



Executive Election Results

This is a list of the new Executive for VFFN.

PRESIDENT:	Stella Holliday
VICE PRESIDENT:	Johanna Nott
TREASURER:	Martin Hough
SECRETARY:	Vacant
Director of Outings:	John Henry
Director of Evening Presentations:	Mary Masiel
Director of the Website:	Jason Lahaie
Director of Membership & BC Nature Representative:	Donna Hills
Director of Swan Lake Nature Reserve:	Cathy Lahaie

Christmas Bird Count

by Cathy Lahaie

Count was held on December 19, 2020. We had 7 people involved and 6 feeder counts. The weather was not too bad with temperatures ranging from 1°C to 6.4°C but very overcast. We found a total of 42 species with the highlights being an American Wigeon and a White-throated Sparrow. Numbers were low and we think it may have been because most of the birds were still at higher elevations.

Bank Swallows



Bank swallows are threatened in Canada. Their nest and roost sites are critical habitat needed for their survival and recovery. The Federal Government is

required to write a recovery strategy for this species, which includes the identification and protection of critical habitat.

If you have sightings of these habitats in BC or elsewhere in Canada, can you please send the following information to

bcswallowconservation@gmail.com This information will be shared with Environment and Climate Change Canada to include in the recovery strategy and help us understand and conserve this species.

Thank you, Greg Ferguson Coordinator, [BC Swallow Conservation Project](#) Conservation Committee Member, BC Nature Observer Name and Contact; Sighting Date; Feature/Habitat Observed (i.e., nest colony, roost site, congregation of birds of >25); Feature Location (e.g., UTM, Latitude and Longitude, or Google map link); Number of Nests/Burrows Observed; Photos (if available); and Other Comments/Notes.

Further Information:

- [Bank Swallow Species Profile](#)
- [COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* in Canada \(2014-01-10\)](#)
- [Description of Residence for Bank Swallow \(*Riparia riparia*\) in Canada \(2019-05-14\)](#)
- [Recovery Strategy for the Bank Swallow](#)

Cormack Marsh

by Johanna Nott

Over a hundred years of Princeton history saw much industrial activity in this area: train switching yards, dredging operations, placer mining and log landings to name a few.

Viewed as wasteland, it was slowly repairing itself as nature does and in 2013 a group of us decided to give it a helping hand.

Kelley Cook researched ways in which we could protect and enhance this wetland area along the Similkameen, calling on many organizations and volunteers to make it so.



Photo by Cathy Lahaie

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VFFN Newsletter – Spring 2021

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On Earth Day 2014, the Town of Princeton in conjunction with the Official Community Recreation Plan, designated the 'Cormack Marsh' as a protected riparian area. It is Crown Land but falls within a river zone protected by provincial law. A unique area situated within our town limits provides nature walkabouts for local residents along the KVR.

It is a well used area and now requires some TLC. Volunteers are needed for the following 2021 Spring cleanup:

- pull knapweed
- repair paths
- garbage pickup
- plant seedling trees (provided by Weyerhaeuser)

Earth Week cleanup event on Saturday, April 24th at 9:00 am. More info to follow.

Contact Johanna Nott
295-3875
Email: johanna.nott@gmail.com

Heron Cam Link

www.cowichanestuary.ca/heron-camera-2020/

Winter Outings

by Lorraine Stubbins

This winter has been rather unusual in that I was unable to make my yearly trek with my horse in tow, to camp in the Arizona desert.

"What on earth will we all do to keep ourselves sane, in this long pandemic winter?" were my thoughts, as the border closed and we all heeded the social distancing rules... "cabin fever" was gonna be challenging!

However, a small Covid-savvy group formed to create weekly outings throughout this fall/winter utilizing our two local outdoors clubs: The China Ridge Trails Society and The Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists.

We donned our warm paisley tights (well, just us gals did ...no men in tights thankfully!) and headed for the hills on our snowshoes or XC skis. From

Cinder Cone on the newly acquired Nature Trust Grasslands Project to Nickel Plate Rd above the Similkameen Valley near Hedley, all provided impressive viewpoints mostly in bright sunshine and vivid blue sky.

The "Misery Shoes" carried us into high, snow country, testing our fitness, while the camaraderie fulfilled social interaction in this strange year of social isolation.

The knowledge in this group is vast and varied – with lessons on bird song, species ID, animal food caches, identification of feline tracks including cougar, bobcat and lynx and the many snowy tracks left behind by hares, coyotes, moose and elk. Such variety, every trip a real gem.

I look back on this past winter as having presented opportunities to learn more about nature, to appreciate more greatly the natural diversity here in Princeton and to forge stronger friendships with the members of this great group. Thanks to all of you, we made it thru the winter!



Photo by Mary Masiel

Update from the Executive

At our March 30, 2021 executive meeting, the idea was put forth to take all of our hand painted signs we had around Swan Lake and display them inside the kiosk at the Swan Lake entrance where they will be protected from the elements.