



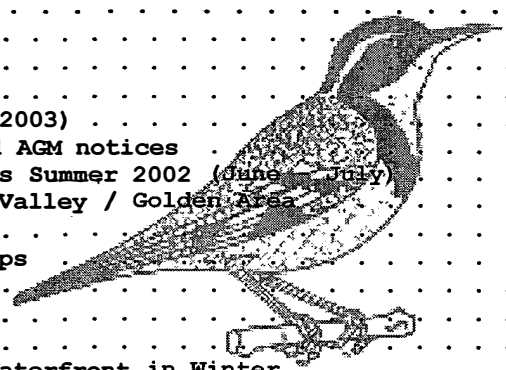
# BIRDING

ISSN 1206-1611

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
Volume 13 Number 1 March 2003

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**B.C. BIRDING** is published four times a year by  
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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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Send material for publication in any format to  
the editors. We especially welcome bird-  
finding information for our "Site Guide"  
series and any articles about birding  
experiences, preferably but not necessarily,  
in British Columbia.

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

Advertising rates available upon request.

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**EDITORS' NOTES & NOTIONS****UPCOMING BCFO EVENTS - 2003****Radium Hot Springs, B.C.**

June 20 2003

BCFO Digiscoping Workshop

June 20-22 2003

BCFO 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**Blaeberry Valley - Golden Area, B.C.**

June 23-25 2003

BCFO Extension Trip,

**Port McNeill, B.C.**

September 12-13 (14) 2003 BCFO Pelagic Trip

Information about all of these is to be found in this issue along with interesting and informative articles about counting Vaux's Swifts, an Arizona bird trip, Kelowna hotspots, a sojourn in Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park, bird sightings from last summer, Bird-Listers' Corner, other Upcoming Events and BC News, bird list of the Columbia Valley, CBC from Haida Gwaii, a tribute to Stephen R. Cannings, notes from the President and the Directors, and a notice squeezed in at the last minute directed to Ecological Reserve Wardens or to potential ER wardens. Lots of material and for that we heartily thank the membership. The newsletter has to be created in multiples of four pages. Having twenty-nine pages is as aggravating as having just twenty-seven pages of content. So many items were sent to us both early and at the last minute that we can offer you a hefty 32 pages for this, our final issue as editors.

It has been a great pleasure being your editors for these past 12 years. We have enjoyed meeting so many of you either through the written word, on the phone every November as we compile the CBC lists, or in person at BCFO events. Let us hope that some 'closet' editor will soon emerge to ensure the continuity of this great vehicle for linking birders of BC together. Members from 1999 may be pleased to know that we have received the copy for **British Columbia Birds** volume 9 and will be whipping it into shape and off to your mail-boxes in the very near future. We will continue to assist as production editors for volumes 10-12 of the journal as they find their way to our desks.

While we appreciate the kudos from the President, Directors and BCFO members very much, we must make the following observation. Certainly we have occasionally nagged and cajoled but it has been all of you, our members, who have written the articles, sent in the regular columns and made the suggestions for topics. Without your valued input there would not have been a newsletter. We have not had to do much actual writing over the years because members have always come through for us.

Please, continue to assist your new editor(s) in keeping this newsletter full of interesting, informative and timely information.

Thanks again to everyone for making our tenure as editors so enjoyable and so full of great camaraderie. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at future BCFO events. Good birding.

Andy and Marilyn

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am sorry to say that to date, no one has volunteered to become editor of this newsletter. Until a new editor or editorial team is identified, essential society news will be distributed to you, our members, in some other way, probably by means of a simple information sheet. I regret this action, but we are unable to continue **BC BIRDING** without people to do the work.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will read about our 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE to be held on the weekend of June 20-22 in Radium Hot Springs. Plan now to attend and explore this under-birded area of our province.

Have you considered serving on the BOARD OF DIRECTORS? Now is the time to step forward. There will be openings on the Board for the next term, and I would especially like to hear from members who have not served previously. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact me, or Dick Cannings. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Dannie Carsen.

Speaking of volunteers for service to BCFO, the Board has renewed the commitment to re-establishing a much-needed and long-overdue BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE. We will strive to assemble a team of competent people with knowledge of the birds of British Columbia, and who are willing to perform the duties of the committee in a timely manner.

For some of us, this has been "the winter that wasn't", as we experience the effects of another El Niño phenomenon in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Some bird species that observers are accustomed to seeing in the winter months, did not arrive. Other species that do not normally over-winter in B.C., did not leave. Such anomalies add interest to our observations of the birdlife of our province.

Finally, I say "Thank you" again to the Buhlers for the 12 years of effort they have put into making **BC BIRDING** a quality magazine. Marilyn and Andy: Best wishes from all of us!

Jo Ann MacKenzie  
President

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2003 ELECTION

If you wish to nominate someone to serve a 2-year term, please use the **Nomination for Director** form inserted in this issue, and mail it to the Secretary.

**EXTRACT:** "British Columbia Field Ornithologists, Constitution and By-laws"  
By-Laws, Part 3-Directors and Officers

19) Nominations for new Directors may be made by any Member, and must be sent to the Secretary in writing, together with the signed consent of the nominee. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting, but must be accompanied by the nominee's written consent, or if the nominee is present, the nominee must give verbal consent.

**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

Plans for the conference in Radium Hot Springs are well underway. The dates have been confirmed as June 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Radium Resort in Radium Hot Springs. Field trips are being arranged to allow all the participants to enjoy the birding of the region. Speakers are being approached to provide greater insight into the birding issues. Hope to see you there.

An extension to the conference is being planned with consideration of locations and sites to be announced later. Decisions were made to use vans for the extension and to concentrate on the Columbia Valley area. The dates for the extension are June 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>

Great news -- Brian Scott reported back that there is an opportunity start a provincial BC Bird Records Committee! The directors enthusiastically agreed to the suggestion. The directors encouraged Brian to keep up the efforts.

Discussions were made about the progress of the Journals. The directors are encouraging the editor to have a journal out as soon as possible. The directors will provide as much assistance to the editor as possible to see a journal out by June of 2003.

The directors are trying to get the message out that BCFO is there to promote birding issues in our province. Consideration was made to creating a new mission statement, changes to our brochure, and the website as a start.

All the directors were disappointed to hear that there had been no volunteer coming forward to edit the newsletter. Our present editors will not be available after this issue. Discussions proceeded as to what can be done for the June newsletter. Possible suggestions: no newsletter; a short newsletter with just the latest items; the complete newsletter edited by the directors. No one solution can replace having an editor who is focused on the job. We really need an editor now!

We need volunteers to make BCFO a strong and effective society: editors, mailers, writers, observers, field trip leaders, committee supporters. We need you!

Glen Moores  
Director

**\*\*\* Membership Notes \*\*\*****Please Note the Following:**

1. Address mailing labels will now have your membership expiry date printed on them as follows EXP: Dec 2003
2. Membership is based on a calendar year and expires in December.
3. The March issue of BC Birding will be sent to members who have not renewed but their name will be removed before the June issue if they have not renewed.
4. New members who join after October will have their membership expire the following December (ie. the membership is for 15 months).
5. There is a time lag between when your cheque for renewal is received in Victoria and when I receive that information in Nelson, so there may be times when your expiry date is incorrect. This is mostly true if your cheque is sent just prior to a mailout.
6. Three renewal notices are sent out - the first with the September issue, the second with the December and the third with the March issue.
7. Please feel free to contact me either by phone (250-354-1685) or email (rwege@telus.net) if you have any concerns or questions regarding your membership. I'd be happy to answer.

## SOCIETY NEWS UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

- March 19-21 2003** 2003 INTERNATIONAL CANADA GOOSE SYMPOSIUM, Madison, WI. Contact: Ricky Lien, phone (920) 892-8756, extension 3045.
- March 19-22 2003** JOINT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR NORTHWESTERN VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY & CALIFORNIA NORTHCOAST CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, Arcata, CA. Contact: Julie Grialou, Treasurer, SNVB. Box 22313, Seattle, WA 98122, phone (425) 822-8880, extension 3365.
- March 19-23 2003** WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S 84TH ANNUAL MEETING & ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' ANNUAL MEETING, Delaware, OH. Contact: Edward (Jed) H. Burttt, Jr. Dept. of Zoology, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH 43105-2370; phone (740) 368-3886.
- March 27-30 2003** HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA 2003 CONFERENCE, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact: Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi, Box 3352, Corpus Christi, TX 78463.
- April 30-  
May 3 2003** COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 75TH ANNUAL MEETING, Flagstaff, AZ. Contact: Mark K. Sogge, Colorado Plateau Field Stn., Box 5614, Northern Arizona Univ., Flagstaff, AZ 86011; phone (928) 556-7466, extension 232.
- May 8-11 2003** FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS 2002-2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Kamloops, B.C. Contact: Kamloops Naturalist Club, c/o Karen Willies, 679 Patricia Avenue, Kamloops, B.C. V2B 1Y7 OR Joan Best, phone (250) 376-4814.
- May 18-25 2003** VI<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS, Budapest, Hungary. Contact: WWGBP, Box 52, Towcester NN12 7ZW, England; phone/fax ++44-1604-86 23 31.
- June 20-22 2003** BCFO 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Radium Hot Springs, B.C. Contact: Hank VanderPol, 18-3389 Casoro Rd., Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3J5, phone (250) 979-0363 OR Ev Miyasaki, 8587 Sentinel Pl., Sidney, B.C. V8L 4Z8, phone (250) 656-8066.
- July 30-  
Aug. 3 2003** HUMCONFERENCE 2003, 5<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL HUMMINGBIRD RESEARCH GROUP CONFERENCE, Weldon, California. Contact: Donald Mitchell, phone (715) 381-9685.
- Aug. 6-9 2003** 121<sup>st</sup> STATED MEETING, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, Champaign-Urbana, IL. Contact: Dr. Scott K. Robinson, Dept. of Ecol., Ethol. and Evol., Univ. of Illinois - Shelford Vivarium, 606 E. Healey, Champaign, IL 61820; phone (217) 333-6857.
- Sept. 3-7 2003** RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2003 ANNUAL MEETING, Anchorage, Alaska. Contact: Dancy Dewitt, Alaska Bird Observatory, Box 80505, Fairbanks, AK 99708; phone (907) 451-7159.
- Fall 2003** SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING during Whooping Crane migration. Contact: Cheri L. Gratto-Trevor, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4; phone (306) 975-6128.

**BC BIRDING NEWS BRIEFS**

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

**Sea Island "Developments"** -While doing regular bird surveys on Sea Island in Richmond, B.C. during the last several years, I have been amazed at how many conflicting activities occur simultaneously on the island. In addition to being one of the lower mainland's prime birdwatching destinations (especially by those en route to Iona Island), the island is a popular dog-walking site, popular with convoys of cyclists, popular with wheel-chair athletes, and popular with roller skaters. These recreational activities occur together with numerous trucks speeding (usually at least double the speed limit) to the Iona Sewage Lagoon and with construction trucks en route to or from various destinations inside and outside the airport. During November and December 2002, there were two construction sites inside the airport, another between the north side of the airport and Grauer Road, another on the Iona/Sea islands causeway and another encompassing the entire Iona south jetty. As most of the roads on Sea Island are narrow, birders visiting there should thus be very cautious about parking and stopping. According to Reggie Ho (*Vancouver Nat.* 4(4):1,3, 2002) the development between the northern fence of the airport and Grauer Rd. is for a future United Parcel Service depot.

**Partial Reprieve for Spotted Owl** -International Forest Products recently voluntarily halted all logging activity on old growth forests under their jurisdiction known to be occupied by Spotted Owls, a move that may help to halt the decline of this species in B.C., especially if other logging companies follow their lead. -based on D. Hanna. 2002. *Vancouver Nat.* 4(4):7.

**Merilees Receives Australian Medallion** -Bill Merilees of Nanaimo, one of B.C.'s well-rounded naturalists, known for publications on birds and other aspects of nature in several parts of the province and for leading natural history tours, recently received a special service medallion from the government of Australia for work he did on Royal Penguins, Wandering Albatrosses and Southern Elephant Seals on Macquarie Island in 1966 and 1967. -based on Anonymous. 2002. *Vancouver Nat.* 4(4):19.

**Tom Brown** -Prominent lower mainland birder, Tom Brown, succumbed to a long battle with cancer on 10 October 2002. Tom rarely missed birding nights of the Vancouver Natural History Society even during his illness, and his name often appeared in listings of significant sightings in the lower mainland. He participated in identification workshops and assisted Rick Toochin with the computer production of recent check-lists of the birds of Iona Island and of the Vancouver area. -based partly on M. Coope. 2002. *Discovery* 31:5-7.

**Crested Myna Decline** -A photo by Steve Britten of two Crested Mynas on a window ledge at 1st Ave. and Wylie St., Vancouver (*Discovery* 31:7, 2002) likely depicts the last individuals of this introduced species. Catherine Aitchison's party succeeded in recording these two birds on Vancouver's 2002 Christmas Bird Count on 15 December, but any sighting could now be the last. Observers seeing these birds should report **every** sighting to the Vancouver Rare Bird Alert at (604) 737-3074, touch tone #4 or to Brian Self at 3082 West 13th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6K 2V2.

**Al & Jude Profiled** -Two of B.C.'s most prominent birders, Al and Jude Grass, are profiled in a delightful article by Michael Becker in *Discovery* 31(2):8-11, 2002. Although both have contributed far more to the conservation and study of birds and other aspects of natural history in this province than could be covered in a short profile, this article provides a nice introduction to this dynamic duo.

**Smith Awarded** -At the 120th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, UBC's James ("Jamie") N. M. Smith was awarded the William Brewster Memorial Award for 2002 (Anonymous. 2002. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 151:1). This is North America's most distinguished recognition for ornithological research. Fred Cooke is the only ornithologist whose career has included research in B.C. who has received it previously (M. K. McNicholl and J. L. Cranmer-Byng. 1994. Chapter 1, pp. 1-29 in M. K. McNicholl and J. L. Cranmer-Byng (Eds.). *Ornithology in Ontario*. Ont. Field

Ornithol. Special Publ. No. 1, Hawk Owl Publ., Whitby, Ont.), but as Fred received it for research conducted before he moved to British Columbia, Jamie is the first to receive it for research conducted in B.C.

**B.C. Students Awarded** -UBC student Kathryn E. H. Aitken, one of the speakers at B.C.F.O.'s 2002 annual meeting. was among 102 students given Marcia Brady Tucker awards to attend the 120<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in New Orleans, Louisiana in September 2002. Other receipts included Kathleen D. O'Connor of U.B.C. and Matthew R. Evans and Amanda C. Niehaus of Simon Fraser University. - based on Anonymous. 2002. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 151:2.

**FBCN Awards** -Bird-related activities are mentioned in the citations for two of the four recipients of awards at the 2002 fall general meeting of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists in Whistler, B.C. A Club Service award presented to Vi Wilcox was primarily for setting up bluebird trails and a local owl survey project in the West Kootenay area, while participation in bird counts of the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists' Society is included in a multi-faceted list of the contributions of the late Rene Savenye. -based on J. Best. 2002. *B.C. Nat.* 41(1):23.

**Steve Cannings** -The B.C. naturalist community lost one of its foremost contributors on 10 January 2003 with the death of Steve Cannings (e-mail from Jo Ann MacKenzie 12 January 2003). Stephen R. Cannings and his late wife, Jean, were the leading contributors to ornithology in the Okanagan for many years (see R. W. Campbell et al. 1990. *The birds of British Columbia*. Vol. 1:33-34) and their three sons Richard (Dick), Robert and Sydney all continue their legacy.



### Stephen Robert Cannings (1914-2003)

by Eva Durance  
1120 Jonathan Drive  
Penticton, BC V2A 8Z6

The death of Steve Cannings January 10 was a great loss for his family and wife Hazel, and also for the naturalist community of BC. A lifelong naturalist, avid birder, and dedicated conservationist, he has left a legacy of solid ornithological field data, commitment to protecting the natural world around us, and wonderful memories of his kindness, hospitality, and generosity in sharing his knowledge.

Steve was born and lived most of his life in the Okanagan Valley. His naturalist career began in childhood roaming the territory with compatible friends such as Chess Lyons and Carleton McCall. Nature was his study, but birds became his passion.

He married Jean Munn of Summerland in 1943, and in 1947, they moved back to the Okanagan. Their home on the West Bench near Penticton soon became a haven for friends, relatives, the Canadian naturalists community in general, birds, and other wild critters. Countless Christmas Bird Counts and Okanagan Big Day Challenges started and ended at their door where one was always welcomed to visit, have a meal, or sleep.

Steve helped form the South Okanagan Naturalists Club, the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society, the Federation of BC Naturalists, and the Canadian Nature Federation. He was involved in the establishment of Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park, Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park, the Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife area, and the Haynes Lease Ecological Reserve at the north end of Osoyoos Lake. For these and other conservation efforts, Steve and Jean were given the Elton Anderson Award from the FBCN and Steve an honorary doctorate from Okanagan University College.

Though the South Okanagan Valley, was dearest to his heart, he and Jean, who died in 1997, travelled and birded in many countries. Steve's life list for North America alone stands at 602 species. For over fifty-six years, Steve meticulously recorded details of natural history events, particularly those to do with birds. These became the basis for

STEPHEN ROBERT CANNINGS



**Stephen Robert Cannings (1914-2003) cont.**

sons Dick, Syd, and Rob's book **Birds of the Okanagan**. His long string of natural history projects included the successful search for the elusive Flammulated Owl and for Lyall's Mariposa Lily; neither of these species had been seen in Canada for decades.

Steve organized the first modern Penticton Christmas Bird Count in 1958 and participated in this count every year until moving to Chilliwack in 1999. He supported the annual madness of the Okanagan Big Day (birding) Challenge and could always be counted on for a pledge, even to a team bent on beating Dick's!

Eminent birder, all-round naturalist, accomplished photographer, writer, teacher, dedicated family man, and friend and mentor to many: the list of accolades to Steve goes on. For those of us who knew him even for a few short years, the loss is great, but the privilege of that friendship has also been great. May he now fly free as the birds he loved so much.

**British Columbia Field Ornithologists  
Thirteenth Annual Conference  
June 20-22, 2003**

The **Thirteenth Annual Conference** will be held at the **Radium Resort**  
in **Radium Hot Springs, B.C.** on the weekend of June 20-22, 2003.

**Events:**

- ♦ Reception on Friday evening
- ♦ Birding field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings
- ♦ Annual general meeting and technical presentations on Saturday afternoon
- ♦ Banquet on Saturday evening
- ♦ Sunday wrap-up

**Transportation & Accommodation:**

Transportation and accommodation are up to the individual(s) to arrange. A limited number of rooms have been set aside at the Radium Resort at a special rate of \$89 per night (double occupancy). You must call to reserve your room and secure the reservation with your credit card before June 6. When reserving, advise the registration desk that you are attending the BCFO Conference.

**Registration:**

The Conference fees are:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Conference only (includes all events except banquet) | \$30 |
| Banquet only   | \$25 |
| Conference and banquet                               | \$55 |

\*Sunday lunch during the wrap-up will be the responsibility of individuals attending.

Attendance is limited to BCFO members and spouses/family members. You may join BCFO at the same time as you register for the Conference. Please refer to the front page of this issue for membership fees.

**For information contact:** Hank VanderPol (250) 979-0363 email: rhvander@shaw.ca  
Ev Miyasaki (250) 656-8066 email: emiyasaki@shaw.ca

**Extension trip:**

An extension trip following the Conference is being organized. Details and registration information may be found on page 12 of this newsletter.

**A registration form is provided in this issue of BC BIRDING**



**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the BC Field Ornithologists****Conference Schedule****FRIDAY, June 20, 2003**

- 7:00 - 9:00 pm **REGISTRATION** - Radium Resort, Radium Hot Springs, B.C.  
7:00 - 9:00 pm **SOCIAL HOUR**  
9:00 - ?? **Possible Owling Trip**

**SATURDAY, June 21, 2003 (NOTE: Breakfast and Lunch on your own.)**

- 6:00 am **MORNING FIELD TRIPS** - depart from in front of Radium Resort.  
Return by 11:00 am.
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm **LUNCH (on your own)**
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm **TECHNICAL SESSION (afternoon)** - Radium Resort  
*Songbird Communities and Forest Management*  
**Kari Stuart-Smith**, TEMBEC (B.C. Division), Cranbrook  
T.B.A.
- 2:00 - 2:30 pm **BREAK**
- 2:30 - 3:45 pm **TECHNICAL SESSION (continues)**  
*Breeding Inventory and Habitat Assessment of Great Blue Herons  
in the Columbia Basin*  
**Marlene Machmer**, Pandion Ecological Research Ltd., Nelson  
*Long-term Bird Studies in the Revelstoke Area*  
**Janice Jarvis**, Friends of Mount Revelstoke Area and Glacier,  
Revelstoke
- 3:45 - 5:30 pm **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm **SOCIAL HOUR** - Radium Resort
- 7:00 - 9:30 pm **BANQUET** - Radium Resort  
**GUEST SPEAKER: Larry Halverson**, Parks Canada  
*Engaging Communities to benefit Birds and People*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2003 (NOTE: Breakfast and Lunch on your own.)**

- 6:00 am **MORNING FIELD TRIPS** - depart from in front of Radium Resort.  
Return by 11:00 am
- 12:00 pm **LUNCH AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE ADJOURNMENT** - at venue to be confirmed.  
(NOTE: Sunday lunch is **NOT** included in AGC fees.)

## British Columbia Bird Sightings Summer 2002 (June-July)

by Donald G. Cecile  
7995 Wilson-Jackson Road  
Vernon, BC V1B 3N5  
(dcecile@sd22.bc.ca)

### Abbreviations:

Chichester (Chichester Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna), C.I.P. (Cottonwood Island Park, Prince George), F.F.T.W. (Forests for the World, Prince George), m.obs. (many observers).

### LOONS THROUGH RAILS

An out of season Horned Grebe in alternate plumage was at Victoria 9 Jul (PL et. al.). An Eared Grebe colony that is not often successful produced 101 nests at Rawlings L., Lumby 8 Jul (GSD). Another colony on Rock L., Becher Prairie, contained 549 nests (RWC, LVD). American White Pelicans were reported on several occasions at Swan L. six were present 4 Jun, 30 on 15 Jun and four on 12 Jul (*fide* MC). These birds are likely wanderers from prairie breeding colonies where drought conditions persisted. Double-crested Cormorants, away from the coast, included an immature at Waneta Dam in the West Kootenays 25 Jul (GN). Williams L. was host to a Great Egret 1-5 Jun (PR), the only report received this season. It's smaller cousin, Snowy Egret, was in Saanich 3-9 Jun (EP, m.obs.) for one of only a handful of Vancouver I. records. A very late White-fronted Goose was near Tofino 28 Jun, 2 and 4 Jul (AD). A Wood Duck was well out of place at Lightning L., Manning P.P. 6 Jul (PL et. al.). Rare in the s. interior, a Harlequin Duck was at Okanagan Falls 4 Jul (CC, m.obs.). A Long-tailed Duck was very late at T'Kumlups Marsh, Kamloops 11 Jun (WCW). There were a few late Rough-legged Hawks in the south this spring, by far the latest was a weak individual that died 12 Jul at Little Fort (*fide* RH). A Northern Goshawk survey on Vancouver I. discovered eight active nests in the Nimpkish drainage (*fide* MGS). A new Yellow Rail location was discovered when three were heard n.e. of Chetwynd 10 and 23 Jun (LL, SK), there are only three known locations in the province. The west coast of Vancouver I. had its second breeding record of Sora Rail, from the same location as the first, along the lower Kennedy R. 28 Jul (MB, DB).

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

The Province's first nesting of Black-necked Stilts proved to be a success 21 Jul (DW) when a fledgling was observed then 22 Jul four fledglings were seen [T'Kumlups Marsh] (WCW). A pair of American Avocets that were first reported in May near Dawson Cr. were seen again 14 Jun (LL, SK) with one bird sitting on a nest. Unfortunately, their nest was subsequently ploughed under since the farmer was unaware of it. Other avocets at the Fort St. John lagoons may have been more successful where an observer was dive-bombed and scolded by a pair 9 Jul (DW), and if confirmed, would represent the first nesting for the Peace River area. Whimbrels are very rare in the interior and the ad. found in Vernon furnished the fourth record for the Okanagan 31 Jul (CS, CM). Very rare along the south coast, a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was in Tsawwassen 12 Jun (RS). Marbled Godwits were either very late or very early at Long Beach near Tofino 27 Jun, 22-23 Jul (AD). Wilson's Phalaropes are rarely encountered on the west coast, two were present in Tofino 9 Jun (AD). Breeding was discovered at Alex L. in the Chilcotin 4 Jul (GSD, CS) where there are few breeding records. Pelagic trips out of Tofino produced South Polar Skuas on two occasions: two on 21 Jun, and a single 16 Jul (AD).

Mew Gulls are rare in the interior but particularly so during the summer months such as the one found at Robert L., Kelowna 22 Jul (CC).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Rarely encountered south of the c. interior, single Alder Flycatchers were noted at:

Pitt Meadows, 29 May - 15 Jun (TP et. al.); near Merritt 2 Jul (WCW) and two singing males near Edgewood 16 Jun (GSD). A Willow Flycatcher was upstream from Tahsish Inlet along the Artlish R. extending its known Vancouver I. range 21 Jul (MGS). Least Flycatchers have become scarce but regular visitors to the s. interior in recent years. Breeding was confirmed in the Okanagan when a nest was discovered along Mission Cr., Kelowna 21 Jun (CC). A few Western Kingbirds ventured well west of their range with one in Ft. St. James 17 Jun (RR) for the first time in ten years, and another was near Tofino 1 Jun-30 Jul (AC, CC) for a first summer record. Loggerhead Shrikes are very rare on the coast. An adult was discovered at Iona I. 4 Jun (RTO, MM) and furnished the first local summer record and first Vancouver record since 1989. Northern Mockingbirds are very rare in the southern interior; one was reported from Keremeos 7 Jun (ED) and another was at Kaslo 19 Jun (DR). Sage Thrashers are very rare away from the s. Okanagan; one was seen briefly at Leach L., Creston 30 Jul (MAB). Rarely encountered west of the Rockies, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Fort St. James 5 Jun (RR). A few Magnolia Warblers establish territories in the Kootenays but have yet to provide convincing evidence of breeding. Three singing males were at Summit L., Nakusp, 26 Jun (GSD) and another singing male near Hills 8 Jul (GSD). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was discovered near downtown Victoria and furnished the second local record and the eighth record for the province 28 Jun (DA). A male Black-throated Gray Warbler was upstream from Tahsish Inlet along the Artlish R. 21 Jul (MGS) extending its known Vancouver I. range. A Black-and-white Warbler was a rare find at Williams L. 5 Jun (AR). Connecticut Warblers are localized breeders in the Peace R. area but confirmed nests are very rare such as the one found s.w. of Dawson Creek 14 Jun that contained five eggs by 19 Jun and by 9 Jul five young had fledged (MP). Yellow-breasted Chats are very rare on the south coast where there is one breeding record thus it was with some excitement when two birds were discovered at Pitt Meadows 4 Jun - 2 Jul (MW et.al.). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are very rare summer visitors to the southern interior, one was at a feeder near Rossland 26 Jul (JBe), and another was at Williams L. 3 Jun (SH). A male Black-headed Grosbeak was upstream from Tahsish Inlet along the Artlish R. where this species is not known to occur (MGS). Lazuli Buntings continued their northward and westward expansion with at least four individuals discovered on Vancouver Island. The first male arrived 1 Jul (m.obs.) and was joined by a female 2 Jul (m.obs.) on Mt. Tolmie, Victoria; by 18 Jul two males, a female and three juvs were present (RS) and furnished the first breeding record for Vancouver I. Farther north on the Island, a male was in Nanaimo in early July (m.obs.). Very rare in the province, a male Indigo Bunting was at Gang Ranch near 100 Mile House 8 Jun (TG, PR). The Province's sixth **Green-tailed Towhee** was found in Lillooet 7 Jul (HD). Lark Sparrows are rare in the Kootenays and in the North Okanagan, one was at Skookumchuck 25 Jun (GR, RG) and 2 were present near Winfield 7 Jul (TF). A Lark Sparrow that was discovered at Churn Creek 8 Jun (TG) was later found with another adult and a recent fledgling 5-7 Jul (GSD, CS), this would constitute the most northerly and westerly breeding. The Province's seventh **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was seen near Clearwater 1 Jul (CR, m.obs.), unfortunately, it was not relocated despite many attempts on subsequent days. Kelowna's **Great-tailed Grackle** was seen sporadically this summer season (m.obs.). Rare away from the Peace R. area, a Common Grackle was at Invermere 4 Jun (LC, RaH).

#### CONTRIBUTORS (subregional editors in bold-face):

David Allinson, Jim Bahr, Marc-André Beaucher, J. Bedoyo, Lucille Campbell, R. Wayne Campbell, Murray Clark, Alison Cookson, **Gary S. Davidson** (Kootenays), Henry Davis, **Adrian Dorst** (Tofino-Ucluelet), Eva Durance, Trevor Forder, Tom Godin, Ruth Goodwin, Randy Hopkins, Steve Howard, Sandra Kinsey, Laird Law, Paul Lehman, Colleen Marchand, Mitch Meredith, Ted Murphy-Kelly, Gwen Nichol, E. Pellizzon, **Mark Phinney** (Peace River), **Phil Ranson** (Cariboo), Randy Rawluck, Dirk Rinehart, C. Ritcey, Anna Roberts, Greg Ross, Michael G. Shepard, Chris Siddle, R. Swanston, Rick Toochin, Linda Van Damme, Wayne C. Weber, Doug Wilson, Mark Wynja.

## BCFO Extension 2003 Blaeberry Valley - Golden Area

The Blaeberry Valley was the path David Thompson took in 1807 to cross the Rocky Mountains. This picturesque valley is east of the Trans-Canada Highway where you are surprised by a vast plateau with its spectacular view into the Rockies and over the Columbia Valley into the Selkirk and Purcell Mountains. The Goldenwood Lodge will be our base camp for several forays to locations such as Willowbank Mountain, Moberly Marsh, and the sub-alpine near Donald.

Doug Leighton, a keen birder and resident of the Blaeberry involved in breeding bird surveys, will help us in our search for interesting birds such as possible Broad-winged Hawk and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The Blaeberry Valley can boast 13 species of breeding warblers and 9 species of breeding flycatchers and is the northern limit for many southern specialties such as Black-headed Grosbeak and Bullock's Oriole. Moberly Marsh and the Blaeberry have also been mentioned in many accidental sightings of eastern and southern species.

We will be leaving Radium Hot Springs early on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. On our way to Golden, we will slowly bird our way through the magnificent Columbia River Wetlands. With the assistance of Bob Ferguson, who coauthored with Larry Halverson the *Checklist of Birds of the Upper Columbia River Valley*, we'll be able to target interesting birds in riparian woods and marshes along this scenic bird-rich route. Following a brief stop in Golden, we will wend our way the short distance to Goldenwood Lodge (<http://www.goldenwoodlodge.com>) which is perched on the benchlands overlooking the Blaeberry Valley. Our Swiss hosts Barbara Friedli and André Weilenmann will provide wholesome meals from Monday supper to Wednesday lunch while we enjoy the 149 acres surrounding the lodge including river access, a natural swimming pond, and nature trails. Accommodations include the lodge, nicely appointed group houses, and cottages each with at least one bathroom with shower. We will be returning to Golden or Radium Hot Springs in the late afternoon of Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Shared accommodation for June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, van transportation, and meals from Monday lunch to Wednesday lunch will be included in the price of \$350. Please bring a water bottle and hat in anticipation of hot days, warm clothing for the cool mornings, and any favourite snacks for the daily outings. If you require a special or vegetarian diet, please indicate those requirements on the registration form. Please register before May 1, 2003 since space is limited.

Please contact Dannie Carsen at 250-595-2773 or [dcarsen@shaw.ca](mailto:dcarsen@shaw.ca) or Sandra Kinsey at 250-963-8381 or [aa068@pqfn.bc.ca](mailto:aa068@pqfn.bc.ca) for further information or clarification.



### AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE

#### Janice Arndt

Janice started watching birds as a child growing up near Toronto. She got more serious about birding after spending two months at Long Point Bird Observatory at the age of 18. She has worked as a wildlife biologist in Ontario and New Brunswick. Since coming to Nelson she has written articles about birds for the local paper, lead outings for visitors to Kokanee Creek Provincial Park (and being Mom to Justin, 8, and Bethany, 6). [jarndt@telus.net](mailto:jarndt@telus.net)

#### Chris Charlesworth

Chris, a member of the Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club, has been birding for a number of years. He has lead birding groups and tours both in the Okanagan and much further afield and is founder of the new BC-based Avocet Tours.

#### Eva Durance

Eva, former president of South Okanagan Naturalists' Club, is an avid birder, a farmer, and a technical writer in natural sciences, agriculture, and environmental topics.

**BCFO Conference 2003 Field Trips  
Radium Hot Springs June 21-22, 2003**

**1) Columbia National Wildlife Area - Wilmer Marsh Unit**

Wilmer Marsh Unit (472 hectares: 70% marsh; 30% benchlands) is located approximately five km. north of Invermere in the Rocky Mountain Trench, on the west side of the Columbia River, between Toby and Horsethief Creeks. The slow flowing Columbia River meanders between natural levees maintaining an extensive and complex network of shallow ponds, marshes and oxbows. The area is surrounded by open dry Douglas-fir forest. The valley-bottom wetlands of this area are important for migratory birds of the Pacific Flyway. Flocks of swans, Canada Geese, coots, and dabbling ducks use the area for resting and feeding during migration. Many waterfowl species also breed in the area. The benchlands in the spring and early summer provide good views of nesting: Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Osprey, and Bald Eagle. Old stands of cottonwood on the levees are especially important habitat for such cavity nesters as Wood Duck, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser, and a Great Blue Heron rookery.

Some birds of interest in areas away from the water include: Blue Grouse, Mountain Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow and Lewis's Woodpecker. It is this area where a Brown Thrasher was recorded in 1993.

**2) Kootenay National Park - Part of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site**

Located on the west slope of the Continental Divide, Kootenay National Park's 1406 sq. km contains a variety of habitats. It is the only National Park to contain both cactus and glaciers.

**Kimpton Creek Trail**

The trail climbs steadily but not too steeply up a narrow valley. Following along the creek through a Douglas-fir and white spruce forest, opening into deciduous trees of Douglas maple, white birch and aspen and finally into a series of avalanche paths. Species commonly found in the shrubby vegetation include: Rufous Hummingbird, Warbling Vireo, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Chipping Sparrows. Species frequently found in the wooded areas include: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Western Tanager, and Dark-eyed Junco.

**3) Radium Hot Springs Area**

The lower reaches of Stoddart Creek are a good location to observe the birds of the dry Interior Douglas-fir forest. Common species include Blue Grouse, Common Nighthawk, Northern Flicker, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and Chipping Sparrow. Where there are open patches of grassland, Vesper Sparrows are often found. This trip can be combined with a side trip to the Radium Mill pond for a wonderful assortment of wetland birds.

**4) Columbia Lake**

Numerous nesting Osprey can be seen while driving through farm and ranch lands to Columbia Lake. Islands of grassland surrounded by open stands of Douglas-fir, Rocky Mountain juniper and aspen provide attractive habitats for Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Flicker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Mountain Bluebird, Western Meadowlark and Vesper Sparrow. The open slopes on the east side of the valley are important winter range for bighorn sheep. At the lake (the headwaters of the Columbia River) we look into beds of bulrush and cattails for water birds, and also glass the cliffs for "rocky" birds. Stops will also be made at the Dutch Creek hoodoos for nesting White-throated Swifts before driving back along the Westside Road through a 1972 burn where we will hopefully see Lewis's Woodpecker and take time to check out the warblers in the riparian areas.

## Winter Birding in Southeastern Arizona

by Eva Durance  
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I have travelled and birded in the southwestern states a number of times before, but never to the southernmost parts of Arizona. Last December, I finally got there for a few days as part of a month-long trip that included Utah and New Mexico. Even the short time spent birding there convinced me to return again very soon - but in spring; though, one advantage of winter birding is certainly the lack of crowds.

I e-mailed a birder, Jesse Taylor, in Tucson ahead of time for information on December birding in that area ([www.birdingpal.co](http://www.birdingpal.co) or e-mail Knud Rasmussen, [knud@birdingpal.com](mailto:knud@birdingpal.com) for helpful local birders all over the world). Jesse's information was excellent. He cautioned that many species would be ones we have in the Southern Interior from spring to fall, but I still saw 20 'lifers'. Most were during a concentrated couple of days southeast and on the western outskirts of Tucson.

The weather was generally balmy for us northern types, with daytime temperatures in the low 20°C, and sunny. Locals of course shivered in jackets.

I had planned to stop for a couple of days at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge south of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a spectacular place for winter birding; however, a cold, storm front sweeping through the state at the time and the lack of Whooping Cranes at the Refuge made southern Arizona look more attractive. There we concentrated on Patagonia Lake State Park south of the town of Patagonia, the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, Madera Canyon east of Green Valley, the Sonora-Arizona Desert Museum west of Tucson, and Tucson Water Reclamation ponds. On our wayhome, we spent a day in Death Valley. The following briefly describes the places visited and species seen.

Madera Canyon, a place I'm sure many BCFO members have visited, was not hopping with birds the day we visited, a combination of the season and extreme drought; the Creek was almost completely dry. Nevertheless, I was treated to the sight of a small flock of Western Bluebirds, White-breasted Nuthatches, numerous vocal Common Raven, Bridled Titmouse, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Santa Rita Lodge's feeders and waters attracted a great many more: a male Ruby-crowned Kinglet (singing!); three Acorn Woodpecker stowing seeds in the lodge wall; Strickland's (Arizona), Gila, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker; Red-naped Sapsucker; House and Cassin's Finch; Olive Warbler; Say's Phoebe; a mixed flock of Slate-coloured, Oregon, and Pink-sided Junco; Chihuahuan Raven; a male Phainopepla; and the prize, a male Magnificent Hummingbird displaying his shimmering emerald throat in every sunbeam.

Patagonia Lake State Park, our next stop, lies southeast of Tucson in rolling Sonoran Desert hills vegetated primarily with mesquite, creosote bush, ocotillo, palo verde, prickly-pear cacti and scattered saguaro. The lake is a reservoir, quite a large one, which I assume has been there a long time since riparian and marsh vegetation is well developed, at least along the northern end where we were birding. Sonoita Creek meanders into the lake at the north end creating a good-sized marshy delta adjacent to dense mesquite thickets.

We awoke to a chorus of Great-tailed Grackle, Curve-billed and Bendire's Thrasher, and Red-winged Blackbird which roosted nearby overnight. Other species in the campground's trees and shrubs were Say's Phoebe, a small flock of Inca Dove, and Gila Woodpecker.

The willow, mesquite, and cottonwood thickets and cattail marshes north of the campground were alive with birds even before the sun rose. A male Pyrrhuloxia foraged beside a pair of Northern Cardinals along with White-crowned Sparrow, another singing male Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-throated Sparrow, a Northern Mockingbird and Dark-eyed Junco. The sightings got better and better as the morning progressed and included: Ladder-backed Woodpecker; Peregrine Falcon; Black Phoebe; Ash-throated and Gray Flycatcher; Bridled Titmouse; Verdins by the score; Bewick's Wren; Marsh Wren; Virginia Rail; Song, Five-striped, and Lark Sparrow; Olive, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) and Orange-crowned Warbler; female Anna's Hummingbird; Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawk; and Gambel's Quail. I was lucky enough also to catch sight of the two very rare birds locals were prowling for, a male Black-capped Gnatcatcher and an Eastern Phoebe which obligingly sang briefly.

Waterfowl included a Common Loon, which local birders were very excited about; Ruddy Duck; American Coot; Western, Pied-billed, Red-necked, and Eared Grebe; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Redhead; Bufflehead; and Common Merganser. Two unexpected species were Neotropic Cormorant, which breed there, and Black-crowned Night Heron which flew across the lake squawking dismally in the twilight.

A visit to the Sonora-Arizona Desert Museum the next day, though not primarily a birding trip, yielded the following additional species: Black Vulture, Rock Wren, a number of Cactus Wrens, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, and Abert's Towhee. (In case anyone wonders about the lack of Canyon Wren, this gem we saw in many places elsewhere on the trip.)

A late-afternoon dash to the Tucson Water Reclamation ponds was worth the effort as the Least Grebe we had been alerted to was floating with other waterfowl in the last pond. Common Moorhen was another lifer for me.

The above is not a complete list, but the great majority of the Arizona sightings. As a finale for the trip, though, sightings on sparsely vegetated salt flats of Death Valley were hard to beat partly because they were so unexpected: a singing (!) Loggerhead Shrike, three Say's Phoebes, Rock Wren, American Pipit, and Sage Sparrow. Ravens, of course, were, well ... common.

The big miss was the Greater Roadrunner. In almost a month of birding, I still can't believe we didn't see a single one of these dashing and cocky characters. Next time!



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### Report from Haida Gwaii Christmas Bird Count 2002

by Margo Hearne  
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**Masset** - Tramping about in the wilderness in the early morning only two days after Christmas has a charm all its own. It's so restful! But when looking for birds to beat all birds and nothing shows up one's inclined to exclaim in exasperation that "...there's nothing out here..." only to see nine Myrtle Warblers flash into the adjacent trees and a Pine Grosbeak sing down the way a little. Well, so much for that. Of course there were birds everywhere, especially the ones I spooked from the pond when crashing through the brush after a Song Sparrow. As morning strengthened, light cleared and brightened and everything shone in the calm Inlet. Marbled Murrelets showed their bright white bottoms as they upended for the long undersea swim after miniscule minnows. Red-throated Loons, only two, and Pacific Loons, forty-six, dove and fed in the shallows, and the boys in the boat found lots to cheer about as they racked up nine Pigeon Guillemots, eight Ancient Murrelets, two Rhinoceros Auklets and a single Black Oystercatcher. Only one, where are all the others?

The field crew also had quite a day, even bringing in a 'ringer' from Smithers to help quadruple the count of branch birds. Branch birds? - birds just leaving branches; birds sitting on branches far, far away; and those, like the Red-tailed Hawk, in big branches in big trees. Eight tiny Snow Buntings flew along the dunes like dots, and two birds nestled so close to tree-trunks at the end of the day that they seemed mere figments of the imagination. They royally showed their golden crowns for the briefest moment before sunset. They were Golden-crowned Sparrows, seen again next day, goody! Nine Ring-necked Ducks were encapsulated in a frozen pond as the day drew to a close and 1,705 Green-winged Teal sat like so many feathered flowers along the rim of the water. An excellent count, made more pleasing when we discovered that some of our records from last year were the highest for all of North America. Total species for Masset: 76.

**Skidegate Inlet** - We leaned into a powerful wind on a Sandspit morning and got drenched in Charlotte-Skidegate in the afternoon. Thousands of gulls sheltered on the golf course looking like so many bursts of foam in the howling gale. Why should they go out into the screaming winds of the spit and get battered about? We had to! They didn't seem to care. We counted every one and found 11 California Gulls where they are usually reported not to be by the quasi-scientific community. We had never seen anything quite like it in the 21 counts we have done so far - and we thought we had seen everything.

Forty-four Aleutian Canada Geese also hung out in the hollows with their kin of 88 Dusky Canada's, some with red neck-bands from the Copper River Delta. Brian and friends, unable to tackle the storm-gods in the Inlet, saw quite a lot on land. Of special note was the Marbled Godwit feeding on the mud-flats in front of the town in a drenching downpour. It seemed fairly oblivious, I must say, perhaps it's born to that kind of weather, but it's another first for the Skidegate Inlet count. Randall, chief Captain and scout aboard the MV Kwuna kept a record of all his birds for the day and a Fork-tailed Storm-petrel was the very first one seen on a Canadian count! Hey! What a day! It proves once again that the best days for birding are the ones with the worst weather! There was a paucity of visibility on the night drive to Masset later, with trees falling across the road and debris smashing against the vehicle, but it was worth every moment; even if we might be blown off our little wheels any moment and could barely see where we were going. Total species for the day: 65, plus one hapless Sharp-shinned Hawk doomed by window interference on its way to the forest - but not one jay.

**Port Clements** - "There are no birds here at all," someone said. "They've all gone!" Nay unbeliever! It didn't rain and there was no wind and look at the 721 Pintail, 485 Green-winged Teal and 548 American Wigeon all dabbling busily in the bay. A Pine Grosbeak sang first thing in the morning and we had a Dipper! We also had 15 Trumpeter Swans and two Sharp-shinned Hawks, the highest numbers on the island count. Lots of birds! Sixteen Lesser Scaup were an exciting addition to the Port count and Brian's two White-crowned and two Golden-crowned Sparrows came to the feeder on cue. There really were no birds in Ferguson Bay. The whole place was a log dump with floating debris out in the Inlet as far as the eye could see. Who cares? No one seems to. This was all against the Fisheries Act long ago and dry-land sorts were created because the debris destroyed the sea floor but it seems as though someone, somewhere gave someone else special permission. No fish, no birds. At the Yakoun Estuary the tides changed and 11 Black Turnstones, 27 Dunlin and 15 Black Oystercatchers showed up. There were even 12 Varied Thrushes, so lovely in orange and black, and Mister Robin, only one this year, gave the holly bush a cursory visit before disappearing for the day. Eight Fox Sparrows were a high for the count. Total species for Port Clements: 48

**Rose Spit** - Yeech! What a day! Howling winds and rising tides shortened our stay at Rose Spit as huge waves pounded the beach, 395 Sanderlings ran before us, and 555 Common Murres scudded by. A tiny Cassin's Auklet appeared and disappeared in the storm and 29 Ancient Murrelets crashed into the water in their own inimitable way. And rain! We were drenched to the skin. Still, since we were out here, we decided to stick around. Three Yellow-billed Loons were quite close to shore and fifty Red-throated Loons were very, very pretty - all white and shining even in the murk. A Peregrine Falcon proved its daring when it plucked an Ancient Murrelet from the water and sat on the very edge of the spit with waters rising all around it. Of course, falcons can fly, unlike ourselves who had to rush out of there with the ocean lapping at our ankles. With the tides rising we really didn't have time to cover the tree line but we took a quick dash towards the weather station and found a Savannah Sparrow in the meadow. Not a common bird in these lonely reaches. Two Brandt's Cormorants sat on the rocks at Yakan Point along with 27 Pelagics plus two Double-crested's and a single Western Grebe for added interest. Here were all three species of scoter, feeding busily with Long-tailed Ducks, Buffleheads and goldeneyes. All in all, it was a small miracle that the Christmas Bird Count at Rose Spit even got done. Thanks to Keith at TLC Motors for his vehicle, we couldn't have done it without him.





## BIRD-LISTERS' CORNER

by Ken Morgan

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Hello and welcome back to Bird-Lister's Corner. A big thank you to all 47 contributors - without your continued support and interest in this column, it would cease to exist. So ... how did everyone do over the past year? As you recall I challenged all listers to see how much of an increase they could make in the lists they keep. In order to negate the advantages held by those with small lists over those with nearly complete lists, I followed John Sprague's advice and calculated the percentage increase based upon the number of new species observed relative to the number that person had not seen in the area, rather than the percentage increase based upon those already seen. Still confused? Well, as our political leaders often suggest ... trust me. For each of the listing areas (other than the North Pacific Pelagic Waters) I list the total number of species each person reported, the % of the total number of species in that area (% TOT) and the percentage increase (% INCR) over the past year. If you didn't send me your totals last year OR the number you sent me this year did not change from last year, I do not show a value in the % INCR column. In each of the listing area I have indicated the person who had the highest percent increase (indicated by a \*) as well as the runner up (\*\*). In a few listing areas (e.g., the Queen Charlotte's, Kamloops, West Kootenays) only one person reported an increase over last year's total - they automatically won regardless of how small the % INCR. And finally - two areas (Alberta and Creston Valley) had no winners - none of the contributors reported a single increase in species seen.

And the winners are ...(in order of areas listed below): **K. Taylor, K. Morgan, B. Stech, J. Vooy's, L. Esralson, V. George, J. Vooy's, D. Stirling, K. Klimko, W. Weber, T. Greenfield, J. MacKenzie, L. Law and G. Monty.** Congratulations to all of you (and me) - your fellow BCFO'ers are humbled by our listing prowess. So, with that said the thirteen of us now "drop the gauntlet". Who will pick it up next year? And to give all of you a bit of a heads up - I am going on three-week trip to Eastern Australia this fall - I will be adding some serious numbers! Speaking of numbers, I have noticed an interesting statistic as I have compiled these numbers over the years. Having a firm grasp of the obvious, I've repeatedly noticed that listing is apparently a male-dominated "sport". This year, just under 78% of the contributors are men. Is this simply a function of the membership (i.e., are there roughly 3.5 times as many males as females in the BCFO)? ... or are there actually more male listers than female listers; or perhaps there isn't such a huge difference in the ratio of male to female listers BUT men are more competitive than women and/or we need to see our names "glorified"? Comments anyone?

**Listing Totals To 31 December 2002**  
**World (9808 species)**

| NAME                | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR         | NAME         | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|---------------------|-------|-------|----------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Jo Ann MacKenzie    | 3901  | 39.8  | 1.47           | Laird Law    | 1376  | 14.0  | 0.39   |
| Hue MacKenzie       | 3900  | 39.8  | 1.40           | John Kalman  | 1367  | 13.9  | -      |
| David Stirling      | 3618  | 36.9  | 0.13           | Bryan Gates  | 1313  | 13.4  | 0.02   |
| Roger Foxall        | 3309  | 33.7  | -              | Don Wilson   | 1122  | 11.4  | 1.72   |
| <b>Keith Riding</b> | 3152  | 32.1  | <b>3.44 **</b> | Val George   | 851   | 8.7   | 1.53   |
| Stefan Zarembo      | 2830  | 28.9  | 2.24           | John Sprague | 816   | 8.3   | 0.01   |
| Dick Cannings       | 2662  | 27.1  | 1.72           | Wayne Weber  | 726   | 7.4   | -      |
| Mike Tootchin       | 2581  | 26.3  | 0.04           | Geoff Bate   | 658   | 6.7   | -      |
| Barbara Begg        | 2337  | 23.8  | 0.09           | Rand Rudland | 638   | 6.5   | -      |
| <b>Ken Taylor</b>   | 1997  | 20.4  | <b>7.66 *</b>  | Ken Morgan   | 632   | 6.4   | 0.78   |

**A.B.A Area (918 species)**

| NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME               | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR          |
|------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------------------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Mike Tootchin    | 754   | 82.1  | 1.20   | Gwynneth Wilson    | 561   | 61.1  | -               |
| Roger Foxall     | 733   | 79.8  | -      | Bryan Gates        | 559   | 60.9  | 0.28            |
| Hank Vanderpol   | 719   | 78.3  | 4.33   | Barbara Begg       | 551   | 60.0  | 0.81            |
| Stefan Zarembo   | 713   | 77.7  | 0.49   | <b>Ken Klimko</b>  | 546   | 59.5  | <b>10.79 **</b> |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 700   | 76.3  | -      | <b>Ken Morgan</b>  | 521   | 56.8  | <b>17.98 *</b>  |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 694   | 75.6  | 0.44   | Chris Charlesworth | 506   | 55.1  | 0.72            |

| NAME            | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME           | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | (A.B.A. area cont.) |
|-----------------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|-------|-------|--------|---------------------|
| David Stirling  | 663   | 72.2  | —      | Andy Buhler    | 502   | 54.7  | 0.48   |                     |
| Wayne Weber     | 660   | 71.9  | —      | Marilyn Buhler | 502   | 54.7  | 0.48   |                     |
| Russ Tkachuk    | 647   | 70.5  | 3.21   | Ken Taylor     | 459   | 50.0  | 0.65   |                     |
| David Allinson  | 610   | 66.4  | —      | Laird Law      | 458   | 49.9  | 1.29   |                     |
| John Kalman     | 601   | 65.5  | 4.80   | Larry Cowan    | 447   | 48.7  | 0.42   |                     |
| Dorothy Copp    | 600   | 65.4  | 6.74   | Brian Stech    | 434   | 47.3  | —      |                     |
| Keith Riding    | 600   | 65.4  | 0.31   | Laure Neish    | 415   | 45.2  | 1.76   |                     |
| Tony Greenfield | 597   | 65.0  | 0.31   | Dannie Carsen  | 407   | 44.3  | 1.92   |                     |
| Gary Davidson   | 583   | 63.5  | —      | Peter Blokker  | 395   | 43.0  | 0.57   |                     |
| Marika Ainley   | 582   | 63.4  | 0.59   | Rand Rudland   | 393   | 42.8  | 4.20   |                     |
| John Sprague    | 580   | 63.2  | 0.29   | Ted Goshulak   | 374   | 40.7  | —      |                     |
| Lloyd Esralson  | 579   | 63.1  | 1.45   | Guy Monty      | 371   | 40.4  | 1.26   |                     |
| Mabel Crocker   | 576   | 62.7  | 0.58   | John Vooy's    | 365   | 39.8  | —      |                     |
| Don Wilson      | 575   | 62.6  | 6.54   | Geoff Bate     | 309   | 33.7  | —      |                     |
| Dick Cannings   | 564   | 61.4  | —      |                |       |       |        |                     |

## Canada (634 species)

| NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  | NAME          | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|------------------|-------|-------|---------|---------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Roger Foxall     | 512   | 80.8  | —       | Larry Cowan   | 412   | 65.0  | 0.89   |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 511   | 80.6  | —       | Bryan Gates   | 409   | 64.5  | 0.44   |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 511   | 80.6  | —       | Gary Davidson | 398   | 62.8  | —      |
| David Stirling   | 482   | 76.0  | —       | Don Wilson    | 395   | 62.3  | 2.85   |
| Mike Toochin     | 481   | 75.9  | —       | Peter Blokker | 390   | 61.5  | 2.01   |
| Marika Ainley    | 466   | 73.5  | 1.18    | John Sprague  | 385   | 60.7  | —      |
| Wayne Weber      | 457   | 72.1  | 1.67    | Laird Law     | 369   | 58.2  | 2.21   |
| Russ Tkachuk     | 456   | 71.9  | 8.25 ** | Ken Klimko    | 367   | 57.9  | —      |
| Dick Cannings    | 451   | 71.1  | 1.61    | Rand Rudland  | 366   | 57.7  | 2.19   |
| Stefan Zaremba   | 444   | 70.0  | 1.04    | Guy Monty     | 365   | 57.6  | 2.18   |
| David Allinson   | 436   | 68.8  | —       | Brian Stech   | 359   | 56.6  | 8.33 * |
| Hank Vanderpol   | 436   | 68.8  | 0.50    | Janice Arndt  | 350   | 55.2  | —      |
| John Kalman      | 430   | 67.8  | 1.45    | John Vooy's   | 348   | 54.9  | —      |
| Mike McGrenere   | 429   | 67.7  | 0.49    | Len Jellicoe  | 348   | 54.9  | —      |
| Barb Begg        | 428   | 67.5  | 0.96    | Mabel Crocker | 341   | 53.8  | 2.33   |
| Ken Morgan       | 420   | 66.2  | —       | Dannie Carsen | 341   | 53.8  | 2.98   |
| Keith Riding     | 419   | 66.1  | —       | Dorothy Copp  | 270   | 42.6  | —      |
| Tony Greenfield  | 418   | 65.9  | 1.37    | Geoff Bate    | 216   | 34.1  | —      |
| Lloyd Esralson   | 414   | 65.3  | 0.45    |               |       |       |        |

## British Columbia (484 species)

| NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  | NAME                  | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  |
|------------------|-------|-------|---------|-----------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Mike Toochin     | 435   | 89.9  | 5.77    | Don Wilson            | 361   | 74.6  | 1.60    |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 423   | 87.4  | 3.17    | Guy Monty             | 359   | 74.2  | 4.58    |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 420   | 86.8  | 3.03    | Brian Stech           | 359   | 74.2  | —       |
| David Stirling   | 413   | 85.3  | 1.39    | Ken Morgan            | 356   | 73.6  | —       |
| Wayne Weber      | 410   | 84.7  | 3.90    | Chris Charlesworth    | 355   | 73.3  | 2.27    |
| Tony Greenfield  | 404   | 83.5  | 3.61    | Laird Law             | 344   | 71.1  | 4.11    |
| David Allinson   | 395   | 81.6  | —       | John Vooy's           | 342   | 70.7  | 12.88 * |
| Dick Cannings    | 392   | 81.0  | 1.08    | Andy Buhler           | 340   | 70.2  | 1.37    |
| Hank Vanderpol   | 391   | 80.8  | 2.11    | Marilyn Buhler        | 340   | 70.2  | 1.37    |
| Russ Tkachuk     | 387   | 80.0  | 3.00    | Gwynneth Wilson       | 337   | 69.6  | —       |
| Bryan Gates      | 386   | 79.8  | 1.01    | Peter Blokker         | 332   | 68.6  | 3.80    |
| Roger Foxall     | 381   | 78.7  | —       | Rand Rudland          | 331   | 68.4  | 3.16    |
| Keith Riding     | 377   | 77.9  | —       | Dannie Carsen         | 328   | 67.8  | —       |
| Barb Begg        | 374   | 77.3  | 1.79    | Marika Ainley         | 317   | 65.5  | 1.18    |
| John Kalman      | 374   | 77.3  | 2.65    | Ken Taylor            | 313   | 64.7  | 1.72    |
| Lloyd Esralson   | 373   | 77.1  | —       | John Sprague          | 311   | 64.3  | —       |
| Gary Davidson    | 370   | 76.4  | —       | Laurie Rockwell       | 308   | 63.6  | 1.12    |
| Mike McGrenere   | 370   | 76.4  | 0.87    | Len Jellicoe          | 304   | 62.8  | —       |
| Stefan Zaremba   | 370   | 76.4  | 1.72    | Dorothy Copp          | 270   | 55.8  | —       |
| Val George       | 368   | 76.0  | 6.45 ** | Joan King             | 233   | 48.1  | —       |
| Ken Klimko       | 367   | 75.8  | 4.88    | Geoff Bate            | 211   | 43.6  | —       |
| Larry Cowan      | 363   | 75.0  | 1.63    | Ivar Nygaard-Petersen | 158   | 32.6  | —       |

## Alberta (394 species)

| NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME          | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|------------------|-------|-------|--------|---------------|-------|-------|--------|
| David Stirling   | 284   | 72.1  | —      | Guy Monty     | 176   | 44.7  | —      |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 244   | 61.9  | —      | Peter Blokker | 175   | 44.4  | —      |
| Roger Foxall     | 241   | 61.2  | —      | Larry Cowan   | 139   | 35.3  | —      |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 239   | 60.7  | —      | Don Wilson    | 129   | 32.7  | —      |
| Wayne Weber      | 235   | 59.6  | —      | Ken Morgan    | 123   | 31.2  | —      |
| Bryan Gates      | 222   | 56.3  | —      | John Sprague  | 84    | 21.3  | —      |
| Dick Cannings    | 208   | 52.8  | —      | Geoff Bate    | 51    | 12.9  | —      |

no winner as nobody reported an increase

## Vancouver Island (387 species)

| NAME           | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  | NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|----------------|-------|-------|---------|------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| David Allinson | 329   | 85.0  | —       | Wayne Weber      | 252   | 65.1  | —      |
| David Stirling | 327   | 84.5  | 4.76    | Jo Ann MacKenzie | 248   | 64.1  | 1.42   |
| Hank Vanderpol | 321   | 82.9  | —       | Hue MacKenzie    | 247   | 63.8  | 0.71   |
| Barb Begg      | 319   | 82.4  | 5.56    | Roger Foxall     | 230   | 59.4  | —      |
| Bryan Gates    | 318   | 82.2  | —       | Larry Cowan      | 182   | 47.0  | 1.91   |
| Mike McGrenere | 313   | 80.9  | 1.33    | Lloyd Esralson   | 181   | 46.8  | 8.44 * |
| Guy Monty      | 278   | 71.8  | 8.40 ** | John Sprague     | 174   | 45.0  | —      |
| Dannie Carsen  | 271   | 70.0  | —       | Geoff Bate       | 154   | 39.8  | —      |
| Ken Morgan     | 266   | 68.7  | —       |                  |       |       |        |

## Queen Charlotte Islands (250 species)

| NAME       | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME               | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|------------|-------|-------|--------|--------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Ken Morgan | 134   | 53.6  | —      | Bryan Gates        | 74    | 29.6  | —      |
| Val George | 125   | 50.4  | 0.80 * | Chris Charlesworth | 58    | 23.2  | —      |

## Vancouver Checklist Area (406 species)

| NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME               | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  |
|------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Mike Toochin     | 346   | 85.2  | 1.64   | Roger Foxall       | 268   | 66.0  | —       |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 339   | 83.5  | 1.47   | David Stirling     | 242   | 59.6  | 0.61    |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 336   | 82.8  | 2.78   | John Vooy          | 240   | 59.1  | 9.29 *  |
| Wayne Weber      | 326   | 80.3  | —      | Bryan Gates        | 235   | 57.9  | —       |
| Keith Riding     | 311   | 76.6  | 2.06   | Brian Stech        | 235   | 57.9  | —       |
| Lloyd Esralson   | 309   | 76.1  | 3.96   | Don Wilson         | 232   | 57.1  | 1.69    |
| Stefan Zarembo   | 305   | 75.1  | 0.98   | Guy Monty          | 230   | 56.7  | 4.86 ** |
| Ken Klimko       | 294   | 72.4  | 3.45   | Chris Charlesworth | 219   | 53.9  | —       |
| Larry Cowan      | 291   | 71.7  | —      | Dorothy Copp       | 143   | 35.2  | —       |
| John Kalman      | 291   | 71.7  | 2.54   | Rand Rudland       | 130   | 32.0  | —       |
| Dick Cannings    | 284   | 70.0  | —      | John Sprague       | 106   | 26.1  | —       |
| David Allinson   | 277   | 68.2  | —      |                    |       |       |         |

## Victoria Checklist Area (362 species)

| NAME           | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  | NAME           | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|----------------|-------|-------|---------|----------------|-------|-------|--------|
| David Stirling | 315   | 87.0  | 6.00 *  | Mike Toochin   | 237   | 65.5  | —      |
| David Allinson | 315   | 87.0  | —       | Wayne Weber    | 233   | 64.4  | —      |
| Hank Vanderpol | 310   | 85.6  | —       | Guy Monty      | 222   | 61.3  | 0.71   |
| Bryan Gates    | 306   | 84.5  | —       | Lloyd Esralson | 141   | 39.0  | 4.33   |
| Barb Begg      | 306   | 84.5  | 5.08 ** | Larry Cowan    | 126   | 34.8  | —      |
| Mike McGrenere | 300   | 82.9  | 1.59    | Geoff Bate     | 149   | 41.2  | —      |
| Dannie Carsen  | 262   | 72.4  | 0.99    |                |       |       |        |

## Okanagan Valley (329 species)

| NAME               | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME           | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  |
|--------------------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Chris Charlesworth | 293   | 89.1  | 5.26   | Ken Klimko     | 224   | 68.1  | 19.85 * |
| Dick Cannings      | 283   | 86.0  | —      | Joan King      | 206   | 62.6  | —       |
| Don Wilson         | 283   | 86.0  | 8.00   | Laird Law      | 206   | 62.6  | —       |
| Gwynneth Wilson    | 282   | 85.7  | —      | Lloyd Esralson | 199   | 60.5  | 3.70    |
| Laurie Rockwell    | 268   | 81.5  | 3.17   | Bryan Gates    | 186   | 56.5  | —       |
| Mike Toochin       | 261   | 79.3  | 4.23   | John Vooy      | 185   | 56.2  | —       |

| NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  | NAME          | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | (OK Valley cont.) |
|------------------|-------|-------|---------|---------------|-------|-------|--------|-------------------|
| Peter Blokker    | 258   | 78.4  | 8.97 ** | Dannie Carsen | 175   | 53.2  | -      |                   |
| Wayne Weber      | 257   | 78.1  | 4.00    | Guy Monty     | 167   | 50.8  | -      |                   |
| Hank Vanderpol   | 250   | 76.0  | -       | Rand Rudland  | 163   | 49.5  | -      |                   |
| Laure Neish      | 248   | 75.3  | -       | Larry Cowan   | 158   | 48.0  | -      |                   |
| Gary Davidson    | 247   | 75.1  | -       | Dorothy Copp  | 156   | 47.4  | -      |                   |
| David Stirling   | 239   | 72.6  | -       | Brian Stech   | 150   | 45.6  | -      |                   |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 236   | 71.7  | -       | John Sprague  | 131   | 39.8  | -      |                   |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 233   | 70.8  | -       | Geoff Bate    | 97    | 29.5  | -      |                   |

## Kamloops Checklist Area (295 species)

| NAME           | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME       | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|----------------|-------|-------|--------|------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Wayne Weber    | 252   | 85.4  | 4.44 * | Guy Monty  | 102   | 34.6  | -      |
| David Stirling | 198   | 67.1  | -      | Don Wilson | 91    | 30.8  | -      |

## Sunshine Coast (288 species)

| NAME            | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME               | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  |
|-----------------|-------|-------|--------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Tony Greenfield | 260   | 90.3  | 6.67 * | Wayne Weber        | 136   | 47.2  | -       |
| Russ Tkachuk    | 236   | 81.9  | -      | Chris Charlesworth | 113   | 39.2  | 4.89 ** |
| Rand Rudland    | 215   | 74.7  | 3.95   | Larry Cowan        | 83    | 28.8  | -       |

## West Kootenay Area (313 species)

| NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME           | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|------------------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Gary Davidson    | 265   | 84.7  | -      | Hue MacKenzie  | 168   | 53.7  | -      |
| Janice Amdt      | 199   | 63.6  | -      | David Stirling | 141   | 45.0  | -      |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 179   | 57.2  | 0.74 * | Don Wilson     | 71    | 22.7  | -      |
| Wayne Weber      | 175   | 55.9  | -      |                |       |       |        |

## Prince George Checklist Area (283 species)

| NAME               | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  | NAME         | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Laird Law          | 254   | 89.8  | 13.04 * | Wayne Weber  | 111   | 39.2  | -      |
| Don Wilson         | 190   | 67.1  | -       | Bryan Gates  | 91    | 32.2  | -      |
| Chris Charlesworth | 157   | 55.5  | -       | Larry Cowan  | 82    | 29.0  | -      |
| Peter Blokker      | 149   | 52.7  | -       | John Sprague | 68    | 24.0  | -      |

## Creston Valley Area (283 species)

| NAME        | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR | NAME       | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR |
|-------------|-------|-------|--------|------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Wayne Weber | 128   | 45.2  | -      | Guy Monty  | 92    | 32.5  | -      |
| Bryan Gates | 125   | 44.2  | -      | Don Wilson | 68    | 24.0  | -      |

no winner as nobody reported an increase

## Washington State (454 species)

| NAME             | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  | NAME               | TOTAL | % TOT | % INCR  |
|------------------|-------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Wayne Weber      | 359   | 79.1  | 1.04    | John Vooy          | 236   | 52.0  |         |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 346   | 76.2  |         | Lloyd Esralson     | 224   | 49.3  | 4.56    |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 340   | 74.9  |         | Chris Charlesworth | 209   | 46.0  | 7.20 ** |
| Mike Tootchin    | 309   | 68.1  | 0.68    | Ken Klimko         | 181   | 39.9  |         |
| David Stirling   | 254   | 55.9  |         | Larry Cowan        | 179   | 39.4  | 0.36    |
| Guy Monty        | 245   | 54.0  | 16.40 * | Dorothy Copp       | 163   | 35.9  |         |
| Keith Riding     | 243   | 53.5  |         | Bryan Gates        | 125   | 27.5  |         |
| Roger Foxall     | 239   | 52.6  |         |                    |       |       |         |

## North Pacific Pelagic Waters

| NAME             | TOTAL | NAME          | TOTAL |
|------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| David Stirling   | 60    | Bryan Gates   | 41    |
| Lloyd Esralson   | 59    | Guy Monty     | 40    |
| Ken Morgan       | 58    | John Vooy     | 24    |
| Val George       | 57    | Mabel Crocker | 20    |
| Mike Tootchin    | 55    | Geoff Bate    | 17    |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 48    | John Kalman   | 17    |
| David Allinson   | 44    |               |       |

## Guide to Birding the Kelowna Waterfront in Winter

by Chris Charlesworth

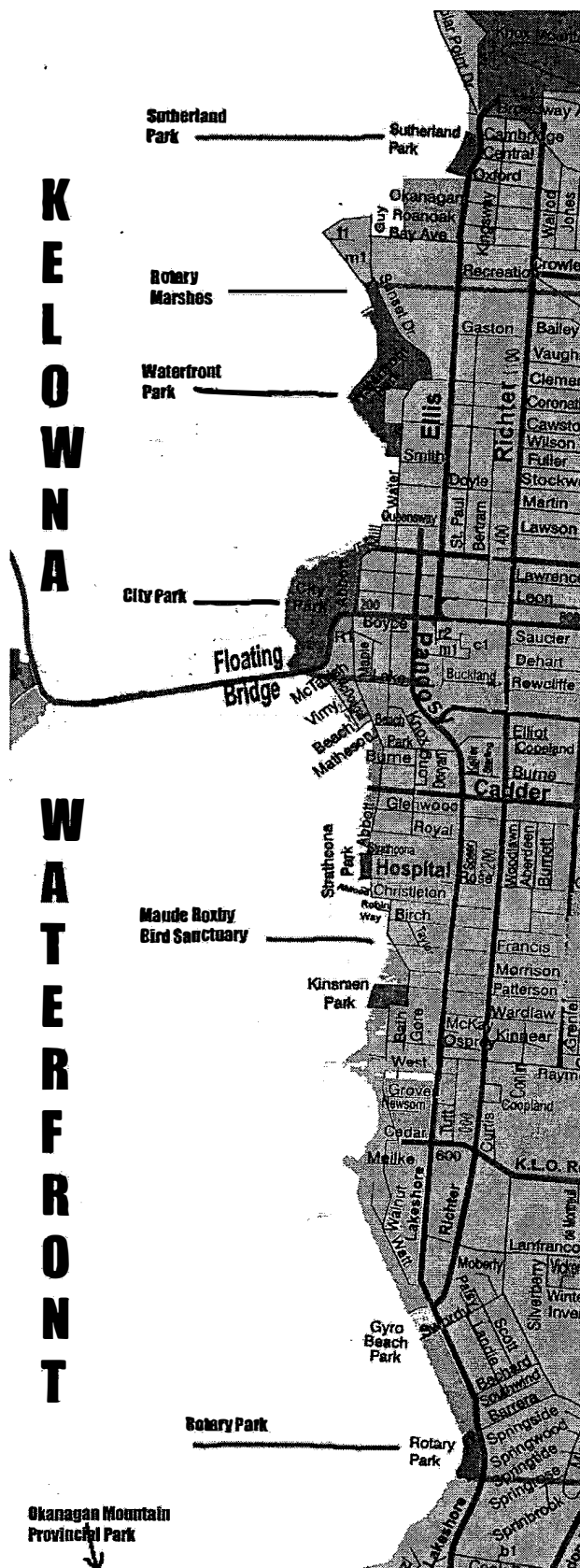
725 Richards Road

Kelowna, BC V1X 2X5

Okanagan Lake extends from Vernon to Penticton, with hundreds of tiny bays and numerous remote rocky shorelines. However, the best birding is often found along city waterfronts. This is the case along Okanagan Lake where large numbers of birds congregate at both the Vernon and Penticton ends of the lake and also along the Kelowna waterfront. From north to south, many locations dot the Kelowna waterfront, including the Rotary Marshes, the Maude Roxby Bird Sanctuary and the waters off Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park. This site guide will take you from the northernmost location, Sutherland Bay, to the more remote shores along Okanagan Mountain Park. Many of the winter water birds appear in October and remain until late March. This is also the best time to see large numbers of gulls roosting on sandbars and feeding off shore. Pick up a city map at any gas station and follow the directions in this guide to have an exciting day of birding in the Kelowna area.

### Sutherland Park

Located in Kelowna's North End, Sutherland Park is one of the most productive sections for waterbirds along the Kelowna waterfront. The park is situated on a man-made bay, one side of the bay being a series of large log-booms. The logs provide shelter and roosting areas for hundreds of waterfowl and gulls. Arriving in late October and remaining until March, approximately 500 ducks call the bay home, including large numbers of Greater Scaup, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Ring-necked Ducks, American Coots, American Wigeons, Mallards, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye and Hooded and Common Mergansers. Horned, Red-necked and Pied-billed Grebes are usually present, and with luck you will turn up a Western Grebe. With a scope, scan the log-booms for Herring, California, Ring-billed, Glaucous-winged and Thayer's Gulls. The occasional Glaucous or Mew Gull may be mixed in as well. Other birds that take advantage of the shelter and roosting opportunities presented by the logs include Great Blue Herons and Belted Kingfishers. Bald Eagles make regular passes over the bay, sending shockwaves through the coot flocks. Over the years a few rarities have appeared in the bay including Yellow-billed Loons in the winter and summer, Surf and White-winged Scoters, Eurasian Wigeons, and Double-crested Cormorants. From Hwy 97 in downtown Kelowna, take Ellis Street, north and continue approximately two km to Sutherland Park, on the left, just past the large Riverside Mill. Park at the boat launch and scan from there.



The Rotary Marshes

Nestled between 20 story high rises and industrial and commercial buildings, the Rotary Marshes are an example of man's attempt to restore wetland habitat. The restoration project has been fairly successful. However, because of encroaching development, the value of the marsh, from a natural perspective, has dropped. The highlight here for most birders and non-birders is a pair of nesting Ospreys that have been lured in by an artificial nest platform. In the winter, however, birding in the marsh is slow. There is often a Lesser Scaup present, rare elsewhere in the area during the winter months. A gathering of 15 or so Buffleheads show off their spectacular plumage to pedestrians at close range and the usual Mallards, Gadwall and Green-winged Teal are often present. The Eurasian form of Green-winged Teal has been recorded here, and with the possibility of a split in the future, it is wise to check through flocks for this Eurasian visitor. The marsh itself is usually fairly quiet in the winter, with nothing more than a few Song Sparrows flitting amongst the bulrushes. However, check the trees surrounding the marsh for possible wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. In 2001, a Palm Warbler successfully wintered in this area. Scan the lake from this location for excellent looks at Horned Grebes, possible Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Loons, and numerous gulls including Glaucous in the winter and Bonaparte's in migration. Other rarities that have appeared here include Tufted Duck, Gyrfalcon, Long-tailed Duck and Yellow-billed Loon. From Sutherland Park drive S. on Ellis St and after about 5 blocks turn right on Water St. Make another right on Sunset Drive and proceed about 150 meters to the park entrance on the left. Park along the side of the road and walk from here.

Waterfront Park, the Kelowna Yacht Club and City Park

Located just north of the Floating Bridge, these three locations are within walking distance of each other via boardwalks and paved pedestrian pathways. From the Rotary Marshes retrace your route to the intersection of Sunset Drive and Water St and turn right on Water. Drive past the Grand Hotel and you will see the Yacht Club soon after on your left. Park in the pay parking lot at the Kelowna Yacht Club. From the parking lot, walk N. past the Grand Hotel along the waterfront boardwalk. On the east side of the boardwalk you will notice a medium sized park with lots of grass and ornamental trees. This park, known as Waterfront Park, is worth a walk in the winter. In the winter of 2001, a Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a Eurasian Wigeon were seen in the park, and an American Dipper was seen regularly on the small man-made creek through the park.

From Waterfront Park, walk south along the boardwalk, back to the Yacht Club. From shore you can scan in between the boats and docks, where numerous ducks, grebes and gulls take advantage of the sheltered waters. There are often good numbers of displaying Hooded Mergansers here. Scan the outer docks for gulls, which often include one or two Glaucous Gulls, a few Thayer's Gulls and numerous Herring, California, Ring-billed and Glaucous-winged Gulls. A Tufted Duck spent about 4 consecutive winters here in the early 1990s.

Continue south along the waterfront pathway to City Park, the large grassy park with towering Black Cottonwoods and ornamental plantings on the north side of the Floating Bridge. The beach in City Park, covered with thousands of sun-worshippers in the summer, is a good place to see waterfowl in the winter. A pair of Great Horned Owls often nests in the large trees in the park and they have been seen sitting on eggs in January. Water birds to watch for include Common Goldeneye, Common Mergansers, American and possible Eurasian Wigeons, and grebes.

Maude Roxby Bird Sanctuary

This location has been the most consistent area for rarities along the Kelowna Waterfront over the years. Included in the long list of winter rarities here are Parasitic Jaeger, Cattle Egret, Iceland Gull, Eurasian Wigeon, Pacific Loon, Surf Scoter, Mute Swan and many others. The Maude Roxby area includes two different habitats; the marsh and the shallow bay to the south, known as Mud Bay. The marsh is often quiet in the winter, with a few Song Sparrows, possibly a Virginia Rail and a few regular city birds present. Blue Jays have appeared here, so be on the lookout. Mud Bay, however, is often full of gulls, geese, swans, ducks and other water birds. The resident flock of Tundra Swans is often accompanied by one or two Trumpeter Swans and it is a good idea to scan through the Canada Geese for a Greater

White-fronted Goose. A large flock of American Wigeon, usually has a single male Eurasian Wigeon in February and March. Other regular ducks include Green-winged Teal, Common Goldeneye, Gadwall, Bufflehead and Mallard. Scan the gulls on the sandbar in the bay for Glaucous, Glaucous-winged, Mew, Thayer's, Ring-billed, California and Herring Gull. Iceland Gulls have turned up here on more than one occasion. Often a Bald Eagle or a Merlin perches in the top of a tall cottonwood to survey the birds in the bay. From the Yacht Club, continue S. on Ellis St to Hwy 97, and turn right. You will need to get in the far left lane as soon as possible, which can be difficult, so you can make a left turn on Pandosy St. Drive south on Pandosy, past Kelowna General Hospital and turn right on Francis Avenue. The sanctuary is located at the end of Francis.

### Rotary Beach

This beach can be good in the winter for swans, geese and gulls. It is worth a check as you drive S. along Lakeshore Road towards Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park. From Maude Roxby, return to Pandosy Street and continue south. The beach can be found on the right side of the road, at Berarra Road. There are often Tundra and Trumpeter Swans here, with Common Goldeneye, Mallards and American Wigeon following closely behind the flocks to pick up any bits of food stirred up by the swans. The area has consistently turned up Mew and Glaucous Gulls over the years as well.

### Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park

From Rotary Beach, continue south along Pandosy through the Mission area of Kelowna. At the Lakeshore Road, Chute Lake Road intersection (flashing amber light) be sure to turn right. Continue along Lakeshore Road, for about 8 km to the park entrance, which roughly begins where the road turns to gravel. While this park is extremely birdy in the summer months, the winter is a slow time in the open Ponderosa Pine forests and desolate beaches, but if you only see 10 species, they are usually high quality species. Watch for Northern Goshawks and Northern Pygmy Owls, two species, uncommon in the area, which are found reliably along the gravel continuation of Lakeshore Road. Find the owl by making regular stops along the road and imitating the owls call. This will also attract Pygmy, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, Clark's Nutcrackers, Townsend's Solitaires and possible Winter Wrens. A number of openings in the forest allow you to scan the lake. In the fall, large numbers of Common Loons gather here to feed on fish eggs, and they are often accompanied by one or two Pacific Loons and a Yellow-billed Loon. Sabine's Gulls have also been seen feeding in with the loons. With a scope, large rafts of Western Grebes can be seen in the middle of the lake from the park. Many old pine snags along the lakeshore are riddled with woodpecker holes from Pileated, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers.

If you visit Kelowna in the winter, be sure to check these locations and, more often than not, you will be rewarded with something good. Report all sightings of rarities to the Okanagan Valley Rare Bird Alert at (250) 491-7738.

### **Notice for Ecological Reserve Wardens**

The Friends of Ecological Reserves and the Federation of BC Naturalists are sponsoring a weekend workshop/conference to be held in early September in Kamloops. All current wardens of Ecological Reserves and anyone else interested in the possibility of becoming a volunteer warden are invited to attend. There will be speakers, discussions, and plenty of time to meet and exchange experiences with other wardens from across the Province.

As details are worked out, they will be posted on the Friends' of Ecological Reserves website at [www.ecoreserves.bc.ca](http://www.ecoreserves.bc.ca) and on the Federation of BC Naturalists' website, [www.naturalists.bc.ca](http://www.naturalists.bc.ca).

**Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park 18-20 July 2002**

by Andy Stepniewski  
291 Windy Point Drive  
Wapato, WA 98951

Ellen and I spent an enjoyable three days at Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park in southernmost British Columbia. The park features rugged terrain with densely forested valleys with an elevation of about 800 meters up to towering granite peaks reaching 2,750 meters. A renowned feature of the park is an extensive zone of alpine meadows ringing the high peaks. Because these peaks lie to the east of the main Cascade Mountain crest, they are very dry, I surmise precipitation is about 85 cm, markedly lower than the 175 to 250 cm recorded at the crest some 80 km west. The subalpine meadow habitats lack the lushness of those to the west. The alpine zone differs, too, being akin, in my opinion, to that which covers huge area of the Canadian and Alaskan 'dry' tundra.

We stayed at Cathedral Lakes Lodge, beautifully situated on the shores of Lake Quinescoe, one of the stunning glacial lakes in the area. Though a bit pricey, we found the lodge very comfortable, with delicious meals and amenities such as a hot tub and canoes. Most important for us was its central location to fabulous day hiking. On advice from friends, we opted for transportation on the private road up to the lodge, saving nine miles and 4,000 feet of elevation gain, a pleasant alternative to the prospect of a lengthy uphill slog in July heat. What we missed was an intimate look at the wonderful forest transect up the road, initially interior Douglas-fir habitats, then subalpine Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir.

The lodge looks out onto Lake Quinescoe, ringed by forests of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole and whitebark pines, and subalpine larch. The view from the lodge is impressive, with granitic ramparts, here and there with lingering snowbanks.

On our arrival, we took the short walk encircling the lake to familiarize ourselves with the area. We noted a molting male Barrow's Goldeneye here atop a tiny rock island in the lake. After our walk, we canoed out to the rock and photographed the rock, observing it was smothered in down and feathers, thus probably a favored haven for the male goldeneye after mating. We were to note single male molted Barrow's Goldeneyes on at least three of the other lakes. We saw no evidence of females or broods. We also saw Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadees, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Fox Sparrows on this mini-hike.

The following morning we took a dawn walk below the lodge, noting Varied Thrush and Boreal Chickadee in the thick spruce forest. Following an early breakfast, we headed off to Lakeview Mountain through the lovely subalpine forest of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, in places with a thick groundcover of grouseberry. We heard a drumming Three-toed Woodpecker near Pyramid Lake and nearby saw one flaking away on a spruce bole.

From Pyramid Lake, we descended about 600 feet to Lakeview Creek, a lively mountain stream bordered by lush zone of willows and alders. I gazed longingly upstream, wanting to explore this habitat, sensing the meadowy reaches upstream would harbor a variety of birds such as Wilson's Warbler and Pine Grosbeak, and probably a number of other species, which we did not see on our other hikes.

About 300 metres above the creek, the subalpine forest began to thin (good for Chipping Sparrow) and soon we left the trees behind and were in alpine meadows. The alpine zone on Lakeview Mountain is expansive, indeed, characterized mostly by dry alpine communities. In the several broad swales, we noted a wetter community with willow thickets, good habitat for American Pipit, and Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows. The number of pipits really surprised me on these slopes. I expect them in alpine seeps, but had not associated them with willow thickets, or dry alpine communities nearby.

We made a good effort for ptarmigan on Lakeview Mountain. Though we observed abundant sign, both droppings and feathers, we saw no birds. This was a little frustrating as the cook at the lodge said she had seen "over a 100" on a September hike. We did manage to hear a few Gray-crowned Rosy Finches flying to and from the few remaining snowbanks on this dry mountain.



Butterflies were flitting about everywhere on Lakeview Mountain, as on our other hikes into the alpine here. In stony situations, we judged most to be a type of checkerspot. In meadow situations, fritillaries were numerous. Less common but conspicuous were blues and Vidler's alpine. Lush subalpine had a few swallowtails. Descending from the boulder-strewn top of Lakeview Mountain, Ellen spied a green butterfly on the tundra. To her surprise, it allowed her to pick it up. Though it was not tattered appearing, perhaps it was near death. We searched through the hairstreak section in Pyle's lovely new book *Butterflies of Cascadia*, the obvious group of green butterflies, but found no species with the exquisite pink border on its wings such as this one sported. Stumped, which is not unusual for butterfly neophytes like us, we placed this lovely butterfly back on the ground. On closer study of that evening, Ellen chanced upon a photo depicting this butterfly, but not in the section she'd been searching. It was not a hairstreak after all, but the Labrador sulphur (*Colias nastes*), which Pyle describes as "... both scarce and elusive, darting low over the stony terrain and dropping mothlike to take shelter ... perhaps no other Cascadian butterfly presents such a difficult challenge to find, watch, catch, or photograph." It is circumpolar in distribution and extends south barely into Washington in alpine habitats. We were to chance upon another half-dozen or so Labradors over the next couple days, all in alpine zone, and all zipping about, as characterized by Pyle. We felt truly lucky that our first rare butterfly should be this prized Cascadia species.

The next morning, we headed off to Red Mountain and then the Diamond Trail, north of the lodge. The initial stretch passes mature Engelmann spruce woods, with a fine ground cover of grouseberry, excellent I judged for both Spruce Grouse and Boreal Owl. Ellen chanced upon an owl feather that I thought might have been a primary from a Boreal Owl.

After about an hour, we climbed above timberline and soon were once again in expansive alpine terrain. In the snowbanks on the northeast flank of Red Mountain, we found all the regularly occurring alpine zone breeding birds, including White-tailed Ptarmigan, Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. The willow thickets just a stone's throw away held Savannah Sparrow and taller willow thickets on the southwest flank of Scout Mountain had both Fox and White-crowned Sparrows, plus recently fledged Mountain Bluebird. A nice collection of alpine 'specialties', indeed.

While hiking around Scout Mountain, we passed some areas of lush subalpine meadows, though still not as vigorous or as extensive as those nearer the Cascade crest. This hike was, very unfortunately, marred by the presence of cattle; we counted at least 40 in the meadows. We were both surprised. The map even depicts this area as part of the 'core' of Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park.

On our final day at Cathedral Lakes, we headed up the Ladyslipper Trail, through lovely subalpine forest of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and the occasional lodgepole pine. We climbed past a lingering snowbank, encircled by subalpine larch, below which was a garland of boulders. Hikers coming up after us mentioned the family of ptarmigans right by the trail, surprising to me, as this spot was in the forest zone. At beautiful Ladyslipper Lake, we admired many rainbow trout in the shallows by the shore.

Above the lake, the trail, after about a kilometer, begins to steeply ascend a rocky slope that was a bit too rugged for my comfort. Ellen continued on and encountered eight Mountain Goat right on the trail near the rim plus two male White-tailed Ptarmigan nearby. Meanwhile, I went back to the spot north and below the lake where ptarmigan had just been reported. Indeed they were ptarmigan, a hen and brood of six. The habitat here, a seep area below a lingering snowbank, was precisely that which is optimum for White-tailed Ptarmigan broods in all respects save one, it was within the forest zone! This was an occurrence I had never seen before. I wonder if breeding success here might be low on account of increased predation given the unusual location.

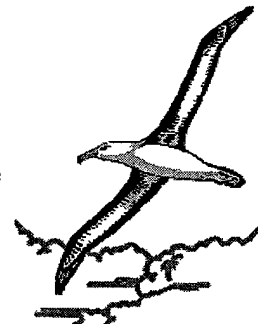
On the ride down to basecamp, I studied the landscape, noting mature Engelmann spruce for about half the distance. In this forest, Ellen spotted the telltale oblong excavations of Pileated Woodpecker on one snag. Lower in the extensive interior Douglas-fir zone, a brilliant male Western Tanager flew in front of the vehicle, a nice ending for a really wonderful getaway.



## ON A WING AND A WAVE

A gentle swell. A warm breeze. A glass of wine in hand. Diomedeidids, procellarids and hydrobatids drifting close to your 55-foot private yacht. What could be better!

I exaggerate. The gentle swell we can hope for, the soothing sunshine may be real, and the birds will be there. But you will be sharing our speedy vessel with 32 others; and coffee and juice will be the drinks of choice, along with hot soup and sandwiches. All of this will make for a lot more enjoyment.



This is your chance to join us for another venture off the northern tip of Vancouver Island. It's **Pelagic 2003** - our third annual excursion out of Port McNeill on board *Naiad Explorer*. Bill, Donna and Tyson Mackay will welcome us aboard at **0700h on Saturday, September 13, 2003**, for 10 intensive hours on the ocean. Once again we will be seeking zones of ocean upwelling near and beyond the seabird nesting colony of Triangle Island. We will try to get close to shore at Triangle this time and, with luck and perfect weather, we could possibly return via the intriguing Cook Bank. We will be searching for elusive albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels, skuas, puffins and many other offshore birds.

Last year's trip was a huge success, as described in the December 2002 issue of *BC Birding*. We ran fast in calm inside waters and found the same placid conditions well out into the open water. We reached a point about 75 nautical miles (nm) off the north end of Vancouver Island and 12 nm west of Triangle. The birds cooperated; we tallied just under 50 species from dock to dock. Humpback Whales, Gray Whales, Dall's Porpoises and Northern Sea Lions added to the excitement.

**THE PLANS FOR 2003:**

**Dates:** Arrive Port McNeill by Friday, September 12 or in time for a **7 AM Saturday, September 13 departure from Mackay Whale Watching on the waterfront at Port McNeill**. Please plan to stay over Saturday night in case weather forces a Sunday morning departure.

**Cost:** \$125 per BCFO member, \$100 for student members in high school or younger, and \$150 for non-members. (The extra \$25 for non-members includes a 2003 BCFO membership).

**Transportation and accommodations:** Your responsibility. Most convenient is the **Haida Way Motor Inn (250-956-3373)**. Tell them you are with the BCFO trip. A good alternative is the **Dellwood Motel (250-956-3304)**. Camping facilities are available in and around Port McNeill.

**To Register:** Demand will be high. To be fair to those who receive this newsletter late, **APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT BY SNAIL MAIL AND MUST BE POSTMARKED MAY 1st OR LATER**. Include your name, telephone number, email address and a cheque or money order for the correct amount. Make the cheque payable to Bryan Gates and mail to:

Bryan R. Gates, 3085 Uplands Road, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6B3  
bgates@pacificcoast.net

You will be required to sign a BCFO liability release form. The *Naiad Explorer* and Mackay Whale Watching are fully insured for group travel.

Once again, we will be hoping to see a Flesh-footed Shearwater and the very rare Short-tailed Albatross this year. And maybe a Streaked Shearwater. Or at least a Thick-billed Murre close to Triangle Island. Join us. We need your eyes.



## Counting Vaux's Swifts at a Roost - How Hard Can It Be?

by Janice Arndt  
901 Highway 3A  
Nelson, BC V1L 6J5

I first witnessed the amazing communal roosting behaviour of swifts back in the summer of 1994. We were living in Fredericton and local naturalists had begun to publicize the roosting site of hundreds of Chimney Swifts on the campus of the University of New Brunswick. So one fair-weather evening my husband and I packed up our infant son and headed to the campus for some wholesome entertainment. It was just as I had read about: large numbers of swifts gathering into flocks above the old chimney as dusk approached, circling in a frenzy, then suddenly dropping in as if falling from the sky. This spectacle has been likened to a whirlpool of water being sucked down a drain, or clouds of smoke curling back into a chimney. Unfortunately, my son, barely a week old, was not impressed and his constant wailing detracted somewhat from that experience.

After moving to Nelson, I learned that Vaux's Swifts roosted in the chimney at the church I attend. I had seen them myself as they flew overhead during their migrations in spring but I hadn't thought much further about it. However, last year when someone reported "several hundred" using the site, I wanted to investigate further. I could find little published information on roosting locations and swift numbers in the B.C. interior. In fact, one source stated that concentrations of more than 200 birds had never been reported away from the coast. Just how many swifts were using this roost in Nelson? Seemed like a simple question, with simple methods to determine the answer - just count the birds as they enter the chimney. No complicated sampling procedures or statistics necessary.

My son, Justin, now eight, has become an eager research assistant. We made our first count on May 19, 2002, followed by four more in two weeks. In late summer we did seven counts between August 25 and September 14. As alluded to in my title, I had to modify my expectations as unanticipated complications cropped up, which I will elaborate on below. Instead of concrete numbers, I must present approximations. Our highest spring count was a minimum of 181 swifts entering the church chimney to roost on May 24. On their return migration, I soon discovered the swifts were using another chimney at an old stone apartment building just a few blocks away from the church; our high count here was 144 swifts on September 4. The birds had apparently all left by the final count on the 14th.

Here are some of the problems we encountered. On our second night out, as the swifts were gathering and beginning to make large sweeps across the sky, a Merlin twice broke up the flocks, and eventually only 17 birds entered the chimney. Along similar lines, a researcher in Oregon attempting to count swifts at a roost in a hollow tree was foiled on several occasions because of the presence of a bear in the cavity. Secondly, the birds are not predictable in their behaviour (I know this shouldn't come as a surprise; that's one reason that birdwatching is so fascinating). Nonetheless, it was frustrating to watch the swifts begin to drop out of the sky, then to have some either veer away at the last second, or re-emerge moments later. Which birds actually went in, and which dropped below the lip of the chimney on the far side? Debates (okay, arguments) broke out, particularly when multiple family members were present.

Furthermore, the human brain is not capable of making rapid transitions (at least mine isn't). When the first birds drop in, the mind ticks them off one by one; when the trickle quickly becomes a deluge, it takes a significant fraction of a second to switch from counting by ones and twos to tens or twenties. Finally, distractions were many. There are people and dogs out on the streets of Nelson on a lovely spring evening, and it's difficult to remain inconspicuous when staring at the sky for long periods of time. One time a driver backed into my parked car as I counted. And as any birder can appreciate, other birds can cause a momentary loss of concentration even at the best of times. Swallows, Calliope Hummingbirds and Common Nighthawks drew our attention away from the swifts, as did the bats that appeared as dusk deepened.

So at best my numbers are decent approximations. But that's okay, they're still useful. And just as important, Justin has made tremendous progress since his first outing back in Fredericton. Not only is he gaining an appreciation for birds, he has also learned some important lessons in real-life problem solving. We had a great time with this project, and


I'm looking forward to the return of these fascinating little birds come spring.

#### Further Reading:

Bull, E.L. 1991. Summer roosts and roosting behaviour of Vaux's Swifts in old-growth forests. *Northwestern Naturalist* 72: 78-82.

Bull, E.L., and C.T. Collins. 1993. Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*). In *The Birds of North America*, No.77. (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.) Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.

Campbell, R.W., N.K. Dawe, I. McTaggart-Cowan, J.M. Cooper, G.W. Kaiser, and M.C.E. McNall. 1990. The birds of British Columbia. Vol. II. Nonpasserines. Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria.

Summers, K., and M. Gebauer. 1995. Status of the Vaux's Swift in British Columbia. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria. Wildlife Working Report WR-67. 

### BCFO Digiscoping Workshop

The Digiscoping Workshop will be held in the Palliser Room of the Radium Resort in Radium Hot Springs, BC from 1:30 - 5:00 pm on Friday 20 June 2003, prior to the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Field Ornithologists. **The Workshop will proceed providing we get a minimum of 15 paid registrants. So - if you are interested in attending, please register.**

Digiscoping is a recent revolutionary advance in bird photography, where pictures are taken with a digital camera coupled to a bird-spotting telescope. The telescope 30-60x magnifications coupled with a camera 4x optical magnification can result in a '35 mm equivalent' focal length of up to 7000 mm; which is equivalent to images magnified to approximately 12x relative to a 35 mm camera equipped with a 600 mm telephoto lens. Digiscoping will prove to be extremely useful to birders, both as a method for obtaining high quality bird pictures and identification evidence.

The advantage of digiscoping over traditional photography is the acquirement of outstanding pictures and the instant viewing of them, by using available, lightweight equipment. However, digiscoping of distant objects is also very challenging, and the purpose of this workshop is to enable one to use this technique successfully.

This workshop will provide some optical principals and technical details involved in digiscoping, and also the selection of suitable cameras, scopes and scope eyepieces. The plan is to have two lectures, an outdoor practicum with two different digiscoping setups and a display of results at the reception.

The organizers of this workshop are Russ Tkachuk and Brian Scott. Interested members please contact Russ Tkachuk (email: rtkachuk@dccnet.com ; telephone: (604) 885-8867; mail: Box 132, Roberts Creek, BC, V0N 2W0).

The attendance notification DEADLINE is 25 May 2003. The workshop fee is \$25.00. A minimum of 15 attendees is required to hold the workshop. Cancellations prior to 25 May 2003, will receive a full refund; after this date, a fee of \$10.00 will be retained.

Attendees need to arrange their accommodation and travel.

Good Birding.

# A Birding Year in the Columbia Valley

Information submitted by  
Ivar Nygard-Petersen

Last September we, your editors, were approached by Ivar Petersen to see whether we, and our members, might be interested in his bird sightings within the Columbia Valley. Since the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM was scheduled for Radium Hot Springs we felt that such sightings would be very appropriate. Ivar recorded sightings almost daily for a year at his home near Canal Flats. He also provided a few months of sightings from Fir Mountain/Findlay Flats area and also from the south end of the Columbia Lakes. His field notes were recorded complete with location of sightings, air temperature, and weather conditions. Some of the original field notes contained drawings of House Finches seen with 'growths' on head and feet and also notes on the colour phase of some of the finches. A few field notes let us know what mammals were also spotted on his outing. Occasionally birds were not seen clearly enough to distinguish actual numbers and/or species so the listings given include and entry for 'Waterfowl' and 'Gull species' and the code 's'=some and 'm'=many. We tallied Ivar's sightings and provide here a listing of the 116 species seen for the year 2002. Numbers represent number of birds sighted during that month. No calculations were made to average the number of sightings/day or to show which part of the month the sightings occurred. Interested members may contact us for those details during March and April but we feel that the original field notes are a valuable resource and will be forwarding them to Dick Cannings for evaluation and final disposition.

| Species           | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug  | Sep | Oct  | Nov  | Dec |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|
| Common Loon       |     |     |     |     |     | 2    | 2    | 5    |     |      |      |     |
| White Pelican     |     |     |     |     | 20  | 47   |      |      |     |      |      |     |
| American Bittern  |     |     |     |     |     | 1    |      |      |     |      |      |     |
| Western Grebe     |     |     |     |     |     | 1    |      |      |     |      |      |     |
| Pied-billed Grebe |     |     |     |     |     | 1    | 2    |      |     |      |      |     |
| Sandhill Crane    |     |     |     |     |     | 1    |      |      |     |      |      |     |
| Great Blue Heron  |     |     |     |     |     | 2    | 2    | 1    | 8   | 22   | 4    |     |
| Tundra Swan       |     |     |     | 3   | 3   |      |      |      |     | 80   |      |     |
| Trumpeter Swan    |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |      | 7    |     |
| Whooper Swan      |     |     |     | 1   |     |      |      |      |     |      |      |     |
| Canada Goose      |     |     | 2   |     | 123 | 79   |      | 347  | 372 | 413  | 572  | 9   |
| Waterfowl         |     |     |     |     |     |      |      | 1317 | 945 | 3052 | 229  | 46  |
| Mallard           |     |     |     |     |     | 4    |      |      |     | 569  | 3487 | 931 |
| Green-winged Teal |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |      | 36   | 12  |
| American Wigeon   |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |      | 4    | 3   |
| Northern Pintail  |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |      | 15   |     |
| Ruddy Duck        |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     | 1    |      |     |
| Lesser Scaup      |     |     |     |     |     | 4    |      |      |     |      |      |     |
| Redhead           |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     | 1    |      |     |
| Blue-winged Teal  |     |     |     |     |     |      | 1    | 1    |     |      |      |     |
| Cinnamon Teal     |     |     |     | 6   |     |      |      |      |     |      |      |     |

| Species                   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May  | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct  | Nov  | Dec |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| American Wigeon           |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      | 4    | 3   |
| Ring-necked Duck          |     |     |     |     |      | 1    |      |     |     |      |      |     |
| Northern Pintail          |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      | 15   |     |
| Common Goldeneye          |     |     |     |     |      | 6    | 6    |     | 19  | 28   | 411  | 4   |
| Bufflehead                |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      | 8    |     |
| Sora                      |     |     |     |     |      |      | 1    |     |     |      |      |     |
| American Coot             |     |     |     |     |      | 5    |      |     | 15  |      |      |     |
| Common Merganser          |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     | 9    | 2180 |     |
| Hooded Merganser          |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     | 2    |      |     |
| Killdeer                  |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     | 3    |      | 2   |
| Long-billed Dowitcher     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     | 34  | 176  |      |     |
| Greater Yellowlegs        |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      | 1    |     |
| Lesser Yellowlegs         |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     | 18  |      |      |     |
| Gull Species              |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     | 1126 | 1784 | 1   |
| Bonaparte's Gull          |     |     |     |     |      | 6    |      |     |     |      |      |     |
| Ring-billed Gull          |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      | 22   |     |
| Herring Gull              |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      | 54   |     |
| California Gull           |     |     |     |     |      |      |      | 10  |     |      |      |     |
| Black Tern                |     |     |     |     |      |      | 16   |     |     |      |      |     |
| Turkey Vulture            |     |     |     |     | 1    |      |      | 3   | 2   |      |      |     |
| Golden Eagle              |     |     |     | 2   |      | 3    |      |     |     |      |      |     |
| Bald Eagle                |     |     |     |     | 5    | 11   | 2    | 1   | 1   | 6    | 46   | 11  |
| Northern Harrier          |     |     |     |     |      | 1    |      |     |     |      | 1    |     |
| Northern Goshawk          |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     | 1   |      |      |     |
| Red-tailed Hawk           |     |     |     |     | 4    |      |      | 1   | 1   |      | 2    |     |
| Osprey                    |     |     |     |     |      |      | 1    | 1   | 1   |      |      |     |
| American Kestrel          |     |     |     |     | 3    | 7    |      |     | 3   |      |      |     |
| Merlin                    |     |     |     | 1   |      | 1    | 1    |     |     |      |      |     |
| Mourning Dove             |     |     |     | 4   | s/42 | 32   | 24   | 30  | 1   |      |      |     |
| Great Horned Owl          |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      |      | 1   |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird |     |     |     |     | 30   | 17   | 11   |     |     |      |      |     |
| Calliope Hummingbird      |     |     |     |     | 17   | 17   |      |     |     |      |      |     |
| Rufous Hummingbird        |     |     |     |     | 61   | 17   | 7    | 8   |     |      |      |     |

| Species                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May   | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Belted Kingfisher       |     |     |     |     |       | 2    |      | 3   |     |     |     |     |
| Northern Flicker        | 1   |     |     | 1   | 1     | 2    | 2    | 1   | 5   |     | 5   | 6   |
| Lewis's Woodpecker      |     |     |     |     | 4     | 8    |      |     |     |     |     |     |
| Downy Woodpecker        | 2   |     |     |     | 3     |      | 3    |     |     | 2   | 8   | 11  |
| Hairy Woodpecker        |     |     | 2   |     |       | 6    | 2    |     | 2   |     | 3   | 16  |
| Pileated Woodpecker     |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     | 2   | 1   |     |     |
| Eastern Kingbird        |     |     |     |     | 1     | s/12 | s/22 |     |     |     |     |     |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher  |     |     |     |     |       | 1    |      |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tree Swallow            |     |     |     | 2s  | 6s/12 | 11s  | 3s   |     |     |     |     |     |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow |     |     |     |     |       | m    | m    |     |     |     |     |     |
| Blue Jay                |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     |     |     | 1   |     |
| Steller's Jay           |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     |     |     | 2   |     |
| Gray Jay                |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     | 3   |     |     |     |
| Clark's Nutcracker      |     |     |     |     | 3     |      |      |     | 5   | 2   |     |     |
| Black-billed Magpie     |     |     | 1   |     |       | 3    |      |     |     | 9   | 54  | 24  |
| American Crow           |     |     |     |     |       |      |      | 42  | 9   | 3   |     |     |
| Common Raven            | 6   |     | 4   | 1   | 3     | 10   |      | 4   | 7   | 14  | 38  | 41  |
| Black-capped Chickadee  | 1   | 1   | 4   |     |       |      |      |     | 5   | 4   |     | 6   |
| Mountain Chickadee      |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     |     |     | 2   |     |
| White-breasted Nuthatch |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     |     | 2   |     |     |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch   |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     | 27  |     |     |     |
| Marsh Wren              |     |     |     |     |       |      |      | 3   |     |     |     |     |
| Mountain Bluebird       |     |     |     |     |       | 10   |      |     | 11  |     |     |     |
| Townsend's Solitaire    |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     |     |     | 6   | 3   |
| Northern Shrike         |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| Gray Catbird            |     |     |     |     |       | 1    |      |     |     |     |     |     |
| American Robin          | 49  |     | 1   | 1   | 14    | 11   | 16   |     | 3   |     | 12  | 3   |
| Bohemian Waxwing        | 158 | 23  | 4   |     |       |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cedar Waxwing           |     |     |     |     | 2     | 4    | 4    | 13  |     |     |     |     |
| European Starling       |     |     | 265 | 35  | 66    | 10   | 4    | 8   |     | 128 | 110 |     |
| Solitary Vireo          |     |     |     |     |       |      |      |     |     |     | 1   |     |
| Warbling Vireo          |     |     |     |     |       |      |      | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Yellow Warbler          |     |     |     |     |       |      | 1    |     |     |     |     |     |
| Wilson's Warbler        |     |     |     |     |       |      | 1    |     |     |     |     |     |

| Species                 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec  |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Common Yellowthroat     |     |     |     |     |     |      | 1    |     |     |     |     |      |
| Black-headed Grosbeak   |     |     |     |     |     | 1    |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Lazuli Bunting          |     |     |     |     |     | 2    |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Savannah Sparrow        |     |     |     | 2   | 10  | 1    | 1    |     |     |     |     |      |
| Song Sparrow            |     |     |     | 2   | 1   |      | 1    |     |     | 8   | 21  | 38   |
| Chipping Sparrow        |     |     |     |     | 2   |      |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Dark-eyed Junco         |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     | 3   |     | 1   |      |
| White-crowned Sparrow   |     |     |     |     | 71  |      |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Fox Sparrow             |     |     |     |     |     |      |      | 1   |     |     |     |      |
| Snow Bunting            |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |     |     | 24  | 25   |
| Western Meadowlark      |     |     |     | 2   | 10  | 22   | 2    |     |     |     |     |      |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird |     |     | 1   | 6   | 38  | 33   |      | 14  |     |     |     |      |
| Red-winged Blackbird    |     |     | 48  | 27  | 248 | m/34 | m/14 | 20  |     | 4   | 462 | 171  |
| Brewer's Blackbird      |     |     |     | s/4 | 19  | 2    | 3    |     |     |     | 27  |      |
| Brown-headed Cowbird    |     |     |     |     | 85  | 6    | 27   |     |     |     |     |      |
| Northern Oriole         |     |     |     |     |     | 1    |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Western Tanager         |     |     |     |     | 3   |      |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| House Sparrow           |     | 5   | 24  | s   | 20  | 15   | 6    | 8   |     | 19  | 283 | 222  |
| Pine Siskin             |     | 13  | 25  | 247 | 419 | 96   | 2    |     |     |     |     | 9    |
| American Goldfinch      |     |     |     |     | 6   | 7    |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Red Crossbill           |     | 5   |     | 6   | 21  | 6    | 1    |     |     |     |     |      |
| Pine Grosbeak           |     | 12  |     |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Common Redpoll          | 497 | 174 | 579 | 3   | 1   |      |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Hoary Redpoll           | 38  | 4   | 4   |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Gray-crowned Rosy Finch | 3   | 6   | 13  |     | 3   | 1    |      |     |     |     |     |      |
| Cassin's Finch          |     |     | 5   | 48  | 121 | 1    | 2    |     |     |     | 11  |      |
| House Finch             | 41  | 14  | 28  | 13  | 79  | 84   | 17   | 8   |     | 251 | 793 | 1039 |
| Evening Grosbeak        | 548 | 176 | 271 | 1   | 11  | 3    |      |     |     |     | 188 | 489  |