



WBT

WILD BIRD TRUST
of British Columbia

WINGSPAN



- making British Columbia a safer place for birds -

**Winter/Spring
2011**

WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia

Dedicated to the protection of wild birds and their habitat, on the principle that all wildlife must benefit

Patrons:

Honourable John A. Fraser P.C., O.C., O.B.C., Q.C., LL.D (Hon)
Robert Bateman, O.C., O.B.C., Artist and Naturalist

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Patricia M. Banning-Lover

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Publicity: Michael H. Becker
MCA Bird Checklist: Bonnie Hawkes

Nature House Fundraisers: Patricia M. Banning-Lover, RaeAnne Rose
Special Events & "Return of the Osprey"

Festival Administrator: Patricia M. Banning-Lover

WINGSPAN Editor: Patricia M. Banning-Lover
Produced at Minerva House Telephone: 604 922 1550 Fax: 604 922 8034

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Please submit your articles and images for inclusion.

Wildlife Plant Nursery Manager

& Nurseryman: Kevin Bell 604 980 9085

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Volunteer Coordinators: Ernie Kennedy
Patricia M. Banning-Lover

WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia

is incorporated as a non-profit society under the Provincial Societies' Act, Society # S - 31197 and is a charitable organization under the federal "Income Tax Act" Charity # 14026 5570 RR0001

THE CONSERVATION AREA AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS

2645 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver

(2 km. east of Second Narrows Bridge)

Maplewood Site Office Telephone: 604 903 4471

Parking:

Weekdays: 8 am. - 6 pm. Weekends: 9.30 am. - 4 pm.

(automatic gate closure

please check your watch during your visit)

Our trails are suitable for all ages and wheelchair accessible
(no wheelchair accessible washroom)

Leashed dogs are allowed on the east side only

Please no dogs (leashed or unleashed) to special or regular events

SPECIAL EVENTS 2011

Spring Botany Walk with Terry Taylor, Saturday, April 23rd at 10 am.

Dawn Chorus. Saturday, May 14th at 6 am.

BIG SIT, Saturday June 25th 8-10 am.

Annual General Meeting, November 5th

REGULAR EVENTS

(meet at the Sanctuary Office - rain or shine)

Bird Survey

First Saturday of the month 8 am -12.30 pm.

Al's Saturday Nature Walks 2011

Please see page 6

Second Saturday of the month

meet at The Conservation Area Site Office at 10 am for a 2 hr. walk

Summer Evening Walks 2011

Please see page 6

Wednesdays, July 27th & August 3rd 7-9 pm.

Two "Members Only" Walks 2011 with Rob Lyske

Sunday, April 17th and Sunday, September 18th 10 am-noon

meet at The Conservation Area Site Office at 10 am for a 2 hr. walk

Volunteer Day

Third Saturday of the month 10 am.

Volunteers must fill in an application form

and sign a waiver of liability before commencement of work.

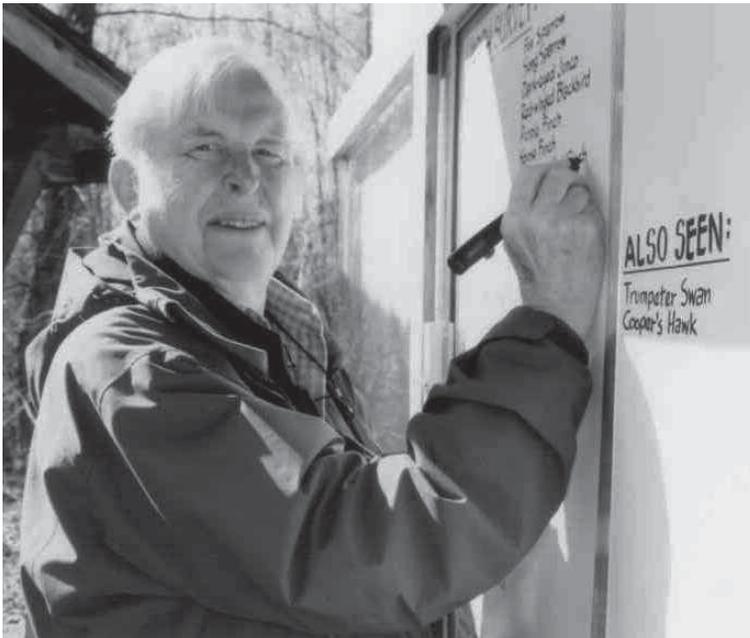
VISIT WBT's WEBSITE AT

www.wildbirdtrust.org

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Essence! - the CEO's Message



Lea Haggert

*Struan Robertson updates the Sightings Board
March 6th 2010*

I must begin by telling you that WBT Volunteer Struan Robertson died in hospital early on St. Patrick's Day. Struan supported us in so many ways; photographing and compiling a visual record of all our events, assisting Lea Haggert with reception at the Maplewood Site Office on the first three weekends of each month, updating the Sightings Board immediately after and beyond the monthly Bird Survey, proof-reading/helping to mail prep *WING-SPAN*, walking the trails to check for fires during the tinder-dry days of summer, updating our maps with the skilled hand of a cartographer. This issue is full of his presence as almost all the images were taken by Struan. We already miss his straightforward manner and we are very grateful for his ten years of devoted service.

The Extended Tenure (to March 31st 2041) document was signed by WBT President Geoffrey Bird and myself on January 26th 2011. Environment Canada indicated by e-mail on March 28th 2011 that we are only a couple of weeks from completion.

Patricia M. Banning-Lover, Chief Executive Officer

Burrard Inlet Through Time

by Michelle Gaudry, BIEAP Policy Coordinator

Majestic mountain backdrops and the glassy waters of Burrard Inlet have landed Vancouver its reputation as one of the most scenic cities in the world.

Characterized by a temperate marine climate, the Burrard Inlet ecosystem is home to an abundance of fish and wildlife. The mountain streams feeding the inlet provide essential nursery habitat for juvenile salmon and the watershed as a whole acts as a significant fish migration corridor annually for millions of Pacific salmon returning to the Capilano, Seymour and Indian Arm Rivers.

Along the muddy or rocky shorelines, numerous species of resident waterfowl, including ducks, geese, songbirds, shorebirds, herons, cormorants, grebes and large raptors are often sighted feeding and roosting. Burrard Inlet is internationally recognized as an *Important Bird Area*, attracting tens of thousands of migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway each year.

The inlet's sheer productivity and abundance also made it a destination for successive waves of human settlement and constituted part of the traditional territory of many Coast Salish peoples. Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish and Musqueam Nations have inhabited the lands and waters of Burrard Inlet since time immemorial.

In 1886, following the extension of the transcontinental railway to the Pacific Rim, the inlet's natural deep-sea harbour was transformed into Canada's busiest Port. Increasing industrial activity attracted even more settle-

ment and today, over two million lower mainland residents, along with visitors across the world enjoy the infinite recreational opportunities the inlets' watershed has to offer.

With these anthropogenic influences, the inlet has seen much change over the years and the Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program (BIEAP) is working to understand the losses and gains that have taken place as a result.

Established in 1991, BIEAP is an intergovernmental partnership that coordinates the environmental management of Burrard Inlet. BIEAP partners include: Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, Metro Vancouver and Port Metro Vancouver. BIEAP focuses the resources of all partners on a management framework that coordinates activities intended to protect and improve the environmental quality of the present-day Burrard Inlet, within the context of sustainability.

Since 2005, BIEAP has been working towards the development of a State of the Environment Report for Burrard Inlet. As a first step in this process, the *Burrard Inlet Environmental Indicators Report (2008)* was released, and now assists in providing decision makers with increased certainty when assessing the ecosystem risks of development activities.

continued on page eight ...

Local Industries make Generous Donations to WBT's Nature House/Operations Project



Melissa Baker Photography

NEWALTA donated to the Nature House/Operations Project at the Silver Level in December 2010.
Left to right: Administrative Assistant Caren Tereschak, Plant Manager Chris Parent,
WBT Co-Founder/CEO Patricia M. Banning-Lover,
Manager (Corporate Communications and Community Relations) Jesse Cadotte.



Helene Holt

ERCO Worldwide donated to the Nature House/Operations Project in December 2010.
Plant Manager Tom Miller presents cheque to WBT Co-Founder/CEO Patricia M. Banning-Lover.

“BEYOND BIRDS”

WBT’s Fundraising Campaign for THE NATURE HOUSE/OPERATIONS
AT THE CONSERVATION AREA AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS

The building site of our next capital project
to help make the connection between conservation and education.

Every Penny Helps!

If you would like to contribute to our fundraising campaign “**Beyond Birds**”

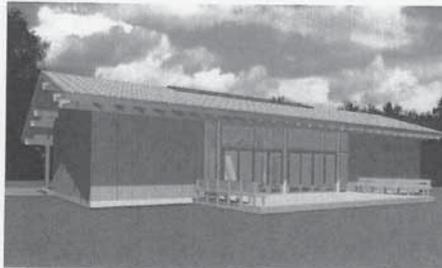
please send your tax-deductible donation to

Wild Bird Trust of BC, 124-1489 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1B8
(please mark your envelope “Beyond Birds”) and we will issue a tax receipt.

Donations of \$20 and over will be acknowledged on a DONORS’ WALL.



View from the West on Osprey Point Trail



View from the East

WBT’s Nature House Design
by

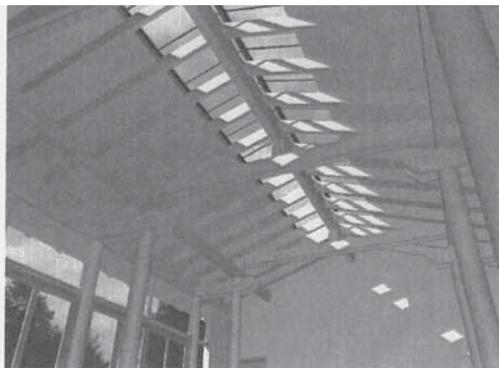
Fiscus

Construction Ltd.

Pemberton Avenue,
North Vancouver,
British Columbia



Looking East—view from the patio doors



Looking up at the skylights

For more information please call

WBT Co-Founder/CEO

Patricia M. Banning-Lover

604 922 1550



WBT

WILD BIRD TRUST
of British Columbia

FREE WILD BIRD TRUST NATURE WALKS 2011

with **Legendary Lower Mainland Naturalist Al Grass**

PLEASE NOTE: in order to maximize the enjoyment of all nature walk participants we welcome group bookings for children and youth under a separate arrangement, please call 604 929 2872 for details and reservations

JANUARY 8th—MORE THAN MUD!! Why are tidal flats critical habitats for wildlife?

FEBRUARY 12th—DUCK TAILS Dabblers and Divers at their best

MARCH 12th—WHAT'S FOR DINNER Maplewood's raptors

APRIL 9th—A LONG JOURNEY Miracle of migration—celebrate the arrival of spring birds

MAY 14th—A SYMPHONY OF SONG Enjoy the Conservation Area's birds and their music

JUNE 11th—OSPREYS AND MARTINS They are back! - and many other birds too

JULY 9th—SALT MARSH SECRETS The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats hosts the premier example of salt marsh in Burrard Inlet. A rare supervised opportunity to appreciate this important inter-tidal ecosystem.

AUGUST 13th—ALL ABOUT HABITAT Understanding habitat

SEPTEMBER 10th—AUTUMN Fall migration and Maplewood's birds

OCTOBER 8th—FRESH AND FROSTY (THANKSGIVING WEEKEND) Birds begin to prepare for the challenges of winter

NOVEMBER 12th—WOODLAND WONDERS Maplewood's forests live with the help of beetles, woodpeckers, and fungi

DECEMBER 10th—HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS A winter's day at Maplewood is always full of wonderful surprises

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2011

Saturday, MAY 14th meet at 6 am for the "Dawn Chorus" with Rob Lyske

Early morning at Maplewood is full of bird songs and calls - an experience that should not be missed.

Meet at double gates just before the entrance (travelling east) to The Conservation Area at 2645 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver.

Saturday, JUNE 25th 8—10 am "THE BIG SIT" Our version of a Big Day at Maplewood. Please bring a chair, your own binoculars and recording material - and dress for the weather as event takes place rain or shine! Depending on our numbers we will break into teams to cover several locations: Osprey Point, Otter Point, area adjacent to the mudflats, West Pond, forested area. WBT recording forms will be provided to teams.

NEW for 2011—BOTANY WALK! Celebrate Earth Week with Terry Taylor Saturday, April 23rd at 10 am.

ADDITIONAL 2011 WALKS with Al & Jude Grass, Rob Lyske

Summer Evening Walks with Al and Jude Grass, WEDNESDAY July 27th & WEDNESDAY August 3rd 7 pm–9 pm.

Two delightful evening opportunities to hear birds singing, observe wildflowers, perhaps see bats and swifts and possibly a mother deer and her fawn. Please park outside The Conservation Area as the gate will be closed for the evening.

Members' Only Walks with Rob Lyske, SUNDAY, April 17th and SUNDAY, September 18th 10 am–Noon.

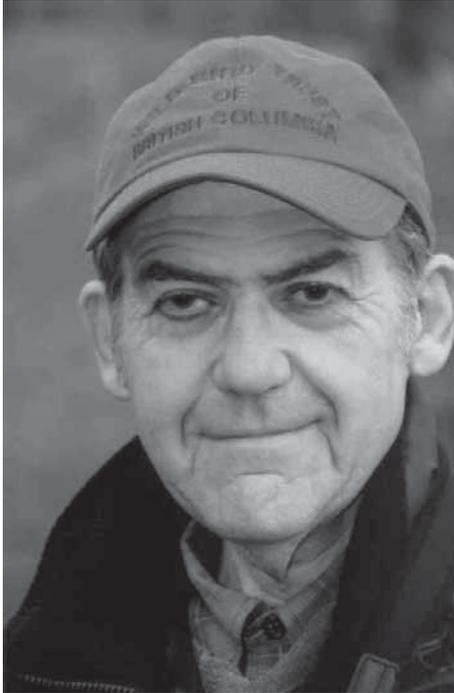
Unless otherwise specified please meet at WBT's Maplewood Site Office, at 10 am
2645 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver (604 903 4471) — events take place Rain or Shine!

During your visit please check your watch—the gate closes automatically at 6 pm. on weekdays and 4 pm on weekends

Wheelchair accessible trails are suitable for all ages (sorry, no wheelchair accessible washroom until the Nature House is built).

In order to protect nesting and ground resting birds PLEASE NO DOGS (leashed or unleashed!)

View from Osprey Point with Al Grass



Struan Robertson

Naturalist Al Grass

Screaming gulls, chirping eagles, and honking geese—these are a few of nature’s music that herald a new day at The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats Osprey Point. And there are leaping fish, splashing otters, and curious seals popping their heads out of the water as if to give visitors the ‘eye’.

Resting at Osprey Point, one is well aware that while it has a peaceful nature, it is at the same time a busy place. Nature is filled with amazing sounds at Osprey Point, from the rolling distant thunder that precedes a deluge, to the music of the birds, and the gentle tapping of wavelets on shoreline rocks. All this and more can help tune us into Nature’s wonders.

Back to the screaming gulls, and scream they do— why it’s enough to wake up the whole neighbourhood! And it’s no wonder the gulls were screaming on that particular weekday morning for they were angry at eagles. Eagles watch closely and when the gulls have found some tasty tidbit, the eagles will try to snatch it away. Scientists have a name for this thieving behaviour – it is call “klepto parasitism”.

Gulls need to watch carefully or one of them will become dinner. It seems as if there is no love lost between gulls and eagles and look what happened when a Peregrine Falcon flew to close to a pair of eagles—they began chirping like giant canaries.

By March, Pelagic Cormorants have their white ‘flank’ patches. Now there is no doubt about whether it is a pelagic or double-crested. Great Blue Herons are busy stalking tasty fish along the shore and the delightful ‘rattle’ of the Belted Kingfisher sets the day right.

We don’t need to travel to exotic faraway places to experience nature in all her glory. We don’t even need to go on long treks! Visit Osprey Point and sit for an hour, a day or whatever time you can spare. Here you will find abundant nature – the kind that always enriches the human spirit.

Al’s Nature Walks—NO DOGS PLEASE!
(leashed or unleashed)

Introducing RaeAnne Rose



Image submitted

RaeAnne Rose

RaeAnne is the Principal of Pharos Fundraising Strategy + Communication, a consulting firm that specializes in fundraising, capacity building, and communication for non-profit organizations. More recently, online communications and social media have opened up exciting new avenues for non-profit communications.

Whether writing a grant or an annual plan, directing a capital campaign, creating a stewardship report, or researching a new fundraising strategy, her goal is always the same: for each client to become more self-sufficient, effective, and to make better decisions because they have the tools and knowledge to do so.

RaeAnne has been working with Wild Bird Trust since November 2010, helping to implement our grant development plan for the proposed Nature House at The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats.

RaeAnne holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, with a major in Communications and minor in Women’s Studies. She also has the Certificate of Fundraising Management from Vancouver Community College and is a member of AFP Vancouver. She is currently President of the École Woodward Hill Elementary Parent Advisory Council and a volunteer mentor in the AFP Mentoring program.

Passing it On

by Rob Lyske

When something unusual shows up at Maplewood word gets out rapidly. There are many ways to alert our friends in the birding community that a rare or infrequent avian visitor has turned up. Quentin Brown had found just such a bird and called to let me know. A Palm Warbler (the third record for Maplewood) had shown up November 2nd on the west side of The Conservation Area. The bird stayed for approximately three weeks and was last seen in the frosty south west marsh.

Reports of sightings like the Palm Warbler travel quickly by mobile phone and also when they are reported to a Yahoo chat forum, [bcvanbirds](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcvanbirds/) (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcvanbirds/>) or Birding in BC (<http://www.birding.bc.ca/>). Many Vancouver bird enthusiasts use these websites to report sightings or to discuss related topics. The extra attention, brought by the search for the Palm Warbler turned up other great birds such as a Swamp Sparrow (fourth record) found by Graeme Stevens while looking in the same marsh. I stumbled across a Snow Bunting at nearby Otter point on the November 19th. These reports are also meticulously recorded by Struan Robertson and Lea Haggert on the Sightings Board on the WBT Site Office. Check as you enter the trailhead to read what has been seen.

It was a lean year for owl sightings but on October 29th Marc Sole saw a Northern Pygmy-Owl near the nursery. I was talking with Kevin Bell one afternoon as we had discovered a likely owl pellet on the path beside the nursery. Kevin and Larry Dea had turned up the Northern Pygmy-Owl on the Christmas Bird Count as well. Bohemian Waxwings have also been seen several times taking berries from the shrubs around the nursery. Les Lee also saw a Red-breasted Sapsucker there recently.

The winter and fall birding at Maplewood was very good this year particularly for ducks and geese. A Canvasback in late October and Long-tailed Duck mid-November were also reported by Quentin Brown. Later in January and February a

Lesser Snow Goose, a Greater White-fronted Goose and a couple of Cackling Geese were seen several times on the east side near the mouth of McCartney Creek. All three Merganser species have also been seen throughout the winter. It appears that a White-winged Scoter and an increasing number of Surf Scoters have been feeding south of Otter Point. These birds, best viewed through a spotting scope, have been hard to find in recent years and are a welcome sight.

I'd like to pass on another useful tool for record keeping on the internet: ebird.org, on this website you can keep track of your personal sightings and also utilize the records of others that are collected in a database worldwide. WBT's Bonnie Hawkes has been faithfully inputting the Maplewood Surveys. Recently they have added a few other utilities that allow you to compare your yard lists or patch lists (such as The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats) with other ebirders. A regional comparison is also available if you would like to see how others are doing within Metro Vancouver, the Province or even Canada.

I usually walk the trails in the early morning, often before going to work, and before anyone else is around. I know others have their walks regularly but at different times through the day. Using today's technology we can share information, photography and research even without having ever met. Many times along the trails outside of my morning routine, I'll meet someone for the first time in person after having read their contributions on the internet; it's great to make that connection. Perhaps when the Nature House is completed a birders' group can gather there to share our passion and build an even stronger birding community for the future.

Wild Bird Trust Members' Only Walks

2011 with Rob Lyske

SUNDAY April 17th 2011

and SUNDAY September 18th 2011

10 am-noon Rain or Shine!

Meet at WBT's Maplewood Site Office

Burrard Inlet Through Time

continued from page three

Building on this work, BIEAP recently developed a new environmental indicator, "*Shoreline Change over Time*" to measure status and trends in marine habitat and shoreline in the Inlet. Measuring shoreline change assists in determining the impacts of development on fish and wildlife habitat. Comparing aerial photography from the 1930s and 2005, BIEAP conducted a historical analysis by calculating habitat loss based on changes in the High Water Mark from two different time periods.

In 2009, BIEAP surveyed the entire foreshore of the inlet from Point Atkinson to Point Grey (excluding Indian Arm) by foot and/or boat to establish a baseline for future monitoring. Areas displaying characteristics that may inhibit or encourage development of fish or wildlife habitat were also identified and included.

Using this data, a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) was developed classifying intertidal vegetation and substrate. Further to this, the entire shoreline was recorded by video and can be viewed by clicking on GPS points in the online GIS. (http://www.cmnbc.ca/atlas_gallery/bieap-frempp-atlas)

A final report summarizing findings and their implications for fish and wildlife habitat is now available to the public and provides important information regarding environmental quality and trends in the inlet.

The GIS portion of this project is only the beginning of a community based mapping system. BIEAP's vision is to foster continued growth and improvement of the central database through collaboration with stewardship groups and partnerships dedicated to protecting the ecological integrity of Burrard Inlet.

For further information about this initiative, please contact Michelle Gaudry, BIEAP Policy Coordinator at 604 775 5195 or mgaudry@bieapfrempp.org.

About our Front Cover

Pre-study Northern Pintail

© Lex Alfred Hedley 2011
watercolor on rag, 22" x 30".

In early spring the estuaries near my studio are covered with thousands of waterfowl. Among them are lots and lots of Northern Pintail. With so many about it is easy to sit and sketch them. When one bird moves on, I simply switch to the next and continue working. In this way I soon have a series of interesting ideas.

Here's one of them worked into a pre-study for a painting. After sketching in the basic shape of the pintail, I liberally soak the sheet with distilled water. Then, working quickly, keeping the rag damp, almost throwing paint onto the sheet (known as working 'wet-in-wet!'), my pintail soon emerges.

Even after a lifetime of painting birds, I cannot describe to you how much I enjoy this entire affair; getting out and about, encountering and sketching birds, and then eventually, through an artistic and aesthetic process in the peace and quiet of my studio, working back to where I started and having the pleasure of seeing an earlier, particularly evocative encounter evolve into a finished work.

Lex Alfred Hedley

Come and Celebrate Earth Week!

with
a Spring Botany Walk
led by

Terry Taylor

This free walk
is a Wild Bird Trust program
for our members
and the general public.

Ample complimentary parking is available

Meet at WBT's Site Office
The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats
2645 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver
Saturday, April 23rd 2011 at 10 am
for a two hour walk on Easter Weekend

~ rain or shine ~

No dogs please (leashed or unleashed)



Richard C. Beard

Terry Taylor

Give Wildlife a Chance!

Join WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia

(a tax receipt will be issued for membership fees and donations)

Single Membership: \$20 per year \$40 for 2 years
Family Membership: \$25 per year \$50 for 2 years number in family _____
LIFE Membership: \$500
Donation: Maplewood Nature House/Operations TOTAL: \$ _____

Visa# _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ e-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Are you interested in volunteering—no experience necessary—we train!

YES Reception: Outside Work:

Please make cheque payable to:

WBT WILD BIRD TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

124-1489 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1B8

Membership Office & Administration: Telephone/FAX: 604 929 2872 wbtoffice@telus.net

Celebrating Our Wonderful Volunteers



Above from left to right: Mini Sharma, Chris Parent (NEWALTA Branch Manager), Tere Alvarez and WBT's Ernie Kennedy.



Dan Bassetto



Tracy Orton



Neil Armstrong



Kirk Bustard

Wild Bird Trust thanks **NEWALTA**

As part of the company's commitment to the environment our industrial neighbour NEWALTA organized a year long list of volunteers willing to assist us every Wednesday afternoon on a rotational basis. The groups wear special T-shirts designed by NEWALTA'S Caren Tereschak.

The T-shirt front reads
PREVENT, PROTECT, CONSERVE
and the back reads
NO HARM, MORE FOWL.

Maplewood Site Office Volunteer Receptionists Workshop/Lunch

for WBT's Maplewood Site Office Receptionists was held on November 3rd 2010. The event was organized with great efficiency and a sense of fun by Site Office Receptionist Scheduler Carole Gamley at a very comfortable venue provided by Eileen Erichson.



From left to right:
June Banwell, Jackie Wilkie, Jean Johnson,
Receptionist Scheduler Carole Gamley, Joan Parry



From left to right:
Eileen Erichson,
June Banwell and Laurel Coard



Foreground left to right:
Karen Gale, Joan Brown Sullivan



Bert Martin, Jean Johnson



From left to right:
Darrrell de la Mare, Patricia M. Banning-Lover, Linda Smith



From left to right:
Leslie Fox Maxwell, Inge Muehlchen

Images
Struan Robertson



Ana Pedrero

From left to right: WBT's Patricia M. Banning-Lover, Ernie Kennedy, Arc'teryx Volunteers Caroline Tseng, Steven Berger, Isabelle LaRoche, Bryce Borlick, Eryk Seppanen, Robbie Priestley, Eldon Sparks, Catharine McBride, Carmen Worsfold, Virginia Chan.

Wild Bird Trust thanks Arc'teryx Equipment Inc.

On February 23rd 2011 in windy and very cold conditions volunteers cleaned the beach of the inevitable debris deposited by the tide on the shoreline of The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats. With great attention to detail Robbie Priestley organised the team, oversaw the necessary paperwork and worked alongside the hard-working volunteer team from our light industry neighbour Arc'teryx Equipment Inc. on Dollarton Highway. We are most grateful to you all for your commitment to the environment.

Robbie Priestley from Arc'teryx Equipment Inc. wrote*"Thank you again for working with us and providing an incredibly well-suited venue for our Green Committee Shoreline Cleanup event. I am sure you will agree it was a complete success. We had a great afternoon, removed a huge amount of trash from the shore, and enjoyed the better weather this time! It is good to feel like we made a difference for our friends and neighbours. And, most of all, for the birds!"*



Robbie Priestley

From left to right: Caroline Tseng, Virginia Chan, Carmen Worsfold.



Robbie Priestley

From left to right: Caroline Tseng, WBT's Ernie Kennedy, Virginia Chan, Carmen Worsfold, Catharine McBride, Steven Berger, Eryk Seppanen, Eldon Sparks.

Volunteer Opportunities—no experience necessary—we train!

Maplewood Site Office Reception (contact Patricia 604 922 1550)

Shifts: Weekends 10 am-1pm & 1pm-4pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 am-2pm.

Gardening, Field Work and Trails

(contact MCA Manager Ernie Kennedy 778 881 5300)

By arrangement with MCA Manager and on Volunteer Day (third Saturday of each month), To avoid damaging sensitive areas all outside volunteer work on the property is designated and supervised by MCA Manager Ernie Kennedy.

WBT Volunteers are required to fill in an Application Form and sign a WBT Waiver of Liability before commencement of work.

WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia

Annual General Meeting November 27th 2010



WBT Co-Founder/CEO and AGM MC Patricia M. Banning-Lover announced the start of a presentation with her Spanish goat bell.



WBT President Geoffrey Bird opened the meeting and gave the Financial Report for WBT Treasurer Eric W. Lovis. Extremely hazardous driving conditions prevented Eric from travelling to North Vancouver from Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island.



WBT's Leslie Fox Maxwell (Administration/Membership) welcomed members at the registration table.



Kevin Bell and Sandra Hedley. Sandra gave a stunning presentation featuring works by Lex Alfred Hedley.



Chris Czajkoswki had a book table in the lobby. She gave a presentation "Nuk Tessli Nature", and introduced her new book "A Wilderness Dweller's Cookbook" (Harbour Publishing).



Lex Alfred Hedley presents "A Visit to the Estuary".



Burt Anders and Head Receptionist Lea Haggert.

AGM Images
Struan Robertson



Left to right: Quentin Brown, Sheryl Tomlinson and MCA Manager Ernie Kennedy.



WBT Co-Founder/CEO Patricia M. Banning-Lover presents Bonnie Hawkes with WBT's Volunteer of the Year Award 2010.



WBT Naturalist Al Grass and Joyce Davies.



Left to right: Lori Henry, Audrey Henry, Geraldine Anderson.



Jude Grass, John Lowman and Al Grass discuss and admire John's wonderful wildlife images.



WBT President Geoffrey Bird, Co-Founder/CEO Patricia M. Banning-Lover and Director Adrian P. Joseph with the newly-arrived Extended Tenure document from Environment Canada.



WBT Founder Richard C. Beard enjoys the presentations.

The Trust wishes to thank Environment Canada for the kind loan of the Board Room and Lobby of the Pacific Environmental Science Centre, Chris Czajkoswki, Lex Alfred Hedley, Sandra Hedley, Lighthouse Park Presentation Society, John Lowman, Struan Robertson, Sheryl Tomlinson, and our many members, supporters and volunteers who so generously contribute to the success of the Society.



A Tale of Feathers

Did you know that only birds have feathers? Mammals have hair, reptiles have scales, but birds have marvelous things called feathers. Have you ever found a feather and wondered what species of bird owned it? – or - why did the bird lose the feather? To find the answers, you will need to look closely for clues and become a nature detective.

Feathers wear out, and get dirty! A bird spends a lot of its daily routine keeping its feathers in good shape. This is called preening. Some birds, like ducks, for example, have special preening glands (oil glands) to help condition their feathers. Birds lose feathers though moulting and then they grow new ones. They can also lose feathers by being attacked by enemies or by having an accident.

Different feathers – for different jobs

- **Wing feathers** – the long outer wing feathers are called primary feathers.

What are scapulars and secondary feathers?

The longest wing feathers are from our biggest birds like swans, eagles, geese and herons. The shortest wing feathers are from our smallest birds like hummingbirds, kinglets and chickadees.

Something to find out: how many feathers does a hummingbird have, compared to a Trumpeter Swan? You will be amazed at the answers.

- **Tail Feathers** inner and outer, sometimes with special barring, spots and an end (terminal) band. Woodpeckers have tail feathers that are shaped like a pencil (why?).
- **Down** - feathers keep birds warm. Down helps keep birds very warm – but how? People have used down feathers of birds to make sleeping bags and jackets for centuries. What is eider down? Down is fluffy, i.e. 'downy'.
- **Colour** - an important clue. Some birds have very colourful feathers like a male goldfinch which has

bright yellow feathers on much of its body. Other birds like owls, have brownish (but very beautiful) feathers.

Feather colours of a male bird may be very different from a female. The common Mallard duck is a good example. The drake (male) has a bright green head, whereas the duck (female) is shades of brown. In the Canada Goose the male and female are the same colour. Some feathers are said to have a 'metallic' sheen, like the throat (gorget) of a hummingbird.

Feathers from owls are very special

An owl's feather is very special indeed, and easy to identify because it has a fuzzy edge along one side. How does this help the owl to hunt its prey? Are both edges of an owl's feather the same?

Keep in mind.....

- Identifying a song bird feather is not always easy, but you can do it!
- You will need to be a good detective and not miss any clues.
- Check your field guide (or app!) for size, shape and colour. A special field guide has recently been published for identifying feathers.
- Learning the basic exterior parts of a bird is not difficult; in fact, it is a lot of fun!

Hint

A good place to look for bird feathers is around bird feeders where birds often lose feathers—but please remember to **WASH YOUR HANDS!** Always wash your hands really well after you've picked up bird feathers.

Scientists can use DNA testing to identify bird parts, but maybe just being a nature detective is more fun!

David Allen Sibley's *Birding Basics* (A. Knopf) is an excellent book to learn about feathers.

Text by Al Grass
the KINGFISHER club logo
was designed
by Richard Smith

“She’s Pretty Special to Us”

In late December 2010, longtime WBT member and volunteer Audrey Henry achieved a milestone birthday. As befits such an auspicious occasion, Audrey's 90th was celebrated in grand style with some fine dining and a little gaming with family at the River Rock Casino. A party then followed in January at the Wall Center for family and friends where (for the first time!), Audrey met her great grand-daughter Hunter. We take this birthday as a wonderful opportunity to share some of what we know about this very lively nonagenarian.

An Edmontonian by birth, Audrey has always been interested in the outdoors, enjoying hiking, walking, and the delights of nature. She is also a very keen, longtime birder with a Life List of 455 birds (excluding her many Mexican birds). A mother of five, Audrey was keen to share this passion with her children and involve them in the natural world. Her daughter Lori, encouraged from an early age to "get outside and get some fresh air", is now a confirmed bird-watcher with her own Life List. We hope Hunter follows this family tradition! When Audrey talks about getting out and about she really means it. Always independently minded, interested, ready to tackle a new challenge, Audrey has enjoyed many long, often solo expeditions in her camper van. Perhaps her greatest adventure was a trip clear across Canada, down into the States, through bird-rich Texas, which culminated in an extended stay in the Baja. Audrey all the while, we might add, delighting in the company of fellow RV'ers met along the way.

As well as raising her family, Audrey pursued a rewarding career as a Public Health Nurse in Calgary before retiring to Vancouver. This strong sense of service to the community has extended beyond her professional life with Audrey being very active in the Vancouver Natural History Society (Nature Vancouver), enjoying their evening talks and taking part in many birding walks. Audrey has many friends in that Society and is well-liked and respected in turn.

Involved in WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia as an active member from its earliest days, Audrey was present at the signing of the first Management Agreement between Environment Canada and Wild Bird Trust on March 31st 1999.

Known to many of our members as an always interesting, very pleasant person to be around, her presence at many Annual General Meetings, Bird Surveys and special events over the years is much appreciated.

Audrey volunteered as a Site Office Receptionist and was recognized by the Trust in 2002 as Volunteer of the Year. Although no longer working reception, Audrey retains a very strong interest in all the many and varied happenings at The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats. Indeed, we feel you'll surely agree with WBT Co-Founder/CEO Patricia Banning-Lover that "she's pretty special to us."

Currently, busy as ever, Audrey is sharpening her computer skills; working on short stories about growing up, her life and subsequent travels, writing about unusual bird sightings, searching the net and of course, taking great pleasure in e-mailing her family and many friends. Audrey also continues with her fondness for long walks wherever birds are to be seen. Just before her 90th birthday, she was rewarded with a December sighting of three American Dippers (high on her list of all-time favorites) at Yew Lake on Cypress Mountain.

Thinking of Audrey's continued, life-long love of nature and birds, her brilliant example to family and friends, her adventures in special places, her long commitment to nature and conservation groups, we challenge you, this very day, to follow the lead of this most wonderful lady and take yourself, and especially any little ones, outside to get some fresh air.

Audrey, our very best wishes to you.

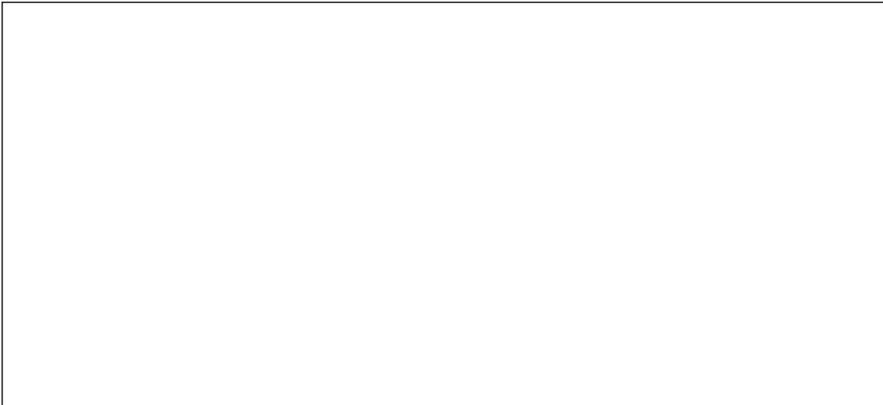
This particular Osprey artwork has its own important place in the history of the Trust as it was featured on the front cover of WINGSPAN Spring 1996 to promote WBT's very first "Return of the Osprey" Festival (May 3/4/5th 1996).



Longtime WBT member Audrey Henry celebrates her 90th birthday with the perfect gift, an original pencil drawing of an Osprey by Lex Alfred Hedley, from her daughter Lori.

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