



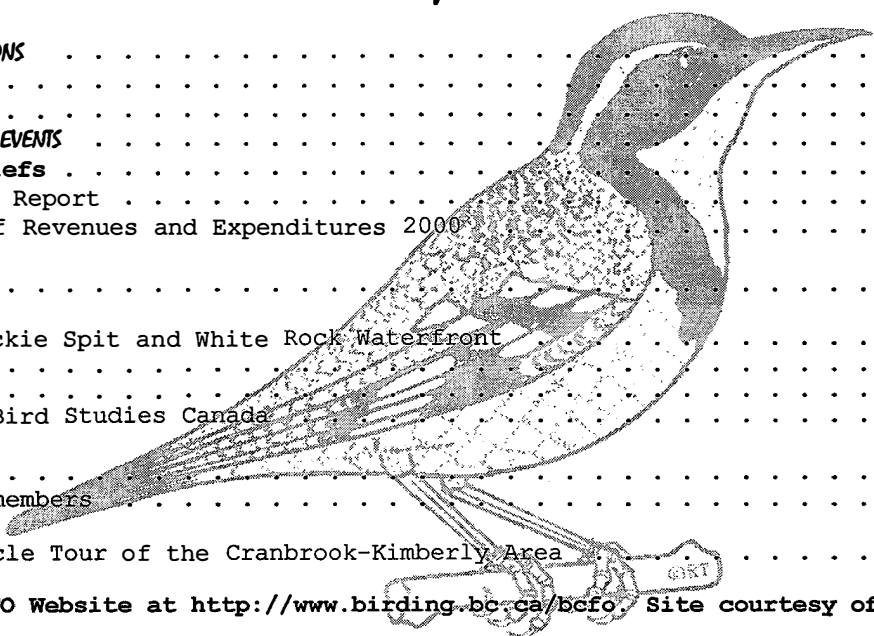
BIRDING

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NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
Volume 11 Number 2 June 2001

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Check Out BCFO Website at <http://www.birding.bc.ca/bcfo> Site courtesy of Kevin Slagboom.

B.C. BIRDING is published four times a year by British Columbia Field Ornithologists (BCFO), 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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Membership Dues:

Individual memberships	\$25.00
Library subscriptions	\$25.00
Junior memberships (age under 18)	\$10.00
U.S. and foreign memberships	(US)\$25.00

Memberships are for the calendar year.

For further information, or to join, write to:

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British Columbia Field Ornithologists
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Send material for publication in any format to the editors. We especially welcome bird-finding information for our "Site Guide" series and any 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.

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EDITORS' NOTES & NOTIONS

Are you all 'studied up' on those Eastern warbler calls and colours in preparation for the 11th Annual BCFO Conference to be held in Dawson Creek? We look forward to greeting you all there June 22-24th, 2000. If you are coming early see the suggestion by Dick Cannings on page 10 of this issue. If you can stay later there is an extension trip centered around Fort Nelson planned.

We would like to thank Gail Spitler for sending us a checklist of the June birds possible around Dawson Creek. Unfortunately we ran out of space in the issue. However, Mark Phinney says there should be a newly-published list in your Conference package. Thanks go also to Mildred White for allowing us to reproduce the site guide prepared by The Rocky Mountain Naturalists and to Kyle Elliott for permission to use his Blackie Spit / White Rock area site guide.

Al gives us a note on bird use of Douglas Spirea, Stephanie thanks surveyors for a second successful survey, Laure understands how difficult it is for editors to get just the 'right', no 'correct', no 'precise', no ... well, you will see what we mean. Be certain that you read the Letters to the Editors section to see how the BC Avocets are faring, to see how your Cypress Bowl records could be of use, and to see how BCFO members can make a difference doing a survey for species of concern or for a South Peace bird atlas.

This issue was prepared a bit earlier than usual so that members attending the BCFO Annual Conference might have a chance to read the motions on page 5 and the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures on page 8 prior to the meeting. We also include the second Directors' Corner, a column we hope to provide on a regular basis. The Upcoming Meetings and Events is a regular column thanks to Martin. Tony Greenfield started a regular President's Report and we thank Bryan for continuing the practice. New members should check page 16 to see whether we have your information correctly presented. Welcome to the BCFO. We hope you will all find something of interest and utility in this, our province-wide, birding organization.

Long time readers of this newsletter will notice that in this issue there are more articles with 'Thanks to' or 'With the permission of' than we usually carry. We have not nagged readers to write for a while but are doing so again now. This is your newsletter. We are but the compilers. Please consider putting pens or pencils to paper or fingers to the keyboards and help us keep this newsletter informative, timely and interesting. We rely upon you all.

Good birding
Andy & Marilyn
Co-Editors

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What is the purpose of a Bird Records Committee - a BRC? Should British Columbia have one? Should BCFO continue to sponsor it? Should the structure and procedures of BRCs be more or less standard throughout North America? What would we lose if BCFO stepped aside and left the province without a BRC, or if we let some other organization or agency take on the role?

Those are a few of the questions raised by Ian Robertson's **Notice of Motion** appearing elsewhere in this issue [see page 5]. That motion (and many other topics of interest) will be discussed and decided upon at our Annual Conference in Dawson Creek on June 23, 2001.

BCFO has sponsored the British Columbia BRC for a number of years, most recently under the capable chairmanship of Gary Davidson of Nakusp. Gary has resigned as chairman, as have some of the committee members. Indecision and lack of action on the part of the Board of Directors may have, in part at least, triggered the resignations. For this, I apologize. Also contributing was the inevitable delays in receiving, reviewing and adjudicating written and photographic reports of potentially new or very rare species seen within the province - reports that must come from you, the birders.

At our April board meeting it was decided to put the BRC issue to the members for discussion and vote. Perhaps we will conclude that an adequate review process is already in place with the Wild Bird Trust of BC, or maybe the Royal BC Museum or Wildlife Branch should take on the role.

There are two major points to consider. First, members of a BRC must be very knowledgeable of British Columbia and North American bird distribution. They must be dedicated to the accuracy of records, willing to devote a fair amount of their time to the search for accuracy, and have access to current ornithological literature. Do we have within our membership 5 to 7 such people who are willing to contribute? Second, no BRC can function without the cooperation of ornithologists and birders across the province. You are the ones who are out there observing. When you encounter a potential "first" for the province you let everyone down if you fail to write a thorough and unbiased account of exactly what you saw, or if you make no attempt to obtain photographs. Even distant shots at bad angles can help with a decision. Whoever is to sponsor the BRC deserves the courtesy of your full cooperation and contribution. And it is important to realize that if your submission is rejected, it is for a reason. A rejection is never justification for you to drop out of the system.

This issue is certain to raise interest, and we welcome your views. If you are unable to attend the Annual Conference, please feel free to call, write or email either Ian Robertson or me with your thoughts.

The BCFO organizers and local volunteers at Dawson Creek have arranged for an excellent Annual General Meeting, technical conference, morning birding sessions in the Peace River district, and an exciting extension to the under-birded Fort Nelson district. For those of you already registered, I look forward to seeing you there. For those of you who cannot attend, plan on next year.

Bryan Gates
President



DIRECTORS' CORNER

Welcome to a new B.C. Birding column, brought to you by the BCFO Board of Directors.

Your Directors have decided to let you in on our secret world, to tell you about our deliberations and decisions. We will be contributing a Directors' Corner column after each Board meeting we convene. Our plan is to keep you up to date on those business items we believe will be interesting and relevant. We have also decided to share writing duties amongst all Board members, so you will be hearing from a different Director after each of our meetings. Because I am not standing for re-election, and this is my last and only opportunity, I've volunteered to contribute this first of many Directors' Corners.

The Board held its first Directors' Meeting for 2001, on Sunday April 1, at the home of Ian Robertson. All Board members were in attendance; we began our meeting at 11:30 AM, later shared a potluck lunch, and adjourned our meeting at 5:00 PM.

Now that I've got the preliminaries aside, it's time to get on with the business of April Fools Day.

- ◆ A motion to disband the Bird Records Committee, which will be brought forward for your consideration at the Annual General Meeting, was discussed. You won't be surprised to know that our views varied on this subject and we did not reach a consensus opinion. Look for more information on this motion in a separate contribution from Ian Robertson in this edition of B.C. Birding.
- ◆ A liability release form was reviewed and approved. Your Directors have passed a resolution mandating that all BCFO field trip participants be required to provide the Society with signed liability release forms. This form is included in your Conference 2001 registration acknowledgment package, and must be completed and returned to the Conference Organization Committee before participating in conference field trips.
- ◆ Hank VanderPol was appointed Coordinator for Annual Conference 2002. Hank hopes to be able to let you know where we will be holding our 2002 conference during the upcoming Dawson Creek Annual General Meeting. Some of the communities under consideration are: Cranbrook, Salmon Arm, Tofino and Williams Lake.
- ◆ Consideration was given to a means for encouraging and enabling more members to participate and serve as BCFO Directors. A suggestion that Directors be allowed to claim travel expenses for attending Annual General Meetings was brought forward. These expense claims would only be paid upon the Treasurer receiving equivalent cash donations from Directors making AGM travel claims. This is the same condition the membership approved for reimbursing Directors for costs incurred to attend Directors' meetings. Tax receipts would be issued to claimants, together with payments of their claims. This idea will be brought forward for your consideration at the Dawson Creek AGM.

Happy Birding,

Jim Fliczuk
Treasurer



SOCIETY NEWS

Directors' Expenses

Whereas, in accordance with Bylaw 23, the Payment of Expenses policy of the Society was amended in July 2000 to allow Directors (and those members of the Society's working committees who are asked to attend by the Directors) to be issued a tax receipt equal to the amount of expenses incurred for travel to attend Directors' meetings, thereby recognizing the expenses as a charitable donation to the Society;

And whereas the Annual General Meeting was not included in the July 2000 amendment as a meeting to which this policy applies;

And whereas Directors and certain invited working committee members are expected to attend the Annual General Meeting and to conduct society business there;

Therefore be it resolved that Section 4 of the Payment of Expenses policy be further amended to read:

"4. Directors and members of the Society's working committees, who the Directors request be in attendance, shall be reimbursed for travel expenses to attend Directors' meetings and the Annual General Meeting upon the Treasurer receiving equivalent cash donations from the Directors or working committee members making the travel claims. The cash donations shall be made payable to the Society. Tax receipts will be issued to claimants together with payments of their claims."

Discussion:

Directors and working committee members are expected to donate a considerable amount of their time to BCFO and are expected to incur substantial personal cost in the form of travel expenses. This motion will allow Directors and invited working committee members to recover a little more of those expenses in the form of receipts eligible as charitable donations on their income tax returns. The proposed amendment results in no cost to the society or to its members, and is intended to serve as an additional encouragement to members to seek a position on the Board of Directors or to serve in other ways.

MOVED: Bryan Gates

SECONDED: Laurie Rockwell



Notice of Motion

I hereby move that the BC Field Ornithologists dissolve its Bird Records Committee.

Rationale

In spite of the best efforts of the Bird Records Committee of the BCFO, its existence and its functioning have been controversial within the ornithological community in British Columbia. It has not been active for over a year. As an organization, I believe the BCFO does not yet have the stature to support such a committee. A quick scan of our current membership indicates that there are more prominent ornithologists missing from our ranks than members of it. There are active bird records committees of both the Vancouver Natural History Society and Victoria Natural History Society on a local level, as well as the Wild Bird Trust. The field may be crowded, and there may be misgivings about any of the above organizations adequately fulfilling the rare bird review function for their areas of interest, but that does not mean the BCFO can create the concensus necessary. We have not been able to do so in the recent past, and there is no reason to expect a sudden elixir will allow us to do so in the near future. Within the BCFO we have significant challenges: we want to expand our membership, we want our members to support our journal and newsletter and write for them, we want ornithologists in B.C. and the Pacific Northwest to want to be members otherwise they will miss something important, to list a few objectives. When we get further along to achieving these objectives, we may wish to revisit the Bird Records Committee question.

Ian Robertson.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

- June 15-17 2001 **CALGARY REGIONAL BLUEBIRD CONFERENCE**, Calgary, Alberta. Contact: Horst Grothman, 2 Varanger Pl. N.W., Calgary, Alberta T3A 0E9; phone (403) 286-3048 OR Don Stiles, phone (403) 271-4689 OR Jean Moore, phone (403) 282-4162.
- June 22-24 2001 **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' 11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Dawson Creek, BC. Contact: Hank VanderPol (250) 979-0363 rhvander@home.com or Ev Miyasaki (250) 656-8066 emiyasaki@home.com.
- July 15-22 2001 **SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY BIENNIAL MEETING**, Topes de Collante National Park, Sierra del Escambray, Cuba. Contact: Ellen Paul, The Ornithological Council, Apt. 3, 3713 Chevy Chase Lake Dr., Chevy Chase, MD 20815, USA; phone (301) 986-8568 OR Marazul Tours, Tower Plaza Mall, 4100 Park Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087, USA; phone (800) 223-5334 or (201) 840-6711.
- July 20-22 2001 **8th INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS SYMPOSIUM**, Washington, D.C., USA. Contact: Brenda Carlson, Ducks Unlimited, One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120, USA; phone (901) 758-3707.
- Aug. 15-18 2001 **119th STATED MEETING, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**, Seattle, Washington. Contact: Kai Fujita, Conference coordinator, Ornithology, Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3010, USA; phone (206) 616-9322.
- Aug. 2001 **ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY**, Seattle, Washington during AOU meeting [exact date not yet announced]. Contact: Kai Fujita, Conference coordinator, Ornithology, Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3010, USA; phone (206) 616-9322.
- Sept. 21-23 2001 **2001 WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**, Spokane, Washington. Contact: Gary Blevins, Spokane Falls Community College, 5925 W. Excell, Spokane, WA 99208, USA.
- Sept. 27-30 2001 **WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 26th ANNUAL MEETING**, Reno, Nevada. Contact: Lucie Clark, 335 Ski Way #300, Incline Village, NV 89451, USA; phone (775) 831-2909.
- Nov. 5-8 2001 **PRAIRIE GROUSE TECHNICAL COUNCIL BIENNIAL MEETING**, Woodhouse, Oklahoma. Contact: Russ Horton (405) 364-7142 or Stephanie Harmon (918) 581-7458 extension 229.
- Nov. 7-11 2001 **WATERBIRD SOCIETY 25th ANNIVERSARY**, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Contact: Dr. D. V. (Chip) Weseloh, 4905 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ont. M3H 5T4; phone (416) 739-5846.
- 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.



BC BIRDING NEWS BRIEFS

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

COOKE NAMED TO ORDER OF CANADA -Canada's Governor-General, Adrienne Clarkson, announced on 14 February 2001 that Dr. Fred Cooke will be appointed to the Order of Canada in recognition of his 28 year career at Queen's University, Kingston and the highly productive program that he has headed since 1993 as Chair in Wildlife Ecology at Simon Fraser University, a joint program with the Canadian Wildlife Service. -based on Anonymous. 2001. *Picoides* 14(1):23-24.

DOUG INNES -I was saddened to learn of the death of Douglas W. Innes on 9 December 1990 (Anonymous. 2001. *B.C. Nat.* 39(2):26). Doug, a school teacher in Courtenay, had become interested in recording birds after he retired. He and his wife, Marian, published a note on the songs and plumage of a probable Hermit x Townsend's Warbler in *B.C. Birds* and other articles on birds in both *B.C. Birding* and *B.C. Naturalist*.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS****TREASURER'S REPORT**

For the year ending December 31, 2000

We came close to breaking-even for the second consecutive year, but unlike 1999 when we ended the year with a small surplus of \$331 we finished 2000 with a small deficit of \$185. This turnaround from a small surplus in 1999 to a small deficit in 2000 came about primarily from the \$2,191 loss we incurred in running our 2000 Conference and Annual General Meeting which was held at the University of British Columbia. The attendance forecast was too optimistic and conference facilities and services costs were somewhat higher than expected. Membership revenue was up by \$483 for the year. We ran two successful field trips, a spotted owl trip and a pelagic trip, on a cost recovery basis and consequently the near break-even result was intentional. Donation revenue came primarily from Directors; their donations were equal to amounts paid to reimburse them for travel expenses incurred to attend Board meetings. The remaining donation revenue came from our general membership. Our Society is a registered charitable organization and we issue tax-deductible receipts for your donations.

Administrative costs for the year ending December 31, 2000 were close to budget forecasts. Donation expenditures were made once again to support worthy ornithological projects. Your Board of Directors approved donations of \$500 to the Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia and of \$259 to Bird Studies Canada. These donations helped to underwrite BC Bird Checklist production costs and paid for BC Nocturnal Owl Survey postage costs.

The 2001 Budget reflects your Directors' view that the British Columbia Field Ornithologists will likely end the current year with a moderate surplus. The surplus is expected from running an extension trip in conjunction with our Annual Conference, from a moderate increase in membership numbers, and by maintaining administrative expenses approximately at current amounts.



Jim Fliczuk
Treasurer

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Year Ended December 31, 2000**BUDGET**

	2000	1999	2001
REVENUES			
Membership	\$ 5,789	\$ 5,306	\$ 6,000
Conference extension	-	-	4,500
Conference fees	3,040	3,360	3,000
Donations	1,939	529	2,000
Field trips	4,444	-	4,000
Advertising	-	115	-
Interest & other income	<u>770</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>700</u>
	<u>15,982</u>	<u>9,903</u>	<u>20,200</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Conference extension	-	-	3,400
Conference facilities & services	5,231	3,133	3,000
Printing	2,257	2,858	2,500
Postage	1,480	1,239	1,500
Donations	759	1,250	1,000
Travel	1,760	479	2,000
Field trips	4,082	-	4,000
Stationery	137	172	200
Miscellaneous	<u>461</u>	<u>441</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>16,167</u>	<u>9,572</u>	<u>18,100</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ (185)</u>	<u>\$ 331</u>	<u>\$ 2,100</u>

BALANCE SHEET
At December 31, 2000

	2000	1999
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 4,709	\$ 2,850
Term Deposit - 4.45%, Jan. 4, 2001	16,210	15,523
Receivables & prepaid expenses	755	278
	<u>\$21,674</u>	<u>\$18,651</u>
LIABILITIES & MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Payables & accrued liabilities	\$ 2,805	\$ 1,200
Deferred revenue	<u>3,078</u>	<u>1,475</u>
	<u>5,883</u>	<u>2,675</u>
Members' Equity		
Accumulated surplus		
Opening balance	15,976	15,645
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>(185)</u>	<u>331</u>
	<u>15,791</u>	<u>15,976</u>
	<u>\$21,674</u>	<u>\$18,651</u>

Bryan Gates, Director
Jim Fliczuk, Director

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Editors, BC Birding

This is an update on the American Avocet Conservation Program spearheaded by the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club. As of April 30, 2001, the avocets are back at Kelowna in force with 51 reported at the Alki Lake site at the landfill. We will continue to monitor nesting there on an ad hoc basis this spring and summer.

The city of Kelowna has yet to complete a draft of their landfill master plan for public comment, so we are still waiting to see how avocet conservation will fit into the long-term plans there. They hired a biologist and consultant, John Cooper, to finish the avocet conservation plan based on the work our club and partners completed in 1999. The next step is to incorporate avocet conservation into the long-term plans for the landfill.

The Central Okanagan Naturalists Club has received a grant of \$5000 from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund to do surveys to try and find any unknown avocet colonies in the Cariboo this year, concentrating on the Clinton to 100 Mile House area. There are the two colonies already known: Little White Lake with 12 nests in 1999 and nine in 2000, and Lesser Green Lake with two nests in 2000 found by Roger Packham of B.C. Environment in 100-Mile House. I have completed an initial air photo review and have identified about 30 sites to survey. An aerial survey will be done on June 5th or 6th, and then the Club will hire a person to do follow-up ground searches in the two weeks after that.

Les Gyug, Central Okanagan Naturalists Club
May 2, 2001.

Editors, BC Birding

We appreciated receiving Dr. Martin McNicholl's March 11 letter, expressing interest in our Society's planned natural history and hiking guide to Cypress Provincial Park and suggesting that I contact you re the possibility of placing a request for Cypress bird information and news of our forthcoming guide in BC Birding.

As I have explained to Dr. McNicholl, our proposed guide is at a very preliminary stage. We believe it is a worthwhile project and will help create more awareness of the park's natural environment. But pressures on our members' time related to commercial ski expansion in the park make it difficult to work as quickly as we would like on the guide. You may have heard that the Cypress ski facilities were recently sold to Boyne USA, a wealthy ski/golf resorts company with the funds to continue with the major expansion that was approved by BC Parks in 1997, but that the former owners didn't have the capital to complete. The expansion will result in the loss of about 22 hectares of the park's old-growth forest, with trees in the 600-1000 year age-range.

Back to our planned guide, I had put a notice of the proposed guide in the *Vancouver Naturalist* [see *Vancouver Naturalist*, 1(3):3 and 2(3):22] as a way of soliciting assistance from other Vancouver Natural History Society members. Al Grass, who suggested the project several years ago, will be writing the section on birds (and I hope on certain other subjects as well). I'm still in the process of revising an outline for the guide, working on a template for area descriptions, and trying to find writers for some other sections. We expect to put completed sections on our website for information and review by others before actual book publication. Please feel free to mention it in *BC Birding* if it seems appropriate at this time, but you might want to wait until we're a little further along on the project.

Re: requesting Cypress bird records from people outside the Vancouver area, this would be helpful as we are likely to be producing a new Cypress bird checklist brochure in 2002. Anyone with information can write to Friends of Cypress at our P.O.Box [P.O. Box 91053, West Vancouver, BC V7V 3N3] or can contact me by e-mail (steig@direct.ca). I would pass information on to Al Grass and Brian Self, who provided the data for our 1996 Cypress bird checklist brochure which was produced by April Mol of Wildlife Watch. Al and Brian

recently updated the list. The new list with 113 birds is now up on the Wildlife Watch website (<http://www3.telus.net/driftwood/bcwwhome.htm>).

Yours sincerely,
Katharine Steig, Director, Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society.
April 6, 2001

Dear Birders:

Some of you may remember the post-conference rare bird surveys we did at the BCFO meeting in Oliver in 1999. That exercise used the concentrated talents of all the great BCFO birders to produce a databank of locations for species of concern that the local Ministry of Environment and Conservation Data Centre found extremely useful and enlightening. I thought it might be fun and certainly valuable to do the same thing at Dawson Creek this year. Since many of you are probably signed up for the post-conference extension, Mark Phinney and I propose a one-day blitz to find new locations for birds on the BC Red and Blue List on Friday, June 22. It would start early in the morning (e.g. 0530) in Dawson Creek.

I don't have a final list of the target species (I'll leave that up to Mark), but it could include:

Broad-winged Hawk	Cape May Warbler	Canada Warbler
Upland Sandpiper	Black-throated Green Warbler	LeConte's Sparrow
Philadelphia Vireo (?)	Bay-breasted Warbler	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Mark has agreed to come up with a list of routes to cover and species to watch out for -- all we have to do is get out there and look and listen!

Please let me know if you're interested, and I'll get back to you with further details as they gel.

Dick Cannings
Bird Studies Canada -- Études d'Oiseaux Canada
Christmas Bird Counts -- Recensement des Oiseaux de Noël
BC Programs

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Naramata, BC V0H 1N0

250-496-4049
dickcannings@home.com
www.bsc-eoc.org

Editors, BC Birding

It's here!! The South Peace Bird Atlas is beginning this spring and will continue for five years. The main objective is to gather information on bird distribution, abundance and breeding status in the south Peace area. There are approximately 120 'squares' in the study area, half of which have been designated as 'priority'. Every local or visiting birder is encouraged to participate. To request a square, obtain atlas cards and find out more information, contact: South Peace Bird Atlas Society, P.O. Box 2534, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 5A1 or email mark.phinney@lpcorp.com. The South Peace Bird Atlas is being managed by the South Peace Bird Atlas Society, a non-profit group.

Thank you,
Mark Phinney.



SITE GUIDE: Blackie Spit and White Rock Waterfront

by Kyle H. Elliott
657 202 St
Langley, BC V2Z 1V7

Crescent Beach and Ocean Park

The walk from Blackie Spit to the White Rock Waterfront, about 8 km, is a rewarding hike, covering a variety of habitats from tidal mudflats at Crescent Beach to the rocky shoreline and deep water off Kwomais Point, similar to the habitat at Point Roberts (WA).

Although the hike can be completed either on the beach or on the Burlington Northern Railway tracks, which provide a vantage point for viewing seabirds, birders are strongly advised to avoid the railway tracks. There have been deaths on this section of track resulting from walkers being struck by trains, and Burlington Northern has repeatedly threatened to prosecute trespassers. The tracks are private property and are ACTIVE. Birders should use the beach and time their hikes to avoid being cut off at high tide.

DIRECTIONS

A popular promenade leads around the Crescent Beach waterfront from Blackie Spit, starting at the government wharf south of the Blackie Spit parking lot. After one km the promenade ends, and the walk leads along the rock-strewn beachfront, beside the Burlington Northern Railway tracks, rejoining the White Rock promenade six km later. This area is known as Ocean Park. The deepest water occurs off Kwomais Point, three km from either Crescent Beach or White Rock. For those who do not wish to hike the entire length of the trail, there are entrances at the west end of 24th Avenue via a walkway over the tracks, and off 126th Street at the west end of 16th Avenue (1001 Steps) which leads under the tracks. There are actually only 134 steps (not 1001!) leading down to the beach.

BIRD SPECIES

Heading south from the wharf, the Crescent Beach promenade can be very busy during summer months. It is usually best to arrive early in the day throughout the year, as the appearance of an unleashed dog often scares away birds for many hours; this was once a good area for Brant, but under increasing pressure from visitors they have abandoned the area.

The sandbars along the promenade support migrating and wintering shorebirds including Sanderlings and Dunlin. Franklin's Gulls can occasionally be seen among the Bonaparte's Gulls. Caspian Terns forage along the waterfront in summer. Rarities that have been seen here have included Yellow-billed Loon, Brown Pelican, Rock Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Black Tern, Cassin's Auklet and Rock Wren.

Washrooms, open all year from 8:00 am to sundown, are located at the foot of Beecher Avenue in Crescent Beach. The White Rock and Surrey Naturalists operate an information centre here on weekends from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, October through May, and bird checklists of local areas are available.

The rock-strewn mudflats south of the naturalists' kiosk are spawning grounds of plainfin midshipmen. Also known as California singing fish, males guard the eggs in small burrows under rocks. They have a large swim bladder, and if a nesting rock is overturned, with the eggs attached to the underside, males will emit loud belching noises ('sing') that can be heard up to 20 metres away on land.

In late spring, especially during the first two weeks of June, up to 100 Bald Eagles can be seen feasting on these small fish. This is the largest congregation of Bald Eagles for that time of year in the Lower Mainland. At high tide they roost in the trees near the railroad tracks, quarrel in the air, or feed far out over the bay. In addition to the eagles, many gulls, herons, an occasional Osprey and over 500 Northwestern Crows feast on fish and intertidal invertebrates. Ring-billed Gulls however seem to prefer French fries and other garbage near the fast food restaurants.

A small creek enters the bay at the south end of the promenade. From here, the walk is on the beach with the railroad tracks to one's left and above.

During winter high tides, many species of ducks, including Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Mallard and American and Eurasian Wigeon, forage where the creek enters the bay. Tens of thousands of ducks shelter in this area when winds are too strong on the other side of the bay. Thousands of gulls, arriving from the Burns Bog landfill, roost just offshore during some winter nights. Juvenile eagles can be seen taking passes over them in the early evening, occasionally picking off an unwary individual.

Shorebirds also frequent the area, which is reliable in winter for Greater Yellow-legs (high tide) and Black-bellied Plovers, Dunlin and Western Sandpipers (low tide). Migration brings dowitchers, Semipalmated Plovers and Killdeer along with the more unusual Red Knots and golden-plovers.

In the trees along the entire length of the railroad tracks, Hutton's Vireos can often be seen. They nest in the forest adjacent to the first 250 metres of the track, and frequently can be heard singing during February-April, in family groups until late summer, and in mixed species flocks, with Downy Woodpeckers, chickadees and kinglets, through the winter. A small colony of Northwestern Crows and a couple of pairs of Bewick's Wrens also nest along the first stretch of railroad track.

Migrating songbirds include many species of warblers (Yellow, Orange-crowned, Wilson's, Yellow-rumped, MacGillivray's, Townsend's (more common in fall) and Black-throated Gray), vireos (Red-eyed, Warbling and Cassin's Vireo) and flycatchers (Willow (all summer), Pacific-slope and Hammond's), including such rarities as Nashville Warblers. Breeding songbirds include Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers and Black-headed Grosbeaks. Wintering forest birds include Band-tailed Pigeon, Hairy Woodpecker, Lincoln's, White-crowned, Golden-crowned (common in the brush along the Crescent Beach promenade) and Fox Sparrows, Red Crossbill, and the occasional Hermit Thrush or Red-breasted Sapsucker in warm winters. A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch showed up in November one year. Pileated Woodpeckers are common year-round. The number of songbirds attracts Cooper's Hawk, and, in winter; Sharp-shinned Hawk. All of the above are more easily seen along the wooden stairs and smaller trails that exit the beach and railway tracks, while migrants are especially numerous towards Kwomais Point.

The underwater shelf along these bluffs is very steep, and this is reflected in the distribution of wintering seaducks. Male Red-breasted Mergansers outnumber females in the shallower areas off Crescent Beach (until pairing occurs in March), while gender ratios are reversed in the deeper water. Hundreds of White-winged Scoters, found more often near Crescent Beach, quickly give way to rafts of many thousands of Surf Scoters, interspersed with White-winged, off 1001 Steps (an entry point described above) and beyond. Black Scoters are uncommon at this end, but more frequent near the White Rock end. Perhaps the most spectacular event is the moulting of several thousand Red-necked (September) and Western Grebes (July-September) and the migration of dozens of Common Loons (September-October) off 1001 Steps in the fall. Smaller numbers of Red-throated Loons moult in deeper water during October. Large rafts of grebes, loons, and scoters winter in the area, but a few of most species remain even in summer. Eared Grebes (a species difficult to find in the Vancouver area) should be carefully looked for as one or more usually winters somewhere along the waterfront almost every year.

Ocean Park was the location of a study on the wintering behaviour of Harlequin Ducks. Birds with nasal discs should be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service (604) 940-4700. Harlequins can be seen almost year-round (except June-July), sunning themselves on rocks near Crescent Beach at low tide or feeding around the bend at high tide. Barrow's Goldeneyes prefer near-shore areas while Common Goldeneyes, mainly males, feed far out in the bay. Common Terns are common visitors to the Bay in mid-May and September, sometimes attracting Parasitic Jaegers.

When Jean-Pierre Savard surveyed the area in the 1970's and early 1980's he found many species of alcids (murrelets, guillemots and their allies). Now it is rare to come across even a Marbled Murrelet. However, recent surveys by the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists have discovered other local rarities such as Black-legged Kittiwakes, Sabine's Gulls, Black Oystercatchers and Wandering Tattlers along this stretch.

The deepest water is found off Kwomais Point, about one kilometre beyond 1001 Steps. Here, Pacific and Red-throated Loons, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants and Long-tailed Ducks can be expected. Small numbers of Long-tailed Ducks remain through the summer. Black Turnstones feed among the boulders at the ocean's edge, particularly in late fall, while Brant occasionally fly by. Red-necked Phalarope and American Dipper have both been seen at least once.

As you continue on to Semiahmoo Bay, similar species can be seen as on the Boundary Bay side, but species such as Western Gull and Eared Grebe are somewhat more usual. This is also a good place for Franklin's Gull.

Birds are not the only animal life that can be seen from Ocean Park. Gray whales can often be seen in April-May (especially April). Scanning the area offshore of Point Roberts with spotting scopes or binoculars to look for visible spouts is an effective way to find these animals. Several carcasses have washed up on the beach over the last couple of years. Families of river otters make playful finds in the early morning. Harbour seals are regular; sea lions, rare.



EDITORS' NOTE: This article was originally prepared for *Wandering Tattler* 23(1) Sept. 2000 and is reprinted with permission.

Douglas Spirea (*Spirea douglasii*): Bird Use of Spent Flower Heads in Winter

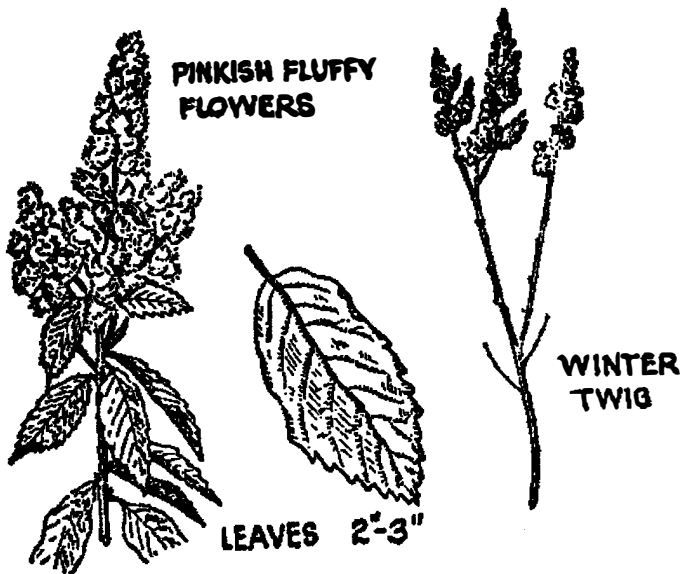
by Al Grass
103 - 7065 Stride Avenue
Burnaby, BC V3N 1T3

Hardhack or douglas spirea is well documented as habitat for birds, providing escape cover and nesting opportunities. Species such as the Common Yellowthroat and Song Sparrow are commonly found in hardhack thickets. Bees, syrphid flies, and lepidoptera eagerly seek its abundant nectar.

When flowering is over, the pinkish heads turn brown, persisting well into the winter. On several occasions, at Maplewood Flats Conservation Area, I have observed winter flocks of common Bushtits and Black-capped Chickadees feeding at spent spirea flower heads.

On two occasions I carefully shook ten flower (seed) heads over a sheet of white paper. Shaken out were an assortment of invertebrates (beetles, bugs, spiders, and harvestmen).

These anecdotal observations suggest that further study is needed to fully appreciate the extent to which birds utilize invertebrates harbouring in spent spirea flower heads.



Birder Verbs
or
What Birders do to See Birds

by Laure Wilson Neish
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Penticton, BC V2A 7Z6

Anyone who has suffered through a high school English class has discovered, while in the throes of writing a composition, that there are not enough words in the language. We squeeze our brain cells for creative expressions and precision vocabulary, yet certain words seem to reappear like spontaneous clones, carbon copies of those in previous sentences. It's at this point that we applaud Mr. Thesaurus on his hours of toil and reach for his paperback.

The limitations of written communication become painfully evident the more we write about a particular topic. Naturalists may keep field notes, submit field trip reports, or simply want to share their latest sighting in a publication. "On May 10, I saw an American Redstart", could pretty well sum up the excitement of the day. If I wanted to elaborate, however, the verb "saw" just doesn't cut it.

Verbs are considered action words, yet the amount of activity exerted by many birders is limited to Rapid Eye Movements with the aid of binoculars. So, what verbs express visual gymnastics? "Observed", "eyed", "watched", "viewed", "spied", "glimpsed", "sighted" and "spotted" could enrich the description of how one spent an hour searching the treetops for flitting bodies. The thesaurus lists the words "gawk" and "ogle" as synonyms, but they would be rather misleading in intent. The verb "spotted" must also be used wisely adjacent to its identical adjective, so as not to create the stutter sentence, "I spotted the spotted sandpiper."

For birders who exert a bit more fervour in their quest for sightings, "flushed" (this could refer to a bird or one's face), "located", "discovered" and "found" all create a mental picture of energy expended in a pursuit. The phrases, "'scratched by thorns" or "perched on a tiny, cliff ledge" might be an appropriate accompaniment to these verbs. At least, they suggest a successful search rather than a quixotic bushwacking expedition which turns up nothing more than the one-that-got-away. Using words such as "discovered" and "found" does raise the question, "What was lost?"

A selection of birder verbs indicates the very competitive nature of this pastime. "Listed", "ticked" (or "ticked off"), "counted", "noted" and "bagged" are serious collector words to be used only by those who don't wish to hide the fact that they have no life. "Picked up" will more likely refer to an elusive avian species than a member of the opposite sex. To the great benefit of the bird world, the verbs "shoot" and "kill" used by turn-of-the-century naturalists are now out of fashion.

The most current addition to my list of birder verbs is one of those contortions of our evolving language, created by changing a perfectly good noun into a verb something like "deplaning" or "parenting". I believe the intended use of the verb "glassed" means to catch a bird's reflection in one's field glasses; however, the dictionary definition indicates an action akin to pickling. Perhaps the word should be reserved for how eyes feel after too many hours of scanning a sunny lake surface through lenses, or for the expression on the faces of my family after an outing. They haven't been bitten by the birder "bug" yet.



This article, submitted to **BC BIRDING** and written by Laure, was previously published in *Alberta Naturalist* - the summer '96 issue.-LWN

**Thank You from Bird Studies Canada - BC Programs:
A Second Successful Winter of Waterbird and Owl Surveys in BC!**

Bird Studies Canada - BC Programs has seen another tremendously successful year! Many, many volunteers in the province have dedicated hundreds of hours to waterbird surveys, and many people also found time to participate in the BC Nocturnal Owl Survey this past spring. On behalf of myself, Dick Cannings and Bird Studies Canada I would like to say a huge THANK-YOU for the support, dedication and efforts put into bird population monitoring this past winter and spring. I thought I would take a moment to update everyone on the goings on of BSC - BC Programs this past year....

As many of you know, Dick Cannings has been hard at work running the BC Nocturnal Owl Survey. Although data is still coming in, Dick has reported that the number of owls heard in the interior are up from last year's survey, but the coast counts are still quiet... except for the deafening tree frog chorus! Much of Dick's winter was spent coordinating the Christmas Bird Counts for Bird Studies Canada, the Canadian partner for the program. For results and feedback from the 2000 CBC survey, check out the web site www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cbcmain.html.

My second winter as coordinator of the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey has just flown by. After I finished entering the 956 submitted waterbird recording forms (with help thank goodness) and putting together the first newsletter last summer, I spent a good part of the fall visiting over 10 coastal communities, giving presentations on bird population monitoring, the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey and most importantly, meeting as many of the participants as possible. When not on the road, I busied myself with writing articles for Bird Watch Canada, updating the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey database and web site, and helping out with other monitoring programs in BC.

The BC Coastal Waterbird Survey has had another outstanding season. It is too early for final tallies - but I have counted well over 1000 forms and it is not even the end of May yet! These data represent surveys conducted by over 250 volunteers at 250 designated BC Coastal Waterbird Survey sites up and down our coast. I have just begun organizing and entering the surveys into the database, and I look forward to putting together the second annual BC Coastal Waterbird Survey newsletter later this summer.

A big **THANK-YOU** to everyone for helping out this year. Happy summer birding!

Stephanie Hazlitt
BC Coastal Waterbird Survey Coordinator



AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE

Kyle H. Elliott

Kyle is on the VNHS's Birding Section Committee. He edits the *Wandering Tattler* and is working on a five-year update to *Vancouver Birds in 1995*. He is able to hear Great-horned Owls and Screech Owls from the porch of his new Langley home.

Al Grass

Al has worked as a Park Naturalist for BC Parks, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks for some 25 years. He is the author of a wide variety of publications including *The Birds of Golden Ears Provincial Park* and co-author of *Exploring the outdoors*. His ornithological interests include raptors, uses of native trees and shrubs by birds and woodpecker feeding habits.

Laure Wilson Neish

Laure became a smitten birder a dozen years ago during the Outdoor Education segment of her practicum for an education degree. Holding a live chickadee while being regarded by its beady black eye brought the wonder of how much life was contained in this little bundle of fluff. Now she gears her travels around birding and finds stalking migrating warblers a particular thrill. She is currently employed as a naturalist for BC Parks.



We would like to welcome the following new members

2001

2000

Anfra Bismanis	Prince George	Catherine Aitchison	Vancouver
Doug Brown	Osoyoos	John & Gail-Anne Brighton	Parksville
Peter Candido	Vancouver	Stewart M. Clow	Castlegar
John Chandler	Richmond	Marian Coope	Vancouver
Dorothy M. Copp	Vancouver	Al & Jude DeMactini	San Mateo, CA
Bill Heybroek	Courtenay	Trevor Forder	Kelowna
Donna McKean	Nanaimo	Calvin Gehlen	Vancouver
Mike Mulligann	Calgary	Hilary Gordon	Salmon Arm
Laure Wilson Neish	Penticton	Larry Halverson	Radium Hot Springs
Larry Pynn	Vancouver	Stephanie Hazlitt	Delta
Randy Rawluk	Fort St. John	Nathan Hentze	Cumberland
Neil & Marilynne Robins	Nanaimo	Ken Klimko	Richmond
Ian Routley	Lillooet	James MacGregor	Kelowna
Brian Stech	Abbotsford	Ann MacIntosh	Delta
Linda Timbs	Coquitlam	Golo Maurer	Vancouver
Mike Toochin	Richmond	Robert Miller	Toronto
Sheryl VanDusen	Sicamous	Viveka Ohman	South Surrey
<p>The Membership Chairperson and the Editors would like to say:</p> <p>"Welcome New Members to BCFO"</p> <p>Please contact the Membership Chairperson, if any names have been inadvertently missed.</p>		Dale Paton	Blairmore, AB
		Carlo Pavan	Nanaimo
		Keith Pincott	Abbotsford
		Heather Pratt	Vancouver
		Sarah Reicken	Victoria
		Donna Ross	Sooke
		Rand & Elise Rudland	Halfmoon Bay
		Christine Scott	Campbell River
		John Vooy	Abbotsford
		Danny Weston	Victoria
Ray Williams	Victoria		

Circle Tour of the Cranbrook-Kimberley Area*

This Circle Tour covers approximately 150 km and can easily take a full day. Of course, any portion of the circle tour may be experienced separately and you may begin at any point in the Tour. We began the Tour at Elizabeth Lake on the west side of Cranbrook. The Tour continues in a clockwise direction through Kimberley and on to Wasa Lake. Distance between the sites, in kilometres, is given, as an aid to identify sites more easily. We have used secondary roads where ever possible. Attached is a comprehensive Bird Checklist and a road map of the areas covered**. A wildflower and shrub checklist is also available. At all of the 29 sites specifically identified many bird species can be seen and heard at different times of the year. Specific species for each site give just a flavour of birds in that area that local bird watchers have seen. Some of the sites may extend for many kilometres so we suggest you be observant throughout the Tour. Field guides and binoculars are strongly recommended.

Throughout the Tour you will have the opportunity to see spectacular scenery and startling geology. Pull off the road and have a good look wherever you wish. Use extreme caution on Highways 3 and 95. There are fast moving vehicles and heavy truck traffic. For our neighbours to the south; 1 mile equals 1.6 kilometres, 1 kilometre equals 0.6 miles.

Remember, take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Elizabeth Lake: Follow Hwy 3 through Cranbrook toward Creston to the edge of town and turn left into the Tourist Information Centre. Follow the trail at lake edge and watch for Song Sparrow, Common Yellow-throat, Marsh Wren, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Black Tern. Listen for American Bittern and Sora. You may also see Pied-billed and Eared Grebe as well as Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal. Avocet and phalarope pass through in the spring. A nesting pair of Merlin often use this area for hunting and in late summer the fledged young often use perches along the lake to hawk dragon flies. Return on Hwy 3 toward Kimberley, Hwy 97A.

<7.8 km>

Mission/Wycliffe Road: Turn right, off Hwy 95A. Use caution birding or stopping on this narrow, 15 km, winding, road. St. Eugene Mission contains the largest known Townsend's big-eared bat maternity colony in the Kootenays. Here eagles, Belted Kingfisher and Osprey fish the St. Mary River. Both the Eastern and Western Kingbirds can be found north of the Airport Road Crossing during the summer. Watch for bluebirds as you continue on to Fortier Corner at Hwy 97A.

<3.7 km>

Wycliffe Regional Park: From Fortier Corner on Hwy 95A cross over the St. Mary River and 1.8 km on Wycliffe Park Road, turn right on Wycliffe Road for 0.8 km, right on Perry Creek Road for 1.1 km. Wycliffe Regional Park sits alongside Perry Creek. As you follow the walking trail that loops the mostly forested park, wild flowers such as calypso orchid and death camas can be appreciated. Listen for White-crowned Sparrow, Hammond's Flycatcher, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Return to Hwy 95A, turn left.

<9 km>

Marysville Lions Trail: stretches 3 kilometers from the deciduous thicket at the northern end in Marysville (right on 307 Ave., left of 302 Street) to more mature black cottonwood, balsam fir and Engelmann Spruce woods at Black Bear Bridge at the south end of Kimberley. Swainson's Thrush, Yellow Warbler, and Warbling Vireo are often the song birds that can be heard on this well-used walking trail. Remember that the moose who annually visit this wetland have the right-of-way and do not like to be challenged. Return to Hwy 95A and continue towards Kimberley.

<0.7km>

St. Mary Lake Road: Turn left, 18 km to St. Mary Lake which has no developed public access. However, there is a pull-out at the far end of the lake where paddlers can launch their canoes. As the water rises and falls with spring melt-off, access to marshes and sand bars change. Going up the St. Mary River, at the far (western) end of the lake, is a

wonderful naturalist experience. Large mammals share this rich wetland area. Warbling Vireo, Willow Flycatcher and Spotted Sandpiper can be heard. Return to Hwy 95A and turn left into Kimberley.

<10.2 km>

Kimberley Nature Park: via Kimberley Nordic Trails above the Kimberley Alpine Resort. Three km down the Trapline Ski Trail takes you to the beginning of this Park which has almost 900 hectares of varied habitats. You will find Ponderosa pine and bunchgrass on Sunflower Hill, sphagnum moss and labrador tea at Eimer's Lake and devil's club and cedar along the Creek Trail. Bear, elk, weasels, and rabbits can be encountered along the trails that meander through the park. Six species of woodpeckers are known to nest in the area. Solitary Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Winter Wren sing throughout the spring. Maps of the park are available at various locations in Kimberley -- easiest is the Chamber of Commerce. There are other entrances into the park that have closer access (e.g. Higgins Street). Return to downtown Kimberley. On Hwy 97A head toward Invermere and Radium Hot Springs. Measure the next site from the stoplight in downtown Kimberley.

<11.8>

Cherry Creek Rest Area: Beaver dams and western cedar can be seen in this creek. Damp woods of Douglas Fir, larch and cottonwood support Solitary Vireo, Yellow Warbler and Red Crossbill. Old fir stumps host colourful fungi.

<6.8 km>

Old Emergency Landing Airport: A side road on the right leads to a long strip of grassland bordered by Ponderosa pine woods. Western Meadowlark, Barn Swallow and Northern Flicker are plentiful.

<9.1 km>

Skookumchuck Prairie: stretches north from the junction of Hwy 95A with Hwy 93/95 at the bridge over Kootenay River. Continue north on the highway. This prairie stretches along both sides of the highway and is home to a unique colony of Long-billed Curlew. You may see Lewis's Woodpecker, Savanna Sparrow and American Kestrel over meadows of bitterroot, shooting star and larkspur.

<12.5 km>

Sheep Creek: Just before you reach the Skookumchuck Inn turn right onto a country road, past an Emu yard alongside a brook 0.6 km to the bridge over Sheep Creek. (Lussier on maps). In autumn a Kokanee salmon run attracts a concentration of Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle and Black Bear. All year look for American Dipper and Belted Kingfisher. Return south to the junction with Hwy 93/95 with Hwy 95A. Turn left across the bridge over the Kootenay River.

<2.5 km>

Wasa Lake: Turn left past the greenhouses and service station. Follow the signs to Wasa Provincial Park. A walking trail loops up above the ridge behind the camp area. This trail allows a beautiful view of the lake and valley as it winds through a Ponderosa pine forest. A flat walking trail loops around the lake. You will see ducks, grebes and shore birds such as Lesser Yellowlegs. Either trail offers many birds to the observer. Parking lot maps explain the routes.

<10.3>

Wolf Creek Area: Follow signs through Wasa Village and turn north on the Wolf Creek Road. The pullout by the Wild Horse Ranch sign gives an overview of these wetlands. Ducks Unlimited enhancement project created a nesting area for Canada Geese and nest boxes aid Wood Duck, goldeneyes and Bufflehead. Moose like the area, too. Return to junction with Hwy 93/95 and turn left.

<5.3km>

Wasa Sloughs: A wild life sanctuary under the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. Marshland stretches 8 to 10 km south. Many Canada Geese nest on the numerous Muskrat domes dotting the north portion. Red-necked Grebe also nest here. Black Tern, Yellow-headed

Blackbird and Northern Harrier can be seen and Gray Catbird and Black-headed Grosbeak are most often heard.

<4.2>

North Star Landing: This pullout along the highway offers a panoramic viewpoint of Bummer's Flats and the Ducks Unlimited project here. Watch for Red-tailed Hawk and Sandhill Crane. Listen for Marsh Wren, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Yellow-throat.

<5.2 km>

Campbell Lake Rest Area: is bordered by Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and open grassy slopes. Here are flycatchers, woodpeckers, and Sora. Western painted turtles sun on logs at the water's edge.

<3.8 km>

Fort Steele: This is a provincial historical site on a grassland bench overlooking the Kootenay River. Northern Shrike, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Western Meadowlark, Rufous Hummingbird and Barn Swallow can be observed while walking around the town. When leaving Fort Steele, turn left onto Hwy 95, go 300 metres, turn right onto Wardner-Fort Steele Road. Continue on the Wardner-Fort Steele Road.

<100 metres>

Wild Horse River Viewpoint: On right, before going down the hill. View of Fisher Peak and the Wild Horse River flood plain. Notice the large Osprey nest on a nearby pole. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Dipper and Northern Flicker can be heard and seen in this Ponderosa pine eco-system.

<14.2 km>

Norbury Lake Provincial Park: Includes Peckham's Lake on your left and Norbury Lake on the right 500 metres further south. The Park is in a beautiful valley with breathtaking views of the Steeple Mountains. Birds are plentiful with Common Loon, nuthatches, Great Blue Heron and Wild Turkey. Western Tanager and Three-toed Woodpecker nest here. Deer and elk are numerous in the area, especially in winter and spring. Buttercups, Solomon seal and calypso orchids grow within the park.

<2.3 km>

Kootenay Fish Hatchery: Hatchery grounds are good for Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, Least Flycatcher, swallows, American Goldfinch and Wood Duck. Big-horned sheep and white-tailed deer are seen in this area. Either up or down the creek you will find interesting trails. In addition to many varieties of trout, this hatchery raises white sturgeon.

<4.4 km>

Swallow Banks: Along the road above the Kootenay River, there are several cut banks. In these banks is a major Bank Swallow breeding colony which is thought to be the largest in BC. Over 3,000 nest burrows were counted in 1990. Often seen in this area are Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Townsend's Solitaire, as well as Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. Proceed 1.5 km to Hwy 3 and turn right. Go over the Kootenay River, turn left at first opportunity, onto Wardner Road.

<2.5 km>

Wardner Provincial Park: In spring large numbers of Canada Geese can be seen on the far side of the Kootenay River. Mourning Dove, Osprey, House Finch, Mountain and Western Bluebirds and Western Meadowlark are some of the birds found in this area. Return the way you came but not as far as the highway.

<1.5 km>

Ha Ha Valley Road: This road, on the left, winds through a pretty valley with cattle ranches for 11 km. There are several lakes. Osprey, Lazuli Bunting, Gray Jay, Killdeer and White-breasted Nuthatch are often seen. Turn left onto Hwy 3.

<12.5 km>

Rampart Rest Area: On the left side of Hwy 3. Mallards, American Coot and goldeneyes can be seen on this small lake just to the north. Nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers and Clarke's Nutcracker can also be found. The resident Columbia ground squirrels are always willing to put on a show for guests.

<4.4 km>

Junction Pond: Turn out on a wide right side of Hwy 3 just opposite the turnoff of Hwy 95 to Radium from Hwy 3. You need to be at the road edge before you can see the small pond below the road. Eared and Horned Grebes, Ruddy Ducks, Redheads and other waterfowl can often be seen. Shore birds are usually present.

<1.6 km>

Isadore Canyon Trail: Wide turnout with litter barrels on left side of Hwy 3. Follow the trail down to the old railway bed and turn left. This stretch of trail will be part of the Trans-Canada Trail, which will turn left to Fort Steele just after passing through the canyon. Watch for Wild Turkey, moose, deer, elk and bear. Bird species include Clarke's Nutcracker, MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Swainson's Thrush. This trail is very rich in bird sounds and sightings. Proceed through Cranbrook on Hwy 3 toward Creston, southwest.

<10.0 km>

Elizabeth Lake: See the beginning of the text.

<8.0 km>

Twin Lakes: A small road on the right side of the highway gives a grand view of a large wooded marsh with Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, marsh birds, and Pileated Woodpeckers all within a 1 km stretch.

<4.4 km>

Swansea Pull Out: Here Palmer Bar Creek widens out and is joined by warm underground water, making this a favourite stretch for local birders. American Dippers are usually in the creek all year long. It is also a good spot for Mallard, Killdeer, Song Sparrow and many other small song birds.

<3.8 km>

Moyie Lake: turn right onto Munroe Lake Road and then onto Green Bay Road to Moyie Lake Provincial Park. From the Park directional map at the entrance, walk (or drive) in any direction. Birds abound. To the north of the beach parking area, Moyie River enters the Lake. Meadow Interpretive Trail and Green Bay also offer great varieties of forest and water birds including Hammond's Flycatcher. Don't forget to look up for Bald Eagle and Vaux's Swift. Return to Hwy 3 and turn right onto the highway.

<0.7 km>

Peavine Creek Meadow: At Hidden Valley Road (a public dirt road), 2 km from the Park map or 0.7 km further south down Hwy 3, turn left (east). Drive along this road for 2 km. You will pass a small lake (Hiawatha Lake), the perfect habitat for the endangered Western painted turtle and other more reclusive water birds like the beautiful Wood Duck or Hooded Merganser. You will soon come upon a beautiful marsh and farmer's field that offers a variety of birds, from loons to songbirds. Perhaps a Northern Shrike, a Common Snipe or one of the warblers or flycatchers may be seen here.



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**EDITORS' NOTE: Space limitations did not allow for the inclusion of the Bird Checklist or the map which were part of the original brochure. Our thanks to Mildred White for sending us the brochure and for her permission to reprint it here.