



# BC BIRDING

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

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**BC BIRDING** is published four times a year by  
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P.O. Box 8059, Victoria, BC V8W 3R7.

A subscription to this quarterly is a benefit  
of membership in the society.  
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.

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British Columbia Field Ornithologists  
P.O. Box 8059  
Victoria, BC V8W 3R7

Send material for publication in any format to  
the editors. We especially welcome bird-finding  
information for our "Site Guide" series and any  
articles about birding experiences, preferably  
but not necessarily, in British Columbia.

**Deadline for receipt of material for  
publication is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding  
the March, June, September & December issues.**

Advertising rates available upon request.

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**EDITORS' NOTES & NOTIONS**

September already! The birds are flying South and so are the Buhlers so the deadline for this issue had to be squeezed in between packing, studying, and travel preparations. One month ago we only had a six-page newsletter - thanks to all who came through in the crunch recently.

Summer is often a slow time for birding but the sunshine often draws the birders away from pens and paper. Two of the articles in this issue have been reprinted in other publications but are used with permission of the authors. There was not room to acknowledge the sources so they will be credited here.

Christine asked us for assistance for an upcoming article she was writing for her regular nature column in the Courier Islander, Campbell River, 31 July 1999. We asked for a copy, read and enjoyed the article, and felt our readers would enjoy it also. Tony wrote his article originally for the 8 August 1999 Birders Corner in the Coast Independent on the Sunshine Coast but faxed us a copy to include in this newsletter. Russ said he might do us an article "...but if these unusual warm sunny days continue, I will have to fight off summer ennui." Fortunately for us we had clouds and rain for a few days. Dan had suggested a while ago that he might be able to 'write us something' so we gave him a firm deadline. Thanks Dan. Andy has had the site guide up on the web for a while but felt that it should get onto paper and since he had influence with the editors it seems to have been included. No one sent us an official list of birds seen at the AGM so we polled a few members and compiled a list. Please add to this if we missed anything. We also thank Hank for minutes, Ev for the financial statement, Martin for upcoming events and the news brief, and all those who sent us notes or e-mail. Thanks also to Russ for forwarding us the photos taken at the AGM. Enjoy the issue! Remember to check out the ad for Gallagher Lake Lodge too.

For ABA members who receive Winging It, the August 1999 issue (V.11(8): 6) has an article on 'Some B's for Birding Leaders' by Hue MacKenzie which originally appeared in BC BIRDING (V.8(2): 6) which is well worth re-reading. Glad it is getting broad coverage.

On a lighter note, we phoned one of the Directors tonight to check out a detail for BC BIRDING. His first reaction upon hearing Marilyn's voice was "The White Rock CBC is January 2, 1999." Sorry no stars! His CBC date was the third one received to date. Have we got people trained or what?? Please remember to get **your** CBC date in early for the next issue and help reduce our phone bill. Have a good autumn and good birding. Andy & Marilyn

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

by Tony Greenfield

At the AGM in Oliver in June, the executive of BCFO underwent certain changes. Resigning as directors were Ev Miyasaki (treasurer), Ken Morgan (secretary), and Jack Bowling (director). We thank them for their years of service, and their important contributions to the efficient operation and direction of the society. We now welcome aboard as the new treasurer, Jim Fliczuk; the new secretary, Jo Ann MacKenzie; and director, Ian Robertson.

The first meeting of the new executive on 22<sup>nd</sup> August will begin over again the process of choosing a location for the next AGM. In 1998-99 the executive devoted considerable effort to re-writing our constitution, a necessary, though time-consuming, and often frustrating experience. It is surprising how difficult it is to dot all the "i"s and cross all the "t"s when the constitution is at stake, and apparent minor changes can lead to substantive and unforeseen implications. Hopefully, this project is largely behind us for the time being and we can focus on more practical aspects of BCFO.

Even though we define ourselves, BCFO, as field ornithologists, we clearly have a vested interest in the conservation of birds and their habitats. In this regard, I think the post-AGM surveys of threatened and vulnerable species in the south Okanagan (Lark Sparrow, Bobolink, Yellow-breasted Chat, etc.) were a useful exercise for both the birds and for BCFO. We anticipate a report on the surveys from Dick Cannings in a future edition. There would appear to be room for more survey work by BCFO'ers in the near future as we become more involved with Bird Studies Canada and their initiatives such as the BC Coastal Waterbirds Survey.

In my own local birding area, I am happy to report that members of the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society, who also happen to be BCFO'ers, made the effort to install Purple Martin nest-boxes in likely locations, and we were rewarded with the first known breeding of this species on the Sunshine Coast.

These are all examples of field ornithologists following their avocation, whilst at the same time contributing to the conservation of the birds. We should do more.

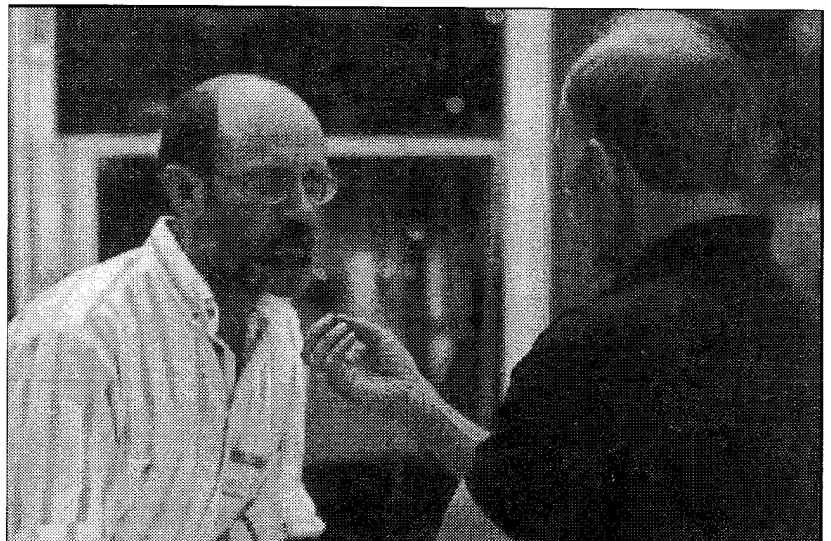
Good fall birding,

Tony Greenfield.

**EDITORS' NOTES:**

1. See pages 16-17 of this issue for a report of the Purple Martins nesting on the Sunshine Coast.

2. Photo: Tony G. and Laurie R. discussing either some of the more esoteric points of AGM protocol, bird identification, or favorite watering holes. Whatever the point of discussion was these two BCFO'ers were quite intent upon resolving it and seemed totally unaware of the photographer!



**Minutes of the BCFO 1999 Annual General Meeting****19 June 1999, Oliver BC**

Minutes recorded by Hank VanderPol

**1. INTRODUCTION:**

The president, Tony Greenfield, acknowledged and thanked the local organizing committee which worked very hard to set up the AGM. Glenda Ross, Eva Durance, Marg Holm and Laurie Rockwell were instrumental in the success of this year's AGM.

**2. MINUTES OF 1998 AGM:**

The minutes were read by Russ Tkachuk. On a motion by Russ, seconded by Laurie Rockwell, the minutes were carried.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM 1998 MINUTES**

None.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT.**

Ev Miyasaki read his report. The BCFO has a large surplus of \$7,660 - largely the result of previous extension trips. There also have been savings on mailings. The cash balance is \$20,500. On a motion by Martin McNicholl, seconded by Ian Robertson, the report was accepted.

**5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

The report was prepared by Al Wiseley, Membership Coordinator, and read by Tony Greenfield. Total membership at this point was 185. This compared to 236 members for 1998 at this time. Concern was expressed about the lack of new members, and loss of existing members. Suggestion was made to do a telephone blitz to those members who had not renewed as this was very effective last year, and to develop other ways to attract members.

**6. NEWSLETTER REPORT:**

Marilyn Buhler read her report. All newsletter contributors were thanked. Marilyn urged members to continue submitting articles about their birding experiences, as articles were always needed.

**7. JOURNAL REPORT:**

Martin McNicholl read his report. Martin expressed gratitude to all those who contributed articles to the British Columbia Birds journal. He summarized his work over the past year, and reported that Volumes 6 and 7 were completed and mailed earlier this year. Volume 8, is nearing completion. He thanked Ken Morgan and Mary Taitt for their reviewing efforts, as well as Andy and Marilyn Buhler for final formatting of each issue.

**7a. BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Tony Greenfield read the report prepared by Gary Davidson, chair. 1996-97 reports have been reviewed, and submitted to Martin for publication. About a dozen submissions were reviewed for 1997 and 1998, down from twenty the previous year. As three members have resigned from the committee, three new members need to be recruited as several records are waiting to be reviewed.

## 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Tony Greenfield reported on the Board's activities, thanked all of them, and in particular the departing Board members. Thanks go to Andy and Marilyn Buhler, Alan Wisely, and Gary Davidson. The Bird Records Committee and their vote on the Xantus's Hummingbird creating controversy, was explained. Tony feels that the lack of new members is not an issue, that we need to focus on meeting the needs of existing members. The success of the Boreal Owl trip is one example. Other target bird trips or target area trips are being planned. He thanked Martin for his unflinching efforts to the Journal. The questionnaire to members produced some useful information. He touched on ways to donate some of our funds to conservation organizations.

## 9. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS:

The resolutions, published earlier in the newsletter, were voted on as a total package, rather than voting on each separately. On a motion by Peter Blokker, seconded by Lloyd Esralson, all resolutions were passed by the members present.

## 10. DIRECTORS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES:

On a motion by Dick Cannings, seconded by Ian Robertson, the policy read by Ev Miyasaki, and amended, was accepted by the members.

## 11. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

There were three vacancies to be filled. Two members, Jim Fliczuk and Jo Ann McKenzie, had previously been nominated. The third nominee was Ian Robertson, nominated by Marian Porter. As there were no further nominations, the three nominees were proclaimed as Directors.

## 12. OTHER BUSINESS:

Marilyn Buhler gave the Board a vote of thanks for their support. Some discussion ensued about the need for a Records Committee. Both Ian Robertson and Dick Cannings responded to the issue. At this point, the Society believes that records should be judged on proper information and documentation. Further debate on this issue may be necessary.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Laurie Rockwell, the meeting was adjourned.

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**References for Three Ptarmigans and a Wheatear on North Fork Pass**

Article appears on pages 18-19

## Literature and References:

1. Keith Taylor, The Birder's Guide (to) British Columbia, Steller Press, 1998, Vancouver, p. 201,207
2. Robert Frisch (Birds by the Dempster Highway, Morriss Printing, Victoria, 2nd revision, 1987, p.10,23)
3. See Pamela Sinclair's article at <http://www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/dempster.html>
4. Cameron Eckert, personal communication

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

by Martin K McNicholl

- Sept. 23-25 1999 **FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS FALL GENERAL MEETING**, A. & P. Ranch between Merritt and Princeton, B.C. Contact: Madelon Schouten, Site 19, Comp. 12, R.R.1, Princeton, B.C. V2X 1W0, phone (250) 295-7078 or (250) 295-6009.
- Sept. 24-26 1999 **WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**, Reno, Nevada. Contact: Alan Gubanich, Department of Biology/314, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557, USA.; phone (775) 784-6652.
- Sept. 29-  
Oct. 3 1999 **BIRD RINGING 100 YEARS** (a special meeting in 1999 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of systematic banding), Helgoland, Germany. Contact: Dr. Franz Bairlein or Ommo Huppopp, Institut fuer Vogelforschung, Vogelwarte Helgoland, An der Vogelwarte 21, D-26386, Wilhelmshaven, Germany; phone (int) 49-4421-96890.
- Oct. 1-3 1999 **NORTH AMERICAN LOON FUND 1999 MEETING**, Ashland, Wisconsin. Contact: Ted Gostomski [address not indicated] phone (715) 682-1220 or Lin O'Bara, North American Loon Fund, 6 Lily Pond Rd., Gilford, NH. 03246, USA; phone (603) 528-4711.
- Oct. 4-10 1999 **VI NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, Monterey & Saltillo, Mexico. Contact: Ernesto C. Enkerlin, c/o ITESM (CCA-CEDES), Av. Eugenio Garza Sada 2501 Sur, Col. Tecnologico, C.P. 64849, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico; phone 52(8) 328-4033.
- Oct. 14-17 1999 **BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL'S XXII WORLD CONFERENCE**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Contact to be announced.
- Oct. 18-22 1999 **1999 INTERNATIONAL WATCHABLE WILDLIFE CONFERENCE**, Ft. Myers, Florida. Contact: Julie Bradshears [address not indicated] phone (850) 922-0664.
- Nov. 3-7 1999 **RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION 1999 MEETING**, La Paz, Baja California, Mexico. Contact: Ricardo Rodriguez Estrella, Centro de Investigaciones Biologicas del Noroeste (CIBNOR), km. 1 carr. San Juan de la Costa, Box 128, La Paz, Baja California Sur, 23000, Mexico; phone (112) 536-33.
- Nov. 8-12 1999 **22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, WATERBIRD SOCIETY**, Grado, Italy. Contact: Mauro Fasola, Dipartimento Biologia Animale, Piazza Botta 9, I-27100 Pavia, Italy.
- Aug. 14-20 2000 **118<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, JOINTLY WITH BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION and CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY**, Memorial University, Saint John's, Newfoundland. Contact: to be announced.
- Aug. 11-17 2002 **23<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, Beijing, China. Contact: Professor Xu Weishu, Secretary-General of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress, Beijing Natural History Museum, 1-1-302, Beijing Science and Technology Commission Apt., Balizhuang, Haidian District, Beijing 100037, China; phone +86-10-6846-5605.

**B.C. BIRDING NEWS BRIEFS**

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

**Millikin Awarded by FBCN** -The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists presented Rhonda Millikin of the Canadian Wildlife Service with their 1999 Recognition Award for "persons from outside the Federation or its affiliates...[for] an outstanding contribution to the understanding and appreciation of the natural history of B.C." Rhonda was recognized for her work on the status and recovery of threatened and endangered bird species, banding and migration and her help in establishing B.C. / Yukon participation in the Partners in Flight program (Anonymous. 1999. *B.C. Nat.* 37(3):21).

**EDITORS' NOTE:**

Well known and respected birder, Peter Whelan, whose weekly birding column has been "... a fixture in *The Globe and Mail* for more than 20 years" passed away in Toronto, aged 65. A writeup on Peter entitled **Bird Man of Canada** which reviews his life and his birding column appeared on page A19 of *The Globe and Mail* of 17 August 1999. Peter's final column in *The Globe and Mail* appeared on 12 June 1999.

***Top Birders Flock to BCFO AGM in Oliver***

The BCFO Ninth Annual General Meeting held this year in Oliver, BC drew four of the top birders in Canada. Pictured above from left to right are Roger Foxall of Victoria (505 as per 1998 ABA listing), Hue and Jo Ann MacKenzie of Surrey (509 each separately to June 1999 as per personal communication), and AGM guest speaker, Peter Hamel of Masset (506 to June 1999 as per personal communication). It is always a privilege and an inspiration to be able to bird with, and learn from, such knowledgeable and dedicated birders.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**  
 Year Ended December 31, 1998

	1998	1997	BUDGET 1999
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Memberships	\$ 6,237	\$ 5,804	\$ 6,500
AGM extension	10,270	5,602	0
AGM fees	2,337	3,325	2,500
Field trips	450	0	1,000
Advertising	270	484	300
Interest & other income	295	442	500
	<u>19,859</u>	<u>15,657</u>	<u>10,800</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
AGM extension	6,905	5,329	0
AGM facilities and services	2,102	2,192	2,500
Printing	1,827	2,233	2,500
Postage	699	1,357	1,600
Donations	325	0	2,500
Field trips	111	0	1,000
Stationery	86	447	200
Miscellaneous	144	127	300
	<u>12,199</u>	<u>11,685</u>	<u>10,600</u>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 7,660</u>	<u>\$ 3,972</u>	<u>\$ 200</u>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
 At December 31, 1998

	1998	1997
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 20,119	\$ 12,288
Receivables	381	687
	<u>\$ 20,500</u>	<u>\$ 12,975</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Payables & accrued liabilities	\$ 3,179	\$ 4,715
Deferred revenue	1,676	275
	<u>4,855</u>	<u>4,990</u>
Members' Equity		
Accumulated surplus		
Opening balance	7,985	4,013
Surplus for the year	7,660	3,972
	<u>15,645</u>	<u>7,985</u>
	<u>\$ 20,500</u>	<u>\$ 12,975</u>

**Directors:** Bryan Gates, Director and Everard Miyasaki, Director



## AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE

### Andy Buhler

Andy started "real" birding about fifteen years ago as a recorder on a Sechelt Christmas Bird Count. Both he and Marilyn were directors of the former Sechelt Marsh Protection Society (now Sunshine Coast Natural History Society) and are currently members of the Victoria Natural History Society and editors of this newsletter.

### A. G. (Tony) Greenfield

Current president of BCFO and also president of the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society, Tony has been a very active and involved birder for well over 28 years. His favorite birding site is Sikanni Chief River in North-Eastern BC.

### Christine Scott (Address: 1664 Passage View Drive, Campbell River, BC V9W 6L3)

Christine is a nature writer, wildflower photographer and bird enthusiast. A former elementary teacher and newspaper journalist, she now pursues a rigorous agenda of nature walks, ocean kayaking and park exploration. She writes a weekly nature column from her home in Campbell River.

### Dan Seibel

Living on Vancouver Island for the past 19 years, Dan is a technical writer who continues to explore wildlife adjacent to urban development from Victoria to Port Hardy. Dan has worked on major land projects for over 12 years, and specializes in soil drainage. When not writing reports, he likes spending time in outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, photographing nature, and studying BC's natural history.

### Russ Tkachuk

Russ was active in Manitoba birding and art circles for many years. Now retired in Roberts Creek, on BC's Sunshine Coast, he continues the above activities, and is an active member with BC Field Ornithologists, the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society and the Sunshine Coast Arts Council. Current birding activities have centred on finding ptarmigan species in Northern BC and the Yukon.

## A 'THANK YOU' FROM THE A.G.M. ORGANIZERS

I and the other three organizers, Eva Durance, Margaret Holm, and Laurie Rockwell, would like to thank all of you who attended the Annual General Meeting in Oliver for helping make it such a success. It was a great time for us too, and we're pleased that a number of you found that elusive "lifer", some more than one. Meeting you all was, of course, a bonus.

We want to extend a special thanks to Tony Greenfield, Russ Tkachuk, Ev Miyasaki, and Andy and Marilyn Buhler for guiding us as the event came together, having the weekend advertised well, and helping keep things on track during the AGM.

See you all next year - wherever!

### Glenda Ross

*The more you give, the more good things come to you.*  
(Crow Proverb)

Photo L to R: Jim Shaver, Glenda Ross, Margaret Holm, Eva Durance, Dick Cannings, Laurie Rockwell, Joan Poulson.  
BCFO AGM in Oliver June 1999.

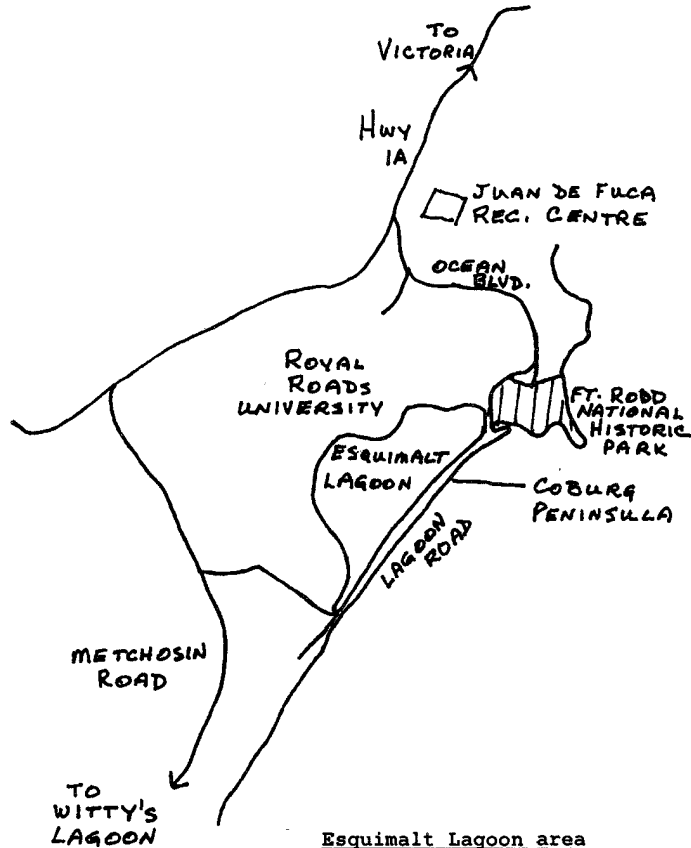


## Site Guide: Esquimalt Lagoon

by Andy Buhler  
1132 Loenholm Road  
Victoria, BC V8Z 2Z6

From downtown Victoria go North on Douglas Street. Douglas Street will eventually veer westward and become Highway 1. Remain on Highway 1 for about one km then take the right-hand exit lane towards Colwood. The road will take you underneath Highway 1 and the railroad. Continue forward and you will shortly cross a bridge beside the Six Mile Pub. Travel up the hill but move to the left lane because you will be turning left at the lights immediately past the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre (turning onto Ocean Boulevard). Zero your travel indicator here. Go 0.4 km, turn left, and head toward Fort Rodd. You will be driving through a forested area of mixed fir, maple, oak and alder trees. Although the lands on either side of the road are private property there is room in several places along the way to pull onto the shoulder. Listen and watch for Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Song Sparrow, Winter and Bewick's Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, Steller's Jay, Spotted Towhee, Orange-crowned Warbler, vireos, and Pacific-slope Flycatcher along this arbored way. At 1.8 km you reach a road on the left which will take you to Fort Rodd National Historic Site and Fisgard Lighthouse. Do not take the road to Fort Rodd at this time. Fort Rodd is another good place to check out after you have scoured the lagoon. There is local history, a pleasant walk, more field and forest birds, and a nice location for a picnic at Fort Rodd -- but our present objective is to bird the Lagoon.

As you pass the Fort Rodd turnoff the road turns toward the right and starts downhill. The road will then veer toward the left at the bottom of the hill. Slow down as you reach the bridge (at 2.5 km). There is just room for a single vehicle to park on the right shoulder immediately before the bridge and this is a good viewpoint. However, visibility for traffic coming downhill is poor and, if traffic is heavy, you may be better advised to park in the many wider spots just beyond the bridge.



Esquimalt Lagoon area

Depending upon the tide there will be one island, and none to several small gravel bars, on the lagoon side of the bridge. These are regular lounging spots for gulls and should also be carefully scoped out for shorebirds. Mew Gulls and Glaucous-winged Gulls are frequent loungers but check the flocks carefully because birders have reported Heermann's, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, California and even Western Gulls from this site. In the Spring watch for large orange bills and dark heads as small flocks of Caspian Terns may also rest on the bars. Shorebirds in season include Black Oyster-catcher, Black-bellied Plover, Western and Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Black and (rarely) Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, dowitcher, Semipalmated Plover, yellowlegs, and Killdeer.

Northwestern Crows and Glaucous-winged Gulls will be prowling around looking for shellfish which they will pick up and drop from a height in order to crack the shells. Avian disputes can occur regarding the ownership of the seafood lunch.

Waterfowl may lounge on the island or bars or may be found swimming in close proximity to the bridge as this is one popular site for people to "feed the ducks". Red-breasted Mergansers and sometimes Common Mergansers may be seen snorkelling along the far shore or surfing down the stream after small fish. Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, Northern Pintail, scaup, Bufflehead, Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, American Wigeon (watch also for an Eurasian Wigeon), Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Pied-billed Grebe, Canada Geese, feral Mute Swans, American Coot and Double-crested Cormorants are all possibilities near this end of the Lagoon. Unfortunately, there is also a flock of feral Greylag Geese which have taken over the island. These are "dumped" geese and are not countable, just a nuisance. However, there have been Snow Geese seen at the Lagoon and a number of Brant stop over on their way to the Brant Festival in Parksville.

Do not forget to look up too. You may sight a Belted Kingfisher sitting quietly on a branch and, either stalking the shorelines or perched high in the evergreens, you may see a number of Great Blue Herons. Watch also for Bald Eagles resting near the treetops, Turkey Vultures soaring over, Common Ravens flapping by or the sudden burst of a Cooper's Hawk. Listen for American Robins, Northern Flicker, Steller's Jay and the "Chicago!" of a California Quail. If you turn away from the lagoon you will usually find Rock Doves near the bridge and probably a few European Starlings, House Sparrows and Brewer's Blackbirds checking the roadside for edible bits.

Once you have given this end of the lagoon a good going over then you must make your first decision -- how to bird the rest of the spit (known also as Coburg Peninsula). We usually park our vehicle near the bridge and bird along the lagoon side of the spit as we walk westward, then bird the Strait side on our way back to the vehicle. The spit is two km long. On the lagoon side there is a narrow gravelly shoreline with small areas of low grass plus a sprinkling of shrubby broom and wild rose. The grasses and shrubs hold, in season, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, House Sparrow, House Finch, Purple Finch, and American Goldfinch.

Peeps and plovers can often be found along the shorelines. In 1996 a visiting birder was fortunate to discover a Mongolian Plover along this stretch. It stayed for a couple of days resting and foraging alongside Semipalmated Plovers. Look out to the rocky island in the middle of the lagoon because Double-crested Cormorant frequently roost and dry their wings on that island. Check closely. Shorebirds may also be found resting or foraging among the crevices on the island. In addition to the waterfowl already noted scan the lagoon for Surf Scoter, Common Loon, Ruddy Duck and Red-necked Grebe. From late spring to early fall scan the taller trees along the lagoon for an Osprey or two as they seem to be regular visitors. Scan the grassy lawns across the lagoon for Canada Geese, Great Blue Heron, and yellowlegs or other shorebirds since that area provides the birds some respite away from the walkers, dogs and traffic along the spit. The elegant looking building up from the boathouse is called Hatley Castle and is part of the now, Royal Roads University.



**Mongolian Plover at Esquimalt Lagoon, 1996**

*Photo taken by Andy Buhler*

Near this end of the lagoon the two shorelines converge quite closely. In these more sheltered waters check again for waterfowl and Belted Kingfisher. The shrubby trees on both sides of the water should be checked for Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Sparrow, House Finch, Purple Finch, Song Sparrow, Bewick's Wren and American Robin. Watch over the water for Barn Swallow, Violet-green Swallow and Northern Rough-winged Swallow as they swoop by for insects.

Although the lagoon itself ends, continue a bit further straight along the Ocean Boulevard. There are houses at the end of the lagoon. Be alert to the buzz of Rufous Hummingbirds coming in to the garden flowers and feeders and watch the hedges for Bewick's Wrens. Abutting the parking lot on the Strait side at this end of the lagoon are some patches of blackberry brambles and also a small copse of mixed alder, maple and pin cherry. A Palm Warbler was located here in early spring a few years ago so be alert to the unusual. Downy or Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flicker are possibilities in the trees as are Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, vireos, and Pacific-slope Flycatchers.

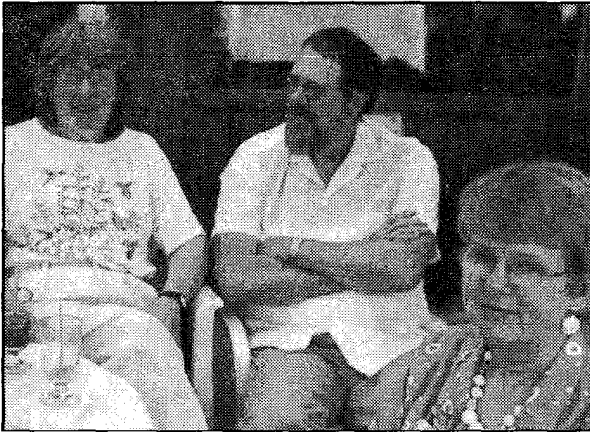
If you return eastward on the Strait side of the road you should be able to find, in season, Common Loon, Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Pelagic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe (large flocks overwinter off the spit), Common Murre, Marbelled Murrelet, Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Red-throated Merganser, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, Barrow's Goldeneye, scaup, Oldsquaw, Brant and various gulls.

Having returned to your vehicle your next decision is whether to go back up to Fort Rodd and enjoy your coffee and sandwiches at the picnic tables there or to head to Witty's Lagoon for a wholly different birding experience. The decision is yours -- enjoy!

NOTE: This site guide was written several months ago and the electronic version appears on Kevin Slagboom's excellent website, Birding Victoria, which you will find located at: <http://birding.bc.ca>

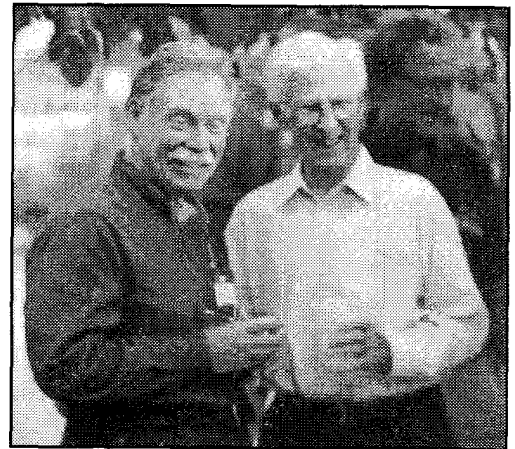
### RANDOM SIGHTINGS FROM THE ACM

courtesy of Russ Tkachuk

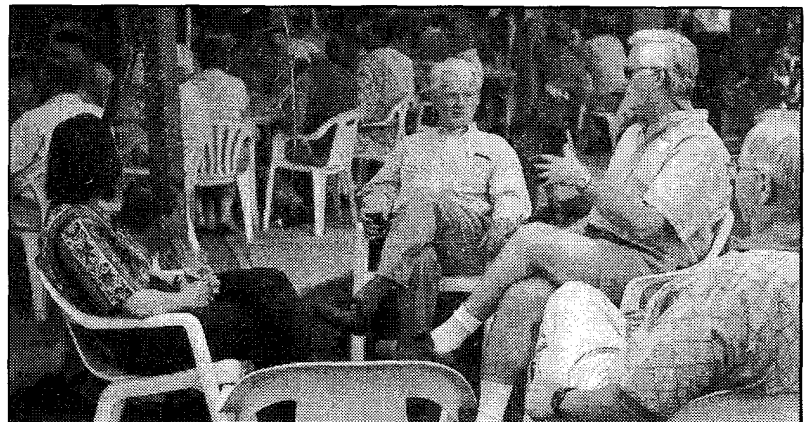


Above: Marilyn and Andy Buhler  
BC BIRDING Editors and  
Prue Spitmann, Director

(L): Martin  
McNicholl  
Editor  
British  
Columbia  
Birds  
chats with  
(R): Tom Weston



Right: Peter Hamel considering  
some points during a few  
moments of relaxation with  
fellow birders.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tony Greenfield  
PO Box 319  
Sechelt BC V0N 3A0

July 12, 1999

Re: Bird Sighting Information

I recently received a summary of Red- and Blue-listed bird locations, collected by the BC Field Ornithologists in the south Okanagan. The data is very useful to us and will be used to examine habitat protection options and add confidence to computer based habitat models.

On behalf of the BC Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Program in Penticton, I would like to thank the BCFO for their commitment to birds in BC and for their contribution of management data in the south Okanagan. Also, please pass our thanks to Dick Cannings for organizing the collection and providing the results to us. This was a worthwhile project and I hope your group will be able to contribute their expertise toward data collection for other areas in the province, in the future.

Yours truly

Orville Dyer, RPBio  
Senior Wildlife Biologist  
Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Protection  
Southern Interior Region

20 July 1999

Dear Andy and Marilyn,

Just a note to inform you of the date for the Nanaimo Christmas Bird Count, for inclusion in the BCFO's winter newsletter. Is this submission early enough? I'm going to try and limit the amount of coffee served at the next Xmas Count Committee meeting. Anyway, the pertinent information is:  
Nanaimo Christmas Bird Count: 2 January 2000  
Organiser: Guy Monty, (250) 713-0072



Thanks, Guy L. Monty

Folks,

10 August 1999

Just a short note to advise that the **50th continuous annual Vernon Christmas Bird Count** will be held on 19 December 1999.

Co-compilers are: Phil Gehlen (250)542-8053 and Mary Collins (250)542-5673

Cheers, Phil

e-mail from Angela Reid, c/o Peregrine Press, Kelowna BC  
Hi Andy,

I spoke with you earlier in the year and you asked me to send you an email if one of our falcons returned. Well - one has!! A staff person at RBC Dominion Securities Ltd. (on the 11th floor of the Landmark Square Two building) saw a falcon sitting on the ledge of the window this morning and was able to identify the British Columbia bands. We don't know which one is back, but we are hoping that Central Okanagan Naturalist Club members will be able to confirm band numbers. We are ecstatic - some releases do not see this fast a return and have had to wait several years for real results!

We will be releasing ten peregrines this summer, the first five on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Give me a call if you want more information - (250) 861-9474. Wildly yours, Angela

## Counting Crows

by Dan Seibel  
Victoria, BC

Crows inhabit my backyard. I wouldn't expect anything from these black birds with their loud squawks. Yet, somehow I get the impression that they're laughing at me or at least clearing their throats after raiding my garbage. I understand ornithologists classify crows among the oscines, or songbirds. These crows sure could have me fooled. I thought their name was *Corvus croak*.



Crows will eat almost anything. They are not too fussy about where they find their food, even resorting to digging beneath the snow to raid my garbage bags during some winters. When snows are gone the crows go more directly to the source. My garbage cans are located near the fence and these crows know how to knock them over and open the lids. Originally I had thought raccoons were the culprits but now I know better. The crows use their strong claws to grasp the garbage can lids. They possess built-in unlocking devices. Muscles and tendons strain to pull their toes into action. Soon the lids are off.

Crows are notorious thieves. They skulk then flap and glide. At least that is what I have observed after they had broken open the plastic wrap on some packaged wieners, devouring nearly half of them when I left my wife's van for a few moments to take other grocery bags into the house. They will even play tricks on a dog to steal food. They take turns -- one distracting the dog while other crows manoeuvre to "liberate" the dog's vittles.

After talking to Andy Buhler, a local birder, I understand crows and their relatives can be found in many different habitats and in both northern and southern hemispheres. Encarta '98 states that "Crows are found on every continent except South America and Antarctica. They are among the most intelligent and adaptable of birds, and several species have been able to thrive near humans". It is definitely the most adaptable and resourceful bird I know.

The crows' very recognizable croak can occasionally be a signal of perceived disturbance. However, to me their squawk tells me all is well and if I can count more of them standing along my back fence I know the ecosystem is still working.

### GUIDELINES FOR SITE GUIDES

Site Guides should be about two to three 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.

## Boozy Berries and Buzz-Bombed Birds

by Christine Scott

As the sultry days of summer envelope us in their effusive warmth, wild berries ripen and drip from the vine. These succulent jewels provide birds with sugars, carbohydrates and fruit juice, yet danger lurks within for our fine feathered friends. Birds can become inebriated after consuming berries and fruit that ferment naturally in the hot sun, and it doesn't take much to give a two-ounce bird a buzz.

Waxwings, both Cedar and Bohemian, are infamous for imbibing on boozy berries. During a fermented berry bash, they have been seen weaving and wobbling on tree branches and utility wires, often falling off and crashing to the ground in a stupor. They travel in flocks, and hundreds of bombed waxwings in a cherry tree can create quite the brouhaha!

Vern and Kay Monson in Kamloops have seen waxwings drunk out of their tiny minds on the spring remains of their crabapple crop, frozen and thawed many times to a fine state of fermentation. There have also been reports of American Robins getting blitzed on rotting grapes and other intoxicating fare.

Avian pilots with new flying licenses take note: zigzagging can be fatal, and veering drunkenly into automobiles will result in a major headache or worse. Birds bashing into windshields actually resulted in pyracantha bushes being removed from some western freeways. It seems our feathered friends actually preferred the scrumptious 90-proof berries!

Victims of a vegetarian lifestyle, one and all. These proceedings seem to be part of nature and if left to their own devices, most avian imbibers eventually sober up, regain their equilibrium and fly off with little bird-sized hangovers. Intoxicated birds display similar disoriented behavior to birds with glass-crash syndrome.

Window strikes seem to increase during migration and in summer when parent birds clock up high mileage seeking food for their little ones. Glass reflects, and birds confuse the sky's image for the real thing. Sometimes predator birds chase songbirds and better judgment is temporarily abandoned

Despite their fragility, birds have amazing recuperative powers. Campbell River birder Ed Silkens once found a Song Sparrow knocked out cold, rolled on its back, it's little heart fibrillating. The bird eventually recovered from its concussion, as many do, and flew away.

When faced with a bird afflicted with the head-smashed-in-window blues, lift it gently using a towel and place it in a cardboard box. Lay the box on its side in a quiet, dark place so the bird can get out when it has recovered. Do not feed the bird or handle it further.

Efforts to save birds from glass-crash syndrome all involve camouflage and the use of gadgets and widgets and such. Noted British Columbia bird authority Wayne Campbell suggests hanging foil pie plates from the windows. Maj Birch of the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society on Vancouver Island says people have tried colored plastic ribbons with varying degrees of success. Some bird-lovers eliminated the problem by installing vertical blinds or moving houseplants away from windows.

I have stained glass-type sun-catchers clearly visible in my kitchen window and have had no problems with birds hitting there. A silhouette of a hawk or owl in flight cut from black construction paper works in some cases as well. Or try plastic owls, the ultimate in tacky trimmings. If all else fails, soaping part of a window makes the glass visible.

With boozy berries and killer window panes to contend with, our backyard bird buddies need a lot of help dealing with the so-called "dog days" of summer!

## Purple Martins on the Sunshine Coast

by Tony Greenfield  
PO Box 319  
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

One of the most significant ornithological events on the Sunshine Coast in recent memory was confirmed recently when Arnold Skei found a Purple Martin nest containing three eggs at a nest box in the head of Porpoise Bay.

Purple Martins are members of the swallow family, occurring across North America from southwestern BC to Nova Scotia, and wintering in South America. In southwestern BC they are at the periphery of their range on the West Coast and have always been a scarce bird present in low numbers. They have suffered from competition for nesting cavities as populations of the introduced House Sparrows and starlings increased in the twentieth century.

Purple Martins prior to the late 1940's were confined as a breeding species on the Mainland to the largest buildings in downtown Vancouver where they nested of the Orpheum Theatre, the CPR station, Hudson's Bay building, Hotel Vancouver and the main post office. They last bred there in 1948, and there was only a single breeding record for the Mainland coast of BC from 1948 to 1994.

The species has always been present in small numbers on southeastern Vancouver Island from Sooke to Campbell River but *The Birds of British Columbia* estimates that the breeding population of BC never exceeded 100 pairs, with many years substantially lower than that. The traditional breeding locations have been at Ladysmith Harbour, Esquimalt Harbour, Cowichan Bay and Victoria Harbour.

Purple Martins are sensitive to scarcity of nesting and roosting sites, but they respond equally well to opportunities such as nest-box programs. On Vancouver Island the provision of nest-boxes, especially at the Cowichan Estuary, has been successful in stabilizing or increasing the population of Purple Martins. This program was expanded to Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver and the first martins nested there in 1994. In all cases, the nest-boxes were attached to old pilings in estuarine areas, as the birds also use natural cavities in the pilings.

On the Sunshine Coast between 1971 and 1989, there were only two reports of the species, with birds seen at the Wilson Creek Estuary on July 7, 1980, and at the Bayside sawmill in Howe Sound on July 31, 1989. There were no reports until 1997 when suddenly birds popped up all over the place with sightings from May 15 to August 11 at Wilson creek, Howe Sound and the Sechelt golf course. In the spring of 1997, members of the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society had erected martin nest-boxes on pilings in Howe Sound, Roberts Creek and Wilson Creek estuaries, and the head of Porpoise Bay. On May 15, 1997, a pair of martins were observed on top of the nest-box at Wilson Creek and they defended it against crows and a kingfisher, and the male was seen to offer food to the female. We felt confident that nesting would follow but it was not to be.

In 1998, martins were only noted in August, presumably visiting the Sunshine Coast after nesting elsewhere. In 1999, birds were seen from May 27 and, by late June, were displaying an interest in the nest-boxes erected on pilings in the head of Porpoise Bay. When Arnold Skei inspected the boxes on July 26, one contained three eggs and the other a nest with no eggs. One week later the eggs had hatched, and the second nest now contained eggs.

Many bird populations and species are under duress, so the simple expedient of providing nest-boxes for the Purple Martins is a good example of mankind being able to aid the survival of a species. Bluebird boxes have proved equally effective in grassland habitats. Thanks to Arnold Skei, Russ Tkachuk, Doug Brown and George Gibb - all members of



the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society - for erecting the nest-boxes. If you wish to see the martins, look for the nest-boxes on the pilings in the head of Porpoise Bay behind the Lighthouse Pub.

Postscript:

On 19 August 1999 the first nest contained three large young. The second nest now held newly hatched young (perhaps a day old). It will be interesting to follow the success of the second nest as fledging will be at the late date of 15-20 September.

The two nests in adjacent nest-boxes were totally different. The first nest was a meager layer of grasses whilst the second nest was a substantial platform of mud, vegetation and many shell fragments. We can find no reference in the literature to martins using shells as nest material. Do the Vancouver Island or Maplewood Bay birds use shells?

### Unofficial List of Birds Sighted During the 1999 AMG

Pied-billed Grebe	Belted Kingfisher	Gray Catbird
Red-necked Grebe	Lewis's Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Red-naped Sapsucker	Sage Thrasher
Canada Goose	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Cedar Waxwing
Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Cassin's Vireo
Northern Pintail	Three-toed Woodpecker	Warbling Vireo
Blue-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Red-eyed Vireo
Cinnamon Teal	Pileated Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler
American Wigeon	Western Wood-Pewee	Yellow Warbler
Redhead	Willow Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Barrow's Goldeneye	Hammond's Flycatcher	Townsend's Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Dusky Flycatcher	Northern Waterthrush
Turkey Vulture	Gray Flycatcher	MacGillivray's Warbler
Osprey	Say's Phoebe	Common Yellowthroat
Cooper's Hawk	Western Kingbird	Wilson's Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-breasted Chat
American Kestrel	Tree Swallow	Western Tanager
Chukar	Violet-green Swallow	Black-headed Grosbeak
Ring-necked Pheasant	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Lazuli Bunting
Ruffed Grouse	Bank Swallow	Spotted Towhee
California Quail	Cliff Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Barn Swallow	Brewer's Sparrow
Sora	Clarke's Nutcracker	Vesper Sparrow
American Coot	Black-billed Magpie	Lark Sparrow
Killdeer	American Crow	Savannah Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Common Raven	Song Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee	Lincoln's Sparrow
Long-billed Curlew	Mountain Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Common Snipe	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Bobolink
Wilson's Phalarope	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Pygmy Nuthatch	Western Meadowlark
Caspian Tern	Rock Wren	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rock Dove	Canyon Wren	Brewer's Blackbird
Mourning Dove	House Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Barn Owl	Marsh Wren	Bullock's Oriole
Flammulated Owl	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Cassin's Finch
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Common Nighthawk	Western Bluebird	Red Crossbill
Common Poorwill	Mountain Bluebird	Pine Siskin
White-throated Swift	Townsend's Solitaire	American Goldfinch
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Veery	House Sparrow
Calliope Hummingbird	Swainson's Thrush	
Rufous Hummingbird	American Robin	

### Three Ptarmigans and a Wheatear on North Fork Pass

by Russ Tkachuk  
PO Box 132,  
Roberts Creek, BC, V0N 2W0

Searching for ptarmigan has taken much of my time for the past two years. Last year (July 1998), my wife Jean and I traveled to the extreme NW corner of BC, to visit the Haines Road area. Only Willow Ptarmigan were found in the scrub willow area between the highway and Kelsall Lake. However, Rock and White-tailed Ptarmigan were not found on the mountain slopes west or east of the Chilkat Pass. The spectacular mountain scenery, alpine flowers and plants did make up, somewhat, for the absence of ptarmigan.

My next chance to find ptarmigan occurred this year (1999), when we decided to take a long driving trip north to visit another legendary northern birding area -- the Dempster Highway in the Yukon. Instead of taking the ferry to Prince Rupert as we did in 1998, we drove to Fort St. John, then north on the Alaska and Klondyke Highways to the Dempster Highway. On route to the Yukon, we hoped also to see Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers that are found only in the far NE corner of BC plus ptarmigan in the mountains near Summit, BC<sup>1</sup>.

The Dempster Highway is one of the few highways in the world that transverses a very variable region of the Subarctic. It passes through a southern boreal forest, crosses the Continental Divide three times, cuts through or passes several mountain ranges, transverses a subarctic alpine plain to the Arctic Circle, and then drops nearly down to sea level (68m) at the town of Inuvik in the Northwest Territories. As described by Robert Frisch<sup>2</sup>, the Dempster Highway allows one to see arctic birds conveniently from the driver's seat, or by taking short hikes in relatively open country through pristine wilderness.

The prime birding season in the Dempster Highway area is from mid-May to mid-June. The Mt. Tombstone Campground is an excellent place from which to base one's operations for the Southern Dempster Highway region<sup>3,4</sup>. Accordingly, we started our trip from Roberts Creek (near Vancouver) on 13 May 1999. Seven days (driving leisurely, as we birded on the way) and 3364km later (including a 80km return trip to Riske Creek for an unsuccessful effort to find Sprague's Pipit), we found ourselves entering Mt. Tombstone Campground, at Kilometer 72 of the Dempster Highway. The further north we drove, the more plentiful the snow became and the tree leaves shrank smaller and smaller (At home the leaves were fully out). It was becoming apparent that this year the long May weekend was possibly going to be too early to be birding in the north.

We arrived at the Tombstone Campground at approximately 2:00 PM on 19 May, to find leaf-less trees and meter-high snow banks besides the camp's entrance. On entering the campground, to inject a bit of humour at the sight of all these winter conditions, I said: "Well, I hope we are early enough to get a good tenting spot". Our subdued and strained laughter lasted only for a few seconds, as at the campground proper, much to our surprise, we found numerous children, piles of camp gear, trucks and cars and assorted adults. It turned out that 22 grade five students and three teachers from Dawson City were camping here this weekend! And yes, all the best, i.e. snow free sites, were occupied! However, we did find a site that was reasonably free from snow and set up camp.

We did not do much birding in the evening, as a stiff breeze was blowing and we were tired. It had been cool sleeping the previous night at the Moose Creek Campground when the temperature had reached -10°C, so this night I put on six layers of clothing, crawled into my sleeping bag and promptly fell asleep. In the morning, the tent looked like a sparkling snow cave, as the interior was coated with a layer of hoarfrost. A teacher from the school party, mentioned that the temperature had dropped to -15°C that morning. No wonder, our dog Barkley, sleeping between us and covered with my winter parka, did not move a muscle all night!

Cold weather notwithstanding, the sun was shining and there was birding to carry out. After hot coffee and breakfast, we drove three kilometres north to North Fork Pass (Tombstone Lookout; elevation 1259m). The first hike was to west of the highway, down slope through open rocky terrain interspersed with shrub willow. Willow Ptarmigan were plentiful, and seven were found in short order.

On returning to the Pass, a small whitish bird with black-coloured wings and an eye mask flew up in front of me and landed on a boulder. It then flew a little further to sit on a shrub willow next to our vehicle. We had a good look at it as it bobbed its black-and-white tail and "chinkked" away at us. It was a Northern Wheatear! The bird then flew eastwards, across the highway and up the mountain slope. It was very exciting to have a life bird appear right in front of us!

The next hike was eastwards, in the general direction of a distant microwave tower on the mountain slope. Progress was slow at first. Besides the thick willows, the snow was approximately one meter deep, and occasionally we would unexpectedly sink to our waists in the snow. We worried about spraining an ankle during these sudden drops, but nothing untoward happened. After we hiked for several hundred meters, the number of bare tundra patches increased, and suddenly a white-coloured male Rock Ptarmigan flew up cackling loudly, while a brown mottled female bird disappeared into the willows. It was a good feeling to have finally have found a Rock Ptarmigan in Canada! Two other Rock Ptarmigan were found in a similar manner.

Nearing the microwave tower complex, I became aware of a strange sound. It was unnerving to hear this deep, muffled sound in an uninhabited landscape. I checked that my pepper spray canister was accessible, but did not see any Grizzly. The sound was due to a diesel engine, rumbling slowly and steadily inside a locked metal shed at the base of the microwave tower! What a weird and unexpected sound to hear in this apparently pristine and lonely wilderness!

After returning to our vehicle, we drove slowly northwards. We had driven only for a minute, when a white bird was seen chasing a similar bird. They were ptarmigan. They flew around us, and as they banked and turned, their tails fanned out. The tails were all white, these birds were White-tailed Ptarmigan! Another lifer and target bird for the trip!

It is an understatement to say that birding was exhilarating and exciting during the morning of 20 May 1999. We saw 13 ptarmigan representing the three ptarmigan species that exist in North America. The White-tailed Ptarmigan was a life bird and the Rock Ptarmigan a first for Canada. In addition, a hard to find bird, a Northern Wheatear, another life bird, turned up virtually magically in front of us. While the weather was cold at North Fork Pass on the Dempster Highway during the 1999 May long weekend, the birding was outstanding!

Before rushing off to North Fork Pass, readers should be aware that White-tailed Ptarmigan and Northern Wheatear are not found at this location every year. This was exemplified by Linda Cameron, who while birding two days later at North Fork Pass, did find a Northern Wheatear (same bird?), but did not see White-tailed Ptarmigan<sup>4</sup>.

It was disappointing for us not to reach Inuvik. The ferries were not working on the Peel and Tsiigehtchic (Arctic Red) Rivers because the variable weather was causing ice jams and extreme water level fluctuations. Accordingly, we may have to take another long journey to the Dempster Highway, starting perhaps ten days later than we did this year. It will be interesting to see how many ptarmigan we will find then.

Note: The author thanks Cameron Eckert for advice, and his wife Jean for patience and understanding.

**EDITORS' NOTE:** References cited in this article appear on page 5.

**BIRDERS NEEDED!**

Would you like to participate in the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey?



### BC Coastal Waterbird Survey

Bird Studies Canada, a not-for-profit conservation organization dedicated to the study and understanding of wild birds and their habitats, is developing a volunteer-based survey of waterbirds along the coastlines of British Columbia. The mild winter climate, protected waters and extensive wetlands and estuaries of the BC coastline provide internationally important winter refuges for waterbirds.

The Coastal Waterbird Survey aims to monitor wintering waterbirds in the Georgia Basin and other coastal regions of BC. The survey will provide principal data essential to direct conservation action for waterbird populations and their habitats. Waterbirds include loons, grebes, cormorants, herons, swans, geese, ducks, terns, gulls, shorebirds and alcids.

The Coastal Waterbird Survey will be based on coordinated, volunteer shoreline counts conducted once per month from September to April. All participants of the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey will receive news, updates and results as inserts to the biannual Bird Studies Canada newsletter, Bird Watch Canada.

For more information on the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey or Bird Studies Canada please contact:

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**38865 97<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Oliver, BC V0H 1T0**

The Lodge is located eight (8) km. north of Oliver. Ours is a family-oriented lodge. We have air conditioned housekeeping and cabin units, private sandy beach, rowboats, picnic tables, barbeques, etc.

We are located near both Vaseaux Lake Bird Sanctuary and the Raptor Recovery Centre.



In the centre of the unique ecosystem of the South Okanagan. Big Horn Sheep breeding and grazing area. Wine tours. Bike Trails. Horseback Riding. Bird Watching. Golfing. Fishing.

**Off Season Rates**  
**September 7, 1999 to May 1, 2000. \$40-\$70.**  
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