

March 2018

The Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club

www.okanagannature.org



*To Know Nature and
keep it worth
knowing*



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NOTICES

Executive changes: p.2.
membership, BC
Nature, and library

Pre-meetings Tuesday,
13 March.
6:20 pm. BC Nature Fall
meeting. p. 6.
6:30 pm. Midsummer
Madness. p. 4.

Science Fair invitation
is attached to this
newsletter. p. 4.

Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club
Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, 13 March 2018

7:00 pm., Evangel Church, 3261 Gordon Drive, Kelowna



Title: My Experience at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology
7:00 pm. Where: Evangel Church, 3261 Gordon Drive, Kelowna

Speaker: Logan Lalonde

About the presentation: This past summer, Logan was chosen to embark on a journey to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in New York, to attend the Young Birders Event. It was an eye-opening experience for him and he learned a massive amount about birds, careers in ornithology, and many other facets of moving forward in the avian world. He is very excited to share a lot of what he absorbed there.

Logan is a very avid birder, photographer, naturalist and public speaker. Logan is extremely passionate about the worldwide conservation of wildlife, predominantly birds, and wants to make a big difference in the fight for habitat conservation.

World Water Day, on 22 March every year, is about focusing attention on the importance of water. The theme for World Water Day 2018 is '[Nature for Water](http://www.worldwaterday.org)' – exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face in the 21st century.
www.worldwaterday.org

Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club. www.okanagannature.org

P.O. Box 21128, RPO Orchard Park, Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 9N8

EXECUTIVE FOR 2018-19

President	Rick Gee	250-763-0124	rdgee@shaw.ca
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Past president	Craig Lewis	250-765-2511	coppercliff59@gmail.com

Directors for 2018-19

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Botany	Peter Green	250-765-1737	N/A
Conservation	vacant		
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Website: www.okanagannature.org	Rick Gee	250-763-0124	rdgee@shaw.ca
NatureKids Kelowna	Kate Kutzner	250-859-9877	kelowna@naturekidsbc.ca

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, September to June at 7 p.m. in Evangel Church, 3261 Gordon Drive, Kelowna. **Visitors are welcome.** **Hosts:** Bev Thomas 250-762-7610, Liz Daley 250-801-1286. Please bring your own cup.

MEMBERSHIP: Karen Pedersen, kepedersen@telus.net, 250-869-4932

Annual dues: single \$30, family \$42, students \$14, includes Newsletter (except January, July & August). Membership form and waiver form can be found on CONC website www.okanagannature.org. Send your name, address, telephone number, email address, waiver form and dues to: CONC Membership, Box 21128, Orchard Park P.O., Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 9N8.

Honorary Life Members: Hugh Westheuser, Pat Westheuser, Eileen Dillabough, Cec Dillabough, Arthur Hughes-Games (deceased), Brenda Thomson (deceased), and Harry Almond (deceased).

NEWSLETTER: Editor: Teresa Smith. Deadline date for submissions is the fourth Tuesday of each month. Send submissions to Teresa Smith, tmsmith.rio@shaw.ca, 250-860-9133. Mailing address is, 292 Rio Drive South, Kelowna, B.C V1V 2B1.

Mailing: Norma Coburn 778 215 1478, normacoburn74@gmail.com. **Email distribution:** Karen Pedersen kepedersen@telus.net

REGULAR ACITIVITIES: All activities are seasonal. If in doubt, check with the contact person. Or phone any of the executive.

BIRDING: Howard Braun 250-768-4339 and Gwynneth Wilson 250-762-6876. **TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Monday Birding meet at 8:00 a.m. April-June at the Apple Bowl.

Thursday birding meet 8 am (Apr-Sep) or 9 am (Oct-Mar) at St. Charles Garnier Church, 3645 Benvoulin Rd.

Saturday Birding: 2nd Saturday of the month 7:30 am Apr.- Sept. 8:30 am Oct. - Mar. Meet at the Apple Bowl*

BOTANY: Peter Green 250-765-1737. Friday Botany trips: Meet 9:15 am (departure 9:30 am) at the Apple Bowl*

HIKES. (Bring a lunch). General information Sherrell Davidson 778-478-1956 or sherrellconc@shaw.ca.

All Hikers meet at the Apple Bowl*

- "Sole Survivors" **Wednesday and Saturday Hikes: Times as per schedule**, see www.okanagannature.org

- **Wednesday Ramblers and Wanderers:** Times as per schedule www.okanagannature.org. Contact Merle Auty, 250-861-4500 or auty1781@gmail.com.

*1555 Burtch Road, the Apple Bowl parking lot, corner of Burtch and Bernard

THE BIRDING REPORT by Margaret Bryan

On January 11 we braved the icy path at the end of Burtch Road to view **Harris's Sparrows** and a **Northern Shrike**. We headed to Hall Road area after viewing **Common Goldeneye** by the KLO Bridge. O'Reilly Lane gave us **Varied Thrush**, a **Cedar Waxwing** and a **Pine Grosbeak**. January 18 we visited the historic Kelowna Cemetery. We heard many **Pygmy Nuthatches** and looked down on a flock of **Hooded Mergansers** in the Kelowna Golf and Country Club pond. We then traveled up Valley road where we saw an **American Kestrel** and a **Rough-legged Hawk**.

January 25 we checked out Scenic Canyon under sunny skies. An **American Dipper** was bobbing by the creeks edge. A little further along a **White-throated Sparrow** was spotted. The **Winter Wren** was heard and briefly spotted near the bridge. February 1 was time for our annual winter run to the Greystokes area. At the feeders on Greystokes Road we found **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** among the **Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees**. Another **White-throated Sparrow** was also seen. At Cardinal Creek Road a **Downy Woodpecker** and **Steller's Jays** were added to the day. A little further west a **Brown Creeper** was spotted. On the way down the hill a we spotted a **Rough-legged Hawk** watching the world from a power pole. February 8 was sunny and cold. Jorma led us to Manhattan Point for a **Red-necked Grebe** and some **Common Loons**. We then checked out Rotary Marsh to see **American Robins**, a **Belted Kingfisher** and **Horned Grebe**. A **Great Blue Heron** was sitting down on its breast. We all agreed that we had not seen this behaviour before, but the bird was standing in the normal manner before we left so all seemed well. After coffee at Specialty Bakery we walked to Chichester to add **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye** and a very clear **Cackling Goose** to the day.

February 10 was time for the Second Saturday outing. Three carloads set out to the south under bright skies. Our first stop was near Trout Creek to seek a reported **Long-eared Owl**. Extensive searching did not reveal the bird, but did give us **Red-winged Blackbirds** singing, a **Red-tailed Hawk** and an **Adult Bald Eagle**. A flock of **Bohemian Waxwings** flew over as we picked up some Tim Horton's Coffee to go. Near the SS Sicamous we sighted **Pied-billed Grebe** and an **American Dipper** diving by the channel. We also saw **Barrows Goldeneye** and a second **American Bald Eagle**. An odd goose seen as we crossed the canal proved to be a domestic - a **Chinese Swan Goose** upon investigation. More **Barrow's Goldeneye** and **American Dippers** were seen at Okanagan Falls campground. At Vaseaux Cliffs we saw two **Golden Eagles** and a herd of California Bighorn Sheep including a full curl ram. The ride home added Mountain Goats on the cliffs north of Summerland.

BIRD FEEDERS: A few thoughts on the pleasant pass time of feeding birds. This is a good way to be in touch with nature and to introduce children to the world of birds. The simple act of throwing grain or seed on the ground will bring California Quail, House Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos, and even Mallards. The problem with this method is that it will also attract rats so diligent cleanup is needed.



The next method is the simple bird table with a rim on the edge to keep feed off the ground. A pole feeder can be a small table or commercially made feeder on a pole. It can accommodate a Squirrel/cat collar which will discourage free loading squirrels and predatory cats. An interesting variation on the table feeder is the window shelf which allows reloading without going outside and gives nice close views of your visitors.

Also popular are hanging feeders. These can be purchased or crafted from an empty bleach or pop bottle. They are filled with mixed seed, black oil sunflower seed or niger seed. Commercial metal cage suet feeders and suet blocks are widely available. Leaving a piece of suet may work but it may attract Racoons. A home-made suet hanger can be a mesh onion bag filled and hanging in a tree. The birds



©Pam Laing 2016

American Dipper



Wikipedia

Winter Wren



Barrow's Goldeneye

©Pam Laing

can grab the strings and peck away safely. One odd feeding method I have heard of is to smear peanut butter on a tree trunk. I think Nuthatches would enjoy this.

Enjoy your feeding but do remember to keep the area clean and tidy as our city is currently suffering a rat problem.

2018 AGM NOTICE
Friends of Black Mountain

The annual general meeting for the Friends of Black Mountain/sntsk'il'nten Regional Park will take place on Monday, March 12th at 7:00 pm. It is at the ECCO.

Special guest speakers include:

Pam Laing who will talk about birds in the park and
Maury Williams who will talk about hunting grizzlies in the 1800s.

www.friendsofblackmountain.com

ALL ARE WELCOME

It is coming: The First Day of Spring, 20 March



SD 23 Science Fair/Inquiry Expo - 2018
March 10



Colleagues, Post-Secondary Partners, Community Members, and Friends;

We would like to invite you to join us to celebrate the learning of our some of our inspired young scientists and innovators. This event wouldn't continue to be the success that it has been, if it didn't have your support.

Please see the attached invitation for our newly rebranded event, as we continue to evolve with current trends in education.

You can find more information about recent changes to the event at our new website www.coie.ca

MIDSUMMER MADNESS Tuesday, 19 and 20th June 2018

It is time to think about the 2018 Midsummer Madness trip. We have decided to revisit Osoyoos as we had such a great time there five years ago, and of course we are all excited about the progress being made towards the South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve. With the help of the Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists Club we were able to visit the Sagebrush Slopes and Sparrow Grasslands in 2013. We have been in touch with this club and hope for their assistance again.

This is a perfect opportunity to spend time with your friends in CONC or make some new friends. You don't need to be a big hiker. There are places to bird, take shorter walks, and also lots of biking trails. And don't forget happy hours!

The motel we have in mind is the Lakeview Motel 1-250-495-7641. This is where we stayed last time. It is convenient and reasonably priced. Two places we found for RV & Tenting are: Island View RV & Tenting 250-495-7696, and NK-MIP Campground & RV Park 250-495-7279

We would like to show you some of our information, half an hour before our March meeting (March 13th at 6:30)

Bev Thomas 250-762-7610,
Laura Weir 778-214-3220.
Merle Auty 250-861-4500

THE LAKE COUNTRY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – December 2017

Greater White-fronted Goose	2
Canada Goose	618
Tundra Swan	3
Gadwall	46
American Wigeon	3
Mallard	581
Green-winged Teal	2
Greater Scaup	7
Bufflehead	2
Common Goldeneye	9
Barrow's Goldeneye	3
Hooded Merganser	13
Common Merganser	186
Duck sp	3
California Quail	674
Ring-necked Pheasant	4
Ruffed Grouse	4
Grouse sp.	1
Wild Turkey	9
Pacific Loon	1
Common Loon	14
Pied-billed Grebe	8
Horned Grebe	48
Red-necked Grebe	39
Western Grebe	18
Great Blue Heron (Blue Form)	4
Bald Eagle Adults	18
Bald Eagle Immatures	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5
Cooper's Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	37
American Coot	166
Ring-billed Gull	6
California Gull	7
Herring Gull	17
Glaucous-winged Gull	2
Glaucous Gull	1
Gull sp	11
Rock Pigeon	17
Eurasian Collared-Dove	139
Mourning Dove	23
Great Horned Owl	2
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1
Belted Kingfisher	8



Green-winged Teal (Wikipedia)

Downy Woodpecker	9
Hairy Woodpecker	7
American Three-toed Woodpecker	4
Northern Flicker	197
Pileated Woodpecker	2
American Kestrel	2
Merlin	5
Northern Shrike	2
Gray Jay	9
Steller's Jay	23
Clark's Nutcracker	18
Black-billed Magpie	210
American Crow	29
Common Raven	127
Black-capped Chickadee	275
Mountain Chickadee	152
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	21
Red-breasted Nuthatch	20
White-breasted Nuthatch	13
Pygmy Nuthatch	311
Brown Creeper	21
Pacific Wren	2
American Dipper	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	114
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Townsend's Solitaire	27
American Robin	38
European Starling	759
Bohemian Waxwing	470
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1

Fox Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	105
White-throated Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	224
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	2
Red-winged Blackbird	32
Pine Grosbeak	22
House Finch	353
Common Redpoll	303
Pine Siskin	11
American Goldfinch	116
Evening Grosbeak	22
House Sparrow	271



Pine Grosbeak (Wikipedia)

The Lake Country Christmas Bird Count was held December 14th, 2017. The weather was calm with our typical valley cloud inversion but quite mild (minimum/maximum at Kelowna was -1 and +2). 6934 birds of 84 species were tallied by 39 observers in ten parties. Two additional species seen during count week, but not on count day, were Western Bluebird and Trumpeter Swan. The most abundant species was European Starling at 759, followed by California Quail at 674 and Canada Goose at 618.

Special birds for this count were a Yellow-rumped Warbler found by Joyce Fraser’s group, a Glaucous Gull seen by Don Wilson’s group, and a Fox Sparrow seen by Gwynneth Wilson’s group. The irruption or invasion of Chestnut-backed Chickadees this winter continues with 21 found on the westside of Okanagan Lake (where I have never personally seen them before - but they were not seen on any of the other routes.) Eurasian Collared-Doves (139) continue to increase being far more numerous than Mourning Doves (23). And there’s still a few "wild" turkeys roaming the Vernon Commonage that were found on the count.

Special thanks go to the Lake Country Public Art Gallery for hosting the count-up, and to Ann Gibson for organizing the parties.

Les Gyug



BC Nature Fall General Meeting, 20-23 September, in Kelowna

A short note to let you know how planning is going for the BC Nature Fall General Meeting, 20-23 September, in Kelowna. We now have a number of volunteers. Thank you all, but we are always looking for more.

Planning is well underway. Still to be determined are some of the speakers. If you know of anyone who might be able to give a presentation relating to the Okanagan and the theme of “Connections”, please let Rick know. We are working on speakers from several organizations already.

We also have several field trips planned. Would you be willing to lead a walking trip along the Okanagan Rail Trail? The Myra canyon trestles? Biking trips?

Would you be willing to help at the registration table, handing out registration packages and checking people in? Do you have a contact for a wine tour company?

Rick Gee rdgee@shaw.ca or 250-763-0124



The Ogopogo Trail, Knox Mountain Park

The following notice was received from The City of Kelowna:

Ogopogo Trail improvements close path until May

February 27, 2018

Ogopogo Trail, in Knox Mountain Park, will be closed early March through May for improvements to the trail.

The popular trail is a steep uphill climb, which veers off the Paul's Tomb Trail to the east and leads to Magic Estates neighbourhood and the Pavilion Trail.

Improvements will include removal and re-installation of existing concrete steps to provide a more comfortable climb, trail re-alignment, signage and benches.

Due to the nature of the terrain, combined with the construction activity, the Ogopogo Trail will be closed for the duration of the construction.

Construction signage will be posted in the area to assist pedestrians and cyclists. All other trails at Knox Mountain Park are available for use.

For more information and to find alternate parks and pathways during the closure, visit kelowna.ca/parks.