

BC BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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Larry Halverson

BCFO 13th Annual General Conference, Radium Hot Springs, June 20-22, 2003

The numerous submissions describing the various field trips and events associated with the annual general meeting in Radium Hot Springs suggest that it was a great success. Field trips began Friday evening with a few hardy participants seeking owls and sacrificing sleep so they wouldn't miss the early field trips Saturday morning. Saturday's outings included marshes, lakes, riparian forest and shrubs, grassland, and hoodoos. Sunday's trips also boasted a great variety of habitats including a rewarding stop at the Invermere sewage lagoons. After the conference 27 people stayed on for the extension trip which took them beyond the Radium area and provided many rewards.

A good portion of this issue features accounts of the field trips, with interesting observations and perspectives from astute participants and group leaders.



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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.

BCFO 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.

Please send membership requests, or requests for further information, to

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

Membership Dues:

Individual memberships	\$25.00
Library subscriptions	\$25.00
Junior memberships (age under 18)	\$18.00
U.S. and foreign memberships	(US) \$25.00

Memberships are for the calendar year.

Send material for publication in any format to the editor. Submissions may include bird finding information for our "Site Guide" series and any articles about birding experiences, preferably but not necessarily in British Columbia.

Please send newsletter submissions to

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Deadline for the receipt of material for publication is the 15th of the month preceding the March, June, September, and December issues.

Advertising rates are available upon request.



President's Report

The 2003 Annual Conference at Radium, June 20-22, was energetic and well attended, and like many of our annual conferences introduced a few improvements to our favorite weekend of the year. First, the Friday reception was immeasurably enhanced by a slide presentation put on by members of the Taiwan Canadian Cultural Society, their bird watching wing. Simon Liao provided an engaging commentary for excellent slides of Canadian and Taiwan birds taken by himself, John Wei, Hank Tseng, and Flicker Liu. This is the first time in my memory that the conference has provided an entertainment on the Friday night, but demanding BCFO members are likely to expect nothing less in future, so upcoming conference organizers will have to program the Friday night accordingly.

Second, I had a chance to reflect on having our members get more out of our field trips, which were ably led by Larry Halverson (Columbia National Wildlife Area – Wilmer Marsh), Kari

Stuart-Smith and Sharon Morgan (Kootenay National Park – Dog Lake), Gerry Wilkie (Radium Hot Springs), Randy Hopkins (Columbia Lake), and Peter Davidson (Friday Night owling). What I appreciated for the first time was how important it was for each trip to have supporting observers with spotting scopes training their lenses on interesting birds. This is particularly important on forest walks, where much of what is recorded is audible only – not much of an experience for less experienced members. On the two trips I accompanied (to Dog Lake and Wilmer Marsh), Bryan Gates provided a helpful model of how this can be accomplished. He also entertained us with his whistle, apparently on permanent loan from a grandchild, with which he mimicked northern pygmy-owls and thereby ruined the idyllic morning for nearby avifauna. Next year, we will try to make the supporting observer function more formalized with each trip. Can Bryan or anybody else find any more of those whistles?

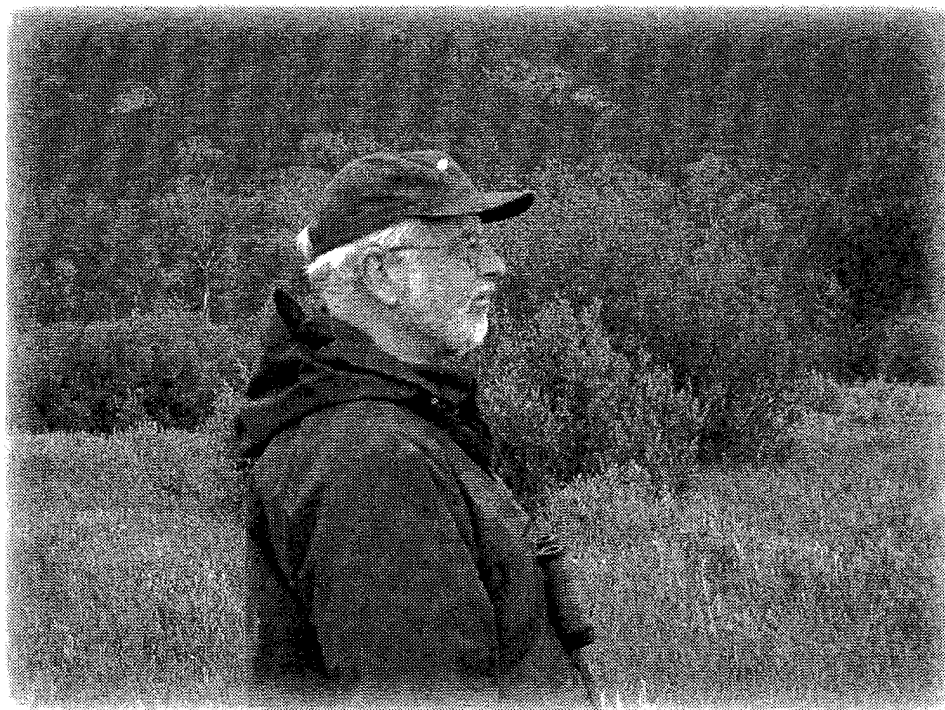
Lastly, at this year's conference we

scheduled a Sunday lunch designed primarily to more formally adjourn proceedings, in place of the more solitary dispersals of members returning from Sunday field trips as in years past. Since this Sunday lunch was well attended, it must have been a good idea. Bryan Gates used this opportunity to corral the Sunday field trip recorders and thus produce a conference bird list. I think we should continue this practice.

Technical presentations comprised much of the Saturday afternoon agenda. We heard interesting talks by Dr. Kari Stuart-Smith, Tembec Industries, Cranbrook ('Songbird Communities and Forest Management', based on her recently completed PhD), Tasha Smith, Bird Studies Canada ('Coastal Waterbird Survey'), and Marlene Machmer, Pandion Ecological Research, Nelson ('Breeding Inventory and Habitat Assessment of Great Blue Herons in the Columbia Basin'). Someone has suggested that in future the coordinator of technical presenters be a woman, so we can have more male scientists give the technical presentations!

The local coordinator for this year's conference, Larry Halverson, was an inspirational tour de force. We knew Larry was a founder and coordinator of the annual Birds over the Rockies Festival, but most of us had not seen him in action. He was hard to keep up with. He gave the banquet speech ('Engaging Communities to benefit Birds and People') which was both a speech as well as a comic performance. Thinking of Bob Hope and the Oscars in the 60s and 70s, can you do this every year, Larry?

After the conference, 27 people, led by Bryan Gates took part in a four day extension trip centering on the Blaeberry Valley, near Golden. Sincere thanks to Bryan Gates, Jim



Larry Halverson

Fliczuk, and Jack Bowling who drove the vans for three days. There were some glitches on the responsibilities and expectations of drivers, and there was a misunderstanding on whether Monday lunch was covered in the trip cost. The mistakes were ours, and we have already taken steps to correct matters.

Many thanks to the Radium Resort which provided comfortable accommodation, excellent conference facilities, and tasty food.

The last but not least conference item is the thanks we owe to those who helped organize and run the conference: Ev Miyasaki (Facilities), Hank Vanderpol (Conference Coordinator), Brian Scott and Nancy Krueger (Registration Desk and Packages), Glen Moores (awards), Dannie Carsen and Sandra Kinsey (Extension), Bryan Gates (Extension Leader), Larry Halverson (Field Trips), and myself (speakers).

At the Annual General Meeting, reported on elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter, our past president, Jo Ann MacKenzie, reported that she and Hank VanderPol would be stepping down from the Board. I enjoyed acting as Jo Ann's vice-president and watching Hank's committed contributions both in coordinating the conferences and advice in our Board deliberations. Thank you for keeping our organization strong and vibrant. In their place, we welcome Andy Stewart (Victoria) and former president Tony Greenfield (Sechelt), acclaimed for two-year terms. In addition, I am pleased to announce that subsequent to the AGM Sandra Kinsey has agreed to serve as Vice-President. Lastly, I want to acknowledge the end of an era – the Buhler Era. For over ten years, Andy and Marilyn Buhler have edited this Newsletter. We are all indebted to them. With this issue

of the Newsletter, we welcome our new editor, Phillip Henderson. Best wishes, Phil!

Since the AGM, BCFO has been invited by the Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection to comment on "A Review of Options for Managing Falconry in British Columbia". To my knowledge, this is the first time in recent years (or ever) that a formal BCFO opinion has been solicited. If you are interested in contributing to the BCFO response, please contact me and I will forward a review copy. Our deadline to the Ministry is October 31.

As your new President, I have several objectives for the Board of Directors to pursue in the coming year. First, I want to continue to support the editors of our Journal, ***British Columbia Birds***, in their efforts to get it back on schedule and to attract manuscripts. Dr. Martin McNicholl will continue to be our editor to the completion of Volume 12, and Dr. John Sprague is starting his editorial duties with Volume 13. Second, I would like the Board to continue encouraging our international links, fortuitously generated by BCFO ornithologists who have immigrated to Canada from Taiwan. In association with other local naturalists, they have created the Canada-Taiwan Bird Fair, which many BCFO members attended last fall. In spite of our title, we try not to be parochial. Third, I would like to continue Jo Ann MacKenzie's successful efforts at increasing our membership. I would look forward to further ideas from you, our members.

Ian Robertson, President



Editor's Notes and Notions

When June's issue of *BC Birding*, the post-last issue of Andy and Marilyn Buhler, arrived in the mail I broke into a cold sweat. I had agreed to take over the editorship of the publication after the Buhlers' finally threw in the towel (only to pick it up again and heroically complete the June issue). Martin McNicholl kindly offered my name as a potential candidate and Ian Robertson called to plant the seed. With the publication of the June issue, the editorship was suddenly mine; it was my responsibility to bring together in a coherent and timely fashion the news of the BCFO, its members, and other items of potential significance to the birds of BC and of interest to those bent on things ornithological. What had I committed to?

The guidance and advice cheerfully offered by Andy and Marilyn Buhler was reassuring. So was the information I received about the BCFO from members much more ensconced in the group than I. I have been a sideline member and must confess that I have not attended an AGM, but that will change. I've never considered myself a "joiner" but I seem to always be joining something, including community groups and the Langley Field Naturalists for which I am the newsletter editor.

I suspect that there are as many reasons people join the BCFO as there are members. I would think the majority of BCFO members enjoy receiving this quarterly newsletter and the more scientific annual publication, *BC Birds*. The opportunity to get together each year at the AGM, explore new areas, and lose oneself in birds with other bird enthusiasts is also, likely, a draw for many.

The reasons for watching birds and the enjoyment that people receive from doing so, are probably as diverse as the people themselves. I like the

following description, especially the last sentence, from Taverner's (1943) introduction to *Birds of Canada*.

Ornithology is one of the problems of nature that may be successfully attacked from so many points of view and in so many ways that there is interesting and valuable work for all to accomplish according to individual taste or opportunity. Those who incline towards systematic work may split their definitions as fine as human powers of observations permit. The animal psychologist can develop his problems as far as ingenuity can devise methods for experimentation. The ordinary nature lover can observe and note as painstakingly as opportunity permits; they may record information of scientific as well as popular interest, take pleasure in observing passing beauties, train his powers of observation, and acquire a knowledge that greatly increased his capacity for appreciating nature. Even the unsentimental, practical man, who has little outward sympathy with abstract beauty, has his attention attracted by the evident economic value of birds.

This newsletter is for you, the membership of the BCFO, and should therefore encompass all interests. I shall endeavour to continue to provide something for everyone, as the Buhlers have in past editions, but this provision requires that you — with whatever interest you may have whether seemingly trivial, monumental or both — submit your thoughts and ideas for publication.

You will recognize elements of the Buhler editions such as the "BC Birding" on the front and I've generally followed their order of material presented. I have kept the Varied Thrush alive and prominent in this issue and hope to continue this fine tradition. (The image is a reproduction of a line drawing by Russ Tkachuck). However, I feel somewhat guilty for abandoning the Steller's Jay, our Provincial bird, even if it is a brash and insolent work of fine coloured feathers. So, I have decided to insert a Steller's Jay somewhere in each issue.

I've spent some time trying to decide on the capitalization of common names. A review of current wildlife

and ornithological periodicals, newsletters, and texts was not of great help, although it did reveal that the majority of these publications favour capitalization. Since *BC Birding* is a popular publication I don't feel obligated to stick to any definitive editorial guidelines established for scientific, biological publications. The Buhlers have capitalized common names for birds in this publication, and Martin McNicholl uses capitals in BCFO's annual scientific publication, *BC Birds*. I have chosen to follow the rules for capitalization established for *BC Birds* (McNicholl 2000). So as not to be accused of favouritism, or subliminal coersion (birds, birds, birds!), I shall use capitals for the common names of all organisms. I will on occasion include the scientific name of organisms but as a general rule they will be omitted.

There is no *Letters to the Editor* section in this edition, because I have not (yet) provided any fodder for derision and attack. I brace myself for the next edition! As editor, I will of course endeavour to print all letters that are favourable, flattering, or which include money sufficient to cover at least a pint at the local establishment.

Phil Henderson, Editor

McNicholl, M.K. 2000. Guidelines for authors. *British Columbia Birds* 10:2-4.

Taverner, P.A. 1943. *Birds of Canada*. The Musson Book Company Ltd. Published by special permission of The National Museum of Canada.



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Compiled by *Martin K. McNicholl*

- Sept. 18-21 2003 **FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS 2003 FALL MEETING**, Kimberley, B.C. Contact: Greg Ross, c/o Rocky Mountain Naturalists, Box 791, Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 4J5; phone (250) 489-1508.
- Sept. 24-27 2003 **WATERBIRD SOCIETY 2003 MEETING**, Cuiaba, Brazil. Contact information to be announced.
- Oct. 16-19 2003 **SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING**, Saskatoon, Sask. Contact: Cheri L. Gratto-Trevor, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4; phone (306) 975-6128.
- Nov. 5-9 2003 **THIRD NORTH AMERICAN DUCK SYMPOSIUM**, Sacramento, Calif. Contact information to be announced.
- Aug. 16-24 2004 **122ND STATED MEETING OF AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION & SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING**, Quebec, Que. Contact details not yet announced.
- Aug. 13-19 2006 **24th INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, Hamburg, Germany. Contact details not yet announced.

B.C. Birding News Briefs

Compiled by *Martin K. McNicholl*

Ornithological Awards in Vancouver –Two of the 2003 crop of Vancouver Natural History Society awards went to naturalists whose contributions are primarily ornithological. John Kalman was given a Garibaldi Award for long service to the lower mainland's rare bird alert and for leading numerous field trips. U.B.C.'s Dr. James N. M. Smith was awarded the Kay Beamish Award for Natural Education for his 40-year record of ornithological research, supervision of research by numerous students, and for the conservation biology and vertebrate zoology courses that he has developed and taught for many years - based on J. McCall. 2003. *Vancouver Nat.* 5(2):4-5.

Three-toed Woodpeckers –When I started birdwatching, two species that eluded me for some time were Arctic Three-toed and American Three-toed woodpeckers. I eventually saw both, and both underwent name changes. Arctic Three-toed became Black-backed Three-toed, then simply Black-backed Woodpecker, while American Three-toed became Northern Three-toed, then simply Three-toed Woodpecker. The latter is recognized currently as a Holarctic species, but recent DNA evidence (R. M. Zink *et al.* 2002. *Condor* 104:167-170) now suggests that our North American birds are probably not the same species as the birds inhabiting Eurasia. So, watch future supplements of the American Ornithologists' Union check-list (the next due in 2004) for yet another possible change.

Congratulations to Pipit Namesakes –An e-mail of 29 July/03 from journal editor, Dr. John B. Sprague, indicates that he was about to leave Salt Spring Island for the opposite coast (Newfoundland) to a bird colony to start a 50th anniversary trip. Congratulations to John and Lois for pairbonding so successfully!

Davidson Recognized –At the British Columbia Federation of Naturalists annual general meeting in Kamloops in May 2003, Gary Davidson of Nakusp was presented with a recognition award for teaching bird courses, monitoring birds in the West Kootenays and various bird publications. Not mentioned in the citation was his important role as the first Chair of B.C.F.O.'s Bird Records Committee - based on Anonymous. 2003. *B.C. Nat.* 41(3):15.

American Three-toed Woodpecker Returns –A procedural change by the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union brought the woodpecker split predicted above a year earlier than expected -check-list supplements are now to appear annually instead of biannually. After turning over my news notes to Phil, the July 2003 issue of the Auk arrived with the 44th supplement to the A.O.U. check-list of North American Birds (Auk 120:923-931). Most of the changes are to scientific names (primarily spelling of species names, but also splitting *Columba* and *Otus* into two genera each and lumping of *Scandiaca* into *Bubo*). A full list of these changes will appear in the December news briefs. The only changes affecting English names of birds that occur in B.C. are the change in the name of Rock Dove (domestic pigeon) to Rock Pigeon and the splitting of Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides tridactylus* into American Three-toed Woodpecker, *P. dorsalis* and Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, *P. tridactylus*.



British Columbia Field Ornithologists
Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting, 21 June 2003
Radium Resort, Radium, BC

1. Call to Order

President Jo Ann MacKenzie called to order the Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists (BCFO) at 3:50 p.m., and welcomed those present.

2. Minutes of the 2002 Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held 8 June 2002, in Williams Lake. Secretary Dannie Carsen read out the Minutes, which had been published in the September, 2002 issue of *BC Birding*.

Motion: To approve the Minutes, by Ian Robertson. CARRIED.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Glen Moores presented the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the year ended 31 December, 2002. Revenue for the year was \$24,897; Expenditures were \$20,556, with a surplus for the year of \$4,341.

The Balance Sheet, at 31 December 2002, shows a balance of \$27,758, with Liabilities and Members' Equity Total of \$35,635.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report; by Glen Moores. CARRIED.

The question "are we okay for organizations of our size or should we spend money?" was to be discussed by the assembled members. A questionnaire with 6 categories of expenditure was circulated by Glen and Judy Moores and marked by members present. Members suggested journal honorariums, workshops, bird records committee participants' travel and expenses as worthy expenditures. The survey results (first choices only) of the members gathered were:

- 10 Journal
- 9 Workshops
- 6 Records Committee
- 2 Website
- 1 Marketing
- 0 Other

5. Membership Report

Rita Wege presented the report, having taken over membership in May, 2002. Renewal notices were sent in the September 2002 newsletter and a March 2003 renewal notice was also sent.

To date, membership stands at 234 (greater than 203 of last year). Members were contacted by email (or telephone if necessary) and encouraged to renew. Email was considered the effective way to communicate with BCFO members. Please let Rita know if your email address (or mailing address) has changed, preferably by email at rwege@telus.net.

A Membership List for the year 2002 was distributed with the September 2002 newsletter. A "Welcome" list of new members was published in the June 2002 newsletter.



Our website, is used by more people every year. We are indebted to Kevin Slagboom of KS Design for providing this site, at no cost to BCFO.

6. Newsletter Report

BC BIRDING co-editor Marilyn Buhler presented the editors' report. Thanks to Rita Wege for always getting the labels out in a timely fashion and to Sheila Mosher for getting everything bundled up and mailed. Thanks also to the many authors who contributed to making the newsletter a success including regular columnists Jo Ann for the president's message, the directors for their reports, Martin for the news briefs and events, Ken for the Bird Lister's Corner, CBC organizers, and Don Cecile and Dick Cannings for the new BC bird sightings summary.

As we begin a new chapter in the Okanagan Valley, we would like to thank Phil Henderson for taking on the editorship. We wish him every success and look forward to the upcoming issues.

7. Journal Report

British Columbia Birds editor Martin McNicholl presented the journal report. With the assistance of the Buhlers, Volume 9 was published and Volume 10 is being proofed. Volumes 11 (2001) and 12 (2002) are well underway and we await a few submissions to complete them. The future of the journal still rests in the hands of the members. More of you need to submit material.

Special thanks are due to editorial board members Ken Morgan and Dr. Mary Taitt for serving on our editorial board as our internal reviewers, and to Andy and Marilyn Buhler for layout. Members and non-members were thanked for submitting material, suggesting the journal to other potential authors, agreeing to undertake reviews of books, and submitting photographs. Please keep John Sprague's mailbox busy so we can return to schedule by the next AGM.

8. President's Report

Jo Ann MacKenzie outlined the achievements of the past year and a few still to be attained.

The Board is still committed to re-establishment of a BC Bird Records Committee – a small technically competent group that processes records in a timely manner. Director Brian Scott continues to work on this. We continue to work on access to some BC bird record data with the FBCN taking the lead.

Directors agreed to co-sponsor with Bird Studies Canada an annual workshop on volunteer-based birding programs to inform volunteers about the uses of the data and discuss project planning. BCFO will also be one of the co-sponsors of the 2003 Canada Taiwan Bird Fair in Vancouver in November. Dannie Carsen is now our Field Trip Coordinator and would appreciate trip suggestions.

One of the more important activities of the year is the Annual Conference and extension trip. Our members have an opportunity to explore and learn about the birdlife of an area we many not have visited. The presentation of technical papers foster cooperation between amateur and professional ornithologists and inform us about the work being done by students and ornithologists in the region. For arranging this year's conference and extension we owe our thanks to Directors Hank VanderPol, Dannie Carsen, Sandra Kinsey, Ian Robertson and former director Ev Miyasaki. Further, we thank Larry Halverson of Parks Canada who has been the local member of the team. Special thanks are due to Past President Bryan Gates for his willingness once again to lead the extension.

Hank VanderPol and I are leaving the Board of Directors. Hank has served for six years, the maximum allowed by our Bylaws and I have served for four years, three of them as Secretary and the last year as President. I want to express my appreciation to the directors who served with me on the board this year: Vice-President Ian Robertson, Treasurer Glen Moores, Secretary Dannie Carsen; also Dick Cannings, Krista de Groot, Sandra Kinsey, and Brian Scott. We strived for a balance of professional ornithologists and amateur birders on the board. This has been a good Board of Directors.

Our membership chair, Rita Wege, who just took over the task a year ago, has done an excellent job with updating the membership list and solving the inevitable computer problems. Thanks are also due to Sheila Mosher, another important member of our team, who is responsible for getting the newsletter in the mail to you. Thanks to Dick Cannings and Dannie Carsen who contributed their time in revising the membership brochure, to Kevin Slagboom for continuing to maintain our BCFO web site, and especially to Hank VanderPol who spent many months compiling a Policy and Reference Manual.



Our members are privileged to have Bryan Gates organize our annual pelagic trip. Pelagic 2003, again out of Port McNeill on September 13, 2003, had 33 members committed almost immediately and there is an extensive waiting list!

Our Archivist, Hue MacKenzie, maintains complete sets of newsletters, journals, minutes, profiles of officers, and other documents that chronicle the activities of the society. Occasionally, he has been known to assist the current President! Thank you, Hue.

Our Board meetings are held in directors' homes. The families of Ian Robertson, Dick Cannings, and Brian Scott must be recognized for hosting meetings this year.

Additionally, I thank you, the members for your support and ask that you continue to contribute. How? By writing articles for the newsletter, submitting papers for the journal, and providing your expertise when the board needs your help.

The BCFO is healthy and growing. As I step down from this Board, and welcome the new one, I know that the society is in good hands.

9. Election of Directors

Jo Ann MacKenzie presented the slate of nominees for 2003–2004. Andy Stewart (Victoria), not present at this meeting, and Tony Greenfield (Sechelt), were nominated for a two-year term. Standing for re-election for a 2-year term were Ian Robertson (Langley) and Glen Moores (Victoria). Appointed in 2002 and standing for election for a one-year term were Richard Cannings (Naramata) and Krista de Groot (Vancouver). There were no other nominations.

These candidates were declared elected by acclamation.

Completing the second year of a two-year term and not standing for re-election were Dannie Carsen (Victoria), Sandra Kinsey (Prince George), and Brian Scott (Langley).

10. Other Business

(a) Motions: None

(b) Annual Conference 2004: Preliminary plans indicate a West Coast venue, probably Tofino or Ucluelet, in the late summer or fall.

(c) Other: None.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Marilyn Buhler. CARRIED.

Jo Ann MacKenzie adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Dannie Carsen, Secretary



British Columbia Field Ornithologists
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the year ended December 31, 2002
(Unaudited)

	2002	2001
Revenue		
Membership	\$ 5,679	\$ 6,120
Conference extension	9,445	11,988
Conference fees	3,315	3,450
Donations	5,221	1,039
Field Trips	208	4,200
Advertising	225	75
Interest	781	560
Miscellaneous income	23	-
	<u>\$24,897</u>	<u>\$ 27,432</u>
Expenditures		
Conferences extension	7,209	7,011
Conference facilities	2,996	1,344
Printing	1,475	1,536
Postage	1,247	1,322
Donations	1,800	926
Travel	3,923	1,544
Field trips	-	3,668
Stationery	40	118
Miscellaneous	246	135
Future Printing of Journal	1,500	2,200
Bank charges	118	-
	<u>\$ 20,556</u>	<u>\$ 19,806</u>
Surplus (deficit) for the year	<u>\$ 4,341</u>	<u>\$ 7,626</u>

Balance Sheet: December 31, 2002

	2002	2001
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash in banks	\$ 35,047	\$ 27,883
Receivables	587	956
Total Assets	<u>35,635</u>	<u>28,839</u>
Liabilities and Members' Equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 405
Deferred revenue	1,776	417
Future payable	6,100	4,600
	<u>7,876</u>	<u>5,422</u>
Members' Equity		
Balance, beginning of the year	23,417	15,791
Net earnings for the year	4,341	7,626
Balance, end of the year	<u>27,758</u>	<u>23,417</u>
Liabilities and Members' Equity Total	<u>\$ 35,635</u>	<u>\$ 28,839</u>

Glen Moores, Director



Field Trip Reports: BCFO Annual General Meeting, Radium Hot Springs, June 20-22, 2003

June 20, Friday Evening

Late Friday evening, fourteen souls went owling under the leadership of expert local birder Peter Davidson. At two favoured locations, we enjoyed satisfying calls and swoops of half-a-dozen nighthawks, and occasional fine drizzle. Those with keen ears heard Hammond's and Least flycatchers which apparently call all night. The only thing lacking was an owl sound. We called it quits early to allow four solid hours of sleep before the morning expeditions.

John Sprague

June 21, Saturday Morning

Wilmer Marsh

Some 20 people spent Saturday morning around the Wilmer Marsh Unit of the Columbia National Wildlife Area, led by Larry Halverson of Parks Canada. Sharon Morgan, another park naturalist in Kootenay National Park, has musical talents and provided word-jingles to remember the bird calls (Vesper Sparrow: "here ... here ... over there ... everybody down the hill"). Glen Moores and Marion Porter also found us a lot of species. In the Horse Creek drainage, we had a riparian walk through woods, then brush, to grassy wet fields. This was accompanied by a constant racket of Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, some shy redstarts, baby mountain chickadees, and three Wilson's Snipes in view at once. Other notables were a Columbia Spotted Frog and unidentified mosquitoes, same size as the chickadees but not fierce. A second windy but pleasant hike took us over hills of sparse grassland, juniper and rabbitbrush to the ponds along the Columbia River, where a good assemblage of grebes, ducks, and raptors greeted us.

John Sprague

Dog Lake

Our trip to Dog Lake inside Kootenay National Park began with bear sightings on the highway. Just past the tunnel, well before arriving in the park, we stopped to check out Mountain Ladyslipper's extraordinary white flowers.

The trip continued to be a big mammal, botany tour with several deer seen in the parkway and our first stop on Wolf Island redolent with the scent of Wolf Willow. Wolf Island, connected to the park by suspension bridges over the Kootenay River, also provided a showing of orchids. The birds, reluctant to come show their true colors, played hide and seek with us; many were identified by song. The island did offer warbler sightings and the river showed us the ubiquitous Canada Goose. A two kilometer trek through the forest showed us many more native plants. We braved the flooded path and hiked into the lake for the more interesting part of the birding. A loon pair were fishing to feed their youngster. Four swallow species cruised about, keeping the insects in check. The Red Crossbills did a fly-by. Common Yellowthroats and other warblers frequented the reeds. The return trip took us alongside the stream then met up with the fire trail. Near the crossroads the photo buffs took the opportunity to immortalize the Yellow Ladyslippers. We searched for the woodpeckers; we could hear their drumming but they eluded our sight. Close to the end of the fire trail we spotted a spruce grouse with six chicks. On the return trip we saw mountain sheep grazing and more bear foraging along the roadside. Altogether we counted 35 bird species. Walking the trail with park naturalist Sharon Morgan made the trip informative and heightened our appreciation of our natural surroundings.

Bird species identified: American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, Townsend's Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Mountain Chickadee, Lincoln Sparrow, Canada Goose, Belted Kingfisher, Red Crossbill, Common Raven, Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Tanager, Tree Swallow, Pileated Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Violet-green Swallow, Ring-necked Duck, Willow Flycatcher, Macgillivray's Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Wilson's Snipe, Spruce Grouse, and Spotted Sandpiper.

Mike & Doreen Dyson

Dog Lake

The field trip to Dog Lake in Kootenay National Park on Saturday, 21st June took us through mid-elevation forests of Douglas-fir, western redcedar and spruce, and yielded a variety of species such as Hammond's Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Brown Creeper, both kinglets, Swainson's Thrush and Townsend's Warbler. The highlight of the trip for many was the family of Three-toed Woodpeckers that we discovered by following some tell-tale tapping to its source.

Dog Lake is a shallow forested pond with emergent vegetation that hosted a yodelling Common Loon, Common Yellowthroat and a singing Lincoln's Sparrow. Whilst we scanned the lake a Sharp-shinned Hawk with prey in its talons flew past with a flock of Pine Siskins in pursuit mobbing it – they obviously protesting the demise of one of their number.

The trip logged 32 species.

Tony Greenfield



Dutch Creek Hoodoos and the Columbia Lake Headlands

On this trip south from Radium we enjoyed the experience of extremes in elevation from being at the summit of the hoodoos looking down over the valley to descending down to the marsh areas of the lowlands giving us a great variety of scenery, flora and fauna.

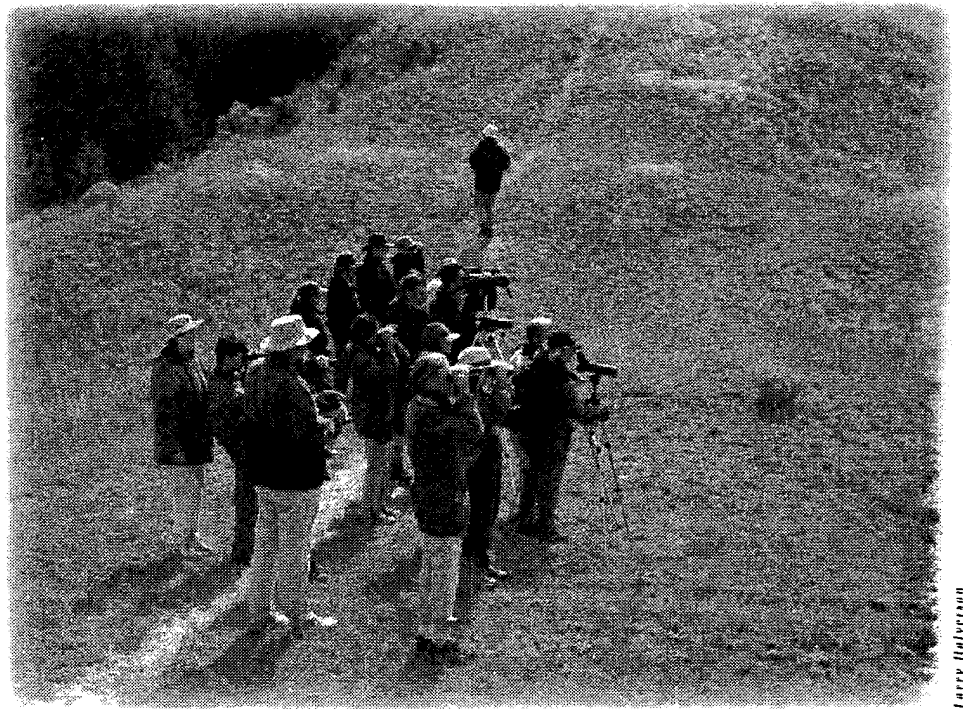
On the way our leader, Randy Hopkins, had several treats for us. Almost immediately after our 6:10 departure, we turned into a cattle property owned by Mrs. Kempton, who is a bird lover at Windemere. Immediately, Randy spotted a calling Long-billed Curlew. We all got great looks. Soon, we spotted another curlew. One stood on an irrigation pipe and "sang" for a bit. They flew up together and showed their field marks several times.

In the same range, we saw and heard a Western Meadowlark singing. A Vesper Sparrow landed on a post carrying food a couple of times. Not far away an Osprey was sitting on its nest. After a couple of days, we realized that the Columbia headwaters are the world's Osprey capital and we became blasé about Ospreys.

After this brilliant start, we proceeded south to the top of the Hoodoos at Dutch Creek for a chance to see White-throated Swifts. We saw Mule Deer on the way up. Just as we parked we spied a 2 or 3-year-old black bear. On the walk to the top we had good looks at and heard a Dusky Flycatcher and a Western Tanager.

At the top, the White-throated Swifts that are supposed to nest there weren't making themselves visible so we enjoyed a Great-blue Heron heronry in the distance, a perched Bald Eagle, many Violet-green Swallows and the magnificent scenery and plant life.

Just as we were leaving the magical



Larry Halverson

Hoodoo formations, Brian Scott heard the swifts and sure enough four swooped in. In the end there may have been up to 15. Eventually they came very close and below us so that we could see their markings perfectly.

We then explored the bottom of The Hoodoos and saw and heard several more species such as an American Redstart and a Red-eyed Vireo singing its heart out.

Finally we reached the Columbia headlands where it was raining some (so much for the dry interior!). A highlight was a Moose that hid quite expertly behind the reeds much of the time.

Four kinds of swallows were seen, including Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Some of us observed at close range two Cedar Waxwings sitting on a branch together. For about four cycles they sidled up to each other, bumped then moved apart. Finally one jumped the other and they copulated. Dannie Carsen took a photo of the deed.

We then started our way home and dropped into a new housing estate

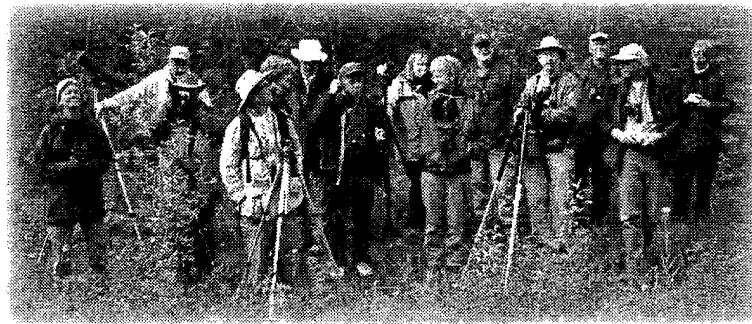
near an airport in Riverside near Fairmont, looking for a Lewis's Woodpecker. It landed in a dead tree and out popped its mate from a cavity. Not everyone saw them unfortunately.

The rain then became very heavy and we started back.

Fifteen people in four vehicles took part. The group species total was 61 species.

Sandra Eadie





Larry Halverson

June 22, Sunday Morning

Columbia Lake

This trip on Sunday, 22nd June, explored various habitats south of Radium on both the east and west sides of the Columbia wetlands. The first stop was at a long grass meadow beside the highway near Invermere where we admired a pair of the ever spectacular Long-billed Curlews flying and calling. Other grassland species noted here were Mountain Bluebird, Clay-coloured and Vesper sparrows and Western Meadowlark.

Further south along the highway at Fairmont Hot Springs in open, grassy riparian habitat we observed Lewis' Woodpeckers (that also perched on houses), and watched Black Terns over the wetlands.

Driving along the highway we noted the proliferation of Osprey nests on the hydro poles, a significant feature of the birdlife of the Rocky Mountain Trench. A visit to both the top and the foot of the very impressive hoodoos at Dutch Creek failed to locate the White-throated Swifts that occur here. June Ryder, an expert in Pleistocene geology interpreted the formation of the hoodoos for us. We returned to Radium along the west side of the Columbia wetlands and added numerous waterbirds and passerines at a small pond. The Invermere sewage lagoons produced many duck species to boost our trip list to 70 species.

Tony Greenfield

Wilmer Marsh

Wilmer Marsh Unit is 5 km north of Invermere on the west side of the Columbia. The river is slow here and forms a variety of ponds, marshes and levees. A dry Douglas fir forest looks down on the area. The valley is an important flyway for migratory birds and many stay to breed. The views from the high benches (about 30% of the area) are breathtaking.

Sixteen people went on the trip. We had an excellent start as we spotted a Long-billed Curlew in a field as we drove towards Invermere.

We first had a woodlands walk to the marsh. Bryan Gates's played the Northern Pygmy Owl call on his toy saxophone and brought out many Red-breasted Nuthatches shouting at us. It was just amazing to see them come in at the call.

Along the way we came across a Red-eyed Vireo nest with an egg in it. Later we saw a pair of Red-naped Sapsuckers going in and out of their nest. We also saw Mountain Chickadees visiting their nest.

Many beautiful flowers delighted us including Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis* - named after the famous founder of taxonomy, Linnaeus) and the Round-leaved Orchis (orchid).

At the end of the walk we came to a lovely marsh where Yellow-headed Blackbirds were plentiful. Three Black Swifts, a year bird for many, flew over.

On the way back we stopped at a meadow where we had spectacular

views of a Black-throated Hummingbird which stayed still for us for an extended period. Just at the end of this walk an Orange-crowned Warbler sang in plain view for us.

We then proceeded to Ritchie's Point where we climbed along the high cliff/promontory/bench overlooking the wetlands. The views over the marsh in the valley and the high hills on either side were just lovely. We saw a Goldeneye and a Red-necked Grebes with young. A sub-adult Herring Gull was loafing on a rock. Black Terns flew over the marsh.

Of course Ospreys were "everywhere". The Valley must be the Osprey capital of the world. Ducks included Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Goldeneye, Common Merganser.

A special goodbye treat as we walked back was a male first year sing Bullock's Oriole in its bright yellow plumage. Western Meadowlarks were singing as well.

Sandra Eadie



Larry Halverson



Bird List, BCFO Annual Conference, Radium Hot Springs.

(Birds seen or heard during the 13th BC Field Ornithologists' annual general conference, Radium Hot Springs, BC)

Submitted by *Larry Halverson*

Leading

I was very pleased to take out two field trips for BCFO Sat June 21 and Sunday June 22. On both days we escaped the heavy showers that pounded down in the afternoons and evenings. Weather was generally cool with low and heavy cloud cover.

We concentrated on two areas, both within minutes of the Radium Lodge. The first area is, despite its proximity to the Radium lumber mill, a remarkably productive wetland pond of about 5 ha bordered by the Columbia River and riparian habitat featuring willow, cottonwood, and spruce.

We then moved on to a stroll along a quiet old road winding through the Dry Interior Douglas-fir forest dropping off to the wetlands and the meandering channels of the Columbia River.

Both days we saw 50+ species. Representative birds: Vesper and Clay-coloured sparrows, Cedar Waxwings, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Lazuli Bunting, Veery, Catbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Wood Duck, Red-necked Grebe, and Common loon.

Gerry Wilkie

Common Loon	Vaux's Swift	Cassin's Vireo
Pied-billed Grebe	White-throated Swift	Warbling Vireo
Red-necked Grebe	Black-chinned	Red-eyed Vireo
American Bittern	Hummingbird	Orange-crowned Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Calliope Hummingbird	Yellow Warbler
Mute Swan	Belted Kingfisher	Magnolia Warbler
Canada Goose	Lewis' Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Wood Duck	Red-naped Sapsucker	Townsend's Warbler
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	American Redstart
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush
Blue-winged Teal	Three-toed Woodpecker	MacGillivray's Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat
Northern Shoveler	Pileated Woodpecker	Wilson's Warbler
Canvasback	Western Wood-Pewee	Western Tanager
Redhead	Willow Flycatcher	Lazuli Bunting
Ring-necked Duck	Least Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Hammond's Flycatcher	Clay-colored Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Dusky Flycatcher	Vesper Sparrow
Barrow's Goldeneye	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Savannah Sparrow
Bufflehead	Eastern Kingbird	Song Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Gray Jay	Lincoln's Sparrow
Common Merganser	Black-billed Magpie	Dark-eyed Junco
Ruddy Duck	American Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Common Raven	Western Meadowlark
Osprey	Tree Swallow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Violet-green Swallow	Brewer's Blackbird
Northern Harrier	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bank Swallow	Bullock's Oriole
Red-tailed Hawk	Cliff Swallow	Purple Finch
American Kestrel	Barn Swallow	Cassin's Finch
Merlin	Black-capped Chickadee	House Finch
Spruce Grouse	Mountain Chickadee	Red Crossbill
Wild Turkey	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Pine Siskin
Sora	Brown Creeper	Evening Grosbeak
American Coot	Winter Wren	House Sparrow
Killdeer	Marsh Wren	
Spotted Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Total number of species seen or heard: 125
Long-billed Curlew	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Common Snipe	Mountain Bluebird	
Ring-billed Gull	Veery	
Herring Gull	Swainson's Thrush	
Black Tern	American Robin	
Rock Dove	Gray Catbird	
Mourning Dove	European Starling	
Common Nighthawk	Cedar Waxwing	
Black Swift		



Thanks to all of you!

An Annual Conference can only be successful with the involvement of many people. As such, I would like to acknowledge those who assisted so ably in making the recent BCFO Annual Conference, with over 80 people attending, such a success.

Larry Halverson, our on-the-spot organizer, deserves top honours for all the work he did in assisting me and others in organizing the conference. He was the banquet speaker; he organized the field trips, and led one of them; he arranged media exposure; he obtained various donations; and he did many of the little things which made this conference so much fun.

Kari Stewart-Smith, Randy Hopkins, Gerry Wilkie, Peter Davidson and Sharon Morgan for leading the field trips.

Tasha Smith, Marlene Machner and Kari Stewart-Smith for their informative Saturday afternoon technical presentations.

Chase Jestley and Colin McGarrigle, reporters with The Valley Echo newspaper, for bringing the BCFO and the Conference to the attention of the local population.

Kicking Horse Coffee Company of Invermere for not only donating small packages of coffee for each registrant, but also for providing more coffee as door prizes. Kick Ass is definitely my favourite brand.

Dave's Book Bar of Invermere for donating several books as door prizes.

Ev Miyasaki for arranging the site and accommodation, the Friday night social, the banquet and the breakfasts.

Ian Robertson for getting the afternoon presenters and the banquet speaker, and for MC'ing the Saturday pm session.

Brian Scott for taking overall responsibility of the registration desk and the registration packages.

Sandra Kinsey for assisting Larry with organizing the field trips.

Marilyn and Andy Buhler, our former editors, for keeping us well informed about the conference in the Newsletter.

Jo Ann MacKenzie for MC'ing the banquet evening, and for assisting in many of the little things that count so much.

Glen Moores for assisting with the registration acknowledgements, and the finances.

There were many organizations which provided a display of some kind or the other, some large, some consisting of no more than informative pamphlets. Those include Parks Canada, The Nature Trust of BC, Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture, Friends of the Columbia Wetlands Society, Naturescape BC, Nature Conservancy of BC, Wings over the Rockies, and the Kicking Horse Coffee Company. I may have forgotten some people or organizations. If so, I apologize. To all others who contributed, from keeping track of birds seen on field trips, to writing a summary of the field trips, thanks so much.

Hank VanderPol, Conference Coordinator

Ed. note: Thanks to Hank Vanderpol for his great efforts and success.



BCFO Extension 2003: The Blaeberry Valley, British Columbia. June 23-25, 2003

Day 1

Following a very successful and informative Annual Conference at Radium Resort, 27 of us settled into a convoy of vehicles on Monday, June 23 and headed north in the Rocky Mountain Trench. Our eventual destination was the Goldenwood Lodge in the Blaeberry River valley. The Blaeberry flows southwest out of the towering Rocky Mountains, joining the Columbia River north of Golden. As should be the case, it was our desire to explore yet another part of British Columbia. We were ready to test the raw beauty of the Rockies and their western foothills, and to search out the birds that nest in or migrate through the Southern Interior Mountains Ecoprovince. The weather? Well, it was threatening, but we were determined.

Local birder Bob Ferguson met us just as a nasty rainsquall hit the Brisco General Store, but by the time he led us down to the Columbia wetlands and riparian forests below Brisco, the sun had burst through. Virginia Rails, Soras, and an immaculate Common Yellowthroat filled our scopes. Bobolinks, blackbirds and swallows lined the fences and irrigation pipes. Mixed waterfowl, Wilson's Phalarope and Wilson's Snipe added to the 30 species we saw here. And our luck with the weather held out. Just as we raced back under the porch of the Brisco store, the rain returned. We relaxed with a coffee and stayed dry as we drove north.

Still led by Bob, and with the sun breaking through again, the valley bottom at Spillimacheen was our next stop. Keen eyes spotted distant Bullock's Orioles and a singing Swainson's Thrush. A cooperative Northern Waterthrush sang and

teetered on a log as it fed close to the road. We enjoyed about the best look one could imagine of a Veery as it gathered nesting material among the wet roots of willows. Hammond's, Alder and Willow flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds and Western Wood-Pewees were finding insects, while Purple Finches and Mountain Chickadees were a bit of a surprise in this mixed marsh habitat. We identified 26 species here.

After a group lunch in Golden, we continued north, arriving at scenic Goldenwood Lodge at 3 PM. Rooms were allocated in the lodge itself or in beautifully appointed wood cabins. One of our new Taiwanese members even chose to sleep in an authentic teepee. Excellent meals were served buffet style in the spacious dining lodge, all prepared with Swiss flair by our hosts Barbara Friedli and Andre Weilenmann. We birded the Goldenwood property first, finding Rufous, Calliope and Black-chinned Hummingbirds and Red-eyed Vireos, among others. An evening walk through the lodge property (Interior Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone) led to Old Johnson Road, where a Ruffed Grouse was heard and a Magnolia Warbler seen. We will never know whether it was our poor vocal imitations of a Barred Owl 20 minutes earlier, or the realistic imitation of both Northern Pygmy-Owl and Western Screech-Owl emanating from my grandson's toy saxophone, but a pair of Barred Owls raised our excitement as they suddenly duetted from a nearby aspen/spruce/fir stand. Their sounds were chilling. We had fleeting glimpses of them as they approached. Most memorable!

Day 2

Local resident and birder Doug Leighton joined us early on this clear, calm morning and drove us to the old Willowbank Mountain logging road. This road served the huge sawmill in the village of Donald to the north, but has since been abandoned. Our target was a pair of Broad-winged Hawks that Doug had found here earlier. Except for a Red-tail, all hawks remained hidden, but Nashville, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's and Orange-crowned warblers, and American Redstarts added to our warbler list. Led by nuthatches and chickadees, a few Cassin's and Warbling vireos were among the many mobbing passerines brought in by the saxophone's pygmy-owl notes. Persistence paid off for those of us who ventured the 5 km to a clearcut at the end of the road. A Northern Pygmy-Owl flew in silently to investigate a territorial intruder... which was hiding in a yellow plastic toy. Scope views! And 24 species for the morning.

Doug took us higher in the afternoon, to about 1600 m, on the Susan Lake Road off the Big Bend Highway. A walk along the road produced the expected Wilson's Warblers and Hermit Thrushes, both summer residents in this high, semi-open fir-hemlock forest. Fox Sparrows were along a wetted fringe and White-crowned Sparrows were on territory in young second growth. A female Blue Grouse with chicks (probably Richardson's subspecies, *Dendragapus obscurus richardsonii*) moved ahead of us on the road. The mystery bird of the day? A soaring raptor that passed over us. It still has everyone baffled.

A noisy dinner followed. Simon Liao, president of the National Bird Society



Taiwan, and his colleague, Flicker Liu, entertained us and invited us to bird with them in Taiwan. Sounds great! We are convinced that all we have to do is sit by that one big tree and every Taiwanese bird will eventually land in it

Day 3

Logging continues in the Blaeberry valley. We set off early with Doug, hoping to beat the logging trucks and find a Blackpoll Warbler, Gray Jay and Golden Eagle. We found all three, along with 28 other species, at various stops in this spectacularly scenic valley. Red-naped Sapsucker, MacGillivray's Warbler, Varied Thrush and Hairy Woodpecker were among the birds at our first stop. The target site for Blackpoll Warbler paid off, although some of us could not hear the male's high frequency song. At one point, a Blackpoll just about took our heads off as it responded to a call. A bonus here was a family of Boreal Chickadees, sitting still long enough for good looks. Snowshoe Hares, elk and a Blue Grouse with chicks were on the road as we drove toward the head of the valley. Here we found Black Swifts, Steller's Jays, a Spotted Sandpiper and a high-flying Northern Goshawk. (Was that the Susan Lake mystery bird?)

It's a challenge to get ornithologists to look at rocks, but June Ryder, a professional geologist familiar with most of the province, had no trouble getting us all to look in the right directions for a few minutes. She described the tectonic forces that have created one of the most spectacular mountain ranges in the world. We were in the heart of the Rockies. Within view of the retreating Mummery Glacier, June showed us just how tectonic plate movement, subduction and the heat generated by subduction have folded, tilted and overturned the sedimentary layers

Bird List, BCFO 2003 Extension Tour Blaeberry Valley, B.C. June 23-25, 2003

Compiled by *Lloyd Esralson*

Common Loon	Downy Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Hairy Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Red-necked Grebe	Northern Flicker	Townsend's Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Canada Goose	Western Wood-Pewee	American Redstart
Wood Duck	Alder Flycatcher	Northern Waterthrush
Mallard	Willow Flycatcher	MacGillivray's Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Least Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Cinnamon Teal	Hammond's Flycatcher	Wilson's Warbler
American Wigeon	Dusky Flycatcher	Western Tanager
Redhead	Say's Phoebe	Black-headed Grosbeak
Ring-necked Duck	Eastern Kingbird	Chipping Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Tree Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Violet-green Swallow	Fox Sparrow
Barrow's Goldeneye	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Song Sparrow
Bufflehead	Cliff Swallow	Lincoln's Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Barn Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Common Merganser	Gray Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Ruddy Duck	Steller's Jay	Bobolink
Osprey	Black-billed Magpie	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	American Crow	Western Meadowlark
Northern Goshawk	Common Raven	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Brewer's Blackbird
Golden Eagle	Mountain Chickadee	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Kestrel	Boreal Chickadee	Northern Oriole
Blue Grouse	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Purple Finch
Ruffed Grouse	Brown Creeper	Red Crossbill
Virginia Rail	Winter Wren	Pine Siskin
Sora	Marsh Wren	Evening Grosbeak
American Coot	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Sparrow
Killdeer	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Spotted Sandpiper	Mountain Bluebird	Total Species Seen - 121
Wilson's Snipe	Veery	
Wilson's Phalarope	Swainson's Thrush	
Black Tern	Hermit Thrush	
Rock Dove	American Robin	
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Varied Thrush	
Barred Owl	Gray Catbird	
Black Swift	Cedar Waxwing	
Vaux's Swift	European Starling	
Black-chinned	Cassin's Vireo	
Hummingbird	Warbling Vireo	
Calliope Hummingbird	Red-eyed Vireo	
Rufous Hummingbird	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Belted Kingfisher	Nashville Warbler	
Red-naped Sapsucker	Yellow Warbler	



that make up much of the Rockies. We learned how the glaciers of the big ice age (~15,000 years ago) and the little ice age (the 17th and 18th centuries) carved the

U-shaped valleys around us. She pointed out debris flows, avalanche tracks, exfoliation and stream erosion. The relentless force of gravity continues to reshape the peaks and valleys. An inspiring view, as June's specimen landforms and rocks framed our outdoor classroom.

Time prevented us from visiting a Vaux's Swift nesting site in the Blaeberry, but there they were as we arrived back at the lodge - 3 Vaux's Swifts...and Barn Swallows, to round out our bird list of 121 species.

Our mammal list was equally impressive: shrew sp., bat sp., Snowshoe Hare, Muskrat, Beaver, Columbian Ground Squirrel, Yellow Pine Chipmunk, Red Squirrel, Coyote, Marten, Black Bear, Moose, Elk, Mule Deer and White-tailed Deer.

Our sincere thanks go to Dannie Carsen and Sandra Kinsey for arranging accommodations, transportation and local guides for the extension; to Bob Ferguson and Doug Leighton for guiding us; to van drivers Jim Fliczuk and Jack Bowling; and to Barbara and Andre for being such gracious hosts. Our extensions just keep getting better.

Bryan Gates, Extension Leader

BIRDING, HIKING AND TOURING BRITISH COLUMBIA 16 MAY-11 JUNE 2002

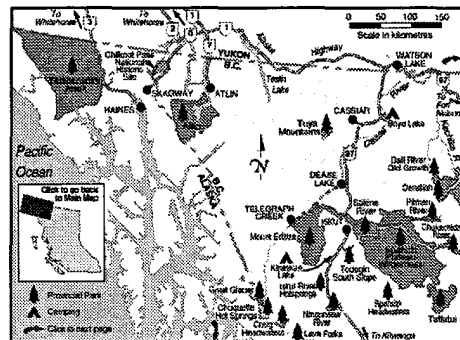
Stewart-Cassiar Highway. 27-29 May

The 156 kilometres to Meziadin Junction traverses a part of the Nass River watershed, composed of an interior wet belt forest of hybrid Sitka and White Spruce, Western Hemlock and Western Redcedar. This region has high commercial value and logging was evident along most of this stretch of highway. Disturbed sites, of course, had the usual Black Cottonwood stands. Along this road, we surprised an impressive Grizzly as we rounded a bend and watched it bound off into the thick brush.

At the junction we elected to take the side trip to Stewart, B.C. and Hyder Alaska. Highway 37A reaches Stewart in 67 kilometres, en route passing a grandstand view of Bear Glacier. This is indeed a beautiful route. Along the milky glacial stream we found American Dipper. Descending down the Bear River, numerous avalanche chutes choked with alder and willow are obviously good bear habitat. We passed at least three Black Bears and one Grizzly. Approaching Stewart, tall cottonwoods line the river interspersed by wooded swamps with abundant beaver evidence. There were lots of birds in this habitat including flycatchers, vireos, and sparrows. Notable was a singing Cassin's Vireo and Northern Waterthrush. Red-breasted Sapsuckers seemed everywhere. We counted at least four along this stretch. In Stewart, we found a good birding site at the public boat launch. To reach it, make a left on Fifth Avenue where highway 37A makes a right turn into Stewart's town centre. In one block, turn right to pass the airstrip, then follow the Bear River levee road to the boat launch at the head of Portland Canal (2 kilometres). The gravel flats along the Bear River had numerous loafing Common Mergansers, Bald Eagles, and gulls. We noted Bonaparte's (5), Mew (several hundred), Herring (2), and Glaucous-winged (5). On the mudflat there were a

pair of Semipalmated Plovers, and in the fast-moving water at the river mouth, were a few Harlequin Ducks. Offshore in Portland Canal was a pair of Arctic Terns, our first for the trip. This is their most southerly breeding site in British Columbia. Common passerines included, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's, Hermit, and Varied Thrushes, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Townsend's, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Returning through Stewart, we found this town offers good accommodations and food (we recommend the Bitter Creek Café). Beyond is the border crossing into Alaska. Hyder is soon reached, an advertised ghost town. To us it seemed to live up to its name. Three miles beyond town is a popular bear-viewing area in the Tongass National Forest. Along the Salmon River here is an elevated and fenced boardwalk which provides "safe" viewing. July and August are reportedly best with both Black and Grizzly Bears present. Our most exciting wildlife view from the boardwalk was an American Dipper. The clouds swirling about the gorge, occasionally parting to reveal the dramatic Coast Mountains scenery, makes the area seem well-named, as we were on the edge of huge Misty Fjords National Monument.

Back on the main Stewart-Cassiar Highway at Meziadin Lake Provincial Park, a combination of habitats (spruce forests, alder and willow thickets and lake) make this area attractive to Merlin. We observed an agitated bird atop a spruce (nest unseen, but



Source: BC Parks (<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/explore.htm>)



probably in that tree) while its mate called from afar. It was a very dark bird of the *suckleyi* race.

About another 100 kilometers north, after passing through much seemingly uninhabited and primeval-appearing country of spruce and willow, we came upon "Bell II," an upscale resort catering to well-to-do heli skiers. Apparently, this is a new Swiss-built lodge, where for \$7,000/week (CDN), one can be whisked up to virgin powder slopes on surrounding and distant (as far north as the Spatsizi Wilderness Park) all day long. We didn't dally long here, but did learn we were in really wild country. The receptionist had spied on a Wolverine at the lodge some days before.

Between Kilometer 315 to about 330 was an old burn (30 – 50 years ago?); flickers (both Red and Yellow-shafted), and one each of Hairy and Black-backed Woodpecker were seen.

Northwards, we took a steep side road east up towards the alpine north of 40 Mile Flat (at about Kilometer Post 420). We drove about four kilometres until the track was blocked by snow. The high country was not far off, but the country looked like it could hide a lot of bears, so we turned around. The south facing slopes were thickly grown to Trembling Aspen, with an understory of thick brush. Here were "Yellow-shafted" Flickers and "Myrtle" Warblers. Signs of the east were appearing!

North of Dease Lake, still more than half frozen on account of the cold spring, we camped at Boya Lake Provincial Park. This intensely turquoise lake has a fine trail north from the campground along the lake edge. Numbers (4+) of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in the open aspen woodlands in the campground and along the trail was yet another sign of an eastern component in the avifauna. More "Myrtle" Warblers and a pair of Purple Finches, the male singing his lively tune, were yet more. Pairs of Semipalmated Plover and Arctic Terns, both northerly species, were also present. Common Loons, yodeling during the evening, topped off our experience here.

Seven kilometres north of Boya Lake on Highway 37, we chanced upon displaying Spruce Grouse. With their fanned chestnut-fringed black tails and brilliant scarlet combs, these were striking birds, indeed. Driving Highway 37 (still ~15% gravel and with other pretty rough sections) had been a long haul and watching these grouse, in addition to experiencing this vast wilderness, was compensation for our efforts. The habitat here was an open Lodgepole Pine forest with a groundcover of Kinnikinnick. A walk into this forest type near the Yukon border yielded few birds; Ruby-crowned Kinglet and "Myrtle" Warbler were the conspicuous species.

Chilkat Pass. 29-31 May.

The Haines Road in extreme northwestern B.C. provides access to an extensive area of alpine terrain. Besides spectacular scenery, the highway passes through many kilometers of subalpine terrain with spruce and willow/birch thickets, and higher, both wet and dry alpine. We found the specific directional information in "The Birder's Guide British Columbia" (Taylor) somewhat confusing, so we will offer you a road log of our trip down the Haines Highway based on three days of exploring this area. Our visit was timed during early spring. Balsam Poplar and Trembling Aspen were in leaf, but the shrub willows and birches were still in their budding stage. Many lakes were still wholly or partially frozen.

We began in Haines Junction in the southwestern Yukon (158 kilometres west of Whitehorse). We found all services at this junction on the Alaska Highway. A visit to the Kluane National Park Visitor Centre was useful for orientation to the area's geological and other natural features and for bird checklists (albeit only of the Yukon side of the border). Because the border crossing into Alaska does not open until 8 am, there was no traffic on the road in the early morning. Hence, we found viewing opportunities to be excellent just after dawn, which comes very early in June! In particular, we enjoyed the antics of many displaying Willow Ptarmigan right from the

highway edge.

From Haines Junction, we went south on the Haines Highway. The initial stretch, in the Yukon, was characterized by dry spruce and aspen forest, interspersed with occasional wet meadows. We stayed at a small but adequate, Kathleen Lake Lodge (with restaurant and gas station) near Kilometer 26. The turn off to Kathleen Lake Campground is another 0.5 kilometres south on the highway. Beyond, in 25.5 kilometres, we stopped to view wind-whipped Dezadeash Lake. At shallows by the roadside here we enjoyed watching several graceful Arctic Terns trying to fish in stiff winds. We passed a large and inviting marshy area in another 16.1 kilometres, but British Columbia beckoned! In another 31 kilometres, we reached the B.C. border and entrance to Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park. This huge wilderness park protects much of this remote corner of British Columbia. The park is well-known for its world-class rafting on the Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers.

From the border, we kept south on the Haines Highway, passing access to a highway maintenance complex in 0.3 kilometres. It was comforting to know emergency help could be obtained in this vast wilderness. In another 1.1 kilometres, we stopped at a spruce-lined lake which had a few waterfowl such as Lesser Scaup and Barrows's Goldeneye. The melodic display calls of Lesser Yellowlegs and Spotted Sandpiper, both probably breeding here, were conspicuous. The surrounding spruce forest is dense and tall. Though we did not bird this habitat, it appeared suitable for species that favour mature spruce forest such as Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, and White-Winged Crossbill. From here south, the forest becomes dwarfed and more open in character.

After passing over a culvert for Stanley Creek in another 7.2 kilometres, we noted the end of the forest. Beyond were willow and birch thickets, shallow ponds and gravel flats. This was the beginning of the unique (accessible) habitats, for British Columbia,

which make this area so special to the naturalist. In 5.6 kilometres, at Twin Lakes we watched a pair of nesting Trumpeter Swans, one bird apparently incubating on its beaver lodge-sized nest mound. Waterfowl here such as Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, and Barrow's Goldeneye, were present. Shorebirds we noted here included Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Common Snipe. We briefly checked a number of other wetlands along the way south of here where Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl coursed about.

South from Twin Lakes 11.1 kilometres we found (finally) the unmarked turnoff on the left that is access to Kellsall Lake. This rough track was in pretty good shape for the first stretch, but the way was blocked by lingering snow banks and mud after 2 kilometres. We parked and walked the remaining distance to the lake (about 2 kilometres). This appeared to be optimum bear habitat, so we exercised great caution. We found singing Gray-cheeked Thrush in the area of tallest willows (the first ravine) and Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers. We walked the road during the height of sparrow singing, noting American Tree, Savannah, Fox, Golden-crowned and White-crowned. At this season, this area is a sparrow aficionado's paradise. We searched open terrain in this habitat for Smith's Longspur which are rare, but regular, breeders here. We tripped on male Willow Ptarmigan frequently along this road. We chanced upon only one female. It appeared we had disturbed a pair "doing it". In the shallow ponds were Semi-palmated Plover and Lesser Yellowlegs displaying, and Arctic Terns. This is apparently also the only area where Hudsonian Godwit has bred in British Columbia, but is rare and we missed it. But we did see a lone Whimbrel flying about, calling wildly (a presumed tardy migrant). From the look of the habitat here, it was clear a visit later in July and August would be great for many migrating shorebirds (including Baird's Sandpiper). The track ended near the lake's outlet. From here, we scoped the lake and found a number of Barrow's Goldeneye, Bald Eagle and Mew

and Herring Gulls. However, ice still covered much of the lake, so it was clear our visit was too early for the height of activity. Red-throated and Common Loon reportedly breed here as well as a variety of other waterfowl.

Continuing south on the highway 10 kilometres, our next stop was Nadahini Creek, a braided stream, characterized by barren cobbles and gravel. As this is one of their southernmost breeding outposts, we searched for Wandering Tattler on two occasions, without finding one. Luck was with us though, as an unscheduled stop a few kilometers south of the creek crossing yielded our target bird, a Wandering Tattler in full breeding dress. It was teetering and piping loudly along the water's edge and snow by a tiny braided, marshy stream.

We passed but chose not to explore Mosquito Flats because the area appeared similar to that around Kellsall Lake. We then reached the summit of Chilkat Pass (6.7 kilometres).

One of the special draws for the birder is the presence of all three ptarmigan in the Chilkat Pass area. The Willow is a "gimme". At the pass, on an impulse, we set out in search of the other two species, the Rock and White-tailed. Ours was an off-trail hike above the pass, crossing extensive snowbanks, very wet tundra, and willow thickets. After several kilometers we finally reached dry tundra and easier going and had a pleasant final ascent into what appeared to be good Rock Ptarmigan habitat. Of course, we saw no Rock Ptarmigan. During the hike up, we did find more Willow Ptarmigan, and, of course, various sparrows were noted. Above the willow thicket zone were Horned Lark and American Pipit. Near the top was a lovely cross phase Red Fox. From a distance it appeared to be munching on the vegetation. Examining that patch of ground some moments later, we could only find last years berries (crowberry and various cranberries) as a possible food source. Our intended short jaunt turned out to be a slog. We arrived back at the car some 5 1/2 hours later, wet from the knees down.

We decided wet tundra is no fun. Our next hike on "Project Ptarmigan" was reached by driving south from Chilkat Pass 9.6 kilometres to the sign for Three Guardsmen Lake, then another 3.2 kilometres to a gravel pullout on the right. Although trailless, this ridge turned out to be a marvelous hike on dry alpine tundra, ascending up the slopes to the west of the highway 300 meters to habitat I judged suitable for both Rock and White-tailed Ptarmigan (higher slopes). En route, we enjoyed a nice cross section of alpine plant communities, which we imagined would have a colorful wildflower display later in summer. We reached a vantage beyond which the snow had not melted. From this shoulder we enjoyed a dramatic alpine scene of high glaciated peaks all around us. A squall downvalley looked threatening, but soon passed up another drainage. While Ellen snoozed in the warm and calm, I began a serious Ptarmigan search by examining every snow-free patch of tundra, especially those rimmed with talus or boulders. Of course, Ptarmigan were nowhere to be seen. Most surprising was a Semi-palmated Plover perched on a rock high above treeline, seemingly far from suitable habitat. Horned Lark and American Pipit were again common. In hiking uphill we found a Horned Lark nest with two eggs tucked in the grass.

Back at the car, we descended to the Alaska Border, dropping steeply in 17.4 kilometres into dense coastal forest. Tall hemlocks (both Western and Mountain), Sitka Spruce, and impressive cottonwoods proved we had entered a much wetter and milder climate zone. The birds suggested this, too. Here were Hammond's Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Varied Thrush and Townsend's Warblers; species rare on the other side of the pass. Though the famed Chilkat River Bald Eagle preserve was within an hour's drive, we chose not to cross the border.

After leaving the Haines Highway, we detoured for a short time to Kluane National Park Visitor Centre at Sheep Mountain. Here, we had nice scope views of Dall Sheep, ewes and lambs, high on the barren-appearing ridges. We inquired about a



hike and were told Sheep Creek nearby provided a nice jaunt, with stunning views of the Kaskawulsh Glacier and a peek at the Icefields Ranges. We were told this wasn't a particularly bad area for bears, but to be "Bear Aware." We gathered our nerves and set out, initially along a bush-lined gravel road. On arriving at a fork in the trail about 1 kilometre along, we noticed a small plaque commemorating the death of a young (22 years, I believe) woman, resulting from an encounter with a Grizzly Bear, on a nearby route in 1996. Knowing that it is improbable that lightning will strike the same person twice, but that I might just be that unlucky, we turned back, thoroughly humbled and shaken. I wondered how many hikers, seeing that plaque, turn back? On the short hike back to the car, we noted quite perfect Grizzly Bear tracks in the mud along the road.

Stone Mountain Provincial Park. 2-3 June.

Stone Mountain Provincial Park in the northern Rocky Mountains has one well-known birding site which proved to be one the highlights of our B.C. trip. This is the alpine zone area near the microwave tower reached by a 7 kilometre steep gravel road heading south from the east end of Summit Lake Campground. The road is now closed to vehicles, apparently due to many off-road vehicles tearing up the fragile terrain. So, we hiked this road. On arriving in the afternoon, we took the hike up towards the microwave, ascending through the upper spruce forests and then through the willow and birch shrub zone and up into various alpine zone communities. Our

targets included both Rock and White-tailed Ptarmigans.

On reaching the upper limit of the shrub willow zone, the landscape opens considerably. There we struck off the road and up a dry slope grown to dwarfish alpenes. Nearing the crest, we had close views of three American Golden-Plovers. Two appeared to be males, the third a female. No display flights were observed or any behaviour to indicate they were going to breed in this area. On reaching the crest about one kilometre east of the microwave tower, Ellen spied a pair of ptarmigan. At the time we tentatively labelled them Rock Ptarmigan, as their tails appeared dark. However, the male was pied in coloration, which didn't seem right (for the time of year). We eventually got reasonable looks at their tails and noted white sides. Ugh, how embarrassing! On reaching the vehicle we consulted Sibley and noted the centers of White-tailed Ptarmigan tails are brown, their outer rectrices are white. So, our plans for the next day were set; we would head back up to again search for Rock Ptarmigan. I suspected the Rock would be whiter, though had no way to know this for sure.

While on this first hike, we heard a few Horned Larks and American Pipits. Sparrows seemed far less numerous in this willow habitat than in the Haines Road area. Was this a function of time of day, or are they scarcer? This would be another item to check the next day.

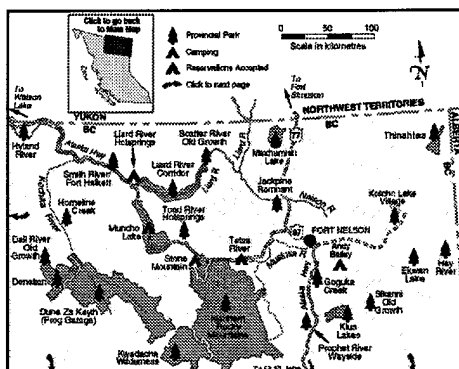
The following morning dawned beautiful, so we again climbed up towards the microwave tower. From across the valley, on the upper forests of Stone Mountain, we heard several times a Gray Wolf wail, not surprising given all the big ungulate sign we were observing: Moose, Stone Sheep, and Woodland Caribou. Once again, the density of sparrows in the shrub willow and birch zone seemed much lower than along the Haines Road. We did detect small numbers of Savannah, a few Fox, one "Taverner's" Brewer's, and several each of White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

On reaching the upper willow shrub zone,

Ellen spied on a mostly white grouse, male **Rock Ptarmigans!** This time, there was no doubt. Moments later, we found another male bird and shortly the two commenced displaying by rocketing horizontally across the bouldery slopes, shrieking. We kept on past the microwave, descending gently over alpine terrain, hearing once again American Golden-Plover and having nice views south across a chasm to a shelf where Stone Sheep rested. We viewed an adult ewe, accompanied by a yearling, leading me to speculate this species bears young every other year. A stone's throw away sat an impressive male. We sat in the sun, admiring the splendid scene here, amongst the rugged northern Rocky Mountain peaks. Though the region had been thoroughly glaciated, existing glaciers were nowhere in view. From the saddle east of the tower, we sauntered over a track on the alpine into a basin, where we flushed up a Short-eared Owl from the sedge tussocks. We descended over hill and dale, admiring four cow Woodland Caribou grazing on the dry tundra. Just 10 metres south from the main gravel road, I heard the rattle of a longspur. Excitedly, and assuming it could only be a Lapland I called out "Ellen, look down the slope, I just flushed a Lapland Longspur." She was otherwise occupied with photographing the three male Rock Ptarmigan, which we had again bumped into, so it was a few minutes before we began looking for them. When it popped into view, I was surprised to be looking at a male **Smith's Longspur** in full breeding dress! Shortly, a female popped into view, my first view ever of this plumage. I looked at the dwarf shrub and sedge habitat these birds were foraging in; it was reminiscent of the terrain I had seen them in the southern part of the Dempster Highway in Yukon's Ogilvie Mountains. Had we found a new breeding site for this species? Momentarily, six longspurs burst into flight, rapidly ascending to a great height and flying off to the northwest. I concluded these were migrants.

Andy Stepniowski

(excerpted from a longer article, part of which first appeared in *BC Birding*:12(3)21-24.)



Source: BC Parks (<http://wlpwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/explore.htm>)



British Columbia Bird Sightings, June-July 2003

June began unsettled with alterations of showers and sunshine but by the end of the month, the southern half was baking as a strong ridge of high pressure built in. By the middle of July, the heat wave had enveloped the whole Region and showed no sign of waning by the end of the period. British Columbia contributed to the excitement with their first photo-documented Whooping Crane and their second Acorn Woodpecker.

Abbreviations and symbols: +, field notes submitted; ph., photographed; vt., videotaped; P.G. (Prince George), PGNC (P.G. Naturalists Club); P.R.N.P (Pacific Rim National Park); Q.C.I (Queen Charlotte Islands), R.P.B.O. (Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Victoria).

Loons through Waterfowl

American White Pelicans are rare along the lower mainland where 3 ads. were seen over Pitt Meadows 14 Jun (AR, TP) and unusual both for the date and number, 55 pelicans soared above Napier L. near Kamloops 8 Jul (JS). A single American White Pelican was at Eaglet L. 50 km ene. of Prince George 5 Jul (CA, MA), this number increased to 51 birds in late Jul (CA et. al.); 18 on 5 Aug and final departure 12 Aug. A local record count of 75 juv. Great Blue Herons was made at Tofino 30 Jul (AD). Once an annual visitor to the Okanagan, but now very rare, an ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron was along the Okanagan R. near Vaseux L. 10 Jul (AB). The pair of Ross's Geese at Comox, holdovers from spring, lingered to 8 Jun (GLM et. al.) with some debate regarding their origin. A single Brant at Cleland I. 12 Jul (AD) was an unusual visitor for the date. A flock of 9 Northern Pintails in Tofino 8 Jul (AD) had a very early southbound start. Probably Vancouver I.'s first Jun

record of Redhead involved a single bird 17 Jun in Port Alberni (SM, BSI).

Raptors through Shorebirds

Following a series of sightings this spring, an ad. White-tailed Kite was again in Pitt Meadows 1 Jun (MPL). It would be difficult for such a bird to have successfully remained hidden from birders for a month thus increasing the likelihood that this was a different individual. An ad. dark morph Swainson's Hawk, Vancouver's 8th was in Richmond 4 Jun (RTo) and an imm. was in Saanich, Vancouver I. 1 Jun (JG). Soras, once considered casual on the west coast of Vancouver I., are now known to breed on the lower Kennedy R. where one was heard 5 Jun (GB).

Up until now sightings of Whooping Cranes has been mired by lack of sufficient documentation. Reports of large white cranes are not unheard of, some or perhaps most of which at least pertain to albino or poorly seen Sandhills. This summer a pair of **Whooping Cranes** was found in a hayfield about 30 km north of Prince George. These birds were video-taped 30 Jun (VB, TB vt.) providing the first photo-documentation of this endangered species for the province. This same pair was later discovered on a sandbar near the confluence of the Salmon and Fraser Rivers, about 8 km from the original site 6 Jul (TA, HY +).

An ad. Pacific Golden-Plover was at Columbia Beach, French Creek on 31 Jul (GLM). One of few Kamloops nesting locations of American Avocets was discovered at 1100 m elev. on a small lake near Knutsford where adults and two large young were observed 4 Jul (RH, RD). An alternate-plumaged Willet was on Discovery I. off Oak Bay, Victoria 5 Jun (MGS) for a rare summer record. The first arriving

southbound Surfbirds were 2 at Cleland I. 8 Jul (AD). The Wandering Tattler, first found last winter, at Ogden Pt., Victoria, was still present 30 Jun (MGS), while the first sign of a southbound flight was 14 Jul (AD) at Tofino. Nesting confirmation of Upland Sandpiper for the Fort Nelson area, where they have been suspected of nesting for many years, came when a pair with four young were observed 16 Jul (MAi, DAi). A count of 58 Whimbrel in Tofino was considered high for the summer months 10 Jul (RC). This spring's ad. male Hudsonian Godwit at Reifel Refuge remained to 6 Jun (JI, et. al.). Semipalmated Sandpipers were more prevalent than expected on Vancouver I. with 10-14 individuals involved 30 Jun - 29 Jul (*vide* GLM).

Gulls through Woodpeckers

Ring-billed Gulls head for the coast shortly after breeding as was the case with Tofino's early arrivals of 6 on 29 Jul (AD, GB). Ancient Murrelets, considered casual on the w. coast of Vancouver I., were seen regularly off Vargas I. 14 -27 Jul (AD). A Horned Puffin, rare along the outer coast, was seen sitting on the water among Tufted Puffins at Cleland I. 8 Jul (AD, et. al.). An **Acorn Woodpecker** furnished the first Okanagan and second provincial record 16-23 Jun (KH, MH ph.) when it visited a feeder in Oliver. A White-headed Woodpecker was discovered 3 Jun (DC) e. of Oliver along the famed Camp McKinney Rd.

Flycatchers through Grackles

Alder Flycatchers are casual spring vagrants to the lower mainland, one such individual lingered at Pitt Meadows 16-28 Jun (DJ, +) and in the Kootenays, this species is increasing with singing males: 4 at



Summit L., Nakusp 15 Jun (GSD); 2 near Edgewood 22 Jun (GSD); and 2 at Kootenay L. 28 Jun (GS). A Least Flycatcher was also at Pitt Meadows 7-11 Jun (PC et. al.) where rare. Rock Wrens are very rare along the south coast and breeding has not known to occur there since 1970. It is thus with some excitement that a singing bird was discovered on Saturna I. 28 Jun (MGS, CyS). Single Northern Mockingbirds were discovered: on Mayne I. near Bennet Bay 2 Jun (PSP, BSp); and just n. of Powell River 26 Jun (NHu).

Casual along the coast, a Tennessee Warbler was singing 3 Jun in Vancouver (TP, +). American Redstarts were unusually numerous along the south coast with first year males at Lois Lake, Powell River 7 Jun (DB); at Maplewood Conservation Area 7 Jun (QB); 2 in Pitt Meadows 15 Jun (RTo); and at Gibson's 4-11 Jun (JJ) joined by a female 11 Jun (JJ). Yellow-breasted Chats continue to maintain a toe-hold in the Georgia Depression with at least one bird present 14 Jun - 1 Jul (IO et. al.). Lazuli Buntings were thought to be nesting in Abbotsford when 2 males were seen chasing a female with food in her beak 12 Jun (JV). Male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks provided rare sights: in Port Coquitlum 1 Jun (DBu, +); between Oyama and Vernon 19 Jun (PM, HM); and at Burnaby Mtn. Park 1 Jul (DP et. al.). Vesper Sparrows are very local breeders at few sites along the coast thus it was a tantalizing report of a singing male on Saturna I. 28 Jun (MGS, CyS). A female and two male Smith's Longspurs along with a nest were discovered in the foothills of upper Craig Cr. on the North Slope 25 Jun (CE, BM). A rare female Brewer's Blackbird was photographed at Nisutlin Bay Marina 14-19 Jun (MG, B&DG). A Common Grackle, rare away from the Peace R. area, was at Invermere 3-4 Jun (LC).

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Birding In British Columbia
General interest information including bulletin board, checklists, rare bird alerts, book reviews, etc.
<http://www.birding.bc.ca/>

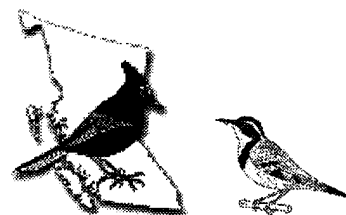
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<http://elibrary.unm.edu/wilson/>



Authors in this Issue

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Doreen and Mike are beginner birders who have been dabbling since 1994 when we went to Saudi for 4 years (both are nurses). Mike has started with the Digiscoping photography, but hasn't had too much opportunity to practice as yet. They're currently in the middle of a move up to Fort St John where they hope to find some fellow birders and to travel in all directions on days off and holidays to check out the different birds.

Sandra Eadie

Sandra Eadie lives in Toronto. She's a director of and the webmaster for the Ontario Field Ornithologists, as well as a participant in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. A statistician and analyst by training, she wrote about business for the Globe and Mail for 15 years. In 1975, at a rural New Brunswick feeder after an April snowstorm, she discovered that Canada has beautiful birds. Later, she worked in Victoria and had many pleasant days along the waterfront. But it wasn't until 1995, when she finally bought a telescope, that she changed to a birder from a birdwatcher. She loves to travel to bird.

Bryan Gates

Bryan Gates is a Past-President of BCFO and of the Association of Professional Biologists of BC. He retired after 32 years in wildlife and environmental management with the Province of BC, and taught introductory bird identification and ornithology courses at the local college level. He has led birding tours in 12 countries and has birded in 14 countries. He continues to serve as a naturalist and lecturer on board cruise ships in Alaska, Baja California and Central America, specializing in birds and mammals.

Tony Greenfield

Tony Greenfield has been recording birds on the Sunshine Coast since 1971. He was a founder member of BCFO and served as President 1996-99. He was re-elected to the executive at Radium in June and looks forward to being involved again in the future direction of BCFO.

Andy Stepniewski

A recent recruit to BCFO from near Yakima Washinton, Andy, a self-professed avid naturalist, was actually born and educated in Canada. After graduation from UBC he was the Parks Naturalist for some years at Garibaldi and Mount Robson Parks.

Gerry Wilkie

Gerry's entire working life was spent at the Banff Centre, Banff Alberta. He retired in 1996 and moved to Edgewater B.C. about 6 miles north of Radium in the upper Columbia Valley. He has a strong interest in Natural History and conservation. He is the Chairman of the Regional Council of the East Kootenay Environmental Society and a working committee member of Wings Over the Rockies Bird Festival based in Invermere B. C.

2nd Annual Canada Taiwan Bird Fair

Oct. 24–Nov. 10, 2003

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Proceeds to Young Naturalists' Club of BC.

Main events

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Opening Ceremonies, bird art, prizes, music, exhibits.

Nov. 2 **1–5 p.m.**
Slide presentations, bird art, prizes, winners of Silent Auction.

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For details, please see website:
<http://www.canadabirdfair.org>.



BCFO's Past President Jo Ann Mackenzie and Simon Liao, Past President of the Wild Bird Federation of Taiwan, at the BCFO AGM.

