

PARKSVILLE QUALICUM BEACH TUESDAY BIRDWALK



RALPH HOCKEN PHOTO

ABOVE: Long-billed Dowitcher. The Tuesday bird walk went to the Little Qualicum Estuary in Qualicum Beach. The morning was sunny, warm and calm. A Western Grebe was seen from the Brant Viewing Station. There were 15-20 Great Blue Heron spotted on the shoreline and in the estuary throughout the walk. Two Long-billed Dowitchers were feeding in the channel in the estuary. A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks were chasing a Northern Flicker. Fifteen birders, including visitors from Courtenay and Edmonton saw and heard the following 44 species: Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Long-tailed Duck, American Wigeon, Green-wing Teal, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Pigeon Guillemont, Marbled Murrelet, Common Loon, Pacific Loon, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black Oystercatcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Black Turnstone, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Mew Gull, Iceland/Thayer's Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Eurasian-collared Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Flicker, Northwestern Crow, Common Raven, Anna's Hummingbird, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, European Starling, Bewick's Wren, Spotted Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Purple Finch. The Tuesday Bird Walk on Sept. 25 will be going to Columbia Beach. Meet at the Parkville Community Park (near the Lions Club playground parking lot) in Parkville at 9 a.m., or at the parking area off Admiral Tryon Blvd. at about 9:20 a.m. - Submitted by Fleming Haist

The Gospel: Good news for women

Distinguished socialist Bernice Martin's research shows that those who actually consider modern Christianity's influence on women in developing countries continually find that it makes "deeper inroads into the everyday reality of gender equality than all the official policies of gender enacted by the government."

Citing about a dozen sociological studies, she demonstrates how women in the developing world are advantaged in new and crucial ways by the growing Christian movement in the global south and other places.

This is hardly surprising when we consider that when Christianity burst onto the scene in the first century, one of its most significant contributions was how it elevated the status of women in unprecedented ways.

Jesus scandalized the prevailing male-dominated culture of the first century by the way he treated and interacted with women, setting the trajectory for his followers in the early church.

When the Spirit of God gots poured out on the New Testament church as Jesus promised (Acts 1-2),

PASTOR'S POINT

By Joseph Dutko



suddenly we see women acting as leaders, apostles, prophets, and speakers in churches - much to the dismay of the prevailing culture! Where the Bible is at its clearest and where the Christian community is functioning at its best, we find that women are free to live out their callings and giftings to the fullest extent and without limitations in the church and world.

In the creation account in Genesis 1-2, prior to sin entering the world, there is an equal partnership of women and men caring for creation. Only after sin in Genesis 3 is there any hierarchy of man over women. And from that moment on, God's redemptive movement is always moving things back toward partnership and equality between men and

women. Any other time the inspired Word of God talks about God's ultimate ideal for gender roles, it's always a picture of full equality. Paul says in Galatians 3:28 that "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Sadly, other more confusing and culturally specific passages concerning women have been abused over the centuries, not interpreted within the overall view and trajectory of the Bible.

But when the church is at its best and when the Bible describes God's ideal picture of women and men together, it's always moving toward the full equality and inclusion of women without limitations. So let's embrace this good news in our churches by giving women equal voice and equal representation. By doing so, we are doing our small part in giving people a taste of God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven!"

Joseph Dutko is co-lead pastor at Oceanside Community Church in Parkville. Email: joseph@oceansidecc.ca

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