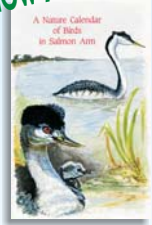


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Birds of the Shuswap Calendar
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YES, I would like to become a member of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society. Please find enclosed my cheque or money order.

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**SALMON ARM BAY
NATURE
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A Brief History of the Nature Bay Society

In the late 1980's the community of Salmon Arm began to realize the importance of the natural values of its waterfront. Most of the bay is a shallow estuary of the Salmon River. In this area water tolerant grasses feed invertebrates which nourish large numbers of first year salmon. The slower fish are an important food supply for the threatened Western Grebe and the Clark's Grebe. The mudflats are an important staging place in spring and particularly in the fall for thousands of shorebirds. Some reports have shown that first the females then the males and finally the young by instinct alone find this rich feeding place where they fatten up before their next long flight south.

In 1988 a committee was formed to promote the purchase of about forty hectares of wetland by Nature Trust BC. This committee became the Nature Bay Society headed by six appointed and six elected board members. Their first task was to ensure that four kilometres of shoreline was preserved forever. Since then the area has been enlarged by the creation of a six hectare island which was built when the marina was dredged. The society arranged for the island to be planted and sculpted, creating mounds and lagoons.

In the second phase, boardwalks were built, trails pushed through and a bird tower erected overlooking the new island where a gull colony and an osprey nest are located. Elsewhere, with the help of Ducks Unlimited, two lagoons were created. Another major task was to create and place exclusion buoys 500 metres from high water, which warn boaters of the sensitive breeding area.

Ducks Unlimited and Nature Bay Society have also worked with the First Nations Adams River Band to restore habitat on their land.

Continued on next panel...

History Continued...

In the third phase, a Nature House was set up near the band shell gazebo in Marine Park. By 2004, with regular additions to its assets, the centre has become a real attraction worthy of repeated visits. The staff can show you a video of dancing grebes, a DVD of birds of the bay, a collection of stuffed and carved birds, a book collection and a computer program with which visitors may check out birds and their songs.

In addition, the foot and cycle trail was extended to the Raven subdivision, four kilometres from the Nature House. Leashed dogs are permitted only for the first kilometre, which is as far as the sanctuary gate.

By counting birds each week, the Shuswap Naturalist Club was able to confirm a total of 230 bird species observed around the Salmon Arm Bay, an impressive total when compared with 480 species reported for the whole of British Columbia.



Photo by Ian James

Mating Dance of the Western Grebe



**SALMON ARM BAY
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**Walking Map
of
Salmon Arm
Foreshore**

www.sabnes.org

Salmon Arm foreshore Walking Map

Visit Our Website
www.sabnes.org
for an interactive version
of this map!



Shuswap
Lake



Photo by Ian James

Osprey



Photo by Ian James

Yellow Headed
Blackbird



Photo by Ian James

Blue Heron

Walking Trails from the Brighthouse Nature Centre

- Walk 1: Osprey Nest (15 Minutes Return)
- Walk 2: Christmas Island (1-2 Hours Return)
- Walk 3: McGuire Lake (30 Minutes Return)

Please leave dogs at home when on Walk 2
and on a leash for Walk 1 and Walk 3.

Please do not use Power Craft between
the shore and the dashed line.

This is a sensitive nesting habitat.
Marker buoys are in place. *Thank you.*



Please keep to the marked trails
for your safety and enjoyment.
DO enjoy the foreshore!
Thank you!
Nature Bay Society

Thank you for your contribution in our
donation box at the beginning of this trail.

