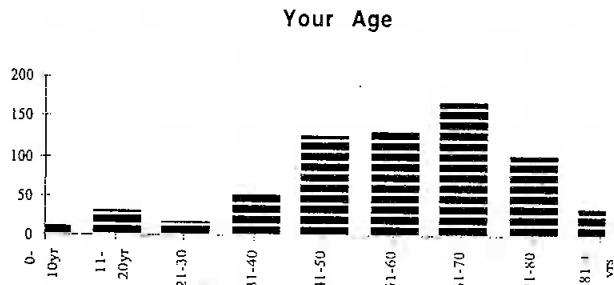
MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Over the next few issues of *BC Naturalist*, we'll report the results of the membership survey. Of the 4300 surveys mailed out, 471 were returned - that's an 11% response rate which is considered high. We send an enormous thank you to each of you who cared enough to complete and return the survey. With all sincerity, your accolades, ideas, insights and criticisms are appreciated and will be studied and considered carefully. Your opinion really does count and we'll be using the results of this survey as the basis for the FBCN's strategic plan.

When interpreting survey results, you have to take a leap of faith that your respondents actually reflect the demographics and feelings of your entire membership. Is it just the ones who like and support you who respond, so your results are skewed? Are your critics just too disgruntled to pick up their pens? It's hard to know. Thankfully, we did have some respondents who were, shall we say, "brutally honest" and laid their complaints on the line. And so, we are taking that leap of faith, that what our survey respondents revealed to us, in fact truly represents the FBCN membership. Anyway, let's get started....

SECTION 1: TELL US ABOUT YOU

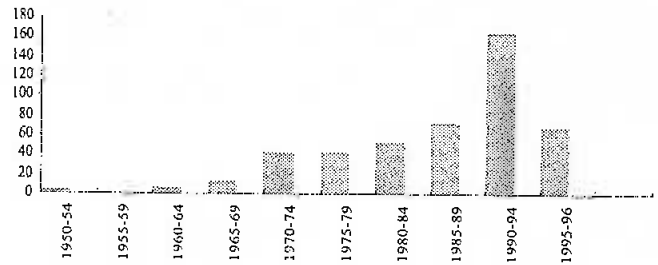
Age: A substantial 83.3% of members represented by the survey results are 41 years of age or older, 64.8% are over 50 years young and 45% are 61 years of age and beyond. Obviously, we are an organization for mature adults.



Male/Female: 58.2% of respondents are female, 41.8% male

How long an FBCN member: We were surprised to find 49% of you have joined the FBCN since 1990, and 76% since 1980. People often express concern the FBCN needs to attract new members to "take the reins" but clearly our membership is a healthy mix of new and old members. Theoretically, since "baby boomers" are now entering the age categories profiled by the majority of our members, we should experience growth in our membership numbers over the next decade. With many of our members being relatively new to the FBCN, we need to occasionally re-educate you about FBCN policy, goals and services.

Year Joined



Why did you join? Not surprisingly, 65% of respondents joined the FBCN automatically through their club membership. 30% joined the FBCN because of an environmental concern and 17% joined to get *BC Naturalist* and to support the FBCN. In retrospect, we should have also asked "If you had to join the FBCN separately, and not through your club membership, would you join?" or "If renewing your FBCN membership was optional when you renewed your club membership, would you join the FBCN?" Answers to those two questions would have been especially insightful. You live, you learn.

Other environmental groups you belong to? Wow! You people are joiners!!! Over 200 other environmental groups were cited! The most popular ones were the Canadian Nature Federation (62 respondents), Western Canadian Wilderness Committee (48), Canadian Wildlife Federation (32), Sierra Club (26), World Wildlife Fund (26), CPAWS (22), Nature Conservancy (21), and Greenpeace (14). Your answers to this question provided us with a great list of potential affiliates, clubs, and associates for the FBCN.

Recreational Activities: You are an active bunch! 86.8% of you are birdwatchers, 78.6% hike, 70.5% enjoy gardening, 53.5% go camping and 48.4% enjoy photography. "Other" recreational activities ran the spectrum from cross country skiing to the ambitious "regenerating urban green belts". We had one respondent whose glory in life was fly-fishing and there were members who enjoyed dog sledding, beach combing, singing, "plant watching" (now there is someone with patience), pottery, botany, martial arts...see the entire gamut. It was inspiring to see so many of you living life to the fullest. This question gave us a clear indication of where to find potential naturalists and in which kind of venues we should be placing copies of *BC Naturalist* in to recruit new members.

Retired from the workplace? Well, no wonder you're having so much fun, 55% of you have been given the golden handshake and are retired.

Any children for Young Naturalists? Only 28% of you knew of children who would enjoy a Young Naturalists program, although you'll see from later columns, many respondents feel the FBCN should be directing it's educational efforts at families with young children.

Minority Groups: Yikes! Only 2 of 471 (!!!) survey respondents indicated they were of aboriginal heritage and

only 1 respondent was of a racial minority. 4.9% of you have a disability and 12% live on a low income (\$16,000 or less). These are the minority groups (as well as seniors and women) to which the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture wants us to provide recreational opportunities - so we've got some work to do.

In future issues we'll be reporting the results from Tell us About the Federation... About **BC Naturalist**...About **Cordillera**...and About Your Club.

Leslie Ann
Office Manager

RAFFLE BUY YOUR TICKET TO WIN!

Hey, You Never Know! One day you could be touring the South Okanagan, binoculars in hand, communing with nature, sipping wine, nibbling brie - all with Dick Cannings, co-author of **British Columbia - A Natural History**. Sounds like the perfect day (or gift) for the naturalist in your life. Yes, its time for the FBCN's fund-raising raffle. Tickets are available until May 10th when prizes will be drawn at the Federation's AGM held in Princeton. Only 1450 tickets will be sold for \$10 each and with over 20 prizes, your chances of winning are good. **The Grand Prize is a night at Three Gates Farm Bed and Breakfast** (just south of Penticton) including a gourmet lunch and dinner and a one day guided trip of the South Okanagan with Dick Cannings. Your club has been sent tickets so don't miss your chance! Ask your club's FBCN Director or call the FBCN Office at 604 737 3057.

LAND FOR NATURE AN ATTEMPT TO ANSWER SOME (PERCEIVED?) QUESTIONS

It has come to my attention that many of our FBCN members apparently know very little about Land For Nature (LFN). Some of the questions seem to be:

- What does LFN do?
- How is LFN funded?
- How does LFN operate?
- Who authorizes payment of expenses claimed by the LFN Director and the coordinators?

I do not want to answer the first of those four questions in any great detail here, since the LFN Director, Bob Phillips, has reported regularly to all FBCN Regional meetings, FBCN Directors and Executive meetings as well as to AGM and FGM as long as I have been directly involved with LFN. Such reports, as well as special reports by Andrew Bales and Emma Child, can be found in every issue of the **BC**

Naturalist, keeping any interested member informed regarding LFN activities in the Okanagan, the Lower Fraser Valley, and the Sea to Sky Corridor (Squamish - Whistler), or the Sunshine Coast.

All LFN activities are financed through funding from various government agencies, both Provincial and Federal, and in some cases from private foundations. No part of LFN activities are paid for out of FBCN funds, but the FBCN office is responsible for the administration of the funds, (making out cheques as requested by the LFN Director and approved by the LFN Management Advisory Committee (MAC) Chair), accounting and auditing. The bottom line is that the LFN contractors from the Director down, will have a job only as long as funding is available.

LFN works with local groups, Naturalists clubs as well as other groups, in response to requests for assistance with projects too large and complex for the local clubs to handle on their own. When a project has been identified and approved by the LFN MAC, the LFN Director submits funding applications with detailed budgets to appropriate funding agencies (with a copy to the MAC Chair).

If the application is successful, a contract is signed by the FBCN, again with a copy to the MAC Chair. The LFN Director is now responsible for the manner in which the project proceeds and is accountable to the FBCN through the MAC Chair and to the funding agencies involved.

When a project has been completed the LFN Director must submit a report to the agencies involved with a detailed account of all expenditures. Since future funding will, to a large extent, depend on how the money has been used, the Director can be counted on to avoid any frivolous expenditures. The Director's current contract contains a further incentive to this effect by providing for a bonus as part of his remuneration for funding acquired over and above a certain amount.

All LFN personnel contracts contain a clause providing for 'reasonable travel and material expenses incurred in the performance of the Contractor's duties', almost identical to the FBCN bylaws covering a Director's expenses. The LFN expense forms are much more detailed than those used by the FBCN since a contractor's expenses must be allocated to specific projects. Expense forms are made out on a monthly basis and approved by the Director. A new procedure for control of LFN expenditures is now in place. The Director submits a monthly cheque requisition form with invoices to the FBCN office, and a copy of the requisition form is faxed to the LFN MAC Chair. Upon approval this signed copy is faxed to the FBCN office as authorization for payment. Should the list contain any unusual expenditures the Chair will request detailed explanation from the LFN office.

Nils Hoeg
Chair, LFN MAC

CONSERVATION REPORT

CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK MASTER PLANNING UPDATE

The new Master Plan for Cypress Provincial Park still has not been signed by the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks. This Plan will allow logging more than 50 acres of old-growth forest for a privately operated, \$40 million, four-season, commercial recreation resort in the heart of the park. The project is an expansion of existing ski facilities, operated by Cypress Bowl Recreations Ltd. under a 50 year renewable Park Use Permit, granted to the company in 1984. BC Parks' requested to West Vancouver Municipal Council for approval to construct \$2 million, BC government funded water and sewer link from the municipality to the new resort, is on hold, pending a municipal staff report to Council on the utility links. After receiving the staff report, now expected to be completed by late February 1997, Council will hold a public meeting to allow full public comment on the potential impact of the development on the municipality before it decides whether to approve utility link construction.

Katharine Steig
Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society

BC PARKS MASTER PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE

As stated in the January 1997 *BC Naturalist* Securing the Legacy report, *BC Naturalist* plans to provide regular updates on the status of specific provincial parks planning processes throughout BC. We hope this information will enable naturalists to participate more effectively in these planning processes to ensure that the natural features of the areas under review will be adequately protected in the new master plans. For more information on the site, contact the local District Office of BC Parks.

Park/Area (District)
Status

Northern Districts

Naikoon (Skeena)
received Ministerial approval Nov. 27/96
Ts'yl-os (Cariboo)
final management plan being prepared
Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed (Skeena)
waiting for approval by Nisga'a and Minister
Stikine Country Protected Area (Skeena)
reviewing final version of IRMS before approval
Tatshenshini Wilderness (Skeena)
contract will be let for background report
Kitlope Heritage Conservancy (Skeena)
a background report will be prepared by consultants

Cariboo Goal 1 Management Direction Statemnt (MDS)
(Cariboo) staff have prepared drafts for the five areas
Marble Range Park and Edge Hills (Cariboo)
community based planning process underway

South Coast Districts

Gowlland Tod (South Vancouver Island)
MP was approved Arpil/10/96
Carmanah Walbran (South Vancouver Island)
revised MP being prepared
Bligh Island (Strathcona)
Parks has completed review of background report
Santa Gertrudis-Boca del Infierno (Strathcona)
completed review of background report & preliminary
MP options
Indian Arm (Vancouver)
developing a project terms of reference
Tashish Kwols (Strathcona)
competed a review of draft background report/MP
Tetrahedron (Garibaldi-Sunshine)
final MP being prepared
Stawamus Chief (Garibaldi-Sunshine)
final version of MP being prepared
Race Rocks Ecological Reserve (South Vancouver Island)
competed a review of draft management plan
White Ridge (Strathcona)
reviewing MP prepared by consultant
Juan de Fuca Marine Trail (South Vancouver Island)
latest draft near completion
Woss Lake (Strathcona)
reviewing MP prepared by consultant
Skagit Valley/E.C. Manning (Fraser Valley)
reviewing options to complete MP
Cape Scott (Nahwitti-Shushartie addition)(Strathcona)
project terms of reference being developed
South Vancouver Island - MDS
consultant preparing drafts for the 5 Protected Areas
North Vancouver Island - MDS
consultant preparing drafts for the 5 Protected Areas

Southern Interior Districts

Elk Lake/Height of the Rockies (East Kootenay)
consultant preparing a background document
Stein Valley (Thompson River)
consultant preparing a background document
Bugaboo (East Kootenay)
consultant preparing a background document
Fintry (Okanagan)
developing public involvement process for early 97
Kamloops Goal 1 (Thompson River)
preparing draft for review by LRMP participants
West Kootenay Goal 1 MDS (West Kootenay)
coordinator is revising the first draft
East Kootenay Goal 1 MDS (East Kootenay)
coordinator is revising the first draft
Kamloops Area Pilot Project (Thompson River)

Submitted by Roger Norrish,
Mannagement Planning Coordinator, BC Parks, Victoria

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS OF FBCN CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. The FBCN Directors shall be elected as follows:
 - i. Each Federated Club shall elect or appoint for a period of two years one Director for the first 200 members of portion thereof, and one additional Director for each additional 200 members or major portion thereof (i.e. 101 or more) on its membership roll at the end of the preceding year.
 - ii. For the purpose of determining a Federated Club's entitlement to Directors, each family membership shall count for two members.
 - iii. Direct Members who are not also Federated Members shall elect from among their members for a period of two years one Director for the first 200 members or portion thereof, and one additional Director for each additional 200 members or major portion thereof.
- b. Where two or more Federated Clubs exist in a regional area of the Province as approved by the FBCN Board of Directors, the Federated Clubs of that area may elect one of the members from that area to be Regional Coordinator. In the event that the Federated Clubs in an area do not designate a coordinator, the Board of Directors may name a coordinator from among the members of that area.
- c. Elected or designated Regional Coordinators who are not FBCN Directors shall have the same rights and privileges as the elected or designated FBCN Directors.
- d. The Directors elected or appointed by the Federated Clubs and Direct Members shall have power to appoint not more than three Directors from among the Society membership at large. These Directors shall have the same powers as the Directors elected or appointed by the Federated Clubs and Direct Members, but shall not necessarily be considered to represent their respective clubs.
- e. No Director of the Society shall be remunerated directly or indirectly for being or acting as a Director, but a Director of the Society may, with prior approval by the Board of Directors, be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by him/her while engaged in the affairs of the Society.
- f. Any Officer or Director, of the Society who may benefit financially from the contract or transaction entered into by the Society shall declare in writing to the Executive Committee the nature and extent of his/

her potential interest in such contract or transaction before the contract or transaction is approved. The Officer or Director having the potential interest shall refrain from participating in any discussion of the matter and from voting on it.

- g. If a potential benefit should arise after a contract or transaction has been approved by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, the person anticipating such benefit shall advise the Executive Committee of such interest, in writing, and shall obtain the Committee's approval prior to receipt of any financial benefit.
- h. A Director of the Society shall act honestly and in the best interest of the Society, and shall exercise the care, diligence and skill of a reasonably prudent person in exercising his/her powers and in performing his/her functions as a Director. The requirements of this paragraph are in addition to, and not in derogation of, an enactment of rule of law or equity relating to the duties or liabilities of the Directors of the Society.

7. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Society is responsible for:

- a. The election of the Executive Officers,
- b. The establishment of the classes of membership,
- c. The promotion of the aims of the Society by such means as it sees fit, including the publication of newsletters, brochures, briefs, and other materials.
- d. The establishment of regional areas, if deemed reasonable and desirable, each area to be established upon application to the Board of Directors from two or more Federated Clubs within such an area.
- e. The creation of committees and regional groups, and the delegation to them of such powers and authority as it sees fit.
- f. Borrowing of money.
- g. Other purposes reasonable and necessary for the management and well-being of the Society which have not been specifically delegated to any other body or group of the Society.

Cont. on page 20

8. OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

- a. The Officers of the Society shall be
 - President
 - First Vice-President
 - Second Vice-President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Immediate Past President
- b. These Officers, other than the Immediate Past President, shall be elected by the Board of Directors of the Society from among its members at the Annual General Meeting of the Society for a term of two years. These Officers, with the addition of the Regional Coordinators, the *BC Naturalist* Editor, the Conservation Chair, and the Education Chair, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Society.
- c. No officer shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.
- d. Should any office, such as the Secretary or Treasurer, become a paid office, the officer in the office shall cease to be a Director of the Society.

9. VACANCIES

- a. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant, this office shall be filled by the First Vice-President, or, if this office is vacant, by the Second Vice-President until the next Annual Meeting of the Society. In the event that vacancy occurs in another office, the Board of Directors of the Society shall have the power to fill that office by election from within its members.
- b. Vacancies in Directors elected or appointed by the Federated Clubs and by the Direct Members shall be filled by the Federated Clubs and Direct Members, respectively, for the remainder of that term.

10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for:

- a. The management and maintenance of the Society properties, the investment of its funds, banking, appointment of staff and determining of remuneration, and generally for the carrying on the business of the Society which for the carrying on the business of the Society which has not been specifically delegated to any other body or group of the Society.
- b. The calling for and conduct of the meetings of the Society, the necessary quorums, voting, the methods of balloting, and other matters connected therewith.

If you have any questions please contact Nils Hoeg, Vice-President (see page 3 for address and telephone).

**PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS
SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Over the last two years some extensive re-structuring of the Federation has been implemented, resulting in the need for changes in the way the Federation's business is conducted. (Proposed changes start on Page 19)

According to the current bylaw par. 6.a "The affairs of the Society shall be entrusted to Board of Directors - - -", and par. 9.a. through h. specifies "The powers of the Board of Directors", while the role of the Executive Committee now is to prepare the business to be dealt with at the Board of Directors meeting and to make recommendations.

This worked reasonably well when the directors met six times a year, four full day meetings plus the shorter meetings at the AGM and FGM, but now that the full Board meets only three times a year, and only one of these meetings being a full day meeting, this arrangement is not practical. The new expanded Executive Committee must be more directly involved in the day to day operation of the Federation, and have the power to make decisions which now may be delayed for weeks or even months before the next Board of Directors meeting takes place.

The Directors will still be involved through the more frequent Regional Meetings where Federation business will be discussed and recommendations to the Executive Committee formulated, and through the Regional Coordinators who are part of the expanded Executive Committee. But whereas the Executive Committee previously made recommendations to the Board of Directors for decisions to be made, the process will by the proposed amendments essentially be reversed for much increased efficiency.

The whole proposal as printed, gives the impression of being very extensive, but is in fact mostly a re-arrangement of the existing paragraphs 6 through 10. The essential amendments involve the current Par. 9, which in the proposal appears as par. 7 with part b. (except the borrowing of money) and part d. deleted. These now appear as a new Par. 10 dealing with the responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

Par. 6 (in the proposal) is Par. 6 in the current bylaws with the following proposed amendments:

- 1) the introduction (6.a) - Abbreviated to new version.
- 2) Par. 6.a. iv - inserted as a new Par. 6.h
- 3) A new Par. 6.c. dealing with Regional Directors
- 4) New Par.'s 6.f, g and h

Par. 7 (in proposal) is Par. 9 in the current bylaws with proposed amendments:

- 1) change in heading
- 2) Par. 9.b. deleted except for the item "borrowing of money", which in the amended version is par. 7.f
- 3) Par. 9.h deleted
- 4) Par. 9.h (current) to Par. 7.g. and slightly expanded.

Par. 8 is the current Par. 7 renumbered. Par. 9 is the current Par. 8 renumbered. Par. 10 is a new par. comprising the deleted Par.s 9.b and 9.d. The current Par.s 10, 11, etc. now become Par.s 11, 12, etc.

Nils Hoeg

IN MEMORY

The South Okanagan Naturalists Club has lost a highly respected founding member. **Les Gibbard** passed away on December 22, 1996 at the age of 86. He was born in Mission, B.C. to the pioneer Gibbard Family and moved to Penticton in the early 1930's. Les and his wife Violet were among the active group of naturalists who organized the club in 1962. They were also supporters of the move to form the B.C. Nature Council which later became the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists.

One of the Gibbard's most valued projects was the creation of Rock Ovens Regional Park, an area of 132 hectares in the hills east of Naramata, along the old Kettle Valley Railway roadway. The Gibbard Family, along with the SONC campaigned for this park starting in 1972. It was finally established in 1982.

Les was a natural leader and he organized many great field trips and hikes, both in winter and summer. Some of our best memories of outings with Les were the walks around the large Gibbard property at Naramata, which the Family had developed into a woodland bird sanctuary. Les Gibbard's flower gardens have brought enjoyment to hundreds of visitors over the years. We all thank him and will miss him.

Steve Cannings
Penticton

POWELL RIVER - NATURE

Helmut Godau wrote the following abbreviated letter to the FBCN. ...Powell River is supposedly has Canada's mildest climate. The condition allows for a rather splendid biology. It is, however, sad that the aim of uniting like minded nature lovers, to form a small group to further naturalists goals has not been successful. ...Recreation activities have created a fertile ground for nature studies and interesting facts have to light, however, the sad fact remains, tight forest management prevents any serious examination of all aspects in this jewel of the Georgia Low Lands.

About ten years ago five retired men, from many walks of life, banded together to create sound hiking trails. Their trails have now grown into a considerable network, no longer does one have to wade through streams, their bridges are marvels. Local recreationalists have dubbed the term, BOMB squad, standing for bloody old men's brigade. Considering that these volunteers are in their sixties and seventies, their accomplishments are remarkable. The trails, which have open our most delightful landscape, are easily accessed and allow any reasonable healthy naturalist to view the wonders of the region. I doubt there are prettier coastline viewing spots for instance, the Gwendolin Hills above Lund or Gibraltar Bluffs above the Sliamon community. To spot a leisurely gliding Turkey Vulture or Bald Eagle at ones eye level is a feast indeed. To hike the Sweetwater trail from the Duck

Cont. on page 27 - Powell River...

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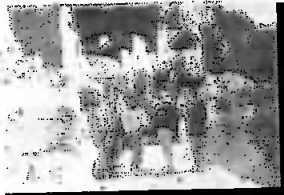
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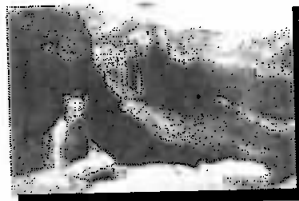
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AMEX

VISA

MASTERCARD

Two of my favorite cartoons involve maps. One shows a glum person looking up at a map on the wall of a large building complex. A giant arrow points to a part of the map and a note proclaims: You are nowhere. The other cartoon has little context, but shows another glumperson looking at a map of North America that displays a giant X with a note that proclaims: You are here. The joke in both cases is, of course, that no matter how accurate those maps may be, they are useless to the observer.

Maps are a lot of fun. I like to have a map or two around, especially when I am considering a hike into a new area. We have all, I am sure, experienced pleasures and pain of map use: the pleasures of getting that bird's eye view, of finding the trailhead, of knowing whether to turn left or right; the pains of finding an un-marked missing bridge, misrepresentation of the hike's severity, or simply soggy maps turned to useless mush.

But maps are more than pretty pictures. They also convey various claims to the "truth" about the land. We can see that happening with maps over the ages. Old maps of, say North America, often lacked the detail of British Columbia's fjords; vast northern areas were left with little if any indication of what was there; and Vancouver Island was a strange shape indeed. The map-makers didn't know! As time went on, these maps became more detailed, the general shapes of things changed, and were accepted as a more accurate description of where was where. This is not to say that everyone agrees with the accuracy of maps. Recently, the famous Mercator's projection of the world has come into question. Because world maps are flat portrayals of something considered spherical, accounting for this difference is up for debate. Some critics claimed that the Mercator's projection made Europe look too big; other equally defensible maps showed land masses with different proportions. What does the world look like? Well, the maps won't tell us! Some maps, though, do not even try to be accurate descriptions of the land. Subway maps, for example, are often more like schematics. They indicate where to go and how to use the system. Some might say that such representations are less accurate than others: the line isn't REALLY that straight, nor is this station REALLY so close to the other station. But no one can deny that such maps are useful.

Now consider the maps we use as hikers and naturalists. Pull out that trusty Forest Service map and find out where we are! According to the map, we are just below the 800 metre contour line in a little bit of a gulley, about 3k from

the trailhead. Is this an accurate description of reality? Looking around, we can see that we are in a bit of a gulley, but we are also next to this douglas-fir, in the shadow of glacial moraine, and within ear-shot of a pileated woodpecker. The map missed all that.

Suppose our maps were made differently. What if we made our own maps based on what seemed real to us as we hiked the trails? What would we include? Well, we might put down something about the trail, every little curve and every little bump. But we might not. We might have this hunch that the trail basically goes in a loop, so any kind of weird circular line is good enough. We might include the sorts of trees that catch our eye: the gnarled, twisted yew, and the somber, rotted-out snag. But maybe, instead, we would only indicate drinkable water we passed. Some would include all the lichen hang outs (really!), others the owl holes. It all depends upon what is considered important, and how the map will be used later; it certainly is no less real than an aerial survey. Maps ultimately are made for reasons. They can be aesthetic reasons—some maps are fine works of art—but they are often practical reasons. How to get from A to B. Where to find the perfect viewpoint or notable sphagnum patch. Instead of asking: which map is a more real depiction, ask instead: which map is useful for my purposes? Aerial survey maps made with careful scientific measurements are very useful to the Forest Service, and even useful to naturalists (although perhaps in some very different ways). But they are not useful in other ways. They cannot always be used to communicate the details of a dynamic and changing living land.

Maps ultimately are not merely on paper; they are easy-to-use models of the world we carry around in our heads. We often talk of a mental map to help us understand our world. But if we accept a map without asking questions about it, we may only get a particular view of the world. One mental map may provide useful information on where to log, but not where to find new sources of useful drugs. One person's map may not illustrate the values of another's. Neither map is more real than the other, but they do have different uses.

So let's question our maps. Just as we would not carry a globe in our backpack, perhaps we have different reasons for accepting or rejecting other maps. Today, we need to consider which map—whether on paper or in the mind—will be the most use for us as we chart a new course into the future.

**BRANT
WILDLIFE
FESTIVAL
APRIL 11-12-13**

**BIG DAY
BIRDING
COMPETITION
Saturday, April 12, 1997**

Parksville-Qualicum Beach

**Brant Festival 97's Big Day...
just part of a big weekend featuring:**

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- ❖ Brant Golf Tournament and Dinner Auction
- ❖ Family Nature Activities, Natural History Talks and more

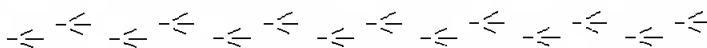
Whether you're a novice or experienced birder, get a team together, grab your binoculars and join the competition for the festival's Big Day trophy. From tidewater to freshwater marsh to coastal forest, you can scour the wide variety of habitats in our area for as many birds as you can find.

Over 250 species of birds have been reported from the checklist area. If your team records the most species, it could take home the trophy and some special prizes. Last year's winning team walked away with the trophy by finding 114 species. Highlights of past festivals have included Yellow-billed Loon, Black-legged Kittiwake, Iceland Gull, and Peregrine Falcon.

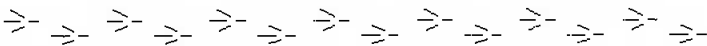
Following the day in the field, teams meet at the Bayside Inn Resort overlooking beautiful Parksville Bay, for a post-count gathering with snacks, stories of the day, awards and lots of fun. Prizes are awarded for the Species of the Day, the Story of the Day, the best Shorebird List, and other categories.

Draw prizes include a pair of Elite 8x42 binoculars (valued at \$1600) sponsored by Bushnell Sports Optics. Competition prizes include bird books and recordings donated by Victoria's Field Naturalist.

**ENTRY FEES ARE \$20 PER PERSON. REGISTER NO. CALL (250) 248-4117 OR
WRITE: BRANT FESTIVAL, BOX 327, PARKSVILLE, B.C. V9P 2G5
CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE: <http://qb.island.net/~bfest/>**



Parksville-Qualicum Beach is 40 minutes north of Nanaimo's Departure Bay Ferry Terminal. For accommodation information contact the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Tourism Association at (250) 752-2388.



HIPS, HEPS OR HAWS?

Wild roses are beautiful shrubs no matter what the season, from their attractive winter buds, to their fragrant, showy flowers. But what I'm most attracted to are the wonderful fruits, often called 'hips'. Interestingly, I have also seen them referred to as 'heps' or even haws (as in hawthorn). When the petals have folded and shrivelled and the leaves have dropped, roses display their showy red or reddish-orange hips the best. This is an effective form of advertising. The colour can be spotted by a hungry bird from a long way off. In my own experience however, I have never found birds to be especially fond of rose hips, with perhaps the exception of crows. On the other hand, I have been in places where the black bears have literally stuffed themselves with this fruit. In fact, the droppings contained little else but rose hip skins and seeds. So the bears in these cases, were effective in helping the plants transport their seeds about the country side. Yes, I have also watched chipmunks nibble at rose hips, but only the outer skin and pulp.



bia we have a number including *Rosa nutkana*, *R. pisocarpa* and *R. woodsii*. All produce attractive hips - some larger, some smaller - but all apparently with a similar Vitamin C content. Rose hips' Vitamin C content is said to be 60 times that of lemons and 24 times that of oranges. Apparently if we nibbled on a 'few' rose hips each day, we would meet our daily Vitamin C requirements. Rose hips

can be stewed, made into soup or jam, dried for tea, or eaten as a tasty nibble.

Food is not the only use for rose hips. It seems that the pulpy contents make what has been called the "worlds finest" itching powder. I recall vividly when the word leaked out at one of our provincial park campgrounds years ago - with disastrous results! Scratch any idea of using rose hips to make itching power, but do enjoy nature's

living vitamin capsules with your hand lens or camera, or as a tasty trail side nibble.

Note: Fruits of some garden roses (e.g. sweet briar) which are common garden escapees, also make excellent jam, so that the wild ones can be left for wildlife. Just make sure that they haven't been sprayed with chemicals (e.g. along roadsides, power lines, and railroads).

Depending upon the author there are between 24 and 100 species of *Rosa* in North America. Here in British Colum-

1997 NATURAL HISTORY FIELD COURSES - SUMMER

These courses run out of the Wells Gray Education and Research Centre, located in the access corridor of scenic Wells Gray Park. These informal, hands-on courses offer you a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and diversity of Wells Gray Provincial Park.

Weekend Courses \$80 - less discounts
\$15 refund for the first six people registered in the weekend courses.

Wells Gray Animals and Their Signs
Ralph Ritcey May 23-25

The Secret Life of Birds
Rick Howie June 6-8

Ethnobotany: Medicinal and Edible Uses of Native Plants
Nancy Turner & Darrell Eustache July 18-20

What Plant is That?
Dave Williams July 25-27

Day Courses
free to members, \$5 for non-members

Night Life in Wells Gray
Connie Veer June 21

The Mushrooms of Wells Gray
Gary Hunt June 28

Nature for Kids
Helen Knight July 5

Join a Butterfly Census
Helen Knight & Hettie Miller July 6

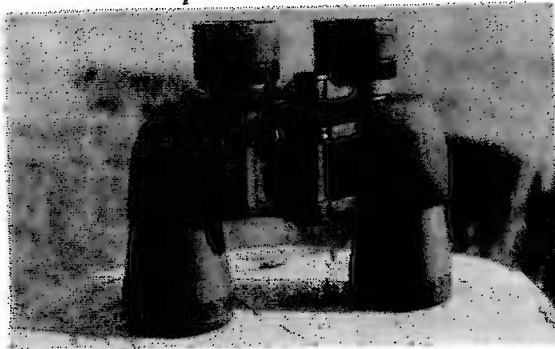
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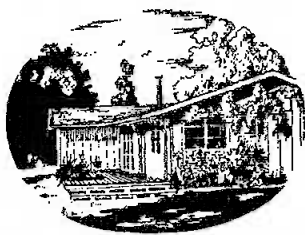
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Interpretive Centre (end of April to Thanksgiving) offers a variety of wildlife activities and programs. Campground nearby. FOR TOUR & PROGRAM INFORMATION: CVWA, Box 640, Creston, B.C., V0B 1G0 (250)428-3259.



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DONNA KAISER
Hostess

Telephone: (250) 246-1016

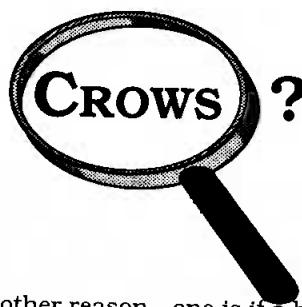
Enter a Bird Watching Haven

Thetis Island's Clam Bay Bed & Breakfast, situated on a point of land ringed by arbutus trees and surrounded by seas, offers the naturalist of all levels a unique birding experience. Explore at leisure the island shores, or join our local naturalist for a guided tour of the island's inland forest and marshes.

In the evening, recall the day's events over a home-cooked meal fresh from Donna's kitchen. Please phone for further information on individual, group, or package tours.

the Young Naturalist Explorer

A MURDER OF



Crows are not everyone's favourite bird. For one thing they are black, and for another, they are often quite noisy. Instead of a beautiful song like a House Finch or Winter Wren, they make harsh sounds like "caw caw", or "cow cow". They also gather in large numbers, often by the thousands as they head for their night time sleeping quarters (roost). One well-known place for great a crow gathering is Burnaby, where there are thousands and thousands. It is wonderful to watch the crows come in the evening from all directions, after a day feeding somewhere near or far (perhaps the nearest beach or landfill). Yes they do sit around a lot crowing, but watch as they come in, wheeling, rolling, swooping - it is simply wonderful to watch. But why do they do these aerial acrobatics? Why don't they just arrive at a Central meeting place and go on from there?



Crows gather for another reason - one is if a bird of prey such as an owl or hawk has been spotted. When the 'word' (cawing) gets out that there's a predatory bird around, you'll see the crows swoop down at it, often missing by mere centimetres. This behaviour, called mobbing, is also done by other birds, for example, chickadees. By watching for mobbing, you'll be able to discover many birds of prey that are often well hidden, such as the Cooper's or Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Crows do an important job in nature by acting as 'cleaner-uppers'. They feed (scavenge) on things such as dead animals, thus helping to keep the community clean. Crows will eat almost anything; one reason they are found in so many places.

What is a **murder** of crows? That is the name that has been given to a group of crows - instead of flock,

you can use the word 'murder'. This is a very old name, but why it's a 'murder' no one seems to know. Perhaps it's time to invent a new 'collective' term such as a 'carpet' of crows — if you can think of a better word than murder, please let me know.

In the meantime keep enjoying nature - outdoors and with a friend. Please write down and draw pictures of the things you see in your own neighbourhood.

Al Grass

Something to Think About....

While it looks amusing to us, it's serious business for the crows. What are they doing?

Maybe the crows are greeting each other after a long day's work and saying "hey, everyone, it's me, I'm back, and here are some things that happened."

Cont. from page 21 - Powell River...

Lake Wilderness reserve to the great yellow cedar trees near Granite Lake, should be a treat for any nature lover. Along this particular trail waterfalls are plentiful. To become an amateur naturalist under such conditions is a joy. I have asked myself many times, why has the general public not caught the spirit of watching the earth tick. Can you tell me?

For anyone interested in Power River's massive trail

system, contact the local hiking club, or better join them on one of the Wednesday or Sunday hikes. Even better yet, arrange to take part in their annual walk from Lund to Shingle Mill or Powell Lake. The hike takes place on the first Saturday in May and is exactly 37 km along.

Powell River residents watch for copies of BC Naturalist in you community. Please join the FBCN and let us help you form a club in Powell River.

B C NATURALIST MARCH 1997 PAGE 27

JOE LAKE - SNOWY MOUNTAIN VANCOUVER NHS SUMMER CAMP 1997

20 JULY TO 27 JULY 1997



Joe Lake overlooking the Okanagan Range
Photo: Bob Harris

Location: About 20 km southwest of Keremeos, B.C. Accessible by a two hour hike from 5200 foot crest of 25 kilometre logging road from Highway 3 at 1400 feet, or by 8 hour hike (or helicopter ride) from Ashnola River road at 2500 feet. Joe Lake is at 7150 feet. Topo map reference 1:50,000 82E/4 (Campsite grid 874418), also 92H/1

Details: This is a very isolated, lovely, high plateau bounding timberline, very scenic, with open, undulating grassy ridges and summits. There is considerable easy to challenging alpine access and several small lakes. May encounter big horn sheep. The camp is fully catered for in our cook and dining tents. All personal gear will be flown in by helicopter.

Cost: \$450.00 per person (\$325.00 for 14-16 year olds, 150.00 for under 14 year olds). Cost includes Sunday dinner on 20 July through to lunch on the following Sunday 27 July. Passenger rides by helicopter, if needed, are \$50.00 each way.

Children: A camper under 15 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or sponsoring adult who is fully responsible for the care and safety of that child.

For further information and an application form:

Send a stamped, self-addressed legal-sized envelope to:
Pauline Woodward, Camp Registrar
404-3777 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V6R 1Z2



Note: Applications will be mailed in early April and the Camp will be limited to 60 people, after which a waiting list will be established.



FLOWERS & FESTIVALS

HIKING AND TOURING IN THE HIMALAYA

18th July - 8th August, 1997

The VALLEY OF FLOWERS & the FESTIVALS OF LADAKH tour is fully escorted from Vancouver by well known BC naturalist and India expert Kelly Sekhon.

Our trek explores the little known Miyar valley in the region of Lahaul- a land of towering peaks, glaciers, snow fed streams, medieval villages, picturesque Buddhist monasteries and a wealth of wild flowers.

Later, we drive over the high passes of the Greater Himalaya to Ladakh and its capital, Leh, in the Indus valley. Our visit to Ladakh coincides with the colourful Phyang Festival. After a spectacular Trans Himalayan flight, there will be an option to visit the Taj Mahal.

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PLANNING A MALL OR LIBRARY DISPLAY?

The FBCN would be pleased to supply your club with FBCN brochures and copies of the *BC Naturalist* to assist you with displays, educational workshops, etc. The office also has posters and other publications for sale.

The FBCN display is also available but should be booked early. Please write or phone the office well in advance of your event to allow time for mailing or delivery.



FBCN 1997 EXPLORATORY CAMP

NONDA CREEK

10 TO 16 JULY 1997

&

17 TO 22 JULY 1997

Cost of Camp: \$160

Nonda Creek is on the eastern edge of Muncho Lake Provincial Park, about 1500 km from Vancouver, a two day drive from Vancouver, more if you wish to explore the north. Take the Alaska Highway north from Fort St. John through Fort Nelson to Toad River. To reach the camping area, go approximately 6 miles west of Toad River to a microwave road, turn right and drive up until camp.

This will be a different access to camp, there will be no outfitter to drop us short of our destination, and no plane to be affected by the weather, we will have a drive in camp!

We will have the opportunity to move from Nonda Creek, after we have explored that area, to a campground at Summit Lake, the highest point on the Alaska Highway. From there we can hike up Summit Mountain, visit beautiful Flowering Springs Lake, travel into the Wokkash recreation area or...?????

The Nonda Creek microwave road starts at about 2500 feet and goes up to about 5,000 feet. It will be unusual if we do not have many sightings of moose, caribou, deer, goats, etc.

You will need cooking and sleeping equipment plus your food. If possible, arrange to cook with someone. Tarps will be supplied, don't forget your stove fuel. As always, with these camps, be prepared for any kind of weather!

Reference Maps: Topo 1/50,000
94N4; 94N3; 94N13; 94N14; 94K10 for Summit Lake

For more information please phone
Ted Stubbs
604 321 2784

REGISTRATION FORM FBCN EXPLORATORY CAMP NONDA CREEK

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Member of which Club(s) _____

Which week will you attend?

10 - 16 July 17 - 22 July

If you wish to attend this camp please complete the Registration form and include your cheque payable to FBCN - Camp and include a 4 x 9 stamped self addressed envelope. We cannot take reservations without a non refundable deposit of \$50. Please send to:

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FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - PRINCETON

8 MAY TO 11 MAY 1997

HOSTED BY THE VERMILION FORKS FIELD NATURALISTS **
AT THE LEGION HALL ON BRIDGE STREET, PRINCETON



8 May (Thursday)

6:30 p.m.

Registration, refreshments, touring of displays, networking with other clubs and members.

9 May (Friday)

6:00 a.m.

Early morning outings. Meet at Grayhound bus station. Three sites: August Lake, Separation Lake (birding) or Fossil Hunt. (repeated Saturday a.m.)

8:25 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Symposium: Grasslands, Forests and Riparian Habitat - A Biodiversity (see below)
Western supper at the Jura Ranch In the interest of recycling and conservation we are trying to avoid use of paper plates or other materials. We encourage you to bring your own plates, mug and utensils. Drinks supplied will be non-alcoholic, BYOB if desired. For added excitement a wild west show will take place.

6:30 p.m.

10 May (Saturday)

6:00 a.m.

Early morning outings. (see Friday)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Annual General Meeting, followed by a Director's Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Social Hour & Banquet - at Legion Hall.

Guest speaker: Ms. Chris Czajkowski, author of *Cabin at Singing River*.

11 May (Sunday)

Field trips: There will be sign up sheets

- Baldy (grasslands, forests and riparian habitats) Leader: Jerry Herzig
- Kane/Voight Valley, nesting many lakes, choice birding Leader: W. Weber
- Grasslands tour on horseback (on private lands). (Cost \$20. per hour)

**For note on our host club see page 10

GRASSLANDS, FORESTS AND RIPARIAN HABITAT - A BIO-DIVERSITY

9 May 1997

8:25 a.m.

Welcome to Princeton, Mayor Randy McLean

8:30 a.m.

Welcome, Don Burbidge, President Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists

Grasslands, Forests and Riparian Habitat: A Biodiversity

8:35 a.m.

The Princeton Outback (slide show)

8:45 a.m.

The Grasslands, Past and Present - Dr. Richard Hebda, Royal BC Museum

9:30 a.m.

Forest and Riparian Habitat - Dr. Wayne Weber, Ministry of Forests

10:00 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:30 a.m.

The Stories told by Fossils - Rene Savenye, Teacher of Biology (retired)

11:00 a.m.

The First Nations and the Environment - Stan Copp, Instructor Langara College

11:30 a.m.

Question: to be submitted on paper to speakers

12:00 p.m.

Box Lunch

The Plants and Animals - Their Dependence on Bio-diversity

1:00 p.m.

Amphibians and Reptiles - Laura Friis, BC Ministry of Environment

1:30 p.m.

The Wildflowers and other Plants - Eva Durance, Consultant

2:00 p.m.

The Birds - Rick Howie, BC Ministry of Environment

2:30 p.m.

Coffee Break

3:00 p.m.

The Insects - Robert Cannings, Royal BC Museum

3:30 p.m.

The Mammals - David Nagorson, Royal BC Museum

4:10 p.m.

The Panel - Discussion to concentrate on the need of habitat protection, especially the grasslands. Moderator: Dr. Bert Brink, and Frances Vyse, all speakers.

4:45 p.m.

Questions: to be submitted to panel on paper.

ACCOMMODATION

Please make your own reservation. Here are some suggestions, if you would like some other options please call the Princeton Chamber of Commerce at 250 295 3103 or fax 250 295 3255.

Princeton Castle RV Park 250 295 7988	Approximately 5 km on Highway 40, good birding on grounds. Lodge: Group Rate - B/B \$80 a couple Campground - Group Rate \$15 per site Cabins - Group Rate \$25 per cabin
Ponderosa Motel 250 295 6941	In town, close to AGM venue \$40 - \$45 Swimming Pool, one unit with kitchen \$55. for up to 5 people
Villager Motel 250 295 6996	Has restaurants close-by, within walking distance of AGM venue Single \$36 Double (twins) \$48, Senior rates, lower rates / multiple bookings
Riverside Motel 250 295 6232	All units with kitchen, group rates \$28. - \$46. within walking distance of AGM venue
Woodside Inn 250 295 3554	B/B, group rates. Single \$40 Double \$60. If all four rooms booked lower rates apply, also if more nights.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration includes all speakers, refreshments on the Thursday Evening at the Registration and social get-together, all coffee breaks. Box Lunch on Friday is an additional \$5.00 per person and must be indicated separately.

Registration Fee (Thursday to Sunday)	before April 18	\$40.00 per person x	= \$ _____
Registration Fee (Thursday to Sunday)	after April 18	\$45.00 per person x	= \$ _____
Friday Only	before April 18	\$20.00 per person x	= \$ _____
Friday only	after April 18	\$25.00 per person x	= \$ _____
Box Lunch for Friday only		\$ 5.00 per person x	= \$ _____
Friday Dinner - Western Supper at Jura Ranch		\$12.00 per person x	= \$ _____
Saturday Banquet, includes wine, there will be no host bar		\$20.00 per person x	= \$ _____
TOTAL			_____

Please make cheque payable to Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
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CLUB AFFILIATION _____

FBCN DIRECTOR Yes No

NOTE: Please send form and cheque to:
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Capilano College – led by NANCY BARON

November 10 - December 1, 1997 — Cost TBA

The Indian subcontinent is home to some of the most important natural reserves in Asia. Join Nancy Baron and explore Bharatpur in India, the world's third most important migratory bird sanctuary, and home to three hundred and twenty species of birds, in addition to deer, wild boar, pythons and hyena. A stop in Agra allows time to view the Taj Mahal. On to the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal, and the world famous Royal Chitwan National Park, and the lesser known, but no less important, Kosi Tappi Wildlife Reserve. These two parks are in the "terraci". Nepal's semi tropical lowlands, and in addition to game and bird viewing, this area offers spectacular scenery. There will be the chance to spot the greater one horned rhino, the Royal Bengal tiger, wild water buffalo, and gangetic dolphins. Up to five hundred species of birds have been recorded in Royal Chitwan and Kosi Tappu is Nepal's finest wetland, covering an area of 175 km on the flood plain of the Kosi River and comprising open grasslands with swamps and waterholes created by monsoon rains. All of Nepal's long list of wetland birds occur here.

SCOTLAND & THE ORKNEY ISLANDS

Capilano College – led by DAVID STIRLING

May / June, 1998 — Cost TBA

Scotland offers the birding enthusiast everything! Moorland birds, birds of prey, waders, cliff dwellers and woodland species. In addition, Scotland offers fabulous scenery and a culture steeped in history and tradition. Join David on this exciting trip, traveling to Glasgow, Inverness, the Orkney Islands and Aberdeen and including the nature reserves of Loch Lomond, Birsay Moors, Loons Nature Reserve, North Hoy, Loch Garten, Cairngorm (the largest national reserve in the U.K.) and the Wood of Cree reserve. You will visit castles, off shore islands, a whiskey distillery – all in addition to viewing hundreds of birds and breeding colonies of kestrel, merlin, short eared owl, puffin and gannets.

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