



# The Heron Herald

**Volume 12 Issue 1 The Chilliwack Field Naturalists January 2007**

## CFN 2005-6 EXECUTIVE

President	Janne Perrin	796-9182
Vice-President	Helen Peterson	792-2937
Past President	Helen Turner	792-0972
Secretary	Nora Mitchell	847-0805
Treasurer	Val Whetter	858-6056

## APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE:

FBCN Director	Helen Turner	792-0972
Special Projects	Denis Knopp	858-5141
Field Trips	Hazel Cannings	858-0803
Conservation	Annabelle Rempel	823-6549
Membership	Margaret Tranah	795-9049
Speakers	Lee Larkin	858-5141
Grants	Lee Larkin	858-5141
Young Nats	Paul & Corina Crane	
Librarian	Helen Peterson	792-2937
Historian	Helen Turner	792-0972
Refreshments	Roy and Marlene	858- 8315
Phone Comm.	Annabelle Rempel	823-6549
Name Tags	Lorraine Alexander	858-9354

## **Heron Herald**

Editor/Distributor	Heather Larstone	823-6039
Publisher	Jack Jackaman	823-6922

## Let it snow!



## CFN ANNUAL BIRD COUNT

**Tuesday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** The pre-bird count session at the library included informative slides and participants' questions, answered by Mr. Knopp, our resident expert.



**Denis instructs the Counters**

## **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** **Field notes from a "first-timer"...**

I wasn't quite sure what to expect, and I wondered, "How will we know that all the seagulls flying above, coming into our section, were not counted before (and won't be counted again, as they continue flying into the next section)?"!

The weather was cool, but it could not have been much better, for we had a clear sky and no rain. Since I am not good at identifying birds, I was mostly busy writing down the numbers, while Maureen, Helen, and Colleen did the actual identifying and counting. It was always exciting to see hawks and eagles. The morning highlight: several wood ducks



resting on a wooden ledge in someone's backyard. In the afternoon Maureen spotted a bird of an unfamiliar species. We tried to move closer, and we walked toward it along the railroad tracks; but just then a train came, and we had to hurry back along the tracks.

As the train rolled by, the unknown bird flew out of the tree, definitely looking like a hawk. It was very reddish. Maureen, Helen, and Colleen thought that it may have been a Red-Shouldered Hawk.

There were some sightings that did not turn out to be birds at all. We stopped at a tree to count all the blackbirds sitting in there, but they turned out to be a lot of small black plastic pieces, probably blown into the tree by recent windstorms. Then there was an owl, actually a fake, set up to scare other birds away in a blueberry-field. And close to the airport runway, I thought I saw a bald eagle sitting on the ground, but there were only short little mounted pipes, painted black with white on top.



I really enjoyed both the bird count and the company; but one thing I learned for sure - I need a better pair of binoculars!

**Joachim Boge**



**POT LUCK SUPPER**

Thanks to Hazel, Nora and Lorraine as well as the contributors of yummy casseroles and desserts. We all had fun as usual, sharing birding stories, singing carols and enjoying the meal and the company



**Santa Lorraine**

**The Chilliwack Field Naturalists**

**NATURAL NUT (Kournossoff Property)**

Natural-Nut has been tied up lately with various environmental projects, but is now back with us. Hopefully our 2007 issues will continue to feature this popular column.

*Dear Natural -Nut, Our club is involved with a group called ERA. They are busy tearing out invasive blackberries (at no charge to us) and planting trees in their place, at a wildlife area that we manage. Can you tell me something about this organization?*

*Signed: Wondering*

Dear Wondering: ERA stands for **Ecosystem Restoration Associates** and their motto is "Neutralize Your Footprints". The idea is, that carbon is rapidly being transferred from the earth (coal, oil, natural gas) where it was safely stored, to the atmosphere where it becomes CO2 and a global warming problem. The only way to remove this carbon is by photosynthesis – provided by a healthy ecosystems which act as great carbon sponges for CO2.



The problem here is, that many of our planet's ecosystems are becoming impaired and/or destroyed. ERA's work is to restore degraded ecosystems to their healthy functioning by – you guessed it – planting trees and removing species that "squeeze out" our native plant and animal species.

I am delighted to learn that your naturalist club is benefiting from this initiative. I understand that ERA is also working with the municipalities of Maple Ridge, Abbotsford and Chilliwack on various restoration projects. They are associated with Nature Trust, BC Parks, First Nations, and the United Nations. Access their website at [www.econeutral.com](http://www.econeutral.com).

Thank you for the question and please keep me informed about the progress at your wildlife area.

Signed: **Natural-Nut**





*Inside the Pit House at Xa:ytem*

**Xa:ytem**   
2007

### Winter Tales

#### From The Pit house Series

#### *First Nations storytellers*

January 21-Willie Charlie  
January 28-Chad & Cecily Paul  
February 4-Sonny McHalsie  
February 11-Nicola Campbell  
February 18-Larry Loyie and  
Constance Brissenden

**Time:** 12 - 4 pm Storytelling from 1 - 3

**Adults** \$10.00 or \$40.00 for all 5 events

**Family** \$20.00 or \$80.00 for all 5 events

**Students/Seniors** \$5.00 or \$20.00 for all 5 events

Xa:ytem Longhouse

35087 Lougheed Highway Mission, BC

604-820-9725 or [info@xaytem.ca](mailto:info@xaytem.ca)

### **THIS 'n THAT**

1. It's **definitely** time to pay up and renew your membership in our club for 2007. Be kind to our hard working membership chair, Margaret Tranah, and settle your



## The Chilliwack Field Naturalists

account without reminders, phone calls etc. You will get your money's worth from CFN and FBCN! (Single-\$25 Family-\$35)

2. We had another successful CBC and potluck supper in December/06.



3. Note the schedule of this year's "**Winter Tales**" opposite, which will take place each Sunday in January and February at the **Xa:ytem** Pit House near Mission. (January 21<sup>st</sup> – February 18<sup>th</sup>)

4. Happy 2007 to all the Chilliwack Field Naturalists. Let's make this a good year for our club – no matter what the weather

### ***Naturescape—(rather wet) Jan 1st***



## The Chilliwack Field Naturalists





### Ever seen one of these?

Our secretary received these photos of white twin cow moose from Nova Scotia – spotted one day on the highway. Thanks Nora.

### There's two of them!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PLEASE CALL OUR CO-ORDINATOR HAZEL FOR QUESTIONS RE: FIELD TRIPS**

Date	Time	Event	Location	Details	Contact
Saturday Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup> / 07	11 Am	<b>Field Trip</b>	Minter's Country Garden Parking Lot	Our annual walk on the Hope River Trail (lunch at Minter's)	Hazel 858-0803
Saturday Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9 Am	<b>Coffee Cutters</b> <i>(work session)</i>	Camp River - at the Cairn	Bring your clippers or shears  Coffee at "Tim's"	Lee – 858-5141 
Saturday Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 Am	<b>Field Trip</b>	Meet at Earl's  (or at Seabird Café at 10am)	Birding  at Maria Slough (lunch at the café)	Janne 796-9182
Tuesday Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 Pm	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	Vedder Middle School	<u>Topic:</u> The Great Blue Heron	Janne 796-9182
Saturday March. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9 Am	<b>Coffee Cutters</b> <i>(work session)</i>	Camp River - at the Cairn	Bring your clippers or shears (Coffee at "Tim's")	Lee – 858-5141
Saturday March 10 <sup>th</sup>	11 Am	<b>Field Trip</b>	Great Blue Heron Reserve	View the return of the Herons (Bring your lunch)	Hazel 858-0803
Tuesday March 20 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 Pm	<b>Annual Banquet and Elections</b>  <b>Special Speaker</b>	Dakota's 	<u>Speaker</u> Dr. Ian Taylor - from UBC <u>Topic:</u> – <b>Plants and People</b>	Janne 796-9182

**Chilliwack Field Naturalists #216-45598 McIntosh Drive CHILLIWACK BC V2P 7J3**

Check out our Web Site at: [www.chilliwackfieldnaturalists.ca](http://www.chilliwackfieldnaturalists.ca)

