

On Island

Summer is off to a wet start!

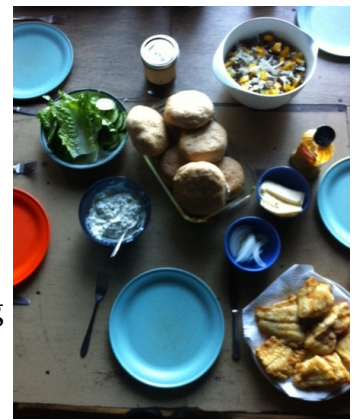
Only one wildlife tree is still active with a clutch of Hairy Woodpecker chicks. Located conveniently close to the main trail in WT #149, this group of noisy chicks will likely be fledging soon, as have the other cavity nester that we monitored through May and June. A total of 14 wildlife trees were re-recorded active this season. As usual, Red-breasted Sapsuckers were the dominant species (10 nests), followed by Hairy Woodpeckers (2), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (1), and Red-breasted Nuthatch (1). A Northern Flicker was seen entering a nest hole on multiple occasions in May but we never heard or saw any young.



Student Intern, Amy Greenwood
removing thistle

We continue to monitor Cassin's Auklet chicks in nest boxes. Two of the 7 chicks have fledged and most others are fully feathered and will be leaving soon. In one box an adult, off to a late start, is still incubating an egg.

During periods of rainy weather we have been catching up on data entry (a great excuse to stay in the warm cabin!), pulling invasive thistle plants along the main trail, and cooking some delicious meals! As well, thanks to Natasha and Shyla, the watchmen at Skedans (our neighbours to the North), for an excellent dinner and nice visit on June 14. We were surprised to see a pair of Barn Swallows building a nest at the Skedans Cabin: the first nest of this species that we have noted in the Laskeek Bay area.



Epic meal on East Limestone!

On the water

We took advantage of excellent weather conditions on June 25th and 26th to complete both nearshore and Hecate Strait seairveys. We spotted many of the usual species: A large group of Rhinoceros Auklets near Skedans, Pacific Loons in Cumshewa, and Marbled Murrelets along the shoreline transects. In Hecate we spotted a small number of Sooty Shearwaters, a pelagic species that is rare to see closer to land.



Hecate Strait Seairvey
Laskeek Bay in Background

On the water...continued



Sea lions at Reef haul out

Marine mammal sightings in the last two weeks include a group of 5 Killer Whales in Cabin Cove, and a Minke whale seen at close range from Lookout Point during a sea watch. Harbour porpoises have also been spotted on several occasions. At last count there were 317 Sea lions at the Reef haul out and 4 at Skedans Islands.

During several of the last gathering ground counts of the season, which finished June 20, we noticed Rhinoceros Auklets flying South carrying fish...Does this mean that there is a breeding colony nearby waiting to be discovered? There are no known breeding colonies in Laskeek Bay. There are also many Marbled Murrelets flying with fish, an indication that they are feeding chicks in treetops somewhere nearby on Louise Island.

Gulls and Oystercatchers

We recently visited all known gull colonies in Laskeek Bay. The largest colony in the area, Lost Island, had a total of 202 active nests when we visited on June 24. The majority of nests still had eggs, but we did see some newly hatched chicks as well. At Kingsway Rock, on June 15, we counted 77 gull nests, all still with eggs. Both Low and Reef islands had only one gull nest, and none were found in the Skedans islands or on Cumshewa island.



Bald Eagle Chick, Lost Island

In the 2010 edition of the Log we reported finding a clutch of pale blue gull eggs on Lost. Interestingly, we have now seen these blue eggs in the same location for five years in a row: apparently this particular pair is happy with the location of their nest.



Pelagic Cormorant Nest, Lost Island

We have recently begun a second round of Black Oystercatcher surveys in Laskeek Bay. Chicks have grown substantially since our last visit, and so far we have found 10 large enough to band.

While on Lost Island we had a unique opportunity to view an Eagle chick in a low nest and noted that at least one of the Peregrine Falcon chicks that we had seen on our last visit had fledged and was flying around with its parents. We counted 11 Pelagic Cormorant nests on the cliff near the gull colony.

Visitors, Volunteers and Interns

A group from the Island Roamer stopped by for a tour on June 13. Thanks to the volunteers of the past two weeks: Chris Mainella (Queen Charlotte), Sidney Clare (Masset), Seb Dalgarno (Tlell) and Gayle Grything (Seattle).

Our third Student Intern of the season, Amy Greenwood from Sidney, Australia, arrived on June 20th and will be with us for the rest of the season – including some work in the office in Queen Charlotte.

Thank you all for working hard and sharing some good laughs!

Stay tuned for the final edition of 2014 in two weeks time!



Jumping for Joy after a good week on ELI

Answer to previous trivia:

What do you see in the mystery photo?

Trivia Question:

What is an
Oystercatcher's nest called?



Black Oystercatcher's eye!

Join us this summer

**@ Skidegate Days (July 19) &
Edge of the World Music Festival
(Aug 8-10)**

Learn more about our research programs
and volunteer opportunities.

We'll have games, trivia, t-shirts and cards
for sale!



Donations are much appreciated !

They can easily be made through our website www.laskeekbay.org