



Delta Naturalists Society

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Delta Nats Web site <https://deltanaturalists.org/>

Delta Nats Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/DeltaNats>

Delta Nats Nature Notes <https://deltanaturalists.org/nature-resources/nature-notes/>

January 2nd, 7:00 P.M.

Martin Gregus Jr. Award-winning photographer and drone pilot

Pole to Pole: A photographic journey from the Arctic to the Antarctic during this past year.

In 2023 I was fortunate enough to not only spend most of my summer in the Arctic, but also to visit some amazing locations in the tropics before setting my eyes on the South Pole. Documenting the various wildlife from both below and above the surface we learned about new behaviours and everyday struggles as these animals battle in some of the most drastically changing environments on the planet.





Narwals

Martin is the youngest member of the Gregus Creative Group. Currently living in Vancouver, he was born into a family of artists in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Martin is an international award-winning photographer, cinematographer, drone pilot and guide. Specializing in documenting polar bears and other wildlife in the Canadian Arctic, his work has helped researchers and documentary film crews gain a new perspective on the secretive lives of the Arctic's most spectacular animals. His article on living among polar bears was published in Canadian Geographic magazine.

Martin's work has been recognized in some of the world's most prestigious contests, most recently in 2021 when he won the Rising Star Portfolio Award in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition hosted by the Natural History Museum in London, England.



Polar Bear



Sea Ice

Delta Naturalists is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Delta Naturalists' Zoom Meeting & Presentation

Time: Jan 2, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81658934063?pwd=TINDb2NMRTduRFBWSzIUakhiMlhFUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 5893 4063

Passcode: 897493

UPCOMING DNS EVENTS

DNS Meeting – January 2

DNS Meeting – February 6

DNS Meeting – March 5

DNS Meeting – April 2

Martin Gregus Jr. – Pole to Pole

Ron Long – The Botany of Chile and Argentina

David Simon –Topic TBD

Chris Pavsek – Topic TBD

Have you checked out our new website address? - <http://deltanaturalists.org/> It is excellent and attractive. Congratulations and a big thank you to all who worked on it!

Welcome new member. - Kristina Johnston, Delta



Spotted Towhee



Northern Shrike Glen Bodie
Brunswick Point, December '03



Golden Crowned Kinglet

Pat Smart



Hooded Merganser

Pat Smart

DELTA NATURALISTS CASUAL BIRDING SCHEDULE

Delta Nature Casual Birders is a group of people who like watching birds, mostly around Boundary Bay and within the Fraser Delta. Anyone with a similar interest is welcome to join us.

Upcoming DNCB Outings are listed on the <https://deltanaturalists.org/activities/outings-and-events/>

To sign up for future DNCB outings go to the signup form and put an x by your name.

<https://tinyurl.com/dncb-signup> The person with double x by their name will be the contact for that outing. Their phone number is on the signup sheet.

To keep the groups small some people will go on Tues and some will go on Wed.

The meeting times vary and are listed.

Reports of previous outings are on the [blog](#).

Photos can be found [here](#). Driving directions to some can be found [here](#)

For more information email Terry Carr terrancecarr@gmail.com

January 2 & 3 Serpentine Fen Dyke Trail

Meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot on King George Blvd by the bridge over the Serpentine River. We will not use the gated parking lot behind Art Knapps.

January 9 & 10 Stanley Park

Meet at 9:00 AM on the seawall below the Second Beach Swimming Pool. You can no longer access Second Beach from Beach Ave. From Beach Ave turn right on Denman. Then left on Barclay (one block past Nelson). As you enter the park keep left on Lagoon Drive, past the pub and pitch & putt. Turn right on Stanley Park Drive. Go past the turnoff to Lost Lagoon and turn left into the parking area by the seawall. You will need to pay for parking.

January 16 & 17 Point Roberts, USA

Meet at 8:30 AM at Lighthouse Marine Park. Bring passport or Nexus. Some people may stop first by Kiniski's at the west end of Gulf Rd

January 23 & 24 White Rock & Elgin Park

Meet at 8:30 AM at White Rock Pier. There is free parking on the waterfront until 10am. Our second stop will be Elgin Park. Park at Historic Stewart Farm, 13723 Crescent Rd, Surrey.

January 30 & 31 Blaine, USA (Drayton Harbor & Semiahmoo Spit)

Meet at 8:30 AM at Blaine Marine Park. Approximate address is 235 Marine Drive, Blaine, WA, USA. Bring passport or Nexus. Cross the border at Peace Arch and take the immediate exit 276 for highway 548 into Blaine. At the traffic circle before the shops, turn right onto Marine Drive, cross the railway tracks and park on the street by the small lookout (across the street from Sundance Yacht Sales). We'll look for birds there and at the pier at the end of Marine Drive. Then we will drive around the bay to Semiahmoo Resort. Before going to the resort we will park by the APA museum in Semiahmoo Park (at the beginning of the spit on the left). [Map](#)

Young Birder Christmas Bird Count by Boat & a Bonus PINYON JAY!

[December 18, 2023](#) by Melissa Hafting

We had a great Young Birders CBC yesterday. This year BC Nature and Birds Canada (in particular would like to thank Yousif Attia who helped incorporate our count with the Ladner CBC) generously sponsored us to go on a boat by **White Rock Sea Tours** and survey the birds from water. They covered the cost for all the youth and me! Thank you so much for doing this! The young birders were thrilled and excited. We met up at Crescent Beach Marina and dressed up in our fashionable survival suits and headed out on the water just after 8:30 am. Thanks to the captain and crew who were so kind to the youth and I and provided us with the most comfy zodiacs I have ever ridden on!



Young Birders before boarding the boat in Surrey, BC - Photo: Melissa Hafting

As we headed out on the water past Blackie Spit, the youth told me their most wanted birds, and most said, Yellow-billed Loon and a few wanted Ancient Murrelet for the count list! Others really wanted good views of Long-tailed Ducks. We had gotten Ancient Murrelet in Tofino on our overnight pelagic trip which was then a lifer for most who came. We saw Common Loons and one of the resident Marbled Godwits and a Black-bellied Plover at Blackie Spit.

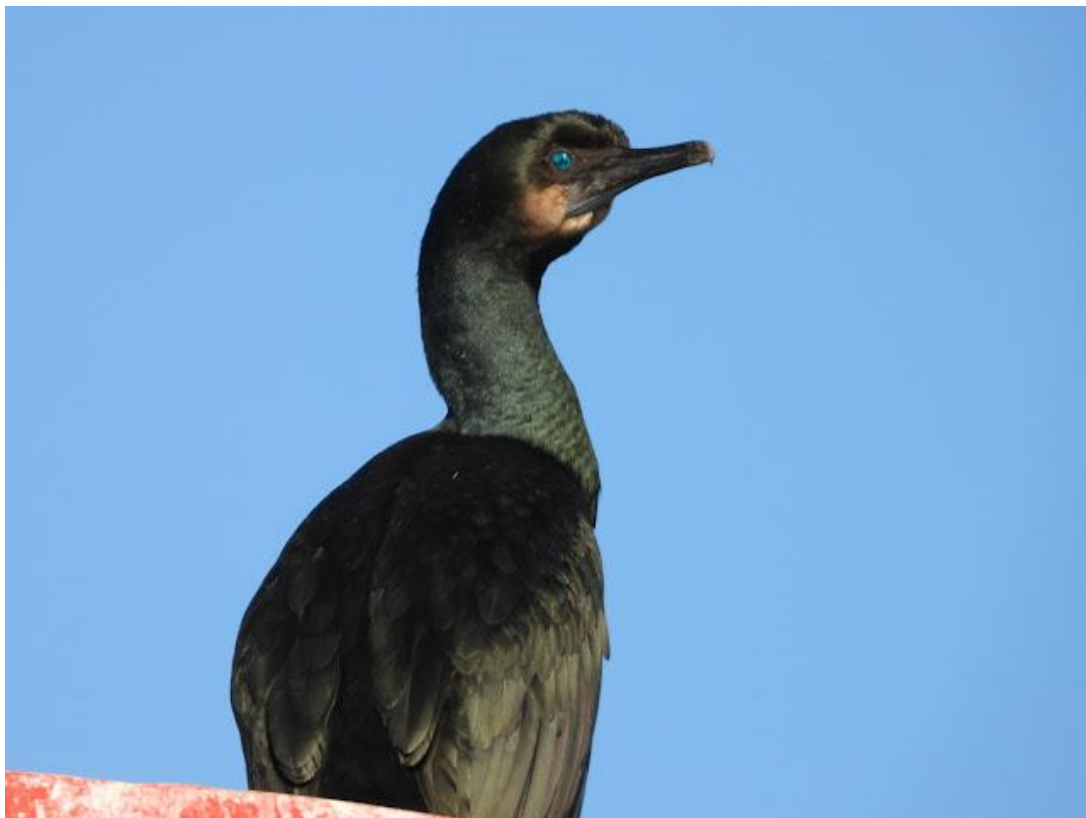


Marbled Godwit in Blackie Spit - Photo: Heather Tocher

On the way to the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal jetty, Bentley spotted our first Ancient Murrelet, and it went flying by our boat allowing great views by all. When we reached the jetty, we had at least 600 Brandt's Cormorants sitting on the breakwater and some Black Turnstones. Nicole spotted some Red-throated Loons flying by and Bentley, Cam and Nicole spotted a Rhinoceros Auklet on the US side.



Steller's Sea Lions near Lily Point, Point Roberts-WA - Photos: Bentley Colwill



Brandt's Cormorants in Tsawwassen, BC - Photos: Heather Tocher



Young Birders looking up at the rare Pinyon Jay - Photo: Yuseon Park

It was so cool and unusual to see this bird here in BC. It is only the second ever record for the province.



Pinyon Jay in West Van (a new BC bird for the young birders and me) - Photo: Melissa Hafting

To see more photos and read more about the young birders' four hour trip,
<https://daretobird.blogspot.com/2023/12/young-birder-christmas-bird-count-by.html>

NATURE NOTES

<https://deltanaturalists.org/nature-resources/nature-notes/>

January	The Winter Courtship of Hooded Mergansers – Kathleen Fry, Reifel Bird Sanctuary - online Jan. 25, in print Jan. 26
February	Coffee with Winter Birds – Debbi Hlady, DNS - online Feb. 21, in print Feb. 23
March	Sounds of Spring Migration – Debbi Hlady, DNS – online March 28, in print March 30
April	The Mysterious Black Swift – Lindsay Lalach, Birds Canada - online April 26, in print April 27
May	The Amazing Humming Bumble Bee – Pam Swanigan, DNS – online May 24, in print May 25.
June	On the Hunt for Bats in Delta farmland. Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust. Online June 28
July	Multi-faceted restoration of Fraser River estuary marsh habitat – Ducks Unlimited. Online July 25, in print July 27.
August	Thud: Another bird bites the dust – David Bradley, Birds Canada. Online August 29
September	Owl saves Eagle - Martina Versteeg, OWL. Online Sept 27, in print September 28.
October	Farmland refuge for at-risk bats – Connor Hawey - Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust Online October 24, in print October 27.
November	Beaver 'tales' Evan Gogal - Reifel Bird Sanctuary. Online Nov 28, in print Nov 30.
December	Salmon Spawning in Cougar - Creek Cougar Creek Streamkeepers - Deborah Jones - online Dec 17.

NATURE NOTES can be found in the DELTA OPTIMIST, online and in print as noted above.

The **67th annual Ladner Christmas Bird Count** (CBC) which took place on Sunday, December 17, 2023, had an excellent turnout of DNS members and others, according to Anne Murray.

eBird Trip Report: <https://ebird.org/canada/tripreport/183686>

The final results will be posted once data is in from all areas.

Bald Eagles at Harrison River Flats, Eagle Festival, November 25th
Photos by Glen Bodie



THE READING NOOK

The purpose of **THE READING NOOK** is to share titles of interesting books. If you have a favourite book or one recently read that others might enjoy, please share it with us with a note on the subject for future editions. Please send to the editor at makemusichappen@gmail.com

Joyce Manary recommended an interesting book, **The Bird Way** by Jennifer Ackerman. A new look at how birds talk, work, play, parent, and think. Joyce said there is a lot of information in this book; it takes a while to read it all.

Jennifer Ackerman, one of the most acclaimed science writers in the US, is back with another book about birds, one that delves deeper into the wonders and peculiarities of the avian world... This book is a celebration of the dizzying variety of bird life and behaviour, one that will enthrall birders and non-birders alike.

The science here is hard, compelling, and presented in Ackerman's engaging and jargon-free prose, and on every page, there is evidence to support the book's thesis: that to speak of birds en masse is to make a category error, one that blinds us to the extraordinary variance in behaviour, appearance and even biology in these creatures we attempt to trap under the same ontological net. “



DNS Executive

Syd Barber	President, BCN Rep.
Jim Kneesch	Treasurer/ DNS Facebook Master
Joe Stephenson	Secretary
Nicki Brockamp	Vice President / Communications Co-ordinator
Elizabeth Perrin	Director at Large / Speaker Co-ordinator
David Hoar	Director at Large/Audio Visual Support

DNS Support Volunteers

Ken Borrie	Web Master
Terry Carr	Outings Co-ordinator
Audrey Coutts	Newsletter Editor makemusichappen@gmail.com
Anita Den Dikken	Environment Co-ordinator
Geof Hacker	DNS Poster Artist & Historian
Debbi Hlady	Backyard Birding Co-ordinator
Jack MacDonald	Audio Visual Support
Chris McVittie	MetroVan Parks Co-ordinator
Anne Murray	Chair, Biodiversity Committee
Jonathan Mwenifumbo	Membership Co-Ordinator
James Ronback	Environmental Watch Dog Jim.Ronback@gmail.com
Valerie Whitlam	Social Committee

Birds and Biodiversity Conservation	Chair Anne Murray, Glen Bodie, Nicki Brockamp
Strategy team	Terry Carr, David Hoar, Chris McVittie

Delta Nats' website:	https://deltanaturalists.org/
Wildlife Rescue	604-526-7275
Canadian Wildlife Services	604-666-0143
Rare Bird Sightings	bcbirdergirl@gmail.com
	https://bcbirdalert.blogspot.com/p/vancouver-and-fraser-valley.html

Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary	604-946-6980
OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehab)	604-946-3171
Wildlife Violation Report	1-800-663-9453
Fisheries and Oceans HOT LINE	604-666-3500
Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust	604-940-3392
http://www.deltafarmland.ca/	Bird Studies Canada
http://www.birdsonthebay.ca/	BC Breeding Bird Atlas
https://www.bcnature.ca/about/	

***** Would you like to volunteer in a small way to help at meetings? We need volunteers for the social committee.**

THE LAST PAGE



Patrick Heide,
English Bay

**WARMEST THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR
PEACE, GOOD HEALTH, LOVE AND JOY**