

# BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1183-3513

Volume 1, No. 3

October 1991

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The **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER** is published four times a year by B.C. Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 1018, Surrey, B.C., Canada V3S 4P5. A subscription to the Newsletter is a benefit of membership in the society. Members also receive a semi-annual journal, **BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS**.

### Newsletter staff:

Editor- Wayne Weber

Bird-lister's Corner- Doug Kragh

Mailing & Distribution- Hue & Jo Ann MacKenzie

Material for publication should be sent to the Editor at the society address in Surrey. We especially welcome bird-finding information for the "Site Guide" series and articles about your birdwatching experiences, preferably (but not necessarily) in B.C.

Membership in British Columbia Field Ornithologists is open to anyone interested in the study and enjoyment of birds in B.C. Our objectives include fostering cooperation between amateur and professional ornithologists and promoting cooperative bird surveys and research projects, and supporting conservation organizations in their efforts to preserve birds and their habitats.

Membership dues: \$20.00 (CAN) per year. Library and institutional subscriptions: \$20.00 (CAN). Memberships in the U.S.A., \$20.00 (U.S.). Memberships are for the calendar year. For further information, or to join, write the Treasurer, B.C. Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 1018, Surrey, B.C. V3S 4P5.

Publications Mail permit pending.

**REPORT ON BCFO'S FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
AUGUST 23-25, 1991**

The first Annual General Meeting of B.C. Field Ornithologists took place from Friday, August 23 to Sunday, August 25, 1991, at the Delta Town and Country Inn, Delta, B.C. A total of 75 members and guests of BCFO were in attendance, and an enjoyable time was had by all. The seven scheduled field trips produced a total of 149 bird species, including several "life birds" for some of the participants, and the six illustrated presentations on Saturday afternoon were well attended.

Formal activities began at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, with field trips to the Reifel Bird Sanctuary, led by John Ireland and Wayne Weber, and to Boundary Bay, led by Doug Kragh and Hue MacKenzie. The Boundary trip was split in two, with Doug Kragh's group visiting the foot of 112th Street, and Hue MacKenzie's group visiting Blackie Spit. After dark, both trips converged on Campbell Valley Park for an "owl prowling".

On Saturday morning, following an early buffet breakfast at the Town & Country Inn, two field trips left at 6:00 A.M.: one to Iona Island, led by Mike Force, and one to Point Roberts and Beach Grove, led by Tom Plath. A third "late risers" trip to Deas Island Park, departing at 8:00 A.M., was led by Tom Hanrahan.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to illustrated talks on current bird research and to the BCFO business meeting. The order of business at the latter included the adoption of BCFO's Constitution and By-laws and the election of Directors for 1991-1992. The afternoon session was followed by a short Directors' meeting. A social hour was followed by the Annual Banquet, at which the new officers, selected at the Directors' meeting, were announced. The banquet speaker was Dr. Rob Butler of the Canadian Wildlife Service, speaking on "Bird Sites of International Significance in B.C.".

The meeting concluded with two field trips on Sunday, August 25, both departing at 6:00 A.M. A half-day trip to Minnekhada Regional Park and Addington Marsh in Coquitlam was led by Tom Hanrahan and Wayne Weber. For those with more time, an all-day trip to Manning Provincial Park was led by Doug Kragh.

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**BCFO OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1991-1992**

President:	Douglas Kragh	(phone 464-4441)
Vice-President:	Wayne Weber	(phone 597-7201)
Secretary:	Tom Hanrahan	(phone 464-3744)
Treasurer:	Gary Kaiser	(phone 940-9477)
Directors:	Mike Force	(phone 876-8637)
	Marian Porter	(phone 531-5747)
	Michael Shepard	(phone 388-4227)
	Allen Wiseley	(phone 477-4593)

**LIST OF SPEAKERS  
BCFO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
AUGUST 24, 1991**

Kathleen Moore	The Pacific Coast Joint Venture-- a waterfowl habitat program
Sean Boyd	Snow Goose ecology in winter on the Fraser Delta and in summer on Wrangel Island
Gary Kaiser	Marbled Murrelets in the marine environment
Terry Sullivan	Barn Owls in the Lower Mainland
Jean-Pierre Savard	Birds of old-growth forests in coastal B.C.
Dave Dunbar	The Spotted Owl in B.C.

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**LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED ON FIELD TRIPS  
BCFO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
AUGUST 23-25, 1991**

Localities are indicated only for species which were seen only on one or two field trips. Thanks to the field trip leaders and to Doug Kragh for compiling this list.

KEY TO LOCALITIES:

B= Boundary Bay	C= Campbell Valley Park
D= Deas Island Park	I= Iona Island
MA= Manning Park	MI= Minnekhada Park
P= Pt. Roberts & Beach Grove	R= Reifel Bird Sanctuary

Common Loon (I, P)	White-winged Scoter (P)
Pied-billed Grebe (I)	Barrow's Goldeneye (MA)
Red-necked Grebe (I, P)	Hooded Merganser
Western Grebe (B)	Common Merganser (MI)
Double-crested Cormorant (I, P)	Red-breasted Merganser (B)
Pelagic Cormorant (I, P)	Ruddy Duck (B)
Great Blue Heron	Osprey (P, MI)
Great Egret (R)	Bald Eagle (D)
Green-backed Heron (R, MI)	Northern Harrier
Black-crowned Night-Heron (R)	Sharp-shinned Hawk (MI, MA)
Tundra Swan (I)	Cooper's Hawk (I)
Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk
Wood Duck (MI)	Merlin
Green-winged Teal	Peregrine Falcon
Mallard	Ring-necked Pheasant
Northern Pintail	American Coot (R)
Blue-winged Teal (P)	Black-bellied Plover (B)
Cinnamon Teal (R)	Lesser Golden-Plover (R, I)
Northern Shoveler	Semipalmated Plover (I, P)
Gadwall	Killdeer (B, P)
American Wigeon (R, I)	Greater Yellowlegs
Canvasback (I)	Lesser Yellowlegs
Greater Scaup (I)	Wandering Tattler (I)
Surf Scoter (I, P)	Spotted Sandpiper

Whimbrel (B, P)  
Long-billed Curlew (B, P)  
Marbled Godwit (B, P)  
Surfbird (I)  
Sanderling (I)  
Semipalmated Sandpiper (i)  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
Baird's Sandpiper (I)  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Long-billed Dowitcher (R, P)  
Red-necked Phalarope (P)  
Franklin's Gull (I)  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Mew Gull (R)  
Ring-billed Gull  
California Gull  
Western Gull (P)  
Glaucous-winged Gull  
Caspian Tern (I, P)  
Pigeon Guillemot (P)  
Marbled Murrelet (P)  
Rock Dove  
Band-tailed Pigeon (MI)  
Mourning Dove (D)  
Western Screech-Owl (C)  
Barred Owl (C)  
Black Swift (MI, MA)  
Vaux's Swift (MA)  
Rufous Hummingbird (MA)  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-naped Sapsucker (MA)  
Downy Woodpecker (D, MI)  
Hairy Woodpecker (MI)  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker (MI)  
Olive-sided Flycatcher (MI)  
Western Wood-Pewee (MI)  
Willow Flycatcher  
Pacific-slope Flycatcher (D)  
Ash-throated Flycatcher (B)  
Eastern Kingbird (MI)  
Tree Swallow (I)  
Violet-green Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow (R)  
Cliff Swallow (I)  
Barn Swallow  
Gray Jay (MA)  
Steller's Jay (MI, MA)  
Clark's Nutcracker (MA)  
American Crow (MA)  
Northwestern Crow  
Common Raven (MI, MA)  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Mountain Chickadee (MA)  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Bushtit (D)  
Red-breasted Nuthatch (MI, MA)  
Brown Creeper (MI, MA)  
Bewick's Wren  
Winter Wren (MA)  
Marsh Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (MA)  
Swainson's Thrush  
American Robin  
Varied Thrush (MA)  
American Pipit (MA)  
Cedar Waxwing  
European Starling  
Hutton's Vireo (P)  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo (D, MI)  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler (MI, MA)  
Black-throated Gray Warbler  
(MI)  
Townsend's Warbler (MI)  
MacGillivray's Warbler (P, MA)  
Common Yellowthroat  
Wilson's Warbler  
Western Tanager  
Rufous-sided Towhee  
Savannah Sparrow (I, P)  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow (R, MA)  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco (MA)  
Red-winged Blackbird (P)  
Brewer's Blackbird (I, P)  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Pine Grosbeak (MA)  
Cassin's Finch (MA)  
House Finch  
Red Crossbill  
White-winged Crossbill (MA)  
Pine Siskin (P, MA)  
American Goldfinch  
Evening Grosbeak (MI, MA)  
House Sparrow (B, P)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS (BCFO)  
MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING**

Date: 24 August 1991  
Time: Approximately 2:45 to 3:30 pm  
Location: Delta Town and Country Inn, Delta  
Attendance: Approximately 60 members and guests

1. CHAIR  
Wayne Weber chaired the business meeting portion of the AGM.
2. BACKGROUND  
Wayne briefly reviewed the history of the BCFO, the activities undertaken by the founding directors, and the eventual application for provincial incorporation. He noted that the prime items of business for this meeting were the adoption of the constitution and bylaws and the official election of the first directors of the BCFO.
3. CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS  
Copies of the proposed constitution and bylaws were distributed with the AGM registration packages, with the intention of giving members an opportunity to review them prior to the business meeting. Wayne indicated that, once approved, the constitution and bylaws would be registered with the Registrar of Companies for B.C. Subsequent changes to the constitution and bylaws would be possible, but would require the payment of a small fee.

It was moved by Tom Plath and seconded by Mike Force that the proposed constitution and bylaws be adopted by the membership. The motion was then opened for discussion.

Shirley Prince noted the lack of reference in the constitution or bylaws to the protection of birds while we are studying them. Others in the audience expressed agreement with the need for a birder's code of behaviour, say, similar to the code of ethics of the American Birding Association. However, the general view was that such a code did not belong in the constitution or bylaws and, in fact, may not be permitted by the Registrar of Companies to appear in these documents. The suggestion was made to propose a code of ethics in a future issue of the newsletter and seek endorsement by the members.

Wayne reviewed the key points in the bylaws: 7 to 9 directors, a province-wide society, one-year terms of office, 15 members constitute a quorum, and no proxy voting. In response to the comment from the floor that lack of proxy voting could lead to dominance of the society by members from the lower mainland, Wayne indicated that the intention was to rotate the directors' meetings and AGM around the province. It could 5

to 6 years before another AGM is held in the Greater Vancouver area.

At present the BCFO does not have charitable status since this requires federal registration. Wayne indicated that eventually the intention was to make application for charitable status.

The motion to adopt the proposed constitution and bylaws was passed.

3. DIRECTORS

Brian Self chaired the election of the first BCFO directors. In addition to the seven nominations received prior to the AGM, a further nomination was received from the floor. Since five of the nominees were from the lower mainland and two from Vancouver Island, nominees from the interior were especially encouraged.

With the bylaws allowing up to 9 directors, the slate of 8 candidates was put to a vote by the members and was passed. The first directors are: Mike Force, Tom Hanrahan, Gary Kaiser, Doug Kragh, Michael Shepard, Marian Porter, Allen Wiseley and Wayne Weber.

4. NEWSLETTER

As editor, Wayne apologized for the delay in getting out the second issue of the newsletter, especially considering the pending postal strike. The newsletter would be going to the printer on 26 August.

The intention was still to publish four issues per year. Two further issues will be published this year, targetted for October and December, each 16 pages in length.

5. JOURNAL

The journal, British Columbia Birds, also edited by Wayne, is to be published twice per year. Given that 1991 is the first year of BCFO, the intention is to have only one issue this year, tentatively planned for October. A lot of material for the first issue had already been received. Wayne stated that, among other items, the journal would include seasonal summaries of interesting bird sightings, based on the regional reports in American Birds.

6. BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Wayne indicated that no progress to date had been made on establishing a provincial bird records committee. BCFO would start working towards this goal in the fall. A prime focus for this committee would be to review documentation for sightings of birds new to the province.

7. MEMBERSHIP

Wayne announced that, as of 23 August, 1991, there were 149 paid memberships to BCFO, plus 3 library subscriptions.

Judging by other states and provinces, a goal of 200 to 300 members seems attainable. At present BCFO does not have family memberships per se because we cannot offer extra services, except for two votes at the AGM.

#### 8. TREASURER'S REPORT

As acting treasurer, Wayne presented the current financial status of BCFO. As of 23 August 1991, the balances in the organization's accounts were as follows:

Chequing account	\$1180.70
Savings account	\$1178.19
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	\$2358.89

A number of expenses were expected to reduce this total shortly. A payment of \$500 was owed to Delta Town and Country Inn for the AGM and the next issue of the newsletter had to be printed and mailed, at a cost of approximately \$275 and \$120 respectively.

#### 9. IN APPRECIATION

In closing the business meeting, Wayne expressed his appreciation to the founding directors who attended as many as six meetings over the last year: Mike Force, Tom Hanrahan, Doug Kragh, with special mention to Hue and Jo Ann MacKenzie, who helped mail the first newsletter and assisted in many other ways. Others whose involvement in these meetings was also appreciated included Mike McGrenere, Allen Poynter and Brian Self.

Wayne also acknowledged the efforts of the AGM field trip organizer, Doug Kragh, and the field trip leaders and registration volunteers: Mike Force, Tom Hanrahan, John Ireland, Tom Plath, Marian Porter, Mary Taitt and Audrey Viken. Lastly, he thanked the authors of articles for the newsletter for helping to launch the publication and his wife, Wendy, who helped in mailouts and in hosting directors' meetings.

In closing, Hue MacKenzie expressed a vote of thanks to Wayne for his contribution to the BCFO and the first AGM.

Submitted by Tom Hanrahan  
Secretary, B.C. Field Ornithologists

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#### OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death, on October 9th, of Brian Kautesk, BCFO member and well-known Vancouver birder. We hope to publish an account of Brian's life and contributions in the next BCFO Newsletter.

**NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OKANAGAN BIG DAY CHALLENGE RESULTS**-- The 1991 Okanagan Big Day Challenge (see BCFO Newsletter 1(1):10-16, 1991), held on May 19, was a whopping success. Twelve teams of birders participated, instead of the usual six or seven, and a total of 208 bird species were recorded, up sharply from the 185 to 188 species seen during the five previous years. Eight species never before recorded were found this year: Tundra Swan, Northern Goshawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Baird's Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Great Gray Owl, Common Nighthawk, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. The event raised about \$6250 for the Nature Trust of B.C., compared with \$2600 in 1990.

For the first time, organizer Dick Cannings' team was bumped from top spot (at last!!). The "Pygmy Owlers" (Rick Howie, Gary Davidson, and Chris Siddle) captured the "Flammie" award for most species with 156. Dick's team, which also included Robin and Sue Owen and Patrick and Hilary Oswald, earned the "Kootenay Kup" for second place with 155 species. The "Oka-Noggin" (most unusual species) was won by Syd Cannings, Donna Sanford, and Steve Hamel for their discovery of a Double-crested Cormorant. Finally, the "Sour Grapes Award" (worst miss of the day) was presented to Tony Greenfield's team, who could not find a House Wren all day.

Dick would like to thank Frank Metcalf and Mary Doherty, who hosted the Monday morning breakfast and tally-up at their Vaseux Lake home, as well as all the birders who turned out this year. Anyone interested in participating in 1992 should watch the Newsletter for announcements, or contact Dick Cannings at 734-9489.

**PACIFIC FLYWAY PROJECT: SHOREBIRDS**-- In 1988, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory initiated the Pacific Flyway Project to determine the status and prospects of shorebirds in wetlands of the Pacific Flyway in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Baja California. Relying mostly on volunteers, to date we have conducted censuses of shorebirds in coastal wetlands stretching from Arctic Alaska to Baja California, and as far inland as Idaho, Great Salt Lake, and eastern New Mexico. To extend the project further, we need additional volunteers to conduct censuses at important wetlands (holding at least 1000 shorebirds) in British Columbia, other than the Fraser Delta/Boundary Bay or Tofino areas, or persons to organize other volunteer censusers. We would also like to hear from persons who are willing to share past census data to add to a flyway-wide database that may possibly reveal trends in shorebird numbers over time.

For more information, please contact: Pacific Flyway Project, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970, U.S.A. (phone, (415) 868-1221; FAX, (415) 868-1946).

**PROJECT FEEDERWATCH** is a continent-wide program, operating since 1987, which is designed to measure changes in numbers of birds visiting feeding stations. It is organized in the U.S. by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, and in Canada by the Long Point Bird Observatory. Project FeederWatch developed from



the earlier Ontario Bird Feeder Survey (1976-1988), which showed that trends in bird numbers at feeders parallel those on Christmas Bird Counts and are useful in measuring population changes. Project FeederWatch now has over 8000 participants across North America, including over 1000 in Canada. Participants pay a small annual registration fee to help finance the cost of data analysis, and they receive a semi-annual newsletter which reports the latest results.

Participants do not need to be expert birders, as long as they can identify the species common in their yards. Observers record the peak number of each species seen at their feeders during two-day periods, every second week from November to April. The results document the percentage of feeders visited by each species, the average abundance, and changes in these values between and within seasons. Among the species whose numbers change markedly between years are Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks, but even non-migratory species may fluctuate significantly. Long-term data should help to detect the reasons for such changes.

To take part in Project FeederWatch, write the Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0. FeederWatch data may be obtained for a small retrieval fee from D. Tessaglia, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, U.S.A.

**THE CANADIAN LAKES LOON SURVEY**, also coordinated by the Long Point Bird Observatory, began as an Ontario project, and was expanded to a nation-wide survey in 1990. Its aims are to monitor Common Loon breeding populations across Canada; to assess the effects of acid precipitation and of human disturbance on loon breeding success; and to measure changes in habitat quality, using loons as an indicator species. Although reports were received from 827 participants across Canada in 1990, only 19 of them were from B.C., and many more B.C. observers are needed.

Volunteers are asked to check lakes (often the lake where they have a summer cottage or cabin, or one they visit often) for loon activity, including whether loons are present, set up a territory, hatch eggs, or fledge chicks. Repeated observations on the same lake, year after year, are especially valuable. The most important observation periods are during nesting and chick-rearing (roughly from early June to late August). An annual newsletter is sent to all observers in the fall, with results from the survey and summaries of other loon research.

For further information, write the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0.

**THE B.C. BEACHED BIRD SURVEY** is still in need of volunteers to survey shorelines for bird carcasses, especially in the Queen Charlotte Islands and other areas of the northern coast. Please see the article by Dr. Alan Burger in the July 1991 Newsletter, and if interested, contact Dr. Burger at 270 Trevlac Place, RR 3, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X1 (phone 479-9833).

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- Nov. 9-10, 1991 SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL, Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Delta. For information, phone the Sanctuary at 946-6980.
- Nov. 19-22, 1991 THE FIFTH ALASKA BIRD CONFERENCE, on the theme "Shared Avian Resources of Beringia", will take place at Anchorage, Alaska. For information, contact Robert E. Gill, Jr., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99507.
- Dec. 14, 1991 to Jan. 2, 1992 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS. See the list of dates, contact persons, and phone numbers elsewhere in this issue.
- Jan. 7-12, 1992 SEVENTH NORTH AMERICAN ARCTIC GOOSE CONFERENCE, Vallejo, California. For information, contact Bob McLandress, California Waterfowl Assn., 200-3840 Rosin Court, Sacramento, CA 95834 (phone (916) 548-1406).
- January 12, 1992 PROVINCE-WIDE BALD EAGLE COUNT. For information, contact Dave Dunbar, B.C. Ministry of Environment, 10334 152A Street, Surrey, B.C. (phone 584-8822).
- Jan. 14-18, 1992 AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION regional conference, McAllen, Texas. For information, write ABA Lower Rio Grande Conference, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599, or phone 800-835-2473.
- Jan. 15-19, 1992 THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP will hold its annual meeting at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston, Oregon. For information, contact Palmer Sekora, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Finley National Wildlife Refuge, 26208 Finley Refuge Road, Corvallis, OR 97333.
- Feb. 14-16, 1992 THIRD PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AND ENDANGERED SPECIES WORKSHOP, Brandon Univ., Brandon, Man. For information, contact The Rural Development Institute, Brandon Univ., Brandon, MB R7A 6A9 (FAX (204) 726-4573).
- Apr. 20-26, 1992 AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION biennial convention, Mobile, Alabama. For information, write ABA Convention 92, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599, or phone 800-835-2473.

**SOCIETY NEWS**

**THE 1992 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS** has been scheduled for the weekend of June 5 to 7 at Revelstoke. The meeting will be co-hosted by Parks Canada and the Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier, and will feature a combination of local field trips and invited speakers similar to our first annual meeting in Delta. The field trips will be tied in with the third annual Mount Revelstoke Bird Blitz. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

**THE FIRST ISSUE OF OUR JOURNAL, BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS**, is now in preparation, and we hope to have it printed and mailed by the end of the year. It will feature a lead article, several short articles and notes, reports of noteworthy bird sightings for Fall 1990 and Winter 1990/91, and at least four book reviews. We hope you will enjoy it!

**U.S. MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:** There will be a small increase in the 1992 membership dues to \$20.00 U.S. from \$20.00 CAN. This will help to defray the extra postal and banking charges to the Society for U.S. subscriptions. It will also eliminate the inconvenience of trying to obtain a Canadian dollar money order in the U.S., which, as several of you have noted, can be difficult.

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**THE SITE GUIDE: MCKINNEY ROAD, OLIVER, B.C.**

By Richard J. Cannings  
3007 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6K 1Z7

**NOTE:** The following section is taken, with permission, from the forthcoming book, **A Birder's Guide to the Okanagan Valley**, by Dick Cannings and Chris Siddle.

This road was originally built to serve the old Camp McKinney gold mine, but now is used primarily as a route to Mt. Baldy, the main ski hill in the Oliver-Osoyoos area. It is paved for the first 11 km; after that it is wide, well-maintained gravel. Travelling through almost all of the habitats offered by the Okanagan, it is an ideal day-trip for the birder any time of year. From Hwy. 97, turn E at the N street-light in Oliver, cross the Okanagan River, then bear right on McKinney Road at the Y jct. (follow the "H" sign for the hospital). Just past the hospital you will cross a cattleguard (km 0) and enter the Inkaneep Indian Reserve; at this point Black Sage Road meets the Camp McKinney Road from the S, an optional route to Oliver from Osoyoos.

For the next 10 km or so, you will be in the Indian Reserve. Birding from the road is OK, but do not hike off into the woods or drive off on any secondary roads without permission from the band office at km 0. A large Bank Swallow colony just N of the road at km 0.8 is worth a stop; the bushes along the left side of the road

for the next km or so are good for Gray Partridge, Gray Catbird, Northern Oriole, and Lazuli Bunting. In winter, check the gravel banks near km 3 for Horned Larks or Rosy Finches. The sagebrush flats around km 4 are prime Long-billed Curlew habitat, and usually produce Lark Sparrows and a few Brewer's Sparrows. A stop around km 6 is worthwhile; the rocky slopes above usually have Chukar, Rock Wrens, and Lewis' Woodpeckers, while the deciduous woods to the right (W) harbour Lazuli Buntings, Northern Orioles, Gray Catbirds, and Nashville Warblers.

Near km 8 ("the orange house"--formerly the "purple house"), a small creek crosses the road, and Calliope and Black-chinned hummingbirds can be seen at sapsucker wells; White-headed Woodpeckers have been seen around here as well. The road climbs through a small draw good for Dusky Flycatchers, rounds a corner, and crosses a second cattleguard at km 10. This spot is famous for being the first place Gray Flycatchers were discovered breeding in Canada. One bird was seen briefly in 1984, then in 1986 13 were counted singing and the first nest found. From early May through early July, the birds can easily be found on either side of the road. Early morning is best, when the males are calling "chelep...chelep sweet!", usually from near the tops of large ponderosa pines. Be careful with Empidonaxes seen and not heard; Duskie's are also common here, but are usually close to deciduous shrubbery in small draws. Willow, Western, and Hammond's flycatchers can also be found in moister habitat closer to the small creek to the S. The ponderosa pine forests around this site are also ideal for Pygmy and White-breasted Nuthatches, Townsend's Solitaires, and Cassin's Finches.

Keep left on the main road at the intersection at km 12; a stop here could produce many pine-fir forest species including Northern Pygmy-Owl, all three nuthatches, Pileated Woodpecker, and Clark's Nutcracker. On summer nights, listen from here to km 13 for the soft "boo-boot" of the Flammulated Owl. Just past km 16 the road crosses Baldy Creek and a small woodlot of large spruce, fir, and larch. Old logging roads go N along the creek valley on both sides, but the best habitat is on private land. Barred Owls, Williamson's Sapsuckers, Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers, Hammond's Flycatchers, Brown Creepers, Townsend's Warblers, and many other species are present. The birch woods below the big corner at km 18.2 usually produce Red-naped Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers, and Orange-crowned and MacGillivray's warblers, and the selectively-logged coniferous forest at the km 20 cattleguard can have a surprising variety of woodpeckers, including Williamson's Sapsuckers.

One of the "must" stops on the Camp McKinney Road is Coteay Meadows just past km 22. The "meadows", really a sedge marsh around a pond, can be seen through the woods to the right (S) of the road; walk in on the trail to the right (W) of the pond. In winter a good series of cross-country ski trails (birders should take the "Gold-dust Trail") provide ready access to subalpine forest birding, and after snow-melt the spruce-fir-larch forest, sedge meadows and beaver ponds are alive with a wide variety of birds. Look for Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, Virginia Rails, Soras, Common Yellowthroats, and Lincoln's Sparrows in the marsh; Rusty Blackbirds occasionally summer here as well. Barred

Owls, Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Three-toed, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers, Hammond's Flycatchers, Gray Jays, and Townsend's Warblers are found in the forest. If you are lucky, you may see a moose or three in early morning or late evening feeding in the ponds.

A small beaver pond at km 24.7 usually has a singing Northern Waterthrush or even a beaver in season. From km 26 to 27 a series of large clearcuts drastically alter the birding habitat. Here, Dusky Flycatchers and Killdeer can be seen or heard well above their normal altitudinal limits, while Mountain Bluebirds brighten the desolate scene. A small patch of old-growth larch at the microwave station at km 27.4 can be good for Williamson's Sapsuckers (Red-naped are more common here, though) Barred Owls, and Northern Pygmy-Owls.

From here on, it is probably best to drive straight through to the Mt. Baldy road jct. at km 33.8. Most of the good forest has been logged in this area, leaving only dense stands of lodgepole pines and few interesting birds. Spruce Grouse and Pine Grosbeak are possible, though, so watch the roadsides and treetops. At the junction, turn left (N) towards the ski area. Even along this road, the subalpine forest is very fragmented. A stop at the junction should produce Winter Wren, Hermit and Varied thrushes, and Wilson's Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and perhaps Boreal Chickadee (Mountain Chickadee is more common) or Pine Grosbeak. If you would like to climb Mt. Baldy (2304 m) itself, follow signs for the cabin area to the left of the main ski area, and park at the end of the highest road. A 4-wheel drive trail leads up the left ridge of the mountain to the summit, which could produce alpine specialties such as Water Pipit and White-tailed Ptarmigan. You can return to Oliver the way you came, or take the Mt. Baldy Road to Hwy. 3 E of Bridesville and go back via Anarchist Mtn. and Osoyoos.

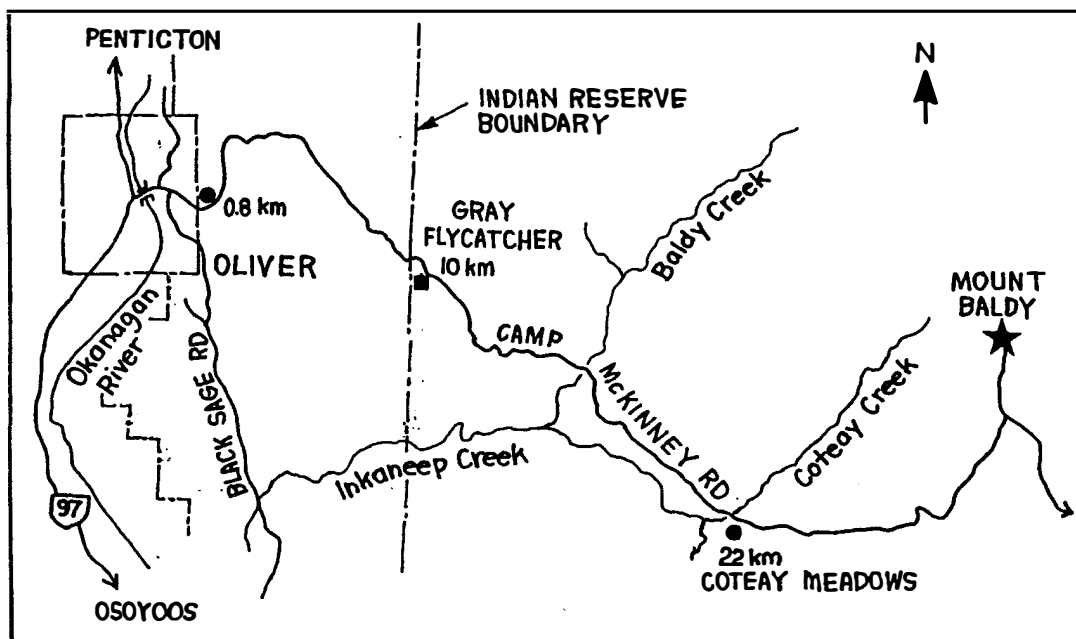


Figure 1. Map of McKinney Road area, B.C. (By Doug Kragh)

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Re: "Beached Bird Surveys in British Columbia", by Dr. Alan Burger (BCFO Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 2): this is not a new idea in our province. The White Rock and Surrey Naturalists began such a survey in January 1987, coordinated by Madelon Schouten. Once a month, volunteers surveyed beaches of Semiahmoo, Boundary, and Mud Bays, from the U.S. border to the Delta/Surrey municipal boundary. Summaries of the results were published in the newsletter of the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists. Early results were also sent to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta and to the Royal B.C. Museum in Victoria. Neither agency showed much interest, and apparently did nothing with the data. The White Rock and Surrey program ceased in December 1990.

In response to Dr. Burger's appeal for volunteers for the provincial beached bird survey, some of these original routes were resumed in February 1991, and the four years' accumulated data from our local program were turned over to Dr. Burger. My route, along the north side of Mud Bay, from the north end of the Serpentine River railway bridge westward to the Surrey/Delta boundary, has been surveyed every month (except the one month "between surveys" since January 1987.

Jo Ann MacKenzie  
Surrey, B.C.

**ED. NOTE:** This only goes to show that amateur ornithologists are often ahead of the professionals in recognizing major problems and the need for gathering data to address those problems. The recent oil spill off the entrance to Juan de Fuca Strait in July 1991 only serves to re-emphasize the need for collecting "baseline" data on seabird mortality, so that the effects of oil spills and other disasters can be more accurately determined. We salute the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists, and Madelon Schouten in particular, for their foresight in initiating these surveys, and hope that they will continue to take part in the province-wide program.

The biggest "selling point" for me was the formation of a provincial Bird Records Committee. The current method of ruling on bird records needs to be tightened up. We are already seeing examples of sightings accepted by one birding expert and discounted by another. A paradigm of acceptability should be developed: e.g., most acceptable = specimen, whereas least acceptable = single observer description.

Jack Bowling  
Prince George, B.C.

**ED. NOTE:** BCFO is still in the initial stages of setting up a provincial Bird Records Committee, but we hope it will be up and running by early 1992, and will receive support and acceptance from our members. Thanks for your comments, Jack.

### B.C. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DETAILS, 1991/92

This listing of Christmas Bird Counts in B.C. is published as a service to BCFO members who would like to take part in Christmas Bird Counts in their local area or nearby areas. It includes all 52 counts done in B.C. last winter (plus the new Whistler count), with the name and phone number of the organizer(s) and the scheduled date, if known at press time. We apologize for any errors in these details, but there was a very poor response to the request for information in the last issue.

Best of luck to everyone on the Christmas Bird Count this year!

LOCALITY	DATE	ORGANIZER(S)	PHONE NO.
Bamfield	Dec. 29	Alan Burger	479-9833
Bowen Island		Michael Dunn	666-6544
Burns L.-Francois L.		Garry Boos	695-6416
Campbell River		Heather Asplin	923-4112
	or	Howard Telosky	923-2183
	or	Stan Paterson	285-3337
Chilliwack	Dec. 14	Gladys Brown	858-4032
Comox		Willie Haras	338-6097
Cranbrook		Anni Coulter	489-5113
			or 427-5388
Creston		Bob Purdy	428-3554
Deep Bay		Willie Haras	338-6097
Duncan	Dec. 21	Derrick Marven	748-8504
Fauquier		Ruth Bumpus	269-7481
Fort St. James		Joanne Vinnedge	996-7401
Fort St. John		Derek Connelly	787-9681
Galiano Island		Mike Hoebel	539-2003
Golden		Ellen Zimmerman	
Grand Forks		Ray Orser	442-3698
Kamloops	Dec. 14	Rick Howie	578-7542
Kelowna	Dec. 14	Brenda Thomson	764-4296
Kitimat		Dennis Horwood	632-2004
Ladner	Dec. 22	Jude Grass	520-3706
Lake Windermere		Ian Jack	347-9615
Masset		Margo Hearne	626-5015
Nakusp	Jan. 2	Gary Davidson	265-4456
Nanaimo	Dec. 29	Peter Van Kerkoerle	245-2530
Oliver-Osoyoos	Dec. 29	Syd Cannings	721-0338
	or	Joan King	495-6907
Parksville-Qualicum		Ed Nygren	752-9611
Pender Islands		Ronald McLardy	629-3331
Penticton	Dec. 28	Steve Cannings	492-2303
	or	Dick Cannings	734-9489
Pitt Meadows	Dec. 29	Wilma Robinson	465-5207
Port Clements		Margo Hearne	626-5015
Prince George		Nancy Krueger	563-7896
Prince Rupert	Dec. 14	Robin Weber	627-1129
Revelstoke	Dec. 21	Bob Brade	837-7054
			or 837-5155
Rose Spit		Margo Hearne	626-5015

LOCALITY	DATE	ORGANIZER(S)	PHONE NO.
Salmon Arm		Frank Kime	835-8537
Saltspring Island		Glen Moores	
Shuswap Lake		Rick Howie	578-7542
Skidegate Inlet		Mary Morris	559-4746
Smithers		Rosamund Pojar	847-9784
Sooke	Dec. 21	Michael Shepard	388-4227
Squamish	Dec. 21	Doug Kragh	464-4441
Sunshine Coast	Dec. 14	Tony Greenfield	885-5539
Terrace		Diane Weismiller	635-6984
Vancouver	Dec. 15	Wayne Weber	597-7201
		or	576-2911
Vaseux Lake	Dec. 27	Dick Cannings	734-9489
	or	Steve Cannings	492-2303
Vernon	Dec. 15	Phil Ranson	545-7135
Victoria	Dec. 14	David Pearce	477-2664
Wells Gray Park		Trevor Goward	674-2553
West Kootenay		Hazel Street	359-7426
Whistler		Ingrid Wypkena	932-8310
		or	682-5248
White Rock	Dec. 29	Else Holzken	531-8901
	or	Jack McCrae	538-1901
Williams Lake		Anna Roberts	392-5000
Yoho National Park		Rob Scoble	343-6324

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**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR LISTING TOTALS** (green sheet enclosed with the July newsletter) by December 15 if you haven't already done so. Some listing data will be included in the next Newsletter. Totals should be sent to Doug Kragh at 1547 Angelo Avenue, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 1C8.

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#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1992

Membership dues for 1992 are \$20.00 (CAN) for individual and institutional members in Canada, and \$20.00 (U.S.) for members in the U.S.A. Dues are payable on January 1. Please make cheques or money orders payable to "B.C. Field Ornithologists".

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Phone number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Please photocopy this form and mail with your cheque or money order to: Treasurer, B.C. Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 1018, Surrey, B.C., Canada V3S 4P5.