



Feature Species: Lapland Longspur

During the RM Nats Shorebirds et deux trip, the group was fortunate to spy 3 LALO at the spray irrigation fields. Heck they even landed within 30 metres of us! Very much a rarity in these parts.

Did you know that the Lapland Longspur, like the Snow Bunting, has a long hind toenail, which may aid it in walking since these birds run or walk rather than hop, as other finches normally do. Like other longspurs, it is almost invisible on the ground; often a whole flock will dart into the air at an observer's feet, only to disappear again when they land on bare ground a few hundred yards away. The most common small bird in the vast expanses of sedgy, moist tundra, the Lapland Longspur is bold in breeding territories, but wintering flocks are wary. This species is the only one of four longspurs that is found in both hemispheres.



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Club News

- Remember to check your email for dates and locations of next meetings.

Editors Corner



Send your items to scoutfir@shaw.ca. Winter issue articles by December 21 please

Interesting insect (R. Goodwin)

While visiting with friends in Kimberley on September 7, Kent found an interesting looking insect (see adjacent photo) on a dead pine tree that he later identified as a female ichneumon wasp, genus *Megarhyssa*, species uncertain. Further research showed that the wasp was in the process of drilling into the tree with it's ovipositor in a spot where it had sensed the presence of a wood boring insect (probably a horntail) and will penetrate that insect and lay an egg inside it. The egg will hatch and the larvae will eat the wood borer. The ovipositor, which is the double-stranded, slender black fibre entering the bark under the bug, releases a substance that can dissolve wood fibre and apparently they can penetrate up to 14 centimetres (5 1/2 inches) into the wood to hit a borer. Cool, eh?





Fall outings

Oct. 5th

"Birding through Johnson Lake and Moyie area"

Meet at Elisabeth Lake

9:00 a.m. Kathy and Al Ph: 489-4749 Bring a lunch

Oct 11th

Elisabeth Lake Work Bee

9:00 -- Take down fencing and move a sign

Oct 18th

Bull River "Rabbit Brush Walk"

Meet : Staples -- 9:30 Bring a lunch

Ruth -- 427-5404 Not confirmed but Al and I will do it if Ruth can't

Nov. 8th

"A stroll along Bummers Flat with Peter"

Meet: Staples 9:00 a.m. Ph: 426-2458 Bring a lunch

Xmas Party -- Dec. 6th

Peter Davidson will host this dinner at his place. More details to follow

The Christmas Bird Counts -- Contact Greg 489-2566



Summer outing reports

August 10 Shorebirds et une: A very pleasant temperature to be out today but blustery at times. Margo, Travis, Pam, Tony, Diane and I saw about 70 species today including 11 shorebird species. We had only seen 2 species by noon and were hoping to hit a hot spot. The most eastern pond in the irrigation field had a few more species and the north reservoir had a few more. Certainly a dearth of shorebirds with high water in most places.

Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs. Pectoral, Bairds, Western, Solitary, and Spotted Sandpipers.

Killdeer. Wilson Snipe. Red-necked Phalarope. Sora.

Several folks saw a Red-Eyed Vireo feeding an immature cowbird. Some of us also watched a deer run across Bummers, over the tracks and the fence, still at full speed onto the highway, barely being missed by a camper. A Merlin was chasing it and was unrelenting in its attack. We also enjoyed seeing a Rough-Legged Hawk at the Irrigation fields. Of course there were all those brown ducks which I am no good at identifying. As Diane said, I need to study the profiles more.

An enjoyable day!

Ruth

Sept. 7, Shorebirds et deux: Many more shorebirds than earlier. Very pleasant day, around 55 species. Sat down for a very nice lunch in Wardner at the prov. Park. Peter purchased a great book about the history of Wardner. Here are pictures of the gang at the spray irrigation fields courtesy of Peter Davidson.





More pictures for this years Club Camp in Fernie (courtesy of Jim Duncan)



1. Big Cottonwoods at Morrissey

2. Dinner at the motel

3. Post hiking in front of Island Lake



Absolutely fantastic time had by all. Looking forward to next year