

NEWSPACKET

M A Y - J U N E 2 0 1 8

Western Meadowlark
Sturnella neglecta

photo by Claude Rioux



Right:

*American
Goldfinches in late
Winter plumage.*

*by Claire
Christensen*



NONC

Trip to See the Glacier Lilies

by Rod Drennan, photos by Ruth Drennan

A group of sixteen NONCers had a great time on the beautiful slopes of the Adams Lake Band above the Village of Chase on Thursday, April 26th.

We arrived in Chase shortly after 10:30 then drove to our destination and parked. It was a beautiful, warm and sunny day for a stroll through the meadows.

Glacier lilies in bloom were in abundance along with mertensia, chocolate tips, shooting star, balsam root and buttercups.

We had our lunch on a peaceful overlook of the valley below and

spent about two hours there.

We returned by way of Salmon Arm where we had a coffee/tea break at the Blue Canoe Bakery/sandwich shop and then back to Vernon.



We also observed the following bird species as recorded by Gail Loughridge: Black-capped Chickadee, Black-billed Magpie, Ruffed Grouse, Osprey, Vesper Sparrow, American Crow, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Raven, White-crowned Sparrow, Dusky Grouse, Turkey Vulture, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Harrier, Mallard and Canada Goose. 🌍

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Butterflies and Moths**Some “Did you know?” facts
from E-Fauna BC**

IN British Columbia, there are about 2285 species of Lepidoptera recorded -- 184 are butterflies (including 29 skippers) and 2101 are moths. These numbers vary depending on the authorities consulted. While there is public recognition of two distinct and separate groups, "moths" and "butterflies", experts include butterflies and the closely related skippers within the much larger assemblages of moths. All these are then classified in the single insect order Lepidoptera.

Globally, about 150,000 species of living Lepidoptera have been described in approximately 124 families. At the species level, this is about 17 % of the world's known insect fauna. However, estimates suggest that there may be two or three times this number of species in the order. The Lepidoptera is the largest lineage of plant eating organisms, rivalled only by the huge clade of phytophagous (plant eating) beetles (Coleoptera) that includes the weevils, leaf beetles and longhorned beetles, a group of at least 125,000 named species.

Lepidopterous larvae are commonly called caterpillars. Usually cylindrical, they have a well-

developed head, thorax (the top of the prothorax is usually sclerotized) and a 10-segmented abdomen.



Larvae mainly feed with chewing mandibles, although these are modified in some sap-feeding, leaf-mining forms. Many larvae are hairy or spiny in characteristic ways; sometimes these projections are stinging. Silk is spun from modified salivary glands that open under the mouth; the silk is used mainly to make cocoons or other shelters. Many larvae pupate in cocoons; others make none. Moth pupae are usually smooth and

brown. Butterflies usually do not make a cocoon and the naked pupa is often called a chrysalis – it can be sculptured or brightly coloured and frequently is fastened to a plant with a silken girdle. 🌍

*above, top: Pale Swallowtail
above, middle: Silvery Blue
photos by Harold Sellers*

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PRIMEVAL: Enter the Incomappleux*by Judy Stockdale, photos by Claude Rioux*

ON April 25th the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club co-sponsored, along with the Vernon Public Library, a presentation from the Valhalla Wilderness Society's directors Craig Pettitt and Amber Peters which included the film, "PRIMEVAL Enter the Incomappleux" from award winning documentary filmmaker Damien Gillis (Fractured Land, Oil in Eden).

We follow a team of biologists who are making the first ever scientific exploration of an intact valley in the Inland Temperate Rainforest where they find an un-dreamt wealth of biodiversity, many species unknown to science. This ancient rainforest, thousands of years old, with trees of awe-inspiring size, was a key part of British Columbia's original legacy for the world. The film was initiated in part because the VWS has spent 15 years documenting rare forests that exhibit the most distinctive rainforest characteristics. Unidentified as biodiversity hot spots, these remarkable forests are candidates for destruction by clear-cut logging, and many have already been lost. Documenting their exceptional biodiversity is crucial if we are to achieve the protection they deserve.

Taking bold action is what VWS has done in the past with a focus on the creation of large wilderness parks. It has spearheaded successful campaigns for half a million hectares of large BC parks, and has been a major supporter of many others. The Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal couldn't be more timely with the demise of two Mountain Caribou herds this spring in the neighbouring South Selkirk herd and the South Purcell herd. Their numbers have been crashing

also for the Central Selkirk Caribou from 98, 10 years ago, to 28 a year ago. The Government's Mountain Caribou Recovery plan has been a dismal failure with it's emphasis on culling predators (wolves and cougar) and maternity pens while ignoring the impact of logging, ATV's and snowmobiles, habitat loss and the importance of providing connectivity within their habitat. Mountain Caribou are the Keystone species in this eco-system which extends from Prince George to the border. Looking after their needs means support for the whole system. This would include grizzly bears and their fishing Kokanee salmon, Bull Trout spawning along the four rivers in the park proposal as well as spawning runs of Kokanee salmon and Gerard rainbow trout. Dense, humid, high-biomass old growth forests are critical for carbon absorption to reduce climate change. This mountain caribou sub-species differs from other species in that they migrate higher in the mountains in the winter with broader feet to act like snow shoes and this allow them to browse on the lichen hanging in the branches. Other caribou don't have this adaptation and travel to valley bottoms in the winter so if the Mountain Caribou become extirpated, other caribou couldn't be successfully introduced.

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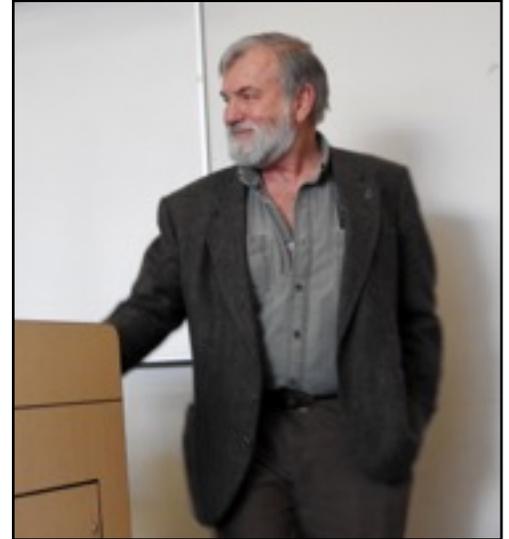
With so many reasons to protect this area it is difficult to understand the hesitancy. What is particularly galling is the low value the old growth timber has and what seems to be the primary goal, to switch to plantation trees for a quick 60 year turn-over cycle.

The proposed Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park would connect Glacier National Park with The Bugaboo Provincial park and the Goat Range Provincial park. They are asking for a type A park to insure the protection necessary for regeneration of Caribou numbers. As they said 50 years ago when we were at the cusp of species loss recognition, extinction is forever.

When viewing the documentary Primeval you are taken back to this ancient world unaltered by humankind with all its majesty, magic and endurance. These Inland Temperate Rainforest occurs nowhere else in the world but in British Columbia's Interior Wetbelt. It would be a very impoverished world without these special places.



Valhalla Wilderness Society urge people to write to their Provincial government and Federal Government to pressure action on this proposal and to sign



the paper petition to the BC Legislature as well as the separate petition at change.org

We thank Craig and Amber for their dedication to this project and for the evening's presentation. 65 people attended and a good discussion followed the main presentation.

Address your letter to :
The Honourable John Horgan.
Premier of British Columbia.
East Annex, Parliament Building.
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 250 387 1715
premier@gov.bc.ca

Send a copy to:
The Honourable Catherine McKenna, M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G6
Phone: 613 996 5323
ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

*above: Craig Pettitt
right: Amber Peters*

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Who BEE It?

LAST week, I spotted a bee that I had not seen before. It had a rusty/orange fuzzy back. We have numerous types of bees here in the Okanagan. Any idea what type it is? -- Claude Rioux

Common Name: Tri-Colored Bumble Bee
 Other Name(s): Orange-Belted Bumble Bee, Red-Tailed Bumble Bee, Tri-Coloured Bumble Bee

Photographed on Friday in Salmon Arm. -- Claire Christensen 🌍

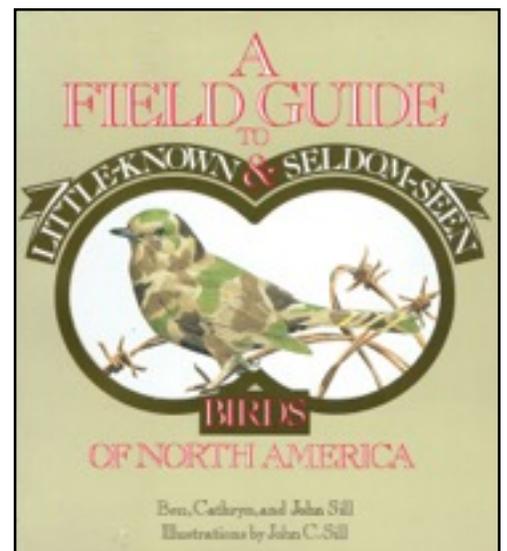


I also have an odd Bee I photographed, one with an orangy-red abdomen. I googled it and it looks like it could be this one.

BIRDERS WILL DELIGHT in this field guide parody which hovers over the forefront of ornithological discovery. Thirty-two fabulous new species are depicted in this volume, which features tongue-in-bill descriptions, observation hints, and range maps, as well as remarkable full-color illustrations. The reader will never look at our feathered friends in the same way after encountering these "freakquent" flyers.

Still available at amazon dot ca

On the cover at right: A "Military Marbler" !



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Ospreys Welcome!

ON Thursday, April 6th three members of the North Okanagan Naturalists Club, the Club photographer and a two-person crew from Aerial Contractors Ltd. of Salmon Arm installed a new osprey nesting platform and pole on the east side of Swan Lake. This replaces a similar structure installed in 1994 which collapsed due to age and wood rot in the past year. The Nature Trust of BC, owner of the property, gave permission for this work.

Wood branches were secured on top of the platform to attract the lucky osprey pair who hopefully will make this their new home. Ospreys are one of a wide range of waterfowl and other birds who make the Swan Lake foreshore their home. The North Okanagan Naturalists' Club would like to acknowledge and thank Aerial Contractors for their generous contribution of specialized equipment and a crew to carry out this work.

Photo credit to Club photographer Claude Rioux
 Naturalists Club volunteers - Marnie Williamson,
 Norbert Maertens, Rod Drennan
 Submitted by Rod Drennan 🌍



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Dandelion

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A dandelion is a flower. Its scientific name is *Taraxacum*, a large genus of flowering plants in the family Asteraceae. *Taraxacum* are native to Eurasia, and have been widely introduced to North and South America as well as other continents and are an invasive species in some areas. Two species, *T. officinale* and *T. erythrospermum*, are found as weeds worldwide. All parts of both species are edible.

The sharp leaves of Dandelion look a bit like lion's teeth. Its seeds are like little parachutes that fly away with the wind, spreading and growing more dandelions. They are used in China as medicine. Dandelion pollen can often make people have allergies.

from JustFunFacts:

Dandelion is a common meadow herb of the Asteraceae or sunflower family.

There are about 100 species of dandelion, and all are beneficial.

The name dandelion comes from the French “dent de lion” – lion’s tooth, which refers to the serrated leaves.

The dandelion flower opens to greet the morning and closes in the evening to go to sleep.

Animals such as birds, insects and butterflies consume nectar or seed of dandelion.

Dandelion flowers do not need to be pollinated to form seed.



Dandelion seeds are often transported away by a gust of wind and they travel like tiny parachutes.

Seed can travel 8 kilometers (5 miles) before it finally reaches the ground.

Every part of the dandelion is useful: root, leaves, flower. It can be used for food, medicine and dye for coloring.

Dandelion can be used in the production of wine and root beer. Root of dandelion can be used as a substitute for coffee.

Dandelions have sunk their roots deep into history. They were well known to ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, and have been used in Chinese traditional medicine for over a thousand years.

Dandelion is used in folk medicine to treat infections and liver disorders. Tea made of dandelion act as diuretic.

If you mow dandelions, they’ll grow shorter stalks to spite you.

Dandelions are, quite possibly, the most successful plants that exist, masters of survival worldwide. 🌍

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Spring Bluebird Workshop

April 7, 2018

HELD at the Vernon Library for the second year in a row, the Spring Bluebird Workshop may become an annual event!

With some advertising including posters and radio, 48 persons, with an interest in Bluebirds and helping monitor Bluebird Trails, showed up. Eleven persons signed up to go with us on our trails and possibly some of them will become our subs this summer.

Coffee and refreshments were available and thankfully, with plenty of NONC Bluebird Monitors present, there was lots of discussion among visitors and NONC members before a powerpoint presentation was shown.

The slide presentation covered the whys, hows and wherefores of Bluebird Trails and why monitoring nest boxes is important. It also covered the different species of birds using nestboxes and the story of bluebirds once they arrive in the spring and begin their yearly parenthood duties.

People asked good questions

and discussions followed with input from Monitors' experiences. Claude Rioux then gave a delightful photographic slide presentation showing Bluebirds and Tree Swallows from their arrival to building nests to fledging the young.

Claude finished our afternoon with a demonstration of the "tools of the trade", showing why wearing an apron in the field is useful!

Workshop co-presenters : Margaret MacKenzie and Claude Rioux 🌍



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BC Species At Risk Legislation**Public consultation begins on new species at risk legislation**

News Release, via Helen Davis

THE Government of British Columbia has begun a three-stage approach to gathering feedback that will inform policy development for new species at risk legislation.

Currently, the Province has 231 species listed under the federal Species at Risk Act. While there are protection measures for some species under the current provincial regulations, there is no comprehensive legislation for the protection of species at risk.

“The great variety of plants and animals in British Columbia provides important ecological, social, cultural and economic benefits to the province and its residents,” said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. “With new species at risk legislation, we have the opportunity to protect B.C.’s irreplaceable biodiversity and to bring stability to Indigenous communities, industry and the public. These public consultations are a further step towards an effective and innovative approach to protecting and recovering species at risk.”

Phase 1 will consist of a series of one-to-one conversations with key stakeholder groups, online discussions with members of the public and regional engagements with Indigenous communities.

Phase 2 is a collaborative, multi-day workshop with key stakeholders in spring 2018.

right: Barn Owl, a species at risk in B.C.

Phase 3 will be an intentions paper, issued for public comment in the fall of 2018, that will outline specific details of B.C.’s proposed species at risk legislation.

Species at risk legislation will fulfil the Province’s commitment to reduce adverse impacts on B.C.’s most vulnerable species. The legislation will establish a clear process for protecting species at risk, to meet obligations under the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Species at Risk, as well as provide increased certainty for those operating on B.C.’s land base.

The engagement and consultation will occur concurrently between Indigenous groups, stakeholders and the public.

Learn More:

Members of the public can have their say at: www.engage.gov.bc.ca/bcspeciesatrisk



NONC

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^ Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Contact the following if you have questions.

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Bishop Wild Bird Sanctuary	Aaron Deans 250-542-5122
Bluebird Trails	Margaret Mackenzie 250-542-2712

LIFE MEMBERS

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

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

 Find us on
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North Okanagan
Naturalists Club

follow us on
twitter
#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: _____