

WINTER - 2025

Editor: Janne Perrin

www.naturechilliwack.ca



MEETINGS

[Neighbourhood Learning Centre](#) at 46361 Yale Road, Chilliwack at 7 PM. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month. Meeting attendance in-person or Zoom

SPEAKERS

- September 17th 2024** Candace Ross from the Vancouver Avian Research Centre spoke on the State of the World's Birds. Sadly the news is not great with many species in threat of extinction. To help remedy loss you can make windows safe, keep cats inside, avoid pesticides, drink bird friendly coffee and use less plastic. Carol's photos of local song birds were a delight.
- October 15 2024** Dick Clegg, a NC member shared photos and stories of Owls and Hawks in BC and the Prairies. Dick noted there are likely more Burrowing Owls, a species of conservation concern, about than we think and that Barn owl owlets do not eat moles! Great grey owl young will throw up on you if their looking big and scary does not deter your snooping. A most intriguing talk. Thanks Dick.
- November 19 2024** Cori Lausen of Bats of BC presented via Zoom. Interesting facts she shared included: Colonies of little brown & Yuma bats can number up to thousands in buildings. Erect bat boxes in urban not natural areas. Spotted bat make sounds humans can hear & eat large insects. Little Brown Myotis make high frequency sound and eat small insects. There is a probiotic concoction being used on bat roosts since 2019 in BC to fight white-nose syndrome. A [video of the bat talk](#) is available on the meeting section of our NC webpage



FIELD TRIPS

- September 17, 2024** - Steve Clegg, manager of land stewardship for SAY Lands (Skowkale. Atchelitz & Yakweawwoos 1st Nations) led a large group of NC members on a tour of the Ts'lhimexósem (Going for a Walk Together) Trail project along the Chilliwack River. Thousands of native plants, large woody debris (logs), riffles built



into the creek and picnic tables made from wood from the old band hall attract both wildlife and people. Later in the fall Chum salmon returned to the creek for the first time in 75 years. Restoration of riparian habitat is powerful.

- October 20, 2024**, - Drew Brayshaw, mushroom enthusiast, walked the East Sector Forest Lands in Harrison with us. We saw witch's butter. Fairy parachutes, artist's conk, carbon antlers, scarlet waxy cap and many more species with exotic names. Careful observation of gills, spores, caps, stalks and more are needed to identify mushrooms.



- November 9, 2024** - On this walk around the Harrison Hot Springs Lagoon and Lakeshore on a rather bluster day with local birder Janne Perrin, Nature Chilliwack members saw 24 species of birds. Highlights were 10 Horned Grebes, 1 Common Loon, 1 Canvasback and 4 Common goldeneye. The hot lunch at Muddy Water Café afterwards was most welcome.
- November 23, 2024** – Many NC Naturalists came out to tour the ["Out of the Darkness"](#) Bat Exhibit. The display was informative, easy to read and even had three panels about our club. Cori Lausen's Book "Bats of British Columbia" was available for purchase. The exhibition is at the Chilliwack Museum until February 22, 2025 if you missed the trip.



THIS N' THAT

- Denis Knopp, Christmas Bird Count Coordinator, reports 93 species and 49 000 individual birds were seen on the Chilliwack count; with 6 694 Cackling geese and an astounding 425 Golden-crowned Kinglets recorded. A write-up appeared in the [Chilliwack Progress Newspaper January 10th](#).
- Camp Slough Wildlife Area stewards, Lee Larkin and Denis Knopp report evidence of deer and bear as well as, sadly, yard waste dumping on the property. Join us the 1st Saturday each month to help maintain it.
- Lots more good field trips on bees, bats, butterflies and phantom orchids to be announced in the next few months. Stay tuned.