

CHILLIWACK FIELD NATURALISTS

Fall– 2018



Interim Editor: [Janne Perrin](#) Newsletter published quarterly

MEETINGS

There have been no “Speakers Series” meetings since the summer newsletter. The next meeting, September 18th features Scott Yaeger who reports on the Mesocarnivores found in the Jones Lake Area.

FIELD TRIPS

Marine Mammal Rescue Centre: Sat. July 28, 2018

Two carloads of CFNers traveled to the Vancouver waterfront on a warm July day to visit the marine mammal rescue centre. We met our guide at the rescue centre gate and everyone had to walk through the biosecurity footbaths. The 82 harbour seal pups in



residence are very susceptible to infection. The pups, housed in big blue plastic tubs, were not to be touched, photographed or looked at in the eye. A team of enthusiastic summer students supervised by Vancouver aquarium professionals tended pups. A tour of the hospital and the kitchen taught us the sophistication needed to rehabilitate and release marine mammals. One of our younger members wanted to know how to “talk seal” and declared he would volunteer there when he grew up.

Manning Park: Wed. August 8, 2018

A second visit to the Manning Alpine took place in August to see if the flowers were now at their peak. Although that was not the case the sunny day and cooler weather was pleasant.

There were many interesting plants: columbine, marsh marigold, slender orchid, leather-leaf saxifrage and mountain daisy to name a few. A family of 5 visiting from Hong Kong accompanied us. On the alpine walk with the park



Slender Orchid

naturalist we learned Sitka Valerian is pollinated by flies thus the putrid scent; mosquitoes pollinate alpine blueberries; Pocket gophers have fur-lined cheeks to pack out excavated dirt; nectar rich Indian paint brush is pollinated by Rufous hummingbirds, the Columbian ground squirrel is an interloper who followed the roads into the park displacing the golden-mantled ground squirrel; and the Pika is a lagomorph related to rabbits. On the hike back to the car we observed an American three-toed woodpecker working over a black spruce trunk.

Browne Creek Wetland: Tues. August 28, 2018

After a rainy few days, the sun shone for our summer picnic. Three of us met at 11 AM to walk the trails of this restored area on the South shore of the Vedder



Marg, Janet and Janne at Browne Creek

River. Riparian shrubs and trees planted about 5 years ago have formed an impressive strip along the salmon spawning channel.

There were several dog walkers, horse riders and a wedding in the park. However few birds were observed but we did see or hear a great blue heron, a raven, a crow, a frog, whirligig beetles, a kingfisher, flycatchers, goldfinches and mallards. After eating lunch on a stream-side bench we met a fourth member at Chestnut Springs Cafe in Yarrow for coffee. Jack Jackaman, who usual hosts our summer picnic, was lunching there. All of us had a fine chat together.

THIS AND THAT

1. **Camp-Hope Slough Wildlife Area:**

Coffee Cutters, our monthly work party, goes back to 9 AM in the morning starting October 6. Come out and help maintain and enjoy this unique area. We go for coffee after an hour or so of working.

2. Our **CFN Bird Brochure** is still in the works. Contact [Janet Pollock](#) if you would like assist with this project

3. Our field trip coordinator, [Fernando Selles](#), implemented **Thursday evening walks** this summer. They were well attended. Contact him for details.

4. **BC Nature's Fall Annual General Meeting** is in Kelowna September 20 to 23. Many interesting trips and speakers are featured. Spaces still available. Check your BC Nature Magazine for details on registration.

5. Janne Perrin delivered an **Owl talk** to FVRD's Hope Summer Day Camp on August 14th. The children loved the barn owl feather collected at Camp Slough Wildlife Area earlier in the month.