Tuesday December 5th – Presenter DAVID Hoar

David Hoar is a retired Molecular Geneticist who served on the faculties of the University of Toronto, University of Calgary, and University of British Columbia during his working career as a research scientist, teacher, and consultant. Since retirement in 1991 until 2017, David and wife Noreen spent their summers exploring the B.C. and Alaska Coasts by boat. Now they are travelling further afield, enjoying our natural world and particularly, the birds. At home in Tsawwassen, they are active members of the Delta Naturalists Casual Birding Group.

David and Noreen share their trip to the world's largest Tropical Wetland, in search of unique wildlife including the Jaguar, the Giant Anteater, the Tapir, the Giant River Otter and Marsh Deer.

Following David’s presentation, we will see two very short videos created by Jonathan Mwenifumbo for the South Delta Photo Club. One is on Bees; the other is on our Tsawwassen Marmots.
The word Pantanal is derived from the Portuguese for swamp or bog. This is the world’s largest Tropical Wetland with more than a thousand streams of water entering from both the Andes and the Cerrado (Brazilian savanna). This seasonal flood plain is home to over 4700 plant and animal species including at least 463 bird species. The seasonality of the flooding contributes to the remarkable diversity as residents must be able to tolerate The Wet and survive The Dry and it is the Paraguay River that is pivotal as the control valve for the region.

We went to the Pantanal to see its unique wildlife and, in particular, the Jaguar, the largest cat in the area. The Pantanal has its own "Big Five" of which the Jaguar is number one. In the past it has been an elusive and difficult animal to see and photograph but through the efforts of visionary people and time, some of these cats have learned to tolerate human presence and today sightings are common. To round out the "Big Five" you include the Giant Anteater, Tapir, Giant River Otter, and Marsh Deer, (all of which we saw), but for us the Hyacinth Macaw made the top list (40" "tall"). Sought by the pet trade ($5,000-$40,000), their numbers suffered severely; however, today recovery programs have made them common residents of the regions around Eco-lodges.

We will share some of our experiences in 5 different Eco-lodges, some in the forested north and others in the more open southern plains where cattle ranching is still an important way of life. Caiman Lodge in the south has developed a workable relationship run by Oncafari that has created a fully functional cooperation between ranchers, Jaguars, and Ecotourism. Such projects demonstrate how all can win and the Jaguar can have a future.

Bare-faced Curassow, male
Azara’s Capuchin  David Hoar
DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY
presents
THE PANTANAL:
A WONDROUS WETLAND
With David Hoar.
Adventurer and Photographer

At the Delta Naturalists Society’s General Meeting on Tuesday 5th December 2023
At 7.00pm at All Saints Anglican Church
4755 Arthur Drive, Ladner.

David and Noreen share their trip to the world’s largest Tropical Wetland in search of unique wildlife including the Jaguar, the Giant Anteater, the Tapir, the Giant River Otter and the Marsh Deer.

Geof Hacker

Orange-backed Troupial

Toco Toucan
UPCOMING DNS EVENTS

DNS Meeting – December 5  The Pantanal: A Wondrous Wetland. David Hoar
NOTE: This meeting is in person only, NO ZOOM.

DNS Meeting – January 2  Martin Gregus Jr. – Topic TBD
DNS Meeting – February 6  Ron Long. Topic TBD
DNS Meeting – March 5  David Simon. Topic TBD
DNS Meeting – April 2  Chris Pavsek. Topic TBD

Please find attached, my To-Date report for November 2023.

Income to Date: $3,940. (Dues $3,678)  Savings Balance: $10,185.
Expenses to Date: $2,806.  Paid up Individual memberships 60
Net Income to Date: $1,135.  Paid up Family Memberships 32
Checking Balance: $6,203.

Jim Kneesch
New signs about the new wildlife harassment law and unethical photography are up now at Boundary Bay and Brunswick and other WMAs in the south coast. They include a warning of a minimum $230 fine. They show a photo of a photographer and an owl at a distance as good, and another of a photographer chasing and flushing an eagle with a x through it.

White Rock and Surrey Naturalist Member Sharon Jones sent this informative article from The Tyee on eelgrass, its benefits, efforts to protect it and to grow more.

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 website.

Most weekly birding outings are on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. See below for meeting times and locations.

To sign up for future DNCB outings go to the signup form and put an x by your name. If your name is not already on the list, add it.

**Dec 5 & 6**
**Brunswick Point in Ladner**

Meet at 8:30 am in the new parking lot near the south end of River Road West in Ladner – past the Westham Island Bridge.
Parking is no longer allowed at the end of River Road.
The parking lot is 1 km before the end of River Rd near 30B St.

**Dec 12 & 13**
**Boundary Bay Dyke at 64th St.**
Meet at the south end of 64th St at 830 am.

**Dec 19 & 20**
**Stanley Park**
Meet at 9am below the Second Beach Swimming Pool.
Beach Avenue access has been reopened.

**Dec 26 & 27**
**Centennial Beach, Tsawwassen**
Meet at 9am in the concession/washroom parking lot.

**Jan 2 & 3**
**Serpentine Fen Dyke Trail**
Meet at 9am 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.

at the bottom with your email and cellphone number. The person with double x by their name will be the contact for that outing. Their phone number is on the signup sheet.

Reports of previous outings can be found here. Photos can be found here. Driving directions to some can be found here.

For more information email Terry Carr terrancecarr@gmail.com

**Saturday DNCB Outings**
will be added when they are scheduled.
The Delta Naturalists Society would like to give West Coast Seeds a shout-out for displaying our series of FREE nature brochures in their barn at 5300 43B St. off Arthur Drive, Ladner. Thank you for your ongoing support!

https://www.westcoastseeds.com/
Northern Pintail

Black Turnstones

Surf Scoter
“It is easy enough to make fun of birders,” writes E.L. Doctorow, one of the contributors to the second volume of the Conde Nast Traveller Book of Unforgettable Journeys.

He is on a tour of India with a group of American enthusiasts of the earth winged life and is struck by the wisdom in their curious passion.

“Birders ask only to see something. Not to shoot it, not to touch it, feed it, cage it, mess with it in any way. To see something and give it a name. That’s all. Birding celebrates non-possession. At this time in the history of a planet dammed, deforested, and drilled to its deepest dingles, isn’t this a blessed thing? It is the practice of reverence. It is knowledge for its own sake. Here are these birders traveling halfway around the world to amaze themselves.”

The best travelers – and the best writers on travel – belong to that same wandering tribe and share that same fundamental passion (if not necessarily its object). They are obsessive, wildly alert observers of what nature and man have wrought. Amazement is their Holy Grail and they come upon it ... in the most varied ways and place.

Klara Glowczewska
Editor in Chief, Conde Nast Traveler
New York City, 2012

ED. Edgar Lawrence Doctorow, 1931 – 2015, was an American novelist, editor, and professor, best known for his works of historical fiction. Among his honors are the National Book Award, three National Book Critics Circle awards, two PEN/Faulkner awards, (1990 and 2006), and the presidentially conferred National Humanities Medal.

The essay on Birdwatchers was published in Vol. 11 of the Conde Nast Traveler Book of Unforgettable Journeys and can be purchased from Amazon.

Thank you to Geoffrey Hacker for this delightful piece.
‘FASCINATING AND SADDENING’: 30 NEW SPECIES SEEN IN BATH DUE TO CHANGING CLIMATE

TheGuardian.com
Steven Morris
@stevenmorris20
Wed 22 Nov 2023 05.00 GMT


The crickets that chirp in the meadows are newcomers, as are the elegant wasp spiders and the colourful Jersey tiger moths.

A city farm in the Georgian city of Bath is the latest conservation organisation to highlight the creatures that would have been unheard of in the area before the climate emergency.

Volunteers have recorded 1,250 species on the 37-acre Bath City Farm over the last eight years and experts have been surprised and concerned to find about 30 species that have moved in or have been found there in the winter where previously they would have visited only in the summer.

Ecologist and trustee Mike Williams, who led the wildlife recording, said insects and arachnids were important indicator species that help ecologists understand the effect of a changing climate on the natural world. “Spiders are a classic example as due to their short lifespan and mobility they react to changes in weather.”

Three years ago, the wasp spider was recorded on the farm for the first time ever and is now increasingly common in the area.
“In the early 1990s we only ever saw the wasp spider on the south coast of England, in Dorset,” said Williams. “This was at the extreme north of their range because it was too cold for them. I would never have imagined then that one day they would be found as far north as Bath as we live with the realities of climate change.”

The Jersey tiger moth used to be found on the Channel Islands, but has become an increasingly common sight across the south of England, including on the farm. Other recent new arrivals include the green meshweaver spider, the ivy bee and the lesser hornet hoverfly.

Williams used to work as a professional ecology consultant for organisations such as Natural England and the National Trust. Now, as he lives next to the farm, he studies changes on his doorstep rather than nationally.

“It fascinates and saddens me,” he said. “Our wildlife surveys have shown that climate change isn’t something that will happen in the distant future. Most of the crickets you hear calling in the meadows have only been in Bath for the past 20 years or so – these are Roesel’s bush-cricket and long-winged conehead. The former is very loud and very numerous. I tell people on my nature walks around the farm that they are listening to the sound of climate change when we hear them.”
Photos by Terrance Carr

American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Great Blue Heron

River Otters
Varied Thrush

Great Horned Owl

Northern Flicker
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.

THE UNDERWORLD by Susan Casey

I wanted to share a book I just read which is beautiful in its description of the deep, but also brings up the exploitation of it. The deep is fascinating and this book not only brings the places and living things in it to life, but the author also talks about the threats to the deepest parts of the ocean and how some countries are now exploiting these places for minerals (mining), without knowing exactly what is there. It brings to mind the cutting down of the rainforests in South America without knowing the species being wiped out. I know we have enough problems on terra firma to deal with, but the author is keen to have more of a spotlight on the deep ocean. It’s noted that more money is spent to explore the moon than our own oceans. Nicki Brockamp

At the last meeting, John Gordon recommended Mrs. Moreau’s Warbler: How Birds Got Their Names by Stephen Moss. The touching love story behind the name of one of the world’s rarest birds.
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

Mike Betts  50-50 Draw Co-ordinator
Ken Borrie  Web Master
Terry Carr  Outings Co-ordinator
Audrey Coutts  Newsletter Editor makemusichappen@gmail.com
Anita Den Dikken  Environment Co-ordinator
Valerie Fuller  Social Committee
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 lead
Birds and Biodiversity Conservation  Chair Anne Murray, Glen Bodie, Nicki Brockamp
           Strategy team  Terry Carr, David Hoar, Chris McVittie

Delta Nats’ website: https://dncb.wordpress.com/
Wildlife Rescue  604-526-7275
Canadian Wildlife Services  604-666-0143
Rare Bird Sightings  bcbirdergirl@gmail.com
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/

If you see anyone harassing wildlife in the WMA’s or anywhere else, please call the BC Conservation Service at 1-877-952-7277.
In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter.

Christina Rossetti

Winter is not a season, it’s a celebration.” Anamika Mishra

“Winter is a season of recovery and preparation.”
- PAUL THEROUX
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To see his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there I some mistake.  
The only other sound’s the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And mile to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost

Wishing one and all a peaceful and happy, healthy winter season.