

Section 3 TERRESTRIAL FAUNA

In this study, records of native terrestrial fauna on the Englishman River estuary were made as they occurred during other work that was being done; the methodology of this project did not include a systematic survey of animal life. However, some volunteers were provided with field notebooks and field guides to animal tracks and birds (Sheldon and Hartson, 1999; Alden, 1987; Peterson, 1990) to encourage this kind of record keeping, as time permitted.

Bird use of the estuary was systematically surveyed in 1979 to 1980 and 1988 to 1989 and released as a Technical Report Series by the Canadian Wildlife Service; Dawe et al. (1994) included data from other surveys and field notes that had been made up to and including 1993. For an overview of their findings, see the section in this report entitled Introduction - Terrestrial Fauna.

The Arrowsmith Naturalists (2009) recorded the numbers of all birds that they observed with binoculars on the Englishman River estuary during a monthly bird survey along a regular route, usually between the hours of 9 and 11am, from March 2005 to February 2009. Two months were not surveyed during this period due to bad weather, June 2008 and January 2009. Birds that were so far out on the Strait of Georgia that they would have required a spotting scope to identify were not counted (Maggie Little, 2009, pers. comm.) The Arrowsmith Naturalists' bird surveys began before the Caring For the Englishman River Estuary study began, but the study periods overlap, so their data is presented in Appendix 2.2. The surveyors' names are listed under Arrowsmith Naturalists in the section of this report entitled Literature Cited and References.

As part of this study in 2007 and 2008, the following animals were recorded by a biologist or by volunteers and confirmed by a biologist using descriptions, field notes, photographs and/or site visits. It should be noted that many animals were observed but not recorded in this process; from an ecological perspective, some of these animals that went unrecorded, because they are commonplace, may have far more significance to the ecology of the estuary than those rarities that get recorded. However, the time constraints, the interests and skills of the people involved and the nature of this study limited the amount of data that was recorded about some of the most common animals on the estuary. Data entry is also a bottleneck in processing data collected by volunteers; what follows is only a fraction of the data that was collected during this study:

Some of the Terrestrial Animals Observed on the Englishman River Estuary, 2007 to 2008

Invertebrates

Banana Slug	(<i>Ariolimax columbianus</i>)
Reticulate Taildropper	(<i>Prophysaon andersoni</i>)

Amphibians and Reptiles

Pacific Treefrog	(<i>Pseudacris regilla</i> formerly known as <i>Hyla regilla</i>)
Red-legged Frog	(<i>Rana aurora</i>)
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake	(<i>Thamnophis elegans</i>)
Common Garter Snake	(<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>)

Birds

Dunlin	(<i>Calidris alpina</i>)
Yellowlegs	(<i>Tringa spp.</i>)
Killdeer	(<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>)
Merlin	(<i>Falco columbarius</i>)
Peregrine Falcon	(<i>Falco peregrinus</i>),
likely Peale's Peregrine Falcon	(<i>Falco peregrinus pealei</i>)
Bald Eagle	(<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)
Northern Harrier	(<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)
Band-tailed Pigeon	(<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>)
Northwestern Crow	(<i>Corvus caurinus</i>)
Savannah Sparrows	(<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>)

Mammals

Blacktail Deer	(<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>)
aka Columbia Blacktail Deer	(<i>O. hemionus columbianus</i>)
Raccoon	(<i>Procyon lotor</i>)
Black Bear	(<i>Ursus americanus</i>)
Northern River Otter	(<i>Lontra canadensis</i>)
aka North American River Otter	
Harbour Seal	(<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)
aka Common Seal	
Deer Mouse	(<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>); a dead specimen in forest
Townsend's Vole	(<i>Microtus townsendii</i>)
Red Squirrel	(<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>)
American Beaver	(<i>Castor canadensis</i>)
Shrew	(<i>Sorex spp.</i> , either one of two closely related species: <i>Sorex vagrans</i> or <i>Sorex monticolus</i>)

Unusual Sightings

Caspian Tern	(<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)
aka <i>Sterna caspia</i>	
Golden Plover,	
likely the American Golden Plover	(<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>)
Lark Sparrow	(<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>)

The fauna of the Englishman River estuary include a number of invasive species. For information and recommendations about these, see the section in this report entitled Invasive Species - Annotated List of Some Invasive Species Observed on the Englishman River Estuary, 2007 and 2008. The Canada Goose is also discussed in this report in the section entitled Invasive Species even though some subspecies of Canada Goose could be considered native because they were recorded using the study area in small numbers on migration prior to the arrival (sometime after 1980) of hybrid forms that do not appear to migrate.

