

NEWSPACKET

March-April 2023

Journal of the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club



**American Goldfinches
in Winter plumage**

**photographed by
Harold Sellers**

NONC



North Okanagan Naturalists' Club (NONC)

P.O. Box 473

Vernon, B.C. V1T 6M4

Email info@nonc.ca

Website www.nonc.ca



EXECUTIVE

President	vacant
Vice-President	vacant
Secretary	Rod Drennan 250-545-4999
Treasurer	Marnie Williamson 250-545-4743
Directors	Susan Ghattas 250-550-7063 Robert Hettler 250-309-7794 Pam Jenkins 250-545-0490 Justin Oblak 289-697-1505 Harold Sellers 250-307-3543 Judy Stockdale 236-426-3405 Kenn Whyte 250-550-0983

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Contact the following if you have questions.

BC Nature	Pam Jenkins 250-545-0490
-----------	-----------------------------

Bluebird Trails	Margaret Mackenzie 250-542-2712
Botany	Margaret Mackenzie 250-542-2712
Christmas Bird Count	Scott Thomson
Conservation	Harold Sellers 250-307-3543
Cools Pond	Rod Drennan 250-545-4999
Hummingbird Banding	Gail Loughridge 250-545-7455
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Newsletter	Harold Sellers 250-307-3543
O.C.C.P.^	Harold Sellers 250-307-3543
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Swan Lake	Robert Hettler, Margaret, MacKenzie, Chris Siddle, Marnie Williamson
Swan & Eagle Count	Norbert Maertens 250-503-8790 Rod Drennan 250-545-4999
Trips	Kenn Whyte 250-550-0983
Website & Social Media	Harold Sellers 250-307-3543
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The Owls of the North Okanagan — Part One: Introduction to Owls

by Chris Siddle

PEOPLE have a special regard for owls. “Owls look like nothing other than owls,” writes European owl expert Heimo Mikkola. “They are soft-plumaged, short-tailed, big headed birds, with large eyes surrounded, usually, by a broad facial disc. Owls probably have the most frontally situated eyes of all birds. This, together with their ability to blink with the upper eyelids, gives them a semi-human appearance, in which surely lies much of their appeal to man.”

How long have we had relationships with owls? Probably forever. At a cave in France, the outline of a pair of Snowy Owls was etched into rock in the last ice age by an anonymous Neolithic artist. Myths and superstitions about owls have been particularly common from ancient times to today. In Europe and the Middle East owls were associated negatively. The Book of Isaiah lists owls among birds of “unclean flesh”. In Europe in the Middle Ages owls were closely associated with witchcraft. Although the ancient Greeks looked favourably upon owls as wise birds and linked Athene, the goddess of great wisdom, with the European Little Owl, many other cultures shared a belief that the call of the owl was a bad omen, warning the listener of an impending death, sometimes his own.

Among several North American First Nations the bad news of hearing an owl call your name was tempered by the belief that the owl was prepared to carry your soul to the afterworld. One tribe called the route between life and afterlife the owl bridge.

Today in most parts of the world we have a generally positive attitude to owls, though because we live in insulated buildings where outside sound is muffled, we are probably more remote from real owls today than at any other time in our existence. Although we seldom see owls in the wild, we love owl imagery more than ever from owl characters in literature, coffee table books devoted to photos of wild owls, plush toys to owl designs in fabric and ceramic.

In natural encounters, people find the smaller owls impossibly cute and the larger owls impressive, even a little frightening. Whether it's a seemingly soft and cuddly Northern Saw-whet Owl or much larger moth-like Short-eared Owl coursing over fields at dusk, people are drawn to owls. In Victorian times when taxidermy was popular, stuffed owls graced many a mantlepiece. Since owls are now protected year-round by law, owl “hunters” have turned to photography, especially now that telephoto cameras capable of capturing acceptable images have become much cheaper than in the pre-digital days.

Expert-led owl walks are popular with the public. Since owls are predators and predators are always far fewer in number than non-predators, hearing, let alone seeing an owl on any particular night is an exercise in extreme optimism. The public usually hasn't thought through the situation, however, and full of bubbling curiosity and blissful ignorance, shows up to follow the leader down forest roads and to line up in the darkness to strain their ears for the hoped-for hollow hoots, catlike howls, or blood curdling screams. Chances are great that what they will hear will be gravel crunching beneath boots or the gastric goings-on of the person next in line. I dislike owl walks, especially leading them. You see I have this thing about disappointing crowds of

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Owls continued

people, and that's always what happens on my owl walks. However, if you still want to try an owl walk, I suggest signing up for one of Chris Charlesworth's nocturnal tours. Charlesworth can see in the dark and has extremely acute hearing. His third super power is the uncanny ability to locate an owl on its perch with his flashlight. His company is called Avocet Tours and he is based in Kelowna.

Owls are so popular with photographers that birders across the province have become cautious about posting an owl's whereabouts on popular online programs like iNaturalist and eBird. If you think such caution is uncalled for, you clearly haven't witnessed crowds flocking (sorry) to the latest Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, or Northern Hawk Owl around Boundary Bay or Pitt Meadows. Even the photographers with the most humongous lens cannot resist (or don't even try to resist) getting closer and closer to the owl. Sometimes, as with Snowy Owls perched on the beach logs at Boundary Bay, an owl is besieged from all directions by photographers. Although photographers will tell you that the owl may not seem to notice the photographers, the presence of the photographers scares away everything else in the owl's surroundings including potential owl food. Day after day become long series of photo sessions for the owl, where it's stalked, squeaked at, and may even have lights shone in its eyes. Clearly such a situation lessens the owl's opportunities to rest or secure food. Similar situations have arisen in the North Okanagan where on winter afternoons photographers, albeit in smaller numbers than on the coast, stalked the grassland at Swan Lake hoping for killer shots of Short-eared Owls. Even a single

persistent photographer repeatedly flushing an owl or causing it to change its flight path prevents it from concentrating on securing food in the brief hours that an owl stands the best chance of hunting success.

So if you're reading this article, searching for directions to the latest owl sightings so that you can add to the millions, possibly billions, of owl photos that already exist, forget it. Instead I'm going to be offering you background information about what I consider to be the four most common owls in the North Okanagan so that if you happen upon an owl you will know something about the demands nature places on it, and you'll leave the owl undisturbed. A third article will discuss the ten other owl species found at least occasionally in the North Okanagan, all of which are at best uncommon to very rare. 🌱



above: On rare occasions owls choose to go public. This female Great Horned Owl, with her largest chick peering over the rim of the nest, chose to take over a crow's nest in downtown Penticton and raise her young for all to see. March 26, 2017. Photo by the author.

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Swan & Eagle Count 2023

by Rod Drennan, Co-coordinator

About 10 members of the North Okanagan Naturalists Club, along with family members and friends, conducted this year's count on Sunday, January 15th.

The count covers a general region that includes Oyama, Vernon, Coldstream and Lumby, north to Mabel Lake and the corridor from north of Vernon to Mara Lake and Sicamous.

The chart below shows the results for the past thirteen counts. 🌱

Year	Bald Eagle			Golden Eagle	Trumpeter Swan			Tundra Swan
	Adult	Immature	Total		all	Adult	Immature	
2023	157	49	206	0	52	7	59	0
2022	109	19	128	3	99	14	113	0
2021	91	29	120	4	45	12	57	0
2020	101	47	148	0	137	11	148	0
2019	145	63	208	2	102	15	117	0
2018	100	25	125	2	109	9	118	0
2017	139	45	184	8	143	16	159	1
2016	134	35	169	1	123	37	160	0
2015	88	51	139	2	89	27	116	0
2014	102	44	146	0	78	7	85	0
2013	104	42	146	0	43	13	56	0
2012	100	52	152	0	103	36	139	0
2011	96	26	122	0	120	24	144	0

FACTS : Alaska has the largest Bald Eagle population, followed by British Columbia. Estimates for the total numbers in Canada range as high as 500,000. In the lower 48 states, the total is estimated to be 300,000 to 500,000. (various online sources)

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The Joys & Tribulations of doing the 2023 Swan & Eagle Count

by Jim Bodkin & Gail Loughridge

WELL, for Gail and I, it has been an habitual thing we have done for many years, plus it is, for us, much less time consuming than the Christmas Bird Count of which, it is, the first section of our Swan and Eagle route but much easier to do because our focus is just upon four species that are quite large and fairly easy to recognize although we are sad to say that it has been a number of years since we have seen any Tundra Swans which can be a bit tricky to ID especially at a distance in the very poor visibility conditions that we had this year. Que sera, sera, no?

Roseanne Van Ee has added a new dimension to our Swan and Eagle and our Christmas Bird Count routes over the past two years since she has moved to Canadian Lakeshore Estates. Why, you ask? Quite simple really. She has a magic key that lets us get through the gates that formerly denied us access down to the waterfront.

Why is that important? Well it meant that on the Christmas Bird Count we got the only 2 Western Grebes seen, half of the Pied Billed Grebes seen and 2 adult plus 1 juvenile Trumpeter Swans...unfortunately they were not seen on our 2023 Swan and Eagle count but we did see a solitary male Barrows Goldeneye, a bird not seen on our recent Christmas Bird Count.

Several years ago, you may remember a severe storm disrupted the Vernon Arm of Okanagan Lake. It also laid waste to the eel grass beds along the Tronson Road shore which is made up of mostly small rocks that churned up the eel grass roots that have, as yet, to significantly regenerate. Made a significant

difference, as you can well imagine, to what you see along those shores with such an important nursery/ food source being virtually wiped out. Part of the problem, of course, it also made it easier for the waterfront owners to keep their beach fronts free of "eel grass infestations" so regeneration became much more 'iffy' perhaps than Mother Nature intended. 'Nuff said.

The second section of our route goes along the west side of Swan Lake (frozen) to O'Keefe Pond (frozen) but with 10 Trumpeter Swan adults and 1 juvenile in the cropped corn fields across the road from the pond with just their heads and necks sticking up above the slope. Neato! Further along were 50+ Ravens attracted by something we could not identify but overlooked by a juvenile Bald Eagle. That made our eagle count 2 adults, 2 juvenies.

But Otter Lake... ooh la la. The **BIRD OF THE DAY**. There was open water up in the reedy shallows. Possibly helped to keep open by the roiling large carp you could see swirling up the waters. It wasn't an Eagle nor was it a Swan. It was in a tree close to the road with wings spread, presumably drying off it's feathers after a plunge after something or other. Lord knows what. We got some crappy snapshots and videos on Gail's IPAD but we were so excited they are for the pits. Not often you see a Gyrfalcon hereabouts, you know. Only the second one we have seen in the North Okanagan. Perhaps it was the 'Osprey' seen but not confirmed on the Christmas Bird Count? It moved from a bush to a tree to another tree as we eyeballed it, probably made skittery 'cause we were hopping up and down with excitement as we tried to get some good photos of it. Just incredible watching it with it's wings spread out whilst hunched over to dry off. Whoop-de-doo!

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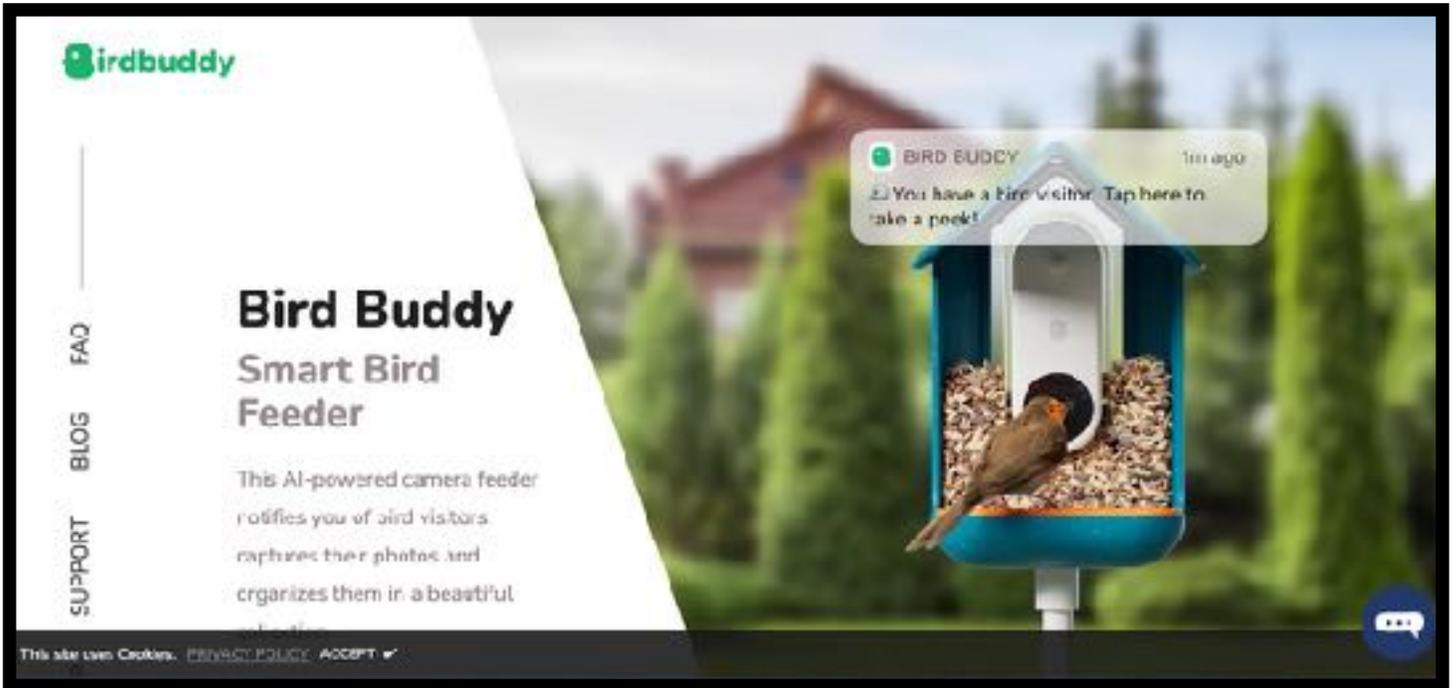
Joys & Tribulations continued

Oh, by the way, we saw another juvenile Bald Eagle scaring the birds at the Armstrong sewage ponds, but it didn't have any luck, plus lots of both Barrows and Common Goldeneyes including a solitary Green-winged Teal, plus assorted odds and sods in the ponds.

Got home about 2ish so just a totally enjoyable way to spend an otherwise gleeekie/overcast/foggy Sunday. We only got honked at twice too, not bad

given my 81-year old driving/birding steering attempts while Gail screams stop! Stop! STOP! Having spotted something, somewhere that may or may not have been a bird.

That's why you should never, ever wash your vehicle for several days before a winter birding outing, except for the windows, of course. It's useful to be well camouflaged whilst trying to drive and chew gum, gwack about and avoid the ditch at the same time, no? 🌿



This is not an ad! We heard about this unique device recently and thought many of our readers would find this interesting. - editor

Bird Buddy: Smart Bird Feeder

This AI-powered camera feeder notifies you of bird visitors, captures their photos, suggests IDs and organizes them into a collection. Coming from Michigan, USA, models are in the US\$200-\$300 range. It relies upon an app on your smart phone.

To learn more, visit <https://mybirdbuddy.com>

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Thomas Hayes Ecological Park Projects

by Marge Sidney
Armstrong Spallumcheen Trails Society

THOMAS Hayes Ecological Park is located in the Township of Spallumcheen and is a popular hiking site.

Building steps/Mesh on walkways/Levelling trails/Forest mulch added

All four of these projects were undertaken for safety to alleviate slippery conditions



during rain, snow and ice

events. Steps were built with wooden risers, held in place with rebar, on the steep hairpin corner at the viewpoint on the Otter Lookout trail. The 3 raised wooden walkways had wire mesh stapled to the planking, severe cross-fall on trails was levelled and forest mulch added in various parts of the Park.

There is a notice board at the kiosk where one can make comments or suggestions. They do get read and are much appreciated.

Fence Repair

The fence was pushed well into the parking lot from the adjacent field by, we assume, the farmer who leases the field. It didn't take long to repair it. We were able to save the rails and some of the timber screws but had to replace 3 posts that were sheared off at the ground. We never did find out what happened!

Bat Houses & Sign

One bat house was donated to us by a local resident who didn't have room for it in her yard. She requested we put it up in Thomas Hayes. We learned that 2 are better than 1 so bats have a choice of a cooler or warmer box depending on which way they are facing. The first was used as a template and a second one was built. They need to be installed

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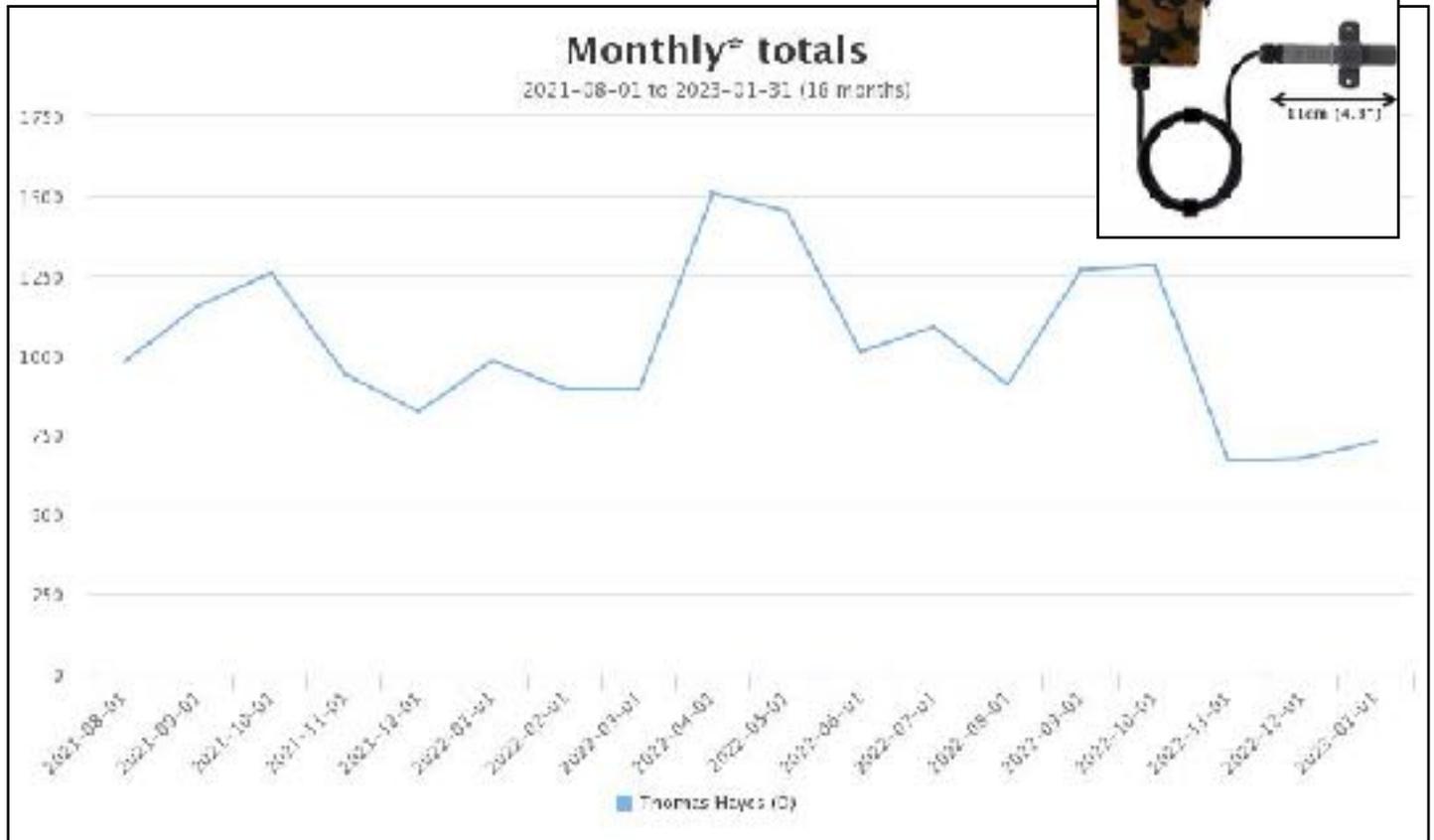
Thomas Hayes continued

within 500 m of a water source and to be a min. of 4 m off the ground with no obstructions below as bats swoop from underneath to get into the box. A plexiglass tray was installed under each box to catch their guano (bat droppings). That tells us if the house is being used or not. Also, if we choose, the guano can be sent away to ID the species. The informational sign was copied with permission from the North Okanagan Naturalists.

Trail Counter

In 2021 the ASTS bought and installed infra-red trail counters and 1 was installed in Thomas Hayes. It records how many users are enjoying the Park. It is NOT a camera. The counter is situated in a location

such that 1 person at a time has to pass by so we consider the numbers to be fairly accurate. In a 1 year period 12,971 users enjoyed the Park and after 18 months (end of Jan 2023) the total is now 18,498. The peak months are April and May at around 1,500 users/month, which surprised us, with the least usage occurring during February, March, August, November and December but still over 650 users/month. Not surprisingly weekends and holidays have peak activity. Peak use is between 9:30 am and 4 pm. It would have been fascinating to have had the counter operating prior to COVID and then during to compare. We are very sure the use of our trails ‘exploded’ as people were keen to do something other than stay cooped up at home. Thomas Hayes Ecological Park was one of the few open. 🌱



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The Coyote

News Headlines

Man and two dogs had an altercation with coyotes in Kelowna's Wilden area Sunday (Castanet, 3 Jul 2022)

Coyote attacks, runs off with dog from Vernon's Kin Park (Castanet, 29 Jul 2022)

Coyotes prowl close to homes in Vernon's Mission Hill, Fulton areas (Castanet, 6 Feb 2023)

Spread of the Coyotes

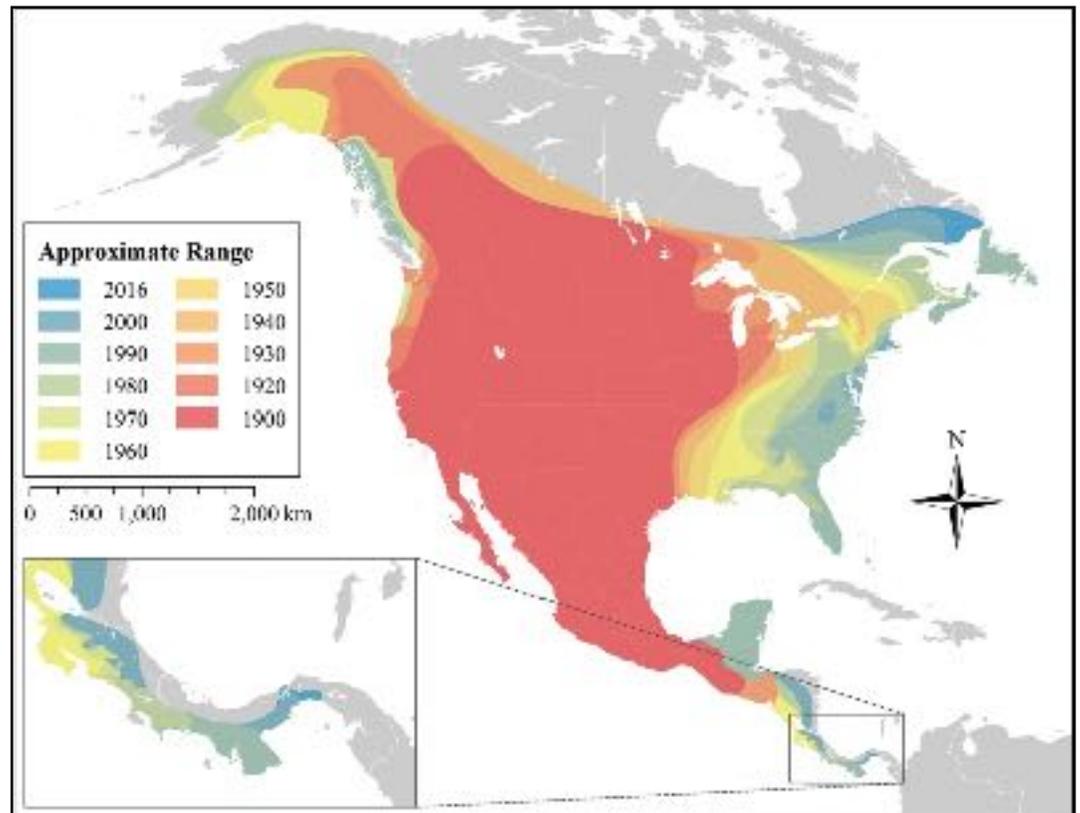
Coyotes used to only live in the western part of North America. They ranged from the Canadian prairies to California. Today, coyotes are found across the continent. Since the 1950s, coyotes have expanded their geographic range by 40%. This is twice the rate of other North America carnivores. They aren't stopping there, either. New studies suggest they are rapidly making their way into Central America as well.

So, what's causing this thriving population? One of the main reasons for the increase in coyotes is the decrease in competitors. Populations of wolves and cougars in eastern North America are much smaller than they used to be. This is due to habitat loss and other human impacts. The same is true for cougars (aka mountain lions) and jaguars in Central America.

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From Let's Talk Science <<https://letstalkscience.ca>>

WHILE some populations of large carnivores are struggling to survive, coyote populations are increasing. They are spreading into new regions across North and South America. So, why is this? As it turns out, the struggle for some animals may be what is helping the coyotes thrive. Human impacts on the environment have created challenging conditions for most large carnivores. On the flip side, this has meant perfect conditions for the adaptable coyote.



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Coyote continued

Less competition when hunting for prey animals means more food for coyote populations.

The decrease in predator populations can cause prey populations to rise. Without wolves, for example, deer populations can get bigger. With so many deer in an area however, there may not be enough food for the deer to eat.

Deer weakened by a lack of food make them an easy target for coyotes. As coyote numbers rise, deer populations fall. This helps to keep both predators and prey below the carrying capacity for the habitat.

Did you know?

The spread of coyotes into Western Canada and Alaska likely happened due to new human settlements and deforestation during the Gold Rushes of the late 1880s.

Coyotes vs Wolves

You have probably heard that wolves are great hunters. So why are coyotes now doing better than wolves? Despite their visual similarities, coyotes are quite different from wolves.

For example, wolves are carnivores that only hunt large prey animals, such as deer. Coyotes are carnivores that have a diverse diet. They will eat insects, small mammals, and even garbage! Being able to eat many types of food allowed coyotes to survive even when some of their prey became scarce. This lets them thrive even in urban areas filled with humans.

Coyotes also live in a different habitat from wolves. Coyotes prefer open spaces whereas wolves prefer forests. As forests were cleared to make room for



agriculture, wolves were pushed into smaller and smaller areas. Coyotes on the other hand gained more and more habitat.

Even the behaviours of coyotes are different from that of wolves. Coyotes are brave enough to hunt and attack prey. At the same time they maintain enough shyness to avoid being killed themselves.

This combination of behaviours is essential in urban environments, where animals are not used to human interactions. Urban coyotes may even be bolder than rural coyotes. These new behaviours allow them to scavenge and hunt effectively in human-centric ecosystems.

Wolves, on the other hand, are very wary around people - for good reason. Farmers and ranchers are always on the lookout for wolves, which can prey on large livestock like cattle.

Adaptability is the key to success for the coyote. They can eat different things, live in different places,
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Coyote continued

and respond well to the environmental changes humans make. However, scientists still aren't sure how spreading coyote populations will impact these new environments and neighbours. If coyotes are the new "top predator," this could affect every living creature under them in the food chain.

Coyotes and Carrying Capacity

Even with rapidly increasing coyote populations, most habitats have not reached their carrying capacity for coyotes. Why?

Coyotes are kind of cheating, in a way. Normally, if food runs out for a population of animals, the population declines. This does not happen to coyotes because they simply adapt to eating new foods.

Coyotes are considered opportunistic animals. This means that when a resource they rely on is limited, they adapt and change their needs.

Another factor that limits carrying capacity is space. Like wolves, coyotes are territorial. This means that they defend an area of space from other coyotes. Unlike wolf packs, which need territories of 129 square kilometres (50 square miles) to over 2 590 square kilometres (1 000 square miles), breeding pairs of coyotes only need territories of 10 to 40 square kilometres (4 to 15 square miles).

This allows them to thrive in small pockets of land around farms and cities. When coyotes run out of room in a particular place, they carve out a niche in a new environment. This has allowed coyote populations to grow, rather than be constrained by the limitations of their environment.

So does this mean coyote populations will keep on growing and growing until they get out of control?

Like every living thing, there are limits to coyotes' adaptability. Eventually coyotes will run out of space, even given all their adaptability. There is only so much suitable land around. Other factors that limit population growth are things like disease. A disease called Canine distemper occasionally breaks out among coyote populations. Finally, factors such as weather and natural disasters can keep populations in check.

Coexisting with Coyotes

As coyote populations continue to grow and spread, there will be more human interactions with coyotes. We should always be alert to what is around us when outdoors, keep pets on a short leash and avoid leaving attractants, such as garbage, on our properties. 🌱

Map on page 10:

Coyote population range over time (© Hody JW, Kays R (2018) Mapping the expansion of coyotes (Canis latrans) across North and Central America. ZooKeys 759: 81-97. <https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.759.15149>) [CC BY 4.0].

Photo credit: Hinterland's Who's Who

The name coyote is a Spanish alteration of the original Aztec name coyotl. The Latin name *Canis latrans*, meaning barking dog, was given to it by Thomas Say, who published a description of the species in 1833. Since 1967, its official name in Canada, in both English and French, has been coyote. In some parts of Canada coyotes are called "brush wolves." Wolves are much larger and characteristically hunt in packs. [Hinterland's Who's Who]

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Preparing for the 2023 Bluebird Monitoring Season

story and photos by Margaret MacKenzie

YES, it's just around the corner.....Spring will suddenly be here and the grasslands will be splashed with bright yellow sunflowers (Arrow-leaved Balsamroot). And with the warming spring come the Bluebirds..... both Western and Mountain Bluebirds are among the first birds to arrive and begin to stake out their summer territory. Tree Swallows usually arrive a little later and House Wrens even later. Of course it's the time we monitors also feel the pull to be out on our trails, checking the nest boxes and seeing that they are going to be a safe summer home for the nesting birds.

While you are out on your trails this spring, do check to see that all boxes are cleaned out and in good shape. If you need new ones, let me know and we can get a small work crew together to go out with new boxes or take tools to fix any that can be saved. Don't forget to give them an inside coating of odourless Ivory soap. It is not a cure all for wasp control but it does help if done vehemently under the roof and down the back and sides of the box.

If anyone has a House Sparrow entering any of their boxes, please let me know immediately and we can help you deal with it by spraying the eggs with vegetable oil. It needs to be done right away and more than once is a safe idea. We need to keep vigilant on keeping these non-native invasive House Sparrows away from our trails. I'm not talking about House Wrens here, so make sure you all are familiar with the identification of these two species. House Wrens are also dangerous for our nesting bluebirds and swallows, often taking over the nest boxes and pecking holes in the eggs, or building their stick

nests right over top of young bluebird babies. However, being a native bird with the law on their side, we can only attempt to deter House Wrens without harming them.



We will be building 50 new nest boxes at Venture Training this spring. Rod Drennan has been in charge of the nest box building and will give our plans to Venture Training Centre who do a professional job of building them. After trying out a slot box design the last time we had boxes built (we had 30 slot and 30 round hole built), and reading a recent study that Harold will publish in this Newspanet, we have decided to build the round hole designed boxes but pay close attention to having the side vent holes and the door space under the roof the correct size. We are also going to enlarge the roof size to provide a larger overhang on the front and sides. Why? Well, read the article for detailed information. Not only do we have a problem with keeping our nestlings warm in the cold parts of spring but we have a problem keeping the boxes cool in the heat of summer. It's a dilemma but the round hole design is a little less drafty. We are also going to paint the boxes with a

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Bluebirds continued

light coloured vinyl environmentally-safe paint. Our warming planet has people from around the world looking at alternative methods to make nest boxes safer. Ideas for heat protected designed boxes are popping up on websites everywhere. Using thicker walled lumber is one idea, or double roofing with a wider overhang another, also using extra spaced roofs and sides. Even simpler, use of insulating sheets of foam or bubble wrap covered with foil. These sheets can be cut to size and stapled to boxes if needed during a heat wave.

We learned at last Fall's BC Bluebird Society AGM that a deterrent for bears is using a mixture of pine oil and water sprayed on the outside of the box. We haven't had a bear problem on our trails recently but once a bear "discovers" snacky baby birds or eggs in boxes, they return regularly, decimating the entire trail. If you have trouble with squirrels or chipmunks or mice it might be worthwhile to try using this



method to see if it works with other smaller mammals. Let me know if you are interested and we can provide the oil and spray bottle and recipe.

Let's look forward to clear blue skies and greening hills soon. 🌱

Round Versus Slot Entrances: New Study Says "Go Round"

by Robyn Bailey, NestWatch Project Leader

<https://nestwatch.org/connect/blog/round-versus-slot-entrances-new-study-says-go-round/>



A better box?

Bluebird enthusiasts have been known to debate the merits of round versus slot-shaped entrances for nest boxes for years. And while the situation has not quite reached Hatfield-McCoy level feuding, the debate does get heated for some. A wide slot for an entrance is said to attract bluebirds while being something of a deterrent to House Sparrows, a non-native bird which competes for nest boxes. The slot entrance is also easier to make, as it does not require drilling a hole. Detractors point out that it could expose the nest to more predators.

Citizen Science To The Rescue

Unfortunately, research on nest box design has not kept pace with the popularization of different styles. There are so many varieties of nest boxes that evaluating them all is a daunting task. But recently, researchers from British Columbia, Canada, decided to investigate differences between round and slotted

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Round vs Slot continued

entrances in a study of Mountain Bluebirds (Leroux et al. 2018). They were looking for ways in which weather and parental feeding rates influenced nest success, but what they found was that this depended largely upon which nest box design was used.

Their study system includes a large bluebird trail monitored by a group of citizen scientists from the Kamloops Naturalist Club. The study's authors designed a series of analyses which included variables accounting for male and female age, direction the nest box faced, distance to the nearest tree, distance to the nearest Mountain Bluebird and Tree Swallow nests, elevation, year, percentage of tree cover, mean temperature during the nestling period, total rainfall during the nestling period, feeding rate, and a few other potentially-interacting variables that might explain fledging success. They were able to use 280 nests from 101 boxes over 4 years; nest boxes did not have predator guards, and were similar in all aspects other than entrance hole style.



- Birds nesting in round-hole boxes produced significantly more eggs.
- Birds nesting in round-hole boxes had significantly better fledging success.
- Hatching success and first egg date were unaffected by box type.
- Complete nest failure was more common in slot boxes, potentially due to more exposure to the elements.
- For hole boxes, temperature and feeding rate affected fledging success. For slotted boxes, no one factor seemed to predict success.
- The authors recommend the use of nest boxes with round entrance holes over those with slotted entrances.

A Community Collaboration

At NestWatch, we believe there will always be friendly debate over what makes the best nest box, but one thing is never in question: the importance of citizen science! If not for a group of citizen science nest monitors, this study wouldn't have been possible. Principle investigator Dr. Matthew Reudink agrees, saying, "This trail goes back over 30 years, and we've been working with the naturalist club since 2011. The most important take-away here is the importance of these long-term data sets and how critical they are for scientists and academics to partner with citizen science groups. Not only that, but it's a win-win when we can get students involved in working directly with citizen scientists and analyzing these data sets." 🌱

Reference:

Leroux, S. L., A. E. McKellar, N. J. Flood, M. J. Paetkau, J. M. Bailey, and M. W. Reudink. 2018. The influence of weather and parental provisioning on fledging success depends on nest box type in a cavity-nesting passerine, the Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 130(3):708-715. <https://doi.org/10.1676/17-084.1>

Results Roundup:

- Bluebirds chose boxes in proportion to their availability (slot entrances were less common). There was no difference in selection based on age or body size. While selection does not always equal preference (birds may not be able to obtain their first choice), there was no strong evidence that bluebirds preferred either box type.

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Newspacket is published five times per year, in January-February, March-April, May-June, September-October and November-December.

Thank you to Wayside Press of Vernon which prints our hard copies of Newspacket.

Copy for publication should be sent to Harold Sellers, Editor, by e-mail hikerharold@gmail.com.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

On the first Wednesday of the month (September through May), we hold a meeting for members and visitors at the Schubert Centre. Start time, 7:00 pm. Guest speakers, club news, refreshments.



NONC MEMBERSHIP

Clip or copy this form to begin or renew a membership with the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club. The form is also available on our website. Annual dues are \$35 for an individual, \$20 for a student and \$50 for a couple or family. Every member should also complete a Waiver form, available at our website membership page.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____