

Feature Species: Grey Catbird

This saucy songster only seems to be with us a short time in spring/summer. As you know, it is a great mimic and always seems to fake out a birder or two with an odd call every so often.

A secretive, but curious skulker of dense thickets, the Gray Catbird is heard more than it is seen

Did you know that its ability to do the "change-up on the song comes in part from the structure of its syrinx,

or voice box, whose two sides operate independently, letting the bird sing with two voices at the same time. A catbird calls out a rapid string of syllables - more than 100 types in some individuals - including squeaks, chitters, whistles, whines and songs swiped from other birds. The babble, which lasts up to 10 minutes, is frequently punctuated by the familiar catlike mew.



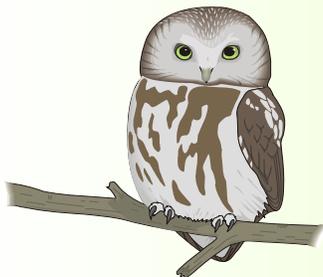
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Club News

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

Editors Corner



Send your items to scoutfir@shaw.ca. Fall issue articles by September 21 please



Club Camp 2008

What a treat it was this year for 9 RM Nats to venture into the Elk Valley for this years Club Camp. On Friday, June 20, Travis McKinney led an afternoon hike into Silver Springs Lake. The "skeeters" were healthy and well fed by the end of the trip!!! Friday night was a wiener roast hosted by the Duncan's at their Mt. Fernie campsite. "Birding by campfire" worked quite nicely with Varied Thrush, Cedar Waxwings, Hammonds Flycatchers and Northern Waterthrushes, to name a few, active and singing all around us.

On Saturday morning, the group hiked, birded and "bontanized" around the park. MacGillverays warblers, golden-crowned kinglets and even a three-toed woodpecker were spied by the group. Mid morning we all headed up to Island Lake Lodge for a coffee and a hike around the lake. Pine Grosbeaks, Olive-sided Flycatchers, and even a Fox Sparrow sang for us as we slowly made our way. We topped it off with a nice lunch at the lodge and great conversation was had by all.

Later in the afternoon we walked amongst 800 year old western redcedar and 400 year old black cottonwood (apparently the oldest in the world!!). After that some had to headed back while others went on to see the old collieries south of Morrisey.

That night some had to head home and others stayed over. That night, the skies opened and by morning, the weather resembled a classic Fernie monsoon. A quick trip to Kooconusa netted some Western Grebes but otherwise, quite quiet on the birding front.

The current plan for 2009 is to explore the north end of Columbia Lake. Elaine Doran is already looking into accommodations.

Page 4 has a listing of the bird species sighted by the gang and expect a list of plants to come out in the Fall edition.



Summer outings

July 6th

Hike to Negro Lake or around Moyie

Meet: Elisabeth Lake 8:00 a.m.

Greg - 489-2566

July 16th

Meeting : 7:00

Reed Lake

Greg - 489 - 2566

July 20th

A trip to Wardner and Rosiky Rd.

Meet: Staples 8:00 a.m.

Kathy - 489-4749

August 10th

Annual Shorebird Rally

Meet: Staples 9:00 am

Ruth: 427-5404

Trip report- Elaine Doran

Bummers Flats/ Doran Marsh Evening Walk May 30th

There were eleven of us to do our annual walk this year. There was thunder clapping as we started so the birds weren't as vocal as other years and we had to work a bit harder to find them. The Bullock's Oriole was sitting still and quiet on a distant tree and we had to walk towards the sounds of the Sandhill Cranes before one flew in front of us. We found 35 species. It was also a lot of fun talking about our memories of what we had seen in previous years.



Bird listing from 2008 Club Camp

- Great Blue Heron
- Canada Goose
- Common Goldeneye
- Common merganser
- Bald Eagle
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Common snipe
- Red-naped sapsucker
- Hairy woodpecker
- Three toed woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Hammonds flycatcher
- Dusky flycatcher
- Tree Swallow
- Violet green swallow
- Gray jay
- Stellars jay
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Red-breasted nuthatch
- Brown Creeper
- Winter wren
- American Dipper
- Golden-crowned kinglet
- Ruby-crowned kinglet
- Townsend's solitaire
- Swainsons thrush
- American robin
- Varied thrush
- Cedar waxwing
- European starling
- Warbling vireo
- Yellow warbler
- Townsend's warbler
- Northern waterthrush
- MacGillvray's warbler
- Common yellowthroat
- Wilson's warbler
- Western tanager
- Chipping Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song sparrow
- Dark-eyed junco
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Brewer's blackbird
- Pine grosbeak
- Red Crossbill
- Pine Siskin