

NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society

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SABNES is 30 Years Young!

The Community *PULLED* TogetherWeeds, that is!

Our waterfowl, including the **Western Grebe**, depend on the **cattails** for protection, for building nests and for brood rearing cover. Cattails also provide feeding surfaces for ducks and fish, and prevent erosion of dams and pond banks. The invasive **Woody Nightshade** plant strangles the cattails and anything else in its path. It is essential to keep the Woody Nightshade at bay (i.e. out of the Bay!), in order to maintain a healthy wetland on our foreshore.



Woody Nightshade grows quickly along reed beds as well as on trees. It consists of a mass of stems connecting red berries

SABNES, with the help of the **Shuswap Naturalists**, the **Shuswap Trail Alliance** and the **Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)** organized a community weed pull on October 27th. We had about 20 hard working volunteers participating and together removed 57 garbage bags full of the Nightshade. Many thanks to our volunteers for the help. We were fortunate to be able to continue this effort into the following week, when we hired some staff from Trail Alliance and CSISS to do a concentrated pull. **SABNES** and the **Shuswap Naturalist Club** thank the **City of Salmon Arm** who donated \$2,000 to this cause, and the **Salmar Community Association** which donated \$1,000. These additional dollars made it possible to remove an additional 200+ bags of this invasive species.

We appreciate the ongoing support of the **Shuswap Trail Alliance** which donated a truck for our use, many man-hours of effort and helped with publicity. **CSISS** provided basic training and manpower to lead our efforts.

Janet Aitken



The deck of our Nature Centre received a welcome face lift with a fresh coat of paint thanks to **Gary Lomax**. From June 11 to August 29 the Nature Centre was staffed by two able students, **Emilyn Sim** and **Morgan La Pointe**. By combining forces midweek, they were able to continue the **WWW Summer Kids' program** ([Wednesdays With the Wild](#)), which was inaugurated last year. The objective of this program is to engage school-aged children in the natural world, including wildlife and habitat conservation.



SABNES maintains the buoys and the signage that requests that boaters keep out of nesting areas around the periphery of the Bay. **Ken Stengler** and **Doug MacKay** attached a couple of small signs to two buoys near the wharf and replaced the large sign at the entrance to the boat launch area.



Thanks Ken—Welcome Sylvia!

Erstwhile Councillor Ken Jamieson has been the appointed Representative of the City of Salmon Arm on the SABNES Board for the last ten years. He has worked hard for SABNES and for the City, and we thank him and wish him well. Councillor Sylvia Lindgren is the new face on the Council this year and we welcome her onto the SABNES Board as the new appointee.



For 275 years now, our Canada Jay's name has been compromised. In 1743 it began as Whisker Jack; then in 1831, became the Whiskey Jack, its name derived from various First Nations interpretations. More recently, for the past 185 years, Canadian ornithologists have called it the Canada Jay, and others, the **Grey Jay**, presumably after its many shades of grey. Once the Americans got hold of the name, however, they called it the Gray Jay, using the American spelling. This irked Canada's current leading authority on the species, Dan Strickland, who set out to challenge the name by delving into the Smithsonian archives. The Americanization of the bird's name had been in print for 60 years!

In 2017 Mr. Strickland got to work to set the record straight in his article in *Ontario Birds*. Exactly a year ago, he proposed to the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society that the name Canada Jay be restored. The proposal proved successful to the delight of many, including a group called Team Canada Jay! (seriously!) TCJ lobbied our Federal government to make the Canada Jay an official symbol. They are still working on this.

Despite the government's stalling on this issue, the rest of us Canadian birders are confident that our history with the Canada Jay, along with our efforts to restore it to its well-deserved name, will be just fine for now. In the meantime, we can call this grey beauty a camp robber or robber jay or anything else. We don't care, as long as it continues to reign within our Canadian borders.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Unlike other corvids, Canada Jays haven't readily adapted to human activities, but they do find more remote picnic areas and parking lots, such as the one at Lake Louise, to seek tidbits. They have learned that the smoke of campfires and the sound of wood being chopped translate into potential food handouts.

Like other corvids but to a lesser degree, Canada Jays have benefited from development that has left an edge environment, ie, between forests and open space.

If you're lucky enough to find Canada Jays in your neighbourhood, you can lure them to your feeders by offering bananas, cookie and cracker crumbs and grapes.

Refs.

David Bird (of course), "Canada Jay, eh?" Canada Wildlife Magazine. Thanks to Bill Eaton and Tom Brighthouse for passing the article along to the SABNES Newsletter crew.

Lacopi, Robert, publisher, *The Birds Around Us*, 1986.

National Geographic Society, *Reference Atlas to the Birds of North America*, 2003.

Ed Dahl



Black-necked Stilt

Birding in the Bay—2018

This has been a good year for birds and birders in the Bay. Two hundred species were recorded in the 11 months starting in January. Although none were new to add to our total of 282, we highlight several rarities. Numerous Swallows arrived before the end of March and quickly settled into the new nesting boxes scattered along the shoreline. During the third week of May, one month earlier than usual,



Hudsonian Godwit

several were washed out by early high water but were reused after the water subsided. There were no noticeable effects on the swallow population from the long, hot and smoky summer. Under the end of the wharf, **Barn Swallows** built 25-30 nests in which they successfully fledged young. As usual, **Canada Geese** occupied the **Osprey** nests before the Ospreys arrived. As soon as the goose eggs hatched, the Ospreys reused the nests. It seems to be a trend for several Osprey nests along the Bay close to town to remain unused. As the foreshore becomes more built up, the Ospreys are nesting elsewhere. The two American **Bald Eagle** nests close to town, however, were once again occupied and fledged young.

Western Grebes nested all around the Bay. Di Wittner did a monthly count and on July 17 saw 201 adults and 94 young, her highest count for the year. Over the Summer I and several others saw at least one pair of **Clark's Grebes** in the Bay. In August and September I saw 400-500 Grebes regularly in the Bay between Sandy Point and Raven. Many of these may have been early migrants from the prairies.

Thirty-nine species of Waterfowl were counted in the Bay this year. As viewed from the Wharf, the usual resident nesters appeared to do well, leading their young close by. Unusual this year were high numbers of Snow Geese, one of which stayed all Summer (and is still here on Dec 11 as Sarah Weaver observes). For a few weeks in early November, record numbers of 25-100 were seen feeding and resting west of Peter Jannink Nature Park and at the Shuswap River mouth. In contrast, fewer **Greater White-fronted Geese** were spotted.



Greater White-fronted Goose



Pectoral Sandpiper

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Thirty species of shore birds fed extensively on our rich mud flats. For a few weeks, from the middle of April, a **rarely seen Black-necked Stilt** fed west of the wharf. For three weeks in September, a **Hudsonian Godwit** fed alongside the Wharf, where it attracted birders from far and wide. On September 6th, a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** fed with its close relatives, the **Pectoral Sandpipers**. The former nests in Siberia and win-

ters in Western Australia, so it was a long way from home. At the end of August, **Short-billed Dowitchers** fed near the Wharf and on September 4, a **Ruddy Turnstone** rested on the spit of land just west of the Wharf. During the summer, **Black, Common and Forster's Terns** flew near the wharf and along the foreshore. There were no sightings, however, of the **Caspian Tern**, usually our most common. The **Common Nighthawk** is another species which is becoming rarer, perhaps indicating the decrease in its food supply due to pesticides. An increasingly common successful colonizer is the **Eurasian-collared Dove**. Twenty-five to thirty dwell in and near Peter Jannink Nature Park. Back-yard birders are finding them driving other birds away from feeders.



Common Nighthawk

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Happy Birding!

Ted Hillary, Shuswap Naturalists

SABNES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Directors

Janet Aitken, President.
Geoff Benson, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.
Mona Broad, Hanne MacKay, Gary Lomax, Sid Visser, Sarah Weaver, Di Wittner.

Appointed Directors

Councillor Sylvia Lindgren, **City of Salmon Arm; Fish and Game Club** and **Downtown Salmon Arm Improvement Association**: No appointed representatives.

Non-voting Directors

Georgia McLeod, Secretary
Tom Brighthouse, Advisor

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

LIFE CORPORATE MEMBERS

Askews Foods
Royal Bank

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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Dr Lyle A Martin
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Dr Chris Parfitt
Bowers Funeral Services Ltd.
Shuswap Acupuncture and Laser Therapy Clinic
Trent Sismey Inc.
Prestige Harbourfront Resort and Convention Centre

GRANTING AGENCIES

City of Salmon Arm
Salmon Arm Rotary Club
Shuswap Community Foundation
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund

Annual Membership 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

* All but \$5 is tax-deductible

Membership Form

(If you have already given us information, enter only new information)

Name: _____

Address : _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amount Paid : _____ Date : _____

I would like to give **SABNES** my time : Please check
to help staff the nature centre
(June, July and August)

to help with trail clean-up and maintenance

Nature Bay Society (**SABNES**) is a Charitable Organization.
Most of the Annual Fee is tax-deductible.
Receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued.

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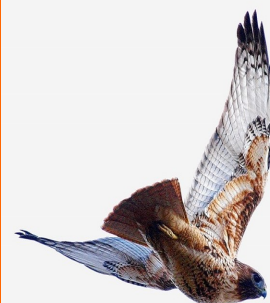
Funding for our Nature Centre

This year the Nature Centre operating expenses were **\$10,238**. We are grateful for grants of **\$4,000** from the **City of Salmon Arm** and **\$3,411** from the **Fed. Govt. Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) Program**. **The \$2,827 shortfall was made up by SABNES from memberships and generous donations. Please help us increase our memberships by sharing this newsletter with friends and relations.**

A Way of making an Everlasting contribution to SABNES

As the year draws to a close, please consider making a donation to **SABNES** via the **Shuswap Community Foundation (c/o SABNES Endowment Fund)**. Your donation will remain in perpetuity in the fund, and generate income which will be used to help keep the **SABNES** lands in their natural state for the foreseeable future. **Please** send your cheque payable to **Shuswap Community Foundation, PO Box #624, 450 Lakeshore Drive, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N7**. Please mark on your cheque that you wish to place the donation in the **SABNES ENDOWMENT FUND**. The **Shuswap Community Foundation** will send you a tax receipt.

Red-tailed Hawk



Clive Bryson