

An Old-School Naturalist

Glenn Roderick Ryder
(1938-2013)



Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies



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Northern Pintail drake and hen. Painting by Glenn R. Ryder, 9 years old.

R. Wayne Campbell
Phillip S. Henderson

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FROM THE EDITORS

A Fitting Tribute

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

The Summer Day by Mary Oliver

Some people are born with exceptional talents and are privileged to have an innate sense of what they want to do with their life at an early age. This intense desire usually never wanes but the challenge is to translate the yearning into reality in advancing years. Glenn Roderick Ryder's early life was unsettling but by age 5 he was already a student of nature. He convinced his older brother, and his surrogate parents, to transcribe his daily observations into a notebook so he could study them when he "grew up." For 70 years, he remained faithful to his passion for wildlife observation and recording. Part of Glenn's legacy is recorded in 44 linear feet (13.4 m) of detailed and descriptive field notes – unparalleled for any naturalist in British Columbia and possibly unequaled elsewhere.

People who met Glenn knew he was unique and, although he could be social, his desire was for time alone in the forests, mountains, fields, and marshes. He was patient in nature and discovered some of its fascinating secrets by simply waiting, watching, and wondering. For example, while searching old dumps in winter for historic relics, Glenn recorded the number and kinds of hibernating salamanders found in old bottles and cans. Some of these discoveries were new

distributional and behavioural records for Long-toed Salamander in British Columbia.

The world outdoors was Glenn's life and he carefully documented what he saw and encountered. He was also the consummate collector. He amassed hundreds of thousands of written records of living mushrooms, plants, insects, snails, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals – starting in 1942. He had also acquired significant collections of old glass bottles from historic dumps, arrowheads, military buttons, beads from middens, fossils found in road cuts, glass insulators from telephone poles, postage stamps, and reference photographs for his artwork. He even saved a complete collection of newspaper clippings of Mark Trail's comic strip that centered on ecological topics. Glenn's extensive library was his life blood.

This memorial issue of *Wildlife Afield* provides a glimpse into the life and record of an extraordinary individual, who, as soon as he could walk, ventured outdoors and spent as much time as life would permit absorbed in nature. Glenn was the consummate naturalist and with his death comes the end of an era for field natural history in British Columbia.

The mountains are calling and I must go.

The Life and letters of John Muir by W.F. Badè

Glenn was born on January 31, 1938 and died on October 2, 2013. He requested that his ashes be sprinkled on "Cougar Bluff", a wilderness ledge on Sumas Mountain in the central Fraser River valley, where Glenn shared many hours with Peregrine Falcons, Mountain Lions, and other wild critters.

R. Wayne Campbell, Spencer G. Sealy and Phillip S. Henderson



● Glenn once told a friend, “This life is mine and I choose to spend a great deal of it walking in the woods as part of nature.” Wood Duck Lake, Langley, BC, September 1, 2005. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson.*



An Old-School Naturalist – Glenn Roderick Ryder (1938-2013)

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Introduction

Glenn Ryder was born a naturalist and he dedicated his life to the study of nature. It was a deep-rooted passion he could not shake and it dominated his life for 75 years. Although many of the great naturalists like John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and Freeman Tilden were better educated and more eloquent, none made the personal commitment to explore and document so thoroughly their discoveries of the natural world. Since he was a toddler, Glenn always “had to know” and he patiently and painstakingly spent the necessary time to find out. He checked the contents of birds’ nests whether they were deep in a tree cavity or 35 m up in a snag and spent hours watching families of Pacific Water Shrews as they went about their frantic business of feeding in beaver ponds and creeks.

Many of us have contemplated and asked ourselves “What has become of the great naturalists?” This is a story and record of natural history in British Columbia as seen through the life, observations, and discoveries of the province’s naturalist extraordinaire. We owe Glenn a debt of gratitude for his commitment to document his natural history discoveries so we can better understand the natural environment in British Columbia.

My love of natural science has been steady and ardent. This pure love has, however, been much aided by the ambition to be esteemed by my fellow naturalists.

The Autobiography of Charles Darwin, 1809-1882



● Throughout his life Glenn’s credo was simple, “It’s not how you look – it is what you see and record.” Most naturalists would look at this male Northern Flicker at its nest and simply record its presence. Naturalists, like Glenn, however, took the extra time to sex the bird and check the contents of the nest, count the eggs or young, age the nestlings, watch the bird’s behavior, identify the tree and measure its diameter. This value-added information separated Glenn from others and established him as one of the province’s great naturalists. *Drawing by Glenn R. Ryder.*

The life of the traditional naturalist is filled with discovery, uncertainty, sacrifices, and loneliness but it can be immensely fulfilling. On December 31, 1970, only 28 days before his 33rd birthday, Glenn briefly reflected on his life to date.

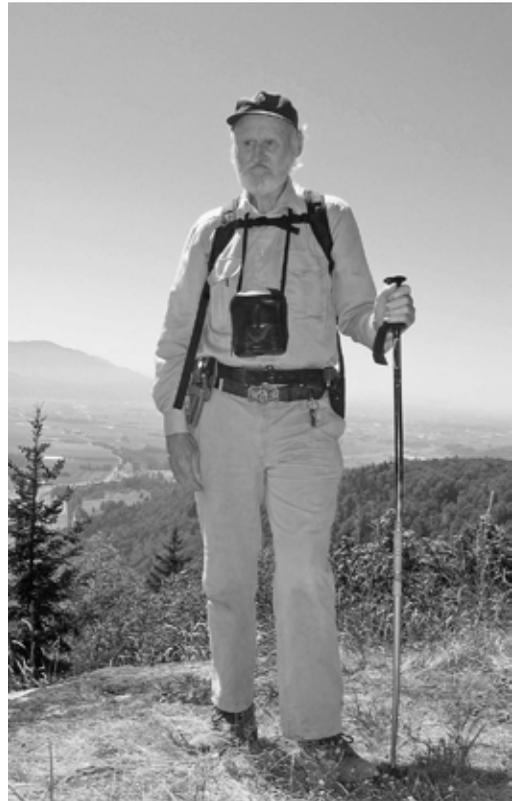
Here I sit at 12.00 midnight of the New Year sorting over my Photo slides and Drinking some wine and Listening to C.K.L.G. as everyone is Bringing in the New Year in their own way. I am hoping that 1971 will be Better than 1970.

In August 1971, Glenn was transferred from his warden position at Stum Lake to Wells Gray Park where he would spend the rest of the summer finishing his wildlife report for the British Columbia Parks Branch.¹ He recorded his thoughts upon arriving on the 16th at a “Big Construction Camp”:

This is my first day in the Camp had a good supper with many people I am like a Hermit would much rather eat a small silent supper than a Big loud Supper with these noisy Construction Camp workers. Who knows what to-morrow will Bring?

Despite periods of loneliness, Glenn continued his studies for another 42 years with many rewards along the way. He started most days by recording wildlife observations that over his 75 years would evolve to become a permanent and invaluable ecological record. This student of natural history had a deep and focused passion for the natural world but over time the sense of one’s own value or worth as a person began to creep into his mind. Glenn was a traditional naturalist, the last of his kind, but he grappled for acceptance in his chosen path in life, as all great naturalists do!

Glenn’s childhood was unsettled, and perhaps Nature was an escape for the many challenges he encountered. He lived in orphanages and foster homes with surrogate parents for all of his early life and attended school only when farm chores had been completed and nature wasn’t more alluring. He did not have the privilege of mentors or encouragement from friends to help guide him. He essentially was alone in the wilderness. He never had a family or a steady paying job so he put his energy into keeping notes.



● On August 16, 1954, Glenn and his brother Donald camped and explored Sumas Mountain for the first time. Glenn was so impressed with the diversity of plant and animal life, the peaceful surroundings, and the view of the Fraser River valley from the top that he decided to make the idyllic location his personal amphitheater for the next 59 years. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, August 5, 2005.*

Before he could write, Glenn was identifying animals and having his brother or foster parents record what he observed. He went on to keep a near daily diary for 72 years that was filled with personal activities for the day as well as detailed wildlife and nature notes and sketches. It is not only a rare and valuable permanent record of his life as it unfolded, but these notes clearly document changes in numbers and distribution for a host of plant and animal species in British Columbia.



● Unique to Glenn's field notes are numerous sketches of discoveries and incidents like these Black Swifts flying over Tamarack Lake, near Skookumchuck in the East Kootenay region of British Columbia, on July 24, 1976.

Glenn was self-taught and educated. While he attended a one-room primary school for four years in Celista on the north shore of Shuswap Lake he spent more time afield than in the classroom. He may have completed some courses in different years but never finished all of the requirements for the four years. He did learn to read and write but never basic grammar. Glenn's biological parents knew he was not attending school regularly and sent him a dictionary so he could learn to spell words correctly.

Glenn noticed that in the natural world things were often quite orderly, timed to certain periods of a year, and each plant and animal did the best it could to survive. Glenn used many of his outdoor experiences and observations to develop personal skills:

June 3, 1942 (Okanagan Lake) - ...to Cameron's Beach the spot has nice sand to Lay in. We go swimming here. I only no the Dog paddle but I do most of my swimming under water and hold my Breath. I swim by using the frog kick I copied frogs I have seen in the Clear Ponds. This type of swimming works...I swim out over the Deep green waters here but it scares me so I go back to the shallower waters...

In his late teens, Glenn moved from his home on a homestead in Celista in the south-central interior of British Columbia to the central Fraser River valley on the southwest mainland coast where he spent the rest of his life. He became absorbed in new places to explore and wildlife to be studied. During this

60-year period, Glenn developed his well-earned reputation as the “pre-eminent field naturalist in British Columbia.”² His chosen career was one of nature exploration, discovery, and study. Financial compensation was poor to non-existent but somehow he survived. He was very independent and made decisions that were right for him.

As he became better known in the naturalist community, and started corresponding with professionals and formal funding organizations, Glenn was constantly at a loss for a title to describe his career. It changed over the years depending on the immediate situation but included, “Amateur Archaeologist”, “British Columbia Wildlife Patrol Naturalist”, “British Columbia Wildlife Recorder”, “Exploratory Naturalist”, “Field Biologist”, “Field Naturalist”, “Field Ornithologist”, “Naturalist”, “Patrol Field Naturalist”, “Ryder Wildlife Research”, and “Wildlife Warden”. It was especially bothersome to Glenn when people who had graduation diplomas or degrees (and titles) were being paid for important wildlife work with very little field experience. In the latter years of his life “Field Naturalist” was in vogue, and well respected, and that appellation is how he wanted to be known.



● In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Glenn usually placed an emblem on his backpack, as well as on the dashboard of his car, to identify himself as a wildlife recorder. Occasionally he placed his insignias on various structures, like the viewing tower at Burnaby Lake, with contact information.

Glenn became an accomplished artist and sold many of his paintings and sketches of wildlife to friends. He was employed for four continuous summers by British Columbia Parks Branch to protect the only nesting colony of American White Pelicans in the province³ and infrequently found work as a consulting naturalist. For much of his life, Glenn depended on family and friends for accommodation and frequently for transportation to events, meetings, volunteer bird surveys, and exploratory nature forays. Many friends often picked him up for a day’s outing to enjoy sharing his vast experience.



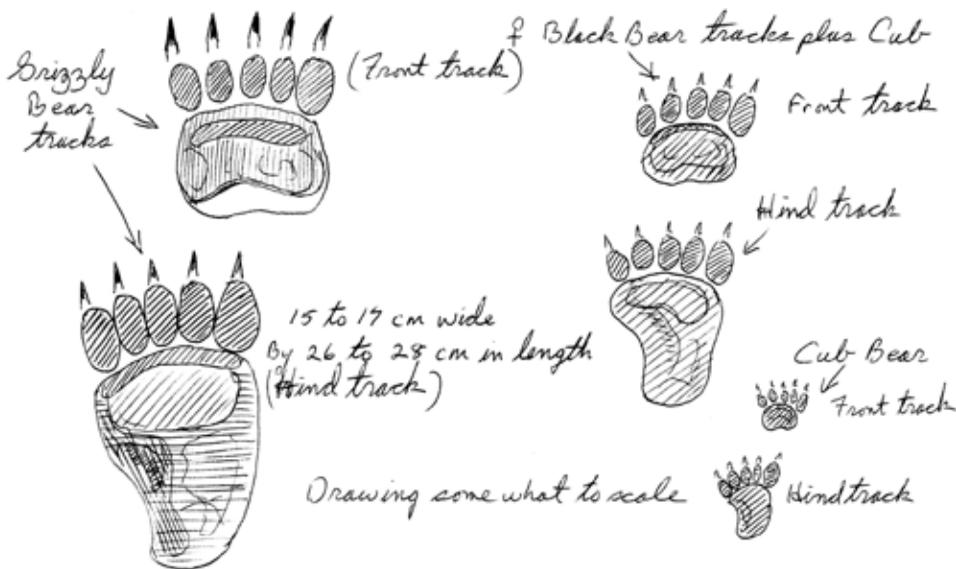
● Glenn was always fully prepared for a day of “wildlife checking.” His vest pockets were filled with small mirrors, string, duct tape, bandages, a compass, matches, toilet paper, water, and other necessities required to enjoy time afield and make it productive. In this photo, he is checking an American Robin nest with a telescopic mirror pole while Linda Van Damme counts the eggs with her binoculars. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Chapman Creek, BC, May 24, 2001.*

Glenn never had a savings account and frequently his chequing account was depleted and he had to borrow money from friends to tide him over. As soon as money came in he spent most of it on transportation and equipment to enhance his outdoor explorations and documentation. These expenses included bicycles, motorcycles, cars, vehicle gas and repairs, bus, train and taxi costs, motor boat rentals to explore islands and shores in lakes, and infrequently motel charges. When he could afford it, Glenn upgraded his camping gear, photographic equipment, field optics, nest-searching gadgets, and recording paraphernalia. He often made his clothes last by mending tears. His hiking boots, however, were always a priority.

Glenn became an expert on the flora and fauna of Celista, Scotch Creek, Sumas Mountain, Green Timbers Urban Forest (Fleetwood), Campbell Valley Regional Park (Langley), Tamarack Lake, and Stum Lake. His long-term wildlife observations and notes for these little-known and sometimes threatened regions are ground-breaking.

A day in the field with him meant that one's list would be increased significantly. Glenn was adept at interpreting animal signs and identifying bird songs and his notes always included details for these unseen animals, and often were accompanied by sketches. Especially useful was value-added information that was obtained for animals from their tracks, pellets, scats, shrub snippings, gnawings, climbing marks, calls, den sites, egg shells, egg masses, feathers, and even hairs left behind from foraging and rubbing.

Glenn never strived for fame but he desperately wanted to be recognized for his talents as a naturalist. And he was! He was one of only 28 "Observer-Naturalists" highlighted in the definitive four-volume set *The Birds of British Columbia*.⁴ Local natural history clubs honoured him for his knowledge of natural history. He was given an honorary life member in both the Langley Field Naturalists and the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club (formerly the Central Valley Naturalists). Local natural history clubs honoured him for his knowledge of natural history. He



● Some of Glenn's observations in his notes for Black Bear, and especially Grizzly Bear, were from tracks he identified such as these recorded at Stum Lake on June 12, 1978. In some cases, he even identified the tracks to the sex and age of the bear. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder.*

also authored or co-authored many articles published in the peer-reviewed journal *Wildlife Afield*, which introduced his name to the scientific community.^{5,6} The papers have been downloaded (www.wildlifebc.org) hundreds of times due to the subject and natural history content. In 2012, he received the Steve Cannings Award for contributions to ornithology from the British Columbia Field Ornithologists.

This tribute is not intended to be a comprehensive chronological biography of Glenn but rather a record of his *persona* and accomplishments using his extensive field diaries as the main source of information. A future issue of *Wildlife Afield* will contain articles and information extracted from Glenn's notes written by his friends as well as ornithologists and mammalogists.

Glenn had a small collection of notable quotes he gleaned from books, magazines (especially *Reader's Digest*), periodicals, and newspapers. Most were related to wildlife, conservation, and saving the environment but, surprisingly, a few were philosophical in nature and these were inspirational to Glenn. It makes one wonder whether someday Glenn was not thinking about writing his own autobiography. Each of the major headings below is introduced by an appropriate quote with its source.

Glenn enjoyed music and had amassed hundreds of tapes that he often played when he was painting. One of his favourite songs was *Que Sera, Sera*, a popular tune that has been featured in many films and TV shows. The first two lines of the chorus appeared frequently on the inside cover of his notebooks he took into the field. They translated to mean "Whatever will be, will be, the future's not ours to see." He was a realist.

Text extracted from Glenn's notes included below in italics follows word for word and letter for letter his written record. At times it is not easy to read quickly, but it accurately reflects the fascinating yet challenging life of a man who never completed primary education. All of the diagrams, sketches, and drawings used in this tribute have been scanned directly from Glenn's original field notes.

THE EARLY YEARS (1938-1954)

*When we are children we seldom think of the future.
This innocence leaves us free to enjoy ourselves
as few adults can.
The day we fret about the future is the day we
leave our childhood behind.*

Patrick Rothfuss, *The Name of the Wind*, 2007

Naturalist Glenn Roderick Ryder was born on January 31, 1938 in Vancouver, British Columbia. His father, Delbert Grovner Boyd Ryder, died in 1971 in Surrey, BC, at age 75 and his mother, Elizabeth Patterson (*nee* McDonald), died in 1995 in Duncan, BC, at age 91. Glenn was the youngest of three children. His brother Donald was four years older and his sister Helen was the oldest. Donald died in 1964 in Vancouver, BC, at age 27. Glenn and his sister had been estranged for decades and her present status is unknown.



● Glenn's parents, Delbert Grovner Boyd Ryder (left) and Elizabeth Ryder (Patterson), in Vancouver, BC. Circa 1930s.



● Glenn's brother Donald (and sister Helen) on the old "Thrift Farm" in White Rock, BC, in 1940. Glenn (middle) is 2½ years old. Before his third birthday Glenn was already matching birds seen during walks with his mother to pictures in bird books. *Photo by Elizabeth Ryder (Patterson).*

Childhood is a precious time when a child usually lives in a permanent family and has time to play and be in school. With love, the person grows strong into adulthood, usually free from fear and abuse. Glenn's childhood was spent in orphanages and foster homes. Home was always temporary and separation from parents and siblings was commonplace.

The Thrift Farm in White Rock (1938-1941)

Glenn was raised on the old "Thrift Farm" in White Rock, BC, and when he was a year old the family visited Nanoose Bay on Vancouver Island while his father looked for work. The visit was short, but the following year the family moved to Nanaimo where his father got work at Jingle Pot Coal Mines. The only accommodation they could find was an old house on the company's property, with broken

windows and no door. The mine operated day and night and "the ground would shake the house". When explosions were set underground "the house would really shake." Glenn's most vivid memory was when he was two years old:

During the days at this old House living here I remember the Deer coming in by my Crib and licking my feet and toes a Doe Deer. We had lots of Deer mice running about also plus Raccoons.

One day the owner of the mine showed up and asked the Ryder family to move because the site was unsafe. In late summer [1939] they moved back to White Rock where Glenn enjoyed "walks across the sand when the tide was out." Glenn's parents would show him birds and tell him about them.

At home I had a Pouch with three Bird Books on the Birds of AM [America]. The Red Book the Blue Book and the Green Book of Birds all three came with the belt Pouch to carry them with me. Mom had found them in a thrift store in White Rock for me. Copyright 1931. I carried these Books at age three to learn my Birds.

In the early 1930s, or earlier, Glenn's father worked at the fish hatchery at the north end of Pitt Lake. He suffered from problems he picked up in the First World War and consequently could not hold a job very long. In 1941 Glenn's father left their rented house in White Rock, leaving the family to fend for themselves.

We had no food in the House and we had cooked and eaten all of our chickens and was eating the wheat and other chicken food... My Mom fell to the House floor and had fainted from the lack of food as she was giving It all to us kids. I do not know where our Dad was at the time.

The next day the people who lived near us new we were having a rough time so they brought us a Box of mixed vegetables. My Sister Helen had told them what had happened.



● During the 1930s, Glenn's father, Delbert (right, standing), worked and lived at the Lloyd's Fish Hatchery, a remote site in the upper Pitt Lake area, in the Lower Mainland. He visited his family in White Rock only as time permitted.

The Orphanage in Marpole (1941-1942)

The family incident, which occurred in late October, must have been reported to government officials because on November 1, 1941 Glenn recalled:

...a Big Car drove into the Farmland...we were resting at the time. It was the Government welfare people. They talked with my Mom for a while there was some sort of an argument between my Mom and the welfare people And the welfare people said It was within their powers to remove the kids from the House for their health and safety to a place where they will be looked after properly. So Mom I guess had No choice in this matter. They took all three of us kids out to the Car. I was 3-½ years old...We all waived to our Mom as the Car drove off.

Glenn recalled later the same day:

We headed for Vancouver B.C. to Marpole B.C. area My sister was taken to a Home first off and then my Brother went to a home in Marpole B.C. and I went to a Big old Orphanage in Marpole B.C. I did not like this place right off. As soon as I got into this Building It was full of Noisy kids of all ages It seems with No manners. The owners would just let them run about the place and into everything. The first night here I was with three other kids and we got locked into our Bedroom at night with No Bathroom in it just a window some 2 or more levels up. If we had to go it was out the window. There was no water to Drink so we all Drank from the Hot water Heat Register at the wall. It has a small tap on one end and we would Drink this warmish not Hot Bad tasting water.

Living, eating, playing, sleeping, and lack of personal attention continued and were constant sources of distress for Glenn. Holidays such as Christmas were never celebrated. Finding enough food to eat was always an issue. Glenn remembered an incident from November 1, 1941:

The Orphanage was still a Hell of a place to live at. I got into trouble for helping myself to some food. So I was punished. No supper. So I walked about the

Various rooms of the Building and found a Box of wax Crayons so I chewed them up and ate them as a food as I was just that Hungry they did not make me sick so I guess It was like a food item.

Glenn stayed at the orphanage until April 17, 1942, without any celebrations of his fourth birthday on January 31. Earlier, on October 31, 1941 on Halloween night, he had a harrowing and unforgettable experience that involved a group of older boys who knew how to sneak out of the orphanage.

They said they have some sort of a game and wanted me to go with them so they asked me to come along I said sure anything to get out of this Building... They took me several blocks away and we ended up at a Abandon old Church...Then the older boy took me into the church basement and tied me up in the Closet. He chained me to the steel closet rail...and put Tape over my mouth so I would be silent...also I cannot move about...tells me this is part of the game. I am on the Cold Cement floor...soon it was Pitch Black...Then something brushed against me...it was a group of Raccoons prowling the Basement.

I cried myself to sleep I guess, the night was cold as I did not have a coat or anything to keep warm. I wake up in the early morning and I hear people some place near the old Church. They are calling back and forth outside...I could not call back with the tape on my Mouth... Then a man came to the Closet and he Called out to the other search people I have found him...the man who found me was the Policeman I had seen before when the kids had taken all my clothes off and pushed me over the stone wall a few months ago. This Policeman cut the chains off plus the Padlocks and give me a Blanket over me then another searcher Brought some Hot Coco for me to warm up...The Police man said I Hope nothing more happens to you at this place.

The uncertainty of not knowing from day to day what would happen in the orphanage and what was being planned for Glenn, even as a four-year old, was unsettling.

I was in this Orphanage for some 168 days of misery and I thought I could be stuck here the rest

of my Days. Then on April 17th 1942 the people at the Orphanage came to me and said there is some people at the office to see you. I thought It was likely my Mom and Dad but it was not. It was the Welfare people here to see me they told me they were taking me out of this place as they had found a place for me in another Foster home up in Penticton B.C. that is all they said to me.

The traumatic experience in the orphanage surfaced many times in Glenn's later life but he rarely talked about it and when he did it was never in a negative way towards either the cruel boys or the people who operated it. Glenn once suggested that this incident may have contributed to his need for open spaces in the out-of-doors without being accountable to anyone but himself.

The First Foster Home in Penticton (1942)

Without prior notice, and only "the clothes on his back" Glenn got into the back seat of a big car to start the trip to his new foster home in Penticton. To Glenn's surprise, his brother Donald was also in the back seat and was going to the same place. I "gave him a big hug he was happy to see me." The welfare people said, "...do not to get used to the place as you may not be here that long...just a couple of months."

April 17, 1942 (en route to Penticton) – My Brother and me talked to each other the whole ways up to Penticton B.C. I thought this must be a Heaven send thing to happen and to be with my Brother as we are always very close to each other he always said he is here to protect me.

The foster house was located on the west side of the Okanagan River at the south end of Okanagan Lake. Shortly after they arrived Glenn remarked,

It is nice here at this Town. My brother Donald had some Boxes of his things to get organized. I had nothing all my Treasures are with my Mom some place my Bird Books my stamp collection.

The brothers anxiously wanted to see what birds were on the lake and in the short time before supper

they recorded 15 species, including American White Pelican, a new bird for them. The Pentiction placement was therapeutic for Glenn as he had more freedom to look at birds, to share time with his brother, and he had support from his foster parents who even loaned Glenn their binoculars. Every day Glenn's older brother Donald wrote down details for the birds they had seen in the area.

The foster parents were interested in birds and fortunately had several reference books that were useful for species found in British Columbia. These were *Field Guide to Western Birds* by R.T. Peterson⁷ and *Birds of Western Canada* and *Birds of Canada*, both by ornithologist P.A. Taverner.^{8,9} Many of the coloured plates in the latter books were prepared by BC artist Allan Brooks. Each night Glenn studied the coloured pictures.

Glenn (and his brother) recorded over 60 new species they had not seen before. Glenn's favourite new birds were Yellow-billed Loon, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Common Moorhen (new for BC), Prairie Falcon, American Avocet, Ancient Murrelet (first interior record for BC^{10,11}), Black-billed Cuckoo (new for BC¹²), Flammulated Owl, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Canyon Wren, and Yellow-breasted Chat.



● Glenn and Donald Ryder's observation of a Black-crowned Night-Heron in a pond near Pentiction on May 7, 1942 was the third record for the Okanagan valley. The first records were from Okanagan Landing on August 3, 1908¹³ and Summerland on September 18, 1927.¹⁴ Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.

Foster Homes in Kelowna (1942-1946)

On Saturday, May 30, 1942, Glenn and his brother were on the move again without prior notification.

We got up early this morning and had Breakfast and did a few things in the Bedroom during the Morning hours we heard a Car pull into the yard here and there was a knock on the Door. It was the Government Welfare people they came to relocate us from this place in Pentiction B.C.

It had only been Two Months here at this great Bird spot and now we were on the Move again the Welfare people told us It was to Kelowna B.C. with a man and a lady a older couple who wanted to look after us.

The long Drive was scenic...the lady Welfare person said this is your new Home for a while here at Glenwood Ave west of Richter st and east of Pandosy Hwy. This is a large older House of some three stories and a yard to play in...The place I told my Brother looks interesting. I wonder how long we will stay here?

By June 1, 1942, Glenn and Donald had settled into their new foster home on Glenwood Avenue in Kelowna. They did not record the address or the owner's names. The location was only several blocks to Okanagan Lake where they spent a lot of time recording wildlife and swimming. They also had a chance to explore local farm ponds, creeks, and woodlands and started recording amphibians and reptiles in earnest. Finding Tiger Salamander and Leopard Frog added significant new locations for the province.^{14,15} Noteworthy birds included Black-crowned Night-Heron, Common (Gallinule) Moorhen, Upland Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Northern Mockingbird, Clay-colored Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bobolink. They also recorded breeding records for 38 species of which American Bittern, Wood Duck (first Okanagan record), Harlequin Duck, Western Screech-Owl, and House Finch (first Okanagan record) were the most noteworthy. By the end of the summer, Glenn was referring to himself as a "Nature watcher."



● With the aid of a raft, Glenn and his brother surveyed farm ponds for nesting waterbirds near Kelowna in the early 1940s, including counting individual nests of Yellow-headed Blackbird. These nest counts for a single marsh were among the earliest for the province. Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.

Glenn's brother was already in school and often encouraged Glenn to begin learning "printing" and "numbers" as they were important for wildlife recording. On Friday, June 26, 1942 Glenn wrote:

I do my number counting as I Lay in Bed and then I do the studies on my A.B.C.s. Both things are good to know when Note writing or Printing words and using numbers with Birds etc.

With Donald in school, Glenn, who was four years old at the time, had lost his faithful field companion for about half the year. He would have to wait at least another two years before he could go to school with Donald. During this period Donald continued to write-up the wild animals Glenn saw.

Glenn's foster parents were constantly concerned about his safety when he wandered off on his own and had to put some restrictions on his weekday nature ramblings when his brother was in school. The constant urge to be outdoors, however, frequently got Glenn into trouble.

June 15, 1943 (Tuesday) – *I was up in my room but tired of sitting about and decided I would walk to the Beach woods and look around. So I was on my way to the Beach and I guess the Lady seen me on Glenwood Ave headed west and she came after me and caught up to me and took me back Home she told me you will be punished for not listening to her. I was sent to my bedroom.*

In my room I got bored just sitting on the bed so I sneaked down the stairs without anyone seeing me and I went out the Back Door but I stayed in the yard. Later I tried to sneak back into the House but she Caught me she yelled at me she said no supper for you this evening and she took me up stairs to the third floor Attic or storage area and she put me into the Attics small room with a Latch to open it on Its outside so I could not get out. She told me I can sleep here and she would get me in the morning for Breakfast then she said I hope you learn from this.

In side this small room It was dirty with spider webs and some old Coats on the floor she told me I can sleep on them to-night and she left. It was Pitch Black inside this closet or small room. I Cried myself to sleep.

Unknown to the "lady of the house" this punishment rekindled unpleasant memories from a similar incident when Glenn was in the orphanage. Afterwards, Glenn's "nature watching" became curtailed to weekends and holidays when his brother could be with him.

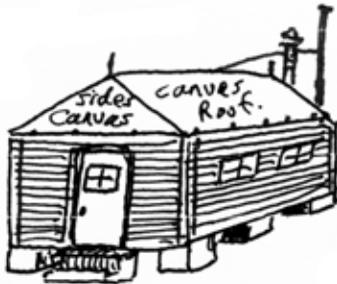
About 2½ months after arriving in Kelowna, Glenn and Donald were relocated again. On August 14, 1942, they were picked up by "the welfare people" and moved to a new location at 2256 Richter Street, not far away. Donald and Thelma Rowntree, their new foster parents, greeted the boys on arriving in the afternoon. Glenn wrote:

We unpack our Boxes etc. and our stamp Collections Mr Rowntree seen the stamp Collections we Both had and he said he was also a stamp collector and he will show us his Album one evening. I told him I like Birds and other wildlife and that we my Brother takes me on hikes to record them in a field Book...I hope it is a good one [foster home] and we get to stay more than a few months.

Mr Rowntree said that if we wanted we could stay in the Tent out Back he takes us out and shows us the tent It has a solid wood floor and wood on all sides only the Roof is of heavy canvas Material...It is good for warm weather not for winter...We agreed it will be good for us Boys.



● Unlike many pioneer naturalists Glenn always provided detailed maps of where he lived with some of the surrounding places he visited. From his home at 2256 Richter Street in Kelowna, BC, he frequently visited ponds, a garbage dump, and farm fields, all of which are pinpointed in this diagram. The significance of these maps would only be fully appreciated decades later when GPS co-ordinates could be determined. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, May 5, 1945.*



● Glenn and his brother Donald lived comfortably in this tent in the Rowntree's backyard until autumn weather forced them indoors. While having more independence was an attraction, the tent also had book shelves that were important to Glenn and a large table where his brother could write down the animals Glenn saw each day. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Kelowna, August 23, 1942.*

The Rowntree's house and property was average in size for the Kelowna area but nearby were several farm ponds, fields, woodlands, and a garbage dump that could be easily explored for wildlife. For example, on May 13, 1945 Glenn and his brother spent the day on a raft in a "reedy" farm pond and found 13 breeding records including American Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Wilson's Snipe.



● Most of the early breeding records for the Okanagan valley were from specimen collectors who covered the area from Penticton south to Osoyoos. Glenn's bird records from the Kelowna area in the early 1940s were never incorporated into the published literature and now provide an important link between southern and northern regions of the Okanagan valley. The American Bittern nest with four eggs found at Kelowna was the most northern record for the valley at the time. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Initially, Thelma Rowntree tried to give Glenn and his brother more of a family environment by having her own children visit and play with them. She also treated them as extensions of her own family, showing them affection and love. But both Glenn and Donald were more interested in hiking and exploring and Thelma ended up preparing lunches and drinks for the boys as they "disappeared" for most of a day.

As Glenn grew older he learned to ride a bicycle



● The Rowntree's daughter with Glenn (on handle bars) and Donald in Kelowna, BC, September, 1942. *Photo by Thelma Rowntree.*

and ventured farther afield, exploring both on his own and with his brother. During the four plus years he stayed with the Rowntree family, the longest foster placement in his young life, Glenn frequently visited Alki Lake, Cameron's Beach, Gallagher Canyon, Kelowna's city park, Knox Mountain, Manhattan Point, Mill Creek, Mission Creek, Mount Dilworth, Okanagan Lake, Okanagan Mission, Poplar Point, and Robert Lake.

While the diversity and numbers of birds found in wetlands such as Alki and Robert lakes were a strong enticement, Glenn actually preferred following game trails up Knox Mountain and descending into Gallagher's Canyon. At both sites, he was rewarded with "good" species. The top of Knox Mountain, at 800 ft (245 m), provided spectacular views of Okanagan Lake and the city of Kelowna. The grasslands and open woodlands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine also attracted a variety of new birds. Some of these were Turkey Vulture (migrating numbers), Northern



● From April through mid-August, Glenn often saw one or two Turkey Vultures perched on snags on Knox Mountain near Kelowna, BC. From late August through mid-September he occasionally recorded up to 24 birds in a flock. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Harrier (migrating numbers), Northern Goshawk (nesting), Merlin (migrating numbers), Prairie Falcon, Flammulated Owl (nesting), Boreal Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Common Poorwill (nesting), Black-chinned Hummingbird (nesting), Olive-sided Flycatcher (nesting), Clark's Nutcracker, Rock Wren, and Western Tanager (nesting).

Gallagher's Canyon was difficult to access but worth the effort. Mission Creek flows through the narrow steep-walled canyon with rushing water. Noteworthy species recorded by Glenn were Harlequin Duck (nesting), Barrow's Goldeneye (nesting), Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon (nesting), Prairie Falcon, White-throated Swift, Northern Pygmy-Owl (nesting), Black Swift, Clark's Nutcracker (nesting), Canyon Wren, American Dipper (nesting), and Nashville Warbler (nesting).

Although another move was inevitable, timing was never certain and Glenn could never feel totally comfortable or secure in any living situation. Moving back with his parents was never an option. Since August 14, 1942, he and his brother had lived in an area they treasured and where Glenn had started school. However, in late June, 1946 they were packing ready

to be relocated again. Glenn wrote the following:

June 29, 1946 (Kelowna) – *This is our last trip up the Mtn (Knox) and our last trip any other place around Kelowna, a Bird checking area I have come to Love. Tomorrow is Sunday and we would go Bird checking and hiking during the afternoon after Sunday School. But to-morrow we help pack all our things Don has a Big Trunk to load up. I have a lot of my own things from Bird Books to stamp Collection and lots of notes on Birds in a Big Box. We are both sad to have to leave and we are being taken to a small farm in East Part of Salmon Arm B.C. We will be together We are Told by Welfare People. I hate this move. (The End).*

June 30, 1946 (Kelowna) – *To-day in the morning the Welfare people came to take me and my Brother Donald away from the Rowntrees home at 2256 Richter Street Kelowna B.C. We had all our stuff packed and ready for the move. So we said our good-byes to Mr and Mrs Rowntree and took our last look around the place we had spent the last four years at and the place I started school and the trouble I got into for not going to school but ended up looking for Birds.*



● Glenn's grade 2 class in Kelowna, BC, circa 1945. Glenn (third from left sitting) and his best friend Davie (to his right) "at times played Hooky from the school" together.



● After nearly four years in Kelowna living with the Rowntree family, Glenn and Donald were moved again. This photo, taken just before their departure shows Thelma Rowntree with Donald Ryder (left, 11 years old) and Glenn (7 years old) at 2256 Richter Street, Kelowna, BC, in 1946. *Photo by Donald Rowntree.*

The Shuswap Experience (1946-1954)

Glenn and Donald arrived on a small farm at Canoe, about seven kilometres northeast of Salmon Arm in the Shuswap Lake region, on June 30, 1946 and the following morning helped with farm tasks and weeding the garden. Very soon, after getting up one morning early to round-up the cows and help separate the milk, Glenn and Donald suspected that they were being substituted for the owner's sons for the farm chores.

After the milking we get to take the Manure out with the wheel Barrows. Meanwhile their Two kids do nothing sleep in and eat when they want to. I guess that's why they got the welfare Dept to get us. Well when the Welfare people come to visit us and see how we are doing we plan on telling them what is going on and we want to be moved to some Better Homes.

Recording wildlife became restricted mainly to afternoons, seven days a week, when chores were

done. Glenn was not allowed to venture far from the farm unless he was with Donald. He was "too small and too young to be hiking about" by himself. Glenn responded:

I told them I would still go hiking no matter what they said or did this I told them was something I must do. It is in my Blood. Donald and me talked about this problem I have the need to explore areas. We would talk this over with the Welfare Dept in Salmon Arm town soon.

Glenn continued to record animals, including new locality records for Leopard Frog and he provided the earliest census data for Western Grebes nesting at Salmon Arm. Noteworthy birds included Yellow Rail, American Avocet (nesting), Black-billed Cuckoo, Northern Mockingbird, Dickcissel, and Bobolink. During the month he lived at Canoe he was in the field 28 days. He recorded his first plant, a Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), only because it had a Monarch Butterfly on it.



● Glenn's count of adults, nests, and newly hatched Western Grebes at Salmon Arm on July 6, 1946 is the earliest record of breeding for the location and was only the third breeding site known for British Columbia.¹⁷
Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.

On July 25, 1946, a "lady welfare worker" arrived at the farm in Canoe to tell Glenn that he and his brother would be moving to separate homes nearby in the vicinity of Little Mountain and that they should be packed and ready to go on July 29. Glenn was devastated and on the day of the move he wrote:

After breakfast we pack our belongings in a organized manner so at our new homes we know where everything is plus we mark on the Boxes what is inside each. We spend time mending socks with holes using a Potato inside the sock and mending it with wool. We learned to do this at Kelowna B.C. at Rowntrees home we sew on new shirt Buttons also.

Then after lunch the Welfare people show up at the farm House for us. We talked with the people we had lived with and said our good-bys and told them we hold no Grudge against them although they worked us hard and let their kids get away with everything. And we are hoping for a family with some understanding.

We drop my Brother Donald off...We say our good byes again here I wave to my Brother as the Car pulls away and down the Driveway I roll down the Car window and wave harder and soon we are out of site of the farm my heart sinks what will I do without my Brother in my life? A emptiness sweeps through me. I tell myself I will keep Bird checking etc maybe more harder than before.

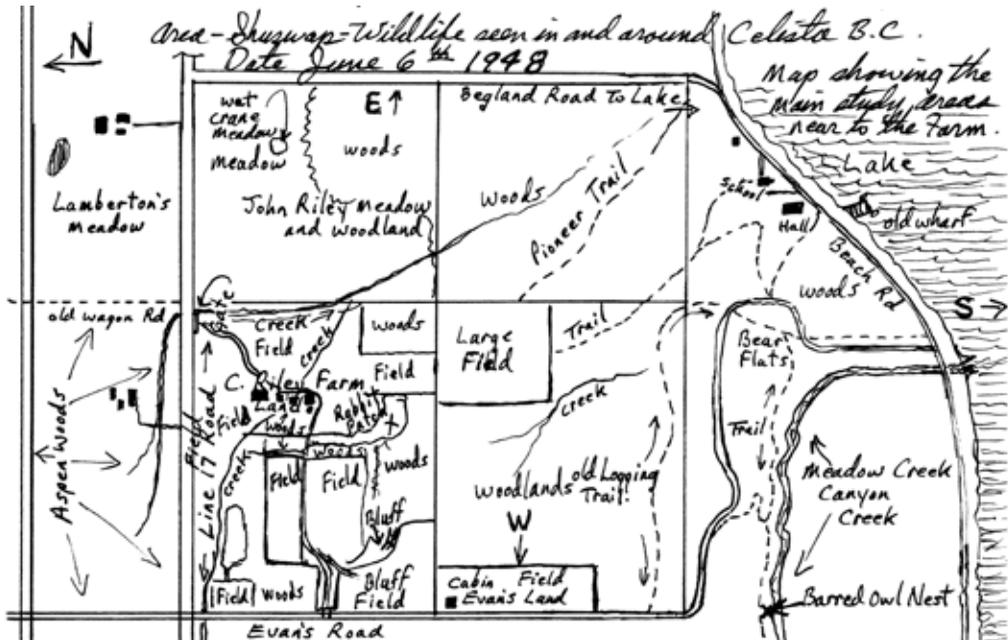
Glenn was dropped off at a "Big Older House" belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Bennett located south of Salmon Arm at the foot of Mount Ida. Mr. Bennett "works for the forestry," was interested in wildlife and stamps, and told Glenn about a pair of Peregrine Falcons nesting on the high cliffs above Sunnybrae across Shuswap Lake from Canoe. Glenn spent the afternoon organizing his new bedroom and "at the writing Desk redoing notes" from the farm at Canoe with his brother Donald. At supper Glenn was told he would be given "a Dollar each week for help in weeding the garden and feeding and watering the chickens."

Unfortunately, before his death, Glenn had not yet transferred his wildlife records from small booklets and scraps of paper he kept for the area so the record of what he saw for the year "living in town" in the shadow of Mount Ida is meagre.

Nearly a year after arriving at the Bennett's home Glenn was moved again. On July 14, 1947, he arrived at Charlie and Mary Riley's homestead farm in Celista. The 160-acre "wilderness" farm is located about 28 km due north of Salmon Arm on the north side of Shuswap Lake east of Scotch Creek. Glenn would spend the next seven years here, mostly as a teenager, before moving to the southwest coast of British Columbia on August 4, 1954. Glenn lamented that "my Brother Donald is still at a foster home in East Salmon Arm on a small farm. I will miss seeing him."



● Glenn was 9 years old when he arrived at Charlie and Mary Riley’s 160-acre farm in Celista, BC, in 1947. Glenn is proudly showing his “Holiday Camera” hanging from his neck. *Photo by Mary Riley, summer 1948.*



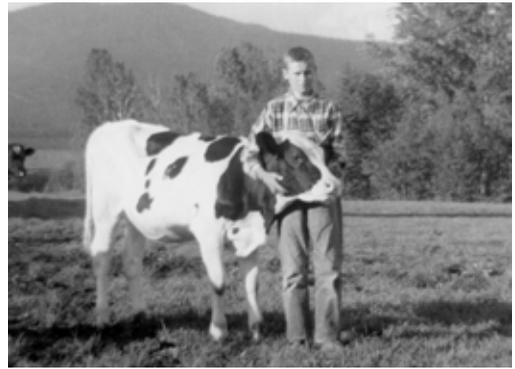
● While Glenn did not know how long he would be staying with Charlie and Mary Riley, he decided to prepare a map of the farm’s layout and features (not to scale) as a reference for his field notes and its proximity to Shuswap Lake. Decades later, the historical sketch became useful in assessing changing numbers and distribution for some bird species in the Shuswap region, such as Short-eared Owl and Bobolink, and provided a cross-reference to use of habitats on the Riley farmstead.

Glenn was shown the farm by the Riley's, warned about prowling Black Bears, and in the afternoon he went for a walk alone recording 35 species of birds, including a large Cliff Swallow colony in one of the barns. In the evening he prepared a detailed map of the property for future reference.

During the last half of July and all of August, 1947, before school started, Glenn decided to explore the fields, woodlands, creeks, and buildings on the Rileys' farm. He visited Shuswap Lake during the school term. He was usually up each day by 05:30 hrs when his main task was to round-up the cows and herd them into the barn for milking. He mentioned "they knew where to go." Glenn also helped with milking, cleaning the barn, and seasonally with cutting and splitting firewood. After an early breakfast he usually walked to school, recording wildlife along the way.



● While living on the Riley farm in Celista, Glenn's daily responsibility was to round up the cows in the early morning and get them into the barn for milking. Charlie and Mary Riley's daughter Rosemary is holding the horse. *Photo by Mary Riley, Celista, BC, circa 1947.*



● Occasionally Glenn helped raise abandoned calves like this mature short-horned Holstein with which he developed a close kinship. *Photo by Mary Riley, Celista, BC, circa 1951.*

During his first 45 days of "home" ramblings Glenn made over 3,000 observations of wildlife. He became more aware of mammals, recording 16 species from Deer Mouse and Columbian Ground Squirrel to Bobcat and Moose. But his love for birds was manifested in his notebook. He began to actively search for nesting and roosting owls and started to look at their pellets. Later he would ascertain that Western Screech-Owl and Barred Owl were resident in the region, new information for British Columbia.¹⁸



● Glenn was the first person in British Columbia to monitor long-term spring emergence and autumn hibernation dates for a colony of Columbian Ground Squirrels in the province. He also documented the importance of the rodent in the diets of many mammals and birds on the farm throughout the year. *Photo by Mark Nyhof.*

Unlike most birdwatchers, Glenn closely examined every bird he saw regardless of how common or familiar it was. And each was recorded. This attention to detail paid off. During his summer holidays in 1947 he added many noteworthy records to British Columbia's avifauna, including Cooper's Hawk (most northern breeding), Ruddy Turnstone (first interior record), Franklin's Gull (second record for south-central interior), Long-tailed Jaeger (fourth interior record), Barred Owl (second BC record), Loggerhead Shrike (most northern record), male Chestnut-sided Warbler (first BC record), Yellow-breasted Chat (most northern record), and Bobolink (first nest with eggs). As a bonus, Glenn also found a Rubber Boa, a new northern locality for the province.

In the history of ornithology in British Columbia, the Shuswap region was generally bypassed by early collectors and naturalists.⁴ As a result, Glenn's eight years in the area from Canoe and Salmon Arm north to Celista and Scotch Creek in the late 1940s and early 1950s can be considered pioneering in nature. His extensive observations here were an important link between the avifauna of the Thompson-Nicola and West Kootenay regions of the province.

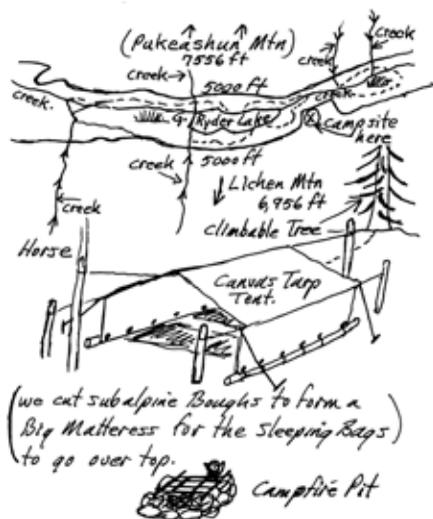
After eight years living with the Rileys, Glenn and Donald were becoming acutely aware that they would be moving permanently to the coast to reunite with their biological parents. In early July 1954, the brothers planned a final "memory" trip for the Celista area and decided to camp atop Crowfoot Mountain for a week exploring subalpine and alpine habitats – something they had talked about for years. Since no one had ever recorded wildlife in this habitat in the Shuswap region they considered themselves "pioneering adventurers."

July 18, 1954 (Celista/Crowfoot Mountain) – *We Donald Ryder and me Glenn R. Ryder had planned this trip out for some eight days. The first Sunday to reach the top of Crowfoot Mtn. and the last Sunday to come back down.*

So it will be July 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and head down on the 25th of July. We were up early and had a good Breakfast and then packed the Horses and the Saddle Bags with food items etc Sleeping Bags tied on behind the Saddle. Canvas water Bags (1) each on

22 Rifle and one Borrowed 306 Rifle with 250 Grain load shells. We plan on living off the Country to some Degree By Taking Grouse and Ptarmigan etc. So we are finely off on this Adventure It was still Dark out and hit the old fire Rd that goes up the south face of the Crowfoot Mtn. towards the Fire spotting Building at the 6,776 [2,067 m] foot level of Mobley Mtn... This evening we set up a Camp in the subalpine area... where there is Lots of feed for the Horses.

July 20, 1954 (Lichen Mountain) – *We got Back to the Horses they had been eating plants and grasses for a while. We decided to ride around for a while first looking the area over we ride towards the North side of this Mtn and down the slope to the 5000 foot Level here we seen a wetland area in this narrow Valley with areas on Both sides of this Lake at the 5000 ft Level this is the area of the headwaters of Scotch Creek. We decide to set up the Camp here on the south side of Ryder Lake on some high ground overlooking Ryder Lake and Marshy wetland and Creeks.*



● One of the temporary camps set up in the subalpine of Lichen Mountain during a week-long trip by Glenn and Donald Ryder. Glenn noticed an unidentified lake here and decided to name it Glenn Ryder Lake. The lake was about one mile long by a half mile wide and situated on "each side of the 5,000 ft contour lines." Later it was officially named Grizzly Lake. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, July 20, 1954.*

This is a subalpine area and very interesting. After the Camp is set up and the Horse Rope is in place for the one Horse to move about and feed. The second Horse is Hobbled to wander about the open grassy areas. I was watching this Lake from near the Camping site. When I decided I will name It as the Map shows no Name Glenn Ryder Lake [see sketch]... Donald told me to name after myself as he told me you are the Wildlife person and Naturalist who makes all the notes and that he is along for the ride and is my protector as he was the better shot with the 306 rifle. It [Glenn Ryder Lake] should stick as I have done a lot of work in the area with wildlife.

July 25, 1954 (Celista) – *After arriving back home at Charlie and Mary Riley’s Farm from the seven day trip up to Lichen Mtn. The Farm was waiting our return as there was Hay to Cut dry and haul into the Barn and the garden needing some weeding.*

This trip was our going away time out something we wanted to do for some time and the month of July was the Best time to make the Trip with Horses etc. But today we worked on the farm. Hay was cut and Drying I did a fair bit of weeding in our Large Garden.

At the time of their trip Glenn and Donald did not realize the significance of their discoveries. Distributional information for amphibians, birds, and mammals in British Columbia from high elevation habitats in the early 1950s was scant and mostly anecdotal in nature. Their 32 pages of notes were the first recorded for subalpine and alpine habitats in the Shuswap region and contained a wealth of new information. Species diversity is low in such habitats and bird nests are a challenge to find. Yet, they found one species of amphibian and a remarkable 91 species of birds and 23 species of mammals. In addition, 39 breeding records for 18 species of birds were noted. Some of the high totals for birds were of migrating shorebirds and early passage passerines.

Solitary Sandpiper, Black Tern, Northern Hawk Owl, Boreal Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, American Dipper, American Pipit, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch were noteworthy high-elevation summer records. Breeding records were more impressive and included finding nests of Northern Goshawk (highest elevation record for BC; nestlings),¹⁹ Boreal Chickadee (first BC

record; nestlings), Wilson’s Warbler (first interior record; nestlings), and Pine Grosbeak (first interior record; nestlings). Other records of nests with contents connected important points in the breeding distribution in the province. These included White-tailed Ptarmigan, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark (alpine subspecies), American Pipit, Nashville Warbler, and Western Tanager.



● Six breeding records for White-tailed Ptarmigan were recorded by Glenn and Donald Ryder during their week in the high country of Lichen Mountain. This nest with seven eggs was found on July 20, 1954 hidden behind rocks surrounded by dwarf willows at 6,956 ft (2,122 m) elevation. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder.*

The high-elevation trip in the mountains was an appropriate climax to end nearly 13 years of living in orphanages and foster homes. In the spring of 1954 there were rumours from the “welfare people” that Glenn and Donald may be permitted to be reunited with their parents in Surrey. Donald wrote his parents a letter during the summer, adding Glenn’s name to it.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I hope you are feeling fine. The welfare worker was up here to-day and said he thinks its alright for Glen to live with you if you can support him. I think that the welfare will be up to see you and see what kind of a place you have and your furniture. So I am just warning you ahead of time just in case they come. If he can go it will be two or three weeks yet

before he can go... If Glen does go he will be off the welfare for good...

P.S. We may be seeing you soon.

*With Lots of Love,
From Don and Glen*



● Glenn's parents, Elizabeth (left) and Delbert, at their home in Surrey, BC, shortly after the welfare department allowed Glenn to return to live with them after years of foster care. Glenn was very proud of his father's 1953 Hillman car. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Surrey, BC, August, 1954.*

Some Highlights during Foster Care

During the 12+ years Glenn was living in foster homes in the south-central interior he had many memorable experiences, some of which influenced his activities in later life. He had lost direct contact with his father and never saw his mother or sister. Glenn's father, however, visited him once in Kelowna and took Glenn and Donald on a 2.4-km ferry boat trip across Okanagan Lake to explore a new territory in the vicinity of Bear Creek. Glenn noted:

June 17, 1944 (Westside) – *To-day my Dad came to see us at Richter St and asked what we wanted to do we said how about taking the Ferry across to Westside and going on a hike over on that side of the Lake [Okanagan]. So that's what we are doing for the Day.*

Glenn's father, Delbert, was an excellent bird watcher and kept notes but not as regularly as Glenn

did.²⁰ The trio cherished a rare time together outdoors and during their searching found two species of birds that were significant records for British Columbia: Pacific Loon (very rare in summer in the southern interior) and Ferruginous Hawk (first record). Delbert showed Glenn and Donald three Western Rattlesnakes that they had not seen before.



● Glenn's father, Delbert, was an excellent naturalist. When he visited Glenn and Donald at their foster home in Kelowna in 1944 he showed them their first Western Rattlesnake. They were grateful for the experience. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Birthdays were usually remembered with cards and gifts from his mother and father. Christmases, however, were often passed over. During his period of foster care Glenn's sixth birthday was vividly remembered as "awesome."

January 27, 1944 (Kelowna) – *I was back at 2256 Richter st for my lunch and the Rowntrees told me a parcel had come for me in their care and I could open it. I opened the first Brown paper and there was a letter from my Dad wishing me a happy Birthday on Jan 31st and the Parcel was not to be opened until Jan 31 on my Birthday. I was wondering what it might be? But I must just wait and see.*

January 31, 1944 (Kelowna) – *I am up early as this is my Birthday and I have packages to open. It is like Christmas all over again. My brother Donald is up as he wants to see what Dad and Mom had sent me.*

Well I got Mom's package opened first and It is a Large thick Book of Birds of Canada by P.A. Taverner

By the National Museum of Canada “Wow” just what I need with good paintings of Birds by Allan Brooks and Hennessey, plus some by C. Johnson. My Mom said she hoped I would not mind If It was a used Book as It was in fine shape when she found It in a Book store in Vancouver. I sure didn't mind. Now I can check the Birds I see in the area much better.

The next gift from my Dad was awesome too It was a nice looking pair of used field glasses or Binoculars in a Brown Leather carrying Case with a shoulder strap and strap on the Binoculars also. The booklet with these Binoculars say these are the Best made Binoculars that are superior to other high power glasses, these are made in Germany. The Brand name is Schutz 18 times Magnification Brings objects as near as 275 feet at one mile. These Binoculars are the Perrpox Glasses made by Schutz, the Book said they are also good in low light and are clear and sharp in all weather. They weight 32 oz and are made for the Army and the Navy also for sportsmen. They also have the universal focusing Device on them making focusing fast and easy. I race to the Big front room window to look out with them they sure draw thing in close just like being right there, this is thrilling Birds watch out now!

In the Afternoon some friends come over for my Birthday get together with Cake etc. After everyone left I was looking through my Birds of Canada Book and shinning up my Binoculars and getting the feel of them in my hand and around my Neck. My Brother did the Math on the Binoculars he said 32 oz these Binoculars weigh is 2 pounds. That would be hard on a neck over a long period of time so I will carry them in my hand or in the Case on my shoulder.

While in foster care, Glenn was essentially a “lone wolf” and did not have anyone to share his experiences that were knowledgeable about birds. Most such people at the time were museum collectors and usually worked independently. Glenn was self-motivated and continued without encouragement although his foster parents gave him support to pursue his interests. When he was seven years old, while bird watching on Cameron's Beach in Kelowna, Glenn met a fellow whom he later realized was a famous ornithologist and whose encouragement was timely.

June 30, 1945 (Kelowna) – I arrived Back in City Park and was hiking along the Beach [Okanagan Lake] towards Mill Creek when I seen this man with field glasses he is looking out over the lake at the White Pelicans. So I walked up to him and said Hello. Are you looking at the Pelicans on the lake he told me he was. I had my field glasses around my neck also he said Do you look at Birds. I said just about every Day or so. The man told me his name James Munro and he lives at Okanagan Landing. I showed him my Bird list for the Day he said It was very good List. He told me to get my Parents to Drive up to Okanagan Landing as I should meet Allan Brooks a fine Bird person to know. He told me to keep up the Bird checking as young people just Don't do these things now a Days. He said Good-Bye and left saying we would likely run into each other again.



● During his foster years, Glenn maintained his avid interest in Nature despite not having anyone to share his discoveries or encourage him to keep up his note-taking. A chance meeting with James A. Munro, Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the western provinces of Canada was encouraging. It is noteworthy that the two American White Pelicans they both observed was not listed in the book James was completing with Ian McTaggart-Cowan on the birds of the province.¹⁸

The School Dilemma

Glenn's earliest recollections of schooling were when he and his brother were separated from their biological family in White Rock and sent to an orphanage 32 km away in Marpole. Donald, who was four years older, had already started school in Marpole and Glenn often watched for him from inside the orphanage as he walked to school.

April 17, 1942 (Marpole) – *When I was in the Orphanage during September and October plus other Months I would see my Brother walking to school in area but I never got a chance to talk with him.*

Shortly after his sixth birthday on January 31, 1944, Glenn started school in Kelowna, but with new gifts of a pair of binoculars and a reference bird book with coloured pictures, he was not committed to school work. Several entries beginning his notes started with "To-day I am playing Hooky or skipping school and doing my Bird Checking." His foster parents, however, encouraged his attendance because he was difficult to manage during week days. As summer approached, Glenn became restless and hankered to travel beyond his regular routes between home and school. One day he decided to skip school and visit a new area using resources available at school and taking an accomplice.

May 24, 1944 (Kelowna) – *I skip school to go Bird checking. I managed to get my field glasses into my Lunch Box. My Friend David met me at the school.*

I arrived in the school grounds after school had gone in and everything had settled down. I met David in the school grounds he still wanted to go with me. I Looked over the Bikes in the racks and picked one tried It out It was good riding. And off we went...to Gallagher's Canyon...The trip was very interesting worth playing hooky from school.

The boys returned before school was out, dropped off the bicycles, and went home with seven pages of notes. Glenn found seven nests including Harlequin Duck, Peregrine Falcon, and Black-chinned Hummingbird and suspected at least 10

pairs of White-throated Swifts were nesting in the rock sides of the canyon.

When Glenn moved to the Riley farm in Celista on July 14, 1947, he was immediately assigned daily chores year-round which usually had to be completed before he went to school. Glenn noted "It is the same thing just repeated each day." In 1949, he described some of the chores:

I see the Cows at the South end of the flume field they were working their way down to the Barn I guess as they were close to the water pipe Trail so I herded them down the Horses followed. At the Barn as the Cows go to their own stalls Charlie locks them in. I start washing their udders getting them clean for milking. I then go to the Milk room and start the DeLaval Separator as Charlie brings in Buckets of milk. After the work in the Barn is all finished I take the Cream Buckets up to the Farm house and Mary puts it in the Cooler room. I check the kitchen wood Box then go to the woodshed and split wood plus some kindling to light fires in the house so I haul wood and fill up Both wood Boxes. I then get my Breakfast and get dressed for my hike to school.

During his first winter and spring in Celista in 1947/1948, Glenn was regularly attending school if farm chores were completed, hiking about seven kilometres (4.5 mi) roundtrip through two large farm fields and trails in woodlands to reach the building. It was a one-room log building located near Shuswap Lake. It had about 13 students, grades one to five, and a single teacher. In winter, Glenn described the state-of-the-art heating system.



● The one-room school house was not one of Glenn's favourite places to visit unless it had birds nesting in the walls. On May 31, 1949, a pair of American Kestrels... *took over the flicker Nest hole in the Back Gable end of the school house.* Eggs were in the nest. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder.*

January 3, 1950 – *I arrived at the school House. It was a Cold hike but interesting. The old school stove was Burning good for a old redesigned 45 gal Drum with a lid in front and a stovepipe up to a Brick chimney.*

On the way to and from school Glenn recorded every bird and mammal he saw – a reason for going. In autumn 1947, he started having second thoughts about the value of schooling.

October 9, 1947 (Celista) – *Went to find the Cows and to Bring them to the Barn for milking. Found the Cows at the Lower Rock Bluff field took a while to get them Back to the Barn and by the time We did the Milking and I had my Breakfast I was going to be very late for school. I struck off for school south down the old Pioneer trail But at one point I told myself what's the use, I will play hooky and just hike about all day to see what I can come upon.*

October 10, 1947 (Celista) – *Well to-day I had better go to school and explain my absence from the school yesterday. So after the chores are all finished I get some breakfast. I headed out for the school.*

It is not clear how many days Glenn actually sat in a classroom because he was easily distracted by animals around him. Many times his intentions when he left the farm in the morning were to attend school but often the “lure of the lake” and its waterbirds took priority. The problem, however, was that he could be seen birdwatching on the lakeshore from the school house. He wrote:

April 8, 1949 (Shuswap Lake) – *I leave this area of the old wharf and Beach as It is too near to the school House. I go off Wildlife checking Back North into the woodlands above Beach Rd.*

Glenn finished the day with four pages of notes and 54 species of birds including four species of owls, one of which was a nest of Western Screech-Owl with three eggs!

In June 1949, Glenn made it to school six times in the 21 days before it closed for the summer. And on one of those days he was lured to learning because he wanted to check on the size of nestlings in a Say's

Phoebe nest that was in the school's horse barn!



● When Glenn found a Say's Phoebe nesting in the public school's horse barn in 1947 in Celista, it was the first record for the Shuswap region and one of less than a dozen for British Columbia at the time.¹⁸
Photo by Mark Nyhof.

On one of his “wildlife checking” days he wrote:

June 10, 1949 (Celista) – *I must stop my exploring and head for home the long way around as I can't let anyone who knows me to see me out of school and looking for wildlife.*

So I hike Back through the Aspen Pine woodlands west of the Dirt Road to Evans Rd then south on Evans Rd to the Farmland of Charlie and Mary Rileys. I keep to the woods as I never know if I will run into Charlie working at a fenceline. So I keep out of sight I cross the Hare Patch Meadow and check my Pocket Watch. It is just too early yet to show up at the farm House. And Rosemary Riley will not say anything about me not being at school she would have an excuse planned for the teacher and If Mary Riley should ask anything Rosemary would have a good answer. It's a heck of a way to live but even being Caught of which I have It is still worth It to me as I prefer the outdoors to being in a Dam school room.

It is a good thing No one reads my Notes. They end up in a Box under my Bed each Field Book I fill up. I write or print with a pencil and Pack of Pocket knife to sharpen them. I also pack a small Compass plus matches.

During his “hooky” days Glenn found a Sharpshinned Hawk nest with four eggs (the first for BC), a Flammulated Owl nest with two eggs (the most northern record for the province), a Townsend’s Warbler nest with four eggs (the first for the interior), a foraging Ovenbird (first record outside the Peace River region), and a Bobolink nest with seven eggs (a first for BC). The highlights of his school absences, however, were seeing a Fisher, finding four small Bobcat kittens in a den in a cave, and nearby a Northern Rubber Boa that was the most northern record for the province.²¹

While working and living on the Celista farm, Glenn became less persuaded that school was the place to be especially when natural events were happening outdoors that needed to be documented. It was becoming especially difficult to stay motivated for the trek to school in late spring and summer when birds were nesting. Finding a nest was always a highlight but follow-up visits to see if young had fledged took extra time although they were necessary. Also, during this time Glenn learned to ride the old farm horse “Bill”, which allowed trips farther afield and less time for school.

About 1990, Glenn estimated (pers. comm. to Campbell) that during his Celista years he probably attended school less than 40% of the required time. He had also developed skills that enabled him to cover for his absences – he was becoming “street smart.” Some of his tactics and reasoning were recorded in his 1949 notes. He started each school day, after farm chores were done, with the notation “I get my Breakfast and Dressed for my hike to school”. The Rileys, of course, believed Glenn was on his way to school each morning. The following excerpts are revealing:

May 13 (Friday – *As I leave I tell Rose Mary not to say anything about me not showing up at school. She will tell the Teacher I had to stay and work on the farm.*

May 16 (Monday) – *This morning I am hiking south down to the Evans Field and down the Woodland Trail to the Lake [towards school]. I get my Lunch Box with the lunch also my Field glasses and Note Book these I smuggle out and I am off into the wilds.*

May 24 (Tuesday) – *to-day I must go to school as yesterday I went wildlife watching and recording. But no one has yet found out. But I can't miss two days so I must go.*

Glenn’s “formal” schooling was behind him when he moved to the coast in 1954. Over the next six decades, the closest he got to a school was when birds were nesting on the buildings, there was a naturalist meeting in a classroom, or birds were loafing on the playing fields. It is not clear the level of schooling Glenn finally achieved because of his erratic attendance and the different ages of kids in his classroom. He learned to write but did not complete his primary grades. Despite any educational deficiencies Glenn may have had, he continued his “wildlife recording” with increased verve, developed an impressive reference and reading library, and started to publish articles on natural history.

LIVING IN THE CENTRAL FRASER RIVER VALLEY (1954-2013)

In late July 1954, Glenn and his brother Donald were getting ready to move from Celista to the Lower Mainland and in early August they arrived in Surrey at their parent’s home. The move was their first without direct involvement of the “welfare people.” Glenn was 16 years old and his brother was 20 years old, past the ages for foster support. Glenn noted:

July 29, 1954 (Celista) – *We Donald and myself hike about the farm giving the place the last look as We are moving to the Coast and will be headed out to catch the train at Notch Hill on the south side of Shuswap Lake on Friday and will arrive in the C.P. Railway in Port Coquitlam B.C. from here we will take a Bus to Surrey B.C. Our parents will meet us at Coquitlam B.C. as they No the Buses to take.*

So there will be a change in things no Doubt. I was told by a Letter from my Mother that the North area of Surrey is a wild place with very few Houses in on 92 Ave this Ave is a dead end at the House Dad Built here at 15453 92 Ave or Northline Road. So we got everything down pat.



● Glenn and Donald were reunited with their parents in 1954 and lived with them in their small North Surrey home for a few years. With his parents' support, Glenn immediately started exploring new areas and experienced a rare winter in 1966 when snow piled up around the small house to four feet. *Photo by Delbert Ryder, circa 1966.*

The First Months and Sumas Mountain (1954-2013)

The day after arriving in Surrey, Glenn was already wandering through local woods and fields searching for animals. He wrote:

August 4, 1954 (Surrey) – On arriving here the woods are different from those of the North Shuswap area and I am very interested in some Wildlife recording here and other areas in Surrey. Today I made a hike South of the house into a Large wooded area across Northline Rd, 92 Ave.

During the day Glenn recorded an outstanding 72 species of which 58 were birds, nine were mammals, four were amphibians and one was a reptile. Northern Red-legged Frog, Northwestern Salamander, Long-toed Salamander, Terrestrial Gartersnake, Eastern Cottontail, Townsend's Chipmunk, and Douglas' Squirrel were new species. Glenn's highlight, however, was finding four fledged young and an adult Western Screech-Owl roosting on a western redcedar branch. Later, this species would become his most beloved animal.



● When Glenn picked up a large frog in the woods in Surrey, BC, and noticed the red on its underside he immediately knew that it was a Red-legged Frog, a species he had not seen before. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

After a week or so of local naturalizing by himself, and discovering Green Timbers Park (now Green Timbers Urban Forest), Glenn became antsy and wanted to venture farther afield. He recruited Donald to go on a camping trip with him to Sumas Mountain. This mountain, about 910 m (2,986 ft) in elevation, is located on the north side of the TransCanada Highway between Abbotsford and Chilliwack in the central Fraser valley about 50 km east of Surrey. The brothers carefully planned the trip and Glenn noted on the day they left:

August 16, 1954 (Monday) – A Greyhound Bus trip from 152 St in Surrey to Sumas Mountain for Aug 16, 17 and 18...rode up to the Sumas Prairie and let off the bus at the C.N. Railway of which we hike westwards to the Vedder River and the Fraser River we then Cross the C.N. Rail Bridge over the Vedder River to westside. Here with a heavy Backpack each of us start the Climb at the North east Corner of this Mountain we have our tent and the rest of the items for Camping plus a lots of food and we Both have guns I have a shotgun my Brother has a 22 Rifle. We will stay three Days on the Mountain and Catch the evening Greyhound Bus headed to Vancouver B.C. on Wednesday Aug 18/54 the Bus Driver told us what time we should be out on Trans Canada Hwy that late Afternoon.

Here at Chadsey Lake we set up the Camp and

the Tent at North side of the Lake in the trees we have a Drink of the Lake water and wait a hour. The water is good. I make a fire ring from Rocks Collected about the area and we get wood and get a fire going to cook up some supper. I make frypan Bannock and tea. This was good. After eating I hiked about the area looking for things to write down.

During the three days Glenn found his first Coastal Tailed Frog (adults and tadpoles), Coastal Giant Salamander, Rough-skinned Newt, Sharp-tailed Snake, Northwestern Gartersnake, Spotted Owl, and Fisher – all new locality records for the province. It was also Glenn’s first trip where he began recording butterflies and seriously started identifying plants. The evening they returned to Surrey Glenn was overcome with deep emotional and spiritual feelings about the mountain trip that he could not explain. He had similar feelings when on mountains in the interior, but not as intense.



● During his time on Sumas Mountain, Glenn found many rare plants, including many new locality records including Broad-leaved Penstemon, a flowering plant found only in the extreme southwest mainland of the province. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Sumas Mountain, BC, June 26, 1996.*

Before the month was over Glenn and Donald had made another camping trip to Sumas Mountain and one more before the end of the year. In early November, he and Donald discussed an overnight trip “in winter conditions”, and in mid-November they hiked up the mountain and “leveled off the snow and placed the tarp down on the ground then got the Tent unrolled.” They returned home the following day by bus but were rewarded with a life experience that involved a Wolverine and a Fisher. Late on their first day they found a fresh deer carcass with a Wolverine “tearing off the flesh like there is No-tomorrow.” As they watched Glenn wrote:

November 16, 1954 (Chadsey Lake) – The Fisher comes in again and grabs more meat and rips It off the Carcass, by now the Wolverine spots the fisher who with meat in Mouth runs up a tall Evergreen tree on the Hill side with the Wolverine hot on Its tail. The Wolverine gos up the tree fast but by now the fisher is at the high Branches the Wolverine had only gone up some 50+feet when he give up the chase and went back to his Spoils to guard the Carcass from any more intruders.



● Glenn watched a Wolverine chasing a Fisher in deep snow from a Wolverine’s food source, a fresh Mule Deer carcass. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Chadsey Lake, BC, November 16, 1954.*

Over the next six decades that Glenn lived in the Fraser valley he developed a special affinity with Sumas Mountain and it became his preferred place to visit. He found the mountain “soulful and cleansing” and always felt refreshed, especially when sitting on “Cougar Bluff” overlooking the valley and letting things happen around him. On one occasion, a Cougar arrived and “basked in the sun” not far from him, knowing it “was safe with me.” He saw Cougars on many trips to the “Bluff” and later decided that he wanted his ashes strewn here. In the early 1980s, Wayne and Eileen Campbell registered Glenn with First Memorial Funeral Services and promised him that if he died before them his wish would be fulfilled. And it was!



● Glenn visited Sumas Mountain hundreds of times with and without friends and in the 2000s spent many days constructing and maintaining “Ryder Trail”, similar to the trail he is working on in the photo. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, October 18, 2011.*

Although Glenn shared many hiking trips up Sumas Mountain with friends, he still needed the solitude and spiritual aura the mountain provided when he was alone. He hiked the mountain frequently and even in the later years of his life maintained Ryder Trail. As the years advanced Glenn noticed the effects of a restless urban population looking for new areas for recreation. Sumas Mountain was becoming a popular hiking and mountain biking spot and refuse was more evident than ever before. A couple of days after Glenn’s death, Phil Henderson took his family for a hike up Ryder Trail and was shocked to discover about 15 cars parked at the bottom. He asked someone if there was a special event and they replied, “No, it is just a nice day.” Phil suddenly felt miserable and had thoughts about not going up the trail. At the lookout, Phil queried some people who said it was the “Abbotsford Grind,” which horrified him. There was no mention of Ryder Trail although one trail user did mention they had heard of Glenn Ryder.

On subsequent visits, Phil did not see anyone with binoculars or standing still on the trail puzzling over natural features. It was all about the fitness. “How long did it take you to get up?” someone asked another regular while Phil was at the bluff enjoying the view. We hope to establish a permanent memorial in some form on the viewpoint so future visitors to Sumas Mountain can appreciate the “mountain man” and his love of nature and wild spaces.

“Operation Owl” –Nest Boxes for Cavity-nesters (1955-2013)

Glenn saw his first Western Screech-Owl, a pair at a nest along Shingle Creek near Penticton, on April 25, 1942 when he was four years old. He was so enthralled with his discovery that he made a personal commitment to check all prospective cavities in trees for nesting owls for the rest of his life. While living in the southern interior in Kelowna, Canoe, and Celistia, he learned how to identify owls by their calls and locate them at roost sites. During the breeding season he became adept at finding their nests, whether in a tree cavity or an abandoned hawk, crow, or Black-billed Magpie nest. Newly fledged young were simply adorable.



● Glenn's first family of Western Screech-Owls, with a newly fledged "brancher", remained indelible in his mind for the rest of his life. For nearly six decades, Glenn single-handedly made small, cavity-nesting owls a conservation priority and is one of the primary reasons that small populations still exist in wooded regions in the Fraser River valley. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

His interest in owls escalated when he moved to Surrey in August 1954 and started exploring nearby woodlands. On his first outing he found a roosting family of Western Screech-Owls near his parent's home and over the next several months was perceptive enough to contemplate their future. He realized that most of the forests in the vicinity were second-growth and natural nest cavities for owls were scarce. So Glenn started a personal project, dubbed "Operation Owl," to construct and place nest boxes throughout protected and private woodlands in the Lower Mainland. He started close to home.



● Hundreds of nest boxes for small owls were placed strategically by Glenn Ryder in woodlands with some protection throughout the Lower Mainland region of southwestern British Columbia from the mid-1950s through the early 2000s. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Surrey, BC, April 27, 1986.*



● Monitoring the activity in nest boxes was demanding in time and often challenging to check. He used a ladder whenever possible but sometimes he had to be creative to reach a nest box that frequently required improvised rope ladders. *Glenn Ryder, self-photo, Campbell Valley Park, Langley, BC, May 18, 1977.*

Over the next six months Glenn regularly visited Green Timbers Forest Reserve, a preserved urban forest in north Surrey near his home, where he found a small population of owls. During winter 1955 he built five nest boxes and transported them by bicycle to Green Timbers hoping that one may be used in the spring. While his target species was Western Screech-Owl he was optimistic that a few Northern Saw-whet Owls might also use the boxes. Glenn was elated with his find within a couple of months of putting up the boxes:

April 12, 1955 (Green Timber Forest Reserve) – Kennicott's [Western] Screech Owl (2) located in these woodlands North off Townline Road 96 Ave. I first found the Male owl roosting some (7) feet up in a thick Red Cedar tree. I had some owl Nest Boxes in these wood lands I was to check them out and the (1) Nest Box nearest to me was the one being used by the female owl. I opened the side Door of the Box and there she is I got a small stick and lifted her up to check under her she now has (4) Eggs. She snapped her Bill at me but that was all I leave area.

Acadian or Saw-whet Owl (1) is also located in woodlands. This likely a small male owl is found roosting in a Red Cedar tree some (5) feet up. I also seen the white wash down the Branches to the ground and seen the (30) Pellets. I see No Dead trees with Cavity holes. But I checked some of my Nest Boxes here No female is located in any Box or Barrel.

In the early 20th century, Green Timbers was the last stand of virgin timber bordering the Pacific Highway and on August 28, 1930 the last old-growth tree was felled. A heated conflict quickly developed between local residents and conservationists and developers concerning future uses for the area. Immediately part of the logged area became the province's first forest regeneration project and obtained status as a forest reserve. In 1987, a portion of the land was cleared for a multi-sports complex, without public consultation, but was quickly replaced with wetlands and an artificial lake and along with the forested portions to be retained as a municipal recreational area.²²

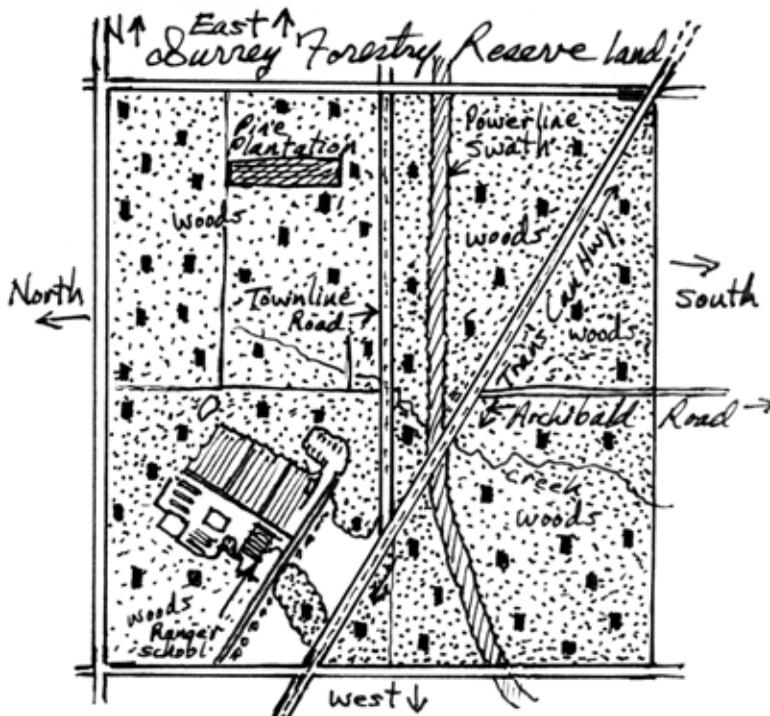
When Glenn visited the area in the mid-1950s, the Forest Reserve had a good mix of semi-mature Douglas-fir, western redcedar, western hemlock, vine maple, and red alder with an understory of salal and other shrubs. Since the forest was protected from development Glenn decided to make it his personal research site and "owl factory" by setting up nest boxes and monitoring them.

Glenn spent the next year building nest boxes and erecting them in an organized manner in the 2.6 km² forest so they could be easily found and checked. Since everything had to be transported by bicycle, he hid his ladder, hoisting ropes, hammer, and nails in the forest for future use.

Green Timbers Forest Reserve was saturated with 58 nest boxes. Glenn knew that some of them would be used by roosting and breeding Northern Flying Squirrels and Douglas' Squirrels and others may be taken over by Wood Ducks, Northern Flickers, bees, or wasps. Over the next decade while Glenn lived in North Surrey those nest boxes were checked regularly throughout the entire year. Often owls were found roosting during the non-breeding season in evergreen trees near boxes. On every visit, Glenn made detailed notes for each box irrespective of its contents.

May 13, 1966 (Green Timbers Forest Reserve) – Kennicott's [Western] Screech Owl (Nest) Project Owl. Boxes one of many in area. This box had a female with some (3) small newly hatched out young plus (1) unhatched egg. The female has Brought in Am Robin as food for the young. I could see Robin feathers in Nest Box. This Nest Box is placed on a Red Alder tree some 10 ft up and the Owl seem to like It. Some of my Boxes are up to 30 ft up and as low as 6 ft up. Male owl not seen in area.

After 1966, when Glenn moved to Aldergrove, boxes were checked infrequently and then only during the breeding season.



● Placement of nest boxes for small cavity-nesting owls set up in the Green Timbers Forest Reserve, an area of about 2.6 km² in North Surrey, BC, in late 1955 and early 1956. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Green Timbers Forest Reserve in Surrey, BC, April 17, 1956.*

Initially Glenn built the owl boxes himself from salvaged wood and the support of his father. As friends started to realize the significance of the conservation project, and Glenn's commitment to it, they offered to help build and erect boxes. In the 1960s, Wayne Campbell had initiated a project to construct, erect, and monitor nests boxes for Wood Ducks in the Lower Mainland.²³ He received help from a federal "Opportunities for Youth" program, cub and scout organizations, naturalists, friends, and inmates in federal and provincial prisons.

To assist Glenn with his project, about 20 Wood Duck boxes were donated and another 30 owl boxes were built to his specifications by inmates at Okalla prison in Burnaby. This allowed Glenn to expand his project eastward in the central Fraser River valley. Glenn also had help from friends, especially Bernard Young and Des Venables.



● Ken Kennedy (left) and Wayne Campbell transporting Wood Duck nest boxes along Deboville Slough in Port Coquitlam, BC. While some of the duck nest boxes were used by Western Screech-Owl for nesting, the species preferred smaller boxes set up in more interior forested locations away from water. *Photo by John G. Sarles, February 16, 1963.*

March 8, 1969 (Surrey) – *At Des Venables home... Building Raccoon proof Screech Owl Nest Boxes. Box depth 22 inches Cavity hole 3 inches across 1 inch below Box top giving some 16 inches of Depth to the Box 8 x 8 walls giving 6 x 6 inside Box or so a ladder from the Box Bottom to the Cavity hole to Help Owls get out eazly.*

Glenn continued to monitor, clean, and repair nest boxes and every year he slowly expanded his coverage in the central Fraser River valley with new boxes. Woodland habitats in lowland elevations, however, were being supplanted by urbanization so Glenn started putting up nest boxes at higher altitudes. While these were more difficult to maintain, he felt that the higher nest sites might help delay the decline in numbers of cavity-nesting owls.

As wooded habitats became more fragmented Glenn began to notice that for the first time competition with cavity-nesting mammals was becoming more of a problem. In the past squirrels occupied nest boxes but never one that was occupied by nesting owls.

February 13, 1977 (Campbell River Park, Langley) – *Squirrel Builds on top of Screech Owl Nest. I took a hike up the West Ridge and to the South to check one of my Screech Owl Boxes. I found the Box had been used By a Douglas Squirrel and was stuffed with wet grasses half rotted and Damp Mosses and half rotted Mushrooms etc. on taking the Box down and cleaning out the Materials I came upon the remains of a Screech Owl Nest in the saw-dust at the Bottom of the Box this Nest Contained some (4) white eggs laid in the Box in the Spring of 1976 also (1) Mouse Skull in Materials.*

This situation became more prevalent during the next two decades as the sizes of home ranges for owls and squirrels shrank and competition for nest sites intensified. Also, loss of suitable foraging habitat, the threat from expanding Barred Owl and introduced Eastern Grey Squirrel populations, deaths from vehicle collisions, and human disturbance were major challenges facing a once thriving population.¹⁹



● The motivation for Glenn to continue “Operation Owl” for so many years was the excitement of finding a female Western Screech-Owl peering out of a nest box (left) and checking the box to find it crammed with nestlings (right). *Photos by Glenn R. Ryder.*



● The decline of small cavity-nesting owls in the lower Fraser River valley, like this Northern Saw-whet Owl, is attributed to urbanization, fragmentation of woodlands, competition with native and introduced animals, and mortality from collisions with increasing vehicle traffic on roads and highway. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, Forslund-Watson Nature Reserve, Langley, BC, March 30, 2005.*

By the late 1990s, it was becoming difficult to find a nesting pair of Western Screech-Owls in lowland areas in the central Fraser River valley. Many birds had moved into the surrounding foothills where contiguous forests still existed. Glenn doggedly continued his passion into 2013 when health issues and expensive car repairs restricted his travel. His last entry for his nest box project read:

March 26, 2013 (Forslund-Watson Reserve, Langley) – Phil Henderson and his wife Benita Came and picked me up to do the Owl Nest Boxes here.

Nest Boxes all full of Materials from the Eastern Gray Squirrels. We took out all the Gray Squirrel Nest Materials and the now wet old shavings from

last Spring and placed in a new Dry Cedar shaving in each of the 4 Boxes in these woodlands... No signs of any Western Screech Owl about the area.

The amount of time Glenn put into “Operation Owl” was staggering. He was never supported financially and rarely was encouraged to continue his monitoring. It was a personal project and seemed like “the right thing to do.” His notes contain nearly six decades of information on the non-breeding (roosting) and breeding seasons (nesting) for Western Screech-Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl in the central Fraser River valley. It is an unparalleled data set that will probably take a university professor with a keen student to compile and analyze the life history information and ascertain the reasons for the population decline.



● After four decades of “Operation Owl!” Glenn became more concerned about cavity-nesting owls in the Lower Mainland and shifted his nest box program to higher elevations where contiguous woodlands still remained. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, Sumas Mountain, BC, December 29, 2006.*

Cascade Mountains – Five Days with Wolves and Ptarmigan (1956)

Glenn didn't waste any time becoming a true explorer-naturalist after he moved to Surrey. Within weeks he had already ascended Sumas Mountain and was now, as a motivated 16-year old, ready for a more physical challenge. Part of the attraction was venturing into virgin territory where everything he recorded would be new. He looked at maps with well-defined contours and decided to plan a trip with his brother into the high-elevation area surrounding Chilliwack Lake that hugs the border with Washington State. Somehow he knew Allan Brooks had collected briefly in the mountains on the west side of the lake^{18,24}, so he decided to spend five days hiking and camping in the British Columbia portion of the North Cascade Mountains on the east side of Chilliwack Lake along the BC-Washington border. The trip was one of his most memorable – the mountains are so “serene and peaceful” and the “scenery is breathtaking.”

August 15-19, 1956 – *Yesterday my Brother Donald and myself had talked about another hiking trip and Camping trip as we wanted to get into some wilder areas...we both agreed the Destination would be to Summit [Chilliwack] Lake and Eastwards over the Mountains to Glacier Peak this Mountain has a series of Glaciers that are on Both sides of the Border Ice fields on the Washington side and some on the British Columbia side...It's Large Glacier at the Peak is said to be 8,894 feet to Its top. We don't plan to hike this high on the Mtn.*

We get our gear together...two big Backpacks are loaded up and the tent is tied on the. Back along with the ground sheets and Sleeping Bags...weight between 80 to 100 pounds of gear. We are both young I Glenn R Ryder am 18 years old and my Brother Donald G. Ryder is 22 years old and we both have lots of experience in Both hiking and Camping in the wilds. We say our good-byes to our Parents...and we load up the Car and headed for the Chilliwack B.C. area...we park the car under some trees out of sight although this area shows very little use by people We strike out heading southeast along the west side of Depot Creek. It is heavily Treed and Brushy in areas plus rocky.

Glenn knew that species diversity in the high mountains would be low but when combined with other animal groups, the tally would be more representative of the region's ecology. He tallied 109 species (butterflies-18, fishes-1, amphibians-7, birds-62, and mammals-21) for the five days. The quality of some experiences, however, outweighed numbers.

August 17, 1956 (Maselpanik Creek) – *As we got higher into the Alpine I started seeing Lots of Droppings in the grasses...of the White-tailed Ptarmigan...We keep hiking upwards up to the snow fields and Glaciers and soon there was all these Birds as we came over a rise of land. I told my brother look at that isn't that great or what.*

I kept on Counting with my Counter as they flew up off the alpine meadow. I noticed they liked...stunted alpine firs I Call krummholtz...edges of snow fields,...also rocky areas. I counted the Adults first off and got some (24) I then counted the young Birds and came up with some (36). Total seen on Mountain was (60+).

August 17, 1956 (headwaters Maselpanik Creek) – *We were walking in the Alpine and getting near to the subalpine stunted trees, when we Both seen movement at the edge of a growth area of krummholtz the movement was a pair of wolves standing at side of these krummholtz (2) Travelling to-gether we stopped to watch them and they were watching us but did not run off at that moment but kept watching us as we got a little nearer to them and then they went around the backside of these stunted subalpine firs and they had vanished into the woodlands here. One of these wolves must have been the one we heard howling during the night on Aug 16/56.*

Since wildlife had not been documented previously in the area everything seen by Glenn and his brother was a new locality record.^{19,24} Some of these were significant for the province. Cascade Frog, seen twice just north side of the international boundary, was a new species.¹⁶ Noteworthy birds included Spruce Grouse, which was a westward extension of the species' range in the far southern interior, and Spotted Owl, which was not known to occur in the forests of the Cascades Mountains.^{19,24}



● Glenn and Donald heard wolves howling and found fresh tracks at the edge of a glacier during their five-day trek in the Cascades Mountains. On August 17, 1956 they were rewarded when two peered curiously at them from behind some alpine firs. *Drawing by Glenn R. Ryder, near Maselpanik Creek (Glacier Peak), BC, August 17, 1956.*

A Fisher seen in “trees looking for squirrels” was very rare as there are less than a handful of records for Fishers in mountains in the extreme southwest mainland coast.²⁵ Specific high-elevation locations recorded for American Pika and Hoary Marmot would later become significant when assessing populations and the impending threat of climate change in alpine environments.²⁶

On the last evening, while compiling the day’s notes around a campfire, Glenn wrote “I am already wondering where we could go camping next although it soon will be fall.”



● Species living at high elevations in mountains, like Hoary Marmot, are particularly susceptible to global warming and climate change. Consequently, historical records with site-specific information and numbers are extremely valuable. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Re-connecting with Donald in Celista (1957-1963)

In the spring of 1957 Donald moved back to Celista. By summer Glenn really missed his brother and on June 13, 1957 he went to Celista. Over the next seven years, depending on money available for bus and train fares, Glenn visited his brother as often as he could. When they met Donald always took time off work to explore new areas with Glenn and during these outings wildlife notes were always made. On one trip, Glenn did not have enough money for fares so he decided to hitch-hike to Celista.

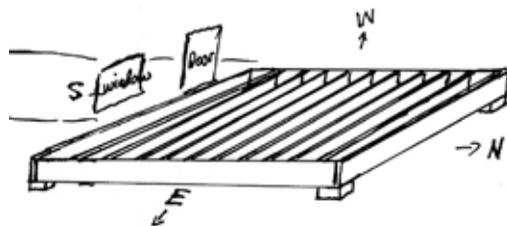
July 28, 1962 (Surrey) – *I am going up to visit my brother...and do some work for him...plus some wildlife checking about the area.*

I got picked up by a family back in the Sumas Valley then Dropped off at Hope B.C. I stopped at the Hope Hotel for a Couple of Cold Beer then took off to hike and hitch hike again headed towards Boston Bar B.C. I had hiked most of the 30+ miles took a few short Cuts over hills etc and was getting tired of all the hiking when a nice Car pulled to the side of the Hwy and I asked how far he was going he said Kamloops B.C. I said great. He said would you like to have a Cold Beer as he was going to get one. I said sure.

He told me Come to the front of the Car and have a look. He had a Coolong system Built into the front of this car in front of the radiator. He had the Cars fenders and Hood Lengthened to make room for the frig or Cooler with Crushed ice etc and he had a Couple of Dozen Beer on ice “wow” what a way to go. We were off from Boston Bar to Kamloops B.C. I had (4) of his Beer and thanked him at Kamloops as I headed off towards Chase B.C. etc. and on to Squilax B.C. From just out of Kamloops B.C. I got one ride as far as Chase B.C.

At Chase B.C. I was back at hitch hiking towards Squilax B.C. I got a ride to Squilax B.C. and hiked across the Squilax little River Bridge and I walked the long Squilax flats of the Indian Reserve land to Adams River Bridge. Then I got another ride to Celista B.C. the man dropped me off at the start of Evan’s Road I hiked up the old but familiar Road up to Bear flats through this short cut and Back on Evan’s Rd and I hiked up to my Brothers Cabin and he was home doing some work and was most surprised to see me hiking in with full Backpack (Days end)

Donald was in the process of moving to Scotch Creek, about 10 km southwest, and Glenn was there to help. They cleared the new property, dug a well, and built Donald a house. Much of the work fell to Glenn because Donald was working full time for the provincial highways department. Glenn left for Surrey the evening of November 9, arriving the following morning at 0730 hrs.



● Within a month of arriving at Scotch Creek on July 28, 1962, Glenn and his brother had the “floor timbers” laid for Donald’s new house. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, August 28, 1962.*

November 9, 1962 (Scotch Creek) – I work on the new House mostly inside work plus I pack up all my things for this evenings trip to the Coast.

Every day during the 92 days Glenn was actually in the Shuswap region, he recorded animals seen on Donald’s property, and the area around Scotch Creek, frequently starting in the early morning before work and continuing throughout the day. Many times he decided to work until noon and then spend the afternoon exploring local areas he had not visited since the early 1950s when he was in foster care. On some weekends he and Donald fished and panned for gold in local rivers, went to drive-in movies in Salmon Arm, hiked in the local mountains, and searched for Indian artifacts along the Adams River. Glenn always recorded the animals he saw.

During the three months Glenn helped his brother build a new house he compiled 178 pages of notes for nearly 200 species of animals. These included amphibians (1), reptiles (3), birds (166), and mammals (27). A Western Skink found at Scotch Creek was the most northerly record for the province.¹⁶ At least 13 species of birds were noteworthy: American White Pelican, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Stilt Sandpiper, Franklin’s Gull, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Barred Owl, Boreal Owl, Common Poorwill (nesting), Rock Wren, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Many other bird records helped define autumn migration corridors for the south-central interior of the province.^{4,19,27,28}



● Glenn’s record of Ruddy Turnstone observed on the north shore of Shuswap Lake near Celista in 1962 is the first record for the interior of the province. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Don came to the coast for Christmas with the family in December, 1962, and over the following year Glenn and his brother exchanged a couple of letters. Don was settling into his new house, had a girlfriend, and was employed full time.

In mid-April (1963), Glenn took a train to Squilax and hiked to Scotch Creek. When Donald got home from work they travelled to Lillooet for the weekend to look for artifacts and old bottles along the Fraser River. Two months later, in late June, Glenn again visited Donald at Scotch Creek and spent the next three and a half months with him. When time permitted, they explored Anstey Arm and Copper Island in Shuswap Lake by boat looking for fossils, artifacts, and wildlife, took side trips to Kamloops and Adams Lake, and hiked into Hunakwa Lake. When Donald was at work Glenn scoured the area around Scotch Creek within walking distance, recording plants and animals and often helped with various tasks that needed to be done on the property. It was to be their last time together. Early in the new year Glenn wrote:

January 22, 1964 (Surrey) – *To-day at St Pauls Hospital in Van B.C. My Brother Don has his Heart Operation (open Heart-Valve repair).*

January 23, 1964 (Surrey) – *The sadest Day in our Family was to-day when we heard at 10.30 PM That my Brother Don had Died at St Pauls Hospital in Van B.C. at the age of 27 years.*

January 28, 1964 (Surrey) – *To-day is the Day of my Brothers Funeral at Forest Lawns in Burnaby B.C. Another Sad day.*

Glenn celebrated his birthday on January 31 with a long walk in the “South woods” near his parent’s home, “on a sunny and warmish” day thinking about his brother and best friend, and the many adventurous trips they had shared together. Not surprisingly, Glenn returned home with a page of notes for 23 species of birds.

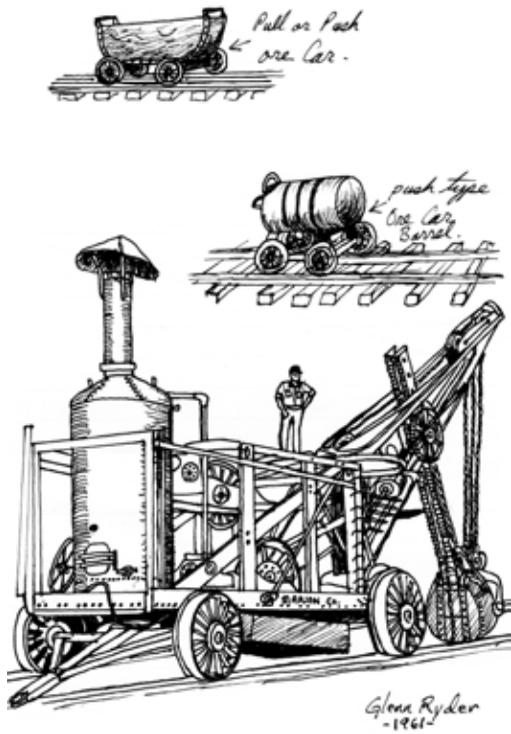
Gold Panning and Old Settlements (1961)

In August 1961, Glenn was invited to accompany Bernard Young and his family on a camping trip into the south-central interior to pan for gold and visit old historic settlements. The two-week adventure, from August 14 to 27, would instill in Glenn’s mind an appreciation of the human history of British Columbia and an affinity for abandoned settlements and mining machinery. He was also introduced to collecting artifacts from these historical sites. This experience would cement this fascination for the rest of his life. He went on to collect photographs of old barns that were rapidly disappearing and extract historical objects from old mine and dump sites everywhere he travelled. Glenn also became interested in drawing old buildings, overgrown historic settlements, old equipment, machinery, and cars for posterity.



● Sketch made by Glenn on August 25, 1961 of the abandoned and over-grown buildings from the Cedar Creek placer mining operation that was active from 1862–1891. This operation, near Likely, started with the Cariboo Gold Rush and during the 30-year period about 5,000 ounces of gold were extracted from the site.²⁹

Glenn and the Young family explored and camped at many sites as far north as Quesnel and Barkerville. The latter historic gold rush town was a highlight for Glenn. They returned to Surrey via the Okanagan valley and Similkameen valley. The primary purpose of the trip was to visit old gold-mining sites and pan for left-over flakes of gold in the creeks and rivers. Secondary was searching for collectable artifacts in abandoned settlements.



● Sketches made by Glenn on August 25, 1961 of ore cars and steam shovel used to extract gold at Cedar Creek between 1862 and 1991.

August 20, 1961 (Swift River/Barkerville) – *We pack up the Camping gear and leave the little Swift River area on route to Barkerville...the Gold City and things of Historical interest...This town...has many Buildings some in very poor shape some in good shape most all Boarded up like someone has plans for the Town possibly going to make it a Tourist attraction. We look the town over then drive down to check Gold places on Grouse Creek and Antler Creek areas of good placer ground.*

August 21, 1961 (Barkerville) – *We later drove around checking out the older Buildings in this wonderful old Gold Town area very interesting and full of Historical information. I hope it will be restored to the Hay Day of Glory.*



● Sketch of abandoned buildings found at Barkerville on August 22, 1961. The town was built to service Cariboo gold miners in the mid-1800s. By the early 1950s mining activity had ceased and soon after the provincial government designated it a heritage site.³⁰

The gold panning expedition was unsuccessful. After sifting gravel from the Cottonwood and Lightning rivers on August 24 Glenn noted “the pans found some colours but not good enough to keep us in the area.”

During the entire trip, however, Glenn kept notes on the birds and mammals he saw and returned home with 57 pages of detailed notes, an average of over four pages per day. The fauna of many of the sites he visited had not been previously recorded so some of his notes were historically significant. For example, 10 Western Grebe nests noted near the Sugarcane Indian Reservation (at the east end of Williams Lake) are noteworthy because the colony had been abandoned by 1965.⁴ Three White-tailed Jackrabbits seen on August 15 running into sagebrush east of Cache Creek was the first record outside the Okanagan valley.³¹

On the return trip on August 15, Glenn kept track of road-killed birds noted along Highway 1 between Kamloops and Chase, a distance of 57.3 km (35.6 mi). He tallied at least 123 dead birds of at least 14 species for an average of over two birds per kilometer travelled. Some of the total were migrants, young of the year, and species that pick up grit or hunt along road edges. These included American Kestrel (4), Mourning Dove (12), Great Horned owl (1), Western Kingbird (8), Black-billed Magpie (3), American Crow (12), Mountain Bluebird (10), American Robin (16), European Starling (9), Sparrows (various species) (30+), Lazuli Bunting (1 male), Western Meadowlark (5), and Brewer's Blackbird (12).



● A staggering total of at least 123 carcasses of birds colliding with vehicles were tallied by Glenn travelling on the Trans-Canada Highway between Kamloops and Chase on August 15, 1961, a distance of only 57.3 km. The total included four American Kestrels. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, near Kamloops, BC, July 24, 2008.*

National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts (1961–2012)

The annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a program of the National Audubon Society, which compiles information to determine long-term trends in winter bird populations. CBCs are conducted between December 14 and January 5 over a 24-hour period during one calendar day, although most participants

only survey during daylight hours. Participants are assigned specific routes from within a 15-mile (24 km) diameter circle comprising a total area of 452 km². All birds seen and heard are counted within each route and all routes are tallied, producing a total number of species and individuals for the entire count circle.

Glenn first participated in a CBC in 1961, in Surrey.³² Between 1961 and 2012 (52 years) he participated in the annual event in at least six different locations. For example, in 2000, he participated in the White Rock count and in 2002 completed the Harrison River count in addition to the Abbotsford-Mission count.

Most recently, from 2001 to 2012, he participated in the Abbotsford-Mission bird count, surveying a portion of Sumas Mountain along Ryder Trail, on the southeast face of the mountain. On this route, he typically surveyed a short stretch of the Sumas River for waterbirds upstream from the bridge on Lakemount Road and the adjacent fields and shrubs at the base of the mountain before heading up the mountain along his trail. He took lunch at the viewpoint he built overlooking what he called Little Sumas Lake (officially named Goose Lake). This wetland is the last remnant of the vast Sumas Lake that once filled the valley from Sumas Mountain in the north to Vedder Mountain in the south until it was drained for agriculture in the 1920s. Glenn described the lake as it used to be, as though he had once been there. Little Sumas Lake is splendid in itself, but a sad reminder of valuable and almost incomprehensibly vast and complex wildlife habitat destroyed and lost forever.

In the early years of this survey, Glenn often recorded Northern Saw-Whet Owls and Western Screech-Owls on Sumas Mountain but in recent years they were absent. He longed for their return, but was not optimistic. Habitat destruction, collisions with vehicles, competition with an increasing population of Barred Owl, and loss of natural nesting cavities and secure conifer roosting perches have taken their toll.

British Columbia Nest Record Scheme (1962-2013)

The British Columbia Nest Record Scheme (BCNRS) is the longest-running volunteer-based wildlife program in the province. It was initiated in 1955 by the late Dr. Timothy Myres, a graduate student in the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia (UBC), to gather biological information on breeding birds in the province.^{33,34} Today (2013) the collection contains over 750,000 breeding records.

Contributors in the early years were mainly UBC graduate students and a few naturalists from the Vancouver Natural History Society.^{35,36} In 1961, Wayne Campbell, an oologist, contributed his first nest cards and encouraged fellow egg-collectors John K. Cooper and Arthur L. Meugens to do the same.³⁷ In 1962, Glenn Ryder, also an egg-collector, was encouraged by Wayne to participate in the BCNRS. He submitted 25 nest cards crammed with detail.³⁸ Over the next 51 years, Glenn added an estimated 14,000 breeding records to the BCNRS, most of which have been extracted from his field notes and



● Glenn started recording breeding information on birds in the province in April, 1942, and two decades later learned about the BC Nest Record Scheme. He remained a faithful contributor for the next five decades. Value-added information on his breeding records was the detail he recorded for each nest with eggs and/or young. Frequently, he included sketches like this Great Blue Heron colony discovered at Fraser Mills. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, June 2, 1960.*

transferred to cards by Wayne. Glenn preferred to be looking for bird nests, and taking field notes, rather than tending to mundane tasks like filling out cards. As an example of Glenn's annual contribution in recent years, his totals for the period 2008 through 2012 reached 2,160 current and historical breeding records or an average of 540 cards per year.^{39,40,41,42}

What makes Glenn's numbers impressive is that most of his breeding records are single records from forested habitats – a difficult environment in which to search for nests. He never had the opportunity to visit seabird colonies and rarely ventured into freshwater marshes for colonial-nesting birds. He wished he had been able to spend more time in alpine landscapes.

Glenn made substantial contributions to the nesting biology of birds in British Columbia. Most of the breeding information published in *The Birds of British Columbia*^{4,19,27,28} for Green Heron,⁴³ Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeon, Barn Owl (natural nest sites), Boreal Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Steller's Jay, Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Western Tanager, Varied Thrush, and Black-throated Gray Warbler was from his discoveries.



● Glenn found more Band-tailed Pigeon nests than all of the other BC Nest Record Scheme contributors combined over the 58 years it has been operating. Photo by Mark Nyhof.

He documented the first and earliest breeding records for many species (e.g., Flammulated Owl), added hundreds of new distributional records that proved to be important in connecting similar geographical regions, and recorded the first colonial nesting for two passerines in the province: Brewer's Blackbird and Pine Siskin. A value-added segment on his cards, useful in developing a species breeding chronology, was Glenn's efforts to make well-timed follow-up visits to determine fledging periods.

Glenn recorded his first bird observation on April 17, 1942 and eight days later documented his first breeding record:

April 24, 1942 – *Birdlife seen during my wanderings with the lady of the House [Glenn's adopted parent in Penticton]. She is a good Bird person She takes notes for me. Common Merganser (35) seen along the Lakes [Okanagan] west side North of the start of O-K River these were some (7) males and (4) females one female had with her some (14) small newly hatched out young another female we seen also had some (10) small newly hatched out young with her on the edge of the lakes west side coming down the lake from Trout Creek Point the lady from the house did most of these Notes up for me.*

Glenn's only breeding record for the day was a brood of Common Merganser. The previous earliest date (calculated) for the Okanagan valley was 1 March.⁴⁴ Glenn's observation, considering a laying rate of 1.5 days per egg (e.g., 14 chicks) and an incubation period of 32 days⁴⁵ pushes the date of clutch initiation for Common Merganser in British Columbia back to at least the beginning of February. The earliest date for a brood in the province is April 9 from Okanagan Lake⁴⁴ which "was almost six weeks ahead of any other record"... "The first egg would have been laid around 1 March..."

On Saturday, the following day, Glenn and his brother Donald were in the field again west of Penticton and made a historic discovery. They found the first Western Screech-Owl nest for the interior of the province with eggs.^{44,19} His notes read:

April 25, 1942 – *We walked west up Shingle Creek to where the Two Creeks enter into Shingle*

Creek one from the South and one from the North It is an interesting area. At a area of Cottonwood trees I find a owl roosting low down in a Tree (5) feet up and we look about the area where the two creeks come together at Shingle Creek My Brother sees a Cavity hole of a Pileated woodpecker and since I am good at tree climbing Donald helps me up as the Cavity hole is low. Some (6) feet up I check and tell my brother there is a owl inside. My brother hands me a small stick and tells me to use It to move the owl so you can see under her. I Did this and found out she was on some (4) Eggs now. MacFarlane's Screech Owl Nest (2) adults here this I told my Brother is a wonderful find we must come back later on to seen the young.

Throughout his life, Glenn had a constant curiosity regarding the contents of nests. Each nest was a challenge, whether in a tree crotch, cavity, burrow, or cliff face. Over the years, with experience, he amassed tools to do the job. He developed nest snoopers (see page 87), cavity mirrors, climbing ropes, safety belts, and unique climbing irons. He was never without a small flashlight in his multi-pocketed vest. Glenn always packed gear appropriate to the habitat he was investigating. Often he also had to take advantage of nearby trees and branches to reach a nest. Ascending waterfalls, trees, rock cliffs, crumbling snags, tall shrubs, buildings, and other structures can also be risky but to him the end result was always worth the effort.

The quality of breeding information Glenn recorded was unsurpassed because of the field tools he carried and time and effort he took to closely examine each nest. He was the only contributor who regularly examined the contents of individual nests in colonies of swallows. This included individual burrows at Northern Rough-winged and Bank swallow sites and Cliff Swallow colonies accessible on buildings and other structures. For example, on June 16, 1962 he checked each nest in a colony of 16 Cliff Swallows nesting under the eaves of a new home in North Burnaby. Three nests were empty and the number of eggs in the remaining 13 nests ranged from two to six.



● Glenn's collection of nest-checking equipment, that included ladders, mirrors, and flashlights, allowed him to determine the contents of Cliff Swallow nests under the eaves of low buildings. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

On a day trip along the Salmon River in North Langley on May 6, 1961 he recorded 27 breeding records for 20 species in 11 pages of notes. The woodland consisted of a mixture of old-growth and second-growth deciduous and coniferous trees and riparian habitats along the small river. Part of the area was bordered by farm fields.

Experienced nest finders will be in awe of his findings for the day. These included Red-tailed Hawk (nestlings), Killdeer (chicks), Band-tailed Pigeon (nestling), Western Screech-Owl (nestlings), Northern Saw-whet Owl (nestlings), Rufous Hummingbird (eggs), Pileated Woodpecker (nestlings), Hairy Woodpecker (eggs), Downy Woodpecker (eggs), Steller's Jay (eggs), Black-capped Chickadee (five nests with eggs), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (three nests with nestlings), Bushtit (inaccessible), Red-breasted Nuthatch (one inaccessible nest, one with eggs), Brown Creeper (eggs), Bewick's Wren (eggs), Varied Thrush (eggs), Western Bluebird (eggs), European Starling (eggs), and Hutton's Vireo (newly fledged young). Glenn had to climb up a black cottonwood 60 feet for the hawk nest and 20 feet for the Pileated Woodpecker nest. The nest contents for other cavity-nesting species were examined by flashlight and mirror and ranged from 2-½ to 15 feet above ground. The Western Bluebird nest is the last breeding record for the southwest mainland coast.^{23,46}



● Little did Glenn realize that the Western Bluebird nest he found in 1961 would be the last reported with eggs from the Lower Mainland. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Glenn had been into the area earlier in the spring to set up the owl nest boxes and had scouted some of the snags and flagged them as potential nest sites but his totals were still impressive.

One of Glenn's favourite birds was the American Dipper [he preferred its former name Water Ouzel] and finding its nest was always a special occasion. He especially enjoyed the bird's cheerful song, even in the dead of winter.

"Owls hoot in B flat, cuckoos in D, but the water ousel sings in the voice of the stream. She builds her nest back of the waterfalls so the water is a lullaby to the little ones. Must be where they learn it."

Karen Joy Fowler, *Sarah Canary*

In spring, 1954, Glenn found an American Dipper nest on a rock cliff face close to a waterfall near Celista in the north Shuswap area. He was determined to check it for contents and spent the better part of a morning constructing an elaborate ladder to the site. He described the event as follows:

March 21, 1954 – *A horseback ride to Manson Creek to fish. Dippers nest found and checked at the waterfall. This nest was on a ledge – some 30 ft up on the rock face. I needed to get up to the nest and there was no way to make the climb, we had our Belt*

Axe and I found a nice Cedar above the creek and Cut it down and with my Brothers help dragged the tree to the Bottom of the falls and we Cut the lower branches so they were shorter and making the tree a bit lighter to handle. At this point we raised the tree at one edge of the Creek by the falls and worked it into the upright area then Braced each side with cut timbers with a Y shaped Branches and Tied them to the Cedar tree with small rope we always pack for just such things. Then I piled Big rocks at the Base of the Tree and the supports. Everything was in order for me to make the Climb to check this Nest. The climb up was easy enough, and on getting to the nest I found the female on her nest with some (6) eggs now white in colour and unmarked Nest Materials Mosses with the main Nest a Large Dome the inside Cup is lined with Dry grasses.(falls 60+ ft).



● This American Dipper nest, 10 m up on a rock ledge, was checked by Glenn using an improvised ladder when he was 17 years old.

Of all the nests Glenn found and checked, three remained vivid in his memory – Flammulated Owl, Osprey, and Marbled Murrelet – all for different reasons. The latter record has been published in detail.⁶

In Canada, Flammulated Owl only occurs in south-central British Columbia and prior to 1946 was known from two specimens. A dead adult female was found on the beach of Okanagan Lake at Penticton on 22 October 1902 by Allan Brooks⁴⁷ and one was collected at Lac Du Bois, northwest of Kamloops, on 11 August 1935.⁴⁸

In spring 1946, while on an all-day hike from urban Kelowna to Knox Mountain, Glenn found a tree cavity with a little owl inside curiously looking at him. He recorded the following notes:

May 29, 1946 – *Flammulated Screech Owls (2) and a Nest was found. This small screech owl type with its Dark eyes was seen looking from a low Cavity hole in a dead Yellowpine [Ponderosa] Tree on the Mtn. [Knox Mountain]. I had been Banging and scratching any tree with a Cavity hole in it when at this snag a small owl looked out. The small dark eyed Owl female looked from a flicker Cavity some (16) feet up in this yellowpine snag, and nearby I found the roosting Male in a thick Douglas fir tree next to the Tree trunk. This is a new Owl for me, not at all like the American Screech Owl which has yellow eyes.*

This little owl has horn feathers on Its head like the MacFarlane's Screech Owl and has much the same Breast Feather markings and has white feathers on shoulder of wing like the M. Screech Owl But has Black eyes or just Dark. The face area around the eyes is a lightish white feathers in colour with more rusty Colour on outer area of face and above the eyes some rust in the short ear feathers. I climbed up the Fir Tree near the males roost he just sat there, opened Its eyes a few times But kept looking sleepily. At Base of Douglas Fir tree I noticed white wash and small Pellets these had all dead Insect remains. I seen some (5) Pellets. I will come Back to check this nest another Day as I didn't want to disturb It.

P.A. Taverner Book Birds of Canada 1934,⁹ says the owl is too Rare to be recorded on eyesight observation, but very small size, ear tufts, and Dark eyes will serve to distinguish this species. Taverner says there is one record of one being found Dead on the Lake shore at Penticton, B.C. and It is the only Canadian record. I have no one I can see about this owl and Its Nest in the Kelowna B.C. area. I never see Mr. J.A. Munro in my Travels During my Bird

checking Trips. He would be the Man to talk with or to show this Owl nest to also a Mr. A. Brooks of Okanagan Landing. But we don't have a Car at the place I live at on Richter St 2256. So the best thing I can do is just write it up in my Field notes.

June 15, 1946 – *Flammulated Screech Owls (1♀) to-day we my Brother Donald and myself checked this Owls Nest first found on May 29/46 the cavity nest hole some (16) feet above the ground the owls using this flicker's nest hole in Yellowpine snag on top of Knox Mtn. [646 m] to get up to the Cavity hole we cut some poles and Built a type of ladder up against this Yellowpine snag we used string to tie the rungs of wood to 4 long poles with three main rungs across main poles, these are tied on each side on top By rope tied tightly at Bottom of (2) D. Firs. We found 2 smaller poles and tied these into the middle of main ladder and we Built the smaller ladder in the middle with rungs of wood sawed to the right length and it time we were finished.*



● Glenn and his brother Donald built a ladder from sticks, branches, string, and rope to examine Canada's first record for a Flammulated Owl nest. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder.*

I made the climb and on the way up the small Owl looked out. But as I got up nearer the Cavity hole she went Back down into the hole. I just reached in with my hand and took hold of her and removed this small owl from her nest and give her to my Brother behind me on the ladder to hold while I checked the Cavity hole with my flashlight and Mirror. I see (4) white eggs. I Bring (1) egg out to look at It and show my brother. Before placing it Back in nest, with the small female owl. She is nicely marked in a rusty and gray wash in feather areas and she has these Dark eyes, the eyes the outer part of the eye is a Brownish and the Middle part of eyes is Black looking, and from a ways off they look Black. Feathers the outer flight feathers have some wash of rust in the end some rust colour in face area and on Back. Also Top of head in the Ear feathers. It is a wonderful Owl species. "Rare"

This is my first encounter with finding a Nest site with eggs first day of seeing this Owl was on May 29/46. But I had seen small pellets I thought were from a small owl these Pellets on the Mtn were loaded with insect remains.

I will check this nest again later on in June or so.

June 29, 1946 – Nest check made of Flammulated Screech Owls – (6) the small Dark eyed female Owl was removed from Nest hole she snapped her Beak at me But nothing more was done. She didn't even bit me.

I give the small owl to my Brother to hold on to while I checked the Cavity by taking the young out of Cavity hole one By one and placing them in my hat (4) in all very small and newly hatch a day or so ago. Egg shell still in nest edge. Also feathers found in Cavity Bottom these were from a Junco taken and a G/c Kinglet. We placed the Owl young and the female Back into nest Cavity and got down. Removed the ladder and ropes off the Yellowpine snag and hid the ladder until we made another check of this nest.

The male Owl was found next to Tree Trunk in a Douglas Fir nearby after carefully checking of tree trunks for white wash and small Pellets male Owl is found a short ways from snag nest area and he was up about 10 feet well hidden.

Not only was the pair of Flammulated Owls a new species for Glenn but the nest turned out to be the earliest reported for Canada. The previous first breeding record was a fledged juvenile found near death at Summerland on 23 August 1947⁴⁹ and the previous first nest record was reported from Apex Mountain, 25 km west of Penticton, on 12 June 1962.⁵⁰

During his time in the Okanagan valley and Shuswap Lake region, Glenn found at least six more nests and recorded Flammulated Owls west to Lillooet.

Glenn's second vivid memory was more nerve-racking and involved scaling his first (and last) Osprey nest. The area was Hunakwa Lake (now Anstey-Hunakwa Provincial Park) located at the north end of Shuswap Lake. Chuck, a friend, dropped him off by boat so he could spend the day exploring the old-growth forests along the lakeshore. Glenn also advised his friend "If I am not back at the camp by dusk he will know that something must have happened to me... and get a message out to the R.C.M.P. and the Search and Rescue people..." He wrote of the experience:

June 27, 1963 – At my first Osprey nest site – This nest is on the top of a 150+/- foot tall Broken off topped Red Cedar. I told myself "wow" It is a long ways up to make a climb. So I sat down and got my Climbing spikes out of the Backpack and strapped them on nice and tightly also got out my safety ropes and just before making the Climb there was that feeling that things would be O-K for the Climb.

The nest tree is set back from the Lake in these woodlands the climb up took me some (2) Hours and I reach the Nest the Adult Osprey came over me Calling, but then left the area then Came back 3 to 4 times to check their Nest and young.

It was rough to get up to checks the nest insides due to the Bulky Stick Nest, I didn't want to Break off any of the support Branches that are holding this nest in place. So I tied my rope to the trunk of the tree and to me with just enough slack so if I Broke a Branch and fell I may just drop some 6 to 7 feet and the rope would hold me. In this nest there is (3) small young still in their Down. The smell of fish and the flies "wow".



● Ospreys usually build their large stick nests atop large mature trees making them extremely difficult to check for contents. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Glenn climbed a second Osprey nest later in the day that was on the top of a 100-foot western redcedar. It contained two medium-sized nestlings. He commented “I was nervous a little at the top there was many dead Dry Branches holding the Nest in place.” While Glenn continued to climb trees to check other nests most of his life, the Osprey experience at Hunakwa Lake had satisfied his curiosity forever!

Nest-finding was Glenn’s primary passion and it became a personal challenge for him to learn the secrets of where birds camouflaged their nests. Every nest was a treasure and despite finding hundreds of American Robin nests, they were recorded as if they were newly discovered.

Glenn’s uncanny sense of finding bird nests was legendary and unparalleled in the province.

The Old Dominion Sawmill Site: Unearthing History (1969-2013)

One of Glenn’s favourite spots for archaeological exploration was the old Dominion Sawmill site near Fort Langley. Here he searched remnant structures for saw blades, kilns, old bed frames, bottles, and children’s toys and sifted forest litter and soils for coins, chinaware, jewelry, buttons, porcelain plates and bowls, and rusty nails.



● As an amateur archaeologist, Glenn had a passion for finding and unearthing treasures from historical settlements and encampments. One of his favourite sites was the old Dominion Sawmill site near Fort Langley where he spent thousands of hours sifting through forest debris for relics. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, February 1991.*

He visited the site numerous times, uncovered some “treasures” but sometimes a visit was especially rewarding.

March 13, 1989 (Fort Langley) – *At the nearest Digsite of the old Dominion saw-mill Village I was Digging at a old growth Cedar stump just east in woods from the C.N. Coal train tracks and the Hydro Corridor. I had unearthed some Broken Ball fruit Jars Aqua in Colour plus some Quartz Beer Bottles all Broken.*

So I started my Digging well out from the old Cedar stump And Wow! Under a square Chunk of steel in the ground was the Best old Bottle to Date. It was a Deep Aqua Imperial Quart Bottle of Old Irish Whiskey Mitchell and Company of Belfast Ltd

nice embossing and Print on Bottle. On back side of Bottle was this design embossed.

A Great Bottle I wish there was more like this one?



● Trade mark on intact old Irish Whiskey bottle Glenn unearthed at the old Dominion sawmill village site in Fort Langley, BC, on March 13, 1989. Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder.

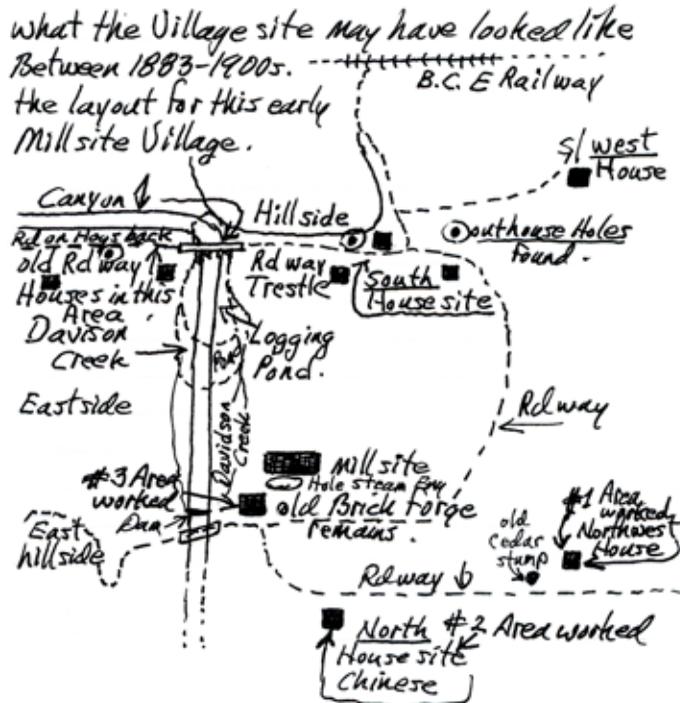
During the last six years of Glenn's life, he focused on unearthing the history of the old Dominion Sawmill site which occupied land southeast of Fort Langley until about 1917 when a fire swept through the area and destroyed it. The site is located on 60 hectares (150 acres) of Crown land that has been leased to the Mountain View Conservation and Breeding Centre Society, who own adjacent property, under the agreement that they will preserve its natural features. For 30 years Glenn had been visiting the site off and on, recording plants and animals, creating habitat for animals, monitoring human activity, and carefully digging and screening the soils for treasures. So it was that over the years he slowly unraveled mysteries of the past, recreated a picture and constructed a map of a community of families, singles, the working class, and privileged. Glenn spent many hard hours digging and screening the soils with his "Glenn Ryder Archaeology of British Columbia" screens. The piles of screened earth and discarded remnant artifacts marked his locations which, once finished, were soon reclaimed by nature like the sawmill site itself. Glenn carefully placed the intact and collectable artifacts nearby for retrieval later. Sometimes when he returned his discoveries were gone.



● The old Dominion Sawmill site was located in a forested environment and difficult to access. Over the years Glenn cleared a trail along a railway right-of-way filled with brambles that allowed him to visit the site, and carry away his treasures, unobstructed. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, October 9, 2013.*



● To minimize human impact Glenn constructed small foot bridges across rivulets to access the old Dominion Sawmill site. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, October 9, 2013.*



● Like a seasoned professional archaeologist, Glenn reconstructed a map of the old Dominion sawmill site near Fort Langley from bits and pieces he uncovered during 43 years of visiting the site. As early as August 1, 2008, Glenn had prepared a sketch of what the site may have looked like between 1883 and 1900.

Bottles were important in dating the site and activities of its past occupants. The colour of the glass bottles revealed their composition and the way in which they were moulded gave further clues to their age and country of origin. Labels helped, and were often present on intact bottles or became legible once fragments were painstakingly pieced together. All these data were recorded and the artifacts he collected were carefully labelled. Like his adventures in placer gold mining, Glenn's efforts at the Dominion Sawmill site were partly motivated by the chance of finding something of great value, because he always struggled for money. After a hard day at the site, Glenn would often lament that the day's effort produced no artifacts of note, no intact bottles, only fragments that added little to his efforts to document the site's history and would have allowed a financial reward to continue his explorations.



● Glenn often stock-piled glass bottles he found at the Dominion Sawmill site to later transfer them to his home in Aldergrove. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, December 1987.*

Glenn was determined to learn all that he could about the people who lived and worked at the Dominion Sawmill. It is hard to imagine any one person undertaking such an endeavor when it seems more befitting that an institution, well-funded and staffed, should be involved. Glenn managed to conduct a detailed and rigorous study, methodical and meticulous, with patience and curiosity.

Glenn's other interest in the site, of course, was its natural history. Through much of the winter the soils were too wet for screening, so his archaeological work took a back seat to wildlife studies. Many of his outings were solely to record the presence of plants and animals but regardless of his focus on a particular day he recorded all that he observed. While digging through the soils Glenn sometimes roused a sleepy salamander, which he would carefully re-bury. His observations of plants and animals at the site over the many years highlight the importance of long term studies.

Glenn was a great trail-builder. When he made up his mind to build a trail, he would devote all of his time and energy to the task until it was completed. After many years of accessing the Dominion Sawmill site by walking along the railway track and having to

dodge trains by rushing into narrow paths adjacent to the well-spaced utility poles, he built a trail above the tracks through thick shrubs and some formidable tangles of Himalayan blackberry. Glenn's trails were easy to tell apart from others and the access trail to the Dominion Sawmill site had his trademark signs.

There were no small stubs to trip on; these remnants of shrubs were always cut to ground level and he often fixed other's trails by removing them.

Shrubs and other plants which did not have to be removed were tied back with twine rather than cut. How many people ever take time to do this?

To cap off his trail along the railway corridor, Glenn built a bridge over a small creek at the northwest corner of the Dominion Sawmill property. He used nearby fallen logs and branches and a few pieces of lumber salvaged and carried from the south end of the property and wherever else he could find them.

Glenn re-routed the main trail inside the forest trail around a small patch of white fawn lilies and carefully fenced it off to keep humans from trampling the plants and to discourage deer from eating them.

At the time of his death, Glenn was enhancing and creating wetland habitat for amphibians in the Dominion Sawmill forest.



● While searching for artifacts at the old Dominion Sawmill site near Fort Langley, BC, between 1969 and 2012, Glenn frequently uncovered salamanders. Details were always recorded that provided new information on hibernating sites and times for several species including Western Redback Salamander. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Additional Volunteer Bird Surveys

Glenn was among a number of members of the Central Valley Naturalists (CVN) (now the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club) who participated in International Trumpeter Swan Surveys in southwestern British Columbia and northern Washington State. Glenn covered the Sumas Prairie area from 2001 to 2007.

High rates of mortality from ingestion of lead shot by wintering Trumpeter Swans (and less commonly Tundra Swans) were recorded in northwestern Washington and southwestern British Columbia from 1999, despite the fact that lead shot had been banned since 1989 in Whatcom County, Washington and 1992 in the Sumas Prairie area of British Columbia.⁵¹ Examination of sick and dead birds revealed that 65% of birds died from lead poisoning from shot that was ingested while probing and eating vegetation.^{52,53,54}

To address this problem, a team of biologists from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Trumpeter Swan Society, and the Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Washington formed in 2001 to initiate co-operative international surveys of wintering Trumpeter Swans. The team's objective was to identify the main concentrations of lead shot so a management plan could be developed to reduce swan mortality.

Laurie Wilson, a CWS biologist contacted Johanna Saaltink (of the Central Valley Naturalists) who recruited members for roadside monitoring of swans. Glenn chose to monitor swans on Little Sumas Lake (officially, "Goose Lake") from a vantage point high above the lake on Sumas Mountain from November through January between 2001 and 2007. The co-operative effort was crucial in determining the major concentrations of lead poisoning.

Experimental manipulation of wintering swans, which involved passive and active means of discouraging swans from using sites of highest concentrations of lead shot, resulted in a 64% reduction in lead-caused mortality from 2009 to 2012.

In addition to swan surveys during the late 1990s, Glenn regularly accompanied Joanna Saaltink for surveys of nesting Red-tailed Hawks and other raptors around Abbotsford as an extension to the program developed in the lower Fraser River valley in 1971.²³

Most of Glenn's explorations and observations were self-directed and did not involve official surveys. Glenn spent all of his adult life living at various places in the central Fraser River valley. Over the six decades he spent in this area it would become apparent how his passion and dedication to note-taking would influence the protection of habitats and parklands in the area. His discoveries also contributed greatly to the scientific literature on amphibians,⁵ reptiles,⁵⁵ birds,^{6,56} and mammals.⁵⁷



● Part of the co-operative International Trumpeter Swan Surveys in southwestern British Columbia included Sumas Prairie, which was surveyed by Glenn Ryder for nearly a decade. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Sumas Prairie, BC, November 25, 1999.*

EXTENDED TIME AFIELD WITH FRIENDS

Glenn had his favourite places to visit and he spent quality time, including many follow-up visits, to determine their flora and fauna and changes in species and numbers, like an old-school ecologist. Still, he had a hankering to poke around other areas where his observation and note-taking skills might contribute new information for the province. Four friends in particular gave him that opportunity by providing various levels of travel, accommodation, and meals, and access to new sites. Sometimes Glenn's visits or field excursions lasted several months. The support of these generous friends resulted in a profusion of new distributional and breeding records for British Columbia.

Artifacts, Fossils and Egg-collecting with Jack Cooper and Family

John (Jack) Cooper, a successful New Westminster realtor, was an avid outdoorsman who collected butterflies as a teenager and as a young man in the 1920s and 1930s and turned to egg-collecting in the 1950s. By 1971, when the federal government stopped issuing scientific collecting permits, Jack's large private collection included about 400 clutches for 190 species. In the mid-1960s, Wayne Campbell introduced Glenn to Jack. They shared common interests in egg-collecting, artifacts, and fossils and quickly developed a solid relationship. Initially they spent a lot of time afield together on day trips and later Jack invited Glenn on extended trips with his family. Jack's wife Louise was a keen observer of everything, son John was wildlife-oriented, and daughter Carrie was fascinated with archaeology. Both children later obtained university degrees in these respective disciplines. Decades later, Jack's son, John, joined the staff at the BC Provincial Museum where Wayne's position as curator of ornithology provided him new opportunities with wildlife. It was during this period that Wayne invited him to participate as a co-author in the authoritative four-volume set of *The Birds of British Columbia*.

Jack's primary interest on trips was collecting. As their friendship developed the organization of Glenn's personal collections of relics and eggs was



● Jack Cooper wading in a bulrush marsh to reach a clutch of Redhead eggs. *Photo by H. Shirley Parsons, Blue Lake (Richter Pass), BC, June 1960.*

influenced by Jack's meticulous and organized approach. Jack even paid for Glenn's first oological collection cards and gave him yard work at his home in New Westminster to help with living expenses.

While gardening at Jack's home in the mid-1960s (May 14), Glenn recorded 14 species of birds, including 10 Crested Mynas, an introduced species that is now extirpated from the province.⁵⁸ Over the following years Jack and Glenn communicated regularly and often shared egg-collecting stories and trips with other active collectors such as Leo Meugens, Lorne Frost, and Wayne Campbell. Through 1972, they spent many day-trips together in the Fraser River valley generally searching for nests with fresh eggs to collect. Favourite sites included Annacis Island, Burnaby, Campbell Creek, Campbell Valley Park, Crescent Beach, Fleetwood, Langley, Lulu Island, Maple Ridge, McLean (Scout) Park, Pitt Meadows, Pitt Polder, Poplar Island, Port Coquitlam, Sturgeon Slough, Surrey, and White Rock. Glenn noted who found a nest and later each person filled out his own nest cards. On occasion their excursions targeted a specific species like Gray Jay.

March 12, 1966 (Mount Seymour) – ...during the Snow shoe hike in search of the elusive Nesting Canada [Gray] Jays. Snow on the Top very Deep. No Canada Jays seen. Birds seen are few [10 species recorded] but the trip was Worth It If just for the exercise. One old nest 30 feet up thought to be the Jays?

Another species Jack was keen on collecting was a complete set of Green Heron eggs. The centre of abundance in British Columbia was the lower Fraser River valley where many adults had been reported throughout the breeding season and reports of fledged young indicated it was likely nesting.⁴³ As the species nested in deciduous thickets and trees near water, Glenn suggested they start searching early in the year when foliage did not obscure an old nest.



● Glenn often started his nest-finding during the late winter and early spring when nests could be easily spotted without leaves on the trees. On a trip with Jack Cooper to Pitt Polder on February 19, 1967, Glenn found an old Green Heron nest in a Pacific crabapple tree at the edge of a river. Glenn checked later the nest but it was not used. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder.*

In 1967, Wayne Campbell discovered a large mixed colony of nesting seabirds on Cleland Island, off Tofino⁵⁹ and later published a paper.⁶⁰ Reprints were sent to friends, including Jack. He was so intrigued with the possibility of collecting sets of eggs for eight species of seabirds on one small island that he and Glenn left for the west coast of Vancouver Island on May 31, 1968 and returned home on June 4. This was their first overnight trip together. Unfortunately, the weather was poor and meeting with Wayne, the summer naturalist at Wickaninnish Park, did not materialize. Later Wayne collected clutches of Leach's Storm-Petrel for their oological collections.

As their friendship grew, Jack began inviting Glenn for dinners to meet his family. One Christmas Glenn wrote:

December 25, 1968 (New Westminster) – *This afternoon Jack Cooper came over to my Mothers home to pick me up to go over to his home. We drove over in his station wagon. At Jack Cooper's home we chatted about Birds and Birds eggs and Nests etc. I stayed for supper chatted more He then drove me Back to my Mothers Home.*

Glenn was invited by Jack to accompany his family on extended natural history trips into the southern interior of the province during the late 1960s and early 1970s. The purpose was to search for artifacts, fossils, and bird's nests. All of Glenn's travel and living expenses were covered by Jack. The first trip was a 10-day spring excursion into the southern Okanagan valley.

April 4, 1969 (Aldergrove) – *I headed out on a study trip with Jack Cooper and his Family the First stop was the Vedder River area. Jack may try some Steelhead fishing. We hope to locate the Nesting site of the Long-eared Owl in the Upper Country.*



● During the 1960s, the White Lake/Twin Lakes area in the southern Okanagan valley was a popular location to collect clutches of Long-eared Owl eggs where the bird nested in old American Crow or Black-billed Magpie nests. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

They explored the Princeton, Wolfe Lake, Keremeos, White Lake, Richter Pass, and Kilpoola Lake areas. A favourite part of the trip was scouring marshes and ponds along the road to Kilpoola Lake ending at the lake where they checked for the pair of Say's Phoebe that nested in an old building each year.



● During the 1950s and 1960s, the rich diversity of nesting birds in Richter Pass was discovered by egg collectors, including Jack Cooper. These pioneering explorations stimulated publication of a treatise on birds of the area in 1971.⁶¹ *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Kilpoola Lake, BC, April 12, 1969.*

During the excursion Glenn found his first Northern Scorpion, Black Widow Spider, Great Basin Spadefoot Toad, and Ferruginous Hawk, the first record for the latter species in British Columbia. He also found six Long-eared Owl nests!

In 1971, Glenn joined the Cooper family and friend Lorne Frost for a 13-day spring field trip. It started in the southern Okanagan valley looking for bird's nests and relics and soon evolved into an artifact-collecting trip that ended in Lillooet. On the sixth day of the trip Glenn wrote:

April 11, 1971 (Keremeos) – I am teaching the Cooper family the Art of Artifact hunting Looking for stoneage Indian items along the old Trading trail etc. They seem to enjoy this new found interest, from Bird Egg Collecting. But we still record Birds and Mammals etc. looking for Artifacts some 3 or 4 miles west of Town.



● From left to right, John Cooper, Louise Cooper, Glenn Ryder, and Carrie Cooper proudly holding arrowheads and rock chips found along the Old Hedley Road east of Princeton, BC, in 1968. *Photo by Jack Cooper.*

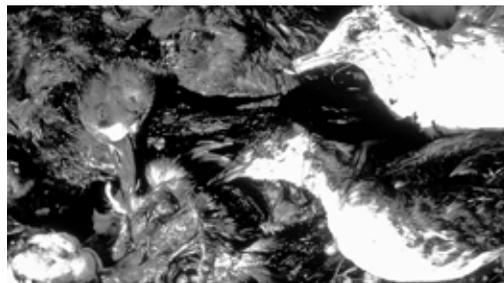
At the end of the trip they had collected an impressive array of artifacts that included skinning knives, long and short arrow points, scrapers, core chunks, and arrowheads. Having an experienced naturalist like Glenn on the trip also gave value-added information for wildlife. For example, during a hike around White Lake and the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory on April 10, Glenn recorded seven species of reptiles, 56 species of birds that included early spring arrival dates for Virginia Rail and Sage Thrasher, and 13 species of mammals, including the uncommon American Badger.

The last family trip with Glenn was a weekend jaunt of “artifact hunting” in spring 1972. They all stayed in the Cooper family’s cabin on the banks of the Similkameen River, which Glenn described as “peaceful – slept like a log.” Jack and Glenn shared a mutual respect for each other and always looked forward to their expeditions of discovery for nearly a decade. Glenn’s detailed notes for this period, thanks to Jack’s generosity, form a permanent record and major contribution to the natural history of British Columbia at a time when natural history was not in vogue.

Princeton and Vicinity with Birding Friend Jerry Herzig

In the late 1960s, Glenn found a birding buddy who lived in Langley and shared many of the same feelings of respect for wildlife and the places they live. It was a perfect match. Like Glenn, Jerry preferred to be alone in the field, kept notes (only birds), loved searching for bird nests, and abhorred many of the human-wildlife conflicts that negatively affected animals. The earliest mention of Jerry in Glenn’s notes was in 1967:

September 6, 1967 (Aldergrove) – Jerry Herzig Brought over a Grebe [Red-necked] (1) that was still in Its rich Spring Breeding Colours. The Bird had appeared to be sick But a check of It I failed to find any wounds the Grebe was later released at the end of the Wharf here at White Rock B.C. the Grebe just Swam off then dived below the water surface, looked to be feeding o-k now.



● Most times Jerry and Glenn visited marine shores during the hunting season to watch birds, especially Boundary Bay and Crescent Beach, and were disgusted with the number of non-game birds like loons, grebes, shorebirds, and gulls that were killed needlessly. Over the years, Glenn found carcasses of 27 different species. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Before the end of the year, Jerry and Glenn had gone on birding trips to Crescent Beach, Pitt Meadows, Stanley Park (Vancouver), Westham Island, and the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Highlights were 100+ Common Terns at Crescent Beach, 400+ Barn Swallows on wires along Neaves Road in Pitt Meadows, 92+ Common Terns off Stanley Park, and 109+ migrating Black-capped Chickadees on Westham Island. These few trips cemented their long-term relationship.

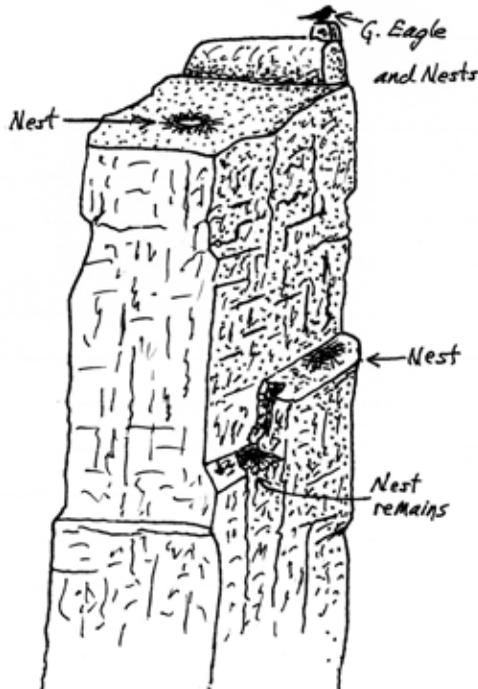
Until Jerry moved to Princeton, they kept in touch and frequently went bird-watching during autumn migration and less frequently owling in local woods, often with friend Al Grass. Jerry occasionally delivered road-killed animals to Glenn for his reference collection for painting and shared some of his more notable breeding records such as Barn Owls nesting in the grain elevators in Vancouver. Together, they also sought life-birds such as a Gyrfalcon that showed up on Westham Island on January 5, 1969.

Glenn made regular trips to Princeton, usually to spend time with Jerry exploring new locations in the area. Sometimes he stayed in his camper and at other times with Jerry and his wife Kim. In spring 1990, the Herzigs were moving from town to a more rural location east of Princeton and Glenn offered to help them. Since his vehicle needed repairs and Glenn could not afford the necessary work he called on a friend to help get him to the bus depot.

April 19, 1990 (Langley) – *I was at home and phoned Norm Jorgenson and asked him If he would pick me up at my home and Bring me down to Langley town. He said he would As I am headed up to Princeton, B.C. We had breakfast at Ricky’s Café then over to the Bus Depot for the Greyhound Bus the ticket Cost me \$18.30 and the Transfer at Hope B.C.*

Glenn stayed nine days and returned home to Langley with 27 pages of notes that included blooming times for plants, an emergence time for Northern Alligator Lizard, and rare sightings of a pair of Ferruginous Hawks and a Flammulated Owl. Jerry and Glenn had previously found Ferruginous Hawks nesting in the area in spring, 1979.

The only active nests found were those of Golden Eagle and Canada Goose but Northern Flickers and Pygmy Nuthatches were recorded excavating cavities.



● Sketch by Glenn Ryder of the location of old and active Golden Eagle nests on a “rock tower” near Hayes Creek, BC, April 22, 1990.

Tamarack Lake “Ranch” with Wildlife Artist Keith C. Smith

Keith C. Smith was a renowned Canadian artist best known for his oil paintings of landscapes and large mammals. He was also an advocate for wilderness values. Keith and his wife Arlene owned a 300-acre property (the “ranch”) at the north end of Tamarack Lake, a small lake located 5 km (3 mi) north and west of Skookumchuck in the East Kootenay region of British Columbia. They lived in the vicinity through the late 1970s and 1980s then moved to Vancouver and later to Qualicum Beach where Keith died in July, 2000.



● Whenever Glenn visited Keith Smith in the East Kootenay they always took several side trips to explore new territory for plants and animals. In July 1979, they took a trip to Koochanusa Lake, a reservoir formed by the Libby Dam on the Kootenay/Kootenai River at Libby Mountain, Montana, in 1972. In this photo taken by Glenn, Keith is contemplating what the area may have looked like before hydroelectric developments. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.*

Glenn admired Keith's artwork and conversely Keith respected Glenn's observational talents. They met in 1974 when Keith was living in the Fraser River valley and afterwards went on many local trips together with various objectives, from photographing spawning cutthroat trout in the Salmon River to observing marine birds in Boundary Bay. Glenn promised to introduce Keith to Fenwick Lansdowne and in early in 1975 they travelled to Victoria. After watching birds at Clover Point, Glenn wrote:

February 22, 1975 (Victoria) – *I then took K.C. Smith over to meet a friend of mine James Fenwick Lansdowne in his Victoria Art Studio. Keith took Photos of Fenwick at his Art work Painting a couple of life sized studies of Tufted Puffins. Keith took Photos of me with Fenwick By his Car outside the Studio on Victoria Ave [in Oak Bay] We chatted awhile then headed out to do more Bird checking about areas near Victoria B.C.*

Glenn and Keith became good friends and shared many local trips through 1975. Their last trip together in the Lower Mainland was on January 2, 1976 when they went to Iona Island to photograph Snowy Owls. Shortly afterwards Keith and his wife moved to the East Kootenay. He and Glenn corresponded infrequently but in one letter Keith suggested that Glenn visit him in the summer and make an inventory of wildlife on his property. Glenn was ecstatic! He arrived at Tamarack Lake in his "1976 Datsun long box truck and camper" on June 9 and left on September 3. Even before he left to start his summer "wildlife study," Glenn prepared a preamble for his notes that would of course follow:

Records etc Dedicated to The Happy Fraternity of Naturalists Like K. C. Smith and others by Glen R. Ryder Naturalist Tamarack Lake Ranch etc Wildlife Studies East Kootenay B. C. On the Property of K. C. Smith Big Game Artists & Nat.

Glen R. Ryder, Spring 1976

The flora and fauna of the Tamarack Lake region was essentially unknown in the mid-1970s as there were few resident naturalists who kept regular field

notes and few provincial biologists who visited the lake. Most of the attention was focused on local provincial parks like Wasa Lake,⁶² general vegetation monitoring programs,⁶³ and managing big game species like White-tailed Deer⁶⁴ and Rocky Mountain Elk.⁶⁵

Glenn arrived full of anticipation and even before he saw his first Black Bear, he recorded "signs" of its presence. By mid-summer, he had learned more about the species than ever before. He also learned that canvas and wood canoes should not be left overnight on the lakeshore. On August 18, he and Keith found that a Black Bear had ripped four large holes in the canvas near the water line! Birds, however, remained his primary focus.



● Tooth and claw marks on this western larch are sure signs that a Black Bear had ripped the outer bark off to get to the inner bark as a source of spring food. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Tamarack Lake, June 10, 1976.*

Glenn stayed on Keith and Arlene's property for 97 consecutive days and made notes daily. As a break from building his new home, Keith accompanied Glenn on local trips and occasionally they visited art stores and galleries in nearby Montana. When the summer was over, Glenn had recorded 288 species:



● Beaver lodge dug out by a Black Bear. Glenn could identify hair that was caught on some of the branches at the lodge to confirm the predator as a Black Bear. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Tamarack Lake, July 10, 1976.*

plants (113), butterflies (21), amphibians (3), reptiles (4), birds (123 of which 51 were found breeding), and mammals (24). The situation was ideal for Glenn. He was on private property, which meant he could carry out his “wildlife studies” undisturbed while he searched wetlands, woodlands, fields, and meadows. He was also able to record in detail behavioural observations and set up his camera gear for prolonged shoots. Life was great!

The East Kootenay was a new locality for Glenn and despite all of his discoveries he felt most privileged to share time with herds of Rocky Mountain Elk and families of White-tailed Deer and American Badgers that were common in the vicinity of Tamarack Lake. His last entry for the summer read:

September 3, 1976 (Tamarack Lake) – I have

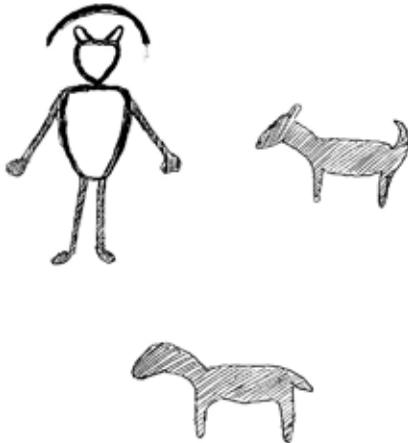
Broken Camp By 7.30 A.M. and ready to roll on out of here. After a Dam good Summer in a new area doing just what I like Wildlife Studies etc. This time for K.C. Smith and Arlene on their Wildlife rich Ranch area.



● Sketch of recently fledged brood of Western Wood-Pewees found at Tamarack Lake by Glenn on August 8, 1976. This was one of 108 species Glenn found breeding during the summer months.

Keith and Glenn had bonded but each had his own life – Keith as an artist and Glenn as a roving naturalist/artist. They kept in touch by letter. On April 20, 1977, while Glenn was leaving from a spring visit with Jerry Herzig in Princeton, he noticed a familiar truck at the gas station in Hedley. It was Keith and Arlene who were returning from a trip to Arizona! Glenn told them he was on his way to White Lake in the Okanagan valley for a few days. The chance to have some time afield with Glenn again was welcomed, so they postponed their return to Tamarack Lake by a couple of days. Highlights in the sagebrush country were hundreds of migrating Sandhill Cranes, foraging Long-billed Curlews, a Great Horned Owl nest with downy young, an American Badger, and the discovery of some Indian artifacts.

The chance meeting prompted an invitation to return to Tamarack Lake in late summer for a few weeks and in August (1977) Glenn and Keith explored new areas and added new species like Sharp-tailed Grouse, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Short-eared Owl to the list of “ranch” birds. They spent more time, however, searching remote areas for Indian artifacts and pictographs.



● Pictographs of a bear or a wolf, White-tailed Deer, and possibly a bighorn sheep lamb, found on a cliff face along the shore of Columbia Lake. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, August 31, 1977.*

August 23, 1977 (Columbia Lake) – ...*the Cliff side Paintings or Pictographs... some of the Pictographs had been damaged By people using the trail siteseers they had been Banging the Paintings with a sharp stone of which caused some Damage to them. Photos taken of all Pictographs.*

In 1979 Glenn was consumed by wanderlust and without much planning visited areas spontaneously across southern British Columbia mainly to get new seasonal records for *The Birds of BC* project.^{4,19,27,28} On June 13 he arrived unannounced at Keith and Arlene’s log cabin at Tamarack Lake and stayed until July 24. It was his last visit to the Tamarack Lake property. He wrote:

July 24, 1979 (Tamarack Lake) – *This is my last day here on the Ranch, possibly I will never get Back here again due to mixed feelings on the part of K.C. Smith. Oh well It was interesting just the same.*

On each of his visits Glenn prepared a reference map of the ranch divided into various habitats and for unusual discoveries, like the nest of a Common Poorwill whose locality was noted exactly. The latter was the first nest reported outside the Okanagan valley and a major range extension for the species in the province.

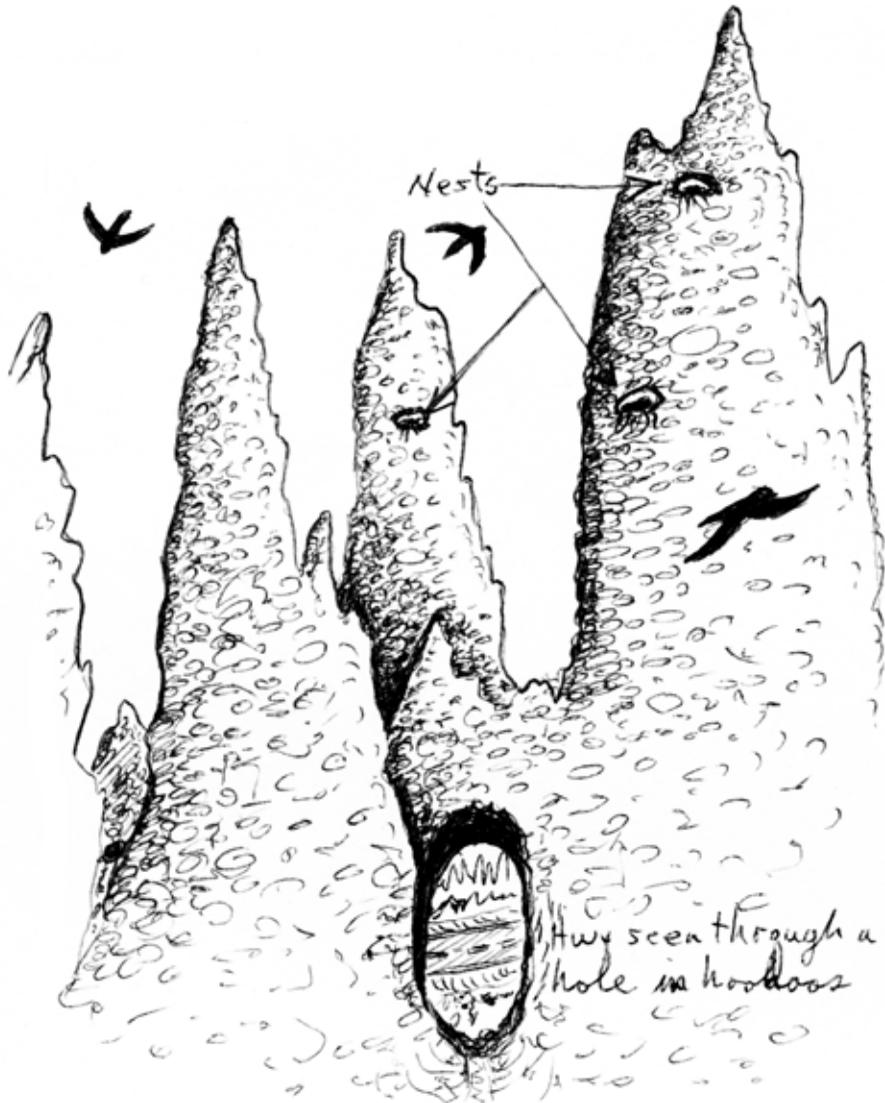


● Not all of the reference maps Glenn sketched were for locations. For his book in preparation on the “Natural History of Tamarack Lake” Glenn prepared working maps of habitats so he could relate the wildlife he recorded to where they lived.

Although Keith was busy painting, he and Glenn went on several side trips and found new breeding records for the province. On a trip to the Dutch Creek Hoodoos, west of Fairmont Hot Springs, they found a new breeding colony of White-throated Swifts.

Glenn never completed his manuscript "Wildlife

Studies on Tamarack Lake Ranch, East Kootenay, British Columbia" for Keith and Arlene but hundreds of pages of detailed notes provide an early record for a little-known area of the province. Glenn occasionally saw Keith and Arlene when they moved to the coast until 2000 when Keith died.



● A new nesting site for White-throated Swift was discovered by Glenn at the Dutch Creek hoodoos in the East Kootenay, the first for the region. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, July 22, 1979.*

Nature Photography with Ervio Sian

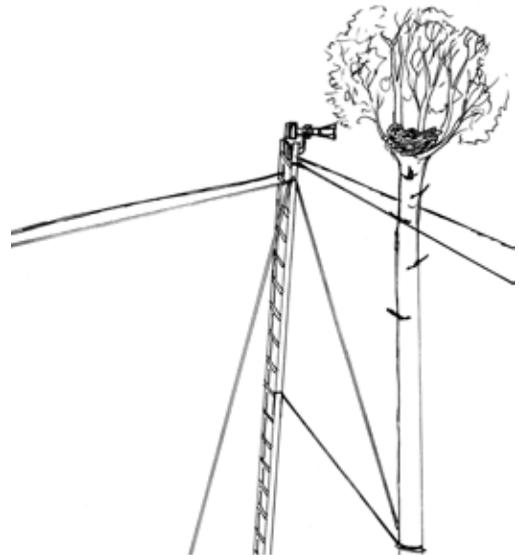
Ervio Sian, an immigrant from Italy, worked for the Parks Department in New Westminster as a Horticulturist and was responsible for many of the city's magnificent floral displays. He enjoyed photographing flowers and soon became interested in bird photography. He spent most of his available time looking for photo opportunities and within a few years became an award-winning photographer and major photographic contributor to *The Birds of British Columbia*. Many of his photographs were published in books and magazines and he developed a reputation for documenting rare species like Far Eastern Curlew.⁶⁶ Ervio passed away on January 13, 2010.⁶⁷



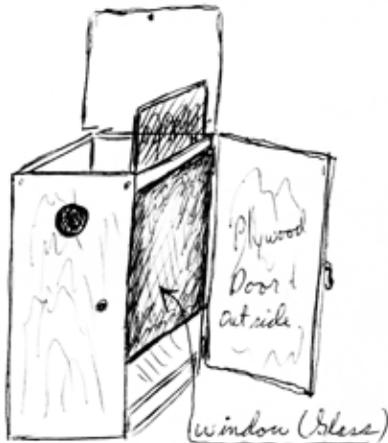
● For over two decades, Glenn helped nature photographer Ervio Sian with his obsession to obtain photos of all nesting birds in British Columbia. In this photo, Ervio is photographing a Great Horned Owl nest that contained two large nestlings found by Glenn along the Osprey Lake Road, northeast of Princeton, on May 6, 1979. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.*

Ervio was initially interested in photographing flowers in municipal displays but soon became interested in butterflies and other large insects. Glenn knew of his interests and frequently called him when he had something spectacular to photograph. For example, on July 13, 1969, Glenn found a “Black & White Banded Long-horned Wood Boring Beetle” [Asian Long-horned Beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*] and noted, “Ervio Sian has taken colour Photos of It (Slides).”

During the early 1970s, Ervio started photographing birds and kept in touch with Glenn, regularly enquiring about nests he had found. Occasionally he paid Glenn to help set up for a photo shoot which sometimes involved placing platforms high in trees near nests of raptors and herons or building specially designed nest boxes. Ervio also paid Glenn to find nests locally for uncommon species like Band-tailed Pigeon, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Hutton's Vireo.



● Glenn was a master with ropes and ladders and often used his skills acquired over 40 years to get Ervio close to a nest to photograph. This sketch by Glenn shows the elaborate structure of aluminum ladders and guy ropes that allowed Ervio to get close to a Great Gray Owl nest near Meldrum Creek on May 16, 1983.



- Glenn built a special nest box for Western Screech-Owl with a sliding glass side panel so Ervio Sian could photograph the incubating female. On March 24, 1970, Glenn noted "The Box did not prove too good for Photography."

Ervio's ambitious personal project was to photograph every regularly occurring species of bird in British Columbia including different ages and plumages as well as nesting activities. Ervio was aware of Glenn's abilities in locating nests and between 1970 and 1992 they travelled the length and width of the province searching for nests and other photo opportunities. The main motivation for this effort was the project *The Birds of British Columbia*, which would be illustrated by Ervio's photography with new information provided by Glenn.

June 18, 1977 (Surrey) – headed for Williams Lake B.C. and all stops in between. On a Nest recording and Photographing Trip with Ervio Sian of New Westminster B.C. We are Collecting Data for R. Wayne Campbells Book on the Birds of B.C. It is my job to find the Nesting sites and record the Data Ervio Sian will Take all the Photos. Our first stop was at Bridge Lake in the Cariboo.

This was a unique chance for Glenn as it meant exploring new areas with no expenses. They travelled mostly in a Volkswagon van, usually camped, and at least once a year were away for weeks at a time.



- While camping in remote areas in the Cariboo, Glenn and Ervio were always cognizant of changing weather patterns and knew that rain meant being stranded as dirt roads became impassable. At 02:00 hrs on May 17, 1983, the rains started and they quickly packed up and left the area for a gravel road. Glenn wrote, "Yes these back roads were Bad, plus hard to see in the Dark. We made It that V.W. can go anyplace a 4 X 4 could go." Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder.

Their first overnight trip was on the May 23 and 24, 1970 weekend when they travelled to the Okanagan valley to photograph nesting Long-eared Owls. Glenn reported that they found a nest "but the Young had all left." Over the following 23 years they went on at least 65 photographic trips lasting from a day (locally) to several weeks. For longer trips Ervio had to take annual leave or time off work without pay.

Their favourite location was the southern Okanagan valley, especially Richter Pass and Kilpoola Lake, where Ervio obtained excellent photographs of several specialties, including Long-eared Owl, White-headed Woodpecker, Canyon Wren, Sage Thrasher, and Brewer's Sparrow. They also had some unexpected surprises.

June 14, 1975 (Vaseux Lake) – During a hike I was up in the hills of the Bighorn sheep Range above Vaseux Lake in a separate Area than Ervio Sian was, as he was setting up or in the Photo Blind some ½ mile below me in the Valley When a Voice cracked out from my two way Radio we used on the job. "Glenn"! I have Rattlesnakes around the Blind come down here to help. I called Back will be right down don't move about area too much.

On getting down to the Blind and checking the grasses and Antelope Bushes in Blind area I came across (2) more Rattlers making (3) right in Photographic Blind Area. These Rattlers do not always rattle their Warnings, they just Coil up and look at you. Photos taken. We removed the Snake from the Blind placing it in another Area some distance away.

On Saturday, May 14, 1983, Ervio learned that Anna Roberts knew of a Great Gray Owl nest with small young near Meldrum Creek in the Chilcotin. The owls had used an old Northern Goshawk nest in a trembling aspen. They arrived in Williams Lake the next day, went to Meldrum Creek and located the nest, and late in the day on May 15, Glenn constructed an elaborate system of ropes and ladders near the nest for photography. The following morning superb photos were obtained, some of which were published in volume 2 of *The Birds of British Columbia*.¹⁹

Until 1992, Glenn accompanied Ervio on up to four extended photographic trips into the interior of the province each year. They spent considerable time in the Cariboo region, usually reporting in to Anna Roberts in Williams Lake for local information on birds, and ventured as far north as Parker Lake (Fort Nelson). They also spent time in the Peace River region and in 1982 went to Washington State to photograph Greater Sage-Grouse and Spotted Owl in 1985.

Glenn was the patient observer-naturalist, whereas Ervio was on a focused mission and driven to photograph a species quickly and move on. During a trip on June 13, 1982, Glenn noted, "this man always has a deadline go, go, go." Their relationship at times was too intense for Glenn and he frequently "disappeared" for a few hours to explore on his own. However, their discoveries over 23 years together were significant.

A LIFE OF OBSERVATION AND NOTE-TAKING

Well to-day is my 45th Birthday and I am now past the middle age time in my life, and looking Back wonder what I could have or should have done different? Just what have I done that was outstanding all those years chasing down Birds, Mammals, recording notes Photographing Wildlife Picture Painting etc, I guess It was the freedom to roam about the hills etc that drove me on, I had always wanted to be the Best Naturalist that I could be from the time I was around 10 years old in the North Shuswap a homestead belonging to Charlie & Mary Riley of Evans Road and line 17 Celista B.C. I often strayed from school to follow Wild Animals & Birds.

Glenn R. Ryder, January 31, 1983, Langley, BC.

Glenn credits his mother with stimulating and encouraging his interest in identifying birds. She began pointing out birds, naming them, and showing him pictures in her books, especially the pocket-sized series simply known as the red, yellow, and green books. The three publications contained most of the species found in America and were illustrated in full colour.^{68,69,70} His father was also a keen observer and recorder of wildlife. Glenn especially enjoyed the family outings walking along the seashore. Glenn retained what he saw and constantly studied pictures in books and magazines to enhance his talents. By five years old, he was already a budding naturalist but did not have writing skills. His early sightings (starting in 1942) were written in small pocket-sized notebooks by his first foster parents in Penticton, his older brother Donald, and Mary Riley, his foster parent in Celista.

Within a few years he learned to write and began entering more detailed summaries and descriptions of what he saw each day. Soon he had a sizeable collection of notebooks and scraps of paper, which he kept in order by year. Glenn continued his avid note-taking until 1964 when he met Wayne Campbell at a post-Christmas Bird count gathering held in Burnaby. Wayne had started amassing bird records to update the provincial reference *A Review of the Bird Fauna of British Columbia* by J.A. Munro

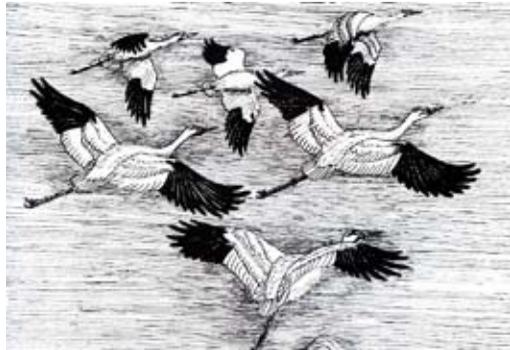


● For 31 years Glenn recorded his observations in small pocket notebooks and on pieces of paper which he kept in cardboard boxes. In the early 1970s he started transferring the records onto standard foolscap sheets (8½ inches x 11 inches) that were later filed in chronological order, day by day. He followed a consistent species order so information could be located more quickly. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

and I. McTaggart-Cowan published in 1947¹⁸ and he mentioned how difficult it was to compile bird sightings from small notebooks written in pencil. Werner and Hilde Hesse, who hosted the function,⁷¹ showed us how they systematically summarized their daily field notes. In 1967, when Wayne was Chair of the Ornithology Section of the Vancouver Natural History Society, he met Glenn again to discuss accessing his field notes. As an incentive, Wayne offered Glenn a small honorarium to transfer his sightings from notebooks to a larger format and arrange them in phylogenetic order by animal group so they would be more accessible. This would help develop his legacy as a serious naturalist. Glenn was in constant need of money and he was beginning to realize that his wildlife sightings had merit and usefulness beyond personal interest. When he was 52 years old, Glenn fully realized just how important his life of note-taking could be.

November 11, 1990 (Langley) – *This evening R. Wayne Campbell came over to Langley B.C. to Ricky's Café and Brought me the (2) Volumes of the Birds of B.C. all signed for me I have wanted to see these Books for some time. It's too bad all my Notes were not finished years ago as I have so much Data going Back to 1942 to present.*

I will be working on my Note Books and Data for years to Come. I have almost wrote something every Day of my life since I was (4) years old.



● Glenn was the major contributor to the four-volume set *The Birds of BC*. Usually his notes contained sketches of rare species, like these six adult Whooping Cranes seen at Alexandria, BC, on April 25 and 26, 1962.¹⁹

Over the years, Wayne encouraged Glenn to continue transferring his notes and regularly gave him a stipend for doing so. Wayne regularly travelled from Victoria to Glenn's house in the Fraser River valley to pick up notes because Glenn would not send original copies in the mail. During these visits Wayne would help out with meals and frequently brought reference books on fungi, plants and animals,^{8,31,44} as well as stationary, filing boxes, cabinets, art supplies, field equipment, film, and plywood for his owl nest boxes. Like many other friends, Wayne left Glenn some cash (usually \$20) for car gas so he could continue his "wildlife studies" and note-taking. Glen always preferred cash.

November 3, 2001 (Aldergrove) – *I am sending you these finished up Notes for the year 1985 some 196 pages. Any Mony you send me can It be Cash*

in a registered letter to me. I need to Buy Pens and Paper etc to write up my Notes. So if you could send Cash hidden in between Dark paper so no one can tell Please do.



● Glenn's library contained the latest reference books for identification, from human artifacts and old cars to plants, insects, birds, and mammals. As he acquired new books, he spent hours identifying new taxa and quickly became an expert in identifying difficult groups, like mushrooms. Often Glenn's notes contained sketches like this milk-white brittlegill (*Russula delicata*) he found in Shuswap Lake Park on August 24, 1964.

The task of transferring his notes was laborious. Since Glenn moved so frequently, his field observations were never completely arranged in an orderly manner. They were put into a small box and when time permitted he pulled out a notebook or isolated pages and began the process of transferring information by date. Surprisingly, over the years, his collection fell into place like a jigsaw puzzle. An entry in his notes follows, this example:

August 5, 1990 (Langley) – *I spent most of the Day writing my wildlife notes from the Princeton B.C. area Date of May 1979 the sighting of the pair of ferruginous Hawk and their Nest well up in a Yellow Pine tree on the East side of the Osprey Lake Road*

Nest made from weed grasses and other course plants well out from tree trunk. Brought Back Memories.

It took Glenn a full day to transfer the Princeton four-day trip from bits and pieces of paper to 16 pages of foolscap paper (8½" x 11") that could be inserted into his growing collection. Over his seven decades of recording, Glenn's field notes, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and un-transferred notes, physically occupy 13 m (44 linear feet) of library shelf space with an estimated 1.4 million individual records of plants and animals. This is by far the largest collection of detailed and descriptive observations of nature by one person for British Columbia.



● After 70 years of recording the natural and human history of British Columbia, Glenn's collection of field notes (rows of binders) are the most diverse and thorough ever documented in the province. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Glenn's massive collection is really a personal diary highlighted with hundreds of thousands of entries on fungi, plants, animals, human relics, and personal experiences and thoughts. Two sample pages highlighting a typical entry for wildlife follows:

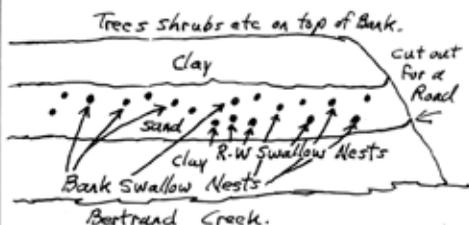
Depending on the rarity of a species, Glenn either provided detailed field descriptions or an accompanying map to show precisely where a species was seen. He never owned or used a global positioning system (GPS) unit so his sketches are an important addition to his notes. An example for one such record follows:

<u>x-mammals</u>	
* - of interest. Notes by Glenn R Ayder Naturalist B.C. Wildlife Patrol.	
Date Monday December 3 rd 1962. Area North woods from home at	
15453 92 Ave Fleetwood North Surrey B.C.	Wildlife species seen.
Ruffed Grouse	(2) seen on this hike. (Red Phase).
Ring-necked Pheasants	(3) * the (1) Cock with the (2) Hens in the back field behind 15453 92 Ave.
* Long-Eared Owls	(2) found roosting in a Cedar tree at south woods edge at Hydro Corridor. Owls 12+ feet up on branches out from tree trunk much white wash + pellets.
Pileated woodpecker	(1) male working a snag in woods.
Hairy woodpeckers	(2) seen in woodlands on hike.
Steller's Jays	(3) * * * * *
B.C. Chickadees	(93) * some groups of (60) + (33)
R/Breasted Nuthatches	(5) heard in tree tops as they feed.
Brown Creepers	(4) seen working red cedars in area.
Winter wrens	(19) * in these woodlands on hike.
Bewick's wrens	(6) * * * * *
Varied thrush	(14) * on forest floor feeding.
GLC Kinglets	(65)* * just the one group on hike.
* Hutton's Vireo	(1) * feeding low down in Hemlock.
Rufous-sided Towhees	(12) * * in shrubs etc Hydro Corridor.
Oregon Juncos	(64) * at back yard 15453 92 Ave.
* Slate-coloured Juncos	(2) * * * * *
Fox sparrows	(3) * * * * *
Song sparrows	(18) * some (8) at home. plus (10)* at the Hydro Corridor.
x-Mammals seen or signs.	
x-Coast Black-tailed Deer	(2) Does put up from Bedding spots.
x-Red Fox	(1) seen walking Corridor west.
x-Raccoon	(signs) tracks in Mud at Corridor.
x-Snowshoe Hares	(4) seen in these woodlands.
x-Coast Mole	(signs) Mound in open woods + Corridor.
x-Douglas Squirrels	(6) seen in various places on hike.
x-Northern Flying Squirrels	(3) * at tree Cavity holes.
x-Striped Skunk	(signs) a Den in woods trail out to Corridor.
x-Shrew moles	(2) found dead on game trails.

● Glenn was very consistent in how he transferred his rough field notes from small pocket notebooks to permanent archival pages each day. He always started with birds and listed them, with noteworthy details, in checklist order. Mammals, herps and other wildlife followed. Each page started with the full date and description of the area visited. Species of interest were identified by an asterisk in a circle. On this winter trip in woodlands in North Surrey, Long-eared Owl, Hutton's Vireo, and "Slate-colored" Junco were considered rare encounters by Glenn.

⊛ -of interest. Notes by Glenn R Rydar Naturalist.

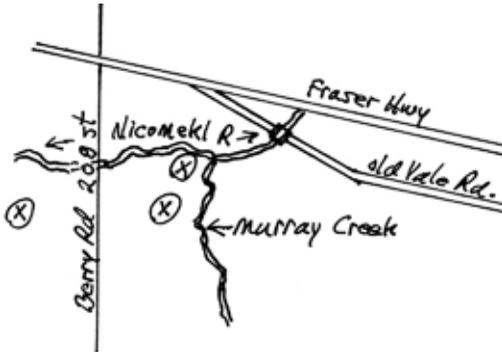
Date Monday June 11th 1990. Area Bertrand Creek South Langley B.C.
Bank and Rough-winged Swallow Nests in a Cut bank on Westside of Bertrand Creek North of 8th Ave well up this Creek.



⊛ Cliff Swallows	(43) ⁺ seen feeding above Bertrand Creek and Farm fields.
Barn Swallows	(38) ⁺ seen in Various places on hike.
Steller's Jays	(11) heard in woodland some seen.
N/Western Crows	(60) ⁺ seen at farmland hay cut and gone.
Common Ravens	(4) " flying across the area.
B.C. Chickadees	(30) " feeding in Various places.
Chestnut B. Chickadees	(11) " " " " " " " " " " " "
Bushtits	(9) " in trees along Creek feeding.
Red-breasted Nuthatches	(10) heard Calling from tree tops on hike.
Brown Creepers	(13) seen some (4) + (7) + (2) feeding at Various trees during my hike the (7) was a family group. From a Nest.
Bewick's wrens	(5) seen during my hike.
Winter wrens	(18) " " " " " " " " " " " "
R/C Kinglets	(4) males heard during my hike.
Swainson's Thrush	(12) males heard Calling in woodlands.
Am Robins	(15) ⁺ seen in Various places on hike.
Varied Thrush	(4) " " " " " " " " " " " "
Cedar waxwings	(9) " " trees above the Creek.
Solitary Vireo	(5) males singing along Creek in woodlands.
Hutton's Vireo	(4) " " Calling heard-

● A typical page of Glenn Rydar's field notes. Summer populations of Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Bank Swallow in the Lower Mainland have declined over the past several decades as human activities have encroached on their breeding sites. This colony on Bertrand Creek, checked by Glenn on June 11, 1990, was still active. Nests with eggs were found for two pairs of Northern Rough-winged Swallows and six pairs of Bank Swallows.

July 17, 1988 (Murray Creek) – *Lazuli Bunting* (1) male singing at shrub top on the west side of 208 st. Male singing sites marked by a “X”. Time 10.30 A.M. to 11.00 A.M. Bird relocates and sings at other sites.



● Lazuli Bunting is a rare, local visitor to the Fraser River valley and a species of interest for protection of grassland and shrubland habitats. Glenn’s map accompanying his field notes shows exactly where a male was observed (circles with X) during a half hour of viewing. Such information is helpful to wildlife managers in assessing the significance of dwindling wildlife habitats in the Lower Mainland.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Glenn became more focused on inventorying site-specific areas where urbanization and road access threatened important watersheds, wetlands, and older forests in the Lower Mainland. He made it a personal project to better document these disappearing habitats by recording more detail for plants and animals and getting the information to municipal planners. There was no one better qualified than Glenn to take on this task, and his findings had an impact.

One such area was Bertrand Creek, a cross-border tributary of the Nooksack River in Washington that flows south through Aldergrove and Langley. Its drainage basin of 113 km² of land is one of the very few in the world to support populations of endangered Salish Sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*) and Nooksack Dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*). Glenn was aware of the creek’s importance and spent quality time recording its wildlife.

June 11, 1990 (Langley) – *I spend 12 Hours in the field to-day...I am at Bertrand Creek. I see that the township keeps putting in new Roads nearer to this wonderfull Creek and the area needs more protection not more Roads and Houses.*

During the one-day trip Glenn filled 12 pages of field notes for 121 different species of butterflies, moths, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The area’s diversity was not surprising to Glenn but to others the results were astounding – it meant he recorded over 10 new species for every hour he was in the watershed! Glenn found four species of owls and took time to identify prey remains below a known Western Screech-Owl roost site. It included Nooksack Dace, Pacific Water Shrew, Trowbridge’s Shrew, Vagrant Shrew, Pacific Wren, Song Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee. He also found breeding evidence for 13 species, including a brood of Common Goldeneye (very rare on the coast*) and a small mixed colony of Northern Rough-winged and Bank swallows.

Glenn’s pioneering inventory of plant and animal life led to the creation of the Bertrand Creek Enhancement Society in 1993, a co-operative effort by residents, local governments, and the private sector to preserve and enhance the watershed for environmental and recreational purposes.

Note-taking is an important form of written expression and few people maintain it throughout their life. In some years Glenn had over 600 pages of notes and he constantly alluded to the importance of keeping up to date recording wildlife. While writing his notes during a walk about in woods in Surrey on February 11, 1962 he wrote, “My Notes have not been very good as of late and I must do better.” In late 2011, Glenn found his father’s notes dating back to the early 1920s and, realizing the importance of the discovery, spent time in 2012 transferring them to pages of foolscap. As a batch of notes was transferred, Glenn would send Wayne a desperate note like the one below.

Wayne: could you send me a check for my fathers notes as I am in need of some Money so I can get back out into the woodlands my Car has been in for repairs and it has taken most of the remains of my Pension to pay it off and I need more paper and Pens to carry

on with my fathers Notes as there still is much more to be written up.

Send check P.D.Q.

Glenn R. Ryder, Aldergrove, BC, May 8, 2012.

Halfway through his 72nd birthday Glenn began to realize that he did not have the stamina to continue his arduous treks up Sumas Mountain or even complete long local walks, especially in the scorching sun. He was complaining about shortness of breath but never visited a doctor to deal with any respiratory issues.

August 13, 2010 (Fort Langley; the old Hudson Bay Co. farmland site) – Temp 33.8° C, a record for Abbotsford... I may have to wait until Monday or later in the week to check some more. I do need a rest. It was rough hiking out to the Car all that ways in the hot sun although I did have Drinking water with me. Maybe I am getting too old for this type of work?? But I am determined to find the old black glass Camp and re-dig it up and screen it.

By the end of 2012, Glenn was spending much less time in the field as his knees were bothering him and his once dependable “Chevy” station wagon was

aging and in constant need of repairs. A frequent entry in his notes every couple of months afterwards read, “...got my Car fixed again.” He depended more on friends for outings and spent more time indoors catching up on transferring his field notes to standard sheets of foolscap.

December 25, 2012 (Aldergrove) – I watched my North window as I wrote up my Notes for R. W. Campbell in Victoria B.C. for any good Birds But seen only N/Western Crows (50)⁺, G. Winged Gulls (6) and House Finches (14) flying across area.

On February 10, 2013, Glenn contracted pneumonia and his note-taking for the rest of his life was primarily confined to his yard at Lions Grove Estates in Aldergrove. The infection was severe and he should have been hospitalized but even getting him to a family doctor was a challenge. The prescribed medicine he received was never taken.

During the following six months before his death Glenn spent time, when he felt he had enough energy, maintaining walking trails at Rawlinson and Davidson creeks and sifting dirt at the old Dominion Sawmill site for historical bottles and fragments of pottery. Even these tasks were now exhausting.



● Five months before his death Glenn was still excavating the Dominion Sawmill site near Fort Langley for bottles and other relics. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.*

April 26, 2013 (Fort Langley) – *All I found to-day was Broken Glass and Broken Chinaware Took Photos of old Glass did not keep looking or working as It was too much for me I need to work slowly into the things I did in 2012. I was a man in Better shape then.*

Glenn continued to record wildlife during these outings but the number of sightings was greatly reduced as was the diversity of animals. His notes for the first nine months of 2013 approached 90 pages, about a fifth of what he would normally record if he was active and healthy. Glenn never fully recovered from his bout of pneumonia and died on October 2, 2013 from complications of the lung infection.

Glenn's final entry, from his home six days before he died, still showed his fascination with animals and commitment to record sightings daily, even in his backyard.

September 27, 2013 (Aldergrove) – *Weather overcast with Rain on and off Most of the day. It is Mild out. American Robins (50)+ feeding about the Lawns here at 2.30 3.00 P.M. I don't know where they all come from It seems like a early Migration of a sort.*



A TRUE NATURALIST

Those persons who have perceptive eyes enjoy beauty everywhere.

Paramahansa Yogananda

Nature First

Ethics is nothing other than Reverence for Life. Reverence for Life affords me my fundamental principle of morality, namely, that good consists in maintaining, assisting and enhancing life, and to destroy, to harm or to hinder life is evil.

Albert Schweitzer, *Civilization and Ethics*, 1946

Many times Glenn put Nature ahead of his personal life that included visits to doctors, hospitals, optometrists, and dentists for health issues. Steady employment was not considered unless it directly involved plants and animals. The basics of eating and sleeping were sometimes ignored or delayed. And time required for social engagements, romance, dating, marriage, and raising a family was out of the question. These fundamentals of life all interfered with Glenn's freedom and innate urge to constantly be outdoors exploring. His moral self-discipline never wavered and Nature was always front and centre. Glenn considered all life to be precious and frequently adapted his own life to help or learn about Nature and her critters. He always went out of his way to disturb animals as little as possible and help, even rehabilitate, when necessary.

A few examples of these admirable traits follow.

No Scent Here

The challenge of locating and checking a nest was an activity that that he enjoyed most. He was aware early that human scent left behind, especially for ground-nesting species, may attract mammalian predators and he was always mindful that he should minimize the risk. When he was 10 years old Glenn found a Short-eared Owl nest and described how he

checked it:

June 13, 1948 (Celista) – *I didn't want to leave any human scent at the nest, something Charlie [Riley] taught me from his trapping work so I use a long stick to part the Ferns and grasses at nest and stand some ways Back from the nest. The thin lodge pole is about 7 feet in length and I only touch one end of It, the part I hang on to. I leave area quickly after checking.*



● The Short-eared Owl nest Glenn found and checked contained six newly hatched young and two unhatched eggs. It was the first breeding record for the Shuswap region and one of a handful reported for the interior of the province.¹⁹ *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder.*

Oven Mice for a Hungry Owl

The Riley farm in Celista was one of the few areas in British Columbia where Boreal Owls could regularly be encountered in winter. Glenn was fascinated with the little owl and felt privileged to be able to observe and study it. The start of the winter of 1954 was a cold record for the Shuswap region – temperatures were -21° C, a metre of snow covered the fields, and frozen pipes closed the school house for a week. Only Great Horned Owl and Snowy Owl were doing fine because of their diet of Snowshoe Hares.

While feeding hay to the cows and horses in the barn each morning over the winter, Glenn discovered that a Northern Saw-whet Owl and a Boreal Owl were roosting on beams inside the building at different hay lofts. He was concerned about the birds getting enough food and last saw the owls together on January 12. Two days later he wrote:

January 12, 1954 (Celista) – *Boreal Owl (1) seen roosting at Charlie Rileys old Cabin under the Porch roof. Owl appeared to be very hungary and was likely not getting much to eat during this wintery weather. I went to the Barn hay loft where The Saw-whet Owl is still hanging out and Brought Back some mice left on the Beams in the Barn, these I give to this small Owl and It eat them fast.*



● Glenn would collect fresh but uneaten Deer Mice from a roost site of a Northern Saw-whet Owl in a barn in Celista to feed a Boreal Owl he was rehabilitating. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

I took the Owl into the house and placed It in a Dark Box with other mice that I heated up in the oven to thaw them out, and before I headed out for school. I give to the Owl It gulped them down also and by the time I had to leave for school the owl had eaten some (4) mice (2) Cold ones + (2) Heated mice. The owl at this point was very much alert and not like I had found It cold and hungary and not able to fly off.

When I released It the owl flew up the hillside above the woodshed and into some Cedar trees. I headed off to school.

The Boreal Owl was seen intermittently in the area over the winter and was last seen roosting in an old building near Scotch Creek on April 10, 1954.

Just for the Enjoyment

Often during his ramblings Glenn chanced upon a unique situation that he wanted to retain as a memory without his interference. Seeing nearly 400 Band-tailed Pigeons would satisfy most bird watchers but Glenn wanted the event to be more vivid.

September 9, 1961 (Surrey) – *Band-tailed Pigeon (375⁺) a large flock in area to-day feeding on the seeds of the Dogwood tree Cornus nuttallii. The Forest floor is littered with their small Body feathers from their preening in the trees. I crept into the area to watch these wonderfull Birds as they fed on the ground and in the trees there was a constant rain of seed from the tree Tops to the Forest Floor as these Pigeons were feeding.*

I hope in the Future these Pigeons won't go the way of the Passenger Pigeon.

Once is Enough

Sitting, watching, and waiting often bring unexpected surprises when outdoors. One afternoon Glenn was sitting on an old-growth log getting caught up on his notes and looking around when he was about to get a lifetime experience.

October 10, 1961 (Fleetwood) – *Spotted Skunk (1) seen creeping up through a rotted Crack in the wood of a large old growth Douglas Fir snag just east of home. I wanted to learn more about this small skunk so Brave me I grabbed the animal By the scruff of the neck and pulled it out from the Crack in wood. But before I could get it under control it got me instead and I quickly let him go. At that point as I got him he got me. He scampered away I went home to change my Clothes Before heading out for the north woods again. This time I will leave small Black & White Animals I see alone.*

Attacked by a Pile of Fur

Glenn usually took a small bore rifle with him on overnight camping trips, especially as a safeguard in bear country. He never had to shoot an animal but several times had to fire a round or two to into the air

to discourage closer contact. During a 7.5-km return trip into Hoover Lake, 13 km north of Mission, Glenn was attacked by a Bobcat. He recorded the incident:

March 10, 1962 (east of Stave Lake) – *During the hike I was passing through a wooded area left during the logging in the area when I saw up the Rocky hillside that was free of any trees it seemed to be a Animal moving fast down the hillside towards me. I paid little mind to it and walked through the woods and was just headed into the second Wooded area along a steep hillside that overlooked a open rocky gully when I heard something to the Right of me as I turned around a pile of fur hit me knocking me down the hillside in among the Rocks I had dropped my Rifle a (22) as I fell Backwards down the hill. I scrambled for the gun and as I Turned around to see what it was the female Cat was just Vanishing between the Rocks and Shrubs so I fired a shot over her head.*

On checking myself afterwards I had some scratches on the Back of my left hand that was Bleeding somewhat. But these were not Bad But a little sore. I called to my friends the 3 come running to see what had happened. As we walked about the area checking for her one of the others did see her on a rock watching the area. We feel she Attacked as I had been near her Den and she no doubt had Kittens nearby. I do remember a log and possibly a hollow at one edge of Woods near the Attack area an old Dry hollow Cedar tree. What a thing to have happened "Wow"! It was close at that.

A Reverence for all Life

In May, 1962, Glenn's brother had finally sold his 160-acre farm at Celistia and was ready to move to nearby Scotch Creek. Glenn decided to visit Donald for a few days and have one last hike through his old stomping grounds. He boarded the CPR train in Port Coquitlam on the afternoon of May 14 and arrived at Squilax, at the east end of Little Shuswap Lake, the following morning at 0:600 hrs. He then had to hike 25 km (16 mi) to Celistia and along the way he recorded an incident that showed his concern for all living things.

May 15, 1962 (Lee Creek) – *Painted Turtle* (22) of them seen Crossing the roadway a main Road. I Collect all of them and Take them to the lake shore [Shuswap Lake]. These Turtles small newly coming from a hatch site area where they had over wintered size 4 c.m.

About a week later, when Glenn was home again, he showed another act of reverence for animals:

May 23, 1962 (Surrey) – *I am doing a little Rat trapping for Rattus norvegicus as they are living under the Cedar Boards of the shed. I am using a walk in live trap for them. I have managed to catch (4) so far. But the four are small Rats and I need to catch the female. I have also Caught Towhees. I let them all go again.*



● Considered a pest and disease carrier by most people, this young Norway Rat was live-trapped by Glenn and transported and released in a nearby woodland where its chances of survival might be better than in a residential yard. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Caring for Old Charlie

Occasionally Glenn was a one-man rehabilitation centre for injured and abandoned wildlife. His patients included a variety of animals from hatchling turtles and mice to Great Horned Owls and American Beaver kits. Several times he rescued butterflies that appeared lethargic and kept them indoors overnight for warmth before being released. Glenn retrieved animals from collisions with motor vehicles, windows, power lines, transmission towers, and the mouths of domestic cats. He also saved carcasses from shootings, those

caught in leg-hold traps, and even songbirds caught on the prickly heads of burdock plants. Sometimes the commitment of care was lengthy and time-consuming but to him it was always worth the effort. One rehabilitation incident, with a happy ending, was well documented.

September 28, 1962 (Lee Creek) – *The ♀ Great Horned Owl is doing o-k she was picked up injured hit a wire down at the long stretch of Hwy West of Lee Creek. I am feeding her Road Killed Wildlife I give her several Chipmunks she bites the heads off them then swallows the Body whole. Her eyes the pupils change from large to small very quickly as she watches the Birds near her Cage. She moves her head around and around getting the distance of the Wild Birds etc. she is drinking water on her own and seems to be in good shape except for her one wing now in a splint.*



● Glenn's sketches of "Old Charlie", an injured female Great Horned Owl he nursed back to health over a year and a half and released back into the woods.

October 5, 1962 (Scotch Creek) – ...*female Great Horned Owl...was taken down to Surrey as I have to look after her now.*

October 9, 1962 (Surrey) – *For my Great Horned Owl to-day I mixed up some raw stewing Beef with some feathers and fur the Owl ate It up... This was given only because I didn't get anything from the wilds as yet to-day.*

October 12, 1962 (Scotch Creek) – *I got a couple of squirrels [Red] for the G. Horned Owl.*

October 14, 1962 (Scotch Creek) – *My G. Horned Owl was fed more squirrel.*

October 21, 1962 (Scotch Creek) – *I go hunting for Owl food for my G. Horned Owl.*

November 9, 1962 (Scotch Creek) – ...*got things ready for the Coast trip..and I packed in the Owl Cage...going to the Coast also.*

November 11, 1962 (Surrey) - ...*the Big Owl will get some stewing Beef mixed with feathers to eat for now.*

February 4, 1963 (Surrey) – *Great Horned Owl Photographed to-day By W.W. Hastings of Crescent Beach as I releast the Owl into the Wilds. As the Owl seen It was free It flew and landed on the house and looked around the time is 10.00 P.M. We got a number of good Photos. Owl still about at 11.30 P.M. and finely left for the North woods.*

February 14, 1963 (Surrey) – *Old Charlie seen again in the Area this time It was still in the Spruce using It again to hunt from.*

February 15, 1963 (Surrey) – *Old Charlie the owl seen next door...the Crows had her spotted again... the old wise owl was in open view...she had half a Rat in her talons.*

February 18, 1963 (Surrey) – *the Horned Owl old Charlie not seen since Feb 16th.*

March 1, 1963 (Surrey) – *Old Charlie...was seen as I Walked the south woods...I called the Owl and she came near to me But would only let me get with 50 feet of her.*

January 12, 1964 (Surrey) – *Great Horned Owl (1) is located on a open Branch of a W. Hemlock. I get a good look at this large Owl looks to be a female and is much lighter in Its Coloured plumage [interior form]. I am sure It is old Charlie the owl I picked up in the North Shuswap with a Broken wing as It had flown into a Powerline Cable and fell to the Roadside.*

Glenn cared for “Old Charlie” for 132 days and during that time had to feed her. An adult Great Horned Owl requires about 70 g (0.14 lb) of food per day⁷⁴ which means Glenn had to salvage or collect 9.2 kg (20.3 lbs) of food for the injured owl before she was released. That translates into at least 426 deer mice, 168 chipmunks, or 42 Red Squirrels!

A Prince for a KINGlet

Glenn had spent so much time in the woods, and was so familiar with animals that lived there, that little escaped his eyes, even a comatose four inch kinglet.

January 20, 1969 (Surrey) – *Found a half dead Golden Crowned Kinglet in the snow at the Base of the D Fir tree in a weakened state It fell out of the tree roost, But it was still alive I placed it in a small Dark Box in the warm room for a hour or so, It seemed to be getting more pepy. I fed It some small bits of suet It ate them up slowly, I then left It alone for some time.*

January 21, 1969 (Surrey) – *The G/C Kinglet I picked up on Jan 20th is now o-k. I let it go I went out side with Bird in Hand and opened up my hand flat the Bird looked around then flew off into the thick Sitka Spruce tree in good shape.*

Babysitting “Short-stuff”

Glenn’s reputation as the “go-to” guy in the Lower Mainland for owls was now established and was becoming legendary. Farmers, policemen, municipal workers, naturalists, and even biologists sought his advice on a wide assortment of issues. Many people reported their sightings to him, shared their unusual experiences, delivered road-kills for his feather collection, begged him to lead evening owl trips, and brought him injured owls for care. He never turned down an owl in need.

October 19, 1975 (Mount Lehman) – *To-day I had a fellow from the New Westminster Naturalist Club a Malcolm Ramsay Bring me out a injured Owl a Saw-whet Owl. The Owl was first noticed By a Guard who looked After some stores in this town*

and one evening It was spotted By him as he made his rounds the Owl sat at the Base of a Brick wall possibly flew into the wall?

The next morning the Guard was Back the Owl was still there and alive yet so he picked It up and took It to this Malcolm fellow's place, and It was Brought out for me to look After as I have had good luck with sick or injured Birds mainly Owls.

The First Bird I picked up was a Road Killed Junco. Other Birds were taken from the house Cats who Brought in a good supply of them and Voles white footed mice also the little Owl I called "Short stuff" did very well.



● Glenn cared for "Short-stuff," an injured Northern Saw-whet Owl, for nearly half a year before releasing it back into its natural environment. The owl was a constant source of companionship. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.*

Little did Glenn realize that at the time he would be babysitting for another 176 days! The owl was free to move about in Glenn's studio but on overnight trips it was caged and travelled with Glenn. When Glenn planned one of his seasonal trips to visit the Herzigs in Princeton in spring 1976, "Short-stuff" went along and was released in good health.

April 13, 1976 (near Princeton) – *This evening at 15 past 8.00 P.M. I releast the tame Saw-whet Owl Short Stuff Back into the Wilds into a Yellow pine woodland where I have seen other Saw-whet Owls Nesting nearby. The site is on the south side of a*

Lake south of Mr. J. Herzigs home 2 ½ miles East of Princeton B.C.

The Owl didn't want to leave me But soon got the feeling Back and started to look about for mice and flew up into a tree Branch then a little higher and soon was out of sight in the Branches of the tree the Area has a good deal of food in these woods and should find a mate and get by O-K. The very Best Short Stuff!

Just Between the Coyotes and Me

Infrequently Glenn noticed the evidence of conflicts with humans and wild animals and as a factual naturalist recorded these in his notes.

March 23, 1990 (Salmon River, BC) – *Coyote (signs) seen in area a stolen chicken Taken from farm near 256 st by all the Feathers under the trees at a Bed spot on North side of the Salmon River.*

I also found a second chicken taken by the Coyote this was a Barred chicken feathers on the ground in area also a scat on top of feathers, feathers in two groups some 50 feet apart. This is fresh.



● Over the years Glenn learned to identify most medium-to large-sized mammals from their droppings, like these Coyote scats found near a den site. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

This discovery, and a nearby den site, was never shared with anyone as Glenn knew the animals would likely be trapped or shot. He believed that all plants and animals deserve the respect of people because they were present on earth long before humans.

A Sleeping Mouse

When Glenn was exploring, his full attention was on Nature and because he had no full-time career commitments that required scheduled hours, he had time to watch, record, and occasionally help animals he found that would have a better chance of living if he intervened.

December 9, 1991 (Keery Park, Surrey, BC) – *During my Digging at the old Dump site today I somehow managed to Cut across the Burrow of a Jumping Mouse that was in It's Burrow hibernating the little creature came out of the Burrow and rolled down the hillside to the edge of the Creek. I picked it up and placed It in the palm of my Hand and took It Back up to the Burrow this mouse Northwestern Jumping Mouse *Zapus trinitatus trinitatus* was still sleeping and not to wake up until spring time. At the time of doing up these Old Note July 18, 2013 the name could be changed to the Pacific Jumping Mouse here in the Fraser Lowlands of the Puget Sound. Well I thought to myself what to do with the hibernating Mouse, so I found in the Dumpsite a old clear glass Fruit jar and filled it with Dry leaves and grasses and placed the jar so It was Pointing downhill so water would not enter the jar and drown the mouse.*

My belief is that all lives are sacred, with the Mouse in the jar and the jar in the ground I place a Large chunk of Broken crockery on top of the jar then old Logs was Built up so no Coyote or Raccoon could Dig the jar out of the ground also I placed a old Cream can lid on top of the jar. The mouse come spring won't know where It is or how It got into a clear fruit jar. I then go back to my Digging at old Dumpsite

A Cackle in the Woods – Gotta Know!

Occasionally Glenn was hired for short periods of time to carry out landscaping activities such as weeding, pruning, raking, and mowing. He liked this work because it was outside and he could still see and hear wildlife. He rarely worked more than 6½-hour days, which, during the summer, still gave him some daylight to explore other areas. His moral character and his curiosity to confirm Nature's events, even

when working on a daily salary, are telling.

June 17, 1992 (Langley, BC) – *During my Landscaping job I heard a female Coopers' Hawk Cackling in the woodlands just west of Brown John's home so I took some time and walked into the woods to look around. I found a nest Built some 15 feet up in a W. Hemlock tree on Branches right up to the nest. I make the climb with Both Hawks coming at me, but I was never hit. This nest Contained some (5) medium sized young now showing feathers in wings and tail and Body.*

Nest materials Twigs small sticks with No lining at all. I leave area and went back to my Landscaping job until It was time to head for home.

It took Glenn about an hour to search for and check the contents of the nest and when he returned to work he recorded his time for the day as 5 ½ hours. Obviously, Glenn's earlier experience in locating Cooper's Hawks nests was helpful but he also had to climb the tree and be watchful for a pair of territorial accipiters – at 54 years of age!

Sorry for the Inconvenience

For several years Glenn lived in the upstairs of Chris Buis's office on his Mount Lehman property. As part of his rent, Glenn did odd jobs such as clearing brambles, encroaching shrubs, and young black cottonwoods from fencerows. He was always aware of the consequences of his clearings and occasionally had some surprises.

January 1, 1999 – *Northwestern Salamander (1) nice large specimen is unearthed from beneath the Blackberry Brambles as I was doing some clean up work at Back west fenceline. I reburied It for the winter.*

Recycling Nature

Another part of Glenn's rent while he was living with Chris Buis was to inventory and keep track of all wildlife including birds using the feeders. While Glenn did not deter predators at the feeders he was savvy enough to take advantage of a carcass to save

another's life.

January 5, 1999 – Northern Shrike (1) imm Bird is Back in Dogwood shrubs at the feeder at 1.00 P.M. looking at small Birds. I placed a dead [Pine] siskin in shrubs shrike came and got It then left.

Lessening the Chance of Predation

Glenn was always conscious that marking ground and shrub nests, den, roost, and bedding sites, and nursery spots for later checking could attract predators. Many of the bird nests he discovered were rechecked for breeding success. To make sure that he could relocate the nest he placed flagging tape at a standard, predetermined distance and direction from the nest. Consequently, he always knew where to go no matter the terrain or new growth of vegetation.

Glenn found more Hutton's Vireo nests than all other nest-searchers in the province combined and his data formed the major part for this species' account in *The Birds of British Columbia* and the listing of its threatened status in the Fraser River valley.^{27,75} The following example is typical for one nest that Glenn revisited.

April 21, 1999 (Tsawwassen) – I leave Pink Flagging tape in area But not at Nest tree so I can find It another day.

April 22, 1999 (Tsawwassen) – I hiked across the fields...to where I found the Hutton's Vireo Nest on April 21/99. It was O-K the female Bird was on her nest keeping the small young warm.

Artifacts to Baby Rabbits

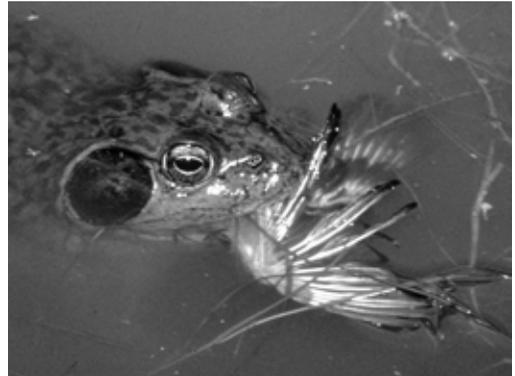
While sifting soil and raking the site of the old Dominion sawmill village in Fort Langley for collectable artifacts, Glenn uncovered a nest of young Eastern Cottontails. His concern for the well-being of all animals never waned throughout his life.

August 5, 2011 (Fort Langley) – I went up by the Bigleaf Maple tree and the Red Cedar tree and scratched about down some (4) inches. Not a thing up here not even a Rusty Nail. No Broken glass up here so I went up higher at the flat ground with my

Rake and Raked off the Old Forest Litter. That's when I heard a squealing sound as I had raked out a hollow Den of a group of young E. Cottontail Rabbits. I caught (2) as they were trying to relocate I took them Back to the Den there I seen some (4) more huddled together so I placed the (2) Back in and Puled the Fur and Hair plus grasses etc Materials over them the (2) kept wanting to Leave But I kept them in place until all Materials were over them and they stayed. I then left them hoping they are ok.

Introduced Aliens

Introduced Bullfrogs are well established and are rapidly expanding their range on southeastern Vancouver Island and throughout the lower Fraser River valley. Glenn was aware of their ravenous appetite and the impact they were having on native animals. Whenever he found clusters of Bullfrog eggs in wetlands he took time to remove them knowing that the effort was only temporary.



● Bullfrogs are predators of many aquatic native animals including fishes, salamanders, newts, gartersnakes, ducklings, goslings, and small wetland birds and mammals.⁸⁶ *Photo by Ervio Sian.*

April 6, 2009 (Abbotsford) – After I finished half of the East West trail [on Johanna and Henk Saaltink's property] I went over to the Deep Pond with a ring of Cottonwood trees around it and with my Amphibian Dip net removed some (6) Broad frothy sheets of jelly and Eggs. There must be 1000s of eggs to hatch of the Bullfrog in the edges of the Pond. I placed them in the

grass out in the sunshine to kill the eggs. I also found just one cluster of jelly and eggs of the Red-legged Frog at the pond. I leave this jelly cluster the size of a Orange on a Cottonwood Branch in Pond edge. I see no others here.

Spare the Weed

As a noxious weed, the seed and plant of Canada [creeping] thistle is formally classified injurious to agriculture as well as natural habitats and ecosystems in the province. It is usually controlled by spraying and cutting. While clearing an access trail along the railway corridor to the Old Dominion Sawmill Site in Fort Langley Glenn encountered many large thistle plants along the disturbed edges. Knowing the value of the introduced plant to wildlife he tied back plants with string so they would not infringe on the trail and occasionally he left larger thistles to grow in isolation in the middle of the trail. Who else would think of this and if they did, who would take the time and trouble to do this? These little things really remind us of who Glenn was and what he valued.



● Glenn knew that Canada thistles were of value to many species of wildlife including aphids, bees, butterflies, moths, and birds, like American Goldfinch, House Finch, and Pine Siskin. During his trail clearing projects he carefully secured thistle plants, even in the middle of a trail, so they could remain as a food source for animals. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, near Fort Langley, BC, October 9, 2013.*

MAKING A LIVING

I've always made a clear distinction between making a life and making a living.

Robert Fulghum

Many of Glenn's friends were curious and concerned about how he managed to survive each day without ever having a regular full-time or part-time job. In his own mind, his vocation was that of a field naturalist. He knew that at the end of a day his Nature rambling was unpaid time. He was often invited on extended trips with friends for many different reasons. His travel expenses were usually covered because they relied on Glenn for his natural history experience to help them. Glenn once remarked before leaving on such a trip "I don't have to worry about food for a while and I will be seeing different areas and wildlife."

On a trip into the Cariboo-Chilcotin region with David Hancock from May 16 to 20, 1989 to visit a Sharp-tailed Grouse lek, Glenn wrote:

May 16 – *At 7.00 A.M. We Glenn Ryder and David Hancock are Driving up to the Chilcotin Country for 4 or 5 Days the main stop was to be Riske Creek B.C. to check Fish or Drummond Lake up the road from Riske Creek B.C. for the Sharp-tailed Grouse on their strutting grounds and to Photograph them as well as Mist Netting a few David Hancock Had the Permits.*

May 18 – *Sharp-tailed Grouse have entered the Camp on their Lek or strutting grounds by 4.00 A.M. and remained all around the Van truck. I have watched them Dancing with wings held out near the ground. They face each other strutting about then rest for a while then carry on again all the while being alert to any Danger. I started taking Photos of these Grouse at 15 to 6.00A.M. as the light was now good I was using ISO 100 film then went to my 400 ISO as I had one roll to use up a 36 exposure roll Grouse shy but good to Photograph. The Weather was still Cold up here at the Lake shore grasslands. By 7.00 A.M. many more grouse have showed up at the lek.*

Sharp-tailed Grouse (50)+ on the strutting grounds. At the start there was only (25) Birds the Grouse Move about a good deal on these Lek grounds

and by 25 to 8.00 A.M. It was mostly all over and by 9.00 A.M. some were just resting in the grass others on top of Rocks watching the area.

I could see the Sharp-tailed Grouse moving off again as the Weather got worst Overcast and Cold a storm moving in from the west with Hail or snow falling on the higher hills or Mtn tops of this area. I finely go for a hike anyway to look for wildlife species.

May 19 – This evening David Hancock and myself placed up the Mist Nests and the Bamboo poles around the Lek or strutting grounds of the Sharp-tailed Grouse for the early A.M. in hopes of Capturing some Birds.

May 20– This morning at 4.00 A.M. we were up early to see the Sharp-tailed Grouse (16) not as many as the first day But this A.M. we caught (5) in all some (3) females and (2) males.

During three days in the vicinity of Drummond Lake northwest of Bechers Prairie, Glenn actually found six leks with at least 74 Sharp-tailed Grouse. He also recorded plants, birds, and mammals, including a Greater Yellowlegs nest with four eggs that is a rare discovery in the province.

When he wasn't working on contract and receiving a pay cheque, Glenn received a small monthly stipend, either as welfare or disability, from the provincial government, but this wasn't sufficient to cover living expenses and spend time in the field. In 2002, when Glenn turned 65, he received a monthly old age pension cheque and moved into Lions Grove Estates, a subsidized housing facility in Aldergrove, where his monthly rent, including utilities, were adjusted to his income.



● Glenn readily accepted field trips where his travel, food, and accommodation were covered by friends. He visited the Sharp-tailed Grouse strutting grounds near Drummond Lake in the Cariboo on several occasions in spring mainly to photograph the displaying birds. *Photo by Ervio Sian.*



● For over a decade, Glenn lived in Lions Grove Estates, a facility operated by a non-profit society in Aldergrove that provided affordable housing for seniors and disabled people. His four-room accommodation, complete with appliances, was ideal, bringing some stability to his life. Not long after moving in, however, Glenn pointed out the lack of storage space for his collections, especially books, and was given two storage lockers near his suite. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

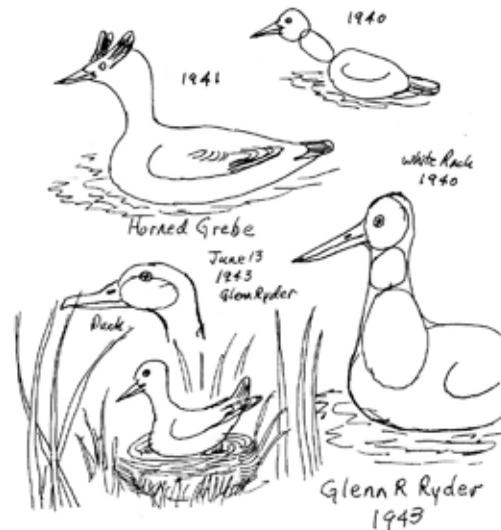
Over the years, Glenn was able to supplement his irregular income through his skills as an artist, experience as a consulting naturalist, selling his field notes, and a host of miscellaneous and opportunistic sources of revenue.

A Wildlife and Nature Artist

When Glenn was three years old his mother bought him the book *How to Draw Birds* by Raymond Sheppard (Studio Publications, London, 1940) and before his fifth birthday he was sketching the general shapes of birds he saw. Glenn occasionally mentioned having an interest in drawing birds during his foster homes in Kelowna but it wasn't until just before his 10th birthday on the Riley farm in Celista that he started to seriously think about becoming an artist.

January 24, 1948 (Celista) – *I get all my work finished on the Farm then take off to do some serious Wildlife checking the type of thing that interests me the most plus trying to capture Birds in a Drawing etc.*

I have this affinity to Allen [Allan] Brooks a Master at Wildlife Art this fellow as a Naturalist and Wildlife Artist is the Best around. I found this Book in the schools old Library Bird Study in British Columbia by J. A. Munro 1931 Put out by the Dept of Education Victoria B.C. with good information and Paintings By Allen [Allan] Brooks.⁷⁶ This book no one ever used It except for me so one day I borrowed It and never took It Back so for the use of It etc I told myself I would work towards being a good Wildlife Artist and one of the Best Naturalists...I sat in my Bedroom to-night a cold wintery one...doing something that interests me more than milking Cows and cleaning Barns etc.

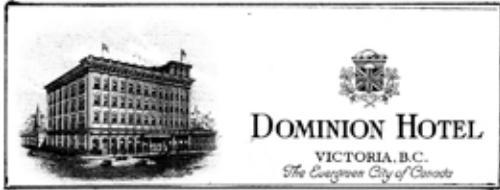


● Glenn frequently produced crude sketches of birds he saw as precursors to a painting. In the 1970s, being self-taught, he was selling his artwork and had a reputation as a “fine” artist.

Glenn's pursuit in painting continued and after finding a male Snowy Owl perched in a snow-laden western redcedar tree on the farm he wrote:

January 1, 1950 (Celista) – *What a great looking Bird I would sure like to be able to Paint such a Bird but I am still pretty poor at my Painting as I work only with oil paints at this time.*

is a deep Green and it had been Brand new when Fenwick bought it. Fenwick drove me to meet his Mom and Dad at their Home and Fenwick's Mother made us lunch she is a fine Lady and a Artist with watercolours also.



in Victoria from Vancouver B.C. I had caught the Harbour at the water front I got on board the Coast Steamship the Princess Elaine. the ship left at 9.15 A.M. The ship was nice and fancy I had to go down stairs at a large Oval Table with the people traveling to Victoria B.C. The Dishes were a nice for a Backwoods Naturalist. Thinking the ship I was on was the Princess Patricia Elaine. I had never Traveled in such Luxury. I have been more carefull in writing up my Notes arrived at the Dock in Victoria B.C. at 2.30 P.M. I stayed at the Victoria Inn Hotel. From here I walk and check
 ● Glenn's unparalleled collection of wildlife notes were like a personal diary that gave a sense of additional personal experiences that complemented his nature forays. His two nights in the "fancy" Dominion Hotel were unforgettable and was an exciting new experience that most naturalists would never include in their field notes.

We headed to Fenwick's home at Oak Bay he has a nice property with Big Garry Oak trees. Fenwick shows me his Cabinets and Drawers of Bird wings feathers etc and tells me to Collect all these things as they are very handy to have for Drawings etc. He shows me his Paints Brushes and Paper he tells me he uses a good deal of Strathmore paper he fines the charcoal good for water colours It comes in some (11) Colours He also uses whatmann and C M Fabriano etc.

I must have been at Fenwicks Home for some four hours talking and he had some very nice Paintings he showed me I said "wow" I wish I could Paint like

that Fenwick said It takes practice. Fenwick finely said he would Drop me off at the Hotel as he had to get ready for a Date with his girl friend but he would see me again Tomorrow...I went for my supper at Hotel and then thought a good deal about what Fenwick had said.

February 10, 1960 (Victoria and East Sooke) – ...Fenwick said how would you like to Take a Drive with me out to East Sooke to look for the Mountain Quail. He told me he knows of a spot he has seen these unique Birds at a rocky shrubby area away from people and Buildings I said I would love to see these Birds...within a short time we seen one then one more run a short ways through the weeds and soon we seen one more Bringing this Cove[y] to some (3) Birds...this is a new lifer for me.

We headed back to Oak Bay on the way Fenwick told me his Mother would like to have me over for supper and that I could spend the night in his old Bedroom at his parents Home. I said I would like that. After supper I thanked him for all the help and the Birding trips etc...he said I hope to see you again soon. I told Fenwick we could write each other. Later I went upstairs to sleep and...studied the small paintings on the wall when Fenwick was just starting out as a Artist of Birds.

February 11, 1960 (Victoria) – I am up early and after breakfast thanked Mrs. Lansdowne for everything and said I must go and catch the ship as it leaves at 3.30 P.M. and I wanted to walk about Victoria B.C. and fine some Art shops Fenwick had told me to visit and look over the Materials for Artists...I arrive home after having this wonderful meeting with Fenwick and his Parents etc.

Glenn continued this friendship through letters and several more visits to his studio in Oak Bay until Fenwick's death in 2008. Fenwick, who had no formal training, encouraged and supported Glenn and over the years offered advice on dealing with issues concerning soliciting and selling artwork, dealing with clients, pricing paintings, and the kind of wildlife subjects that were the most marketable. He was a good friend and influenced Glenn's development as a wildlife artist. On learning about Fenwick's death Glenn made the following entry in his diary:

July 26, 2008 – I was checking out my old Letters from my good friend James Fenwick Lansdowne of Oak Bay in Victoria B.C. My first letter from his was on Jan 5th of 1960. From then on through the years I have gotten some 34 Letters talking about our Bird Art etc...

James Fenwick Lansdowne had passed away on this Date above. He was my Mentor when it came to Artists who paint with water colours he was the finest for his detailed works and the Blending of Colours few could touch his style. I will Miss him. But I have Lots of information in his many letters...

In the early 1960s, Glenn was still living with his parents in Surrey and did not have a path to a career. He was in need of money for rent (infrequently paid to parents) and upcoming Christmas expenses. Becoming an artist was now foremost in his mind.

November 12, 1962 (Surrey) – Donald leaves after Breakfast at 7.30 A.M. headed Back up to Scotch Creek B.C. I am staying on the Coast. Donald will be back down here for Christmas. I must go find some type of work or do some serious Bird Art and try peddling it although Donald paid me some money for all the work I did on his house. It will pay for my rent etc for a while and since it is winter I will get some art supplies and do some Painting as see where It takes me for now.

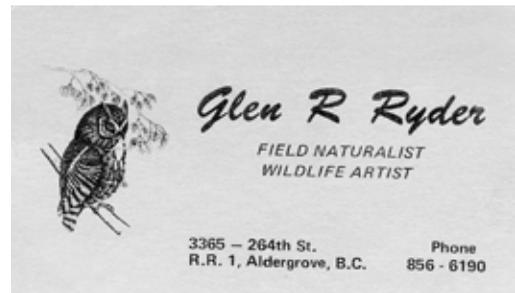
December 12, 1962 (Surrey) – On Dec 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 I worked on my Bird Art Pictures for sale that I take Door to Door my Christmas money etc.

March 3, 1965 (New Westminster) – This evening I took me Bird paintings to a Fish & Game Club meeting at the Queens park Centre at New Westminster B.C. over 100 people here Wildlife Films etc...met a man...Mr. C. Ronhead...he was the main speaker. I didn't make any sales however I guess not enough Duck and Grouse painting most [of my paintings] being Small Birds, Owls, etc

Early in 1965, nearly 28 years old, Glenn moved out of his parent's house and now had to deal with personal living expenses, including rent and food. He found work at Bonacroft Nursery in Surrey for several months and consequently his artwork was put on hold.

Friends tried to encourage Glenn to develop his artistic talents but progress was slow despite financial incentives. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Glenn received, \$25-\$50 each for small black-and-white ink drawings for use in scientific papers, annual bird reports,²³ and to update the Vancouver area checklist of birds.⁷²

January 6, 1969 (Aldergrove) – To-day I finished the Drawing (ink) of the Crested Myna that I have Drawn for Wayne Campbell. It is to be used on the Birds Check list of the Vancouver Natural History Society.



● In the 1970s, at the urging of friends, Glenn had business cards printed to advertise and promote himself as a “Field Naturalist” and “Wildlife Artist.” Later, as he was hired by wildlife consultants to inventory areas for wildlife, he referred to himself as “Ryder Wildlife Research.”



● The original drawing of the Crested Myna by Glenn commissioned by Wayne Campbell for use on the Vancouver bird checklist in 1969⁷² is still being used 44 years later on the updated 2013 list.⁷⁸

Like many artists, Glenn would rather paint than promote himself or spend time marketing his artwork. Consequently, his talents were spread by word of mouth between friends. Occasionally he prepared artwork for display in local museums hoping to get exposure and sales. For example, in November and December 1982, he had 17 original framed pieces on display in the Langley Centennial Museum & National Exhibition Centre. The collection was insured for \$21,125.00.

Throughout his notes there was a strong correlation between weather and tending to artwork. When it was rainy and windy outside Glenn often settled down to painting but still retained his obsession to record wildlife from his studio.

April 3, 1991 (Langley) – *Weather: overcast with heavy Rain falling in this area. Also strong winds from the south s/west gusting to 60 mph. Breaking off tree Branches and Driving out all the Birds to other areas. I stay home and do some Art work Painting and go out of Doors from time to time for a look. Seen Ring-necked Pheasant (1), Northwestern Crow (60), Mallard (7), and Great Blue Heron (1). That was about it for Birds. Weather just too rough on them.*

Most of Glenn's artwork, especially coloured paintings, was sold to friends and by the 1980s his drawings were a major source of additional income. His pieces sold from \$250 to \$1,200 each depending on their size and content.

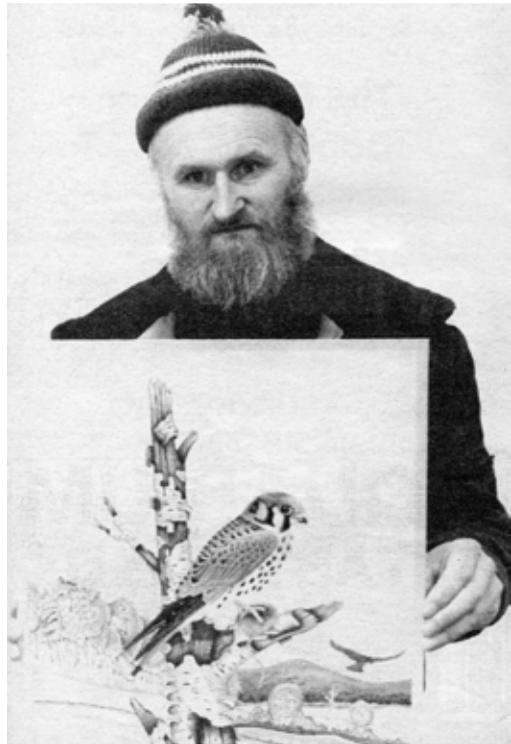
Many of his black-and-white line drawings and sketches appeared in popular and scientific publications for which he usually received remuneration. These appeared from 1969 to 2013 and included the following publications:

Campbell, R.W. 1970. Recent Information on nesting colonies of Mew Gulls on Kennedy Lake, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. *Syesis* 3:5-15.

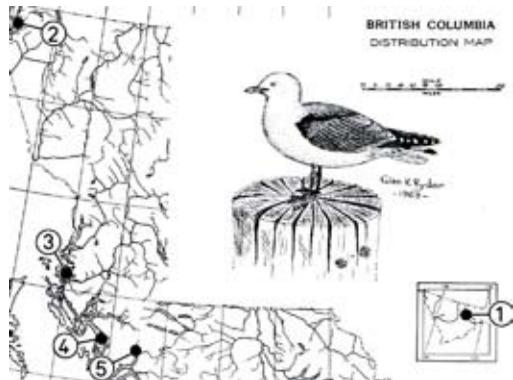
Campbell, R.W. 1971. Status of the Caspian Tern in British Columbia. *Syesis* 4:185-190.

Campbell, R.W. and R.H. Drent. 1969. Check-list of Vancouver birds (1969 Edition). Vancouver Natural History Society and University of British Columbia, Department of Zoology, Vancouver. Leaflet.

Campbell, R.W. and R. G. Footitt. 1972. The



● An article in *The Langley Times* newspaper on May 30, 1984, highlighted Glenn's artistic ability. Here he is holding a recent painting of an American Kestrel. Photo courtesy *The Langley Times*.



● Glenn's artwork enhanced many distribution maps used in ornithological literature such as the breeding status of Mew Gull in British Columbia.

Franklin's Gull in British Columbia Syesis 5:99-106.

Campbell, R.W., M.G. Shepard, and W.C. Weber. 1972. Vancouver birds in 1971.

Vancouver Natural History Society Special Publication Number 2, Vancouver, British Columbia. 88 pp.



● Glenn received \$50 for his drawing of a Western Screech-Owl with a Pacific Treefrog that was used on the cover of the 1971 annual bird report for Greater Vancouver published by the Vancouver Natural History Society.

Campbell, R.W., N.K. Dawe, I. McTaggart-Cowan, J.M. Cooper, G.W. Kaiser, and M.C.E. McNall 1990. The birds of British Columbia – Volume 2: (Diurnal birds of prey through woodpeckers). Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, BC. 632 pp.

Corporation of the District of Burnaby 1988. Bringing birds to Burnaby. Burnaby Parks and

Recreation Department, Burnaby, BC. Leaflet.

Grass, A. 1966. Some land and freshwater Mollusca from British Columbia, Canada – Part 1. Hawaiian Shell News 14(5):4.

Grass, A. 1972. Bird watching in Shuswap Lake Provincial Park. British Columbia Parks Branch, Victoria, BC. 11 pp.

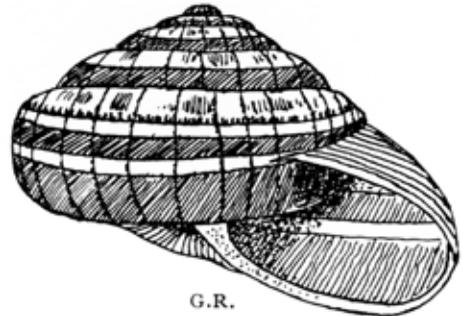
Grass, A. 1978. Birds of Langley as seen in Campbell Valley Park. Trinity Press, BC. 122 pp.

Henderson, P. 2003. Barred Owls barred. Langley Field Naturalists Newsletter March 2003:5-6.

Phinney, M. 1998. Spring & summer birds of Dawson Creek, 1991-1995. Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia Wildlife Report No. 4, West Vancouver, BC. 60 pp.

Rodgers, J. 1974. Shorebirds and predators of British Columbia. J.J. Douglas Ltd., Vancouver, BC. 199 pp.

Smith, K.M., N.J. Anderson, and K.L. Beamish. 1973. Nature west coast as seen in Lighthouse Park. Discovery Press, Vancouver, BC. 283 pp.



● Glenn was one of 14 artists to contribute drawings for a book *Nature West Coast: As seen in Lighthouse Park* published by the Vancouver Natural History Society. His artwork included mammals, birds, and land invertebrates, including this Pacific Sideband [Faithful Snail] (*Monadenia fidelis*).

Weber, W.C., B. Self, L. Cowan, and J. Grass. 2013. Seasonal checklist: Birds of Greater Vancouver, BC. Vancouver Natural History Society, Vancouver, BC. 14 pp.

Glenn had just returned from a three-day photographic trip with Ervio Sian in the late 1980s in the southern Okanagan valley and realized he needed money again, so he immediately started painting.

July 20, 1989 (Langley) – *I was mostly in my front Room Art studio working on a Bird Painting a Commissioned work for a person working in water Colours such as Designers Gouche and Holbeins Transparent watercolours...I pretty much work all night long as It is silent then. I have Been known to work for some 16 Hours without stopping.*

At the height of his career as an artist, a journalist wanted to profile Glenn in a national magazine. She was curious about how he approached a painting and the steps needed to complete a piece. Glenn wrote:

After I get an idea for a painting I always begin By making a Drawing or layout of It on Dietzen 100 percent rag drafting vellum the same physical size as the finished painting will be.

In some cases the final Drawing will be made up of several 8 ½" x 11" drawings done on Vellum. I move and position these smaller pieces into the larger drawing and trace them into place on the Opaque tracing Table to save time. I often take complicated 8 1/2 x 11" drawings and reduce them (or their copy images) to proper size on one of the two photocopy Machines that have reduction Capabilities. When the Drawing is Complete I "pounce" it into my watercolor Board I never draw directly on the Board But sometimes small changes needs to be done to make the Composition Better. After the draw is transferred to the Board I begin painting. Background washes wet-on-wet areas free of Paint are Blocked in with Frisket.

Paying close attention to the placement, sources and direction of light, I proceed to Paint in all areas with wash-upon-wash. I always work From background to Foreground. All areas are gradually tightened, refined and brought into Focus using layer-upon-layer of Transparent colour. Finishing details are added last. Calling for the more detailed dry brush accents lifting of colour to increase high lights and a general cleaning up and softening of lines.

I never finish a painting in one sitting. I paint

in a tight, realistic manner which requires careful disciplined procedures. Painting part-time I normally complete from two to three paintings or less in a Month-long Period. At times I will employ the old "mirror" trick to check for inconsistency or Error in a portion of a painting when you see an opposite image of the original.

Finally, after a watercolour is Completed, it is always places on an easel in the Studio where I can carefully observe and examine it daily...until I am comfortable and satisfied with it as a whole is that it hopefully can stand the test of time.

Glenn R. Ryder, circa 1980s

Art is in the eye of the beholder, and Glenn's painting enriched people's lives. Glenn was too busy recording wildlife to promote himself as an artist. Most of his art sales were to friends who shared a special field experience with him. Some commissioned Glenn to reproduce their favourite bird or put on canvas a personal discovery. Others simply wanted a keepsake to remember and acknowledge Glenn's incredible skills as a naturalist. Some paintings he never completed because of his passion for recording wildlife, his failing eyesight that was only temporarily alleviated by "over-the-counter" reading glasses, and the constant distractions of the noisy occupants of his complex at Lions Grove Estates. By the mid-80s, Glenn found it very difficult to continue painting and his files included some unfinished works.

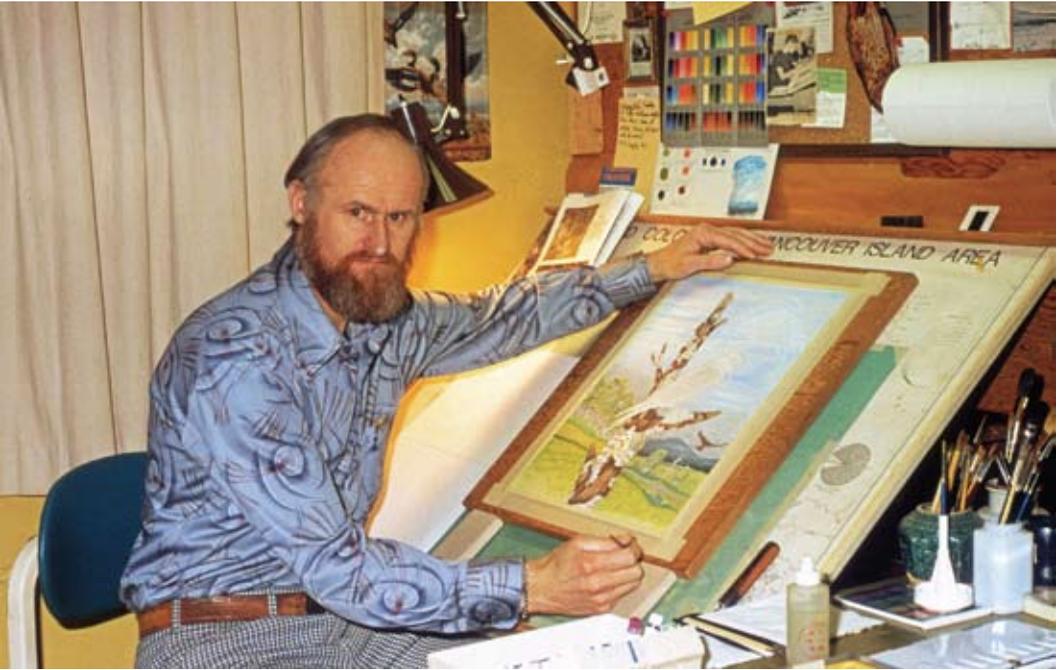
The following four pages show the diversity of Glenn's artwork.

Page 169, top: in studio, at work (1983); bottom left to right: Mountain Goats (1985); Wood Ducks (1981).

Page 170, clockwise from upper left: Black-billed Magpies and Red Squirrel (1967); California Quail pair (1981); Mourning Cloak (1973); Mountain Flowers (1967); Rainbow Trout (1977); nesting American Robins (1985); and nesting Barn Owls (1979).

Page 171: American Goldfinch pair (1980).

Page 172: Male American Kestrel with prey (1983).







Glen R. Ryder
- 1980 -
Am Goldfinch



Park Warden at Stum Lake (1971–1974)

Stum Lake is located in the Chilcotin Plateau about 25 km north of Alexis Creek. It was designated a Class A provincial park in 1971. At first it was 1,247 ha in size, but later the protected area was increased to 2,763 ha. It is closed to the public from March 1 to August 31 each year to minimize disturbance to the endangered American White Pelican. The park contains several small islands that support the only nesting sites for pelicans in the province.

Since their discovery on Stum Lake in 1939, populations of nesting pelicans started to decline with numbers fluctuating greatly between years. The cause was thought to be human disturbance, including egg-collecting, fishing, photography, canoeing, and aircraft overflights. These disturbances could be curtailed with the presence of a warden during critical times in the breeding period.⁷⁹ Glenn was the park's first warden. He had a lot of camping experience, was resourceful, and had a reputation as the province's consummate naturalist. Hiring Glenn to guard the pelicans was an excellent executive decision! He was on site between 1971 and 1974 for nearly 300 days in total. It was the one job in his life that he most enjoyed. He was essentially alone and could observe, record, and study wildlife at his own pace in an area that was remote and important. He was

getting a bi-weekly pay cheque with travelling and living expenses covered. The regular salary provided Glenn with the means to persist comfortably, without worry, in an ideal environment.

Glenn lived in a camper truck by himself and had to travel 42 km (26 mi) along a narrow, often hazardous forest road to reach the main gravel highway where he could drive to centres like Alexis Creek and Williams Lake for help or supplies. Infrequently, he had First Nation people, fishermen, or friends visit him, but safety was always a concern especially as he had been issued a radio that did not work in the remote area. An entry from his notes supported this concern about not being able to establish regular radio checks.

July 15, 1971 (Stum Lake) – I walked the edge of a Big Pond It is a Muskeg type filled at the edges with much Ivy-leaved Duckweed over years in such areas I always Cut and Carry a light but strong pine pole of some 10 ft in length with me.

I had made it around this Pond shoreline o-k But Coming Back I stepped into a soft Quaking Bog edge and went through down into this porridge like mess of Ivy-leaved Duckweed right up to my Armpits and the Pole was under Both Arms keeping me from sinking any further Down. I had to feel down my leg to get my Rubber Boots off and throw them on the



● American White Pelican was first reported breeding on Stum Lake in 1939.³ Breeding numbers over the following seven decades have fluctuated between 90 and 240 pairs with most pelicans nesting on the largest of three islands shown in this photograph. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, June 1993.*



● The summers Glenn spent at Stum Lake as the lone guardian of the pelicans provided some of the most memorable highlights of his life. *Self-portrait, June 1971.*

Pond edge as they filled with water and Duckweed. "Wow" that was too close for my liking.

The following year, for safety reasons, one of Glenn's recommendations for the BC Parks Branch in his summer's report was a "workable radiophone" as, he told them, the one he was issued "was a collector's item and to get batteries for it was like trying to buy a pelican in a supermarket."¹

While a summer job as park warden at a remote lake away from people with lots of wildlife seems idyllic, the location was anything but perfect. Occasionally the trip required one or two overnights in a vehicle while the "road" dried. Unpredictable weather like snow in July, sudden lake squalls, Moose, Cougars and Black and Grizzly bears in camp, flat tires, poachers, unscrupulous photographers, low-flying aircraft, drunken visitors, forest fires, lake drinking water choked with "beasties", free-ranging cattle, and worst of all zillions of irritable black flies

and mosquitoes – true pests of the Chilcotin forest, all contributed to a sometimes uncomfortable existence. But then the serene evening sunsets, evening chorus of calls and croaks, and "true" wilderness experience made it memorable.



● Getting to and from Stum Lake each summer was not guaranteed, especially when sudden rain squalls filled ruts in the narrow dirt road. Following such weather, Glenn would have to fill in water-logged puddles with forest debris or build strong structures to support a vehicle before the trip could continue. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, June 1974.*

June 16, 1974 (Stum Lake) – *Mosquitoes are very bad this year. They are "Hell" in the Camper out in the woods the lake in the Canoe is best If there is a little Breeze Blowing.*

July 1, 1974 (Stum Lake) – *This afternoon I worked at taking all the Vent Covers off the side of the Camper and placed at the inside of each Vent a fine screen to stop Mosquitoes from finding their way into the Camper as they are so Dam hungry for Blood that they would find their way in and sometimes in good numbers and I would be up half the night killing them. I hope this has licked them?*

July 17, 1974 (Stum Lake) – *Mosquitoes are very Dam Bad to-day making It a "Hell" to get work done in the out of Doors. I must use lots of "Off" also Cutter repellent but It is very poor, and the 6-12 is no good at all.*

Often observant naturalists can contribute information that helps biologists rethink some management options and possibly clear up embellished

stories that make good reading but are bad science. With numbers of nesting pelicans fluctuating between years and showing declines at Stum Lake over a few decades, it was suggested that a cull of Herring Gulls be considered on islands where both species co-exist. Glenn reported a significant incident of thwarted predation.

June 17, 1974 (Stum Lake) – *I was noticing the Pelicans at this Colony on Scaup Island being bothered a good deal by these Herring Gulls, who Come in pairs, one to distract the female Pelican and one to go in on the back side to try to grab a young small Pelican. The female was watched as she Drove her Beak at the first Gull. It escaped o-k. This kept up for some time these Gulls trying there Damndest to get a nice juice young bird. It got to a point I thought these Gulls are risking their necks and sure enough the female Pelican had Conected her Beak and struck home. The Gull on her Back side met her Beak a force full Blow that knocked the Gull Backwards into the stinging Nettles and there It Lay not moving at all.*

It was dead. The other gulls Cried out and left the Colony Island flying towards #2 Island.

Glenn was also introduced to government bureaucracy and some of the squabbles that existed between various departments. In the Stum Lake situation, both BC Parks and Fish and Wildlife branches claimed an interest in protecting the nesting pelican colony.

July 27, 1971 (Stum Lake) – *Fish and Wildlife Officer [Conservation Officer] shows up at my Camp at 3.00 P.M. to-day from Williams Lake. It seem that the Head Biologist in Williams Lake had heard about the Parks Dept sending me Glenn Ryder up to Stum Lake to look after the Endangered White Pelicans.*

This officer I will not mention his name was really put out over this and was not told. I told him to simmer down, the same people that hired him had hired me and that I stopped by the Williams Lake office and told the Lady in the office what I was doing in the area. She forgot to tell the others. Then this



● Glenn let government bureaucracy prevail while he was employed as a park naturalist/warden at Stum Lake but he never let it interfere with the objectives of why he was originally employed.

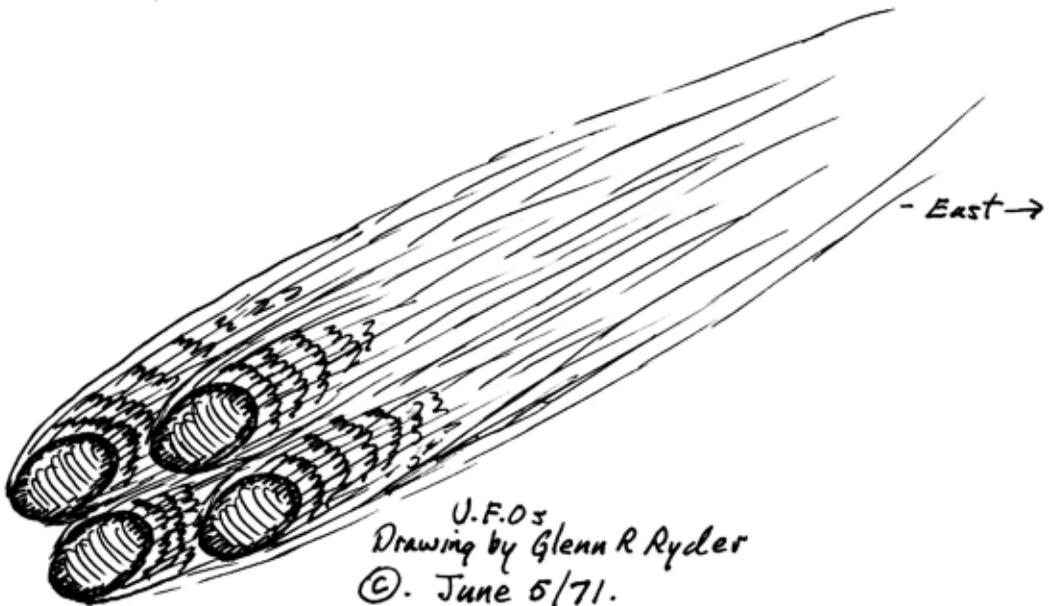
officer said this area is closed to everyone and this also should apply to me if I am doing a study or not. And he went on to say I have no Business being out on the water with the Canoe.

This officer comes into my Camp in full Battle uniform packing a hand gun around his waist, telling me I should not be in the area. After a while chatting with him he finial gos to his 4 x 4 Truck and Brings Back a Couple of Cold Beer and offers one to me and said he was sorry about the mix up or lack of communication.

Glenn's summer observations of wildlife over the four-year period were the most comprehensive ever received for any provincial park by a seasonal naturalist. His reports contained meticulous details for plants, insects, crustaceans, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and even suspected UFOs!

June 5, 1971 (Stum Lake) – I was out Canoeing on the Lake to-day and had just landed the Canoe and was walking along the shoreline on the North side of the Lake from the Camp when I heard this roaring rush of something up in the sky. On looking up I seen (4) Objects in formation Travelling westwards towards the Coast Mountains. These objects are oval in shape with Heat rays Coming off the objects giving them a shimmering appearance, these objects Traveled faster than any jet we have between 2000 to 3000 miles per hour +/- they appeared to have come down below the Clouds and looked as If they may Land some place west of Stum Lake. In short order they had gone behind the Mountain west of Camp and not seen again.

These U.F.O.s were Traveling west at around the 6000+/- ft mark or lower. It was impossible to estimate their size and speed.



● Only three days after arriving at Stum Lake for his summer as a park warden in 1971, Glenn observed an unexplained aerial phenomenon that remained vivid in his mind for the rest of his life. During his four summers as warden, Glenn saw three additional UFOs. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, June 5, 1971.*

Many of Glenn's recordings in the eastern Chilcotin were significant range extensions for plants and animals in British Columbia. He ended up with over 900 breeding records, including noteworthy species like White-winged Scoter, Horned Grebe, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Sora, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Black Tern,⁸⁰ Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Blackpoll Warbler, and Rusty Blackbird. Stum Lake also supports one of the highest nesting populations of Lesser Scaup in the province. Glenn also kept track of daily weather patterns and temperatures, natural and human disturbances to the pelican colony, and visitors to the park. His annual summer reports were lengthy and he recorded over 200 species most of which were terrestrial and aquatic plants and birds.



● The discovery of a small Black Tern colony at Stum Lake by Glenn in the mid-1970s is the province's highest elevation nesting site, at 1,218 m. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Falcon Surveys in Yukon Territory

Glenn's reputation as an experienced naturalist and outdoorsman was widespread and in 1980 he was invited by the Yukon Territory Game Department (now Environment Yukon) to participate in Peregrine Falcon and Gyrfalcon nesting surveys.⁸¹ Biologists Dave Mossop and Norm Barrichello co-ordinated the project, which lasted from late spring through mid-summer. Glenn noted his responsibilities as follows:



● Part of Glenn's survey of falcons with Yukon Territory Game Department was to locate active sites and band nestlings similar to these. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Yukon Territory, July 1972.*

I will be doing a Survey of the Peregrine Falcons and their nest sites along the Yukon River for 100 miles from upstream from Dawson City and down river to near Eagle Alaska. The Contract pays \$1,500 per Month and all Food Lodging etc is already Paid for By the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Dept. I will have a new trailer to live in at the Parks Canada Compound at Bear Creek East of Dawson City. A 15+ foot River Boat (2) Motars Gas tanks etc to hold up to 45 gallons of gas enough for the trip down River and to return to Dawson City.

I will be given Police powers and will be working under cover, to Collect Data on the endangered Peregrines locating Nest Sites, and watching Carefully for Pouching signs. I will be given Automatic Cameras to set up at nests most likely to be entered easily By people who steal Young out of the nests. I am told be careful not to tell anyone what you are really doing.

You will be known as a Wildlife Photographer to people in Dawson City etc and given a phony job name to hide what you are really doing on the River.

Just as soon as the young have fledged I can leave the area any time towards or at the end of July... Watch out for people If Boat is left alone gas is more Value than gold on the River.

The three-month stint was filled with adventure, excitement, and unexpected events that are typical for field work in northern regions. Glenn spent time in helicopters, in “twin engine” river boats, navigating flooding rivers filled with whole tree roots and other debris, camping in remote areas, rappelling down steep cliffs, and walking the open tundra where there were Grizzly Bears. As expected, he recorded everything he saw and his field notes were sprinkled with diagrams, from a nest of a Northern Hawk Owl to survey routes and the location of falcon and eagle aeries.



● Location of an active Northern Hawk Owl nest found by Glenn Ryder and Dave Mossop at 149 km camp along the Ogilvie River, Yukon Territory, on May 30, 1980.

On some surveys, Glenn was by himself and had to travel the rivers looking for falcons and active aeries on cliff faces and abutments. The days were long because of the length of daylight, the weather was unpredictable, insects were horrendous, and rising and falling river levels made securing the 22-foot river boat overnight a constant worry. It wasn't uncommon to complete a day's survey along the river at 23:00 hrs and then try to find a shore campsite for the night. Usually, a site had to be cleared of willows and/or small trees and meals were often eaten cold. Sometimes he went to bed at 0130 hrs. A typical night camp set up was described as follows:

July 5, 1980 (Clinton Creek) – I set up my tent in the woods above the River gravel Bar many Mosquitoes, Black flies and No-see-ums in area Weather: is good got all my food I needed for a snack and gear in tent mainly the pump action 12 guage shotgun By the sleeping Bag in Case of Trouble and settled down for the night.

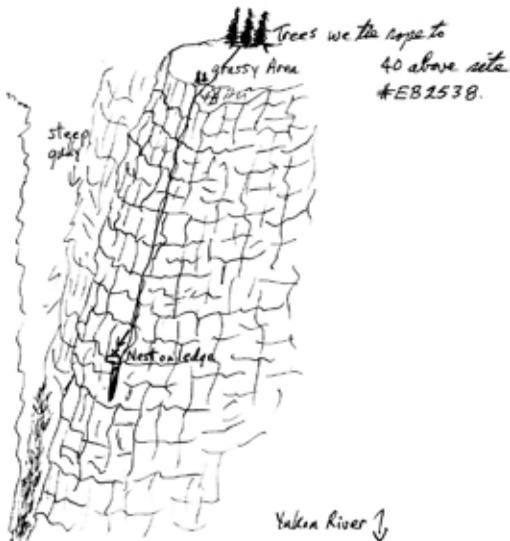


● During river surveys for nesting falcons, Glenn never knew where he was going to spend the night and had to pick a spot where he could continue his work in the morning. It usually meant clearing a camp site on the bank of the river, near midnight, among clouds of biting insects and going to sleep knowing that bears prowl the edges of rivers at night. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Clinton Creek, YT, July 5, 1980.*

The work was not only exhausting but at times dangerous and required experienced individuals to succeed. Some aeries were accessible only by climbing hundreds of feet through buck brush thickets, and spruce woods to a location above a nest where a

long rope could be secured to trees and someone could rappel down the vertical cliff face to the nest. Excerpts from Glenn's notes for one such site follows:

July 11, 1980 (Yukon River) – *We made it to the last walkable ridge here we tied the long climbing ropes to a number of Black spruce growing on Mtn side. I placed extra ropes through the loops for safety... he [David Mossop] was off he told me if anything happens get in touch with the R.C.M.P. and the Fish & Game Dept in Dawson City. Well soon he was out of sight. The pair of Peregrines put on a great display Dive Bombing David...he was still o-k he was down about 200+ feet...On reaching this nest site he had a bit of a problem in finding the nest site. But soon had it lined up...David came up over the Cliff top one wore out fellow as he reached the top it was now quarter to 10.00 P.M. the job was done... it is now quarter past 11.00 P.M. the end of a long day...We pack up the rope etc and start Back down to the River Boat and some supper. We camp here over night on the Yukon River.*



● Usually the best access to a falcon and eagle aerie on steep cliff faces is to rappel down to the site from a secure location above and slowly ascend when the task was finished. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Yukon River, YT, July 11, 1980.*

Regular communication by radio, for emergencies and daily updates of findings, was not possible due to the remote river valleys Glenn was surveying. And accidents happen. On one trip Glenn happened upon a fellow who took his canoe too close to a river eddy and was flailing in the water while his canoe was being tossed about. Glenn saved his life. On another occasion he wrote:

July 16, 1980 (Castle Rock bluffs, Yukon River) – *... As I was on the island in Camp at 7.30 P.M. a high winged Cessna aircraft came over my Camp the plane makes three (3) low run passes over the Camp. It was the Fish & Wildlife Dept checking on me, as I have no Radio and I am totally on my own. I give them a sign that everything is o-k. they rock their wings in reply and fly Back up the Yukon River towards Dawson City Air Field some 80+ miles up river.*

Glenn enjoyed seeing new country, participating in research on threatened falcons, and being in the wilderness. He didn't see any new birds but was excited to see species like Gyrfalcon, Long-tailed Jaeger, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Lapland Longspur, and Common Redpoll in their summer habitats. Common Raven and Spotted Sandpiper were the most frequently seen river birds. Over the summer, Glenn spent up to 14 hours per day in the field. He returned home in August appreciating how difficult it is to obtain quantitative and useful data necessary to protect and manage falcon populations in places like Yukon Territory.

A Consulting Naturalist

Glenn spent his life studying fungi, plants, and animals, searching old dump sites for historical relics, but was seldom paid for his efforts. Wayne and Eileen Campbell provided long-term, regular contributions for Glenn's notes, but extended or full time wildlife work was rare. Glenn treasured his government work with American White Pelicans at Stum Lake and Gyrfalcons and Peregrine falcons in Yukon Territory. His irregular employment with environmental consulting firms came later and allowed him to apply his knowledge, his unique skills and techniques for information gathering to

improve the content and impact of reports. Glenn had the ability to find natural things that others missed. Ian Robertson of Robertson Environmental Consulting was the first to recognize the value of his contributions and provided the earliest opportunities for Glenn in wildlife consultancy throughout British Columbia.⁸² Wayne and Eileen Campbell, through their consulting company, hired Glenn to assist with wildlife inventories for several projects including BC Hydro transmission corridors on the Sunshine Coast and central Fraser River valley.⁸³ In 2002, Phil Henderson of Strix Environmental Consulting engaged Glenn in wildlife-related employment throughout the lower mainland and Fraser River valley until Glenn's death in 2013.⁸⁴ Several other consulting biologists hired Glenn for short-term projects.



● Glenn Ryder shading part of a pond with his hand so he can confirm the presence of a Rough-skinned Newt in one of BC Hydro's transmission corridors on the Sunshine Coast. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Sechelt, BC. June 22, 2001.*

Glenn's work as an environmental consultant included wildlife inventories for the following:

- Local governments: Langley Township's Environmental Site Assessment studies, District of North Vancouver, District of Pitt Meadows, City of Surrey, Metro Vancouver [formerly Greater Vancouver Regional District], City of Burnaby, Maple Ridge, and City of Coquitlam);
- BC Hydro projects: Effects of Keenleyside dam project in the West Kootenay, W.A.C. Bennett Dam in the Peace River region, and transmission corridor evaluations on the Sunshine Coast and Harrison Hot Springs to wildlife;
- Regional land developments: Throughout the lower mainland including Abbotsford, Coquitlam, Delta, Langley, Matsqui, North Vancouver, Port Moody, Sechelt, and Surrey; and
- Land conservancies: In Chilliwack with the Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition, Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans [Pierce Creek], and Langley Environmental Partners Society.

Glenn was a major contributor to the environmental assessments of a number of Metro Vancouver properties that have become important conservation areas: the Langley Bog, West Creek Wetlands, the North Alouette Greenway in Maple Ridge, and an important property addition to the Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve in the City of Coquitlam.

Glenn worked best alone. Consultants quickly learned he was most productive when he was given a task with clear directions and time and tools to do the job. He would become agitated with idle chatter and knew that many people he worked with lacked his depth of personal experience.

Unfortunately, some of Glenn's important records on flora and fauna have been used in consultant's reports without acknowledgment. This reflects poorly on the consultants and it also weakens the value of Glenn's contributions as it provides no indication of the origin or veracity of the information.



● Wildlife consulting work appealed to Glenn because he was able to explore new areas. He was hired for his knowledge as a seasoned naturalist, his living expenses were covered, and he had a chance to explore new areas. While investigating Secret Cove near Halfmoon Bay on the Sunshine Coast, Glenn found Long-toed Salamander larva in a seepage pool, a new lowland location. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.*

Glenn's contributions as a wildlife consultant were significant. The extra money afforded him the luxury of maintaining his car for future personal explorations, updating his photographic equipment, purchasing current reference books and art supplies, and buying new field equipment.

Opportunistic Employment

Glenn had myriad short-term jobs that he took as they were offered. They ranged from a day to several weeks. He rarely enquired about employment and mostly depended on friends coming to him for his help. He was hard-working and honest and friends trusted him. Glenn was adaptable and developed a reputation as a reliable handyman and experienced naturalist. An indoor desk job, however, was out of the question.

Some of his ad hoc jobs included firefighting, digging septic tank pits, stacking lumber at a mill, gardening, house-sitting, leading field trips, collecting scientific specimens and animals for museum displays, landscaping, weeding and brush clearing, finding bird nests for photographers, laying house foundations, moving furniture, mixing cement, house repairs, painting railway grain hoppers, and mowing lawns.

These odd jobs had to fit into Glenn's lifestyle. For some he made a personal commitment of time because he was convinced they were worthwhile and would contribute valuable wildlife observations or would allow him to fund personal outings for wildlife observation and recording.



● Glenn's reputation as a nest-finder was well known and in 1980 the BC Provincial Museum (now Royal British Columbia Museum) contracted him to collect nests and eggs of Steller's Jays for their permanent displays. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Langley, BC, May 1998.*

Glenn's field notes were the entity in life he cherished most. He also knew that while he was alive some of his observations would be published in "scientific" journals and that when he died the information would not be used by unscrupulous people.

Glenn always needed money and each time he gave or sent Wayne an installment of his transferred wildlife observations, he included a personal note that always started with a brief friendly message followed by a desperate plea. The earliest and latest of nearly 100 such notes follow:

July 16, 1969 (Aldergrove) – *Notes by G. Ryder. My W. Screech Owl male is Back in the Forslund Land Langley B.C. hope it nests here. Wayne Could you send me a check fast as I need more writing paper and I am Broke.*

September 3, 2013 (Aldergrove) – *Thanks for the Wildlife Afield and the write up was well done and getting the others Authors was a good idea. It helped with the story of the Marbled Murrelet a lot of good input.⁶*

I am sending you all the rest of my Notes for 1991 all finished. I found my Notes for 1943 I am working on them now It seems the Bank had them in the Vault I had (2) Bankers Boxes of Notes and one Box got locked away by accident and No one seemed to know where the second Box went. I pay the Bank \$30.00 per Month to keep Notes safe since we had the Apt fire here at Lions Grove Estates.

I need pens paper and a fast check.

The notes are filed in nearly 200 three-ring binders, arranged by year, month, and day. All have been added to Wayne's personal library, cross-referenced with about 10,000 of Glenn's 35-mm colour slides, and are available to others for research purposes by appointment.

From time-to-time Glenn also sold parts of his arrow head collection, old bottles he salvaged from dumps, duplicate books, old egg collection, and 35-mm wildlife slides when he needed money for car gas and repairs, and paper, pens and art supplies.



● Glenn's large collection of 35-mm colour slides was stored in archival plastic sheets and filed in large three-ring binders by topic and subject. Since most slides are fully labelled they can be cross-referenced to his field notes for more information. He frequently loaned his slides for educational lectures and occasionally sold some, especially those of owls like this roosting Western Screech-Owl. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Langley, BC, July 2002.*

A HELPING HAND FROM FRIENDS

*In everyone's life, at some time,
our inner fire goes out.
It is then burst into flame by an encounter
with another human being.
We should all be thankful for those people who
rekindle the inner spirit.*

Albert Schweitzer

Glenn fired the inner spirits of others. His unassuming quiet manner, simple lifestyle, and eagerness, when asked to teach and share his knowledge of natural history were strong enticements for people. All of his friends knew what Nature meant to Glenn and whenever possible helped him fulfill his ambitions.

Although Glenn preferred to spend time in the field, he frequently shared experiences with friends. They usually picked him up and drove him to various locations for the day and frequently packed extra food for him (Glenn always carried water). Other friends transported him to natural history and conservation meetings, restaurants for meals, pub evenings, various volunteer activities such as Christmas bird counts,⁷¹ Trumpeter Swan counts⁸⁵ and raptor surveys,²³ locations of rare birds, medical appointments, and employment sites.

On many occasions Glenn visited and was supported for the better part of a nesting season with long-time friends Jerry and Kim Herzig near Princeton and Keith Smith at Tamarack Lake in the East Kootenay region. Together, they spent hundreds of days documenting local wildlife. Glenn also spent some full summers and autumns with his brother Donald in the Shuswap Lake area (mainly Celista and Scotch Creek) before Donald's death in 1964.

Still, Glenn needed a place to live and could not afford rent without a steady income. His library and various collections were growing and he needed space for an art studio. He was too proud to ask friends for a place to stay, but frequently they offered him temporary accommodation.

March 1, 2002 (Aldergrove) – *I moved into the New Apt. [Lions Grove Estates, 2888-273rd Street] It was a nice feeling to have a place to Call my own After some 5 Months of waiting and staying at Various House sitting jobs and with friends. Thank God for friends. So now It is to get reorganized and get things stored at friends places and at the Mini Storage here in Aldergrove. I bought a Nice Queen sized Bed from Karl a friend of Cindy Youngs and my friends the Kerneys [Ted and Erni] put It together for me as I cant do much because of a spinal injury from the Sunshine Coast. I had a couple of falls and have a Pinched Siatic Nerve.*



● Glenn enjoyed sharing his experiences with other naturalists. Occasionally he accompanied the Langley Field Naturalists on their scheduled outings. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Sky Meadows, BC, June 1978.*

Chris Buis met Glenn through Johanna Saaltink who was a member of the Central Valley Naturalists. Chris was impressed with Glenn's dedicated note-taking and how it was helping preserve wildlife habitats being lost to urban development in the Fraser valley. He also learned that Glenn had to move from his apartment because he could not afford the rent. Chris owned 10 acres of farmland on the western side of the Municipality of Abbotsford (Mount Lehman). In addition to his house and detached office space used for his nursery business, the property contained 2.5 acres of mixed woodland, a one-acre pond with cattails, farm fields, and small groves of walnut and hazelnut trees. Chris offered Glenn living space above his main office and in 1998 Glenn moved in and stayed for four years. In return for rent, utilities, and even telephone costs, Glenn helped remove invasive plants on Chris' property and occasionally helped him with other chores such as repairs and moving items to and from his cottage in Brookmere, a small settlement in the upper Coldwater River watershed south of Merritt, BC. Glenn wrote:

February 20, 1999 (Mount Lehman) – *I worked in the west woods for Mr Buis part of my Rent for most of the Day removing Blackberry Brambles off the fenceline etc.*

Essentially, Glenn had an ideal situation for his life style – freedom to travel, minimal living expenses, private property with diverse habitats to explore, and a friend who enjoyed bird-watching and exploring dumps for old bottles. On one bottle-finding trip Glenn wrote:

March 2, 1998 (Fort Langley) – *The Prize Bottle was found to-day by Mr Chris Buis. It was pulled up from the fine Black muck of the old Log Pond just North of the old Trestle Crossing at start of the Canyon. This Bottle is of Heavy glass a early Bottle or one of the earliest types almost a Black glass embossed lettering that reads WESTMINTER BREWERY NEW WESTMINSTER B.C. PACKAGE NOT SOLD Embossed on Its side. Quart Bottle. It is a Lovely Olive greenish Bottle full of wavy whistle marks from the Hot glass pored into a Cold Mold. Bottle will not be Sold under \$300.00 so far just (2)*

found intact and no broken ones seen But the Pond Bottom needs to be Dug out to check.

Glenn spent more time documenting the plant and animal life on Chris Buis's property than anywhere else he lived while in the central Fraser River valley. Some highlights for the four-year tenure included:

- Recording tens of thousands of observations of plants and animals;
- Finding more than 125 breeding records;
- Documenting rare birds such as White-tailed Kite, Cattle Egret, Harris's Sparrow, and Common Redpoll;
- Noting the arrival of Bullfrog and its impact on breeding success of Mallard and Wood Duck ducklings;⁸⁶



● Chris Buis created a large cattail marsh on his acreage in Mount Lehman to attract wetland birds. Animal life in the wetland was a constant source of enjoyment for Chris and Glenn. Glenn visited the site regularly and was quick to point out to Chris that the culprits responsible for the disappearance of ducklings were Bullfrogs which had invaded the area recently. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.*

- Monitoring a winter evening roost site for an estimated 100,000 European Starlings; and
- Recording the successful nesting of Egyptian Goose (*Alopochan aegyptiacus*) that had escaped from the nearby Vancouver Game Farm.

Some of Glenn's caring and supportive friends and those whom he lived with or shared field trips with that are mentioned frequently in his notes include Caroline Astley, Grace Barclay, Bob, Don, and Marlen Barth, Hemina and Amy Bennett, Trudy Beyak, Allan and Mary Bodely, Darren Brown, Ken Brown, Kim and Ian Brown, F. Bunnell, Lisa Burgess-Parker, Chris Buis, Fred and Arlene Cameron, R. Wayne and Eileen Campbell, Roy Caplet, Ted Colley, Beth Collins, Mary Collins, Jack K. Louise, John M., and Carrie Cooper, John Cosco, Mike Darney, F. Deegan, Jerry Degroot, Al and Marg Dekelver, Raymond A. Demarchi, Jerry Dilworth, Bob Douglas, Dan Drummond, David Dunbar, Anthea Farr, Dianne Fisher, Michael Force, Doug Fraser, K. Gillis, Doug Granger, James Grant, Al Grass, Jude Grass, David Hancock, Sam Hardy, Russ Haycock, Phillip S. Henderson, Kim, Jerry and Shelley Herzig, Hilde and Werner Hesse, Valerie Hignett, Donna Hill, Bill Holmes, Richard R. Howie, Robert Hutchinson, John Ireland, Mike Jensen, R. Brown John, Diane Johnston, Norm Jorgenson, Ted and Ernestine Kearney, Ken Kennedy, Andrew Kendrick, Paul Kernell, Bruce Klassen, Dennis Knopp, Shawn and Toni Koopman, Lee Koza, Dorrin Kozynick, J. Fenwick Lansdowne, Dorma Littisan, Terry MacIntosh, Bruce McGavin, Kathleen Moore, Fred Mounkten, Deane Munro, Kiyo Nakagiwa, Tom Nicholson, Stan Olson, Jason Osterhold, Mary Pastrick, Keith and Sylvia Pincott, David Pollon, Gerry Powers, Robert Puls, Malcolm Ramsay, Ed Randall, Phil and Sandy Rathbone, Charlie, Mary, and Rosemary Riley, Anna Roberts, Ian Robertson, Hank and Alice Roos, Donald and Thelma Rowntree, Cindy Rudolph, Donald Ryder, E. Ryder, Johanna and Hank Saaltink, Melvin Salo, Paul and June Sass, Jane Septland, Ervio Sian, Sheila Sharpe, Ken and Rosemary Sillis, Ed Sing, George Sirk, Sidney Skantz, George P. Smith, Arlene and Keith C. Smith, H. Neil Smith, Andy Stepnieski, Tom Stevens, Dave Stewart, David Stirling, Ken R. Summers, Bob Swalwell, Dale Swedberg, Pat Swift, Mary Taylor, Joan Thomlinson, Lloyd Thrasher, David Urban, Linda M. Van Damme, John Vissers, Betty, Des, and Warren Venables, John Vooyo, Geoff Wallace, Jane Wallace, Peter Wallace, Ken Walton, Greg Wellman, Don Wendell, Karen Wiebe, Don Wilkinson, Kathy Wilkinson, Lyle Wilson, Gail Wool,

June Wooton, and Alvin, Bernard, Cindy, Darren, Garry, and June Young.



● In 1967 Glenn dropped into the Shuswap Nature House at Salmon Arm to visit his friends Al Grass (left) and George Sirk who were summer naturalists. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder,*



● Glenn met Jerry Herzig in the Fraser River valley in the late 1960s. They shared common interests in wildlife and went on many local birding trips together. Jerry moved to Princeton in 1971 and Glenn frequently visited him and together they explored local areas for wildlife and artifacts, sometimes for up to a week or more. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Princeton, BC, April 13, 1999.*



● Norm Jorgenson, one of Glenn's loyal friends, spent hundreds of hours together walking in woodlands throughout the lower Fraser River valley. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Campbell Valley Park, Langley, BC, January 1971.*



● Karen Wiebe was an aspiring undergraduate student at Simon Fraser University when she first met Glenn and was eager to learn natural history from him. Glenn helped her with an undergraduate project on Barn Owls. Karen went on to become a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and is recognized internationally for her long-term research on the behaviour and reproductive ecology of the Northern Flicker.⁸⁷ *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, near Riske Creek, BC, June 24, 2011.*



● Anna Roberts (left) with Ervio Sian and an unidentified person holding an injured Great Gray Owl at Williams Lake, BC. During field trips to the Cariboo-Chilcotin region, Anna helped Ervio and Glenn pinpoint nests of birds to photograph. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, July 1977.*

THE CONSUMMATE COLLECTOR

*I don't think any collector knows
his true motivation.*

Robert Mapplethorpe

Glenn's passion for knowledge was enhanced greatly by collections of inanimate objects he secured during his outdoor wanderings. While condition and quality was important for some objects like old glass bottles and telephone insulators, arrow heads, fossils, beads, stamps, and coins, other items were collected to complement his interest in painting, photography,

and human history. A few things were collected for their beauty.

He was not interested in collecting for profit but more for the personal value of the collection. Storage space was always a problem and Glenn had to constantly re-evaluate his collecting habits and in some cases shut them down. As one might expect, every item was carefully labeled and systematically filed. Visiting Glenn at his suite in Lion Grove Estates in Aldergrove was like walking into a natural history museum.

Some of Glenn's more noteworthy collections are highlighted.



● At one time, Glenn's personal collection of old glass bottles, jars, and telephone insulators was the largest in the province. His prize discoveries were always prominently displayed (and catalogued) in his art studio. *Self-photo by Glenn R. Ryder, August 1991.*

Natural History

Bird Eggs

The study of bird eggs (oology) was waning by the 1950s, but a small group of amateurs in British Columbia continued to obtain federal permits to collect bird's nests and eggs for scientific purposes. They were passionate and focused in their endeavours and usually planned their spring and summer vacations to search for nests. Weekends were spent collecting locally. These individuals included R. Wayne Campbell, John K. Cooper, John M. Cooper, D. Lorne Frost, Arthur L. Meugens, and Glenn R. Ryder.

Glenn was not obsessed with egg collecting but often added nests and clutches to his collection from nests he found abandoned. Each year an annual report had to be submitted to the federal government listing nests and eggs that were collected. For example, in 1961, Glenn added 24 eggs and five nests to his collection for five species. In 1971, permits ceased to be issued to private individuals and became restricted to *bona fide* researchers.⁴



● Only five clutches of eggs were collected under Glenn's federal scientific permit in 1961, including those of Bewick's Wren. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

The egg-collecting group was closely bonded and frequently shared nest-finding secrets and collected duplicate sets of eggs to share with each other. For example, on May 7, 1966, Glenn climbed 14 m (45 ft) up to a Northwestern Crow nest in Pitt Meadows and collected four eggs and noted "This set of Eggs Collected for J. K. Coopers Oological Collection." Everyone was in awe of Glenn's ability to locate

nests and over the years he filled in many gaps in their collections. Glenn frequently accompanied the Cooper family (Louise, John, and Carrie) on nest-finding forays and during such excursions often added artifacts and fossils to their private collections.

On one trip to the Okanagan valley, they visited the museum in Penticton and learned that it housed part of the Charles de Blois Green and Charles W. Darcus egg collections. The collection had not been curated although some clutches contained useful information. Glenn recorded information in his notes for 18 sets of eggs including Turkey Vulture, Prairie Falcon, Flammulated Owl, Burrowing Owl, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Nashville Warbler. He further noted:

April 20, 1975 (Penticton) – Nesting Data From the Various egg Collections in the Penticton Museum by J.K. Cooper & Glen R. Ryder. We checked the Various Nests and eggs over for the man in charge of the Museum as most had the wrong information on the Various Nests etc.



● Although Jack Cooper and Glenn Ryder could identify the eggs of a Turkey Vulture from their reference books,^{88,89} they had never actually seen one up close in a collection until they visited the Penticton Museum. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

This small group of egg collectors made significant contributions to the BC Nest Record Scheme and *The Birds of British Columbia* project. In addition, their egg collections and field notes were the main source for a treatise on *The Summer Birds of Richter Pass, British Columbia*.⁶¹ Although not

professional ornithologists they published several important articles in scientific journals.^{90,91}

In 1974, Wayne encouraged Glenn to donate his collection of about 80 clutches of eggs to the Royal BC Museum where they would be properly stored and curated.

Feathers and Skulls

While living in the central Fraser valley, Glenn slowly amassed a significant reference collection of feathers and small animal skulls that he usually salvaged from carcasses encountered during his time afield. His notes are scattered with notations like:

January 13, 1985 (Campbell Valley Park) – Owl signs. A R/sided Towhee (1) plucked and eaten here likely a N. Saw-whet Owl. Collected feathers.

Some items were more memorable and precious than others. On one occasion Glenn noted:

July 21, 1983 (Tynehead Zoological Society, Surrey) – Great Horned Owl: (1) Called out but only after I had Broken off a Branch that snapped with such force It sounded like a gun Fired off the Owl came to life up in the nearby trees Thick Hemlock Tops the Owl flies to another Hemlock tree to hide again as I watched a nice Breast feather came floating down from out of the trees and caught up on a Branch with spider webs. I climbed the 30+ feet to get it.

Larger feathers were usually plucked and dried while small mammal and bird skulls were boiled and thoroughly cleaned for storage. Every item was fully labeled and filed alphabetically by species, in small boxes or envelopes. This collection was used as reference to provide detail for his paintings and to aid in identifying prey remains found at owl and hawk roost and nest sites. As Glenn became more familiar with the skulls and feathers he had collected, he was able to quickly identify items in the field. For example, while hiking along a tributary of Nathan Creek, he wrote:

April 17, 1981 – Western Screech-Owl – (signs) older white wash plus some (10) Pellets one pellet Contained the skull and bones of a short-tailed weasel

[now Ermine – *Mustela erminea*] the rest of the Pellets had Deer mice [*Peromyscus maniculatus*] skulls, small vole skulls [Creeping Vole – *Microtus oregoni* and Long-tailed Vole – *M. longicaudus*], and a skull of a Northwestern Jumping Mouse [now Pacific Jumping Mouse – *Zapus trinotatus*].



● Every outdoor experience was cherished by Glenn and often fragments of nature, even a floating feather caught in a spider web from a startled Great Horned Owl, was motivation enough to scale a tree to collect and save it. Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Surrey, BC, July 21, 1983.



● Glenn frequently added sketches like this weasel skull to his field notes for later confirmation of the identification with his reference collection. Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Nathan Creek, BC, April 17, 1981.

The entire reference collection was donated to the British Columbia Institute of Technology which provides training courses for provincial conservation officers that included animal identification.

Owl Pellets

Collecting and examining owl pellets began soon after Glenn started putting up nest boxes for forest owls in the Lower Mainland in 1954. Small numbers of pellets (and prey remains) were usually identified on the spot and unidentifiable items were taken home to compare with his reference collection. He listed prey items most times he found an owl nest or roost site, so this segment of his notes is extremely valuable, especially when comparing diets between locations, habitats, and years. A typical entry for his beloved Western Screech-Owl follows:

October 31, 1955 (Tynehead) – *Kennicott's Screech Owl (1) found roosting in a Red Cedar [western redcedar] tree well in Forest area But near the Serpentine River. Owl up in tree next to It's Trunk some 14 ft up. White wash noticeable also (20) Pellets. Bird feathers Towhees [Spotted], Juncos [Dark-eyed], Sparrow [Song]. Taken also Dropped Mice and Shrews such as (1) Deer Mouse Dropped and (1) Shrew Mole and (1) Trowbridge's Shrew with whitish feet and 2 toned Tail Dark on top whitish below.*

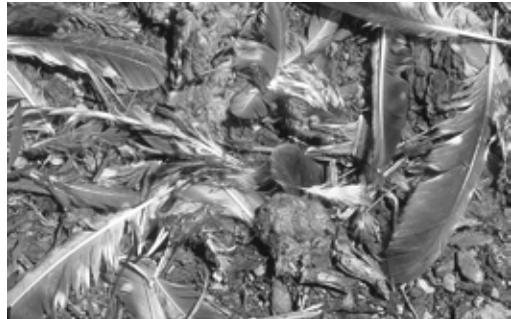
Pellets, prey fragments, and feathers were recorded or collected for all woodland owls including resident and migratory species. Glenn witnessed the invasion of the Barred Owl into the lower Fraser River valley and was able to determine the impact of competition for nest sites and prey with other forest owls.

May 15, 1986 (Campbell Valley Park, Langley, BC) – *Parking lot at 8.22 P.M...What I need is a Park use Permit to go in at night or late evenings. Pellets Collected [today] shows what foods have been taken by the Barred Owls. Food prey items [including pellets and remains at nearby roost in western redcedar] were Deer mice (11 skulls), Townsend's Vole (4 skulls), Northern flying squirrel (1 head and leg), Ruffed Grouse (remains of 1 eaten carcass), W. Screech Owl (remains of 1 eaten carcass), and Forest snails (5*

broken shells) of Monadenia fidelis [Pacific Sideband Snail] species.

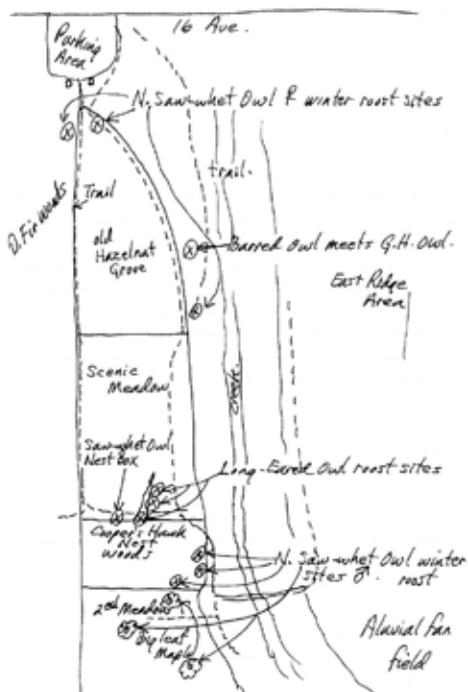


● Some species of owls are faithful year-round to favourite roost sites and collecting pellets coughed up, like these from Western Screech-Owl, can be used to develop an annual diet profile. *Photo by Mark Nyhof.*



● By examining pellets and prey remains at nest and roost sites of the Barred Owl, Glenn was the first to provide evidence that the species preyed on Western Screech-Owl where their territories overlapped. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Glenn systematically collected owl pellets at favourite roost and nest sites throughout the year to study the variation in diet seasonally and between years. He carefully mapped each location for his own reference as well as for those who may want to follow his research. Campbell Valley Park in south Langley was one of his collection sites. Some records from his vast collection of Barn Owl pellets were incorporated into graduate student theses.⁹²



● Map of the location of roost and nest sites for Great Horned, Barred, Long-eared, and Northern Saw-whet owl in Campbell Valley Park, Langley, BC, where Glenn regularly collected regurgitated pellets for later analysis. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, January 8, 1988.*

Large collections of prey fragments were saved in small paper envelopes and plastic bags. These contained thousands of food items for seven species of woodland owls (Barn Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owl)

found in the Lower Mainland. In the early 1990s, these were given to Wayne Campbell for analysis and joint write-up as Wayne had experience in preparing and identifying prey remains extracted from thousands of Barn Owl pellets that he had analyzed.⁹² Each bag of pellets was for a single visit and was labeled with species, date, exact locality, and whether the site was used for nesting or roosting. As promised to Glenn, articles on diet profiles for these owls will be developed and submitted to *Wildlife Afield* for publication in the future.



● Like a seasoned amateur ornithologist, Glenn religiously recorded details of prey remains found at owl nest and roost sites in the Lower Mainland for over 50 years. In this collection of prey fragments, Downy Woodpecker was the primary prey taken by a Western Screech-Owl in August 1991. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Langley, BC.*

Terrestrial and Marine Shells

Glenn was also an amateur conchologist and collected shells of land and sea molluscs. He never collected live animals but preserved their shells for study whenever he found them in the woods or on the seashore. Some of the terrestrial snail shells were used as reference material for his studies on owl diets. During his wanderings, Glenn discovered many new locations for fresh-water clams and land snails (even slugs), some of which were range extensions for the province. He regretted that he had not spent more time exploring marine beaches and tide pools for seashells. His labeled photo-records still remain a reference for the occurrence and distribution of these fascinating animals.

Archaeological Artifacts

During outdoor ramblings, Glenn developed a rare skill of being able to interpret landscape features as potential archaeological sites. He became fascinated with the early history of humans in British Columbia, and what they left behind as evidence of their existence, and this started another chapter in his life as an amateur archaeologist.⁹³ He mainly collected arrowheads and stone artifacts found in road cuts, caves, along river banks and lakeshores, and in fields. He approached archaeological documentation with the same verve and meticulous detail he did for wildlife observations. Glenn admitted he was a surface collector and did not excavate sites in respect for the human history of the site. He had a small reference library but his bible was *Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts* by C.G. Yeager.⁹⁴

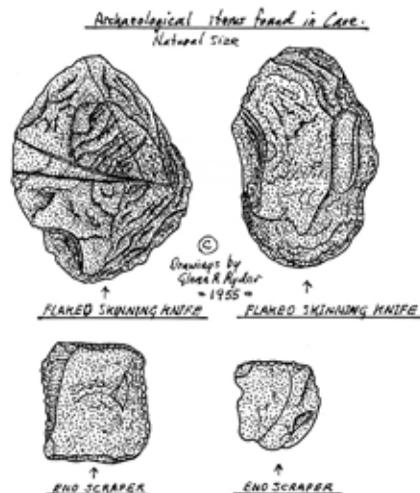


● A sample of some of the arrowheads and other artifacts Glenn and Peter Wallace uncovered at Hunter Creek near Hope, BC, on November 6 and 7, 1976. Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.

Less than a year after arriving on the coast, Glenn had his first experience with archaeological items he found in a sandstone cave during a hike in local mountains near Abbotsford:

May 12, 1955 (McKee Peak) – *During my visit in the area of the south sandstone Cliffs I was poking around these Caves and at a place the Deer had a Bedding spot they had Dug around at, there on the surface was some Indian [First Nation] Artifacts, the Deer had unearthed (4) in all a square scraper a weathered scraper and Two Big skinning knives all*

flaked from Basalt Materials. (These Artifacts likely left in Cave as a cache and the Deer or Coyote or Bobcat unearthed them?)

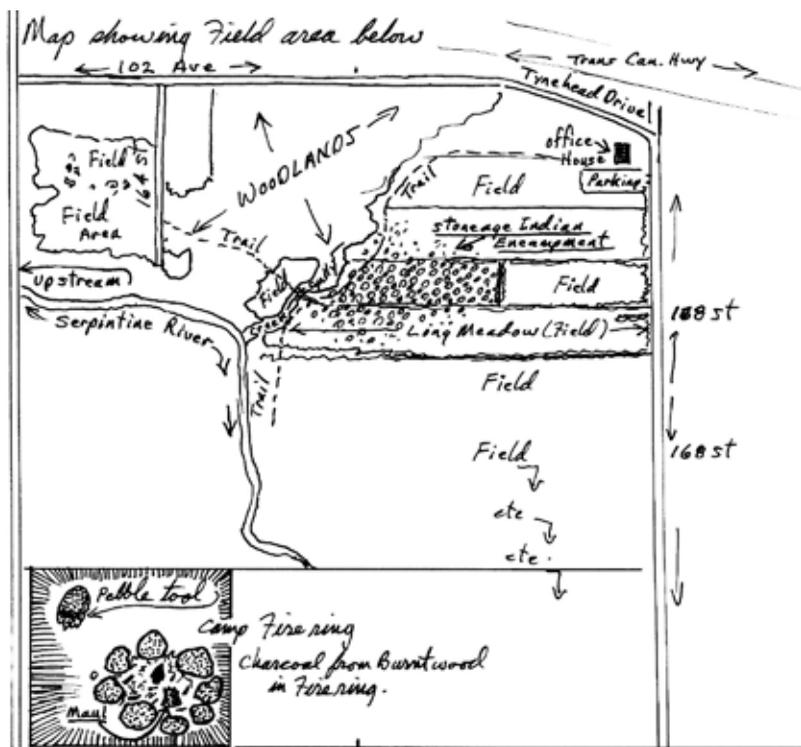


● Glenn's drawings of four archaeological artifacts that he found in a sandstone cave on Rainbow Mountain, BC, on May 12, 1955.

The location and kinds of artifacts collected at most of Glenn's discoveries were noted and in some cases were described in full detail.

July 29, 1983 (Tynehead, Surrey, BC) – *Signs of a Large Stone Age Indian Encampment found by me to-day as I hiked the newly made Bulldozer trail a walking trail that will have Mulch placed on It. I had wondered at the start of my Wildlife studies for the Zoological Society, in regards to a large Field at the Bottom of the Long Meadow and just next to it on the North side and starting from a small Creek gully and running East about half way between the Creek gully and Coast Meridian Road.*

The site is a large Camp area used most likely to fish for Salmon in the Serpentine River of which is very near the Camp area. The Camp seems to comprise of some 150 to 200 Camps or Fire rings. The Bulldozer had uncovered a number of these Fire rings and I checked them out to find Cooking stones, charcoal, one Broken poorly made granite Hand Maul, only half of It, also one nice Arrow point found



● Location of “Stone age Indian Encampment” with fire rings in a large field in Surrey, BC. Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Tynehead, BC, July 29, 1983.

in fire area. The area was scattered with fragments of different Rock types signs of making weapons etc signs of hammerstones, and Pebble tools, this site was brought to the attention of the Tynehead people and to G.V.R. D. [Greater Vancouver Regional District] people and hopefully some good information will be forth coming on testing area?

Most of Glenn’s collection of arrowheads and stone artifacts was labeled and cross-referenced to his field notes. He organized his most precious discoveries in a small cabinet. In late October, 2013, Dr. Barbara Winter, Curator of the Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology at Simon Fraser University examined the collection in his estate and agreed it was of scientific value. Consequently, it was donated to the university along with copies of relevant pages from Glenn’s field notes.



● Dr. Barbara Winter, Curator of the Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC, evaluating part of Glenn’s archaeological collection. Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Aldergrove, BC, October 2013.

Glenn's collection also included flint chips, porcelain pottery and dishes, telephone pole insulators, fossils, and bottles, old nails, buttons, and beads found in historical garbage dumps and middens. Many of the archaeology sites he discovered were new for British Columbia and in the future may contribute to learning what human society was like in the past.

Philately

Stamp collecting, one of the most popular hobbies in the world, fascinated Glenn as a child. It was a means of self-education, erasing temporary boredom and connecting with the world. He became interested in postage stamps in 1942 when he was four years old. His first notation about stamps is revealing:

January 31, 1943 (Kelowna) – *We got up early this morning as It is my Birthday I have now turned Five years old my Brother wishes me a Happy Birthday we get washed and Dressed for the day as It is Sunday and every Sunday we Both go to Sunday school. Which I would rather not be going to much rather go look at Birds and record what I see but the Lady of the House tell us we must go and get taught some form of religion before we grow up. We go down stairs for our Breakfast My Brother tells the Lady of the House that It is my Birthday she wishes me a Happy Birthday and she tells me in the Afternoon some time she will Bake a Cake and cover it with chocolate icing I thought wow this will be good. But since I don't have any friends yet I will have to have Cake with my Brother Donald.*

We spend most of our day up in the Bedroom working on our stamp collections the stamps our Dad sent us for Christmas...My Brother Donald did all the writing for these Notes to-day.

Glenn continued his interest in philately throughout his life but could never afford purchasing stamps of historical value. Most of his collection, which was organized in 26 binders, included stamps from British Columbia and Canada. Most were in mint condition. This collection was willed to Cindy Young, his best friend.

Photography

Glenn was 30 years old when he got his first camera and in his mind he realized how many “once in a lifetime” opportunities he had missed. But he was cognizant that photographic equipment was expensive and he needed to get some money. For over a year he researched the types of cameras, prices, and decided what he needed for his purposes. He ended up with “...an Asahi Pentax Camera with the Meter on top and I have several Lenses a 135 mm Lens plus a super-takumar lens 1:1.8/55 Lens plus a electronic flash unit.”

His first photographic trip was in the alpine. He and friend Des Venables, a policeman from New Westminster, visited Garibaldi Park on August 12, 1968. Glenn quickly learned that getting photos of birds and mammals was challenging but he was able to take a bundle of 35-mm colour slides of scenes and landscapes. The trip was successful for two reasons: he found families of Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch and he met Dr. Vernon C. Brink, a prominent UBC professor of plant ecology, who was photographing flowers. He encouraged Glenn to do the same, especially to document rare species. Later Glenn contributed colour



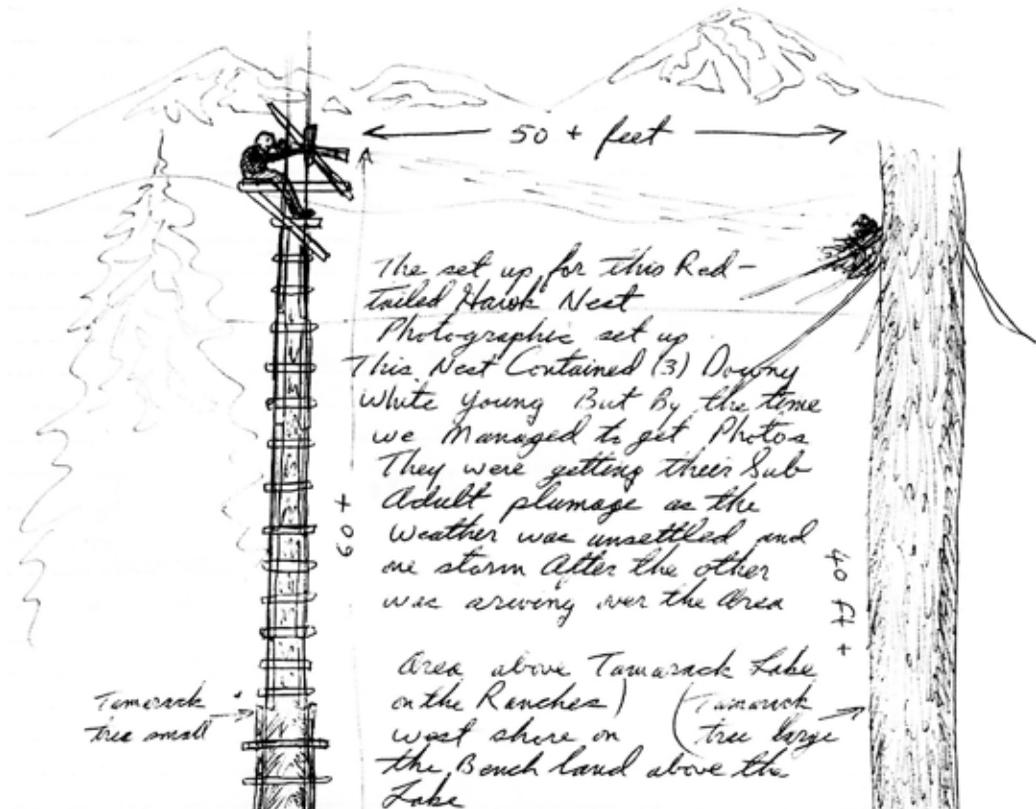
● Pinesap (*Hypopitys monotropa*) is a widespread but locally rare saprophytic plant in British Columbia that feeds on mycorrhizal fungi in forests. Unlike most plants, it lacks chlorophyll. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Sumas Mountain, BC.*

slides of rare wildlife to a provincial repository that was started when Wayne Campbell was working at UBC in the early 1970s.⁹⁵

During the 1970s, Glenn's interest in nature photography increased and so did the quality of his photographic equipment. With money he earned working as a warden at Stum Lake with the BC Parks Branch, he was able to purchase high-end Nikon cameras and accessories. He remained with the brand because lenses were interchangeable and Nikon had a reputation for durability and quality. In 2009, the digital age had arrived and Glenn purchased his last camera, a Canon *Power Smart SX10 IS 10.0 MP*. A strong attraction was the camera's powerful

20x optical zoom capabilities. Glenn never owned a computer so he became dependent on friends for down-loading and printing.

Glenn amassed an impressive 35-mm colour slide collection of about 11,000 images over the four decades he had camera equipment. Most slides are fully labeled and complement his field notes as they are cross-referenced by date and locality. They remain as a unit with his collection. The ethical dilemma of nature photography was always in Glenn's mind and he was aware, because of his vast outdoor experiences, of the appropriate time and place to photograph an animal. He frequently passed up a good photo opportunity in favour of the subject.



● During his life Glenn built many elaborate structures to photograph birds up close. While at the Tamarack Lake Ranch in the 1970s he built a ladder with a small sitting platform within 50 feet (15 m) of an unobstructed Red-tailed Hawk nest that contained three large downy white nestlings. Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, June 17, 1976.

During field time with a host of different people, Glenn quickly learned that many amateur nature photographers saw a picture only as a memento of their trip and that in many cases there was no ethical consideration for the environment or animal. He noted that vegetation was trampled, obstructing stems and twigs were pruned or pulled instead of being tied back, and animals with young were often unnecessarily harassed. He despised photographers who took pictures of nests in the rain, captured wild birds to photograph them in captivity, or used close-up lenses when telephoto equipment would cause far less disturbance.

He constantly educated people about the ethics of nature photography but it became a growing concern with increased public interest in outdoor photography and new technologies in camera equipment. By the early 1990s, he began to think about a more general approach to educating amateur photographers to the moral and legal obligations of plant and animal photography. He felt a good start would be the rigorous acceptance of images for the final two volumes of *The Birds of British Columbia*.

May 12, 1993 (Langley) – *Wayne Campbell Come out to Langley to pick up some Notes, slides, etc. We chatted about Ethics in Wildlife Photography for Birds of B.C. Vol 3 & 4.*

The authors heeded Glenn's advice and images of suspected unscrupulous photographers were not used in the last two volumes. In fact, many images were purchased from professional photographers with high ethical standards.

Glenn occasionally sold some of his 35-mm slides to illustrate newspaper or magazine articles and books.

Library

Glenn's lifeblood was his library. Until he moved into Lions Grove Estate in 1998 where he rented a suite with space to house it, he never had the full use of this collection. For most of his life the library, except books referred to often, were in storage because of his transitory nature. His library was diverse and up-to-date and filled over 36 m (120 ft) of linear shelf space.

He was an enthusiastic collector of books but they were expensive and Glenn never was able to afford the luxury of regularly keeping up with current publications. Many volumes in his library, however, were gifts from friends.

July 30, 1997 (Aldergrove) – *Books to ask Wayne Campbell to get me: Opossums, Shrews and Moles of British Columbia by David W. Nagorsen, Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia by R Parish, Ray Coupé and Dennis Lloyd, National Audubon Society Nature Series (Deserts by James A MacMahon, Grasslands by Lauren Brown, Wetlands by William A. Niering, Western Forests by Stephen Whitney, and Pacific Coast by Bayard and Evelyn McConnaughley), and The Birder's Handbook by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye.*

For the time being Glenn's library is being retained as a unit to accompany his other collections including field notes, 35-mm slides, and correspondence.

Miscellaneous Collections

Glenn's suite was like a mini museum – well organized but lacking display and storage space. Ledges, shelves, walls, cabinets, floors, drawers, and tables were crammed with an astounding variety of items. In addition to items previously mentioned, he collected cereal box tops, BC topographic and road maps, miniature wildlife ornaments, car and train models, police and military badges and insignias, old nails and spikes, newspaper clippings, and old coins uncovered in dig sites.

February 27, 1985 (Anderson Creek) – I poked about the Old Dig site [south side of 24 Ave] items found are two Good Bottles not cracked in perfect

shape also (2) 5 cent Silver Coins 1910 and 1912 in mint shape.

His walls were adorned with the artwork of friends, wildlife clocks, maps, and full-page newspaper articles people had written about him. He had cabinets full of thousands of reference photographs of wildlife, old cars, trains, old barns, and railway trestles from a wide variety of magazines. He often ordered free copies of various publications solely for the photos.

Beside his desk, in a manila envelope, was a small special collection of nature and conservation quotes that Glenn used to inspire him. All were carefully labeled to the source of the magazine, book, or newspaper column.



● During his life, Glenn amassed an impressive collection of reference books on natural and human history, artwork, historical journals on railroads, and magazine articles on environmental and conservation issues. It was an excellent working library. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Aldergrove, BC, October 25, 2013.*

WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED WORKS (1972-2013)

While field notes are valuable personal mementos, their usefulness becomes more significant if the information is published or given to authors who are willing to spend the time to convey the information to a wider audience through popular and technical publications. The information contained in Glenn's field diaries was astounding but his interest in writing was secondary to field time. In the early 2000s, Wayne met Glenn at the *Fox and Hounds* pub in Aldergrove to talk about leaving a permanent legacy in the form of scientific publications from information contained in his field notes. It was one of their shorter evenings! Glenn had wanted to do this for decades but did not know how to start. He was also nervous about the rigors of peer-review because he had not developed writing skills due to his lack of formal education. They discussed the process in detail and Glenn was cautiously informed that there would initially be a steep learning curve but the end result may be acceptance by professional herpetologists, ornithologists, and mammalogists. Glenn suddenly



● Glenn's field notes contain hundreds of unpublished records (some with sketches) that are noteworthy additions to the flora and fauna of the province. This drawing by Glenn of a White-faced Ibis seen in 1942 near Penticton, BC, is the second record for the province and the first for the interior.

realized that his 60 years of field observations may be of interest to scientists, of value for conservation, and that his credibility as a naturalist would be recognized. Glenn was eager to start.

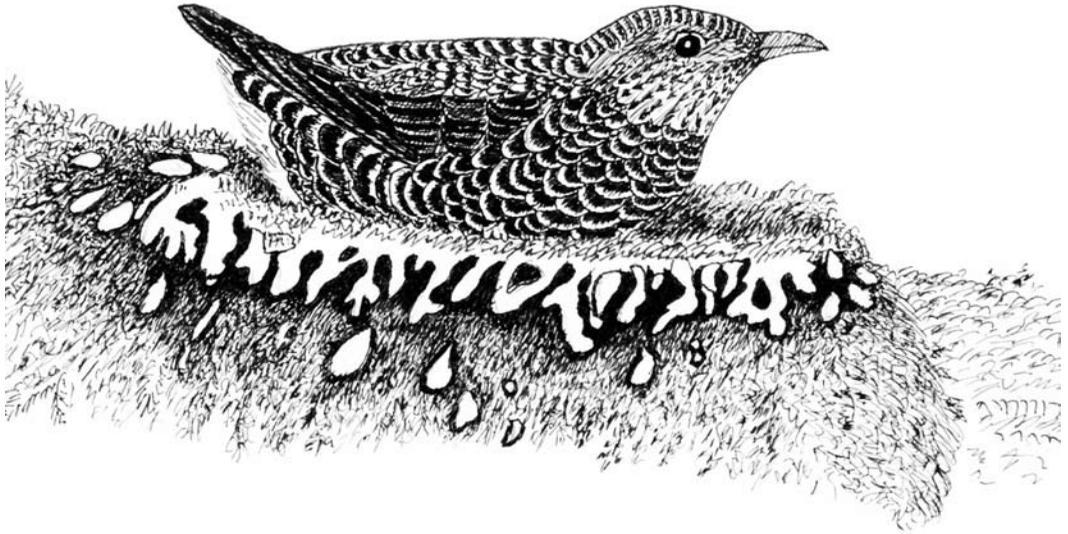
Wayne and Glenn came to an understanding that evening that Wayne would write the articles and depending on the amount of work, or scope of the article, Glenn's name would appear in the appropriate order of authors. In some cases, other professionals would be added to the list because of their expertise and input.⁹⁶ The first paper was published in 2004⁵ and through 2013 another 16 articles appeared in the peer-reviewed journal *Wildlife Afield*. Glenn was proud of every one.

Glenn was most pleased, however, that his discovery of a Marbled Murrelet nest near Chilliwack in 1955 was published.⁶ After reviewing a draft of the article to review, Glenn wrote:

I am happy with the write up. You have checked everything and did an awesome job. Things I just cannot do. I am just a field person.

The article, however, needed some clarification before acceptance. Two seabird biologists, Harry R. Carter and Spencer G. Sealy, were invited as co-authors on the paper as both were familiar with the species, current research activities, and recent literature. They had, however, queried the presence of droppings rimming the nest. Wayne then wrote Glenn, "Please read, make any comments, and return in the enclosed envelope. The article will appear in *Wildlife Afield* 9-1. There is a question concerning the drawing of the adult on the nest. It looks like droppings are on the nest or is it lichens? Adults incubating do not defecate on the nest." Glenn replied:

The droppings appeared to me as being old not from the spring of 1955, but at the time I had no information on such things. they were not lichens I touched the near ones they were Dry and Crusty but clinging to the Moss and deep in Mosses. Sorry I did not write this info down in my notes I did not wish to scare off the Bird by getting to close to the Nest. The droppings were likely from a young Bird last year 1954 or earlier on. I look forward to the write up and Drawings in WA 9-1.



● Glenn's discovery and published account of a Marbled Murrelet nest with an incubating adult⁶ created a lot of interest among foresters, wildlife managers, and seabird biologists. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, near Elk Creek, BC, June 12, 1955.*

Writing is important, permanent, and endures over time. It conveys who you are as a person and demonstrates personal value to friends and colleagues. While Glenn is no longer with us to clarify some of the information in his field notes, his noteworthy observations of wildlife in British Columbia will continue to be published. That was a personal commitment Wayne made to Glenn over a beer [perhaps several] at his favourite pub. It was sealed with a handshake!

The following is a list of Glenn's peer-reviewed papers and unpublished government and consultant reports from 1972 to 2013:

- Campbell, R.W. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2005. Field observations of Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeina*) prey in British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 1:61-62.
- Campbell, R.W. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2010a. Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) in British

Columbia: History, translocation, breeding, and current status. *Wildlife Afield* 7:3-11.

- Campbell, R.W. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2010b. Migrant Western Sandpipers entangled on barbed wire fences at Boundary Bay, British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 7:284-288.
- Campbell, R.W. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2013a. American Dipper nesting in an abandoned Pileated Woodpecker cavity in British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 10:44-46.
- Campbell, R.W. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2013b. Earliest interior occurrence of Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) in British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 10:38-39.
- Child, M., N. Page, I. Robertson, **G.R. Ryder**, A. Grass, and J. Dunster. 1998. Environmental overview and assessment of proposed road improvements at Green Timbers Urban Forest, Surrey, B.C. Coast River Environmental Service,

- Robertson Environmental Service, and Dunster & Associates Environmental Conservation report to City of Surrey, Surrey, BC.
- Cook, F.R., R.W. Campbell, and **G.R. Ryder**. 2005. Origin and current status of the Pacific Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) in British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 2:58-63.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2002. Species at risk in GVRD [Greater Vancouver Regional District] (Metro Vancouver) parks. Report prepared for GVRD, Burnaby, BC, by Strix Environmental Consulting and Ryder Wildlife Research for the GVRD (Metro Vancouver). December 2002. 74 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2006a. Coniagas Ranche Ltd. Properties biophysical information consolidation. Report prepared for Metro Vancouver (GVRD) Parks, Burnaby, BC, by Strix Environmental Consulting. Maple Ridge, B.C. April 2006. 41 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2006b. Initial Environmental Assessment Section 9, Township 20, Part SE 1/4X, Abbotsford, B.C. Unpublished Report for Binpal Engineering Ltd., Surrey, B.C. 22 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2007a. Tara Ridge Estates Inc. wildlife habitat assessment. Report prepared for Tara Ridge Estates Inc., Langley, BC, by Strix Environmental Consulting in association with Ryder Wildlife Research. January 2007. 83 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2007b. Pierce Creek Fish Ponds. Species at risk. Presence and implications. Environmental Assessment. Report prepared for the Fraser Valley Regional District and Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition, both of Chilliwack, BC, by Strix Environmental Consulting in association with Ryder Wildlife Research. Chilliwack, BC, May 1, 2007. 15 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2007c. Raptor and heron nest survey. Report prepared for the Engineering Department, City of Surrey, B.C., by Strix Environmental Consulting in association with Ryder Wildlife Research. Surrey, BC, June 8, 2007. 6 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2007d. Edward Property biophysical information consolidation. Report prepared for Metro Vancouver, Burnaby, B.C., by Strix Environmental Consulting, Ryder Wildlife Research and Clover Point Cartographics Ltd. September 10, 2007. 68 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2008. MacLure Wetland study. Report prepared for the Fraser Valley Conservancy, Abbotsford, BC, by Strix Environmental Consulting and Ryder Wildlife Research. October 2008. 30 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. 2012. Existing ecological conditions: Lots 12-16, DL 320, GP2, NWD Plan 1560, Township of Langley, British Columbia. Strix Environmental Consulting. Unpublished Report, Fort Langley, BC. 13 pp.
- Henderson, P.S. and **G.R. Ryder**. In prep. Discovery and status of Coastal Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*) on Sumas Mountain, Abbotsford, British Columbia, 1954-2006. *Wildlife Afield*.
- Henderson, P.S., **G.R. Ryder** and D. Heisler. 2003. Species at risk assessment: Cariboo Heights. Report prepared for the City of Burnaby, Burnaby, BC, by Strix Environmental Consulting in association with Ryder Wildlife Research and Westcoast Image and Analysis. December 18, 2003. 52 pp.
- Henderson, P.S., **G.R. Ryder** and D. Heisler. 2005. West Creek Wetland . Biophysical information consolidation. Report prepared for GVRD (Metro Vancouver), Burnaby, BC, by Strix Environmental Consulting in association with Ryder Wildlife Research and Westcoast Image and Analysis. November 2005. 67 pp.
- Henderson, P.S., R. Waters, M. Waters, D. Swanston, I. Robertson, S. Sloboda, M.K. McNicholl, **G.R. Ryder** and A. Grass. 2006. Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Big Bend Terminus Park environmental report. Report prepared for Parks Planning, Design and Development, Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, City of Burnaby, British Columbia. December 22, 2006. 142 pp.

- Robertson, I. and **G.R. Ryder**. 1994. Contribution to environmental assessment of Roche Point, District of North Vancouver. Unpublished report to Coast River Environmental Services Ltd., Vancouver, BC. 12 pp.
- Robertson, I. and **G.R. Ryder**. 1996. Contribution to environmental assessment of Hogan's Pool Park, District of North Vancouver. Unpublished report to Coast River Environmental Services Ltd., Vancouver, BC. 9 pp.
- Robertson, I. and **G.R. Ryder**. 1997. Proposed gravel extraction in Langley, B.C.: raptor nest survey. Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. unpublished report to Talisman Land Resource Consultants Inc., Vancouver, BC. 3 pp.
- Robertson, I., W.K. Brown, and **G.R. Ryder**. 1995. Spillimacheen swing bridge project: Assessment of potential impacts to wildlife. Robertson Environmental Services unpublished Report to British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Highways, Victoria, BC. 24 pp.
- Robertson, I., C. Cheung, and **G.R. Ryder**. 1997. Bayside village development project, wildlife inventory study. Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. unpublished report to Brian G. Hart & Company, Delta, BC. 23 pp.
- Robertson, I., M. Gebauer, **G.R. Ryder**, and R. Toochin. 2000. Observations of two species at risk in mainland southwestern British Columbia: Hutton's Vireo and Western Screech-Owl. Pages 267-273 in L.M. Darling (ed.). Proceedings of a conference on the biology and management of species and habitats at risk, Kamloops, BC, 15-19 February 1999. Volume 1. British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, BC and University College of the Cariboo, Kamloops, BC. 490 pp.
- Robertson, I., N. Page, M. Child, and **G.R. Ryder**. 1998. Inter River Park environmental inventory study. Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. and Coast River Environmental Services Ltd. unpublished report to District of North Vancouver, BC. 25 pp.
- Robertson, I., **G.R. Ryder**, D. Corbett, and P. Corbett. 1995. Keenleyside powerplant project: environmental assessment study land resources. Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. and Mirkwood Ecological Consultants unpublished report to B.C. Hydro, Surrey, BC. 53 pp.
- Robertson, I., **G.R. Ryder**, and A. Kendrick, 1998. Proposal residential subdivision in Secret Cove: vegetation and wildlife bio-inventory. Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. unpublished report to Western Eagle Enterprises Ltd., West Vancouver, BC. 19 pp.
- Robertson, I., **G.R. Ryder**, and R. Toochin, 1999. Southlands planning initiative: wildlife inventory study April-June, 1999. Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. unpublished report to Century Group, Delta, BC. 21 pp.
- Robertson, I., K.R. Summers, and **G.R. Ryder**. 1996. Peace River waterfowl survey, winter 1996. Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. unpublished report to BC Hydro, Langley, B.C. 10 pp.
- Ryder, G.R.** 1972a. Pelican park – naturalist report for 1971. British Columbia Parks Branch Unpublished Report, Victoria, BC. 91 pp.
- Ryder, G.R.** 1972b. White Pelican Provincial Park – Stum Lake, BC report – 1972. British Columbia Parks Branch Unpublished Report, Victoria, BC. 214 pp.
- Ryder, G.R.** 1973a. Feeding habits of the Screech Owl near Vancouver, British Columbia. Vancouver Natural History Society Discovery (New Series) 2:51-52.
- Ryder, G.R.** 1973b. Report on White Pelican Provincial Park – 1973. British Columbia Parks Branch Unpublished Report, Victoria, BC. 122 pp.
- Ryder, G.R.** 1974. White Pelican Provincial Park report – 1974. British Columbia Parks Branch Unpublished Report, Victoria, BC. 144 pp.
- Ryder, G.R.** 1986. Rare sighting of Barred Owl recorded at park. Langley Advance [newspaper, 19 July], Langley, BC. Page 20.
- Ryder, G.R.** 2006. First record of the Ancient Murrelet at Kelowna, British Columbia. Wildlife Afield 3:146-147.
- Ryder, G.R.** 2009. Characteristics of three natal den sites of American Marten in the Lower Mainland region of southwestern British Columbia. Wildlife Afield 6:32-35.



● Most naturalists would be excited to just see a Pacific Water Shrew but Glenn's patience in watching happenings at a Beaver pond paid off when he observed a family of six young following a female all attached by their tails. *Sketch by Glenn R. Ryder, Davidson Creek, BC, June 26, 1977.*

Ryder, G.R. 2010. Field Observation of caravanning by a family of Pacific Water Shrews in British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 7:298-300. (Figure 154)

Ryder, G.R. and R.W. Campbell. 2004. First occurrence of Wandering Salamander on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 1:5-6.

Ryder, G.R. and R.W. Campbell. 2006. A noteworthy record of the Pigmy Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma douglasi douglasi*) for British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 3:25-28.

Ryder, G.R. and R.W. Campbell. 2007. First Pacific Water Shrew nest for British Columbia. *Wildlife Afield* 4:74-75.

Ryder, G.R., R.W. Campbell, H.R. Carter, and S.G. Sealy. 2011. Earliest well-described tree nest of the Marbled Murrelet: Elk Creek, British Columbia, 1955. *Wildlife Afield* 9:49-58.

Ryder, G.R., K.R. Summers, and I. Robertson. 2000. Campbell Valley and Derby Reach regional parks field management study. Volume 2. Historic wildlife observations at Campbell Valley and Derby Reach Regional Parks: 1959-1999. Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. unpublished report to Greater Vancouver Regional District, Parks Department [East Area], Langley, BC. 189 pp.

In the late 1960s, Glenn approached the editor of *The Surrey Leader*, a local newspaper that serves Surrey and the North Delta region of the Lower Mainland, about writing a regular nature column. Glenn convinced the editor of the growing interest in local plants and animals and between 1969 and 1971 Glenn wrote and illustrated at least 73 articles under the title *Along Surrey Nature Trails*. The articles were intended to engage the public, to point out the value and beauty of plants and animals in a rapidly developing city. Undoubtedly, many people eagerly awaited their Thursday edition with Glenn's contribution and accompanying illustrations. A review of *The Surrey Leader* back issues on microfilm at the Surrey Archives revealed that Glenn contributed 55 articles on birds, 11 articles on mammals, five articles on plants, and one each on insects and amphibians. Each account was a combination of his own records, anecdotes from observations in Surrey, and information from references that he had on hand, including, among others, Taverner's *Birds of Canada*,⁹ Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Birds*,⁷ and *Mammals of British Columbia* by McTaggart-Cowan and Guiguet.⁹⁷ All but one of the articles had accompanying, original illustrations. One column on the Great Blue Heron included a photograph taken by Al Grass, another outstanding naturalist and long-time friend who is mentioned frequently in the articles.

Glenn obviously put a great deal of time and effort into producing these articles. The illustrations alone, although variable in quality, would have taken considerable time to prepare. He likely laboured over the text, but undoubtedly would have had help in editing his text for print. Of course that is partly the job of the editor, but even the best and most generous editors have limited time and Glenn may have relied on others to help him in preparing his text for the paper. Glenn often referred to time spent on the nature column in his notes:

January 15, 1971 (Aldergrove) – *This is the sixth day of this rough Cold weather. The snow Depth is now 2 1/2 feet deep most is Drifts in areas. Some places out on the field one can see the grass showing through the snow.*

I took my Drawing and write up down to the Cloverdale B.C. for the Nature Column Surrey Leader paper.

Reading these articles 40 years later is like looking through small windows to the past. We see an early record of nature and how much it has changed in Surrey since then. In his first newspaper account of August 14th, 1969, Glenn described the Red Fox as “fairly abundant in most parts of Surrey, but more so in thickly wooded areas.” Today, Red Fox is scarce in the Lower Mainland and likely extirpated from much or all of Surrey.

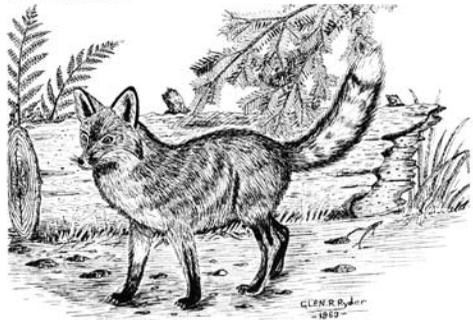
Glenn’s species accounts in *The Surrey Leader* not only helped inform the public about the wildlife in their midst but they also provided a medium for expressing his views on conservation. For example, he describes cars and humans as the foxes’ main enemies and wraps up his column with a sentiment he would uphold throughout his time as a columnist and indeed throughout his life: “I sincerely wish people would think before they take a life, no matter what.”

Glenn’s final newspaper article was on the Pacific Tree Frog (now Northern Pacific Treefrog), which included a beautiful accompanying illustration. Glenn wrote, “Never kill a Tree frog (never kill any frog!) as they feed on a great many insect types and therefore are very beneficial to have about the garden or in the Shrubbery. The Tree frog is a creature of beauty, so next time you see one take a close look at it.” This

last entry was followed by the *Editor’s Note*: “Glenn’s [sic] column will be recessed for four months as he will be employed as a government field naturalist at a lake in the Chilcotin.” So ended Glenn’s contributions to *The Surrey Leader* but we have recently learned that some Surrey residents still have a scrapbook of all of his columns. They were valued.

ALONG SURREY NATURE TRAILS

with GLEN R. RYDER



RED FOX

The red fox is fairly abundant in most parts of Surrey, but more so in thickly wooded areas. The fox is still variable in its habitat requirements. A few dens I have found have been in places like under a building, in embankments, under large cedar logs in the woods and under large cedar and fir stumps.

The den is usually hard to get at, but if the fox is in danger there is up to three exits for the family’s safety.

There are four to six or more young in a litter, and they attain maturity at ten months of age. Mating is some time in January and February; gestation period is about fifty days.

The food of the red fox consists of mice and other small mammals, birds, in season insects and fruits.

The foxes’ enemies are mostly cars and man; and weather conditions like some bad winters when food is scarce.

I think that the hunting of foxes for sport should be ruled out, but in certain conditions when foxes are known to be doing damage to man’s domestic birds and animals, then have a conservation officer or government hunter do the hunting.

Many people and I myself have seen organized fox hunts. One fox den I was studying the male fox was shot with a shot gun a short distance from the den but it left the female to hunt and protect her young.

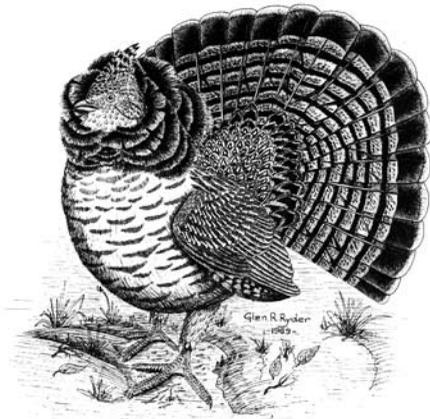
I sincerely wish people would think before they take a life, no matter what.

● Glenn’s early nature column published in *The Surrey Leader* is a permanent record of the occurrence and habits of animals, including the Red Fox, in the Surrey region. Sometimes such writings are the only source of information on the extirpation of a species.

Most of Glenn's articles published in *The Surrey Leader* were accompanied with original pen and ink drawings. Over the following four pages (204-207) are 23 examples of his artwork from his column *Along Surrey Nature Trails*.



Western Meadowlark, April 1970



Ruffed Grouse, December 1969



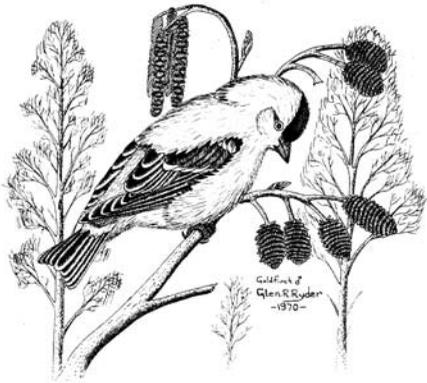
Striped Skunk, October 1969



Northern Pintail, October 1970



Northern Shrike



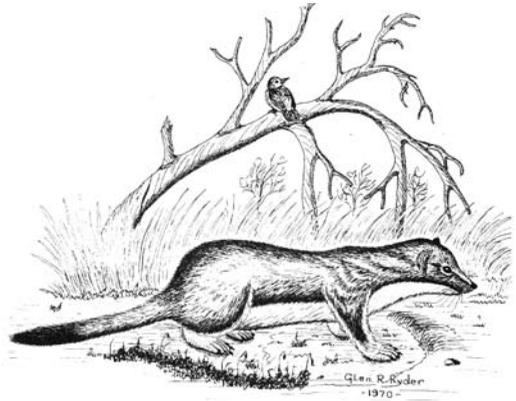
American Goldfinch, 1970



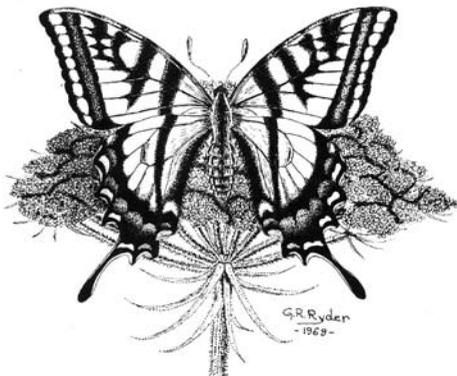
Western Trillium, April 1969



Barrow's Goldeneye, March 1971



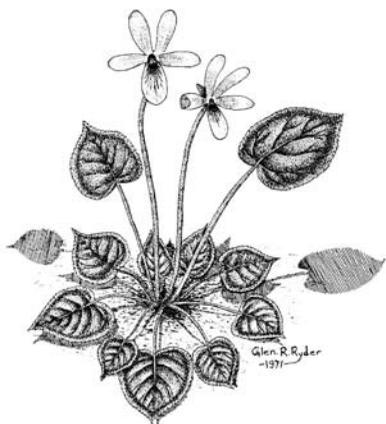
Short-tailed Weasel, March 1970



Western Tiger Swallowtail, April 1970



Barn Swallow, May 1970



Wild Violet, April 1971



Opossum, December 1969



Pacific Tree Frog, May 1971



Short-eared Owl, February 1970



Downy Woodpecker, March 1970



Red-tailed Hawk, March 1969



Bushtit, November 1970



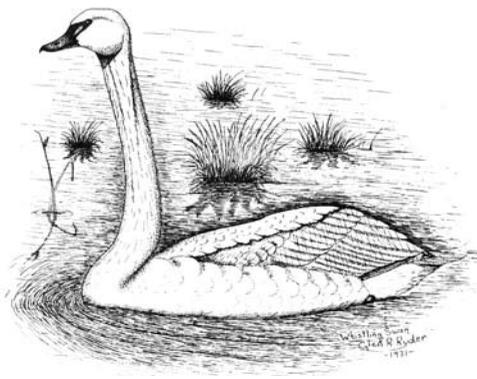
Dark-eyed Junco, January 1970



Pine Siskin, September 1970



Band-tailed Pigeon, September 1969



Trumpeter Swan, April 1971



Red-breasted Merganser, January 1970

PARANORMAL EXPERIENCES

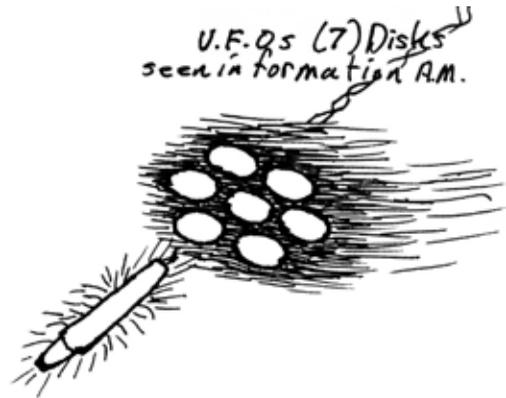
Paranormal is a coined word for unexplained phenomena that include experiences that lie outside “the range of normal experience or scientific explanation.” Paranormal phenomena have frequently been reported in popular cultures, folklore, and in the minds of individuals mostly as ghosts, extraterrestrial life, and unidentified flying objects (UFO’s). Scientific proof of the paranormal is lacking despite huge financial incentives from academic organizations to anyone who can prove it exists. It is a fascinating topic and continues to attract a huge following since two-thirds of the United States population reported having at least one mystical experience in their lifetime.⁹⁸

Glenn documented many experiences with spirits and other paranormal phenomena that remained unexplained but were strong in his memory and in some cases, he claimed, steered him away from danger and helped him feel more at ease outdoors. In addition to the Stum Lake UFOs mentioned previously, two more of his paranormal experiences are listed below:

July 29, 1946 – Blue light - Morris the Spirit Boy Visits – *As I am laying in my Bed and wondering what my Brother is up to in the new home on a small farm out in the Canoe BC. area. I was feeling down somewhat and tried to make myself feel better but It just wasn't happening. I felt mystic and was sad that the welfare people could not find a family who would take the Both of us. So we could be together. At this point of Sadness the room flickered with a blue light and there stood the Kelowna Boy spirit Called Morris, from the old house in Kelowna on Glenwood Ave. Morris had not visited me in some time. But here he was smiling at me as he came over near to my Bedside. He pointed his finger at my forehead and touched me. I felt a rush of energy like a healing force came over and through me. Morris kept on touching my forehead and I felt good all the bad feeling had left me. Then the Spirit Boy Vanishes to appoint of light in the Corner of the Bedroom and Vanishes all together. I fall asleep.*

August 10, 1957 – *This evening Jim Bruce, a Aircraft Enthusiast, came over to look at the stars in the night sky, and his mother said he could stay out*

late knowing he was with me at my place. I told Jim the house roof was the Best place to be so I put up the ladder at the west side of the house and took up a couple of Blankets. And we just laid on the roof with our field glasses and watching the night sky. We seen some interesting stars etc. We had been up on the House roof from Dusk and It was now getting close to 200 AM in the Morning, and we were planning to Call It a night when very suddenly we seen this Bright white light behind the trees moving the light or lights Came to an opening above and west of 92 Ave and to our astonishment these U.F.Os (7) Bright white Disks in a formation is seen the area of sky about these (7) Disks is also lit up.



● Sketch of formation of UFO disks witnessed by Glenn Ryder and friend Jim Bruce in Surrey, BC, on 10 August 1957.

The Disks continued travelling southwards and all climbing higher as they go. The night sky was cloudless except for one Cloud of which these (7) Disks went into and as they Did the (7) Disks changed from super white in Colour to a reddish Colour then all lights went out and the Cloud slowly moved off to the south and slowly at first and then gaining speed as If blown by a wind. It was out of sight. No sound was ever heard at all.

Three of Glenn’s Unidentified Flying Object sightings recorded in his field notes were formally submitted to the National UFO Reporting Centre in Colorado.

DEATH AND LEGACY

*I believe I am the last of the old time Naturalists
Extant still Active in the field at 75+ years old*

Glenn R. Ryder, Fort Langley, BC, June 4, 2013

Following seven-and-a-half decades of an intimate relationship with Nature, Glenn Roderick Ryder died on October 2, 2013 at his home in Lion Grove Estates, a subsidized housing facility in Aldergrove, British Columbia.⁹⁹ His wish was to be cremated and his ashes spread on his favourite perch on “Cougar Bluff” on Sumas Mountain.

Glenn wanted to live a significant life and he cared about how he would be remembered and what contributions he could make while he was alive. He respected naturalists who came before him and felt a responsibility to those who would come after him. Nature was his interconnection with life and gave meaning to his existence.

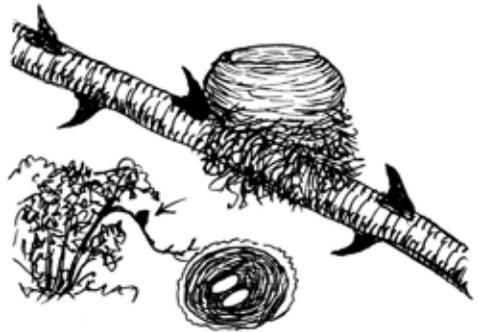
Everyone leaves a legacy after he or she dies but few are remembered and talked about for their commitment to and passion for natural history. Glenn was an exception – he remained focused and only temporarily let extraneous material interfere with time afield. Despite his hardships and unsettled life, Glenn left an immense written record of fungi, plants, and animals he encountered daily in British Columbia for over 70 years.

Glenn will be remembered for his decades of experience and selfless example of a personal commitment to learn and share his outdoor experiences. He taught many people how to look and see. If appreciation of natural history ensued, Glenn always had time for them.

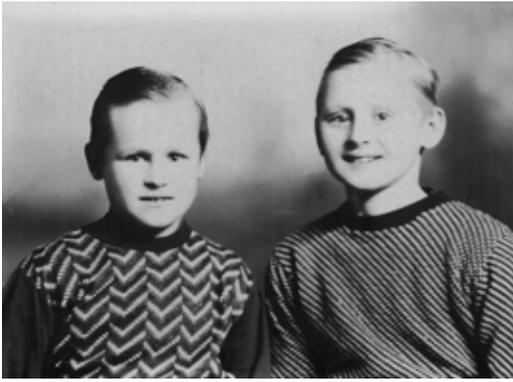
Glenn’s greatest legacy, however, will be his written record, in the form of field notes and publications. While publications endure over time, they originate from a personal commitment to document what was seen and found during time outdoors. No one did it better. His observations and discoveries included everything encountered, common or rare, arranged

with thought and ease of access. Maps accompanied trips to remote areas, sketches were made for unusual discoveries, and detailed descriptions were recorded for rare wildlife. He highlighted species that were noteworthy for the day. Each day he started his notes with a full date, a detailed description of where he went, often accompanied by personal annotations, and always an asterisk to highlight rare or noteworthy records. Some days his recordings filled 11 pages of foolscap size paper! And unlike many recorders, his writing was laid out in a consistent pattern, was legible, and easy to read.

Several of our colleagues and friends have suggested that with the passing of Glenn, “natural history is dead” in British Columbia. It is a different world today but field observation and study is still the undisputed foundation upon which the places where plants and animals live can be protected and conserved. That is the example that Glenn would have wanted for the future. Deep in his heart, he also longed that a budding young naturalist might see the value of nature study and say “I want to do what Glenn did!” but also make sure to become formally educated.

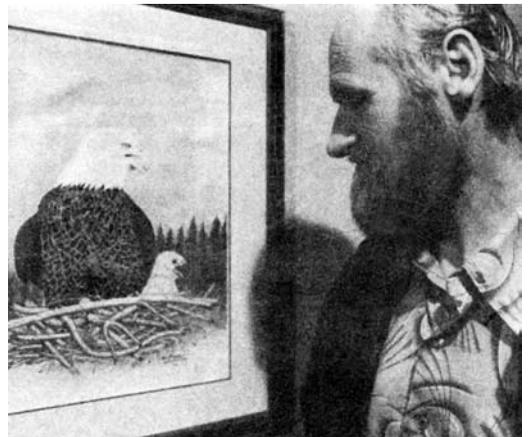


● Glenn is one of only three naturalists in British Columbia to find a Black-chinned Hummingbird nest with eggs. This nest, found near Celista on June 18, 1948, is the most northern breeding record for the province. *Drawing by Glenn R. Ryder.*



● **Clockwise from upper left:** Glenn's best friend, brother Donald (right), on the farm in Celista (December 1947); with tame Snow Goose hybrid in Surrey (May 1962); beginning karate with a white obi, Surrey (March 1978); exploring marshes in Stum Lake by canoe (August 1971); examining glacier scar on a rock wall near Skookumchuck (July 1976).

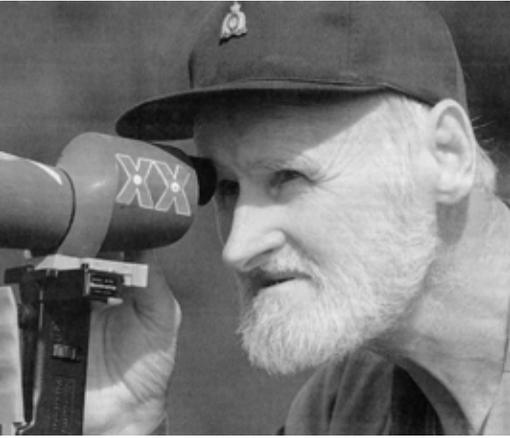
● **Page 211, clockwise from upper left:** catching up on the day's field notes in camp on the Yukon River (August 1980); with Northern Saw-whet Owl "Short Stuff" (1976); Blackstone Uplands (1980); examining one of his paintings at Centennial Museum Birds of Prey Exhibit in Fort Langley (November 1982); in his studio drawing bird ink sketches (circa 1970s); smelling the scent of bear grass at White Fish, MO (July 1976).





● **Clockwise from upper left:** pointing out some of the junk that had been left in Campbell River Park (November 1973); at field program during National Wildlife week in Campbell River Park (1975); installing a nest box for swallows in McLean Scout Park (April 1979); with remnants of United States government weather balloon in Langley (December 1973).

● **Page 213, clockwise from upper left:** on Yukon River (summer 1980); leading walk through Forlund-Watson nature reserve (November 2005); Sumas Mountain, still “soulful and cleansing” after 51 years (August, 2005); newly discovered Wilson’s Snipe chicks; searching for birds with his spotting scope (December 2001).



MEMORIES AND RECOLLECTIONS FROM FRIENDS

Friends have great value to a person and Glenn appreciated every one. They were an integral part of why he was able to live a life devoted to nature study. Friends provided companionship, extended a helping hand when needed, shared enlightening conversation, offered advice, and many made him laugh. Twenty-eight friends wanted their reminiscences of Glenn included in this tribute. These are their stories.

Chris Buis

*(Bed and breakfast accommodation
and nursery tree grower)*

We Chris Buis and myself hiked into the old Dominion Saw-mill Village in woodlands to the East of the C.N. Railway Tracks on Ryder trail we hiked down into Davidson Creek to the old Logging Road Built here during the 1800s now gone just the silty mud Bottom.

We are checking the area for old Collectable Bottles. Chris found a nice Amber Brown Quart Beer Bottle with embossing on the Bottom side B.C. Breweries Ltd Vancouver BC. Also one Broken Bottle Broken in half It can be glued Back together after it is cleaned up. Also found a Quart Japanese teal Blue Bottle in good shape Aqua Blue in Colour with a Porcelain stopper in top of Bottle in good shape. Some old China ware also found Bowl etc. We took Back some Bottles we had hid in area some (2) Backpacks of Bottles west back to Chris Buis home.

Glenn R. Ryder, Fort Langley, BC, August 18, 1998

One of Glenn's earliest memories was of a young deer walking up to his crib through the back door of his mom and dad's home. Since then Glenn's love of nature has never wavered in spite of being moved from home to home in his childhood.

Glenn was given a pair of binoculars at the age of 6 and started making notes of his observations. He never stopped. Along the way Glenn learned to sketch and paint at a level very few attain.



● Chris Buis (left) and Glenn with an intact bottle collected on one of their many visits to archaeological site in the lower Fraser River valley, BC, February 1, 2006.

I was introduced to Glenn by Central Valley Naturalists past president Johanna Saaltink in the mid-1990s. Soon after, Glenn and I were going birding and bottling together. He tolerated spending time with me, and said I was OK because, "you don't talk too much." Glenn was a very spiritual man and from time to time he would talk about his belief in the goodness of nature and the natural world. In the long hours spent together in the quiet outdoors our conversations consisted of long periods of silence while listening for birds, occasionally punctuated by a sentence or two, usually about wildlife; sometimes life in general. I remember asking Glenn how he made the more unusual and interesting wildlife discoveries in his lifetime. In his quiet humility he told me that "Morris" helped. I came to understand that where I might have a Guardian Angel, or a First Nations member would have a Spirit Helper, Glenn credited Morris. He would rather attribute his gift to someone outside himself than acknowledge his vast talents in the natural world.

It was a gift to have had so much time with Glenn. I miss him.

R. Wayne Campbell

(Retired; Royal BC Museum curator and BC Ministry of Environment research scientist)

No time to visit my friend and Top Bird Artist J. Fenwick Lansdowne...I hiked over to Beacon Hill Park and up along the ocean edge to the good Birding spot Clover Point. I hiked Back to Town and down to the Prov Museum Met with R. Wayne Campbell and was given a tour of the Museum. They are doing a good Big job on the Bird Records, etc. I seen the new range maps and the large Photo file very impressive. Also met with Dr Charlie J. Guiguet at the Museum.

Glenn R. Ryder, Victoria, BC, November 17, 1973

I had a visitor here at 302-2888-273 St Lions Grove Estate Aldergrove B.C. None other than Mr. R. Wayne Campbell in the later afternoon. He took me out to the Fox and Hounds Pub for supper and a Couple of Cold Beer. Also Cindy Young came along from the Legion. Wayne give me a Copy of his new Book Birds of Canada a thick one from Lone Pine Books.

Glenn R. Ryder, Aldergrove, BC, May 3, 2010



● Wayne was a close friend of Glenn's for nearly half a century. In this photo he is surveying a cattail wetland for nesting birds near Radium, BC, in June 2014. *Photo by Eileen Campbell.*

In 1961, a rumour was circulating among egg collectors that someone had found a nest of the Flammulated Owl near Shuswap Lake. I didn't learn details of this record until three years later but I was keen to get more information, especially since there were only two records all-time for the owl in British Columbia.^{13,48} I first met Glenn, the "owl man," in 1964 at a Ladner Christmas Bird Count gathering in Burnaby and spent much of the evening talking with him. John Vooyoys⁷¹, Glenn's long-time friend was also present. I learned he had been keeping daily bird records since 1942 (over two decades!) and that some of his discoveries he casually mentioned were new species for the province. I later met with him for dinner at a restaurant in Surrey and four hours later I realized the extent of his vast experience and knowledge. I wasn't aware of anyone like him in the province and knew he had been over-looked as a significant source of information for the latest provincial bird book published in 1947!¹⁸



● This sketch, from Glenn's field notes, shows the Flammulated Owl nest he discovered on May 28, 1958 near Shuswap Lake, BC.

At the time, Glenn was recording his observations in small pocket-sized notebooks and scraps of paper that were stored in cardboard boxes (see page 146). The kind of information being recorded was not consistent nor was it organized so that he and others could refer to it in the future. The entries were basic – species, date, general location, and numbers. We discussed

the value of also noting an animal's behaviour, exact numbers (not estimates), documenting in detail where he went, recording all species, not just rare ones, listing field companions, and describing in detail field marks and behavior for new and rare species in the province. Breeding records required much more detail. He was not intimidated and started going back to earlier notes to "fill in the blanks" and began the onerous task of transferring his notes to a standard format. This was asking a lot but he was keen and had the time to do it. As he mentioned many times, his "job" was recording wildlife! He later sent me a sample of transcribed notes to review and the rest is history. I happened to be the right person at the right time! Today, his collection of field notes is unsurpassed.

As encouragement, I offered Glenn a stipend for each batch of transferred notes he gave me. He was satisfied with this arrangement especially since the information could now be used in publications and he would be acknowledged. In later years, I wrote papers for him as sole author or frequently as a co-author in peer-reviewed journals. Scientific publications seemed to be his prime motivation to complete transcribing and organizing his notes.

When I travelled to the Lower Mainland, or was returning from field trips, I visited Glenn and always left inspired by his knowledge and commitment. He was like 100 naturalists wrapped into one! He always had time for a walk in the woods, look at a bird's nest, check an owl box, chat about his latest adventures, or hoist a beer.

Over the years, Glenn's collection of field notes grew substantially. His well-timed repeat visits to favourite locations, diligently noting all species of fungi, plants and animals, climatic conditions, times, and follow-up checks of bird nests added great value to his outings. Glenn was without an equal in British Columbia.

Glenn was street smart and had a lot of common sense and used these qualities to deal with unethical and deceitful people. Sometimes he gave in to their pursuits if there was a chance their reports or activities would lead to protecting habitats or individual rare plants and animals. He had no patience for bureaucracy. He also knew the limits of friends and how much he could depend on their support.

My greatest regret is that this memorial edition of *Wildlife Afield* is being published after his death. I started a biography of Glenn many years ago but other things always got in the way. It is now up to us as Glenn's friends to keep his contributions to natural history foremost and create a legacy that he has earned.

John M. Cooper

(CEO and Wildlife Biologist, Cooper Beauchesne and Associates Ltd., Errington, BC)

We stopped off to check a type of Indian Rock cave on the side of the Old Hedley Road, the cave appeared to be well used in the distant past. By the amount of Ash and junk on Cave floor I found one small Arrow point on the surface while poking around. John Cooper found (1) Basalt Arrow point in the Cave area.

Jack Cooper & John and Lorne Frost and myself all went on a Scorpion hunt and came up with some (12) in all.

Glenn R. Ryder, Princeton, BC, April 7, 1969 and
Keremeos, BC, April 10, 1969

Glenn Ryder became friends with my family in the mid-1960s. Glenn was introduced to us by Wayne Campbell, as we were all very keen egg collectors in those days. My dad, John K. (Jack) Cooper, had started collecting eggs seriously in the early 1950s and, along with my mom, and friends Lorne Frost and Leo Meugens, had amassed an impressive collection by the mid-1960s. Both of my parents were avid amateur naturalists and we all took an immediate liking to Glenn. He helped fill out my dad's egg collection with some hard to get species (for us), but for Glenn it was nothing special. He was always out looking for birds and nests during the breeding season and seemed to know when and where each species would be found. Some of Glenn's first contributions to my dad's egg collection included Steller's Jay and Bushtit, the latter which was something of a "new" species in the Lower Mainland in the 1960s. The Golden-crowned Kinglet remained elusive as they nest high and early in the season. Glenn would find the nests but always a bit

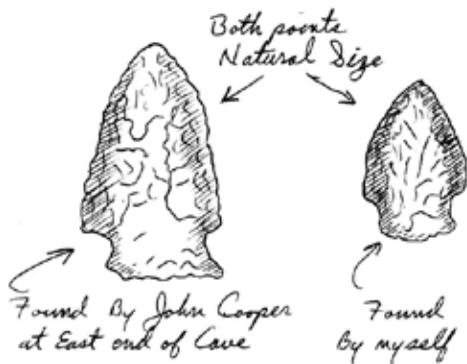


● John was introduced to natural history early in life by his parents during field trips to collect bird's eggs, explore cut banks and caves for artifacts, and fishing along rivers. Later, Glenn was invited on many family excursions during which time he had a profound influence on John's interest in wildlife and future career as a wildlife biologist. In this photo, John is at a Short-eared Owl nest with young discovered near Revelstoke, BC. *Photo by Harry Van Oort, June 2, 2010.*

too late for eggs or too difficult to reach high in the conifers. Owls were another of Glenn's specialties; I later learned he could find these rare bird's nests because he knew where they lived, because he was out there in the field every day and eventually found what was there to be found.



● While recorded in the lower Fraser River valley since the mid-1800s, numbers of Bushtits remained low until the 1940s when populations slowly became established and began breeding in southwestern British Columbia. The species was more widely distributed by the 1960s but nests were rarely reported and most of these were found by Glenn Ryder. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*



● Sketch of arrow heads (actual size) found by John Cooper (left) and Glenn Ryder along the Old Hedley Road near Princeton, BC, on April 7, 1969

One of my early recollections of Glenn was of a day trip we made to Campbell Valley Park in Langley, BC, with my dad and mom. My parents went off together but I went with Glenn and we had great adventures looking for birds and nests, overturning logs looking for mice, shrews, and insects, and searching the puddles and wet areas for frogs. Glenn showed me millipedes, centipedes, crickets, the nest of a Meadow Vole, salamanders, mushrooms, and the like. You name it and Glenn knew about everything in the natural world. I remember that day with great fondness and it cemented my personal friendship with Glenn.

Our family enjoyed many fun trips with Glenn. We would pack up the truck and camper and head out to the Similkameen area for weekends or week-

long trips, especially in April, where we roamed the Similkameen valley in search of birds, flowers, insects, and artifacts. April brought spring weather (or snow some years), the first spring flowers, and the promise of a “good find.” Glenn would sleep in a tent, mom would cook his meals, and we would all get out and look for things. I recall that Glenn was not much of an eater and “ate like a bird.”

On some trips we would head over to the area surrounding the White Lake observatory in the Okanagan valley and look for Long-billed Curlews and Long-eared Owls. Butterflies were always high on our radar and we enjoyed identifying each species. My dad had been collecting butterflies since the 1920s and knew them all, but Glenn knew so much about their life history and enjoyed telling us his stories of previous encounters with them. On our spring trips to the Similkameen we would all pick up numerous ticks and Glenn seemed to know an awful lot about even those nasty little “bugs”! By the early 1970s, we had a family cabin on the Similkameen River and we extended our “camping trips” from March through November. Glenn would often accompany us for the weekend trips as it gave him a chance to get back to the interior, which he really loved. On one snowy trip we pulled into Manning Park lodge for a break and Glenn started feeding cookies to a coyote out of the back seat of the car. None of us had seen coyotes eating cookies before. Perhaps that was the start of the “urban” coyote? On an early summer trip to Keremeos, we hiked up the hill behind town and Glenn started turning over stones. He was always turning over things to see what was underneath. Well, at this spot he started to find scorpions. Pretty soon we were all turning over stones and we found quite a few. Keremeos was abuzz after that with news of the hills being full of scorpions! Then Glenn found a Black Widow Spider, which we collected and eventually took home to the coast. The spider was a big hit amongst my friends, but sometime later, we looked into its new home, a tastefully decorated large jar, and found the jar full of baby black widows. The jar and spiders disappeared shortly thereafter but, thanks to Glenn, we had another unusual experience.

Glenn’s intense interest in archeology and searching for stone artifacts left by the First Nations was mirrored by my parents, myself and

my sister Caroline. Over a period of 5-6 years, I believe we visited every cave and large boulder in the Similkameen River valley between Keremeos and Princeton, where First Nations people would have camped over the millennia. We hunted the surface for arrowheads, scrapers, and other stone artifacts, around likely looking spots along the river and on the benches above. In caves and under large boulders we looked very carefully and over the years found some amazing artifacts. Glenn was often the first to find those sites, and then we would systematically search. One of his best finds was a group of arrowheads made of a strange white rock, the likes of which I have not seen before or since. He gave those to us, as he often did, as a contribution to the costs of the trip. At another site, we dug up a stone metate, which was a treasured piece. When we heard Glenn call out “Over here!” we knew he had just made another great discovery.

In the Lower Mainland, we had a favourite spot along the Fraser River where we would go with Glenn and look for arrowheads and “wampum.” At lower tides, the lower Fraser has exposed shorelines and First Nations artifacts that have sloughed down onto the river edge can be found. We had many fun sunny afternoons laying in the rocks or sifting through the gravel for wampum. There was a friendly competition as my mom would usually find the best arrowheads, my dad the most chips, I would find the most wampum, and Glenn would find most of the rarities (scrapers, bone tools, Hudson Bay beads and the like). Glenn had a gift to see what others could not.

In the early-1970s, Glenn found work as a “warden” at Stum Lake where he was monitoring the American White Pelican colony.¹ Over four summers he amassed an amazing volume of notes. One year, Glenn needed to “write up” some of his notes for an annual report, so, as an eager high school student wanting to help, I volunteered to type up his notes for him. Little did I know that the volume of information would exceed my typing capacity. I eventually got through the important parts but burned up all of our typewriter ribbons and my finger nails.

Glenn was constantly writing notes. Every day would find him sitting with back against a tree or rock, recording the events of the day. Sometimes he would retire to his tent, after dinner, to “write his

notes.” As we all know, his notes are works of art and are a tremendous legacy for us all. To this day, I feel inadequate when writing my own notes, because I grew up around Glenn and saw him prepare his notes meticulously and, later in life, read a lot of them.

I did not see Glenn as much in the 1980s and 1990s, as I had moved to Vancouver Island, but then I had a chance to hire him in the early 2000s for a day of environmental assessment work and out we went looking for strange critters along a proposed pipeline route. We eventually got into Mountain Beaver country and sure enough, Glenn knew all about them. He pointed out their burrows and discussed their history in the Fraser River valley going back as far as he could remember. I believe he knew where every Mountain Beaver lived from Sumas to Hope. And a Band-tailed Pigeon mineral site out in a farm field; he had been watching that for years. He knew the history of every Red-tailed Hawk nest we spotted including the year it was built. And so on and so on. It was another incredible day, and the last day in the field I had with Glenn.

Wendy DaDalt

(East Area Manager, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks)

Wendy DaDalt came over to Saaltinks Home [Glenn was house-sitting] to see me and to Drop off my Notes for the west side of the Mtn [Sumas Mountain]. They are not doing anything on the Mtn yet so Cannot Buy the Notes But when they do it will go up for Bids.

Glenn R. Ryder, Abbotsford, BC. June 7, 2009.

Glenn Ryder's name has always been revered in Regional Parks. If you wanted to know what nature inhabited the space you were evaluating, Glenn was the guy to ask. In my 28 years with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, I had several occasions to review Glenn's historical records and to contract him to compile a modern list of species using an area. I believe the park he was most actively involved in was Campbell Valley in South Langley. For example, when reviewing the merits of holding on to a 20-acre

piece of “surplus” park land, Glenn's long list of species he recorded provided a compelling argument to incorporate the property into the permanent park boundary. He told us how this land would become more diverse and environmentally important over time. Glenn also made sure we knew where his beloved owls roosted and to avoid bringing lots of people too close. His data also helped us with managing other sites such as Derby Reach, Glen valley, Aldergrove, and Sumas Mountain regional parks.

We thought of him too as an artist. His line drawings from the 1980s captured the delicate beauty of the birds, small mammals, and plants at Campbell Valley that park visitors love to see. These images remind us of what we are losing in the Fraser River valley and why habitat protection and restoration are so important.

Glenn's historical records have significant potential to help us restore populations of species at risk. No doubt his body of work, when fully compiled, will surprise all of us in its scope and depth. But more importantly, it should challenge us to learn more about local species and to take action to ensure they remain here and instill wonder in future generations.

Raymond A. Demarchi

(Retired; BC regional wildlife section head in the Kootenay region)

We [Keith and Arlene Smith and Glenn] have all headed over to Ray DeMarshis [Demarchi] Home to visit and to have supper. We helped Ray out Back of his Home he was Building a Horse Coral Plus Burning Wood fragments etc logs to clear the land near the large spacious home all Cedar wood etc Very nice. Played Catch awhile with Donald DeMarshi a nice kid and his Brother Mike also a great kid. We had a good supper and Chatted about Houses, Horses people wildlife etc etc Until it was rather late getting so we left and headed home to Tamarack Lake Ranch. Arriving here at 11.30 P.M. in time to see the Marsh and area Full of eyes as the truck headlights flashed across the Fields and Marshland.

Glenn R. Ryder, Tamarack Lake,
BC, August 15, 1976

The summer of 1976 was one of several very special summers of my time in the East Kootenay as I was enjoying both my job as regional wildlife biologist and my time off with my two sons Mike and Don who were then ten and seven years old, respectively. We spent many pleasant days and evenings with friends Keith and Arlene Smith who had just purchased a small, nearly pristine homestead on Tamarack Lake near Skookumchuck. Keith had arranged for Glenn to spend the summer cataloguing and describing all of the creatures and features of that gem of a property.

My most vivid recollection of Glenn was of him standing half out of the roof vent of his truck camper with a pair of binoculars and a notebook and pencil observing a small herd of elk and writing notes. I walked towards him as the elk herd slowly moseyed back into the aspen wood north of the small meadow where Glenn had parked his vehicle. He asked me if I had ever heard elk talking and I told him that I had only ever heard bulls bugling during the rut. He invited me to sit and listen as the cows barked and the calves gave their plaintive “eee-yow” calls to each other. I had been responsible for managing BC’s largest elk herd for over 10 years by that time but had never taken the time to become familiar with their ways in the way that Glenn was showing me.

Glenn was one of the keenest observers of nature I have ever known. He was a true hunter but without a gun, a person who tried to understand the intricacies of the natural world he so cherished and enjoyed by quiet observation and note-taking. Standing in the roof vent of his camper, which he apparently did on many evenings and nights during that summer, he was surrounded by both his own home and the homes of the creatures he was studying—everything from fireflies to bats to the many species of birds and mammals including the several family groups of elk and White-tailed Deer that frequented that wildlife-rich landscape.

The next summer, Glenn returned for a few weeks to complete his nature studies. After he had left to return to the coast, I took a walk in the woods where he had sat for many hours watching a family of beavers doing what beavers do all summer long in preparation for winter. There on the lower trunk of a water birch I saw a section of bark peeled back obviously with a knife. I walked over to the tree and opened the coiled

bark and written in pencil read, “Here, in the summers of 1976 and 1977, I, Glenn Ryder did nature studies in these woods.” It is a modest testimonial for a modest man who was a true lover and recorder of nature.

Anthea Farr

(Biologist; member of the Langley Field Naturalists and volunteer leader with the Young Naturalists’ Club of BC)

Phil Henderson came down in the woodlands [Davidson Creek] to-day with people from the Langley Field Naturalists. Bob Puls plus some other man now doing some trail work for readying themselves to do a wildlife survey in these woodlands south of the Mountain View Conservation[and Breeding Centre] Society group. Anthea Farr is also involved in this study.

Glenn R. Ryder, Fort Langley, BC, March 6, 2009.

I think this painting captures the essence of Glenn: who he was and what he cared about. He was a meticulous recorder of nature, whether it was with a pen, camera, or paintbrush. This stemmed from a deep respect for all creatures, even the tiny millipede he painted on the branch. With respect came a generous love, with owls likely taking the top spot. His Northern Saw-whet Owl is rendered with such care and detail you can almost feel the softness of its feathers.

Glenn really *knew* the owls. Back in the 80s, he and I did a wildlife survey of the Fishtrap Creek area near Abbotsford. Right away, he homed in on a small clump of cedars. “Could be a saw-whet roost,” he said. Then, faster than you could say *Strigidae*, he bent down and picked up a couple of saw-whet pellets.

I’ve never met anyone who was so totally at home in a forest. He was as much a part of the woods as any deer, and the woods were part of him. The mossy paths seem a little emptier now. And yet – it doesn’t take much – perhaps the spring trill of a wren, or the flash of a woodpecker’s wings, to bring back a memory of a gentle soul with a ready laugh, one whose love and caring for nature burned brightly. Now it’s our turn to tend the flame...

first Bird sitting on the farm are...

Glenn R. Ryder, July 14, 1947.

I took my lessons on Horse Back riding to-day on the quiet Horse Bill and the lesson on saddling up the Horse and how to put on the Bridal. Also on how to fool the Horse when Catching it. I found out this don't always work.

Glenn R. Ryder, July 28, 1947.



● Part of Glenn's motivation to begin a painting was knowing that the person who commissioned it had an appreciation for living creatures. This Northern Saw-whet Owl oil portrait, completed in 1979, is a constant reminder to Anthea of the special field time they spent together.

Rosemary Gillis (nee Riley)

(Mary and Charles Riley's daughter and childhood friend of Glenn)

I have arrived here [Celista] on Charlie and Mary Riley's homestead farm on the East side of Evans' Road and South of Line 17 Road. This is my first day here. I came out with the Welfare people...It was a nice change from living near town...I am out on a wilderness farm and my Brother Donald is still at a foster home in East Salmon Arm on a small farm. I will miss seeing him...

Charlie & Mary Riley have a small Daughter Called Rosemary Riley...and Boy can she ride a Horse. She told me she would teach me to ride a Horse, as in this country that is the only way to get around. My

The following recollections of Glenn date back to 1947 when he was placed by the provincial Welfare Department with my parents on our farm in Celista. Most of my memories of so many years ago are unclear, as I was five years old at the time. Glenn lived with us for eight years, until 1954, before returning to his biological family in Surrey. Wayne Campbell, who inherited Glenn's field notes, has provided original excerpts from his entries to jog my memory and support some of my recollections of a young fellow who was to become a talented naturalist and artist.

My dad was one of the early settlers in Celista. As a very young man looking for a homestead he rowed across Shuswap Lake to what is now Celista on September 7, 1907. My mother came from Vancouver in 1945 and they were married in 1946. My Dad had built a farmhouse and many log out-buildings on the homestead of a quarter section of land. In the 1940s, living conditions were primitive with wood-burning cook stoves and heaters, coal-oil lamps, no running water, and poor transportation.¹⁰⁰ Winters were cold with temperatures averaging around -3 degrees Celsius and in summer about 20 degrees Celsius.

During the 1940s and 1950s my parents provided foster homes for many boys, including Glenn and later his brother Donald.¹⁰⁰ When Glenn arrived at our farm he was without his brother and faithful companion. The next day Glenn started his daily chores that usually included locating the cows on the farm, herding them into the barn for milking, and often helping with separating the cream and milk that was shipped twice weekly to Salmon Arm. On October 19, 1947, Glenn described a typical morning's work:



● Glenn spent eight years, all of his teenage years, with foster parents Charlie and Mary Riley (and their daughter Rosemary) on their 160-acre farm in Celista. His daily duties were to round-up the cows early in the morning and herd them into the barn for milking. He and Rosemary had a friendly relationship but whenever he had free time Glenn was off looking for wildlife. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, Riley's farm, Celista, BC, October 1965.*

I am up early and go to the Barn to get the cows fed and get ready for the milking to be done most of the milking is done by Charlie himself and he hands me the Bucket and I give him a new empty one. Then I dump the Milk into the Separator and start cranking It around by the time I have did the one Bucket Charlie had another for me. This was carried on until all the Cows had been Milked and I had the Separator wok done the Cream was in one Container the Milk in another. And finely the Cows were let out to go to the Creek for water. And the Barn is then Cleaned with the Horse and sloop fresh straw is put down for the Cow beds etc. I go to the woodshed and split the wood for the kitchen wood box.

These chores had to be done before school but on weekends and holidays, once the work was done, he would “have some free time to hike around the farmlands.” Sometimes he went to Celista by horseback to get items for my mother from the general store and pickup mail at the post office. When inclined, he would shoot a rabbit [Varying Hare] “for the Pot”

or catch fish noting “they make good eating for a change from pork or beef.”

Although I don't think that my parents received financial compensation from the government for fostering Glenn and his brother they were reimbursed for their clothes and other life necessities. This included painting supplies that my mother bought for Glenn to encourage him as an artist because of his interest in sketching wildlife. The walls of our house were adorned with his artwork, each in a frame built by my father. One of my mother's favourite paintings was a Belted Kingfisher. The meticulous detail on the bird was painstakingly accurate, which made the rest of the painting seem simple in comparison. Unfortunately Glenn's earliest paintings disappeared during my Mother's old age.

Glenn and I usually went to school together, walking or riding horses the 4-5 mile (6-8 km) round trip. We travelled through large fields on two farms and then followed winding game trails through large tracts of woodlands. I recall that in the year I started in the one-room locally built school house we had 13

students in five different grades, with a single teacher. The three or so grade one students were simply told to play in the sandbox to get them out the way for the day. Ultimately Dad taught me to read at the kitchen table with the newspaper. Each trip Glenn recorded the wildlife he saw and many days he didn't make it to school, partly because of his lack of interest in school work, and his insatiable urge to be outside exploring. On December 29, 1947, Glenn made the following entry in his notebook:

The weather It is snowing again in area. We now have Lots of snow on the ground and on trees 5½ feet. I am wearing the nice warm coat my Mother sent me for Xmas. To-day After the milking is finished plus other work we saddled up the Two Horses for the trip down to the one roomed school house at the Lake. I am now 8 years old and Rosemary is 6 years old. She is a good horse back rider and had rode since she was 5 years old. I will turn 9 on Jan 31 1948. I am riding old Bill a easy going Horse and Rosemary is riding Bambie the Quarter horse. Our school has mixed grades in It. We have a Horse Barn at the school as others also have horses and ride to the school also.

Family was very important to my parents and my mother could sense the anguish Glenn was feeling being separated from his brother Donald again. I recall her feelings and wanting to do something about the situation. In an article I published about my mother,¹⁰⁰ I recalled:

...With her [Mary] typical ability to never take "NO" for an answer, she launched a campaign to bring the brothers together. It was not an easy task; the ways of the bureaucracy were resistant to change and no foster home, at that time, requested more than one family member. Mary wrote letters, travelled to Salmon Arm and Victoria welfare offices, cajoled, pleaded, and harangued. Finally the officials agreed to a "visit." Mary had little trouble making the visit permanent and thus Don and Glen Ryder finished their childhood in Celista...

I remember Glenn as a quiet and kind person who was always looking for wild animals and birds



● Rosemary vividly remembers as a young girl Glenn occasionally shooting a Varying [Snowshoe] Hare on the farm and bringing it 'back for the pot.' Photo courtesy Arkive.

and taking notes, even when he was cutting wood, herding the cows, or travelling to and from school. He became an expert tree climber so that he could examine the contents of bird nests. He needed to know everything there was to learn in the world of birds. From nest building, egg-laying, hatching and baby birds learning to fly, he wanted to be there to observe, remember, and draw. Even woodpeckers in tree holes caught his attention. His notice of detail was remarkable; he would detect the most subtle features on an animal or bird body that the rest of us never saw. From the earliest times he was perfecting the eye of an experienced naturalist and artist.

We rarely played together as children because Glenn usually preferred to be out looking for animals. On January 25, 1954, when school was cancelled because of deep snow and freezing temperatures, Glenn went off on his own to explore for animal tracks in the snow.

We, Don and Rosemary and myself headed to the Beach Rd Rosemary on her horse and me on skis and Rosemary with a rope on the Saddle Horn Pulls me on the skis. Don is on the other horse Billy. I got pulled out to the main gate on Evans Rd and across the Evans Rd flats to the hill. Then I am on my own.

We sensed Glenn loved the farm and appreciated the support of his foster family. He was grateful for the freedom to wander, explore, and learn about animals when the chores were done – no questions asked. After half a year on the farm he wrote:

...I have now been here on this homestead farm going onto (6) months or a little less and find Charlie and Mary Riley much nicer people to live with than the people in Salmon Arm B.C. or in Kelowna, B.C.

Of course I regret that I did not keep in touch with Glenn after he left the farm. I do think he and my mother wrote occasional letters until her old age. I only recently learned of the significance of his pioneering observations of wildlife in the Celista area, and his extensive recognition as both a wildlife artist and an accomplished naturalist. Certainly, it is heartening to learn that he not only stayed with, and perfected his first love, but became so well recognized and appreciated for his knowledge and artistry.

Doug Granger

(Manager, Lions Grove Estate, Aldergrove, BC)

Weather overcast and snowing (5+ cm) and still falling. Doug the Building Manager for Lions Grove Estate has Two People in clearing snow away with Two Bobcats Doug is going around with the snow Blower until it Broke down.

Glenn R. Ryder, Aldergrove, BC, January 15, 2007

I Drive down to Rawlinson Cres[cent] after I get a Bit of Gas from Doug [Granger] the Building Manager here at 2888-273 St lions Grove Estate, Aldergrove, BC. When I am short on Money he gives me \$20.00 every so often to get me to my Dig site as He also likes old Bottles so I give him a Bottle or two every so often.

Glenn R. Ryder, Aldergrove, BC, June 25, 2010

Glenn was an occupant in our government-assisted living facility since March 2002. He was an excellent tenant, honest, clean, and quiet. We had a



● Doug Granger (left) and Alton Harestad, part of the team that helped move Glenn's possessions from his suite and storage locker at Lions Grove Estates after he died. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, Aldergrove, BC, October 28, 2013.*

common interest – old bottles. I enjoyed having a small collection but never spent time at historic dig sites, like Glenn, searching for them.

He relied on his old age pension cheque to live and frequently borrowed money from friends when he was short of cash for gas or car repairs so he could get out and about. We had an understanding that when Glenn was really desperate for gas money I would give him \$20 in exchange for whole old bottles he found. Sometimes he paid me back when his pension cheque arrived at the end of each month, but over the years my bottle collection grew substantially.

Glenn lived alone, and his Christmases were never family celebrations. But every year, late at night or early in the morning, Santa visited and put 20 litres of gas in his station wagon. The gesture gave him a fresh start in the New Year for a few days of field time.

He was dedicated to his wildlife vocation and several times when tenants were in the hallway chatting loudly outside his door he asked them to go inside their suites because he had to concentrate when he was writing his notes. Whenever Glenn left his suite, he always wore his RCMP ball cap, a trait that marked his departure for a while.

While cleaning out the suite after his death I found some insects, birds, and mammals in the freezer compartment of his refrigerator. Three small mice,

neatly stored in long plastic tubes caught my eye. I later learned they were the rare Pacific Jumping Mouse he had found dead at dig sites. The discovery of the frozen carcasses required buying a new fridge!

Glenn was an ideal tenant, never caused any problems, and I enjoyed his friendship.

Al and Jude Grass

(Al, before he retired, was employed as a BC Parks Branch naturalist; he currently works part time at Wild Birds Unlimited; Jude, before she retired, was a Greater Vancouver Regional District naturalist and administrator)

The following account was written by Al as he had a much longer relationship with Glenn.

Al Grass picks up a small native wood tick in the Hairy Manzanita Shrubbery of this area, but It goes unnoticed for some Days until he had to go to Hospital and have It removed from his side. A good tick area in the Hairy Manzanita Shrubs Arctostaphylos tomentosa.

Glenn R. Ryder, Eagle Ridge, West Vancouver, BC,
February 11, 1967

I talked with Jude Grass this evening. She told me Al Grass was out. But would be Back later on, he is still going ahead with the Book on Owls and Hawks for the Richmond Nature Park. Jude Grass was telling me they had seen a wintering or early Orange-crowned warbler in the Park just recently. I told her I have not seen or heard any as yet and No swallows as yet either.

Glenn R. Ryder, Campbell Valley Park, Langley,
BC, March 18, 1987.

Thinking back, I first met Glenn through a friend of mine who told me that he heard about something called the “BC Wildlife Patrol.” Glenn’s base of operations at the time (early 1960s) was Green Timbers, in Surrey. The *BC Wildlife Patrol* was Glenn’s way of raising awareness of the rich wildlife diversity in his community. Glenn’s detailed wildlife records were



● Jude and Al Grass, Fraser valley, BC. Photo by John MacFarlane.

used in later years in the preparation of a report on Green Timbers, which in later years became a City of Surrey park.

One of Glenn’s passions was owls – he loved all aspects of nature, but owls were something very special to him. It was from Glenn’s enthusiasm that I too developed a keen interest in owls. One of Glenn’s projects he called “Project Screech-Owl” where he put up nesting boxes. Some of these boxes were made from dynamite crates and when he requested more from the manufacturer he was told to stop – don’t hammer nails into a dynamite crate – it could explode!

Glenn was not only a keen birder who made copious notes of his observations, usually illustrated with detailed sketches, he was a fine all around naturalist.

Something I will never forget was Glenn’s ability to read “signs”, including tracks, scats, strands of hair caught on a barbwire fence, or stray feathers. Nothing was too small for Glenn to find and interpret. Glenn’s skills as a bird artist came in handy when it came to identifying bird feathers – in fact he kept a fine collection of bird feathers. Tracks and scats always told interesting stories often leading to exciting discoveries like a fox, ‘possum, or a skunk’s den.

It was Glenn who first drew my attention to the natural beauty and diversity of life in an area in South Langley that became Campbell Valley Regional Park. Other local people became involved in his efforts, leading to the formation of the Langley Field

Naturalists. This beautiful 100 ha protects marsh, forest and meadow habitat – a wonderful legacy now enjoyed by thousands every year.

Glenn and I spent some wonderful evenings owling in the park. His favourite way of attracting owls was to use a drawer knob with a screw. The “squeaker” worked very well at bringing in screech, saw-whet, and great horned owls. One occasion a Great Horned Owl came straight at Glenn. He yelled and it veered away just in time!

We made many trips together to places like [E.C.] Manning Provincial Park, the Okanagan valley, Shuswap Lake, and Wells Gray Park where we came upon a Grizzly Bear rooting around in a sub-alpine meadow. It was a wonderful photo opportunity but Glenn forgot to focus his camera (he was on horseback and afraid the horse would rear).



● Al Grass at old trapper's cabin in Wells Gray Park, BC, August 1971. Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.

Glenn contributed to a number of publications, including newspapers like *The Surrey Leader* (where he had a column) and the *Langley Advance* where we collaborated in a column entitled “Langley Nature Notes”. We also worked together on a BC Parks Branch

publication *Birds of Shuswap Lake Provincial Park* illustrated with Glenn's artwork.¹⁰¹ Around 1978, the Langley Field Naturalists published a book entitled *Bird of Langley as seen in Campbell Valley Park*, again illustrated with Glenn's fine art work.¹⁰²

Jude and I shall always remember Glenn as a good friend, superb naturalist, and artist who shared with us his keen sense of wonder for all things wild.

Phillip S. Henderson

(Wildlife consultant and principal, Strix Environmental Consulting, Fort Langley, BC)

I hiked Back to the Locked Gate and my station wagon and got my Ladder plus I Phoned Phil Henderson at Fort Langley to see if he wanted to see the Owl and get a Photo or two Phil did show up in a short time. I waited at the gate and when he showed up we hiked Back to the Nest Box area.

I Put up the ladder then unscrewed the Box lid then opened It just a little enough to look inside. Phil took Photos of the male. After this visit with the Screech Owl we hiked down to the other Nest Boxes. I told Phil to get his Camera ready as I am going to make a little sound below this green old flicker Box [to see] who is home. The female Northern Saw-whet Owl popped her head out of the hole and give us a mean look Phil took a couple of Photos.

We hiked on along the trail headed for the G. Horned Owl Nest. The female was on the nest incubating her (2) eggs yet in cottonwood tree. On the hike Back out we stopped off at the Cooper's Hawks. The male was seen in area and the female was at her nest up in a Birch tree.

Glenn R. Ryder, Forslund-Watson refuge, Langley, BC, March 30, 2005.

It sometimes gave me a start, the knock on the office door. There was something about that knock that told me Glenn had dropped by after exploring local woods. I would offer him a cup of tea on a winter's day or a cold drink in summer. “Sure,” he would say, the word characteristically drawn out in equal measures of gratitude and fatigue. While he stomped his feet at the door to clean his boots, I'd



● The amount of time Glenn put into building, erecting, and monitoring hundreds of owl nest boxes throughout the Lower Mainland is staggering. It was a deep-rooted passion that developed during his childhood days on farms and woodlands in the Okanagan and Shuswap area of the province. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, Forslund-Watson Nature Reserve, Langley, BC, March 30, 2005.*

clear a space and place a stool near the door. He'd let out a big sigh and sit himself down, bringing in with him the rich, damp smell of the woods, a shock to nostrils accustomed to stale office air.

We'd have our tea or juice and talk. We talked about all sorts of things, including Glenn's past, and our conversation always included what he had seen that day, what he hadn't seen, how noisy or quiet the woods had been, or what he had uncovered while conducting his archaeological work, too often just broken bottles or mere fragments of hard lives buried beneath the forest. Bit by bit Glenn pieced lives together and made them real again. Our conversation usually included a lament for loss of species and their habitats, for people's apparent disregard for native organisms. We hatched plans for future outings locally and farther afield, including a fall visit to a special place of mystery and beauty Glenn had visited many years ago on the Old Hedley Road near Princeton.

At his last visit, as he prepared to leave, we chatted through the open passenger door of his white station wagon, distinguished from other older white station wagons by the small "CNP" decal on its side, a false acronym for "Canadian National Police" which seemed to do the trick in discouraging thieves and vandals while it was left for the day beside the railway overpass. I reiterated my wish to visit various sites of interest, then we shook hands and bid farewell. His was the most earnest handshake. It varied little by occasion – a farewell, a hello, a congratulations for finding a rare animal – but for a thank-you it often lingered and I was never quite sure when to loosen my grip. And so it was for that handshake, which would be our last.

Anyone lucky enough to spend time with Glenn in the woods gained some sense of his purpose and of his reverence for and knowledge of nature. The more outings I had with him, the more I understood and appreciated the depth of his knowledge. I marveled at his ability to recall facts from encounters with wildlife long ago. Thankfully, he carefully recorded his observations in notes and drawings, providing a window for others into his world of nature.

One location on our list was the ecological reserve at the south end of Chilliwack Lake. In 2012 we finally made it. By the time we reached the actual reserve it was early afternoon. We had spent two hours walking about three kilometres. The terrain was level and open but our progress was hampered, as always, by the animals and plants we encountered along the way. A turtle could have beaten us there and so it may have if it was headed in that direction because on the sandy south shore of the lake Glenn pointed out its tracks. The surrounding woods were quiet this September day, but the pika whistling from the rocky slope along the lake kept our ears alert. South of the lake we passed through a patch of giant, old growth conifers where Glenn showed me the peculiar scar in a western redcedar, the sign of a fisher trap used long ago by a local trapper. The trail continued along the river upstream from the lake, where we stopped to observe the red, spawning sockeye salmon struggling through the shallow water, scraping over the rust-blotched cobble. Through the water their rotting bodies flickered like their lives that would soon be extinguished.



● Glenn preparing to take photos of the spawning Sockeye Salmon in the Chilliwack River. *Photo by Phillip S. Henderson, Chilliwack River south of Chilliwack Lake, BC, September 13, 2012.*

Farther on, we broke off the forest trail and headed into a marsh. Glenn forged ahead through the dense shrubs at the edge of the marsh, his clippers in hand and always at work giving their distinctive “click” as he cut away branches and cleared a path. I often became distracted and lagged behind while photographing and looking at “things”. It was never hard to pick up Glenn’s trail because it was usually the only way to carry on relatively unimpeded: a narrow opening through a patch of shrubs, or the bent-over grasses hiding the solid ground beneath. If Glenn had gone there it wouldn’t be a problem. I sometimes attempted a shortcut off his tracks to catch up more quickly. Inevitably this led to near-disaster – discomfort at the least – and my silently cursing “Ryder” for always getting it right. We took our time exploring the sunny marsh and by 16:00 decided we had better start back. We had intended to go farther south but agreed to save that adventure for another time.

We cut into the forest along the bottom of the slope to avoid battling through the dense shrubs of the river’s floodplain. It wasn’t easy breaking through the forest edge and didn’t get any easier once inside. We fell into a world of darkness and what Glenn called the ultimate jackpot: felled old growth trees strewn across

the understory like massive pick-up sticks beneath a dark canopy of mature conifers. It was impressive and beautiful, but it was an obstacle. With his heart condition, Glenn quickly fell short of breath and for each step his uncooperative nerve-damaged foot had to be maneuvered carefully into the right spot. He spent more energy than most just walking on the level. While climbing slopes we would simply stop to rest, watch, listen and sometimes chat before carrying on. As with all our explorations, I did not doubt we would reach our destination even though sometimes we didn’t quite get to where we had intended. This forest was a new challenge. It would involve arms and legs – a whole body workout – and diminishing time. I worried a little but kept it to myself. We made our way slowly through the maze, clambering over and walking atop the logs, into and out of the spaces between the felled trees that were like rooms in houses from which it sometimes seemed we would never escape. Eventually we made it to an understory of smaller logs and then back onto the trail. We pushed on, resting when we had to and finally made it to the truck, tired and relieved.

This was only 13 months before Glenn’s death. A bout of pneumonia in early 2013 almost killed him. He said that he never felt quite the same, but he still

went out whenever he had money enough for gas, his car was running or it wasn't pouring rain. His last project was enhancing a wetland at the old Dominion Sawmill site near Fort Langley, an area he had first visited 30 years ago to record animals and plants and to map out the mill site and unravel the mysteries of its social and cultural history.

Glenn travelled through the woods quietly. He travelled through life quietly, bringing with him all that he could record in his writings, his drawings, and his photographs. Beside him stood, occasionally, the lucky few, among them his most cherished companion, his beloved brother Donald who accompanied him so he could go about his business of being a naturalist.

As a naturalist, Glenn had no peers. Glenn was informed by countless observations and he sat quietly and confidently atop the wondrous and mysterious world of natural history. He never rested: on every outing new and old questions presented themselves and he sought ceaselessly their answers. Long after his death his observations and his unyielding conservation ethic will inform, surprise and contribute to the conservation of animals and plants and their habitats.

There are times while sitting in my office that I anticipate that knock on the door. I miss it.

Ted Kearney

(Retired in 1985 as an electrical engineer with BC Hydro)

We Ted Kearney, Keith Pincott and Glenn R. Ryder Planned this Trip. Ted is the owner and Driver of a Ford three Quarter ton 4 x 4 Pickup truck with good ply tires on It for rocks which would get us to where we want to go...With our loaded Backpacks we hiked about a mile or less when we meet up with a Forestry man in a pickup truck. He stops and asks If we want a ride up, we jump into the Back of the truck and we are off up the twisting logging road and we arrived at a work site making these logging Rds into narrow hiking trails...The Forestry fellow gives us a better map showing the logging Rds within each Drainage site. We start off on the main hike upwards as we go up further the area becomes nicer with each 1000 feet we climb...We see a meltwater pond.

I like the high country up here It is most interesting I would very much like to spend several Days or a week here in the little Tamihi Creek Valley area to explore the Peaks and Valley at this elevation of which is roughly 4,600 to 5,000 feet up.

Glenn R. Ryder, July 24, 1998.

My family came to live in Mission in 1990 and first met Sylvia Pincott through a provincial program called "Naturescape."¹⁰³ It basically encouraged the planting of native plant varieties whenever possible in the garden for the birds' well-being. She suggested my wife and I might like to come to a naturalists' meeting in Clayburn village and this is where we met Glenn Ryder and Sylvia's husband Keith. Glenn was very knowledgeable about the Sumas Mountain area and later he led a group of us to observe the habitat of the rodent commonly called Mountain Beaver.

Glenn "house-sat" for us many times, and he was one of the few people that our cats liked and didn't hide from. Some of my most vivid recollections of Glenn are from a few field trips Keith Pincott and I shared with him in high-elevation habitats in the upper Fraser River valley.

Pyramid Mountain (Wells Gray Park)

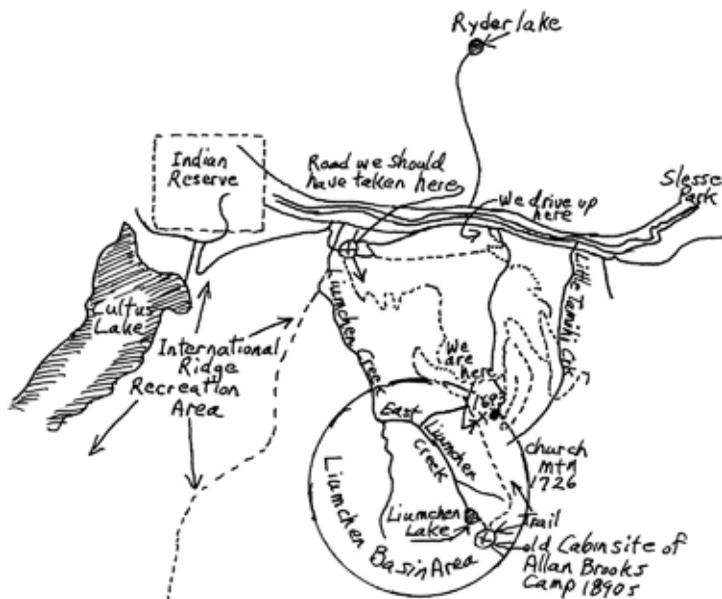
As we were setting up our tents one evening beside a little alpine lake, Glenn announced that we had company – three curious Grizzly Bears. Glenn promptly produced a volley of shots from a bear banger. He was not happy until we saw them departing in the distance. I knew that Glenn had some nasty encounters in years past and fortunately came well prepared.

Chilliwack River Valley Trail (includes Chilliwack Lake)

The old-growth trees were on a trail beyond the lake. Glenn's sharp eyes spotted the trail which was rather obscure. I think a sign post had been removed.

Liumchen Lake (9 km southeast of Chilliwack)

One of our interesting hikes where we found the remains of an old cabin [Allan Brooks; see page 230] along the way. Glenn knew the history of the



● A value-added feature in Glenn's notes is the detailed maps he included of topographical features and routes he travelled for little known areas. Glenn left the day-hike in the Liumchen Basin area with seven pages of notes for 104 species including plants (64), birds (18), butterflies (16), mammals (3), and amphibians (3). In the vicinity of a melt-water pond, Glenn found new locality and elevation records for Northern Pacific Treefrog, Columbia Spotted Frog, and Long-toed Salamander. All of these observations can now be pinpointed as to exact location.

area which I have forgotten. The lake is approached by old logging roads behind Cultus Lake and there is a view of Church Mountain. In 1998, a 2,300-ha (5,683 ac) provincial ecological reserve (#143) was established surrounding Liumchen Lake to protect montane and subalpine flora and fauna.¹⁰⁴

The Lucky Four Mine: (no photo found)

Travelling along Highway 1 towards Hope, we approached via Wahleach Lake. We followed an old pack horse trail for miles giving us a view of Conway Peak.

Mount Cheam (East of Chilliwack)

We hiked continuously in cloud until after lunch when the cloud started to break and we got fleeting glimpses of the Fraser River and Agassiz area below. Glenn was always very concerned and careful of where we trod in the alpine areas.



● Keith Pincott (left) and Ted Kearney on a lunch break atop Cheam Mountain at 2,104 m (6,900 ft) elevation. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, September 11, 1998.*

Ken Kennedy

(Retired; worked as a naturalist [Miltenatch Island], zoo keeper, and high school teacher)

To-night Al Grass and myself went over to Stanley Park Van B.C. to Record the Calls of a tame Great Horned Owl and a Barred Owl with Ken Kennedy. Ken had a tame G. Horned Owl called Cleio. This tame Owl did get the one at Stanley Park to Call and we did manage to record It Calls as for the Barred Owl we didn't do as well during all this we thought a Saw-whet Owl had Called in the distance of the Park but It was too far off to be certain.

Glenn R. Ryder, Stanley Park (Vancouver), BC,
December 24, 1969

By the late 1960s, Glenn's reputation as an all-around naturalist and good wildlife artist was well known. My early recollection of hearing Glenn's name frequently was through a nest box project Wayne Campbell and I carried out in the Lower Mainland in the 1960s. Glenn had been putting up nest boxes for owls for over a decade and we wanted to be assured that we were not duplicating efforts between us. Whenever we found a Western Screech-Owl or Northern Saw-whet Owl in one of our boxes we sent the details to Glenn. His ambition was to one day write a book on their life emphasizing conservation in the Fraser River valley.

I did not know Glenn as well as others but our paths crossed occasionally because of our common interest in wildlife. Most of my direct contact with him was during the period I was a zoo keeper at Stanley Park in Vancouver. Occasionally he visited the park to record the calls of a captive Great Horned Owl as well as wild Barred Owls that were often heard calling during the breeding season. In those days a Barred Owl was a rare bird in the Lower Mainland. I told Glenn about seeing and hearing Western Screech-Owls and Northern Saw-whet Owls in the park and soon afterwards he arrived with nest boxes that were set up around Beaver Lake. In 1973, a pair of Western Screech-Owls successfully raised two young in one of Glenn's boxes, probably the last breeding record for Stanley Park.

Glenn was constantly concerned about loss of wildlife habitat in the Lower Mainland, especially marshes and older woodlands. On a visit to the zoo with Al Grass on July 19, 1969, I noted in my journal "Glenn felt that Burnaby Lake was doomed unless some action is taken to protect it."

Bruce Klassen

*(Retired marine diesel engineer;
wildlife photographer)*

This evening at 5.00 P.M. I had Keith and Sylvia Pincott arrive here at Mr. Buis place to pick me up and take me over to Mission B.C. to 32550 7th Ave for a meeting and a supper at Father Tom's St. Joseph Parish. The people who showed up here was Keith and Sylvia Pincott, Bruce Klassen of Mission B.C. myself. Also Bruce K. and his wife. And the members of St Joseph's who work for Father Tom.

We first chatted with Tom up stairs over a Irish Beer etc about the Parish woodlands etc. We then went downstairs to the room we are to have supper in. And what a nice fancy setup it was very Nice Dishes with Gold trim. The Wall message said Welcome GLENN KEITH SYLVIA BRUCE and wife and members of the Parish who put this supper together and what a supper it was. The Bottom of the Message said Thanks for helping us to get in Touch with Nature.

We had wine and more Irish Beer or Ale after the supper. We then chatted more about things that can be done to Help save the Parish woodlands.

Glenn R. Ryder, Mount Lehman, BC,
June 22, 1999.

Bruce Klassen Came over and we Drove down to Forslund Refuge woodlands to show Bruce the W. Screech Owl ♀ in Box. Still O.K. [3 nestlings] We hiked the woods to roost area of the ♂ Owl. He was not at the Cedar roosts. But later on as we were to leave the woods I checked the Empty Nest Box in area and there he was in the Bottom of the Box with (3) Downy white young.

Glenn R. Ryder, Aldergrove, BC, April 7, 2002



● Glenn frequently took naturalists and wildlife photographers to his active owl nest boxes. On several occasions Bruce accompanied him to get photographs. *Photo by Bruce Klassen, Forslund-Watson Management Area, Langley, BC, May 20, 2005.*

I first met Glenn in the early 1990s. Amazed at the biodiversity my wife and I found on our small woodland acreage on Silverhill we attended several nature presentations given by Sylvia Pincott in Abbotsford. Sylvia is a well-known organic gardener, naturalist and educator on sustainability and habitat conservation and urged us to join the Central Valley Naturalists (CVN; now the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club) as a way to gain more knowledge about the land we were stewarding in Mission. About the same time we joined the CVN, I was inspired by Sylvia's slide presentations to become a hobby nature photographer and share my pictures with the naturalists. It was at the old Clayburn School that I first saw the thin, tall, well-worn khaki clad man slip into the back row just as the meeting started. At coffee break, that unassuming man would become the centre of attention of a group of men and women called "the birders." They would talk about sightings, bird counts, nests, and other facets of bird life all of which was very interesting and colourful to an avid rookie naturalist and photographer.

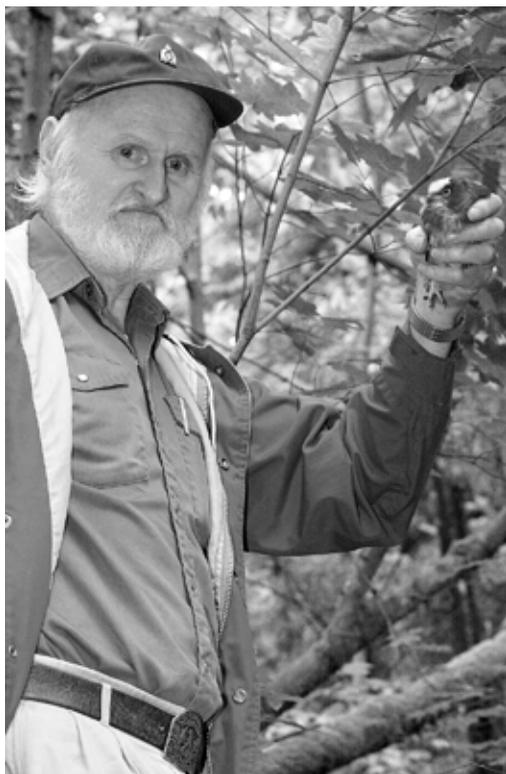
I remember talking to Glenn about photography and him explaining that he had done quite a bit of slide photography in his day but now his equipment was old and worn and replacing it was out of the question due to cost. He asked me whether I would ever be interested in accompanying him on some of his nesting box checks in the spring and I could bring my camera. I jumped at the chance and Glenn and I went out on several occasions. The one I remember the most I called "My babes in the woods birthday present from Glenn."

In early May of 2005 Glenn phoned and asked if I could go out with him to check his "Project Owl" nest boxes in Aldergrove and Langley and that this would be on very short notice. I agreed in an instant and packed my camera equipment that night! On the night of May 19th shortly after arriving home from my birthday dinner I got that very special call, "Bruce, Glenn Ryder here. I don't have wheels right now, could you pick me up tomorrow morning. I've got boxes I need to check?" I'll pick you up around 9 o'clock I quickly answered.

The next morning was dry and sunny when I picked Glenn from his digs in Aldergrove, ladder and small pack in hand. We would start first at the Hogan Family Nature Park off Bradner Road. The park with very close ties to CVN is a hidden jewel where Glenn felt secure to erect one of his owl boxes that would be safe from human vandalism. The nesting box had produced owl young in the past and 2005 was no exception. One young Northern Saw-whet Owl was in the box of which I took some photographs of Glenn with young in hand and on a branch.

We next headed for the Forslund property in south Langley. This former farm with adjoining woodland was another nesting box location that in the past had yielded Western Screech-Owl young. Inside a box was a healthy female screech-owl with three young. At this point we were both beaming smiles at these forest treasures we had just witnessed. We had one more stop on Glenn's agenda.

We headed for a forested acreage in south Bradner that Glenn said was slated for gravel extraction and that people in the area had asked him for information on species at risk that might stop the destruction. On previous visits Glenn had found the rare Pacific Sideband Snail and Oregon Forest Snail but we were



● Glenn holding an adult female Northern Saw-whet Owl extracted from a nest box. *Photo by Bruce Klassen, Bradner, BC, May 20, 2005.*

here to put up a box for owls. During a walk-about we checked an active Red-tailed Hawk nest with two young that of course Glenn had been monitoring.

This was of course one of the best days in my life as a naturalist-photographer and friend of Glenn's. Almost as good as the actual field outing was the debrief session at the local pub. Here I was able to ask many of the questions about what we had just experienced and learn about some of Glenn's past history experiences in the field.

Glenn was a singular man following his own unique calling. He travelled light, materialistically, through his life but carried a heavy weight of experienced natural life in his brain. Luckily for us he was only too willing to share his art and knowledge.

Keith Pincott

(Retired; forest worker)

We Ted Kearney Keith Pincott and myself are making this trip up the Mtn to the start of the old Trail to Liumchin Lake. The trail was made by the late Allan Brooks in the 1890s...the road was rough Lots of rocks made up this Road as It had been a Logging Road...From the viewpoint or the Ridge one has a wonderful view in all Directions. The rugged lime stone spires of Mt McGuire in the east and beyond this is the famous Slesse Mtn and to the south a great view of Mt Baker...

At the Lake (Liumchin) Keith Pincott goes swimming in the Nude. It is Cold water up here with the melt water Creeks feeding this Lake. I would turn Blue in a hurry I kept warm. Keith gets out again after a very short swim.

No Amphibians could be found at the lake [Liumchin] But on the way out at a Pond I seen (1) Spotted Frog at a sub alpine Pond.

Glenn R. Ryder, Liumchin Basin, August 14, 1998.

Saturday Keith Pincott picks me up for the Drive up to Sumas Mtn at 8.30 A.M. He Drps me off at the start of Ryder Trail and will pick me up at 6.00 P.M. I plan on hiking and doing some trail work up to Cougar Bluffs.

Glenn R. Ryder, Aldergrove, BC, May 31, 2002.

Glenn had true love, inherent respect, and incomparable knowledge of the natural world. It was a delight to be on walks with him. Glenn would see birds or flowers before the rest of us, know their names, and record them in his little book. His reports at the nature club were always much anticipated.

I had the pleasure of being on several hikes with Glenn and Ted Kearney to Liumchen Lake, Nahatlatch alpine, and Jones Lake, where there was Lucky 4, a historic mine we could never quite locate. Years before we met, Ted had the habit of camping at the top of the alpine above the Nahatlatch River in August. His goal was to observe and record the wild flowers showing at that time of year at that altitude. You get the idea



● Keith shared many adventurous field trips with Glenn over the years. He and his wife Sylvia are now retired on North Pender Island enjoying the sub-Mediterranean climate, forests, marine coves and beaches, and wildlife.



● On the southwest mainland coast of British Columbia, the widely distributed Columbia Spotted Frog (*Rana luteiventris*) occurs at higher elevations while the very rare Oregon Spotted Frog (*R. pretiosa*) is found in lowland areas. The Lower Mainland is the only place in the province where the ranges for both species overlap. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

that memories and photographs of these trips helped him and Ernestine get through the long winter nights in the snowy hills behind Mission where they tended their year-round garden and nursery in the woods.

The time came when Glenn and I had the privilege of accompanying Ted on some of his trips on August long weekends, and one turned out longer than planned. We had driven to Boston Bar, crossed the Fraser, and then drove a few hours along logging roads leading to Nahatlatch. At the bottom of the hill

two miles from where we were to camp, Ted's faithful old pickup died. So we headed out on foot for a three hour hike, with fully loaded backpacks, along with a long single-barreled shotgun that Glenn insisted we take with us. Some of us considered the shotgun an unnecessary luxury that we didn't need, especially with our heavy packs, but Glenn was determined.

When we were a good way up, a party in a 4 x 4 kindly made room for our packs, except for Glenn's camera gear and his "thunderbust" (shotgun), and then they left our packs on the road by the trailhead to our camping spot. We soon retrieved our packs and hiked an hour to the snow-melt pond in a meadow. After we busied ourselves setting up camp and preparing to bed down for a well-earned rest, we stood around the fire waiting for it to burn itself down to a level for cooking. I was facing the forest edge a few hundred feet away, with the other two facing our campfire and the pond with their backs to the forest.

That is when a mother Black Bear with her two half-grown yearlings stopped on the forest edge to have a look at us. They had beautiful, rusty shaggy coats reminiscent of highland cattle. I pointed at them and asked, "What kind of cattle might they be?" Glenn whipped his head around, saw the bears, and hustled over to his tent for his shotgun. In the meantime, Ted and I let off bear bangers to no effect. The three bears looked at the bangers with mild curiosity. Glenn strode up to where the two of us were standing and fired two blanks into the air. As the bears scampered out of sight, he let off a third shot, and we could hear them thrashing through the woods. Glenn strolled back and forth by the pond, watching the side hill to the northeast. He finally relaxed when the three appeared in the open, heading away from us. Glenn watched with his binoculars until they were out of sight. Thanks to him and his long-barrel, we had a peaceful, uninterrupted night.

Eventually, as we hiked back down the road, a family going our way said they would let the tow-truck service at Boston Bar know of our predicament. Being stranded wasn't a dead loss because we explored around our stranded vehicle. Lo and behold, a young Mountie dropped by to check on us. He took information to our wives about our need for transport home from Boston Bar, after we had made it to the garage via tow-truck.

It seems that in his years in the wild, Glenn had learned not to have close contact with bears, as much as he might love them. I guess he'd had too many bears try to make themselves at home in his camp, and, once in the Yukon, in his tent, but that's another story of Glenn in the wild.

Sylvia Pincott

(Naturescape British Columbia [Abbotsford] and past president of Pender Islands Conservancy)

I am North of Mission B.C. in the area of Steelhead B.C. visiting the property of the Kearney's at Cardinal Gardens with Sylvia and Keith Pincott. They came to my place in Aldergrove and Drove me up to see the Place at Ted and Ernestine Kearney.

Glenn R. Ryder, May 27, 1998



● Sylvia Pincott, a long-time advocate for back-yard habitats for wildlife in the Fraser River valley, now lives on North Pender Island, BC, with her husband Keith. *Photo by Sara Steil, March 1, 2014.*

At a meeting of the Central Valley Naturalists [Abbotsford] in December 2001, Sylvia arranged a program titled "A Salute to Glenn Ryder." The text from that speech is reprinted with her permission.

"Our program this evening is a salute to a very special member of CVN, a remarkable naturalist we are privileged to have in our midst – Glenn Ryder!"

"Glenn has spent a lifetime closely studying the fauna and flora of British Columbia. At a special occasion to launch the fourth and final volume of *The*

Birds of British Columbia, provincial ornithologist and senior writer for the four volumes Wayne Campbell recognized Glenn for his remarkable contribution to the scientific record from a lifetime of documenting the natural history of British Columbia. Wayne acknowledged Glenn to be the finest naturalist in B.C., if not in all of Canada."

"Glenn has been compiling detailed field notes and sketches throughout the province, and beyond, for more than 50 years. Binders of his handwritten notes fill over three metres of shelf space, and Glenn is still writing."

"Locally, there is no one more familiar with Sumas Mountain than Glenn – he knows it and its inhabitants in intimate detail! I once asked Glenn if alligator lizards are to be found on Sumas Mountain. He confirmed that indeed they are, as are Rubber Boa [snake], which he observed sharing a Mountain Beaver den. The Mountain Beaver is a red-listed species and the Rubber Boa is very rare on the coast – a remarkable observation and typical of Glenn!"

"Glenn is also an outstanding wildlife artist and photographer. Unfortunately we are unable to have originals of his artwork here this evening, but we will show overheads of some of his pen and ink drawings along with a selection of his slide photography."



● Glenn was a talented artist and many friends commissioned him for paintings and sketches. Sylvia, who was interested in providing natural habitats for wild critters in backyards was interested in beetles. In 2004, she asked Glenn for a black-and-white drawing of a Striped Cockchafer (May Bug) that was framed and adorned a wall in her home on North Pender Island.

“A number of years ago, his illustrations appeared in a lovely little field guide, *The Birds of Langley*.¹⁰² Somehow Wendy Dadalt managed to find several copies of this out-of-print publication and if you are quick you can obtain one from her for only \$6.00.”

“For this evening’s presentation I had the opportunity to search through Glenn’s collection of approximately 10,000 slides and choose a program from them. What a challenge that has been! At first I thought that we would focus on his observations of trees. Glenn sees things in trees that most of the rest of us would walk right by! It might be patterns on bark, leaves, cones, nesting cavities, dens, antler rubs, beaver chews, a curled-up Porcupine, owl roosts, or even owls themselves camouflaged against the bark.”

“As it turned out, Glenn’s remarkable photography of owls is what I ended up choosing to share with you this evening, after an introduction to his bird art and a sampling of what we might see on our Sunday trip to Sumas Mountain.”

“In closing, I would like to say thank you, Glenn, from all of us, for the inspiration you provide, and the knowledge that you have shared over the years. We hope you will enjoy this copy of *The Butterflies of British Columbia*”

Gerry Powers

(Retired cement mason; Past president and volunteer with Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, Delta, BC)

Wayne Campbell was out doing some talking to a group in the Vancouver B.C. area and He came out to see me...He had some Business with Mr. Powers. Wayne asked if I wanted to ride out with him on Downes Road for a visit with Gerry Powers I said sure and we ended up at Mr. G. Powers Home. Gerry was outside doing some work on one of his Buildings.

So Mr. Powers invited us in his house to chat about his Road kills of wildlife species. We looked over piles of Photos etc. During the chat Gerry popped us a few tins of beer as we chatted. We finely left Gerrys Home and drove to the Hwy #1 overpass at Whatcome Rd. to get some photos of the place Gerry Powers had picked up a Hwy killed Barn Owl etc. in

*the past.*¹⁰⁵

Glenn R. Ryder, Abbotsford, BC, August 22, 2006.

...Phil Henderson came back to pick me up to go to Sumas Washington U.S. to watch the Vaux’s Swift enter the old U.S. Custom Building chimney. Steve Howard and Gerry Powers there also watching the 150 swifts enter chimney at about 8.00 P.M...

Glenn R. Ryder, Sumas, WA, April 29, 2009.

I met Glenn at a Central Valley Naturalists (now Mission-Abbotsford Nature Club) meeting about 25 years ago. He already had a well-deserved reputation as an outstanding naturalist. On that first meeting I recall that he was a quiet man and did not initiate conversation. However, if approached, he was quite willing to share his interest in wildlife and talk about his experiences and projects. He was knowledgeable and inspiring.

I never met with Glenn regularly but our paths crossed at club meetings and occasionally on various club projects. I remember an incident during a raptor nest survey with Johanna Saaltink. We spotted a Red-tailed Hawk nest that Glenn wanted to ‘scope to see if it was active. He returned from the car with his telescope mounted on a gun stock, pointed it skyward and said “yep, there is a bird on the nest!” The problem was that we were near an airport and his viewing apparatus looked like he could be shooting at planes! We left the area abruptly.

Glenn and I shared a common interest in nest boxes for owls and rehabilitation of injured birds. Our interest in putting up nest boxes was for the same reasons – loss of habitat for nesting. Cavities for Western Screech-Owls and Northern Saw-whet Owls were becoming scarce in the Fraser River valley and my interest, Barn Owls, were losing nesting sites to increasing demolition of old barns and silos where they nest. Although the owl’s future was uncertain we were both convinced we could slow down their demise.

Glenn and I had a strong desire to save or make use of animals that had been injured or killed by collisions with vehicles. I took injured animals to the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society for care



● Glenn Ryder (left) and Gerry Powers at the opening of the Sylvia Pincott Heritage Habitat Garden at the Matsqui Sumas Abbotsford Museum in Abbotsford, BC, July 2002. *Photo by Bruce Klassen.*

and prepared dead carcasses as taxidermy mounts, which I used as displays for wildlife festivals and shows and educational talks. Glenn saved skulls and feathers of road-killed animals as a reference for his paintings. During one visit, we talked about different ways we might suggest to the provincial Highways Department to reduce road mortality. One idea was to put spaced reflectors along the edge of the highway at high mortality locations.

You could always identify Glenn by his baseball cap. It had a RCMP emblem on the front and looked decades old. According to rumour, the only time he took it off was before he went to bed!

Like many others, I had great respect for Glenn and his knowledge and in retrospect I wish I had spent more time with him during his studies of woodland owls.

Ian Robertson

(Formerly of Robertson Environmental Services Ltd; currently a consultant with Environmental Dynamic Inc.)

We Ian Robertson & Glenn Ryder are making a rough check on the Douglas Fir Woodlands the area of the proposed new Gravel Pit for Langley B.C. Municipality these Woodlands Boarder to the west on the Campbell Creek and Hardhack Marsh, and Comes near the Creek Marsh on the East side also.

Glenn R. Ryder, Langley, BC, June 6, 1991.



● Ian Roberston during a pelagic bird-watching trip off Tofino, BC, September 26, 1970. Ian relied heavily on Glenn's natural history experience and frequently hired him for contracts with his consulting company. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Partly because of the loss of his brother when he was in his 20s or 30s, on several occasion Glenn shared with me his concern that he might not live a long life. Yet, when I saw him this April [2013] he looked hale and hearty thus notice of his recent passing was a sad surprise.

As I started the second half of my career with my own company, Glenn became my eyes and ears. If I gave him a map of a public park or an area scheduled

for some altered use he would fill that map with a comprehensive inventory of butterflies, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals based on observations of the animals themselves or their sign. Attached to the map would be pages and pages of notes elaborating on the mapped animal sightings plus a remarkably comprehensive list of plants. All I had to do was write it up. This formula helped us in projects all over the Lower Mainland, the West and East Kootenays region, and the Peace River areas. It was educational to work with Glenn and fun, as well.

We got into real trouble only once. We were working in north Surrey near the Canadian National intermodal yard on a property scheduled for development. This was about 1994. As was customary at the time many spotting scopes were barrel mounted, and that described Glenn's scope. During the course of our morning's work one of the nearby residents apparently reported they saw us with a gun. Anyway, we were quietly seated on a concrete divider at the side of the road innocently having our lunch with our backs to the traffic. We paid little attention to a large cube van, a smaller van and a car that converged quietly around us. All of a sudden "This is the police, put your hands up" with six or seven police reinforcing the intimidation. This was our first (and last!) experience with a SWAT team. While it took only seconds to confirm we did not have fire arms it was a scary moment, and I think in retrospect Glenn should have claimed damages – for the barrel mount he would no longer feel comfortable using!

Glenn was a very special naturalist, God bless him!

Cindy Rudolph

*(Wildlife Artist and Permitted Wildlife
Rehabilitator for 20 Years)*

This afternoon I left home at 5646-200th St with my 15 speed Touring Bike and pedaled over to 21031 44th Ave Langley B.C. to see Cindy Rudolph the Wildlife Artist. We then hiked down into Murray Creek the North side off of 40th Ave west of 216th St. I showed Cindy the Coyote Den – not yet active.

Glenn R. Ryder, April 19, 1983, Langley, B.C.

I met Glenn for the first time in the late 1970s. I was working at an art and framing shop in Langley and, as an aspiring wildlife artist, I had a few of my water colour paintings of native wild-flowers displayed in the front window. Glenn came in to inquire about the artist and thus we met. Sharing this mutual interest in nature and art, we became friends. He was so genuine and passionate about nature in all respects and had a deep commitment to paint it authentically.

We developed this friendship and would take walks in the woods together where I learned so much from this modest man. He had such enormous knowledge about everything in our wooded path and taught me more than I could have ever learned on my own. I am indebted to Glenn for that, he having taught me to look closely and pay meticulous attention to detail. A beautiful thing about it for me was that he saw nature through the eyes of a scientist *and* an artist; a rare marriage. But to be fair to Glenn, it was the science first.

On one of our walks we came across a feather on a bed of moss. Glenn picked it up and with quick determination said, "Yes, this is the second primary feather on the left wing of a Rufous-sided Towhee." I was astounded! When I would visit his home it would be like walking into a natural history museum, filled with artifacts and other natural collections he had acquired. He would occasionally show me some of his notes, which dated back decades, recording anything relevant about the subject whether plant or animal.

Glenn grew up without the stability of a solid family unit. He didn't talk about it often but he had a very difficult childhood with a number of adults that were, to put it mildly, less than kind. When I asked him why he didn't feel bitter about how he was treated, he replied, "Because then I would be like them and I didn't want that."

Glenn was an unassuming, quiet, gentle, unique, and gifted man. I will remember him with great fondness and respect. Glenn – such a generous man and such a loss at his passing.

I kept in touch with Glenn over the years and occasionally sent him noteworthy records from my home on the Sunshine Coast. One entry reads:

Note from Cindy Rudolph Wildlife Artist Friend

of mine – Cindy writes to me about a late Migrating Bird she describes as a tired out Solitary Vireo ♂ seen towards the evening hours when just By the time It was getting Dark and Cool outside the House this lone bird appeared to fly into the window and the Bird just rested on the window ledge for some time, or all night and was gone By early AM.

Glenn R. Ryder, Langley, BC, November 1, 1985.

Johanna Saaltink

(Naturalist and past member of the Central Valley Naturalists; Joanna now resides in Penticton, BC)

A Lady from the Langleyfield Naturalists Phoned me a Johanna Saaltink of Abbotsford B.C. She is putting together a new Nature Club for the Sumas area. She also told me that a Ken Hall will be getting in touch with me as he is doing the study on Wildlife etc in Langley B.C. at the Various interesting or Sensitive areas.

Glenn R. Ryder, Langley, BC, July 14, 1992.

A trip to Forslund Watson Refuge lands with Kelly and David and Johanna Saaltink to show David and Kelly the W. Screech Owls. I lead these people, seen the (3) Screech Owl young and the (1) Adult likely the female owl. She was roosting nearby in the woods on June 3rd. Kelly took Photos of me holding one of the young Owls. They all thought the owls were pretty neat.

Glenn R. Ryder, Langley, BC, June 4, 2002.

Glenn Ryder had a big influence on me personally, and on the few things my husband and I have accomplished, raising environmental awareness in the Fraser valley. He knew the valley, as he knew all of British Columbia. We spent a lot of time together, whether on inventories of Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk nests or Trumpeter Swan surveys.⁸⁵ I would do the driving and recording, Glenn the surveying. I would pack us a lunch, remembering: nothing with raisins! And when climbing Sumas Mountain – move as noiseless as possible, and for Pete's sake no talking!



● Glenn Ryder and Johanna Saaltink at Bateman Park in Abbotsford, BC. Photo by Gerry Powers.

It was a huge privilege to be exploring with Glenn, as he knew not only birds, but all that grows, creeps, or crawls in the great outdoors and was always happy to share his knowledge with those he trusted, especially if he felt that that might help protect the natural world. Glenn was very helpful and encouraging, when I and a few others started the first naturalist group in the Abbotsford area! Over the years, almost always when anyone in our group received an honourable mention or award, it was thanks to Glenn's help and considerable input. And so it was, when my husband and I and Sylvia Pincott received our gold medals at the Queen's Jubilee in 2002!

I will remember him for his enormous efforts to record the wonders of Nature and his great kindness of heart. I'll miss my best ever teacher, and a good friend.

Arlene Smith

(Retired; assisted Keith with his profession as a wildlife artist, and employed with Crestbrook Forest Industries)

The following recollection was written by Arlene Smith and includes memories of her late husband Keith Smith and his friendship with Glenn Ryder.



● Keith Smith (left) and his wife Arlene on a lunch break during a hike in the East Kootenay, BC. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, summer 1977.*

My late husband, Keith Smith, first met Glenn through a mutual friend in 1974 in the Fraser River valley and they shared many local trips together photographing and looking at wildlife through 1975. Besides having a common interest in birds, both men were artists.

Keith and I went to Wasa Lake Park in 1971 for Keith's summer job as park naturalist. We were still living in North Vancouver at that time but planning to make a move out of the city. We also spent the summer of 1972 in Wasa as Keith again took the park naturalist job. At that time we found the Tamarack Lake property located just north of the lower Skookumchuck River and made arrangements to purchase it. It was a pristine and mostly untouched acreage. We remained at the coast in 1973 and 1974, but then in 1975 we moved to an apartment in Cranbrook.

In 1975, we were in Victoria with Glenn and he introduced Keith to Fenwick Lansdowne. Apparently Fenwick and Glenn were long-time friends and Keith was delighted with the

opportunity to have a visit with such a fine bird artist.

In 1976, we spent the summer at our Tamarack Lake property. We built a log cabin and spent many happy hours there before selling in 1980. In 1976 we invited Glenn to join us and he spent most of the summer exploring every inch of the property. I don't think a single rock escaped Glenn's attention! He wrote copious notes each day recording his observations and cataloging a list of the mammals, birds, and plants. Our time out at Tamarack Lake was special to us and we were fortunate to have Glenn study the natural history of our property. Sadly, I do not have a copy of those notes.

On October 16, 1976 we moved to the old Kimberly airport at Ta Ta Creek, as site managers of the wildlife research facilities and were in residence there until December 1981. Glenn came up to stay with us at Tamarack Lake for a month in the summer of 1977. He and Keith took several side trips at that time exploring new territory for wildlife. Glenn wasn't much of an eater, even when I cooked for him, and when he "cooked" for himself he only ate Cheese!

In 1980 we bought a property out on Wycliffe Prairie, and renovated it so that Keith could concentrate on his wildlife art. We sold it in 1986, and moved to West Vancouver for six years and then to Qualicum Beach where Keith could at last concentrate on his art work full time. He died on July 28, 2000. During the time we lived in West Vancouver Keith maintained his friendship with Glenn, but when we moved to Qualicum Beach we lost track of Glenn but remember him fondly as a good friend who shared so many personal events many years ago.

David Stirling

(Retired; Nature Interpretation and Research, BC Parks Branch and Trip Leader of World Wildlife Tours)

Mr. E. Sian left Stum Lake Camp at 7.30 A.M. He followed me out to Alexis Creek...We stopped at Duck Lake to observe the Ruddy Ducks...A truck and Camper came into the area and who should it get out just my Boss Dave Stirling from Victoria B.C. He had planned to go into Stum Lake to see me but took the wrong turn and ended up in a marshy

Meadow and had gotten stuck. Dave and his wife and their little girl walked 12 miles out for help at Alexis Creek B.C.

I told him lucky he didn't find his way into Stum Lake or he may have had to walk 24 miles out or he could have damaged his Truck or Camper. So To-day I am driving my Boss in and out of Stum Lake Camp This took up my whole Day from 7.30 A.M. till 15 to 10.00P.M. and some 96 miles later...I was Back at Stum Lake Camp and ready for Bed.

Glenn R. Ryder, Stum Lake, BC, July 23, 1971.



● Like many other people wanting to visit Stum Lake, David Stirling and his family found that the access road was often impassable, especially after a Chilcotin thunderstorm. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, July, 1974.*

In those days of nature interpretation and sustainable budget money in British Columbia's parks, I hired Glenn to the job of "Pelican Warden" at Stum Lake in the Chilcotin region of the province.¹ The lake supported the only breeding colony of American White Pelicans in the province, and since it was beginning to get a lot of publicity, I thought it was necessary that someone be on the ground to provide detailed notes on the species and to protect them from human disturbance. Glenn was issued a pick-up truck with a camper unit which could be removed and set up as his abode at the lake. Supplies, when the access road was passable, could be bought in Alexis Creek. He spent four summer seasons as the warden.

I got to know Glenn while employed with BC Parks, not only from his copious notes sent in

regularly, but also from several visits to Stum Lake. Glenn was a loner, dedicated to the field study and appreciation of wildlife, particularly birds. Although lacking in formal education, he knew the value of getting his observations preserved and presented in written form. He was an excellent artist-illustrator who made sketches in the field. He had an uncanny ability to find bird nests.

Perhaps Glenn wouldn't qualify as a modern American Birding Association digital birder, but he certainly ranks high among an older generation of superior field naturalists.

Ken R. Summers

(Wildlife biologist, Ken Summers Biological Services, Abbotsford, BC)

We Ken Summers a Biologist and myself are doing a inventory on the Island at Stave Lake on the North side of the Fraser River and #7 Hwy work being done is for Genstar a development in planned for the Mtn Island etc to place Houses on the small Mtn. The studies go up to near Hayward Lake stave Dam.

Glenn R. Ryder, Ruskin, BC, March 23, 1999.

Hearing of Glenn's death caused me to notice a film canister that had been sitting on my desk for nearly nine years. The outside label carefully documented in Glenn's handwriting the date, location and contents: a Saw-whet Owl pellet from Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island. It had stayed on my desk for a number of reasons, one being its value as an encouragement and poignant reminder of the value of careful observation and documentation. I think it shall remain there.

I didn't know Glenn well, but having lived in Aldergrove for 26 years I inevitably rubbed shoulders with him, occasionally driving him to Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club meetings, or on three or four occasions involving him in one of my field projects. On one memorable trip to Aldergrove Park, he investigated below a large tree that had caught his attention, announcing that the pellets below evidenced the frequent presence of a Barred Owl. Being some distance back I looked up and, sure enough, there

was a Barred Owl perched high over his head. It must have been the only time I saw something before he did, though it was his characteristic Sherlock insights that led me to look up.



● One of Ken Summers's most vivid memories of Glenn was spotting a sleeping Barred Owl after Glenn had noticed a pile of pellets on the forest floor. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.*

Those insights were developed during his legendary forays into the natural world where he immersed himself so completely that he developed those intuitions that come to one who pursues a passion with focus and single-mindedness. Who else has had a Pacific Water Shrew run over their boot, and observed at close range (while quietly eating lunch) the elusive Cougars and Bobcats living on Sumas Mountain?

While he still could, Glenn took me up his trail, well known among those who knew him, on the south side of Sumas Mountain. He had built it to access some

wildflower and butterfly bluffs, a Peregrine Falcon eyrie lookout, and a Mountain Beaver colony. It was where he would find the only Western Screech-Owl (and other owls) recorded on Abbotsford Christmas Bird Counts.

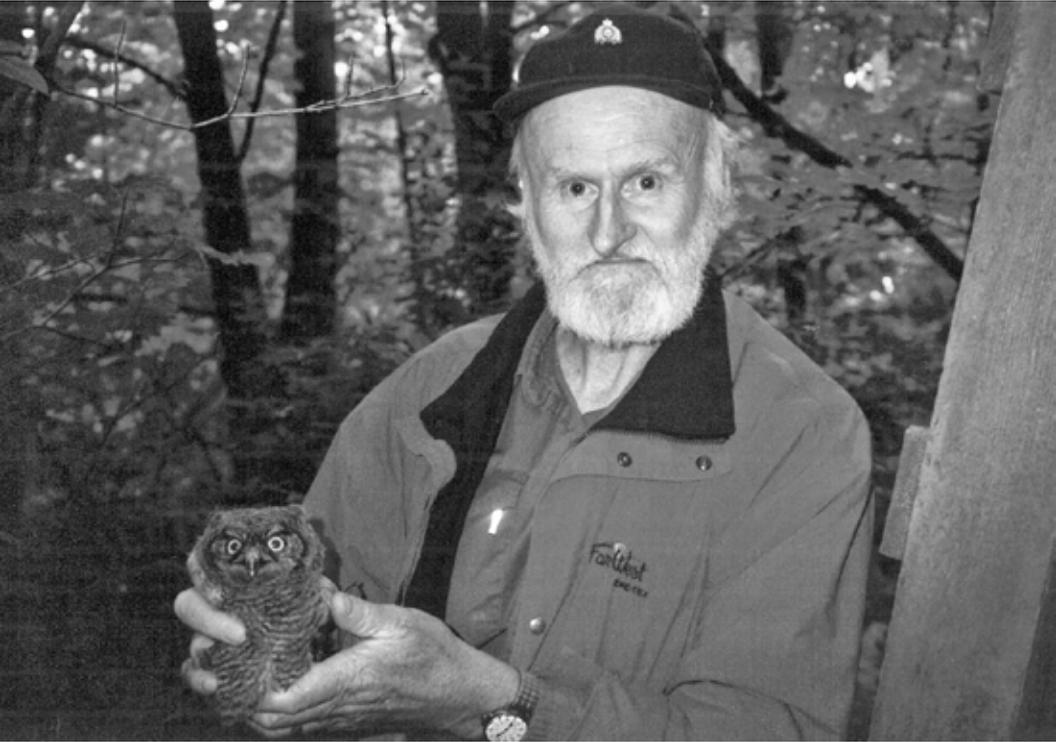
My son, not a naturalist, recently told me of a trail he had recently hiked that might interest me, known as the "Sumas Grind." After he explained its location my eyes lit up and I explained its origins, but that bit of history, however interesting, wasn't particularly meaningful to him. It left me with that bittersweet nostalgia that comes with the passing of an era, when those who follow are unaware of either their debt to the past or the significance of what they trample underfoot. I am grateful that there are those who are working to preserve Glenn's legacy and bring to light the observations and insights he so meticulously recorded.

David Urban

*(Planner II, Experience the Fraser Project,
Fraser Valley Regional District)*

My wife and I first met Glenn in 2002 at a Central Valley Naturalist (now known as the Abbotsford Mission Nature Club) meeting. Together we conducted raptor bird nest surveys in the Sumas Prairie area. He even took us on an adventure to a woodlot in Langley to see Western Screech-Owl owlets that were hatched in one of his nest boxes. The accompanying photograph of Glenn is from that outing on April 28, 2002.

I have two rather fond memories of Glenn in the field. The first was on June 23, 2003 when he took my wife and me to McKee Peak in Abbotsford to show us a Phantom Orchid he found which turned out to be a first in the area. The second was when he and I were hiking on Glenn Ryder Trail to Taggard Peak in Abbotsford and he suddenly stopped and said, "Do you hear that?." Unfortunately, I heard nothing and asked what should I be listening for? He pointed towards the sky and said, "I think I heard a gashawk." I got excited because I thought he meant goshawk so I looked up with my binoculars but saw nothing. He started laughing and then said that gashawk is just a big old passenger jet. I knew at that point I had best be on my toes when hiking with Glenn.



● Glenn was passionate and committed to his nest box program for cavity-nesting owls in the Lower Mainland. He frequently shared his findings with friends such as this nestling Western Screech-Owl extracted from a nest box in Langley, BC. *Photo by David Urban, April 28, 2002.*

John Vooyo

*(Former high school teacher; professor at
Columbia Bible College, Abbotsford,
for past 35 years)*

*Headed to Victoria B.C. By Ferry. On trip
to Victoria B.C. Via Swartz Bay on the Queen of
Vancouver. We got the Ferry at Tsawwassen B.C.
at 7.00 A.M. We arrived over at Swartz Bay in 2 ½
hours. Observers John Vooyo from the Ont [Ontario]
Ornithological Club and Glen Ryder. Area Beacon Hill
Park, Victoria, B.C. Birds seen in the Park as I pass
through on my way to James Fenwick Lansdowne's
Home on Victoria Drive [Avenue].*

Glenn R. Ryder, Surrey, BC, May 9, 1964.

“Glenn R. Ryder, Wildlife Artist, BC Wildlife Patrol.” This title was hand stamped on a 1962 checklist of Vancouver birds that Glenn gave me. This is not the earliest ‘record’ I have of this wonderful outdoorsman. I still have the original handwritten results of the Christmas bird count (CBC) Glenn and I did on December 26, 1961. We covered the north Surrey, south Westminister area of BC, where we found 29 species and a total of 895 birds, 16 of those individuals being Ring-necked Pheasants (something unlikely to be found in that area today!).

Glenn and I had only met a few years after I had moved from Ontario to British Columbia and I was fortunate that he could introduce me to the western birds scene. We became good friends and spent time birding in north Surrey with a few trips farther afield such as by public transport to Crescent Beach where

we met and on occasion birded with Canon W. Martin Holdom, an Anglican minister and avid birder in the area.¹⁰⁶ We then got involved in subsequent south Surrey and White Rock Christmas bird counts of which Canon Holdom was the compiler. In fact, on one such count, Glenn and I found the first record for that area's CBC for Wilson's Warbler, discovered in the brush along the tracks between Crescent Beach and White Rock.

Glenn was a well-rounded general naturalist with vast knowledge of animal and plant life and also an excellent birder with sharp eyes and a keen ear. He was always a pleasure to be with and told interesting stories of his earlier days "up country." Glenn was also a talented bird artist. I am glad that I acquired three of his paintings; one of a Snowy Owl, one of a Red-breasted Sapsucker, and one of a pair of California Quail, done between 1963 and 1965. As a bird



● John Vooy's, a long-time friend of Glenn Ryder, commissioned him to paint three birds, including this Red-breasted Sapsucker which was completed in 1964.

painter, he had friendly correspondence with Fenwick Lansdowne, another BC bird artist. Glenn often wished he could have afforded one of Lansdowne's paintings. Glenn made a few commissioned paintings that provided him with some much needed income. He was selective in what he would paint and some requests were offensive to him, such as the time when someone requested a painting of a raptor with a dollar bill in its talons.

As a young man moving to a new province I was fortunate to have met Glenn Ryder, another young man with common interests in the outdoors, and especially birds. He was a good friend, a good student of nature, and birding companion. He rightly deserved to be called, as he was on December 26, 2001 in a front page of the *Abbotsford News* "The finest field naturalist in B.C."²

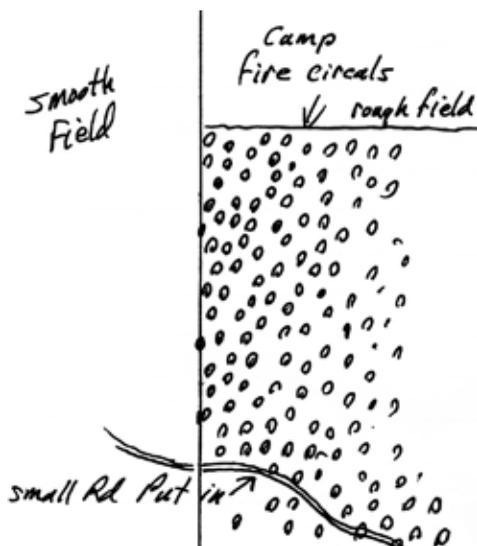
Peter Wallace

(Retired printer; now resides in Merritt, BC)

Observers: Peter Wallace and Glenn R. Ryder – We made a check on the Indian Encampment from many years ago when the Indians had come to the Area to either fish for Salmon in the upper Serpentine River or it was a Elk hunting Camp. I was showing Peter these low hill like Campfire rings in the fields, a site where a Bulldozer had gone through several fire rings on the small road put in down to the creek showed the fire rings a ring of stones around a old Campfire. We picked up (1) Artifact in Campfire area and a small Arrowpoint.

Glenn R. Ryder, Surrey, BC, October 3, 1985.

The first time I met Glenn, was in the early 1970s. We were in the Kootenays with mutual friends. We would sit by the campfire, and listen to Glenn's incredible stories, and were amazed at his knowledge of nature. Glenn became my field guide. He taught me so many things. We lived together for some time in Cloverdale. I was very fortunate to spend time with Glenn in Dawson City. We also spent some time on the Yukon River; he was doing research on Peregrine and Gyrfalcon nest sites. Camping on the Yukon River in a windy rainstorm was quite the adventure!



- Sketch of location and extent of First Nation fire rings first discovered by Glenn in 1981 in large fields south of Coast Meridian Road in Surrey, BC.

We travelled up the Dempster Highway and spent a night past the Arctic Circle. Can you imagine, being in the Arctic with someone like Glenn! What an experience! Another memorable time with Glenn, is when he took me to meet James Fenwick Lansdowne. We sat in Fenwick's studio, and he was showing us some of his recent work. Of course I just happen to have some of his books in my car. James asked me to bring them in, and he would sign them. At one point James candidly looked to Glenn and said, "how's your artwork coming along?"

Glenn was an amazing person, and a pleasure to be around. If he were to spot a nest high in a tree, no matter if he had aches and pains that day, he would want to check it out. I have never seen a man climb so fast up a tree! Today, I live in a cabin near Merritt, BC, on the top of a mountain. I often think of Glenn on my walks and hikes. Glenn would always teach me to look around, and take notice of your surroundings. I feel honoured and privileged to have known Glenn. He inspired me to enjoy, and live in nature, as I do today.



- Peter Wallace (left) and Glenn looking for animals in a subalpine region in Manning Park, BC, during the first autumn snowfall in October 1977. The friends often timed field trips when most other naturalists would not consider venturing outdoors. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder.*

Karen L. Wiebe

(Professor, Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon)

I met Karen Wiebe at Ricky's Café in Langley Town at 8.00 A.M. to go over to a Barn on 192 St in Surrey B.C. to check the Barn for Barn Owls or Nesting spots. On arriving at the Barn we made the check to find just older Pellets and feathers from a killed Pigeon on the Brads second floor. No Barn Owls here now. It is a good Barn to place in a Nesting platform. From here we Drove back down to her parents home in 16 Ave. in South Langley B.C.

Karen showed me some of her water colour Paintings the one of the Eastern Kingbirds in a Alder tree I liked, a very nice works with No Background just the Birds and the Tree.

Glenn R. Ryder, Langley, BC, July 9, 1988.



● From her days as an undergraduate student at Simon Fraser University to a professor at the University of Saskatchewan, Karen always kept in touch with Glenn, never forgetting his gift of introducing her to natural history. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell, near Riske Creek, BC, June 24, 2011.*

I met Glenn Ryder for the first time in 1988 when I was an undergraduate student at Simon Fraser University. I had just begun a research project on Barn Owls, and several colleagues told me about this knowledgeable naturalist who had a legendary reputation for knowing where to find owls. We seemed to hit it off after the ice was broken over that first cup of coffee. Glenn and I both lived in Langley at the time so it was easy to meet up for a few hours on many weekends to go for hikes at various locations in the Fraser valley, but often to Campbell Valley Park to check out the Northern Saw-whet and Barred Owl roosts. Those excursions formed vivid and enjoyable memories, and made a big impression on a young biologist who was still learning her field skills. Glenn did not stay on the manicured trails but tromped cross-country in gum boots in the wildest sections of parks where he seemed to know every tree and every branch. He told endless, fascinating stories of where he had seen this or that bird in the past, or how much the landscape had changed since he was young. As others can attest, his good memory and meticulous note-taking in the field put many birders to shame.

Glenn and I also shared some other interests. Occasionally, we searched for “artifacts”, digging with trowels in the sand and mud on the foreshore at Blackie Spit before the place was “improved” with the built-up gravel trails and dog parks. Glenn’s trailer in Langley was piled high with all sorts of archaeological treasures and antiques collected over a lifetime. We also both enjoyed drawing and painting birds and exchanged a few art pieces over the years. Two of his pen-and-ink drawings, one of a kestrel and one of a Barred Owl, still proudly hang in my house in Saskatoon.

After I got a job and moved to Saskatchewan in 1997, I saw less of Glenn but we’d still connect at least every Christmas break for some birding hikes, such as to the ice caves on Sumas Mountain in Abbotsford. I think it pained him, as it did me, to see the rapid pace of urbanization up the valley, and the destruction of many of his favourite stomping grounds over the years. “It’s good that you’re getting an education” he’d tell me, “You can’t get a job any more just being a simple naturalist”. However, few may realize what a valuable contribution such “simple” field observations collected over many decades makes to ornithology

and how irreplaceable such a deep knowledge of the landscape really is.

Glenn was a good friend and mentor with his laid back style and unusual connection with the natural world he will be greatly missed.



● Glenn and I kept in touch over the years often exchanging pieces of artwork. For Christmas 1991 I sent him a Dark-eyed Junco with the caption “To someone who has shown me how to “look and listen” to nature.

Cindy Young

(Glenn's friend of 49 years, Aldergrove, BC)

I am getting ready for a trip up to Princeton B.C. with Cindy Young in her Sundance Car. Cindy is to meet a Tom Laycock at the Princeton B.C. Bus station. Cindy will go up to Penticton B.C. with Tom Laycock and I will take her Car over to visit with Jerry and Kim Herzig on the old Hedley B.C. Road.

Glenn R. Ryder, Mt. Lehman, BC, March 8, 1999.

Cindy Young was Traveling to work at the Superstore in Langley B.C. at 5.30 A.M. when she saw a Barn Owl a light whitish looking male land on south shoulder of Road Robertson Crescent. The owl was after a mouse or something small. The owl stayed on Road shoulder. Cindy turned her Car around and Drove Back to look at this owl again this time the owl was on the North shoulder of the Road. It then flew up and landed on the Power line above the Car and stayed there.

Glenn R. Ryder, Aldergrove, BC, March 14, 2008.

My father, Garry, first met Glenn in 1959, shortly after Glenn had moved from his foster home in Celista to live with his parents in Surrey. The Ryders' house was the last stop on my father's paper route. Glenn and his friends were drinking red wine one day and offered my father a glass. He and Glenn immediately liked each other and in the 1960s Glenn left his parent's house to live on my parent's property with my siblings Darren, Kim, and Leanne. Over the next decade we moved from Surrey to Matsqui and Aldergrove and Glenn followed. He was independent, had his own living space (often called a studio), and was free to come and go as he pleased. Each time we moved he lugged his library and collections with him. Sometimes he had to put them in storage. Glenn did yard work and house repairs as well as babysitting to pay for his rent. He lived mostly on welfare and supplemented his income by selling artwork, working locally as a handyman and gardener, and taking short-term jobs as a nature consultant.



● Glenn lived with Cindy Young's family for many years and was like a second father during her childhood years. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, January 1975.*

My father, a truck driver, was on the road a lot during my childhood and Glenn stepped in to help raise me. He played with us, built tree swings and wagons, and spent a lot of time pushing me on swings. He was invited on family camping trips to the southern interior which often included gold-panning adventures in rivers and searching old settlements for artifacts. One summer, my family visited him at

Stum Lake where he worked as a warden to protect the nesting pelicans.

Before my teenage years Glenn spent more time on field trips with my brother Darren because “Cindy couldn’t make it over the big logs or through creeks.” I kept pestering him and finally that situation changed and Glenn and I went on many hiking and biking trips together. I never became a good birdwatcher but I enjoyed being outdoors and looking at animals.



● Although Cindy Young was interested in wildlife, and enjoyed seeing and learning how to photograph animals, she never became a hardcore birdwatcher. *Photo by Glenn R. Ryder, June 1977.*

During his teenage years in the Shuswap area with his brother Donald, Glenn learned to enjoy a cold beer and through the rest of his life it was his main luxury. If friends couldn’t find him at home, there was a good chance he (and I) was at a local pub or the Royal Canadian Legion in Aldergrove. He never drank to excess but loved the quenching taste of a lite bottle of beer.

Glenn always felt undressed without his RCMP cap. Even when he picked up mail inside his housing complex, 50 feet away, he donned his cap and when he was in the bank, hospital or doctor’s office the cap was worn.

In his later years, Glenn regretted not completing his schooling and having a family to carry on the Ryder name. I was fortunate to have him in my life for 49 years. He was like a father and I miss his companionship and advice.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This tribute to the life of Glenn Ryder has required the timely co-operation of many people dating back to October 2013. Writing personal memories of a deceased friend for publication is a challenging task so we greatly appreciate the 28 contributors whose thoughtful submissions gave additional insights into Glenn’s remarkable life.

An early start on researching and writing this memorial issue was hastened by Alton Harestad, Mark Nyhof, Doug Granger, and Dennis Demarchi who helped sort, pack, transport, and disseminate Glenn’s belongings from his home in Aldergrove to Victoria in October 2013. During the move material was uncovered and set aside for later reference.

Rosemary Gillis (nee Riley), Sylvia and Keith Pincott, John Vooys, Cindy Young, Loretta Greenough (North Shuswap Historical Society), Doug Granger, Alton Harestad, and Blake Smith were especially helpful in providing biographical information that was difficult to track down and in alleviating the task of dealing with Glenn’s possessions including arrangements to donate some of his collections to established institutions where they would be properly curated and stored.

Financial support was received from the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club (formerly Central Valley Naturalists), Wayne and Eileen Campbell, Clifford Day, Dennis Demarchi, Bryan Gates, Raymond Demarchi and Carol Hartwig, J.E. Victor and Peggy Goodwill, Alton Harestad, Phil Henderson, Werner and Hilde Hesse, Patricia Huet, Ronald Jakumchuk, Bruce Klassen, Langley Field Naturalists, Doug Leighton, Ron Mayo, Martin McNicholl, Wayne Nelson, the Orcutt Family Fund (Lowell Orcutt), Janne Perrin, Michael Rodway, Keith and Sylvia Pincott, Spencer Sealy, Tom Sterling, David Stirling, John and Mary Theberge, and Harvey Thommasen.

The entire manuscript has been reviewed by the *Wildlife Afield* editorial team: Spencer G. Sealy, Patricia Huet, Dennis Demarchi and Mark Nyhof. Mark, an artist, took a special interest in the life and accomplishments of Glenn and contributed to the content of this biography. Mark also prepared the entire manuscript for publication.

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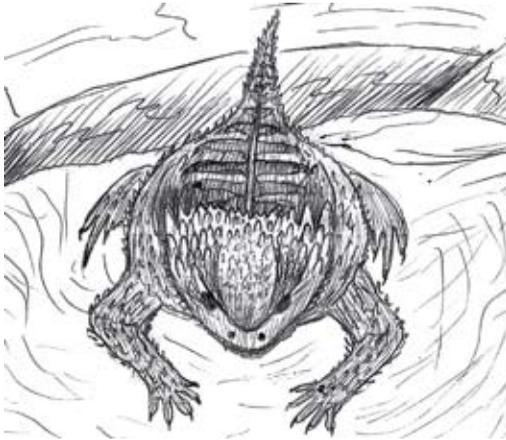
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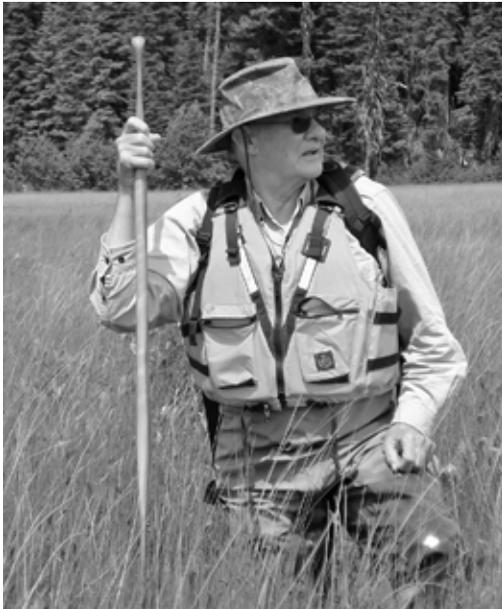
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About the Authors

Wayne, a close friend of Glenn's for 49 years, encouraged and supported him in his quest as a naturalist and artist. Although they spent time in the field together, and participated on several volunteer projects, their common passion was note-taking, preserving field notes for future reference and publishing articles so information was available to wildlife biologists, park planners, conservationists, and naturalists.



● Wayne wading in a sedge marsh looking for Black Tern nests near Summit Lake, BC, late June 2009. Deep Beaver channels crisscross the marsh making donning life jackets imperative. *Photo by Eileen C. Campbell.*

Wayne is a co-founder of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies and has been associate editor of their bi-annual journal *Wildlife Afield* since its inaugural issue in 2004. With colleagues Ron Jakimchuk and Dennis Demarchi, a major treatise *Ian McTaggart-Cowan: The Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist* is being completed. The publication will be available in January 2015.

Phillip was born in Vancouver, BC, and at a young age developed a curiosity about and fascination for birds. His parents helped him purchase Earl Godfrey's *Birds of Canada* which he had been eyeing for some time on the shelf of a local garden centre and later a pair of 7x35 binoculars from Acme Novelty. His early birdwatching memories were from visits to the family cabin in Point Roberts, WA, where he was awed by Red-tailed Hawks, Great Horned Owls, and Barn Owls that hunted in the fields.



● Phillip during field work southeast of Chetwynd, BC, on July 25, 2013. *Photo by Harry Williams.*

In 1969 his family moved to Quesnel and a year later to Fort Nelson where there were exciting new opportunities for birdwatching and exploring nature in a little-known region of British Columbia. His father took him on many weekend outings and camping trips until he was old enough to get his driving license. The arrival of Gary Davidson in Fort Nelson, a high school teacher and avid birdwatcher, enhanced Phillip's birdwatching and note-taking skills. Gary established a naturalists' club that Phillip and others joined for walks, camping trips, and the occasional meeting in the local high school. Phillip

was encouraged by Gary to send bird records to Wayne Campbell, then Curator of Ornithology at the British Columbia Provincial Museum (BCPM) (now Royal British Columbia Museum) for his project *The Birds of British Columbia*. Wayne's encouragement had a big influence on Phillip's passion for birds and his decision to pursue ornithology. Phillip recalls receiving heavy packages from the BCPM while home from university: the two volumes of the *Bibliography of British Columbia Ornithology* sent by Wayne. Phillip continued filling out sight cards for records kept during summers in Fort Nelson while he completed his undergraduate degree in zoology at UBC. Summer employment with Westcoast Transmission (now Spectra Energy) in Fort Nelson provided Phillip with access to remote areas of gas production and opportunities to observe bird species from previously unrecorded locations.

A museum field trip by Wayne Campbell in the mid-1970s to conduct bird studies in the Fort Nelson area was a highlight of one summer. It was the first time Phillip had met Wayne and the first time he experienced bird-banding. He also met Glenn Ryder, a

lean, elusive and enigmatic individual who spent more time alone in the thick black spruce forests with the black flies and mosquitos than amongst our group.

After graduating from UBC in 1982, Phillip spent time in various pursuits before founding Strix Environmental Consulting in 1994 in Fort Langley where he currently works as a wildlife biologist and consultant. Trips throughout BC and beyond with his wife Benita and son Liam have provided new opportunities for nature observation.

In 1999, Phillip established a friendship with Glenn Ryder, accompanying him on outings in the Fraser River valley and later employing him as a naturalist on a variety of consulting contracts. There was no better field companion or observer of nature and that time together is both cherished and missed. What Phillip learned from Glenn about animals, plants, nature, and people is immeasurable.

Phillip remains a conflicted but optimistic environmental consultant whose primary focus for professional and leisurely pursuits is the inventory and study of rare and native plants and animals with the goal of conservation. ♪



● Glenn holding Northern Saw-whet Owl. *Photo by Bruce Klassen, Bradner, BC, May 20, 2005.*



