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

B.C. Field Ornithologist 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 wild 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: Individual memberships or library subscriptions, \$20.00; junior memberships (age under 18), \$10.00; family memberships (2 or more persons at one address), \$25.00; U.S. and foreign memberships, \$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.

BEACHED BIRD SURVEYS: DECEMBER 1991 UPDATE

By Alan E. Burger
270 Trevlac Place, RR 3, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X1

(Reprinted from BEACHWATCH NEWSLETTER, December 1991, published by the Environmental Emergency Services Branch, B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks.)

Data continue to come in from 34 beaches. We now have a core of fairly knowledgeable and dedicated beachwalkers. New surveys were started on Pender Island, Esquimalt Lagoon, in the East Sooke area, and a third one for the Sechelt area. More surveyors are still needed for northern Vancouver Island, the north coast, and the Queen Charlottes. Although these are the least populated parts of the coast, they should still provide the most interesting sea-bird data. There are now data from 360 beach surveys on file, and detailed records on 381 birds. The quality of bird identification among beach surveyors should improve following the distribution of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory identification guidebook by EESB.

An analysis of the apparent cause of death of the beached birds is being conducted with Dr. Craig Stephens, a veterinarian from the University of Saskatchewan. Out of 42 dead and disabled seabirds examined so far, 17 (41%) showed some evidence of human intervention, including oiling, stone-throwing or shooting, and ingestion of plastics, although this might not always have been the cause of death.

Oiled birds from the Tenyo Maru spill in July were collected from the Victoria SPCA and from Pacific Rim National Park. Fewer than 20 oiled birds appear to have been found on Canadian shores after this spill, although there are data on sightings of oiled gulls over several weeks from the west coast of Vancouver Island. [ED. NOTE: Washington State did not get off so lightly. Nearly 4,000 seabirds were found dead, and close to 1,000 oiled birds were retrieved alive.]

New observers willing to survey a section of shoreline for beached birds once a month are asked to contact Dr. Alan Burger, 270 Trevlac Place, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X1 (phone 479-9833).

BCFO OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1991-1992

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- June 12-14, 1992 TENTH ANNUAL MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ, sponsored by B.C. Parks. The group campground at Lone Duck Lake has been reserved. For information, contact Michael Tilitzky, park interpreter, at 687-4681.
- June 13-14, 1992 STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK BIRD SEARCH, sponsored by Mitlenatch Field Naturalists and Comox-Strathcona Naturalists. For information, phone Betty Brooks at 337-8180.
- June 20, 1992 MOUNT SEYMOUR PARK BIRD BLITZ. For details, contact Al Grass, B.C. Parks, at 929-1291.
- June 22-26, 1992 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. For information, contact Dr. David Manuwal. Wildlife Science Group. College of Forest Resources, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98447 (phone (206) 543-1585).
- June 24-27, 1992 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, Iowa State Univ., Ames, Iowa. For information, contact Dr. Erwin Klaas, Iowa Coop. Wildlife Research Unit, Iowa State Univ., Ames, Iowa 50011.
- Sept. 22-26, 1992 NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD SYMPOSIUM, Estes Park, Colorado. For information, contact Dr. Tom Martin, Coop. Fish & Wildlife Unit, Dept. of Biol. Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.
- Sept. 25-27, 1992 MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FALL BIRDING WEEKEND, sponsored by Oregon Field Ornithologists. Accommodations and meals available at Malheur Field Station. For information, contact Sheran Jones, 0785 SW Ventura Court, Tigard, OR 97223 (phone 503-246-5594).
- Oct. 2-4, 1992 AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION AND ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS joint conference, Connecticut College, New London, CT. For information, contact Dr. Robert Askins, Box 5416, Dept. of Zoology, Connecticut College, New London, CT 06320.
- Oct. 23-25, 1992 WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION annual meeting, at the Motte Rimrock Reserve near Riverside, Calif. For information, contact Barbara Carlson, Biology Dept., Univ. of California, Riverside, CA 92521 (phone 714-657-3111).

SOCIETY NEWS

NAME CHANGE FOR NEWSLETTER-- You may have noticed that this periodical has a new name, the B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST. Our directors decided that, because of the volume and variety of material, it was inappropriate to call it a newsletter, hence the name change. We also have a new ISSN (International Standard Serial Number): 1192-0270. Librarians and bibliographers, please take note!

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1992 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING-- BCFO's 2nd Annual General Meeting in Revelstoke from June 5 to 7 was a success by any yardstick, with about 110 members and friends attending. A complete report will appear in the next B.C. Field Ornithologist, but here are some highlights.

The illustrated talks were enjoyed by all. In addition to the six talks on Saturday afternoon, John Woods gave an illuminating talk on Friday evening on "Ecology of the Columbia Mountains", and Rick Howie gave an educational and amusing banquet speech on "Owl Research in the B.C. Interior".

The field trips on Saturday and Sunday enjoyed perfect weather, and visited Mount Revelstoke, Rogers Pass, the Big Bend Highway to Downie Creek, the Revelstoke airport, and other spots closer to Revelstoke. At least 133 species were logged on the field trips, including the Revelstoke area's first records for Clark's Grebe and Virginia Rail.

At the BCFO business meeting, a change in by-laws allowing family memberships was approved, and new Family Membership (\$25/year) and Junior Membership (\$10/year) categories were approved.

The social functions, including a Friday evening reception, Saturday morning pancake breakfast, and Saturday evening banquet, were enjoyed by everyone. The Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier and the staff of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks, who took care of the lion's share of the organizational work, deserve our sincere gratitude.

NEW BCFO DIRECTORS-- Two new BCFO directors were elected in Revelstoke: Rick Howie (Kamloops) and Lloyd Esralson (Surrey). We now have 9 directors, including 2 from Vancouver I. and one from the Interior (or 1-1/2, if one counts Marian Porter, who is working in the Shuswap area for the summer). For a complete list of directors and their phone numbers, please see page 2.

Mike Force, who will be out of the province for several months, stepped down from the directors. We salute Mike's thoughtful contributions to BCFO in its early days, and hope we can call on him again sometime in the future.

President Doug Kragh will be working in Portland, Oregon, from June until early December. Vice-President Wayne Weber agreed to temporarily look after the President's duties, at least until the next directors' meeting.

FIELD TRIP PROGRAM-- BCFO directors have decided to begin a modest field trip program (perhaps no more than 6 field trips per year),

with each field trip to be co-sponsored by a local naturalists' club. Some of these will be one-day trips, but others may be 2 or 3-day trips. They will feature some of our top field trip leaders and some of our top birding areas. The directors felt that this would be a good opportunity to promote membership in both BCFO and local naturalists' clubs. There will be more details about this in the next newsletter.

BCFO NEEDS A LOGO! We have received no suggestions yet in response to our request for ideas for a logo in the last Newsletter. If any of our members has artistic talents (or even a good idea for a logo, accompanied by a rough sketch), please submit a design or suggestion to Vice-President Wayne Weber at 51-6712 Baker Road, Delta, B.C. V4E 2V3.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PELAGIC BIRDING TRIPS FROM WESTPORT, WASHINGTON are scheduled for July 18, August 1, 15, 22, and 29, September 8, 12, and 13, and October 10 and 11, 1992. Species to be expected include Black-footed Albatross; Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed, Flesh-footed, Buller's, Sooty, and Short-tailed Shearwaters; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; South Polar Skua; Black-legged Kittiwake; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; and Tufted Puffin. Several species of whales and porpoises are also likely.

The cost is \$59 (U.S.) per person. For further information, or to make reservation, write T.R. Wahl, 3041 Eldridge, Bellingham, WA 98225, or phone (206) 733-8255.

MOUNT SEYMOUR/CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARKS BIRD PROJECT-- Al Grass and Vic Adamo of the B.C. Parks Branch are gathering information on the birds of Mount Seymour and Cypress Provincial Parks in the Vancouver area. One of the purposes will be to produce new bird checklists for both parks. A checklist for Mount Seymour was issued in 1978, but it is now very outdated; no checklist has been published yet for Cypress Provincial Park. A detailed report summarizing all the information received on the birds of each park will also be prepared.

If you have any information on the birds of these two parks, even a small amount, we would greatly appreciate a copy of your notes. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged. If you wish, we would be glad to send you a copy of the old Mount Seymour checklist and maps of both parks.

Please send your bird sightings and correspondence to: Seymour/Cypress Bird Project, B.C. Parks, 1610 Mount Seymour Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 1L3. Thank you!

THE B.C. NEST RECORD PROGRAM is a volunteer project designed to gather as much information as possible on nesting biology of birds

in B.C., including geographic distribution of breeding birds, nest locations, timing of the nesting season, and breeding success of common species. All nests found with eggs or young, even of common species like American Robin or Barn Swallow, can produce valuable information, but the best information comes from repeated visits to a nest. An annual report on the results is published in the B.C. Naturalist. Even if you only have time to report on 5 or 10 nests, your contribution will be appreciated. For further information and a supply of nest record cards, contact Margaret Harris, P.O. Box 10, Penticton, B.C. V2A 6J9 (phone 492-8958).

WASHINGTON STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS-- This major project, which began in 1987 (see BCFO Newsletter 1(1):7-9, 1991), is continuing through 1992, and probably 1993 as well. A map showing coverage through the end of the 1990 field season was published last year in the BCFO Newsletter. Although much additional data was gathered in 1991, several areas of the state still have very poor coverage. This includes the Olympic Peninsula, the entire outer coast of Washington, the Columbia River valley all the way from Walla Walla to the Pacific Ocean (except for pockets near Longview and Vancouver, WA), and virtually all of the eastern quarter of the state (east of 119 degrees longitude).

Washington State has been divided into about 7800 atlas blocks, each measuring 3x3 miles (5x5 km), or 9 square miles. American land surveys are based on the township (6x6 miles, or 36 square miles), and the minimum goal of the Atlas is to obtain coverage of the southeastern block in each township, which is designated a "priority" block. If this goal is achieved, more than 2000 blocks will have been covered, but many priority blocks have not been touched yet!

Ideally, up to 20 or 30 hours should be spent in each block. All habitats present are visited, and nesting evidence of various degrees of certainty is recorded according to standardized criteria. This can range from "confirmed" (nest with eggs or young, adult bird carrying food) to "possible" (bird present in suitable breeding habitat). The objective is to find as many species as possible in your assigned block, and if possible, to confirm breeding status for at least 50% of the potential breeding species. However, at the present level of coverage, it may be more important to obtain partial coverage of unsampled blocks than to gather further data on well-studied blocks. Useful atlas data can be gathered from April to about August 10, but it is important to separate migrants from potential breeding birds.

If you have anywhere from one day to a week to volunteer to the project, you can make an important contribution; even incidental observations made while you are passing through the state may fill in some gaps. The DeLorme Co. Washington Atlas and Gazetteer, available at most Washington bookstores for \$12.95, makes it easy to tell which atlas block you are in.

For an Atlas handbook, map of coverage to date, and a supply of Atlas field cards, please contact the Atlas Project Coordinator, Dr. Phil Mattocks, 915 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926 (phone 509-962-2191), or the Seattle Audubon Society, 8028 35th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98195 (phone 206-523-4483). Happy atlassing!

THE SITE GUIDE: THE PRINCETON "OUTBACK", B.C.

by R. Jerry Herzig and Madelon Schouten
P.O. Box 925, Princeton, B.C. V0X 1W0 (Herzig) and
Site 19, Comp. 12, RR 1, Princeton, B.C. V0X 1W0 (Schouten)

Most birders merely pass through the Princeton area on the way to the Okanagan, the birder's Mecca. Yet Princeton and environs offer a challenge for those who are willing to spend time exploring the varied elevations and habitats.

Elevations range from a low of about 550 metres along the Similkameen River east of Princeton to a high of over 1800 metres at several points. The landscape varies from open rangelands to tracts of second-growth forest interspersed with many lakes and ponds, fed by large and small creeks. South of Princeton, a large area of sagebrush can be found in the Allenby area. Dominant tree species include ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, trembling aspen, Rocky Mountain juniper, water birch, mountain alder, and black cottonwood.

Access to most of the good birding areas is by paved and gravelled roads which are maintained year-round. Logging roads provide access to higher elevations, but may require 4-wheel drive. Many of them are open to the public only on weekends, and are not open in winter. Gas is available only in Princeton, Hedley, and Tulameen, so a full tank is a must. Groceries are also available in these three towns, and recently a small store has opened at Osprey Lake, catering to campers. While creeks are plentiful, this is beaver country, so it is advisable to bring your own drinking water. There are many Forest Service campsites dotted through the area, which are heavily used on weekends. The key birding areas have been numbered on the accompanying map.

Before leaving Princeton, check out the Princeton Hotel, as a large colony of Vaux's Swifts nests there. In winter, the side streets in town can be alive with Bohemian Waxwings and other berry-eaters.

1. **OSPREY LAKE ROAD**-- this runs from Princeton through to Summerland, a beautiful and interesting drive in the summer. The road is closed beyond Osprey Lake in the winter. Take Highway 5A from Princeton toward Merritt. After crossing the Tulameen River bridge, turn right (east) onto the Old Hedley Road. Shortly after entering this road, turn left (north) onto the Osprey Lake Road (at signs for Sunflower Downs, Five Mile Road, Chain Lake, and Osprey Lake. To the west, the Princeton landfill supports a large population of Common Ravens, American Crows, and Black-billed Magpies. Western and Mountain Bluebirds perch on the wires farther up the road. In fall and winter, Northern Shrikes and raptors are common.

Behind Sunflower Downs race track lies Swan Lake. Park on the gravel road that runs west of the track and walk down the hill. This small lake is very good for waterfowl and many species of passerines. A Great Horned Owl often roosts in a broken-off tree at the head of the lake. Watch for Red-tailed and Rough-legged (winter) Hawks and Bald Eagles soaring over the area. Most of the smaller raptors have been recorded here

as well. In winter, a herd of elk cross this area to feed and drink at Allison Creek.

After the racetrack, look for the Castle RV Park turnoff on the right. This is a good spot in late spring and early summer; Allison Creek runs through the property. A trail provides good access to a small marsh with willow, birch, and aspen, and some conifer forest. Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Lazuli Bunting, Northern Oriole, House Wren, 6 species of swallow, 3 species of nuthatch, and various warblers nest in the area. Along the cliffs, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, and American Kestrel are common. After leaving the RV park, continue north across Allison Creek (deep dip), and look for the Old Iron Mountain Road turning to the right.

2. **BALDY**-- This road is narrow and steep with many switchbacks. It can be negotiated by an ordinary car in summer (watch your radiator!), but a 4-wheel drive is necessary in winter. At the top, the road levels out and gives a wonderful view of the Similkameen Valley. This land is leased for cattle grazing by the Allison family. If you are planning to hike the hills, permission is necessary (phone 295-6281). For the sake of your fellow naturalists, please observe this courtesy. No permission is needed if you stay with your car and bird from the road. The several small ponds along the road have yielded a surprising variety of shorebirds: Solitary, Baird's, Pectoral, Least, and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Raptors hunt the area for Yellow-bellied Marmots and Columbian Ground Squirrels. In fall, large numbers of American Kestrels (60 on Sept. 25, 1991) catch the abundant grasshoppers. Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon, and Turkey Vulture are regular in season.

If you are hiking, park as soon as the road levels out on top and head south toward the summit. In the valleys between the hills, a number of small ponds offer excellent birding. Check the Rocky Mountain Juniper trees for Long-eared Owls. From the summit, the Similkameen River can be seen, and also the top of the cliffs on the Old Hedley Road. A small colony of White-throated Swifts here. Common Poor-will and Rock Wren have also been recorded. In the stands of deciduous trees, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Red-naped Sapsuckers, House Wrens, Warbling Vireos, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pileated, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers are common. In the conifers, Clark's Nutcrackers, Townsend's Solitaires, Varied Thrushes, Ruffed and Blue Grouse can be seen. The open rangeland is excellent for Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, Horned Larks, and American Pipits. In the fall, migrating passerines make this a truly wonderful birding spot. The road continues on up the mountain after passing through a wooden gate which may be locked in summer. A small, weed-choked lake just north of the gate is excellent for waterfowl.

3. **WAYNE LAKE TO HAYES CREEK VALLEY**-- Backtracking to the Osprey Lake road, continue on to Wayne Lake (3). Parking is poor, but this is definitely a "hot spot" in spring and summer. In late

May and early June, the mayflies hatch and attract large numbers of all 6 swallow species, warblers, bluebirds, flycatchers, and Common Nighthawks (up to 40 at a time). Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks nest here, as do Soras, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and Northern Orioles. This is one spot where you can see Western Wood-Pewees out in the open, and Eastern Kingbirds scold from the fence along the pond.

Continue on to Separation Lakes, where waterfowl and shorebirds are the feature. Bonaparte's Gulls, Black Terns, Long-billed Dowitchers, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, and many duck species occur on migration. A pair of Ferruginous Hawks once nested in the large ponderosa pines south of the lake. In fall, large flocks of Canada Geese use the lake for feeding and resting. There are also records for Snow Goose, White-fronted Goose, and White Pelican, and in May 1992, a Black-necked Stilt was observed here. It is possible to walk to the far end of the lake on the abandoned railroad right-of-way. A small marsh may yield several species of peeps. In the fields bordering the lake, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, Western Meadowlarks, Common Snipe, and various raptors can be observed. In winter, Northern Shrike and Northern Pygmy-Owl may perch on the wires bordering the road.

About 3 km farther on, a number of shallow ponds in the hilly grazing land on the right provide good stopover places for shorebirds and waterfowl. At the Jura Ranch, another 2 km beyond, a population of Bobolinks was present in July 1990. After the NicoWynd Ranch sign, the road turns sharply to the left and there is a pullout giving a good view of the valley. Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee (uncommon), bluebirds, and small raptors can be found here. Hayes Creek runs parallel to the road in many places, and Northern Waterthrush, Veery, Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds are common. The woodpecker family is also well represented.

4. CHAIN, LINK, AND OSPREY LAKES-- These popular lakes, with summer cabins and permanent homes, are accessible via road around them and Forest Service campsites. Common Loon, Common Merganser, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Osprey, and many passerines are common. Stands of deciduous trees and a fairly dense conifer forest on the uplands ensure a good variety of the smaller birds. Listen for the soft tapping of the Three-toed Woodpecker. With luck, you may find the Black-backed Woodpecker as well; the best place for this one is on the rough Siwash Creek road, just after passing the bridge. The road beyond Osprey Lake turns to gravel and continues on to Summerland, passing through some beautiful country. The Osprey Lake Breeding Bird Survey route, running from Empress Creek to Separation Lakes, yielded 73 species in 1990 and 71 in 1991 in a four-hour run.

(MAP AND REMAINDER OF SITE GUIDE TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT ISSUE)

SUGGESTIONS ON COMPILING A REGIONAL BIRD CHECKLIST

by Wayne C. Weber
51-6712 Baker Road, Delta, B.C. V4E 2V3

Many individuals or naturalists' clubs have, at one time or another, decided to publish a regional bird checklist, usually with an indication of each species' seasonal occurrence and abundance. Such a checklist can be useful for several purposes. It can serve as a concise summary of the birdlife of a region, and a basis for comparing the birds of that region with other nearby regions. It can be a useful aid to identification, especially for visiting birders, by helping them to eliminate species not likely to be found in the region. If there is a box or line beside each species' name, it can be used for recording a list of species seen in a particular place or on a particular day. It may encourage even those of us who are averse to taking detailed field notes to keep some sort of a record of what we see. Finally, the exercise of compiling a bird checklist can be very illuminating, by turning up information the compilers were previously not aware of. Ultimately, the exercise of compiling a checklist may lead the compilers to write and publish an annotated list or more detailed account of the birds of the region-- something which, in the long run, is of far greater value than the checklist itself.

There are a number of different approaches to preparing a checklist, and no one approach is necessarily the best. However, there are a few general guidelines I would like to offer, which may help to maximize the usefulness of a checklist.

Abundance-- there are no universally accepted terms for different levels of abundance. Many checklists include 5 levels of abundance for regularly occurring species: abundant (very common), common, fairly common, uncommon, and rare. Others include only 3 levels: common, uncommon, and rare. Whatever terms you use, make sure you define them, preferably in terms of numbers seen per day. Otherwise, the terms you use may be misinterpreted by someone else who may use a different definition for the same terms. Irregularly occurring species (those seen less than once a year) are usually called either accidental (only one or two records ever) or casual (from 3 to 20 records, but seen less than once a year). In a very small area, or one where little information is available, the distinction between casual and accidental may be meaningless. It is a matter of choice whether to include the casuals and accidentals with the rest of the list, or include them in a separate list at the end. The latter approach helps to emphasize to observers that casual and accidental species are not to be expected, and that field notes or photos of these species are highly desirable.

Seasonal occurrence-- Most checklists describe species as "residents" (present all year), "summer residents", "winter residents", or "transients" (seen only in spring and/or fall migration).

Breeding status-- A special symbol such as an asterisk can be used

to indicate those species which are known to nest in the area (i.e., an active nest or flightless young have been found). This may help to fill in gaps in knowledge, by indicating species present in summer but not yet known to breed.

Publication date-- A checklist should ALWAYS carry a publication date; years later, it may be that no one can recall when it was published, or when a series of checklists have been issued for the same area, there may be confusion about which edition one is referring to.

Names of compilers-- Even when a checklist is issued by a club, it is very important that the names of the persons responsible for compiling the information be included on the list. It may be impossible to trace the source of information used in compiling the checklist unless the compilers' names are included.

Name and address of sponsoring organization-- When a checklist is issued by a naturalist club or government agency, the name and address of the organization should be included. This is especially important if the organization plans to issue revised versions of the checklist, so that users of the list know where to send information.

Bar-graph checklists-- At least two recent B.C. checklists, the 1989 Victoria checklist and 1989 Okanagan checklist, show species status as a series of bar graphs. Bar-graph checklists can show seasonal occurrence much more precisely than conventional checklists; however, they cannot show numerical status as well (usually, only 3 levels of abundance can be shown). Bar-graph checklists are very time-consuming to compile, and should not be attempted unless there is a solid base of data for the area in question. If you have enough information to prepare a bar-graph checklist, you probably have enough to prepare a detailed annotated list or report, which would be far more valuable.

Finally, I should note that the Public Conservation Assistance Fund of the B.C. Ministry of Environment has provided funds for publishing several bird checklists. Persons or groups contemplating publishing a bird checklist, especially for an area where no previous checklist has been published, may wish to contact the Ministry about the possibility of obtaining a grant for this purpose.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF B.C. BIRD CHECKLISTS

Compiled by Wayne C. Weber
51-6712 Baker Road, Delta, B.C. V4E 2V3

Bird checklists are a useful tool that all of us use to help us determine if, and when, to expect a particular bird species in a particular area. However, bird checklists are often not consid-

ered as valid publications, but rather as pamphlets or "ephemeral" material. Thus, checklists were not included in the two-volume Bibliography of British Columbia Ornithology, published by the Royal B.C. Museum (R.W. Campbell et al. 1979 and 1988), and no previous attempt has been made to compile a list of bird checklists published in the province. It is true that bird checklists vary greatly in their accuracy, and in the amount of research that has gone into preparing them. Nevertheless, the history of ornithology in B.C. is not complete without a list of published bird checklists, and I hope this compilation will help fill the gap.

I have included here all checklists that I am aware of which were printed, mimeographed, or photocopied, and widely distributed, either for a price or for free. Also included are checklists which were not issued separately but were part of a published or unpublished report. However, the coverage of unpublished checklists is very incomplete. I have not included annotated checklists-- that is, checklists which include several lines or more about the status of each species. These lists, whether published or unpublished, have almost invariably been included in Campbell's bibliographies, and copies are on file at the Royal B.C. Museum.

Bibliographic details for some of these checklists are missing, as evident by the blank spaces in the list below. The year of publication is unknown for a few checklists, and even where it is known, was not always included on the list. The persons responsible for compiling the list are unknown in some cases; where they are known, but are not given on the list, they are included in parentheses. The name of the sponsoring organization, if any, is usually on the list. The addresses of the organizations or compilers are included in the database on checklists that I have prepared, but are not included here to save space.

Even some of the government organizations which issue checklists have been slipshod in providing publication details. The Canadian Wildlife Service, for example, has failed to give publication dates or names of compilers for several of the checklists it has published. By way of contrast, Parks Canada-- part of the same government department-- not only includes publication dates, but also gives a catalog number for each edition of a bird checklist that it publishes. I wish that every organization which publishes checklists would pay attention to such details!

Special recognition should be given to David Stirling, who prepared bird checklists for several B.C. Provincial Parks during the 1960s and 1970s, and encouraged others to do the same for other parks. The checklists prepared by David, or under his supervision, almost always included the publication date and compilers' names. This is a commendable effort which deserves to be continued and expanded. David also gave me a great deal of help in compiling this list, as did numerous other persons who answered my requests for copies of bird checklists or other details about them. Thanks to all of you.

I have copies of all but one or two of the checklists listed below. If any of our readers is aware of any checklists not included here, or of errors in the details, please let me know. When sufficient information has accumulated, I plan to publish a list of corrections and additions, followed by periodic updates, perhaps every couple of years or so.

LIST OF BIRD CHECKLISTS PUBLISHED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

LOCALITY	YEAR	TYP	SPP	COMPILER	PUB
ALAKSEN NWA, DELTA	1983	C	227	(Jacques Sirois)	1
BLACKIE SPIT, SURREY	1983	C	158	Jack E. Williams	2
BOWRON LAKES PROV. PARK	1973	C	131	J. Ramsay, B. Runyan	3
BRITISH COLUMBIA	1968	M	358	David Stirling	4
BRITISH COLUMBIA	1977	C	422	R. Wayne Campbell	5
BRITISH COLUMBIA	1984	C	439	R. Wayne Campbell	5
BRITISH COLUMBIA	1989	C	448	R. Wayne Campbell	6
BRITISH COLUMBIA (PARKS)	1977	C	344	David Stirling	3
BRITISH COLUMBIA (PARKS)	1981	C	350	David Stirling	3
BURNABY LAKE, BURNABY	1975	M		Steve Mooney, Dan Bastaja, Wayne Campbell	7
BURNABY LAKE, BURNABY	1984	R	204	Jude Grass	8
CAMPBELL RIVER AREA	1985	C	265		9
CARIBOO REGION	1973	M	252	Anna Roberts	10
CHILLIWACK-AGASSIZ AREA	1981	M	241	Doug Whitman	11
COLONY FARM, COQUITLAM	1991	M	116	Christine Hanrahan	12
COMOX AND DISTRICT	1956	C	213	Theed Pearse, D. Guthrie	13
CRESTON VALLEY		C	238		1
CRESTON VALLEY	1970	C	174	Trail Wildlife Association	1
CRESTON VALLEY	1973	C	241		14
CRESTON VALLEY	1989	C	250		14
DE BOUVILLE SLOUGH	1991	M	86	Christine Hanrahan	12
GARIBALDI PROV. PARK	1984	M	124	Barb McGrenere	3
GOLDEN EARS PROV. PARK	1980	C	116	Al Grass, Gail Ross	3
GOLDEN EARS PROV. PARK	1988	M	135	Al Grass	3
HAYWARD LAKE RA, MISSION	1991	M	89	Lynn M. Miller	15
KAMLOOPS AREA	1974	C	258	Tom Jacobson	16
KAMLOOPS AREA	1978	C	269	Tom Jacobson	16
KOOTENAY NATL. PARK	1980	C	179	(Ian Jack)	17
LYNN CANYON PARK, N VAN	1982	C	88	Kevin Bell	18
LYNN CANYON PARK, N VAN	1990	C	87	Kevin Bell	18
MANNING PROV. PARK	1960	C	120		3
MANNING PROV. PARK	1965	R	139	Yorke Edwards	19
MANNING PROV. PARK	1969	C	165	K.R. Beckett	3
MANNING PROV. PARK	1971	C	173	K.R. Beckett	3
MANNING PROV. PARK	1975	C	189	David Stirling, K.R. Beckett	3
MANNING PROV. PARK	1983	M	195		3
MANNING PROV. PARK	1989	C	206	Bruce Bennett	3
MIRACLE BEACH PROV. PARK	1961	C	127	David Stirling	3
MIRACLE BEACH PROV. PARK	1964	C	158	David Stirling	3
MIRACLE BEACH PROV. PARK	1971	C	160	David Stirling	3
MITLENATCH I. PROV. PARK	1966	M	105	R. Wayne Campbell	3
MITLENATCH I. PROV. PARK	1968	C	121	David Stirling, Wayne Campbell	3
MITLENATCH I. PROV. PARK	1972	C	126	David Stirling, Wayne Campbell	3
MOUNT ROBSON PROV. PARK	1973	M	168	David Stirling	3
MOUNT SEYMOUR PROV. PARK	1978	C	100	Al Grass	3
MT. REVELSTOKE/GLACIER	1988	C	183	John Woods, Les Gyug, Doug Powell	20
NORTH OKANAGAN	1980	C	277	Jim Grant, Mary Collins, Kay Bartholomew	21

LOCALITY	YEAR	TYP	SPP	COMPILER	PUB
OKANAGAN VALLEY	1982	C	305	Richard J. Cannings et al.	22
OKANAGAN VALLEY	1984	C	295	Richard J. Cannings	22
OKANAGAN VALLEY	1989	C	306	Richard J. Cannings	22
PACIFIC RIM NATL. PARK	1980	C	242	(Bill McIntyre)	23
PACIFIC RIM NATL. PARK	1982	C	249	(Bill McIntyre)	23
PACIFIC RIM NATL. PARK	1985	C	254	(Bill McIntyre)	23
PEACE RIVER AREA	1982	M	239	Chris Siddle	24
PEACE RIVER AREA	1984	M	261	Chris Siddle	24
PEACE RIVER AREA	1989	M	271	Chris Siddle	24
PRINCE GEORGE	1988	C	214	Cathy Antoniazzi, Sandra Kinsey, Laird Law	25
QUALICUM NWA	1979	R	212	Neil K. Dawe	26
QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS	1989	C	222	Mary Morris	27
RATHREVOR BEACH P.P.	1971	M	141	David Stirling	3
REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY		C	230		1
SALTSPRING ISLAND	1989	C	237	David F. Fraser	28
SERPENTINE FEN WMA	1981	M	137	Jack E. Williams	2
SERPENTINE FEN WMA	1983	C	144	Jack E. Williams	2
SHUSWAP LAKE P.P. & VIC.	1969	M	136	David Stirling	3
SHUSWAP LAKE P.P. & VIC.	1970	M	168	David Stirling	3
SOUTH OKANAGAN	1970	C	243	Steve R. Cannings	22
SOUTH OKANAGAN	1974	C	261	Steve Cannings, Violet Gibbard	22
SOUTHERN VANCOUVER I.	1990	R	331	Keith Taylor	29
SOUTHWESTERN B.C.		C	269	Ian McTaggart Cowan	30
SOUTH-CENTRAL B.C.		C	265	James Grant	21
STANLEY PARK, VANCOUVER	1989	R	235	W. Weber, B. Kautesk, M. Price	31
SUNSHINE COAST	1987	C	232	Tony Greenfield	32
SWAN LAKE SANCTUARY	1983	M	146	David Newell	33
VANCOUVER AREA	1962	C	265	M.D.F. Udvardy	30
VANCOUVER AREA	1969	C	292	R.H. Drent, R.W. Campbell	34
VANCOUVER AREA	1972	C	307	R.W. Campbell, M.G. Shepard	34
VANCOUVER AREA	1974	R	308	R. Wayne Campbell et al.	31
VANCOUVER AREA	1976	C	327	K. Hall, M. Shepard, J. Toochin	31
VANCOUVER AREA	1984	C	343	Wayne C. Weber et al.	31
VANCOUVER AREA	1988	C	356	Wayne C. Weber et al.	31
VANCOUVER AREA	1990	C	364	Wayne C. Weber et al.	31
VICTORIA AREA	1956	C	232	(J. Owen Clay)	35
VICTORIA AREA	1959	C	243	(G. Allen Poynter)	35
VICTORIA AREA	1963	C	244	(G. Allen Poynter)	35
VICTORIA AREA	1968	C	271	(G. Allen Poynter)	35
VICTORIA AREA	1969	C	264	Albert R. Davidson	36
VICTORIA AREA	1974	C	282		35
VICTORIA AREA	1984	C	323		35
VICTORIA AREA	1989	C	331	Bryan R. Gates & Keith Taylor	35
WELLS GRAY PROV. PARK	1984	C		Trevor Goward	3
WELLS GRAY PROV. PARK	1989	C	218	Trevor Goward	3
WEST KOOTENAY	1978	C	253	Jim Street	36
WEST KOOTENAY	1980	C	253	Jim Street	37
WEST KOOTENAY	1991	C	284	Gary Davidson	38
WESTERN VANCOUVER I.	1990	R	297	Keith Taylor	29
WESTHAM & REIFEL ISLANDS	1983	R	220	Wayne C. Weber	39
WICKANINNISH BEACH P.P.	1969	M	136	David Stirling	3

LOCALITY	YEAR	TYP	SPP	COMPILER	PUB
WILLIAMS LAKE	1976	C	248	(Anna Roberts)	10
YOHO NATIONAL PARK	1964	M	89	(Bud Fulton)	40
YOHO NATIONAL PARK	1967	M	120	Wayne C. Weber	40
YOHO NATIONAL PARK	1968	M	139	Wayne C. Weber	40
YOHO NATIONAL PARK	1974	C	140		40
YOHO NATIONAL PARK	1979	C	206		40

TYP= type of checklist

C= card checklist

M= mimeographed or photocopied checklist

R= checklist included in larger report, not issued as
a separate document

SPP= number of species listed on checklist

PUB= publisher of checklist (government agency, organization,
or individual)

- 1= Canadian Wildlife Service
- 2= White Rock & Surrey Naturalists
- 3= B.C. Parks Branch
- 4= David Stirling
- 5= B.C. Provincial Museum (now Royal B.C. Museum)
- 6= B.C. Provincial Museum & Federation of B.C. Naturalists
- 7= Steve Mooney, Dan Bastaja, Wayne Campbell
- 8= Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Dept.
- 9= Mitlenatch Field Naturalists
- 10= Williams Lake Field Naturalists
- 11= Doug Whitman
- 12= Burke Mountain Naturalists
- 13= Theed Pearse (deceased)
- 14= Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area
- 15= Lynn M. Miller
- 16= Kamloops Naturalists' Club
- 17= Parks Canada, Kootenay National Park
- 18= Lynn Valley Ecology Centre
- 19= Canadian Audubon Magazine
- 20= Fiends of Mount Revelstoke & Glacier
- 21= North Okanagan Naturalists' Club
- 22= South Okanagan Naturalists' Club
- 23= Parks Canada, Pacific Rim National Park
- 24= Chris Siddle
- 25= Prince George Naturalists' Club
- 26= Neil K. Dawe
- 27= Mary Morris
- 28= David F. Fraser
- 29= Keith Taylor
- 30= Dept. of Zoology, University of B.C.
- 31= Vancouver Natural History Society

Publishers of checklists (cont.)

- 32= Sechelt Marsh Protective Society
- 33= Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary
- 34= UBC & Vancouver Natural History Society
- 35= Victoria Natural History Society
- 36= West Kootenay Naturalists
- 37= West Kootenay Naturalists & BC Parks Branch
- 38= Gary Davidson
- 39= Wayne C. Weber
- 40= Parks Canada, Yoho National Park

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I participated in the first Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Field Ornithologists in August 1991. The fellowship, or should I say birdership, field trips, and presentations were of great interest and enjoyment. Not being employed in the field of natural history, I was surprised to learn about the extensive amount of research that goes on all the time. The presentations on the Spotted Owl, Snow Geese, and others were, to say the least, exciting and informative. Unless one is a subscriber to professional magazines containing detailed research findings, birders such as me would just not learn about the extent of current research about B.C. birds. I therefore have a suggestion to make. Could the newsletter periodically, or regularly, contain a "research review" corner? Such a feature could very briefly provide the titles of recently published research on B.C. birds, and the name of the magazine or book in which it was published. This will allow all members to stay informed about what is happening to B.C. birds, and look up the article should they wish to do so.

Hank Vander Pol
Victoria, B.C.

ED. NOTE: Thanks for a very good suggestion, Hank. However, we should point out that Wayne Campbell already includes a listing of recent B.C. bird publications as part of his regular "B.C. Wildlife Report" in the B.C. Naturalist, to which most of our members subscribe. Although not comprehensive, Wayne's listings do include many of the scientific publications of interest to B.C. birders.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

ODE TO A CODE, a poem by Eric V. Johnson
REPORT ON BCFO'S 2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING