

NATURE BAY



SALMON ARM BAY  
**NATURE  
ENHANCEMENT  
SOCIETY**

# NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society  
PO Box 27, Salmon Arm, B.C. Canada V1E 4N2  
Phone 250-833-9717 Email: sabnes@jetstream.net

**Spring  
2011**

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE TWO UPCOMING EVENTS

**1 AGM 7:30 pm Thursday May 26th**  
SAGA ART GALLERY, 70 HUDSON AVE NE , EVERYONE WELCOME

FOLLOWING THE AGM ,MIKE SAUL WILL PRESENT A SLIDE SHOW ON  
**BIRDING IN the HIMALAYAS**  
After which HIMALAYAN REFRESHMENTS will be served

**2 OPENING OF BRIGHOUSE NATURE CENTRE ( BNC)**  
**10 am Saturday May 28th**—Refreshments Provided



A Bird's Eye View of our Wonderful Bay and the SABNES Conservation Area  
G. Benson 05/11/2011

G.Benson May, 2011



## Welcome Liz

Thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs Grant from the Federal Government we are able to hire a student for 14 weeks this summer. Please welcome **Elizabeth Foster** who will manage the Brighouse Nature Centre and assist anyone who wants to learn more about our beautiful Salmon Arm Bay. Liz is a very capable young woman and is a History Major at UBC, Kelowna Campus .



## Some Bird Photos Taken at McGuire Lake



**Red-necked Grebes**

At least one pair of red-necked grebes have nested here for many years. The pair shown nested in 2009 and produced three offspring. In 2010 they nested again in the same spot (same pair?), and again produced three. For about two days the female remained impassively on her nest with a tortoise snuggled alongside. I went down to the same spot recently and there is no nest yet, however, a pair of red-necked grebes have been visiting over the last couple of weeks.

**Geoff Benson**

McGuire Lake  
May 23rd, 2010



**Osprey - "Look what I got! For lunch!"**

Jillian Jezersek

April, 2011

**Red-wing blackbird on his swing**

Geoff Benson May, 2011

### It's Strictly About the Birds

Some members of the Shuswap Naturalists participated in the Baillie Birdathon Sunday, May 1 and identified 106 species of birds, including Ruffed and Dusky grouse, plus some early migrating species of warblers and sparrows. The Birdathon is a revenue source for Bird Studies Canada. plus bird research and conservation in Canada and many countries world-wide. Since then the bird varieties have continued to show themselves, and Bullock's Orioles and Western Kingbirds have appeared. Golden-crowned and White-throat Sparrows, though somewhat unexpected at Salmon Arm, have also visited our backyard. Swallows, Chickadees, Robins, Ducks, Geese, Red-tailed Hawks and Osprey can be seen sitting on their nests. Since the weather has warmed a bit, you may have noticed that the Salmon River has filled its banks, and a pond has appeared at DeMilles, adjacent to the highway bridge. This may be rather "old" news by the time the newsletter is out. On behalf of SABNES, I wish you many opportunities this summer to enjoy the outdoors. And don't forget your binoculars.

**Ed Dahl**



## AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Many people will have observed the lone American White Pelican with a distinctive knob on top of its' beak in the Salmon Arm Bay for several days in May. Where did this bird come from? Where was it going? This pelican winters in western Mexico, migrates up through the Okanagan to Stum Lake, 70 kms west of Williams Lake, where it nests in White Pelican Provincial Park. There are about 400 nests here, its only nesting site in BC. At least one American White Pelican has been seen in Salmon Arm Bay every month from the middle of April to the first part of October. Forty nine, the largest sighting at one time, were observed by



**Great Blue Heron watches an American White Pelican feeding**

G.Benson 10th May, 2011

Ted Hillary in Salmon Arm Bay on May 15, 2007. The American White Pelican nests in a colony on the ground in a nest constructed of a sizeable mound of debris. The pelicans like the Salmon Arm Bay as the water is shallow and the carp are plentiful, thus the fishing is good. The pelican scoops up water and fish in its huge bill and large distensible pouch. The water drains out slowly and the prey are trapped inside and swallowed.

The American White Pelican is protected in BC against killing, capture or harassment under the Wildlife Act. It is on the provincial Red List as it is considered threatened and has been legally designated as an Endangered Species in British Columbia.

I always feel surprised and delighted when I scope the bay and discover a pelican has stopped by to fish here.

**Joyce Henderson**

This picture of a Virginia Rail was taken by Ed Dahl last year on the foreshore trail by the lake. It is an unusual shot because rails (or *Rallus limicola* for those whole like Latin ) are very shy birds. You are more likely to hear its harsh, "kuk kuk kuk" cries than to see it probing the mud and shallows with its long, thin red beak for insects and other small prey. Perhaps this bird had a nest hidden near by. Rails build their nest platforms out of cattails in dry locations near their feeding grounds Both parents help to care for the chicks that hatch from the six to ten eggs that are laid. Like the other birds on the bay this Virginia Rail has become accustomed to the trains that run by and to people walking and cycling. The birds are threatened by dogs, who are better than us at spotting hidden wildlife. It would only take one dog, playfully darting off the trail, to destroy all hope of raising its family. Because dog owners of Salmon Arm were caring and responsible in keeping their dogs away, this bird felt safe enough to be seen.

**Pamela Dettwiler**



**VIRGINIA RAIL**

Ed Dahl

Summer 2010

## BUOY TALK

In late April, my husband Doug and I took our canoe out to make a map of the bay showing where all the marker buoys are presently sitting. That map was passed on to Gary Lomax and he is proceeding to make new anchors for nine new buoys that will be placed in the bay in late June at high water time. This should encourage boaters to stay away from the sensitive nesting areas in the Salmon Arm Bay. On May 14 we went out to capture a buoy that had been dragged away by the winter ice into the middle of the bay. We placed it north of Christmas Island..

**Hanne MacKay**



**Elected Directors**

Gary Lomax, President; Mike Saul, Treasurer; Ed Dahl; Hanne MacKay; Joyce Henderson; Geoff Benson

**Appointed Directors**

Don Parks, Shuswap Naturalist Society ; Cllr. Ken Jamieson, CSA; Elaine Gustafson, MOE ; Hank Shelley, FishNGame ;Cyril Sukare, Chamber of Commerce

**Non-voting Directors**

Georgia McLeod, Sec  
Tom Brighthouse, Advisor

**We greatly appreciate the financial and service support from the following companies**

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**GRANTING AGENCIES**

City of Salmon Arm  
Human Resources Developmt Canada  
Salmar Community Association  
Salmon Arm Rotary Club  
Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union  
Shuswap Community Foundation  
TD Friends of the Environment  
Vancouver Foundation

**Annual Fees**

Individual.....\$ 15  
Family.....\$ 25  
Sustaining Individual.....\$ 50  
Sustaining Family.....\$ 100  
Life Membership.....\$ 500  
Corporate or Organization  
1-4 Employees.... \$ 50  
5-10 Employees.....\$ 100  
+ 10 Employees.....\$ 150  
Life Membership.....\$ 2,500

**Message from President, Gary Lomax**

It's a busy time for us all and an exciting one. Thanks to all who are helping us to preserve our eco-gem here in the Shuswap. A special thank you to **Cardinal Rentals** for making available the articulating hedge trimmer, which we put to good use on the trail last year, also to **Cusson Tree Service** for cleaning out the Osprey nests,

**Membership Form**

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

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

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

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ \

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Nature Bay Society is a Charitable Organization.  
Receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued

**Nature Bay Society, P.O. Box 27, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2**

The **Shuswap Naturalist Club** has just published a newly updated checklist of the birds which have been recorded in Salmon Arm and surrounding areas. It shows monthly abundance for 291 species, including 166 which breed here. A map of the Salmon Arm foreshore indicates birding hotspots. It will be available for purchase at the **Brighthouse Nature Centre** for **\$3**.

**Salmon Arm**

*and Surrounding Areas*

**A CHECKLIST OF BIRDS**



Shuswap Naturalist Club  
2011