



# ABBOTSFORD-MISSION NATURE CLUB

(Formerly Central Valley Naturalists)  
[www.centralvalleynaturalists.org](http://www.centralvalleynaturalists.org)

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m. in the Abbotsford Middle School, Multi-purpose Room, 33231 Bevan Avenue, Abbotsford, B.C.  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 612, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8  
Email: [haroos@shaw.ca](mailto:haroos@shaw.ca)

## NEWSLETTER

January 2011

*“To know nature  
and to  
keep it worth knowing”*

*The objectives of the  
Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club*

- *To enjoy and interpret natural history*
- *To promote an understanding and an appreciation of natural ecosystems*
- *To promote the concept of stewardship of natural resources*
- *To participate as naturalists in public consultations related to questions of environment and development in the Abbotsford and Mission area*

### 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Jacqui Reznick will be pleased to accept your dues.

**If you have any suggestions for a topic or speaker,  
please contact Kathy Wilkinson at 604-854-3203**

## Meeting Schedule

### January 12, 2011

#### *Trails and Tales of Tasmania*

Wendy DaDalt of Metro Vancouver Parks and Nature Club member will be sharing some tales of her trip there last spring.

#### Goodies to be provided by:

Henry & Gail Savard  
Janet Rubb  
Mike & Trudy Ross  
Gil & Joan Reynolds  
Mary Rempel  
Gerry Powers

Please bring your own mugs



### February 9, 2011

#### *Raising the Young you Never Wanted: Nest Bird Parasitism*

Christine Rock, SFU grad student will be our speaker.

#### Goodies to be provided by:

Nanny Mulder Ten Kate  
Lynn Miller  
Heather MacLean & Eigil Jensen  
Glenda McKinnon  
Helen Marshall

### March 9, 2011

#### *Restoring Habitat for Endangered Amphibians*

Biologist, Monica Pearson will be our speaker

#### Goodies to be provided by:

Barbara Mason  
Jeanine & Michael Manley  
Lorna Keith  
Deborah Irwin & David Hopaluk  
Steve Heywood  
Elizabeth & Gary Gray  
Maxine & John Glasson

### April 13, 2011

#### *Biodiversity of Costa Rica*

Biologist, Forester Sian Krannitz will be our speaker

#### Goodies to be provided by:

Erica Flint  
Aird Flavelle  
John & Mary Dyck  
Daniel Currie-Johnson  
Lil Chapman

### May 11, 2011 - to be determined

#### Goodies to be provided by:

Roland Balzer  
C, W, & A Arkesteyn-Vogler  
Lorna Allan & Allan Skuce  
Peter Adrian  
Terry Broadworth

### June 8, 2011 - Annual Picnic

Location to be determined

## **\*FIELD TRIPS** **and ~Community Events**

**\*\*\*for all fieldtrips please call  
604-853-4283 to notify of your intent  
to take part in the outing\*\*\***

**\*Saturday, January 15, 2011 - 9:00 am**

***East Mission Heritage Park Gateway Trail***

This 3.2 km of pathway through the Fraser River Heritage Park was funded by the Province's LocalMotion Project and funding by the Federal Government. The trail is rated easy. This is a beautiful site with breathtaking views. Maxine Glasson will lead us weather permitting.

To get there follow Highway 11 north to Mission, Take Highway 7 east and follow signs to the Fraser River Heritage Park. Meet in the parking lot by the Blackberry Kitchen. Dress for the weather, bring lunch if so desired.



**\*Saturday, February 19, 2011**

***George Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Delta***

Come join Steve Howard to look for over-wintering shorebirds, waterfowl

and possibly owls.

Meet at 8:00 am at the Tim Horton's in the Fraser Valley Auto mall on Mt. Lehman and the freeway. Dress for the weather; bring lunch, snacks and refreshments.

**~Thursday, March 17, 2011 - 7:00 pm**

***Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition  
"Conflict as an Opportunity"***

Marion Robinson will be the speaker.  
Abbotsford Campus of University of the Fraser Valley, room: to be decided.  
Rachel Drennan  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition  
Email: [rachel@fvwc.ca](mailto:rachel@fvwc.ca)

**\*Saturday, March 19, 2011**

***Colony Farm Regional Park - Great Blue Heron Walk***

We will join the Burke Mountain Naturalists on their annual Great Blue Heron walk. This is an easy walk along the dykes to the Ducks Unlimited Pond and along the Coquitlam River. There are excellent

examples of old field habitat and a good chance to see raptors and other birds. Bring a lunch.  
Meet at 8:15 am at the Tim Horton's in the Fraser Valley Auto mall on Mt. Lehman and the freeway.

**~March 29 - April 1, 2011**

***2011 Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair***

Location is the University of the Fraser Valley

**\*Saturday, April 16, 2011**

***Mountain View Crown Lands, Langley***

We will join the Langley Field Naturalists and explore this area which used to be the site of a busy sawmill, which came to an end around 1917-1920 as the result of a major forest fire. Since then the land has been left untouched and what can be seen now is the result of a century of uninhabited re-establishment of natural forest. Bob Puls will lead us as we walk the trails through mixed forest and look for some of the 700+ species of flora and fauna so far identified. Trails are narrow, with a slight increase in elevation. Good footwear is necessary. Meet at 8:00 am at the Tim Horton's in the Fraser Valley Auto mall on Mt. Lehman and the freeway. Dress for the weather; bring lunch, snacks and refreshments.



**\*Saturday, April 23, 2011 - 9:00 am**

***Hogan Family Nature Park-spring clean up***

Let us meet with our garden tools and walking shoes. After the work party we'll have a pleasant walk and admire the spring flowers.



**~May 12 to 15, 2011**

***BC Nature Spring Conference and AGM  
"Enjoying Nature in the Cariboo-Chilcotin"***

Hosted by the Williams Lake Field Naturalists at Thompson Rivers University, Williams Lake Campus  
For full details check out [www.bcnature.ca](http://www.bcnature.ca) or [www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca](http://www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca)

**\*Saturday, May 28, 2011, 9:00 am**

***Spring Nursery and Farm, Mission  
"Talking Trees". What are they telling me?***

John Dyck will engage us in observing and possibly solving certain mysteries on their 25 acre forest and nursery.

Location is 8069 Nelson Street in Mission. To get there take Highway #11 N., turn left at Lougheed Highway #7 W. (Maple Ridge/Vancouver) turn right at Nelson Street. Location is just past the golf course. Sturdy footwear is suggested.



**Happy 2011!**

I hope you all have had the opportunity to enjoy the Christmas holiday season with friends and family. Whatever you celebrate and focus on during this season, the opportunity to share this with family and friends can make it especially enjoyable.

As Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club we look forward to another year with opportunities to continue to learn more about the amazingly beautiful and complex natural world around us. This learning in addition to the ever growing challenge, especially in our rapidly growing region, to keep it worth knowing is what motivates us. This vision can only be effectively put into practice if it continues to be shared by all our fellow club members.

So, I encourage all our members to make an effort to attend our monthly club meetings and to take advantage of the field trips.

However, like any organization, to remain vibrant and relevant we need to actively recruit like-minded family members and friends to grow our club to successfully implement our shared vision. We not only need an influx of new club members but would also greatly benefit from additional and replacement members on our executive (e.g. we still need someone to assist in organizing fieldtrips and in hospitality).

I trust that together we can look forward to a very good year.

In closing I want to inform you that at our last executive meeting we decided to honour the incredible contributions made to our club and community by

**Sylvia and Keith Pincott by making them honorary members!**

*Hank Roos, President*

## **CLUB NEWS**



***Plaque at the Matsqui Pavilion of the Trans Canada Trail honouring Henk and Johanna Saaltink***



### ***Christmas Social a Warm Gathering!***

On a rainy December 8 evening some forty of our naturalists came out to the annual Christmas dinner. The mood inside was warm and festive with lovely fresh greenery and seasonal decorations adorning every table thanks to Margaret Bunbury and her elves. We all sipped Jacqui's apple cider as we chatted before dinner and listened to our President's jokes and reading of greetings from the Saaltink's.



Hank Roos led the singing of traditional Christmas carols and songs accompanied by Jack Van Dyke on guitar and a several other lead vocalists. Great fun was had with the Twelve Days of Christmas sung progressively around the tables. A series of questions testing our naturalist skills determined who got to eat first!



In what has become a significant annual fundraiser the Silent Auction and Raffle raised \$1,115 for club projects. Thanks to all the donors and purchasers! This event is a great time to mingle with your fellow members and celebrate the

year – see you all next year!

Wendy DaDalt



**Audubon Christmas Bird Count**  
**Monday, December 27, 2010**

On December 27th, thirty birders from our local Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club, the Chilliwack Field Naturalists, and other outside volunteers went out into the field to count birds. A total of 101 species were found on count day.

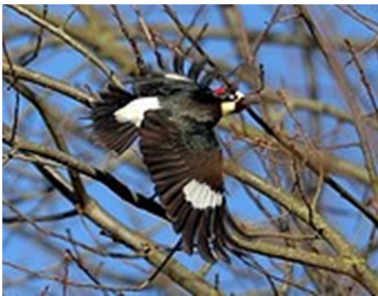


Photo Credit: Aber Lin

The highlight was an Acorn Woodpecker discovered by Stan Olson and Herman Venema just off Fore Road in Matsqui Village. It has since been viewed by dozens of birder's who have come from all over the Lower Mainland and beyond to view this remarkable bird.

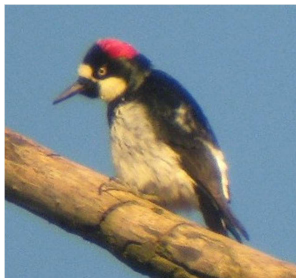


Photo Credit: Tim Perk

Check out the Rare Bird Alert at [www.fraservalleybirding.com](http://www.fraservalleybirding.com) for more sightings.

Another great winter bird was a Black-headed Grosbeak recorded for Count Week (three days preceding and three days following Count Day) at a feeder at Hank and Alice Roos' home. Also recorded for Count Week were Pileated Woodpecker and Yellow-rumped Warbler. An Orange-crowned Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat were found on Count Day. Three warbler species is also unusual for winter here in the valley. There were eighteen feeder count watchers as well. Twenty seven Anna's Hummingbirds were reported by the feeder watchers. Thanks go out to everyone who participated in this year's Christmas Bird Count to make it such a great success. Also, special mention should be made to Sherry Jury of the Backyard Birding Store for coordinating the reports from fourteen parties who were specifically counting Anna's Hummingbirds. Complete details of our Christmas Bird Count will be entered into the National Audubon Society's web site within the next several weeks and can be viewed online at the Bird Studies Canada website as well.

Lynn Miller Co-ordinator

**2011 Christmas Birdcount-Mill Lake Group**



**Time flies!**

I couldn't believe that a year has flown by again and it was already time for the Annual Christmas bird count. A group of ten met at 8:00 am to count the birds in the area around Mill Lake in Abbotsford. The weather was probably one of the mildest in recent years – not snowing, not raining nor windy or sunny, but it still was a little cold.

As always at Mill Lake the first task is to count the mallards and coots! Once that's done the pressure is off! We started around the lake in an anti-clockwise direction. We saw common mergansers, a pair of hooded mergansers and cormorants to mention a few. As we headed to the start of the boardwalk we anticipated seeing the hummingbird which gave Henry such a surprise last year when he nearly knocked his red toque off. But all was quiet. Only the ruddy ducks were to be seen swimming quietly near the reeds.

As the group crossed the board-walk, all the ducks and other wildfowl took flight to the other side of the lake. We heard the call of a bald eagle and looked up to see the eagle gliding on the thermals. Off he flew to the tall tree on the bank on the far side of the lake. So the bird count was increased by one bald eagle and all the birds now scattered to the side of the lake we had already counted!!! Meanwhile, back on our side of the lake, we observed a Redhead duck – one male and two females – this was the first time I have seen this bird and for most people in the group it was too.



At the southern part of Mill Lake Park we were watching the blacked-capped chickadees in the trees when an Anna's humming-bird appeared on a blackberry bush, much to everyone's delight. This bird had the most wonderful colourings as the early morning sun reflected off its feathers. There is a wooded area near Trethewey House and we spent some time watching and hoping to see some interesting birds. Our patience was rewarded – we got to see a golden-crowned kinglet and a downy woodpecker as well as other smaller birds. On the SW side of the lake near the houses we first heard and then saw a kingfisher as it flew along the trees and shrubs by the lake. Conveniently, it perched on a branch just in front of us allowing a good opportunity to admire him closely.

Varied thrushes picked up and threw leaves while looking for their breakfast! Almost time for coffee – the group was starting to get restless! Robins hopped on the grass; almost it seemed that they were keeping the varied thrushes company.

After a coffee break, the group moved on to Ravine Park. It was hoped that we would be able to count owls, but unfortunately we did not get to see any as in previous years. In fact, it was really quiet in the park compared with prior years. Thanks to all who organised for a great day out. See you next year! Happy New Year!

*Michael Manley*

**Q. We used to have dozens of finches coming to our feeders but lately they haven't been coming around. What could be the problem?**

A. There could be several reasons why finches are not frequenting your feeder. Finches will visit feeders depending on the availability of natural food sources. Birds often show a preference for natural food over feeders. If there is an abundant supply of their preferred natural foods, they may not visit your feeders while this supply lasts. Some populations of finches migrate south in the winter so it could be that the population at your feeder has gone south and will not be back until spring. Other populations stay for the winter and may find your feeder at some point over the season.

Birds will stop coming to feeders if the food is mouldy. Check your feeder to be sure the food is fresh. It's important to clean feeders regularly and ensure that seeds remain dry. If the food is mouldy, empty the feeder and wash it thoroughly. Make sure it's completely dry before you add new seed.

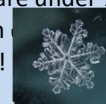


If the finches you're referring to are goldfinches, males lose their breeding colours in the fall, becoming brownish olive in colour and less noticeable.

*Canadian Wildlife Federation  
November 2010*

## SNOW FACTS

1. A snowy surface can reflect up to 95% of the sunlight on it.
2. Ever noticed how quiet it is after a snowfall? Freshly fallen snow absorbs sound. The deeper the snow, the greater the effect.
3. When snow crunches beneath your boots—that's the sound of thousands of ice crystals being crushed!
4. An estimated 10% of the Earth's surface is covered by glaciers made of hardened snow and ice.
5. A snow square under 1m in length and width, 25cm deep, contains a million ice crystals!!



**NatureWild**

**Membership fees** – Single \$30, Family \$35 which are due January 1 each year.

Membership provides the following benefits: 5 Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club Newsletters per annum, automatic membership in **BC Nature** (FBCN), subscription to “BC Nature” (4 issues per year)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Particular nature interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Expertise which could benefit the members of the A-M Nature Club

Additional donations gratefully accepted Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club, P.O. Box 612, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8, or give to Jacqui at the hospitality desk at the monthly meeting.

**NOTE: Participation in any Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club activity is at your own risk.**

### CVN EXECUTIVE

President	Hank Roos haroos@shaw.ca	604-853-4283
BC Natgure Director	Jacqui Reznick	
Projects/PR Secretary	Vacant Herman Venema hcpvenema@shaw.ca	604-826-6872
Treasurer	Jacqui Reznick mareznick@hotmail.com	604-557-1828
Programs Field trips	Kathy Wilkinson VACANT	604-854-3203
Conservation	Ken Summers Ken.summers@telus.net Kathy Wilkinson kwilkins2@shaw.ca	604-851-2301 604-854-3203
Hospitality Displays	VACANT Steve Howard sawhorse4@hotmail.com Jacqui Reznick Gerry Powers gerrypowers@shaw.ca	604-751-0282 604-856-8166
Newsletter	Alice Roos haroos@shaw.ca	604-853-4283
Webmaster	David Hopaluk dhopaluk@shaw.ca	604-853-2696

## BACKYARD BIRDING

### **Naturalist Members !!**

Present this ad or your membership card and get  
**10% off any regular priced items.**

#### **2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU**

#13-33324 S. Fraser Way  
Abbotsford V2S 2B4  
Ph – 604-852-1960

8810-C Young Rd  
Chilliwack V2P 4P5  
Ph – 604-792-1239