



BC BIRDING

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

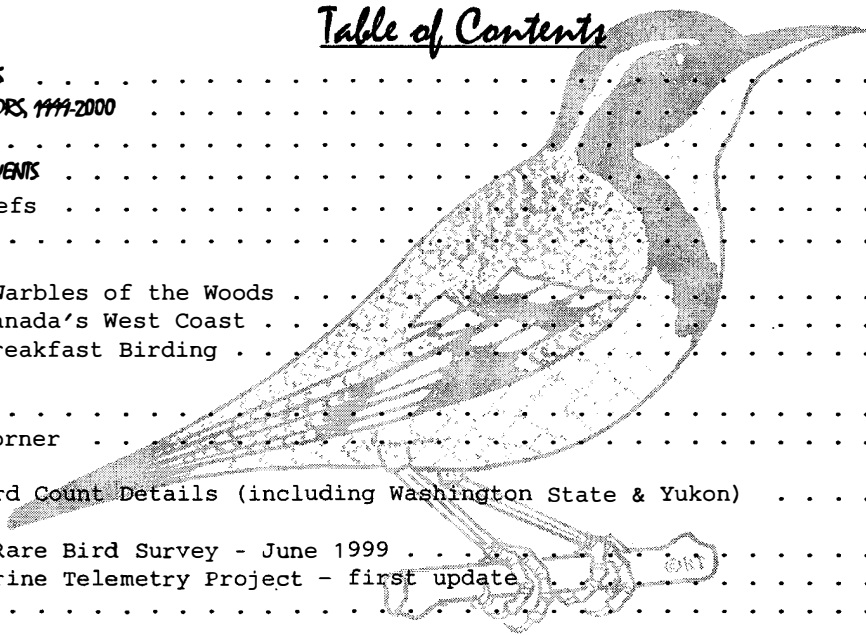
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 P.O. Box 8059, Victoria, BC V8W 3R7.

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.

Editors: Andy and Marilyn Buhler
 1132 Loenholm Road
 Victoria, BC V8Z 2Z6

Membership: Russ Tkachuk
 (604) 885-8867

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For further information, or to join, write to:

Membership
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 15th of the month preceding the March, June, September & December issues.

Advertising rates available upon request.

BCFO OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1999-2000**PRESIDENT:**

Tony Greenfield (604) 885-5539 / FAX (604) 885-2904
P.O. Box 319, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0
e-mail: t_greenfield@sunshine.net

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Bryan R. Gates (250) 598-7789 / FAX (250) 356-7183
3085 Uplands Road, Victoria, BC V8R 6B3
e-mail: bgates@pacificcoast.net

TREASURER:

Jim Fliczuk (250) 477-2004
3614 - 1507 Queensbury, Victoria, BC V8P 5M5

SECRETARY:

Jo Ann MacKenzie (604) 538-1676
15341 - 21st Ave, Surrey, BC V4A 6A8

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Gary S. Davidson (250) 265-4456
Box 294, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0

MEMBERSHIP:

Russ Tkachuk (604) 885-8867
PO Box 132, Roberts Creek, BC V0N 2W0
e-mail: rtkachuk@dccnet.com

DIRECTORS:

Ian Robertson (604) 530-1080
1525 - 200th Street, Langley, BC V2Z 1W5
e-mail: biometrics@bc.sympatico.ca

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

Hank VanderPol (250) 920-9936
#311-129 Gorge Road, Victoria, BC V9A 1L1
e-mail: ahvander@vanisle.net

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:

Hank VanderPol (250) 920-9936
#311-129 Gorge Road, Victoria, BC V9A 1L1
e-mail: ahvander@vanisle.net

EDITORS' NOTES & NOTIONS

The last issue before the year 2000. Where are our writers? When we checked the in-basket there was only enough material for 19 pages and we have always had 20 pages. Please people, help us out. Make a Year 2000 resolution to write an article.

As usual in the December issue we contact people around the province to determine when the CBCs will be held and who members should contact. We expanded our usual range this time and added more Washington State and some Yukon counts in case members travel north or south. Many counts stated that they could use extra counters so remember to check with them if you are in the area.

Tony's report, done without prior knowledge of the content of this issue, mentions bird sound CDs, Peregrine Falcons, and CBCs. We have all of those in this issue. Christine and John N. both tell us about new bird sound CDs, Mark and Angela update us on Peregrine Falcons, and we provide more CBC dates than you could possibly use. Dick wrote up an overview of the 1999 post-AGM rare bird survey. John S. fills us in on birds seen on his stretch of ocean and we also got mail. Bruce updates information on Russ' article from the last issue. Larry updates the AGM bird list. John N. has a query and both Paul and Allen give us comments to ponder upon. Ken needs your birding stats for 1999 (form enclosed). BCFO needs your membership renewal (form enclosed).

Many thanks to Prue for all of her assistance to BCFO and her service on the BCFO Board. We do appreciate all the work she has done in her position as director. Thanks Prue.

We also encourage all BCFO members to get involved and take an active role. Next year we celebrate our tenth year. Where would you like to see us ten years from now? Will you help get us there?

For those people who were members in 1998 we have a present for you. Volume 8 of British Columbia Birds has just been printed and is on its way to you now if not there already. Merry Christmas!

Late breaking e-mail: one of our members has just e-mailed us to ask what we would like him to write an article on! Wow! That is the type of member we need and encourage - any more offers? As usual the bottom of our in-basket is fully visible. When we took on the editorship in June 1992 we had faith that BCFO members would supply sufficient material to keep a 20 page quarterly going. Help us to keep the momentum going. Write soon.

From your Editors and Board - health, happiness, and great birding in the coming year. A&M

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Tony Greenfield

Our esteemed editors are fretting. My deadline has passed. I have an excuse -- I am on business in the Misty Isles. The plane has just landed at Sandspit on a beautiful mid-November day of warm, sunny, windless weather. After an intense personal debate I decide to go birding before writing that darned President's Report. About 500 m into my walk I pass by an adult Peregrine Falcon roosting on a tree root on the beach. I receive the full glare of it's imperious eye. It receives the full treatment of my 10x binoculars at 20 m range. It is my best ever study of a Peregrine Falcon in a lifetime of looking. I think this vignette would make a fitting conclusion to my entire personal birding memories of the twentieth century. In case anyone has been living in a cave recently, this is the last BC Birding of the century. How did we get to this place, and where do we go from here ?

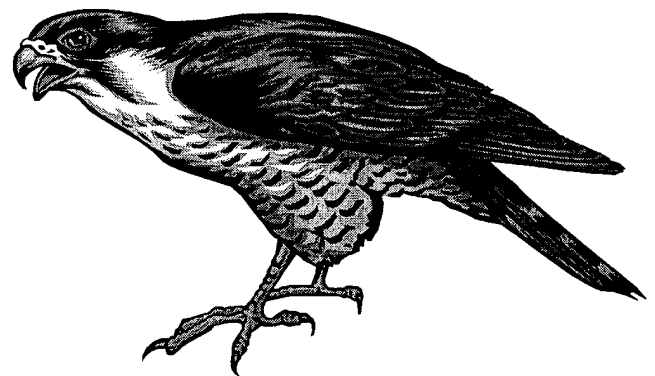
At the beginning of the century most field ornithology was conducted with a shotgun. At it's end, we now use sophisticated binoculars and telescopes, and ever more excellent field guides. In BC, we have the enviable Birds of British Columbia volumes 1-3 as a basic reference (with the final volume 4 due in 2000). We have organisations such as BCFO, Wild Bird Trust, and local natural history societies. We have BC BIRDING and British Columbia Birds, The Birders' Guide to BC, checklists for many areas, Rare Bird Alerts, Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, websites, sound recordings and organised field trips. We should not forget that this entire body of knowledge and resource base is the accumulated work of the field ornithologists of BC.

So, where to in the third millenium? As a hobby we will still take pleasure in the sight of a Peregrine Falcon or a Mountain Bluebird, our pulses will still race when we see the first swallow or hummingbird of the year, and we will still thrill to the sound of goose music, the song of Swainson's Thrush on a summer evening, or a meadowlark in our grasslands. And for those who keep score, one year before 2010, the BC checklist will surpass 500 species -- maintaining our position as one of the most diverse ornithological jurisdictions in North America. On a more serious level, bird conservation in its many forms will be a paramount concern worldwide, and all decision making, both locally and globally, will be based on the knowledge acquired by field ornithologists.

So, go forth into the new century, enjoying the birds and being involved in building on our accumulated knowledge of them.

Good millennial birding,

Tony Greenfield.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

by Martin K McNicholl

- March 6-9 2000 **19th VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE**, San Diego, California. Contact: Terrell Salmon, Department of Wildlife, Fish & Conservation Biology, University of California, 1 Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, USA; phone (530) 752-8751.
- April 2-8 2000 **RAPTORS 2000 : JOINT MEETING OF RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION & WORLD WORKING GROUP FOR BIRDS OF PREY**, Eilat, Isreal. Contact: Dr. Reuven Yosef, Otra Ltd., Box 9352, Tel Aviv, 61092, Isreal; phone +972-3-6384444.
- April 27 -
30 April 2000 **WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**, Galveston, Texas. Contact: Dwight Peake, 30 Ledrum Ct., Galveston, TX 77551, USA.; phone (409) 740-4621.
- June 8-11 2000 **HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA 25th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**, Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania. Contact: Laurie Goodrich, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, 1700 Hawk Mountain Rd., Kempton, PA 19529-9449, USA; phone (610) 756-6961.
- Aug. 11-13 2000 **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, Vancouver, B.C. Watch this newsletter for details, but mark your calendars now! Contact: Ev Miyasaki, e-mail bmiyasaki@home.com, phone (250) 656-8066.
- Aug. 14-20 2000 **118th 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.
- Oct. 12-14 2000 **2nd NORTH AMERICAN DUCK CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Contact: Bob Clark, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4.
- Aug. 11-17 2002 **23rd INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, Beijing, China. Contact: Professor Xu Weishu, Secretary-General of the 23rd 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.

**ATTENTION BIRDERS YOUNG AND OLD
NOVICE AND PROFESSIONAL**

Looking for a great Millenial Event to take in? Consider participating in one of the last of 1999 / first of 2000 Christmas Bird Counts. They are always an enjoyable outing, good birding, camaraderie, a real learning experience for new birders and a teaching opportunity for experienced birders. It is a great way to assist in monitoring bird populations in your part of the country. This year we have phoned and e-mailed around the province and into Washington State and the Yukon. No reason now to say that there is not a count somewhere near you!

Get involved and good birding.

B.C. BIRDING NEWS BRIEFS

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

Steve Cannings Doubly Honoured -An honorary Doctorate of Technology Honoris Causa was conferred on one of B.C.'s most respected and influential ornithologists (and all-round naturalists), Steve Cannings, by the Okanagan University College of Kelowna on 12 June 1999 (telephone confirmation by Jane Muskens, organizer of 1999 convocation after tip from Laurie Rockwell). The South Okanagan Naturalists Club further honoured Dr. Cannings at their annual summer pot luck at the Summerland Research Station on 26 June 1999 for his 32 years of contributions to the club and to natural history studies in the Okanagan. Cannings, a founder of the club, is considered the mentor of many of B.C.'s prominent naturalists (including his three sons). During the celebration, he was presented with a collage of colour photographs of birds while all present enjoyed a large cake (pers. comm. from Laurie Rockwell 25 Sept./99).

Merilees Recognized -Naturalist Bill Merilees recently received a City of Nanaimo Certificate of Recognition for various contributions to Nanaimo, the Nanaimo Estuary and Newcastle Island (Anonymous. 1999. *B.C. Nat.* 37(4):26). Merilees is also well known for ornithological and other natural history research and writings from the Kootenays and the lower mainland.

Hedley Testifies -New Zealand-born bird artist Lex Hedley was recently called to the Crown Court of Canterbury, England as an Expert Witness on Marsh Harrier (a species closely related to our Northern Harrier) (Anonymous. 1999. *Etchings* 7:1). Hedley has lived in Vancouver for several years, sometimes lecturing to lower mainland naturalist groups and frequently contributing artwork to *Discovery* and *Wingspan*.

Dick Cannings hired by Bird Studies Canada -One of Steve Cannings' illustrious sons, Dick, has been hired by Bird Studies Canada as their Program Manager for British Columbia (M. Bradstreet. 1999. *Bird Watch Canada* 10:1-2).

AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE

Ken H. Morgan

Ken started birding as a youngster in Ontario. Although he only birded off-and-on in his teens, he now 'birds' seriously as a biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service with a primary interest in seabirds.

Christine Scott

Christine is a nature writer, wildflower photographer and bird enthusiast. A former elementary school 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.

John B. Sprague

John is a soon-to-be-retired consulting biologist, former professor and government scientist. His favourite birding site and sight: front deck of his place on a winter morning, watching Barrow's goldeneye swim underwater. He claims his biggest mistake in birding was switching to a powerful, computer-based, listing program. He says "I've never finished plugging in the records, so have no complete list or total number of species."

Bring Home the Warbles of the Woods

by Christine Scott
1664 Passage View Drive
Campbell River, BC V9W 6L3

The melodies we hear deep within a forest are vocalizations of tiny birds that hide in the shrubbery or whistle from the highest branches of a tree. While we often cannot see them, everyone knows that as singers, birds are truly amazing. They are gifted with a syrinx which is capable of emitting two sounds at once. A Veery can even sing two-part harmony with itself! During mating season, most birds make music; some sing while others merely drum out a beat. The rest of the time, some birds communicate through calls or other sounds. An amorous male Sage Grouse is a noisy fellow, what with the popping, swishing, and bubbling noises he makes in pursuit of his lady fair. Sometimes one bird species has several songs and a few calls as well.

A Winter Wren's tiny body quivers as it delivers up to 113 separate notes in a single song. Woodpeckers are rattlers and drummers, not singers, and robins may be one of the few birds that actually say 'Chirp'. Most ducks quack, but some also meow. Owls are famous for their booming 'who-ooo', but the Short-eared Owl barks. Loons wail and growl as well as singing the haunting tremolo Canadians are familiar with. The tiny chickadee whistles a sweet 'fee-bee' and rock doves 'coo' as most doves do.

The key to identifying birds is often in their vocalizations, as some species look very similar. Recognizing bird songs can be challenging at best, but to make matters worse, mimics like starlings and Northern Mockingbirds even steal other birds' songs!

A good bird sound audio guide allows us to fill our homes with wonderful songs every day of the year. Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology has just released a new two-CD set entitled 'Bird Songs of Alaska'. Sample songs can be heard by visiting the Lab's web site at <http://birds.cornell.edu>.

'Bird Songs of Alaska' is one of the most complete compilations of West Coast and Alaskan bird sound recordings ever made. Casual listeners, researchers, and serious birders alike will thrill to the voices of 267 bird species collected by 50 field workers in North American parks and forests. A full 190 of these are BC birds as listed in the popular field guide 'Birds of Coastal British Columbia'.

Thousands of birds pass through BC on their annual migrations to high Arctic breeding grounds. 'Bird Songs of Alaska' also features shorebird vocalizations, of particular interest to birders along the BC coast. Here on the Island, many shorebirds spend the winter right on our doorstep.

These recordings are of excellent quality, with long sound cuts. The CD set comes with a booklet that lists common and scientific names and tells where each bird was recorded. And best of all, each species is assigned its own track number for rapid access and quick reference.

Another excellent audio guide is 'Bird Songs of the Rocky Mountain States and Provinces'. Shorebird vocalizations are not present on 'Rockies'. This was a conscious choice on the part of the folks at the Laboratory of Ornithology, who wanted to focus this set strictly on the birds of the Rockies.



The two-CD 'Alaska' set retails for \$24.95 (US) plus \$5.20 air mail shipping / handling (4 to 7 days). 'Rockies' is available as a three-CD set or cassette for \$29.95. Order from Wild Birds Unlimited in Ithaca, New York, toll-free in Canada (877) 266-4928, or e-mail at info@wbuny.com.

Retailers may contact Cornell's Library of Natural Sounds, Wholesale Division, (607) 254-2490, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850 or e-mail tmf2@cornell.edu.

Editors' Note:

John Neville of Neville Recordings on Salt Spring Island also alerted us to a new recording which he will be releasing in early December. It is called 'Bird Songs of Canada's West Coast'. We will be reviewing a copy of the CD in a future issue but thought we should include this press release on his recording as it compliments the article by Christine Scott above.

Bird Songs of Canada's West Coast

"This is the fifth production from Neville Recording of North American Bird Songs...

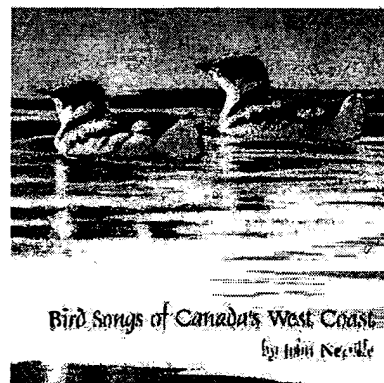
John Neville has used more than one hundred recordings to illustrate the West Coast. His technical skills have been enhanced by engineers Bart Gurr and Ian Tarasoff. The clarity of these recordings lifts nature recordings to a new high in Canada. Some of the sounds such as the call of the Red-breasted Sapsucker, the hunting cry of a Barred Owl and a Great Blue heronry are all firsts in nature recording. In an increasingly urban world, that most of us live in, Neville has taken us back to our natural roots in an inclusive friendly manner. His narration is modulated lower than his heroes, the bird population. He also gives helpful hints on species recognition and how much sugar to feed a hummingbird. If you want to feel more at home in the great outdoors Neville will absorb you in the beauty and the many pleasures it affords.

This CD concentrates on the bird songs and calls found along British Columbia's West Coast. All recordings are documented to site and month. The birds are listed by habitat. The collection takes you through birding areas of the Gulf Islands, West Coast areas of BC such as Desolation Sound, Triangle Island, Haida Gwaii and the Nass Valley of the Nisga'a. The front cover of the production is by another naturalist and birder of Salt Spring Island BC, Robert Bateman.

If you wish to review all five of our BC recordings you can find more details at our web site; www.nevillerecording.com

or contact:

Neville Recording,
138 Castle Cross Rd
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2G2
phone/fax (250) 537 4121
e-mail songbird@saltspring.com



On December 9th at 7pm The Salt Spring Rotary Club will be premiering the release of this recording."

Four Years of Breakfast Birding

by John B. Sprague
474 Old Scott Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2L7

One of the joys of living on Salt Spring Island is keeping track of the waterbirds. Where we live, outer Ganges Harbour, is a big open bay with islands (Fig.1). I have kept daily records of the waterbirds since 1995. I do a good scan at breakfast, five minutes to half an hour depending upon the number of birds. I also do more spot checks during breakfast. Coverage extends from the onshore reef to about a kilometre out on the bay, as far as the telescope will reach. Birds are added if they are noticed during the day, but this depends upon what I am doing. The observation period is not rigidly scientific, but it seems to give an adequate picture of relative abundance. As waterbirds I included ducks and all other floating birds, herons and shorebirds, and the fish-eating Osprey and eagle.

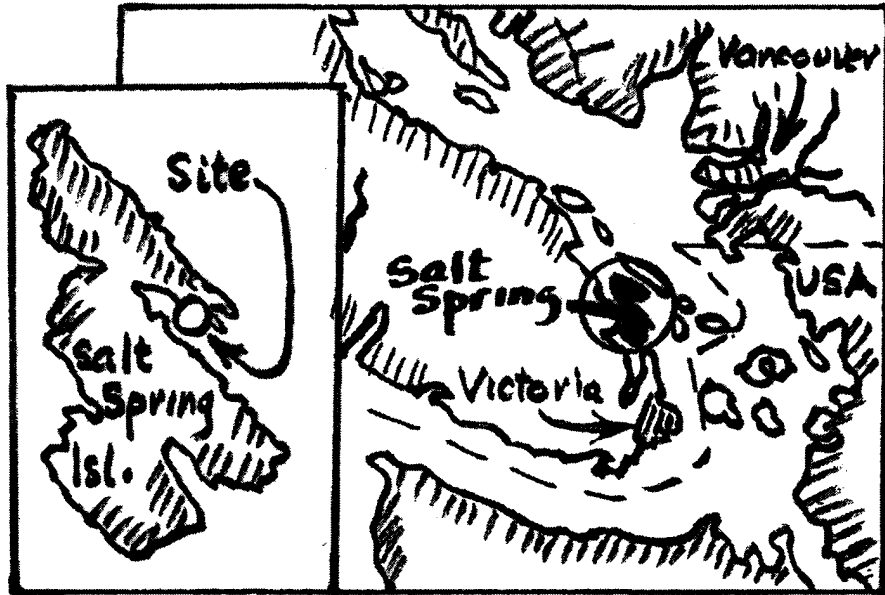


Figure 1: Location of Salt Spring Island and the observation site.

The first lesson was to be happy about autumn and winter. So many gorgeous wintering ducks at close range! Summers are almost dull with birds away at breeding grounds. The main summer months averaged only 11 or 12 species, but winter showed about 27 species (Fig.2).

Some species showed great seasonal precision. For example, Barrow's Goldeneye had an almost identical pattern each year (Fig. 3).

Other species were erratic. Sometimes Pacific Loons were not seen for months, then for a couple of days there would be sixty or seventy of them cruising out on the bay (Fig. 4).

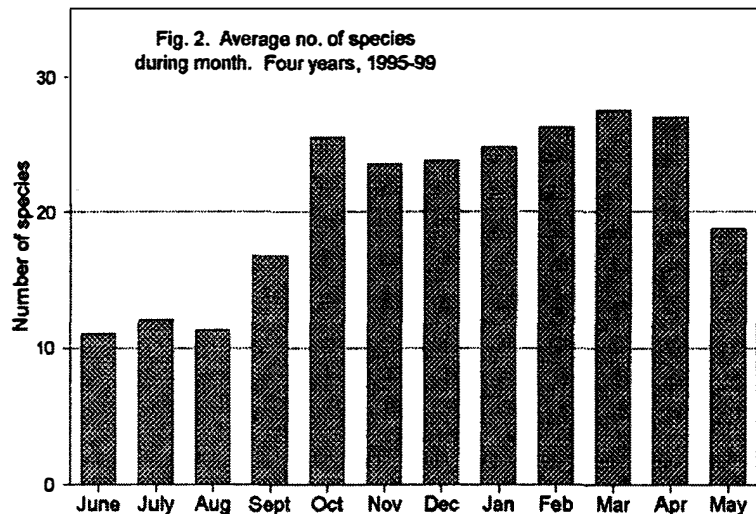


Fig. 3. Barrow's goldeneye
Percentage of days seen, in month

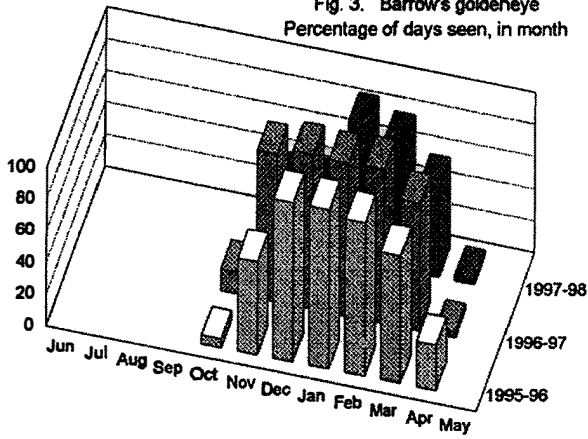
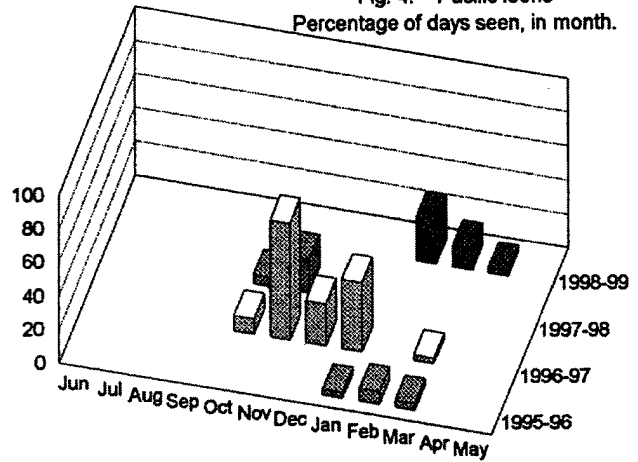


Fig. 4. Pacific loons
Percentage of days seen, in month.



"Regular" Species

One measurement of regular occurrence is the number of months in which a species was seen. This favours birds present year-round. It was no surprise that the top bird was Glaucous-winged Gull, seen every month. The top ten are listed in Table 1 - Regulars.

Frequent Species

Judging by the number of days a species was seen, out of 1460 possible, Glaucous-winged Gulls were also the most frequently seen bird. The top ten are listed in Table 2 - Frequency. Half of the birds were on both lists and some differences were predictable. Some species that were monthly "regulars" did not make the top ten on the daily list, because they were seen irregularly. These included Black Oystercatcher, Belted Kingfisher, Mew Gull and Pigeon Guillemot. The five birds of the daily top ten who did not make the monthly list were all species that went away for the breeding season but were seen on most winter days. These included Thayer's Gull, Horned Grebe, Surf Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser and Barrow's Goldeneye.

Table 1 - Regulars Number of months seen out of 48 months	
Glaucous-winged Gull	48 months
Double-crested Cormorant	46 months
Harlequin Duck	46 months
Great Blue Heron	45 months
Bald Eagle	43 months
Common Loon	42 months
Black Oystercatcher	42 months
Belted Kingfisher	41 months
Mew Gull	39 months
Pigeon Guillemot	38 months

Table 2 - Frequency Number of days seen out of 1460	
Glaucous-winged Gull	1166 days
Harlequin Duck	1053 days
Thayer's Gull	700 days
Double-crested Cormorant	699 days
Great Blue Heron	667 days
Horned Grebe	590 days
Surf Scoter	574 days
Red-breasted Merganser	535 days
Bald Eagle	516 days
Barrow's Goldeneye	480 days

Some of these frequent birds seemed rather exotic to Lois and me, because we had moved from Ontario. I would have expected some to be rare - Harlequin Duck, Bald Eagle, Black Oystercatcher, Pigeon Guillemot, Barrow's Goldeneye and Thayer's Gull. In fact, the frequency lists are a bit quirky. Thayer's Gull was third in daily frequency, but there were only two individuals! The high frequency occurred because one, and usually both, sat on the reef day after day all winter. Harlequin Ducks are supposed to find a fast-moving mountain stream and raise a family, but some of them chased around the reef every month, and almost every day of the months from July to April. No wonder they ended up being ranked as common.

Abundance

The highest number of 'sightings' are shown in Table 3 - Abundance. A 'sighting' is one bird seen on one day. Most of the top ten are the same species listed already in Table 2, but three are different. The large number of Surf Scoters came from repeated rafts of 50 or 60 birds. Sometimes rafts of up to 500 gathered offshore for the night. Bonaparte's Gull did not show up often, but a few times they came for herring and they turned the bay white. Black Turnstones bombed in erratically in dozens or hundreds. The number for Glaucous-winged Gulls should probably be higher to include most of the 5,772 *unidentified* gulls.

Surf Scoter	20707
Harlequin Duck	4325
Glaucous-winged Gull	4197
Bonaparte's Gull	4180
Mew Gull	2331
Black Turnstone	2133
Double-crested Cormorant	2036
Horned Grebe	1973
Barrow's Goldeneye	1812
Red-breasted Merganser	1729

The daily counts are conservative because birds seen at different times of the day were assumed to be the same individuals, unless distinguished by sex or other features. For example, if there were six Mew Gulls in the morning and four in the afternoon, the day's count was six. Certainly there are rough features in the data, some of them mentioned above. Also, to make the years and months comparable, adjustments were made for days when I was absent. For example, if I was away for fourteen days during February, the records taken on the other fourteen days would be doubled to estimate the number of days that a given species was seen, and the number of individuals for the month. The number of species would not be adjusted.

Since the observations are made from an open shore, a lot of the dabbling ducks were seen only a couple of times as they migrated through (e.g. Northern Shoveler, both the teals). Northern Pintail and Gadwall were not seen at all. Only four species of shorebirds were seen because of the rocky shore. There was one rare species, but I am pessimistic that everyone will accept those Arctic Loons! In all, fifty-one species of waterbirds were seen during the four years of breakfast birding.



List Of Species Seen

Red-throated Loon	Marbled Murrelet	Surf Scoter	Thayer's Gull
Pacific Loon	Rhinoceros Auklet	Harlequin Duck	Glaucous-winged Gull
Arctic Loon	Trumpeter Swan	Oldsquaw	Caspian Tern
Common Loon	Mute Swan	Barrow's Goldeneye	Great Blue Heron
Horned Grebe	Canada Goose	Common Goldeneye	Black Oystercatcher
Pied-bill Grebe	Brant	Bufflehead	Spotted Sandpiper
Red-necked Grebe	Mallard	Common Merganser	Black Turnstone
Western Grebe	Green-winged Teal	Red-breasted	Surfbird
Double-crested	American Wigeon	Merganser	Osprey
Cormorant	Northern Shoveler	Hooded Merganser	Bald Eagle
Brandt's Cormorant	Blue-winged Teal	Bonaparte's Gull	Belted Kingfisher
Pelagic Cormorant	Greater Scaup	Ring-billed Gull	
Common Murre	Black Scoter	Mew Gull	
Pigeon Guillemot	White-winged Scoter	California Gull	

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

To the editors:

Just a follow up to Russ Tkachuk's article Three Ptarmigans and a Wheatear on North Fork Pass in the September issue of BC BIRDING. The Northern Wheatears nested on the cliff overlooking North Fork Pass, right where he saw them in May. I saw two young there and the adults were still hanging around on August 1st just beyond the microwave tower.

It was late spring this year, almost two weeks late. The leaves usually come out at the end of May and this year it was the start of June. Best birding still seems to be at the end of May and coincides with the annual Spring Bird-a-thon held the last weekend of May each year.

Some other common highlights on the Dempster Highway in the vicinity of Tombstone Campground are Long-tailed Jaegers, Common Redpolls, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Oldsquaw, nesting Harlequin Ducks and lately there have been a pair of Red-throated Loons nesting on a bend of the Blackstone River near the highway. Farther up the highway Peregrine and Gyrfalcons nest on the cliffs. One of the most noticeable is at km 154 in Windy Pass. The Dempster Interpretive Centre, located at Tombstone Campground is also a great source of information and is staffed from early June until mid-September.

If you would like a *Yukon Birds Field Checklist*, *Birds of the Whitehorse Area*, or the upcoming *Birds of the Faro/Ross River Area* please contact: Yukon's Wildlife Viewing Program at the address below or the Yukon Bird Club at <http://www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/ybcbirds.html>.

Happy Birding
 Bruce Bennett
 Wildlife Viewing Biologist
 Wildlife Viewing Program, Fish & Wildlife Branch
 Yukon Territorial Government
 Box 2703, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6

Dear Andy and Marilyn

Re: Page 7 of September issue of BC BIRDING

I am sure that the four very dedicated and enthusiastic birders in the photograph will agree with me when I suggest that they are recognized as the top four 'Listers' in Canada, not necessarily the top birders.

Must congratulate the working crew of BCFO - the hard work is appreciated.

Regards

Allen Poynter

Andy & Marilyn,

I finally got the time to compare the list in the latest "B.C. BIRDING" to my list and a few birds I personally know others saw. Following are species not on the published list with a foot note on "fide" birds. The Gadwall on the 18th was seen just east of Osoyoos. The Scott/Neill birds were seen Sunday afternoon all others I believe were seen on the various organized outings. I did get a look at the BBWO myself on the Monday, "a lifer"!

Great Blue Heron Jun 20, 1999
 Green-winged Teal Jun 20, 1999
 Gadwall Jun 18, 1999
 Northern Harrier Jun 19, 1999
 California Gull Jun 20, 1999
 Barred Owl Jun 18, 1999

*Williamson's Sapsucker Jun 20, 1999
 *Black-backed Woodpecker Jun 20, 1999
 Least Flycatcher Jun 20, 1999
 Steller's Jay Jun 20, 1999
 Hermit Thrush Jun 20, 1999.

* observed by Brian Scott and Kevin Neill
 Keep up the good work. Good Birding
 Larry Cowan, Port Coquitlam, BC

Dear Andy and Marilyn;

Since late February this year I have been hearing the strident chatter of Hutton's Vireo on an almost daily basis from mixed woodland near my backyard on Salt Spring Island. For all of this time the bird appears to be territorial and sometimes his mate joins in with 'zuuwheep' or 'wheep' calls. Reference books for this area such as "Birds of Coastal BC" by Baron and Acorn, report this species calling in March, April and August only.

Having moved to the coast only eighteen months ago it was initially a challenge to recognize this Georgian Strait speciality. It is quite a shy bird that seems to be much easier to hear than to see. As of October 10 it is still calling for short periods on a daily basis. I wonder if other readers have also noted the Huttons' call notes over such an extended period.

John Neville

e-mail: songbird@saltspring.com

[This note was received during the Board membership drive and forwarded to the Editors]

Hi Hank,

...My only suggestions for improvement would be to use a newer word processor to produce the newsletter. ... My recollection is that it still uses a font like courier instead of a proportionally spaced font. Describing an improved design and layout isn't something that I, as an end user, can do. The content of the newsletter is stronger than its appearance.... Paul Johansen

EDITORS' NOTE: a new wordprocessor does not loom large on our budgetary horizon but we do ask all members to help us keep the pages filled with good and interesting content.

PAGE 12

BIRD-LISTERS' CORNER

by Ken Morgan
1945 Lands End Road
Sidney, BC, V8L 5J2

This morning (November 4th) I noticed patches of frost on the lawn for the first time this fall. My thoughts immediately turned to the excitement of winter birding and to Christmas bird counts. The latter thought reminded me that a few weeks ago, I promised Marilyn Buhler I would get this article done by the end of the first week of November (and then promptly forgot about the whole thing). To veteran BCFO listers, this article is your annual reminder to start thinking about tallying up regional bird lists. Don't forget, the numbers you send me will be the last of the millennium - is there anyone out there willing to start a new set of lists for the 21st century?

Upon the recommendations of several hard-core listers, I have included Washington State and due to an apparent lack of interest, I have dropped the six national and provincial parks. For those who haven't submitted lists before, the numbers I'm after are the total number of bird species you've seen within a particular area throughout your life as a birder; not just those seen within this particular year.

Re-iterating something I explained last year, the column on the listing form labelled "Accepted Total (if different from what is listed)" is for listers to provide me with correct area totals if different from what I've listed. So, if you notice that I have given the wrong total for an area, please let me know by listing the correct total in the right-hand column. As with previous years, I will only accept lists that reach me by the end of January (2000). Please either mail or e-mail your totals to me. The totals listed after each area (below) are the same as I presented in 1998 - please don't forget to let me know if the totals have changed.

Listing Areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) A.B.A Area ¹ (911 species) | 10) Princeton Area ⁸ (250) |
| 2) Canada ² (628) | 11) Kamloops Checklist Area ⁹ (295) |
| 3) British Columbia ³ (475) | 12) Sunshine Coast Checklist Area ¹⁰ (277) |
| 4) Alberta ⁴ (394) | 13) West Kootenay Checklist Area ¹¹ (285) |
| 5) Vancouver Island (387) | 14) Prince George Checklist Area ¹² (268) |
| 6) Queen Charlotte Islands ⁵ (250) | 15) Creston Valley ¹³ (265) |
| 7) Vancouver Checklist Area (364) | 16) Washington State |
| 8) Victoria Checklist Area ⁶ (353) | 17) North Pacific Pelagic Waters |
| 9) Okanagan Valley Checklist Area ⁷ (316) | |

¹ = ABA area species total (1998) provided by B. Korol.

² = Canada species total (1998) provide by B. Korol.

³ = BC species total (1998) provide by B. Korol.

⁴ = Alberta species total (1998) provide by B. Korol.

⁵ = Queen Charlotte Island species total (1996) provided by P. Hamel.

⁶ = Victoria Checklist Area species total (1998) provided by B. Gates.

⁷ = Okanagan Valley Chklst Area species total based on chklst by Cannings et al. (1995).

⁸ = Princeton species total ((1998) provided by J. Hertzig.

⁹ = Kamloops Checklist Area species total based on checklist by R. Howie (1994).

¹⁰ = Sunshine Coast species total (1998) provided by T. Greenfield.

¹¹ = West Kootenay Area species total based on checklist by G. Davidson (1998).

¹² = Prince George Checklist Area species total (1998) provided by C. Antoniazzi.

¹³ = Creston Valley species total based on checklist by L. Van Damme (1996).

B.C. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DETAILS, 1999/2000

This listing of Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) is published as a service to BCFO members who would like to take part in CBCs in their local area or further afield. As this is the end of 1999 we have included information from neighbours to the north and to the south. The listing includes counts with the name and telephone number of the organizer(s) and the scheduled date. This information also appears on the BCFO website <http://birding.bc.ca/bcfo> courtesy of webmaster, Kevin Slagboom. A **DNA** indicates that the contact person is correct but **Date Not Available** at press time. Data were accurate as known to the Editors on **21 November 1999**. Please check with the area organizers for any late-breaking changes.

Locality	Date	Organizer(s)	Phone No.
Abbotsford-Mission ** Need Counters **	3 Jan 2000	Lynn Miller [W] [H]	(604) 945-3401 (604) 826-3839
Bamfield	No information available for 1999/2000		
Bowen Island	2 Jan 2000	Allan Shatwell	(604) 947-2133
Castlegar/Trail (WKN)	8 Jan 2000	Dorothy Beetstra	(250) 368-9716
Chilliwack	18 Dec 1999	Annabelle Rempel	(604) 823-6549
Clearwater	No official count to be done this year.		
Comox/Courtenay	19 Dec 1999	Barbara Sedgwick	(250) 335-0064
Cranbrook	27 Dec 1999	Greg Ross	(250) 489-2566
Creston	27 Dec 1999	Shelaigh Reynolds	(250) 866-5433
Deep Bay	28 Dec 1999	Barbara Sedgwick	(250) 335-0064
Duncan	2 Jan 2000	Derrick Marvin	(250) 748-8504
Fauquier	DNA	Ruth Bumpus	(250) 269-7481
Fort St. James	2 Jan 2000	Joanne Vinnedge	(250) 996-7401
Galiano Island	27 Dec 1999	Mike Hoebel [H] or [H]	(250) 539-2003 (250) 652-0396
Golden	27 Dec 1999	Ellen Zimmerman	(250) 348-2225
Kamloops	19 Dec 1999	Rick Howie	(250) 578-7542
Kelowna ** Need Counters **	18 Dec 1999	Chris Charlesworth	(250) 765-6048
Kimberley	2 Jan 2000	Greg Ross	(250) 489-2566
Kitimat	18 Dec 1999	Dennis Horwood	(250) 632-2004
Ladner (includes Point Roberts)	27 Dec 1999	Jude Grass	(604) 520-3706
Lake Windermere District	26 Dec 1999	Larry Halverson	(250) 342-3305

Locality	Date	Organizer(s)	Phone No.
Lardeau	27 Dec 1999	Gail Spitler	(250) 366-4601
Masset	27 Dec 1999	Peter Hamel	(250) 626-3585
Mackenzie	DNA	Vi Lambie	(250) 997-6876
Mayne Island	29 Dec 1999	Doreen Tamboline	(250) 539-2730
Nakusp	2 Jan 2000	Gary Davidson	(250) 265-4456
Nanaimo	2 Jan 2000	Guy Monty	(250) 713-0072
Nelson Winter Bird Count	8 Jan 2000	Linda Van Damme	(250) 354-1182
Oliver/Osoyoos	2 Jan 2000	Tom Ethier or Joan King	(250) 496-4171 (250) 495-6907
Parksville/Qualicum	19 Dec 1999	Will Lemon	(250) 757-2387
Pender Harbour	22 Dec 1999	Tony Greenfield	(604) 885-5539
Pender Islands	29 Dec 1999	Mary Roddick	(250) 629-3308
Penticton	19 Dec 1999	Dick Cannings	(250) 496-4019
Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge	3 Jan 2000	Kees van den Berg	(604) 463-8743
Port Alberni	2 Jan 2000	Sandy McRuer	(250) 723-5436
Port Clements	3 Jan 2000	Peter Hamel	(250) 626-3585
Prince George	19 Dec 1999	Cathy Antoniazzi	(250) 562-2845
Prince Rupert	DNA	Robin Weber	[H] (250) 627-1129 [W] (250) 624-3207
Princeton	19 Dec 1999	Madelon Schouten	(250) 295-7078
Quesnel	2 Jan 2000	Adrian Leather	(250) 249-5561
Revelstoke	18 Dec 1999	George Winingder	(250) 837-3655
Rose Spit	28 Dec 1999	Peter Hamel	(250) 626-3585
Salmon Arm	27 Dec 1999	Frank Kime	(250) 835-8537
Saltspring Island	9 Jan 2000	Nancy Braithwaite	(250) 537-9335
Saturna Island	29 Dec 1999	Harvey Janszen	(250) 539-5150
Shuswap Lake	DNA	Rick Howie	(250) 578-7542
Skidegate Inlet	18 Dec 1999	Peter Hamel	(250) 626-3585
Smithers	27 Dec 1999	Rosamund Pojar	(250) 847-9784
Sooke	27 Dec 1999	Jack McLeod	(250) 642-5369

Locality	Date	Organizer(s)	Phone No.
Squamish	2 Jan 2000	Jim Wisnia	(604) 898-2000
Sunshine Coast	18 Dec 1999	Tony Greenfield	(604) 885-5539
Terrace	26 Dec 1999	Diane Weismiller	(250) 635-6984
Vancouver	19 Dec 1999	Danny Tyson	(604) 597-8414
Vaseux Lake	27 Dec 1999	Dick Cannings	(250) 496-4019
Vernon 50 th Continuous Year	19 Dec 1999	Phil Gehlen or Mary Collins	(250) 542-8053 (250) 542-5673
Victoria	18 Dec 1999	David Pearce	(250) 658-0295
Wells Gray Park	No official count to be done for 1999 call Trevor Goward for information		(250) 674-2553
Whistler	21 Dec 1999	Karl Ricker	(604) 926-5933
White Rock and Surrey	2 Jan 2000	Ian Robertson	(604) 530-1080
Williams Lake	2 Jan 2000	Anna Roberts	(250) 392-5000

Interior Swan-and-Eagle Count will be on 16 Jan 2000. Contact Rick Howie (250) 578-7542

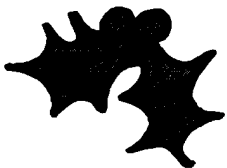
Some WASHINGTON STATE Locations

Locality	Date	Organizer(s)	Phone No.
Bellingham	19 Dec 1999	Joe Meche	(360) 738-0641
Bremerton	18 Dec 1999	Scott Hall	(360) 698-1246
Bridgeport	18 Dec 1999	Meredith Spencer	(509) 686-7551
Ellensburg	18 Dec 1999	Phil Mattocks or	(509) 962-2191 (509) 963-2809
Everett	18 Dec 1999	Mary Teesdale	(360) 734-9077
Goldendale / Columbia Hills	26 Dec 1999	Stuart Johnston	(509) 493-3363
Grand Coulee	19 Dec 1999	Sandy Converse	(509) 633-0205
Kent-Auburn 20 th year	2 Jan 2000	Thais Bock	(253) 839-2044
Moses Lake	28 Dec 1999	Teri Pieper	(509) 766-0101
North Cascades	17 Dec 1999	Bob Kuntz	(360) 424-9099
Port Townsend	18 Dec 1999	Richard Johnson	(360) 385-5418

Locality	Date	Organizer(s)	Phone No.
San Juan Ferry (Anacortes to Victoria)	29 Dec 1999	Jim Duemmel	(360) 733-3448
San Juan Islands Archipelago	18 Dec 1999	Barb Jensen	(360) 378-3068
Seattle	1 Jan 2000	Seattle Audubon Society	(206) 523-4483
Sequim-Dungeness	20 Dec 1999	Bob Boekelheide	(360) 681-4867
Skagit Bay	26 Dec 1999	Art Campbell	(206) 783-2449
Tacoma	18 Dec 1999	Faye McAdams	(253) 884-4812
Toppenish NWR	19 Dec 1999	Andy Stepniewski	(509) 877-6639
Tri-Cities	18 Dec 1999	Phil Bartley	(509) 783-5265
Trout Lake	18 Dec 1999	Stuart Johnston	(509) 493-3363
Vashon Island <i>1st Official</i>	2 Jan 2000	Sue Trevanthan	(206) 463-1484
Yakima Valley	18 Dec 1999	Denny Granstrand	(509) 453-2500

And From Our NORTHERN NEIGHBORS

Locality	Date	Organizer(s)	Phone No.
Haines Junction	27 Dec 1999	David & Suzanne Henry	(867) 634-2426
Marsh lake	19 Dec 1999	Helmut Grunberg	(867) 667-6703
Mayo	29 Dec 1999	Mark O'Donoghue	(867) 996-2162
Watson Lake	27 Dec 1999	Ted Murphy-Kelly	(867) 536-2057
Whitehorse	26 Dec 1999	Wendy Nixon	(867) 668-7572



EDITORS' NOTE: please advise us of any errors in the spelling of names and/or errors in telephone numbers. We try to be as accurate as possible but there are always gremlins in the works. If you know of other count areas which we have not listed please make us aware of them in time to get them into next year's listings. Wherever you find yourselves this holiday season we hope that you have a very happy, healthy, and enjoyable Christmas and New Years. Welcome to 2000! Good birding and all the very best from the Buhlers.

BCFO Members Conduct Rare Bird Survey in the South Okanagan

by Dick Cannings

This year, more than 20 BCFO members stayed on in the south Okanagan for two days following the June AGM in Oliver to conduct surveys of rare birds. These surveys, organized by Dick Cannings of Bird Studies Canada and Orville Dyer of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, focused on species of concern in the area, including Long-billed Curlew, Lewis's Woodpecker, Sage Thrasher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lark Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bobolink.

The surveys were a tremendous success, tallying 19 singing chats (a consultant's survey undertaken about ten years ago found only 12), 40 male Bobolinks, three Grasshopper Sparrows, three Sage Thrashers, and an amazing total of 75 Lark Sparrows representing about 50 pairs. Chris Charlesworth also reported a Barn Owl foraging in broad daylight at Road 22 suggesting that a pair was nesting in the area, although the traditional old barn was not being used.

All but one of the chats were heard along the Okanagan River from Vaseux Lake south to Osoyoos Lake, the other was along the Similkameen River near Cawston. The Bobolinks were more or less evenly divided between the Road 22 area at the north end of Osoyoos Lake and the south Similkameen Valley. About a third of the Lark Sparrows were along Black Sage Road southeast of Oliver; the other significant concentration was in the Similkameen Valley between Cawston and the Chopaka border crossing.

The locations and other details of all these sightings have been entered into the provincial database, where they are already being used to refine distribution and habitat models for endangered species conservation initiatives.

With the success and great value of this survey, the BCFO should consider conducting similar surveys at the site of future AGMs. The amazing concentration of pure birding talent present at BCFO meetings is a resource too powerful to ignore!

Volunteers for the 1999 Okanagan-Similkameen surveys included (I apologize for any people accidentally left off this list): Cathy Antoniazzi, Andy and Marilyn Buhler, Dick Cannings, Chris Charlesworth, Eva Durance, Jim Fliczuk, Tony Greenfield, Dale Jensen, Hue and Jo Ann MacKenzie, Martin McNicholl, Barb and Ev Miyasaki, Nancy Ricker, Laurie Rockwell, Dan Soberg, Gail Spitler, Bernie and Prue Spitmann, Russ Tkachuk, and Hank VanderPol.

Thank you all again for a job well done.

Dick Cannings



Ontario's Peregrine Telemetry Project - First Update

To the Editors:

The Canadian Peregrine Foundation's (CPF) Project Track-Em is now well underway with at least one of the four tagged juveniles from southern Ontario on a south bound move - one is currently in Tennessee, USA. As you may well be aware, over the past five years, our six southern Ontario urban peregrine nest sites (Ottawa, London, Etobicoke, Hamilton, Toronto, and Niagara Falls) have successfully produced more than 55 fledglings that have by the mid to end of September of each year disappeared, and with only five exceptions, 50 of them have never been seen again.

With the help and support from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Canada Trust - Friends of the Environment Foundation, EcoAction2000, The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, CWS, Canadian Space Agency, FujiFilm, Nets-r-Us, University of Guelph, McGill University, Ontario Hawking Club, and Skip Ambrose to mention just a few, Project Track-Em has begun. We must also thank the 6.2 million visitors/hits from 117 countries world wide that have been visiting our web site and following our urban PEFAs via the nest cameras that have been displaying the images to our web site over the past six months, and the many thousands of visitors that attended our falcon watch centers and supported our many projects. With the support of all, the CPF has had many things to celebrate over this past year, and from what we are to understand, some firsts for Ontario and Canada.

Our foster project: - two 19+ day old peregrine chicks were deposited and successfully fostered by the adults in the failed Hamilton nest site, and three 14 to 18 plus day old peregrine chicks were successfully deposited and fostered by the adults in the Ottawa nest site.

Our Project Track-Em: - three of our six hatched juvenile peregrines have been satellite tagged and are in the air flying strong. The final juvenile will be tagged next week and hopefully will be on his way.

Our Project Watch-Em: - colour video cameras were installed on four of the urban peregrine nest sites (Hamilton, Toronto, Etobicoke, and Ottawa) to both monitor and document peregrine behavior in a urban setting, and to provide an opportunity to global, national and local communities to view and watch peregrines raise their young throughout the entire nesting season. In addition, the live colour camera images were brought to the street and displayed on large colour TVs to the local communities providing an educational extravaganza for all to see. Two years of recorded video documentation is now being assembled and edited to produce a one hour video - suitable for the educational institutions and for network TV. We hope that you have enjoyed this past spring and summer, and we bring you our fall/99 and spring/2000 Project Track-Em.

Sincerely
Mark Nash
markjvp@yesic.com
The Canadian Peregrine Foundation

<http://www.peregrine-foundation.ca/programs/trackem/track.html>

◇ Peregrine Press ◇

November 1999

Peregrines Have Flown

Of the ten baby Peregrine Falcons released this July, eight have migrated south for the winter. As is common in the wild, two of our young birds did not make it. Sage, a female, was injured while still learning to fly. She has been moved to a rehabilitation centre in the Lower Mainland and will hopefully recover to one day be used in a breeding program. Clipper, unfortunately, was not so lucky. After flying into the Okanagan Lake bridge, probably while chasing pigeons, he died almost instantly. The Kelowna Centennial Museum has offered to preserve our feathered friend and use him to educate visitors about the natural history of the Peregrine Falcon in the BC Interior.

The eight healthy falcons have been spotted all over the place! Shuswap Lake, Washington State, Lumby, Summerland, etc. Two were seen soaring high above the Kelowna City Centre as recently as October 20th. Perhaps they were saying a last good-bye before their long journey.

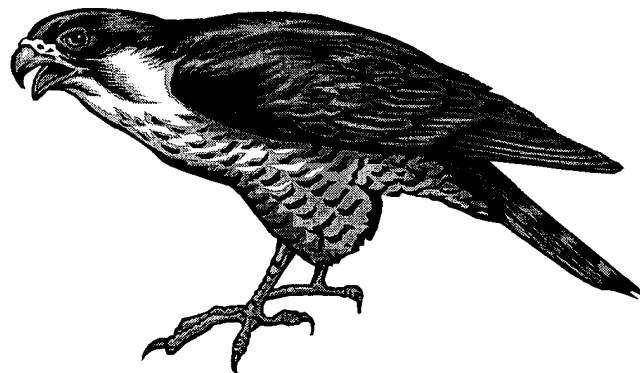
Some peregrines have been known to migrate as far south as South American. The exhausting and perilous journey is too much for the weaker birds, and only fifteen to twenty percent (one or two birds) from this year's release are expected to return to the Okanagan next summer. Reintroducing a species that has been extirpated for forty years takes time.

More Falcons in '00

Since the project began, it has been our plan to release birds for at least three years. We are currently in the process of seeking funds for our third year. We hope to release eighteen birds in 2000, ten from a cliff site on Dilworth Mountain. A thank you to the City of Kelowna for cooperating with us in this exciting new component of the project.

For further information contact:

Angela Reid
c/o Return of the Peregrine Falcon Society
212-1708 Dolphin Avenue
Kelowna, BC V1Y 9S4
phone (250) 861-9474
e-mail falcon@silk.net



[EDITORS' NOTE: Article reprinted from Peregrine Press with permission.]