

Summer- 2025

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MEETINGS

Neighbourhood Learning Centre at 46361 Yale Road, Chilliwack at 7 PM. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month 8 times a year. Meeting attendance in-person or Zoom

SPEAKERS

- March 18, 2025 AGM:** Rob Butler spoke via Zoom on "Society of Crows" to a large crowd of members and visitors. Dr. Butler, an award winning BC Conservationist, took us on a journey into the mind of the crow to explore its complex social interactions



- April 15, 2025:** Steve Ansell gave us a tour of butterflies around BC from Pink Mountain in the North to our local Elk Mountain. To photograph these insects, go early when they are feeding instead of patrolling the territory. Steve is the top butterfly identifier for the David Suzuki Foundation's [BIMBY Project](#).



- May 20, 2025:** Liam Ragan, BC Nature's [IBA/KBA](#) Coordinator, highlighted the critical role of Important Bird and Key Biodiversity areas in the survival of many species. Who knew the glaucous-winged gull is actually a species of concern? Locally the Chehalis River Estuary and Nicomen Slough are designated.



FIELD TRIPS

- The March Trip to the **Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve** got cancelled due to a closed, unsafe bridge on the reserve and inclement weather. The herons are still busy nesting into July if you want to walk past the colony via the dyke now.
- April 6 2025:** The trip to the **Hope Airport** with Fernando and Paulina Selles leading, found a beautiful pair of Pileated Woodpeckers excavating an old red alder tree. In all, a list with 27 bird species was submitted to ebird.
- May 18, 2025:** A keen group of birders met leaders, Denis Knopp and Lee Larkin, at 8 AM at the **Peach Creek** trailhead. Thirty three bird



Pileated Woodpecker
Photo: P. Selles

species were seen including a wood duck hen with 3 new ducklings but not that many warblers. However yellow, Audubon's and Wilson's did show up as well as a lot of warbling vireos, western tanagers and a flycatcher that defied i.d. but likely a willow.

- May 25, 2025:** There were 15 people, on the **native bee field trip** including 7 visitors from the local garden club. Participants toured Lee and Denis' native plant garden, identifying bees



Yellow-fronted bee on Penstemon Photo: Lee Larkin

by the colour pattern. Lots of butterflies and other things kept the group busy until 4 pm.

- May 31 2025:** As the Kettle Valley Trail was closed for maintenance; the group visited **Thacker Marsh** instead. Despite the wind and later morning showers, a respectable list of 28 bird species was achieved, including a Nashville



Bumble Bee on Marsh Cinquefoil Photo: Scott Denkers

warbler, red-eyed vireo and 2 common merganser hens with 17 ducklings. Many lovely plants including Labrador tea and marsh cinquefoil were also noted.

- June 8, 2025: Phantom Orchid**, listed federally as threatened, is found in Ryder Lake. Members who braved the rope assisted climb to the site on Daphne Clegg's property were treated to a rare sight of several in bloom!



Phantom Orchid Photo: Daphne Clegg

THIS N' THAT

- Elected at the AGM:** President: Janne Perrin, VP: Scott Denkers, Secretary: Danielle Grisnich, Treasurer: Ashley Parshyn. Thank you to all!
- BCN News:** The AGM in Merritt, May 22-25, had 5 NC members attending. The field trips, food and speakers were superb. Denis and Lee received a [BCN Regional award](#). Well deserved!
- Ashley & Hayes Parshyn take over from Lee Larkin and Denis Knopp as wardens for the [Katherine Tye Ecological Reserve](#) in the Ryder Lake area. This reserve, established in 1986, hosts [phantom orchids](#), a plant lacking chlorophyll.



Denis with BCN President, Nancy Flood