

The

# GUMBOOT GAZETTE



Spring 2022

Volume 12, Number 1

**Scully Sockeye:  
The Numbers Are In!**

Visit us at the  
Skeena Farmers  
Market on  
Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>



**Volunteer  
Opportunities!**

**New Signage!**  
Clearwater Lakes Trail  
Twin Spruce Trail (Furlong)  
ATV and ESA

**Clothing  
Sales  
Continue**



**Fauna Feature**



Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society, 2022

**Northern Flying Squirrel**

**LWSS Memberships**

**Follow Our Social Media**



@lakelse\_watershed\_society



@Lakelse Watershed  
Stewards Society



# **Scully Sockeye Counts 2021**

**The numbers are in!**

**Using an underwater camera, 407 sockeye were counted heading upstream to spawn.**

**Of the 407 sockeye counted, there were:**

- **245 male**
- **138 female**
- **24 unknown sex**



**Some fish swim by the camera too fast and don't give us a glimpse of their face or back. This makes it difficult to identify their sex.**



# SKEENA VALLEY FARMERS MARKET



Open Saturdays from 9 to 1  
George Little Park

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting another booth with SkeenaWild at the Skeena Valley Farmers Market this summer!

Come visit us at George Little Park on **Saturday, May 14th!**

We will be selling memberships, as well as a variety of LWSS promotional items including hoodies, t-shirts, hats, and stickers.





# NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

We are adding 3 new interpretive signs to the collection on the Clearwater Lakes Trail



Photo: Grant Watson

Get ready to learn about moose, river otters, and invasive plants!



# More New Signage!

## Lakelse Freshwater Mussel Interpretive Sign



New to the  
Twin Spruce  
Trail at  
Furlong Bay  
Campground  
this summer

## ATVs and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)

To be placed  
at various  
sensitive  
locations  
around the  
watershed





# Clothing Fundraiser Continues



**Hoodie - \$45**

**T-Shirt - \$25**

**Hat - \$25**



LWSS is fundraising for our underwater camera livestream! Funds from clothing sales will allow us to stream footage from our camera online so that members of the public can watch sockeye and coho as they head upstream to spawn.

Unisex sizes S-XL available.

Email [watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com](mailto:watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com) if interested!



## **FAUNA FEATURE**

### **Northern Flying Squirrel**

*Glaucomys sabrinus*



**It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a... squirrel?**

→ Yes, some squirrels do fly (sort of)

Flying squirrels have folds of skin between their front and hind legs, allowing them to glide for 20+ meters!

### **What do they look like?**

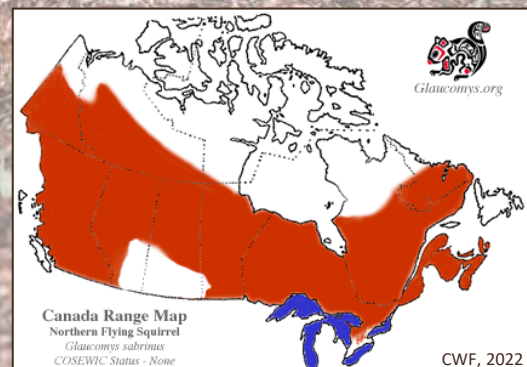
- 30 cm long, broad flattened tails (used as a rudder when gliding)
- Cinnamon brown back, white belly fur
- BIG eyes to help them see in the dark (they are most active at dusk and dawn)

### **Where do they live?**

- Throughout BC and most of Canada!
- Old-growth conifer or mixedwood forests
- Nest in snags (dead or dying trees)

### **What do they eat?**

- They are omnivores (eat plants and animals)
- Diet consists of nuts, seeds, berries, insects, tree buds, and sometimes eggs or nestlings



Have you ever seen a flying squirrel in the area? We'd love to know! [watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com](mailto:watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com)

**PROJECT IDEA: Flying Squirrel Nesting Box (next page)**



## What can you do to help?

Flying squirrel populations are threatened by habitat loss (deforestation) since they need good canopy cover to allow them to glide between trees.

If you live in a forested area, consider building a nesting box!

## PROJECT IDEA Flying Squirrel Nesting Box

### Building Tips:

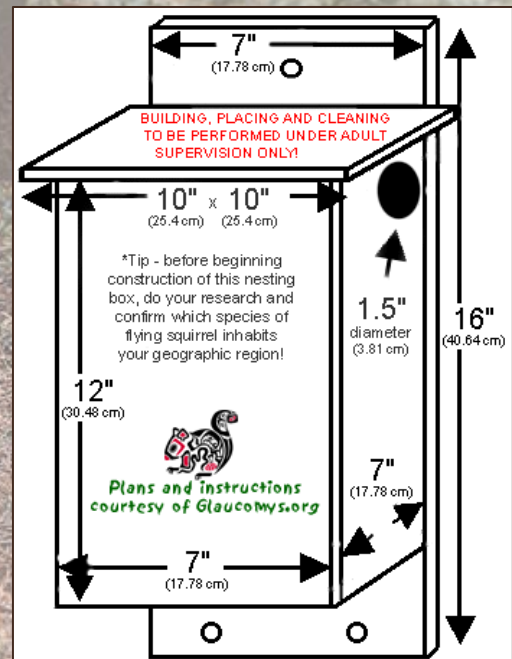
- Waterproof the top with a bead of caulking
- Drill 1/4" ventilation holes in the bottom corners and on each side
- Use natural (untreated) softwood – 3/4" to 1" thick
  - DO NOT stain or paint interior or exterior, DO NOT use plywood or chipboard
- If you use smooth wood, roughen the exterior with rasp or coarse sandpaper for better "gripability"
- Provide a hinged door for cleaning purposes (front or side) → Clean ONLY during January or February

### Placement Tips

- Place your nesting boxes...
  - In the oldest stands of coniferous or mixed forest
  - Minimum 10' (3 m) high and maximum 26' (8 m) high
  - With the access hole directed away from prevailing wind
  - So predators cannot reach box from other tree limbs
  - Near water or in wet forest areas if possible
- Install several boxes per 1/4 hectare
  - Flying squirrels need alternate nesting sites for predator and parasite avoidance
- Attract flying squirrels by placing acorns or other nuts, after dark, on a feeding platform about 5' from the ground. Cast indirect light on the platform and see if you have visitors!



CWF, 2022



R. Sweezy, 2017

Find the full instructions here on Canadian Wildlife Federation's website:  
<https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/DIY/outside/building-a-flying-squirrel.html>



# Lakelse Watershed Stewards Society

## Membership

**Become a member with LWSS!**

LWSS memberships cover the insurance for our volunteers.

The cost is \$10 per year and includes the whole family!

To become a member, please send us an email at:  
[watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com](mailto:watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com)





**We are always searching for volunteers!**

Come out and get involved with the behind-the-scenes happenings of your local watershed.

We have a variety of projects starting in May, including water quality sampling, salmon escapement, and interpretive programs!

If you want to get involved or if you have questions, feel free to email [watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com](mailto:watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com).

All opportunities are dependent on updating COVID health regulations.

We hope everyone is staying healthy, happy, and safe out there!

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

