

**Volume 13,  
Number 4**

**Winter 2023**

**The**

# **GUMBOOT GAZETTE**



**Scully Gravels  
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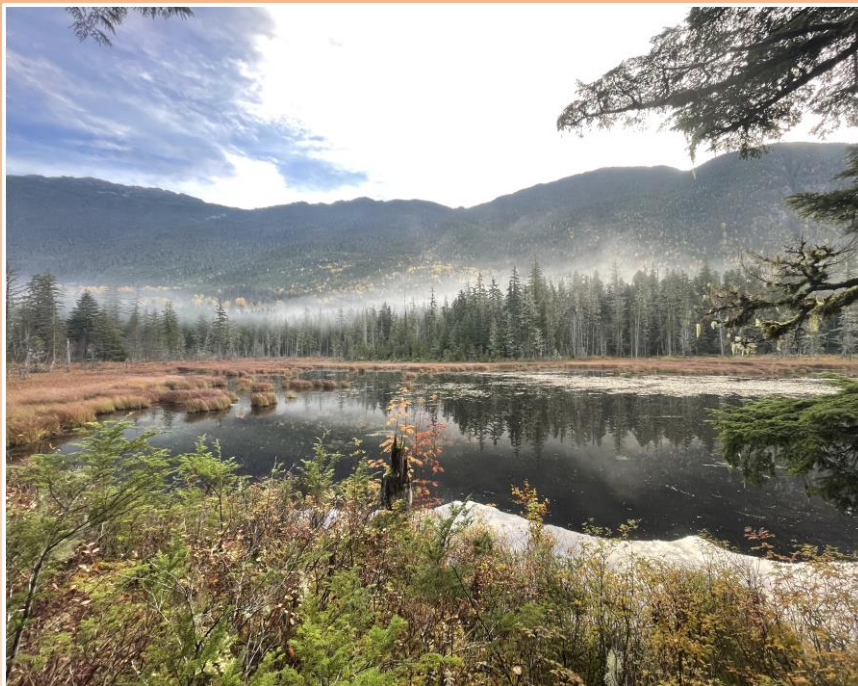
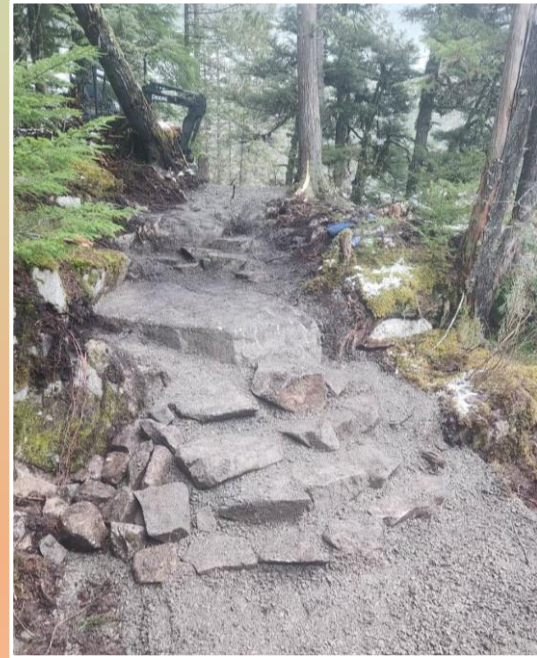
**Fauna Feature:  
Northwestern  
Salamander!**

**The Biggest Year  
Birding Contest!**



# Jackpine Wetland Interpretive Trail

- Phase 1 is almost complete!
- This includes the parking lot and first 500 m of trail to the lookout point.
- Signage is currently being designed and will be installed in the spring when work begins on Phase 2.
- Keep an eye out on our social media pages for updates on the trail's opening!



Thank you to all our 2023 project partners!



Recreation Sites  
and Trails BC



Regional District of  
**Kitimat-Stikine**

**LNG CANADA**  
Opportunity for British Columbia. Energy for the world



**Terrace**  
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coast  
mountain  
college



  
PACIFIC SALMON  
FOUNDATION



**NORTHERN**  
DEVELOPMENT

# Scully Gravels Project

Through a project partnership with the Kitsumkalum Band and DFO, 6 gravel pads were successfully installed in the Mid-Scully channel. These gravel pads provide new spawning areas for sockeye salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon, and some trout species. As many as 20 sockeye were observed on one of the new pads during a survey this fall!

Monitoring will continue on Mid-Scully in 2024 with another fry out migration project. **Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities!**



Mid-Scully project reports will be available soon on the LWSS Website



# The Biggest Year Birding Contest

## IM-PECK-ABLE Prizes

1. **\$500 cash** – winner is by draw from all submissions
2. A nice pair of **binoculars** – winner is by the greatest number of species observed
3. **LWSS clothing** prizes – top 3 photos submitted

Check out the inspiration behind this contest [here](#)

*And special thanks to Jennifer Harvey for the personalized contest illustration below!!*



## Each bird sighting must include:

- Date and time observed
- GPS coordinates of a bird's sighting
- Bird species ID
- Photo of the bird is recommended but not mandatory. If not submitting a bird photo, submit a photo of the person birdwatching.

# The Biggest Year Birding Contest

## Rules

- Contest will run from January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Must be a 2024 LWSS member (by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024) to enter – memberships are \$10 each and cover the household
- One submission per membership – minimum 10 species sightings, but the goal is to see the most species
- To become a member, email us at: [watershedcoordinator.Lakelse@gmail.com](mailto:watershedcoordinator.Lakelse@gmail.com)

## Submissions are through [iNaturalist](#)

- Create an account and join [The Biggest Year](#) project
- For each bird observation in the Lakelse Watershed ensure you submit it on the app or website and add it to The Biggest Year project
- For help getting started click [here!](#)

## Bird sightings must take place in the Lakelse watershed



# FAUNA FEATURE

## Northwestern Salamander *Ambystoma gracile*



- Occupy wetlands and adjacent moist forest habitats, especially old growth
- They shelter under decaying logs or in piles of bark, rodent burrows, or other moist hollows on the forest floor
- Reproduce in permanent ponds, slow-moving portions of creeks or rivers, or shallow lakes adjacent to the forest

### Poison

When threatened, they posture with eyes closed and tail raised, lashing their tail at the attacker to smear poison on it

The poison secreted from their head, body, and tail is strong enough to kill some small predators such as snakes and shrews but can only cause mild skin irritation in people



Often, algae will grow in the jelly layer giving each egg a greenish tint



Larvae feed on invertebrates and zooplankton (tiny aquatic animals)



Adults eat a variety of insects, spiders, worms, and slugs

# Constellations to spot on long winter nights!



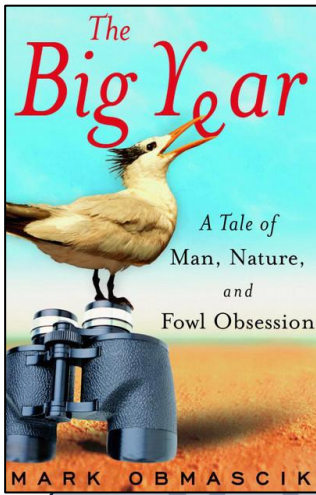
(CPRE 2021)

Cut out this [star finder](#) to see what constellations are visible throughout the year

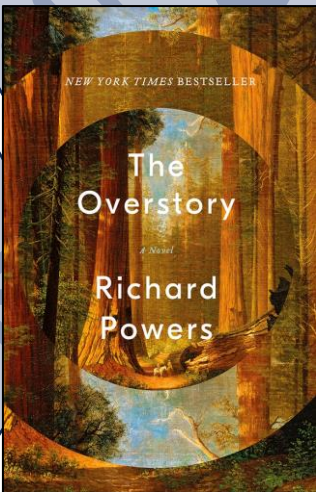
## *Viewing the Northern Lights (aurora borealis)*

- Pick a spot free of light pollution. Light will make low-intensity auroras hard to see
- Visit the [aurora forecast](#) to find out if Northern Lights are visible locally
- Check the local weather because clouds, precipitation and a full moon make it hard to see the auroras.
- Look in all directions, not only north as auroras may appear anywhere in the night sky.
- You can check the [position of the auroral oval](#) in real time.

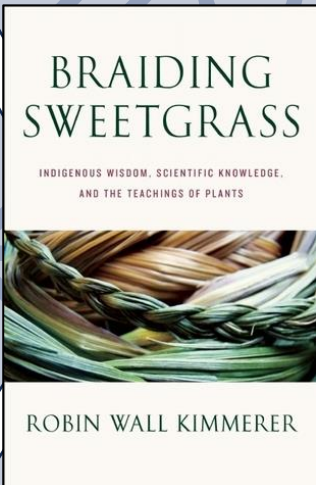
# Book Recommendations



The book that became a major motion picture! Every January 1, a quirky crowd storms out across North America for a spectacularly competitive event called a Big Year -- 365-day marathon of birdwatching. For three men in particular, 1998 would become a grueling battle for a new North American birding record. Bouncing from coast to coast on frenetic pilgrimages for once-in-a-lifetime rarities, they brave broiling deserts, bug-infested swamps, and some of the lumpiest motel mattresses known to man.



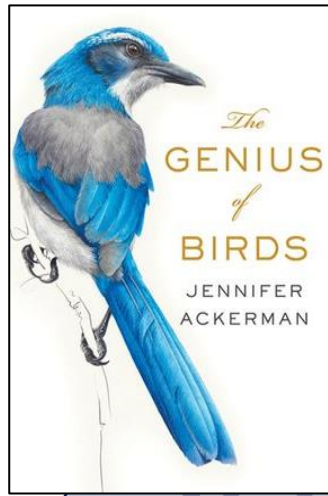
From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, Richard Powers' novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe.



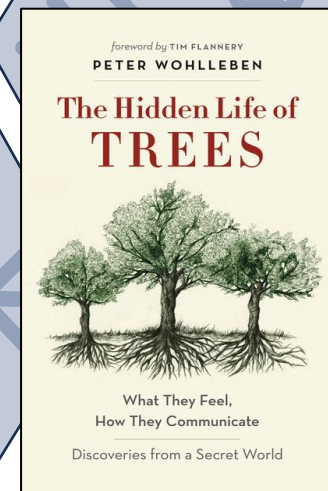
As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.



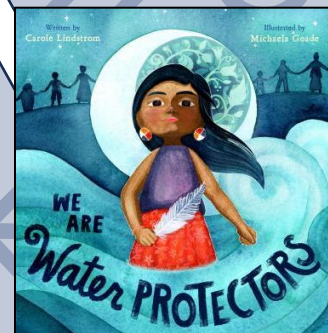
# Book Recommendations



As she travels around the world to the most cutting-edge frontiers of research, Ackerman not only tells the story of the recently uncovered genius of birds but also delves deeply into the latest findings about the bird brain itself that are shifting our view of what it means to be intelligent. At once personal yet scientific, richly informative and beautifully written, *The Genius of Birds* celebrates the triumphs of these surprising and fiercely intelligent creatures.



Peter Wohlleben explains the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in the woodland and the amazing scientific processes behind the wonders of which we are blissfully unaware. Much like human families, tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, and support them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and creating an ecosystem that mitigates the impact of extremes of heat and cold for the whole group.



Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, *We Are Water Protectors* issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption--a bold and lyrical picture book.

Water is the first medicine.  
It affects and connects us all . . .

# WINTER TREE ID

## Shape

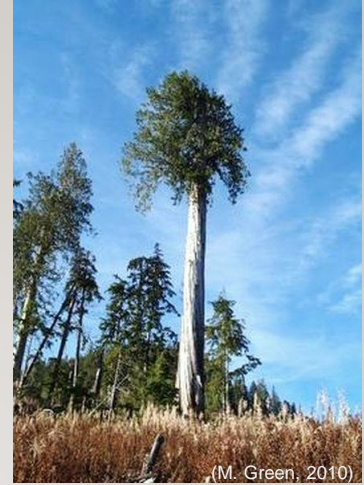
Can be a fast way to narrow down the kind of tree. If the tree is a conifer (retains its needles throughout the year) or deciduous (loses its leaves in the fall)

Black Cottonwood



(B. Danley / USFWS, 2014)

Yellow Cedar

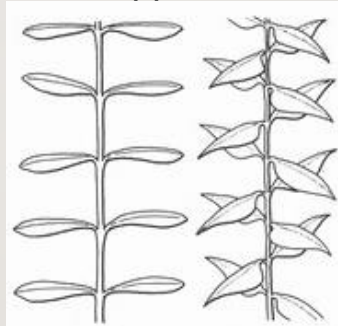


(M. Green, 2010)

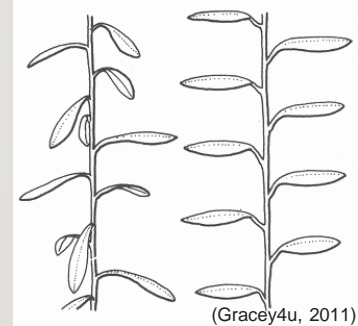
## Twigs

Leaf arrangement on the branch can be used. The buds will grow into leaves in the spring

Opposite



Alternate



(Gracey4u, 2011)

## Buds / Needles / Cones

The size, shape, and colour can be used to help identify the species

Red-osier Dogwood



(J. Sayers, 2008)

Western Hemlock



(P. Stevens, 2010)

## Bark

The texture and colour can be good distinguishing characteristics

Black Cottonwood



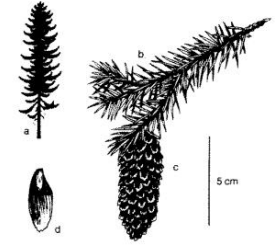
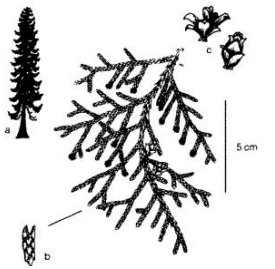

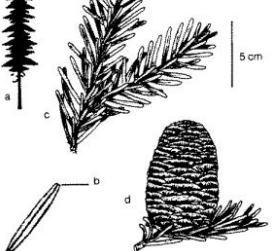
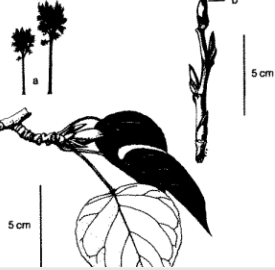

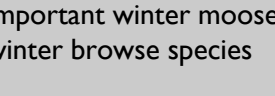
(L. Johnson, 2014)

Western Red Cedar



(M.E. Sanseverino, 2008)

# WINTER TREE ID

Species	Bark	Branches	Buds / Needles	
Sitka spruce ( <i>Picea sitchensis</i> )	Thin reddish-brown bark broken into large loose scales	Young twigs not hairy	Sharp, tending to project from all sides of branch, upper and lower surface with 2 white bands	
Western red cedar ( <i>Thuja plicata</i> )	Tearing off in long thin strips; reddish brown	Tend to spread or droop slightly and then upturn	Scale-leaved, partly overlapping in shingled arrangement	
Yellow cedar ( <i>Chamaecyparis notkatensis</i> )	Scaly when young, not tearing off in long strips; greyish brown	Spreading, drooping, somewhat flattened	Bluish-green, tipped with sharp rigid point, partly overlapping in arrangement	
Pacific silver fir ( <i>Abies amabilis</i> )	Light gray bark becoming scaly and grooved with age	Flattened spray-like	Shiny, dark green above, two silvery bands below	
Black cottonwood ( <i>Populus balsamifera trichocarpa</i> )	Old bark deeply grooved, dark grey	Alternate branching. Young shoots have angled edges	Slender, long-pointed, sticky buds	
Red alder ( <i>Alnus rubra</i> )	Smooth, with age separates into irregular flat plates. Light grey.	Alternate branching. Hairy when young, becoming dark red	Green, stalked and club-shaped	
Red-osier dogwood ( <i>Cornus sericea</i> )	Bright red bark	Opposite branching.	Buds are thin and elongated - have the appearance of devil's horns.	

# Clothing and Card Sales



Keep warm this winter with a cozy LWSS hoodie!

Or if you're eagerly awaiting summer to return, opt for an LWSS t-shirt or hat

Send a greeting card featuring local birds and wildlife

**Hoodies – \$45**

**T-Shirts – \$25**

**Hats – \$25**

**Greeting  
Cards – \$5**



**UNISEX SIZES S-2XL  
AVAILABLE**

**Funds raised support your local watershed  
projects and programs**

If interested, email: [watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com](mailto:watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com)

# Stay in Touch!



- **Visit our website:**



**[www.lakelsewatershedsociety.com/](http://www.lakelsewatershedsociety.com/)**

- **Follow us on social media:**



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**Instagram : @lakelse\_watershed\_society\_**

- **Reach us by email at:**



**[watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com](mailto:watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com)**

***We're always looking for neat photos of the Lakelse Watershed to feature on our pages, send them along!***