

Welcome to another season of news as we begin our 25th year of research and monitoring on East Limestone Island

Stay tuned for our bi-monthly newsletters!



Townsend's Warbler

Camp Start-up

The 25th field season began on May 1st, when staff and volunteers took advantage of the good afternoon weather and headed out from Queen Charlotte in the ELI skiff and on the *Kode Isle*. The next afternoon's high tide saw us unloading the vast quantities of gear we tend to travel with, but the work went quickly with many helpful hands! The next few sunny days were spent getting camp ready for the upcoming season.

Ancient Murrelets

The first ANMU chicks came running and bouncing down the plastic funnels on May 11 at 1:07 am. The first chick weighed 26 grams, and its companion was 24 grams. As of Wednesday night, there have been a total of 13 chicks weighed at the Cabin Cove funnels. This year we are again monitoring North Cove using an infrared camera, but so far we only have pictures of mice!



Volunteer Director Mariken, hard at work setting up a funnel trap

Project Limestone

We were excited to have our first group of students visit us for the night of May 14th. Six students from Queen Charlotte Secondary School and 3 chaperones kayaked over to the island in the evening. They got to learn all about our monitoring programs and island natural history, while also exploring the island and taking in the view from Lookout Point. The students helped us weigh and release ANMU chicks on a calm, moonlit night, and were lucky enough to see 4 chicks paddle out to sea to meet up with their parents.



Project Limestone Group from QCSS

Wildlife Trees

We are scouring the island for cavity nesting birds again this season. As of May 15th we have 11 active trees (1 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 1 Northern Flicker and 6 Red-breasted Sapsuckers) plus a raven and eagle nest. Watch for more news in the next few weeks, as we track down more of the cavity nesters who make their homes here.



The ELI raven family waiting for food

Marine Mammals



Humpback in front of Skedans

After several years with very few Humpback whale sightings in Laskeek Bay, we are now having a busy season with whales almost always visible on the horizon. They have been feeding in large groups. On one boat trip we saw large concentrations of krill, other plankton, and herring, several favorite foods of humpbacks.

Trivia Question:

How do researchers identify individual humpback whales?



Humpback in Laskeek Bay

Sea Surveys

We have had enough calm, sunny weather to complete multiple sea surveys, in which we record all species of birds seen from the boat along predetermined transects. Sea surveys at this time of year are especially exciting because we get to see many migrating species that will only be around for a short time. Some species that have been spotted in the last two weeks are Green-winged Teals, Mallards, White-winged Scoters, Red-necked Phalaropes, Surf-birds, Sooty Shearwaters, and two sightings of Tufted Puffins!

Staff and Neighbors



Viv and Ellen counting Ancient Murrelets

Jake Pattison is back for his 10th field season on Limestone as camp supervisor. Viv Pattison is back for her 3rd season as supervisor/assistant. We have a new staff member, Ellen Hunter-Perkins, from Victoria, who is joining us this year as the assistant biologist and interpreter for May. Emilee Chamberland, our first student intern, will be with us for six weeks.

We are not alone in Laskeek Bay this May, as there is a crew working on Reef Island as well. Jean-Louis Martin is here with two graduate students, Veronica Pourroy and Mathilde Schlaeflin. They are in their final year of field work for project BAMBI, a five year study on deer behavior and diet in a predator-free environment.



Limestone and Reef crew (from left to right: Jan Oord, Jake Pattison, Veronica Pourroy Jean-Louis Martin, Vivian Pattison, Mathilde Schlaeflin, Tony Gaston, Emilee Chamberland)

Thanks to our volunteers for the last two weeks!!!

Thanks to Jeremie Hyatt for transportation on the *Kode Isle*, and thanks to volunteers in town and from Reef Island, who helped with loading and unloading.

Thanks to Directors Jan Oord & Mariken Lagasse and Scientific Advisor Tony Gaston for your continued support and inspiration.

Thanks to Brad Yonkman for your constant interest and amazing amount of energy!

***There are still a few spaces left for volunteers,
so if you are interested be sure to get in touch with the office
by email (laskeek@laskeekbay.org) or by phone (250) 559-2345***

For more information please do not hesitate to contact us at our office in Queen Charlotte. Donations are very much appreciated and can be easily made through our website, any-time!

www.laskeekbay.org