

Central Okanagan Naturalist

www.okanagannature.org

December, 2025



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Know Nature and Keep it
Worth Knowing

Index

Upcoming Meeting	1
Welcome New Members	1

Upcoming Activities

• General Meeting	1
• Speaker	1-3
• Board News	3
• Potluck Dinner	3
• Photo Contest	3

Regular Columns

• Birding Report	4-6
• Botany Report	7
• Hiking Report	7
• Explorers Report	8

Features

• Winter Birding Surveys	9
• Bird Taxonomy Name Changes	9-10
• Obscurata 4 – The Blues	10-13
• Hallowe'en Ghost	13-14
• CONC Digital Archives	14
• BCNature	15-16
• Ecological Connectivity Project	16
• Water for Woodhaven	17-18
• COBBS Grant	18-19
• CONC on the Go	19
• What on Earth?	20
• What's New in the News	20

Club Information	21
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Monthly Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The next general meeting takes place on December 9, 7:00 p.m., at Evangel Church, 3261 Gordon Drive, Kelowna. Please see our speaker details below.

WELCOME NEW CONC MEMBERS!

Our club is growing and thriving, and we welcome our newest members. We look forward to meeting you in the natural world.

- Irene Dowling
- Stephen Cheung
- Janine Goodall
- Patricia Gartner
- Scott Furman
- Ted Hindmarch
- Shelley Waldern
- Piera Calissi
- Mark Rubensohn
- Debbie Hoffele
- Sherry Danielson
- Susan MacMillan
- Christine O'Keefe

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER – KALIN OCAÑA

Adventures in Micronesia, Summer 2024

Kalin is a UBCO geography student, conservationist and birder, and CONC's Conservation Director. While in the Okanagan, he works as a nature guide, both privately and for the Regional District of Central Okanagan. This trip to Micronesia will describe his expeditions to different islands in the region. Kalin will share stories, photos of birds, landscapes, and wildlife as well as the history and geography of the islands.



Nicobar pigeon, Palaus
Rock Islands

NEWS FROM THE CONC BOARD

BY DOUGLAS GRAHAM

Your Board continues to meet monthly, keeping CONC on track. A few changes have recently taken place in the Board structure and membership:

- ⇒ The Botany Director position has been removed from the Board, with the full agreement of its current occupant, Peter Courtney. We're pleased to note that botany field trips will continue next year under Peter's leadership, but he will do so as a member volunteer, coordinating as needed with the Outings Director. The Board sincerely thanks Peter for being the Botany Director since 2022 (when he replaced Peter Green); we are very grateful for all his contributions to the Club and particularly for the outstanding botany field trips and newsletter contributions.

- ⇒ An editor position has been created on the Board. This new position is now occupied jointly by Lisa Rae and Vivian Manning; they were already on the Board but as a Director at Large without portfolio.
- ⇒ Steffany Walker has resigned from her position as Membership Director (held jointly with Annette Lachaine). Steffany will help Annette with the transition. Thank you Steffany, for all your help this year.
- ⇒ The Past President position has also been removed from the Board, with the full agreement of its current occupant, Douglas Graham. For a variety of reasons, the Board has concluded that it makes more sense for the Past President to be invited to Board meetings as an advisor, without being a formal member and having a vote. Douglas has thus exited from the Board but will continue to informally help and draw on his institutional memory to advise as needed.
- ⇒ The Board now has five slots designated in the Bylaws (President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Director) and six director-at-large positions with responsibilities named by the Board (BC Nature, Birding, Editor, Outings, Outreach and Communications, Programs, and Conservation). The President and Vice-president positions are currently unfilled, so we have ten Board members (some are filled by two people).

2026 looks to be a year where we really need a few CONC members to step up to the plate since we're still missing a president and VP and several of the current Board members have indicated they will be retiring. This includes at least the Birding, Outings, and Outreach directors. So, we have an opening for you!

In the June 2025 newsletter Annette Lachaine and Glenda Newman provided some helpful information on what is involved — these are not difficult jobs! As they mentioned, being on the Board means attending nine monthly Board meetings by Zoom (when you are available), participating in discussions and decisions on a variety of interesting club issues, and being part of a fun group. Some positions have additional responsibilities, but they are not demanding and incoming folks can tailor each position to do more or to do less as per their interests.

A full description of each Board position is available in our Procedures, available in our Archives (see article in this newsletter). Here are a few details on the positions which for sure will be open at the AGM next February:

- ⇒ **President:** an easy job actually! The President chairs Board meetings and general meetings (but can delegate if needed). This person represents CONC to our members and to the outside world and handles and redirects incoming correspondence (a few items per week at most). There is no expectation of doing anything other than just maintaining the status quo but of course there is always room for new ideas...
- ⇒ **Vice-President:** even easier! The VP is just the back-up to the President but can take on a variety of other responsibilities if interested.
- ⇒ **Birding:** one of the more challenging Board positions as it does involve coordination of some 100+ birding outings/year. However, there are many volunteer leaders and Mike has indicated he is more than happy to help with the transition. He has created an efficient system to manage the outings.
- ⇒ **Outings:** Glenda Newman recently circulated an email to everybody on the hiking lists, explaining just what is involved in this position; please check it out. Although she will not continue on the Board, she notes that there will be volunteers in place, including herself, to coordinate all the various hikes that the Club organizes.

- ⇒ **Outreach:** this director helps coordinate our outreach (t-shirts, promotional materials, organizes and participates with other volunteers in public education events such as a booth at Canada Day activities, liase with nature-based organization for kids or youth, Facebook page, etc.). Marjorie Gonzalez did a great job over the last two years moving forward various initiatives. We are looking for somebody to explore bringing in new members and interfacing with the wider community.

As a reminder, all the current Board members are listed on the back page of each newsletter; they can be contacted for more details or on any issue of interest.

CONC POTLUCK DINNER

January 13, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Evangel Church, Gordon Drive



Traditionally we have a mid-winter potluck banquet. Originally it was held in February but now it is held in January. In 2026, the second Tuesday in January is January 13 so that is the date. There is a \$5 charge as the church provides round tables (seating six or eight) and tablecloths; this is an additional cost over and above our regular room rental. Banquet organizers provide centrepieces, you provide food for yourself and a few others, and Dr. Ian Walker provides a quiz to keep us on our toes.

Tickets are available through Rick Gee.

2025-2026 CONC PHOTO CONTEST



As has become recent practice, CONC will host the 2025 - 2026 photo contest online. In the New Year, we will set up a website to facilitate judging.

At this point, it is most important to remind you to submit your photos. Entry is open to CONC members only. Entrants may submit up to four (4) total photos maximum - with no more than one photo per category.

There are four categories:

- 1) Flora (Plants, lichens, mosses, algae, fungi, and even bacteria)
- 2) Fauna (Animals of any sort, big or small, from weevils to whales. Protozoa, too!)
- 3) Landscapes
- 4) People in Nature

Please note, all entries must:

- have been taken in 2025 or 2026
- be emailed to concphotocontest@gmail.com together with the entrant's name, the category for each photo, and the title/location for each photo. Acceptable image formats include .jpg, .tiff & .png
- not include any watermarks or other indicators that would identify the entrant
- be received by concphotocontest@gmail.com no later than 10:00 am, January 13, 2026

Please note that because of the common dimensions of computer screens, images taken in portrait format may be disadvantaged relative to those having a landscape orientation. Also, your images should be submitted at a relatively high resolution. Low-resolution images will appear pixelated on the judging website.

Winning images will be published in the CONC newsletter.

REGULAR COLUMNS

BIRDING REPORT

BY MIKE HOWARD

During the first ten and a half months of 2025 all members were invited to participate in 93 CONC-organised birding excursions and “Critter Count Surveys”. These included:

- 41 Monday Birding Excursion Outings
- 41 Thursday Birding Excursion Outings
- 8 Saturday Birding Excursion Outings
- The Rick Howie Interior BC Swan and Eagle Annual Count (January 2025)
- The Okanagan Mountain Regional Park Critter Count (Les Gyug lead June 2025)
- The Johns Family Nature Conservancy Critter Count (Eve Wegscheidler lead June 2025)

On these 2025 outings to-date we observed 186 avifauna species and submitted 225 eBird checklists on the “CONC Birding Group” (We have posted 778 checklists). A special thanks to Gillian Fyles and Sharon Taylor who have recorded the majority of our eBird checklists this year.

2025 outings are possible thanks to all the birding excursion leaders who select a location, lead the excursion, and then report the results of the outing. Our thanks to:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Annette Lachaine | • Archie MacDonald | • Bruce Kennedy |
| • Carol Sharplin | • Deborah White | • Don Wilson |
| • Douglas Graham | • Fran Fisher | • Gillian Fyles |
| • Gwynneth Wilson | • Ian Walker | • Jasmine Korcok |
| • Jen Matthews | • Julia Proulx | • Joyce Fraser |
| • Karen Blumel | • Lisa Rae | • Margaret Bryan |
| • Mike Howard | • Pam Laing | • Rick Gee |
| • Sharon Taylor | • Simon Pethick | • Steffany Walker |
| • Vivian Manning | | • Wendy Wright |

Several of our very talented photographers have added photographs of the birds and habitat we observed for the benefit of our members and as evidence to eBird in our role as citizen scientists. Our contributing photographers included:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| • Bruce Kennedy | • Brittany Miller | • Daryll Myhr |
| • Douglas Graham | • Ian Walker | • Julia Proulx |
| • Karen Blumel | • Linda Walker | • Lisa Rae |
| • Pam Laing | | • Vivian Manning |

A few recent examples are provided below:



Northern Harrier, Swan Lake. Photo by Bruce Kennedy



Short-eared Owl, Swan Lake. Photo by Bruce Kennedy



Green-winged Teal, Rose Valley Reservoir Road. Photo by Ian Walker



American Tree Sparrow, Swan Lake.
Photo by Ian Walker



Male and female Wood Ducks, Sutherland Hills.
Photo by Julia Proulx



Red-naped Sapsucker, Kentucky-Alleyne
Provincial Park. Photo by Lisa Rae



Sharp-shinned Hawk, Mission Creek.
Photo by Julia Proulx



Common Loon, Wood Lake. Photo by Linda
Walker



Hooded Merganser, Munson Pond. Photo
by Pam Laing



Red-tailed Hawk, Michaelbrook Golf Course. Photo by Daryll Myhr

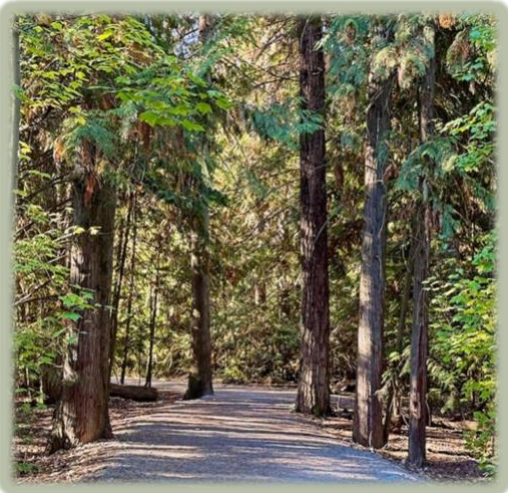


Bathtime for an American Robin. Photo by Vivian Manning

We encounter more than birds on our outings:



Northern Pacific Rattlesnake. Photo by Vivian Manning



Scenic Canyon Trail. Photo by Karen Blumel



Young Raccoons. Photo by Vivian Manning



Mule Deer. Photo by Linda Walker



Otter Lake. Photo by Lisa Rae



Black Mountain Regional Park. Photo by Lisa Rae



Red Squirrel. Photo by Brittany Miller

The Rick Howie Interior BC Swan and Eagle Count 2026:

The Swan and Eagle Count for 2026 will occur on Sunday January 18, 2026. Hopefully past area leaders are interested in participating and we welcome newcomers. If you are interested in participating, please send me an email at birding@okanagannature.org

This year's weekly botany outings were completed between April 18 and July 18. A summary of these outings was reported in the September newsletter. The number of species of vascular plants seen over all 14 outings was 409, as compared with 386 in 2024.



Since the end of the scheduled weekly outings and last newsletter report, there has been one September 23 outing, to look for mushrooms. We began with a show-and-tell of several mushrooms collected before the outing. We examined anatomical features of these samples, such as cap, spore-bearing surface, and stem and we categorized them as gilled mushrooms, boletes, polypores, puffballs, corals, crusts, etc. Then eight of us searched for mushrooms at two locations along Big White Road. Mushroom experts Mitch Milgram and Dan Durall helped us identify at least 49 species of mushrooms found that day. Photos taken of mushrooms and lichens seen during the advance scouting visit and the Sept 23 outing can be seen at [Observations · iNaturalist](#).

Ongoing botanical activities, events, and information

On an ongoing basis, you can see plants that people are seeing in our area by checking out [iNaturalist](#) projects such as the [Mission Creek Greenway Biodiversity Project](#) and the [Okanagan Biodiversity project](#). September and October are the prime times of the year for mushrooms, but you can still see a few new mushrooms fruiting in November.

In 2026 we will again host weekly botany outings during the spring and summer and an outing or two for mushrooms in the fall.

We don't get up as early as the birders and we don't walk as much as the hikers, but we do enjoy great scenery, fresh air, and good company. Details of when and where to meet are provided on CONC's webpage and by email to interested members. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the upcoming 2026 season, please forward them to botany@okanagannaturalist.com.

HIKING REPORT

BY GLENDA NEWMAN



The 3 hiking groups took full advantage of the lovely autumn, enjoying hikes from White Lake to Enderby Cliffs. Late October we all took in the golden larch. September was our last month of biking along the Rail Trail, Greenway, and the wonderful city biking routes. The Ramblers will continue to hike all winter, weather permitting, but the Sole Survivors and Trail Trekkers are winding down and looking forward to snowshoeing.





Views from the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) were spectacular as Ian Walker led a most interesting 12 km natural history excursion on a sunny Sunday, October 26. Little White Mountain was dusted in sparkling snow above the magnificent forests.



October's KVR Weekend Explorers with bikes, as shown in the photo above right, from right to left: Lynn Brown, Rick Gee, Linda Walker, Ian Walker, and Chris Brown.



The brightest of the golden deciduous trees, the black cottonwoods (*Populus trichocarpa*), could be seen below the train trestles and all along the route.



Western Larches (*Larix occidentalis*) boasted clusters of one to two dozen needles arising from knobs on the twigs, as seen in the following photos of an 80-foot Western Larch and its needles.



Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) (photo right) was also in great abundance as ground cover at the sides of the trail. Its red berries provide food for grouse, bears and the Yellow Pine Chipmunk (photo on left), that Linda photographed later in the day. Many, many thanks to Ian for leading this magnificent trip.



FEATURES

WINTER BIRDING SURVEYS

SOURCED BY LISA RAE

AUDUBON'S CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2025 - 2026

Ref: [Birds Canada](#) and [Audubon](#)

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) began in 1900 and is North American's longest-running Citizen Science project. Volunteers in more than 2000 locations throughout the Western Hemisphere participate each year.

The counts are administered by Bird Studies Canada and the National Audubon Society (US). Information collected by thousands of participants forms one of the world's largest sets of wildlife survey data. Results are used by conservation biologists, environmental planners and naturalists to assess the population trends and distribution of birds.

Count circles are 25 km in diameter and are organized by a local compiler. Field counts occur from **December 14 through to January 5** on a date selected by the local compiler.

For this upcoming 126th year, please contact the local compiler(s) below for details:

- **Kelowna** – Saturday December 20, Chris Charlesworth (c_charlesworth23@hotmail.com)
- **Lake Country** – Monday December 15, Les Gyug (les_gyug@shaw.ca)
- **Big White** – Chris Charlesworth (c_charlesworth23@hotmail.com)
- **Peachland** – Leanne McDonald (leamcd767@gmail.com)
- **Penticton** – Dick Cannings (dickcannings@shaw.ca)
- **Vaseux Lake** – Dick Cannings (dickcannings@shaw.ca)

SWEAGLE COUNT

The annual Sweagle (Swan and Eagle) Count will take place on **Sunday January 18**. Volunteer surveyors will monitor seven zones in the central region of Okanagan Lake. If you wish to take part, please contact Mike Howard (birding@okanagannature.org)

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Ref: [Birdcount](#)

The Great Backyard Bird Count will take place **February 13 - 16, 2026**. This is an annual four-day event that engages bird enthusiasts of all ages around the world in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. Anyone can participate, from beginners to experts. You can count for as little as 15 minutes on a single day, or for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy – and it helps the birds! The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint program of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon with the Canadian partner Birds Canada. Participating is easy, fun to do alone, or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds. Simply watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, and tell them what you see!

Details for participating and how to submit your sightings are at the [Birdcount website](#)

LATEST CHANGES TO BIRD TAXONOMY AND BIRD NAMES

BY DOUGLAS J. GRAHAM

Over the last few years in the Newsletter, I have reported on changes to bird taxonomy. This year's changes have recently been announced by the American Ornithological Society's (AOS) Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North and Middle American Birds (NACC). You can check out full details [here](#) and [here](#) of the many name changes and sequence changes. For the most part, these changes are also implemented by eBird (see [here](#) for details on how eBird is making these changes). The changes most relevant to us are the following:

Yellow Warbler is no longer with us

Yes, they have all migrated by now. But the species we used to know as Yellow Warbler is also gone. That species has been split into two species. The new species that has been split off is the Mangrove Yellow Warbler which occurs in mangroves, no surprise there, of Texas and Florida and points south. All the other formerly-known-as “Yellow Warblers”, including all records from BC, now are assigned to the “Northern Yellow Warbler”. Regrettably, the scientific name of our birds also changes from *Setophaga petechia* to *Setophaga aestiva*. The name *petechia* was first used to describe what we now call the Mangrove Yellow Warbler so by the rules of taxonomy, that specific name must be assigned to that new species.

Not all Warbling Vireos warble in the same way

The former Warbling Vireo is split into Western Warbling-Vireo and Eastern Warbling-Vireo. They meet in Alberta, so all our warbling vireos fall into the western species. Again, we lose ‘our’ scientific name of *Vireo gilvus* which heads eastward. Our new species is *V. swainsoni*. The two species differ slightly in appearance and considerably by song. It’s not inconceivable that the eastern form could turn up here in the Okanagan so now we will all have to learn how to identify it.

Whimbrel split

The Whimbrel, rare in the Okanagan, has been split into an Old-World species, Eurasian Whimbrel, and a New-World form, Hudsonian Whimbrel. Again, we luck out in terms of keeping a familiar scientific name. Our whimbrels were formerly *Numenius phaeopus* but the *phaeopus* name goes to the Eurasian Whimbrel, since that name was first used in Europe. Our new species takes the name of *Numenius hudsonius*. The Eurasian Whimbrel is white-rumped compared to our species, which is dark-rumped. There are no records of the European species from the Okanagan but it’s not impossible that it could turn up as a vagrant. When birding at our beaches, always keep an eye out for pale rumps.

Other changes

No other taxonomic changes directly affect us here in the Okanagan but there are many that could affect your life list, especially of neotropical species. Some changes that are of likely interest:

- ⇒ The Striated Heron (does not occur in BC but is very similar to the Green Heron and used to be considered as the same species) has been split into the Striated Heron of the New-World, the Lava Heron of the Galapagos, and the Little Heron of the Old-World.
- ⇒ The Bluethroat, a species that rarely occurs in BC, is now *Luscinia svecica* instead of *Cyanecula svecica*.
- ⇒ The Squirrel Cuckoo, very familiar to any birder who has visited the Neotropics, is split into the Mexican Squirrel-Cuckoo and the Common Squirrel-Cuckoo.

The good news is that today I just picked up nine lifers. A pretty good day of armchair birding!

OBSCURATA - 4. THE BLUES

BY IAN WALKER

This summer, Linda and I were driving north when we decided to deviate from Hwy 97 to take the more leisurely Pelmeash Parkway route past Wood Lake. Wood Lake was a deep turquoise, much more so than I ever remember seeing before. It approximated the spectacular summer colours typical of nearby Kalamalka Lake, and also the glacial lakes of the Icefields Parkway. It’s a colour we associate with the most beautiful lakes in the world.

Usually, when we think of colour we think of pigments, like the pigments in house paint or the chlorophyll in leaves, or the spectacular fall colours of red oaks, sumac, and sugar maples. Pigments are substances that absorb



Wood Lake during marl (calcite) precipitation event this past summer (1 Aug 2025)

certain wavelengths of light. The other wavelengths of light, those that escape absorption, are either transmitted through the coloured object, or reflected back to our eyes.

The red and blue ends of the visible spectrum are strongly absorbed by the chlorophyll in plants, and that light provides the energy that drives photosynthesis. Leaves are green, because plants aren't well equipped to use the green wavelengths of light. The green wavelengths are largely wasted; much of it being reflected off the leaves towards us or allowed to directly pass through the leaves. This "waste light" is what makes plants appear green to our eyes. Sometimes the same, or similar, pigments colour the algae suspended in water, and can impart a murky green colour to the water, or to the scum floating on its surface.

The colours we perceive, however, are not solely the product of pigments; they may also be generated physically, by the way certain wavelengths of light interact with structural elements of an object. Prime examples of this can be seen in the iridescent feathers of some birds, for example, the iridescent throat patches of hummingbirds, or the green and purple sheen of a male Bufflehead's head, as seen in good spring light.

In the case of turquoise lakes, like Wood Lake last summer, Kalamalka Lake and the glacial lakes of the Icefield Parkway, the colour we perceive is also physical; it is due to minute particles suspended in the water. These particles are just the right size to interfere with the transmission of the short blue and green wavelengths of light into the lake. Instead, the blue and green wavelengths are scattered, and ultimately reflected back from the lake to our eyes.



Some colours from nature. Top left, Douglas' Maple at Bear Creek Provincial Park (28 Oct. 2024). Top right, a Blister Beetle in Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park (4 May 2024). Bottom left, Bufflehead, Ambleside Park, West Vancouver (16 Feb 2018). Bottom right, Blue-green bacterial scum on Lost Lagoon, Stanley Park (4 Sept 2016). The colours of the leaves and bacterial scum are due to pigments. The iridescence of the beetle, and the duck's head are created by the physical interaction of light with fine details of the animals' structure.

The origin of these particles differs among lakes. Glacial lakes receive run-off from upstream glaciers rich in suspended mineral matter. This suspended sediment is "glacial flour", finely pulverized rock. The individual particles are so small that they stay long suspended in the water column and are so small that they selectively interfere with the shortest blue and green wavelengths of light. The longer red-orange-yellow wavelengths are permitted to pass.

But this can't explain the colour in Wood or Kalamalka lakes. There are no glaciers feeding them. In this case, the particles are actually generated as a chemical precipitate. If lake water has very high concentrations of dissolved calcium (Ca^{++}), we refer to the water as being "hard", and the lake may dump some of those dissolved ions as a chemical precipitate (CaCO_3). This precipitate is often referred to as

marl. Those tiny calcium carbonate particles, like the flour suspended in glacial lakes, selectively interfere with the transmission of blue and green light, imparting the same turquoise colour to marl lakes as we associate with glacial lakes.



A few beautiful lakes I have known. In each case, their distinct green to blue-green waters are caused by light scattering via minute particles suspended in the water column.

Top left, Kalamalka Lake (3 Sep 2010). Top right, Light Blue Lake, Stephens Coyote Ridge Regional Park, Kelowna (29 Jun 2012). Centre left, Kentucky Lake, in Kentucky-Alleyne Provincial Park (1 Oct 2017). Centre right, Hungabee Lake, in Yoho National Park (Aug 1986). Bottom left, Stein Lake, now in Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Provincial Park (about 1 Sept 1988). Bottom right, Moraine Lake, Banff National Park (Aug. 1986)

Marl (calcium carbonate) is a bit of a weird substance. Most solids (e.g., sugar & salt) are more soluble in warm water. We heat them up in the lab, or in cooking, to encourage them to dissolve more quickly. The opposite is true for marl, it is more soluble in cold water; less soluble in warm. One consequence of this arises when we boil hard water in a kettle. Calcium carbonate will precipitate from the boiling water, forming a white scale on the inside of the kettle. Another consequence is this: in the summer, when the waters of a lake warm, the water will precipitate more marl – so the blue-green colour of a marl lake's water is likely to be most intense in mid-summer. These marl precipitation events can be a very good thing. Not only do they induce the beautiful turquoise colours we love; they also clean up our lakes by scavenging a lot of nutrients, specifically phosphate, out of the water. As the marl slowly settles to the lake bottom it takes a lot of the phosphate with it. By reducing the nutrient content of the water, the marl protects the lake from unsightly, and sometimes toxic, blooms of algae and cyanobacteria.

This leads to a historical note. Wood Lake had a particularly acute problem with excess nutrients in the 1970s. A scheme was devised to reduce the phosphate levels in the lake; thus, reducing the annoying algal blooms that were impacting the lake each summer. The plan was to deliver several tank cars of pickling liquor to the lake via the adjacent railway. The pickling liquor would have a very high iron content, and iron, like marl, can also be very effective in precipitating phosphate. Then, something unexpected happened – Wood Lake had an intense, natural, marl precipitation event. That scavenged the phosphate

nutrient out of the water, greatly improving the lake's water quality. The pickling liquor solution was no longer required.

One final word. Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue, and the sun appears yellow (or orange) at sunset? It is essentially the same physical phenomenon. Tiny dust particles in the atmosphere are small enough to preferentially scatter the blue light, while allowing the yellow/orange light to be transmitted. On a clear, sunny day we perceive the scattered light as a blue sky, and the sun as being pale yellow. This effect is more intense when the sun is low on the horizon, when the sun's rays have a longer path through the atmosphere to our eyes. The effect is also more intense during wildfires, when the smoky skies are filled with high concentrations of tiny smoke particles.



Deep purple sky and orange moon during wildfires at Dawson City, Yukon (late July 1990).

A WHITE GHOST TURNS UP FOR HALLOWEEN

BY DOUGLAS J. GRAHAM & BRUCE KENNEDY

When Bruce Kennedy's wife Jenifer told him about a large, pure white bird she had seen perched in a tree on the golf course near their back yard, he was inclined to wonder about those brownies she was preparing for Halloween. She insisted it was large like a hawk, all white – with just a little black on its head. Strange bird indeed!

But then the next day on Halloween, 31 October 2025, Bruce spotted it himself perched in the same tree on Gallagher's Golf Course. In short order, Mike Howard, Lisa Rae, and Douglas Graham all turned up to try and figure out what it was. It was not straightforward to identify, not having any of the plumage field marks we generally rely on. After some debate, it was identified as a Red-tailed Hawk (RTHA), based on its size, general shape, bill, and appearance in flight.

The hawk, behaving as a typical RTHA, perched high to scan for prey, occasionally moved perches, and then glided low to another area. No vocalizations were heard and no interactions noted with other RTHA; at one point it was buzzed by a curious Merlin.

A series of photos were taken by Bruce Kennedy. They can be viewed at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S282202898>. Of note is that the bird was almost entirely pure white; the only dark plumage on the bird was some black on the nape, face, and throat and a few small spots on the wings. The eyes were of a normal dark colour indicating leucism and not albinism.



Leucism is a term used to describe a wide variety of conditions which result in the partial loss of pigmentation in an animal causing white, pale, or patchy colouration of the skin, hair, feathers, scales or cuticles, but not the eyes.

Visible in the photos of the bird in flight, we can see that curiously, one rectrix (a tail feather) has a relatively normal appearance, being dark grey and showing obvious dark bands. Viewed from below, this is the third rectrix from the right. It appears to be a rectrix typical of a juvenile plumage; adult tail feathers would show some reddish colour. This bird is thus

presumed to be a juvenile RTHA, having hatched in the spring. RTHAs have 12 rectrices which are moulted from the outside to the inside. In the photos, we can see that the inner tail feathers are jagged and old while

the two outer pairs look new. Most likely that one normal feather is next to be moulted; it would be interesting to know if it will come in as a white feather or as a reddish adult tail feather.

The Sibley Field Guide illustrates a very similar pure white RTHA noting they “occur rarely throughout the species’ range; beware confusion with Gyrfalcon or Snowy Owl”. Indeed, we were told that reports were circulating at this time on social media about a Snowy Owl at Gallagher’s – clearly this same bird.

How rare is such a bird? Our friend Google notes “A leucistic red-tailed hawk is very rare, with estimates suggesting it occurs in about 1 in 30,000 birds. Experts believe there are only a few hundred leucistic red-tailed hawks in North America”. A search of images shows a tremendous range of the extent of leucism in RTHAs but rarely are they almost 100% leucistic, as in the Gallagher’s bird. At least for us, it was a startling first.

Once this sighting was posted on eBird, we learned that this same bird (based on an identical pattern of black areas) was sighted and photographed the week before up in the Reservoir Lake area, about 10 km from Gallagher’s as the hawk flies. We’ve also heard that a birder was interviewed on CBC’s Radio One morning program about a white hawk in East Kelowna, so this bird gets around and gets attention.

With any luck, the bird will survive and thrive and with such a distinctive appearance, maybe it will be reported again somewhere.

CONC LAUNCHES ITS DIGITAL ARCHIVES

BY DOUGLAS GRAHAM



Digital archives have been created for CONC. This decision was made by the CONC Board on 27 February 2025, at which time it was also agreed that access would be open to all members. Douglas Graham created the folder structure and added several hundred files (with assistance notably from Jen Matthews, our former librarian).

What’s in there?

- Newsletters: a scattering of older newsletters from the 1980’s and every newsletter from 2021 up to the present
- Board minutes: essentially complete from 2021 up to the present
- Publications: various CONC-sponsored reports notably including the interesting history of CONC from 1962-2000: “Tracks, Trails and Naturalists’ Tales”
- Procedures: the most recent copy of our Procedures (which lays out in detail how the club functions), including the By-laws
- AGMs: all documents from 2020 up to the present
- Other stuff: various other documents of interest

Can I add something?

All CONC members can access the archives in read-only mode but cannot modify the contents. If you have a document to add (e.g., an older newsletter that is not there) just send the file to us (info@okanagannature.org). If you have a paper copy only and don’t have access to a scanner, give it to Douglas who will scan it himself.

Where are they and how to access them?

The archives are stored in the Google Drive space that is allocated for free to us, associated with our CONC Gmail address. Once in the archives, you can double-click any file to see the document, or you can download the file. The URL is:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QLgM57U_-CAhO5Y1laqMXRHhN9_8vzLI?usp=sharing. Granted that it is not the most mnemonic moniker one could imagine! We’ll circulate it in an email to members so you can copy and store it somewhere. We’ve also included it as a link on CONC’s web page where it can be found in the Information for Everyone section.

Happy browsing!

A federation is a union of self-governing bodies in which both the union and the bodies themselves share powers.

BC Nature (officially The Federation of BC Naturalists) is a federation of over 60 organizations in BC which have an interest in natural history and conservation. These organizations include CONC, SONC (South Okanagan Naturalists' Club), NONC (North Okanagan Naturalist Club), Nature Vancouver, Rocky Point Bird Observatory (on Vancouver Island), Mackenzie Nature Observatory (in northeast BC), and the Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society (in northwest BC).

Unusually, as a member of CONC or any of the federated clubs, you are automatically also a member of BC Nature. Approximately 6000 individuals are thus members of BC Nature.

Should you not live in an area with a federated club (e.g. Campbell River or Revelstoke) you can become a direct member.

Each year, direct members and the federated clubs pay a small administrative fee (approximately \$15 per member) to BC Nature; this fee is included in your CONC dues. This fee covers part of the cost of producing the quarterly magazine BCNature (advertising and grants cover the rest) and insurance for participants in BC Nature- and CONC-sponsored activities. The insurance provided is a very good deal and is one of the reasons some of the federated clubs join BC Nature. If you are injured on a sponsored activity, you are covered in case of accident; you are also covered if you lead an activity during which an accident occurs. If you a CONC director, you are also covered in case the directors make a poor decision.

BC Nature lobbies for nature and conservation; the administrative fee also covers the cost of the lobbying and occasional legal fees. A major lobbying effort, for example, involved opposition to the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project. Unfortunately, it appears the opposition was ignored by the federal government.

This administrative fee also covers the cost of office staff; the main office of BC Nature is in North Vancouver.

In the past, BC Nature has sponsored a variety of annual camps, hosted by federated clubs. These are on a cost-recovery basis; BC Nature handles the advertising and perhaps the registration while the club plans and runs the camp; the club splits any profit (or loss) equally with BC Nature. CONC has sponsored several of these camps, ably organized by members Fiona Flook and Pat Westheuser.

BC Nature has an Annual General Meeting. The AGM is part of a conference hosted by one of the federated clubs; for example, in May 2023 the conference was hosted by the Langley Field Naturalists Society. Often there is a Fall General Meeting, part of a smaller conference. CONC has hosted these meetings several times. Profits from general meetings are split equally between the hosting club and BC Nature.

BC Nature is directed by a 15-member Board of Directors (elected at the AGM) and an Executive Director, both operating in conjunction with the Council of Club Representatives. Each club has a member on the Council of Club Representatives while larger clubs may have two or three members. CONC member Rick Gee is the current CONC representative on the Council of Club Representatives and acts as a conduit between CONC and BC Nature.

Support is provided by office staff, including an Office Manager and various co-ordinators and contractors. One of the contractors, for example, assists the Office Manager in producing the quarterly magazine and various emails.

BC Nature has provincial responsibility for Important Birding and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). The IBA/KBA Co-ordinator handles relations between BC Nature and the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (now being converted to Key Biodiversity Areas). Previously a contractor, this co-ordinator is now an employee.

BC Nature also has an awards program, recognizing service to the natural history community by federated club members and others. Club Service Awards, in particular, recognize service to club members. Recent CONC recipients of this award include Harvey Abraham (2019), Roland Gebauer (2020), Teresa Smith (2022), Irmgard Ruckheim (2023), Margaret Bryan (2024), and Ian Walker (2025), among others. CONC members have received other awards from BC Nature, from 1981 to the present.

What is the relation between BC Nature and Nature Canada? In the same way that BC Nature is (mostly) a federation of organizations within BC, Nature Canada is a federation of organizations within Canada. That is, each provincial or territorial natural history federation is a member of Nature Canada, but they do not pay dues; Nature Canada operates on grants and donations.

Speaking of donations, BC Nature is a registered charity, as is CONC, and both welcome your donations.

You can donate to BC Nature itself or to the BC Naturalists' Foundation, the charitable counterpart of BC Nature. I am often confused by the relation between those two bodies. As the BC Nature and BC Naturalist' Foundation websites both say "The purpose of the BC Naturalists' Foundation is to promote the preservation of the natural environment for future generations through conservation, education, and research projects. The BC Naturalists' Foundation is a registered charity formed in 1990 by members of the Federation of BC Naturalists, now known as BC Nature. The Foundation is autonomous from BC Nature but is inextricably linked to it by shared goals and by the power of the BC Nature to appoint members and nominate directors."

The Foundation provides grants for which the federated clubs may apply. CONC has received such grants towards, for example, the Muriel Wardlaw Nature Trails at the Kelowna Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Club trails at McCulloch Lake and a viewing platform at Thomson Marsh Park, a project completed in 2025.

Feel free to donate to CONC, to BC Nature, or to the BC Naturalists' Foundation. Donations will be gratefully accepted by all three and charitable receipts will be issued. Donations to CONC will be used locally. Donations to BC Nature will usually be used to assist the operation of BC Nature. Donations to the BC Naturalists' Foundation will be used as described earlier.

If you think this article seems familiar, perhaps you read an earlier version of this article a few years ago.

UNDERSTANDING IMPLEMENTATION RESISTANCE IN ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS IN THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN

BY DOUGLAS GRAHAM

A graduate PhD student from UBC is studying ecological connectivity in the Central Okanagan. He has contacted CONC to ask that any interested person contact him. Participation would involve a questionnaire and a possible future focus group discussion.

His name is Emmanuel Adoasi-Ahyiah, and his research project is under the supervision of Dr. Lael Parrott, Professor of Sustainability, Faculty of Science, UBCO. The purpose of this research is to better understand local perspectives and community values related to ecological connectivity, land use, and conservation planning in the Central Okanagan region. He is seeking input from a diverse range of community members, including landowners, government, professionals, and individuals involved in land management or environmental stewardship.

Please feel free to contact him at adoasi94@student.ubc.ca or 250 807 8122 if you have any questions or would like more information.



Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park is small but mighty. Four distinct ecosystems converge in the park, each supporting unique families of flora and fauna. These include the Black Cottonwood zone, Douglas-fir zone, Ponderosa Pine zone, and Western Redcedar zone. As a result, Woodhaven is tremendously biodiverse. It is home to several threatened and endangered species, including most famously the interior subspecies of the Western Screech Owl (*Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei*). These owls are heavily dependent upon riparian ecosystems with mature, large-diameter trees for cavity nesting. Historically, two creeks flowed through Woodhaven: North Fork Creek, also known as North Arm Bellevue Creek or North Bellevue Creek, and Bonaparte Creek. There were also several natural springs

in and around the park. With each spring freshet, water would inundate Woodhaven's riparian forest, and plants including False Solomon's Seal, fairy-bell lilies, and Striped Coralroot orchids were prevalent.

Before it was preserved as a park, Woodhaven was slated for development. Fortunately, local naturalists, including Joan and Jim Burbridge (former CONC members), recognized the immense ecological value of the area. Thanks to their tireless advocacy and the support of RDCO and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Woodhaven was purchased in 1973 and turned into a regional conservation park. In 2013, the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO), purchased two additional properties adjacent to the original parcel, more than tripling the size of the park. You can read more about Woodhaven in RDCO's Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park Management Plan [here](#).

Although Woodhaven was saved from development, the surrounding areas were not. Prevailing views in the 1970's and 1980's called for the control and diversion of water to make way for construction. Bellevue Creek was dyked to mitigate flood risk to the proposed new developments bordering Woodhaven. However, it resulted in a drastic reduction in the amount of water entering Woodhaven, and soon the riparian ecosystems, including the Western Redcedar, started showing signs of stress. A controlled diversion structure was built to allow some water to flow into North Fork Creek, but the return of water caused flooding issues, and the water was promptly turned off again. In 1986 Joan and Jim Burbridge wrote letters to government officials and gathered hundreds of signatures on a petition calling for action to restore the flow of water. In response, RDCO



reconstructed the diversion pipe to again allow a controlled amount of water into Woodhaven. For this to take place, RDCO was granted a water licence from the Province of British Columbia to draw water out of Bellevue Creek for conservation purposes in Woodhaven. Local flooding (particularly from the high-water table), continued to present challenges. Therefore, RDCO also constructed a curtain drain along the northern boundary of the park. That drain remains in place today and is continually intercepting groundwater and redirecting it out into the city's stormwater system.

It is interesting to note that through all of this, North Fork Creek lost its status and all associated legislative protections as a "stream" (although it may appear on maps further downstream where it is fed by a natural spring). If you are interested in learning more about North Fork Creek, you can view a Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping report prepared by Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd. [here](#) and view maps of the entire length of North Fork Creek from that report [here](#).



Western Redcedars in Woodhaven

The water alteration works put in place 40-50 years ago remain in place today. However, when it comes to water in Woodhaven, nothing else remains the same. It is our belief that the hydrology of the entire Bellevue Creek basin has changed. Gone are the many springs that used to spurt water out of the ground around the area. The hillsides on both sides of Bellevue Creek have been heavily developed, introducing vast areas of impervious surfaces. Much of the water that previously would have trickled downhill and into the water table is now diverted through gutters and down driveways and roads into storm drains. Even the Okanagan Mountain Park fire would have had a hydrological impact, as we heard from guest speaker Dr. Adam Wei at our Friends of Woodhaven AGM several years ago. In addition to all of that, we are living in a vastly different climate, which has also no doubt changed the hydrology of the Bellevue Creek watershed.

As a result of all these natural and human made changes, the wet interior and riparian ecosystems of Woodhaven are in grave trouble. The small amount of water that is permitted to enter the North Fork Creek channel is not sufficient to sustain them. Swaths of ancient Western Redcedar trees have died and continue to die. Areas where black cottonwoods previously grew are failing to produce any new trees. One by one the old ones die and fall over, but no young ones can regenerate. In their place, other more drought-tolerant plants, including invasive weeds, are creeping in. Urgent action is needed to save these precious and rare ecosystems before they are gone from Woodhaven completely.

Friends of Woodhaven is calling for an urgent re-evaluation of the water control mechanisms that were built so many years ago to mitigate the historical level of flood risk. It is time to ask whether a different solution could be implemented that incorporates modern water management views, traditional Indigenous knowledge, and nature-based solutions. It is also necessary to weigh the risk of wildfire against an updated flood risk assessment. And lastly, it is time to recognize the full inherent value of Woodhaven and take action to preserve it for all that it is.

We recognize that the problems facing Woodhaven, and most possible solutions, are multijurisdictional in nature. While Woodhaven itself is a Regional Park managed by RDCO, the water flowing into the park via North Fork Creek is subject to a water licence from the province of British Columbia. Likewise, the Province has jurisdiction over the Bellevue Creek dyke, where the intake is situated. Any excess water from the North Fork Creek channel, and groundwater diverted by the curtain drain, flows through the City of Kelowna's drainage system. And all these alterations were built without any form of consultation with the Syilx Okanagan people.

Therefore, we ask you to join us in calling on all levels of government to work together and find a way urgently to bring water back to Woodhaven. We have template letters with addresses for local government officials available [here](#). We would be very appreciative if you would sign our petition [here](#). Also, we welcome any feedback, ideas, or personal stories about Woodhaven or the Burbridges. Please feel free to reach out at friendsofwoodhaven@gmail.com, or find us on [Facebook](#) or Instagram. You can also check out our website [here](#).

With sincere thanks,
Leah Schurian
President, Friends of Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Society

2025 COBSS GRANT

BY DOUGLAS J. GRAHAM



For many years, CONC has been making supporting grants to the Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society (COBSS). Through our Brenda Thomson Memorial Bursary, each year we support a high school student heading for post-secondary education in the environmental field and demonstrating financial need. Brenda was a past president of CONC and this year, as we are remembering her, we are particularly grateful to the Thomson family for their collaboration with us in the building of the Thomson Marsh wildlife observation platform.



The 2025 recipient of our bursary of \$1500 was Anastasia Besaw of Mount Boucherie Secondary School. She wrote a thank-you letter to CONC saying in part: "I have just recently graduated from Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary High School and in the upcoming year I will be attending UBC Okanagan. I am pursuing a Bachelor of Science, and this bursary will be very helpful in funding my education. Through the science program, I plan on going into either conservation or natural medicine."

We wish Anastasia all the best in her university program.

CONC ON THE GO: OJIBWAY PARK, WINDSOR

BY VIVIAN MANNING



Growing up in Windsor, Ontario, daily opportunities to experience nature were scarce. The city, with its population of 200,000, was surrounded primarily by flat, cultivated farmland, leaving little of the original vast expanse of Carolinian forest accessible outside of special outings to places like Point Pelee. Across the river was the air pollution of the Motor City, with even less nature left intact. The river itself was typically brown and lifeless, a stark contrast to its state today. For our family, meaningful encounters with nature largely occurred during our annual car-camping trips across Canada.

Despite the urban landscape, there was one place where nature remained within easy reach: Ojibway Park. In the 1960s, although the park was much smaller than it is now, it still served as a significant natural refuge on the edge of the city. Today, the Ojibway Prairie Complex encompasses more than 250 hectares, including Ojibway Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park, Black Oak Heritage Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Oakwood Natural Area, and the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. This network is set to become Canada's first National Urban Park (pending final approval).



Ojibway Park is ecologically diverse, featuring habitats such as tallgrass prairie, oak savannah, pin oak forest, and wetlands. The area supports exceptionally high biodiversity, with over 160 rare plant and animal species recorded. Some examples are:

- Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid and Dense Blazing Star
- Eastern Prairie White-fringed Orchid's pollinator butterflies
- Prothonotary Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker
- Eastern Foxsnake and Butler's Gartersnake

Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities, including walking, biking, birdwatching, and nature photography along the park's well-maintained trails. The Nature Centre, located within the park, offers exhibits and educational programming.

Visitor Information: For those visiting in the Windsor/Essex County region or just across the river in Detroit and surrounding, Ojibway Park is a natural area worth exploring. The [Nature Centre is located at 5200 Matchett Road](#) and is open Wednesday to Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. The Park and its trails are accessible daily from dawn to dusk. Trails are well-marked and maintained, with some routes being wheelchair accessible and all on very flat terrain. Visitors are advised to take precautions against ticks, chiggers, and mosquitoes.





WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?



Hints: A hard mass 5 cm in length, attached to a twig. About 400 nymphs will emerge in the Spring.

Ootheca of a Mantis religiosa



WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEWS

BY THE EDITORS

Puzzling habits – [dolphins wearing sea sponge hats and Orcas with dead salmon hats](#).

BC Grasslands Council – [An organization “dedicated to increasing and sustaining the ecological health and vitality of BC’s rare and at-risk grasslands”](#). Thanks to J. for this one.

A novel option for **supporting forests and their capacity for climate change mitigation** – [creating tree canopies using “grassy trees” – plants like bamboo, palm, banana](#).

Coral die-offs, [close to a tipping point of no return](#).

Decaying trees provide forests with a [complex ecology that provides essential sustenance and ensures renewal](#).

Prairie Dog power. [Despite being in a population decline, the prairie dog is essential to prairie restoration](#).

The Grue Jay. [A rare hybrid between the Blue Jay and the tropical Green Jay](#), that illustrates an outcome of climate change, as it impacts the historic breeding and feeding range of a species.

Beavers, ecosystem engineers who are [essential in creating and sustaining wetlands](#).

And another recognition of the [incredible ecosystem work of beavers](#)....

Vampire bats. [The more we know about bats, the more there is to appreciate](#).

A nice poster that [illustrates owls and their key characteristics](#). Thanks to G. for this one.



Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club www.okanagannature.org
P.O. Box 21128, RPO Orchard Park, Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 9N8
Email info@okanagannature.org **for any general enquiry**

Board 2025-26

President	Vacant	president@okanagannature.org
Vice-president	Vacant	
Secretary	Louise Nelson & Vivian Manning	secretary@okanagannature.org
Treasurer	Roy Sinden	treasurer@okanagannature.org
Membership	Annette Lachaine	membership@okanagannature.org
Birding	Mike Howard	birding@okanagannature.org
Outings	Glenda Newman	outings@okanagannature.org
BC Nature	Rick Gee	bcnature@okanagannature.org
Outreach and Communications	Marjorie Gonzalez	outreach@okanagannature.org
Programs	Sheila MacKenzie Brown	programs@okanagannature.org
Conservation	Kalin Ocaña	conservation@okanagannature.org
Newsletter Editor	Lisa Rae & Vivian Manning	editor@okanagannature.org

Resource Persons

Host Committee	Bev Thomas	cymru@telus.net
Website	Rick Gee	admin@okanagannature.org
Botany Field Trip Co-ordinator	Peter Courtney	botany@okanagannature.org
Past President	Douglas Graham	pastpresident@okanagannature.org

Club Information

MONTHLY MEETINGS

- 2nd Tuesday of the month, September to June, 7:00 p.m. at Evangel Church, 3261 Gordon Drive, Kelowna.
- Visitors are welcome.
- Host: Bev Thomas cymru@telus.net. Please bring your own cup.

MEMBERSHIP

- **ANNUAL DUES: Single \$45, Family \$60, Students \$15.** Includes the quarterly newsletter, sent by email. (**Additional \$20 annual charge for newsletters sent by regular mail**).
- **MEMBERSHIP FORM AND WAIVER:** Available on the CONC website. Please send your application, with waiver form and dues to: CONC Membership, Box 21128, Orchard Park P.O., Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 9N8, or electronically to membership@okanagannature.org.
- **DUES:** Dues may also be paid by e-transfer to membership@okanagannature.org. Please note your full name(s) in the field for providing additional information.
- **HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERS:** Hugh Westheuser, Pat Westheuser, Eileen Dillabough
- **MEMORIAL MEMBERS:** Arthur Hughes-Games, Brenda Thomson, Muriel Westwood, Harry Almond, Cec Dillabough, Stu Weir

NEWSLETTER

- Send submissions to editor@okanagannature.org
- Next deadline date for submissions is February 15, 2026
- Newsletter email distribution: Annette Lachaine: membership@okanagannature.org

ACTIVITIES

- All activities are seasonal. Weekend Explorers outings on the last weekend of each month – [check Calendar for details](#)
- Non-members are very welcome to join one or two CONC outings
- All outing details are on our [website calendar](#). If in doubt check with the activity contact, or contact any Board Member

BIRDING: contact birding@okanagannature.org

- **Monday Birding:** meet 7:45 a.m. (April-Sept.) or 8:45 a.m. (Oct-March) Robert Hobson parking lot*
- **Thursday Birding:** meet 7:45 a.m. (April-Sept.) or 8:45 a.m. (Oct-March) Robert Hobson parking lot*
- **Saturday Birding:** Day-long outings on second Saturdays, March to November, (except August recess) Osoyoos to Salmon Arm. Meet Robert Hobson parking lot* at 7:30 am to sign in for a 7:45 am start – return mid to late afternoon. Route details provided by email Thursday prior to outing. Carpooling is encouraged - rate paid to the driver is shown on the [Activities](#) page. Bring lunch / refreshments

NOTE: TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

BOTANY: contact botany@okanagannature.org

- **Friday Botany** trips meet according to emailed details sent for each outing (Spring to Fall)

HIKES and SHOWSHOEING: All hikers meet at the Robert Hobson parking lot* (Bring a lunch)

- **Tuesday: Ramblers** contact Robert Lake: 250-717-1029 wipguy@gmail.com
- **Wednesday: Sole Survivors** contact Glenda Newman outings@okanagannature.org
- **Thursday: Trail Trekkers** contact Brenda Johnson 250-808-8370 bubbaloo101@gmail.com
- **Thursday: Snowshoeing** contact Robert Lake 250-717-1029 wipguy@gmail.com

* East End of the Robert Hobson ECCO parking lot where Leckie Road meets Springfield Road



“You cannot get through a single day without making an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference.”

- Jane Goodall, 1934 - 2025