

BRITISH COLUMBIA

FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST

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The **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST** is published four times a year by B.C. Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 34081, 5790-175th Street, Surrey, B.C., Canada V3S 8C4. A subscription to this periodical is a benefit of membership in the society. Members will also receive a semi-annual journal, **BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS**.

Editors for the **British Columbia Field Ornithologist**: A. & M. Buhler

Send material for publication in any format (mail, phone, FAX, print, IBM WordPerfect files on discs, etc.) to the Editors (name, address and phone no. page 2). We especially welcome bird-finding information for the "Site Guide" series & articles about birdwatching experiences, preferably (but not necessarily) in British Columbia.

Membership in British Columbia Field Ornithologists is open to anyone interested in the study & enjoyment of wild birds in British Columbia. Our objectives include: fostering cooperation between amateur and professional ornithologists; 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 **Lloyd Esralson, Membership, B.C. Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 34081, 5790-175th Street, Surrey, B.C. V3S 8C4.** NOTE: this new address is effective October 1st, 1993.

EDITORS' NOTES AND NOTIONS

Birding's a great sport! Birding's also a challenge, especially when Editor M sees a Mongolian Plover and Editor A cannot get away from work! However, armed with scope, binoculars, camera, field guide, and notebook, Editor A (not a good morning person) got out there next day at 05:30 am. By 06:00 we both had located the bird, enjoyed its gorgeous plumage, watched its interaction with a Semi-palmated Plover and some Northwestern Crows, and even got a couple of good photos. After it flew away across the lagoon we still had time to go for a celebratory danish and coffee before going to work. While real birding is a lot more than just listing lifers, remember spousal stress is less when both partners can check off the same rarity.

By now you should have received the inaugural issue of our BCFO journal, **BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS**. If you did NOT receive a copy check the Society News on page 4.

Remember that there are two (2) BCFO Field Trips in September, a shorebirds and migrants trip to Cowichan Bay plus a hawk watching trip to East Sooke Regional Park. Check pages 3 and 4 of this issue for details, dates and contact persons.

In this issue we present the second of two parts of Laurie Rockwell's Basics of Birding where you can learn about the right equipment and also about P.E.P. As promised in a previous issue we offer a seasonal listing of the birds Elsie Nykyfork saw from the garden which she planted with bird habitats in mind. Val George has kindly sent an interesting site guide to an area which more of us should try and get up to, Fort St. John. We also received permission from Danny Tyson to print his site guide to Lighthouse Park, which has been published in **A Birdwatching Guide of the Vancouver Area** (1993). Dick Canning's report on the Okanagan Big Day shows how birders can get involved in both birding & conservation. Sandy McRuer's personal account of his Bird of the Day in Parksville gives a flavor of the thrill of finding a new bird. His identification technique required the use and understanding of the 'gestalt' Laurie Rockwell discussed in our last issue. We were able to include Derrick Marven's compilation of birds seen during the 3rd AGM in Tofino plus the second segment of the Bird Listing statistics. Great stuff -- keep it coming in!

In our next issue we hope to have a sleuthing paper (There's a Body in the Bilge!) and Elsie's version of the BCFO owling trip (It was a dark and stormy night...).

Please send us the dates and contact persons for the CBC's in your areas as soon as possible. If members could mail/phone us by early November it would really help our pocketbook and would provide all members a better opportunity to plan their agendas.

BCFO OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1992-1993

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Sept 25, 1993 **BCFO FIELD TRIP TO COWICHAN BAY.** On Saturday, September 25, there will be a field trip to the Cowichan Bay estuary near Duncan to look for shorebirds and other migrants. For details about the trip or information about birding in the Duncan area, phone leader Derrick Marven (604) 748-8504.
- Sept 26, 1993 **BCFO HAWK WATCH TRIP.** On Sunday, September 26, there will be a hawk watching trip to East Sooke Regional Park. This area is now well known for its fall migration of birds of prey. For further details phone leaders David Allinson (604) 478-0457 or Mike McGrenere (604) 658-8624.
- Oct 13-16, 1993 **WESTERN STATES AND PROVINCES WATCHABLE WILDLIFE AND NON-GAME SYMPOSIUM,** Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, BC. For information contact Liz Stanlake, BC Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment, 740 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4, phone (604) 387-9767.
- Oct 22-24, 1993 **FEDERATION OF BC NATURALISTS** Fall General Meeting to be held in Kamloops, BC. For details contact Tom Dickinson, PO Box 625, Kamloops, BC V2C 5L7.
- Oct 26-29, 1993 **WORKSHOP ON USE OF MIST NETS TO MONITOR BIRD POPULATIONS,** Tomales Bay, California. For information contact Dr C.J. Ralph, US Forest Service, 1700 Bay Drive, Arcata, CA 95521 or phone (707) 822-3691.
- Nov. 6-7, 1993 **SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL** at the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Delta, B.C. Come help celebrate the return of the wintering Snow Geese and other waterfowl. For information, phone the Sanctuary office at 946-6980.
- Dec 2-6, 1993 **AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION REGIONAL CONFERENCE,** Niagara Falls, Ontario. For information write American Birding Association, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934 or phone (800) 634-7736.
- Dec 17, 93 to Jan 3, 1994 **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS.** A detailed listing of counts, with organizer's names and phone numbers, will appear in the December issue of the **British Columbia Field Ornithologist.**
- Jan. 25-29, 1994 **PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP** annual meeting, Sacramento, California. For further details, write George Divoky, 10535 Interlake Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98133 (phone or fax (206) 525-2131).
- Mar. 18-23, 1994 **NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE,** Anchorage, Alaska.
- Apr. 8-10, 1994 **BRANT FESTIVAL,** Parksville-Qualicum, featuring Big Day birding competition, wildlife art show, children's activities. For information, contact Brant Festival 94, PO Box 99, Parksville, B.C. V9P 2G3, or phone 248-4117 or 248-4347.
- Apr. 24 to May 1, 1994 **AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION REGIONAL CONFERENCE,** Key Largo, Florida. For information, write the ABA at PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934, or phone (toll-free) 1-800-835-2473.
- June 13-19, 1994 **AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL CONVENTION,** Minot, North Dakota. For information, contact the ABA at the address or phone number given immediately above.
- June 21-26, 1994 Joint annual meetings of the **AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, AND COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY,** at the University of Montana, Missoula. ◊

SOCIETY NEWS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

BCFO WILL HAVE A NEW ADDRESS as of October 1, 1993. Because of the closure of the Cloverdale post office, our post office box is being eliminated. Our new address after October 1 will be as follows:

British Columbia Field Ornithologists
P.O. Box 34081
5790 - 175th Street
Surrey, B.C. V3S 4C8

Dues payments and changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary at this address. Other communications may be sent to the appropriate officer (e.g. President, Journal Editor) either to the postal box or to the officer's home address (officers' addresses on pg 2). Information for the BCFO newsletter should be sent to A & M Buhler.

FIRST ISSUE OF JOURNAL PUBLISHED! The inaugural (December 1991) issue of **BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS**, the BCFO journal, was finally mailed on August 17, 1993 to all BCFO members who joined in 1991 and 1992. However, we have printed several dozen extra copies. New BCFO members (who first joined in 1993) may order a copy of Vol. 1, No. 1 of **BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS** for \$8.00. This issue is 54 pages long and includes 4 articles, 3 book reviews, 3 summaries of noteworthy bird sightings (covering August 1990 to May 1991), and many fine photos of B.C. birds.

NOTE: one or two flawed copies slipped past us. If you find you require a replacement copy please contact Hue MacKenzie at the address given below.

To order a copy, please send a cheque or money order for \$8.00, (includes \$2 postage) payable to B.C. Field Ornithologists, to:

Hue MacKenzie
15341 - 21st Avenue
Surrey, B.C. V4A 6A8

Our planned publication schedule calls for the publication of Vol. 2, No. 1 (June 1992) by this November, and Vol. 2, No. 2 (Dec. 1992) by very early 1994, with the aim of returning to a timely publication schedule by 1995. However, this may depend partly on members submitting enough material for publication. We welcome submission of short articles (around 6 pgs or less) or notes on B.C. birds. Prospective authors see "Suggestions to Authors" on the inside back cover Vol 1, #1, or request a copy from the journal editor.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS FIELD TRIPS

Sept 25, 1993 On Saturday, September 25, there will be a field trip to the Cowichan Bay estuary near Duncan to look for shorebirds and other migrants. Meet at 1:00 pm at the parking lot along Cowichan Bay Dock Road, about 200 meters to the east of the intersection with Tzouhalem Road. For details about the trip or information about birding in the Duncan area, phone trip leader Derrick Marven (604) 748-8504.

Sept 26, 1993 On Sunday, September 26, there will be a hawk watching trip to East Sooke Regional Park. This area is now well known for its fall migration of birds of prey. Meet at the Aylard Farm parking lot in East Sooke Park at 10:00 am. There is a 20-30 minute walk through the park to the lookout (see report of last year's trip pages 15-17 in the December 1992 issue of the newsletter). For those leaving from Victoria, meet at the Helmcken Park and Ride off the Trans Canada Highway and Helmcken Road at 9:15 am where car pooling can be arranged. Bring a lunch. Trip will conclude by 3:00 pm. For details phone trip leaders David Allinson (604) 478-0457 or Mike McGrenere (604) 658-8624.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

PELAGIC BIRDING TRIPS FROM WESTPORT, WASHINGTON are scheduled on October 2 and 3, 1993. The cost is \$64 (U.S.) per person. For further information, or to make reservations, write T.R. Wahl, 3041 Eldridge, Bellingham, WA 98225, or phone (206) 733-8255.

A pelagic trip from Ucluelet, B.C. is also scheduled for October 9, 1993. For details, contact Swiftsure Tours, 1241 Broad St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 2A4 (phone 388-4227).

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 Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 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.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE B.C. NEST RECORD PROGRAM, please remember to mail your completed nest record cards for 1992 by October 1, if at all possible, to: Margaret Harris, P.O. Box 10, Penticton, B.C. V2A 6J9 (phone 492-8958).

THE B.C. BEACHED BIRD SURVEY could still use some additional volunteers to survey shorelines for bird carcasses, especially in the Queen Charlotte Islands and northern mainland coast. If interested, please contact the coordinator, Dr. Alan Burger, 270 Trevlac Place, RR 3, Victoria, BC, V8X 3X1 (phone 479-9833).

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS -- Yes, it's not that long until Christmas! Once again, we plan to publish a list of dates and phone numbers of organizers of as many B.C. Christmas Bird Counts as possible in the next **B.C. Field Ornithologist**. If you are the organizer or compiler of a Christmas Bird Count, please send this information to the **B.C. Field Ornithologist** editors (A & M Buhler) by **November 15** so that they can include it. (See the December 1992 issue.)

If you would like to start a new Christmas Bird Count this year, please contact Dick Cannings for advice at 3007 West 7th Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6K 1Z7 (phone 734-9489). Dick writes summaries of results in **American Birds** and the **B.C. Naturalist**. We strongly encourage groups to submit their count results for publication in **American Birds**, published by the National Audubon Society. However, even if your group does not plan to publish the results, Dick would appreciate a copy of them. Recommended Christmas Count dates next winter are December 17, 1993 to January 3, 1994. ◻

****NEWS FLASH****

Marbled Murrelet Nest Found on Sunshine Coast. In early August, the first active nest of a Marbled Murrelet in B.C. was discovered in a remnant old-growth forest in the Caren Range near Sechelt. The nest, which contained a 3-week-old chick, was found by Volker Bahn, a visiting German biology student.

Nesting has been strongly suspected in this area since 1991, but the actual nests are very hard to discover. The nesting population in this area has been estimated at 150 to 200 birds.

The Marbled Murrelet is considered a Threatened Species by COSEWIC, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. It was also added to the official Threatened Species list in the U.S. in 1992. The confirmation of a nesting area is thus very important.

The Friends of Caren (Box 272, Madeira Park, B.C. V0N 2H0) is a non-profit group which has been campaigning to save this remnant old-growth stand from logging. BCFO members who support this goal should contact the Friends of Caren to find out how they may help, or write letters to Premier Mike Harcourt, Forest Minister Dan Miller, & Environment Minister John Cashore. ◊

THE 1993 OKANAGAN BIG DAY CHALLENGE

by Dick Cannings
3007 West 7th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6K 1Z7

The 1993 Okanagan Big Day Challenge was another great success -- a perfect day, no rain, little wind, some good birds, a lot of money was raised to help buy land for wildlife, and my team won. Yes, after two years of backsliding, we pulled off a stunning victory to take the cherished Flammulated Owl award, if only because other teams had even more mediocre species totals than us.

As a bit of background for those of you who haven't the faintest idea what I'm going on about, the Okanagan Big Day Challenge is an annual event, held every year on the Victoria Day weekend. Teams from around the province and beyond vie to see which can find the most species in one day, starting and finishing in the Okanagan Valley. Last year we added Okanogan County, Washington to give the contest a truly international flavour. And, last but not least, for the past four years we have raised money, birdathon-style, for the Nature Trust of British Columbia and its programme of land acquisition in the Okanagan Valley -- almost \$20,000 so far.

This year saw nine teams and a total of 33 contestants compete in the challenge. My team, consisting of Keith Riding, Linda Dupuis, Mariann Larsen and myself, tallied 153 species for the day, a respectable total but any other year it would have been good for only third or fourth place. Dave Fraser, Leah Ramsay and Tracie Geernaert were a close second with 151, while Syd Cannings, Robin Owen, George Clulow and Tom Ethier came third with 150. Last year's runner's up, the "Pygmy Owlers" -- Gary Davidson, Rick Howie, Glenda and Greg Ross -- slipped to fourth with 149. The defending champion, Andy Stepniewski of Yakima, Washington, sent his regrets from a birding holiday on the Dempster Highway.

The overall species total this year was 194, and the cumulative species list climbed to 234 with the addition of Tennessee Warbler, which netted Bird of the Day honours and the "Oka-noggin" for Laurie Rockwell, Eva Durance, and Bruce and Pearl Morgenstern. The Sour Grapes Award for worst miss of the day went to Wayne Weber, Joe Denham, and Ken Morgan for failing to find a constellation of fairly common species, including Hairy Woodpecker and Belted Kingfisher.

So mark your calendars early -- next year's Challenge will take place again on the Sunday of the Victoria Day weekend. If you want more information, contact Dick Cannings at 734-9489. ◊

SIGHTINGS FROM THE KITCHEN WINDOW

by Elsie Nykyfork
RR #4, Site 11, Comp C-29
Vernon, BC V1T 6L7

In a previous issue I detailed the endeavours of my husband and myself to create, at our home in the Okanagan Landing area, a yard bordered with food-bearing trees and shrubs which would attract birds and which would provide them with cover and natural food.

The following diary is a compilation of birds seen from our kitchen window and yard over the last three and a half years. I have tried to list the new birds as they come in each month. The regulars are here all the time. We see 79-80 species a year and our yard list stands at 96 species since we arrived here in March 1989.

JANUARY:

There is a Sharp-shinned Hawk sitting in the Honey Locust tree so not a small bird is in sight. Snow is on the ground so the feeders are being well used. The Gray Partridge burrows in the snow looking for greenery. I have never seen them eating at the feeder. Cassin's Finch is here for the winter, joining the Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, House Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, and Black-capped Chickadee. An American Robin still lingers and the Red-winged Blackbird comes in for a feed now and then. Magpie and Northern Flicker come for the fat and we see either the Merlin or Northern Shrike stop by hoping to get a free meal. A Northern Goshawk is seen over the hills behind the house. California Quail and Ring-necked Pheasant complete the month's birds.

FEBRUARY:

I saw a Bald Eagle flying over Okanagan Lake. No doubt he will pick up an American Coot sitting out on the ice. A Townsend's Solitaire appears in the tree and sits for a while. He doesn't come down to the feeder. Evening Grosbeaks are here. One has all the feathers on the top of his head missing.

MARCH:

I hear a Western Meadowlark in the field behind the house. The female Western Bluebird is back there also, looking over the nest boxes. A Say's Phoebe can also be heard calling. Violet-green and Tree Swallows are checking out the nest boxes in our yard. They have used the same boxes for three years. A Killdeer is strutting around and the Downy Woodpecker is on the fat feeder. Brewer's Blackbirds, with their bright yellow eyes, add a different touch to our collection of birds in March.

APRIL:

Three hummingbird feeders are up and it's time for me to move away from the window and go out into the yard. On April 12 the Calliope Hummingbird is here followed closely by Rufous-sided Hummingbird on April 16. There is a Mourning Dove sitting on the neighbour's roof. Golden Eagle and Northern Harrier are hunting the slope and fields of Bellavista Range. Four Tundra Swans and several duck species can be seen on the lake from my front porch. I saw a Turkey Vulture flying over the lake and heading for the Commonage. They have been known to nest in that area. A glance back to the feeder and Mountain Chickadee, Rufous-sided Towhee and Harris' Sparrow can be sighted. The first of the White-crowned Sparrows has also put in an appearance.

MAY:

I can see over 500 Western Grebe on the lake from my front porch. In the second wave of White-crowned Sparrows we find a Golden-crowned Sparrow. I have to put a pot over each of my new plants or the White-crowned Sparrows will strip the green off of them. We have four bird baths going now. The shrubs around the bird baths is where the afternoon birding is good. Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler and American Robin are fun to watch in the bird bath. Northern Oriole nest in the area and later bring their young for water. A Western Kingbird nests behind the transformer and both it and an Eastern Kingbird each come for water. The House Wren is back and claiming her box and any others she can stuff sticks into. A Pileated Woodpecker, the only one we have seen at this house, stops in our Austrian Pine. The Osprey has caught a

SIGHTINGS FROM THE KITCHEN WINDOW (Continued)

fish and is eating it on the corner lamp post. American Kestrel, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-naped Sapsucker and Yellow-headed Blackbird all visit the yard this month. A Red-tailed Hawk flies by over the hills and Canada Geese fly by overhead. Bank Swallows have set up a colony in a small gravel cut down the street. The month of May is so "birdie" I really hate to leave home.

JUNE:

Twelve Cedar Waxwings congregate in the bird bath at once. They nest in the area. A Pine Grosbeak stopped by to say hello. Cliff Swallows are pecking in the bank. A Barn Swallow is looking for a place to nest. June 25 there was a Black-chinned Hummingbird at the feeder. A female Western Tanager is seen in the bushes. We have seven California Quail feeding here daily. There are young Western Bluebirds in the bird bath. I saw the Western Kingbird feeding her young. The House Wren fledged eight, the Tree Swallow & the Violet-green Swallow each had four.

JULY:

Nesting is in full swing. I saw an albino American Goldfinch, all white where the yellow should be. The Lazuli Bunting comes to the bird bath several times in July. A Western Wood Peewee is seen in the bushes. The Common Nighthawk flies over the house most evenings now. The Killdeer has three young. She nested on the edge of the road and uses our garden for food and safety. Northern Oriole bring their young to the bird bath now.

AUGUST:

Four young Northern Flickers catch bugs on our lawn. Young spotted robins are around. They nested in the fir tree. Gray Partridge bring their family for water. Twelve are seen around the bird bath at one time.

SEPTEMBER:

Ring-necked Pheasants have eight young and young California Quail are everywhere. Six young Cedar Waxwings come to the fir tree regularly. I saw a Swainson's Hawk and a Steller's Jay made our yard count go up by one. I heard a Common Loon out on the lake. Orange-crowned Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were seen at the bird bath. Two Rufous-sided Towhees visited the feeder. Out in the yard I heard a bird scream and turned to see a Merlin take a Mourning Dove. I chased him off, but he had pecked the eye right out of the dove. I put out water and seed for the dove. She rested for about two hours, then flew away.

OCTOBER:

The young California Quail have grown and now number about twenty. I don't know how many clutches this is. There are twelve Ring-necked Pheasant hens and five males. A hunter shot one of the males at the foot of Bellavista Range. It is interesting to watch the pheasants when the "females" start turning into males. First the breast feathers come in, then the back feathers. The tail then grows and the head feathers seem to be last. We have one male with two large white stripes over his eyes. He was a late bird and all by himself. I noticed a hen pheasant with her left eye pecked out.

NOVEMBER:

The Bohemian Waxwings are back. We estimated about 1000 in the neighbour's trees and on our 150' bank of junipers looking for berries. The Mountain Ash berries didn't last long. Tundra Swans were seen on the lake again. I saw a robin in our tree. We set a record for the number of quail in the feeder all at once. There were twelve in a 15"x12" box. It looked like a can of worms. We had to wait for them to leave in order to count them.

DECEMBER:

The snow has come again. It sure brings the birds to the feeder; House Finch, House Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, American Goldfinch and Pine Siskin. There is one Pine Siskin with one foot missing in this last batch to arrive. Five Red-winged Blackbirds paid a visit and twenty Evening Grosbeaks are here. The waxwings are still swarming. The hen pheasant's eye has healed very nicely but she is more nervous than the rest. We still have all the quail and the pheasant with the white eye stripes but where are the Cassin's Finches? A Townsend's Solitaire sits in the tree. I certainly hope some of this stuff is around for Christmas Bird Count Day. ☐

SITE GUIDE: LIGHTHOUSE PARK, WEST VANCOUVER, BC

by Danny Tyson
3809 Princess Avenue
North Vancouver, BC V7N 2E6

Lighthouse Park is situated on Point Atkinson, a rocky headland. The point was named by Captain George Vancouver after Thomas Atkinson, a Royal Navy captain, while engaged in survey work on the southern British Columbia coast in 1792.

In 1873-74 the first lighthouse was built to protect the ships sailing to the logging camps and sawmills on the shores of Burrard Inlet. The stone base of this old wooden tower is still visible to the west of the present lighthouse. In 1881, the 75 ha (195 acres) of crown land to the north of the lighthouse was granted to the Dominion government for a lighthouse reserve.

In 1910, the reserve was leased by the Dominion government to North Vancouver, and later to West Vancouver upon its incorporation in 1912. Today's Lighthouse Park has remained relatively undisturbed.

The 75 ha (195 acres) of Lighthouse Park contain a remarkable range of natural conditions and varied environments. Approximately two-thirds of the park's perimeter is shoreline consisting of coves, rocky headlands, high granite cliffs, and a group of small rocky islets to the northwest of the park. Here we find plants which require little rainfall, such as arbutus, lodgepole pine, and salal.

The interior of the park is marked by high, rounded granite outcrops (up to almost 120 m above sea level) divided by valleys and narrow draws. The granite outcrops support salal, small Douglas firs, red huckleberry, and sword fern. In the valleys and draws of the park interior, where the soil is deeper and seepage water collects, stands a magnificent coniferous forest. The largest trees in the valley bottoms are Douglas fir, some over 400 years old, 60 m (180 ft) high and 2 m (6 ft) in diameter. Of the younger, smaller trees, western hemlock and western red cedar are the most abundant, with lesser numbers of broadleaf maple and red alder. The shaded forest floor is covered with salal, red huckleberry, hemlock seedlings, and western sword fern.

DIRECTIONS

To reach Lighthouse Park from Vancouver, drive north over the Lions Gate Bridge and take the exit to West Vancouver. This exit will take you to a traffic light at Marine Drive and Taylor Way. Alternatively, you can take the Second Narrows Bridge north from eastern Vancouver or Burnaby to North Vancouver. Continue west on the Upper Levels Highway (Hwy 1 West) to Taylor Way exit (Exit 13), then turn left on Taylor Way and proceed south to Marine Drive. From the light at Taylor Way and Marine Drive, follow Marine Drive west for 10.3 km (6.4 miles) to Beacon Lane (watch for the Lighthouse Park sign on you left). Turn left onto Beacon Lane and follow it for 0.3 km (0.2 miles) to the park gate and parking area. [NOTE: Exercise caution when turning left off Marine Drive onto Beacon Lane; this intersection is on top of a hill, and visibility is restricted.]

BIRD SPECIES

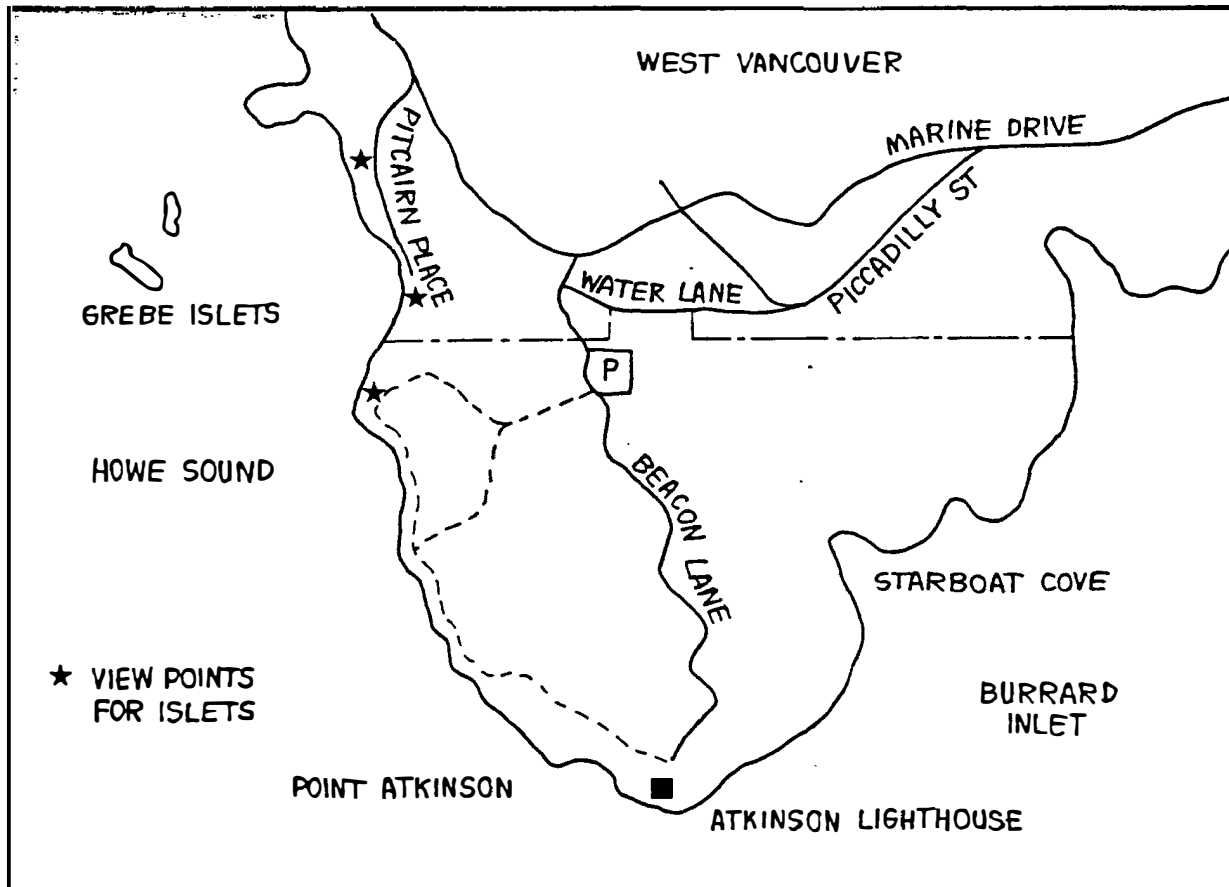
Over 150 species of birds reside in or have visited the park. The park provides a good variety of sea and land birding opportunities, but because of the rugged terrain, visitors must be prepared and alert. Hiking boots or runners will allow you to explore the many steep, rocky trails, while common sense will keep you a safe distance from steep cliffs.

In the interior of the park, the salmonberry and salal ground cover is a favourite haunt of Song Sparrow, Rufous-sided Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, and Winter Wren. As you walk the trails, listen for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bushtit, Varied Thrush, and Hutton's Vireo (most vocal from February-June). The open areas (parking area, near the outdoor theatre and along the service road) are good locations to view the forest canopy for Band-tailed Pigeon, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill. Spring arrivals include Rufous Hummingbird, Violet-green Swallow, Western Tanager, and Swainson's Thrush. Four species of flycatchers summer in the

SITE GUIDE: LIGHTHOUSE PARK, WEST VANCOUVER, BC (Continued)

park. The Hammond's and Pacific-slope Flycatchers prefer the deep forest, the Western Wood-Pewee prefers slightly more open areas, while the Olive-sided Flycatcher will often be found high on a conifer snag. Common Raven, Northwestern Crow, and Steller's Jay are the resident corvids, while Brown Creeper, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Golden-crowned Kinglet all breed in the park and in winter form mixed flocks along with Ruby-crowned Kinglets. In summer, look for Townsend's Warbler high in the conifers, Wilson's and MacGillivray's Warblers lower in the understory where they breed, and Yellow-rumped Warbler which occur mainly as transients. In early spring, one is almost sure to hear the resident Blue Grouse booming. Since these birds often call from high in the trees where they are difficult to see, it is often advantageous to climb a granite outcrop near a calling bird to gain a better viewpoint. Check the snags in the park, as they provide foraging and nesting sites for Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, and Red-breasted Sapsucker. The park offers the opportunity to view a few birds of prey including Bald Eagle, Osprey (migrant), all three species of accipiter, and Northern Pygmy-Owl, which often calls during the daylight hours. On a nocturnal visit, you could also see or hear Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Western Screech-Owl, or Northern Saw-whet Owl.

The best location to see shorebirds in or around the park is the Grebe Islets. They are best viewed on a low tide. The two best areas to view the islets are both outside Lighthouse Park, either at the end of Pitcairn Place or at Indian Bluff in Kloochoon Park. To reach these two areas, return to Marine Drive and turn left. The first left (Howe Sound Lane) leads to Kloochoon Park; the trail to Kloochoon Park begins just past the Byway on your right. The second left off Marine Drive is Pitcairn Place. Black Oystercatchers (resident) are joined in winter by Surf-birds, Black Turnstones and Rock Sandpipers on the islets. Wandering Tattler should be looked for during migration in late summer or fall. If you observe Grebe Islets from Pitcairn Place, check the residential plantings for Anna's Hummingbird (resident) and Townsend's Solitaire (spring migration).



SITE GUIDE: Lighthouse Park, West Vancouver, BC

SITE GUIDE: LIGHTHOUSE PARK, WEST VANCOUVER, BC (Continued)

The cliffs and rock bluffs of the park provide many excellent sites to scan for birds. From Jackpine Point, Common Loons are abundant in winter, with a few summering individuals. Red-throated and Pacific Loons are likely in winter, while Yellow-billed Loon is very rare in winter. From Indian Bluff or Juniper Point, look for the large rafts of Western Grebes and smaller numbers of Red-necked and Horned Grebes which congregate near the Grebe Islets in winter. Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants are common residents of the islets, while Brandt's Cormorants are uncommon in winter. Harlequin Ducks and Surf Scoter can be seen all year while Greater Scaup, Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, and Red-breasted Merganser are present in winter. There are Mew, Thayer's, and Herring Gulls present in the winter, while Bonaparte's Gull can be seen during spring and fall migration. You should also look for Common Tern in the fall. Juniper Point is a good spot to see alcids. Marbled Murrelet and Pigeon Guillemot are park residents, while Common Murre (uncommon) and Rhinoceros Auklet (casual) can be seen during the fall or winter. ◊

EDITORS' NOTE: This account is excerpted, with permission, from A Bird Watching Guide to the Vancouver Area, British Columbia, published in 1993 by Cavendish Books, North Vancouver, and sold at selected bookstores and mail-order bookshops at a suggested retail price of \$11.95. Copyright the Vancouver Natural History Society.

GUIDELINES FOR SITE GUIDES

Site Guides should be about 2-3 pages in length. They should include a map (hand-drawn is fine) with distances to viewing areas clearly indicated from the starting point. Landmarks and terrain should be noted, along with the birds seen in season. Any unusual or special species should be given and a local contact person is always helpful information. Hazards and closed areas should also be indicated so that we may all experience safe birding. Items of historical or geological interest along the route should also be noted. Many birders are interested in a broad range of natural history areas and it is nice to be able to stimulate the grey cells while patiently & quietly awaiting the (possible!?) appearance of an elusive lifebird. ◊

NEW PUBLICATIONS TO WATCH FOR

New Checklist Just Received: George Sirk, Christian Gronau and Fred Zwickel have just completed and published Birds of Cortes and Mitlenatch Islands, British Columbia: A Checklist with Seasonal Graphs. The Editors have just reviewed a copy and found it to be very attractively presented, graphically clear & easy to interpret. Information is included on the islands' vegetation plus some notes on accidental species. Text is complemented with a few excellent drawings. Copies are available (postage paid) for \$4.95 from: Swamp's Edge, PO Box 36, Whaletown, BC V0P 1Z0, or through local outlets on Cortes, Quadra and Vancouver Islands.

Two New Birders Guides for 1993 include A Bird Watching Guide to the Vancouver Area, British Columbia published by the Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS) and A Birders Guide to British Columbia published by Keith Taylor Birdfinding Guides. In this issue we present one site guide from the VNHS publication, the Site Guide: Lighthouse Park, West Vancouver, BC on pages 9-11. The book is a 147 pg paperback edition with clear maps and many good B/W drawings and photos. Keith Taylor's book is a coil-bound paperback of over 300 pages. It also has clear maps plus some good B/W drawings of birds. A word of caution though -- Keith has excluded Vancouver Island from British Columbia!!! If you want a complete birders guide to BC you will need to supplement this book with Keith Taylor's (1990) A Birders Guide to Vancouver Island.

New Book Pending: Tony Greenfield, director of Whiskeyjack Nature Tours, Box 319, Sechelt BC (885-3339) and current president of the Sechelt Marsh Protective Society, is presently working on a book entitled The Birds of the Sunshine Coast. We'll try to keep you posted on it's progress. ◊

**BASIC ELEMENTS OF BIRDING
FOR BEGINNERS -- Part 2 of 2 Parts**

I. Laurie Rockwell
P.O. Box 1584
Summerland, BC V0H 1Z0

Equipment

Now that we've covered the learning process and the "how to", we can turn to the "what to" that is equipment. One thing that makes birding second only to gardening in popularity as a hobby is that it can be as involved, as expensive, as time consuming as one wants to make it. Further, it is very portable, does not require expensive equipment or haute couture clothing and can be undertaken 365 days a year, day or night. And it's fun!

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of getting some tips from an experienced birder on selecting binoculars, scopes, clothing, field guides, reference books and so on. One thing you will find is that birders are eager to share their lore and are very patient with beginners so do not hesitate to ask. We are all beginners at one time.

How do you find these people? Watch for newspaper articles and local T.V. coverage, especially around such events as the annual Christmas Bird Count. Join your local naturalist club -- the Chamber of Commerce can be helpful here. Volunteer to go out on an organized birding outing. Ask people who are active in the outdoors.

Binoculars are the most important part of your equipment. An inexpensive pair (\$50 - \$80) of 7x35 or 8x40 magnification are ideal. They provide good magnification, a large field -- and new technology makes them quite light. I suggest that you substitute a padded supporting strap, such as a camera strap, for the too-narrow strap they come with. Most important, however, is to get instruction on how to focus. I am convinced that many people have tried birding and quit due to eyestrain -- and often headaches -- as a result of improperly focused binoculars. An added note: your vision changes over time so adjust your focus accordingly.

Clothing and footwear choices are as much a factor of common sense as utility and expense. One wants to be dry, warm or cool, and well supported during a day of birding. If you intend to do most birding in a car, on a boat or in your yard, you will place less emphasis on the weather than those of us who combine hiking and birding.

Finally, what field guide to choose? What reference book? Although I have my own preferences, I strongly feel that one needs more than one field guide. All field guides have limitations, even the ones with photographs. Again, get advice. Ask around. Cost can vary from \$15 - \$30 for the general North American guides. Of course, if one is serious about birding, one will want to start a good collection of reference books. These are much more expensive and cumbersome, something for the fireside. Godfrey's Birds of Canada is probably the most practical for the beginner and costs less than \$50. The reference books give much more detail on location, feeding, nesting, biology and descriptions than do field guides. You may want to borrow guides and reference books from your local library to give you an idea of what fits your needs.

Now the fun begins: You have binoculars and books! Now the learning starts, maybe for a lifetime.

Practice, Ethics, Patience

I will end this disquisition by discussing what I call P.E.P. -- Practice, Ethics, Patience.

Practice makes perfect, the old saying goes. This was never more true than in birding. Although as I have said, some of us have more aptitude, we must all hone our skills of observation, recognition and recording. All professionals

BASIC ELEMENTS OF BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS -- Part 2 of 2 Parts (Continued)

practice their craft and we are no different. Make learning fun, a game, not a chore. Be serious about the desire to learn and improve, but smell the flowers, too! Do not worry about how good the others are; challenge yourself and the rest will fall into place.

Join a naturalists' club, subscribe to birding publications (such as this one), build your own library, take courses (Cornell University offers a comprehensive, albeit expensive, correspondence course), buy tapes of bird songs, develop all your senses, keep a notebook and a life list of all your observations. If you cannot identify a bird in the field, make notes and a drawing describing every aspect you can record: weather, location, time, descriptive field marks, habitat, activity, song or call and so on. When you get home, you can experience the fun and pleasure of pouring through guides and reference books until you can say "Ah, ha!"

Ethical birding to me means several things. First, respect for the birds' environment, particularly the birds you are watching. For example, too many visits to a nest site may cause the parents to abandon the eggs or young birds. Focus on the birds' best interests, not yours.

Second, respect for other people's property. Close all fences behind you; do not trample gardens; ask permission to enter another's property -- and thank the owner for the privilege. If someone loans you binoculars, a field guide, a jacket -- return them in the condition you got them in.

Third, respect all of nature around you. Do not litter or pollute; pack out what you pack in. Do not pick the flowers or otherwise interfere with a site. Watch where you walk to avoid crushing our floral and faunal hosts. Never bring home baby birds or animals because the parents cannot be seen. Report any environmental violations, e.g. hunting out of season, abuse by ATV's such as harassing wildlife or ripping up protected areas, dumping of garbage or effluent (water or land).

Finally, ethical birding means that you are first of all true to yourself. If you cannot honestly, in your heart of hearts, say that you saw or heard a bird, do not say you did. It may be tempting especially if it is a "lifer" (i.e. a bird that you have not seen or heard before). I have been fooled more than once by the imitations of starlings and Steller's Jays; now I see the bird before I count it. Just yesterday I saw -- and heard -- a robin making a sound I was "convinced" for the past week was a Cedar Waxwing! I had never before heard this sound in a robin's repertoire. I will add this to my gestalt of birding information. Oh yes, I did not record the waxing and will not until I see it.

Patience is a virtue and there are none so virtuous as birders, unless it's fishermen! Sitting for extended periods, hardly breathing, while you watch a nest; going out rain or shine; waiting quietly for the perfect picture; or watching a hummingbird feed -- and the biggest challenge, going without food or rest as you pursue that elusive lifer!

Do not despair! All this does not await the novice. It is only after one has been completely seduced by this new love that one degenerates to fanaticism; alas, for this there is no cure.

I hope some of my enthusiasm has rubbed off and that you'll take up or re-new this challenge. ☺

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Again many thanks to all correspondents who sent in material for members along with a short personal note to the EDITORS. This is what we like to see! We try to keep current by publishing as much material as received in the issue following receipt. **The IN-BASKET is again empty** so sharpen your pencils and send in your observations, site guides, reports or items of interest. **REMEMBER** the next issue needs as many Christmas Bird Count dates and contact persons as possible. It saves on our phone bills if members mail the information to us, preferably before 15 November 1993. ☺

LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED ON FIELD TRIPS
BCFO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, April 30 to May 2, 1993

Compiled by Derrick Marven

Pacific Loon	Semipalmated Plover	Hairy Woodpecker
Common Loon	Killdeer	Northern Flicker
Red-necked Grebe	Black Oystercatcher	Hammond's Flycatcher
Black-footed Albatross	Greater Yellowlegs	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Laysan Albatross	Lesser Yellowlegs	Tree Swallow
Northern Fulmar	Wandering Tattler	Violet-green Swallow
Sooty Shearwater	Whimbrel	N. Rough-winged Swallow
Short-tailed Shearwater	Marbled Godwit	Barn Swallow
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	Ruddy Turnstone	Steller's Jay
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Black Turnstone	Northwestern Crow
Double-crested Cormorant	Surfbird	Common Raven
Brandt's Cormorant	Red Knot	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Pelagic Cormorant	Sanderling	Winter Wren
Great Blue Heron	Western Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Gtr White-fronted Goose	Least Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Brant	Dunlin	Townsend's Solitaire
Canada Goose	Short-billed Dowitcher	Hermit Thrush
Green-winged Teal	Long-billed Dowitcher	American Robin
Mallard	Red-necked Phalarope	Varied Thrush
Northern Pintail	Bonaparte's Gull	American Pipit
Northern Shoveler	Mew Gull	European Starling
American Wigeon	California Gull	Solitary Vireo
Canvasback	Herring Gull	Hutton's Vireo
Greater Scaup	Thayer's Gull	Warbling Vireo
Harlequin Duck	Western Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler
Oldsquaw	Glaucous-winged Gull	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black Scoter	Black-legged Kittiwake	Townsend's Warbler
Surf Scoter	Sabine's Gull	Wilson's Warbler
White-winged Scoter	Common Murre	Savannah Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Pigeon Guillemot	Fox Sparrow
Bufflehead	Marbled Murrelet	Song Sparrow
Common Merganser	Ancient Murrelet	Lincoln's Sparrow
Red-breasted Merganser	Cassin's Auklet	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Osprey	Rhinoceros Auklet	White-crowned Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Tufted Puffin	Harris' Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Rock Dove	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	Band-tailed Pigeon	Red-winged Blackbird
Peregrine Falcon	Northern Pygmy-Owl	Brown-headed Cowbird
Blue Grouse	Vaux's Swift	Purple Finch
Ruffed Grouse	Rufous Hummingbird	Pine Siskin
Black-bellied Plover	Belted Kingfisher	House Sparrow

Total for the three days was 123 species. ◀

BC FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST SITE GUIDES

TITLE	AUTHOR	VOLUME(#) & DATE
Duck Lake, Creston, BC	Gary S. Davidson	1(2) July 1991
Blackie Spit, Surrey, BC	Jo Ann & Hue MacKenzie	1(2) July 1991
Mckinney Road, Oliver, BC	Richard J. Cannings	1(3) Oct 1991
Cowichan Bay & Duncan, BC	Keith Taylor	1(4) Feb 1992
Monck Provincial Park & Vicinity, BC	Wayne C. Weber	1(4) Feb 1992
Princeton "Outback", BC	R.J. Herzig, M. Schouten	2(1) & 2(2) 1992
Hecate Strait, BC	D.V. (Val) George	2(3/4) Dec 1992
Island View Beach, Saanich, BC	Bruce Whittington	2(3/4) Dec 1992
Lower Sunshine Coast, BC	A.G. (Tony) Greenfield	2(3/4) Dec 1992
Shoemaker Bay, Port Alberni, BC	Sandy McRuer	3(1) Mar 1993
Vernon Area Hotspots, Vernon, BC	Elsie Nykyfork	3(2) June 1993
Fort St. John Area, BC	D.V. (Val) George	3(3) Sept 1993
Lighthouse Park, West Vancouver, BC	Danny Tyson	3(3) Sept '93

A CASUAL ENCOUNTER

by Sandy McRuer
Port Alberni, BC

Although it was last April third, I remember my encounter with a Say's Phoebe as if it was yesterday. It was about seven in the morning at Rath Trevor Beach near Parksville on Vancouver Island. We had been up since 4:00 am to participate in Parksville/Qualicum's Brant Festival Big Day. It was a cool overcast day. I was ahead of my team and was waiting at the vehicle for them to return. I thought, while I was waiting, I would look around a bit.

We were parked in the public parking area just before the campground. It is quite open there with lots of grass, a few wild roses and other bushes bordered by Douglas fir and other grand fir woods. I was walking towards a patch of alder when a bird flew overhead.

"Just a robin", I remember thinking, and then "No, wait ...". It wasn't flying like a robin. It was flying with a flap, flap, glide. My curiosity piqued, I walked over to where it had landed near the top of a young Douglas fir. Again, I thought "Yup, it's just a robin." Still something made me stick with it as it flew to another tree further away toward the beach.

"It's too small for a robin, but what is it?", I said to myself. I wasn't close enough to get a good look yet, but I saw a ruddy tinge which made me think it could still be a robin. I approached it and it flew to a bush near the edge of the beach. I realized I was spooking it and continued to approach it more cautiously.

It seemed more comfortable in this bush and I was able to get about 20 feet away. I discerned a big-headed profile -- a flycatcher! My excitement rose as I realized I was looking at the 'Bird of the Day' even though I still didn't know what it was! Still, no flycatcher should be here this early, not an Empid, nor an Olive-sided. Although the size was right for an Olive-sided, the ruddy belly eliminated it. By now I knew that I was looking at an accidental or at least a casual migrant. "What is it!" I asked in frustration. My bird book was locked in my team mates' van. All I could do was carefully observe the bird's field marks.

Dark brown wings, especially the wing-tips; dark brown back; the head lighter brown; and the breast buffy -- it was like most flycatchers, rather dull in plumage. "Oh, it's making a noise", I suddenly realized. I had been hearing a kind of whistle, a little like a Mew Gull in the distance -- a sound I was expecting to hear in this environment. However, the single-note whistle was coming from the mystery bird. For sure it wasn't an Olive-sided Flycatcher.

"Darn! When are Shirley and Don going to get here?" I wondered. "Should I go and get them? No, I'll lose the bird. Still, it seems fairly content to stay where it is for the moment. I need corroboration. Someone else must see this bird!" These thoughts raced through my mind. Finally I decided to look for them.

Off I went at a jog in my gumboots, my binoculars bouncing on my chest. I looked around for a while and realized I must have missed them. I raced back to the van. I was totally exhausted when I found them there but I rushed up and announced that I had seen the Bird of the Day. Sceptically, they asked "What is it?"

"I don't know", I said. "It's a flycatcher. It flew flap, flap, glide!" I was getting a little incoherent in my excitement.

"Could it be a Say's Phoebe?" Don said.

"I don't know, but it was over there." I pointed to the bush. Up popped the bird from the grass for everyone to see and it gave its whistle. Finally the van was open. I groped for my book and turned to flycatchers. There it was, a Say's Phoebe, just like the bird I had seen right down to the description of the voice.

I spent the rest of the day on a high. We won the competition with one hundred species and the best water bird but the real thrill for me was to have discovered such a bird so far from its usual range in the B.C. interior.◊

SITE GUIDE: FORT ST. JOHN AREA

by D V (Val) George
4904 Gair Avenue
Terrace, BC V8G 2K2

This site guide describes some of the more interesting birding areas in the Fort St. John region. It's written for B.C. birders who would like to find species that are relatively common in the northeast part of the province but rare or absent elsewhere. In particular, locations are given for "eastern" species whose ranges don't normally extend into other parts of the province.

Fort St. John Sewage Ponds

The Fort St. John sewage ponds are a short distance east of the town. This is an excellent area for migrant shorebirds. It is almost certainly the best shorebird observing area in the Peace River region of the province. The ponds are reached by driving east out of town along 100 Avenue towards the airport. The road soon crosses a railway, then makes an 'S' turn. Look in this area for Common Grackles that can sometimes be found here. The 259 Road joins the main road at the 'S' curve. Turn left on this road and follow it for a short distance until you see the sewage lagoons on your left hand side. You can drive up to the gate and park.

The best time to visit the lagoons is July to early September. This is when migrant shorebirds are passing through. May and June are also months when the lagoons are worth visiting. As well as birds that are commonly seen by birders from outside the region, you may see Stilt Sandpiper, Lesser Golden Plover, and Hudsonian Godwit. Other rarer shorebirds have been recorded in recent years including, White-rumped Sandpiper, Ruff, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Curlew Sandpiper. Possible sightings in the reed beds are Le Conte's Sparrow and Common Grackle.

Charlie Lake

Charlie Lake is about 8 km northwest of Fort St. John. The lake harbours many ducks, grebes and gulls in spring and summer. Hundreds of gulls may be seen in June and July. These will probably include Bonaparte's, Ring-bill, California, Herring and Franklin's. The trees and bushes surrounding the lake are excellent places to find warblers and sparrows, as well as other species not commonly seen by birders from other parts of the province. The Peace River country, of course, lies east of the Rockies, so the ranges of some of the eastern Canadian birds extend into this area. One of the best places to look is Beaton Park on the shores of the lake.

You get to the park by driving northeast from Fort St. John along the Alaska Highway. About 3.5 km along the highway you come to 271 Road on the right. Turn right and proceed about 8 km, then turn left down a hill. About another kilometre takes you into the park. The park is signposted from the Alaska Highway so you can't get lost.

The whole area is good for birds, both for breeders in spring and summer and migrants in late August and September. The vegetation along the lakeshore is usually particularly productive. Early morning is the most pleasant time for birders, since the birds are most, and the park visitors least, active then. In spring and summer you should look for several species of eastern warblers: Bay-breasted, Cape May, Black and White, and Black-throated Green. During migration you may also see Magnolia, Blackpoll, and Palm Warblers. Other birds present in the park are: Least Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, White-throated Sparrow, Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Ovenbirds & Northern Waterthrushes may be found in the underbrush if carefully looked and listened for.

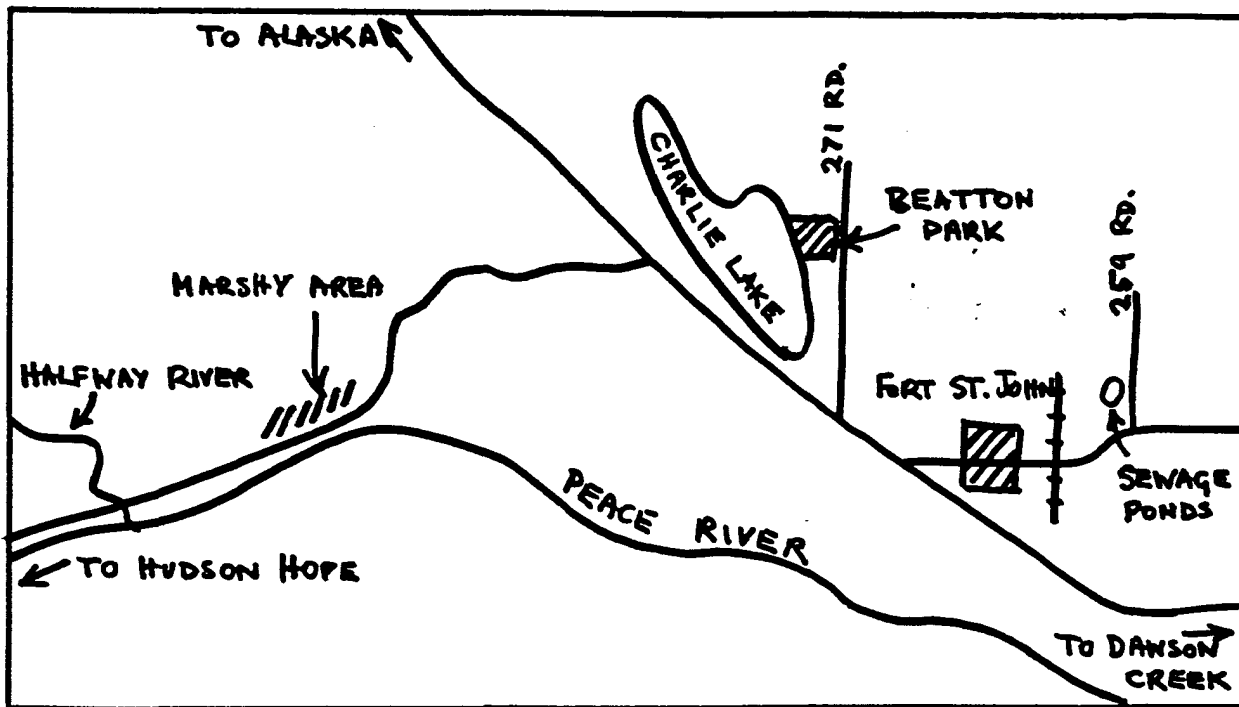
A bird that is becoming increasingly common in the northeast part of the province is the Blue Jay. Beaton Park and the Charlie Lake area in general are places where these noisy birds may be found. Two other breeders in the park worth noting are Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Eastern Phoebe.

SITE GUIDE: FORT ST. JOHN AREA (Continued)**Fort St. John to Hudson Hope**

Highway 29 from Fort St. John to Hudson Hope joins the Alaska Highway about 11 km northwest of Fort St. John. This highway follows the north bank of the Peace and provides a very scenic drive. The country is open grasslands and aspen parklands with cottonwood and white spruce in the river bottom.

About 21 km from the junction with the Alaska Highway is a marshy area with beaver ponds that affords a home for breeding waterfowl, Common Snipe, and Soras. The main attraction of this area for outside birders, however, is the variety of sparrows to be found here. As well as the more widespread species, you should be able to find White-throated, American Tree, and Swamp. Clay-coloured Sparrows can be seen here, as well as in many other places along the highway. Two other birds that, though not common, can sometimes be seen from this highway are Northern Goshawk and Golden Eagle.

Another site that is worth stopping at is the mouth of the Halfway River where it enters the Peace. This is about 39 km west of the Alaska Highway junction. Some of the eastern warblers can sometimes be found here. This is another area to look for Blue Jays. It is also a good area for woodpeckers. Three-toed and Pileated Woodpeckers are commonly seen, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are possible.

**SITE GUIDE: FORT ST. JOHN AREA**

EDITORS' NOTE: Although Val George does not live in the Fort St. John region he has travelled there frequently on business and is quite familiar with the sites he has described. Val's site guide gives us itchy feet to visit the Peace area since many of the birds he describes are NOT on our life lists. Thanks for describing this area for us and for your earlier site guide of Hecate Strait (Vol 2, No 3/4). ◀

BIRD-LISTER'S CORNER

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

The listing totals below, for National Parks, Provincial Parks, and local checklist areas, are based on the Listing Report Forms returned to me, plus a few totals that were phoned in. Another Listing Report Form will be sent out with the next issue of the **British Columbia Field Ornithologist**. Thereafter, we will continue to send out Listing Report Forms once a year, and print a few pages of listing totals in every second issue. We hope this will be satisfactory to everyone.

Several reports were submitted of lists for local areas around Vancouver, but to avoid undue emphasis on the Vancouver area and to keep the length of this report reasonable, they are not included here.

List totals published here are as of December 31, 1992, except for those marked with an asterisk (*), which were submitted in 1991 and not updated in 1992.

LISTING DATA: DECEMBER 1992

NATIONAL PARKSTOTAL (%) BIRDER

PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK
(254 species)

167* (66%) David Stirling

YOHO NATIONAL PARK
(206 species)

179* (87%) Rick Howie
125 (61%) Wayne Weber

PROVINCIAL PARKS

BOWRON LAKES (132 species)

128 (97%) Bob Morford
106 (80%) Kevin MacPherson

GARIBALDI (126 species)

73 (58%) Mike McGrenere

GOLDEN EARS (135 species)

111 (82%) Al Grass
70 (52%) Wayne Weber

MANNING (206 species)

125 (61%) Wayne Weber
119 (58%) Mike McGrenere
100* (49%) David Stirling
98 (48%) Jo Ann MacKenzie

MIRACLE BEACH (160 species)

159* (99%) David Stirling

MITLENATCH ISLAND (126 species)

110* (87%) David Stirling

PROVINCIAL PARKS (Continued)TOTAL (%) BIRDER

MOUNT ROBSON (168 species)

147 (88%) Richard Cannings
123 (73%) Cathy Antoniazzi
120* (71%) David Stirling
117 (70%) Don Wilson

MOUNT SEYMOUR (116 species)

104 (87%) Al Grass
85 (73%) Wayne Weber

STRATHCONA (136 species)

100 (74%) Emily Watts

LOCAL CHECKLIST AREAS

CRESTON (250 species)

163* (65%) Linda Van Damme
128 (51%) Wayne Weber

KAMLOOPS (270 species)

250* (93%) Rick Howie
193 (71%) Ken Taylor
187 (69%) Wayne Weber
134 (50%) Andy Buhler
134 (50%) Marilyn Buhler

NORTH OKANAGAN (277 species)

270 (97%) Mary Collins
241 (87%) Chris Siddle
208 (75%) Elsie Nykyfork
162 (58%) Laurie Rockwell
148 (53%) Lloyd Esralson

TOTAL (%) BIRDER

OKANAGAN VALLEY (306 species)

279 (91%) Mary Collins
 274 (90%) Richard Cannings
 263 (86%) Denise Brownlie
 261 (85%) Chris Siddle
 246 (80%) Wayne Weber
 242 (79%) Laurie Rockwell
 236 (77%) Gary Davidson
 235 (77%) Don Wilson
 229 (75%) Elsie Nykyfork
 225* (74%) David Stirling
 216 (71%) Jo Ann MacKenzie
 213 (70%) Hue MacKenzie
 208* (68%) Doug Kragh
 206 (67%) Tom Plath
 204 (67%) Mike McGrenere
 203 (66%) Tony Greenfield
 191 (62%) Audrey Viken
 179* (58%) Linda Van Damme
 165 (54%) Danny Tyson
 159 (52%) Lloyd Esralson
 156 (51%) Bryan Gates
 152* (50%) Chris Sandham

PEACE RIVER AREA (271 species)

252 (93%) Chris Siddle
 196 (72%) Tony Greenfield
 165 (61%) Tom Plath
 164 (61%) Wayne Weber
 150* (55%) David Stirling
 143 (53%) Jo Ann MacKenzie

PRINCE GEORGE AREA (214 species)

212 (99%) Cathy Antoniazzi
 167 (78%) Don Wilson
 110 (51%) Wayne Weber

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS (222 species)

188* (85%) Peter Hamel
 107 (48%) Richard Cannings

REVELSTOKE AREA (241 species)

145 (60%) Wayne Weber

SUNSHINE COAST (232 species)

237 (102%) Tony Greenfield
 206 (89%) Arnold Skei
 121 (52%) Wayne Weber
 120 (52%) Tom Plath
 119 (51%) Andy Buhler
 119 (51%) Marilyn Buhler

VANCOUVER (364 species)

315 (87%) Wayne Weber
 307* (84%) Mike Force
 303 (83%) Jo Ann MacKenzie
 299 (82%) Hue MacKenzie
 297* (82%) Doug Kragh
 292 (80%) Tom Plath

TOTAL (%) BIRDER

VANCOUVER (Continued)

288 (79%) Danny Tyson
 279 (77%) Eric MacBean
 273 (75%) Richard Cannings
 273 (75%) Stefan Zarembo
 271 (74%) Jack Williams
 269* (74%) Rick Tyson
 267 (73%) Audrey Viken
 261 (71%) Lloyd Esralson
 252 (69%) Mike McGrenere
 242 (66%) Kevin MacPherson
 241 (66%) David Allinson
 227* (62%) David Stirling
 214 (58%) Bryan Gates
 210 (58%) Richard Wakelam

VANCOUVER ISLAND (366 species)

306* (84%) David Stirling
 288 (79%) Bryan Gates
 284 (78%) Barbara Begg
 283 (77%) Mike McGrenere
 282 (77%) Hank Vander Pol
 249 (68%) David Allinson
 248 (68%) Aziza Cooper
 247 (67%) Wayne Weber
 244 (67%) Ken Morgan
 237 (65%) Jack Williams
 236* (64%) Chris Sandham
 233 (64%) Tom Plath
 210 (57%) Jo Ann MacKenzie
 209* (57%) Doug Kragh
 209 (57%) Hue MacKenzie
 202* (55%) Rick Howie
 184 (50%) Danny Tyson

VICTORIA AREA (331 species)

295* (89%) David Stirling
 277 (84%) Bryan Gates
 276 (83%) Hank Vander Pol
 274 (83%) Barbara Begg
 267 (81%) Mike McGrenere
 235 (71%) David Allinson
 235* (71%) Chris Sandham
 232 (70%) Aziza Cooper
 230 (69%) Wayne Weber
 208 (63%) Tom Gillespie
 205 (62%) Tom Plath
 176 (53%) Andy Buhler
 176 (53%) Marilyn Buhler

WEST KOOTENAY (284 species)

253 (89%) Gary Davidson
 222* (78%) Linda Van Damme
 182 (64%) Chris Siddle
 173 (61%) Wayne Weber

ADDITIONAL AREAS WITHIN B.C.

ABOVE 1500 METRES ALTITUDE IN B.C.
 99 Mike McGrenere
 91 Wayne Weber
 89 Richard Cannings

TOTAL	BIRDER
NICOLA DRAINAGE BASIN	
188	Wayne Weber
100 MILE HOUSE AREA	
175	Laurie Rockwell
PRINCETON AREA	
201	Jerry Herzig
160*	Madelon Schouten
SQUAMISH AREA	
195*	Peter Axhorn
NORTHWESTERN B.C.	
186	Val George

TOTAL	BIRDER
YARD LISTS	
180	Allen Poynter
118	Barbara Begg
102	Jerry Herzig
98	Bryan Gates
94	David Allinson
90	Elsie Nykyfork
80	Danny Tyson
71	Dudley Godfrey
64	David Stirling
61	Richard Wakelam

EDITORS' NOTE: Format for listings was changed from Wayne's submission in order to allow space for listing stats plus other reports sent in by members. All of the listing data we received (except addresses) is given. Comments about using this format??

AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE:

Richard (Dick) J. Cannings

An avid birder, Dick is curator of the Cowan Vertebrate Museum at the University of British Columbia. He is actively involved in the Vancouver Natural History Society and, with his brothers, was co-author of Birds of the Okanagan Valley.

D.V. (Val) George

A birder since his teens, Mr. Val George has been a frequent ferry traveller and pelagic bird observer on the northern coast of B.C. He has also made frequent business/birding ventures into the Fort St John area.

Sandy McRuer

Currently a Forester with the BC government, Sandy has lived in Port Alberni for 8 years. He has taught a course on birding and is involved with the Alberni Valley Naturalist Society.

Elsie Nykyfork

A true naturalist, Elsie has compiled a plant species Herbarium for Shuswap Lake Provincial Park Nature House, monitors bluebird & duck nest boxes and has been an Ecological Reserve Warden, a volunteer park Naturalist and an FBCN Camp Director.

I. Laurie Rockwell

Laurie Rockwell had early tutelage in birding from Jim Grant around the 100 Mile House area. He currently lives in Summerland and is an active member of the South Okanagan Naturalists.

Danny Tyson

Danny has birded for a number of years and also leads field trips with the Vancouver Natural History Society. He is currently contracted to the British Columbia Forest Service to undertake bird surveys in various areas of B.C.

MISSING MEMBERS

We have lost contact with the following former BCFO members. Their copies of **BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS** were returned to the Journal Editor with address unknown. If any current members know the whereabouts of the following persons would you please contact the Membership Secretary, Lloyd Esralson (address on page 2):

Christopher Benger, Mike Dorey, Andrew Fedoruk, Ann Pocknell, Kerry Wilson