



Top left: Orange Jelly, *Dacrymyces palmatus*, usually appears late in the fall and can be found on softwood, rather than the hardwood that the yellow Witch's Butter prefers. Photo T. Theiss

Top centre: Agarikon, aka Quinine Conk as bitter; second found in the Ecological Reserve. Photo S. Harrington

Top right: Last of the dragonflies spotted in November. Photo Wendy Schneible

Centre left: Hummingbird nest usually hidden in cedars, but this was found in pine. Photo Kay Compston

Centre: Male Sooty Grouse in open forest of Mt Trematon, leading Doane and Terry up the trail. Photo T. Theiss

Centre right: Waterfall madness this December, mid island. Lots of rain this past year: annual precipitation Nanaimo: 2020-1052.9 mm; 2019-689.7 mm; 2018 1200.2 mm; 2017-1024.5 mm. Photo G. Scott

Bottom left: Yellow-tipped Coral is poisonous, found on the ground near Douglas-fir or Hemlock. Photo T. Theiss

Bottom right: 21 Barrows Goldeneye, a winter duck that nests in the interior. Photo S. Harrington

Resources

Add your sightings to help record nature's bounty:

iNaturalist homepage: www.inaturalist.org
Go to "Explore" and see what's been posted for Lasqueti.
www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=130679

To identify birds, or record the birds you see, check out eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
ebird.org Go to "Explore" to help find birds or regions of interest.

A Year on the Wild Side, nominated for BC Book Prize 2020. "A freshly designed, new edition of a funny weekly chronicle that offers a year-long, intimate view of the flora and fauna populating the west coast." Briony Penn www.brionypenn.com/ayearonthewildside

Herring and People of the North Pacific: Sustaining a Keystone Species by Thomas F. Thornton and Madonna L. Moss. The University of Washington Press. Available online at press's own website: uwapress.uw.edu/book/9780295748290/herring-and-people-of-the-north-pacific/

Events and News about Protecting Nature

As spring approaches, it's time to watch for bees and birds and more!

Bumble Bees of British Columbia. Big, Bumbly and Beleaguered: presentation by Sid Cannings. www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N0pLb6-360

Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 12 – 15. Join us in February, when the world comes together for the love of birds. Join people internationally and record through Ebird. See www.birdcount.org/ about how to participate and options for entering your bird lists.

Province acquires more land for Octopus Islands Marine Park

"Located near Quadra Island, Octopus Islands Marine Provincial Park was established in 1974 to provide opportunities for marine recreation and protect a fragile coastal western hemlock ecosystem and habitat for a variety of marine species. The size of the park has been growing with the help of the B.C. Marine Parks Forever Society, a volunteer organization that raises funds to help BC Parks acquire land for new marine parks and enhance existing ones. A recent \$100,000 donation has helped BC Parks purchase a 20-hectare island intended to be added to the 862-hectare park." (Campbell River Mirror)

Eagle Preserve at French Creek Estuary

An opportunity exists to create a 23 acre Eagle Preserve at French Creek, the 1st on Vancouver Island and one of only three in BC. The property owner is donating over 12 acres for the Preserve and will sell the remaining 5 acres for conservation. Creating the Preserve protects this rich ecosystem, older growth forest, wetlands, salmon bearing creek and abundant wildlife including 19 Species at Risk. The Save Estuary Land Society and partners are fundraising to help buy the 5 acres. For info or to donate: savefrenchcreekestuaryland.ca Email: saveestuaryland@gmail.com

Report lays out bleak picture of Northwest salmon 'teetering on the brink of extinction'

"Washington's salmon are "teetering on the brink of extinction," according to a new report. The report, which is issued every two years, shows a trend of warming waters and habitat degradation is causing trouble for its salmon runs. Ten of the 14 threatened or endangered salmon and steelhead runs in the state are not getting any better. Of those, five are "in crisis." www.knknx.org/post/report-lays-out-bleak-picture-northwest-salmon-teetering-brink-extinction