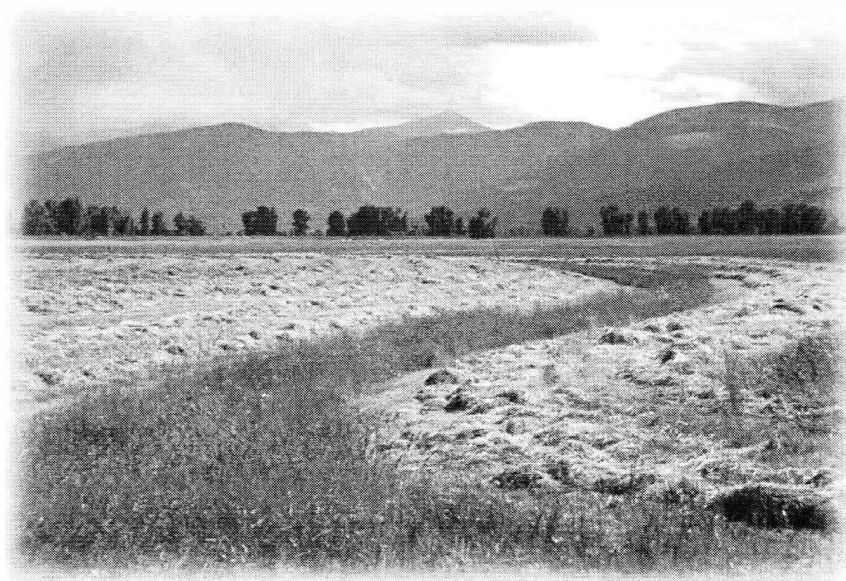


BC BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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Linda M. Van Damme

Current Status of the Bobolink in the Creston Valley

The Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) is the smallest member of the blackbird family. It is a regular, but local summer visitant and breeds in the south-central interior of British Columbia where it reaches the northernmost limit of its range in western North America (Campbell et al. 2001). Bobolinks inhabit open country, showing a preference for large, cultivated hayfields, weedy fields with a mixture of tall grasses, and moist meadows. Considered a vulnerable species in B.C., the Bobolink is Blue-listed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Although populations appear stable, the loss of habitat and changing agricultural practices may have a negative impact. Bobolinks are particularly vulnerable to early mowing of hayfields, which can directly affect their reproductive success. Most of the Bobolink's habitat is privately owned, so conservation agreements must be reached with landowners. Although delayed hay cutting until after the nesting season may benefit the Bobolink, it is not economically feasible for the landowner.

please see Bobolink, page 12



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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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604-888-1571 / strix@uniserve.com

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

A number of topics have kept us busy for the past few months. On the subject of the executive, Brian Scott has resigned from the Board of Directors for personal reasons. Thank you, Brian, for your contributions to the Board; however, we expect and would look forward to seeing you at future annual conferences and other BCFO venues. I reported in the last issue that with the transfer of Newsletter editor position from Andy and Marilyn Buhler to Phil Henderson, it was end of the Buhler Era. Marilyn Buhler has accepted the Board's invitation to serve BCFO as a director, so I spoke too soon. Welcome back, Marilyn! It was a brief hiatus away from BCFO business.

Next year's annual conference will be in Tumbler Ridge during the weekend of June 25-27. As you know, we had informed members attending the annual conference in Radium that we were seriously thinking of the West Coast, either Tofino or Ucluelet. Well, we changed our minds. The late August/early September time period we were exploring created a number of logistical and cost challenges,

which along with some concerns about sufficient diversity of birds led us to our current decision. Members attended the annual conference in Dawson Creek (2001) in considerable numbers, and left the impression they could tolerate much more of northeastern BC, a location that we had put off for ten years. So, we're going back!

That said and done, some of our Board hinted that we had not tried hard enough to create a workable West Coast venue, so we are thinking about early May, 2005 to coincide with spring migration, particularly shorebirds in nuptial plumage. Members' ideas and input would be welcome on this and other matters.

Lastly, I want to bring up an uncomfortable subject. For some years, elements of the British Columbia ornithological community have been split by a dispute involving ownership and access to ornithological records. The unknowns generated by this dispute have affected a number of our members, and in the case of

BCFO made it awkward to fulfill our members' explicit vote for us to reestablish our bird records' committee. The dispute is serious, and an on-going though slow effort is being made at resolution. BCFO has had no formal involvement in deliberations toward this goal, but we have been kept informed through contact with the Federation of BC Naturalists. Our position would be for the bird records ownership issue to be solved in a way that is supported by the various elements in the BC ornithological community, and that the ownership body(s), whether it be private, government, or non-governmental organization comprises a stakeholder consultation structure with a mission that involves public accountability. In terms of access, BCFO would like to see both the submission of records and their retrieval (i.e. access to them & related analysis) to be covered by documented procedures acceptable to a consensus of the potential users, primarily BC ornithologists. That said, it must be recognized that there would be costs involved in data entry and storage as well as accessing stored information, and that these would probably be passed on to users. There are other related issues, but if agreement can be reached on ownership and access, their resolution should be easier to reach. On behalf of its members, BCFO remains willing to assist in any way towards a resolution of this impasse. To leave it unresolved is unacceptable.

Ian Robertson, President



From The Spectator, London; Courtesy CanWest News Service.

British Columbia Field Ornithologists Fourteenth Annual Conference June 25-27, 2004.



Kinuseo Falls, Monksman Provincial Park
Source: BC Parks

The fourteenth Annual Conference will be held in Tumbler Ridge, BC on the weekend of June 25-27, 2004.

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.

Transportation and Accommodation:

Transportation and accommodation are up to the individual(s) to arrange.

Accommodation information and the conference registration form will be provided in the March issue of the newsletter.

Registration

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 third page of this issue for membership fees.

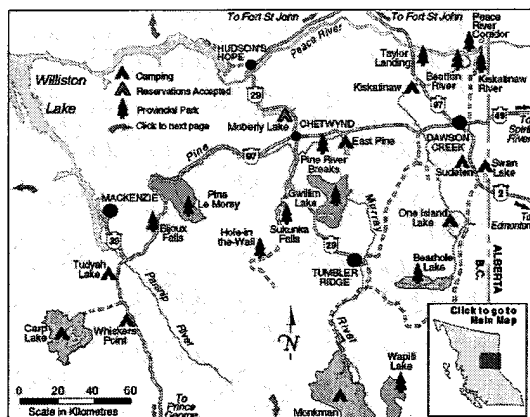
Extension Trip

An extension trip following the Conference is being organized. Details and registration information will be provided in the March issue of the newsletter.

For information contact:

Tony Greenfield 250-855-5539 greenfieldtony@hotmail.com

Glen Moores 250-652-7072 gmoores@islandnet.com



Editor's Notes and Notions

Having set up a basic template for my first edition, my main duty now is simply to collect and present the information kindly contributed by BCFO members, with the occasional change of a word, deletion or addition of a comma. I do not wish to change anyone's writing. Everyone makes minor mistakes that sometimes go unnoticed and have no impact on interpretation or they make mistakes that, although equally minor and innocent in their formation and occurrence, may considerably alter the intended interpretation. These are the mistakes we dread, especially when they make it to print. The first read of one's published work, whatever the venue, is a nailbiter. And spotting the first gaffe is like having a Ruffed Grouse explode from your feet on a peaceful walk through the woods, without the sudden relief that comes with the realization that it is only a grouse. But, rest assured, no one is infallible and few of us have the time for the many re-writes that are sometimes required to ensure absolute correctness. It is the editor's job to spot these little inconsistencies and wipe them out. But who edits the editor? Unfortunately, no one. Well, my wife, Benita, is helpful and I always like to have her read material before other people see it, although time doesn't always permit this step.

What kind of horrendous mistake has the Editor made you may ask? Why the pre-emptive atonement? Well, there are no mistakes that I am aware of, but that's likely to change as soon as it goes to print. The point is or the points are that I accept responsibility for the errors that will occur in this publication because it is my duty to flush them out; one should not beat oneself up over these minor mistakes; and, most importantly, one should not be discouraged from putting ink to paper or pounding a keyboard for fear of making mistakes.

The numerous interesting submissions I have received for this newsletter, from

new and veteran contributors make my job easy. Martin McNicholl has provided an interesting article which explains the use and logic of capitilization in ornithological and other publications. Len and Dian Jellicoe provide an entertaining account of the annual BCFO pelagic trip which departed from Port McNeil for the day on September 13, 2003. Linda van Damme summarizes the results of her surveys of Bobolink in the Creston Valley. Andy and Marilyn Buhler kindly assembled the locations, dates and contacts for this year's Christmas Bird Counts. Ian Robertson has compiled an excellent response to the BC government regarding falconry, based on input from various BCFO members including himself. Alas, there are also announcements of the BCFO's 2004 AGM, to be held at Tumbler Ridge, and of next year's pelagic trip from Port McNeil, and I've contributed something a little different.

If you've thought of contributing something but have been reluctant, please send that something along. The more people who contribute to *BC Birding*, the greater the breadth of views, experience and knowledge presented which will benefit the readership.

Sheila Mosher kindly carried on the job of distributing September's newsletter when I was scrambling to get it out, even though she lives far away across the big water. I thank her for this and for all the past issues she has delivered in a timely fashion - an important job indeed. Because production is now in Langley it makes more sense to have someone nearby take over the distribution. Ted Goshulak of Langley has gratefully accepted the position for Newsletter Distribution. Welcome and thanks to Ted. You can thank him for delivering this edition.

Marilyn Buhler, BCFO's long time half of the editorial team (along with Andy Buhler), has accepted a position as Director on the BCFO board. I would like to welcome her. She has much knowledge, experience and enthusiasm

to share with the group.

You will notice in this edition a new feature - cartoons. Alex Beer, Editor in Chief, CanWest Editorial Services, has kindly granted permission for a one year term for *BC Birding* to use cartoons published in *The Spectator*, for which CanWest Global Communications Corp. holds Canadian rights. *The Spectator* describes itself (accurately!) in the following paragraph:

The Spectator was established in 1828, and is the oldest continuously published magazine in the English language. The Spectator's taste for controversy, however, remains undiminished. There is no party line to which our writers are bound - originality of thought and elegance of expression are the sole editorial constraints. The result, week after week, is that the best British journalists, critics, authors and cartoonists turn out their best work for the magazine, to produce an extraordinarily wide-ranging title.

I am excited about this because the cartoons are first rate, and *The Spectator* truly is one of *the great* magazines. Visit its website at www.spectator.co.uk.

I have been kicking around the idea of a *Birding Tips* section that would provide tips on the identification of species, particularly those that are difficult to tell apart: Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers, female Goldeneyes, etc. We all have our own secrets whether they be the subtle, indescribable gestalt or tangible characteristics related to plumage, behaviour, habitat, flight, song, calls, etc. The tips may not work for everyone but some may prove helpful. Let me know if you have any you would like to share and we'll see, based on response, where it takes us and how long it can sustain itself.

I have received the first *letter to the editor* since taking over the editorship. It did not include money for a pint, but it didn't have to because it was sufficiently flattering, one of the key criteria required for acceptance and publication. In all seriousness, it was kind and appreciated and I will accept all forms of letters.

Phil Henderson, Editor

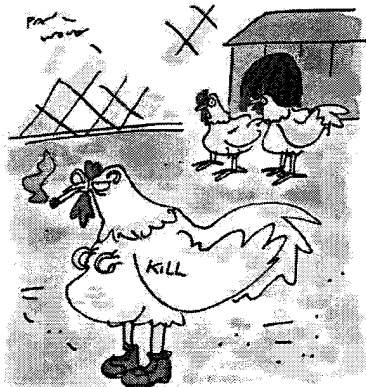


Director's Corner

The first meeting of the BCFO directors elected for 2003-04 took place on 21 September at our president's residence in Langley. Six of the nine directors were present. A wide range of the society's business was discussed, including the following that may be of interest or concern to the general membership.

- 1) File a Checklist of Requirements for Honorariums. A set of rules for persons or organisations applying for the awarding of grants for bird projects by BCFO.
- 2) Ongoing debate about publicising and attracting more members to BCFO. It was decided to run ads in the BC Naturalist newsletter of FBCN.
- 3) Debate around problems in attracting articles for our journal, BC Birds. It was decided that a more activist approach might be preferable, rather than relying on voluntary submissions. It was decided that invitations to submit might work, and that financial incentives also be considered.
- 4) Phil Henderson, our new *BC Birding* editor, was introduced to the directors. Phil handed out the September 2003 issue, hot from the press. The directors thanked Phil for stepping into the vacated shoes of longtime editors Andy & Marilyn Buhler, and thanked him for producing an excellent first issue.
- 5) Much of the directors time is taken up with issues surrounding the AGM. At the 2003 AGM at Radium it was reported to the members that we were proceeding with the idea of the 2004 AGM being held on the West Coast at Tofino, Ucluelet or Bamfield. However, numerous technical issues have arisen with regard to that choice, among them, timing, cost, availability of accommodation and presence/absence of birds. Tumbler Ridge was suggested as an alternative destination and met with general acclaim.
- 6) Discussion surrounding BC-Taiwan ties, with support voiced for the Canada-Taiwan Birdfair in November.
- 7) Discussion about holding bird workshops for members. A workshop featuring "rocky shorebirds" on the Sunshine Coast was mentioned as a possibility.

Report submitted by Director Tony Greenfield



"She's more free spirit than free range."

From The Spectator, London; Courtesy CanWest News Service.



BCFO Library

BCFO is officially starting a member library! The BCFO has obtained books through donation that we make available on loan to any member. However, the practice has caused us to lose track of certain items, therefore taking them out of circulation for the rest of the membership. The BCFO Board recently committed to establishing a

database and library of BCFO books. We request that any outstanding BCFO books or new donations of books, magazines, videos, documents or other relevant materials be brought to the attention of Krista De Groot (kdegroot@sarsensystems.com/604-435-0979), volunteer librarian. Items can be returned through mail (Krista De Groot,

Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, 5421 Robertson Rd. RR#1, Delta, BC, V4K 3N2), via any Board member, or at the Annual General Meeting. Upon completion of the database, this will be made available to all BCFO members who may request loan of any item. Thank you for helping us keep BCFO books available for the use and enjoyment of all members!

Member's Notices

Gary Davidson has recently revised and reprinted the West Kootenay checklist. Copies can be purchased for \$1 plus postage, (no postage if buying 5 or more). Orders to Gary Davidson, Box 294, Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0.

BCFO New Members since September 2003

Chang Hwa Wild Bird Society
M.D. Brown
Alan Fishkin
Natalie Marshik
Dale Paton – Anatum Ecological Ltd.

Sheila Reynolds
Tom Rivest
Vicky Scott
Fred Whiley

Internet Sources

BCFO

<http://www.birding.bc.ca/bcfo/>

Alaska Bird Observatory

<http://www.alaskabird.org/>

Bird Studies Canada / Long Point Bird Observatory

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/bscmain.html>

Birding in British Columbia

General interest information including bulletin board, checklists, rare bird alerts, book reviews, etc.

<http://www.birding.bc.ca/>

BIRDNET

Site of the Ornithological Council.
<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/>

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/birds/>

Point Reyes Bird Observatory

<http://www.prbo.org/cms/index.php>

The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition

<http://www.aou.org/aou/birdlist.html>

The Condor

Online editions from 1899-2000. All articles available as DjVu's and PDF's.
<http://elibrary.unm.edu/condor/>

The Wilson Bulletin

Online editions from 1899-1999. All articles available as DjVu's and PDF's.
<http://elibrary.unm.edu/wilson/>

BCFO welcomes our new partner, the Changhwa Wild Bird Society, of Changhwa, Taiwan, Republic of China. More information will be forthcoming in the March edition of *BC Birding*."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Phil, the issue of *BC Birding* looks great. It has much more of a polished appearance than did our word-processed version.

That look was what we hoped might happen if we got someone with desktopping skills and a fresh viewpoint. We like the banner, the increased whitespace, the columnization and the graphics. Thanks for "doing it right" and keep up the good work.

Regards

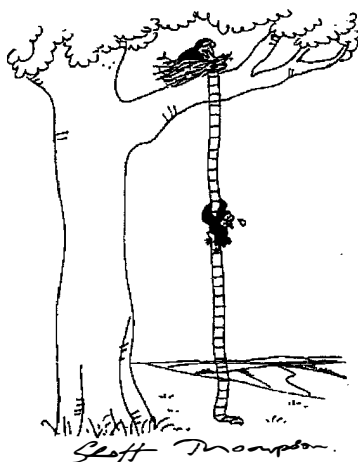
Andy and Marilyn Buhler



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Compiled by *Martin K. McNicholl*

- Jan. 4-8 May 2004 **BIRDS ON THE BAY**, Boundary Bay. Talks and walks. See www.birdsonthebay.ca.
- March 17-21 2004 **69TH NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE**, Spokane, WA. Contact information not yet announced.
- April 2-4 2004 **8TH INTERNATIONAL SEABIRD GROUP CONFERENCE**, Aberdeen, U.K. Contact: Alan Leitch, 2 Burgess Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2BD, Scotland, U.K.
- April 4-11 2004 **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GALLIFORMES**, India.
Contact: Mrs. Pat Savage, World Pheasant Assoc., phone +44(0) 1425-657129.
- April 22-24 2004 **ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS & WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETINGS**, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. Contact: Scott A. Sutcliffe, 6300 Waterburg Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886-9721; phone (607) 254-2424.
- May 4-9 2004 **76TH COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING**, La Crosse, WI. Contact: Eileen M. Kirsch, U.S.G.S. Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, 2630 Fanta Reed Rd., La Crosse, WI 54603
- May 13-16 2004 **FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS 2004 CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, Vancouver. Contact: George Bangham (604) 731-7669.
- July 30-2 Aug. 2004 **18TH ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY**, New York City.
Mailing or phone contact not yet announced.
- Aug. 16-21 2004 **122ND STATED MEETING OF AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION & SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING**, Universite' Laval, Quebec, Que.
Contact: Andre' Desrochers, Department des Sciences du Bois et de La Foret, Universite' Laval, Ste-Foy, QC G1K 7P4; phone (418) 656-2131, extension 2908.
- Aug. 23-27 2004 **19TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ZOOLOGY**, Beijing, China. Contact details not yet announced.
- Aug. 13-19 2006 **24th INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, Hamburg, Germany. Contact details not yet announced.



"A good shrink could cure your fear of flying."

From The Spectator, London; Courtesy CanWest News Service.



B.C. Birding News Briefs

Compiled by *Martin K. McNicholl*

Fire & Birds -B.C.F.O. members who went into Kootenay National Park on field trips during this year's AGM at Radium undoubtedly saw habitat that has since been altered considerably, judging by fire and fire-fighting photos sent to me by Larry Halverson by e-mail on 15 August 2003. Since then, I have been hoping that the homes of members in Kamloops, Kelowna, Naramata and other interior areas are all out of the paths of the devastating fires sweeping through those areas, and have wondered how the Vaseux Lake site at which several of us have participated in banding studies has fared. Members should be alert to the habitat changes brought by these fires and to the resulting changes in populations of birds and other creatures. Although disastrous for some, others will have new habitat presented to them, and we should all be alert for opportunities to document these in *B.C. Birding* for briefer observations and *B.C. Birds* for longer term or more extensive surveys. An excellent example of the sort of information that can be gathered is a paper by Nicholas G. Escott (*Ontario Birds* 19:119-129, 2001) on large numbers of Black-backed Woodpeckers that moved into a burned area near Lake Nipigon, Ontario. Our former membership director, Russ Tkachuk, then of Winnipeg, was among the birders who helped document the response of that fire-induced phenomenon.

Research Award to SFU Student -Katrina Gotia Salvante of Simon Fraser University was one of 29 recipients of 2003 student research awards by the American Ornithologists' Union. Her research is on underlying physiological costs of reproduction in energy-challenged birds. -based on Anonymous. 2003. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 155:2.

44th Supplement -As mentioned briefly in *B.C. Birding* 13(3):6, 2003, the American Ornithologists' Union's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature has started to publish changes to bird names annually. The latest changes, published as the 44th check-list supplement (*Auk* 120:923-931, 2003) include numerous spelling corrections to scientific names and a few nomenclatural and taxonomic alterations. Those involving birds that occur in B.C. follow:

<u>Most Recent Previous Name</u>	<u>2003 Name</u>
Rock Dove, <i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Pigeon, <i>Columba livia</i>
Band-tailed Pigeon, <i>Columba fasciata</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon, <i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>
Western Screech-Owl, <i>Otus kennicotti</i>	Western Screech-Owl, <i>Megascops kennicotti</i>
Snowy Owl, <i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Snowy Owl, <i>Bubo scandiacus</i>
Three-toed Woodpecker, <i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	American Three-toed Woodpecker, <i>Picoides dorsalis</i> & Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, <i>P. tridactylus</i> .
Black-capped Chickadee, <i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee, <i>Poecile atricapilla</i>
Ovenbird, <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Ovenbird, <i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>

Note that the change to the scientific name of Black-capped Chickadee reverses a change made in 2000.

B.C. REPRESENTATION IN AOU -At the 121st Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Illinois during August 2003, Fred Cooke, recently retired from the Canadian Wildlife Service and Simon Fraser University (now living in England) became President and Kathy Martin of U.B.C. was elected a Councilor. David B. Lank of Simon Fraser University was elevated to Fellow, while Alan E. Burger of the University of Victoria and Tony D. Williams of Simon Fraser University were added to the roster of Elective Members. -based on anonymous. 2003. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 156:1.

TRAVEL AWARDS TO B.C. STUDENTS -Guillermo Fernandez of Simon Fraser University and Scott Wilson of the University of British Columbia were among 36 "outstanding students" given Marcia Brady Tucker travel awards to attend the 2003 American Ornithologists' Union 2003 annual meeting. -based on Anonymous. 2003. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 156:1-2.



British Columbia Field Ornithologists Comments on "A Review of Options for Managing Falconry in British Columbia"

The British Columbia Field Ornithologists (BCFO) are pleased to comment on the March 2003 report issued by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, which outlines recommendations for administrative and regulatory changes to the practice of falconry in the province. BCFO is a non-profit society whose goals are to bring together the professional and amateur ornithologists of BC, to work toward conservation and enhancement of bird habitat, to contribute to the inventory of bird populations, and to promote public education, enjoyment and stewardship of birds throughout the province.

Our comments on the options discussed in the report are as follows:

1. Enforcement and Monitoring: The reduction of government bureaucracy is a desirable objective, and should be pursued. However, guarantees must be in place to ensure adequate monitoring of the activities of any special-interest group, including falconers. Enforcement of regulations developed for that group must be a priority. We find that many of the recommendations discussed in this document transfer a greater burden to the falconers to self-regulate. In fact, it seemed that the government wanted out of this issue, in spite of its responsibilities under the Wildlife Act. BCFO would like assurance that an adequate, government operated monitoring and enforcement program will remain in place, especially given the general recommendations for removing captive-bred raptors from administration under the Wildlife Act. The objective of any program adopted should be to reduce the risk of and incentive for illegal capture and trafficking in raptors for financial gain.

2. Classify ... as domestic animals (Recommendation 1): BCFO believes that no native raptors should be classified as domestic animals unless they are injured, imprinted or existing captive-bred birds. Only non-native legally imported raptors should qualify as domestic animals, or captive-bred raptors where proof of breeding can be established. This includes the Great Horned Owl, which we believe should remain protected under the Wildlife Act and not classified as a domestic animal.

3. Capture and possession of Red- and Blue-listed species: BCFO concurs that there should be no capture of Red-listed species. With respect to the Blue-listed Peale's Peregrine Falcon and Gyrfalcon, BCFO feels the proposed wording to "restrict capture" is too vague. We believe that these two species be available for capture only once every five years, and only if reliable population estimates indicates a harvestable surplus.

4. CITES/SARA: All regulations or procedures adopted for falconry should ensure full compliance with the federal CITES and SARA objectives. The approach must be to ensure that the province is not at risk of sanctions under federal legislation.

5. Licence and Liability Insurance: With respect to Recommendation 6, we support the requirement of liability insurance for all licensed falconers. This should tend to eliminate those who may have just a temporary interest in falconry, and who, if licensed at little or no cost, may eventually contribute to the misuse and illegal release of captive birds. However, we question the 5-year term on the falconry licence, especially when it is acknowledged that flexibility in regulating and applying better management mechanisms will be limited. The difficulty in ensuring a Non Detrimental Finding (NDF) with respect to the management of each BC raptor species (required under CITES) should dictate that a licence of shorter term (2 to 3 years) be considered.

6. Capture of Passage Birds (Recommendation 5): We acknowledge that there is generally an annual surplus of passage birds, and that avoiding the imprinting that often occurs when taking eyass birds is desirable. However, we question the ability of some falconers to identify to subspecies a captured passage bird. This is particularly important with respect to "anatum" Peregrine Falcons and "laingi" Northern Goshawks (Red- and Blue-listed species). In addition, the risk of injury to adult



and non-target raptors, captured during efforts to secure a legal passage bird, are increased by this recommendation. Further consideration should be given to permitting some taking of eyass birds, at least for certain species in some areas, in order to ensure better compliance with CITES.

7. Commercial Sale of Wild-Caught Raptors (Recommendation 10): BCFO opposes this recommendation on the basis that the cons far outweigh the pros. With such a policy, the incentive for some licensed falconers to capture beyond their permit limit may be too great. Once again, this would jeopardize requirements under CITES. The proposed requirement that details of the capture and original ownership be transferred with each bird could too easily be circumvented.

8. Export of Wild-Caught Birds (Recommendation 11): BCFO supports this recommendation. Moreover, we encourage development of a method for marking wild-caught birds in a permanent, humane and unique way.

9. Limited Entry Hunting (Capture) of Blue-Listed Species (Recommendation 13): We agree with this proposal, but only when and where it is shown beyond reasonable doubt (through inventory) that a surplus of young birds is available, and obligations under CITES will not be contravened.

10. Harvest of Gyrfalcons, Peale's Peregrine Falcons and Northern Goshawks (Recommendations 14, 15 and 16): We assume that, in all cases, only passage birds would be eligible for harvest. (But, see comments under #3 and 6 above). Given the growing interest in non-consumptive use of wildlife in the province, and the increasing density of human population in southwestern BC, it can be assumed that the greatest demand for wildlife viewing is in this region. As an expansion of recommendations 14, 15 and 16, we recommend that no harvest of Gyrfalcon, Peregrine Falcon or northern Goshawk be permitted within the entire Georgia Basin and southern Vancouver Island region (to Port Renfrew). All three species are rare to uncommon in this region. The enjoyment of the public would be impacted if they were taken here, and their traditional wintering habitats may be abandoned.

11. Falconry with Eagles (Recommendation 18) and owls: It is the position of BCFO that neither eagles nor owls should be used for falconry in BC.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We would be pleased to discuss these comments with ministry representatives.

Ian Robertson, President
British Columbia Field Ornithologists

Based on contributions by
Bryan R. Gates, R.P.Bio.
Paul H. Jones
Phillip Henderson, R.P.Bio.



In the Kootenay region of the Southern Interior Mountains ecoprovince, migrants arrive in mid to late May and early June with males arriving up to a week earlier than females (Campbell *et al.* 2001).

The agricultural fields of the Creston Valley, commonly referred to as the Kootenay Flats, are one of 10 provincial sites surveyed for Bobolink activity in 1994 (Van Damme 1999). These lands stretch from the U.S. border, north to the south end of Duck Lake. A total of 59 birds was recorded on a survey between 26 May and 8 June with a male to female ratio of 3.9:1 (Van Damme 1999). Males are conspicuous when they are singing or displaying while females are more difficult to see; therefore sex ratios can be skewed towards males (Martin and Gavin 1995).

In 2003, I conducted a comprehensive survey of Bobolinks in the Creston Valley between 23 May and 2 June and re-visited areas surveyed in 1994. Singing males active in aerial displays were most conspicuous. A total of 69 birds was recorded with a high male to female ratio of 10.5:1.



Linda M. Van Damme

Ninety-four percent of the Bobolinks were located in the southern half of the valley where alfalfa fields with tall grasses and common dandelions were evident. In the Creston Valley, the "first cut" for haying generally takes place around mid-June and no later than the first week of July. This season many farmers did not initiate the first cut until 25 June (C. Colonel pers. comm.) and one field was cut as early as 26 May. In British Columbia breeding has been recorded for this ground nesting species between 8 June and 22 July (Campbell *et al.* 2001). That suggests timing of the "first cuts" may limit the opportunity for Bobolinks to successfully nest in an agricultural landscape.

The northern half of the valley has undergone many changes since the 1994 survey. Some of these alterations are the result of tree nursery developments, sod farms, residential developments, expansion of hay storage sheds, cattle grazing, greenhouses, the establishment of a dairy farm, and crop rotation and diversity other than hay.

The Bobolink is a species beneficial to the farmer as these birds consume weed seeds and insects during the breeding season with a large percentage being crop-damaging species (Beal 1900). Few insects are a threat to the hardy timothy crops, but weevils, loopers, and caterpillars may severely damage alfalfa crops. Adjoining fields of grain and canola have many more damaging insects including cutworm, flea beetles, grasshoppers, diamond back moth, and aphids (C. Colonel pers. comm.). To prevent economic losses insecticides may be used when insects reach a certain threshold as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food 1999). The application of long-life and short-life insecticides can affect Bobolinks

as contaminated food may result in reproductive failure (Gard *et al.* 1992).

In summary, Bobolink numbers in the Creston Valley study area were about 15% higher than the 1994 survey. The next challenge is to locate nests and determine annual reproductive success over the next few years.

Linda M. Van Damme

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To Capitalize or Not to Capitalize English Names of Birds

In his inaugural editor's commentary, Phil Henderson (2003) mentions the inconsistency among journals and newsletters as to whether or not they capitalize the English names of bird species. In fact, capitalization of specific English names is almost universal among strictly ornithological serials (Parkes 1978; Atkins 1983), but general natural history and general science journals vary as to whether or not they capitalize these English names (Atkins 1983), and most "wildlife management" journals do not. A few journals (e.g., *Prairie Naturalist* and *Northwestern Naturalist* [formerly *Murrelet*]) have switched from capitalization to lower case in their usage in recent years. My references in this commentary to "English" names refers to those that have been designated officially by the American Ornithologists' Union as the English names of taxa considered to be species, rather than races, families or orders of birds. As noted by Parkes (1975), these are often called "common" or "vernacular" names, but such terms may also refer to colloquial and other "unofficial" names.

English species names of birds are usually capitalized by ornithologists for three reasons:

1). As the "official" designations for a particular species, they are "proper" names and should thus be capitalized on grammatical grounds. In other words, spelling Vesper Sparrow as vesper sparrow is equivalent to spelling Phil Henderson of Fort Langley as phil henderson of fort langley. As noted by Atkins (1983), this logic is followed for birds in most ornithological literature, but not for plants, insects, mammals or other non-avian animals. For this reason, Atkins (1983) advocated that ornithological journals should drop the practice to conform with the lack

of capitalization of English names by scientists working on other forms of life. Potter (1984) countered, however, that Atkins' argument could just as logically be used for advocating that ornithologists capitalize the English names of all species, not just those of birds –i.e., the same practice advocated by Henderson (2003) and practiced by Canadian Field-Naturalist..

2). Capitalizing English specific names helps make them "stand out on the page." In other words, they become easier to pick out by readers who are scanning a particular article, note, paper or review for a particular species. Advances in computer technology in recent years reduces the validity of this point, as we now have numerous other ways of making particular words stand out (like using bold or changing fonts), but capitalization remains a convenient way of doing so.

3). To me, the most compelling reason is to avoid confusion. As noted by Parkes (1978), a reference to a solitary sandpiper in a journal that does not capitalize English names could refer either to a Solitary Sandpiper or a single sandpiper of any species. Similarly, a common loon could refer to a Common Loon, but at certain times of the winter the common loon of the Middle Arm of the Fraser River is the Red-throated Loon. In the lower mainland, Common Terns are uncommon most of the year (although they travel through in large flocks briefly), whereas the common tern for much of the spring to fall period is the Caspian. References to blue jays in the lower mainland usually refer to Steller's Jays, but as I write both a Blue Jay and a Western Scrub-Jay are on the rare bird alert. There are numerous yellow warbler species, but Yellow Warbler refers to a specific one. Whereas Black-and-white Warbler obviously refers to a particular species,

a reference to a black and white warbler could refer to a Blackpoll Warbler or a Black-throated Gray Warbler. The black wings of Scarlet Tanagers makes them somewhat less scarlet than Summer Tanagers or Hepatic Tanagers. Several sparrow species have white throats. Does a reference to a western tanager mean Hepatic Tanager or Western Tanager? Does a reference to a black-headed gull mean a Black-headed Gull or one of several other black-headed species? These ambiguities could be avoided by always using the scientific (Latin) name, a practice that is necessary with several biological taxa composed of numerous species for which there are no standardized English names. I doubt, however, that many readers of *B.C. Birding*, even those of us with a more scientific bent, would prefer that option.

Thus, I find the reasons for capitalization even more compelling for the newsletter than they are for the journal and agree with Henderson, Parkes and Potter that this practice should be applied to all species, not just birds.

Martin K. McNicholl

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BCFO Pelagic Tour, 2003

September 13, 2003 was the day my wife Dian and I had been waiting for, for six months. We were going on the second pelagic trip of our lives, out of Port McNeil on Vancouver Island. The trip was being organised by Bryan Gates for members of B.C. Field Ornithologists. Our first pelagic trip was two years ago out of Tofino. This trip was cut short by high winds but we managed to rack up Tufted Puffins and Sooty Shearwaters on the half-day excursion. The trip this year was to beat all expectations as it had received rave reviews from last year's participants. Our target species, as it had been two years ago, was Albatross; whether Laysan or Black-footed or Short-tailed, it didn't matter.

We decided to get a head start and crossed the Georgia Strait three days ahead of time. We arrived in Victoria on Wednesday and followed David Allinson's instructions to the airport where, after much searching with the scope, we managed to locate a Sky Lark with just its' head peeking up above the grass. Eventually we picked out two birds although we could hear them all around us. These birds are indeed, very difficult to locate in the short grass.

That evening we camped in Rath Trevor Park at Parksville and the following morning birded the area. Then it was off, up the coast highway, birding as we went. By the time we hit Campbell River we had ticked off Black Turnstones, Black Oystercatchers, and Bonaparte's Gulls to name a few.

We drove up Island and on a side trip to Port Alice discovered a Trumpeter Swan on a small pond half way there. It seemed out of place. Perhaps it was injured and had spent the summer there.

The three days preceding the trip were sunny and calm and we heard reports that on Sunday the rains

would begin, leaving us optimistic that Saturday would be good. However when we woke Saturday morning it was overcast. We boarded the fifty-foot Naiad Explorer along with thirty-four other birders at 7:00 a.m.. Skipper Bill Mackay told us that a "low" was moving in from the north but we would go as far as we could. We left at 7:30 a.m.. and about half an hour out, some Sooty Shearwaters were spotted and then a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. Before long, these two species were everywhere. Someone thought a Jaeger flew overhead but I am not sure if that was ever confirmed. And then the rains started and Dian, with others, went below deck. We came across a concentration of birds and headed to it. It turned out to be a couple hundred Sooty Shearwaters, California Gulls, Rhinoceros Auklets, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, Pigeon Guillemots, Common Murres, Red-necked Phalaropes and at least one Black-legged Kittiwake. There was a haulout of Northern Sea Lions in this area also, with a couple of impressive bulls.

I presume we were at the north end of Vancouver Island at this point and with the weather getting ugly, we turned around and headed back south. It was decided that if we weren't going to see birds, we were going to see whales. An hour or so later we saw our first dorsal fin of a Killer Whale. Then three and four appeared and off to the west there were more headed towards the pod that was beside us. With plenty of tail slapping and spy hopping it didn't take long before the two groups met. It was difficult to tell what went on below the water but the churning and roiling indicated a lot of submarine activity.

We continued South and were joined by another pod with a big male that seemed to charge the stern of our boat with amazing power. However this

was not a display of aggression but perhaps curiosity and playfulness. This playfulness was indicated once again as another male followed in our wake, surfing on the bow waves.

Three young males followed beside the boat for a while which prompted the Captain to come below and explain the history of identifying whales. As it turned out, the three males were brothers and direct descendants of the first whale ever identified by photographs of the dorsal fins and patches.

With excellent commentary by Bryan Gates and the Captain we learned we had been in the presence of three pods. My wife and I have lived in the Lower Mainland for twenty years and although we have seen Gray and Hump-backed whales before, this was our first encounter with Orca in the wild, and to see them in such close proximity was quite impressive.

After the excitement of the whale encounters died down it was time to do some chumming. Bryan had thought to bring along some fish oil and leftover hash browns from breakfast. This brought in the gulls from parts unknown. A Herring Gull made an appearance and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels glided right beside us like pelagic swallows. Red-necked Phalaropes were everywhere as were Sooty Shearwaters. Then someone said, "There are two TERNS". I immediately picked them up with my binoculars. The rain was pelting down making identification difficult as they skimmed a few feet above the waves. I desperately searched for dark primaries for the few moments they were in view but could see none. The other observers concurred. Were they Arctic Terns? This is not the first time the birding gods have made a lifer difficult.



Master and Commander - Pelagic 2004

It was about 3 p.m. when a report of a Hump-backed Whale came over the radio. It was on the way home so we kept our eyes open. Before long a spray was seen off portside. There it was! The dorsal fin and hump were sliding beneath the surface, with the tail flukes following. It was perhaps a mile away. We slowly headed in the direction of the sighting and in a few minutes it appeared again but off starboard and still a fair distance away. We changed direction again. Ten minutes later it breached, hauling it's massive bulk completely out of the water and then fifteen minutes later it breached again, this time further away. We caught a few more glimpses of it as we continued our way home past the historic settlement of Alert Bay.

We returned to the Port McNeill dock at 4:30 p.m., wet and cold and although we didn't get to see an Albatross, somehow the day seemed like one of those we dream about when we are heading to work in the morning and wondering what the rest of the world is doing. Perhaps next time we will get to see an Albatross but until then the searching makes it all worthwhile. It was later confirmed that the terns were Arctic Terns, and a Parasitic Jaeger was seen, along with a Pomerine Jaeger which I was not aware of. Darn, another lifer slipped by.

Len and Dian Jellicoe

Once again, Bill Mackay will be Master and Commander of *Naiad Explorer* as we set out for open waters off the north coast of Vancouver Island. BCFO's **Pelagic 2004** is set to go, in the speedy, 55-ft whale watching boat out of Port McNeill. This will be our fourth annual excursion to find the hardy marine birds that ply our coastal waters and feed in the cold, rich upwellings of the Japan Current. If you have missed this trip in previous years, this is your year to join us. And if you have been with us in the past, you will probably want to go again. There are always chances to find new birds when offshore.

My original plan to arrange a May pelagic trip for 2004 has been dropped. Although strong interest was shown for such a trip by last year's participants, a review of the bird sightings recorded during May pelagic trips out of California, Oregon and Washington indicates low numbers and reduced variety when compared with late summer and fall trips. We want the best opportunities.

Consequently, we will climb aboard at **0700h on Saturday, September 18, 2004** for another 10 intensive hours on the ocean. **Note that this is the weekend after the long Labour Day weekend; thus less traffic and fewer chances of ferry waits.** And this year we are not asking you to plan to stay over on the Sunday in case of bad weather on Saturday. We will hit the water on Saturday regardless. With many years of experience, Captain Mackay knows that *Naiad Explorer* will not be weathered-out. With luck, we will again get out to Triangle Island and beyond, perhaps 50 to 70 nautical miles off the north tip of Vancouver Island. But even if the weather is marginal we will search the more protected inside waters, where shearwaters, storm-petrels, jaegers, various gulls and alcids can be found. Albatrosses and fulmars sometimes venture inside as well. Our prime target will be the seabird hotspot off Triangle Island, and we will try to get close to shore at Triangle. With luck and perfect weather, we could possibly return via the intriguing Cook Bank.

With 40 to 50 species recorded in the past, do k to dock, and Humpback Whales, Gray Whales, Killer Whales, Dall's Porpoises and Northern Sea Lions added for excitement, we know you will enjoy this outing.

The Plans for 2004:

Dates: Arrive Port McNeill by Friday, September 17 or in time for a **7 AM Saturday, September 18 departure from Mackay Whale Watching on the waterfront at Port McNeill.**

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 full 2004 BCFO membership).

Transportation and accommodations:

Your responsibility. 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 and B&Bs are available in and around Port McNeill.

To Register:

Demand is always 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

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

Laysan Albatross, Flesh-footed Shearwater and the very rare Short-tailed Albatross are still on our wish list. And maybe both puffins and a Thick-billed Murre will be close to Triangle Island. Lets go looking.

Bryan Gates - bgates@pacificcoast.net



Operation Ancient Murrelet in Reverse

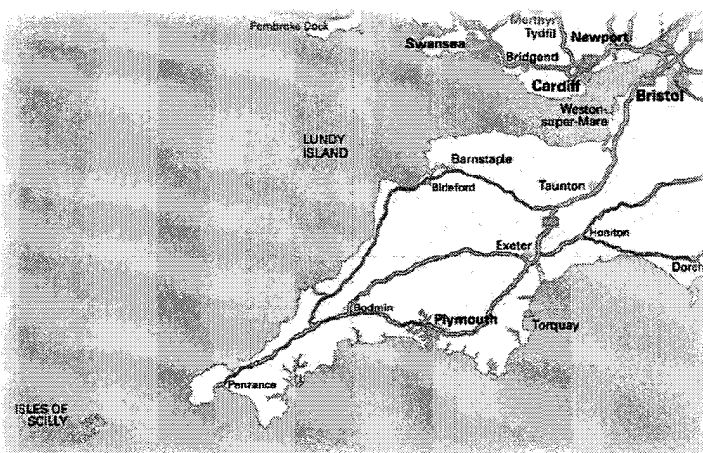
Synthliboramphus antiquus, the Ancient Murrelet, is common along BC's coast where an estimated 76 per cent of North America's and 74 per cent of the world's population breed in colonies on the Queen Charlotte Islands (Campbell *et al.* 1990). The vast majority of the rest breed in Alaska (Campbell *et al.* 1990) on the Aleutians and other coastal islands (National Geographic Society 1999). (The National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 3rd Edition (1999) fails to mention British Columbia's colonies; perhaps that has changed in the 4th edition.) Ancient Murrelets create burrows in the moss and leaf (needle) litter amongst roots and logs at the base of old Western Hemlocks, Western Redcedars and Sitka Spruce (Campbell *et al.* 1990). Two eggs are usually produced and the young leave their burrows only 24 to 72 hours after hatching. They make their way to the sea in the company of their parents or alone under the cover of darkness, to meet their calling parents or await their return from foraging on plankton in distant waters. In winter, the Ancient Murrelet's distribution is patchy. Many seem to gather on the Washington side of Juan de Fuca Strait where they can be seen in abundance in November and December.

The Ancient Murrelet is not common on the British coast. Lundy Island, located off the coast of southwest England, 12,000 kilometers from the British Columbia coastline, is the location of the first record for an Ancient Murrelet in Britain (Eurobirding 2003). In May and June of 1990, it appeared with Guillemots and Razorbills, and again (presumably the same bird) in April of 1991 and March and April of 1992. According to *Newsboost Stonecrop* (October 10, 2003), an e-mail newsletter from British Sea Power (BSP), a British rock band, an Ancient Murrelet was also recorded off the Scilly Isles, about 200 km south of Lundy, 50 km off the southwest tip of England (Land's End). The Scilly Isles are one of Europe's best birding spots; it boasts numerous rarities and vagrants, and possibly more species of birds (at least 411) than any other single site in Europe (Fatbirder 2003). This was reason enough for BSP to include Scilly as a tour stop, although it's far off the path of a normal band's tour. BSP have been accused of not being entirely normal. The newsletter's author, Old Sarge, notes that "Keen rock observers will be well aware that BSP were the first band ever to include the Scilly Isles on their touring schedule." You've got to give them full credit for booking a show in a place because of its excellent

birdwatching, rather than for commercial opportunities. During the Scilly show Yan, the singer/guitarist, apparently asked if anyone could take them over to a certain island in the morning to birdwatch!

The members

of British Sea Power, who some have described as the best rock band in Britain, are interested in birds. And they are interested in a lot of other things including the military, lighthouses, and foliage. Despite, or perhaps because of, their penchant for military dress, foliage, marching, and their onstage po-facedness, the members of this Brighton-based rock band would not look out of place in the field for battle, nor for ornithological pursuits. And they don't look out of place in the field as photographs depicting their fondness for nature and the outdoors confirm: check out Eva Vermandel's wonderful photographs at www.evavermandel.com/. In most photographs of the band, Noble, the lead guitarist, appears with binoculars in hand, at the ready, or scanning nearby trees for birds. For BCFO members this ornithological preparedness and fixation is quite the norm, but for rock bands it is not. BSP's ornithological proclivity, their fancy for plants, on stage animal effigies, and songs such as Birdy which brings to mind a walk in winter along a desolate beach, might suggest to some that something is amiss, and while it might well be, it suggests to me that they're doing it right – they're doing what they want.



Source: <http://www.multimap.com/> (Collins Bartholomew Limited. 2003)



Eva Vermandel / courtesy of British Sea Power



In October, British Sea Power enacted "Operation Ancient Murrelet In Reverse", and flew to the west coast of North America to "suddenly, unexplicably" appear in Seattle October 25th at the Crocodile Café. Following the general winter movement of the Ancient Murrelet my wife and I, accompanied by our friends Stephen, musician/guitarist, and Christiane, librarian, left Fort Langley for Seattle to catch this ornithological anomaly, these British vagrants. As we chatted in the café/bar area outside the music hall, patiently — a pint of Guinness always helps — waiting for two uninspiring bands to finish, BSP happened to come to roost beside us. I wandered over and introduced myself as a newsletter editor for the BCFO, explaining that I wanted to introduce the readership to BSP, to which Hamilton, the bassist, gave a "thumbs up." I had a brief and pleasant chat mainly with Noble, their lead guitarist and lead birder, too, I think. In response to my queries he said that he had been interested in birds since childhood and that he had taken a few courses in zoology at university. He explained that he knows British birds well but would have to get some

field guides to sort out the birds in the various places the band travels. They sometimes get the opportunity to go birding while touring, but judging by their touring schedule it would seem difficult to fit in. Noble doesn't consider himself an obsessive birder but one who just likes to get out, and to check them off. When Hamilton implied that they were beginners and that I was the expert, I said that we all have lots to learn and that there is no end to it. Noble wisely responded that "that is the beauty of it."

At midnight, people gathered in the hall as the band members, led by the particularly enthusiastic foliage-bearing bassist, Hamilton, taped and carefully placed freshly pruned branches of trees and stalks of robust fennel around the stage. The stage was transformed into a forest of foliage, wires, microphones, amplifiers, guitars, pedals, and drums and the audience was invigorated. In this forest there suddenly appeared a bird which looked like a Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), a plasticized British vagrant which nobly watched over its British brethren and the lively audience as BSP began their show.

BSP's military and ornithological interests were expressed in their clothing, their actions and of course, their music. Drummer Wood wore a tee-shirt with a picture of Kookaburras; Yan, the vocalist/guitarist, had a Puffin badge on the front of his shirt, and Hamilton wore a badge which I could not make out, as well as ample foliage which threatened to engulf him. Noble wore a grey military jacket, and pants held into his

boots with black electrician's tape. The keyboardist, Eamon, clad in long scarf and WW1 helmet, remained as serious and unsmiling as Noble, both of whom wore the coldness of war which was at various times adopted by all band members as they skillfully presented their music which was emotive, enthralling, rocking and cacophonous, the cacophony winding up the set amidst feedback, frantic drumming on a scaled down drum kit, tossed guitars, headstands, marching, amp-climbing, shoulder rides and plummeting, crashing microphones. The band slowly left the stage and the lights came on. There could be no encore; not with those instruments, and the musicians, I'm sure, were completely thrashed. The audience understood and left contented.

BSP is not just about birds. It is about a lot of things which is the point.

And what of their music? The two bands most often cited as a point of reference are Joy Division and Echo and the Bunnymen. Other names, including Edward Elgar, are thrown in but that doesn't really matter. I doubt they are very much interested in these references and comparisons. They have set their own course: full steam ahead to some bird-laden island with much to see and discover on the way.

Join them. Buy their full length CD, *Decline of British Sea Power*, and check out their website at www.britishseapower.co.uk/.

Phil Henderson

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Eva Vermandel / courtesy of British Sea Power



B.C. Christmas Bird Count Details 2003/2004

This listing of Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) is published as a service to BCFO members who would like to take part in CBCs in their local area or further afield. This information also appears on the BCFO website at - <http://www.birding.bc.ca/bcfo/index.htm> - courtesy of webmaster, Kevin Slagboom.

A DNA indicates that the Date was Not Available at press time. Data were accurate as known to the Editor on 17 November 2003. Please check with the area organizers for any late-breaking changes. Additional Washington counts and contacts may be found at the Washington Ornithological Society website: <http://www.wos.org/WACBCs.htm>.

Locality	Date	Organizer(s)	Contact
Abbotsford / Mission	27 Dec 2003	Lynn Miller	(604) 826-3839
Bamfield	15 Dec 2003	Anne Stewart (W)	(250) 728-3301 x226
Bowen Island	DNA	Allan Shatwell	(604) 947-2133
Campbell River	28 Dec 2003	Heather Asplin	(250) 923-4112
Castlegar / Trail (WKN)	3 Jan 2004	Gary Lelliott	(250) 365-1161
Chilliwack	20 Dec 2003	Annabelle Rempel	(604) 823-6549
Comox / Courtenay	21 Dec 2003	Barbara Sedgwick	(250) 335-0064
Cranbrook	27 Dec 2003	Greg Ross	(250) 489-2566
Creston	27 Dec 2003	Sheila Reynolds	(250) 866-5453
D'Arcy / Devine	17 Dec 2003	Dan Cumming	(604) 452-3453
Dawson Creek	DNA	Mark Phinney	(250) 843-2318
Deep Bay	28 Dec 2003	Barbara Sedgwick	(250) 335-0064
Duncan	3 Jan 2004	Derrick Marven	(250) 748-8504
Fauquier	DNA	Ruth Bumpus	(250) 269-7481
Fort St. James	3 Jan 2004	Joanne Vinnedge	(250) 996-7401
Galiano Island	27 Dec 2003	Mike Hoebel	(250) 539-2003
Golden	27 Dec 2003	Ellen Zimmerman	(250) 348-2225
Kamloops	DNA	Rick Howie	(250) 578-7542
Kaslo	30 Dec 2003	Dirk Rinehart-Pidcock	(250) 353-7539
Kelowna	20 Dec 2003	Chris Charlesworth	(250) 718-0335
Kimberley	3 Jan 2004	Greg Ross	(250) 489-2566
Kitimat	20 Dec 2003	April MacLeod	(250) 632-3977
Ladner	21 Dec 2003	Jude Grass (H)	(604) 219-2043
Lake Country	28 Dec 2003	Trevor Forder	(250) 765-4082
Lake Windermere District	26 Dec 2003	Larry Halverson	(250) 342-3305
Lardeau	27 Dec 2003	Gail Spittler	(250) 366-4601
McBride	21 Dec 2003	Elsie Stanley	(250)-569-2596
Masset	27 Dec 2003	Margo Hearne	(250) 626-5015
Mackenzie	20 Dec 2003	David Lambie	(250) 997-6876
Merritt	4 Jan 2004	Wayne C. Weber	(604) 597-7201
Mayne Island	20 Dec 2003	Doreen Tamboline	(250) 539-2730
Nakusp	3 Jan 2004	Gary Davidson	(250) 265-4456
Nanaimo	28 Dec 2003	Guy Monty guylmonty@hotmail.com	
Nanoose Bay	20 Dec 2003	Guy Monty guylmonty@hotmail.com	
Nelson CBC	20 Dec 2003	Janice Arndt	(250) 354-4539
Nelson Winter Bird Count	3 Jan 2004	Elaine Moore	(250) 352-2168
Oliver / Osoyoos	27 Dec 2003	Joan King	(250) 495-6907
Parksville / Qualicum	14 Dec 2003	Sandra Gray	(250) 248-5565
Pemberton / Mt. Currie	16 Dec 2003	Hugh and Jan Naylor	(604) 894-6402



Locality	Date	Organizer(s)	Contact
Pender Harbour	17 Dec 2003	Tony Greenfield	(604) 885-5539
Pender Islands	20 Dec 2003	Mary Roddick	(250) 629-3308
Penticton	14 Dec 2003	Dick Cannings	(250) 496-4019
Pitt Meadows / Maple Ridge	28 Dec 2003	Kees Vandenberg	(604) 463-8743
Port Alberni	3 or 4 Jan 2004	Sandy McRuer	(250) 723-5436
Port Clements	DNA	Margo Hearne	(250) 626-5015
Prince George	14 Dec 2003	Cathy Antoniazzi	(250) 562-2845
Prince Rupert	3 Jan 2004	Robin Weber	(250) 627-1129
Princeton	3 Jan 2004	Madelon Schouten	(250) 295-7078
Quesnel	28 Dec 2003	Adrian Leather	(250) 249-5561
Revelstoke	20 Dec 2003	George Winingder	(250) 837-3655
Rose Spit (tide & weather permitting)	DNA	Margo Hearne	(250) 626-5015
Salmon Arm	28 Dec 2003	Frank Kime	(250) 835-8537
Saltspring Island	DNA	Nancy Braithwaite	(250) 537-9335
Saturna Island	DNA	Harvey Janszen	(250) 539-5150
Shuswap Lake / Park	DNA	Rick Howie	(250) 578-7542
Skidegate Inlet / Sandspit / Queen Charlotte Islands	20 Dec 2003	Margo Hearne	(250) 626-5015
Smithers	DNA	Rosamund Pojar	(250) 847-9784
Sooke	27 Dec 2003	Jack McLeod	(250) 642-5369
Squamish	20 Dec 2003	Linda Dupuis	(604) 898-4770
Sunshine Coast	20 Dec 2003	Tony Greenfield	(604) 885-5539
Terrace	DNA	Dianne Weismiller	(250) 635-6984
Vancouver	14 Dec 2003	Adrian Grant Duff	(604) 263-7957
Vaseux Lake	21 Dec 2003	Dick Cannings	(250) 496-4019
Vernon	14 Dec 2003	Phil Gehlen	(250) 542-8053
Victoria	20 Dec 2003	Ann Nightingale	(250) 652-6450
Whistler	DNA	Karl Ricker	(604) 938-1107
White Rock and Surrey	28 Dec 2003	Viveka Ohman	(604) 531-3401
Williams Lake	14 Dec 2003	Phil Ransom	(250) 398-7110
Interior Swan-and-Eagle Count	10-11 Jan 2004	Rick Howie (compiler)	(250) 578-7542

Washington State Border Areas

LOCALITY	DATE	ORGANIZER(S)	Contact
Bellingham	14 Dec 2003	Joe Meche (until Nov 15 or after Dec 6) or Geri Walker	(360) 738-0641 (360) 734-8563
Everett	20 Dec 2003	Mary Teesdale	(360) 734-9077
North Cascades	20 Dec 2003	Bob Kuntz (W)	(360) 856-5700 x368
Whidbey Island (Oak Harbor)	20 Dec 2003	Steve Ellis	(360) 678-2264
Padilla Bay	27 Dec 2003	Steve Aslanian	(360) 435-9493
Port Angeles - Victoria Ferry	14 Dec 2003	Scott Atkinson	(206) 406-2306
Seattle	27 Dec 2003	Seattle Audubon	(206) 523-4483
Sequim-Dungeness	15 Dec 2003	Bob Boekelheide	(206) 681-4867

Compiled by Andy and Marilyn Buhler.



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Authors in this Issue

Linda Van Damme

Linda is an avid naturalist who has had a lifelong interest in birds. She served as a regional editor to "The Birds of British Columbia" atlases and was a contributing writer to Volume 4. Possessing a great passion for nest finding, she has participated in the BC Nest Record Scheme since 1979 and co-authors the annual report. Her documentation of birdlife in the Creston Valley led to the publication of the first comprehensive bird checklist for that region. Seldom without her camera, Linda enjoys wildlife photography and uses her images for public slide presentations and birding courses.

Phil Henderson

Phil Henderson works as an independent environmental consultant. His interest in things natural developed many years ago from watching Great Blue Herons and Common Nighthawks in Vancouver, Red-tailed Hawks in Point Roberts and things of the muskeg and northern Rockies near Fort Nelson. He has edited the Langley Field Naturalists' newsletter for a number of years, and is the new Editor of this publication (*BC Birding*). He loves and detests all kinds of music.

Len and Dian Jellicoe

My wife and I were camping eight years ago and using the *Audubon Field Guide to North American Birds* (the one with the red vinyl cover) we identified a Townsend's Solitaire and a Townsend's Warbler. The previous week we had seen a Great Gray Owl. It was then we decided

that we would keep track of every bird we saw. This has led us to schedule holidays and free time with the idea of finding birds.

Martin K. McNicholl

Martin McNicholl's editing experience started with editing the Natural History Society of Manitoba Newsletter in 1966. Since then he has been Editor of Alberta Naturalist, the Long Point Bird Observatory Newsletter, a book on ornithology in Ontario and British Columbia Birds as well as a Consultant in Science and Free-Lance Editor to the Canadian Encyclopedia and Literature Editor of North American Bird Bander. He has also served as Assistant Editor of Ontario Bird Banding, on the Editorial Boards of Biological Conservation and Colonial Waterbirds and as a referee for manuscripts submitted to several other scientific journals.

Ian Robertson

Ian Robertson is a trained wildlife biologist (M.Sc., University of B.C.) registered with the Association of Professional Biologists of B.C. Though his graduate research was on seabirds, his responsibilities have gradually extended to a wide range of birds and mammals. He is principal of his own company, Robertson Environmental Services Ltd., which provides wildlife inventory and assessment services to a wide array of government and private sector clients.

