

BRITISH COLUMBIA

FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST

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The **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST** is published four times a year by **British Columbia Field Ornithologists, PO Box 8059, Victoria, BC V8W 3R7**. A subscription to this periodical is a benefit of membership in the society. Members will also receive a copy of the annual journal, **BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS**.

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 (two 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 to Michael Shepard, Membership, **British Columbia Field Ornithologists, PO Box 8059, Victoria, BC V8W 3R7**.

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Distribution of **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST**: Allen Wiseleya

EDITORS' NOTES AND NOTIONS

Did you have fun in Kamloops? We certainly did! On behalf of all members we would like to extend a very big THANK YOU to Rick, Marian, and the many other organizers and assistants for a successful and enjoyable Fourth BCFO AGM. We learned a lot about forestry and birds. We found the speakers and their presentations were very professional. Thanks especially to Nancy Flood for both education AND entertainment. Orioles and Ornithologist's field work took on a whole new meaning at the banquet. Thanks to both Rachel & Bruce for the displays of carvings, birding gear and books. On a personal note thanks to RB & JH for sharing birds and vehicle. Also a sincere thank you to retiring board members for guidance of the organization and welcome to members who have stepped forward to direct the BCFO for the coming year. (SEE BELOW)

Well, this issue is back to the standard 20 pages but we have tried to pack them with many interesting and informative presentations from our members. This issue has a SITE GUIDE to several great sites in the Kelowna area. It was prepared as a joint project by two BCFO members. If you haven't sent us a SITE GUIDE or report yet grab a birding/writer friend, put your heads together and see what you can do. We have several reports which share some the excitement and delight of discovery of rare visitors to BC; several submissions on the pleasures of birds and birding; a clarification? of what CBCs really are; a note on Canada Goose nesting behavior; a report which reminds us that we must be alert at all times since interesting birds may show up when least expected; answers to Chris Siddle's hawk silhouettes; and the British Columbia / Canada totals and percentages for our bird-listing members.

At the AGM Marilyn and I put out a questionnaire which asked members what they would like see in future newsletters. We needed input so that we can approach members to provide materials which are interesting to a majority of our readership. From the 17 questionnaires returned it would seem that respondents feel the types of features we currently provide are OK but they would not be adverse to a few more SITE GUIDES and a few more UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS. When we asked about suggested new items we heard that respondents would really like BIRD BEHAVIOR and BIRD IDENTIFICATION TIPS and RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS. They would not be adverse to occasional ADVERTISING, BIOGRAPHIES, OUT OF PROVINCE BIRDING, QUIZZES & POETRY, and TOOLS OF THE TRADE. We got a strong "NO" to PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS and a weaker "no" to CONSERVATION ARTICLES as these are covered by other publications. Is this what YOU want?? Write today!!

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

compiled by Wayne C Weber

- June 13-19, 1994 **AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL CONVENTION**, Minot, North Dakota. Write to: AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934, or phone 1-800-835-2473 (toll-free).
- June 17-19, 1994 **OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING** at Southern Oregon State College, Ashland, OR. Contact Colin Dillingham, 437 Azalea Park Road, Brookings, OR 97415, or phone (503) 469-9624.
- June 17-19, 1994 **TWELFTH ANNUAL MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ**. Join this cooperative count of birds in Manning Provincial Park. As in previous years, the Park's group campground at Lone Duck Bay will be reserved for participants. For further information contact park interpreter Michael Tilitzky at 105-985 Jervis St, Vancouver, BC V6E 2B7 (phone 687-4681), or phone Manning Park office (604) 840-8836.
- June 21-26, 1994 **JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS** of AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, and COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at the University of Montana, Missoula. Contact Dr Donald Jenni, Biology Dept, Univ. of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. Phone (406) 243-5823.
- July 24-30, 1994 **ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Write to: James C. Ha, Regional Primate Research Center, 1-421 Health Sciences Building, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.
- Aug. 21-27, 1994 **TWENTY-FIRST INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, to be held in Vienna, Austria. Write: INTERCONVENTION, A-1450 Vienna, Austria.
- Sept. 9-11, 1994 **WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (WOS) ANNUAL MEETING**, Long Beach, Washington (close to Leadbetter Point, an outstanding shorebird spot). For details, contact WOS at PO Box 85786, Seattle, WA 98145, or phone Tom Schooley at (206) 357-8851.
- Sept. 23-25, 1994 **WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING**, Morro Bay, CA. For details: Robert McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373.
- Oct. 22-26, 1994 **SYMPOSIUM ON URBAN WILDLIFE**, Bellevue, Washington. For details contact: Lowell Adams, National Institute for Urban Wildlife, 10921 Trotting Ridge Way, Columbia, MD 21044, (301) 596-3311. ◀

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON NORTHWESTERN BIRDS

compiled by Wayne C. Weber

- SHOREBIRDS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**, by Dennis R. Paulson. 1993. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 406 pp., cloth (\$49.95).
- BIRD WATCHING GUIDE TO THE VANCOUVER AREA**, by the Vancouver Natural History Society. 1993. Cavendish Books, North Vancouver. 147 pp., paperback, spiral bound (\$12.95).
- A BIRDFINDING GUIDE TO THE CALGARY REGION**, by Joan F. McDonald (ed.) 1993. Calgary Field Naturalists' Society. 200 pp., paperback, spiral bound. (\$15.95).
- A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO THE KLAMATH BASIN**, by Steve Summers. 1994. Published by the author. 85 pp., paperback, spiral bound (US\$10.00).
- A GUIDE TO FEEDING WINTER BIRDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**, by Bob Waldon. 1992. Whitecap Books, Vancouver. 261 pp., paperback (\$15.95).
- BIRDS OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON: AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST FOR UNION & WALLOWA COUNTIES**, 2nd ed., by J Evanich, Jr. 1992. Oregon Field Ornithologists Special Publ. No. 6. 67 pp., paperback (US\$5.00). ◀

SOCIETY NEWS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Marian Porter

I consider the loss of Wayne Weber and Rick Howie from the Board of Directors with great regret and I wish them all the best with their new ventures in 1994. Wayne was a founding member of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists (BCFO). Rick Howie, also involved with the inception of BCFO, was a major contributor to success of the 1994 Annual General Meeting in Kamloops. Their past work and their continued involvement with the organization is greatly appreciated.

I would like to welcome three new individuals who, with varied backgrounds, add a wealth of experience to the Board of Directors. Tony Greenfield, president of Whiskyjack Reforestation Ltd based in Sechelt, has been involved with the Sechelt Marsh Protective Society for many years and was president of the Society for several of those years. I look forward to working with Tony as our latest BCFO vice-president. Martin McNicholl has a long history of involvement with ornithological organizations; the Long Point Observatory in Ontario and international bird banding projects such as the Canadian Wildlife Service Latin American Program. His experience as the Editor with the Federation of Alberta Naturalists makes him a welcome addition to the Editorial Board of the journal. Ken Morgan is a biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service. As a principal author of the Atlas of Pelagic Birds of British Columbia he has a great enthusiasm & expertise in offshore birding.

We would also like to thank those board members who allowed their names to stand and have been reelected for another term. We look forward to the continued expertise and commitment of: John Dorsey (Treasurer), Lloyd Esralson (Secretary), Mike McGrenere (Past President), Michael Shepard (Membership) and Allen Wisely (Director at Large plus Newsletter Distribution).

The next year can only bring the BCFO its greatest achievement given the solid foundation of the 1994 Board of Directors. Thank you all for electing us and we look forward to a very productive year. ◀

EDITORS' NOTE: Thanks also to Marian Porter for standing as our President for 1994. She also did a lot of work on the AGM and she served as a BCFO director during 1993. On a personal note Tony introduced your editors to birding in Sechelt when we joined him as recorders on a rather cold, wet CBC back in 1982. See his **SITE GUIDE: Lower Sunshine Coast** (BCFO. Dec 1992, 2(3/4): 24-29). Ken Morgan recently provided our readership with an enjoyable and informative trip log of his crossing of the Gulf of Alaska (BCFO. Dec 1993, 3(4): 15-18).

A full report of the Fourth AGM in Kamloops will appear in a future issue. Readers might like to send us some anecdotes about the AGM in order to entice those members who missed this AGM to support us at our next AGM. With all those trips and presentations laid on in Kamloops each of you AGM attendees **MUST** have something you would like to tell other members about. Sure you have -- write it up now so we don't have to bug you for it later when you may have forgotten some of the details!!

BACK ISSUES FOR SALE:

If you would like back issues of the journal, **British Columbia Birds** (Vol. 1, 1991) please send a cheque for \$8.00 per copy (includes postage) to: **Hue MacKenzie**, 15341 21st Avenue, South Surrey, BC V4A 6A8. Some back issues of the newsletter, the **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST**, are available and can be ordered for \$2.00 per issue (\$8.00 for an annual set of four issues) from **Allen Wiseley**, 1881 Grandview Drive, Victoria, BC V8N 2T8. Make all cheques payable to BC Field Ornithologists.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DELKATLA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, on Mar 25, 1994, received notification of joint Federal / Provincial participation in this restoration project. While the Federal Government will be providing \$200,000 through the Environmental Partner's Fund, the Provincial Government will provide \$168,000 from BC Environment's Habitat Conservation Fund & an additional \$200,000 in design and supervision from the Ministry of Transportation and Highways. These funds supplement about \$400,000 raised through the community and a variety of other agencies. The project will restore tidal flows to Delkatla Inlet by replacing a 33 metre section of causeway with a bridge. This will in turn restore critical bird and fish habitat by returning the area to saltwater marshland.

PELAGIC BIRDING TRIPS FROM WESTPORT, WASHINGTON for 1994 are scheduled for July 9 and 16; August 6, 13, 20, and 27; September 1, 10, 11, and 24; and October 8 and 9. Cost is \$70 (US) per person. For further information, or to make a reservation, write T.R. Wahl, 3041 Eldridge, Bellingham, WA 98225, or phone (206) 733-8255. Spaces fill up quickly, so reserve early!

PELAGIC BIRDING TRIPS FROM UCLUELET, BC are operated by the Western Institute of Global Studies (WIGS), 1241 Broad Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 2A4. These trips are organized by Michael and Cynthia Shepard. Scheduled dates for 1994 are July 23, August 20, September 3, October 8, and November 12. Costs of these trips vary from \$120 to \$160, depending on the date; however, early booking discounts of \$10 to \$30 are available, and an additional \$10 discount is offered to members of WIGS. For additional information, please write WIGS at the address above, or phone 388-4227.

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

Contact: Pacific Flyway Project, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. (415) 868-1221. [FAX (415) 868-1946]

THE CANADIAN LAKES LOON SURVEY, coordinated by the Long Point Bird Observatory, has operated on a nation-wide basis since 1990. Its aims are to monitor Common Loon breeding populations across Canada; to assess the effects of acid precipitation and of human disturbance on loon breeding success; and to measure changes in habitat quality, using loons as an indicator species. B.C. has been thinly covered to date, and many more BC observers are needed.

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

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

BC NEST RECORD PROGRAM: There is still time to participate in this valuable project, intended to gather as much information as possible on all species of birds nesting in BC, especially on nesting success and breeding distribution. For further details, see the announcement in the March 1994 issue of the **B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST**. A detailed report on the results for 1991 and 1992 appeared in the **B.C. Naturalist** for May/June 1994. Participants are asked to send in their completed nest record cards for 1994 by October 1, if possible, to: Margaret Harris, PO Box 10, Penticton, BC V2A 6J9 (phone 492-8958). ◀

Anna's Hummingbird

Joan King
RR #1
Oliver, BC V0H 1T0

Anna's Hummingbirds extended their territory from California into Oregon in the 1960's & British Columbia in the 1970's. By 1974 several records were recorded in the Okanagan Valley, particularly in the fall months. Our tiny stranger was first observed in October 1992. Due to the hectic harvest time the feeders were left out with an inch of nectar remaining in them. There were also lots of flowers left in the surrounding area. The Cannings observed the bird hawking on November 11. By now it was downright chilly and we were taking out fresh nectar to the feeder each morning. We agonized over the ethics of continuing to feed our visitor but were assured they really don't migrate and to continue feeding.

As the days went by we considered vitamin and mineral supplements and whether or not we would do more harm than good. I purchased two small feeders and got some mineral supplement for parrots from our daughter (the vet). We also read that a man in South America added a drop or two of beef blood to his sugar feed when he raised hummingbirds in captivity -- how much blood to how much nectar? My husband, Harold, even volunteered his own to the cause. But by this time it had become colder and on December 13, 1992 our Anna's Hummingbird disappeared.

In the summer of 1993 we had the usual Rufous Hummingbirds and Black-chinned Hummingbirds at the farm. In early July the Rufous males became very aggressive chasing away the Black-chinned. We came to their defense by adding three more feeders to the two we usually hang in time for the first flush of young birds. This sight was enjoyed by many of the Federation of BC Naturalists who visited during their conference. Our garden is planted with as many hummingbird flowers as possible. The most popular seem to be geraniums, petunias, salvia, and gladiolus.

In August 1993 I spotted our Anna's Hummingbird and when the leaves dropped on October 1993 there he was using the same perches as in 1992. He would answer my calls when I went out in the morning. There was another Anna's Hummingbird reported in Oliver at this time but it left early in December. Ours stayed, with our help.

Changing the feeder every two hours kept us busy and we began to wonder if we would be able to count it on December 28, Christmas Bird Count Day. The temperature dropped to -10° C that day and there he was right on cue. On December 29 at 8:00 AM, temperature -12° C, the bird met the feeder as I went to hang it up -- but what was this? His beak was slightly open with a bubble of ice and he couldn't get into the feeding hole. Out again, I removed the bee guards and back he came and dived into feed through the enlarged hole. After almost "inhaling" a feed he disappeared and we never saw him again. I kept up my pilgrimage for two or three days but our friend was gone. This year may have been relatively mild but even our wild things cannot predict future weather conditions.

In 1992 I rescued a Calliope Hummingbird in the greenhouse. It was frantically fluttering near the plastic roof and I was fortunate to catch it without scaring it even more. It's tiny beak protruded from my closed hands but I couldn't feel it on my palms it was so small. After showing it to Harold and a friend I opened my hands and it was gone. Such a precious memory. ☹

Barbara Chapman Award Recipients

The Barbara Chapman Award is given to one or more young naturalists in B.C. who have demonstrated outstanding interest and achievement in the field of natural history. The award is given in memory of Barbara Chapman, a former Glacier National Park naturalist. Recipients of the award are selected by the F.B.C.N. from nominations received from naturalist organizations throughout the province. [David Allinson].

In 1994 four young naturalists received the Barbara Chapman Award. Projects which these young naturalists were involved in included: important recordings of flora and fauna at Colony Farm; extensive bird sightings and records at Chichester Bird Sanctuary; a report on impact of Caren Range forestry practices; and a report on the status of the American Black Duck on Vancouver Island. Congratulations to Ryan Austman, Chris Charlesworth, Rolf Harrison & Chris Sandham from all BCFO members. ☹

The Mystery of Christmas Bird Counts

Inez L. Weston
Mill Bay, BC

I've often wondered why so many people desert family, friends and the comforts of home in winter to join a Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year I took part in three counts and I believe I have the answer. It took a bit of patience nevertheless.

Goldstream was the first CBC -- everyone's most wanted area to bird at Christmas. There were people racing up and over Mt. Finlayson, up to the railway tracks, down to the estuary, and around the dipper rocks. About 10:00 am birders started arriving on the lawns opposite the Nature House. Coolers were carried over (an average of one cooler/two people). The scopes were set up and binoculars carefully placed on the tables. Visitors and pets were welcomed. Occasionally someone would call out such things as Northern Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, Golden Eagle, etc. (well, if not this year, on other years). No one was too serious until about 3:00 pm then there was another flurry of activity down to the estuary, up the mountain, and so on. In this fashion, Goldstream's record was broken this year by about 10 species.

Our second CBC was Bamfield which is, of course, becoming famous for its Wine and Dine New Year Sit-in. It took an extra day this year. There was not one single snowflake -- just rain, and more rain, in fact, never-ending rain! With luck we had partly dried clothes in the morning, slightly wetter ones in the afternoon, but always one dry set for the evening entertainment. Some of us were lucky enough to get two boat trips, and so get thoroughly, totally and completely wet. One close member of my family was heard to say, "I simply can't see the birds -- the water is pouring onto my face, glasses and binoculars". We just looked at him in surprise: he sounded serious! I can't recall mention of totals, records and such, although I am told this did happen. I believe two new species were added to the CBC list -- what better opportunity! We had a really wonderful weekend and I can't believe hundreds of BCFO members miss out on this excitement every year.

The third count was Duncan -- a really serious affair. Derrick Marven had a long and gloomy face before count day. Upon enquiry we heard "I won't be able to do some areas. I'm short of people ...". This broke our hearts so we offered to help. The Monday before count day Derrick arrive with maps and lists. I was in bed with the 'flu but Derrick didn't even notice. He marked crosses on the map and said, "That's where you'll find 5 to 6 hundred blackbirds, look for the Rusty Blackbird. Here at this feeder are Evening Grosbeaks. Over here you'll find...". I became weaker every minute. As the week progressed we wondered how we could manage an area about half the size of the Cowichan Valley. On Christmas Day and Boxing Day we looked for the blackbirds. As there were none to be seen, we decided we had got up too late.

Come Count Day we set out at 7:45 am determined to do our best. However, there were no Blackbirds, no Starlings, no Evening Grosbeaks -- no birds of any kind on the fields. Tom said, "Well you must have the wrong side of the road, let's check where the crosses are." All we managed was one Ring-necked Pheasant so we set off for the forest lands. As the hours went by our spirits got lower and lower. We stopped for lunch at a lovely corner, with pretty trees, sunlight, and no birds. We decided to turn down a road marked "Dead End" because that's about how we felt by this time. Then some flickers flew across the road -- we couldn't believe our luck. Then a few more birds, and the day brightened. At 4:00 pm we hurried back to the Duncan Railway Station, and Meeting Room with our list which had grown a bit (but no Blackbirds).

We came to a room full of people, all eating, talking and laughing. We looked for another room. But no, the arrows led us back to the one where the party was. There were the birders, all dry, warm and happy looking. We saw many well-known Victoria birders, Duncan birders, people we didn't know, but they were all having a great time. We heard of birders on Mt. Prevost, birders on Cobble Hill, birders still out to sea... and the smell of the Bavarian coffee, freshly-made sandwiches, brownies, all sorts of goodies was overwhelming. So was the noise level, a sure sign of a good party. We wondered how long they had been there. So Derrick was short of counters? Hummm ... just wait until that long face shows up next year..!

A final thought -- have you noticed that those early morning owlers, who join the rest of us around 8:00 am always arrive looking very bright-eyed, dry and well-fed? There must be a moral in all this. I now believe I have it -- there are NO serious CBCs. The people who started all this nearly a century ago were pretty smart. ☺

Month of the Siberian Accentor

by Frank Kime
Site 1, Box 8, RR #1
Tappen, BC V0E 2X0

The morning was Saturday, March 5th. It started as a usual morning. The sun was shining on a warm spring day, coffee break was over and I was working in the rear room. Doris was dusting in the living-room. The quietness was shattered when she shouted, "RARE BIRD!". On my flight to join her a second shout rang out, "ACCENTOR". Reaching for my binoculars I rushed to the window. We both watched as the bird flew to the pool and proceeded to drink. Identification features shot from our lips and there was a scramble for paper and pencil. We watched for about thirty seconds and our eyes probed every feature; size, profile, color, and always going back to that well defined head pattern. The image of a miniature Varied Thrush kept flooding our thoughts. Suddenly the bird literally shot across our view to disappear into the garden scrub. We both sighed, looked at each other, smiled, then made a general rush for field guides.

Something nagged at the back of my mind and then I remembered. Turning to Doris I asked, "Why was your second shout, Accentor?". "I don't really know", she replied. However, remembering that we have had previous experience with a Dunnock and an Alpine Accentor I felt that there probably was justification for her call.

After furiously poring over the field guides we could come to only one conclusion - that we had seen a Siberian Accentor! No other bird fitted the description of bird we had detailed. Again we looked at each other, "Wow!".

Okay, we had a rare bird so what to do next? Photographic evidence was essential so out came the video camera and tripod, all positioned and waiting.

Next morning, the 6th, at about the same time of day, eleven in the morning, a similar bird came to the pool following a group of crossbills. With the video rolling we watched as the bird drank and then flew. After comparing notes we gradually realized that we had a similar bird but in a different plumage. We had two different birds! The possibility of a male and female came to mind.

Again field guides came out and we found discrepancies in each. The National Geographic entry was identical to the previous day's bird. With the brighter colors, we assumed it was the male. The British field guides bore resemblance to this day's bird, the female. Whereas the 'male' was buff/red-brown, with a smudge breast band and fine black flank streakings; the 'female' was ochre, had no breast band, and had only grey flank streakings. The Peterson Guide indicated, most accurately, the head patterns, but the colors were not correct.

A family conference took place on what were to be our next actions. We appreciated that we had a very rare bird, and that we should pass on the information to be followed by our reports and video copy. It only took until the next day before the telephone became very busy but all we could report was that the birds had not been seen again.

Life returned to normal for three weeks until the morning of the 29th of March. I was working in the garden when a bird shot across my vision into scrub. Oh! Oh! and I was on the run indoors to break the news that the light phase (female), at least, was back.

On the following day, the 30th at 10:30, further excitement, as we saw the dark phase (male). He flew from the lilac bush to the pool, drank, then bathed, and returned to the lilac to preen. The following day the female came to drink, and then activity really increased.

On the next day, the 30th, the dark phase (male) visited the pool and then foraged amongst the undergrowth. On the 31st the light phase (female) started a routine that was to continue for the next nine days and counting. Every 30 to 40 minutes between 8:00 AM and noon she would approach through the undergrowth and feed on the 'Bird-pudding' droppings at the base of a mature Douglas Fir. We were, as were all our visitors, astonished at the way she came out to feed. The Accentor, by habit, is a skulker and very shy and nervous.

Siberian Accentor continued

The dark phase (male) only appeared once more. That was on the 1st of April when we also heard an unusual song from low down in a Douglas Fir. Consisting of two series warble, the song raised the interest of the more experienced birders present. They made comment of never having heard anything similar before. By this time the 'Bird Alert' was in full swing and interests were coming from greater distances. A work plan had been devised around the bird's temperament and the locale in which the bird was active. Since there was no way observers were going to see the bird from the road or driveway we would have to use our house as a makeshift birdblind. It has worked. All our visitors were able to see the bird. They caused little disturbance to a very nervous creature, and this resulted in a longer stay than we ever anticipated.

This exciting phase of our lives came to an end today. The birds have not been observed all day. Since early morning there has been a strong south wind blowing. Probably, as migrants, this was what they have been waiting for to assist them on their way northward. ↩

Early Nesting Behaviour by the Canada Goose in British Columbia

by Linda M Van Damme
615 Mill Street
Nelson, BC V1L 4S3

The Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) breeds throughout British Columbia. Egg dates for the province range from 13 March to 6 July with most egg-laying occurring between mid-April and early May (Campbell, et al. 1990). In the Creston Valley, Butler, et al. (1986) indicate the nesting commences in late March and April.

On 31 January 1994, I observed a Canada Goose in a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest, about 25 meters from the ground, in a black cottonwood. This tree was part of a grove of cottonwoods bordering the ice-free waterway of Six-Mile Slough just west of Duck Lake, Creston, BC.

At first observation, the Canada Goose appeared to be incubating, in an alert posture, with neck extended vertically. Once it was aware of my presence it assumed a prostrate position, forming the typical S-shaped neck curve typical of nest defense behaviour during incubation (Johnsgard, 1965). The adult was camouflaged against the weathered nesting material and remained in this flattened, concealed position throughout the 30 minutes of observation. No mate was present.

Three days later, on 3 February, I observed a pair of Canada Geese standing in an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nest, about 13 meters from the ground, at the top of a dead snag. This site was along Nick's Island Road adjacent to the Kootenay River. It was obvious the geese were inspecting a potential nest site as they are known to utilize the old nests of birds of prey for breeding (Campbell, et al. 1990). The pair took flight after I stopped to observe them.

Early nesting behaviour may have been precipitated by the mild winter temperatures with very little snow cover in the valley bottom and lots of open, standing water. ↩

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Pelagic Moments

David Allinson
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Riding the waves, some eighteen or so miles off the west coast of Vancouver Island, one is truly birding on the edge. Out in the elements, we rock and sway huddled in layers of clothing but all of us with a warm, inner glow as the excitement mounts. From the moment we left dock in Ucluelet, a confident aura of anticipation and hope lies over each of us.

Like school-kids, "first-timers" smile from ear to ear as their adventure begins, and all the while the "veterans" sit back, coolly smirking at the novices' excitement while secretly hiding back their own. The tremendous popularity of pelagic trips is in part due to a sense of shared experience and camaraderie. Both the experienced and beginner-level birdwatchers can stand side by side at the boat railing waiting for the first rafts of shearwaters and fulmars. For both the "400 Club" and the novices, each pelagic trip brings the potential for lifers or spectacle.

Depending on weather conditions, quite often many participants succumb to Neptune's wrath and sea-sickness looms. I truly feel sorry for the queasy at heart even though I seem blessed with a cast-iron stomach under such conditions. Ironically, it is usually those who get sick who are first to tease and joke about their plight when back on dry land. The best prevention seems to be to keep one's eyes on the horizon, not on the seething green-blue depths below the hull. Another suggestion is to remain at midships or at the bow where one is usually free from nausea-inducing diesel fumes. On the lighter side, useful phrases to avoid at lunchtime include: "Anyone want one of these cherry tomatoes?" or "Boy, this Italian sausage sure tastes good!". Not only are these remarks heartless, they may encourage dissent among the unwell as they ponder sending you overboard for an appeasement to Neptune.

Special moments I recall include the puzzled looks we got from Polish fish-factory workers as we approached their ship in Barkley Canyon in the hope that their "fish-garbage" would attract seabirds. At first, I believe they eyed our movements with suspicion and then no doubt wonder and humour when they recognized our intent. Even funnier were the would-be fishermen who surreptitiously followed our two charter boats from the Canadian Princess Resort convinced that were heading out to a secret fishing locale. Finally, our skipper pulled around to point out we were naturalists and not fishing for salmon in over 500 feet of water! Furthermore, he suggested that their small boat turn back before they ran out of fuel some 20 miles offshore!

Perhaps my most vivid pelagic moment occurred in May of 1993 during the BCFO AGM in Tofino. I had long chided myself for missing an October 1992 trip when South Polar Skuas and Laysan Albatross were spotted. Nevertheless, I had a good feeling about May trip. After observing record numbers of Black-footed Albatross, we were indeed rewarded with wonderful close-ups of a Laysan Albatross. To top things off, at the same time as were enjoying this magnificent bird, a pod of Killer Whales surrounded our boats. At one point I can recall looking directly down at a Killer Whale and then up to a Laysan Albatross at only 20 feet. Living in Victoria, many of the participants were "spoiled" by previous experiences with Killer Whales, but there were some BCFO members joining us from the interior, many of whom had never ventured out to sea. It was humorous to watch as these birders struggled between lifer looks at both the albatross and the whales. Furthermore, both our skipper and his mate (oblivious to our passion for birds) were incredulous as we gawked at this "big, black and white gull" and apparently ignored the whales. It was one of those magical moments -- the kind of experience that brings the birder out each week.

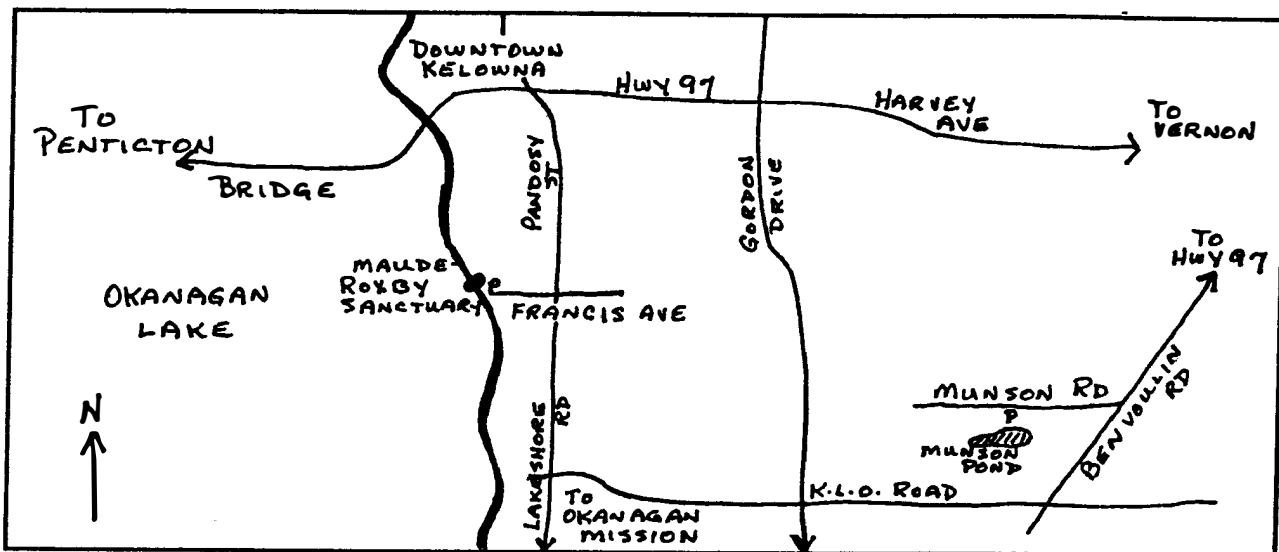
There remains much to be learned about the pelagic species which visit the coast of British Columbia. The popularity for pelagic trips in particular is due to the fact that it is a recent phenomenon, and is often considered "the final frontier" of birding. The potential for new provincial, state, and ABA area species to be added every year is very real. As spring approaches, once again I can look forward to adding to my own pelagic list and experiencing more special pelagic moments. ◀

SITE GUIDE: THE KELOWNA AREA

by Chris Charlesworth
725 Richards Road
Kelowna, BC V1X 2X5

and Gwynneth Wilson
397 Herbert Heights Road
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1Y4

Kelowna offers many opportunities for good birding. Found in the central Okanagan Valley, Kelowna has many beaches and accesses leading to Okanagan Lake. The major creeks that run into the lake (particularly Mission Creek) have several parks along them which provide great birding locations. Once considered the Okanagan's birding "wasteland", Kelowna has finally earned itself a name on the province's birding map.



Maude-Roxby Sanctuary & Munson Pond

Maude-Roxby Bird Sanctuary

Heading south on Pandosy Street turn right (west) onto Francis Avenue (4th street south of the hospital). Continue on to the foot of Francis Avenue and park here.

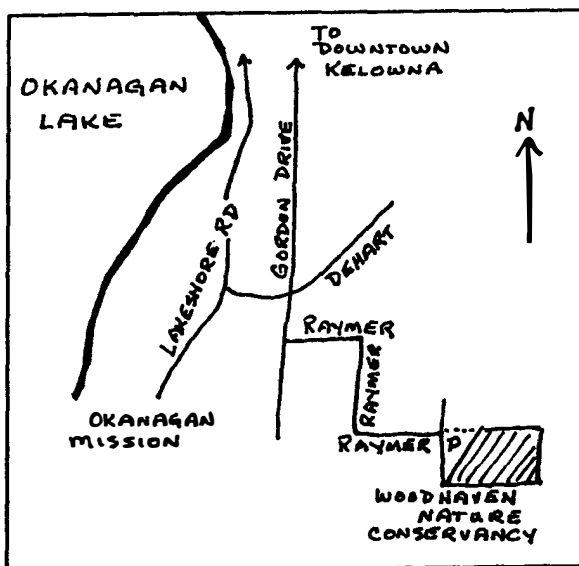
Although small in size, Maude-Roxby is a very productive area. In spring a walk along the boardwalk should yield a Sora, Red-winged Blackbirds, American Coots, and other typical marshland species. Migrant warblers should be present in the willows. Great, and Cattle Egret, and American Bittern have been seen in the Maude-Roxby area. Mud Bay (south of the boardwalk) is a good spot for shorebirds. Look for the common "peeps", and other species. A Marbled Godwit appeared in April of 1993. Scan through the California, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls for the less common Thayer's, Mew, Glaucous, and Glaucous-winged Gulls. The bay holds a number of ducks from October through April. Search the lake for Horned, Red-necked, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes, and Common Loons.

Munson's Pond

Munson's Road turns west off Benvoulin Road (reached from Highway 97 or KLO Road.)

This is a relatively small pond, at times, covered with waterbirds. Munson's Pond and surrounding area is privately owned so please respect other people's property. Great Blue Herons often perch on the large whitewashed rock in the middle of the pond. A Great Egret joined them in August of 1991. Common Mergansers, Buffleheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Mallards, American Wigeon, & the three teal are regular species. In summer check the adjacent fields for Western and Eastern Kingbirds, American Kestrel, Mourning Dove, Brewer's Blackbirds, and Western Meadowlarks. The marshy ditch alongside the road often has Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrows, and in winter a Harris' Sparrow is a possibility. In the winter Red-tailed Hawk, Common Raven, and California Quails are common.

SITE GUIDE: THE KELOWNA AREA Continued

Woodhaven Nature Conservancy

Woodhaven Nature Conservancy

From Highway 97 turn south onto Gordon Drive located on the west side of the Capri Centre. Keep on Gordon Drive for 8.8 km and turn left (east) on Raymer Road. Follow Raymer Road, which does a series of right angle bends for 1.5 km. Continue through the entrance (4711 Raymer Road) in the chain link fence.

This parcel of forest in Kelowna's Mission area is one of the few reliable spots for Western-screech Owls in the Okanagan. The owls are frequently observed throughout the year. Nashville Warblers breed in the areas of deciduous growth. Watch for Red-naped Sapsuckers in the cottonwoods and maples. Pygmy Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, Clark's Nutcrackers, and other typical species are to be found in the Ponderosa Pines. Black-chinned Hummingbirds sporadically visit the conservancy along with the usual Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds in summer. Winter brings Steller's Jay, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and Pine Siskin.

Robert Lake

Robert Lake is situated at the north end of Dry Valley Road, which can be reached from Glenmore Road or Sexsmith Road (see map). The best area for shorebirds is in the south-west corner. Birders may use the private road to the east of the lake, but do not go off the road.

Robert Lake is one of the best shorebirding areas in the southern interior of the province. A visit to the lake in mid to late summer should produce Western, Least, Semipalmated, Baird's, Pectoral, Spotted, and Solitary Sandpipers; Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, both yellowlegs, Wilson's, and occasionally Red-necked Phalaropes, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Common Snipe. Black-necked Stilt, Pacific, and American Golden Plovers, Stilt Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Long-billed Curlew are quite rare. American Avocets breed on the alkaline flats occasionally. In migration the lake is often covered with ducks. Scan through the birds for an Eurasian Wigeon. Eared Grebes have established a small colony here. Typical marshland species including Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Sora, and Virginia Rails often hide in the reeds. Check the adjacent fields for Western Bluebird, Black-billed Magpie, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows, Western Meadowlark, and Say's Phoebe. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks are usually present. In winter Northern Shrike and Mourning Doves should be seen.

Chichester Bird Sanctuary

From Rutland Road turn west onto Fitzpatrick Road (north of the Catholic Church) and continue along for approximately 500 meters, then turn left (south) onto Chichester Court. Proceed to the end of the court and park here. There are a series of trails that take you around the various ponds.

Over the last few years, Chichester has produced 166 species. In spring, search the cat-tails for Marsh Wren, Sora and Virginia Rail, and Common Yellowthroat. Warblers are often seen flitting in the willows during migration. Breeding waterfowl includes: Mallard, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, all three teal, and Canada Goose. Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds are abundant. August is a great time for birding at Chichester. Many migrants pass through including warblers, the three vireos, Lincoln's Sparrow, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Gray Catbird, and Rufous-sided Towhee. In fall and winter look for the large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings and sporadically Common Redpolls and accipiters. House Finches, Mourning Doves, and Black-billed Magpies should be easily located. Rarities at Chichester have included: Black-necked Stilt, Upland Sandpiper, Black-crowned Night Heron, Tennessee Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow.

SITE GUIDE: THE KELOWNA AREA Continued

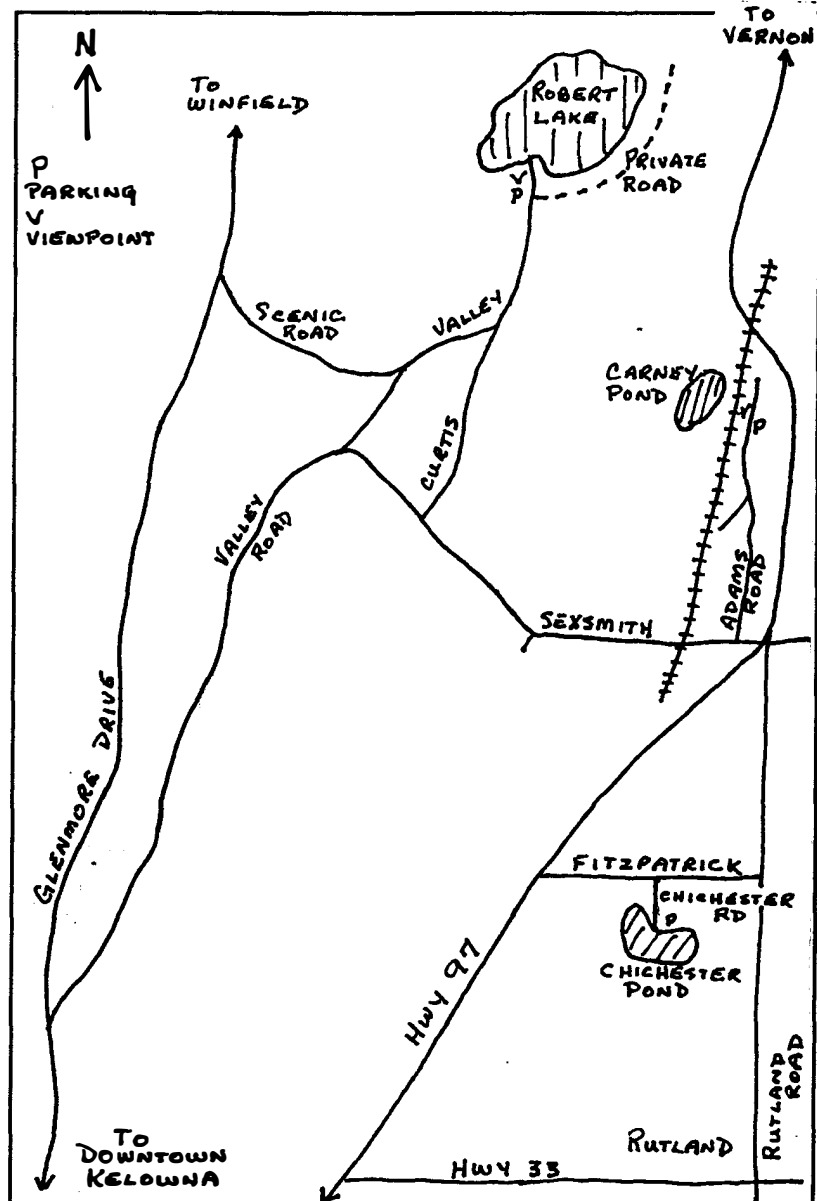
Carney Pond

To reach Carney Pond, turn north on Adams Road from Sexsmith Road. Head north along Adams Road for 1.0 km and park by the large brown and white building (Western Star Truck Sales). Walk across the road, then cross the field to look down, over the railroad track to the pond.

Check Carney Pond for a number of ducks in spring, including the rare Eurasian Wigeon. Marsh Wren, American Coots, and other marshland species may be located. Listen for the "chip-chip" of the Red Crossbills in the trees on the other side of the pond. Black-billed Magpies, and Ring-necked Pheasants inhabit the fields around the pond. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks nest in the pines on the west side of the pond.

Meetings for local birders

The Central Okanagan birding group meets regularly on Thursdays and Saturdays at 8:45 am at Father Pandosy Mission, on Benvoulin Road south of K.L.O. Road. The Father Pandosy Mission is a small historic village.



Robert Lake, Chichester Sanctuary & Carney Pond

For more information on Kelowna call Chris Charlesworth at 765-6048, Denise Brownlie at 762-3339, or Gwynneth Wilson at 762-6876. We will be happy to help you. ☺

EDITORS' NOTE: We were in Kelowna for the Okanagan Mountain Bird Blitz and were escorted to several of the above areas. At Woodhaven we located and saw a pair of nesting Western Screech Owls. At Robert Lake we saw a Bonaparte's Gull, our first Eastern Kingbird of the year and numbers of waterfowl species. The ponds by the Kelowna Dump are also good and it appears that rarities are showing up near the Kelowna Airport. (SEE White-faced Ibis) We also saw many Calliope Hummingbirds; a variety of warblers, vireos & flycatchers; White-throated & Vaux Swifts; and a number of other birds at Okanagan Mountain Park (Kelowna side). Also give Bear Creek Provincial Park a look. (American Dippers). The final thrill of our stay in Kelowna was provided by our guides (Chris, Denise, Gwynneth, Joan and Lesley) when they got us a close-up view of a Great Horned Owl feeding a Rock Dove to two near full-grown chicks. Great stuff -- many thanks!!

**BECHER BAY HEADLANDS:
a place for raptors and their watchers.**

by David Stirling
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Becher Bay Headlands (area name used by the Hawk Migration Association of North America [HMANA] and Hawkwatch International) 24 km west of Victoria, British Columbia, encompasses within a 7 km diameter circle centred on the corner of East Sooke Road and Matheson Lake Park Road, a number of raptor viewing points overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. These sites are: Cheanuh Overlook, Mt. Matheson, Rocky Point and, in East Sooke Regional Park; Beechy Head Lookout, Aylard Farm and Babbington Hill. All sites offer good viewing as the entire area is an important staging air space for raptors in the fall especially for the Turkey Vultures which begin to assemble in early September, reach peak numbers during the last ten days of the month and are gone by mid-October. The Turkey Vulture spectacle was high-lighted several times by Harold Hosford in his *Stray Feathers* column in the *Times-Colonist* (Victoria) in the early 1980's. (SEE references at end of article.)

It is difficult for the watcher on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait to know with certainty whether the birds are leaving the island or turning back after they are out over the water as she/he is looking into the sun and the glare from the water and fog. Actual crossings are best seen from the Washington State side. In late September 1992 and 1993, from Striped Peak on the Olympic Peninsula, two observers from HMANA watched hundreds of Turkey Vultures streaming in from the north. Ann van der Geld, Pacific NW Regional Compiler, states in her 1993 raptor report to HMANA that "... Turkey Vultures are visible for at least a mile out over the Strait heading toward them (observers) and shore. They come in long, narrow lines, sometimes flapping, sometimes gliding, sometimes they are 'stacked' 2 or 3 lines high. They appear to favour light south easterly winds. When they come on shore they immediately form kettles to 're-group' and/or 're-orient' themselves before taking off again to the south east. Occasionally, a few will perch on a snag but only for a short time before joining the kettling group, as if they are reluctant to be left behind."

Why do Raptors Concentrate in the Becher Bay Headlands?

Some reasons why raptors concentrate in the Becher Bay Headlands include:

The shape and directional orientation of Vancouver Island helps to funnel migrating birds into this area. Descending air and prevalent fog over the cold waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca act as a formidable barrier to large soaring birds causing raptors to pause and concentrate for several days or even weeks. Turkey Vultures like others of their kin suffer from hydrophobia -- what, no thermals? I'm not going! Prevailing westerly winds blowing against sun-warmed hillsides provide excellent soaring conditions. The area is still sparsely settled. Groves of ancient Douglas firs provide ideal roosting sites. Recent introduction and spread of rabbits and Gray Squirrels has augmented the natural food supply of abundant migrating passerines; plus deer hunters in September in the nearby Sooke Hills may provide carrion for the huge numbers of Turkey Vultures.

Watching Sites and Raptor Staging Areas

MT. MATHESON, an excellent view point, is now in the throes of development. Monster houses are scarring the once pristine landscape.

ROCKY POINT, Vancouver Island's southernmost land, is National Defense property out of bounds to the public. It is, unofficially, a raptor sanctuary, especially for Turkey Vultures. Old growth firs are used for roosts while the configuration of the land -- small hills, seashore, and open fields provide the right ingredients for aerial assembly. Disturbance by people is minimal. Among threats to this area are budget cuts forcing the Defense Department to sell some land to developers or to log the old trees. World peace would also seem to be a threat!

CHEANUH OVERLOOK, on the East Sooke Road above the marina, is on Indian Reserve land. It is a good place to see raptors over Rocky Point and the Strait of

BECHER BAY HEADLANDS continued

Juan de Fuca except that several second growth firs are blocking more of the view every year and the observer is looking into the sun's glare. The pullout space is limited and as the Natives do not take kindly to trespassing this point should be used by few persons and then only for a short time.

The next three sites are in East Sooke Regional Park where there should be no major threats to the birds except, perhaps, increased use by people.

BEACHY HEAD LOOKOUT, a twenty minute hike from the parking lot, is excellent for viewing to the North and East. It is a pleasant spot and good for "non-raptors" such as Vaux's Swifts and Band-tailed Pigeons. It may be fogged-in when other sites are clear.

AYLARD FARM is a large open field and parking lot ideal for picnicking and viewing. Raptors often kettle on the warm air rising from the field. It is a good spot from which to scope Turkey Vultures over Rocky Point.

BABBINGTON HILL, a 25 minute up-hill hike from parking, brings the watcher right up among the birds. It is clear when other sites are fogged-in.

For more about raptors and watching in Becher Bay Headlands read: *Hawk Ridge, B.C.* by David Allinson, *BCFO* 1992, 2(4): 15-17; *BCFO Field Trip to East Sooke Regional Park* by David Allinson, *BCFO* 1993, 3(4): 12; and *ptarmigan ptracks* by David Stirling, *B.C. Naturalist* 1988, 26(4): 5.

And for some good, old stuff about the TUVU spectacular see: *Stray Feathers* by Harold Hosford in the *Times-Colonist*; 17 July, 18 September and 23 October 1981, 28 September 1984, and 22 & 29 September 1985.

Keep your eyes on the sky! ☞

A Late-Night Surprise

Jo Ann MacKenzie
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During the final hours of August 11, 1993, I was sitting in a lawn chair in the back yard of our home watching for meteors, as the annual Perseid Meteor Shower as at its peak. Actually, I was not very hopeful that I would see any. Ever since the recent opening of the Peninsula Village Shopping Centre, three blocks away at 24th Avenue and the King George Highway (Hwy 99A), we saw little in the night sky but an ugly orange neon glow. Because of this "light pollution", only the brightest celestial objects could be discerned.

Suddenly, at 11 PM, from about a block to the north (the direction of the unwelcome shopping centre), I heard a faint "Shh-*isshh*". My ears perked up. A few seconds later, the sound repeated, "SHH-*IISHH*", louder, closer, above the side street, at about treetop height, I judged. This was not a normal neighbourhood sound! My Random Access Memory whirred, and I realized what I was hearing.

Then "SHH-*IISHH*", really close, somewhere over the street light just outside the yard. I leaped from my chair and peered upward, searching for the Barn Owl. No luck. The next "Shh-*isshh*" was farther away, as the bird flew northward again.

I decided to put away my lawn chair and go in to bed. The night's score: four aircraft, one man-made satellite, one meteor (for me, the "shower" was more of a "squirt"), and one Barn Owl (#84 on my yard list).

POSTSCRIPT: At about midnight the following night, through the open bedroom window, I heard the owl again. Perhaps it was hunting rodents in the vicinity of Peninsula Village. I suppose even a disliked nuisance such as a shopping centre can have some redeeming features. ☞

A Report on the Kootenay 'Little' Big Day

by Ruth Goodwin
404 Aspen Road
Kimberly, BC V1A 3B5

For their first attempts at a Little Big Day birding competition, members of the Rocky Mountain Naturalists seemed quite delighted with the results. The weather was perfect, spirits were high, and all six teams were pleased with their effort. One hundred thirty-three species were seen with the winning team identifying ninety-nine species. Some sightings of interest to us were the Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Tennessee Warbler, Western Kingbird, and Sandhill Cranes. A notable miss was the absence of any recordings of jays.

Approximately twenty-five people gathered for dinner after the birding. Their enthusiasm was evident by the waitress's comment that she would not take our orders until everyone stayed in their seats and quieted down. We did so briefly and then returned to the sharing of the day's events. Some comments made by participants included the need to work on bird vocalizations, to be more realistic in the area that can be reasonably covered in 12 hours, and to arrange the day to best take advantage of different habitats. Many folks commented on how pleased they were with their results as they have been birding for only a short time.

No doubt, this will be an activity that the club will want to repeat. Besides the good fun, birding skills were sharpened and new areas explored. We look forward to more teams joining us next year and we hope we can repeat the blue skies and windless weather! ☺

White-faced Ibis in Kelowna

by Chris Charlesworth

It was on the evening of April 13, 1994 when I got a call from Kathie Jones who had been playing a round of golf earlier that day with Barbara Kemmis at a north Kelowna golf course. She happily exclaimed that they had seen a White-faced Ibis! After getting a brief yet accurate description of a bird that sounded like an ibis the word spread like wildfire.

I set out at 5:30 AM the next morning to try and see the bird in the flooded fields, south of the Kelowna Airport. After a long scan with my scope, I was disappointed that the bird wasn't there. The area, which was alive with birds, was unknown to local birders. The "Patagonian Picnic Table Effect" was triggered when an immature Snow Goose appeared with a flock of Canada Geese. SEE NOTE: POTE

Saturday, April 16, was the day our birding group went to look for the Snow Goose. While we were looking at the Snow Goose, another rarity, a Greater White-fronted Goose, was seen. Searching the ponds further I was very startled when the ibis crept into view! The bird was just as Mrs Jones had described it. Upon closer examination with a scope the dusky pinkish facial skin outlined in white, red eyes, and red legs were noted, indicating a White-faced Ibis rather than a Glossy Ibis.

The next day Phil Gehlen and Elsie Nykyfork of Vernon arrived to see the bird and they also found a Black-necked Stilt. After just seeing five American Avocets I was very pleased that a stilt had joined the gang as well. Other rarities found by visiting birders included: Thayer's, Mew and Glaucous Gulls plus a rare spring Long-billed Dowitcher.

The White-faced Ibis remained until April 22 and delighted birders from all over BC and Washington. It left the area possibly because of a rising water level.

This is the eighth documented sighting of a White-faced Ibis in the province. The species seems to be declining throughout its range in the US. It breeds in Canada only at Pakowki Lake in southern Alberta. Other sightings of White-faced Ibis should be watched for in British Columbia.

NOTE: (POTE -- A rare bird was found at Patagonia, Arizona and when other birders showed up to see it, additional rarities were found.) ☺

AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE

David Allinson

An avid and active birder, David Allinson, president of the Victoria Natural History Society, is a self-proclaimed "raptor-holic" & a pelagic enthusiast.

Chris Charlesworth

Chris, at age 15, has been birding in the Okanagan for 6 years. A member of the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club, he has taken an interest in Chichester Bird Sanctuary and has compiled a list of 166 species for that area. He is also a recipient of the 1994 Barbara Chapman award for junior naturalists.

Ruth Goodwin

Ruth started birding at the Englewood Bird Sanctuary in Calgary and has been birding for about 17 years. With Greg Ross she coordinated the 1994 Kootenay Little Big day. She enjoys a lot of kitchen birding while she cleans house.

Margo Hearne

Margo is an active birder and an enthusiastic supporter of the Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary in Masset, BC. She also writes and enjoys poetry.

Frank Kime

Frank, a birdwatcher for over 40 years, has an occupation which took him around the world. He has taken every opportunity to enjoy his hobby and has birded in Britain, Egypt, Malaya, Maldiv Islands, Belize and the USA.

Joan King

After her children had flown their nest Joan became serious about birding. Warden of Ecological Reserve #33 & assistant at #100 for 14 years Joan has also taught botany and birds to Elder Hostel groups for the last 4 years.

Jo Ann MacKenzie

Jo Ann and husband Hue moved to the Lower Mainland from Ontario in 1983. An avid birder for over 25 years, Jo Ann teaches birding for the White Rock & Surrey Naturalists, & has participated in the Beached Bird Survey since 1987.

Chris R. Siddle

Chris is a Vernon high school teacher and he is a part-time ornithological consultant. A birder since 1961, Chris is currently the BC/Yukon regional editor for American Birds, & has a special interest in herons, gulls, raptors and the birds of the BC Peace River. (Sorry we missed your bio last issue.)

David Stirling

David Stirling, a naturalist and enthusiastic birder, has been a nature interpretation specialist for 20 years for BC Parks Branch. He is a long-time member of the Victoria Natural History Society and has led natural history trips to various overseas destinations over the years.

Linda M. Van Damme

Linda, a member of the Nelson Naturalists, was recently co-chairperson of a project designed to heighten awareness of that community's wildlife heritage.

Inez Weston

Inez has an "enthusiasm for birds" and over thirty years of tropical birding experience. She currently lives in Mill Bay and is a member of the Victoria Natural History Society.

Gwynneth Wilson

A member of the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club, Gwynneth started birding in England as a child. Since 1960 she has been enjoying the birds of the Okanagan Valley. She has a list of 125 species from her garden overlooking Okanagan Lake. Birders are welcome to visit. ☺

Swainson's Hawk or Red-tailed Hawk? Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| I. Red-tailed Hawk | II. Swainson's Hawk | III. Swainson's Hawk |
| IV. Swainson's Hawk | V. Swainson's Hawk | VI. Red-tailed Hawk |
| VII. Red-tailed Hawk turning away | VIII. Swainson's Hawk turning away. ☺ | |

A January Sunday in Masset

by Margo Hearne
Masset, BC VOT 1M0

The fog lifted after the Sunday service and the air became clear, sharp and blue. The leafless alders on Delkatla Street, which had harboured a Prairie Warbler on 25 January, hopped with Dark-eyed Juncos. "There's the Brambling", Peter said. I couldn't see it. Two Pine Siskins hung from the high catkins and flitted away. A rustle as three Northern Flickers flew up from our disturbance. We moved on down to the beach to get the sun behind us. "There it is", I said, "in that third alder half-way up on the right." We looked, it was gone. Peter moved to the right, up the beach. "There it is! Up high." We both see as it moves its head, its white wingbars visible, the exotic look of it, its rarity in these northern trees, the wonder of its quality. It flies on and we stand still as juncos surround us.

I go back for the car, parked in someone's driveway. Peter moves across the street while I drive around the corner and park outside Howard Phillip's. A sharp chip as a Yellow-rumped Warbler flies across the road and lands in the trees. Peter is nowhere to be seen. I call, has he seen anything? "No", he answers from a lane way, "nothing here". We track the Yellow-rump and watch its quickness as it moves from alder to alder. "There's a Cedar Waxwing on the right in the hawthorne." I look, miss it. But what's that? A Golden-crowned Sparrow flits low through the salmon-berry canes. We call it out, it chits in the sun, hops up and is gone. The Cedar Waxwing flies back to the hawthorne and we both see it swing away to the next street. We go down to the beach. Juncos. Starlings. An immature Bald Eagle high in the spruce leans on the branch and takes wing. Peter finds a Robin and eight Pine Grosbeaks silhouetted in the far alder above the cement chimney, their soft musical song reminiscent of Spring and foreign lands.

In the Sanctuary, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Common Mergansers and a small unidentified being sweeps low. A junco? We will never know. We are joined by a small boy and a dog who walk the trail with us as a Great Blue Heron climbs the sunlit air. We move down the street, chatting to neighbours and listening to Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets in the low bush as the side of the road.

And so we move on down into the centre of the Sanctuary. A Song Sparrow by Howard Tower and a sudden flick of a branch as two Palm Warblers ascend, show a yellow undertail, bob their tails and melt into the mixed conifers. These were the birds seen on Wednesday when Peter had rushed in, dragged me from my computer, and asked if I wanted to see two Palm Warblers. We had scoured the place for them. No sign then, but here they are again. From the tower, a distant view of Hooded Mergansers, Northern Shovelers, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Ducks, American Coots, and a Pied-billed Grebe all showing their colours. Canada Geese feed in the grass and Red Crossbills call in the far spruce. It is time to leave this graceful place of still waters and move to the ocean.

At Skonun Point a spectacular show of over a thousand Dunlin and Sanderlings greet us as we crest the rise before the beach. They swing and turn to a backdrop of rising fog. They land, run with the waves, rise, flash and fall before our astounded eyes, a Horned Grebe static in the water behind them. Offshore are Pacific Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, Black, Surf, and White-winged Scoters, Harlequin Ducks, Bufflehead, Red-necked Grebes, Common Goldeneye, and Oldsquaw. On the beach Mew and Glaucous-winged Gulls pick at the seaweed and offshore a Western Gull lands with the divers. The wind chills with the fog and we shiver as the afternoon draws down. We leave the beach in time to see a Sharp-shinned Hawk dropping into a glide from a low hemlock. Its time for hot coffee and we sip to the sound of Trumpeter Swans in the distance. ☺

BIRDING ON THE INTERNET

In these days of information highways and technological wonders it was only a matter of time before someone just had to "List Birds Seen on the Internet". Last week I (Andy) found picture files (.GIF) of 100 exotic birds. I did not have enough memory on my computer to download and view any of the pictures but for techno-birders who may be interested they are on AVES at the following addresses: 129.229.21.78 / ftp vitruvius.cecer.army.mil (login=anonymous) / gopher vitruvius.cecer.army.mil 70.

BIRD-LISTER'S CORNER

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

The listing totals below, for British Columbia and Canada life lists, are based on the Listing Report Forms (included with the December 1993 issue) which were returned to me, plus a few totals which were phoned in. A few lists sent in for December 1992 were not updated, but are included here anyway, so please bear in mind that not all the totals are up-to-date.

In a future issue, we will report totals for National and Provincial Parks and local checklist areas. We plan to send out another Listing Report Form with the December 1994 issue. We hope those of you who keep lists will support this feature, and will enjoy comparing notes with others who do the same.

LISTING DATA: DECEMBER 1993
BRITISH COLUMBIA (448 species)

TOTAL	PERCENT	BIRDER	ADDRESS
400	89.3	Gerry Ansell	Victoria, B.C.
397	88.6	David Stirling	Victoria, B.C.
396	88.4	Wayne Weber	Delta, B.C.
394	87.9	Mike Force	Vancouver, B.C.
393	87.7	Jo Ann MacKenzie	Surrey, B.C.
392	87.5	Hue MacKenzie	Surrey, B.C.
387	86.4	Thomas Plath	Richmond, B.C.
382	85.3	Dick Cannings	Vancouver, B.C.
382	85.3	Doug Kragh	Beaverton, Oregon
374	83.5	Tony Greenfield	Sechelt, B.C.
372	83.0	Chris Siddle	Vernon, B.C.
369	82.4	Danny Tyson	Surrey, B.C.
367	81.9	Audrey Viken	West Vancouver, B.C.
366	81.7	Gary Davidson	Nakusp, B.C.
360	80.4	Wayne Diakow	Richmond, B.C.
357	79.7	Mike McGrenere	Victoria, B.C.
354	79.0	Peter Hamel	Masset, B.C.
353	78.8	Colin Butt	Surrey, B.C.
352	78.6	Rick Tyson	Surrey, B.C.
351	78.3	Mary Collins	Vernon, B.C.
351	78.3	Bryan Gates	Victoria, B.C.
351	78.3	Robin Weber	Prince Rupert, B.C.
347	77.5	Hank Vander Pol	Victoria, B.C.
346	77.2	Rick Howie	Kamloops, B.C.
346	77.2	Stefan Zarembo	Burnaby, B.C.
344	76.8	Lloyd Esralson	Surrey, B.C.
344	76.8	Kevin MacPherson	Vancouver, B.C.
342	76.3	Steve Cannings	Penticton, B.C.
339	75.7	David Mark	Amherst, New York
334	74.6	Barbara Begg	Sidney, B.C.
334	74.6	Eric MacBean	West Vancouver, B.C.
332	74.1	Barb McGrenere	Victoria, B.C.
329	73.4	Val George	Terrace, B.C.
328	73.2	Jack Williams	White Rock, B.C.
327	73.0	Don Wilson	Kelowna, B.C.
326	72.8	Keith Riding	Vancouver, B.C.
325	72.5	Ken Morgan	Sidney, B.C.
323	72.1	Ron Walker	Christina Lake, B.C.
316	70.5	Eric Tull	Calgary, Alberta
308	68.8	Aziza Cooper	Victoria, B.C.
308	68.1	Bob Morford	Delta, B.C.
302	67.4	Steve Johnson	Sidney, B.C.
300	67.0	David Allinson	Victoria, B.C.
300	67.0	Chris Charlesworth	Kelowna, B.C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA (448 species) continued

TOTAL	PERCENT	BIRDER	LOCALITY
290	64.7	Laird Law	Prince George, B.C.
288	64.3	Denise Brownlie	Kelowna, B.C.
288	64.3	Laurie Rockwell	Summerland, B.C.
285	63.6	Elsie Nykyfork	Vernon, B.C.
282	62.9	Derrick Marven	Duncan, B.C.
278	62.0	Ken Taylor	Kamloops, B.C.
276	61.6	Peter Axhorn	Sooke, B.C.
275	61.4	Andy Buhler	Victoria, B.C.
273	60.9	Jerry Herzig	Princeton, B.C.
273	60.9	Chris Sandham	Victoria, B.C.
273	60.9	Arnold Skei	Sechelt, B.C.
272	60.7	Marilyn Buhler	Victoria, B.C.
271	60.5	Blake Maybank	White's Lake, N.S.
268	59.8	Tom Gillespie	Victoria, B.C.
267	59.6	Edward Chan Sing	Burnaby, B.C.
250	55.8	Maurice Ellison	Trail, B.C.

CANADA (596 species)

TOTAL	PERCENT	BIRDER	ADDRESS
494	82.9	Hue MacKenzie	Surrey, B.C.
494	82.9	Jo Ann MacKenzie	Surrey, B.C.
484	81.2	Peter Hamel	Masset, B.C.
467	78.4	David Mark	Amherst, N.Y.
466	78.2	Thomas Plath	Richmond, B.C.
466	78.2	Eric Tull	Calgary, Alberta
464	77.9	David Stirling	Victoria, B.C.
455	76.3	Blake Maybank	White's Lake, N.S.
443	74.3	Mike Force	Vancouver, B.C.
443	74.3	Wayne Weber	Delta, B.C.
441	74.0	Doug Kragh	Beaverton, Oregon
434	72.8	Dick Cannings	Vancouver, B.C.
432	72.5	Jack Williams	White Rock, B.C.
428	71.8	Mary Collins	Vernon, B.C.
421	70.6	Mike McGrenere	Victoria, B.C.
421	70.6	Audrey Viken	West Vancouver, B.C.
419	70.3	Colin Butt	Surrey, B.C.
414	69.5	Rick Howie	Kamloops, B.C.
413	69.3	Stefan Zarembo	Burnaby, B.C.
401	67.3	Barb McGrenere	Victoria, B.C.
399	66.9	Derrick Marven	Duncan, B.C.
399	66.9	Allen Wiseley	Victoria, B.C.
395	66.3	Hank Vander Pol	Victoria, B.C.
394	66.1	Steve Cannings	Penticton, B.C.
391	65.6	Eric MacBean	West Vancouver, B.C.
390	65.4	Ken Morgan	Victoria, B.C.
390	65.4	Chris Siddle	Vernon, B.C.
389	65.2	Wayne Diakow	Richmond, B.C.
387	64.9	Tony Greenfield	Sechelt, B.C.
386	64.8	Barbara Begg	Sidney, B.C.
385	64.6	Lloyd Esralson	Surrey, B.C.
380	63.8	Don Cecile	Port Alberni, B.C.
380	63.8	Gary Davidson	Nakusp, B.C.
374	62.8	David Allinson	Victoria, B.C.
369	61.9	Derrick Marven	Duncan, B.C.
369	61.9	Danny Tyson	Surrey, B.C.
365	61.2	Rick Tyson	Surrey, B.C.
363	60.9	Robin Weber	Prince Rupert, B.C.
360	60.4	Bryan Gates	Victoria, B.C.
359	60.2	Aziza Cooper	Victoria, B.C.
359	60.2	Elsie Nykyfork	Vernon, B.C. ↻