

Comox Valley Conservation History Tour , Friday May 13th
1:30 to 5:00 approximately



Red-Wing Black Bird by Allan Brooks

At the turn of the century the Comox Valley and Vernon were considered to be BC's birding "hotspots". The valley brought together some of Canada's greatest birdmen and conservationists between the two world wars, who would chart BC's environmental future.

Most notable among the conservationists who came to live here were Allan Brooks, Hamilton Mack Laing, Ronal McDonald Stewart and Theed Pearse. Theed Pearse would go on to be a founding member of CVN, and Laing a generous benefactor and inspiration for all.

On his death, Laing left a generous estate (Mack Laing Park), together with his house "to be use as a natural history museum" for public benefit. In August 2015, Comox demolished one of his heritage homes in spite of protests from Heritage BC and The National Heritage Trust. This tour is an opportunity to understand the historical roots of BC's environmental movement.

Allan Brooks (1869 to 1946) was a well-known bird artist and ornithologist. He was born in India, educated in England and lived in Ontario before moving to Chilliwack in 1887 and Comox after 1918. He organized the first Comox Valley Christmas Bird Count in 1921.

Ornithologist and naturalist writer Hamilton Mack Laing (1883 to 1982) moved to the Comox Valley in 1922. He was close friends with Allan Brooks and Percy Taverner. He was a writer, an artist, and greatest collected specimens collector in North America, having collected for the Smithsonian and the National Museum of Canada.

There will be no charge, and a car pool will be available. The site has dirt pathways, so is not wheel chair friendly. The trip will likely accommodate 16 people max. Loys' biography is on the website. Full details are forthcoming.

Websites with additional information are on the next page.

Allan Brooks

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_Brooks

Allan Brooks Natuire Centre, Vernon <http://www.abnc.ca/>

H. Mack Laing

<http://macklaingsociety.ca/about-mack-laing/>

[http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires de chez nous-community memories/pm v2.php?id=record detail&fl=0&lg=English&ex=00000340](http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires_de_chez_nous-community_memories/pm_v2.php?id=record_detail&fl=0&lg=English&ex=00000340)

http://www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/knowing_nature/2008/mack_laing.html