



BC BIRDING

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

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Members will also receive a copy of the annual journal, **British Columbia Birds**.

Membership in BCFO is open to anyone interested in the study and 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.

Editors: Andy & Marilyn Buhler
1132 Loenholtm Road
Victoria, BC V8Z 2Z6

Membership and Distribution:
Allen Wiseley

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Allen Wiseley, Membership
British Columbia Field Ornithologists
P.O. Box 8059
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Send material for publication in any format to the editors. We especially welcome bird-finding information for our Site Guide series and any interesting articles about birdwatching experiences, preferably but not necessarily, in British Columbia. **Deadline for receipt of material for publication is the 15th of the month preceding the March, June, September and December issues.**

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BCFO OFFICERS & DIRECTORS, 1996-1997

President

Tony Greenfield (604)885-5539/FAX 885-2904
P.O. Box 319, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

Vice President

Bryan R. Gates (250)598-7789/FAX 356-7183
3085 Uplands Road, Victoria, BC V8R 6B3

Secretary

Lloyd Esralson (604)581-4736
309 - 14881 104th Ave, Surrey, BC V3R 1M6
e-mail: EsralsonL@xl.ca

Treasurer

Everard Miyasaki (250)656-8066
8587 Sentinel Place, Sidney, BC V8L 4Z8

Membership

Allen Wiseley (250)472-1490
#405 - 1490 Garnet Road, Victoria, BC V8P 5K9

Directors

Jack Bowling (250)963-7837/FAX 963-7801
St 14, Comp 41, RR#1, Prince George, BC V2N 2H8
e-mail: jcbowling@mindlink.bc.ca

Martin McNicholl (604)294-2072
4735 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC V5G 1L3

Marian Porter (604)531-5747/FAX 535-9049
14831 Buena Vista Ave, White Rock, BC V4B 1X3

Russ Tkachuk (604)885-8867
P.O.Box 132, Roberts Creek, BC V0N 2W0

Newsletter Editors

Andy & Marilyn Buhler (250)744-2521 (Home)
1132 Loenholm Road (250)952-2196 (Work)
Victoria, BC V8Z 2Z6 (250)952-2180 (FAX)
e-mail: ambuhler@coastnet.com

Newsletter Distribution

Allen Wiseley (250)472-1490

EDITORS' NOTES AND NOTIONS

Are you ready for the AGM? The people in Prince George and your Directors have been working very hard to make this the best AGM yet. Jack just called last night to say that the post-AGM Peace River trip has been fully booked (30 participants) and that a price had been arrived at (\$175/person). Thank you members for your interest and support.

We just got back from a most enjoyable mini-holiday to the Okanagan. As usual the company, the birding, and the catered BBQ were first class on the Fifth Annual Okanagan Mountain Bird Blitz. Thanks to all the Okanagan birders for making us so welcome and a special thanks for having a family of Great Horned Owls right in our campground. Great Stuff!

That being said, we know everyone will find lots of Great Stuff! in this issue of **BC BIRDING**. Diann sent us a Washington State view of raptors which migrate south from Vancouver Island and David provided us with a companion article from this side of the water. Speaking of migration Rhonda sent us a request for assistance. Chris has written to share his enjoyment of birding in Prince George and notes some prime areas for BCFO members and AGM attendees to check out. Dennis kindly submitted a helpful site guide for Lakelse Lake area which will assist birders who continue west from Prince George. Allen inspires us all with his lot list and Jo Ann has reported some unusual avian behavior. Tony notes how members, both amateur or professional, might assist with filling

gaps in the present knowledge of bird distribution in BC. We have also included part two of Ken's Bird-Lister's Corner. Enjoy!

For those members connected to the 'Net you might want to check out a very well designed web page at <http://www.islandnet.com/~boom/birding>. Kevin Slagboom has done a fine job on this **BIRDING, Victoria BC** site and we will be assisting him with some local site guides, a couple of which have appeared previously in this newsletter. The site will be a help to us as we have received several e-mail requests from east coast and European birders asking where to bird around Victoria. They also ask about other areas in BC so please help us out by writing up your favorite location.

We cannot close without thanking K & M Shewchuk, bird and backroad enthusiasts both, for their generous sharing of local knowledge about birds, birding areas, 'Chat' lines and new-to-us great gravel roads. The Kane Valley road was a real treat.



President's Report

by Tony Greenfield

Since the last **B.C. BIRDING** many of our members will have received their copy of **The Birds of British Columbia. Volume III**, -- and a wonderful publication and resource it is too. However, despite the millions of records that went into the book, a glance at any of the maps will show the huge voids in our knowledge of the distribution of BC birds. British Columbia is such an immense entity with so many remote, inaccessible and inhospitable areas that there is work for another generation of field ornithologists to complete the maps. I encourage everyone to help in doing this.

Many BCFO members may be aware of, or even be members of our sister organization The Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia (WBT). Upon speaking with WBT President Dick Beard, it became clear that we are complementary organizations, with our focus on field identification and distribution and WBT's on conservation of species and habitat. We have much in common, and much to share in our appreciation of the avian world. WBT is headquartered at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver where they have an ambitious rehabilitation project in operation. They have been successful in establishing BC's second colony of breeding Purple Martins there.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our AGM in Prince George on 13th - 15th June. The Prince George organizing committee have done a fine job and I'm sure a good time is in store. The extension to the Peace River after the AGM is proving very popular and we anticipate great birding and camaraderie in this excitingly different biogeoclimatic and ornithological region of BC.



Some Questions & Answers About the June 1997 Prince George AGM

by Jack Bowling

This note, prompted by a query from Jerry Anderson, has been included in this newsletter because others have likely also been wondering along the same lines.

1) Degree of difficulty of:

a) The Saturday morning trips -

The Forests for the World trip is the only one with a trail system with any kind of elevational change. However, even here, there are trails which are fairly flat. Otherwise, the only degree of difficulty will be an individual one based on stamina on horizontal terrain.

b) The Sunday trips -

The Bowron Loop and the Vanderhoof trips are longer-distance and, by necessity, vehicle-oriented. There will not be much chance to do any extra walking around away from the cars. The Fort George Canyon trail is a different kettle of fish. This is a 4.5 km long hike, the last 1.5 km of which is a fairly steep section down to the Fraser River. This may be too much for those with limited stamina. Note that the first part of this trail is only mildly rolling terrain for those who would like to walk the first part but not the section down to the river. We will be car-pooling as much as possible.

2) Prince George bird checklist:

The latest revised edition is undergoing final proofing as I write. It will be included in the information package of all AGM registrants.

3) Prince George Site Guide

Unfortunately, one has not yet been done for the Prince George area -- volunteers? Thanks for your questions. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM!



UPCOMING EVENTS

by Martin McNicholl

- June 1-14, 1997 **Southern Alberta.** Visiting Brooks, Cypress Hills and the Milk River Valley area, looking for all the specialities of this prairie habitat such as Lark Bunting, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs, White-faced Ibis, Ferruginous Hawk and Black-necked Stilt. 150 Species may be seen. Price based on seven participants, 14 days at \$1650 (excluding meals), based on double occupancy, from Victoria. Contact: Derrick Marven (250) 748-8504.
- June 7-8, 1997 **Seventh Annual Strathcona Park Bird Search.** Birders are needed to record birds in the Park. Hike, canoe or ski anywhere in the Park. One night free camping will be provided. In 1991 this search netted 133 species. For further information contact: Betty Brooks, 1630 Seaview Road, Black Creek, BC V9J 1J5. Phone or Fax: (250) 337-8180.
- June 12-15, 1997 **RAPTORS AND THE WEST; HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE VIII**, Snowbird, Utah. Contact: Trent Lenz, Hawk Watch International, HMANA Conference VIII, Box 660, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0660, USA; phone (801) 524-8511 (work) or (801) 466-7566 (home).
- June 13-15, 1997 **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, Prince George, B.C. Contact: BCFO, Box 8059, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3R7; phone Jack Bowling (250) 963-7837 or Nancy Krueger (250) 963-7801.
- June 20-22, 1997 **E.C. Manning Provincial Park Bird Blitz.** Free camping will be available at Lone Duck Two group campground from 3 pm Friday until Sunday noon. Registration will take place Friday evening, with birding all day Saturday and, for the keeners, Sunday morning. Saturday evening there will be a "bring-your-own-beef" bar-b-que with salads, buns and drinks provided. Later that evening there will be a special slide presentation by a guest speaker to be announced. Suitable areas for all levels of birders. Please come and join in! Contact: M. Tilitsky, Box 3, Comp. 5, Manning Park, BC VOX 2B0. Ph. (250) 840-8878, Fax (250) 840-8855.
- July 21-27, 1997 **Joint Meeting American Birding Association Conference and Association of Field Ornithologists 75th Annual Meeting.** Hosted by the Asociacion Ornitologica de Costa Rica, this exciting event will include fabulous field-trips, great birding, interesting speakers, evening programs, the opportunity to meet with other birders and ornithologists, and the chance to experience another culture. Contact: Carol Wallace, Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO. 80934-6599. Ph(800) 850-2473 or (719) 578-1614.
- August 1-6 1997 **SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING**, Aruba, Dutch West Indies. Contact: Joseph M. Wunderle, Box 507, Palmer, Puerto Rico 00721.
- August 3-16, 1997 **Southeast Arizona.** Dazzling Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Strickland's Woodpecker, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, and Whiskered Screech-Owl — Arizona boasts no fewer than eleven species of breeding owls and a possible fourteen or more species of hummingbirds. Enjoy August in Arizona (temperature 80-95 F.) with virtually no mosquitoes (Note: chiggers present locally in dry grasses). Fourteen days @ \$2350 from Victoria/Vancouver based on double occupancy. Contact: Derrick Marven. Ph. (250) 748-8504.

- August 7-10 1997 **SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING**, Peterborough, Ontario. Contact: Erica Nol, Biology Department, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. K9J 7B8; Phone (705) 748-1640.
- August 13-16 1997 **AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION 115th STATED MEETING**, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact: Francesca Cuthbert, Department of Fish. & Wildlife, University of Minnesota, 1980 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108, U.S.A.
- August 21-24 1997 **WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' 22ND ANNUAL MEETING**, Imperial Valley, California. Contact: WFO Conference, IVC Desert Museum, Box 430, Ocotillo, CA 92259, U.S.A.



Landbird Migration Monitoring


by Rhonda L. Millikin
Senior Landbird Biologist
CWS, Pacific and Yukon Region

I plan to initiate a FLAP project in Vancouver and Victoria this spring and fall to determine if we have a problem of bird collisions with lit buildings at night during migration, like Toronto has (10,000 birds are estimated to die each year in the Toronto core alone). To have an independent measure of the migration volume through Vancouver and Victoria, I would like to place microphones on the roof of a prominent building in the center of the lit area. In this way, we will be able to assess the presence or absence of collisions, knowing the relative volume of migrants flying on those nights.

I am hoping someone would be willing to lend an old (but working) VCR for spring and fall migration (3rd week of April to end of May and again 2nd week of August to 1st week of October). The VCR needs to have audio input capability and a headphone output jack. The phono jacks of the microphone need to plug into the VCR to be amplified and then recorded onto video tape (video tape is cheaper for extended recording periods). The VCR must have extended play capability. Preferably there would be a digital readout showing the left and right channels. The headphone jack is needed to verify the microphone function.

The microphones will be placed on a building in the centre of the city to monitor migration traffic over the city to compare with surveys for bird collisions with lit buildings. I would like to involve a corporate group by asking them to provide their roof for placement of the microphones and a staff member to remove and replace tapes each day. This would encourage collaboration from the beginning and joint discussion of the solutions, should there in fact be a problem. If any of your members have suggestions of an ideal building and/or corporate group, their input would be appreciated. The work would involve programming the VCR to start recording on EP at sunset and removing/replacing the tape sometime before the next day's sunset. Each tape must be labeled with the location, date, start-time and comments (equipment problems). The analysis would be done by myself at a later date.

The FLAP project involves walking a set route, one to two hours before dawn, through the lit section of the city looking along cracks of buildings for birds dead or injured on the ground. Injured birds would be taken to a wildlife shelter, possibly the local SPCA. I am working with the BCSPCA on this issue. An exact methodology could be provided. If someone is interested in participating or coordinating the Victoria effort, please contact me [Rhonda Millikin] at (604) 940-4669. We would need two to four people for this pilot effort. Sincere thanks. Rhonda

[Excerpted from a letter sent to us by Marian Porter.] 

Boundary Bay Lot List Update

by G. Allen Poynter
1276 Saltspring Place
Parksville, BC V9P 2T5

In the March 1995 issue of the newsletter a birding lot list for our home on Beach Grove Road adjacent to Boundary Bay was published, documenting a total of 188 species and concluding that 200 was not out of reach. As an update and conclusion to this impressive list compiled over a short period of eight years, the following species were seen and identified prior to our relocation to Parksville on Vancouver Island.


- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 189 - Emperor Goose | - seen by everyone |
| 190 - Red Knot | - had been seen previously but not included |
| 191 - Ross' Goose | - in Boundary Bay for a week |
| 192 - Rufous-necked Stint, and | |
| 193 - Temminck's Stint | - both stints were located while studying individual Western Sandpipers for leg bands |
| 194 - Townsend's Solitaire | - top of bird feeder for 10 seconds |
| 195 - Greater White-fronted Goose | - what took it so long? |
| 196 - Black-legged Kittiwake | - also seen in White Rock: photographed |
| 197 - Black-crowned Night Heron | - originally found out of sight in pump house ditch: waited for two hours to see it fly: photographed |
| 198 - Hooded Merganser | - in and out of lagoon for a week |
| 199 - Hutton's Vireo | - seen and heard in garden trees |

Only one to go!

At this point we had taken in the Brant Festival in Parksville and found yet another waterfront property on Craig Bay. After putting our Beach Grove home up for sale, would we sell and move before hitting 200?

There had been a fantastic breeding season in the drainage ditches of Boundary Bay Regional District Park in 1996 and I had found five families of Sora and eight of Virginia Rail as well as a pair of Common Snipe with young. One pair of Sora produced a family in the ditch alongside 12th Avenue dike and we watched a Sora family feeding and resting within sight of our lot but never high enough on the dike side to be seen from the property. For three consecutive evenings during the first week of June I sat on the garden wall and then identified the Sora calling from the drainage ditch only 75 metres away.

Number 200!

On November 21st we locked the doors and headed for the ferry to the island, drawing to a conclusion the most exciting birding we have ever experienced. It was most gratifying to know that the new owners of our special lot also have an interest in the birds of Boundary Bay. 

Editors' Note: Well, birders, Allen has most certainly set you a challenge. That will be a very difficult number to meet or beat for anybody's home list. However, the possibility is always there. Your challenge now is to be observant, be diligent, keep good records, and, as always, inform your fellow members through an article sent to this newsletter.

We send a special thanks to the Poynters for updating us on their sightings and we wish them enjoyment and good birding in their new Parksville home.

Olympic Vulture Study: the Outlook from Washington State

by Diann MacRae
c/o Olympic Vulture Study
22622 - 53 Avenue S.E.
Bothell, WA 98021 USA

Nineteen-ninety-seven will be the sixth year of my field research project on the fall Turkey Vulture migration from Vancouver Island, British Columbia to the United States.

When I started in 1992, there was a lot of speculation as to just what routes the vultures took in the fall. Did they fly across the Strait of Juan de Fuca? Island-hop through the Gulf and/or San Juan Islands? Head for mainland BC and then south? No one seemed absolutely sure. Historically, it was thought vultures and several other species of raptors seldom ventured even near water. Luckily, it's since been well-documented that Turkey Vultures are considered a species that will tackle a short water crossing of under 25 km. That left both the strait and island routes as migration possibilities. I opted to look for a possible route across the 20 km Strait of Juan de Fuca.

With a grant from the Hawk Migration Association of North America, my assistant, Ann van der Geld, and I left in mid-September of 1992 for Vancouver Island to see what was happening, thinking that this was where the study would ultimately be centered. David Stirling and Barbara Begg kindly gave us a tour of the best vulture-viewing sites, took us on a hawkwatch above Beechey Head, and graciously shared information on the autumnal vulture gathering. We were set -- we thought!

Vulture numbers had been slowly increasing, we were told, and we routinely spotted from 200-400 birds kettling up over Rocky Point, gradually drifting back and forth and in and out. We spotted them from Mount Matheson, from the coastal road along Becher Bay and Sooke Basin, near Pedder Bay, and from East Sooke Park. After several days, we realized that:

- 1) visibility was difficult to the south across the strait, especially in the afternoon, since the sun was directly in our eyes, and
- 2) there were not a lot of spots available at water's edge to see whether the vultures were truly heading out across the strait.

We continually saw what we believed were the same large groups of Turkey Vultures lazily milling about, so we decided to explore to see if there might be concentrations elsewhere.

Rocky Point seemed the place to concentrate on. Rocky Point is a restricted military reservation at the ultimate southern tip of Vancouver Island. It is heavily wooded, and is now known to be where many of the birds roost. If the vultures did start their southerly migration across the strait rather than down the island chains or to the mainland, Rocky Point was a logical departure point being at the narrowest spot on the strait. Alan MacLeod did weekend watches from there and David Stirling conducted hawkwatches from the East Sooke Park area, so we decided to go directly across the strait and see what we could find on the Washington side.

Both Ann, my assistant, and Fred Sharpe, a skilled Washington birder, had reported fall Turkey Vultures in the area of Striped Peak, about 22 km west of Port Angeles, so we headed there. Striped Peak is 361 m in elevation and commands a striking view of the strait and Vancouver Island. It is part of the Salt Creek Recreation Area which has an excellent shoreline campground and is a Marine Life Sanctuary very popular with divers.

Our rewards came on 27 September 1992 at 3:30 on the afternoon of a warm, almost windless day. Large dark birds were spotted coming in low over the water at an angle to our mountain top view - a direct line from south Vancouver Island to Freshwater Bay. In 24 minutes, we counted 206 Turkey Vultures. They came one after the other, spread out slightly. Most were flapping 9-13 times, getting a little lift, then gliding on. One Sharp-shinned Hawk accompanied the vultures. It was a most impressive sight.

In the remaining days of our study in 1992 we saw no more birds coming in off the water, but did find some large kettles of birds just inland. We explored other possible sites nearby and occasionally saw kettles of 40-70 vultures. When people living in the area around Salt Creek mentioned seeing rivers of vultures and one woman said how can you miss the 'whoosh, whoosh, whoosh' of their wings when they are directly overhead, we knew we had picked the right spot!

During the 1993 season, we experimented with two other sites in the Salt Creek area finally ending up at our permanent site at the Salt Creek Campground. This gives us the added ability to casually watch from our campsite before 08:00 and after 17:00, our regular site hours. Visibility extends from Crescent Bay to the west and to Freshwater Bay east of the campground. Vultures coming in off the water are often 15-60 m above the water - most impressive when they are coming in directly towards our watch site. The shoreline site gives us much better visibility from all angles and has the added advantage of being on a public access to the tidepools. In turn, this allows us to talk to many people about the positive benefits of vultures, their migration, and a variety of related subjects.

Each year has been different at Salt Creek; weather dictates results. Turkey Vultures are very dependent on exacting weather conditions when crossing the strait. Our studies have shown most major flights occurring between 10:00 and 16:00, generally on fair days with light winds from the southeast. From 1992 to 1996, the bulk of the Turkey Vulture migration has fallen between 22 September and 4 October with 27 September the peak date. Nineteen-ninety-five was an extremely cold and rainy fall and the majority of the vultures came on just two days. In contrast, 1996 weather was quite pleasant and we had vulture counts on most good days ending with an all-time high count of 1,899. Counts are compared with Vancouver Island hawkwatches done by Stirling and MacLeod, and occasionally there are direct correlations of passage time.

Turkey Vultures generally migrate in large groups. While the birds do come in smaller groups at times, groups of about 200+ seem to be most common. Daily high counts have ranged from 127 to last year's high of 644. Being down at the shoreline allows us, usually, to easily count the vultures as they come in since they tend to fly in a strung-out fashion.

On days when large concentrations of vultures cross the strait, a variety of other raptors often cross. Twelve additional species besides Turkey Vultures have been seen. All passage birds are noted as to time, age and sex when possible, color morph, and behavior. Weather is noted hourly.

Salt Creek is an enjoyable site. During the long hours of no vultures we are constantly entertained by the local population of oystercatchers, Harlequin Ducks, scoters and alcids, plus a passing parade of migrant waterfowl, marine mammals and Trident submarines. (And Brown Pelicans in 1996!)

The success of the Olympic Vulture Study has come from the response of many volunteers both in British Columbia and Washington State. Notices requesting vulture sightings have been sent to newspapers, bird groups, yacht clubs, dive shops, marinas, and individuals. Flyers have been posted everywhere. In turn, we have received hundreds of

vulture sightings. Subsistence grants from the Hawk Migration Association of North America and the Northwest Ecological Research Institute have enabled the study to continue; both are private non-profit groups. We have learned a lot in five years and the Turkey Vulture has been given much favorable publicity on both sides of the border; it's been a truly international study.

We welcome anyone interested to join us for an hour or a day. Salt Creek Park is 14 miles west of Port Angeles on SR 112. Turn right at Camp Hayden Road and follow it for 4.2 miles to the campground. The watch site is at the far west end of the park at the last tidepool access facing north. The site is wheelchair accessible.



A Passage of Hawks, Update


by David Allinson
3444 Karger Terrace
Victoria, BC V9C 3K5

Since my last article outlining the fall spectacle of hawks over southern Vancouver Island a lot has happened. The Becher Bay Headlands south of Victoria annually hosts impressive numbers of migrating raptors with a species total of sixteen, including: Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk (including *harlani*), Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, & Gyrfalcon.

My own personal observations at East Sooke Regional Park have dwindled as I have become more active at the Canadian Wildlife Service songbird migration monitoring at nearby Rocky Point. After the songbird banding peters out for the day, we are able to monitor raptor movements over Rocky Point as the thermals develop. It was here that the Becher Bay Headlands Hawkwatch added Swainson's Hawk in the spring of 1996. In addition, Rocky Point hosted four Broad-winged Hawks together in late September of 1995 and eleven Rough-legged Hawks in October of 1993.

Nevertheless, observations of large numbers of Turkey Vulture and other species can still be enjoyed from the easily accessible field near the parking lot of the Aylard Farm entrance to East Sooke Regional Park. Those still wishing to hike up to the Beechey Head lookout may add species such as Hutton's Vireo, Ruffed and Blue Grouse, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and Northern Pygmy-Owl along the trail. The lookout is still a sentimental favorite as it offers close-up viewing of the hawks as they pass by the ridge. Curiously, the spring movement of hawks remains subdued in numbers but with almost the same species variety. Victoria-area birders once again plan to reconnoiter the west coast this spring in conjunction with efforts by our American friends on the Olympic Peninsula. It has been suggested that the birds may be moving out over the Strait of Juan de Fuca towards Port Renfrew and Bamfield.

For those interested, Broad-winged Hawks have become a reliable rarity from mid- to late September with two to six individuals usually recorded. The fall migration of hawks begins the first week of September and slows to a trickle by the third week in October. Mark your calendars now for the last week of September 1997 when raptor numbers peak.

Let's find that elusive #17 for the raptor list! Any bets on what it will be? 

Raptors Counted at the Salt Creek Area, 1992 - 1996*

Species	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	5 Year Totals
Turkey Vulture	649	1145	1029	782	1899	5504
Osprey	1	3	2	2	4	12
Bald Eagle	6	5	7	15	12	45
Northern Harrier	0	0	2	2	9	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	36	11	12	7	23	89
Cooper's Hawk	1	3	2	4	4	14
Northern Goshawk	0	1	0	0	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	33	11	6	37	50	137
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1
Golden Eagle	0	0	0	2	0	2
American Kestrel	0	2	0	0	2	4
Merlin	0	2	0	3	7	12
Peregrine Falcon	0	4	0	0	1	5
Unidentified raptor	2	2	1	3	10	18
Yearly totals	728	1149	1061	857	2023	5858

[*Listings submitted by Diann MacRae. See article page 7-9.]

A Sander-Chicka-Sparrow?

by Jo Ann MacKenzie
15341 - 21 Avenue
S. Surrey, BC V4A 6A8

While birding on the White Rock pier on February 15, 1997, Hue and I noticed a lone Sanderling moving along the rock breakwater. As we watched, it flew toward us, and alighted on the pier's wooden handrail. We were amazed to see it run back and forth on the railing, probing into crevices in the wood and between handrail sections. Its behavior was more like that of a chickadee than a shorebird. Equally surprising was that it was only an arm's reach away!

After several minutes, it flew down to the deck of the pier, and ran to a scattering of mixed seed that someone had put down to entice the gulls. Here it dashed at small black seeds, probably thistle. The weather was cold and windy, and these little black seeds, windblown, moved in a jerky manner. At first, we thought the seeds were insects. The Sanderling must have thought so, too, but it quickly realized they were not, and did not eat them. Then the bird began to probe into the spaces between the deck planks; as it did so, it ran about among the gulls and the feet of passersby, like a sparrow. Sanderling are said to be rather tame, but this seemed ridiculous! Such behavior looked to us to be extremely risky, as such a small bird might easily have been trampled by inattentive power walkers, or have become a meal for one of the Glaucous-winged Gulls that mooch for hand-outs on the pier.

Perhaps the Sanderling was exceptionally hungry, desperate enough to exploit an unusual potential food source; but it behaved boldly, confidently, as if it had been there, done that, successfully before. When we left, it was still darting about, probing crannies in the planking of the deck, undeterred by other pier users.

The Prince George Birding Experience

by Chris Charlesworth
725 Richard's Road
Kelowna, BC V1X 2X5

For those of us who live in southern British Columbia, birding in the Prince George area can be a great experience. A few eastern species creep down from the Peace River Country into the Prince George region. These eastern species, when added to the numerous boreal forest and wetland species, make for a long list of several hundred birds. You can access numerous habitat types within close reach of the city. Black spruce bogs hold Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped and even the occasional Blackpoll Warbler. The widespread aspen forests harbor many bird species including Red-breasted Sapsucker, Tennessee, Magnolia, and Yellow Warblers, and White-throated Sparrows. Many small lakes and marshes dot the landscape around Prince George. Hundreds of ducks and other wetland species breed on these lakes. With luck you might spot a Black Tern or an American White Pelican. The most vast habitat throughout northern BC is the boreal forest. White spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine are the dominant tree types in the northern forests. A dawn chorus will be filled with the sound of warblers, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, kinglets, Boreal and Black-capped Chickadees, Gray Jays, Pine Grosbeaks, crossbills and many other species associated with the boreal forest.

I was fortunate enough to have made two very productive birding trips to the Prince George area in June and July of 1993 and 1994. The local Prince George birders will repeat, "why would anybody want to come birding in Prince George? It's so boring". Possibly it gets repetitious for them. However, for those of us who bird exclusively in the southern portion of the province, many of the species common around Prince George are rare or non-existent in our areas. A selection of species which wander west from the Peace River, including Least, Alder and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Ovenbirds, Blackpoll and Magnolia Warblers, and White-throated, LeConte's and Swamp Sparrows, are of real interest to us southern folk.

There are many good birding areas which you can visit from Prince George. I will briefly describe three of my favorite birding spots.

The Fort George Canyon Trail takes you through a beautiful aspen forest. This is one of the most reliable spots for Ovenbirds around Prince George. To my knowledge these Prince George Ovenbirds are the only isolated breeding population west of the Rocky Mountains in the province. Their loud "teacher, teacher, teacher, *TEACHER*" song is very distinctive, although it is almost impossible to get a glimpse of these understory dwellers. Listen also for Least Flycatchers, Magnolia Warblers, Red-eyed and Solitary Vireos, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, and White-throated Sparrows. I got a big surprise when a huge cow Moose crossed the trail just a short distance ahead of me. The only disappointing aspect of birding along the Fort George Trail are the insects. Remember to put on your bug repellent before you head out along the trail.

Another birding hotspot is the Shelley Sludge Lagoons. Despite the unappealing name, the sewage treatment ponds harbor a variety of shorebirds during migration and the adjacent woodlands contain many breeding songbirds. On a good day in August you can find Least, Western, Semipalmated, Spotted, Pectoral, and Baird's Sandpipers, Red-necked Phalaropes, both yellowlegs and Common Snipe. Ducks also poke around these ponds. Watch out for an optimistic Merlin making a pass over the shorebirds. The buzz of the Clay-colored Sparrow is a common song in the nearby weedy fields. These lagoons are a must for any visiting birders.

East of Prince George, along Highway 16, Vama Vama Marsh can be seen. The large pond, surrounded by rushes and regenerating lodgepole pine forest, is an excellent spot to look for wetland specialities. Keep your eyes peeled for a moose wading through the shallow waters. Common Yellowthroats, Swamp and Lincoln's Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds and Soras inhabit the marsh. In 1994 a small group of us observed a Virginia Rail lurking amongst the rushes. This was the first record for the Prince George area.

I encourage you to make the journey to Prince George in June for the AGM. The birders up there are a very enthusiastic group and they will make it worthwhile. Although I won't be able to attend, I look forward to hearing all the stories brought back.



Site Guide: Lakelse Lake

by Dennis Horwood
54 Smith St.
Kitimat, BC V8C 1K9

When driving from Terrace to Kitimat on Highway 25, visitors first glimpse Lakelse Lake while descending from the Terrace-Kitimat airport to the flats bordering the northern lake edges. The highway soon crosses Williams Creek, the largest inlet to the lake. The roadway continues around the eastern side leading to two provincial parks and numerous private homes. One provincial park is for day use only while the second, called Furlong Bay, has a large campground, picnic facilities, and a boat ramp.

The east and west sides of Lakelse Lake are forested with red cedar, hemlock, and spruce. Wetlands dominate the north and south ends of the lake. At the south end, four creeks meander into the lake forming a marsh almost two km wide. Extensive patches of rushes clog almost all the shallow areas along this part of the lake. The flow from Clearwater Creek keeps the middle of the marsh relatively free from plant life, allowing passage with shallow draft boats.

The lake itself measures 8.7 by 2.4 km with a surface area of about 14 sq.km. The lake's deepest point is 31 m. Its average depth of only 7.9 m helps make it a relatively shallow lake.

At Lakelse Lake, 138 species of birds have been recorded. This makes it one of the best areas to see birds in the Terrace-Kitimat area.

Lakelse Lake: South End

The south end of Lakelse Lake has the best birdwatching on the lake. No trails or roads lead directly to the creeks, marshes or shallows at this part of Lakelse. They can be reached only by boat which may be launched at Furlong Bay, Waterlily Bay Resort, or at a small undeveloped ramp near the mouth of Schulbuchkand Creek. Outboard motors frighten waterfowl, props quickly foul with weeds, and several shallows and beaver dams are passable only with a light weight craft. Canoes provide the best means to navigate throughout these waterways. On days with a brisk south wind, however, canoeing may be difficult. Several small creeks lead into the marshes which are ideal for exploration and provide excellent birding opportunities

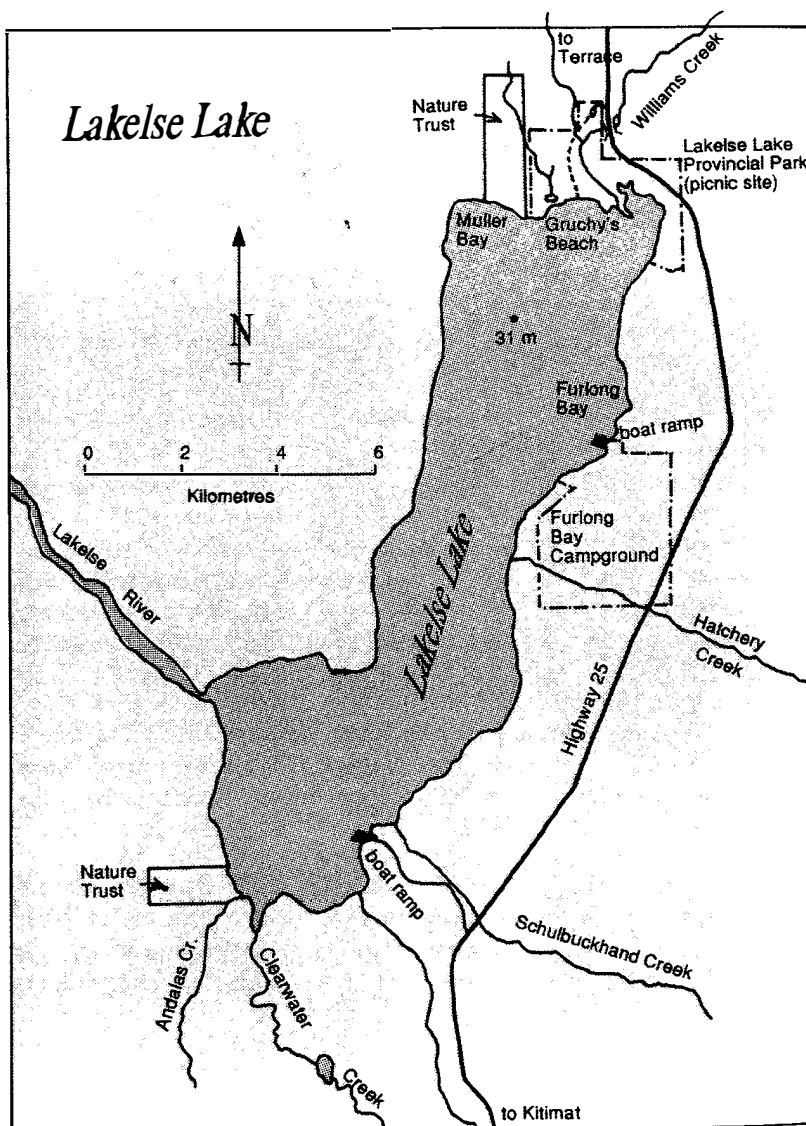


Figure 1: Lakelse Lake

If you paddle along any of the small streams entering the south end, you will probably flush some waterfowl. Watch for grebes, scoters, mergansers, Mallards, teals, wigeon, or Ring-necked Ducks. Red-necked Grebes are the most noticeable breeding waterfowl in this area. As the streams narrow and meander through the bottom lands, be alert for the smaller passerine species. Common Yellowthroat, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers search for insects along the shrubby shoreline. Within the forested sections, sapsuckers and Pileated Woodpeckers bore for their food while Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Song Sparrows scour the bushes and branches for insect larvae. High on a snag, Olive-sided Flycatchers call for 'quick three beers' before darting after passing insects. Also, listen for the melodic song of Swainson's Thrushes filtering through the forest, harsh rattles of Belted Kingfishers, or soft, high-pitched tones of Cedar Waxwings. After two hours of relaxing birdwatching expect to see at least 23 species.

Summer

During the summer months birdwatching is rewarding but more difficult because some birds are secretive and less vocal. On a quiet summer evening, set a course for some tall rushes and patches of bog-bean but let your boat drift slowly as you approach the shallows. By now, most waterfowl have flown north or further inland. Small numbers of

Spring

To maximize birdwatching opportunities early in the year, two trips should be planned during the spring season. Plan your first visit just after the ice disappears usually during late March or early April. At this time, the trees remain locked in their winter shell. It will be more than a month before their buds turn green and the first song-birds begin to establish their breeding territory. The open water, however, is an attraction to early migrating waterfowl. Up to 130 swans which spend the winter here are joined by Canada Geese, Northern Pintail, and Mallards. The only Wood Duck recorded for Lakelse Lake, a brilliant preening male, was seen in the company of some Hooded Mergansers in early spring. Out from the shoreline scan for Red-necked Grebes, Ring-necked Ducks, and scoters. The only noticeable song birds would be Song Sparrows and White-winged or Red Crossbills. Expect to record about fourteen species.

Late Spring offers quite a different birding experience. Trees and bushes which were a dull brown in April, now form a lush green boundary along the lake edge. Insect larvae feed voraciously on the new growth and, in turn, are consumed by a host of insectivorous birds.

Mallards stay and have been reported to nest in this ideal location. Also, three to four pairs of Red-necked Grebes anchor their floating nests in the tall reeds. After hatching, young birds often hitch a ride on their parent's back. For the last few years, a lone Trumpeter Swan has spent most of the summer in the shelter of these wetlands.

With a canoe or small boat, it is possible to paddle against the current of Clearwater Creek. This creek meanders through the bottom lands creating small ponds and waterways inhabited by beaver, moose, muskrat, and otters. Along the water's edge you will no doubt see flycatchers darting out from a branch, snapping at an insect before returning to their perch.

Listen for warblers and vireos calling from leafy trees and bushes. Common Yellowthroat, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers are summer residents which likely breed here. The olive colours of Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos makes them difficult to find in the green shrubbery. While searching the high branches for these small, insect-eating birds, you might also hear a woodpecker drilling on a high snag or the flute-like song of a Swainson's Thrush. Be sure to scan the open spaces for several species of swallows or Vaux's or Black Swifts. They slice through the air, deftly catching high flying insects. After a morning of paddling and drifting along, expect to see 26 species.

Autumn

By late September, the marshes have been deserted by all except the hardiest of songbirds. Juncos, Song Sparrows, or chickadees might be seen valiantly searching for the few remaining insects. Waterbirds now dominate the scene both offshore and in the shelter of the tall marsh reeds. Flotillas of dark diving ducks bob and bounce in the deeper water. Several species remain here until the lake freezes. Small numbers of Canvasback, a species in decline since 1960, have been noted over the last twelve years. They often associate with Bufflehead, goldeneyes, Western Grebes, and scoters. Red-necked Grebes, American Coots, wigeon, Mallards, and geese feed and rest in the shallows. These waterfowl are dwarfed by Trumpeter Swans, the largest North American waterbird. A flock of about 130 adults and immatures come here from their breeding grounds in Alaska. They spend most of their time near marshy shorelines and protected bays. During the autumn, expect to see twenty species.

Winter

Numbers of waterfowl at Lakelse Lake decrease dramatically once the lake freezes. The flow from Clearwater Creek, however, maintains an ice-free patch of water. Ice near this area may be thin and hazardous to walk upon. A good pair of binoculars or a spotting scope are needed to see the few wintering species. Trumpeter Swans are sometimes difficult to locate if they rest on the ice. Flying overhead, however, they make a magnificent sight as their wild trumpeting calls echo across the valley, while their glistening plumage contrasts sharply against the forest background. A few Mallards, goldeneye, or Bufflehead often feed with the swans. In open areas such as this, Northern Shrike watch from tree tops for an unsuspecting siskin, sparrow, or chickadee. To find more than ten species on a winter day would be unusual.

Lakelse Lake: Furlong Bay Campground and Picnic Site

The campground and lakefront at Furlong Bay opens for camping from mid-May to late September. The campground was built within an old-growth forest of cedar, spruce, and hemlock. The 156 campsites, roadways, and some selective logging have created openings in the dense canopy. This variety of habitats combined with the shoreline of Lakelse Lake make this an attractive location for many species. Fifty species can be seen during the camping period.

Spring

An early morning walk among the tall trees can be a rejuvenating experience. Birds are normally most active just after dawn. They also actively sing on their breeding territory, chase intruders, and begin selecting nest sites. Sometimes so many birds call at once that only a trained ear or a recording can help separate them. Some of the most pleasant and most persistent callers will be the thrushes. Robins, along with Varied, Swainson's, and Hermit Thrushes have all been recorded within the campground boundaries. Once recognized, their songs are easy to remember. Separating warbler songs, however, is sometimes difficult. Many people spend years learning the many different call notes and songs of these small, bright-coloured birds. Other species, such as the Steller's Jay, Winter Wren, Belted Kingfisher, and Song Sparrow usually have clear songs which make identification much simpler. During a one hour walk, expect to see fifteen species.

Summer

During the summer months songbirds spend a lot less time calling but a lot more time searching for food and feeding their young. This creates an excellent opportunity to see birds which normally would be hidden in the forest canopy.

One July morning at the edge of our campsite we observed a Townsend's and MacGillivray's Warbler each feeding young in low bushes. Just above them, in some hemlock branches, were a family of Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Brown Creeper and several juncos.

The picnic area has its fair share of bird activity. Boating and bathing usually does not start until late morning and some birds seem to take advantage of this quiet period. Many Common Mergansers nest at Lakelse and females often lead their young along the protected lake edges. These birds dive for small fish and crustaceans in shallow water. It appears some adults have the role of baby-sitter, since single adults may have nineteen fluffy, young birds trailing behind.

Watch also for Belted Kingfishers as they sit quietly observant on shoreline branches awaiting the passage of minnows and small fish. Osprey may also be seen soaring over the lake. It is always a thrill to see these large birds of prey suddenly fold their wings, drop like a stone, and make spectacular plunges after fish swimming close to the surface. During an hours walk in the morning or evening, expect to see twenty species.

Lakelse Lake: Gruchy's Beach

The Gruchy's Beach trail is one of the best areas for birdwatching at the north end of Lakelse Lake.

The turnoff to the trailhead begins one km north of the day-use picnic site at Lakelse Lake. Travelling from Terrace, watch for the yellow bridge over Williams Creek and make a right turn just before this bridge. A short gravel road leads to a parking lot. Allow fifteen minutes to reach the beach, but longer if you plan to stop for birds.

The flat trail meanders alongside Williams Creek for a short distance then leads through an old-growth forest. Some tall and extremely stout spruce, along with sizeable western red cedar and hemlock, block out the sunlight. The tall forest canopy shelters alder trees, elderberry bushes, and several species of wildflowers. The trail is the high ground between Williams Creek and a large marsh hidden from obvious view. This variety of habitats in such a small area makes this trail attractive to birds.

Spring

A special trip to this trail during May or June can be very exciting. Check the edges of the parking lot for less common warblers such as the American Redstart or Northern Waterthrush. Deep in the shrubbery you may hear Swainson's Thrush and Cedar

Waxwing. After starting along the trail, listen for Winter Wren's bubbling trill close to the forest floor.

Williams Creek flows close beside the trail in several locations. Belted Kingfishers often perch on limbs overhanging the water and Common Mergansers rest on the rocks. Within the tall evergreens, kinglets search for their next meal. In places these trees are spaced enough for alders to grow. Watch for Warbling Vireos and warblers, such as Wilson's, Yellow-rumped, and MacGillivray's. One of the few sightings of a Magnolia Warbler was recorded here. Once you reach the beach, scan for shorebirds on the sandbar near the mouth of Williams Creek. Semipalmated Plovers have rested here while migrating and Spotted Sandpipers often search for food along the sandy shoreline. An Osprey may soar by searching for fish. Expect to see at least fifteen species on a round trip.

Summer

If your time is limited, this can be a rewarding walk. In just a few minutes you pass through several different habitats which may offer a few unusual species of birds. Spend a few extra minutes walking the perimeter of the parking lot. On one occasion we saw a family of chickadees, Cedar Waxwings, Song Sparrows, and a Northern Waterthrush before we started on the trail to the lake.


A dense canopy of alder, cedar and hemlock protects most of this trail. When the cover opens, watch for Vaux's Swift flying just above the trees. They have been noted several times over the beaver ponds opposite Williams Creek. Along the pond edges, listen for Song Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos also prefer plenty of green shrubbery. Summer sightings will be largely songbirds because most waterfowl have left. After an hour, expect to see twelve species.

Autumn

Gruchy's Beach Trail has quite a different atmosphere during the autumn months. Kinglets and chickadees will likely be the only songbirds since most other birds have migrated. Spawned salmon, however, attract a multitude of gulls. Mew and Herring are the most common gulls, but you may spot a Bonaparte's, California, or Ring-billed Gull if you are lucky.

The active, shallow estuary from Williams Creek attracts goldeneyes, Bufflehead, swans, coots, and dabbling ducks. Look for Canvasback or Ring-necked Ducks mingling with them. A Bald Eagle may sail overhead before perching on a snag. An autumn walk will probably produce no more than ten species but it will be a reminder that the seasons change quickly at Lakelse Lake.

Winter

Reaching Gruchy's Beach during the winter may be difficult if the creek is high or if there is snow on the ground. Naturally, there will be fewer species present, but the effort will be worthwhile. Williams Creek flows even in the coldest weather, so be sure to check the faster water for Common Mergansers. The constant flow of creek water keeps a small area near the mouth ice free. On a very foggy and wet winter day, we heard the trumpeting calls of swans echoing back and forth over the lake. As we followed the lake edge into the mist, twenty-one ghostly Trumpeter Swans gradually materialized as they fed peacefully in the shallows. Nearby, shadowy forms of mergansers and Common Goldeneye drifted quietly in the gentle current. The damp, cold air continued unnoticed while we rested beneath some tall pines, enjoying this peaceful scene. A winter walk would usually produce fewer than ten species. 

Editors' Note: Thanks to Dennis and to the Kitimat Centennial Museum for permission to reprint this article, a similar version of which appeared in **Birds of the Kitimat Valley** by Dennis Horwood, © 1992 by the Kitimat Centennial Museum.

Bird-Lister's Corner

by Ken Morgan
1945 Land's End Road
Sidney, BC V8L 5J2

Welcome back to Bird-Lister's Corner! This is part two of the lister's column. Part one appeared in the March 1997 issue. By the deadline for submissions (31 January 1997), only 27 people had sent forms to me. Reports were submitted for 13 of the 15 areas first suggested in volume 6(3) of the **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST**. In addition, totals for 12 other areas were submitted. A reminder, please include either an accurate description of a suggested area or refer to boundaries if already described (eg. in a checklist).

To try to renew interest, I have included most of the additional lists. To show how people's lists have changed, I have also included the last totals reported. As interest grows, I expect that I will have to restrict the number of areas covered and/or impose the 50% sighting rule.

If you notice any errors in the total number of species for an area, or you can provide boundaries for the areas that were not defined, please forward them to me. I look forward to your contributions next year. Happy Birding.

Listing Data to 31 December 1996 (Part 2)

COAST & MOUNTAINS ECOPROVINCE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Don Cecile	262

GEORGIA DEPRESSION ECOPROVINCE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
David Stirling	326
Tom Plath	248
Barb Begg	305

SOUTHERN INTERIOR ECOPROVINCE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Laurie Rockwell	255
Tom Plath	248
David Stirling	235
Tony Greenfield	217

VANCOUVER CHECKLIST AREA (364 species)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>1992 TOTAL</u>
Tom Plath	315	86.5	292
Eric MacBean	310	85.2	279
Stefan Zarembo	291	79.9	273
Keith Riding	286	78.6	-
Lloyd Esralson	284	78.0	261
Dick Cannings	281	77.2	273
Audrey Viken	275	75.5	267
Larry Cowan	262	72.0	-
Allan Schutz	262	72.0	-
Mike McGrenere	257	70.6	252
David Stirling	236	64.8	227*
Burke Korol	133	36.5	-

* 1991 total

CENTRAL INTERIOR ECOPROVINCE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
David Stirling	196
Laurie Rockwell	175

SOUTHERN INTERIOR MOUNTAINS ECOPROVINCE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Douglas Leighton	230

TAIGA & BOREAL PLAINS ECOPROVINCES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tony Greenfield	208
David Stirling	158

VICTORIA CHECKLIST AREA (331 species)

NAME	TOTAL	PERCENT	1992 TOTAL
David Stirling	304	91.8	295*
Hank Vanderpol	299	90.3	276
Barb Begg	292	88.2	274
Mike McGrenere	290	87.6	267
Derrick Marven	277	83.7	-
Aziza Cooper	268	81.0	232
Tom Gillespie	255	77.0	208
Lloyd Esralson	129	39.0	-
* 1991 total			

NORTH PACIFIC PELAGIC WATERS

NAME	TOTAL
Ken Morgan	50
David Stirling	43
Lloyd Esralson	36

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL AREAS**OKANAGAN VALLEY** (317 species)
(Cannings checklist area)

NAME	TOTAL	PERCENT	1992 TOTAL
Dick Cannings	279	88.0	274
Denise Brownlie	276	87.1	263
Elsie Nykyfork	269	84.9	229
Gwynneth Wilson	264	83.3	-
Burke Korol	228	71.9	-

SUNSHINE COAST** (265 species)

NAME	TOTAL	PERCENT	1992 TOTAL
Tony Greenfield	245	92.5	237
Tom Plath	171	64.5	120

** Synonymous with administrative area known as the Sunshine Coast Regional District. Includes mainland stretch of coast from McNab Creek and Port Mellon to Earls Cove and Egmont. Also includes offshore areas such as Keats, Gambier, Thormanby and Nelson Islands, and inland waterways of Sechelt and Salmon Narrows and Jervis Inlets to their surrounding heights of land. (description provided by T. Greenfield)

PRINCETON AREA*** (239 species)

NAME	TOTAL	PERCENT	1992 TOTAL
Jerry Herzig	222	92.9	201

*** A square of 40 km per side, with Princeton at centre. Primarily Similkameen and Tulameen Valleys, Allison Lake drainage and Copper Mountain Road towards the USA border. (description provided by J. Herzig)

MASS VALLEY****

NAME	TOTAL
Peter Hamel	151

**** Mass River watershed between headwaters in Meziadin Lake to mouth of Observatory Inlet (includes communities of Old Aiyansh to Kincolith). (description provided by P.Hamel)

NORTHERN BC*

NAME	TOTAL
Peter Hamel	301

* North of Highway 16 from Alberta border west to Masset (QCI's). Includes Graham Island from Skidegate Inlet to Dixon Entrance and those waters of Hecate Strait between Prince Rupert and Graham Island. (description provided by P.Hamel)

BC NORTHWEST TRIANGLE**

NAME	TOTAL
David Stirling	88

** A small, mostly alpine and subalpine corner of BC cut off from the rest of the province by Alaska and bordered by the Yukon to the north. (description provided by D.Stirling)

MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK

NAME	TOTAL	1991 TOTAL
David Stirling	101	100

MITLENATCH ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

NAME	TOTAL	1991 TOTAL
David Stirling	110	110

HAIDA GWAIL NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

NAME	TOTAL
Laurie Rockwell	69

PORT ALBERNI (212 species no boundaries or reference to a checklist provided)

NAME	TOTAL	PERCENT
Don Cecile	199	93.9

100 MILE HOUSE (no boundaries or reference to a checklist provided)

NAME	TOTAL
Laurie Rockwell	175

PHOTOGRAPHED IN CANADA

NAME	TOTAL
Derrick Marven	290

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 and quietly awaiting the possible appearance of an elusive lifebird.

AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE

David Allinson

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

Chris Charlesworth

Chris, a member of the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club, has been birding in the Okanagan for about seven years. He has led many groups birding in the area and welcomes calls from interested visiting birders. (604) 765-6048.

Dennis Horwood

A naturalist for most of his life, Dennis has worked for Parks Canada and BC Parks. He currently resides in Kitimat, teaches elementary school, and spends as much time as possible boating on Douglas Channel or birding in his backyard.

Diann MacRae

Diann is the author of **A Birder's Guide to Washington**, Vice-chairman of the Hawk Migration Association of North America and a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Ornithological Society. She has birded since she was six and considers last year's trip to Islay in Scotland to see the thousands of Barnacle Geese (etc!) a highlight of her life.

Jo Ann MacKenzie

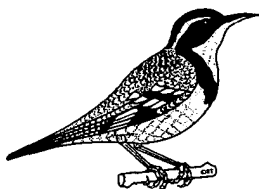
Jo Ann, an avid birder for over 25 years, enjoys birding anywhere, anytime! She and husband Hue are active members of the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists and the Vancouver Natural History Society.

Ken Morgan

Ken, a member of the Victoria Natural History Society and former director of BCFO, started birding as a youngster in Ontario. He now 'birds' seriously with a primary interest in pelagic birding.



Remember that BCFO will need some new Directors again this year. Ask how you might be able to assist the Organization.



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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA

August 3-16 1997 \$2,350 (excluding meals) based on double-occupancy from Victoria

August is the season of rains in southeast Arizona, the monsoons, which cool temperatures considerably; August may actually be cooler than April and May! This is the season when breeding birds are in full-song and the maximum number of Mexican vagrants appear. Spectacular scenery.

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