

# Events Planning Group Annual Report For the Year 2012

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## Overview

2012 was an active year, consolidating the rebirth of the Club through a full calendar of field trips, evening presentations, conservation-related activities and representation on other bodies. Of particular long-term importance was the Club's decision to move forward on a major enhancement project for the Hudson's Bay Wetland, and to work with partners towards creation of a nature/outdoor centre for Prince George.

## Summary of Club Events, 2012

- 15 January. *Field trip/ Conservation*: Annual Swan Count.
- 29 January. *Field trip*: Snowshoe at MacMillan Regional Park (Livingstone Springs trip was postponed due to weather)
- 5 February. *Field trip*: Snowshoe to Livingstone Springs
- 11 February. *Field trip*: Snowshoe on the Greenways, central portion
- 16 February. *Meeting*: Annual General Meeting
- 19 February. *Field trip*: Snowshoe at Troll Lake
- 4 March. *Field trip*: Ancient Forest
- 17 March *Play Again*: Film sponsored as part of the Travelling World Community Film Festival
- 29 March. *Presentation*: Pink Mountain
- 22 April. *Field Trip*: Curlews and More, Shelley
- 26 April. *Presentation*: Birds of Brazil
- 13 May. *Conservation*: Garbage Cleanup, Entrance to Shelley Lagoons
- 8-10 June. *Field Trip*: Mount Robson Bird Blitz (cancelled owing to road closure)
- 2 June. *Field trip*: Wilkins Park
- 5 July. *Field trip*: Hudson's Bay Wetland
- 14 July. *Field trip*: Rosebud Mountain Walk
- 22 July. *Field trip*: Wildflowers of Raven Lake
- 28 July. *Field trip*: Mugaha Marsh Bird Banding Station
- 31 July: *Publication*: Checklist of Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians
- 16 August. *Field Trip*. Hudson's Bay Wetland
- 26 August. *Field trip*: Shelley Lagoons
- 11 October. *Meeting*: Special Club meeting on Major projects
- 24 November. *Meeting*: Subgroup meeting on the Wetland Project and Interpretive Centre
- 29 November. *Presentation*: Kayaking Adventures in BC
- 13 December. *Presentations*: Mapping Prince George's Natural Areas; backpacking in the Niut Range
- 16 December. *Field trip / Conservation*: Christmas Bird Count

## Communications

The Ncenbird listserver continued to keep subscribers aware of fauna sightings, and biweekly club emails gave updates on both club activities and a variety of local naturalist-related topics. These email communications continue to prove particularly valuable in cases such as the Snowy Owl invasion, the presence of the First Avenue Gyrfalcon, and the progress of migration. Communications were also enhanced through further development of the club website and a Facebook page, and the Club was featured a number of times in local media, particularly in connection with its wetland project. Knowledge of the Club beyond Prince George was enhanced through a major feature in the Winter 2012 *BC Nature* magazine.

Two e-guides were produced to complement the printed *Checklist of North-Central B.C. Birds: Checklist of Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians*, and *Guide to the Shelley Shorebirds*.

## Special Developments

The Hudson's Bay Wetland project was put on a firm footing, through plans to gain City Council support (received in February 2013), through discussions with City employees, and through a number of initiatives planned for, and completed in, January 2013. Club officers were well represented at all meetings of an inter-group body planning to create a nature/outdoor centre in the city, and the club played a lead role in deliberations.

## Organization

Club activities were effectively organized through the Events Planning Group, which met four times in 2012, and greatly beneficial to proceedings was having a permanent base for meetings at the Ministry of Environment building on 18th Avenue. The role and participation of Club officers were clarified through the year, but it was recognized that now that the Club was back on a firm footing, it would be wise to review the constitution and by-laws, particularly as the Club moved forward on the major wetland and nature/outdoor centre projects.

The Events Planning Group concept originated as a relatively informal means of organizing Club activities, and while this has worked well, it would be beneficial to significantly increase the number of participants, to broaden Club-member involvement, widen the source of ideas for events, and create a larger pool from which officers can be drawn.

The Events Planning Group would like to express its thanks to all trip leaders, presenters and participants for their support, without which the Club would not exist.

*Respectfully Submitted*

Clive Keen (Chair)

Anne Hogan (Secretary)

Sandra Kinsey (Treasurer)

Carole Fairhurst (BC Nature Director)

Doug Wilson (BC Fish & Wildlife Liaison)

Sandra Hepburn (Past President)