

The 2009 Summer Camp at Cinnabar Basin

by Bill Kinkaid with material from Ian Cumming, Lesley Bohm, Kate Pierce and Hugh Hamilton

IN 2009, NATURE VANCOUVER returned to Cinnabar Basin in the South Chilcotin Mountains. Two one-week camps were originally planned and were fully booked up, but due to the extreme fire hazard in the area during the first week, which had begun on July 26, the second week was cancelled. In fact the entire camp might have been over before it began because the access road led through part of the area burned by the Tyaughton Lake fire in June, but that fire abated in time for at least the first week to go ahead.

The hike into the Basin turned out to be the most gruelling part of the week. It involved a hike of eight kilometres with an elevation gain of about 900 metres. Temperatures at the time were in the mid-thirties with a humidex in the low forties. Even at the camp's elevation of 1,950 metres there was little respite from the heat. Once we were there and set up, however, we enjoyed easily accessible ridges, passes and meadows where we could wander at will, dominated by large carpets of lupines whose scent was with us almost everywhere we went.

This was the fourth VNHS/Nature Vancouver camp to be held at Cinnabar. Previous camps were held in 1988, 1994 and 2001, each time to rave reviews. A few months before the 2001 camp, the Spruce

Lake Protected Area (also known as South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park) was established as one of the final acts of the NDP government. The BC Liberals came to office with a different vision, and since then the status of the protected area has been somewhat unclear and the boundaries of the park have been drawn and redrawn. Cinnabar Basin remains within its bounds, while the 2001 camp was not affected by the Park's creation, for the 2009 camp we needed to do more legwork to get permission from BC Parks. Planning for a camp such as ours is no longer possible or justifiable in most older, more established or better-known parks, but for this area we were able to get approval from BC Parks, subject to a number of reasonable conditions which we made every effort to fulfill.

The area generally known as Cinnabar Basin is actually the headwaters of Pearson Creek, which drains into Gun Creek and thence to Carpenter Lake and the Bridge River. There is a North Cinnabar Creek in the valley to the northeast draining into Tyaughton Lake, but access to it from the camp is long and difficult.

The area accessed by our campers is only a small corner of the Spruce Lake Protected Area, which is a large mountainous wilderness of over 70,000 square kilometres, extending



Cinnabar landscape.

north and west from near Gun Lake and Tyaughton Lake, as far west as Warner Ridge and the Taseko River, and north to Big Creek Provincial Park, Relay Creek and Dash Hill. Because of the distance from population centres, the area is lightly travelled, but is known by dedicated hikers, backpackers, horse riders and mountain bikers. There are no glaciers or icefields, but the hiking and scenery are the equal of any in BC, without the crowds.

A number of trails access the area, but the main access is from Tyaughton Lake Road by two old mining roads, following Pearson Creek (Lillomer Mine) and Taylor Creek (Lucky Strike Mine), both of which are north of Cinnabar. Mining activity has long since ceased and little is left to see apart from some tailings piles and the decrepit-looking but cozy Taylor cabin, the last one left standing among the

ruins of several others. Prospecting still continues, however, and the lure of mineral wealth is a major factor in the controversial status of the Protected Area. Spruce Lake itself is a high montane lake (1,570 m elevation), and 15 km from the camp area via Eldorado Creek and Windy Pass. It is almost certainly an overnight trip on foot but is popular among mountain bikers, some whom go there and back in a day.

The Pearson Creek access road is the first leg of the Spruce Lake High Trail, a classic two or three day backpacking route linking Tyaughton Lake, Eldorado Basin and Spruce Lake. Strong hikers can make a day trip from the camp to Windy Pass, above Spruce Lake, or do a long day circuit of Eldorado Basin between Cinnabar, Taylor and Camel Passes, but most of us found adequate meadows and ridges to explore within a few kilometres of the camp.

From the camp, most hikes went either north to Camel Pass, Taylor Creek and Taylor Pass, or west over Cinnabar Pass to Eldorado Creek. The name Camel Pass is unofficial, as are most names in the area, but is obvious from the distinctive shape of a large rock formation in the pass. Depending on the source, the name Cinnabar Pass could be applied to two or three different features, but the consensus (including at least one of the local guide-outfitters' websites) led us to give it to the pass directly west of the camp and leading to Eldorado Creek.

Most of us made it at least once up to Harris Ridge (2,300 metres), the dominant ridge behind the camp, named for long time VNHS camp leader Bob Harris. Rough access routes may be possible from Camel Pass to the east or Taylor Pass to the north, but the easiest routes were either a steep pitch directly above the camp or an easy gradual walkup from Cinnabar Pass. One group tried ascending Harris Ridge from Taylor Pass but gave up after almost a kilometre, after the hike turned into a scramble at 2,190 metres. It is accessible, but this is not the easiest way up.

North from camp, Camel Pass gives access to Cinnabar and Taylor Ridges, as well as Taylor Basin and Pass and the Taylor cabin, an excellent day trip at a moderate pace. On the Saturday, the Taylor Cabin crew met around 15 – 20 friendly young mountain bikers. Some were ascending Taylor Creek, while others

were returning via the High Trail.

South from Cinnabar Pass, a couple of ridges and peaks were popular, including "Lakeview Ridge" where the lakes were visible when the forest fire smoke wasn't too thick. One Lakeview Ridge group made a nice circle tour via Cinnabar Pass, Pearson Peak, Lakeview Ridge, and then back through the meadows south of camp. This route was highly recommended as the best easy hike. On the first day, Lesley Bohm and a small group followed Hugh Hamilton up to Lakeview Ridge where they had a stunning view of the receding hills descending into Carpenter Lake, which turned out to be the last chance of seeing the lake view because of the thickening smoke from the Lillooet forest fires. This was also the flower peak — as we found out three days later — with beautiful phacelias and a steep hillside clothed in sulphur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*). There was a refreshing snow patch to temper the heat and bug nets were appreciated at the end of the ridge at lunchtime. There was an amazing view through the krummholz on the ridge and one passage above a steep gully worthy of the Alpine Club. The descent back to camp crossed swales of lupine, valerian, and senecio interrupted by river courses of pink mimulus and swamps of alpine coltsfoot and glorious green moss starred with dwarf pink fireweed (*Epilobium latifolium*).

"Limestone Knob" is an unusual limestone outcrop near the western end of Harris Ridge which was visited



Hikers at Cinnabar.

by at least two groups. The limestone outcrop route was an easy way up Harris Ridge (by-passing the outcrop itself!) and made an excellent high-level circuit back to Cinnabar Pass.

On one clear sunny day Kate Pierce and Jackie Gray set off to explore the west end of Harris Ridge, climbing up via Cinnabar Pass. Twenty minutes after they sat down for a leisurely lunch Jackie spotted a flash of lightning in the far distance. They quickly packed up and worked their way back, keeping below the higher points along the ridge, but the storm was moving so fast that by the time they reached the junction with the main ridge, 25 minutes later, it was close by. They stayed calm, sat down and took a few minutes to assess the situation. With thunder following flashes in quick succession it was time to find a safer

spot, so they climbed back up a short way to find a deeper depression, separated and hunkered down, being pelted with rain, then pea-sized hail. After about 30 minutes with their noses pressed to the ground the storm abated. During the lull a rufous hummingbird visited them, attracted by the bright jackets, and they felt that was a good omen and so took the opportunity to dash back over the open ridges, all the while pointing out safer spots should they need to hunker down again. They were very glad to be safely back in camp all in one piece. Also late in the week a small group ventured to Eldorado Mountain and made it to the 2,440 metre summit just before a lightning storm hit, while a group having lunch at the Taylor cabin watched from far below.

On the Friday, a group ascended

Camel Peak, east of Camel Pass, then followed the ridge as far east as the cirque overlooking the North Cinnabar Basin. Another less severe storm drove them off the ridge, where they descended to the High Trail, then back to camp after eight kilometres on the trail. They met a group of people on two ATVs near the top of the mine road. They had obviously passed the “No Motorized Vehicles” sign on the High Trail further below, but pleasant greetings were exchanged.

After completing a busy week as Camp Manager Hugh Hamilton oversaw the final helicopter transfers of the gear on August 2 then headed out along the High Trail for the three hour trip to the staging area with his 15 year old grandson (and Venturer scout) Parker Simpson. The first part of this trail had become very familiar to those hiking up to the Camel, or over to the Taylor Pass and cabin, or those who had made the arduous hike in on July 26. The trail initially passes through beautiful alpine meadows and crosses a number of small creeks bordered with gorgeous flowers before entering a more closed alpine forest area with some dense bush. It roughly follows the contours at an elevation of about 2,000 metres, until it reaches the old mining road where it turns sharply downhill. “We were intent on hiking out quickly, and ignored flowers, birds, or animals, so we struck out at a good pace, that is until we were about ten minutes from the camp site,” said Hugh.

Wham! A large dark body

suddenly erupted from the bush above the road near a trail bend 30 metres in front of them. Parker turned and jumped behind his octogenarian hiking partner, presumably for safety, and they both remained transfixed for a few seconds. No time for bear bangers or bear spray as the dark bear shot across the trail in front of them and dived noisily down through the bush to a gully below. Gripped and petrified by the sudden explosion of the bear from the brush so close they stood motionless without a sound. Perhaps the bear was listening for them as well?

Parker thought it looked like a black bear. Hugh replied in a whisper that it probably was! They waited and whispered while still listening for bear movement. When there was no sound of a bear moving they decided to proceed cautiously. They decided that the young scout, who had led the couple capably before the bear was disturbed, should continue to lead the way down. So, to the sound of bells, they started tentatively down the trail, but did not feel really safe until a few minutes had passed.

The next day Hugh e-mailed the Senior Park Ranger to advise him that the camp had been evacuated. He also told him about the black bear which had risen explosively out of the bush and disappeared down into a gully. The Ranger replied that he had known the area for many years and had never seen a black bear at 2,000 metres in that area. He said it was undoubtedly a grizzly!

References

- <http://www.trailventuresbc.com/scm/hi/hi.html>
Southern Chilcotin Mountains Trail Map by Trail Ventures BC, 2005
Tim Hollick-Kenyon, *"The Struggle to Protect the South Chilcotin Mountains"*.
Discovery Summer 2002, 31(1).
Maps by Bob Harris and Al Payne from the 1994 and 2001 camps
Stories by individual campers

So What Did Happen in Week Two?

by Daryl Sturdy, Lee Wright, Margaret Ostrowski, Viveka Ohman, Diane Bryden and Kate Hill

Daryl Sturdy and Lee Wright had been in Lillooet getting ready to head into Cinnabar Basin when they learned the news about the cancellation of Week Two, so they had decided to explore the Joffre Lakes on their way home. There were many biting flies on the way up but fortunately their numbers decreased considerably the further up they went. Daryl and Lee made it to the upper lake just in time to get caught in a thunderstorm. With thoughts of lightning-started fires, they started back down. Counting the seconds between flash and sound reassured them that the storm was far enough away that they were safe.

Kitty and Mike Castle generously hosted a barbecue at their North Vancouver home for 22 of the disappointed Week Two participants on Saturday, August 2. This provided an opportunity for the would-be campers to discuss ways to spend the next week and some of them found various ways to enjoy experiences similar to a week at camp but by no means comparable to the foregone week in Cinnabar

Basin. David and Elsie Foreman planned to hike up to Garibaldi Lake in a couple of days so Daryl and Lee decided to join them and Peter Cawsey also went along. It was a great day, not too hot. There were some alpine flowers still blooming, including clumps of mimulus. And once again they were accompanied by those little black flies. That day was capped off by a wonderful dinner at a pub in Squamish.

For their Plan B, Margaret Ostrowski and Chris Holmes found out that there were openings for four days of hiking (helicopter access only) with Selkirk Mountain Experience which suited them perfectly. By 6.30 AM on the Tuesday morning they were in a group vehicle in Revelstoke travelling about 40 km to the helicopter pickup point. The chalet site is located on a small hill in a high valley very near the Durrand Glacier. The chalet owners built the chalet which sleeps 20 guests, the hot shower hut, and a home for themselves on the site, and have put in all the trails. All meals were provided including fresh baking every day after hiking. The scenery was

amazing and the hiking excellent. The daily hikes were led by the owner's daughter who knows the area like the back of her hand. They had an excellent time! Margaret's description of the mountain goats in the Selkirk Mountains was published in the 2009 issue of *Discovery*, Volume 38.

Viveka Ohman had also been in Lillooet. After she returned, she decided that she really wanted to hike, so she went to Mount Baker and hiked the Hermann's Saddle and Chain Lakes trail. The hike up to the Saddle was steep but worth it for the view. One point of interest was the summit of Mount Baker. Its rocky surface was partially exposed which seemed unusual. From past experience it has always been completely covered with the ancient glacier during all seasons. Most likely this was due to the unusually hot summer but global warming might also have been a factor. Birds were not plentiful but Viveka did see a pair of ravens cavorting in the sky and a bald eagle soaring overhead. She also enjoyed the pikas scampering about the scree slopes preparing for their winter hibernation, but there were no signs of marmots even though they were once quite common in this area. Monkeyflowers were plentiful by the streams, both the pink and yellow version. Other alpine flowers, however, were already spent. Copper butterflies made a nice substitute!

Diane Bryden, with five other would-be campers, drove to Lake Chelan in Washington and took a

boat for 90 km to Stehekin, a wilderness lodge at the north end of the lake. They had a wonderful few days in blistering heat, swimming in the glacial water, biking, hiking and eating at a wonderful bakery. They were prepared to camp but after seeing the campsites they were glad there was room at the lodge even though they had to move to a different cabin every night. They were able to do most of our own cooking and enjoyed cocktail hour sitting out on the deck watching the activity on the lake. It wasn't what they thought they would be doing, but it was a good alternative for the spur of the moment!

As for Kate Hill she actually got to Cinnabar Basin on a North Shore Hikers trip — in late August! The group hiked into Cinnabar on August 28 and out again on September 1, a day earlier than planned as it started raining and it looked as though it would persist. They hiked in lovely warm weather but had bad smoke for a couple of days. They did the Eldorado Valley - Taylor Pass - Camel Pass hike on the Saturday and a ridge hike east to the mine road on the Sunday. Monday was clear and they did a great hike to the microwave tower, and saw four goats near there. There was no sign of grizzlies, the vegetation was very dry and the bears were apparently lower down near the horse camp. As they were hiking out the rain stopped and the sky cleared! Four members of the group had decided to stay in Cinnabar Basin for one more night and Kate wished she had done the same!

Plants Seen at the Nature Vancouver Camp at Cinnabar Basin, July – August 2009

compiled by Bill Kinkaid with additions by Ian Cumming and Peg Neilon

* Asterisks indicate noteworthy sightings

? Indicates that identification could not be verified

FERNS & HORSETAILS

Equisetum pratense – meadow horsetail

CLUBMOSES, MOSSES & LIVERWORTS

Lycopodium sp. – club moss

Bryum miniatum – red bryum

Cirriphyllum cirrosum – cirriphyllum
moss (Harris Ridge limestone outcrop)

GYMNOSPERMS

CYPRESS FAMILY (Cupressaceae)

Juniperus communis – common juniper

PINE FAMILY (Pinaceae)

Abies lasiocarpa – subalpine fir

Picea englemannii – Engelmann spruce

Pinus contorta var. *latifolia* – lodgepole
pine

Pinus albicaulis – whitebark pine

* *Pinus ponderosa* – ponderosa pine

* *Pseudotsuga menziesii* – Douglas-fir

ANGIOSPERMS

MONOCOTS

LILY FAMILY (Liliaceae)

Lilium columbianum – Columbia lily

* *Smilacina racemosa* – false

Solomon's-seal

Veratrum viride – false hellebore

ORCHID FAMILY (Orchidaceae)

Platanthera dilatata – white rein-orchid

RUSH FAMILY (Juncaceae)

Juncus mertensiana – Mertens' rush

DICOTS

CARROT FAMILY (Apiaceae)

Heracleum lanatum – wooly cow-parsnip

* *Osmorhiza chiloensis* – mountain
sweet-cicely

DOGBANE FAMILY (Apocynaceae)

* *Apocynum androsaemifolium* – spreading
dogbane

GINSENG FAMILY (Araliaceae)

* *Oplopanax horridum* – devil's-club

BIRCH FAMILY (Betulaceae)

* *Alnus sitchensis* (several syns.) – Sitka
alder

BORAGE FAMILY (Boraginaceae)

Myosotis alpestris – mountain

forget-me-not

MUSTARD FAMILY (Brassicaceae)

Arabis lyallii – Lyall's rockcress

Draba paysonii – Payson's draba

HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY

(Caprifoliaceae)

* *Sambucus caerulea* – blue elderberry

PINK FAMILY (Caryophyllaceae)

Moebria lateriflora (syn. *Arenaria lat-*
eriflora) – blunt-leaved sandwort

Arenaria capillaris – thread-leaved

sandwort

Silene acaulis – moss campion

Silene parryi – Parry’s campion
Stellaria longipes – long-stalked starwort

STAFF-TREE FAMILY (Celastraceae)

* *Paxistima myrsinites* – false-box

COMPOSITE FAMILY (Compositaceae)

Achillea millefolium – yarrow

Agoseris aurantiaca – orange
false-dandelion

Agoseris glauca – pale agoseris

* *Anaphalis margaritacea* – pearly
everlasting

Antennaria alpina – alpine pussytoes

Antennaria lanata – wooly pussytoes

Arnica cordifolia – heart-leaved arnica

Arnica latifolia – mountain arnica

? *Arnica mollis* – hairy arnica

Artemisia norvegica – mountain sagewort

Aster alpinus – alpine aster

* *Aster foliaceus* – leafy aster

? *Aster modestus* – great northern aster
(Eldorado Cabin)

Cirsium edule – edible thistle

Crepis nana – dwarf (alpine) hawkbeard
(Camel Pass)

Erigeron aureus – golden fleabane

? *Erigeron humilis* – arctic fleabane

Erigeron peregrinus – subalpine fleabane

Haplopappus lyallii – Lyall’s goldenweed

? *Hieracium aurantiacum* – orange
hawkweed

Hieracium gracile – slender hawkweed

* *Hieracium albiflorum* – white-flowered
hawkweed

Petasites palmatus – palmate coltsfoot

? *Petasites frigidus* – sweet coltsfoot

Senecio indecorus – rayless mountain
butterweed

Senecio triangularis – arrow-leaved
groundsel

Solidago multiradiata – northern
goldenrod

Taraxacum ceratophorum – horned
dandelion

* *Taraxacum officinale* – common
dandelion

DOGWOOD FAMILY (Cornaceae)

* *Cornus stolonifera* – red-osier dogwood

STONECROP FAMILY (Crassulaceae)

Sedum divergens – spreading stonecrop

Sedum lanceolatum – lance-leaved
stonecrop

OLEASTER FAMILY (Elaeagnaceae)

* *Shepherdia canadensis* – soopalallie

HEATH FAMILY (Ericaceae)

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi – kinnikinnick

Cassiope mertensiana – white

mountain-heather

Phyllodoce empetriformis – red

mountain-heather

Phyllodoce glanduliflora – yellow

mountain-heather

Rhododendron albiflorum – white

rhododendron

PEA FAMILY (Fabiaceae)

Lupinus arcticus – arctic lupine

Lupinus lyallii – dwarf mountain lupine
(CinnabarPass)

Trifolium repens – white clover (Eldorado
& Taylor cabins)

GENTIAN FAMILY (Gentianaceae)

Gentianella amarella – northern gentian
(Below Harris Ridge)

GERANIUM FAMILY (Geraniaceae)

* *Geranium richardsonii* – white geranium

CURRENT FAMILY (Grossulariaceae)

* *Ribes lacustre* – black gooseberry

WATERLEAF FAMILY

(Hydrophyllaceae)

Phacelia sericea – silky phacelia

EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY

(Onograceae)

? *Epilobium anagallidifolium* – alpine willowherb

Epilobium angustifolium – common fireweed

Epilobium ciliatum – purple-leaved willowherb (Eldorado cabin)

Epilobium hornemannii – Hornemann's willowherb

Epilobium latifolium – river beauty

Epilobium minutum – small-flowered willowherb

PLANTAIN FAMILY (Plantaginaceae)

Plantago major – common plantain (Eldorado & Taylor cabins)

PHLOX FAMILY (Polemoniaceae)

Phlox diffusa – spreading phlox

Polemonium pulcherrimum – showy Jacob's-ladder

BUCKWHEAT FAMILY (Polygonaceae)

Bistorta vivipara (syn. *Polygonum viviparum*) – alpine bistort

Eriogonum umbellatum – sulphur buckwheat

Oxyria digyna – mountain sorrel

? *Rumex acetosella* – sheep sorrel

PURSLANE FAMILY (Portulacaceae)

Claytonia lanceolata – western spring-beauty

WINTERGREEN FAMILY (Pyrolaceae)

* *Orthilia secunda* – one-sided wintergreen

Pyrola asarifolia – pink-flowered wintergreen (Eldorado Cabin)

BUTTERCUP FAMILY (Ranunculaceae)

Anemone occidentalis – western anemone

* *Actaea rubra* – baneberry

Aquilegia formosa – red columbine

Caltha leptosepala – alpine marsh-marigold (Eldorado Cabin)

Delphinium nuttallianum – upland larkspur

Ranunculus escholtzii – subalpine buttercup

* *Thalictrum occidentale* – western meadow-rue

ROSE FAMILY (Rosaceae)

* *Amelanchier alnifolia* – Saskatoon

* *Aruncus dioicus* – goat's-beard

Dryas octopetala – white mountain-avens

Fragaria sp. – wild strawberry

Geum macrophyllum – large-leaved avens (Eldorado Cabin)

Luetkea pectinata – partridge-foot

Potentilla diversifolia – diverse-leaved cinquefoil

Potentilla flabellifolia – fan-leaved cinquefoil

* *Rosa acicularis* – prickly rose

* *Rubus parviflora* – thimbleberry

* *Rubus idaeus* – red raspberry

* *Spirea betulifolia* – birch-leaved spirea

WILLOW FAMILY (Salicaceae)

Salix arctica – arctic willow

Salix reticulata – net-veined willow

Salix scouleriana – Scouler's willow

Salix barclayi – Barclay's willow

? *Salix barrattii* – Barratt's willow

* *Populus tremuloides* – trembling aspen

SAXIFRAGE FAMILY (Saxifragaceae)

* *Boykinia elata* – coast Boykinia

* *Mitella sp.* – mitrewort

* *Leptarrhena pyrolifolia* – leather-leaved saxifrage

Parnassia fimbriata – fringed grass-of-Parnassus

Saxifraga bronchialis – spotted saxifrage

Saxifraga lyallii – red-stemmed saxifrage

Saxifraga oppositifolia – purple mountain saxifrage

Saxifraga tolmiei – Tolmie's saxifrage

FIGWORT FAMILY (Scrophulariaceae)

Castilleja miniata – red paintbrush

Castilleja parviflora – small-flowered paintbrush

Mimulus lewisii – pink monkeyflower

Pedicularis bracteosa – bracted lousewort

Penstemon procerus – small-flowered penstemon

Veronica wormskjoldii – alpine speedwell

? *Veronica arvensis* – wall speedwell

VALERIAN FAMILY (Valerianaceae)

Valeriana sitchensis – Sitka valerian

Birds, Mammals and Other Species Identified During the 2009 Summer Camp at Cinnabar Basin

compiled by Bill Kinkaid, Adrian Grant Duff, Hugh Hamilton and Linda Koch

* Indicates noteworthy sightings

Birds Seen or Heard In Camp

*Sooty Grouse, Solitary Sandpiper, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Northern Flicker, Rufous Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Common Raven, *Gray Jay, *Clark's Nutcracker, *Mountain Chickadee, *Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Pipit, *Horned Lark, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Townsend's Warbler, *Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, *Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Chipping Sparrow, *Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak, Rosy Finch, Evening Grosbeak

Birds Seen or Heard During the Hike In or Out

"Blue" Grouse, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Common Raven, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Tanager, Dark-eyed Junco, Red Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak

Butterflies

compiled by Hugh Hamilton

Parnassia clodius?

Phycoides – field crescent

Edith's? checkerpoint

Cercyonis pegala – common wood nymph
Milbert's? Tortoiseshell
Painted lady sp.
Common / Vidler's alpine
Western Canadian swallowtail
Clouded / Orange sulphur
Pale swallowtail

Mammals

vole sp., yellow-pine chipmunk, red or Douglas squirrel, hoary marmot, pika, mule deer, coyote, black bear, grizzly bear

Other

Western toad. One small snake was seen at low elevation on the hike in, probably a young rubber boa.

Bird Species Sighted or Heard at the Smithers Camp in 2008

compiled by Bill Kinkaid, with contributions from Marian Coope, Adrian Grant Duff, Fred Hornby, Cheryl Kinkaid, Louise Koch, Dave Morris, Bill and Bev Ramey, Dave Roberts and Lee Wright

WITH A CONSIDERABLE VARIATION in the altitude of our hikes, and a two-week period in which to count, the total number of species seen or heard by campers was high at 108 species. Of these, just over half the species (55) were seen in both weeks. Week 1 saw an additional 19, for a total of 74 species. An additional 34 were seen in Week 2, for a total of 89 species.

In Week 2, a Barred or Great-horned Owl was heard in the lodge area. It was more likely to be a Barred Owl, but our host, Norbert Gust, said a neighbour had identified it as a Great-horned Owl. Mew or Ring-billed Gulls, and possibly both, were uncertain identifications due to being seen at great distances over Tyhee Lake. A dead Red-eyed Vireo was found during Week 2. Other

possibly doubtful birds were the Least Sandpiper and the Wilson's Phalarope.

Species Seen During Both Weeks

Common Loon, Mallard, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Spruce (Franklin's) Grouse*, Willow Ptarmigan, Dusky Grouse*, Rufous Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Western Woodpeewee, Alder Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Gray Jay*, Clark's Nutcracker, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark*, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow*, Barn Swallow*, Black-capped Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, American Dipper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet,