
North Okanagan Naturalists' Club

NEWSPACKET



December 2007, Volume 34, No. 9

NONC EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES 2007-2008

PRESIDENT	Régine Pasquier	558-0445
PAST PRESIDENT	Ray Arlt	542-2058
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	Pam Jenkins	545-0490
	(sub) Peter Blokker	545-8297
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	Erin Nelson	545-6878
NEWSPACKET		
	Régine Pasquier	558-0445
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	Ray Arlt	542-2058
	Régine Pasquier	558-0445
PROGRAMS		
	Bob Hebbert	542-2302
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	Ray Arlt	542-2058
REFRESHMENTS		
	Ray Arlt	542-2058
	Ann Langer	250-547-6153
	Ginny McLean	542-9948
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	Kay Bartholomew	542-3977
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	Robyn Thornton	549-2714
TRIPS		
	Pam Jenkins	545-0490
TEA/COFFEE		
	Adam Moss	558-4775
WAYS AND MEANS		
	Margaret Martin	545-1117
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	John Quirk	545-1037
BLUEBIRD TRAILS		
	Ginny and Don McLean	542-9948
BOTANY		
	Margaret Hubble	542-2712
ENTOMOLOGY		
	Phil Jones	549-1596
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	Ann Langer	250-547-6153
BISHOP WILDBIRD SANCTUARY		
	Erin Nelson	542-5122
SWAN LAKE		
	Lyall Webster	260-3268

NORTH OKANAGAN NATURALISTS' CLUB



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NONC usually meets on the first Wednesday of each month from September to May inclusive, starting at 7:30 pm at The Vernon Lodge, 3914 - 32nd Street, Vernon.

Opinions expressed in Newspaper are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Club unless so described.

Articles and cover illustrations of natural history, news and events are welcome. Copy should be left with Kay Bartholomew at work (Wayside Press, 3304 - 33rd Street) or at home (2908 - 23rd Street) or sent directly to the editor at regine.pasquier@telus.net.

Deadline for entries is the last Thursday of the month.

Registration at monthly meetings, or send Name(s), Address, Telephone, email and cheque to:

North Okanagan Naturalists' Club
PO Box 473,
Vernon, BC V1T 6M4

Yearly dues: Single \$28
Family \$38

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trips and hikes

Regular Thursday hikes continue as usual. Meet 9:30 am at the Priest Valley parking lot, unless the trip is in the list below, in which case you should contact the leader. Contacts for regular Thursday trips:

Pam Jenkins: 545-0490, Margaret Hubble: 542-2712, Bob Hebbert: 542-2302

Other events:

December 16 58th Annual Christmas Bird Count
See information page 5 of this Newspaper

January 13 Annual Swan and Eagle Count *Phil Jones: 549-1596*

Birding Dec.9 (Sun.) - Dec.15 (Sat.) - Dec.23 (Sun.) - Dec.29 (Sat)
Jan. 6 (Sun.) - Jan.12 (Sat) *John Quirk: 545-1037*

Please check your trip lists and FBCN BC Naturalist for equipment needs.
Always advise the leader of intended attendance.

**NOTE: Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday, January 9 at 7:30 pm**

**Our speaker, Tim Jackson, will talk about his safaris in Africa,
and discuss in depth the animals featured in his presentation.**

A Living Memory

A donation to the James Grant Fund is a positive way to commemorate a departed friend or relative. A card will be sent to the family concerned. The gift would be a fitting tribute to anyone who has loved the world of nature. The fund is used for environmental education.

Kindly make cheques payable to: James Grant Fund, North Okanagan Naturalists' Club, Box 473, Vernon, BC V1T 6M4

Cover Story

This story was sent by Jo Gozelnny who received it from a friend.

“A very eventful day around here ... A once in many lifetimes experience!

I saw this little fellow run out in front of a car and thought it was a lost baby goat. I stopped to get it, and WOW... A real Albino Whitetail Deer! Just hours old, but doing fine. No Momma deer around. Another car nearly hit it in front of me...

Well, he is the neatest thing any of us ever saw. He is snow white, pink eyes, ears, nose and hooves. The kids called him POWDER. He is SO small. That is my shoe lying beside him ... And such a 'freak of nature', that only one in more than a million are ever born. He took to his bottle of food, followed us around the house, doing great.

We sure wanted to keep him but it is not the right thing to do... and it is not legal either. So we called the Department of Environmental Protection, and he is going to be sent to a Rehab farm.

Maybe he will make it in captivity somewhere and be appreciated.

WOW..how cool is that?”



Praying Mantis at Vernon Secondary School - October 2007 (continuation from October Newspacket Cover Story by Harriet Foltinek)



Here is the last chapter in the life of my little Praying Mantis. These pictures were sent to me November 6, by the science teacher at VSS, along with a note saying that since these pictures were taken she has gone to Mantis Heaven. No explanation - I suppose that's just their life span. He also said that the students still check her out. He was very appreciative of having her.

NONC AGM November 7, 2007

Elections

Bob Hebbert conducted the election of Officers/Directors (see the list on first page of Newspacket). Elected for 2 year term: Secretary Kay Bartholomew, Treasurer George Wilson, Directors Margaret Hubble, Lyn Smith and Dennis Seymour; President Régine Pasquier was elected for a one year term (as she is planning to be away most of the time after that). Directors Pam Jenkins, Erin Nelson and Gail Loughridge, still have one year in their term. At the present time the Vice-President position is vacant.

Reports

The President, Treasurer and Education reports were presented to the members. Bob Hebbert presented a report on the updating of our Policies and Procedures Manual. Other reports were available for members and will be printed in the Newspacket.

Wanted: Vice-President for NONC!

Executive Report

The Executive Committee welcomed new members Lyn Smith and Dennis Seymour. Treasurer George Wilson could not be present at this month meeting.

Finances: George and Lyall had prepared the budget for the 2007/2008 year and Lyall presented it.

Swan Lake: Mike Carlson and Lyall put cages around some trees to prevent damage. The work is finished for this year... more work to be done in the spring.

Young Naturalists: On November 25, they celebrated their 100th Explorer Day (Sunday meeting and outing) since their start on April 13, 2003.

Speakers Program: Bob Hebbert has accepted to continue with this until someone is found to replace him. Thank you, Bob.

Bird Count: December 16, 2007 - See information in this Newspacket. Dick Cannings will email bird listings for on line ebird (Canada).

New Business: We are in the process of getting a digital projector and developing a club website... More about this later.

BC Nature Delegate report (AGM 2007) Pamela Jenkins

FBCN has elected to use the name BC Nature for most purposes, although the legal name remains FBCN. The duties of the delegate is to represent NONC at provincial meetings hosted twice a year by one of the clubs.

NONC hosted the AGM in May, which was successfully organised and co-ordinated by Larry Adamache and Régine Pasquier for representatives from other parts of the province. The hosting club organises early morning birding trips and other nature or boating trips during the day and also arranges for interesting speakers to be part of the program. The meetings start on Thursday and continue until Sunday. Saturday is the day for the directors' meeting in the morning and an AGM (or an FGM - Fall General Meeting) in the afternoon. Resolutions are discussed at the AGM, although not so many at the Fall meeting. There is a banquet with guest speaker on Saturday evening. Awards are presented to nominated naturalists. Read the detailed reports of these meetings in the BC Nature magazine and our Newspacket.

Review of ALR boundaries Bill Image

NORD are reviewing the exterior boundaries of the ALR in Electoral areas B/C (Rural Vernon), and F(Rural Enderby). The idea of course will be to see which parts of the existing ALR land might be removed, but there may also be some swapping suggested, i.e. take this out, but put this in.

The review is to be completed by Sept.2008 at which time the results will be sent to the ALC for their consideration.

Public submissions can be sent to:

NORD, 9848 Aberdeen Road,
Coldstream BC, V1B 2K9
Attention: Paddy Juniper, Planning Department.

Call 550-3700 for more info.

**We wish you
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year !**



HUMMINGBIRD REPORT-2007**Gail Loughridge**

We had a banner year this year. We had Cam Finlay, Master Bander, visit Vernon and give us a workshop before the season began. There were also 2 workshops held at my home to review procedures, make our hummingbird bands and introduce new volunteers.

We have 2 separate programs that we keep data for. One is the Hummingbird Monitoring Network (HMN) where all the information collected goes to Arizona (5 hours of banding), and afternoon banding sessions (2 hrs) where we send the data to the Canada Wildlife Centre.

We have 2 sites where we monitor for the HMN – the Boyd’s up on Blue Nose Rd, and the Paul’s on the Westside of Okanagan Lake. At the Boyd’s, over a 2 month period we captured 59 hummingbirds - 31 Calliope, 28 Rufous and 1 Blackchinned. Some were retraps from previous years returning to the same site. At the Paul’s, where we were for 3 months, we captured 137 hummingbirds – 116 Calliope and 22 Rufous. We really appreciate both our hosts who welcomed us so graciously every other weekend at 6 am. What phenomenal hosts they are!

We also went in the late afternoon to various homes in the valley. We went to 6 sites this year, including my own place, and captured 73 hummingbirds, 23 rufous and 50 calliope. We would also like to thank the hosts of these sites as everyone made us feel very welcome.

Altogether we captured 271 hummingbirds, some returning but mostly new birds, probably juveniles from last year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who came out so early in the mornings as well as various afternoons to assist in banding and recording for us. Without your help we couldn’t have done any of this. And, of course, one big Thank You to the North Okanagan Naturalists’ Club for all their financial aide. Thank You.

Young Naturalists**Régine Pasquier**

On November 11, we had a very lively session on “Winter Survival” with each young member assuming the identity of a wild animal having to survive the winter in Kal Park.

On November 25, we celebrated our 100th Explorer Day since our start April 13, 2003. Thank you, Erin and Leanne for letting us use the Bishop Wildbird Sanctuary for this occasion.

LOOSESTRIFE 2007**Malcolm Martin**

It has taken 15 years but, like a slow motion movie, a milestone has finally passed. Back in 1992 when Ministry of Environment asked if there was anyone in the Vernon area who could be induced to control Purple Loosestrife there were two infestations known to them - Swan Lake Nursery and environs, and the south end of Kalavista Lagoon. Both of these have now passed the test of having been without weed for 5 consecutive years and are considered cleansed bringing the total of cleared sites since inception to 18.

Lest joy be unrestrained it should be pointed out that the north end of Kalavista Lagoon is still a problem. This is the site where a bioagent controlling loosestrife was released in 2006 with success until a neighbouring homeowner mowed all the vegetation in sight before the beetles had completed their annual cycle and pupated in the ground. There was no sign of them in 2007 and loosestrife remains hearty.

In addition to that continuing problem area there is Vernon Creek. During the past season the section from Fulton School west to the main road showed a continuation of the trend to lower numbers of stems removed, however, again there was a rise along the airport section. Most of this was due to a second series of visits later in the summer which produced a sizeable harvest which it is to be hoped will pay off next year Allah insha. So the fight continues.



After observing birds at the feeders and in the bushes, our YNC members are ready for some goodies...

58th Annual Christmas Bird Count**Erin Nelson**

Below is a list of the leaders of the different areas. If you are not on the list, do not panic, just let me know. We certainly do not want to forget you. There is a \$5 fee for each participant, unless you are a member of Bird Studies Canada (*Backyard Feeder Watch* for example) for whom it is “free,” but I do need to know your number or at least that you are a member. The fee is to cover “printing” costs. Your name is published in the big book. Wrap up is at the Bishop Bird Sanctuary (usually the folks start to stop in at 4:30 on).

Trevor Forder is in charge of Lake Country’s Christmas Bird Count. So if you are free on Friday Dec. 14th please get in touch with him... (250-870-6617)...he could use the help and it is not that far away.

Kelowna’s Christmas Bird Count is on Saturday Dec 15th. Chris Charlesworth is the coordinator for that one – again if you have some free time please join them.

Thanks.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Who</u>
Head of the Lake/Westside -----	-Group #1 -----Carole McKinley
East Swan Lake -----	-Group #2A -----Everard & Barb Miyasaki
West Swan Lake -----	-Group #2B -----Andy & Marilyn Buhler
Swan Lake Nature Reserve -----	-Group #2C -----Everard & Barb Miyaski
B.X.(North) Upper Silver Star -----	-Group #3A -----Candis Eikerman
B.X. (South) -----	-Group #3B -----Pam Jenkins/Jack & Lyn Smith
Becker Lake -----	-Group #3C -----Bill Image
Coldstream -----	-Group #4A -----John Quirk
Coldstream (Bishop Wild Bird Sanctuary) -----	-Group #4B -----Erin Nelson
Coldstream (Railway Tracks) -----	-Group #4C -----Norbert Maertens/Peter Collins
Kal Park -----	-Group #5A -----Gail Loughridge/Jim Bodkin
Kal Park (Deep Lake & Cosens Bay) -----	-Group #5B -----Margaret Hubble/Adam Moss
Kal Park (Rattlesnake Hill) -----	-Group #5C -----Trevor Forder
Upper Commonage & Keluli Bay -----	-Group #6A -----Pat McAllister/Peter Blokker/Judy Stockdale
Lower Commomage Longacre, Klinger, & Polson Pk -----	-Group #6B -----Terry Lodge
Okanagan Landing & Eastside Road -----	-Group #7A -----Don Cecile
Adventure Bay & Bella Vista Ridge -----	-Group #7B -----Peter & Hylda Mayfield
City (West) -----	-Group #8A -----Daphne Manning
City (East Hill) -----	-Group #8B -----Ray Arlt
Desert Cove -----	-John Stelfox
Backyard Feeders -----	-Erin Nelson
Master List for final compilation -----	-Erin Nelson

Contact Erin Nelson (250) 545-6878 or eenelson@telus.net

**Is anyone interested in “owling” for the count?
Contact Erin Nelson (250) 545-6878 or eenelson@telus.net**

LYTTON TRIP - JULY 6th to 8th, 2007**Robyn Thornton**

Fifteen NONCers enjoyed a very interesting trip to visit two ecological reserves in the Lytton area. We drove to Lytton on July 6th and settled into our accommodations – some camping at Skihist Provincial Park and others sharing cabins at the Totem Motel overlooking the junction of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers. At 5:30 p.m. we gathered at the Jade Springs Restaurant just north of Lytton on Highway 1, where we met our leaders for the hike the next day, Frances Vyse, who is the steward for the Skwaha Lake Ecological Reserve, and her husband, Allan, who live in Kamloops. After enjoying some very good food (some chose to share a good number of Chinese dishes, while others stayed with the Western food menu), Frances described the area we were going to visit next day and arrangements were made to meet next morning. We adjourned to our various sleeping accommodations, where many of us found it difficult to sleep, as Lytton is situated between two rail lines and the trains seemed to run every 15 minutes all through the night! It was also very warm and the air conditioning was not working well.

However, we all managed to make it to our meeting place next day, which again promised to be very warm, with clear blue skies. We crossed the Thompson River and started driving up the Botanie Valley. On the north side of Botanie Creek, striking stratified cliffs rose. We rendezvoused with Larry, who had camped at the Forestry campsite just before Botanie Lake and stopped to take photos of the area and to survey the hillside we were about to climb. A short distance later, we parked our vehicles and set off on the approach to the Reserve. This entailed some climbing over blown down trees. We reached the edge of the Reserve and, soon afterwards, stopped to rest in a patch of cow parsnip at the edge of a grove of young aspen. The mosquitoes were very fierce and persistent, even in the face of much repellent spraying.

From here the hike became steeper, with wonderful views of Botanie Lake and the snow covered Stein Valley mountains in the distance. We passed from Ponderosa Pine country to Engleman Spruce in an almost vertical 2 to 3 km hike. We split into three groups – those who could go no further, those who made it to the lower meadows and those stalwarts who carried on into the upper meadows. The flowers were spectacular! The main reason this area is set aside as an ecological reserve, is due to the large number of flower species, including ones not found elsewhere. Much time was spent identifying these plants, with the help of books and Frances' list of plants previously found on the Reserve. A small onion was later identified after consulting the Provincial Flora list on the internet as *allium geyeri* (Geyer's onion), which is red-listed in the Flora description, blue-listed in the species description.

After lunch surveying the amazing views before us (those who made it to the top, enjoyed vistas of the Coast Mountains and those to the north-east as well), we started our descent, and eventually arrived back at our vehicles in the mid afternoon. After driving back to our accommodations and showering, we gathered on the lawn of the Totem Motel for a barbecue and wonderful potluck dinner.

That night, we were so tired, that there was less trouble sleeping, despite the trains. Next morning we met at Skihist Ecological Reserve just north of Lytton, on benchlands overlooking the Thompson River. The warden of this Reserve, Karen Willies, also from Kamloops, was unable to join us, but had sent an information kit containing lists of plants, mammals and birds identified there, as well as a description of the physical and biotic features of the Reserve. We did not encounter the Western Rattlesnake, which has been spotted near the parking area, crossed the railroad tracks, and hiked to the northern boundary, botanizing and birding en route. We had great views of the River and the railroad tracks and avalanche tunnels on its other side. Although it was cloudy, the temperatures and humidity were high and people were tired from the demanding day before, so the pace of our walking was quite slow. I was really keen to find the five kekuli depressions that indicated winter use by Natives in the area before the white people came, so pressed on towards the south boundary, while others were more content to bird watch and socialize. Pat McAllister reported spotting White Breasted Nuthatches and Pygmy Nuthatches, which were not on our list. We also found two white (albino?) Mariposa lilies, which had not previously been reported. I did find the kekuli depressions and a great view over the Thompson River before rejoining the others. We then drove to the Spahats day use area to eat our lunch before driving home via various routes, some of us enjoying some birding en route. Over lunch, we discussed the possibility of returning to this interesting area at an earlier time next year, when the plants would be more plentiful in the Skihist Reserve, and the glacier lilies would be appearing in the Skwaha area. We shall have to wait and see how snow conditions are in order to plan such a future trip. After our return, I sent Karen information by email on species we had observed in Skihist.

Participants: Larry Adamache, Joyce and Bob Hebbert, Hilda and Peter Mayfield, Pat McAllister, Gretta and John McDougall, Margaret Hubble, Pam Jenkins, Geoff and Yvonne Spedding, Robyn Thornton, Ina and Fred Wisse.