

NEWSPACKET

M A R C H - A P R I L 2 0 1 8



Barred Owl

Strix varia

photo by Jack Van Dyk

NONC

Swan & Eagle Count 2018

THE results for the 2018 Swan & Eagle Count that took place in the greater Vernon area on January 14 are listed below:

- Bald Eagles - 125 (100 adults, 25 sub-adult)
- Golden Eagles - 2 (2 adults)
- Trumpeter Swans - 118 (109 adults, 9 immature)
- Tundra Swans - 0

The other routes were Coldstream-south end of Mabel Lake, Enderby-Kingfisher, Mabel Lake and Vernon area where 59 Bald Eagles, 2 Bald Eagles and 20 Trumpeter Swans were counted. Sub-adult eagles were observed on all of the routes while immature swans were only seen on the Vernon-Sicamous route and in the Vernon area.

Join us again next year when we convene on January 13, 2019 to count swans and eagles! Until then, happy birding and enjoy yourself enjoying nature.

Aaron Deans, Swan & Eagle Count Coordinator,
 bishopwildbird@gmail.com
 Ph: 250-542-5122



*above: Trumpeter Swan, photo by Claude Rioux
 right: Bald Eagles, photo by Claire Christensen*

We had 31 participants covering four routes with a total of 127 eagles and 118 swans observed during this year's count with three of the four focal species seen. These numbers were down from 2017 when we had 184 Bald Eagles, 8 Golden Eagles and 160 swans.

The majority of the birds were observed on the Vernon-Sicamous route with a count of 66 Bald Eagles and 98 Trumpeter Swans.



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2018 Year of the Bird

Cornel Lab of Ornithology, National Geographic, National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and more than 100 organizations have joined to declare 2018 the Year of the Bird. This coincides with the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's ratification.

Watch the websites and publications of any of these organizations for special events and activities.

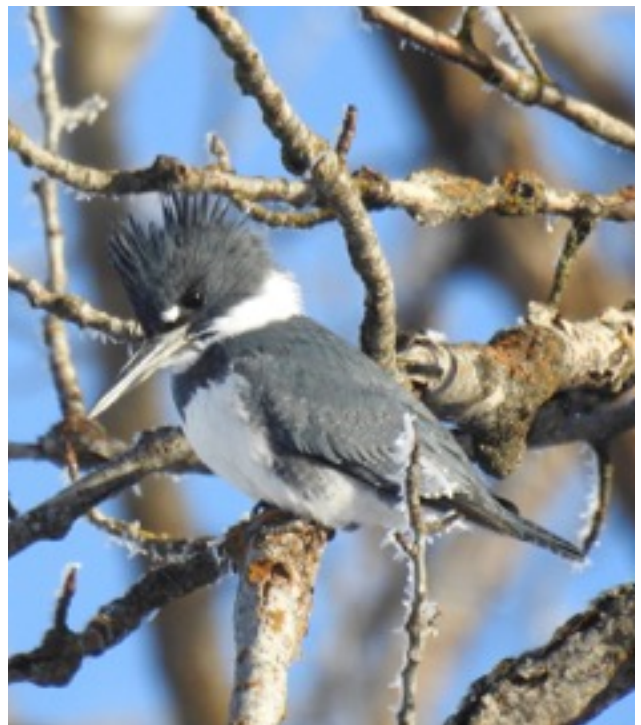
right: Northern Cardinal on a 2018 Year of the Bird poster



The Great Canadian Birdathon 2017

Peter Blokker, Aaron Deans, Margaret MacKenzie, Trish Reid, Claude Rioux and Harold Sellers all participated in last May's Great Canadian Birdathon.

These folks raised \$1,287.00 for bird research and conservation. With NONC being their designated local partner, our club received a cheque for \$321.75 from Bird Studies Canada.



*above: Belted Kingfisher
photo by Claire Christensen*

NONC

IN MEMORIUM: Peter Blokker

These notes have been compiled from various sources - editor

PETER Blokker was born June 1933 in the Dutch community of Alkmaar, an hour from Amsterdam. He came to Canada in 1964.

In early January Peter was visiting his brother, Karl, in Holland, while on his way to Italy for the World Masters Speed Skating Championships. He had a fall at his brother's home in Alkmaar. Peter did not regain consciousness and died a few days later in hospital. He was 84 years of age.

Peter lived in Quesnel, Prince George and finally, in Vernon, with his wife Gerda.

Peter was a long-time member of the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club and one of the top birders in the club. He coordinated the Christmas Bird Count for the Vernon area for many years and had just had the 2017 count results published by the local media within days of his death.

He also conducted an "observations" sharing time at the monthly NONC meetings, where members and visitors shared what they had seen recently.

Peter kept in shape; hiking, cycling and skating. When he lived in Prince George he took up speed-skating.



After moving to Vernon in 1992, Peter started a club here, now known as the Vernon Vortex Speed Skating Club.

In November of last year, The *Vernon MorningStar* newspaper said this about Peter: "Blokker, 84, ruled the Masters category, recording the world's top times for his age division while improving on his showings at the World Masters Championships last February. He posted three season best times."

The Vernon Speed Skating Club posted the following: "As a master skater, Peter has set at least 10 Canadian Long Track records. He also holds the Canadian Short Track record for the 1500m (age class 70-74). Peter is a mentor and inspires the younger skaters to love speed skating for life."



*top: Peter hiking with NONC at Silver Star Mtn.
bottom: Peter, the speed skater*

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Peter's family has indicated that there will be a memorial for him, here in Vernon, sometime in the coming months.

The loss of Peter Blokker leaves a large hole in our club. He was a mentor to many of us who sought to increase our knowledge and ability to identify birds.

For all he taught us and shared with us, we say "Thanks, Peter, for everything." 🌍

right: Peter hiking on Middleton Mountain



Farewell Kay

Long-time NONC member, Kay Bartholomew, passed away on Thursday, March 1st, following a stroke.

In the May-June issue of *Newspacket* we will have an article and other pictures of Kay.

A memorial service will be held at the Pleasant Valley Funeral Home on Thursday, March 8th at 11:00 am.



NONC

NONC Outings – 2018

- These outings are all planned for Thursdays and Saturdays. NONC members welcome. Mark your calendar!
- Reminders and a notice of any changes will be published in the NONC weekly e-newsletter.
- CARPOOLING WILL MARSHAL FROM THE PRIEST VALLEY ARENA Parking Lot - 3407 35 Ave, Vernon - unless otherwise indicated
- Passengers, please make a contribution towards the cost of gas, depending on the distance.
- If you have any questions about the outings, please contact the person(s) leading the outing.

April 19**Chase – Niskonlith Meadows**

The Neskonlith Meadows are within Adams Lake First Nations lands and are one of the best places to hike to see the early wildflowers including Avalanche Lily.

Leaders: Ruth & Rod Drennan rdrennan@shaw.ca

May 3**Salmon Arm Bay – Western Grebe courtship**

Courtship, involving preening, gift giving and dancing on the water, begins in late April and may still be in progress well into June. These sights can be witnessed from shore using binoculars, from Peter Jannink Nature Park, the walkway in front of the Prestige Inn, or at Christmas Island.

Leaders: Don Cecile & Claude Rioux
dcecile@shaw.ca ccrioux@hotmail.com

May 07-10**South Okanagan explorations**

This four day outing gives you a head start on the season to view plant and wildlife as we head to the warmer climes of the south OK.

Day 1: Robert Lake, Sun-Oka Park, Vaseux Lake, settle in at Pine Bluff Motel

Day 2: early morning birding, Mahoney Lk to White Lk hike

Day 3: Sage & Sparrow Conservation Reserve

Day 4: Return via Osoyoos, Anarchist Mt & Wood Lot

Leader: Claude Rioux ccrioux@hotmail.com

June**Lavington – Bluenose Mountain**

A steady ascent through mixed forest. From the top you get excellent views of the Aberdeen Plateau, Silver Star, Lavington and the Monashees.

Leader: Harold Sellers hikerharold@gmail.com

June/July**Yeoward Mountain**

Beautiful views of the Pinnacles, Selkirks and Valhallas from the summit.

Leader: Norbert Maertens nmaer10s@gmail.com

July**Revelstoke – Meadows in the Sky**

Beautiful flowers, great views, a must to visit.

Leader: Charles Peti charlespeti@netscape.net

August**Silver Star Mt**

Ascend through carpets of wildflowers to reach the summit with beautiful views of the surrounding hills and valleys.

Leader: Harold Sellers hikerharold@gmail.com

- and -

Salmon Arm Bay

Fall migration of juvenile shorebirds

Leaders: Don Cecile & Claude Rioux
dcecile@shaw.ca ccrioux@hotmail.com

More outings coming in the Autumn! 🌍

NONC

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EXECUTIVE

President	Marnie Williamson 545-4743
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Vice-President	Pat McAllister 558-1440
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Treasurer	Ruth Drennan 545-4999
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Swan Lake	Lyll Webster 545-0955
Trips	Claude Rioux 351-5445
Website & Social Media	Harold Sellers 503-2388
NatureKids	Marnie Williamson 545-4743

^ Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Contact the following if you have questions.

BC Nature	Pam Jenkins 545-0490
Birding	vacant
Bishop Wild Bird Sanctuary	Aaron Deans 542-5122
Bluebird Trails	Margaret Mackenzie 542-2712

LIFE MEMBERS

Ray Arlt	
Kay Bartholomew*	
Joan Heriot*	
Phil Jones*	
Malcolm Martin*	
Frank* & Mary* Paul	* deceased

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

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



North Okanagan Naturalists Club



#NorthOkNature

MONTHLY MEETINGS

On the first Wednesday of the month (September through May), we hold a meeting for members and visitors at the Village Green Hotel, Sierra Room II. 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 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: _____